

GHCLA/GHC 2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

June 2016 – and the GHCLA and the GHC have continued our generous tradition of encouraging area students. This spring our organizations awarded a total of seven \$1000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors in our community. We have now given \$59,000 to deserving high school graduates since the year 2000.

In January 2016 the auxiliary voted to award five \$1000 scholarships, designating four of them for Hudson High School in Pasco County and for Springstead, Central, and Weeki Wachee High Schools in Hernando County. The GHC funded two scholarships. As in past years, these were designated by county: one for Pasco and one for Hernando.

The fifth at-large GHCLA award was given in loving memory of Freda Gima, who unselfishly gave hundreds of hours to the success of our groups, including serving on the scholarship committee in past years. And it should be noted with gratefulness that one GHCLA scholarship was funded by the family of long-time active member Patricia Payne. The first scholarship in Pat's memory was awarded in 2015.

By late April, the 6 members of the scholarship committee had individually read all the applications and ranked their top 3 candidates from each school. During May, members of the scholarship committee attended awards ceremonies at each school to congratulate these outstanding young people. The recipients have overcome obstacles and shown the potential for success in their chosen fields. The GHCLA and GHC can certainly be proud of our part in supporting these students!



Cari Bean

Springstead High School (GHCLA Award)
Career Goal – Microbiology
Accepted at U-Florida, U-Miami, U-South
Florida

AP and honors courses
President National English Honor Society
Varsity Soccer
Over 100 community service hours

Quote from recommendation: "Cari is a dynamic individual, steadfastly making her way and leaving her mark on her classmates and the community at large. She is a driving force and excellent role model for her peers..."



Isaac Cintron - Patricia Payne Memorial Winner

Hudson High School (GHCLA Award)

Career goal – to work with autistic people through music

Has taken dual enrollment classes at Pasco Hernando State College and will continue there.

Honors and dual enrollment classes.

ROTC and honor roll all 4 years.

Tutored children with learning difficulties at local elementary school.

Has 4 brothers, 2 with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Has been able to communicate with them on a deeper level through music.

Quote from recommendation: "Isaac is a solid student who works hard....and he would like to continue working to assist others."



Alexis Gerondidakis

Central High School (GHCLA Award)

Career Goal – Criminology

Accepted at PHSC and will continue at Florida State University

Volleyball captain, also soccer, track, cheerleading, and ROTC

400 community service hours

Works at Chick-Fil-A 35 hours/week and her wages go to household expenses. Her dad died when she was 7 months old; her mom developed a disability 2 years ago from her job.

Quote from recommendation: "Alexis has many qualities one looks for in a high school student headed for success. She is very well rounded, goal oriented, intelligent, physically fit, self-confident, amiable, and energetic."

Tierra Keeys

Hudson High School (GHC Award – Pasco County)

Career Goal – Nursing

Accepted at Jacksonville University

National Honor Society treasurer 2 years

Student Government treasurer 2 years

Member of Color Guard and Winter Guard all 4 years.

Volunteers at Regional Medical Center

104 Leadership group (community service) hours

Quote from recommendation: "It's not surprising she wants to major in nursing because she has a helper's heart."



Shawn O'Gorman

Weeki Wachee High School (GHCLA Award)

Career Goal – Marine Biology

Will attend Florida International University

National Honor Society, Honor Roll 4 years.

330 hours community service

Varsity Football all 4 years (Captain as Jr. and

Sr.) with awards at the county, district, and

state level. First Team Florida all-state

academic team. He will be a preferred walk-on for the football team at FIU, but with no scholarship.

Also earned county and regional awards in weightlifting and track.

Quote from recommendation: "Shawn is a very respectful and caring young man. His reputation as a well-rounded student/athlete speaks for itself." And – "His ease of communication, enthusiasm and kind natured soul are just a few traits that separate him from others."



Kaylee Ritzenthaler

Springstead High School (GHC Award – Hernando County)

Career Goal -Nursing

Accepted at 5 schools

Key Club President

Beta Club, National Honor Society, IB curriculum, High Honors

Has Type 1 diabetes – active in diabetes awareness programs.

Quote from recommendation: “Kaylee always strives to push herself to achieve at the highest level, with her charismatic and diligent nature driving her towards success.”



Kathryn Rodriguez – Freda Gima Memorial Winner

Central High School (GHCLA Award)

Career Goal – Veterinarian

Will attend Newberry College in South Carolina

Daughter of pigeon fancier David Rodriguez

Honors, AP, and dual enrollment classes

214 community service hours

BETA club, National Honor Society, JROTC

Quote from recommendation: “I have the utmost respect and confidence in Kathryn, and sincerely believe she will bring her warm and caring personality, passion for learning, and drive for success to all challenges she may face in the future.”

And a quote from Kathryn herself – “By age 11 I was hand-raising any baby pigeons that either were ill-raised by new parents or abandoned by their parents. Hand-raising baby pigeons is the messiest task my mother has ever watched me do in her clean kitchen.”

Members of the 2016 scholarship committee were Lois Jensen, Terry McConnell, Marge McNeilus, Rose Soulis, and co-chairs Kathy Welch and Kathy Hackemer. A special note of thanks to Jim Soulis, who prepared the scholarship certificates.