A charter bus with 35 Upward Bound (UB) participants, 6 UB staff, and over 1500 lbs of luggage set out early one Monday afternoon for a whirlwind, week long stay in sunny Los Angeles, CA. En route, the coach stopped for quick shopping and lunch at El Paso’s Outlet Mall. UB reconvened and traveled the remainder of the evening and through the night, with intermittent rest stops, and finally arrived in L.A. just in time for the first stop on the itinerary: A grand tour of Los Angeles.

**Day One**

*El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles* (The Village of our Lady, the Queen of the Angels) is the originating site of L.A. It was founded by Spanish governor Felipe de Neve September 4, 1781. The site is reminiscent of Mexico with traditional buildings and churches accenting the L.A. skyline. Vendors selling sombreros, maracas, and ponchos, lined the street.

From there, UB traveled to the La Brea Tar Pits where animals, who had mistaken bubbling tar for their once clean drinking pond became trapped, and ultimately encased by the tar that invaded their watering hole.

Then, the group traveled to one of the most elite communities of Los Angeles: Beverly Hills. Here students drove through famous Rodeo Drive and were able to see the apartment that once belonged to Marilyn Monroe.

From here, UB ventured to West Hollywood where students walked along the Hollywood Walk of Fame that ultimately led to Grauman’s Chinese Theater; that showcases the hand and footprints of the nation’s most noteworthy entertainers. Many students were able to take photographs with famous characters outside the Kodak Theater.

After lunch at Universal’s Hard Rock Café, the UB gang was ready for more fun in the sun at beautiful Huntington Beach. Students surfed on boogie boards and road bikes along the beach’s shoreline.

**Day Two**

Ready for another early, and busy day, UB traveled to UCLA for a campus tour led by two current students of the university. After the tour, the bus headed to Orange County for lunch and shopping at the Orange Crush.

Plans then called for a visit at Long Beach’s Aquarium of the Pacific and cruise along the Rainbow Harbor. For many of the students, this was their first ride on a cruise liner. After dinner at the famous California Pizza Kitchen, the group headed back to the hotel to get rested for the following day.

**Day Three**

The trip to L.A was capped off by spending the day at Universal Studios Hollywood. This exciting amusement park featured virtual roller coasters, water rides, a haunted house and behind the scenes peeks into sets where movies and television shows are filmed. After dinner at Bubba Gump’s Shrimp Co., the group headed back to West Texas.
World Renowned Illusionist Comes to MC

Jason Bishop, illusionist extraordinaire, captivated his audience with intriguing optical illusions and brain teasers in his sold out performance March 30 at Midland College’s Chap Center. His wit and stage presence captured the attention of the attendants, pulling them further into his world of “magic.” Some of the show’s highlights came when Bishop turned an $1 bill into a $100 bill and gave it to a young audience member; and “folded” his assistant into a small cubed box pierced with swards and daggers.

Attendants, young and old, were raving about the show days after, and are counting down the days until Bishop’s return.

“I Want to be a Real Boy....”

MCT’s Pick Wick Players opened their season with a thought provoking interpretation of the children’s classic: Pinocchio.

Pick Wick’s spin of the tale provided the perfect blend of humor and moments for self–evaluation. Phenomenal job Pick Wick on this performance!

REWARD SYSTEM TRIP

Each year, UB rewards students for excelling academically and within the program. To become eligible for the annual Reward System Trip, students are rated by a point system by which they earned points according to their performance in the classroom and fulfillment of monthly UB obligations and participation in UB sponsored events and activities. At the close of the school year, the top thirteen students are extended the invitation to attend the trip. For this year’s Reward System Trip, UB staff designated the Dallas/ Ft. Worth Metroplex as the featured destination. Once there, students traveled to the renowned Ft. Worth Stockyards, University of North Texas in Denton and the University of Texas in Arlington for campus tours; Medieval Times, The Sixth Floor Museum which features aspects of President Kennedy’s assassination; Grapevine Mills shopping mall, and Six Flags Over Texas. Due to in climate weather, planned activities such as visits to Texas Christian University (TCU) and the Ft. Worth Zoo had to be forfeited. Despite these minor glitches, the trip was a huge success and proved to be an excellent tool in rewarding students who excelled throughout the school year.
SUMMER PROGRAM 2009

Each summer, participants of Upward Bound move into one of Midland College’s dormitories and undergo five weeks of in-class instruction in eight subject areas: English Writing/Reading, Math, Science, Computers, Community Service, Career Exploration, Spanish, and Art. In these classes, students are exposed to the subject’s practical use in everyday life, as well as its application to career options.

This year’s summer program opened with the annual scavenger hunt; designed to help students, new and old, become better acquainted with MC’s campus. Students ventured to key buildings and offices around campus such as the registrar’s office, the advising center, the book store, lecture halls, and to the office of the college equivalent to Upward Bound: Student Support Services (SSS) to discover and solve clues/riddles and gather specified items. Winners of the hunt were awarded gift certificates donated by Texas Burger and Chic-Fil-La Midland Park Mall. In Science, students built and programmed robots. This unique project combined physics, mathematics, computer program, and even some aspects of engineering and design.

During the community service component, participants traveled to five agencies around the community. Those agencies include: Christmas in Action, the YMCA, Meals on Wheels, Bynum School’s We Are the World and Rays of Hope.

In addition to class instruction, students and staff enjoyed fun filled weekly outings to various locations throughout Midland. The summer program concluded July 9 honoring students and families with an end of year banquet.

SPECIAL HONORS

Students featured in this section were recognized at the summer banquet for exceptional qualities they displayed during the summer program.

Math– Mr. Doty
Outstanding Student: Amanda Hernandez
Outstanding Student: Blanca Castro
Most Improved: Erica Maynez
Most Improved: Luis Gabaldon

Science– Dr. Smith
Outstanding Student: Jesus Siquieros
Outstanding Student: Amanda Hernandez
Most Improved: Jerrod Quintana
Most Improved: Christian Alanis

English– Ms. Baeza
Writing
Outstanding Student Brandon Govan
Outstanding Student: Annika Nunez
Most Improved: Jacklyn Pinal
Most Improved: Erica Maynez

Reading:
Outstanding Student: Amanda Hernandez
Outstanding Student: Tevin Simmons
Most Improved: Melissa Perez
Most Improved: Abbey Madrid
Most Improved: Jerrod Quintana

Career Exploration– Mr. Leyva
Outstanding Student: Christian Alanis
Most Improved: Jerrod Quintana

Spanish– Mr. Ochoa
Outstanding Student: Jerrod Quintana
Outstanding Student: Stephanie Rey
Most Improved: Omar Madrid
Most Improved: Homer Hinojos

Community Service– Ms. Taneekwa
Outstanding Student: Melissa Perez
Most Improved: Andrew Alexander

Computers– Mr. Leyva
Outstanding Student: Ryan Leyba
Outstanding Student: Jesus Siquieros
Most Improved: Brenda Gayton

Art– Mr. Reyes
Outstanding Student: Melissa Perez
Outstanding Student: Tevin Simmons
Most Improved: Natalie Carrillo
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES AND UB ALUM

Andrea DeLaCruz– Midland College
Katarina Garza– Midland College; Texas Scholar, Legacy Scholar
Monica Lujan– Midland College; Texas Scholar, Legacy Scholar
Monique Navarette– Midland College; Early Graduate Scholarship, Legacy Scholar
Trent Robinson– Jackson State Univ. (Drumline Scholarship); Macedonia Baptist Church Scholarship, Galberson Zackery Scholarship, Julie Conaway Scholarship, Negro Business and Professional Women Inc. Scholarship, Evelyn Todd Memorial Scholarship
Gerardo Rodriguez– Midland College; Legacy Scholar
Kristopher Shaw– Prairie View A&M
Sador (Andrew) Sotelo– Midland College; Legacy Scholar
Sophia Tarrango
Tana Villela– Midland College; Texas Scholar, Legacy Scholar
Rayshelle Washington-Midland College; Legacy Scholar, Faith Temple COGIC Scholarship

FALL 2009 UB CALENDAR

Saturday Academies begin at 8:30 at the ATC in the Lecture Hall. The ATC is located on Cuthbert Street, across from Hastings.

September:
10 Pizza Lunch MHS
   Tutoring Begins @ MC (Tuesday and Thursday 6-7:30 p.m. TC 117)
17 Pizza Lunch LHS
19 Saturday Academy (Orientation MANDATORY): MHAB 110 9 am
22 SENIORS ONLY: Student and Parent Meeting: MHAB 110 6 p.m.
26 Saturday Academy
30 College Night: Chap Center 7 pm

October:
1 Pizza Lunch MHS
3 Saturday Academy
   PSAT Review (sophomores and juniors during Sat. Acad.)
10 Texas Tech Tour and Football Game: Corn Maze
8 Pizza Lunch LHS
17 Saturday Academy: @ MC
22 The Stepcrew: MC Chap Center 7 p.m.
24 Saturday Academy: @ MC
   Cogdell Center (201 W Florida 79701) 10 a.m.
30 **TUTORING HOURS DUE**

November:
5 Pizza Lunch at MHS
7 Saturday Academy
12 Pizza Lunch at LHS
23-27 ***Thanksgiving Break***
29 A Christmas Carol: Midland Community Theater
30 **TUTORING HOURS DUE**

December:
1 Get a Life: @ ATC 7 pm
5 Saturday Academy
10 Last Day of Tutoring
TBA The Nutcracker
12 Saturday Academy: Annual Christmas Charity Event
17 **TUTORING HOURS DUE**