



# The Traveler



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Lee High School, Houston, Texas 77057

February 2016

## New Campus Construction Remains On Schedule

By Andre Jerome Sadler

Our current campus here at Lee High School has a long and rich history in Houston. Built in 1962, needless to say – our building needs a facelift in order to service the high school student of the 21st century.

Which is why if things go to plan, the class of 2018 will graduate having studied in a brand new, two-story Lee campus. The new building is already under construction, but that won't be the only thing to change either, as Principal Jonathan Trinh has planned to implement exciting new policies that should also make the new Lee HS feel like more than just a new school.

Besides a slight delay on the construction start, the work has begun without a hitch. After some higher than expected expenses were worked out, the Houston ISD-funded project got underway and as most of us students have realized, it is obvious to view the progress by looking out the back windows of our classrooms.

"If the weather is good this winter, we expect the foundation will be up before the end of spring break," said Trinh.

Even the workers agree that the construction is coming along very well, as Project Manager Daniel Calcote has seen few issues thus far besides having to work so close to an existing school and getting materials delivered on time. But Calcote and his crew are filled with pride and motivation knowing that their efforts in building a brand new, state-of-the-art campus will help so many future students at Lee.

Of course, the building is not the only thing Principal Trinh wants to see improved, as he plans to try and create a new Lee campus community - a place where students can learn and have fun. Trinh also wants to create a better sense of community by adding policies that bring students of all grade levels together as one student body. One of his ideas is Friday movie nights, where students would not only watch movies but



The first construction beams were put into place on the brand new Lee High School campus in December. Workers do not expect any delays as they continue to push towards a 2017 completion.

discuss them in intelligent conversation afterwards.

Our visionary also would enjoy being able to create monthly soccer matches, where students from all grades could square off against each other in a friendly tournament. "We need this new campus," said Trinh. "Not just to be able to upgrade our physical structure, but also to improve the student and staff morale, and to bring us all closer together".

But, as Trinh looks forward, he can also admit to looking back at history.

Lee High School has endured quite a bit over the years, including multiply add-ons, since it sprang to life 53 years ago. Lee is not just a building – it's a part of all of our lives.

Many Houstonians are proud to say they attended and graduated from this original Lee campus. But by 2017, version 2.0 will be here, and this building with so many years of history, will be torn down, and turned into athletic fields and a parking lot.

## Senior Class Planning Prom for May 13



By Daina Rivas

As the Class of 2016 prepares for graduation, many seniors are still wondering what the class plans are for their last semester here at Lee.

We do know that - most importantly - seniors will want to purchase a senior packet, which includes a ticket to the prom, a copy of the 2015-16 Lee High School "Saber" Yearbook, the prom favor, a senior t-shirt, a ticket to the senior picnic and senior breakfast, a diploma cover, and a ticket to the senior trip. The total cost of the senior packet is \$300, which is due to be paid in full by March 31.

The Senior Prom will be held on Friday evening, **May 13** in the Westin Oaks Hotel at the Houston Galleria. Parking and a dinner buffet is included, and guest tickets will be \$25.00, to be paid at the door.

The theme for the Prom this year will be "Casino Night", with all kinds of casino games to be played, and prizes given out to the winners.

The Senior Trip is still to be determined, but some options include a camping trip to either the Dallas or San Antonio area, a trip to the capital in Austin, or a visit to Pleasure Pier or Schlitterbahn in Galveston. The senior committee also plans to host some fundraisers, including popcorn sales at lunch; a Valentines photo booth on Friday, **February 12** and chocolate rose sales (pre-orders will begin February 1 for chocolate roses and heart/lip candies); candy, chips, and cookie sales in March; a senior fashion show on **March 11**; and a car wash on **April 18**.

The senior breakfast will be held on **May 23** at Brady Landing, when there will also be an awards ceremony. The senior picnic will follow the next day on **May 24**, at a place still to be determined.

"We expect all of our seniors to take part in our class activities," said Mrs. Thornhill. "We encourage all seniors to pay their fees now, so that they can have an incredible experience this year, and won't miss out on any memories they'll cherish for the rest of their lives." Remember seniors: "We're loud, we're proud, we're living the dream, and we're the CLASS OF 2016"!!!

## Committee Formed to Rename Lee High

By Samantha Campos

The Houston Independent School District Board of Education recently approved a resolution that formally begins the process of renaming four schools in order to represent the values and diversity of the school district, in accordance with the HISD non-discrimination policy.

The resolution affects three middle schools, and our campus here at Lee High School. Under the resolution, each campus will now be required to form a school-naming committee comprised of diverse staff, students, parents, and school stakeholders, that will be in charge of exploring school renaming options that adhere to board guidelines, and submitting their recommendations to the Board trustees by May.

When this decision was announced, we asked some members of the 11th grade junior class - who will become the first graduating class of the newly named high school next year - how they felt about the decision.

"I think it will be a positive change, because I think we need a new name that better represents the many different cultures, languages and nationalities of the students we have here on our campus at Lee," said junior

Melissa Almendarez. "It is also going to be a unique opportunity to be a member of the first class that graduates with the new school name." Junior Maria Sanchez felt the same way. "I think it is a good idea because it will give us a fresh start for the new school building as well. I am excited because we are going to be part of something new, but I feel nervous, because we don't know what the new name is going to be just yet."

But, juniors Yesenia Martinez and Carolina Gonzalez had a different outlook on the situation.

"I am not sure it is the best thing, because we don't know if the new name is going to be better than the name we already have," said Martinez. "I feel anxious not knowing what the outcome will be, and whether all of the students will like the name."

Gonzales felt loyalty to the Lee name because that is all she has known since she began attending our school her freshman year. Gonzalez also stated that she will likely still consider herself a graduate of Lee, even if after they give our campus a new name.



## Financial Aid Still Available For College Tuition; Upcoming Seminars at Lee College Center Feb. 4 & 25

The College Center will be focusing on Financial Aid for the Spring Semester. Financial aid is money to help pay for college or a career school. Aid can come from:

- the U.S. federal government,
- the state where you live,
- the college you attend, or
- a nonprofit or private organization.

Federal student aid includes:

- Grants - financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid (unless, for example, you withdraw from school and owe a refund)
- Loans - borrowed money for college or career school; you must repay your loans, with interest
- Work-Study - a work program through which you earn money to help you pay for school

Apply for federal student aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). And remember, the first F in “FAFSA” stands for “free” - you shouldn't pay to fill it out! *Aid From Your State Government* - Even if you're not eligible for federal aid, you might be eligible for financial aid from your state. Come to the College Center for more information.

### The Lee College Center will be hosting two upcoming Financial Aid Events

Parent Financial Aid Informational

February 4, 2016      8:00 am - 9:30 am

FAFSA Roadshow

(we will be completing the FAFSA)

February 25, 2016      8:00 am - 4:00 pm

### Current LHS Students Accepted to College (as of 1/8/16)

Cohovi Aimihoue	Rosaria Casia	Sobia Jamal	Alejandra Orozco
Hibah Akhter	Maria Cervantes	Andy Jimenez	Leslie Ortiz
Nagat Al-Akaila	De'Janee Cherry	Namita Kadel	Kelly Palma
Saul Alfaro	Bria Davis	Marcelin Kamdoun	Sadia Raisa
Ivan Alvarado	Liyjon Desilva	Fiza Khan	Nuvia Ramirez
Calixto Arteaga	Solomon Fiseha	Jennifer Lopez	Ricardo Rodriguez
Ladislá Arzu	Gabriela Flores	Kendale Martin	Karim Sabar
Daniel Becerra	Carmelita Garcia	Magda Martinez	Ana Soto-Garcia
Amie Bigiramana	Ana Garcia	Yaneth Martinez	Paul Tello
Heritier Byishimo	Liety Garcia Guerrero	Ronnie Mason	Jennifer Tipaz
Nancy Cabrera	Eyosias Getaneh	Brenda Mitogo Munoz	Daniel Vango
Flor Calito	Diana Hernandez	Brenda Ndukong	Marco Villeda
Estefani Carrillo	Kimberly Hipo	Jennifer Orellana	Oscar Wu

## Guitarist Pa Su Wins Talent Show

By Ollie Nkurunziza & Isabel Casas

Back in December, the Lee High School Talent Show was held over two days, during 4th and 9th periods. We had 20 competitors show their various talents and skills – everything from dancing to singing groups to solo performers. Emerging as the winner was sophomore Pa Su, who played a guitar cover of “See You Again” by Whiz Khalifa, and it featured his friend San Pi, who was playing the beat box while Su played his electric guitar.



We caught up with Su to ask him how he felt, after winning the show. “I was really excited and surprised, because I never thought that I could win first place.” Su said that he has been playing the guitar for six years. “I started playing at my church – the music coordinators pushed me to play the guitar, so that’s where I first learned how to do it.” Su - who is originally from Malaysia - plays in the Lee HS Marching Band along with Pi, whom he also met at his church.

The Runner-up was junior Ryan Seth, who completed three scrambled Rubik’s Cubes in less than seven minutes.

## The Traveler

### Winter 2016

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**Reporters:** Samantha Campos, Isabel Casas, Faye Gallimore, Yesenia Martinez, Ollie Nkurunziza, Daina Rivas, Andre Jerome Sadler

**Contributors:** Laura Escobedo, Claudia Grant, Julian Ordaz

## Debate Team Prepares for City Championships

By Faye Gallimore

Beginning her first year leading the speech and debate program, Mrs. Chavalin Cross has found that with team members Jordon Gaines, Maliakah Malik, Yashwanth Gurijala, and Amie Bigirimana, there is a strong foundation for her to build on.

“Our Debate Team has been extremely successful so far this year, as this team is about quality over quantity,” said Mrs. Cross.

The team recently competed in the Houston Urban Debate League’s tournament on January 16 in which six Lee debaters advanced to the Octo-final rounds. Omar Al Samara competed alone and won all of his debates, while Bigirimana, Dejanee Cherry, Danelis Borrego and Russell Maranan all won medals.

On the Junior Varsity, Yashwanth Gurijala and Stephanie Ogagba earned first place after they competed in eight rounds and won them all!



The squad is now preparing for the HISD City Championships on February 6, followed by the final competition of the year at the Federal Courthouse on February 20.

The debaters started out competing in Public Forum Debate, but have recently become more adventurous taking on Lincoln Douglas Debate, with future plans to compete in the World Schools Debate category.

“I’m so proud they’ve taken it upon themselves to explore everything the Speech and Debate world has to offer,” said Mrs. Cross. “My team is fearless and they are always looking for new challenges.”



The Young Life Club

## Houston Young Life Club Creates New Memories in North Carolina

By Yesenia Martinez

Young Life is a Christian community-based club between Lee and Sharpstown high school campuses and is centered around teaching young people about the Lord Jesus Christ, and letting them know the importance of faith and friendship. The club tries to help students open their minds and to understand more about the purpose of life, how to make new friends, and express themselves to be free. Club members are invited to participate in various community projects, travel to different cities, share meals together and to create fun and unforgettable moments.

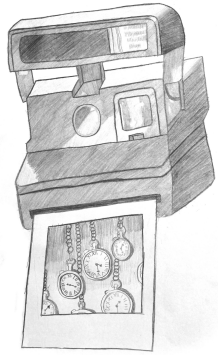
I am one of the young people participating in the Young Life Project, and I have done so for the past year. My experience in the club has been great, because the leaders are attentive to each person, we learn many new things, we get to see new places, and create amazing memories. And, we get to do all of that while learning a little more about the Lord.

In this project, we learn to live life to the fullest and to give thanks for each and every day we are here on this earth. Recently, we attended a camp in North Carolina, and soon we will be traveling to Florida for more unforgettable experiences that we will always carry with us for the rest of our lives. This club is amazing, and I urge any interested students here at Lee to join us! We meet every Thursday after school at Servants of Nations Church; 6115 Skyline Blvd. Suite B in Houston.



## Vote for your Favorite in our 2016 "Saber" Yearbook Cover Design Contest

Snap Shot



Birds Fly



City View



That's Right!!! You - the student body of Lee High School - will be selecting which original drawing you would like to see on the cover of the 2015-16 Saber Yearbook. To vote, use the hashtag #leeyearbookcover on Instagram or Twitter, and vote for your favorite by including the name of the image in your message, either "Snap Shot", "Birds Fly" or "City View". The yearbook staff will count the number of hashtag mentions used for each drawing. OR students can stop by Mr. Fanucchi's Yearbook & Newspaper Classroom 325 and vote for their favorite image in person, by filling out a ballot and dropping it into the vote box. Voting will take place throughout the month of February. The three finalists are original pieces of artwork created by juniors Yasmen Al Shaarbaf and Abdul Aamir, and freshman Cristal Zamarripa - students in Mrs. Mattox's Art class. The drawings are meant to depict this year's yearbook theme "Capture the Moment", chosen by the student staff.

Congratulations to  
Mr. Edgardo Figueroa



Lee HS January 2016  
Teacher of the Month!

## A Hero Among Us; Right Here at Lee

By Claudia Grant

We used to think that heroes were those shown on television, those who were able to fly and use magical powers to protect us. But the truth is, real heroes are just people who are able to change our lives and to help us see life in a different way. When we're lucky, we get to meet these heroes, and sometimes they are closer to us than we think.

I have met a hero - a teenage girl who is full of life, always making everybody smile with her own contagious smile that was always able to brighten someone else's day. She used that same smile to overcome an incredibly tough situation, which proves that her desire for living is more powerful than any of those every day obstacles that we go through. The hero I'm referring to is current Lee HS student Magali Ramirez. You see, she was diagnosed with leukemia a little while ago. When people heard about her struggles, they couldn't believe that the same smiling girl so full of life was the same person who was now fighting for her life. None of us knew what she was going through - nobody could imagine what she was feeling inside. And certainly none of us knew that behind her big smile was a heart full of pain.

Sometimes we tend to live in a little box, trying to figure out what people are like and living our lives based on the conclusions we draw, never thinking that we all could be gone in an instant. We try to be "perfect" and to satisfy everybody but ourselves. We go around worrying about what others think of us, and try to use our physical beauty, rather than our inner beauty to impress.



But heroes teach us that to live a meaningful life, you shouldn't be worried about what others might think of you - we should be more concerned about how we see ourselves. We have to understand that nobody in this world is immortal, and that sooner or later, we will all be gone. This world is full jealousy, judgment, and selfishness. Life is too short to not live it the way we want to, and people like Magali are able to teach us that lesson - not to focus on the little things. Magali is an example of how we should overcome our fears, and how we do so will not only leave a mark on our own lives, but others as well. We need to realize that every one of us might be a hero to someone else, just because we are being true to ourselves. Life is too short to spend it with the wrong people, in the wrong places. We need to keep a look out for the everyday heroes who are among us.

## Why Should You Buy a Yearbook? Because You're In It!

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OUT!



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**\$10 - QUARTER PAGE COLOR AD = 1 PHOTO, 25 WORDS OR LESS**  
**\$15 - HALF PAGE COLOR AD = 2-3 PHOTOS, 50 WORDS OR LESS**  
**BRING YOUR CASH, PHOTOS AND WRITTEN MESSAGE TO ROOM 325**  
**OR E-MAIL US THE PHOTOS AND INFORMATION: leesaberyearbook@gmail.com**  
**DEADLINE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26**  
**\* SPACE IS LIMITED AND IS ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS**

## Send us your School Photos & Group Selfies for the Yearbook!

**TO SUBMIT CLUB AND SCHOOL-RELATED PHOTOS FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE  
2015-16 SABER YEARBOOK, SIMPLY E-MAIL YOUR PICTURES TO**  
**OUR PHOTO EDITORS AT: leesaberyearbook@gmail.com**  
**PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAMES OF ALL STUDENTS AND FACULTY IN THE PHOTO**



# SPORTS

## BOYS SOCCER TEAM LOOKING TO CAPTURE THIRD STRAIGHT DISTRICT 20-5A TITLE

From Staff Reports



### A POINT GUARD'S PERSPECTIVE

By Julian Ordaz

This season, our varsity basketball team has gotten off to a difficult start. We have had some roster turnover, leaving us with some new players that are learning the offensive and defensive strategies that Coach Hobbs would like for us to operate.

So far, we have played four scrimmage games and six district games, and we've lost most of those games by a large margin. It's been tough, but it has given us a reason to try our best to improve. We started with a total of 12 players – three were removed from the team, and two more cannot practice right now because of low grades.

As a senior, I'm the team captain and the starting point guard. So, it's my job to lead the team in every aspect of the game, the best that I can. We are not a very tall team, so that is a distinct disadvantage in the game of basketball. Also, considering that most other teams do have taller players and more members of their roster, we also get run down during games more often than our opponents.

We try to play a run and gun style, but we are not the fastest team in the district either. We work with what we have though, and our goal is to try and keep gaining team chemistry throughout the season.

Senior forward Temberlenn Hall is our high scorer right now, and senior Cedric Grisby is leading the team in rebounding. I move the ball up and down the court and facilitate the offense. When one of our best scorers moved to Austin to play for another high school, we had to re-adjust our game plan and starting lineup.

So, even though we face tough teams in district like Yates, Madison, and North Forest – teams that have state championship aspirations and a pedigree to go with it – we have not lost our spirit. We keep pushing it, and have a new mindset. One thing this team will never do is give up, and so I'm thankful I have the opportunity to go out on that court every day to play basketball with my teammates, and to represent Lee High School. Never give up, Generals!

#### 2015-16 Lee Generals Varsity Basketball Team

1	SO	Dominique Hatangimana
2	SR	Temberlenn Hall
3	SR	Lorenzo Cenicerros
11	JR	John Gonzalez
12	JR	Montez Landing
21	SR	Julian Ordaz
22	SO	Noor Abdi
23	SR	Cedric Grisby
44	JR	Eric Cadoree
45	JR	Trayvon Freeman
50	SR	Carlo Gonzalez
Head Coach - Daryl Hobbs		



**Left:** Jose Guzman (16) watches as his shot on goal gets partially blocked by the Cypress Ridge goalkeeper, in a game at the Berry Center in Cypress. Teammate Abner Martinez (18) looks on.  
**Right:** Senior Jose Hernandez (2) attempts to dribble past a Cypress Ridge defender. The Generals lost the game 1-0, but bounced back to win their next two games in the Cy-Fair Tournament, 3-0 over Aldine Nimitz and 2-1 over Harlingen South.

Coach Fidel Andrade and his 2016 Lee Generals Varsity Boys Soccer Team have been practicing for nearly a month already. So, the team was anxious to begin their District 20-5A schedule of games, and they opened their season on Wednesday, January 27 with a 5 pm match vs. Madison at Butler Stadium.

The Generals will be attempting to go unbeaten throughout their district schedule for the third consecutive season, and they are coming off back-to-back 20-5A titles.

The squad competed in five matches during the pre-season, and won four of those games. So Andrade is very optimistic that his group can come together well and compete for another district championship this year. With our rich history of successful soccer teams here at Lee, this year's Generals - at the very least - hope to qualify for the UIL Playoffs once again, and make a deep run for a state championship.

#### Lee HS 20-5A Soccer Schedule

Jan. 27	vs. Madison	Feb. 20	vs. Madison
Jan. 29	vs. Sharpstown	Feb. 24	vs. Sharpstown
Feb. 03	vs. Davis	Feb. 26	vs. Davis
Feb. 05	vs. Austin*	Mar. 01	vs. Austin
Feb. 10	vs. Waltrip	Mar. 04	vs. Waltrip
Feb. 16	vs. North Forest	Mar. 11	vs. North Forest
* Homecoming Game			

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Photos Courtesy of Cy-Fair ISD

#### 2015-16 Lee Generals Varsity Boys Soccer Team

Abdulkhalid Abdulraziik	Hery Hernandez
Jesus Aguilar	Jose Lujan
Cristian Alvarez	Abner Martinez
Kevin Bahiti	Eric Merino
Heritier Byishimo	Jonathan Miron
Kelvin Castillo	Angel Morales
Jomyh Cruz	Hagos Petro
Anthony Flores	Jonathan Perez
Manuel Flores	Aklilu Tegegne
Jose Guzman	Coach: Fidel Andrade
Abel Garcia	

### LADY GENERALS READY TO KICK

#### 2015-16 Lee Generals Varsity Girls Soccer Team

Astrid Escobar	Jessica Roman
Yesly Espineda	Jailene Romeo
Mery Fitiwi	Areny Sapon
Cindy Garcia	Nahamin Tekele
Claudia Grant	Elida Reyna Torres
Vania Jaime	Yvette Ukositagaste
Natalie Janice Luna	Coach: Mario Carrillo
Yizel Real	

"I am excited about this year's team," said Coach Carrillo. "The girls have all shown great improvement in practice and we are looking forward to being very competitive this season."

