

Erika Z. Larkin, PGA
Stonewall Golf Club
Gainesville, Virginia

Erika Larkin was born on December 17, 1980 in New York, New York to George and Janet Zwetkow. As an only child, Erika and her parents started learning golf together at Flushing Meadows Pitch & Putt Golf Course in Queens, New York when she was 9 years old. Against the odds and adversity of city living, her love for the sport grew and she continued to excel. Erika is a first generation American on her father's side.

Erika's parents encouraged her to continue playing golf because right from the start everyone saw that she had a naturally beautiful swing. She liked the fact that golf was a "different" sport and no other girl that she knew played which made the game that much more appealing. Erika really liked spending the time with her parents and the ice cream sandwich reward at the end of the game was also very enticing. She idolized Michelle McGann because of her game and her flair for fashion, Erika wanted to be just like her!

As a high school student, Erika was asked by her mentor/teacher, Frank Darby, PGA to volunteer with a few kids golf clinics in the area. She enjoyed helping- who would have thought then she would end up being a full time teacher? As a Junior in high school, Erika played locally and regionally in the Tri-State area. She won the Nynex NYC Junior Championship (Girls) several years in a row and won the Met PGA Jr. Tour for her age division several times. Erika also played in the Junior World Championship at Torrey Pines.

Erika attended James Madison University where she graduated with her BS in Marketing in 2002. She earned a scholarship to play on the James Madison University Women's Golf Team for 4 years and helped the team win their Conference Championship in 2000. In the summers she worked in her first pro-shop as a shop assistant for Mike Gilmore at Wheatley Hills Golf Club in East Williston, New York.

Erika passed her PAT in August of 2003 and immediately entered the PGA PGM program. She became a Class A Member in September of 2006. Erika worked as an Assistant at International Country Club from 2003-2009. After a short stint at Virginia Oaks Golf Club and 1757 Golf Club in 2009, she then went on to be the Director of Instruction at Larkin Golf/ Stonewall Golf Club.

Erika has had many significant accomplishments during her career as a PGA Professional. In 2006, she was a recipient of an AHEAD Scholarship and became PGA Certified in Instruction in 2007. Erika is also TPI Level 1 certified in 2007. As a full time teacher, volunteering is near and dear to Erika's heart. She has volunteered for the Wounded Warriors Golf Program, Paul Berry Neediest Kids Golf Program and is also a Play Golf America events coordinator. In 2009, Erika became a member of Golf Business Network and was named a Top Golf Pro by Washingtonian Magazine in April 2011.

Erika married her husband Mike in 2005. He is an ex-professional hockey player who

grew up in Vermont. Erika and Mike now live in Gainesville with their two children Mikey (4) and Kiera (1).

Erika likes to help build confidence in her student's skills with a smaller or slower swing, and her students can work toward transferring their skills to bigger, faster movements and to the golf course. Her mission statement is: "Creating confident, course-ready golfers." When coaching, Erika tries to address the mental, physical fitness and course management sides of a player. She also attributes good communication skills and lots of patience to helping the teaching process.

Erika is always on the lookout for new information that will help her be a better teacher (e.g. learning AimPoint Green Reading, TPI, video analysis, online scheduler software, blogging, etc.) which makes her more knowledgeable, marketable and versatile. By utilizing her marketing background, Erika has been able to leverage her brand and reputation through local networking, her website, and social media, all of which has definitely helped her grow her business.

Erika's passion for teaching and growing the game is very contagious with her students, at her facility, and at the Section level. More than anything, she attributes that passion to her success.