



THE COLT CHRONICLE

A Lee Academy Student Publication

Carley Wood, Editor

March 29, 2023

Leigh Latham, Sponsor



“My winter fat is gone. Now I have spring rolls”

Editor's Letter by Carley Wood

What My Senior Year Taught Me

My senior year has been one of the best years of my life. Between senior parties and finding my best friends, I feel like I have grown as a person and a classmate. For my first edition as editor this year, I wrote about the lessons that I learned during each year at Lee Academy. Now that we only have about seven weeks until graduation, I feel as if I am ready to talk about what my senior year has taught me.

I am sure that younger classmates have heard their parents or peers say the phrase “It will fly by” or “It will be here before you know it.” They weren’t joking. This year has absolutely flown by for me, and I am sure most seniors will say the same thing. Between skits and formal and senior parties, we haven’t really had much time to slow down and think about how fast this year has gone by. It feels like yesterday that I was on Spirit Train for a football game or helping write the Homecoming Skit. Younger students, listen to everyone when they tell you to take advantage of every moment and memory during your senior year. My first lesson from senior year is to live in the moment, rather than wishing for the future.

My senior year, more specifically the college application process, taught me to love my hometown. I have always been the person who says, “I hate it here,” or “I can’t wait to move away.” Getting ready to move five hours away in just a few months has shown me how much about Clarksdale I will miss. I will miss the people, my family, and my friends. The Clarksdale feel just can’t be found anywhere else, and I know I will miss the closeness of the community when I leave.

In my first editor’s letter, I said that I thought my senior year would teach me to value the time I had left with my classmates before we all go down our own paths. I was right. I think I have become oddly sentimental this year about my class. It is strange to think about not having the people I have had every class with since I was twelve years old at school with me next year. I also said that I hoped that I would take advantage of every moment during this year. I like to think that I have. Mostly, I have learned the true value of a close community and being near those who have become so important to me.

All Around Lee by Alyssa Vassel

Happy March! The 4th nine weeks has begun, and summer is in less than two months. Let's finish this school year strong and end the year with fantastic grades!

Congratulations to the Junior High and Varsity cheerleaders for the 2023-2024 school year! We are so proud of you!

Her Drive is collecting newborn clothes and formula for Fairland for the rest of the year. They are in dire need of these donations. Contact Carley Wood with questions or if you need service hours.

Initiative Club's March project is for Spring Initiative.

Each house has been assigned their own list of items to bring. All donations are due Friday, March 31. The house with the most donated items will win a free dress week. **Make sure to sign your name to receive service hours and be considered for the incentive!**

Juke Joint Festival will be held from Thursday, April 13, to Sunday, April 16. There will be music, food, clothing and accessory vendors, and art and writing displays, so make sure you come by! Mrs. Latham is accepting writing entries from anyone interested in submitting a piece following the theme "A Celebration of Identity." Your writing must be original and not have been submitted to another contest before. It has to be formatted in 12-point font Times New Roman, double spaced, and on a letter-sized document. **All pieces are due Thursday, March 30.**

Here are the rules/categories for the contest:

- Personal Essay/Memoir – a nonfiction work based on experience, opinion, and/or emotion that explores a topic or event of importance to the author. Word count: 2000 maximum.
- Poetry – Writing in verse. May include traditional poetry, free verse, or song lyrics.
- Word count: 12 lines minimum.
- Flash Fiction – Highly-focused fictional stories characterized by brevity. Word count: 500 maximum.

Mr. Young is accepting entries for the Juke Joint art contest, so see him as soon as possible for more information.

Any seniors interested in applying for the Junior Auxiliary \$1000 scholarship can see Mrs. Antici. Applications are due by Friday, March 31.

In April, Initiative Club will be collecting formal dresses to sell at the end of the month for Project HEAL, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing treatment to people with eating disorders. If you or someone you know has any formal dresses (short or long) that you know won't be worn again, please donate them! We'll also be needing jewelry, perfume, hair accessories, and more. Additional details will be released soon, so make sure to look for flyers around the school and read the announcements!



Seniors:

Rachael Branch
Mackenzie Cook
Anderson Flowers
Lily Gist
Morgan Hollowell

Juniors:

Katelyn Brocato
Mary Mason Dunn
Hallie Reece Pitts
Sophomores:
Griffin Allen
Mia Barr
Chanslee Barringer
Lucy Kate Johnson
Bailey Martin
Olivia Peyton

7th Grade

Piper Fondren
Ely Lawrence
Sophie Tedford
Fowler Walton

8th Grade

Callie Jo Griffin
Grausen Harlow
Lucy Harris Jackson
Emma Mooney

A'Ja Parker

Ellie Peyton

Liz Weiss

9th Grade

Britt Denton
Caroline Dulaney
Falyn Grissom
Anna-Chris Talley
Ella Williamson

Orlov

- Notebook paper
- Printer ink
- Child and adult scissors
- 1 and 3 inch binders
- Copy paper
- Lysol wipes

Laaka

- Coloring books for different ages
- Word puzzle books
- Sudoku books
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Body wash
- Spray or solid deodorant
- Socks

Caspian

- Big and little Ziploc bags
- Mechanical pencils
- Expo markers
- Permanent markers
- Art supplies
- Pens

Tarpan

- Poster boards (multiple sizes)
- Double-sided tape
- Small supply containers
- Index cards
- Sharpies
- Towels
- Pencil pouches

Senior Spotlights by Carley Wood



Savannah Oakes

Savannah Oakes has attended Lee Academy since the first grade. She is a cheerleader and a soccer player, and was named a captain of both teams her senior year. She is a member of the Crown Club and does public relations and social media. When asked who her favorite teacher is, she said, "My favorite teacher has to be Mrs.

Evans or Ms Lagnese. Ms Lag is always someone you could talk to when you just want to get a certain thing off your chest and she would understand completely. Ever since I had Mrs. Evans she would always find a way to make my class and me laugh even when we were getting on her nerves at times." Her advice to underclassmen is, "No matter how hard these next few years might be, just try and make every second count because next thing you know you'll be just a few short months from graduation. Make as many memories as you possibly can so you'll have something to look back on in the future." Savannah has enjoyed making memories with her friends and all the funny things the seniors did during skit practices. She plans to attend Southern Mississippi University to major in accounting.

Robert Portillo



Robert Portillo has been a student at Lee Academy since the seventh grade. He is a member of the baseball team. He said Mrs. Evans was

his favorite teacher because "She is one of the nicest people you will ever meet in this lifetime. She was always the nicest teacher, but you never want to be on her bad side because she will most likely make you write. She is one that cares about you, cares about your education, and making you an all around better person in the long run. She will help you with anything and give you any advice that you need because she knows what's best for you. If you think she is being mean to you, she really isn't. All she wants is what's best for you and nothing more." Robert's advice to underclassmen is to do your own work and always study to make good grades. He says his favorite memory during his time at Lee is "in seventh grade when we were still able to have our phones and my friends and I would always wait for any free time we had to play games together." Robert will attend the University of Mississippi in the fall.



Katie Sherard

Katie Sherard has attended Lee Academy since first grade. She has been a member of the cheer team since seventh grade. She currently serves as Crown Club president and a member of the Yearbook staff. She was crowned 2023 Charity Ball Queen in January. When asked who her favorite teacher is, Katie said, "Mrs.

Murphey is my favorite teacher because she is someone I have always looked up to and someone I feel like I can always talk to about anything." Her advice to younger students is to stay on top of your work and avoid getting behind. Some of Katie's favorite memories have been cheering at pep rallies and football games. Katie plans to attend Mississippi State University to major in Nutrition.



Jack Sherard

Jack Sherard has been a student at Lee Academy since the first grade. He plays football and golf and is a member of the shooting team. He is a member of First United Methodist Youth Group. Jack's favorite teacher was Mrs. Fiser. He says, "Mrs. Fiser because she was always nice to me and helped me when I didn't understand a certain lesson. She always had a

smile and taught us everything we needed to know." His advice to underclassmen is, "Never give up on sports. High school could be the last time you ever touch a football, baseball, etc. You will soon realize it will all be over one day." His favorite memories are two-a-day football practices and making it to the state golf tournament. Jack will attend Mississippi State University to major in banking and finance.



Lauren Jantz

Lauren Jantz has been a student at Lee Academy since the fourth grade. She is a member of the softball team. Her favorite teacher was Mrs. Thomas because she was very funny and made everyone laugh. Lauren's advice to underclassmen is, "Do your work on time, and don't procrastinate." Her favorite memories have been laughing at

the people in our class and their funny jokes. Lauren plans to attend the University of Mississippi to major in finance.

2023 Senior Word Search

I G A G E C O A T S A D R A R E H S K C A J H
D D L Y O H K J E U J A M E S N E C I T S U J
J Z N J S K C H N L G Z S Y C P K W A L T S M
X P G W T Q I H O N C D Z R V A D V B U X I M
N L G G S Y R D S A I E F L O H R Z O D T L X
E U E J I X T R K G H S B A D K V L B L H L W
R K O S G V A A C O C A B C I I A I E A T O S
U E R N E N P H A L B M L R N T R T T Y S H A
A Z G I G R Y C J I R M B N Y M H P I N O I V
L B I K A O A I A R T Y B A K A E C K E X R A
D S A T G B R R L E U A A R D B N D A T X E N
A P L A Z E B Q I M Z A Q N E E H X H R U M N
V B E W N R R S L L Y R E V A J N X N N T C A
I F L D K T D D A X J G R Q C N A D R O J E H
S O F P F Y E S T A O C N A I D A N Y M D I R
D F N A L Y R D Y S V D B D A E H O M K C A J

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden     and .

ADEN
AIDAN
BOB
BRAY
BRYAN
CARLEY
CHIC
COATSEY

DAVIS
FAITHCARTER
GAGECOATS
GAGEGIST
GEORGIA
JACKMOHEAD
JACKSHERARD
JACKSON

JAMES
JAVERY
JORDAN
JUSTICE
KATIE
LAUREN
LAYNE
LILA

LUKE
MERIHOLLIS
MERILOGAN
PATRICK
RICHARD
ROBERT
RYAN
RYLAN

SAM
SAVANNAH
WALT
WATKINS

POP into Culture by Morgan Hollowell

Celebrity

The 95th Academy Awards was just recently held on March 12, 2023, in Los Angeles, California. One of the most anticipated awards this year at the Oscars was Best Actor. Many people, including myself, were all wishing that Austin Butler would win for his incredible performance as Elvis Presley in *Elvis*. However, Brendan Fraser won Best Actor for his role as Charlie in *The Whale*, solidifying his return to mainstream Hollywood. Michelle Yeoh won Best Actress for her performance in *Everything Everywhere All at Once*. Making history with this win, Yeoh is the first Asian woman to win an Oscar. *Everything Everywhere All at Once* also won Best Picture. This movie had a sweep at the Oscars as the movie itself and the actors/actresses in it won many Oscars for their performances in the movie.

Music

Taylor Swift just kicked off her highly anticipated Eras Tour on March 17, 2023 in Arizona. After not touring for *Lover*, *Folklore*, *Evermore*, and now her newly released album *Midnights*, there have been many questions about what Taylor is going to perform. Swift is performing for three hours straight making this her longest concert ever. The singer is performing over 40 songs and is putting on a SHOW. The concert has so many different effects from the stage to lights all around the stadium that make hearts. Swifties have many different concert traditions, simply making us the best fan base ever. We make friendship bracelets before the show and trade them with other fans at the concert. There are also certain call-outs that fans do during certain songs that are like inside jokes within the fandom. There is truly nothing like a Taylor Swift concert, and I cannot wait to go. If you can grab tickets, I would highly suggest taking the chance.

Recapping the 2023 Oscars with Gage Gist, an official member of the Academy. They just won't admit it.

Another year, another Oscars ceremony, the biggest worldwide celebration of films for ninety-five years. As a self-certified "cinophile," I naturally hold a lot of opinions on the subject (even though I didn't actually watch it live), so let's break down the monumental and controversial winners.

"Everything Everywhere All at Once" absolutely swept this year, taking home seven wins, including best picture, best actress for the film's star Michelle Yeoh, best supporting actor for Ke

Huy Quan, best supporting actress for Jamie Lee Curtis, best director for Daniel Scheinert and Daniel Kwan, best original screenplay, and best film editing.

Brendan Fraser fans were made extremely happy when Fraser won best actor for his performance in Darren Aronofsky's "The Whale." Despite his undoubtedly stellar performance, I will admit I think Austin Butler was slightly snubbed, as his performance in Baz Luhrmann's "Elvis" was, in my opinion, pretty groundbreaking. But ultimately "The Whale" is one of those movies that's just sort of tailor-made to win Oscars.

On the topic of "The Whale" outshining other films, the film also took home best makeup and hairstyling, beating out Matt Reeves's neo-noir epic "The Batman." While Aronofsky's team no doubt earned the award for their work with Fraser in the film, I will say that I think Matt Reeves and his team deserved the award more.

"All Quiet on the Western Front" took home the best international feature film award to little surprise. Additionally, James Cameron's long awaited Avatar sequel, "Avatar: The Way of Water" took home best visual effects, which, considering he and his team literally invented the technology needed to capture CGI underwater, you can't say it's undeserved. Kevin Fiege and the crew over at Marvel got some love as "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" won for best costume design, which is a pretty big win considering the superhero genre is so often ignored by the academy (as is the case for Matt Reeves's "The Batman").

"Top Gun: Maverick" won for best sound and white dads around the world collectively cheered, and Tom Cruise, though lead actor Tom Cruise was not there to celebrate, as he was reportedly not attending the ceremony in an effort to avoid ex-wife Nicole Kidman.

Finally, rounding out the event was "Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio," taking home the win for best animated feature, a film that I've previously spoken very highly about, so of course it was deserved. And thus concludes our recap for 2023's Oscars.

Though it certainly lacked an A list actor slapping an A list comedian in front of an audience of sixteen million, it no doubt showcased a number of impressive films and I certainly have high hopes for next year's celebration. In fact, I will make the bold prediction that Greta Gerwig's upcoming film "Barbie" will no doubt take home best picture.

Colt and Filly Sports by Tatum Young

The golf team won their first tournament last week with Jack Mohead being the MVP of the tournament. Everyone shot really well.

Track season started with a practice meet last week. The high school boys swept everything. Tanner Fava set a school record in the 100M dash. Although the girls' track team consists of three people, they are persevering. Rachy Branch won both of her races. The first major track meet is Wednesday, March 29th.

Tennis season has also started. They are doing well. They played last week at home, but they will not play again until April 4th.

The baseball team won their first District game against Marshall last week. They won 7-6. The baseball team also beat Pillow this past weekend with Zach Connell hitting a grand-slam. On Thursday, they play Rossville at Rossville, and Friday the Colts will be at home playing against Regents.

Mental Health by Aila Newton

Winter is finally melting into spring, which means warmer weather to go out and have fun! Spring is such a nice time to go out doors for sports, like the Colt baseball games. Spring is also a good time to get yourself back on track with school and your own mental health. This is because with the weather warming up people feel more comfortable going out to do things such as going to local festivals, hanging out with friends, or spending time outside in general.

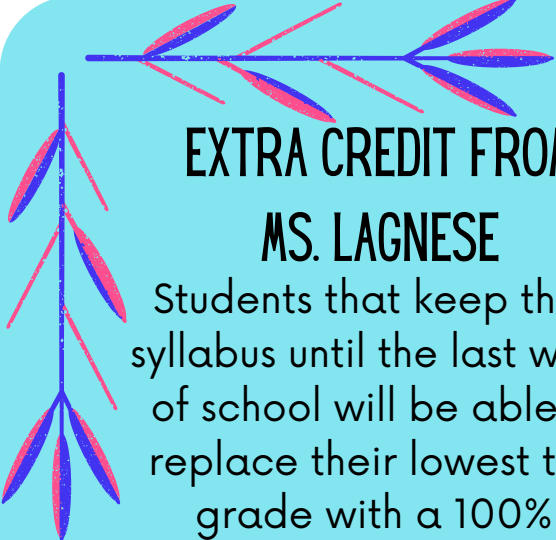
If you need a break, whether it's from school, family or anything else going on, a nice walk outside helps create endorphins that make you feel happier. Don't forget about your small companions shedding this season though. Hair will be everywhere! For some nice bonding time with your animals, going outside to brush them will not only feel good for them, but you won't have as much hair everywhere. You can leave the fur outside where birds will take it and build their nest with it, right?



HER DRIVE CLARKSDALE

be the difference you want to see

Call Carley Wood for questions, service hour opportunities, and ways to get involved
662-902-1118



**EXTRA CREDIT FROM
MS. LAGNESE**

Students that keep their syllabus until the last week of school will be able to replace their lowest test grade with a 100%!

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