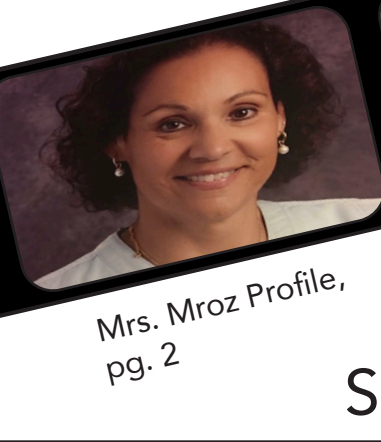


THE GUARDIAN

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"It's been ree!"

2021 Senior Issue

Kaylyn Ahn seeks justice for EGHS students

Darina Lubenov
Sectional Editor

When it comes to advocating for her fellow students, Kaylyn Ahn is only getting started.

The Elk Grove High School senior has advocated to improve her community through school-sponsored extracurricular activities such as the activist club and through her own projects.

"I wanted to provide a space that empowered student voice and show them that they can make meaningful change in their own communities," Ahn said in an email about her projects.

The activist club, led by Ahn and AP U.S. History teacher and sponsor Saarah Mohammed, creates monthly projects that blend the barriers between social justice, advocacy and community service.

Their third and final project for the year, led by Ahn and junior Marina Mitrinovic, was a PPE drive for Covid-19 essentials like blue surgical masks, N95 masks, hand

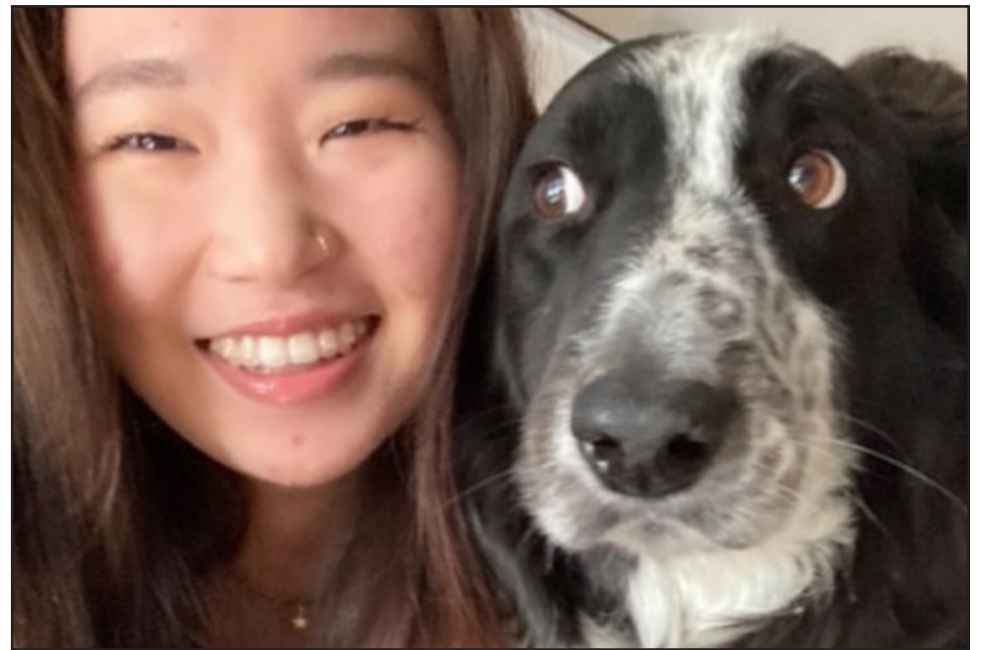
sanitizer and face shields.

"The kids in the club are the driving force behind our accomplishments," Mohammed said in an email. "The members come up with ideas on how to help and improve our school."

Apart from the activist club, Ahn also manages the D214 For Justice (@D214ForJustice) Instagram page. Through the page, Ahn aimed to create a space that empowered students at Elk Grove and other Township High School District 214 students to share their stories. The account has amassed almost 1,000 followers.

"Through the Instagram page, we've been able to highlight the overlooked issues marginalized students have faced since the beginning of the District's foundation," Ahn said.

Ahn's inspiration also stemmed from the peers she has met at Elk Grove. These students are, in her words, "some of the most driven, passionate and talented people who



Senior Elk Grove student Kaylyn Ahn, seen here with a dog Latte, will be attending Northwestern University. Photo courtesy of Ahn.

deeply care about advocacy."

While at Elk Grove, Ahn also participated in various theatre, choir and public speaking events.

After EGHS, Ahn said her goal is to become a lawyer and work as a public defender in the juvenile circuit.

Ahn said she is committing to

Northwestern University where she will study social policy.

"I want to be an advocate for young people that are going through difficulties so they can continue a future unhindered by past records of incarceration or fall to recidivism," Ahn said.

Galicia uses art as tool for expression, inspiration

Darina Lubenov
Sectional Editor

Drawing on inspiration from American traditional-style tattoos and experiences with mental health, Elk Grove High School senior Benny Galicia's art is filled with complexity and meaning.

In April, the senior art student snagged first place in a Daily Herald student art competition for their piece titled "Always Forever."

"I don't usually enter into art competitions," Galicia said in an email. "I submitted this piece because it was one of few I actually liked because I felt like it showed the most of what my work consists of."

"Always Forever," as Galicia says, is based on the extreme highs in mental health where self-obsession can overcome life and faults that may exist in a person, with mirrors that encapsulate the border to symbolize realization.

"In certain situations, I feel above others so I kind of just tone them out because I feel like they aren't worth my time," Galicia said. "The mirrors are what bring me back. The pageant banner says 'I am not you,' but the mirrors say otherwise."

When it comes to identity and self-expression in their art, Galicia



Benny Galicia's piece "Always Forever," courtesy of Galicia.

credits AP Japanese teacher Ryan Christie and AP studio art teacher Jennifer Aguilar with always being there for Galicia in times of uncertainty.

"They've always supported me whenever I needed it," Galicia said.

Apart from the Daily Herald Arts show, Galicia has also nabbed third place in the Harper Art Show that took place March 4. Their work has also been featured in the IHSAE Senior Exhibition and the 2021 Anthology with their creative art pieces.

After graduation, Galicia said they plan to continue in the art field by getting a tattoo apprenticeship.

More of Galicia's art can be found at bennysbarrio.weebly.com.

Mroz retires after 22 years as Elk Grove counselor

Darina Lubenov
Sectional Editor

Routines were never Maria Mroz's thing.

Before pursuing high school student counseling, the Elk Grove High School counselor was an accountant, and her day-to-day routine started to wear on her.

"Having been an accountant prior to going into teaching, I hated the routine of my day," Mroz said. "In counseling, you can have a to-do list every day ready for you, but as soon as you walk in, that goes out the window and the day changes. I love that aspect of it, there is no routine here at all."

School counseling kept her days interesting, and after 22 years of it at Elk Grove, Maria Mroz is ready to retire with her husband and dog to sunny St. Augustine, Florida.

Prior to counseling, Mroz taught at Roberto Clemente Community Academy, a high school in West Town, Chicago. She followed in the footsteps of her mother who was also an educator at Clemente. Mroz was a counselor there as well.



"Her principal called me and asked me if I wanted the job saying, 'Make it easy on us, we don't need to change the name on the door that way,'" Mroz said in an email.

Each and every student that Mroz counsels, she says, is unique and considerate of new perspectives, which is what drew Mroz to help students with their future alongside inspirational staff and environment.

One of the many things that Mroz says she will miss the most are all her students' smiles and conversations, something she said she values in her career.

After retiring, Mroz said she'll have more time to do some of her many hobbies like shop, travel, attend concerts and listen to her all-time favorite musician, Bruce Springsteen.

See more content on our website!
eghsguardian.com

Gaskill makes most of senior sports seasons



Photo courtesy of Joey Gaskill.

Hailey Gray
Sectional Editor

Senior athlete Joey Gaskill was always looking forward to his senior sports seasons.

However, with the COVID-19 pandemic, those seasons looked a little different for the three-sport triple-threat athlete. Some of his sports this spring were even overlapping.

Gaskill is involved in baseball, football, and wrestling at Elk Grove High School, but he has not experienced a usual season for any of those sports so far this year. Football, which usually occurs during the fall season, was pushed to a six-game spring season. Baseball and wrestling were slated for an April through June timeline.

Although this isn't what he imagined, the 2021 season is something multiple-sport athletes like Gaskill have had to savor.

"I was most looking forward to just being able to come back, compete, and be successful at all the sports I play," Gaskill said. "With missing most of my junior year from injury, it means a lot to be able to have one last season with the guys I've been playing with since we were kids."

Without getting to play as normal this past season, Gaskill, who missed his junior year wrestling season with a torn ACL, said the hardest part was not getting to work together with his teammates as they would in a normal setting.

"A lot of the time there was nothing to do together or with the team and we had to do things on our own the best we could," Gaskill said.

Looking back on the many memories of his high school sports,

Gaskill says his favorite was during his sophomore year when the football team won its homecoming game against Wheeling. The entire student section rushed to the field after the team completed their win, which was the Grenadiers' first victory since 2015.

"I'll miss the atmosphere and my teammates most after graduating," Gaskill said. "I've known many of these guys for so long so it'll be something I really miss."

Gaskill has helped set a strong example for his teammates of what committing to a sport should look like throughout his four years of high school.

"Joey is one of the most dedicated kids to the Elk Grove programs that I know, and he is the definition of what an EG athlete should be like," senior teammate Braden Wildi said. "He is a great role model for all his teammates and underclassmen as well."

This year of uncertainties is impacting everyone differently, but seniors are missing out on what could potentially be their last ever sports season.

Fortunately, this is not the case for Gaskill. After years of hard work, he will continue to play both football and baseball at the college level at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois.

"It's been a lot of fun having Joey as a teammate," Wildi said. "He's the kid that holds you to your highest standard and expects nothing but the best out of yourself."

Gaskill said he is thankful for the memories and experiences throughout his years of high school sports, and he said he is looking forward to continuing these experiences in his future at Illinois Wesleyan.

Column: You get 4 years of EGHS

Natalia Habas
Editor-in-Chief

Now is the time of year when you open up our newspaper and come across your traditional senior columns. They're full of advice, inspiration, and touching stories that make you rethink your school years.

That's cute and great and all, but I'd rather be candid and pass on things you should really know to get through the rest of your years at Elk Grove.

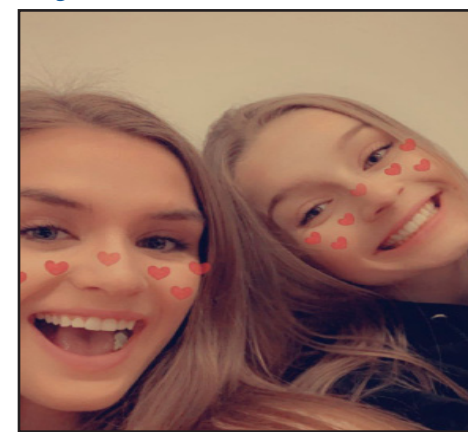
Consider this Natalia's official rulebook of surviving high school.

First of all, never sit by the air conditioner in a classroom. You will be sick all year. Trust me, I sat by the vent in my English class my junior year and I was sick all of second semester.

Second, always bring a hoodie to your science class. The classrooms are always freezing no matter what time of the year it is.

Third, just park in the student lot if you drive to school.

Also, do not eat the cookies from the cafeteria. I wasn't going to get into this one, so I will just say don't eat them.



Hailey Gray (sectional editor, left) and Natalia Habas (editor-in-chief).

Moving on, at the risk of sounding like your mom, I'm going to get a little more serious now.

High school isn't as serious as you think it is. You get four years of this. You're at a beautiful time in your life.

With that, I want you to take time for yourself. Slow down and define moments that belong only to you. Go to that football game on Friday night. Sign up for that sport you're thinking about joining. Sit with someone new at lunch every week. Ask them to the school dance. Get your license. No one is joking when they say high school flies by.

To the classes below me, savor it as much as you can. Cherish it.

Column: Forget the cliches, cherish every moment you have of high school

Hailey Gray
Sectional Editor

After growing up watching "High School Musical" countless times, I imagined high school to be filled with singing, dancing, and a perfect social life. Turns out, it's not very similar to the movies. It is, however, an experience that we will never forget.

Going into freshman year, I wasn't sure what to expect. My sister was a senior at the time, so I had heard lots of her stories and opinions, but I wasn't sure if mine would be the same. Here's a little bit of what I'd have to say about high school:

My first piece of advice, as cliché as it sounds, would be to enjoy every moment. Before you know it, your graduation will be around the corner. I feel like I just started high school, yet here I am less than a month away from graduating.

My second piece of advice would be to take advantage of the many resources and opportunities for help that the school offers. The staff at this school are willing to help you out at almost any given moment of their free time, and I highly recommend looking into that.

Speaking from a student in AP and honors classes, coursework can

become overwhelming at times. Don't ever be afraid to ask for help or admit that you're confused. I can say I tend to struggle with admitting I am confused at times, but there are so many people who will help you without a second thought.

My third piece of advice would be to get involved in something you are passionate about. Don't necessarily join a club just to join it. Find something that interests you and pursue it. There are so many different clubs here at EG, so I can almost guarantee you will find a perfect fit.

New clubs continue to be introduced, so you can even try to start your own club at school. Finding your niche and your strong suit can help you prepare for your future while also introducing you to people who share similar interests.

After all, some of the people in these clubs may end up being some of your best friends.

Although high school seems to drag, and it may be boring at many times, it flies by before you can blink twice. Speaking to freshman year me, I would highly encourage myself to cherish every high school moment because high school only happens once.

Congratulations to Natalia (4 years as a member of The Guardian), Hailey (2 years) and Liam (3 years) for graduating! We'll miss you!

For a web-exclusive senior column by Liam Saluski, check out the article [here on our website.](#)

SENIOR SUPERLATIVE RESULTS

Most Likely To Be President

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Brayden Bobowski | 1. Kaylyn Ahn |
| 2. Ryan Allegretti | 2. Keshia Patel |
| 3. Henry Davenport | 3. Alyssa Trausch |

Most Likely To Succeed

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ryan Allegretti | 1. Morgan Leach |
| 2. Brayden Bobowski | 2. Natalie Wlordarz |
| 3. Cory Dewitt | 3. Kaylyn Ahn |

Most Opinionated

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Chris Martinez | 1. Kaylyn Ahn |
| 2. Henry Davenport | 2. Julia Filipowska |
| 3. Brayden Bobowski | 3. Jillian Strossner |

Best Sense of Humor

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Colin Mahoney | 1. Gia Mistretta |
| 2. Liam Saluski | 2. Teerath Dhillon |
| 3. James Trost | 3. Michelle Opalinski |

40-year-old in an 18-year-old's Body

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Brayden Bobowski | 1. Alysa Cobb |
| 2. Dominic Fosco | 2. Julia Chmura |
| 3. Josh Bilodeau | 3. Makayla Stazel-Terpstra |

Best Hair

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Dominic Fosco | 1. Emily Stevens |
| 2. Nathan Casterton | 2. Aiyanna Hudson |
| 3. Ryan Allegretti | 3. Natalia Habas |

Most Distinct Laugh

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Liam Saluski | 1. Gianna Lindell |
| 2. Josh Bilodeau | 2. Tori Connick |
| 3. Chris Martinez | 3. Emily Head |

Most Likely To Sleep in Class

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Nathan Casterton | 1. Olivia Masnica |
| 2. Thomas Fitzgerald | 2. Danielle Mathew |
| 3. Liam Saluski | 3. Emma Kruvalis |

Most School Spirit

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Nick Castello | 1. Alyssa Trausch |
| 2. Brayden Bobowski | 2. Emily Rissman |
| 3. Thomas Fitzgerald | 3. Hailey Gray |

Best Personality

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Cory Dewitt | 1. Emily Rissman |
| 2. Gerick Valera | 2. Morgan Leach |
| 3. Gavin McCorry | 3. Colleen Atonson |

Most Likely To Travel the World

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Nick Castello | 1. Alissa Hopp |
| 2. Cory Dewitt | 2. Starr Calabria |
| 3. Dean Carlson | 3. Julia Filipowksa |

Most Likely To Quietly Take Over The World

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Milenko Milicevic | 1. Kaylyn Ahn |
| 2. Salam Hussein | 2. Tara Baiti |
| 3. Ryan Nguyen | 3. Morgan Leach |

Most Optimistic

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Mariano Alanis | 1. Emily Rissman |
| 2. Brett Ulreich | 2. Shannon Mahon |
| 3. Thomas Fitzgerald | 3. Grace Majer |

Most Giggly

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Chris Martinez | 1. Gianna Lindell |
| 2. Joey Kleeman | 2. Emily Stevens |
| 3. Brett Ulreich | 3. Alissa Hopp |

4-year-old in an 18-year-old Body

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Brett Ulreich | 1. Katie Hoffman |
| 2. Luan Ademovski | 2. Emily Head |
| 3. Chris Martinez | 3. Ashleigh Unglaub |

Most Likely To Tell it Like it Is

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Liam Saluski | 1. Julia Filipowksa |
| 2. Cory Dewitt | 2. Jillian Strossner |
| 3. Francis Encina | 3. Salma Causevic |

Clumsiest Person

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Chris Martinez | 1. Gianna Lindell |
| 2. Josh Bilodeau | 2. Nora Duffy |
| 3. Jimmy Kalyvaris | 3. Emily Rissman |

Biggest Procrastinator

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Nathan Casterton | 1. Natalie Dimov |
| 2. Chris Martinez | 2. Alysa Cobb |
| 3. Sam Cecola | 3. Hailey Gray |

Most Likely To Cheer You Up

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Marc Angelo Imperial | 1. Emily Rissman |
| 2. Michael Kajiwara | 2. Hailey Gray |
| 3. Gavin McCorry | 3. Emily Head |

SENIOR SUPERLATIVE RESULTS

Talks Most, Says Least

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Chris Martinez | 1. Salma Causevic |
| 2. Luan Ademovski | 2. Reyna Bibian |
| 3. Alfred Sawyer | 3. Tori Connick |

Talks Least, Says Most

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Salam Hussein | 1. Kaylyn Ahn |
| 2. Milenko Milicevic | 2. Alysa Cobb |
| 3. Joey Gaskill | 3. Morgan Leach |

Always Seen Together

- Colin Mahoney, Alysa Cobb
- Chris Martinez, Julia Filipowska
- Cory Dewitt, Dean Carlson

Most Independent

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Cory Dewitt | 1. Julia Filipowska |
| 2. Brayden Bobowski | 2. Kaylyn Ahn |
| 3. Braden Wildi | 3. Mahah Abu-Dayyeh |

Most Unique Style

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Connor Quovedo | 1. Kaylyn Ahn |
| 2. Gerick Valera | 2. Alyssa Trausch |
| 3. Liam Saluski | 3. Reyna Bibian |

Most Likely to Go to the Olympics

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Joey Gaskill | 1. Alexa Joshi |
| 2. Ian Ridge | 2. Natalie Wlodarz |
| 3. Gavin McCorry | 3. Olivia Masnica |

Best Smile

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Cory Dewitt | 1. Sarah Medina |
| 2. Thomas Fitzgerald | 2. Emily Stevens |
| 3. Gerick Valera | 3. Morgan Leach |

Most Likely To Teach at EG

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Dominic Fosco | 1. Katie Vassilou |
| 2. Luke Munson | 2. Emily Head |
| 3. Dean Fries | 3. Alysa Cobb |

Teacher's Pet

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Brayden Bobowski | 1. Natalie Wlodarz |
| 2. Cory Dewitt | 2. Emily Rissman |
| 3. Ryan Allegretti | 3. Mia Rondoni |

Most Talkative

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Chris Martinez | 1. Salma Causevic |
| 2. Thomas Fitzgerald | 2. Emily Rissman |
| 3. Colin Mahoney | 3. Tori Connick |

Best Eyes

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Colin Mahoney | 1. Lexie Mahoney |
| 2. Nate Casterton | 2. Hailey Gray |
| 3. Michael Hadler | 3. Emily Stevens |

Best Dressed

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Gerick Valera | 1. Emily Stevens |
| 2. Brayden Bobowski | 2. Starr Calabria |
| 3. Liam Saluski | 3. Jillian Strossner |

Most Sarcastic

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Liam Saluski | 1. Alysa Cobb |
| 2. Ryan Nguyen | 2. Gia Mistretta |
| 3. Dominic Fosco | 3. Selma Lukac |

Most Changed Since Freshman Year

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Cory Dewitt | 1. Gia Mistretta |
| 2. Liam Saluski | 2. Emily Rissman |
| 3. Joey Gaskill | 3. Kaylyn Ahn |

Most Likely To Vote for Themselves

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Chris Martinez | 1. Reyna Bibian |
| 2. Colin Mahoney | 2. Lexie Mahoney |
| 3. Brayden Bobowski | 3. Aiyanna Hudson |

Most Likely To Be On Reality TV

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Chris Martinez | 1. Salma Causevic |
| 2. Nathan Casterton | 2. Julia Filipowska |
| 3. Liam Saluski | 3. Katie Hoffman |

Most Involved

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Brayden Bobowski | 1. Alyssa Trausch |
| 2. Joey Gaskill | 2. Alexa Joshi |
| 3. Thomas Fitzgerald | 3. Kaylyn Ahn |

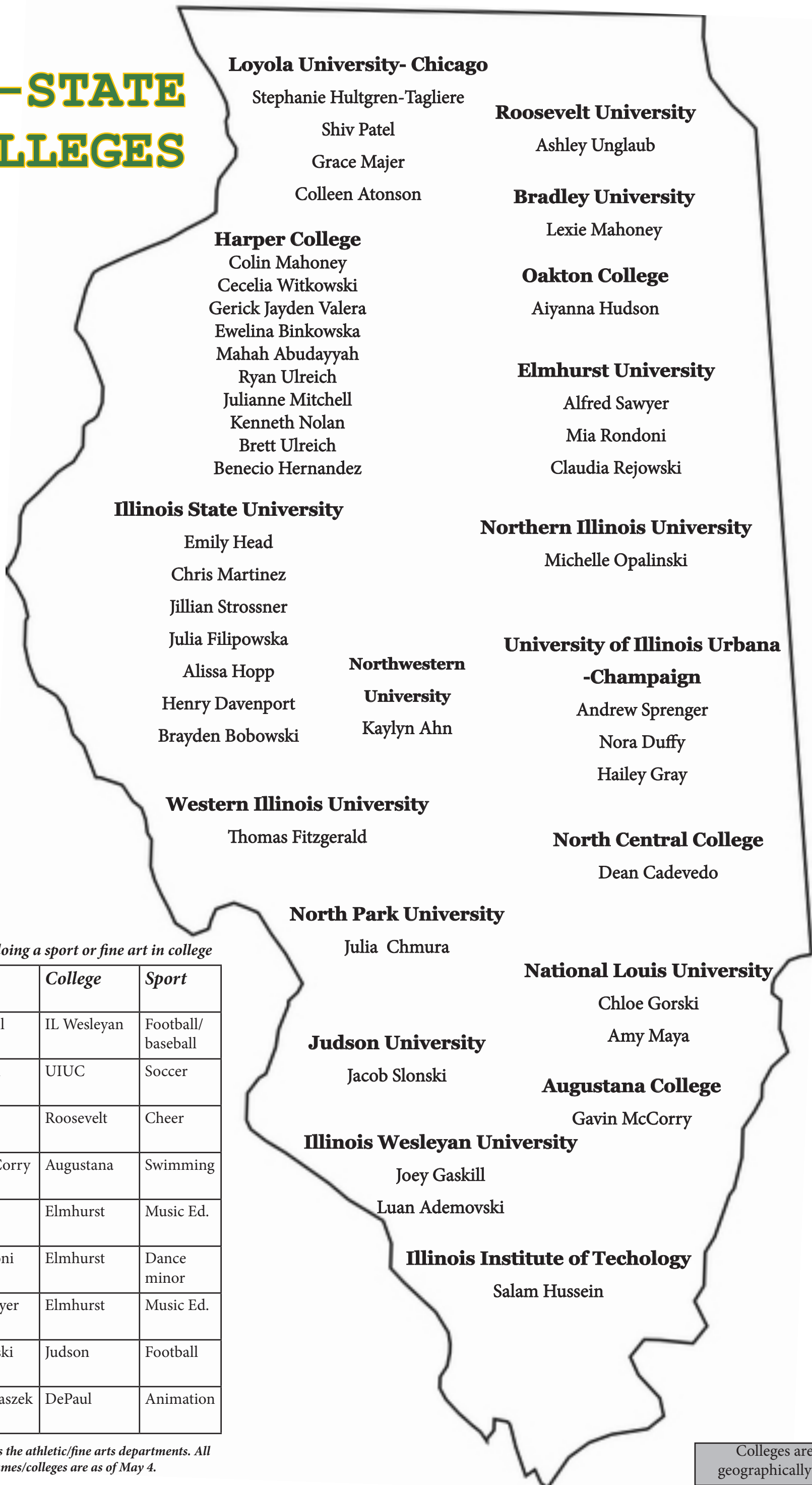
Superlatives Fact Box:

Data Collected Via Email From: 4/13/21-5/3/21

Total Responses Collected: 71

Total Votes Counted: 2,216

IN-STATE COLLEGES



Loyola University- Chicago

Stephanie Hultgren-Tagliere
 Shiv Patel
 Grace Majer
 Colleen Atonson

Roosevelt University

Ashley Unglaub

Bradley University

Lexie Mahoney

Oakton College

Aiyanna Hudson

Elmhurst University

Alfred Sawyer
 Mia Rondoni
 Claudia Rejowski

Harper College

Colin Mahoney
 Cecelia Witkowski
 Gerick Jayden Valera
 Ewelina Binkowska
 Mahah Abudayyah
 Ryan Ulreich
 Julianne Mitchell
 Kenneth Nolan
 Brett Ulreich
 Benecio Hernandez

Northern Illinois University

Michelle Opalinski

Illinois State University

Emily Head
 Chris Martinez
 Jillian Strossner
 Julia Filipowska
 Alissa Hopp
 Henry Davenport
 Brayden Bobowski

**University of Illinois Urbana
 -Champaign**

Andrew Sprenger
 Nora Duffy
 Hailey Gray

**Northwestern
 University**

Kaylyn Ahn

Western Illinois University

Thomas Fitzgerald

North Central College

Dean Cadevedo

North Park University

Julia Chmura

National Louis University

Chloe Gorski
 Amy Maya

Judson University

Jacob Slonski

Augustana College

Gavin McCorry

Illinois Wesleyan University

Joey Gaskill
 Luan Ademovski

Illinois Institute of Technology

Salam Hussein

Students doing a sport or fine art in college

Name	College	Sport
Joey Gaskill	IL Wesleyan	Football/ baseball
Alexa Joshi	UIUC	Soccer
Jairo Mata	Roosevelt	Cheer
Gavin McCorry	Augustana	Swimming
Claudia Rejowski	Elmhurst	Music Ed.
Mia Rondoni	Elmhurst	Dance minor
Alfred Sawyer	Elmhurst	Music Ed.
Jacob Slonski	Judson	Football
Abby Maciaszek	DePaul	Animation

List source is the athletic/fine arts departments. All names/colleges are as of May 4.

Colleges are NOT geographically accurate

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

University of Iowa

Emily Rissman

Emily Stevens

Pranjal Patel

Riya Patel

Grand View University

Rachel Gore

Middle Tennessee State University

Macee Sprecher

Ball State University

Estrella Gaytan

Notre Dame University

Natalie Wlordarz

Grand Valley State University

Selma Lukac

Emory University

Kesha Patel

University of Kentucky

Morgan Leach

Eastern Kentucky University

Dean Carlson

Flagler College

Reyna Bibian

Nova Southeastern University

Alyssa Trausch

University of Tampa

Ariane Moujouros

Tennessee Tech University

Dominic Fosco

Valpariso University

Kaitlyn Frank

Vanderbilt University

Ryan Allegretti

University of Missouri

Braden Wildi

University of Arizona

Alysa Cobb

University of Southern California

Cory Dewitt

Florida Southwestern State College

Starr Calabria

Phillipine Normal University

Marc Angelo V. Imperial

Students going to college for fine arts/sports

Name	College	Sport
Ryan Allegretti	Vanderbilt	Orchestra
Brandon Burns	Hope College	Basketball
Rachel Gore	Grand View	Bowling
Joey Kleeman	Wisconsin-Milwaukee	Orchestra
Caitlyn Marrs	Belmont Abbey	Bowling
Olivia Masnica	UW-Parkside	Softball
Ian Ridge	Drake	Football
Makayla Staszal-Terpstra	Point Park	Dance

List source is the athletic/fine arts departments. All names/colleges are as of May 4.



Responses were collected for about a 3-week period in late April/early May. Responses reflect where students said they were attending at the time of their submission. The Guardian apologizes ahead of time in case there were any changes that needed to be made to a student's destination after the window closed.

‘Godzilla vs. Kong’ thrills fans of both monsters

Luka Turanjanin
Sectional Editor

“Godzilla vs. Kong” expands upon one common theme that every monster movie fan knows and loves: the good, old-fashioned epic monster fight.

This, and the continuous expansion of the lore and world-building for the Godzilla and King Kong monsterverse creates a world of possibilities for future movies.

Although these types of monster movies wherein two notable characters fight against each other can be predictable, I still found this “Godzilla vs. Kong” matchup to be enticing.

Yet again, I do question some elements of this large-scale blockbuster. For one, creators seemed to have enlarged the size of King Kong. The beast was originally nowhere near the size as Godzilla, but come on, it’s a detail that doesn’t actually do any harm to the movie’s action.

One thing the movie does best is its CGI. Movies in the monsterverse have usually managed to depict their monsters with absolutely clean



Photo via Wikimedia Commons

and smooth CGI. In “Godzilla vs. Kong” it’s no different. Watching the two cinematic legends duke it out was an absolutely wild experience. The raw strength and head-boss nature of Godzilla versus the wild and rebellious King Kong is as fun as anticipated. Both monsters aren’t taking each other lightly here, and man, do they fight hard.

As for the main story, it does one thing that I found reasonably predictable. A situation arises that pits the two main characters to fight

against each other, they have their first fight, build up for the climax before the second fight, then the actual second fight happens, the realization the two characters were pitted against each other by a larger antagonist, the true antagonist appears, the two main characters fight them off, and all conflict is resolved.

The human characters in the film usually don’t have anything that special to go with them. There are two new characters in this film that

contribute more towards the impact of the story, but everyone is sort of just one-note.

While I did find “Godzilla vs. Kong” to be linear and predictable in certain respects, I can’t help but praise the genuinely well-directed nature of modern monster movies like this one. With a greater sense directed now towards the world-building of the Godzilla/Kong monsterverse, fans should be ready to expect another crazy, action and monster packed story in the future.

New ‘MLB: The Show’ version makes small tweaks

Gavin Ewen
Sectional Editor

With the MLB’s new young star Fernando Tatis Jr. grazing the cover of “MLB: The Show 21,” fans are now able to access the hot new sports video game.

It’s been over a year since the last game was released by San Diego Studios, and this year’s game already proves to be better than last year’s version. “MLB The Show 21,” available on PS4 and PS5, is available on XBOX for the first time since “MLB: The Show 16.”

While there are no new game modes in this year’s entry, many of the features get updates.

To begin, the first mode to discuss is “Road to the Show,” which is where gamers can create their own player, get drafted by a Major League franchise, and begin your career in the minor leagues, (Double-A, Triple-A). At this point, players can upgrade their players’ attributes based on performance points and skill points that you earn game-by-game.

The next mode of discussion is March to October. This mode is where players pick an MLB Franchise to control for a season and play key moments throughout the 162-game season. A player’s team’s success depends on their performance within the certain

moments they are given. You can also earn rewards that go towards your Diamond Dynasty Team. This is a quicker option if you don’t want to play an entire season.

Overall, this mode is also still the same and didn’t really have any updates outside of the rosters and the menu graphics.

Brand new this year and for the first time ever, “MLB: The Show” now has a Stadium Creator Mode. This mode, however, is only available on next-generation consoles, which are the PS5 and the XBOX One. This mode allows you to not only create your own stadium, but also the surrounding area.

Other modes that are still in the game include Postseason, Franchise, Challenge of The Week, Home Run Derby and Exhibition.

As for the flaws, up to this point the only real major issue has been the online servers. They have been down at least once every day since the game has come out, and it’s mainly in Diamond Dynasty. It’s resulting in players’ screens freezing, so they are forced to quit.

Other than the servers being pretty mediocre up to this point, the game is great as you can see the updates in graphics, in-game sounds and the gameplay. The game is definitely for all MLB Fans and fans of baseball in general.

Article edited for clarity and space.

Fallon’s top flower arrangement tips for starters

Fallon Manzella-McReady
Sectional Editor

Since March, the world has been sort of flipped on its head. There haven’t been as many social events or places to go, and a lot of us don’t know what to do with ourselves.

Don’t worry, though. I have the answer: flower arrangement.

Now, hear me out, I never was in favor of indoor flower arrangements because of the whole thing where the plants just sit there and die, but this year, I feel like it’s something I’m really glad that I got into because it’s so calming. Here are some tips.

Tip No. 1: You don’t need a vase. Yes, it’s true. Honestly, I think that vases are overrated, and they really don’t matter that much to the arrangement. Unless your entire focal point is the vase — like if you have a colorful vase and white flowers — then what’s holding the flowers doesn’t matter all that much.

Mason jars, wine and water glasses, and tea cups have done the trick. I’ve even used smaller glasses for flower heads that fall off. Some even prefer the rustic look of a mason jar or the delicate, cottagecore vibe of the teacup.

Tip No. 2: Measure once, cut twice. This is another tip to not overthink, as it’s true. Whether you’re cutting the stems — bonus tip, cut the stems diagonally — or shearing away at leaves, the beauty

of this is that you can go back, and no one’s gonna notice. Unless you cut the head off or something, you really can’t go wrong. You made one flower too short? Now you can just put right in the arrangement and give it “depth.” Or, you take your little baby stem and put it in something else. A small glass, a flute, you can put it into anything and then — bam! — two for one deal, you get an arrangement for your coffee table and an arrangement for your desk.

Tip No. 3: Should I change the water? Eh, listen, I made an arrangement of irises and chrysanthemums in mid-January, and the irises died in three days while the chrysanthemums are still alive. I have yet to change the water. Why? I really just don’t want to, and hey, if they’re thriving, why should I?

Tip No. 4: How to pick flowers. Now listen, here is another one of these things where I encourage you to be a little willy-nilly. But I also know that red carnations with pink hydrangeas might be a little much.

There’s no rule that you have to use all of your flowers in your arrangements.

How many times do I have to emphasize this? There are no rules.

Now you have your two colors, and you can either stop here or go crazy.

Article edited for clarity and space.

Cheer snags 10th-place finish in unconventional season

Hailey Gray
Sectional Editor

Going into the 2020-2021 competitive cheer season, team members weren't fully sure what to expect when it came to competitions.

With many guidelines being adjusted or introduced as the year went on, many sports weren't even positive they would have a season. The Elk Grove High School co-ed cheerleading team, however, did end up having the opportunity to compete and nab a 10th-place showing at the IHSA state competition in March.

Unlike previous seasons, cheer competitions were almost completely virtual this year. Along with this, there was also a guideline that allowed for no stunting or close contact throughout competition routines. These new changes clearly impacted what the team had done previously.

"This season was very different," senior cheerleader Chris Martinez said. "Most of our competitions were virtual, and we had little to no crowd cheering us on. The hardest part



Cheerleaders march down the English hallway during a state send-off in March. Photo by Kevin Modelski

about adapting to these changes was probably not being able to compete with a full crowd. The experience of it is just unexplainable."

During competitions, cheerleaders rely on crowd interaction, which is what made the crowd-less environment difficult to do.

"Most athletes thrive being able to compete in front of an audience, so it was difficult to navigate ways

to make our routine recording days as 'normal' as possible," head cheerleading coach Shannon Evans said.

However, these changes definitely did not stop the EG cheer team from succeeding. After qualifying for state, the cheerleading team scored a 92.24/100.00, enough for 10th place.

"Our state performance was the best performance we had done all

season," Evans said. "We had no deductions and we had our best overall execution. It was the hands down our best routine to end our season with."

The season was very unpredictable and full of some unknowns, but just being able to have a season in general was enough to push the team.

Going into the season, Evans said her goal for her squad was to make the best of the season they were fortunate and thankful to have.

"We were very lucky to have been given the opportunity to have a complete season, including a State series and I wanted to make sure we made the most out of every practice and competition we had together," Evans said.

Although the 2020-2021 cheer season was very unique to any prior years, EG cheerleaders said they still feel very proud of the amazing work and dedication put into their sport.

"It feels amazing. All of our hard work and dedication really paid off with this unpredictable season," Martinez said.

Kezios named girls athletic director

Luka Turanjanin
Sectional Editor

Stephanie Kezios, a social studies teacher and former head volleyball coach at Elk Grove High School, was named the new girls athletic director.

With her coaching experience, Kezios said she hopes to put a great effort in her new position, and to support the efforts of every one of Elk Grove High's student athletes.

"I really missed being around Elk Grove High School athletics," said Kezios.

Having not partaken any athletic activities for a year — she stepped down from her volleyball coaching position before the school year started — she sought out a new professional challenge.

Kezios is no stranger to the athletic landscape at EGHS. She was a boys track and field coach from 2008 to 2010, the assistant girls volleyball coach from 2007 to 2009, and then she stepped into the varsity girls volleyball role from 2010 to 2019.

Kezios resigned from the position as a varsity coach after planning on moving to Italy to expand on her educational career by the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic had shut down those plans to move to Europe.

After that same school year, Robert Murphy, the previous

main athletic director, had left his position to become the principal of Friendship Junior High School in Des Plaines.

This led to Terry Beyna, the boys athletic director, to take the athletic director positions for both boys and girls departments, all while Jackie Randall, the former girls athletic director, stepped into Murphy's role.

Now with her new position in athletics, Kezios said she hopes to maintain her presence in both the classroom and athletic realms.

"I have to learn how to balance my commitment both in the classroom, and in the athletic departments to create a positive atmosphere in both arenas," Kezios said.

Kezios said she a set of personal plans and philosophies towards helping the school's athletes. So far, she said she aims to enlist student-athletes who demonstrate hard work, competitiveness and good sportsmanship.

"I want to continue to build a culture of hard work and good sportsmanship in our athletic community," Kezios said.

In addition, Kezios also said she wants the school's student-athletes to carry what they've learned from their athletic experiences into their lives after high school.

"I expect to implement many new ideas while simultaneously supporting the growth of the many existing successful athletic efforts already in place," Kezios said.

Spring and Summer Athletics Updates

Here are a few updates coaches sent The Guardian about their teams' seasons this spring and summer (edited for clarity):

Tara Braceros Girls Volleyball Coach:

"A sport that normally runs for 13 weeks in the Fall, was pushed back to a March start date and condensed into a 7-week season.... We beat Wheeling in a three set thriller, and during that match, senior Danielle Jasinski made the record books with 6 aces served in a single match. We have 8 graduating seniors: Paige Langston, Shannon Mahon, Gianna Lindell, Alissa Kurczak, Danielle Jasinski, Katie Hofmann, Colin Mahoney (manager) and Gerick Valera (manager). Katie Hofmann was also selected to the MSL All-Conference team and led our team in kills, digs and serving efficiency. We will miss our seniors!"

Dan Vargas Boys Wrestling Coach:

"We have a unique season on our hands with there being an overlap at the beginning with football and an overlap with track and field and baseball during the majority of the season.... Joey Gaskill was a regional champion, sectional qualifier, and a Freshman/Sophomore State place winner as a sophomore. He is back in action as a senior after suffering a season ending football injury as a junior.... Seniors Jacob Slonski (170), Brady Tosterud (220) and Emmanuel Gonzalez (285) have multiple years of varsity experience and will make our upper weights tough."

Ryan Dengel Boys Gymnastics Coach:

"What a crazy year for the EG Boys Gymnastics team!... This year, the season was shortened, but we had a lot of great moments. We finished with a 3-3 record in the MSL and took 5th in the conference (both are the best since 2012). Our senior class was incredible, all of which had career high scores throughout the year. Our seniors are Jesus Cisneros-Sanchez, Jean Luis, Edgar Vega and team captains, Francis Encina, Anthony Maya and Alex Wojtowicz. Michael Henske qualified [(5/3/21)] for the IHSA State Meet on May 15th. Michael will be competing on Floor Exercise and the Vault."

Mike Nauert Boys Water Polo Coach:

"[The] season is ongoing, have about 3 more weeks left, after last year graduating 9 seniors, we are working on rebuilding the team!"
-Record is 1-6
-Graduating Seniors: Stefan Jevtic, Gavin McCorry, Christian Krawec."

Check out our website
eghsguardian.com
for more sports coverage

The 2021 Guardian Staff



Top row (L to R): Fallon Manzella-McReady (staff reporter), Mr. Kevin Modelski (adviser), Luka Turanjanin (sectional editor)
Middle row: Gavin Ewen (sectional editor), Hailey Gray (sectional editor), Liam Saluski (sectional editor)
Bottom row: Elizbeth Letkiewicz (staff reporter), Alek Para (staff reporter), Darina Lubenov (sectional editor)
Not pictured: Natalia Habas (editor-in-chief)

Congrats to the Class of 2021!

Check out our podcast on our Grenadier Network channel!

Featuring new episodes on our EG Nation sports podcast, hosted by multimedia students Dylan McCorry and Matt Cappello



Gavin Ewen places 6th in Sports Writing in IHSA Journalism Competition



Junior sectional editor Gavin Ewen (pictured above) notched a 6th-place finish in the IHSA Journalism state competition in the Sports Writing category.

Other state qualifiers included yearbook students Melissa Cobb, Emily Garcia and Adamaris Ocampo. Dana Reyes, Darina Lubenov and Luka Turanjanin were also state competition alternates. Congrats to all who competed!

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