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# Women's College Club of Princeton Awards Scholarships To Local High School Girls

By Vita Duva

For Princeton local Iona Binnie, receiving a scholarship for college was more than a dream come true, but what really puts a smile on the Hillier Prize award-winner's face is the notion that there are people in the world who are genuinely interested in her life passions.

"I was so glad to see that the Women's College Club of Princeton was actually interested in my pursuits, and in helping local young women go on to pursue their dreams," Binnie said, recalling her pleasant interview with the club's committee during the scholarship application process earlier this year.

The Women's College Club of Princeton recently awarded college scholarships to outstanding young women attending Princeton public or private secondary schools who are in need of assistance to help meet the high costs of today's college tuition.

Princetonian Robert Hillier awards the Hillier Prize along with a physical memento to recognize the special characteristics of his late mother, Florence Bell Hillier – a long-time member of WCCP – which includes, intelligence, entrepreneurship, artistic talent and humor.

The recipient of this scholarship should be in the top 10 percent of her class academically, demonstrate leadership and character, and have a special interest in personal achievement. This award is not solely based on financial consideration, but also on merit and character.

Binnie will attend Williams College of Williamstown, Mass., in the fall. While she has yet to decide her major, Binnie is interested in the school's astrophysics program.

"I definitely want to pursue some kind of science. I like chemistry and physics, as well. But right now, I am open to any option," said the soon-to-be Princeton High School graduate.

But, what really struck a chord with the WCCP's committee was not Binnie's passion for science, but her involvement in Princeton's Stone Soup Circus.

"When my mom and I first moved to Princeton, she started the circus, and I have been working alongside her since I was about 6 years old," Binnie said. "I love performing, teaching and, of course, bringing the shows right here to the kids of Princeton. While I do a little bit of everything with the circus, right now I am doing a lot of group acrobatics. It is a fun, multi-faceted activity."

The second oldest women's organization in Princeton, the WCCP was established in 1916, with the mission of annually granting college scholarships to the young ladies.

This year's other WCCP scholarship recipients include Marta Crespo of Princeton, a member of Princeton High School's 2015 class. Crespo was awarded the Molly Updike Award.

Crespo will attend Montclair State University in the fall and will major in education. She intends to become an early childhood elementary teacher, with a certification in Spanish.

"I could not be more grateful to have received this honor. My first year of college is now completely paid for, and this has helped to tie everything together for me," Crespo said. "It was a really great experience, and one that I would recommend to other students. If you can apply for scholarships, apply to as many as you can."

Nia Dadds of Ewing and Sabrina Mattlock of Pennington, members of Princeton Day School's 2015 graduating class, Jessica Sacco of Hamilton, a member of the Hun School of Princeton's 2015 graduating class, and Brittany Cruz of Colonia, a member of Princeton High School's 2015 graduating class, were also awarded the Molly Updike Award.

The Molly Updike Award is intended for Princeton graduates in financial need who have a high scholastic standing, qualities of leadership and character, are accomplished in extra-curricular activities and show high promise of service and usefulness.

Jasmine Horan of Princeton, a member of Princeton High School's 2015 graduating class was awarded the Peterson Book Award, intended for a Princeton graduate with financial need planning to study English, romance or classical language in college and/or loves books, studying and reading.

Jessinia Vasquez of Trenton, a member of Princeton Day School's 2015 graduating class, and Kennedy Roesse of Skillman, a member of Stuart Country Day School's 2015 graduating class, were awarded the Women's College Club Award, intended for a student in financial need who has high academic standing, qualities of leadership and character, is accomplished in extra-curricular activities and shows high promise of service and usefulness.

This year's scholarship also included the Peyton Award – in honor of Ramona Peyton, a WCCP member who died last year – which was awarded to Alana Chmiel of Princeton, a graduate of Princeton High School.

For more information of the WCCP, visit [www.wccpnj.org](http://www.wccpnj.org).

- See more at: <http://theprincetonsun.com/2015/06/16/womens-college-club-of-princeton-awards-scholarships-to-local-high-school-girls/#sthash.olkXyhE.dpuf>