



The Traveler



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Oscar Wu Named Valedictorian - Class of 2016

By Oscar Renteria

As the class of 2016 prepares to graduate and move into the next stage of life, we have learned that senior Oscar Wu has earned the distinction of Valedictorian. Wu has worked very hard to achieve the position he is now in, and we met with him to get a deeper look into his motivation and find out what some of his goals are after he graduates from high school.

As the school Valedictorian, Wu is Lee's best of the best. "It is a great honor to be this year's Valedictorian, and I am very proud to represent the Lee Class of 2016," said Wu. "I don't feel smarter or better than my other fellow seniors, it's just that I was able to understand my classes just a little bit better."

Wu was able to share how he has very similar interests with other students, by explaining his motivation to be Valedictorian. "I feel as though having the drive to make a lot of money in life, and the need to impress the best colleges right



now, are my motivating factors," said Wu. The senior leader is also very knowledgeable about study habits that work best, and was willing to provide some advice for the underclassmen, who are hoping to aim for Valedictorian titles in the upcoming years, as well as some tips on how to choose the right college.

"I suggest that students focus on their studies and develop very good time management skills, in order to accomplish more in a shorter amount of time. I try to just go with the flow of my every day schedule, and accomplish as much as I can by setting daily goals," said Wu. "The number one priority for choosing the right college should be the amount of money that they are willing to offer you in a scholarship, compared to what you will have to spend on your own to attend that University. The second priority should be to take a look at the brand of that school and it's reputation, if you have two equal offers in terms of a scholarship."

Even though Wu has a few months of high school left to take care of, he is very well prepared for the real world and other challenges that may arise. Wu already has a great plan to attend college, and is focusing in on deciding

what major he would like to study. He is also very aware of what he would like to do for a living.

"I am planning to attend either Harvard University or the Texas Tech Continental Medical School Program - I just have to decide because I have a full scholarship offer to both," Wu said. "I am probably going to study Biology and then go to Medical School to become a doctor, as my profession."

As you can tell, Wu is a very successful person and is prepared to face life head on. He is just one of the many seniors here at Lee who are very well prepared to advance into society with great accomplishments. Teachers, staff, and his fellow seniors are all looking forward to hearing Wu's speech at the graduation ceremony that will symbolically and proudly represent our school and all Lee Generals. Congratulations, Oscar!

Galleria Rotary Club Makes Financial Donation to Lee for School Uniforms

By Juliette Acevedo and Agustin Cantero

The Rotary Club of the Galleria Area recently donated \$5,000 to Lee High School during one of their weekly luncheons at the Galleria Tennis and Athletic Club. The funds, which were accepted by LHS Principal Jonathan Trinh, have been earmarked for new school uniforms.

Trinh plans on adding the Galleria Rotary Club logo to the left sleeve of the Lee High School uniform shirt - as recognition of their sponsorship - starting with the 2016-17 school year.

"I am very excited to have these funds that will go towards an important purpose at our school," said Trinh. "We really appreciate our relationship with the Rotary Club at the Galleria, as this money will allow our students to have more than one shirt to wear to school each day."

The school uniform policy actually began in 2011, three years prior to Trinh's arrival. But he has carried on the policy and sees the benefits of the dress code, believing that it helps with school discipline and gives students a better understanding of their responsibilities, such as always being prepared and taking care of their uniform properly.

The Galleria Rotary Club's affiliation with Lee goes back quite a long ways, as several members of the club have had their children attend Lee, and Past



(L-R): GRC President Chuck Finnell; GRC member Gretchen Kasper-Hoffman; Lee HS Principal Jonathan Trinh; GRC Director Graham Sharp

President and current member Martin Bailey graduated from our school. In addition, the GRC has a strong presence on campus with a very active, student-run Lee Interact Club.

"We feel like if we don't continue to take care of our youth, we are not taking care of our purpose," said Graham Sharp, Director of the GRC. "Without the Rotary Club focusing on kids, there just won't be many future Rotarians." We here at Lee certainly appreciate their generosity.

Campus Renaming Committee Waiting for Decision From HISD

From Staff Reports

As we approach the last few months of the final school year in which our campus will be named "Lee" High School, many members of our student body - and the faculty and staff as well - are all waiting in anticipation to hear exactly what our new identity will be.

From all indications, we may have an answer sometime soon, and hopefully before the class of 2016 graduates at the end of May.

We do know that a committee has been formed to help decide our new name. That committee has already met several times to discuss some possible names, and it consists of: HISD Chief School Officer Jason Bernal; Lee Principal Jonathan Trinh; Lee English Teacher Edward Garza; current Lee student Melissa Almendarez; Lee HS Alumni Melanie Hauser; Local Civic Leader Greg Travis; and parent of a current Lee student Sharmaine Sands.



The committee has recommended three possible school names to the Houston ISD Board for consideration, and they are awaiting word back. All three names were chosen by the committee to be acceptable, if one gets approved.

The last step in the process will be for the committee to decide what our new nickname will be as well, because we will no longer be known as the Generals.

**COMMEMORATIVE
"FAREWELL TO LEE"
T-SHIRTS
\$20.00
FOR SALE IN RM 325
OR CONTACT
MR. FANUCCHI**



Genesys Works: Making a Huge Impact

By Leslie Ortiz



Genesys Works is a non profit organization that provides high rising junior students with summer leadership training and professional internships during their senior year.

Students must complete an application and the summer leadership seminar where they are exposed to leadership, networking and professionalism skills.

At the conclusion of summer training, students are paired with a Fortune 500 company, where they work from 1:00-5:00 pm weekly during their senior year. Students are granted a modified schedule to participate in the program and released from school by noon each day. Lee has been participating in the program since 2013 and is one of 24 high school partner campuses within the greater Houston area.

Since our first class in 2014, the number of interns at Lee has grown from seven to 17. Our interns are working at various corporations in order to gain industry experience in Information Technology, Accounting and Engineering. In addition to the professional experience and leadership training, students also receive a competitive salary. For additional information, log on to genesysworks.org.

Special Ed Students Shred 35,000 Sheets of Paper

By Farheen Qazi

Our special education students along with their instructor Mr. Skaggs, have undertaken a project involving the shredding of unused paper in order to recycle it. The students stroll around campus with a shopping cart and stop by every classroom, in hopes of collecting the unnecessary papers left over from schoolwork or other assignments. After collecting the paper, they put it through the shredder - which was funded by donorschoose.org - before dumping it into the recycle bins behind campus.

How Genesys Works Has Changed My Life and Given me Reachable Goals

The training was fun because the program coordinators prepared us by having us draft speeches, make presentations and do activities such as Team Ups and workshops to increase our team building and confidence. As part of the business training, I have learned the basics of accounting as well as how to efficiently use excel. These are things that have helped immensely in my new job, and they will also come into play in my future college courses.

The best part about Genesys Works is that by the end of the summer, I will begin to get paid! The networking skills I have learned are important, and I also like being able to dress up and being released from the Lee campus early.

The biggest advantage I will gain is that I will stand out among so many other graduates when I finish college. My internship is at Hines - one of the largest real estate firms in the world - and my experience there has been unforgettable. I am more confident when introducing myself to other people and have mastered time management as well as prioritizing.

It has been an amazing experience and I would encourage all juniors to apply, because opportunities this good are not presented often in life! Being a part of this program has given me so much more than just a job. It has expanded my skill set and broadened my horizons, and I am now confident that whatever path I choose and wherever I go, Genesys Works will be behind me, championing my path towards success.

Current LHS Seniors in the Genesys Works Program

Karim Sabar	Nathan Taylor
Alegandra Orozco	Christopher Bonilla
Daniela Valdes	Jordyn Lewis
Dejane Cherry	Leslie Ortiz
Helen Bonilla	Liety Garcia
Cohovi Aimihoue	Francisco Rios
Marcelin Kamdoun	Bradi Lopez
Jordan Jones	Eyosias Getaneh
Ladislá Arzu	

Skaggs reports that they have shredded 35,000 pieces of paper since January, helping to create recycling funds for Lee. The program is not only intended for a good purpose, but it is benefits the students with their social skills.

"By having the responsibility of going around the school and asking teachers for used papers, the activity increases their vocational skills," said Skaggs. "These students do not learn by paper and pencil - they educate themselves by repetitive actions." And little do they know, they're making a big difference in the world.

Four Seniors Awarded Posse Scholarships

Submitted by the College Center

Congratulations are in order for four outstanding senior students here at Lee High School who have been awarded four-year, full-tuition leadership Posse Scholarship offers to attend colleges located outside the state of Texas.

The scholarship-earning students are: **Ladislá Arzu**, who will be attending Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania; **Amie Bigirimana** and **Liyjon DeSilva**, who will both be attending Carleton College in Minnesota, and **Marcelin Kamdoun**, who will attending Colby College in Maine.

"We are extremely proud of these four individuals, who have always excelled throughout their time of academic study here at Lee," said Laura Escobedo - College Success Advisor. "They are tremendous examples who reflect the kind of top level education that our teachers provide."

Founded in 1989, Posse identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by the traditional college selection processes.

Posse provides these students the opportunity to pursue personal and academic excellence by placing them in supportive, multicultural teams - posses of 10 students. Over the past 27 years, Posse has awarded an incredible \$931 million in leadership scholarships.

Managing Your Laptop

Maintaining a safe and effective educational institution is our goal here at Lee, and we can achieve that. But only if you help us help YOU.

Lee High School is a Power Up campus, and therefore it is imperative that you bring and maintain your laptop on a daily basis. The proper usage of your laptop is paramount to your success as a student. It can only be effective if you adhere to the district rules and policies.

1. ALWAYS carry your laptop in your case across your body.
2. ALWAYS bring it to school.
3. ONLY use it for educational purposes.
4. ALWAYS keep it folded closed and standing upright when not in use.

After-School Program Assisting Immigrants

By Lelise Bato

Kijana Scholars is an after school program that is designed to help students with their homework and any other type of school work that they may need assistance with. The program began this year here at Lee, and they now have about 50 students registered, with 20-25 students coming to the meetings, which are three days a week. "The main purpose of Kijana Scholars is to advise and develop students academically, socially and mentally, to help make their future bright," said program coordinator Claire Casuyon. "We assist all students in all grade levels and with any subject, and we especially enjoy assisting the seniors with their applications for colleges and finding them accessible scholarship opportunities."

Alice Chuma - a senior at Lee - started coming to Kijana at the beginning of the school year. She says that after joining Kijana, she has seen a lot of changes to her grades, has learned to solve more mathematics problems, and has received assistance with writing her college essays and locating financial aid. The Kijana Scholars has a metro transportation program for all students that wish to attend. They meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in room 104, from 4:15 pm to 6:00 pm.



Please AVOID the following:

1. Lending your laptop to a friend.
2. Using it while in bed.
3. Storing personal items and/or papers and documents in the case.
4. Eating or drinking while using it.

Since our deployment, we have had too many broken laptop issues due to negligence. We can avoid that, but only if we start caring about our education and our equipment. Please pay attention to your laptop, take care of it, and think about how you use it. If you can do that, your success will be guaranteed.



(L-R) Jennifer Palacios; Amalia Rodriguez; Alejandro Contreras; Elvis Merida; Jeremy Ebachia; Karla Velasquez; and Karen Velasquez all contributed to the paper shredding project.

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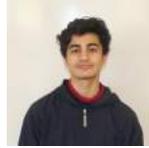
Contributors:

Vanessa Collazo, Leslie Ortiz

Meet Your Lee High School March 2016 Students of the Month



SHEILA BENITEZ (10) SCIENCE
 "What I like most about science is that you learn something new almost every day. Studying may be boring, but it's the only way to get where you want to be in life."



FARHAAD KHAN (11) SOCIAL STUDIES
 "I advise my fellow students to read the information that is given to you by your teachers on time, and then re-read it again. Simply participating in all of your assignments is crucial for a gateway to better understanding and learning."



HERITIER BYISHIMO (12) ATHLETICS
 "The most important thing about playing on a varsity sports team is that you have to attend your classes all the time, and be respectful to your teachers. If you love the game, you have to pass your classes, in order to play."



MARIA MENDEZ VALENTIN (9) ESL
 "I enjoy learning english and trying to get better at speaking the language, because it is so important to me in my life and my future. I try to always study hard and I'm proud to have been chosen for this honor."



MYLISHA GASPAS (12) OFFICE WORKER
 "It feels so wonderful to be selected as one of our students of the month, because it shows that hard work really does pay off. I love having the responsibility to help my teachers, whenever they need me to do something for them."



LESLIE SANCHEZ (10) JOURNALISM
 "What I like most about journalism and yearbook is the opportunity to be creative. Mr. Fanucchi always encourages us to do our best work, to stay on task, and to turn in our assignments by the deadline."



ILMA JAVED (10) ENGLISH
 "My parents are the most influential people in my life, because they are very supportive and they motivate me to do well. They tell me to never give up, no matter what the situation is."



VY TO (9) MATH
 "If you want to be good at math, you have to learn the formulas carefully and practice as often as possible. I like calculations and solving equations the most."

Congratulations to
 Mr. Garrett Reed



Lee High School 2016
 Teacher of the Year!

Congratulations to
 Mr. Joan Valladares



Lee High School 2016
 Rookie Teacher of the Year!

Congratulations to
 Mrs. Poonam Lal Dominguez



Lee High School February 2016
 Teacher of the Month!

The "Scene" Around Campus



Staff and faculty members gathered on March 10 at a "going away" party for long time Lee HS counselor Mrs. Jessica Broadnax, who began working at another school within Houston ISD after spring break.



The Senior Class held a fundraiser by selling Frito Pies and snacks, near the entrance to the cafeteria.



(L-R) Mrs. Moran, Mrs. Mattern, Principal Jonathan Trinh, Mr. Reed, Mr. Fanucchi, Mrs. Lopez and Mrs. Wheatfall represented Lee by attending the 2016 Houston ISD "State of the Schools" Luncheon at the Hilton Americas Hotel on March 2.



The Senior Class of 2016 Student Council got together for a photo in the courtyard, on a beautiful and sunny morning.



Seniors Jennifer Orellana and Leslie Martinez proudly display their new Class of 2016 sweatshirts at Snow Day.



Mrs. Forssman, Mr. Garza, and Mrs. Thornhill teamed up to assist the seniors with their Snow Day event, which was a reward for seniors that had paid their dues by the deadline.

SPORTS

GENERALS EARN THIRD STRAIGHT DISTRICT 20-5A SOCCER TITLE; ADVANCE INTO STATE PLAYOFFS

From Staff Reports

Coach Fidel Andrade and the 2016 Lee Generals Varsity Boys Soccer Team captured their third consecutive District 20-5A regular season championship this year by playing hard all season long, and staying focused on their goal.

Finishing with a record of 16-2-1 overall and a district mark of 10-1-1, the Generals lost just one district match, while tying another. It was the first time they had lost a district match in three years.

"I am very proud of our team's accomplishments this season, because we had the focus and determination that I wanted to see in our eyes, for each and every game," said Andrade. "The Lee soccer program has a rich history and because our players know this will be the last season in which we get to wear the name "Lee" on our jerseys, they were honored to carry on the tradition."

The Generals advanced to the UIL State Playoffs riding a nine-game winning streak, and took on Stratford in the opening round. On March 24 in a game played at Tully Stadium, Lee struck first with a goal by forward Manuel Flores in the opening minutes. Midfielder Heretier Byishimo made it 2-0 just a few moments later with a brilliant goal from just outside the box.

But the Spartans struck back quickly when they tied the score 2-2 with a pair of goals before halftime.

After a quick discussion about strategy during the break, the Generals were able to take the lead back when Flores again found the back of the net about ten minutes into the second half. Lee closed out the match by killing the final 30 minutes of the game, for a 3-2 victory.

At press time, the Generals were scheduled to face Pflugerville Connolly in the Area Round of the UIL Playoffs, on April 1.

LADY GENERALS SOCCER TEAM REACHES POST-SEASON

After a hard-fought season of play in district 20-5A, the Lady Generals finished with a record of seven victories, three losses and two ties. That was good enough for third place in the district standings, and it earned the Lady Generals a UIL State playoff berth. It was only the second time in the last 15 years that the Lady Generals had advanced into the post-season.

But, unfortunately on March 24, the squad was defeated in the first round of the playoffs, by Brenham.

"I couldn't be more proud of the way we played this year," said Coach Carrillo. "We fought through adversity and rose up to the challenge whenever we were faced with one. And they laid the ground work for next year's team - they set a new standard for us to build upon."



Coach Thomas and Coach Hobbs, along with several Lee athletes, attended the Houston Touchdown Club's Annual Awards Dinner, where the Lee Generals Football Team was honored with the 2015 Class 5A Sportsmanship Award.

GARCIA WINS DISTRICT WRESTLING TITLE; COLLAZO AND SIERRA FINISH 2ND

From Staff Reports

Senior Carmelita Garcia won the district 20-5A championship in the 110-pound weight division this year, at the Houston ISD Wrestling Championships. Garcia later went on to finish in sixth place at regionals, while sophomores Vanessa Collazo and Israel Sierra both earned second place finishes in district.

"Wrestling is a sport that requires a tremendous amount of commitment, responsibility, and self-discipline," said Collazo. "I am so proud of our entire Lee High School Wrestling Team. Many of our goals were accomplished as individuals, we all competed to the best of our ability, and we worked hard to improve throughout the year."

Collazo and Garcia advanced to the Regionals in College Station, where they both finished in 6th place in their weight class. But unfortunately, in the regional final match, Collazo broke her leg, ending her season and preventing her from being able to compete in the UIL State Championships.

"We are already looking forward to getting back on the mats next season," said coach Mario Carillo. "We would like to encourage any student who has an interest in being a wrestler to come try out for the team. It's a great sport to be a part of."

2015-16 Lee Generals Varsity Wrestling Team

Head Coach	Mario Carillo	
BOYS	WEIGHT CLASS	FINISH
Francisco Espinoza	106	
Israel Sierra	145	2nd in District
Andre Sadler	152	3rd in District
Jordan Jones	195	
Nathan Santos	220	3rd in District
GIRLS	WEIGHT CLASS	FINISH
Carmelita Garcia	110	1st in District 6th in Region
Vanessa Collazo	128	2nd in District 6th in Region
Cindy Garcia	138	3rd in District
Carrina Collazo	165	3rd in District



Collazo's arm is raised in victory after a match.



Photos By Dave Fanucchi

- Top Left: The Lee Generals embrace in a team huddle, prior to their first round playoff game vs. Stratford.
- Top Center: Midfielder Jose Guzman works the ball through some of the Spartans' defenders.
- Top Right: Midfielder Heretier "Baby D" Byishimo heads up field with the ball, looking to make a play of offense.
- Middle Left: Coach Fidel Andrade gives a fist pump after Lee scores the go-ahead goal in their 3-2 victory.
- Middle Center: Forward Manuel Flores celebrates after scoring what would end up being the game-winning goal.
- Middle Right: Fans of the Lee soccer team came out to Tully Stadium to support the Generals.
- Bottom Left: Forwards Aklilu Tegegne and Manuel Flores go after the ball as a Spartans player slides.
- Bottom Right: The Generals are all smiles following their first round playoff victory.