



L O S A N G E L E S Leadership Academy

“Three things cannot be long hidden: the sun, the moon, and the truth.” - Buddha

The Voice

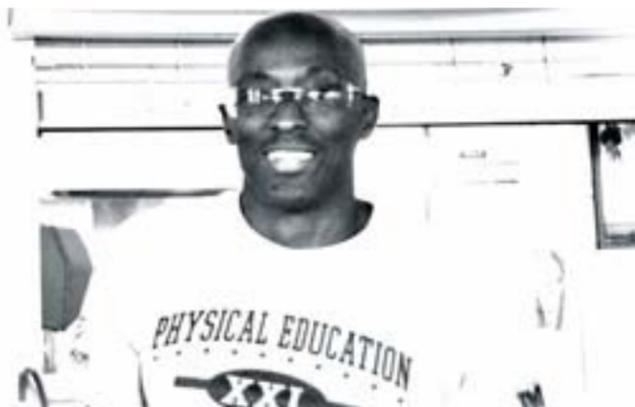


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LALA Says Goodbye to Legends



Cornell Stephenson



Marissa Cowell

This school year has been full of changes, and next year will be no different. Two veteran teachers have decided not to return to Los Angeles Leadership Academy next year. Beloved teachers Cornell Stephenson and Marissa Cowell are wished the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Physical Education teacher Cornell has taught at LALA for twelve years. He will be relocating to the Washington D.C area to start fresh with teaching and other ventures. He said of his time at LALA, “I’m full of excitement for the future, but I will miss the students (most of them) because I connected so well with you guys.”

Chemistry and Anatomy teacher Marissa has taught at LALA for seven years, starting with the graduating class of 2008. Marissa is leaving LALA for personal and professional reasons, and says, “I sincerely hope that LALA doesn’t lose its family-like atmosphere.”

In reflecting on his years at LALA Cornell said, “Hopefully my legacy will be revealed through the students whom I’ve motivated to do great things in life, and to always believe that they can do anything they truly desire with focus, determination, and effort.”

In reflecting on her time at LALA

Marissa said, “One of my favorite memories was when Andy Hernandez convinced me that two of my advisees were about to get into a fight, as a way of distracting me so they could have a surprise birthday party for me.”

In addition to Marissa and Cornell, biology and anatomy teacher Martin Barrera will not be returning next year. It is also rumored that other beloved teachers will not be returning next year.

The New SAT



The Age Old Exam Changes

By Sophia Huang

SAT is short for Scholastic Aptitude Test, the exam is given by The College Board. The SAT is an assessment that allows students to be judged on a common platform. Students in high school normally take the exam their junior year. This standardized test is also required for admission to colleges in the U.S, but now the exam is changing. The SAT has kept, added, and eliminated some parts of the exam.

The SAT is changing to focus on student improvement. Before, there were words that students in high school scarcely used or understood. Now, the SAT’s will focus on more relevant words that high school students are familiar with. The essay is more analytical, and is now an optional part of the exam.

In addition, possibly the biggest change for the exam is that there will no longer be a penalty for wrong answers. Students will earn points for the questions answered correctly, unaffected by those that are wrong.

Past scores are now being seen in a new light. Some say they should be considered higher because of the increased difficulty of the test. While others say they wouldn’t matter because the test is different.

Here, at Los Angeles Leadership Academy, current senior Jonathan Arreolaholds the school’s highest SAT score. When asked how he felt about the changes in the SAT, he responded, “I was angry. I didn’t like how I had to work hard for a score that won’t matter in a while because the test will be easier.”

Opening New Gates

By Sandra Sanchez

This year at LA Leadership Academy, history was made. Senior Aisli Valencia is LALA’s first and only Gates Millennium Scholar. The Gates Millennium Scholars program selects 1,000 talented students each year to receive a 10-year scholarship to use at any university of their choice.

To apply for the scholarship, one has to go through a very rigorous application process. When asked what made her apply for the scholarship she said, “I originally wasn’t going to apply, but Erin kept reminding me. I couldn’t disobey her because I promised her I would.” Aisli will be attending Occidental College this fall.

Aisli is interested in majoring in Biochemistry. She plans on attending graduate school in the East Coast, to pursue a career in medicine. When



Gates Scholar Aisli Valencia

asked, how it felt to win, she replied, “It was completely a dream come

true, I couldn’t believe it. I still can’t believe it.”

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Students, faculty and community members with strong opinions are highly encouraged to write a guest commentary or a letter to the editor, which may be published.

Send letters to the editor: thevoice@laleadership.org

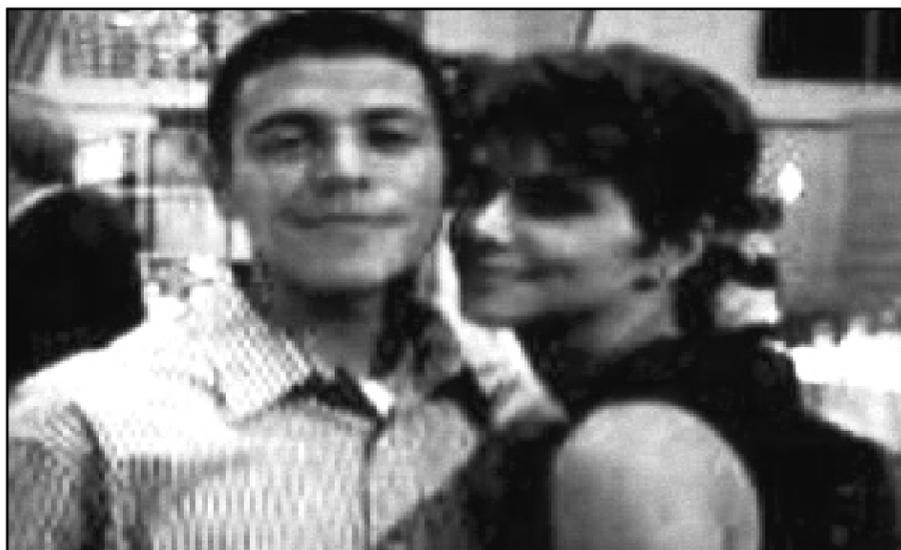
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Funds for Fun: LALA's Annual Dinner

By Sandra Sanchez

For many years Los Angeles Leadership Academy has hosted an annual banquet. This dinner is unlike any other, in that its main purpose is to fund-raise money for the school. Important and well known people such as CBS Entertainment's Nina Tassler, actress Geena Davis, and actress Halle Berry were in attendance. This year seniors Oscar Pena, Aisli Valencia, Gerardo Toledo, and Diana Toj were invited to attend and speak at the banquet.

The dinner was filled with speeches, awards, and recognitions. LALA high school's librarian Mrs. Eileen Peterson received the Volunteer of the Year Award. When asked how she felt about being recognized, she responded, "It felt wonderful and awkward to be so publicly recognized. There's a slight feeling of embarrassment because I love helping at the school, and would do it all and feel fine without even a thank you. Volunteering is its own reward. With that said, I love being seen and acknowledged as being part of the school team."



Oscar Pena and The Call actress Halle Berry

Eileen was not the only one under the spotlight. All four seniors had their moment. Each gave a speech about how LALA helped them become the person they are today. When asked what one memorable moment of the night was, each had a unique response. Aisli replied, "When I spoke,

people actually laughed," while Oscar gushed, "I hugged Halle Berry."

Overall the dinner was a success, and it is sure to bring out the best in LALA.

Jack of All Trades: Miguel Arriaga

By Oscar Isem

One of LALA's most respected yet undervalued staff members is thirty-one year old Miguel Arriaga. The versatile elementary school teacher has been at LALA for eight years.

From the start, Miguel worked at the high school. He taught ninth grade earth science and tenth grade biology for two years (one year at the motel and the other here). He went on to teach sixth grade earth science and seventh grade life science at the middle school in Koreatown for three years. Finally, he ended up where he is now, teaching first grade for the last three years.

Each change was a huge leap in both age and location for Miguel. He had to learn to deal with teens, preteens, and children, in reverse order of what would be normal as he went down the age chart. The reason for each move was not triggered by Miguel, but by following orders.

As Miguel was in his first year, he volunteered to coach a coachless Boy's LALA HS soccer team. Seven years later this laid the foundation for being offered a job as a soccer coach, when YPI began to offer a sports program.

Miguel often has a very full plate. He



Mr. Miguel with LALA Alumni

has been a 1st grade teacher, APEX after school teacher, Boys and Girls Soccer Coach, and Culinary Arts Instructor. In previous years, Miguel has also been part of an outdoor program which took 15 students out to see LA every Friday.

When looking back at his year here, he had this to say to the graduating class. "I am very happy to see that my young students and old advises are graduating this year from high school. I am very proud of each and every one of them,

and seeing them grow has been priceless. I am not going to mention any names, everyone is special in my eyes, and no matter what path they choose to follow, I'm happy. Back in middle school students were not as clear as to what they wanted to pursue, but I know that with the help of many of our great teachers they are now ready for the college world. I really want everyone to remember the following. "It's all about TM = acronym for Tomorrow's Memories"

The Voice Ch-Ch-Ch Challenge

June's Challenge

What year did LALA's beloved 10th grade English teacher and Debate coach, Al Schielcher graduate from high school?

The first person to come to Ms.U with the correct answer will win a prize.



News & Features

Cleaning up the Streets of LA

By Eric Platero



Ms. Ham's advisory shelving books.



Mr. Barrerra's advisory cleaning the streets.

On April 2nd Los Angeles Leadership Academy held their annual community service day in memory of Cesar Chavez. This is an event that the school does every year where each advisory goes to a different place in the neighborhood to help improve it. The advisories improved the place they went to by helping to clean, paint, or read to little kids. LALA does this event to help give back to the community and have the students experience what's its like to help others, and not to expect anything in return.

Senior Diana Toj went to Divine

Savior church to help clean up. When asked what she took away from this experience she said, "I got really into cleaning."

Junior Juan Espinoza said he went to Loreto Street Elementary to clean, pick up trash, and pull weeds. When asked about his experience during Cesar Chavez Day of Service he replied, "It was a bonding experience for all."

English and Speech and Debate teacher Al was interviewed about his experience from a teacher perspective. Al took his advisory to Gates Middle School, but was sent back due to a

miscommunication. The issue resulted in his class cleaning the streets and promoting LALA by passing out flyers. When asked if he thought the day was organized he replied, "It was somewhat organized, but could have been improved with proper planning and more help from administration and advisors". Al continued by saying that overall Oscar Peña did great work under short notice.

Cesar Chavez Day is not just a holiday, or a day when students and staff come together to do "boring" work. It's a day to celebrate building better

communities. A day that shows the prowess of a community united for the greater good, a community that's self-aware, a community determined to treat it's city with respect, a community dedicated to putting an end to ignorance and where one person is just part of a whole movement.

Cesar Chavez Day means many things to many people, but at its core it is to help a fellow human being out of the goodness of your heart without expecting anything in return. This is one part of what it means to be a LALA student.

Broadening Our Horizons

Students study abroad

By Vanessa Sanchez



Left to Right: Jac Russell(Finland; Summer), Aimee Russell(Spain; Summer), Jose Sierra (Brazil; Full Year)



Left to Right: Vanessa Sanchez (China; Full Year), Anel Torres (China; Full Year), Hicell Lopez (India; Full Year)

A few sophomores attending Los Angeles Leadership Academy will be studying abroad in their selected countries. Some students applied to study abroad through a program called NSLI-Y, and others applied through AFS. Lucky students Hicell Lopez, Anel Torres, Vanessa Sanchez, Jose Sierra, and Karla Marquez are set to study abroad during the 2014-2015 school year.

Hicell Lopez will be studying in

India, departing Los Angeles on the 5th of this July. Anel Torres will be studying in China, departing on the 17th of August. Vanessa Sanchez will be studying in China, departing on the 19th of August. Jose Sierra will be studying in Brazil, and he will be departing around the 20th of August. Karla Marquez will be studying abroad in Indonesia, and will be flying out sometime in 2014.

Studying abroad is a lengthy pro-

cess in which students fly out to their desired place of study, and take classes in that location. Before departing, their selected programs gives them pre departure orientation and courses. When student Anel Torres was questioned on why she decided to study in China, her response was simple, "I have been to China before, and I want to re visit it's culture and experience the challenges". Congratulations to the students selected to study abroad.

During the summer Jac and Aimee Russell will participate in a summer program, and will return to school in the fall.

Rising senior Evelyn Robles, returned the 14th of May, and Anna Hernandez, is expected to return soon.



News & Features

Drama to Show Your Mama

By: Kevin Ferman



The Glass Menagerie: Lily Huerta as Laura(left) with Arlene Garcia as Amanda(right).



The Zoo Story: Aldo Diaz as Jerry(left) with Richard Cruz as Peter(right).



The Notebook: Angel Espinoza as Noah(left) with Rebecca Garcia as Allie(right).

On Friday, May 30th, Mark's third period drama class performed LA Leadership's first ever Drama Showcase. With a full house as the audience, the actors had an outstanding performance. The actors performed ten scenes splitting them into two acts. Scenes ranged from comedy's to drama's in performances such as, "The Importance of Being Honest," "The Notebook" and "Hamlet". The audience could tell that the actors put so much effort into their performance, and had tried hard to get their per-

formances right. The actors also did well by engaging the audience, in one of their scenes the actors did a small musical performance and the audience followed with the rhythm and clapped along. All performances were really well put together, and the audience looked as if they really enjoyed the showcase.

Junior Arlene Garcia, spoke about her performance. When asked how she felt about performing she stated, "It's amazing, I can't even describe the feeling, I was so nervous but all I

had to do was take a deep breath." She also said that she took more than three weeks to prepare for her part.

Another actor, senior, Rebecca Garcia, said, "I've done it before, but there are always those butterflies." To prepare for her part Rebecca took about a month working hard to memorize her lines.

When asked about their classmates both Arlene and Rebecca mentioned that the class did a very good job in preparing for the showcase and put a lot of effort into making it run

smoothly.

Overall, LALA's first Drama Showcase was a success and the actors did such an amazing job in making it an enjoyable event. Mark did such a great job in organizing and putting together the event. Hopefully Mark's drama will put together another great performance.

And Your New President Is...

By Eric Platero



LALA's 2014-2015 Officers: Karen Gomez (President) Selena Agustin (Vice-President) Diana Martinez (Secretary) Kevin Ferman (Treasurer)

Karen Gomez won the ASB election for class president. Congratulations Karen Gomez! Upon an interview with Karen she was asked What plans do you have for the future? Her response, "Boost school spirit, try to help as many people as I can, and try to keep a positive attitude and state of mind towards anything." Karen Gomez has made a strong position to be a candidate by the people and for

the people. Kevin Ferman was also interviewed on what he plans for the future? His response, "I plan to do as much as I can to meet fundraising deadlines, and make sure that the money we raised stays where it belongs." Kevin Ferman and Oscar Isem have been nominated to be an apt duo to represent their class. For what the futures has in store only the future can tell.

Are you coming back?

By Aimee Russell



Student Leaving LALA.

The famous end of the year question, "Are you coming back next year?" is one asked and answered by both teachers and students.

In an advisory poll the Freshmen class felt quite neutral about LALA. Almost 71% of Freshmen said they were coming back next year, mostly because it was the closest school to them, or they were being forced to. In addition, most freshmen felt LALA would benefit them academically in the future.

As for the Sophomores, most said that LALA was a decent school. 60% of them claimed they will return next year. Several said that they were not coming back because they need a better education, while others said they were coming back because of friends.

The Juniors feel a little different than the Sophomores and Freshmen. About 80% of them are coming back next year. Some said that the main reason they are coming back is because they've been here for a while, and LALA has good opportunities. Some said that they were not coming back because there is no more social justice.

Other commentary the students left included: feelings about the administration and block scheduling. Students want administration to listen to them more, and they are not feeling positive about the idea of block scheduling next year. Hopefully accommodations will be made to make LALA a more positive environment.



Senior Edition

Keeping an Eye on Alumni

By Sandra Sanchez



Joy Woo



Isabel Fong



Paola Sanchez

Paola Sanchez is a rising junior at Smith College, she is majoring in Economics and might minor in East Asian Studies. Joy Woo is a rising sophomore at Juniata College, and is currently undeclared. Isabel Fong is also a rising sophomore and attends CCU Channel Islands, she is majoring in Sociology and minoring in Political Science. All three of these young women are Los Angeles Leadership Academy Alumni.

Ever wonder how much one would study at college? From Paola's experi-

ence, "I would say on average I study for about four or five hours a night. That of course increases when I have an upcoming exam or finals." Asked the same question, Isabel responded, "I was strict on myself. I went to the library every day and studied for three to four hours, and some days almost six."

When asked what the difference is in regards to high school and college life, Paola said, "The work load is different, in the sense that you are given more readings and are expected

to complete them in a timely manner. Whether that be reading 100-300 pages per night. You learn to master the art of skimming." Joy Woo responded, "It's hard at first, in high school you have it really easy, everything is given to you. You're held accountable in high school, whereas in college you have to taken upon yourself to do what you need to do."

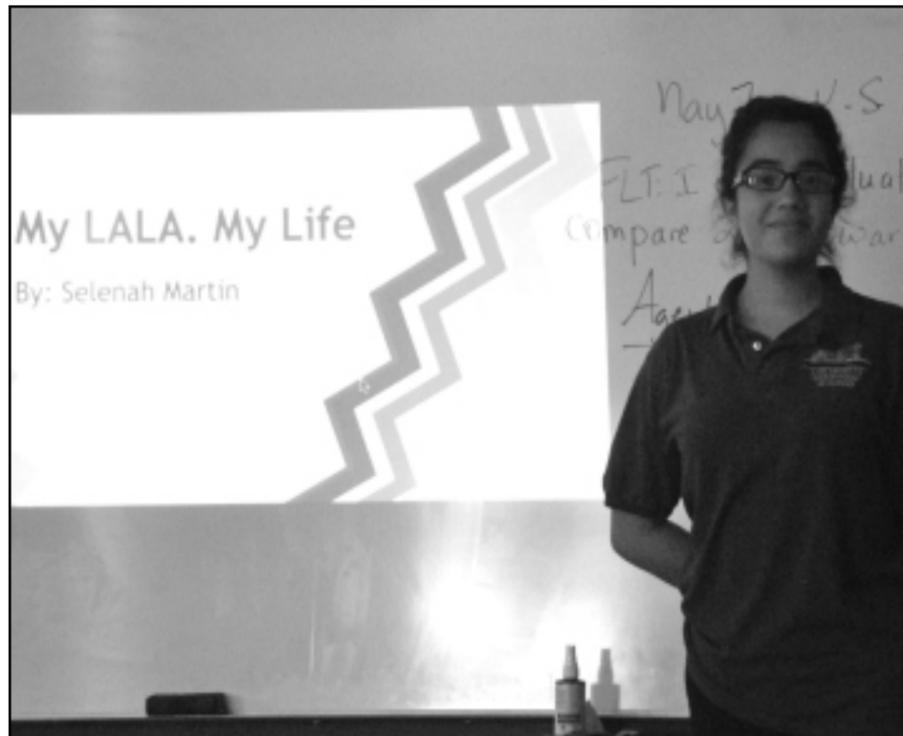
Unlike high school courses, class is not given five days a week, an hour per day, instead one attends class the two times a week it meets.

When asked if LALA prepared her for college, academically speaking, Isabel said, "I'm really thankful I was in Mark's AP class because of the in-class essays. Often times some of my classes where graded on essays and the midterm." On the other hand, Paola replied, "Overall, I felt I could have been more prepared in the math department."

Parting with a few wise words, Paola advices the seniors, "Not to be afraid to ask for help, as well as use all the resources your college offers."

My LALA My Life

By Rosario Michel & Edwin Coro



Selenah Martin



Bryan Cali

Senior year is coming to an end, and what a way to end it. Senior advisors Al, Mark, and Phyllis created a senior project called My LALA My Life. Seniors were to reflect on their time at LALA, and their actions as an activists, creator, and scholar. The seniors then compiled their thoughts, feelings, and pictures into a Power-Point presentation, which was pre-

sented to the senior advisors, senior students, and other members of the LALA community.

A senior, who wishes to remain anonymous was asked how he feel about their project. He said, "I honestly don't like the fact that we need to present the project in front of other students. I feel that this shouldn't be a big requirement to graduate." The seniors was also asked if this project

helped in any way. He said, "In some way it helps me reflect on myself."

Senior advisor Mark Campbell said, "The project was a great idea. In the future students should begin at the start of the school year, so that they can build evidence and take pictures to make it a true year-long reflection. It would be even better if they started their freshman year."

9th grade English teacher and

journalism advisor, Ms.U said, "I loved watching the students reflect on their experiences. Watching them get emotional made me emotional."

This project provided a great opportunity which allowed the seniors to reflect and look back on their own experience at LALA.



Senior Edition

Class of 2014: Plans for World Domination

By Kevin Ferman

Fun Facts:

25 students going to a Cal State

3 students going to a UC

6 students going out of state

7 students going to Private/Public Universities

15 students going to a Community College

4 students undecided

2 POSSE Scholars

1 heading to military

Name	College/Future Plans
Jasmine Ahumada	CSU Los Angeles
Ricky Alejandro	CSU Northridge
Jenny Alvarez	CSU Northridge
Xilenka Amayo	University of the West
Jonathan Arreola	CSU Los Angeles
Vanessa Arreola	Mariela School of Beauty
Jesus Barajas	Pasadena Community
Bryan Cali	Pasadena City College
Tiffany Casas	Pasadena City College
Lyric Colon	UC Santa Barbara
Itzel Contreras	Santa Monica College
Richard Cruz	CSU Northridge
Aldo Diaz	Pasadena Community
Annette Diaz	Mount Saint Mary's College
Jesus Duarte	Undecided
Angel Espinoza	Pasadena Community
Angelica Etienne	Juniata College
Cristian Garcia	CSU Northridge
Liliana Garcia	CSU Dominguez Hills
Rebecca Garcia	CSU Bakersfield
Zitlali Garcia	Pasadena Community

Name	College/Future Plans
Michelle Grijalua	ELAC
Kenia Gomez	Declined to Answer
Britnee Gonzalez	CSU Dominguez Hills
Cecilia Guizar	Mount Saint Mary's College
Andy Hernandez	Marines
Natalie Hernandez	UC Santa Cruz
Sophia Huang	Pasadena Community
Yareli Jimenez	Dickinson College
Hugo Lopez	Undecided
Patricio Martin	CSU Los Angeles
Selenah Martin	Mount Saint Mary's College
Jesus Martinez	Sonoma State University
Salvador Medina	Pasadena Community
Paola Melena	University of the West
Rosario Michel	CSU Dominguez Hills
Carissa Molina	Columbia College, Chicago
Alexandra Morales	UC Merced
Cassandra Moreno	Pasadena Community
Steven Munoz	Humboldt State University
Oscar Pena	CSU Stanislaus
Eric Platero	Mt. San Antonio College

Name	College/Future Plans
Matthew Prieto	Undecided
Alondra Ramirez	Pasadena City College
David Rivera	Glendale Community
Jesmin Rodriguez	CSU Dominguez Hills
Rossy Rodriguez	CSU Northridge
Anthony Roque	Juniata College
Oyuki Salgado	Humboldt State
Felicitas Santos	CSU Los Angeles
Kasey Sierra	Humboldt State
Evelyn Thomas	CSU Los Angeles
Gerardo Toledo	CSU Los Angeles
Diana Toj	Kalamazoo College
Natalie Torres	CSU Los Angeles
Aisli Valencia	Occidental College
Alexandria Vasquez	New Mexico State
Ever Vergara	CSU Los Angeles
Oswaldo Vizcarra	Pasadena City
Alanjon Yparraguire	CSU Los Angeles
Alejandra Zaragoza	CSU Los Angeles



Types of Financial Aid

Gates Millennium Scholar

Cal Grant

Cash for College Scholarship

L.A.L.A Scholarship

POSSE

Senior Edition

Thank You!

By Seniors on Staff

We have come a very long way and we've had a long and difficult journey here at LALA high school, but we were able to surpass the endless road. We met many people over the years and made new friends, some went and some stayed, but together we who continued the journey became one. However, we as students could not become scholars and who we are as a student body without the knowledge of our mentors, friends, and teachers. Without our teachers we would not have been able to achieve the reward of knowledge. When we were down they were there at our side every step of the way.

These teachers were our friends, our mothers, our fathers, our brothers and sisters, but most of all they were our mentors our symbol of righteousness and nobility. For the path they took as our gracious teachers guided individuals, their love and passion to teach us as well as provide an education lead us to become the symbol of the future.

Though we may have been a handful, together we endured the hardship of one another and pulled through to the broad of daylight. A new horizon has arose and we the future and legacy of this school take the path of glory



Journalism Seniors Say Thank You

and march onward as lions to roar with pride and create a new world.

We would like to thank the following teachers for their support in our long journey: Mark, you have taught all your students to build their confidence and skills to write. Marissa, we enjoyed your humor and the way you teach in class, in a fun and interactive way. Phyllis, you have helped all the students to get to where we are now. You push each of us to do well. We ask help from you because we know you know everything and we admire you for that. Al has taught us to think outside the box and not to give in to society. Also he's taught us some cheesy jokes. He has been a living

example of showing commitment and hard work to his students.

Ms.U you have been there for us since the day we met, you managed to teach us English in a fun and understandable way. You brighten our day with the way you are and how you dress. Sonia, thank you for teaching us Spanish and for sticking with us through our four years, you are a very sweet and loving person.

Erin you are one of kind you are like a coach to our success in life. Without you we would be lost in our school life you were always there encouraging and guiding us, we would like to personally thank you for your watchful eye in our daily school life.

On the behalf of the senior class of 2014, thank you for all that you have done for us. Thank you for giving us the gift of knowledge, and for being there until the very end. You have ennobled all of us. You shall live on as a part of our lives from here forth unto eternity.

Thank you for all your help you are some of the best teachers. We love you.

Love,
Eric, Alanjon, Edwin,
Sophie, David, Rosario,
and Jonathan

Words of Wisdom

"Those who leap into the void, owe no answers to those who stand and watch."

These sage words were once spoken to me in a time of serious need. One year prior, I packed my life into one suitcase and moved to another city. Living on a dream, I thought I made all the right decisions. But, after working for a year, I began to struggle. Without the support of family or friends, I felt like quitting, packing my suitcase, and moving back to Los Angeles. That was when my work supervisor gave me advice that I will remember for the rest of life. He said that I needed to struggle, and I did not have to explain myself to anyone nor doubt myself. With that in mind I decided to stay in New York and work hard to succeed, and in the end, I made the right decision to stay. You see class of 2014, the times ahead will have triumph and true victory; as long as you remember that these times



Al R. Schleicher has a Bachelor of Arts degree from San Diego State University, and a Master of Arts from Loyola Marymount University. He is the English 10 teacher and Speech & Debate coach at Los Angeles Leadership Academy. Member of the National Council of Teachers of English, International Honor Society in Education, and the National Honor Society for Speech and Debate.

of triumph will come from struggle.

You are about to embark on the greatest journey of your life--the rest of your life. Hopefully, as you move forward you will look back on your time at Los Angeles Leadership Academy with fondness, knowing that your teachers cared about your academic and social growth. As teachers, we are forced to learn how to say goodbye. It is not a natural ability, but one that comes from seeing so many students

grow into young men and women, and hoping that you will be safe on your journey.

Watching your growth over the past four years has been more than interesting. When I look back, I think of August 2010, when many of you sat in my classroom taking English 9. I still remember the seating chart, fist week of school, culture bags, how you studied, and the books we read. You have definitely changed, and I feel

The sands of time cannot be stopped. Years pass whether we will them or not, but we can remember...what has been lost may yet live on in memories...treasure it for without you it does not exist."

-Christopher Paolini

blessed to have witnessed your leadership potential come to fruition. If you still harbor any bad habits after four years in high school, it is best that you say goodbye to them. Those bad habits will not serve you in the years ahead. Free yourself from any bad habits of mind, and you will notice that success becomes a little easier to attain. If, at any time, you feel that you need a kick in the butt, just let me know. They are free of charge.

At this point, there is little more that I can say. I do know that doubt will creep in during times of struggle, doubling the difficulty for you to overcome. But, if you stay strong and leap into that void, you will not owe answers to anyone who stands and watches. Now, go out there and be somebody. The world is waiting. Take care,
Al



Senior Edition

But First, Let's Take a Selfie!!



Seniors at John's Incredible Pizza



Seniors at Prom: Lyric, Sophia, and Jesmin



Seniors at John's Incredible Pizza



Senior Luau



Grad Nite 2014 Day



Grad Nite 2014 Night



Seniors at Luau



Seniors: Evelyn, Jesmin, Lyric, Aisli, Anthony, Salvador, & Selenah

Features

This Title is Debatable

By Vanessa Sanchez



Lyric and Amorette



Angie Etienne & Natalie Hernandez

Many trophies, accomplishments, and proud moments. Los Angeles Leadership Academy's first year participating in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Debate League has been a successful one. The year is officially over, the last official competition was held May 25th and 26th at USC.

Team Colon made it to the Final Four in the Junior Varsity City Championships, in which they lost. Team Umana/Tavico made it to the Final of the Final Four in the Novice Division City Championships. They lost to a Southeast High School in a packed room. Students were ranked on their speaker skills. Senior Lyric Colon received 1st Speaker Award in the city for Junior Varsity, and Junior Am-

morette received 5th Speaker Award for the Junior Varsity. In the Novice Division, freshmen Juan Gomez received 10th Best Speaker Award, and Junior Kathy Umana received 3rd Best Speaker Award.

Two Debater of the Year Awards were given, and each is well known for being a prestigious award bestowed upon a student by the city. One is for a debater that has competed for multiple years, and one for a student in their first year of debate. Senior Lyric Colon received the Debater of the Year Award for her first year. "It is an extreme honor that other coaches voted for Lyric as she left an impression upon the entire league," said Al Schleicher.

Grades by the Hour

By Aimee Russell



Senior Advisor, Phyllis Rosen

Administration mandated service hours being a part of a student's advisory grade at the beginning of the year. The policy caused mixed feelings.

Advisory is worth five credits, which is equal to academic classes such as English and math. Despite the seemingly mindboggling number of credits received for advisory, advisory does not affect a student's GPA.

Each student is required to complete thirty service hours every year of high school, or one hundred twenty total for a senior that attended LALA all four years.

Some students feel that service hours should be their personal responsibility, instead of a grade requirement. "As kids get older they need to learn how to use their time wisely, and

experience the consequences of not completing a significant task, so how is this helping us?" said sophomore Marielieth Banos.

Teachers are beginning to notice how their students' advisory grades are decreasing due to not completing their hours. "Overall, I support service hours being included in advisory grades; however, it should be stated in the student handbook, and students should have been aware of this in the beginning of the year," said Chemistry/Anatomy and sophomore advisor Marissa Cowell.

One could say this is challenging our students. The dean, Mr. Zimmerman, claims all high schools should require service hours, and it's important considering this is a social justice themed school.

This Year Was "Whatevs"

By Oscar Isem

There are only a few days left before the school year ends. For seniors, that means Bon Voyage. For the rest of us, another year has passed in our countdown to graduation. What a momentous year it has been. It's been a passing of the guard, as last year's seniors set the bar high for this year's. It's a transition year, as LALA's beloved Executive Director Roger Lowenstine retired and passed the baton on to the new Executive Director Dr. Tubbs, who brought her own administration with her. It's been a year of highs and lows for the students of LALA.

A recent survey taken by one advisory from each grade level yielded mixed results. While most were neutral, there were both advocates and detractors from all grades levels. On the sides of the advocates, by far the biggest reason was, "I am with my friends and/or I have good grades." Detractors, on the other hand, were a bit more specific. A large focal point was centered on the controversial sweater policy change.

For those who don't know, a powerful show of community united LALA for a common cause last year. We-the LALA student body-signed a petition and were granted an audience by the previous administration, whom we managed to convince to change the



Los Angeles Leadership Academy High School Building

sweater policy. As a student body, for many this was the greatest achievement. As we had been taught, LALA came together to fight for what they felt was fair and got the change they desired. However, upon the new administration revoking the previous policy change due to parental concerns, many of the upperclassmen who had fought for their rights felt slighted. A few self-jokingly referred to the civil rights movement, which at times seemed to move three steps back for every two steps forward.

Another major points for detractors were major changes to the culture and mindset of LALA nearly at once. Among those the now revised technologically centered math classes. Many agreed with this quote from a student

that wishes to remain anonymous, "We are not against the change. We just need it to slow down a little and maybe be centered more with the underclassment because they have not had the time we have to gain habits." In other words, the minds of the younger members of our high school would be faster to adapt to new changes than their older counterparts.

Far and large, whether neutral, advocate, or detractor, a large portion of those polled felt that LALA had lost its vision in regards to social justice. A particularly well written anonymous quote reads, "It's social justice to teach us to stand up for what's wrong, but we always get in trouble when we do" in regards to a question

asking students to clarify whether or not they felt LALA has continued its social justice mission. For the record, the student felt that LALA had lost its impetus. Other, more balanced statements refine this student's beliefs. In general, the students feel that why LALA is still telling its students to rise up for justice, it now comes from select teachers rather than the united front of teacher and admin of yesteryear. Overall, from the student's point of view, it could have gone much better. Also a little worse if we had not moved together to ask for some time to adapt. There are many expectations riding on the Associated Student Body next year; the students want to be heard again.



News & Features

Shout-Outs

THIS IS A SHOUT OUT TO CARISSA, SOPHIA, AND ALEX. GOOD LUCK IN COLLEGE. THESE PAST YEARS WERE THE HAPPIEST WITH YOU GUYS AND I WILL MISS YOU DEARLY. I WILL NEVER FORGET THE SPECTACULAR MEMORIES WE CREATED TOGETHER UNTIL NOW. ALL OF THE EXHILARATING TIMES WE SPENT TOGETHER. EXCEPT, WE ALL KNEW THIS DAY WAS GOING TO COME SOONER OR LATER, AND NOW IT'S TIME TO SAY GOOD-BYE. I WILL REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN I FIRST MET YOU SOPHIA, IN MIDDLE SCHOOL. I WILL REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I WENT TO SIX FLAGS TOGETHER WITH YOU CARISSA. I WILL REMEMBER THE SHENANIGANS DRIVING 2ND AND 3RD PERIOD ALEX. THANK YOU FOR ALL THESE UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS, I'M CHERISHING THEM FOREVER. THANK YOU FOR BEING MY FRIENDS. -ARLENE GARCIA

MY DEAR SWEET JOURNALISM STAFF, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION.

Love Ms. U

SHOUT OUT TO THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR HAVING A GOOD SEASON, WINNING FIRST PLACE, AND MAKING MY FRESHMAN YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL FUN AND AMAZING. THANK YOU!!

-ANDREA S.

TO MARISSA AND Ms.U,
YOU GUYS, WELL YOU WOMEN ARE TWO OF MY FAVORITE TEACHERS HERE AT LALA. I WANT TO THANK YOU, BOTH OF YOU FOR LISTENING TO MY RAMBLINGS AND MY HIGH TALES OF MY TEENAGE LIFE. I HOPE TO STILL BE IN CONTACT WITH YOU BOTH IN THE FUTURE. HAVE A GREAT SUMMER AND TAKE A VACATION, EVEN A MINI-ONE, YOU GUYS DESERVE IT.

Love, SANDRA

P.S: I WOULD BE MORE SAPPY BUT THIS IS THE NEWSPAPER AND PEOPLE WILL READ IT.

CAHSEE PREP TEAM AND 10TH GRADE ADVISORY TEACHERS - GREAT JOB!!
AL AND SPEECH, DEBATE AND FORENSICS TEAM
BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER TEAM
PHYLLIS FOR ALL THE HARD WORK WITH HOSTING AND ORGANIZING MyLife MyLALA
Ms. U AND THE VOICE FOR AN INFORMATIVE NEWSPAPER
GLORIA AND RINA FOR SUCH AN OUTSTANDING JOB RUNNING THE OFFICE
JUAN FOR KEEPING THE SCHOOL CLEAN AND RUNNING
ROLANDO FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS TO KEEP SCHOOL SAFE
ASB CLASS FOR MANY HOURS OF ORGANIZATION TOWARDS VARIOUS SCHOOL WIDE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS
ERIN AND CRAIG FOR EFFORTS WITH AP AND CST AND CAHSEE TESTING
-Mr. THOMAS

THIS IS A SHOUT-OUT
-AL

SHOUT OUTS

BILL,
ONE SEED CAN START A GARDEN; ONE SMILE CAN LIFT A SPIRIT. ONE CANDLE CAN LIGHT A ROOM; ONE CONVERSATION CAN START A FRIENDSHIP. MY WORDS ARE TOO LITTLE TO DESCRIBE HOW THANKFUL WE ARE FOR HAVING SUCH AN AMAZING THERAPIST IN OUR SCHOOL. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT YOU HAVE GAVE US. I AM TRULY THANKFUL FOR EVERYTHING. YOU INSPIRE AND WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE A THERAPIST JUST LIKE YOU.

THANK YOU DIANA M. & BRIAN C.

MR. BARRERA IS THE BEST TEACHER IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD. HE'S A KIND, NICE, SWEET, CARING, LOVING TEACHER. I MEAN, WHO WOULDN'T WANT TO HAVE A TEACHER LIKE HIM? I'M ALWAYS GOING TO BE THANKFUL FOR MR. BARRERA. WHAT MAKES ME SAD IS THAT HE'S LEAVING LALA, AND WHEN HE LEAVES NOTHING WILL BE THE SAME. AS LALA KIDS WE SHOULD SUPPORT MR. BARRERA BY PROTESTING SO HE CAN STAY. IF LALA STUDENTS AGREE WE CAN MAKE A PETITION OR PROTEST. MR. BARRERA IS AN HONORABLE TEACHER, A TEACHER WHO CARES ABOUT EVERYONE HE KNOWS AT LALA HIGH SCHOOL.

-ANONYMOUS, NINTH-GRADE STUDENT

THANK YOU MARISSA AND PHYLLIS FOR YOUR UNCONDITIONAL HELP. ROOTS AND WINGS IS VERY THANKFUL FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT DURING THIS TIME. WE WOULDN'T DO IT WITH OUT YOU TWO. WE LOVE YOU AND THANK YOU SO MUCH.
Love R&W

SENIORS,
THOUGH YOU DRIVE ME CRAZY SOMETIMES (LOTS OF TIMES) I LOVE YOU ALL SO MUCH.
Love PHYLLIS

TO ALL THE SENIORS, GOOD LUCK IN COLLEGE. SERIOUSLY IT'S GOING TO BE A VERY BUMPY ROAD UP AHEAD. I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK ONCE YOU GRADUATE. YOU GUYS WORKED SO HARD TO ACHIEVE THIS MOMENT AND THE TIME DRAWS NEAR. ENJOY COLLEGE LIFE, AND BE HAPPY. NOW THIS IS FOR THE JUNIORS, GOOD LUCK IN SENIOR YEAR. WORK HARD TO ATTEND COLLEGE. I HOPE TO SEE YOU GUYS AGAIN NEXT YEAR! NOW, FOR THE TEACHERS, THANK YOU ALL FOR GIVING US THIS EDUCATION. THANK YOU FOR MAKING US WANT TO SUCCEED. THANK YOU FOR ALL THE EFFORT YOU PUT IN MAKING US EXCEED. THANK YOU ALL!

-ARLENE GARCIA

Features

Freshies

By Jose Guerrero

Incoming freshmen tend to have a difficult time adjusting to the new environment. The transition from middle school to high school is a huge difference. Luis Seefoo was interviewed on his perspective of freshmen year. When asked about the difficulty of the transition his response was simple, "Everyone is mature and no really acts like little immature kids." The classes are more intense and require more work. Leading to a change on how students view school. "I dedicated more time to school", Luis Seefoo stated when asked about his adjustment to high school. Some friendly advice on how to survive freshmen year is simple, complete all your work and study.

Sophomore's Standpoint

By Sandra Sanchez



You must be nervous. You must be ready to study more than ever, for your junior year will be a hectic one. As a rising junior you must be prepared for the tests, you will have numerous test that will be used to evaluate you. Did I mention the tests? Hey you, junior year is an extremely important year for your academics, don't let your grades slip!

As a current sophomore, these are just few of the things I am constantly hearing as the year comes to an end. Not that I'm mocking any of these things, on the contrary I'm sharing them with my fellow classmates. The phrase, "junior year is an important one" has been tattooed into my brain with several different voices. It's so blatantly obvious that it stands out and it's a phrase I find myself repeating to my friends, my family members, and older students.

I know junior year will be a jam packed one. But I also know that it doesn't have to be a very stressful one. The key word being very, because it's almost impossible not to have tests and schoolwork without stress. I just hope I can handle the work, much like other students are aiming to achieve. As rising juniors, the class of 2016 just has to keep two things in mind. "Junior year is an important one", and that cramming information the night before a test is not the best option.

Junior Expectations for Senior Year

By Kevin Ferman

With summer just around the corner junior year is finally coming to a close. Junior year is considered to be one of the busiest and most important year in high school. From having to keep our grades up for colleges, to look at to preparing for the ACT or SAT, once the school year is over juniors can finally look forward to senior year. For some it'll be a year of struggle to make up classes for graduation, and for others it'll just be a countdown to when they could finally leave to college. Some may feel Senior year will be a drag for them, but many will be excited to finally have the chance to apply to college. When asking current junior Karen Gomez on her expectations for senior year she stated, "I expect plenty of challenges, especially when it will come to our requirements to do senior activities unless we are able to get a clear notice of them at the beginning of the year."

Senior year is also the year that counselor Erin Kim is most



involved with her students. She helps guide and assists seniors through the college application process, and helps them find the most financial aid they can get. When asked how she feels about the incoming seniors she replied, "I'm very excited about this upcoming class because every year, students are more and more prepared for college. I really believe the class of 2015 will break new records with test scores and the types of colleges they go to." Along with her enthusiasm towards the incoming seniors she also expressed her expectations for them. "I expect the juniors to work hard. I'm really sick of the lazy senior attitude about just getting by. I want to see you guys work hard, don't give excuses, and meet higher expectations than

the other classes before them." Senior year will have its ups and downs but it'll be all worth it when the day comes when we are walking across the stage to receive our diplomas.

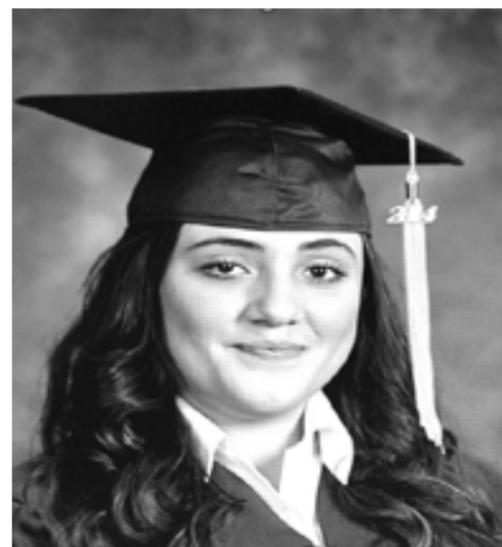
As for me, I also can't wait prom and Grad Night, but I also can't wait for all the future moments. I'm excited to experience before we truly become young adults and go on to face the real world. I'm hoping not to stress out too much, but to also not get senioritis, which is when seniors become too lazy to do their work. As for the Class of 2015 I hope everyone works hard to get the highest grades that they can, and to see each one of my classmates walk across that stage in June.

All Grown Up

By Alanjon Yparraguirre



First grade Rosario



Senior Rosario

As the young seniors draw near the end of the school year and into graduation the time has come for them to make their own choices in life, and decide what is life after high school. We all have dreams, but it is what we choose to persevere in life that helps make those dreams a reality. One's career in life will shape and form an individual

Here at LA Leadership Academy students are put on the path towards college, during their time in college students

want to experiment and decide what they want to be when they grow up. Some seniors already have decided what they wish to pursue in college and do in life. Senior Alex Vasquez wants to major in anthropology and become an anthropologist, she wants to help other people in life and sees herself working for a museum analyzing bones.

Careers are what drives an individual in life and gives them a purpose within society. Having a career is not working a

regular job, it is working every-day doing what you love.

Opportunity lies ahead of each of us, it is just a matter of following your dreams until you reach them that make them worthwhile.

"There must be a beginning of any great matter, but the continuing unto the end until it be thoroughly finished yields the true glory." – Sir Francis Drake



Entertainment

Black Desert

By Jonathan Arreola and Edwin Coro



It's a desert

Black Desert is a fantasy MMORPG game by Pearl Abyss, a South Korean developer. In development since 2010, it has begun to gain popularity in the West. While not too innovative in some respects, there are many reasons why it could be a groundbreaking title in the MMORPG genre. The character customization is one of the best available in an MMO, the combat seems very fluid and fast-paced, and there will be player-housing available.

This game is also a sandbox game, meaning it will have a vast open world with a lot of customization. Unlike most games, this game's housing for characters will not be instanced, meaning when a home is accessed a copy is not made for other player's use.

It will also have many dynamic features such as dynamic weather and dynamic day and night cycles. Many aspects of the game change when a different phase of the day cycle is active. For example, during the night some NPCs will become unavailable as they return home, while the number and type of monsters that a player may encounter will increase. Different game content will be available depending upon whether it is night or day. Dynamic weather will include localized weather for different game areas and a wide variety of weather events, such as: fog, rain, strong wind, snow, and many large weather events that will actually influence gameplay as they happen.

With a large list of features, it's no surprise this game has many gamers wanting to play. While only available in South Korea at the moment the developers have announced it will be localized with a English version in development and a Russian version also confirmed. So far there have been two Beta sessions, one in October of 2013, and another that started April 22, 2014. Many wait in anticipation for this new and exciting game.

Through the Fire and Games

By Jonathan Arreola and Edwin Coro



Dungeons and Dragons game pieces

“**D**ungeons and Dragons” is a roleplaying game that has been around for 40 years, and is still going strong. A roleplaying game is a game where a group of people, usually four or more, assume the role of characters they create in a fictional setting. D&D is currently the most popular role-playing game in the market, and the name has become synonymous with the role-playing genre. Many people know either what it is or have heard of it. It has become a symbol, for better or for worse, of geek culture. However, the

appeal is not limited to “traditional geeks”. Many famous people such as Vin Diesel, Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, Hulk Hogan, The Rock, and our own Mr.Z play D&D.

We asked Mr. Z some questions regarding his experience with D&D. First, we asked him when he started playing Dungeons & Dragons. He told us that he started playing when he was around twelve years old. We then asked him what was his favorite experience with D&D. He responded by saying that his first experience was

his favorite. When he first played his dungeon master, the game's narrator, he took the game very seriously and tried to make the experience as fantastic as he could.

Mr. Z believes that the reason that Dungeons & Dragons is so popular is because of the popularity of fiction in general. He believes that people are fascinated by the opportunity to be in a “different world with different ethics”. He also believes its popular because it gives adults the opportunity to play pretend.

Stick You the Truth

By Edwin Coro and David Rivera



South Park Game

Are you a fan of South Park? Then you have to play South Park: The Stick of Truth. This is an amazingly funny game that will keep you entertained for hours on end. It takes all that is great about South Park and rolls it into an awesome game. It has tons of hilarious jokes that will have you laughing and wanting more. The game is for all gamers.

This game is very simple and easy to play. The storyline is engaging and plays exactly like a South Park episode.

You start off the game

creating your own character; it is then revealed that you are a kid moving to South Park, Colorado. After you arrive you meet Cartman and Butters, which set you up to participate in their game. You get to choose your class of fighter as, warrior, mage, and thief. Each class has its own unique abilities and traits.

This game provides hours of fun and large replay value. It should be considered as a first priority purchase as this game is a 10/10.

Caught In A Dayz

By Jonathan Arreola and David Rivera



It's Not D-Day, It's Z-Day

DayZ is a new name that has caught the gaming community by storm.

In the open world survival game, the zombies and radiation are the least of your problems. Other players are the most dangerous aspect of the game.

DayZ drops people into the middle of a zombie apocalypse. A player must do whatever it takes to survive. This freedom often brings out the worst in people, whether it be out of necessity or just plain cruelty. People will steal from, run from, and kill

each other. In this game, to trust someone is to die.

DayZ has a variety of features that make this game realistic. You can get a blood transfusion if you're injured; you can become sick if you drink water from a lake. You can even handcuff a person and force feed him food, even if its rotten.

Overall this game has exceeded many people's expectations, and will continue to provide a more realistic survival experience as more features are added in the near future.