

Press Clippings - 3/27/2023

– Daily Herald –

Gamma Xi Chapter Foundation awards grants to two South Elgin High students

March 23, 2023

Submitted By Kim Gavigan

The Gamma Xi Chapter Foundation for Educational Pursuits recently announced the selection of two recipients for their recruitment grants. Each recipient will receive \$4,750, which will be awarded over her four years of college as long as she remains in education.

The foundation is a 501(c)(3) charity formed by members of the Gamma Xi Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, which is an honorary educational society for women educators.

This foundation has provided almost \$150,000 dollars in monetary support to young women residing in the U-46 and D300 attendance areas, who are on career paths leading to teacher certification. Since the foundation's first grants in 2010, the foundation has assisted 38 high school students in reaching their goals of becoming educators.

This year two grant recipients were selected:

- Piper Engel, from South Elgin High School, will be majoring in elementary bilingual education at Illinois State University. "I have been part of the Dual Language program since kindergarten. This was such a positive experience because as a student I grew in my connections with people of different cultures. It made my learning more enjoyable and being able to create a classroom filled with creativity and passion is something I look forward to."

- **Lillian Seifrid, from South Elgin High School**, plans to major in elementary education.

"I want to be that teacher that teaches a child a love for reading and literacy. I want to see their faces light up when they read their first word or when they read that first book. I know it's not always rainbows and butterflies, it can be emotional at times. At the end of the day the children and their faces are what matter most."

Monies for these grant opportunities are received from the EFS Foundation, the Gamma Xi Chapter, bequests, memorials and/or honorariums from local donors, and various individual supporters. Anyone interested in supporting the foundation in its mission of Funding Tomorrow's Educators Today may contact Karen Phillips at kphillips51@sbcglobal.net.

– WBEZ Chicago –

Elgin artist uses Rosie the riveter, 'Si se puede' to create a mural about achieving dreams

Javier Sanchez, who goes by Azuna, says his painting is intended to convey 'empowerment no matter who you are or what you do' and that 'you can do your dreams.'

March 26, 2023

By Chicago Sun-Times Staff

When artist Javier Pretelin Sanchez created a mural in downtown Elgin, he wanted it to be "aesthetically pleasing" but also to say something, "kind of like a storyboard" with a message of hope, personal growth and fulfillment.

"On the left side, it starts out as a little village," says Sanchez, who's gone by Azuna for his artwork ever since he was younger and got involved in graffiti art.

The images of the modest buildings against the backdrop of leafy hills is meant to speak in part to the immigrant experience — Sanchez is from Mexico, moving to the United States when he was a boy — and more broadly to humble beginnings.

Below are pretty flowers, "a little illustrated message that no matter where you are,

there's always beauty in your surroundings," says Sanchez, 29.

"Then, it goes into the main subject, which is a woman of color, and she's flexing," the Elgin resident says. "I wanted to celebrate not only women and empowerment to women but also celebrate women of color and giving kind of like a shoutout.

"I come from a family where my mother was my only parent, so I can see that empowerment, strong women and how important they are."

If the woman's pose seems familiar, that's because Sanchez modeled her after Rosie the riveter, the iconic character in U.S. World War II posters, shown with a determined look, hair in a bandana, sleeves rolled up, meant to encourage women to get involved in the war effort, in part through factory jobs, under the banner "We Can Do It!"

In the mural, written in graffiti type is the phrase "Si Se Puede," Spanish for "Yes, we can" — a slogan that traces to the struggles of the United Farm Workers union founded by Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez and has since been used in the immigration reform movement.

Sanchez says that's a phrase that "I grew up learning" and proved inspirational "whenever you'd go through struggles" and "need a push."

He colored those words gold "to kind of add power to the statement because it's golden words that you can say to help or uplift people."

Next to the woman, there's an orange fist — which is supposed to be the talon of a bird, and it's "holding onto a snake" in a "remake" of the centerpiece of the Mexican flag that shows an eagle biting onto a snake.

Sanchez says he wanted "to not only bring out the beauty" of the flag but also to emphasize the power it conveys.

The right side of the mural also includes a skyline — meant to contrast the small village to the left and show "growth," or the potential that people have.

Lining the bottom of the mural are skulls in pink, red and blue — a nod to the Mexican Day of the Dead holiday that remembers those who've died.

The skulls are about remembering “our fallen ancestors” and helping us “remember where we came from,” Sanchez says.

The color choices in the mural were also purposeful, he says, with splashes of gray that give way to brighter hues trying to show that “good things come after dark times.”

Sanchez says he has “this love of art because of my mother.”

As a boy, his family moved a lot because of her work, Sanchez says, and “she'd have me doodle or draw.”

It wasn't until he was a **student at Elgin High School** “that I started taking art more seriously, and that's basically where I took off being an artist,” he says. “I started creating murals ever since 2019. But a lot of the murals I created were commissioned or for businesses.”

The “Si Se Puede” mural was “basically the first or one of the first ones that was a personal project.

“Elgin has always been a community” with a “humbleness to it, so I wanted to bring more public art to it,” he says.

A business owner, Dream Hall's Kevin Echevarria, let him paint on his building last November on what's been designated a “permission wall.”

The painting draws from Sanchez's Mexican heritage, but it's also supposed to convey “empowerment no matter who you are or what you do,” Sanchez says, that “you can do your dreams.”

– Daily Herald –

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

March 26, 2023

By From Staff Reports

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BASEBALL

Bradley-Bourbonnais 10, Beecher 0 (5 innings)

Burlington Central 15, Larkin 3 (5 innings)

Burlington Central (1-2): Brady Gilroy 2-for-4, 2 HRs, 3 runs, 3 RBIs. A.J. Payton 2-for-4, HR, 2 runs, 3 RBIs.

Deerfield 9, Grayslake Central 0

Deerfield (3-0): Jeremy Yanow 2 RBIs, T.J. Mangurten 2 RBIs, Easton Newman 2 RBIs, Tyler Bernstein 2 RBIs.

Grant 12, Woodstock North 2

Joliet Central 7, Crete-Monee 5

Crete-Monee (0-3): Samuel McCandless 2-for-2, double, run, RBI.

Leo 16, Englewood 0 (3 innings)

Lincoln-Way Central 12, Homewood-Flossmoor 2

Lincoln-Way Central (2-0): Landon Mensik 4 RBIs.

Lincoln-Way West 15, Kankakee 0 (4 innings)

Lincoln-Way West (3-0): Jack Linko 2-for-3, 2 runs, 3 RBIs. Conor Essenburg 2-for-3, 3 RBIs.

Lockport 3, Joliet Catholic 2

Lockport (5-0): Jake Moerman 2-run double.

JCA (1-1-1): Vinny Spotofora 2-for-3, double, 2 RBIs.

Plainfield North 6, Marmion 2

Marmion (2-2): Ethan Flores double, run, RBI.

Prospect 3, Geneva 2

Geneva (0-1): Aiden Mayer 2-for-2, run.

Providence 5, Plainfield East 0

Providence (2-0): Drew Zernaitis (W) 2 IP, 0 H, 4 Ks and 3 relievers 4 H, 13 Ks. Jude Allen double, 2 RBIs.

Reavis 3, Hinsdale South 1

Reavis (4-2): Dennis Muraida (W) 6 IP, 5 Ks. Noah Caceres RBI, Nate Montalto RBI.

Round Lake 12, Alden-Hebron 0

Sandburg 2, Richards 1

Sandburg (4-1): Ethan Neakarse (W) 3 IP, 2 H, 5 Ks. Victor Zaragoza 2-for-3, RBI.

Sandwich 12, East Aurora 0 (5 innings)

Sandwich (3-0): Austin Marks 3 runs, RBI. Tyler Lissman double, 2 RBIs.

Waubonsie Valley 7, York 7

Waubonsie (2-1-1): Ben Ford 2 RBIs, Mason Ringenbach 2 RBIs.

West Aurora 9, Aurora Christian 0

West Aurora (1-0): Nathan Toma (W) 4 IP, 2 H. Colin Tarr 3 IP, 2 H, 6 Ks. Ryan Niedzwiedz HR, 2 runs, 3 RBIs. Jake Williams 2-for-4, HR, run, 2 RBIs.

SOFTBALL

Geneva 8, Larkin 2

Lockport 12, Plainfield North 0 (5 innings)

Lockport (3-0): Alaina Peetz NH. Ava Swain 2-for-2, 2 doubles, 3 runs, 3 RBIs. Addison Foster 2-for-4, triple, 2 runs, 2 RBIs.

Oswego East 7, Metea Valley 2

Plainfield South 6, Sandwich 4

Sandwich (1-2): Allison Olson 2-for-3, double, triple, run, RBI. Lily Geltz 2-for-3, 2 runs.

Plano 18, Westmont 6 (5 innings)

Plano (3-1): Bri Clark 4-for-4, 3 doubles, 3 runs, 4 RBIs. Maddie Cesario 2-for-2, double, 4 runs, 2 RBIs.

Reavis 15, De La Salle 6

Reavis (3-2): Juliana Chalupa 3-for-5, 2 double, HR, 2 runs, 4 RBIs. Sienna Aragonés HR, 3 runs, 4 RBIs.

De La Salle (2-2): Autumn Kelleher HR, run, 3 RBIs.

Serena 13, Batavia 7

Tinley Park 15, Joliet Central 0

Tinley (1-0): Emily Korduplewski CG, H, 13 Ks. Tori Richardson 2-for-5, 2 doubles, 2 runs, 3 RBIs. Maggie Kinsella 3-for-4, double, 2 runs, 3 RBIs. Natalie Gomez 3 runs, 2 RBIs.

West Aurora 6, Rosary 3

West Aurora (2-0): Alyssa Perkins 2-for-2, double, HR, run, 4 RBIs. Sara Tarr 3-for-3, 2 doubles, 3 runs, RBI.

DEKALB BARB FEST CUP

Larkin 1, Yorkville 0

West Aurora 6, Rockford East 1

West Aurora (2-2): Bella Vargas 6 goals.

ST. CHARLES ROSE AUGSBURG-DRACH INVITATIONAL

Championship Semifinals

St. Charles East 5, Hononegah 0

St. Charles East (4-0): Grace Williams goal, Alli Saviano goal, Kara Machala goal.

St. Charles North 2, Loyola 0

St. Charles North (3-1): Sophie Kirsten goal, Laney Stark goal.

Consolation Semifinals

Burlington Central 4, Nazareth 1

Sycamore 1, Bartlett 0 (SO)

SOFTBALL

Andrew 15, Riverside-Brookfield 0 (4 innings)

Benet 11, Wheaton Warrenville South 5

Carmel 6, Evanston 1

Carmel (4-0): Grace Brown 3-for-5, 4 RBIs. Ainsley Rastovac HR.

Crystal Lake South 14, Elgin 3 (5 innings)

Libertyville 10, Grant 5

Libertyville (1-2): Makayla Boone 2-for-4, 2 HRs, 2 runs, 3 RBIs. Zoe Kinsella 2-for-3, 2 HRs, 2 runs, 2 RBIs. Peyton Murphy 2-for-3, 2 HRs, 2 runs, 2 RBIs.

Grant (1-1): Brianne Lopez HR, 2 runs, RBI.

Lockport 5, Montini 0

Lockport (2-0): Amanda Peetz NH, 18 Ks. Ava Swain 2-for-4, 2 HRs, 2 runs, 3 RBIs.

Marist 15, Evergreen Park 0 (4 innings)

Marist (2-1): Camryn Lyons 3-for-3, HR, 2 runs, 2 RBIs. Isabel Cunnea 2-for-3, 2 HRs, 2 runs, 2 RBIs.

Sandwich 7, Somonauk 3

Sandwich (1-1): Petyon Dudzik CG, 3 H, 0 ER 12 Ks. Allison Olson 2-for-4, double, run, 3 RBIs.

Stagg 5, Reavis 4

Stagg (1-1): Erin Crowe CG, 11 Ks; 3-run triple.

Reavis (2-2): Juliana Chalupa 2-for-3, double, run, RBI.

Vernon Hills 9, Waukegan 4

Vernon Hills (1-3): Morgan Hart 3-for-3, double, 3 runs, 2 RBIs.

West Chicago 7, Waubonsie Valley 0

Woodstock 14, Round Lake 3 (5 innings)

Round Lake (0-2): Lilli Burton 2-for-2, 2 runs.

SOUTHERN WARRIOR CLASSIC

At Murfreesboro, Tenn.

South Elgin 7, Riverdale (Tenn.) 2

Coffee County (Tenn.) 7, **South Elgin** 5

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

– Daily Herald –

Scouting boys volleyball



South Elgin's Sean Harvey will play college volleyball at Penn State. Brian Hill | Staff Photographer

March 27, 2023

By Bobby Narang

Just like last season, Glenbard West is among the top teams aiming to win the boys state volleyball title this spring.

The Hilltoppers (39-3) rode a talented team to the state championship in 2022, bringing back several key players this spring, namely senior outside hitter Parker Moorhead, senior middle hitter Liam O'Neil, junior libero Andrew Ellis and juniors Xavion Willett and Adam Graham.

Antioch (15-15) made several strides last season with numerous first-time accomplishments. The Sequoits have the returnees to take it another step this spring, especially with the senior group of Gavin Nelson, Matthew Schultz, Thomas Weber, Nathan Young, Dylan Niznik, Ben Georgia and Keith Hill and sophomore Charlie Robinson leading the team.

Bartlett (26-7) is aiming to win the Upstate Eight Conference for the fourth year in a row, led by setter Aaron Amawan, middle hitter Adam Koniecko and outside hitter Spencer Medendorp.

"We have a strong core of seniors and experienced juniors," **Bartlett coach Robert Schwantz** said.

Benet (28-10) brings back two starters from last season, with Dom Krzeczowski and Aris Maurukas slated to become key players this spring.

Carmel, 21-15 last season, is a young team but veteran team, according to coach Kevin Nysten. The Corsairs have a good mix of players, highlighted by seniors Will Niese, Dylan Franada and Brad Schaefer.

Conant has six returnees from a team that won a regional title last season, namely Jacob Pietraszek, Nick Gutka, Michael Recko, Liam Cunningham, Maksymilian Zalensinski and Declan Brennan.

"The competitive atmosphere, led by our seniors, will drive our success," Conant coach Drewann Pancratz said.

Downers Grove North lost significant firepower following the graduation of all-state outside hitter Ian Schuller but does feature Theo Pawlik (174 kills), Cooper Hansen (158 kills), Grant Henderson (513 assists) and Lincoln Geist (290 digs).

Downers Grove South (36-5) is led by middle hitter Mason Kolar and setter Nick Koch. Both played a key role on last season's third-place state team.

Elk Grove middle hitter Bart Sarat, a St. Xavier recruit, is a top player in the Mid-Suburban League, joining junior Jason Lewis and senior Jay Patel on a developing team.

After a stellar season that included winning two tournaments, Fremd (24-8) heads into the new season with optimism. Senior outside hitter Camden Seaver, a Missouri S & T recruit, is a two-time all-conference player. Seniors Nick Tangney, Marcin Hoffman, Cooper O'Kelly, JR Stella and junior Nate Caro are all expected to lead the team.

Glenbrook North coach Chris Cooper has three starters from last season's 29-win team back, in senior setter Paul Cho (593 assists), senior outside hitter Connor Durst (296 kills, 56 aces) and junior outside hitter Evan Uhlig (135 kills).

Grayslake Central is aided by senior outside hitter Ryan Huntington, an Augustana recruit, leading the way. The Rams, 21-14 for a program record in wins for a season, lost nine players but have six sophomores aiming to fill the talent void.

Grayslake North is coming off an 18-17 season and second place finish in conference at 7-3. Top returning players include Luke Conover (Sr., OH), Evan McMahon (Sr., RS), Kevin Meyer (Jr., DS), Adam Petraitis (Jr., RS) and Ryan Rhodes (Sr., L) with newcomers Jack Calhoun (Jr., S); Caden Smith (Sr., OH) and Eli Wetter (Sr., MH).

"We have five returning players who will help contribute to our team's success," coach Nikki Kirchway said. "In addition, we have added several players who we know will help add to our competitiveness on the court in practice and in matches. The baseline of our talent is the highest we have seen and we are really excited to show others what we are made of. We plan to break records again this year and vie for a top finish in conference while having some of the best players in the area on our team."

Hersey (29-9) is motivated to win a regional title again thanks to the return of Justin Arrowood, Michael Seamans, Alex Sulewski, Connor Krebs and Rory Broderick.

Hinsdale Central senior outside hitter Jakobi Lange, a USC recruit, is among the top players in the state. The Red Devils also return senior libero Nick Kujalowicz and senior middle hitter Jack Erickson. Hinsdale South juniors Nate Ockrim and Adrian Folfas are the leaders on a young but athletic team.

At Lakes, junior outside hitter Erik Stover (324 kills) is one of the top players in Lake County. The Eagles also bring back senior outside hitter Kaden Martin (200 kills), junior middle hitter David Synovic (43 blocks) and senior setter Will Haak (644 assists).

Lake Zurich junior Anthony Kim, a three-year starter, tallied 210 digs last season to be among the top returnees for his team this season, plus senior Ethan Shon.

Libertyville has three key returnees from last season's memorable run that ended with a fourth-place state medal -- senior setter Luis Correa and senior outside hitters Aleks Slesers and Braden Andersen.

Lake Park (20-17) possesses a mix of sophomores, juniors and seniors on its roster, with senior outside hitter Evan DeValk, senior setter AJ Lally, sophomore middle hitter Carter Gibbons, junior setter Dylan Brinkley and junior middle hitter David Lebiezinski a team to watch.

Metea Valley (28-10) had many memorable moments in 2022 -- DuPage Valley Conference title for the first time in program history, Gold Bracket winners at Warren and Metea Valley invite. The Mustangs lost significant talent from last season, though outside hitter Bartosz Chmielewski and middle hitter Robert Stewart are back.

Mundelein has a good group of players in the fold, including Matthew Kawa (238 assists), Carlos Eloiza (110 kills), Kevin Mann (77 kills), Shane Clausen and Samay Prajapati (92 kills, 39 blocks).

Naperville Central is relying on seniors Hudson Warnes, Wyatt Yager and Lucas Johnson to help a young team building for the future.

Neuqua Valley senior outside hitter Noah Hrubesky and sophomore setter Ermuun Batchuluun are players to watch in the DVC this season.

Palatine has one of the tallest players in the state, in 6-foot-10 Derek Nagel, who committed to play for George Mason. The Pirates (19-18) lost 10 seniors from last season.

Prospect (20-13) is full of talented and experienced players, with Will Klimek, Ryan Cook, Marc Ruffolo, Luke Craddock and Ben Schram the core returnees. Rolling Meadows senior libero Juan Flores, senior defensive specialist Aidan Moran and junior outside hitter Gavin Jensen are attempting to build off last season's playoff success.

Schaumburg endured some growing pains due to a young team last year, but senior Chris Radomski, a Benedictine recruit, joins junior Carter Luecht to raise the bar for expectations this spring.

South Elgin's top returnees include senior outside hitter Sean Harvey, a Penn State recruit, and senior outside hitter Adrian Martinez.

"Sean is stepping up as our leader this year after a successful junior season and a big offseason," South Elgin coach Jesse Bossenga said.

Stevenson is led by Sam Nuudel, a three-year varsity player. The Patriots have a wealth of talent back in the fold, including David Wang, Jason DeZutter, James Angelos, Ramsey Engel and Yugank Arora to make a run at another North Suburban Conference title.

Vernon Hills senior middle hitter David Rzepa (167 kills) is a player slated to lead his team, along with senior libero Evan Hessel (248 digs, 22 aces) and senior outside hitters Adam Gerken (101 kills) and senior outside hitter Noah Ellis (126 kills).

Wheaton Warrenville South (15-19) is looking for a bounce-back showing due to standouts Evan Hutchins (83 kills, 59 solo blocks), Joey Kohley (308 digs, 16 aces), Joey Kelly (147 digs, 34 aces), Mergan Purevsuren (164 kills, 124 digs) and Quinn Harty all back.

A year ago, York was a young team full of promise. Not this year. The Dukes are looking to top last season's results -- 25-11 and third place in the West Suburban Silver. Senior outside hitter Michael Rimington (248 kills) headlines the returnees.

"This year we won't be sneaking up on anyone," York coach Kenneth Dowdy said. "The expectations overall are very high for this team."