



## Two Lee High School seniors girls earn fourth place at District, compete at State

Rosaria Casia and Ixchel Perez  
News Writers

Wrestling Captain Ixchel Perez and Senior Sandra Emokhor were State qualified after months of hard work and dedication to wrestling.

At the District competition, both Emokhor and Perez placed 4th in their weight class. However due to a miscommunication, both girls were deemed disqualified because they were unaware they had to participate in a wrestle-off after the awards were given.

When Wrestling Coach James Laster talked to the District, it was decided that the girls could both be in 5th place, allowing them to be alternatives at the State Meet.

Since late October, the wrestling team has practiced three hours a day for four weeks with the hope of making it to the State competition.

This is the second year that Lee High School sent two female wrestlers to State.

This is Sandra's first year as a State qualifier, while this is Ixchel's second year.

"I know that all the early morning and late night practices have finally paid off," Perez said. "As a senior, my biggest dream was to make it to State for the second time. I feel like I have accomplished my dream."

Perez is very passionate about wrestling. She made many changes in her life to adjust wrestling into her busy schedule.

"I quit my job and organized my scheduled in a manner in which I could have time to practice and be available for very competition," she said. "Doing all of that was a good choice because as the captain of the girls

wrestling team, I have to set the example."

Prioritizing the sport led her to a more successful season, said Perez.

"Last year I made it to State with a record of 11-4 but this year I made it to state with a record of 15-4, being 15 pounds under my weight class," Perez said. "I am very happy with myself. I love this sport so much and I am glad to have the best people around me who support me on everything."

Emokhor is also a committed wrestler who changed her eating habits in order to keep herself under her weight class.

"I had to eat once a day, because I wanted to be 9 or 10 pounds under my weight class," Emokhor said. "It was a difficult challenge but I had to do it for my love of wrestling."

Although it was challenging, Emokhor lost 9 pounds and was able to be under her weight class.

According to Emokhor, making it to State was one of her biggest accomplishments.

"I am very happy that I made it to State because it is my last year and I wanted to take good memories with me," Emokhor said. "I know that all the changes I made in my life and the hard work I put into the sport is paying off."

Both girls dedicated their time and energy to better themselves and become stronger. They both accomplished their dreams of being state qualifiers.

"I am very proud of both, Ixchel and Sandra, for making it to State and representing our team and our school," Laster said.



PHOTO TAKEN BY GUSTAVO MACOCO



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY TAMARA TISDALE

## Lee Guard earns superior rating at first competition

Ronnie Mason  
News Writer

This month the Lee Guard Dance Team competed at their first dance competition ever with many other high school students at the HISD MA Dance Competition. They showed up ready to dance and walked away proudly with a "sweepstakes" title, also receiving a superior rating in all of their three performed dances.

"We danced to a Beyoncé mix as our pom pom, Iggy Azalea as our hip hop, and Sam Smith as our jazz," Coach Tamara Tisdale said. "My goals were to get high ratings during the dance and also to correct our errors. When we corrected our errors we received high points."

The February 7th competition was the very first competition the Lee Guard has competed in in over three years.

"It was very exciting to go to a competition and be around all those people from different places who shared the same common interest," Junior Dancer Daniela Valdes said.

Because it was the first competition, the dancers and even the coach admitted they were a little nervous.

"I was excited and nervous, but overall I knew we would do well," said Coach Tisdale.

Despite the nerves, Lee Guard was clearly prepared for the competition. They received a score of a 90 on two dances and an 89 on the third dance.

"Yes I think we were ready because we had been practicing so much and dedicating all of our time and effort," Valdes said. "A lot of us have sacrificed time we could've spent on school or at work."

In order to be the best you have to train, practice, and give it your all, according to Tisdale.

"Normally we practice twice a week, but to prepare for the competition we practiced every day of the week," Valdes said.

Let's congratulate these ladies on such a successful performance and for working so hard to make sure they were as prepared as they could be. We are so proud of our Lee Guard Dance Team. May these ladies have the best of luck during their future competitions.



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# Students balance work and school

Melissa Garcia

Co Editor-in-Chief

With a school day being about nine hours long, students at Lee High School have to learn ways to manage a part time job. Aside from school hours there is also homework and extracurricular activities. This can mean having only about twenty minutes to change and go to work. However many students at Lee are adamant about making their own money and becoming independent.

Students like Junior Bryan Eriza who works at a local fast food restaurant also work during school days.

“Depending on my school work situation, I usually work about 25 hours a week. During long school breaks such as winter break I work 35 to 45 hours a week” Junior Bryan Eriza said. He also manages to find a way to complete homework, “I usually finish my homework during class before class, before work or after work.”

Like Eriza, there are many others who manage to find ways that work with their schedule in order to turn in assignments on time.

Other students such as Junior Daniela Valdes who is involved in the Lee Guard dance team finds nearby jobs with flexible schedules that will not interfere with her important after school activities.

“Having a job very close to my house is convenient because I don’t have to worry about how much time it will take to get there,” she said. “I work from 15 to 18 hours a week, it all depends how much we’re practicing and how much homework I get but they’re really flexible with my schedule. I talk to the manager

when she makes the schedules and just tell her what days I can and cannot work.”

Both she and Eriza work because they like to be more independent.

“I have a job because my parents cannot buy me everything I want and it feels good making my own money to buy my own things,” Eriza said.

Many students find that working a job can be rewarding in terms of independence to purchase wanted items.

Students involved in after school activities such as Junior Kimberly Hipo say being involved in an after school activity as well as managing having a job is not very difficult as long as you are organized.

“I have theater after school almost every day and I usually get out kind of late,” junior Kimberly Hipo said. “Theatre is really important to me and I always strive to perform as great as I can.”

Because of her busy schedule during the school week she ends up working only on the weekends.

“This means that most of the time I will not work after school and most of the hours I put in are during the weekend when I can work at whatever time,” she said.

Others who are not involved in after school activities say it isn’t too difficult to manage both a job and school.

Sophomore Oscar Bonilla who works at a fast food restaurant says working during school days was very tiring at first but a little easier after some time.

Some former Lee High School



PHOTO TAKEN BY JENNIFER COYOT

students who have moved on to college explain the differences of both.

“When I was in high school I had class every day for nine hours, which meant I could only work afternoons” former Lee student Marco Acosta said. “Sometimes I would get really tired from working the night before and wake up feeling like I had climbed a mountain.”

However Acosta explains that moving on to college was a much easier transition.

“In college now, I have a couple classes a day, about 2 hours each for only 3 times a week,” Acosta said. “This makes my work schedule a lot more flexible but I also have to be really responsible with my time.”

Acosta went on to explain that in college students have to take responsibility for their free time and make sure they are earning their credits and getting good grades.

“There is a lot of free time,” he said, “but that’s only because you

have to be responsible enough to study and take time to complete all your assignments.”

College students usually have a little more free time, and, compared to high school students, work schedules can be more flexible and include more hours.

Despite the challenging situations Lee students may come across they always find ways to help out or make the most of their opportunities.

# Drugs dangers threaten teenagers

Noor Al Yacoub

News Writer

What are Drugs?

A drug is a chemical substance that can change how your body and mind work. Drugs of abuse are substances that people use to get high and change how they feel. They may be illegal drugs like marijuana, cocaine, heroin, or they may be legal for adults only, like alcohol and tobacco. Drugs change the chemistry of the brain, and that is one of the reasons that drugs are addicting. Nicotine, cocaine, and marijuana are examples of drugs that cause changes in the brain. Changes in brain chemistry affect how the brain works, which is why drugs are harmful for the brain.

According to Johns Hopkins University, 25 percent of the deaths in the U.S. are caused by alcohol, smoking or illegal drug use. Many teens equate drug addiction with illegal drugs and alcohol, but some of the most addicting drugs are prescription medication.

Teens can become addicted to medications their own doctors prescribe for them, they sometimes steal them from parents or other relatives, or they buy them illegally. The National Survey on Drug Use and Health in 2006 found that over 16 million teenagers admitted to trying this kind of drug at least once.

“Most teenagers take drugs because they are depressed or they have a lot of problems,” Senior

Fatin Khmo said. “Also, they start to join gangs. It’s really bad because it ruins your life.”

Drugs, particularly illicit ones, are often surrounded by myth and folklore that either exaggerate or underplay the danger of taking them and the effect they have psychologically and physically. The truth about certain drugs is often the polar opposite of received popular wisdom.

“When you are under the influence of drugs and other aspects which can cause addiction, you don’t have control of yourself which can possibly lead you to do things like suicide,” Senior Mariam Al Hassan said.

However, it’s not too late if you can find support to break your addiction.

A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 2004 found 800,000 deaths were caused in the year 2000 as a direct result of either tobacco or alcohol use, compared to 17,000 deaths attributable to the direct or indirect use of illicit drugs.

Medicines that treat illness can also become drugs of abuse when people take them to get high—not because they’re sick and following their doctor’s orders. People can even abuse cough or cold medicines from the store if they ignore the directions and take too much at one time.

Why teens abuse drugs?

1) They want to feel good. Taking a drug can feel really good for a short time. That’s why people keep taking them—to have those good feelings again and again. But even though someone may take more and more of a drug, the good feelings don’t last. Soon the person is taking the drug just to keep from feeling bad.

2) They want to stop feeling bad. Some people who feel very worried, afraid, or sad abuse drugs to try to stop feeling so awful. This doesn’t really help their problems and can lead to addiction, which can makes them feel much worse.

3) They want to do well in school or at work. Some people who want to get good grades, get a better job, or earn more money might think drugs will give them more energy, keep them awake, or make them think faster. But it usually doesn’t work, may put their health at risk, and may lead to addiction. Addiction is a brain disease.

How Drugs Affect you?

1) Drugs change how the brain works.

2) These brain changes can last for a long time.

3) They can cause problems like mood swings, memory loss, even trouble thinking and making decisions.

“As a teen I know that when

you take drugs it destroyed your mind and future,” Senior Jeanne Mwamikazi said. “It lowers self-esteem.”

Addiction is a disease, just as diabetes and cancer are diseases. Addiction is not simply a weakness. People from all backgrounds, rich or poor, can get an addiction. Addiction can happen at any age, but it usually starts when a person is young.

“First danger is students not being able to think positively for their future,” Pre-calculus Mr. Ndiaye, Dahirou said. “For example, drugs will push you to do things that are not normal to other people. You might have high energy and perhaps feel superior. However, that may not be how you are. Hence, your likelihood of making bad choices and breaking rules can get higher. In essence, students should never attempt to do drugs because they can pay a higher price than being just a normal student.”

Drug Treatment:

Treatment helps teens stop using the drugs they’re addicted to. Treatment can include talk therapy, medicine, or both. It helps them learn to fight the urges to use drugs again, and it helps them regain control of their lives.

Teens start taking drugs for different reasons. Sometimes it’s because they’re upset about personal prob-

lems and don’t know how to cope. But drugs can make these problems worse. Treatment can help teens work on the problems in their lives, such as family trouble, money trouble, or problems at work. Drug abuse can mess up every part of a person’s life. So treatment needs to work with all areas of your life—your relationships, your work, and the way you have fun, and how you deal with problems. Treatment can help people who are just starting to get addicted. You don’t have to be at “rock bottom” for treatment to work. When someone quits taking drugs and starts learning how to live life without drugs, then he or she is already “in recovery.”

Abuse of drugs, including tobacco and alcohol, kills more than half a million Americans each year. They die from overdoses, accidents, illness, and other causes. Drug abuse keeps people from having the best lives they can. Drug abuse can hurt your health, your ability to work, and your relationships. Treatment works. It helps people recover from addiction. But the best protection from the dangers of drugs is to not start in the first place.

“For treatment I recommend rehab and association with positive people such as mentors, coaches, family members, and students who are successful in their schools and life.” Ndiaya said.



# Student accepted to two out-of-state universities

Find out how to get an education outside of Texas!

Guadalupe Rodriguez  
*Layout Editor*

There’s more to out-of-state schools than just the pretty campus and new schools. There’s a different application process than most Texas schools, there are different fees, and different requirements. In November of 2014, I was accepted to two out-of-state Public Universities, Penn State University and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Both are amazing choices, however, like I said there is more to take into consideration than just the application process.

Unfortunately for me, I had very little information about college apps, financial aid, tuition rates, etc. So here is a breakdown of what out-of-state schools’ applications are really like.

First most applications outside of Texas use the Common Application, which is similar to Apply Texas, but for a wider variety of schools across the country. Also some schools use

their own application. Penn State had its own application and CU Boulder had an option to apply through Common App or their own application. For both applications, I paid \$50 because I wanted to avoid the whole fee waiver hassle, so I just paid up front. For both applications I had the general school records, letters of recommendation, activities, volunteer work and finally the essays. Penn State only had one essay while CU Boulder had applicants write three.

Another important factor to con-

sider in out-of-state applications are your qualifications. For example, if you don’t have the best grades then you might need great SAT scores. If you don’t have stellar SAT scores you’re going to at least need good grades and an amazing essay. If you don’t like essays you’re going to have to get over it because you’ll be writing many over the course of your college applications.

After the application was done I only had to wait about two weeks before I got a reply because I applied early action. So if you guys want a quick response, apply before the second week of November. I was accepted to both schools and I was ecstatic.

However, that’s not where it ends. If you want to go to an out-of-state

**“If you go to an out-of-state school there has to be a plan because out-of-state schools are expensive.”**

*Senior Guadalupe Rodriguez*



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SPORTSPICKLE.COM

school there has to be a plan because out-of-state schools are expensive. Penn State tuition for an out-of-state student their freshman year is \$47,500 while out-of-state at CU Boulder is around \$35,000. So money is a very important factor.

There are several important aspects to consider when applying to an out-of-state school. First, how qualified

are you to be accepted in terms of academics? Second, how feasible would it be to pay for the out-of-state tuition considering it is much more expensive to go outside of Texas?

Finally, be sure to consider the emotional aspect in the sense that your parents will no longer be close to you and it’ll be extremely difficult to get hold of.

## Summer opportunities available to high schoolers

Cindy Wakiyama  
*Co Editor-in-Chief*

### NASA High School Aerospace Scholars

If you are interested in exploring science, technology, engineering, and mathematics concepts, this free residential summer experience at the NASA Johnson Space Center could be for you.

Requirements: US Citizen, Texas resident, high school junior, interested in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, able to access the internet (home, school, or public library), committed to completing online lessons to qualify for a six-day residential summer program.

For more information go to [has.aerospacescholars.org](http://has.aerospacescholars.org)

### Barnard College Summer Program

This New York City school offers programs in many different disciplines such as writing, theatre, film studies, chemistry, neuroscience, psychology, and more. This program is available for 10th and 11th grade.

For more information go to [barnard.edu/summer](http://barnard.edu/summer)

### UH Bauer College of Business Summer Program

This program is open to current 9th, 10th, and 11th graders. Students will get to explore the world of business and special topics.

For more information go to [bauer.uh.edu/prospective/undergraduates/summer-camp.php](http://bauer.uh.edu/prospective/undergraduates/summer-camp.php)

### UH Cougar Band Camp

This is a summer concert band camp for middle school, Jr. high, high school students and also incoming college music major freshmen at the University of Houston.

For more information go to [uhbands.com/cougar-band-camp/](http://uhbands.com/cougar-band-camp/)

### Houston Chronicle Classroom

For those interested in writing, communication, and journalism, an internship at one of the biggest newspapers in the country. This program has a connection with HISD, therefore interns receive school credit for their work. Current juniors may apply, the internship will occur during applicants’ senior year. See Ms. Wiener in Rm 219 for more information.

### Genesys Works

This is a paid internship that offers programs in information technology, engineering/drafting, accounting/business. Students will receive summer training prior to the internship that will occur during the school year.

For more information go to [genesysworks.org/houston](http://genesysworks.org/houston)

### Engineering for Kids

This is an after school paid opportunity for anyone in STEM who is willing to teach those concepts to kids ages 4-14. Only 3 high school seniors are accepted to co-teach a class per semester.

For more information go to [engineeringforkids.com](http://engineeringforkids.com)

## Debate team finishes season strong

Jackie Correa  
*News Writer*

Have you ever talked to anyone who has ever achieved something great at Lee High School? Chances are you might have, even if they are small achievements or big ones, everyone in Lee has done some sort of great deed.

Every day you walk past someone who has won something. At Lee High School there are a couple of students who have done great things this school year. This year the debate team has done an amazing job of placing in at least one tournament!

“This year I am really proud of my students,” Coach Alyssa Loza said. “I knew my students had the potential to compete in debate but they needed experience and to practice hard to get to where they are now.”

According to Loza, there were students who have improved and done a better job from last year.

“Yes, Karim Sabar won top speaker act of all teams that competed in World School Debate.”

Aiding Lee’s increasingly positive

image in the academic and athletic competition arena, Lee’s debate team is shining a successful, yet very intense, light.

From Sabar’s point of view, competitions are always very competitive. “The competitions are always intense, especially in varsity,” Sabar said. “All the people there are in it to win it and it’s never going to be an easy win.”

The students at Lee are always trying to be number one even when they are told they can’t do it. Just remember with hard work and practice you can and will become number one!

Parents tend to be very positive about joining a club such as debate but Sabar said his parents were against the idea.

“My parents initially thought that the competitions were too long and that it would disrupt my learning because I would focus more on debate than school,” Sabar said. Yet he still decided to continue to do debate. “But when they saw how much I liked it



and how much it was helping me, they’ve become very supportive of it and encourage me to go to every tournament.”

A lot of people may think that debate and clubs like it are just for “nerds” or “geeks” but they actually aren’t. Debate is a type of club that is for people who really want to speak with others and get their views on things. At the club level, debating teams, along with their coaches and other club members, prepare for tournaments and serve the broader school community. Parents, teachers, and community members are encouraged to participate as judges, in fundraisers, and as volunteers within the club program. The debate team is also a place for socializing if you want to get to know other people, and hey if you’re lucky you may meet a whole new group of friends.

## Students celebrate Valentine’s Day with their own traditions

Bryan Eriza  
*News Writer*

Valentine’s Day is a day in which you spend quality time with loved ones or with your significant other. Here are some things the students from Lee High School did to celebrate.

“I went out with my family and gave out gifts,” Junior Daniel Becerra said. “Afterwards I went clubbing with a couple of friends and tried to enjoy myself.”

Junior Guadalupe Bonola spent her Valentine’s Day with her boyfriend, debate!

“I spent the day making sure that I was ready for our last date on February 21,” Bonolasaid. “He’s going to be away for a while so it’s going to be the last time I’ll see him in a while.”

Other students did things that are a bit more romantic.

“My boyfriend knocked on my door and when I opened it, I saw a pink, plush dog and a bouquet of pink daisies on my doorstep,” Senior Cindy Wakiyama said. “I thought he was hiding, he does that sometimes. Then I noticed a trail of Hershey kisses and I followed it downstairs. I found him sitting on the grass playing guitar.”

Junior Ronnie Mason said he was prepared for Valentine’s Day but did not have an actual date.

“I cut my hair in the morning, thinking I was going to go out,” Mason said. “Sadly I didn’t do anything. It was a very sad Valentine’s Day for

me, I hope next year will be better.”

One student gave his opinion on what he believes Valentine’s Day is all about and how he spent his day celebrating it.

“Well, Valentine’s day just makes you realize either how loved you are or how alone you are,” Junior Franklin Carvajal said. “But it’s not just about being loved by one special person, it’s about having family and friends that care about you and love you. It shouldn’t be as commercial as it is but it is nice that there’s a day to remind the people you love that you love them. Also, I’d like to shout out all the people I love: my mother, my father, my brothers, my friends, and my dog Delilah.”



# Shout outs to Monica Perez, Cristal Santana

Major Adrian Corona  
*Teacher*

JROTC would like to give a shout out to two outstanding leader Cadets, Operations Officer Monica Perez and Delta Company Commander Cristal Santana. Monica Perez has been a leader with compassion. For the last three years she has planned and supported Pancho Claus, an individual who has given to the local community during the holidays. During the last three Christmas Eves, her and other Cadet leaders met with Pancho Claus and distributed toys to local needy children who otherwise wouldn't have received a gift. JROTC thanks Monica for demonstrating such selfless service and compassion. Delta Company Commander, Cristal Santana, has done an outstanding job leading her company since the beginning of the year. She commands the biggest company, but her effective leadership and commitment has allowed her to be a leading front-runner for best company. Cristal has displayed outstanding leadership qualities and she is the epitome of what a leader should be. JROTC thanks her for her outstanding leadership.

# Shout out to Claudia Wu

Steven Jolly  
*Teacher*

Claudia Wu (9th) is a student who is continuously exceeding my expectations. Claudia is in my 8th period class, which is overpopulated and rife with behavioral concerns, however, no matter what her peers may be doing, she can always be found on task. Not only is she always on task, but, Claudia astonishes me with her attention to detail in her work. Finally, she has proven to be a nice person with good intentions in all that she does. Claudia is a student destined for success in whatever path she takes.

# Shout out to Yzhbl David

Sharina Stirgus  
*Teacher*

Yzhbl is my top performing student and most deserving of recognition. She is an excellent student and very proactive when it comes to learning. She is always smiling and in a good mood. It makes me proud to be her Apollo tutor and a member of the Lee staff. She consistently gets perfect scores on math models exams. Her gregarious attitude and happy spirit rubs off on her peers and I, as her Apollo tutor. In her welding class, she developed the sketches in the Safe Passage Project. The sketches were composed of the different views of the fabricated model of the bridge. Yzhbl was nominated as student of the week for the month of November in her Linked Learning class. She wants to be a mechanical engineer and is on the right path to achieving her goals.

# Shout outs to Ladisla Arzu, Andy Rocha

Alyssa Loza  
*Teacher*

All around, Ladisla is a great kid! She works very efficiently and gets her assignments done in a timely manner and with a good quality! She helps her peers and uses critical thinking to expand her knowledge rather than just basic understanding of concepts. Her personality is bright and joyful and she doesn't complain about coming to school. She is one of those students that you want to see on a daily basis because she brings so much positive energy to your classroom. Every time she walked through the door she would laugh and my only comment to her would be "it's not that funny" and still she laughed harder at my comment. © A proud moment I had for Ladisla last semester was when she was faced with failure after miscommunication with another teacher. Her grades were impacted as well as her eligibility to dance for Lee Guard. She handled herself with such professionalism and poise. She spoke with her teacher in a respectful manner and the problem was solved. I am not only proud of the student she is but also the person she chooses to be! I look forward to her future and all the things she has left to accomplish! Andy works really hard to be active in class and enjoys learning. At the end of the semester, the majority of the class was very nervous to give their final speech. We spent about 2 weeks preparing for the speech and still, some students could not go up in front of their peers to deliver their speech. Andy, however, was not one of those students. Andy went up with such pride and happiness about his speech! He talked about Disneyland and the fun rides at Disneyland. It was such a fun speech to listen to because his voice rose every time he got really excited about the subject he was talking about. Andy accomplished something that is very difficult with most people. He accomplished it with a smile!

# Shout out to K. Gonzales

Amanda Mattox  
*Teacher*

Kimberly maintains an honor's average, and voluntarily trained as a HUB/Web-master for my Art 1 classes. She created and upkeepes the online art gallery, as well as peer-tutors our ELL students during class. She is inherently talented and always gives 110%. She is an exemplary student and person. I am so happy to have her in my class!

# Shout out to the UIL One Act Play Theater Production Team

Dr. Brenda Kinion  
*Teacher*

I want to give a big Lee High School shout out to the UIL One Act Play Theater Production Team. They function as one so I must give a unified shout out. They are working incredibly hard to prepare for the UIL One Act Play competition March 26th at Sharpstown High School where they will be competing against Davis, Sharpstown, Waltrip, Yates, and Madison High Schools. Each of these students go above and beyond to help Lee High School shine brightly for HoustonISD, the Lee High school family and community and lastly for themselves. One of the vocal warm-ups we do is "Good better best, never let it rest, until your good is better and your better is best." And believe me that is what they strive to accomplish. So a giant Lee shout out to the Lee High School 2014-15 Theater Production Team.

- 1. Cherry, Dejanee - Actress
- 2. Belmarez, Michelle N. – President and Sound Technician
- 3. Davis, Bria C. - Actress
- 4. Dixon-Forest, Charles P. - Actor

- 5. Grant Morales, Claudia T. - Actress
- 6. Hipo, Kimberly - Actress
- 7. Igbozurike, Marian C - Stage manager
- 8. Kamdoun, Marcelin – Assistant Stage Manager
- 9. Kaur, Jeevandeep - Actress
- 10. Martinez, Yaneth – Light Technician
- 11. Rehman, Ibad U. - Actor
- 12. Suarez, Javier A. - Actor
- 13. Woolridge Martin, Kendale Lee Allen G. – Vice President - Actor

# Shout outs to J. Guerra, J. Herrera, A. Jimenez, S. Jamal

Amber Rahman  
*Teacher*

Jason Guerra - 11th Grade Physics Master Mind :) Jason is a truly extraordinary student who works "behind the scenes" to assist in key classroom procedures. He always participates in the classroom when the teacher calls his name, and even makes time to arrange classroom materials. He is in charge of the physics supply materials and is a master paper-cutter: in over 30 mins, he once arranged over 500 practice sheets for his classmates. I am also truly impressed by his ability to always try at difficult problems and to never give up when it comes to learning challenging concepts. Jennifer Herrera - 11th Grade Jennifer has truly shown remarkable progress as a young physicist in training. She is always fearless when it comes to tracking difficult-looking physics problem, has a very organized and neat Physics Notebook that she utilizes and personalizes to aid her learning daily. Jennifer may be unsure of her answers, but she always shares her reasoning with the instructor and rest of the class. She goes above and beyond to form a cooperative learning group with other students in the class. She is truly a pleasure to have in classroom every day.

Andy Jimenez - 11th Grade Andy Jimenez has a unique ability to focus and to always practice his physics and math skills. As an aspiring computer scientist, he knows the importance of physics and mathematics for his future success in science and engineering. Andy has a unique ability to listen to instructor expectations and directions and internalize it with a funny sense of humor. I wish Andy all the best for his future plans. :) Sobia Jamal - 11th Grade Sobia has shown high progress in her physics and critical thinking skills during the course of the year. She has gained many valuable skills from the physics course - including working with a diverse team and showcasing her presentation skills. Sobia Jamal never hesitates to go the extra one or 12 miles in the class- whether it is assisting team members, the instructor or any new students. She has been managing the classroom word-wall for the entire year. Many students benefit from her presence in the classroom. Due to her extraordinary abilities to engage and build communication with students, she is an important and vital part of our 6th period class.

# Shout out to Prashantika Gautam

Bryan Herrera  
*News Writer*

Lee High School has many students who want to achieve a lot for their future, many who have worked extremely hard since their first year in high school. It may be difficult at first during your freshman year but as you head towards your senior year it begins to get a little easier and more rewarding. Not only did these students work hard, but, at the end they also achieved their goals. Senior Prashantika Gautam has worked hard throughout her years at Lee High School through being part of many extracurricular activities and also having many big achievements. "Some of my big achievements throughout high school include being able to successfully handle my position as PAO (Public Affairs Officer) in ROTC, being President of Interact Club and being member of the dance team," Gautam said. "I consider these my biggest achievements because this was the time (my junior year) when I had to handle more than one position, balancing all my extracurricular activities alongside studies. I also attained time management skills while balancing my activities, which will come in handy for the future." Having a variety of activities and trying to manage time, Senior Prashantika Gautam didn't let her weaknesses get in the way of her future. "Being a shy girl, I have always enjoyed staying inside my bubble.

One challenge that I had to face was when, during my sophomore year, the President of Interact Club had to resign and I had to take the position and lead the club," Gautam said. "I was barely adapting to the American lifestyle, standing up to lead a club of diverse students was out of the question for me. Despite all the discomfort, I took upon the position because I was determined to get rid of my weakness, which was my lack of confidence." Sacrificing her summer and time with friends and family to make her goals and challenges become accomplishments and achievements for her future was part of the high school experience for Gautam. "I went through 8 weeks of training, during summer while my friends were spending time at the beach, traveling or spending time with their families," said Gautam. Besides just sacrificing time, Gautam also went through intense training to become successful in her position. "The training included sleepless nights where I struggled to get used to engineering software. Four hours of training, five days a week, for eight weeks. I also had to get out of my comfort zone as I had to present in front of people and interact with those having different opinions and views," Gautam said. After facing so many obstacles and challenges she is now getting support and guidance towards her bright future. "My hard work did pay off. Now I

am in a place where I get support and guidance from experienced adults, and, unlike before, I have someone guiding me towards a brighter future," Gautam said. Now working at a paid internship, she has finally achieved what she has been working hard for, she is facing and overcoming struggles and challenges that come her way. "I consider achieving my internship at Kinder Morgan through Genesys Works as one of my successes. To achieve anything in life, we have to put in some effort," Gautam said. To achieve success like Gautam, one must truly make goals and rise above the crowd as a leader. "Being a leader, for me, means being open minded, committed and helpful. The perks of being a leader include the ability to interact effortlessly with other people, being the trusted one, being respected, and the biggest perk is being able to motivate others and pull them along the path of leadership and success," Gautam said. Leading her high school, Gautam is setting a good example and motivating her younger classmates to a brighter future. "I think I am leading my high school by being an interactive student who is motivating younger classmates by setting a good example," Gautam said. "All I have to say is, don't let an opportunity knocking at your door pass away. Join clubs and participate in activities to bring out your inner peace and interest."



# Shout out to Luis Guevara

Kymyatta Gabriel  
News Writer

Congratulations to Luis Guevara, the first student from Lee High School to make an all-city band top chair in over 20 years.

“This is the first time I’ve ever done something like this- auditioning for something. It was nerve-wrecking as well as exciting,” Guevara said.

This great accomplishment was not just something that came out of nowhere.

“I always saw this coming,” friend Ryan Salazar said. “Luis was always that one player when we were in the Jazz ensemble that stood out from all the rest. I see him taking his talent and making it into something beautiful.”

Practicing more and more has continued to lead Guevara on the right path.

“I was third chair out of ten trombonists,” Guevara said. “Making all-city has been a great success in my musical career.”

Band Teacher, Charles Estes, said that Guevara has proven himself to be ready for competition, and submitted his own words of recognition for Luis:

“There has been no better student of whom which I have had the privilege to pass on what I have learned than Luis Guevara.

He has been my student since my first generation band program started at Lee High School and there is not a day that goes by in which he does not seem to surprise me. He has shown Determination, Straight Forward Actions and Leadership skills in which he has provided and placed in my band program.

With the help of Luis and his companions in our band program, we have brought our small group, which started from nothing, to become our Lee High Schools’ award winning jazz ensemble.

Luis has enlightened this program

as much as he has had many accomplishments along the way. Luis has been the first student in Lee High School in over 10, 15 maybe even 20 years or more to make it into a recognized all-city band program. He has put heart and determination into all of his performances, and being part of an all-city band program like the one he is currently part of does not seem to differ. All the effort that he has put into himself and in the band program has made me proud of passing on what I have learned to someone in which whom I know will cherish these teachings and make something good out of them. This recognition goes to Luis Guevara for an outstanding job in making my band program, our band program, what it is to this day.”

According to Luis there will be many performances from the all-city band this year and he is excited to perform in each and every one.



## Shout out to ELA

Jacquelyn Makay  
Teacher

Shout-outs to my following ELA II students for earning a 100% on your HSCA 6 Collaborative test in January: Asif Chadwani, Yenifer Gonzalez, Jessica Moore, and Luis Rubio. Also, Kudos and applause also my following ELA II students who earned an 89% on their HSCA 6 Collaborative: Celia Casas, Jennifer Caxaj, Jacqueline Correa, Carolina Gonzalez, Jeevandeep Kaur, Elizabeth Mendoza, Eric Merino Angel, Brandon Odedina, Jennifer Trejo, and Brenda Zoltan. These tests are tough, and you are my first students to score over 85 on any of the Collaborative tests! I am proud of your effort - keep it up!

# Shout outs to Mahdi Yasin, Xochitl Serna

Gary Sliva  
Teacher

“I have always had the greatest respect for students. There is nothing I hate more than condescension—the attitude that they are inferior to you. I always assume they have good minds.”

— Mark Van Doren

When I was asked to write about two of my students, the first thing I thought was how difficult it is to pick just two. I have been teaching Geography to our ESL students for several years and I have been fortunate to have many great students and this year is no exception.

One of my Geography students is Mahdi Yasin. Mahdi is from Ethiopia and his original language is Amharic. He lives here with his father and mother and has two young sisters. This is Mahdi’s first year in an American school and you can imagine how difficult it can be to come to school knowing very few people can speak his language. Mahdi has shown great growth in his schoolwork since the first of the year. He is friendly and is friends with many of our students here at Lee. What impresses me is that even though

the work is difficult he keeps trying, asking questions, and making good grades. Everyday Mahdi comes to class with a smile on his face and is ready to work. Mahdi makes my job easier by helping other students with their classwork and is always ready to help out when needed.

Another of my excellent Geography students is Xochitl Serna. Xochitl has visited the U.S. many times for vacations with family but in 2014 moved to stay and begin school. She is living here with her father while her mother and a sister and brother live in Mexico. Xochitl has shown great determination in improving her English skills. She wrote an essay about her culture that told me more about her than one would get from a conversation. For example, her father works in construction and likes the traditional music of Mexico. Her writing is neat and descriptive with information about the Mexican culture. Xochitl is very friendly and helpful to other students and I hope to see her graduate from Lee High School.

# Shout out to Elizabeth Aguilar

Oscar Renteria  
News Writer

Lee High School has some very special students on its campus, and those students are not only academically acknowledged, but also successful in the sports provided by the school. Senior Elizabeth Aguilar is a star basketball athlete handpicked by the coaches.

Aguilar was picked by the girls’ basketball coach, Alyssa Loza, because she saw a lot of abilities displayed by her not only on the court, but also off the court.

“She is a very hard worker. This is her first year playing the game of basketball, so things don’t come naturally to her as they would other players,” Coach Loza said. “However, Elizabeth works very hard to improve her skills and not let her lack of experience influence her.”

Coach Loza sees a lot of potential and dependability in the actions of Aguilar outside of the court along with her demonstration of dedication.

“She has shown up to every single practice, on time, no excuses! Elizabeth is the player I turn to when I need help communicating things to other members of the team,” Coach Loza said. “Her dedication, work ethic,

and passion for the game make her a star athlete.”

Coach Loza motivated Aguilar to join the basketball team because she told her she was going to be the basketball coach and that she needed players to build a strong team, and she also had her own personal reasons for being on the team.

“I chose to be in a sport because I needed something to do afterschool and also because this is my senior year and I want to do everything I can,” Senior Elizabeth Aguilar said. “I’ve been in Lee High School since my freshmen year and I wanted to be part of a sport.”

Aguilar feels very honored and proud to be the student chosen as star athlete for Lee High School.

“I think Ms. Loza chose me because she saw that I was actually interested in playing basketball, and that I worked hard to be on the team,” Aguilar said. “I feel I am a role model, because I’ve never played sports before in school and this is my first time being part of a team and this lets people know that there is always a first time for everything.”

The basketball team has a future



ahead of them with somebody like Aguilar in the court to help support the team.

“I think this year is going to turn out to be good because everyone on the team is putting in effort. My goal for the team is to get better with each game,” Aguilar said. “To meet this goal we are going to practice more than we already are so that we can get better.”

Although this is Aguilar’s first year playing basketball in Lee High School, she was nominated as the Star Athlete because of her determination and her hard work. This shows that with enough hard work and determination anything is possible.

# Shout out to Karim Sabar

Dejanee Cherry  
News Writer



Lee High School is a school built on talent. And it is the teachers and students who make up the talent Lee is built on. One of those students is Karim Sabar. He is one of the many students with a special talent, which is debating. He is one of the many debaters at Lee.

Karim came back to the US from Pakistan before he was a freshman in high school. He was a very shy freshman.

“Debate has definitely made a big impact on my life because it has given me more confidence when speaking to others and it really helped me learn about the world and all the different things we talk about. I believe it has actually helped me be a better person as well,” Sabar said.

The Lee High School Debate Team is more about quality over quantity, which Sabar is a talented member of.

“Personally I won a gavel for top speaker in world schools and as a team we got to finals,” Sabar said.

Even though Karim has awards under his belt, it wasn’t without some sort of difficulty in his very first debate.

“My first round was terrible I got 21 out of 30 speaker points, which is really really bad, but my second round I got a hang of it. I quickly learned how we were supposed to think on the spot and free flow speak,” Sabar said.

Debate is made of up 3 different categories: CX, PF, and World

Schools. World Schools is a debate that deals entirely with morals and can have evidence but it isn’t needed. PF, Public Forum, is a debate that deals with half evidence and half morals. CX, Cross Examination, is a debate that deals with nothing but evidence and the facts.

“I do World Schools debate which involves 3 people teams and we debate mostly ethics. It doesn’t involve a lot of evidence mostly thinking on the spot and arguing against what your opponents say,” Sabar said.

Many would ask the question does what you do change you into the person you are today?

“Debate has definitely made a big impact on my life. It gave me a lot of confidence when talking to people and it really helped me learned about the world. All the different things we talk about actually make me a better person when talking to people and about these ethical things,” Sabar said.

# Shout out to M. Rodriguez, B. Herrera

Andrea Adams  
Teacher

Mariah Rodriguez, 12

Mariah Rodriguez is a sweet young lady that carries herself in a very professional way. Mariah is a hard worker in and out of the classroom. The brief conversations that we have make me smile because she has such a great personality. She comes in, checks for assignments, and begins working, which demonstrates a take-charge attitude that I greatly appreciate. I know Mariah will go far and I truly wish her ALL the best. It has been a pleasure to have her in my class. Good luck!!

Bryan Herrera-Beranza, 12

Bryan Herrera-Beranza is a pleasure to have in class. He is very conservative and focused to details, which shows in his assignments. He has shared with me that he plans to attend college. Bryan does an outstanding job as a reporter for The Traveler. With all the things going on with school and his other activities, Bryan is always nice and respectful. There is no doubt that Bryan will accomplish all of his dreams. He is a very awesome young man. Good luck!!

# Shout out to S. Arias

Jettie Greene  
Teacher

I am pleased to recognize Shannon Arias as a shining star. She is a ninth grade Linked Learning student this year who is quite a force in class. Shannon offers assistance to other students that need help. She offers ideas and perspectives that are interesting and insightful.

She, appropriately, commands respect, but is genuinely caring and interested in each of her fellow classmates. When I made a new seating

chart for the classroom, a student requested to sit near Shannon because she helps her in class.

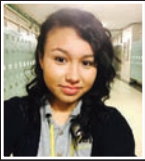
Shannon’s presence in the classroom is easy going and poised to learn.

Shannon credits the teachers at O’Donnell Middle School for uncovering her passion for learning. She would like to continue to college after Lee High School and later become a teacher.

Birthdays to celebrate

Fernando Campos  
Entertainment Writer  
February

Yesly Espinal  
February 19  
10th grader



David Collazo  
February 22  
12th grader



Juani Perez  
February 16  
9th grader



Estephanie Peñaloza  
February 25  
10th grader



Stephanie Robles  
February 14  
10th grader



March

Romeo Salazar  
March 2  
9th grader



Vivian Ramirez  
March 18  
10th grader



Horoscopes

“Pisces is the twelfth sign of the zodiac, and it is also the final sign in the zodiacal cycle. Hence, this sign brings together many of the characteristics of the eleven signs that have come before it. Pisces, however, are happiest keeping many of these qualities under wraps. These folks are selfless, spiritual and very focused on their inner journey.” - astrology.com

“If your birthday is in late March, you are an Aries. Aries is the first sign of the zodiac, and that’s pretty much how those born under this sign see themselves: first. Aries are the leaders of the pack, first in line to get things going. Whether or not everything gets done is another question altogether, for an Aries prefers to initiate rather than to complete.” - astrology.com

Spring break getaways for Lee students

Jennifer Coyoy  
Entertainment Writer

With the New Year just starting, we’re just a few months away from spring break. But not all have that spring break experience we can have. You don’t always have to leave the Houston area. There is a whole lot of stuff to do in and around Houston. Two perfect examples of ideas for something close to home that won’t “break the bank” are Splashtown, in spring, TX or the Kemah Boardwalk in Kemah, TX.

Splashtown: Splashtown is one of the commonly known waterparks in Texas. From waterslides, to a lazy river, and food, there is no better way to spend a relaxing and/or exciting day. Located about 30 minutes North of Houston in Spring, TX, the tickets are non-expensive; the current cost

of the tickets at the gate are \$39.99 per person.

Kemah Boardwalk: The Kemah Boardwalk is open daily providing fun for everyone! Located just 20 miles South of downtown Houston, the Kemah Boardwalk is home to fabulous waterfront restaurants, amusements, charming retail stores, festivals and seaside shows every day. To walk the boardwalk, browse the store fronts, people watch, and take in all the seaside sensations, will cost you only the money in gas to drive there because it is free. If you wish to take advantage of the carnival rides and attractions it is still a cheap Spring Break option as the tickets are \$22.99 for people 48” and over, and people under 48” only pay \$17.99.



Stories by Sabrina: Mixed Hearts Part 4

Sabrina Miller  
Entertainment Writers

Prince

My mom, dad, and James all sit on the couch waiting for me to answer their question on who I want to live with. “I’ll stay with mom,” I told them because living with dad and James is out of the question. I leave them to talk among themselves. I go into to the kitchen to get something to eat. When I finished I went to sleep.

o-o-o

Before class starts I find Jewel sitting in the church reading. “Hey Jewel,” I reach out my arm and put my hand on her shoulder. “What’s wrong?” “Nothing you surprised me.” She looks toward the door like someone might enter. “My parents want you to come over for dinner tonight.” “Sure my mom has a school board meeting to attend.” The school bell rings so we head to class. When school ends her father picks us up. We sit awkwardly until we get to my place. James turns toward us. “Jewel we have something important we need to tell you.” “I already know.” She looks out the window and opens the door. James tries to say stop but she’s already gone.

Jewel

I leave Prince with my father in the car and go straight into the house. There is only one reason I could think of that would involve my dad wanting to talk to me. I stop in thought as soon as a hand grabs my shoulder. I swing around to see Prince’s father. “Let’s go eat,” he says gesturing toward the kitchen. I follow to see Prince’s mom setting up the table like it was thanksgiving dinner. “Nice to see you again ma’am.” I do my little bow and noticed I’m not wearing a dress. Ever since I was little I wore a dress at someone else’s place. I felt odd and a little out of place. “Sit down dear. Dinner is almost finished.” She turns toward Prince’s father with a smile on her face. “Dear go get Prince and James.” How can she smile knowing her ex-husband left her for a man? We all eat as if nothing is wrong but when I’m almost done my father clears his throat. “Jewel,” he looks into to my eyes with worry. Then Prince’s dad looks at me. “We’re getting married.” All eyes are on me waiting for my reaction. “I know,” is all I could say before leaving the table. Prince comes into the living room and sits by me on the couch. “Are you okay,” he asks. “Yes, I’m just waiting on my mom to come pick me up.” He puts his arm around me and pulls me in. “Your mine,” he whispers into my ear right before kissing me. My mind flutters and I can’t move.

The End

Spring movies to catch in theaters



Insurgent

Release Date: March 20, 2015  
Now on the run from Jeanine and the rest of the power-hungry Erudites, Tris and Four search for allies and answers in the ruins of Chicago. They must find out what Tris’ family sacrificed their lives to protect and why the Erudites will do anything to stop them.



Fast & Furious 7

Release Date: April 3, 2015  
Deckard Shaw (Jason Statham) seeks revenge against Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel) and his family for the death of his brother.



Mall Cop 2

Release Date: April 17, 2015  
Paul Blart (Kevin James) takes his teenage daughter (Raini Rodriguez) with him to Las Vegas for a security-guard expo. While there, he stumbles upon a heist and must single-handedly apprehend the crooks.



The Age of Adaline

Release date: April 24, 2015  
Adaline Bowman has miraculously remained a 29 years old for eight decades. However, a chance encounter with a charismatic philanthropist named Ellis Jones awakens Adaline’s long-suppressed passion for life and romance.



It Follows

Release date: March 13, 2015  
Following a seemingly innocent intimate encounter, a teenager (Maika Monroe) has disturbing visions and the inescapable feeling that someone -- or something -- is watching her.



# Make the most of the high school experience

Maria Ramirez  
*Opinion Writer*

Graduation is four months away. I have been learning about College since middle school. I attended field trips where I learned everything about college life, and how to be admitted. I'm ecstatic to learn new things, and see new people. I have been accepted into, Sam Houston State University and I visited the campus. I was overwhelmed with the simplicity of it all. There wasn't a second that I thought I would belong. I looked around at all the people, and I already felt like was a student there. My biggest worry was if I would be able to live up to the expectations of the professors and their work.

But I made it! Wow! I can't believe this! I am really going to college, I really am leaving my home, and I am really going to venture off! This is the most exciting, yet nerve wrecking time of my life. I pray that I become all that God wants me to become. I am striving to one day become a pastor, and with my Bachelor's Degree in English, I hope to write books for young women inspiring them to find God in their lives.

There are days when it's really hard, and I get frustrated about the way the school is. The fights, the way the education is, and the atmosphere can be tough to deal with. But I've learned to take the good in with the bad. Lee has given me amazing opportunities. It has taught me that no matter how bad the situation may be, I can make it through. Through Lee, I've learned how to motivate myself, and others, to be all that

they can be, because if I can do it, then why not they? For the past year, I have been living evicted. And I see students come into the office some mornings complaining because they don't want to be at school. I see students get in trouble in the hallway, and then get mad at the administration for busting them. While there are people like me who have to live with another family, waking up early to get to school, and keep up with everyone else to make sure I get the education I deserve. I just wish other students understood how well that they have it. I will make the most of the last few months of high school.

I encourage students who are fooling around, to get your head in the game. Whatever grade you are in, make the most of your time. Because when it comes down to it, everyone wants to graduate high school. No one wants to stay at home living with their parents for the rest of their lives. Take the advice of your teachers seriously. Do your homework. Try your best, so that you may end up being the best. There were so many moments I wish that I could take back from my freshman year. I wish I could go back and tell myself that I mattered, and that I was going to end up being okay.

Graduation is four months away and I believe I am ready. Lee High School will be remembered as the place I grew my relationship with God the most. I will never forget this school, and all that happened.

# Students make plans for spring break

Guadalupe Bonola  
*Opinion Writer*

Spring break is around the corner! Everyone is excited and looking forward to their spring break plans.

"My plan this spring break is to volunteer at my church and enjoy the week as best I can!" Senior Argentina Barrios said.

Helping out is a good way to spend this spring break.

"My plan for this spring break is to visit my best friend who I haven't seen since middle school! We have plans to go shopping and maybe even go to Kemah or the Zoo. It's going to be so much fun!" Junior Cristina Garcia said.

Spring break is also a great time to hang out with friends and do things that you normally wouldn't have the time to do with school in session.

Some people will be moving to a different place or visiting their friends and family.

"For spring break I am going to go to Atlanta, Georgia to go to my new house and explore. I am so excited to see new things and learn a different type of way.

I'm happy to be moving there," Junior Rosaria Casia said.

"For spring break, I'll be going to Austin, and feeling like a tourist going around the city. I will also be getting my permit this March. I'm so excited!" Junior Hiba Alehter said.

Spring break is a great time to spend some quality time with your family that you may not normally get to do given everyone's, normally busy, schedule.

"On spring break I'm going to hang out with my friends and go on a road trip to the beach," Junior Ashley Lagunas said.

Going to the beach during spring break is one of the biggest trends.

"For spring break I am going to go to the rodeo as many times as I can , I also work and will hang out with my boyfriend," said Yamilex Plancarte.

So this March, when Houston ISD gives you a week off from obligations, get out their Lee High School; be safe, make memories, grow, have fun, and most importantly...RELAX!

# College visits prove important

Cindy Wakiyama  
*Co Editor In Chief*

"Make sure you visit the campus before you make a decision," is something that all students will hear when they get closer to college application season. And this is completely true.

I visited the Texas A&M campus during my junior year and it was love at first sight. I was enchanted by the traditional and friendly feel of the campus. I really enjoyed how the students would greet the tour group with the school's official greeting, "Howdy!" Everything about the campus and the culture was mesmerizing.

When senior year came I had the chance to visit University of Texas and

University of Houston, but I simply did not feel the magic in those schools. I realized that I really liked the idea of living in a college town instead of a big city. I like the novelty of a small town and hospitable people, something that I have not experienced before in my life.

When I visited A&M again this year, it reassured me that I was making the right decision.

I walked through the same path I had before and I was just as enchanted as the first time.

In a few months I will officially be an Aggie and I cannot imagine making a better choice.

# Get your college applications in early!

Ixchel Perez  
*Opinion Writer*

Applying to college and scholarships is not easy, especially if you are first generation. It is very complicated but not impossible.

Senior year is when all the regrets consume your conscience and you wish you could go back to freshman year and start all over again. This year is when we all realize how important every assignment, homework, grades and AP classes are.

But the reality is that it is already too late to fix the past years, colleges will look at your 9th, 10th and 11th grade scores and you will have to work with what you have.

Colleges and scholarships are not only looking for the students with good academic records but also the ones who are part of many extra-curricular activities such as sports, clubs, internships, community service hours and so on.

The first step is to find the college or university that you would love to attend. It is always good to have at least two or three back up choices in case the unexpected happens.

It is very important to research the college or university that you are interested in because it will inform you about the requirements and acceptance rates. That will give you an idea of what things you need to do in order to be accepted.

If things do not go as planned, it is okay because you already have your back up choices.

Once deciding where you will attend college, the second thing that needs to be done right away is to apply for every scholarship offered by the college and other scholarships from different programs.

Finally, if you are planning on moving away for college, do not

forget to also send your housing application (You will need a place to sleep).

Every high school has a counselor who is in charge of helping seniors on their college and scholarship applications, they will guide you through the application and advise you in any doubt or question you may have.

If you feel like you are alone and have no idea how to apply to college, you can always rely on your senior counselor.

Just because you are a senior, it does not mean that you can slack off and not care about your grades because it is very important to always keep up with your academics.

With that being said GOOD LUCK TO THE CLASS OF 2015, WHO WILL SOON BE LIVING THE COLLEGE LIFE!!!

# HOUSTON

Livestock Show and Rodeo™

March 8 - 22

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>TICKETS ON SALE NOW!</b>			 3 Eric Church	 4 Hunter Hayes	 5 Miranda Lambert	 6 John Legend
 8 Fall Out Boy	 9 Justin Moore	 10 Tim McGraw	 11 Brantley Gilbert	 12 Zac Brown Band	 13 Pitbull	 14 Billy Currington
 15 La Amaliation Banda El Limbo	 16 Dierks Bentley	 17 Ariana Grande	 18 Florida Georgia Line	 19 Blake Shelton	 20 The Band Perry	 21 Brad Paisley
 22 Luke Bryan	<div>Weekday Performances 6:45 p.m. Weekend Performances 3:45 p.m. *Value Wednesdays Include \$10 upper level Rodeo tickets, plus values throughout NRG Park.</div>			<div>Connect with <b>#RODEOHOUSTON</b> rodeohouston.com</div> <div></div>		

# Senior awarded full-ride to UT

Ixchel Perez  
*Opinion Writer*

As a freshman and sophomore I always thought about how great it would be to be a senior. All that I could think about were the field trips, being able to go off campus for lunch, prom and of course gradation.

Yes, I was also excited about college, scholarships and all the other stuff that I was not worried about at the moment.

When my junior year came around I realized how complicated things were starting to get. I had a lot more homework and many more responsibilities.

AP classes, SAT, ACT, and STAR were the main things that made my Junior year very stressful but I still had to give it my all and try very hard because I knew that I needed to have good scores if I wanted to get accepted into the university of my dreams.

I remember at the end of my junior year I got an invitation to apply for a scholarship called POSSE, I had never heard about that name before but I still gave it a try.

My first interview was unforgettable I had a lot of fun and I enjoyed every single moment of it. I was not sure if I was going to make it to the second round but I still kept my hopes up.

A week later I got an email that

said, "Congratulations! We are pleased to invite you to the next phase of the Posse Scholarship selection process as a semi-finalist." I could not believe my eyes, I was excited for the next interview.

The second interview was the best of all the others because I had the opportunity to show who I really was and express myself. I knew that I was competing against many other outstanding students but I still did not allow that to bring me down, I knew who I was and I knew that God was in my favor.

About a two or three weeks went by but I never got a call nor an email that was either accepting me to the next level or denying me. I was anxious to know what was happening.

Although I was confident I never stopped applying to other schools and scholarships. Having a backup plan is very important.

One morning while in class I got a call from an unknown number, I then asked my teacher if I could please step outside the class. When I called back I recognized the voice on the other line. She said to me, "Congratulations Ixchel you are a POSSE Finalist."

Those words made my day. All I could think about was the last interview that I had to go through in order

to know whether I was going to be selected as POSSE Scholar.

A month went by before the very last interview. I was patiently waiting for that day, I did not allow for any nerve of my body to turn on because nerves were not going to help me have a last successful interview.

Anyways no matter what I did, God had the last word on that decision. Monday, December 8, 2014 finally came, the day of the last interview.

I was very happy to meet the Administrators from The University of Texas at Austin and show them how important the scholarship was to me and how grateful I was to be part of that competition.

The last interview was a group interview and I had the chance to meet amazing people that I would love to go to college with.

At the end of the interview, we were told that in a week we would be informed who was going to be a POSSE Scholar.

Little did I know I was going to get a call the next day, warning me to buy many UT and burnt orange shirts because I was going to use them for the next four years while in Austin.

POSSE has given me the opportunity to be the first generation of college goers in my family.



# Lee Generals win soccer homecoming

Ashley Perez  
News Writer

After a fun and crazy spirit week, both the boys' and girls' soccer teams won their homecoming game. The girls beat Madison 3 to 2, and the boys beat Madison 5 to 1.

But before the soccer matches were won, all of Lee High School rallied together to support the teams through showing their spirit. English Teacher and Homecoming Coordinator Edward Garza put spirit week and the homecoming festivities together.

Fidel Andrade, our Head Soccer Coach, sent out an e-mail to the Lee Staff addressing his Soccer Program, it was so empowering to Garza, that he decided to focus the theme around that. His goals included keeping his soccer players honest, on task, and to become outstanding gentlemen on and off the field- in addition to sending the boys back the Austin for the State tournament.

"We wanted the focus to be putting our Soccer Team back in the running for a State Title- it would be a first for any HISD Soccer Team," Garza said.

Homecoming is very important, because it is an opportunity for Lee HS students to rally together behind something positive.

"Lee has gotten a bad reputation over the years- it isn't entirely true, and there are so many students who deserve the 'REAL' high school experience. This would include a homecoming dance, game, and spirit week and that's what we wanted to provide them with," Garza said.

This year the hope of the Homecoming Committee was to have their biggest celebration yet!

"We want 100% of our teachers dressing up in our spirit day competitions. The teachers that dress the best all week will win a prize for his/her advocacy class," Garza said. "As for the students- we want them to show how much Soccer means to them and support

our team."

The school has formed a spirit committee that has helped plan out the theme days, and ideas all pertaining to Homecoming. Additionally the school has given the spirit committee the resources needed to paint the halls, make decorations, and allowed them to throw a dance and pep rally on campus! The committee surveyed over 100 students when they were considering dress up days, and themes. They also spoke with students from other schools to see if our week was on par with theirs.

"Most of the schools were surprised that we had a soccer homecoming, but once we explained the reasoning, it was clear to see it is a great idea," Garza said.

Some students' favorite part of homecoming was having the opportunity to dress out differently during the week of February 16 – 20th.

"The best part of homecoming is how the students at Lee show off their school spirit," Senior Ryan Salazar said.

Schedule (Feb 16 – 20th)  
2/16 Monday- Jersey Day  
2/17 Tuesday- Twin Day  
2/18 Wednesday- Nerd Day  
2/19 Thursday- Tacky Day  
2/20 Friday- Black and Gold (GAME DAY)

It was a spectacular week and a lot of students had fun showing off their spirit.

"Spirit week was good and the part I liked the most was that we were able to wear jeans," sophomore Fernando Campos said.

Spirit week made some students want to go to school to see different students' spirit.

"I would like to have spirit week every month. I think it would be a good idea and it would probably make students more excited to come to school," Lauren Sierra said. "I liked seeing students show off their spirit."

## Senior and Junior Lock-In planned for Friday, Feb. 27

Sabhee Dhillow  
News Writer

This February 27, 2015, there is a lock-in planned for juniors and seniors. The lock-in is basically the first activity of the year for seniors and it is followed by many other activities like senior trips and picnics.

This is the only activity which is for both, juniors and seniors, other trips and picnics in May are only for seniors.

The reason behind this is that in order to organize this trip, the school should get at least 100 students.

"Participation rate of seniors in this activity is very low and school is not able to get 100 students, so that is why the school includes juniors also in this trip. If there are 100 seniors participating in Lock-in, juniors will be removed from the trip," Senior Advisor Jessica Broadnax said.

The lock-in is always the first activity of the year. It is held before spring break, whereas, most of the other activities are held after the spring break and testing. Senior trips, picnics and prom are held in May so that the students can enjoy them without any burden of tests.

"Lock-in is becoming a tradition, and the school is also trying to make it a tradition.

Lee High School has had a lock-in the past three years, so it is not that long ago. Well, in other words I want to make it a tradition," Broadnax said.

This year, so far, she got 40-50 students. All 40-50 students are the mixture of juniors and seniors. In order to hold this trip, the school needs 100 students. There will be some staff members too, but not sure who exactly. Broadnax will be there. She got 100 students last year and they had a lot of fun.

"If there is not 100 students, the Lock-in trip will be cancelled. Last year it was very fun, Ms. Loza, Ms. Wiener and Mr. Garza helped me out, which was awesome," Mrs. Broadnax said.

Lock-in is located in Celebration Station. It is an indoor Amusement Park. The times are from midnight to 6 in the morning. Private HISD vender transportation will take the students to the lock-in. Students cannot bring their own car; the school will provide the transportation.

"Hurry up and buy the lock-in tickets, they are going fast," Broadnax said for all juniors and seniors.



PHOTO TAKEN BY GUADALUPE BONOLA

Monday, February 16, 2015 of Spirit Week was themed Jersey Day. Students wore the jersey of their favorite athletes and spread their spirit around Lee.



PHOTO TAKEN BY JENNI WIENER



PHOTO TAKEN BY DIANA ALAS

Tuesday, February 17, 2015 was themed Twin Day during Spirit Week. Students chose a twin and both of them dressed the same way for the day.



PHOTO TAKEN BY YAMILEX PLANCARTE

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 of Spirit Week was themed Nerd Day. Lee students and teachers got really nerdy as they celebrated homecoming.



PHOTO TAKEN BY LILLIAN CARCAMO TRAPP

Thursday, February 19, 2015 of Spirit Week was themed Tacky Day. Students wore tacky outfits.



PHOTO TAKEN BY PALOMA MENDEZ

Friday, February 20, 2015 was Black and Gold Day of Spirit Week as students showed their support of soccer.