

## QUEST On the Move

### QUEST's Sophomores Take a College Road Trip

By Shawn Abbate, QUEST Lead Teacher

“What time do we leave and which school is our first stop? Can we buy sweatshirts at our favorite campus? When is lunch?” The QUEST sophomore class was full of questions as they filled two charter buses in March, headed for a three-day college road trip to San Diego. This expedition was a first in QUEST's ten year tradition of offering class field trips because the main focus of this journey included seeing three different types of universities.

First stop: the small, private San Diego University, followed by visits to the large, popular San Diego State University and then the prestigious University of California, San Diego, also known as, “the best surfing school in the nation.” After the tour of the beautiful San Diego University, guided by a former Millikan alumni, students headed for an afternoon and evening of taking in the student life and culture of San Diego. Balboa Park, the next stop on the tour, gave students time to explore the Air and Space Museum, and the Natural History Museum. At the 50's themed Corvette Diner, teachers Shawn Abbate, Tim Mulvehill, Sharna Murphy, and Tom Lawler wore balloon hats as part of the evening's entertainment. Students participated in a guided tour of the Gas Lamp Quarter after dark to learn about some of the city's rich history. The tour even included a haunted house. Some students swore they saw apparitions and tried to capture the ghostly inhabitants on film. Those glowing spots in Mimi Roger's and Katie Master's photos still remain a mystery.

Friday was another busy day starting with a tour of San Diego State University where students got a feel for campus life. They met with admissions, saw examples of dorm room choices and even toured the new Aztec Center, a state of the art fitness center for SDSU students. Students enjoyed an afternoon of marine life, water rides, and shows at Sea World, too.

Final stop: the University of California, San Diego. Perched on the hills of La Jolla, this nationally-recognized school is the home of two 2007 QUEST graduates Lara Plumlee and Peter Jarzomb. QUEST sophomores spent the morning with UCSD student tour guides walking the expansive campus, enjoying the architecture, hearing about educational programs, and student activities. Lunch included a quick stop at the food court and an optional tour of the Dr. Seuss exhibit at the Geisel Library. The school's 10-library system is one of the largest libraries in the nation, second only to the Library of Congress.

As the busses rolled back to Millikan, QUEST students returned to pursue their college aspirations with new vigor. Although students differed on which was the best school and why, everyone did agree that now was the time to begin selecting the college of their dreams.