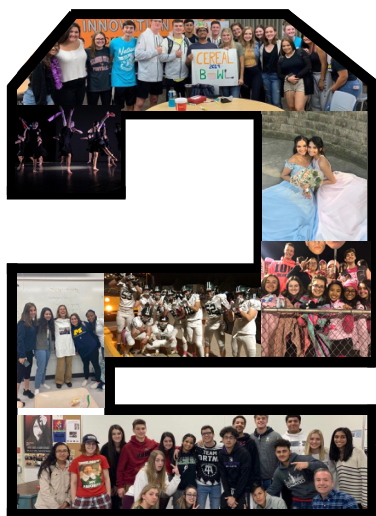
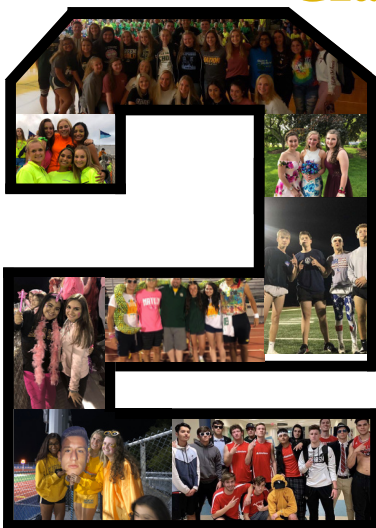


THE GUARDIAN

Senior Issue

Class of



Elk Grove High School Volume LIV Issue VI
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Daniel Salgado-Alvarez displays versatility on road to Harvard

Gavin Ewen
Sectional Editor

Senior Daniel Salgado-Alvarez is always up for a challenge.

It's one reason why the EG senior has decided to attend Harvard University in the fall of the 2020-2021 school year.

Throughout his four years at EGHS, Salgado-Alvarez's goal has been to try new things, find new opportunities and help others when it's possible. And that's just during the school day without even taking into account the numerous extracurricular activities in which he's involved.

At EG, Salgado-Alvarez was involved with multiple clubs and activities including debate, graphic arts and speech, which helped him gain friendships throughout his four years.

"My favorite thing about EGHS was the diversity of clubs, classes and opportunities available," Salgado-Alvarez said via email.

Throughout his four years at EG, Salgado-Alvarez said he has formed strong relationships with not only students, but staff members as well.

"Academically I've had multiple teachers allow me to expand on essays or projects and go more in depth into topics that have interested me," Salgado-Alvarez said via email. "I think this has prepared me well for college writing and research."

Salgado-Alvarez mentions that teachers like Bonnie Kale, Matt Bohnenkamp and Matt Snow really helped him get to where he is today. From teachers around the school, he said he has learned key skills such as time management and how to study properly. Salgado-Alvarez said he believes these are all necessities to being a well-rounded college student.

"I'm going to miss hanging out with a lot of my friends," Salgado-Alvarez said. "Some of my favorite memories are just joking around with them at all the 12-hour-long speech and debate tournaments."



Daniel Salgado-Alvarez (second from right) poses with his speech team teammates (left to right) Tara Baiti, Abby Franke and Ariel Williams in Peoria. Photo courtesy of Daniel Salgado-Alvarez.

Now that Salgado-Alvarez knows his time at EG is winding down, he is still keeping in touch with his future school in a variety of ways. He is going to major in government and statistics with a minor in Korean.

But Salgado-Alvarez is also planning on exploring other avenues and opportunities at Harvard. He said he is also going into his freshman year with an open mind. He said other subjects such as sociology, linguistics and anthropology interest him and could allow him to see what he enjoys most.

"Over the summer, I'm planning on doing some online class work in statistics and Korean in order to explore my interests before college," Salgado-Alvarez said via email.

He has also hopped on Zoom meetings with other Harvard students to ask them questions and learn more about them and the school in general.

Salgado-Alvarez also said he admits he

has been binge-watching college advice videos, so he knows what to pack, learn more about college style classes and how to prepare for going away from his family.

EGHS social science teacher and head debate coach, Matt Bohnenkamp said he's never seen a student find so many opportunities to help further and better his education. Bohnenkamp said his favorite thing about Salgado-Alvarez is his initiative and drive.

"He finds so many opportunities, whether it's scholarships, summer programs, service opportunities, colleges to which he can apply or even a new club or activity at Elk Grove," Bohnenkamp said via email.

Bohnenkamp said Salgado-Alvarez's best attribute as a person is his humility and the way he comes off to others.

"A lot of students in his position might let their accomplishments go to their head and make themselves hard to be around,

but Daniel takes it in stride and is more than happy to share the spotlight with others," Bohnenkamp said via email.

As for debate, Bohnenkamp said he never got the sense that Salgado-Alvarez was ever in it just for himself. He said he was always striving to push others and make the team better as a whole.

"Whether it's in academic class or in debate, Daniel has an 'can do' attitude from which his classmates and teammates benefit," Bohnenkamp said via email.

For EGHS English teacher and assistant speech team coach Kale, she said she will always remember Salgado-Alvarez for his sense of humor.

"Daniel is one of the most ambitious and dedicated students I've ever worked with," Kale said via email.

Kale said that one of her finest memories about Salgado-Alvarez is him fighting for all EGHS students to have access to library cards.

"Daniel goes above and beyond to give back to the EG Community," Kale said via email. "Daniel spent hours every week peer-coaching students on the speech team, he worked all summer to help organize activities for Estudiantes Unidos summer camp and he graciously helped many of my students with their college application essays."

Although Salgado-Alvarez is bummed he won't get the proper send-off at EGHS because of EG's closure from the Covid-19 outbreak, he is looking forward to the future. He is also looking back on the positive impacts he's made on others lives.

"It's definitely sad not having a traditional ending to my high school experience," Salgado-Alvarez said via email. "It feels like there is a lack of closure when it comes to extracurricular activities, saying goodbye to friends and teachers or simply just making those last memories. In the end, I understand that closing school was necessary."

Sing-along video gives seniors, Gouge a connection to EGHS staff

Darina Lubenov
Staff Reporter

Sing-along videos posted from common people to celebrities have been popular alternatives to interactions with quarantine and social distancing in place. One of the most popular sing-alongs was assembled by actress Gal Gadot, accompanied by other A-list celebrities who sang along to John Lennon's "Imagine."

This trend has trickled into the EG community. Although school has closed as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak in the United States, teachers and students found ways to participate in their own ways.

EGHS teacher Thomas Walloch organized the staff sing-a-long.

In an email, Walloch shares that he created the video as a way "to help create a message of support from our staff to our students and community to show that even in these unique times, they could still count on us to be there for them in any way they need."

Shortly after EG teachers posted their take on the trend, senior Autumn Gouge roped in the EG senior class of 2020 to participate in a sing-a-long video. Each student was assigned a singing part of Journey's hit "Don't Stop Believin'."

Gouge said she used social media as a connection to her classmates in order to get them on board.

"I reached out to my classmates who I have on some social media platforms

and simply just asked them if they would be willing to be a part of the senior class singing to 'Don't Stop Believin'," Gouge said in an email.

"The song was chosen for its a message that the seniors were "hopeful and thinking optimistically," Gouge said in an email.

On the production side of things, Gouge tallied who was a part of the video. She then wrote down the people who said "yes" on a piece of paper and then broke up the song lyrics and assigned them randomly.

Gouge's video was also comprised of senior photos submitted by students. After getting the aforementioned clips, the video was created on iMovie and then exported to Gouge's YouTube channel.

"I thought it would be nice if I could get the senior class together and do something maybe for the last time as a 'senior class,'" Gouge said in the email regarding the loss of the seniors' last few months of school together.

Heartening, encouraging, and supportive is how Gouge said she'd describe the Elk Grove High School class of 2020 in a few words.

"They're all so bright and genuinely enjoy having fun and supporting one another," Gouge said about her classmates.

Gouge is a four-year EG volleyball player, a two-year National Honor Society member and a three-year track and field member. She will be continuing her studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for secondary education.

Koski retires from reassessment room post after 15 years at EGHS

Hailey Gray
Staff Reporter

Joe Koski, Elk Grove High School's testing assistant, has served students for the past 15 years in the reassessment room.

Koski said he loved playing his part in the EG community, and he is set to retire at the end of the 2020 school year.

Previously to EGHS, Koski worked as a math teacher at Thomas Middle School, and he was also a counselor for seven years. After retiring from his teaching position in 2005, he headed over to EGHS to become a testing assistant.

Throughout his time at EGHS, Koski said his favorite part of working at the school has been getting to know the staff and helping high school students achieve their academic goals.

"Working at EG has allowed me to help students from a diverse school population," Koski said in an email. "I have learned from them and I hope that I was able to make a difference in their school experience, even if it was a small one."

Working at the school for 15 years also provided him with lots of information on how the school works, and how enjoyable being a staff member could be. He said if he were to speak to any new member of the staff, he would tell them that they are working at a school with a great staff that really cares about the students and everyone in the school community.

"The people are warm and friendly, and I would encourage any new staff member to try to talk to any staff member they come in contact with during the day to find out

how welcoming they can be," Koski said in an email. "Getting to know the students is another obvious way to understand just how caring the school is as a whole. It is a great place to work."

Evrem Kurtulus, a current sophomore at EGHS, said Koski was always setting a good mood in the retake room, even though it was a place dedicated to testing. It made the testing center as enjoyable as possible.

"Whenever I needed to make up or retake any tests/assignments, he always helped out with such a positive attitude," Kurtulus said. "He was always seen with a smiling face."

Along with working in the assessment center, Koski also put in time outside of school as a girls bowling coach for two years. Since he started bowling at the age of 5, he loved being able to share all the knowledge he had gained over time with the team members.

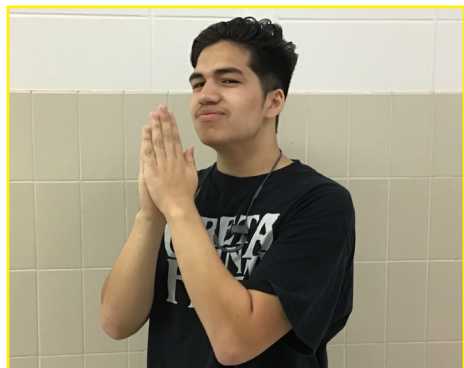
"The girls were receptive to my instruction and advice, which made it a very enjoyable experience for me," Koski said.

After his retirement, Koski said he plans to spend more time with his family, including his seven grandchildren. He also is looking forward to lots of golfing, fishing, traveling and driving around in his 1968 Camaro when he gets the chance.

He says he wishes he could have said farewell to the staff and students in person, but he's thankful that he had the opportunity to meet them during the last 15 years at EG.

Senior Column: Julian’s Top 5 Favorite EG Memories

Julian Koonce
Sectional Editor



As the 2020 school year comes to a less than ideal end, I’d like to take a look back with the class of 2020 at some of my favorite memories over our past four years of high school.

This has been a time in our lives that has produced almost all negativity and hardship, so it’s good for us to try and look

back on the past so we could look forward to memories we’ll make once his time is past us.

5.) Finished with SATs — In the beginning of 2019, the class of 2020 finally took the official SAT after years of practice going back to the eighth grade. Whether or not you took it seriously (and you hopefully should have), everyone could agree that they were happy to be done with the stress of their SAT prep classes, PSATs and so much more. We were all finally happy to move on, and we were ready to look toward our future.

4.) EG Legend Rip Van Sky’s “Lock your bike” Campaign — Once upon a time, things were more simple at EGHS. All were living in harmony until one day, the public was alarmed by an EG news video. Our very own Rip Van Sky took it upon himself

to inform the public that students weren’t but should have been locking their bikes. Of course, this gave birth to the “lock your bike” trend. This would erupt at football games on Friday nights, and it even had rumors of an official t-shirt.

3.) Freshmen First Days — Now, since I did not have a sibling who was a senior at the time, freshman year was something my peers like me were nervous about at the time. Luckily for all of us, administration had us covered with Freshmen First Days. In those first couple of days we’d learn the layout of the school, meet some teachers and soak in some moral lessons. I couldn’t have been more thankful for it at EGHS.

2.) #5amCommitted — Early on in the 2016-17 school year, ABC News came to Elk Grove for a flyover of our school, and we wanted to show some of our Grenadier

pride. Now, of course ABC tapes early in the morning, so the EG faithful had to get up as early as 3 or 4 a.m. There was knockerball, free vending and the helicopter flyover where we showed some support for the Cubs at the time. The magic almost repeated in 2019, but thanks to a rainout, it was moved inside.

1.) The Homecoming Game 2018 — Late in September 2018 is where magic happened. After 1,084 days without a win, The Grens beat Wheeling at the EGHS Homecoming game by a score of 38-21. This was just one of the most magical moments here. I will always remember what I was doing and who I was with. I’ll always remember storming the field with my peers and moshing with the football team. I’ll never forget looking at the fireworks as DJ Dino played music for the victorious Grens.

Losacco leaves EG with legacy of school spirit, enthusiasm

Hailey Gray
Staff Reporter

To say that senior Paolo Losacco has made his mark on Elk Grove High School would be quite the understatement.

While balancing co-curriculars such as swimming and water polo, the senior has sought to get involved in as much as possible beyond the classroom.

Losacco maintained his position as an EG Nation leader, kept his grades up to achieving an honor roll status, participated in countless social activities and prepared himself for postsecondary success.

In the fall, Losacco will attend University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to study kinesiology in hopes of becoming a physical therapist in the future. He said he feels very prepared thanks to several staff members throughout the years who have helped him to become as hardworking as he is.

“Elk Grove has not only taught me to work hard and respect everybody no matter what, but also that nothing comes easily,” Losacco said.

Losacco said he works to show as much school spirit as possible in any given circumstance. It’s why he became an EG Nation leader at the end of his sophomore

year. “What once was thought of as an ‘only for seniors’ role has since been transformed to a role that can be done with great success by anyone who has the commitment and drive to make it a reality,” Nation sponsor and math teacher Tom Walloch said. “He is always willing to step out of comfort zones and push the limit of what he is able to achieve.”

With this role, Losacco not only led the student section at every football game, but also committed to showing up for volunteer or community events, encouraging younger students to get involved and motivating other Nation students to get excited for upcoming events. He said he works to maintain a positive EG reputation everywhere he goes.

“He has exuded the spirit of EGHS and being a Grenadier, and this will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact,” Walloch said. “If he could, he would throw Elk Grove on his back and carry us to stardom.”

With everything he’s been involved in during his high school years, several classmates and students view Losacco as a good influence to look up to.

Losacco not only feels spirited for specifically EGHS, but also for our country

as a whole. This past year in November, he earned the VFW’s \$1,000 scholarship as a result of his love and passion for America.

“I will also always remember Paolo for his patriotism,” history teacher Stephanie Kezios said. “That is a characteristic that he and I share. Paolo is a proud American and his service to others sets a great example for young people in this community.”

Losacco said the bonds he has built with fellow staff members throughout his four years at EG have definitely impacted him most. These relationships, he says, have helped him stay focused and dedicated while enjoying high school at the same time.

“Mr. Walloch has helped me with not only lots of schoolwork, but even making life decisions as well,” Losacco said. “[Water polo] Coach [Keith] Kura also taught me to be a man and always work my hardest. Mr. [Colin] Rice, Miss Kezios, and Mrs. [Effie] Kalkounos have also helped me with tons of schoolwork and were great people to talk to whenever I needed them,” Losacco said.

Along with bringing that contagious positive energy to the crowd during school wide events as the EG Nation leader, Losacco has also helped to make the classroom a fun and enjoyable place to

learn.

“I just try to be as happy and upbeat as possible and spread that energy onto other people around me,” Losacco said. “It’s impossible to please everyone, so always be yourself despite what others may think.”

Just one example of this was last year during his junior AP United States history class. His teacher, Kezios, was giving a lecture on the French and Indian War, during which she had a picture of the “Join or Die” snake in her slideshow.

Seeing the snake reminded Losacco of a story relating to the EG Nation’s rally snake prop, prompting him to ask Kezios to return to the slide after she changed it so he could take a picture of it. It brought levity to the classroom and led to both Kezios and his classmates having a good laugh.

“Because that was fairly early in the school year, it helped me anticipate what the rest of that year would be like,” Kezios said. “It was great, in large part due to Paolo’s positive energy.”

Although the class of 2020 ended their high school career much differently than they had originally planned, Losacco is still very grateful for all EGHS has done for him and his future.

Security guard Ray leaves lifelong mark on EGHS family

Gavin Ewen
Sectional Editor

Security guard Robert Ray has Elk Grove High School in his blood.

Ray was raised in Elk Grove Village and graduated from EGHS. And now that his 21st year as a security guard is coming to an end, he is ready for a new chapter in his life and is set to retire at the end of the 2020 academic year.

Why spend all that time at EGHS? Ray made his decision based on one thing and one thing only: He wanted to spend more time with his wife, children and grandchildren.

Ray started his security guard position

in 1999 when he got a tip from a friend. He saw it as a perfect opportunity because of his knowledge of the EGHS community in which he’d lived.

“I went to EGHS so I thought the job would be a perfect fit,” Ray said via email.

Ray’s journey throughout EGHS was very family-orientated to say the least. Elk Grove was where he would meet his future wife. It was also a place where he got the opportunity to watch eight of his 10 kids go to school, and he got to coach several of them in various sports.

Although his family has been with him these past 21 years, Ray said he will miss the relationships he’s made with EGHS staff and students. He was not only able to

develop these relationships as a security guard, but as a coach as well.

“I loved interacting with the students and staff,” Ray said via email.

Sophomore Maria Losacco is a member of the EGHS girls bowling team and said she was beyond excited when she found out Ray was the head bowling coach.

“He’s so sweet and kind, and he makes sure the girls are OK before putting them to work,” Losacco said via email.

Losacco said Ray’s care for others can go beyond sports. She said that Ray would let kids complete homework at practice if they really needed it done.

“If I were having a bad day in school, I would find him and walk with him,”

Losacco said via email. “He would be the one to calm me down.”

Losacco said she believes that Ray’s love for others is his best attribute as a person.

“Everytime you would see him in the hall he would smile and make sure you were doing OK,” Losacco said via email.

Ray said he plans to do a lot of traveling in retirement and wants to enjoy watching his grandchildren grow up like he saw his own kids grow up.

“I will miss just about everything, especially the kids and my co-worker,” Ray said via email. “But, everything must come to an end and the time is now to turn the page and move onto the next chapter in my life.”

For more profiles of retirees and senior students, head to our online edition of the Senior Issue 2020 on eghsguardian.com

Senior Superlatives

Responses are tallied from a survey sent to senior students in April. There were 90 responses to the survey.

Most likely to be president

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Daniel Salgado-Alvarez | 1. Madeleine Britto, Grace Cloherty, Sophia Mendez, Grace Ritter (tie) |
| 2. Jakub Hojsan | |
| 3. Mohammed Haq | |

Most likely to succeed

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Daniel Salgado-Alvarez | 1. Katia Pendowski |
| 2. Jakub Hojsan | 2. Jackie Campos |
| 3. Christopher George | 3. Autumn Gouge |

Most opinionated

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Benjamin Jablonski | 1. Aliyah Philip |
| 2. Bozhidar Gospodinov | 2. Grace Ritter |
| 3. Josh Castic/Maximo Martinez (tie) | 3. Grace Dickerson |

Best sense of humor

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Bashar Al-Ajjo | 1. Amberly Krol |
| 2. Ryan Kolton and Tyrese Shoemake (tie) | 2. Evita Ferrari and Grace Nuxoll (tie) |

Best hair

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Max Martinez | 1. Olayinka Saba |
| 2. Richard Belmonte, Aidan Cashman, Mauro Garay, Tyrese Shoemake (tie) | 2. Lauren Clausen and Payton Gryzik (tie) |

Most distinct laugh

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Bashar Al-Ajjo and Ryan Libiano (tie) | 1. Katie Talens |
| 2. Nikhil Jacob | 2. Rachel Ford |
| | 3. Tori Pulchinski |

Most school spirit

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Paolo Losacco | 1. Grace Cloherty |
| 2. Sean Martinez | 2. Kelly Moellenkamp |
| 3. Manny Contreras, Adam Macro, Constantino Thanopolous and David Villegas (tie) | 3. Sandra Kowalik |

Most likely to sleep in class

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Christian Paeng | 1. Jenicka Hyppolite |
| 2. Kosei Kusunoki | 2. Estefany Cardenas and Grace Dickerson (tie) |
| 3. Neel Patel and Neil Rasmussen (tie) | |

Best personality

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. David Gora | 1. Mikaela Orbe |
| 2. Adam Macro | 2. Grace Cloherty |
| 3. Cameron Cruse and David Villegas (tie) | 3. Niki Maglione |

Most likely to quietly take over the world

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Kunal Patel | 1. Anna Mayschak |
| 2. Maximo Martinez | 2. Sam Wadas |
| 3. Richard Belmonte and Alexis Chagoya (tie) | 3. Cinthia Dominguez and Sophie Doyle (tie) |

Most optimistic

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Kunal Patel | 1. Sam Wadas |
| 2. Jay Patel | 2. Lauren Clausen, Autumn Gouge and Katie Talens (tie) |
| 3. Shane Crimmins, Dylan Hood and Paolo Losacco (tie) | |

4-year-old in an 18-year-old body

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Theodoros Frentzas | 1. Amberly Krol |
| 2. Andrew Clausen | 2. Megan Murray |
| 3. Nikhil Jacob | 3. Hannah Baumeister |

40-year-old in an 18-year-old body

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Daniel Salgado-Alvarez | 1. Grace Ritter |
| 2. Kunal Patel | 2. Grace Cloherty |
| 3. Aidan Cashman | 3. Sarah McNamara and Skyler Mincey (tie) |

Most clumsy

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Jake Izzo | 1. Grace Ritter |
| 2. Ryan Kolton and Ryan Libiano (tie) | 2. Allison Petric |
| | 3. Four others tied |

Most likely to tell it like it is

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Maximo Martinez | 1. Grace Cloherty |
| 2. Adam Macro | 2. Grace Ritter |
| 3. Zach Eugene | 3. Aliyah Philip |

Biggest procrastinator

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. David Gora | 1. Payton Gryzik |
| 2. Kosei Kusunoki and Christian Paeng (tie) | 2. Rachel Ford, Bethany Remian and Joanna Wia-ter (tie) |

Most likely to cheer you up

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Jonathan Hassler and Adam Macro (tie) | 1. Allison Hassler |
| 2. Sean Martinez, Kunal Patel and Marco Perez (tie) | 2. Evita Ferrari |
| | 3. Kelly Moellenkamp |

Talks least, says most

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Kunal Patel | 1. Sophie Doyle, Abby Franke, Anna Mayschak and Maddie Tosterud (tie) |
| 2. Aidan Cashman | |
| 3. Shane Crimmins and David Villegas (tie) | |

Most independent

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Kunal Patel | 1. Cinthia Dominguez |
| 2. Jakub Hojsan and Daniel Salgado-Alvarez (tie) | 2. Madeleine Britto, Anna Mayschak, Angeline Mena and Aliyah Philip (tie) |

Most unique style

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Richard Belmonte | 1. Sophie Doyle |
| 2. Cameron Cruse | 2. Abby Franke |
| 3. Rodolfo Torres | 3. Lillie Zahn |

Most likely to go to the Olympics

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Michael Johnson | 1. Katie Talens |
| 2. Mark Wickstrom | 2. Katia Pendowski |
| 3. Julian Cisneros | 3. Rachel Ford and Emily Sitkowski |

Most talkative

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Sean Martinez | 1. Amberly Krol |
| 2. Kosei Kusunoki | 2. Rachel Ford |
| 3. Jay Patel and Daniel Salgado-Alvarez (tie) | 3. Amy Walaszek |

Best dressed

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Richard Belmonte | 1. Sophie Doyle |
| 2. Mauro Garay and Adam Macro (tie) | 2. Abby Franke |
| 3. Bradley Simmons | 3. Grace Ritter |

Best smile

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Gino Martorana | 1. Michelle Mathew |
| 2. Shane Crimmins and Charlie Janczak (tie) | 2. Aliyah Philip |
| 3. David Bragiel and Manny Contreras (tie) | 3. Abby Franke |

Teacher's pet

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Manny Contreras | 1. Grace Cloherty |
| 2. Christopher George and Noah Morton (tie) | 2. Autumn Gouge and Nicole Kozbiel (tie) |
| 3. Jakub Hojsan | 3. Amberly Krol |

Best eyes

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Cameron Cruse and Jake Izzo (tie) | 1. Megan Murray |
| 2. Shane Crimmins and Thomas Youhn (tie) | 2. Grace Cloherty |
| | 3. Arisbel Solis |

Most likely to be on a reality TV show

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Jake Izzo | 1. Justine Podbielski |
| 2. Julian Cisneros and Gino Martorana (tie) | 2. Amy Walaszek |
| 3. Mark Matos and Constantino Thanopoulos | 3. Samantha Madl |

Most changed since freshman year

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Christopher George | 1. Amberly Krol |
| 2. Richard Belmonte, Neel Patel and Ethan Serna (tie) | 2. Sarah Deacy |
| | 3. Madilyn Korkis, Samantha Madl and Julia Szynal (tie) |

Most involved

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Paolo Losacco | 1. Grace Cloherty |
| 2. Sean Martinez | 2. Sandra Kowalik and Aliyah Philip (tie) |
| 3. Daniel Salgado-Alvarez | 3. Megan Murray |

Most likely to teach at EG

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Paolo Losacco | 1. Autumn Gouge |
| 2. Kosei Kusunoki | 2. Karissa Kwiatkowski |
| 3. John Kaczowka, Gino Martorana and Christian Paeng (tie) | 3. Gabby Gemini |

Responses are tallied from a survey sent to senior students in April. There were 90 responses to the survey.

WHICH SENIOR
GRENS ARE
STAYING
IN-STATE?

This map is not
geographically
accurate.

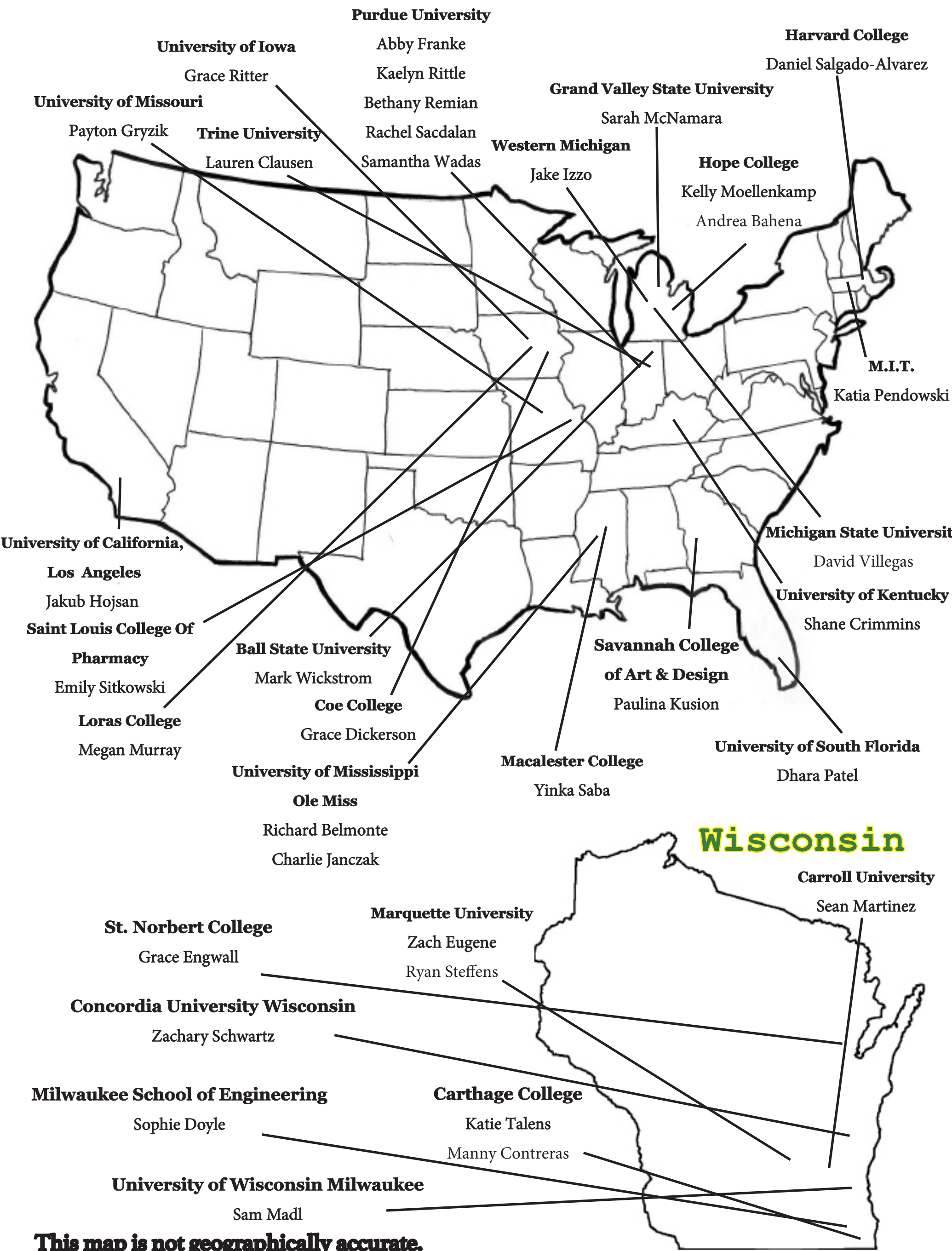
Other

Adam Macro Army National
Gaurd (Also going to University of
Illinois)
Krishna Lad Army National
Guard

Out of the
90 students
who
responded
to the survey,
47 are
staying in
Illinois.



CHECK OUT WHICH SENIOR GRENS ARE HEADED OUT-OF-STATE



This map is not geographically accurate.

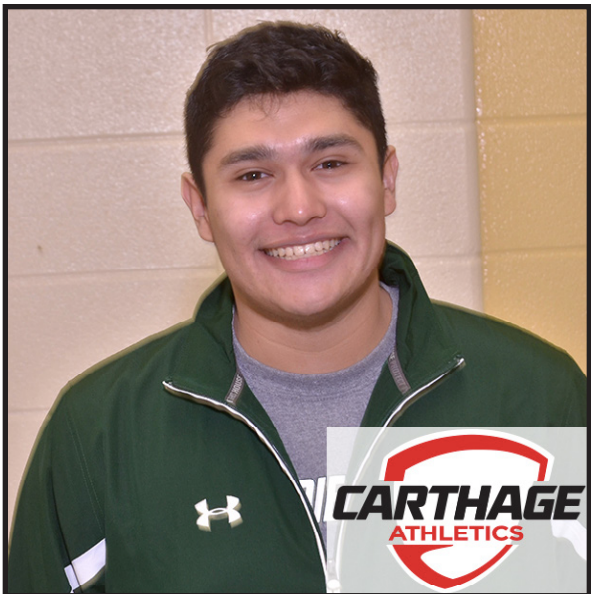
EGHS Athletes Playing College Level Sports For The 2020-21 Year



Andrew Clausen
Football
Monmouth College



Lauren Clausen
Softball
Trine University



Manny Contreras
Swimming/Diving
Carthage College



Grace Engwall
Softball
St. Nobert College



Jason Gomez
Golf
Elmhurst College



Doris Jimenez
Cross Country
Benedictine University Mesa



Kosei Kusunoki
Football
Illinois Wesleyan University



Sean Martinez
Soccer
Carroll University



Mark Matos
Football
Illinois Wesleyan University

EGHS Athletes Playing College Level Sports For The 2020-21 Year



Megan Murray
Basketball
Loras College



Katia Pendowski
Softball
MIT



Emily Sitkowski
Soccer
St. Louis College of
Pharmacy



Drew Talens
Soccer
Carthage College



Katie Talens
Soccer
Carthage College



Mark Wickstrom
Volleyball
Ball State University

Water polo teammates Kozbiel, Ferrari cherish memories despite circumstances

Luka Turanjanin
Sectional Editor

Senior Nicole Kozbiel said that the sudden stay-at-home order from the Covid-19 pandemic made the time she spent at high school feel like she and other seniors have been watching a movie for 12 years.

But then the movie ends 20 minutes early.

"We never really thought it would end like this but we will make the best of it 100 percent," Kozbiel said on Snapchat.

As the school year starts to draw to a close at Elk Grove High School, senior Nicole Kozbiel and her water polo teammate Evita Ferrari have been looking back at their time as Grenadiers and their senior experiences.

"Elk Grove has changed my life in ways that are kinda indescribable," Kozbiel said via Snapchat.

Kozbiel said she has enjoyed the experiences she's had at Elk Grove for the past four years. One of those — receiving classroom teaching experience — has helped paved the way for what she wanted to do in the future after high school. Kozbiel plans to attend Western Illinois University next year to major in mathematics and education.

"I hope I become as great of a teacher as the ones that taught me," Kozbiel said via Snapchat.

Ferrari felt similarly about her soon-to-be alma mater.

"Elk Grove will always resonate with me because it has given me many tools and opportunities to succeed both in high school and in my life after," Ferrari said.

Ferrari plans to attend Grand Valley State University in Michigan to major in political science and global studies.

Both seniors have had lots of experiences with extracurricular activities. Both

Kozbiel and Ferrari have been in the girls' water polo team for the past four years. Kozbiel also was involved in the tech crew at Elk Grove high for the past two years, and did dance team one year as well.

Ferrari also did four years of swimming. She spent three of her last school years in the National Honors Society, and she participated in one year of speech team. She was a part of this year's senior leader program at Elk Grove.

Kozbiel enjoyed much of her experiences with the activities she was involved in.

"My dance team was a group of girls that had so much fun with each other," Kozbiel said. "My water polo team was a group of friends that could be ourselves with each other, and finally, the tech crew I was in was where I really found who I was and I always think of that."

Ferrari said she would cherish the moments she's had throughout the past four years, mainly from her extracurriculars.

"I've gotten to know some of my closest friends through swimming, water polo, and tutoring," Kozbiel said. "Especially for water polo. Even though our season has been cut short this year, the memories from it will always matter to me."

While seniors at Elk Grove high still managed to graduate, the original events of a traditional graduation, along with other plans for the seniors, was cut short due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I'm really sad that senior year ended so abruptly, especially right when all the fun senior activities were supposed to start," Ferrari said. "I'm sure a lot of my peers are having trouble coping with such abrupt changes like this."

Ferrari said she hopes that the seniors of Elk Grove stayed positive during the pandemic, and to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

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