

Summer Quest

envision * explore * experience college

"Summer Quest strongly believes that education should not be a privilege and that the same opportunities should be offered to everyone. It is a program that I applaud and that CPS should be proud of."

*-Oscar Guzman, Jones Prep '06,
Swarthmore College '10*

Spring 2010

Volume 2, Issue 2

It Just Takes One Summer to Touch a Life

While the average Summer Quest program lasts only a few weeks, the experience can impact a student for years to come. Just ask **Oscar Guzman**. Oscar recently graduated from Swarthmore College with a BA in Spanish, becoming the first person in his family to earn a college degree. He credits Summer Quest as a major influence on his path to success.

As a rising senior at Jones College Prep, Oscar attended the Harvard Summer School through Summer Quest. "My summer at Harvard continues to be the best summer experience of my life," he says. "Not only because it helped me mature, but also because it provided me with a space to share with other talented high school students who were eager to succeed." After spending time in that environment, Oscar realized "there was a different world out there



Summer Quest alum and 2010 Swarthmore graduate Oscar Guzman outside the Philadelphia Museum of Art

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Dancing for Summer Quest!



The Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Youth Company performs at Spring Into Summer to help raise awareness of Summer Quest. See page 4.

Summer Quest Mission

To prepare motivated Chicago Public Schools high school students to participate in unique summer learning opportunities by providing precollege counseling and need-based financial support.

Summer Quest challenges students to envision, explore, and experience college culture, requirements and learning options with the goal of increasing enrollment in college and other post-secondary learning programs.

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that [he] wanted to be part of”, and aimed high when applying to college. He ultimately found a home at Swarthmore College, a top-ranked liberal arts school in Pennsylvania. “Many of my friends from the Harvard summer program also ended up attending school in the Philadelphia area, and we frequently meet up in the city,” Oscar notes.

Oscar now eyes a career in education, hoping to work in charter schools. He would also like to eventually earn a doctorate in Latin American literature. “I still cannot believe that I am the first person in my family to graduate from college,” he says. “Summer Quest provided me with the academic tools, plus lifetime friends I could never have dreamt of.”



Oscar Guzman at Harvard in 2005

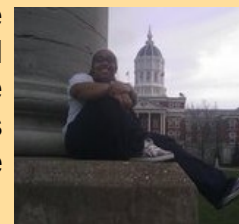
More College Grads in the Spotlight

Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center alumna **Seyi Adeolu** participated in Summer Quest in 2005, when she attended the Health Careers Opportunity



Program at Marquette University. This year, Seyi graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor’s degree in speech and hearing science. She remembers how her Summer Quest experience influenced her career ambitions: “When I was at Marquette, another student in the health careers program was shadowing a speech language pathologist. At the end of the summer presentation, I found myself being interested in speech pathology.” Seyi looks forward to going into the healthcare field and helping people who suffer from communication impairments.



Cescily Turner of Kenwood Academy High School went to Indiana State University through Summer Quest in 2004. She recently graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a degree in middle school and secondary English education, along with a minor in architecture and a certificate in multicultural studies. In the fall of 2010, she will begin teaching eighth grade English with Missouri’s Teaching Fellowship Program. Cescily plans to receive a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction by next summer. “I have decided that my purpose in life is to teach and help other young people reach their goals, as others had often done for me,” she says.





**Congratulations to all the college graduates!
We’re sure you’ll continue to make us proud.**

What's Next For Our High School Grads?

As another group of Summer Quest alumni graduates from high school, we have many wonderful things to celebrate! Here's a quick look at some of the students who eagerly anticipate their first year of college:

- **Cortez Alexander** of Michele Clark High School participated in the Open Roads program in 2007. He'll soon head off to Seton Hall to major in international relations or political science. Cortez hopes his college education will allow him to help people throughout the world. 
- **Sarah Huang** of Lake View High School attended the Indiana State Honors Program in 2009. Now, she's getting ready for the University of Illinois, where she hopes to study chemistry or biology. Sarah moved to the United States from China just a few years ago, and takes great pride in the strides she has made since arriving here. 

- **Ivette Contreras** of Hancock High School spent last summer at Earlham College. In the fall, she'll begin her undergraduate career at Lewis University, where she will study psychology and art. Ivette hopes to become an art therapist. 
- **La Keenya Joyner** of Kenwood Academy High School participated in Summer Quest in 2008 and 2009, attending programs at Indiana State and Michigan State, respectively. In a few months, she'll start classes at Dillard University, where she will major in psychology and special education. La Keenya thanks Summer Quest for helping her become a more outgoing person. 

Gateways to Success

Two past Summer Quest participants have earned prestigious Gates Scholarships: **Jamese Dunlap** of Whitney Young Magnet High School, and **Chenetta Watson** of Phoenix Military Academy.

Last year, Jamese attended Brown University's high school program through Summer Quest. In the fall of 2010, she will be enrolling at Northwestern University. Jamese has not yet decided on a major, but says she may like to study public health.



Jamese Dunlap

While Jamese was at Brown last year, Chenetta attended Purdue's GERI Summer Camp. Now, with the help of her Gates Scholarship, she'll be going back to Purdue next year as a full-time student! Chenetta would like to pursue a career in science, especially neuroscience.



Chenetta Watson

Best of luck, Jamese and Chenetta!

Springing into Summer!

By Lynda Lopez (Prosser '10)

On April 23, 2010, after months of planning and auditions, Spring into Summer made it onto the Roberto Clemente High School stage. Artists, dancers, poets, musicians, and singers from over ten high schools came to showcase their talents to spread the word about Summer Quest.

The show was put on as a way to counteract the negative effects of the budget cuts that have reduced the number of students being sponsored by Summer Quest. In late 2009, the Summer Quest Student Leaders and Mentors (SLaM) brainstormed the idea for a show with coordinator Blake Walker at their monthly meeting at Gallery 37. Auditions took place in the early spring, and a diverse group of students from across the city were selected to participate in the show.

On the day of the show, students and parents poured into the Clemente auditorium. Some of the highlights were listening to Yuwei Lei (Northside) play traditional Chinese music on the guzheng, an ancient string instrument, and watching Leonard Perez (Kelvyn Park) and Ray Masciopinto (Steinmetz) light up the stage with their dance moves.

All in all, it was a successful event that helped more people become aware of the great opportunities that Summer Quest provides students. Summer Quest plans similar events in the future.



Yuwei Lei (Northside) plays traditional Chinese music



Leonard Perez (Kelvyn Park) shows off his dancing skills



Members of the Spring Into Summer cast and crew pose after the show

Cooking Up Good Times at the Lipman Family Kitchen!

Many thanks to the Lipman family, who held a Summer Quest fundraiser at their house on March 14, 2010. Guests enjoyed a tasty homemade lunch featuring the family's favorite dishes, while program alumna Rachel Lipman (Von Steuben) shared her memories of attending Earlham College and Carleton College during the last two summers. Rachel emphasized the importance of Summer Quest to all the guests, and the event raised \$600 for future students to experience their own adventures. Great job!

Summertime Memories...



My Chicago students visit Lake Michigan



Rachel Lipman (Von Steuben) at Carleton College in 2009

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DONATE!

Summer Quest depends on the generosity of many universities, programs, foundations, corporations, and individuals. If you would like to help, you can make a tax-free donation at our website, or mail us a check payable to the Chicago Public Schools.

Some ways to help:

- Provide students with supplies and ground transportation during their summer experiences away from home. (\$25–\$75)
- Help a student purchase textbooks or round-trip airfare to an out-of-state program. (\$150–\$300)
- Send a student to a one-week local program. (\$500)
- Sponsor a student for a one-, two-, or four-week residential learning program out of state. (\$1,500–\$5,000)
- Volunteer to mentor a student. (FREE)

Visit exploresummerquest.org/donate to donate online!

Want to learn more? Contact us!

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**One summer can
change a life,
change a family,
change the future.**



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