




## WMGA Foundation 2024 Scholarship Recipients

	<p><b>Sarah Brannigan</b> graduated from The Ursuline School in June 2024 and will be attending Georgetown University. The recipient of the Foundation’s second STEM Scholarship, Sarah plans on majoring in computer science and business. Her goal is to become an Intellectual Property attorney and “specialize in services to female-owned companies and use the law as a way to empower young women.”</p> <p>Sarah’s parents “stumbled upon” Mosholu Golf Course in the Bronx and enrolled her in the First Tee program at age 6. Through First Tee she learned the basics of golf and relationship making. She attended Girls to the Tee Westchester where she, “had the opportunity to see other girls with the same passion for golf as me.” During high school, in collaboration with the First Tee of Metropolitan New York, she designed a 10-week coding academy for inter-city middle schoolers. She was captain and social media manager of her varsity golf team and helped lead her team to their first State Championship.</p>
	<p><b>Marisa Flores</b> graduated from Immaculate Heart Academy this past spring and is excited to attend Quinnipiac University this fall where she anticipates specializing in Sports and Entertainment Marketing in a 3+1 MBA accelerated program. Her outside activities included being a member of the national honor society and serving as a peer mentor.</p> <p>Marisa, who heard about the WMGA Foundation as a result of playing in the Maureen Orcutt, didn’t start playing golf until the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and she described her first few years as playing catch up to her peers who played golf since they were 5 or 6. Marisa was a four-year member of the varsity golf team, serving as captain her junior and senior years, and will be playing Division I golf at Quinnipiac. Her High School Golf Coach, a former WMGA Scholarship Recipient, said, “she is an excellent student, committed athlete and, most importantly, an exemplary young woman.”</p>
	<p><b>Nicoletta Geraci</b> graduated from Cold Spring Harbour HS this past June and will be attending Sacred Heart University in the fall. She plans on majoring in Business Management and Marketing and anticipates pursuing a career in business where she can utilize her leadership skills.</p> <p>Her extracurricular activities include the National Honor Society, French Club, and Cheer Team. As a member of the Girl Scouts from kindergarten through 11<sup>th</sup> grade earning a silver award, she has a strong commitment to community service. A member of her high school golf team for four years, she has also worked at Huntington Golf Club in the pro-shop for the last three years.</p>

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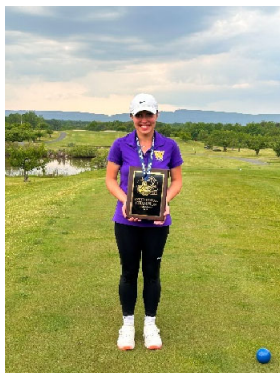
**Claire Lu**, recipient of the 2024 Susan E. Fisher Scholarship, graduated from Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison New Jersey and will be attending University of Pennsylvania in the Fall. Her intended major is Biology and anticipates minoring in design. Extracurricular activities include the Art Club and Animation Club. She also was a student at the new Jersey Art Academy.

Claire started playing golf at age 7 and played varsity golf for 4 years serving as captain. Claire has participated in AJGA and NJSGA events. Prior to playing golf Claire indicates she was quiet and shy and conversing with people was nerve wracking; however, as she played more golf, "I gained more confidence in myself and began to speak louder, hesitating less, and making eye contact. Golf gave me the confidence to come out of my shell."



**Sharon Melendez** graduated from Passaic County Technical Institute this spring and will be attending New Jersey Institute of Technology in the fall. She was consistently in the top 3% of her class in addition to her involvement in many extra-curricular activities. In addition to golf, Sharon was a cheerleader for eight years and a swimmer for ten years. One of her favorite jobs (of which there were many) was being a certified lifeguard which combined her swimming skills with her love of working with children.

Sharon hopes to pursue a career as an electrical or computer engineer. In reflecting on her past and future, Sharon says "My high school experience taught me lessons beyond the courses I enrolled in; I hope that college will do the same and allow me to complete the identity I still struggle to put together day by day."



**Gina Milazzo**, recipient of this year's Connie Brown Scholarship, graduated from Warwick Valley HS and will be attending SUNY – Cortland this fall. She is interested in having a career in Sport Management as well as owning her own golf academy or being a golf coach. A National Honor Society member, Gina created her own free, on-line tutoring program during the pandemic.

Gina is a lifelong golfer whose father is a golf instructor. "Between competitive golf, teaching the game to juniors, and working in the pro shop at my local golf course, I have seen all areas of the sport." She was a 6-year varsity golfer who qualified for the state championship all six years. Additionally, Gina was a member of the WMGA's 2023 Enos Cup team. Despite fracturing her finger 4 days before she was defending a sectional title, she overcame the injury through mental strength and prevailed. As the Athletic Director said, "She leads by example, inspiring her teammates with her dedication, determination and sportsmanship."

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**Amelia Tejada** graduated from Saint Vincent Ferrer High School this past spring and hopes to be either a Marine Scientist or an Orthopedic Surgeon. She will be attending SUNY – Maritime in the fall. Amelia began her golf career with the First Tee at age 10. She currently loves being a Mentor and Assistant Golf coach at Mosholu Golf Course teaching children ages 7-13. Amelia is inspired by all things scientific. Talking about her future as a scientist, Amelia says, “Pursuing a degree in STEM will also allow me to actualize a deeply cherished ambition, one that holds the potential to break barriers and inspire future generations of women in the field.”

As a golf coach and mentor, Amelia “encourages and inspires them to enjoy the game of golf along with the experiences it brings. She takes an enthusiastic approach in every endeavor she is presented with and that plays an instrumental role in aligning herself for a successful future.”



**Thea Westhelle** is a graduate of Passaic County Technical Vocational Schools - Diana C. Lobosco STEM Academy and will be attending the University of Vermont in the fall. She hopes to pursue a career in the medical field, psychology, or environmental science. Thea started to play golf at age 12 when her grandfather signed her up for a clinic. She rose very quickly from a non-golfer to a Varsity athlete. As her coach explained, “Thea has earned the title of team captain for her senior year because of her ability to lead by example and her dedication to the team over her four years.”

While Thea was initially reluctant to go to PCTVS rather than her local high school, she was pleasantly surprised to see such a diverse student body. She “loved meeting new people and hearing about their different cultures and unique backgrounds.” At PCTVS Thea could take Mandarin rather than the typical French or Spanish offered at other schools. This learning environment enabled Thea to connect to her past and made her proud to be Chinese.