

# Student ready for Japanese adventure

BY JOANNE F. VILLENEUVE

Her parents' sacrifices inspired Vincent Massey high school student Minette Esguerra to write what has become a scholarship-winning essay.

"Around 6 p.m. on Sunday, Srdjan called from New York. He told me that I had won the scholarship. I was speechless. They're giving me the opportunity to go to Japan!" said the Grade 11 girl, whose family came to Canada four years ago from the Philippines.

"My parents wanted my sister and me to get a education and have a really good future. They came to Canada just for us. I'm touched by that."

Since a young age, Esguerra has been intrigued by manga and anime-style of art and videos from Japan. It has fueled her desire to learn the language and her interest in the culture.

"Japan has a really high economy. With all the



**Minette Esguerra is heading to Japan for studies this summer after winning a scholarship. The Vincent Massey student is the second Brandon teen to win the Deborah and Srdjan Adventure Scholarship. (Colin Comeau/Brandon Sun)**

technology, how are they using it and how are they living with it? I'm curious. And Japanese has already been my favourite language," she said, adding in flawless English that she also speaks

Tagalog, the main language spoken in her homeland.

Formerly of Brandon, Deborah Grant and her Belgrade-born husband Srdjan Tanjga established two adventure scholarships —

covering all expenses — to be given out annually to young people in their hometowns.

Because learning other languages and travelling have benefited both of their careers, the young couple decided to

offer the unique chance to learn another language in a foreign land.

Along with writing essays — one describing somebody who inspired her and another about the language she hoped to learn — Esguerra had to show academic excellence and involvement in extracurricular activities.

Esguerra is the second Brandon teen to win the Deborah and Srdjan Adventure Scholarship.

This past summer, another Vincent Massey high school student, Allison Large, went to Shanghai to study Mandarin, thanks to the inaugural scholarship.

The next opportunity to apply will be in September 2010. For information visit [dsadventurescholarship.com](http://dsadventurescholarship.com).

» Brandon Sun

