



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Salutatorian sisters at Robert E. Lee H.S.

When you're Number 2, you don't always need to try harder. According to two sisters who have both earned the rank of Number 2 and the title of salutatorian for their respective graduating classes at Robert E. Lee High School, the activities they experienced during their high school years, which probably prevented them from holding on to the Number 1 rank, were worth every fraction of a grade point. Amy Epperson represented the Class of 2010 as salutatorian, and her sister, Jenny, will take the stage June 2 to present her salutatory address to the Class of 2011, and their parents, Bo and Gloria Epperson, could not be prouder.

"I wasn't expecting to ever be Number 1, but when I found out my rank during my freshman year, I thought that I'd try to hold on to it," said Amy, who admitted that some of her activities prevented her from taking advanced placement (AP) classes that would have elevated her grade point average of 5.444. "I was in the band and was a three-year officer in Celebrities (drill team), along with being in the National Honor Society, Interact, Key Club, French Club, and Mu Alpha Theta."

Besides her school activities, Amy also had a strong connection to Cedar Bayou Grace United Methodist Church, where she was in the choir, worked in the nursery, played hand bells, and performed with the orchestra. When Goose Creek CISD conducted community meetings to discuss rezoning, Amy appealed to the group to grandfather her class so that she could attend Lee. Tradition runs deep in the Epperson family, as the girls' grandfather and grandmother, Jimmy (Class of 1960) and Eva Joe Epperson (Class of 1962) graduated from Lee, and their father, Bo, was a 1985 graduate, making them third generation Ganders.

Amy has now finished her first year at Texas A & M University and is majoring in math and involved in the Aggie Teach Program. Her schedule is a little less hectic than it was during high school, but she is still involved in activities, such as taking Aggie Wrangler classes and serving as resident advisor of her off-campus dorm.

Jenny, who also held the Number 1 spot until shortly before the final class ranks were tabulated, admits that she was a little disappointed to have slipped to Number 2 with a grade point average of 5.483, but she also participated in activities, such as volleyball, that kept her from adding more AP classes to her schedule. Playing on a club volleyball team was time consuming, along with Key Club, National Honor Society, French Club, and Mu Alpha Theta. She has also been involved in church activities, such as the orchestra and UM Army, which allows students to help people repair and rebuild their homes.



Amy and Jenny Epperson, both salutatorians of their senior classes at Robert E. Lee High School, show off their college shirts before graduation.

"I feel the same way that Amy does. I wouldn't have traded the experiences I had in high school for higher grades, and I know that college will be a great experience. I've always had high expectations for myself," said Jenny.

In August, Jenny will be off on an academic scholarship to Trinity University in San Antonio to major in neuroscience and to eventually become a physical therapist. Her schedule will still be hectic because she will also be on Trinity's volleyball team.

"It will be a challenge, but it's nothing I can't handle," she said, confidently, knowing that she has support from her family and friends.

It will be several years before another Epperson will be competing for class rank. The girls' brother, Ryan, who will be in 6th grade next year at Cedar Bayou Junior School, plans to attend Ross S. Sterling High School, so the Epperson's Gander tradition will be broken.

As to whether Ryan will someday compete to be the valedictorian at the rival high school, Jenny laughs, "Who knows? He'd have to break the Epperson Curse, as Mr. Blue (AP Calculus and Stats teacher) calls it!"

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