Fall 2013

UNM CAMP NEWSLETTER - FALL 2013

UNM CAMP
University of New Mexico - Main Campus, camp@unm.edu

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Advisor’s Corner

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”

–Harriet Tubman

As a freshman in college, I would have never imagined that I would end up falling in love with higher education. Thinking back on my college days and reflecting upon my own journey, I realize and reinforce ever more, that education truly opens doors to new dreams, challenges, and opportunities. Today, in my role as the new Sr. Student Program Advisor for CAMP at UNM, I have the privilege of getting to know each of our 2013-2014 CAMP students, and I can’t avoid wondering about their future.

While some of these students already have a specific vision for their lives, and others are still discovering their passions, we, as CAMP, ultimately hope to help each individual realize their potential to attain their personal and professional goals.

With such goal in mind, we kicked-off the Fall 2013 semester with a 3-day orientation, through which we overviewed CAMP activities for the entire semester, and exposed strategies to help students navigate college. Parents of some students also participated in this Orientation and we also provided them with strategies to adapt and support their children through their educational path. Additionally, this semester, students were required to take a Psychology of Success class to help them explore their own learning styles; acquire study habits and learn about other tools helpful for college life. Also, some of our activities this semester included a camping trip, kick-ball game, a potluck, a BBQ, and a trip to Madrid, NM.

We want to express our gratitude to all the students for the laughter shared, the tears rolled, and the overall energy invested during the Fall 2013 semester. Be certain that we are compiling the best of our energy for Spring 2014, and we are looking forward to the many more adventures to come.

Be ready!

Written by CAMP Academic Advisor: Diana Campos-Martinez

Fall 2013 CAMP Activities
CAMP Alumni Mixer

The CAMP Alumni Mixer was organized by the CAMP staff for the current CAMP cohort and alumni. During the Mixer, CAMP hosted a barbeque, played volleyball, and organized different activities for everyone to socialize. The purpose of the Mixer was to provide current CAMP students the opportunity to meet and network with CAMP alumni. Each CAMPer was able to meet CAMP alumni and share college experiences. After asking many CAMPers what they thought of the event and how successful it was, many agreed that they enjoyed attending and meeting CAMP Alumni. Stephanie Erivez, a current CAMP student, said, “The Mixer was a great experience, I liked being able to meet the alumni and hang-out with them and the current students.” The CAMP Alumni also had positive feedback from this event. Miguel Rivera, a 2012-2013 former CAMP student, said, “The mixer was fun because I was able to reunite with the CAMP alumni and meet the new students. I mostly enjoyed being able to explain how CAMP helped me my first year in college.” The outcome for this event was very successful and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Thanks to CAMP, many students were able to network with each other, thus creating a sense of unity among the current CAMP students and alumni.

Written by CAMP Tutor: Stephanie Vasquez

Service Learning Project

The CAMP students and the CAMPerinos student organization, which is made up of CAMP alumni, partnered up with La Plazita Institute in the spring of 2013 and initiated their very first garden.

Today, CAMP Valley has half an acre of land and a greenhouse that will allow us to grow crops year round, all thanks to La Plazita Institute.

The process thrived due to the determination given by the CAMPeros, CAMP staff, CAMPerinos and three employees from La Plazita; without them this project wouldn’t have been possible. Since the spring semester this project was and is aimed towards educating our CAMPeros about the importance of giving back to their communities as well as reminding them about preserving the environment and our culture as people of the Southwest.

“La Plazita has given us a place to meditate and connect with mother earth, we are not only going to grow crops to feed low income families but we are going to spark some motivation in these students to pursue their education,” expressed sophomore, Alberto Arriaga, a former CAMP student.

Written by CAMP Project Assistant: Saray Argumedo
In September 2013 the CAMP cohort went on their annual CAMPing trip to Jemez Springs, NM. Laura Montoya, a fun-spirited Recreational Services Coordinator at Johnson Gym, who has been leading outdoor activities for over 20 years, led this CAMPing trip. The event was an exciting time for everyone to bond with plenty of music, scary stories, food, and an opportunity to create great memories.

An important part of the program is the relationship between the mentor and his or her students, so for an activity the students joined their mentors on a bonding adventure. Each mentor had something planned for his or her students, whether it was just sitting down sharing experiences or trekking through the creek. This was an experience that strengthened the relationship between the mentors and their students. Later on, students were free to do their own thing.

They stayed active hiking up the mountain, walking through the creek, catching snakes, fishing at Fenton Lake, or just hanging around chopping wood at the campsite.

Question for Gasel Breda, current CAMP participant: How was your experience when you were with your mentor during CAMPing with CAMP?

A: It was awesome because we went out into the creek and caught crawdads and told scary stories about our lives to each other. It was a great bonding experience!

Throughout the weekend, students were assigned the task to build a gift for another student using only what nature provides. On the second day the gifts were exchanged. A CAMP student, Danielle Chee states that, “it was a cool experience because we had to gather all of the materials from nature so we were forced to use our imagination and be more creative.”

Once the sun set the students turned up the music and started dancing and telling scary stories. The students did group line dances like “The Wobble” and “The K-Wang wit it.” In addition, Laura shared some of her famous techno music from Ibiza, Spain. Once the energy died down, the program recruiter, Claudia Cano, and the students began telling scary stories.

The CAMPing trip ended on a great note with a giant breakfast, full stomachs, and unforgettable memories.

Written by CAMP Tutor: John Ortega

Program Specialist

We begin our twelfth year of CAMP at the University of New Mexico this fall 2013 semester! The CAMP staff is excited to welcome the new cohort of students and staff.

These summer months CAMP saw a lot of exciting changes. Most of last year’s Educational Mentor/Tutors (EMT) graduated or moved on to bigger and better opportunities. We were sad to see them go but proud to see them move on to a new phase in their lives.

Natalie Peña received her business degree in May of 2013. She began working with us as the administrative assistant in 2008 and transitioned into pursuing her degree full time and became one of our EMTs in 2010.

David Hernandez was a CAMP student in 2009, from the New Mexico city of Love, Loving NM. He graduated in May 2013 with his Biology degree and now is attending Medical school. David became an EMT in 2011.

Bianca Ramirez hails from Animas, one of the most southern New Mexico towns. She became an EMT in the fall of 2009. Bianca received her Biology and Spanish degree in spring 2013. She moved to Dallas to pursue her dream of being a dedicated Cowboy fan and plans on enrolling into Medical school.

Miguel Peña is a product of the green chile capital of the world, Hatch, NM, and he graduated with his Biology degree. He came on board as an EMT fall 2012 and his experience as an orientation leader allowed him to make a powerful impact in his year with CAMP.

Briana Morfin was a CAMP student in David’s cohort in 2009. The beauty queen from up north spent a year with CAMP in 2012 mentoring her students and instilling them with confidence. In the spring of 2013 she interned at KOB channel 4 and now has transitioned to another internship at KOAT channel 7. She anticipates graduating in Fall 2013 with her journalism degree.

Orlando Obeso was the longest tenured CAMP EMT, he was part of the CAMP 2006 Cohort and in his sophomore year became an EMT. Orlando started as an engineering major but graduated with a degree in Sign Language Interpreting and currently commutes to Santa Fe to work for the New Mexico School for the Deaf.

The CAMP staff is very excited to start this year with five new fresh face on its students staff. Charlie P. Chavez from Santa Rosa, NM, Stephanie Vasquez and Brenda Ramirez from Hatch NM, Stephanie Rocha from Chaparral, NM, John Ortega from Albuquerque. Our new EMTs are former CAMP students with the exception of John Ortega. We had one student staff come back, Durae Gutierrez from Estancia, NM, who will serve as our lead EMT. The new tutors have been recruited because of their character, determination and community involvement and we are excited to have them onboard.

Jeremiah Vasquez, academic advisor since 2008, took the position of advisor at the University Academic & Enrichment Center. I want to thank him for his years of dedication to this program; CAMP is a better program for his contributions.

With Jeremiah’s departure, it opened the door to our new Academic Advisor, Diana Martinez-Campos. A former CAMP student from California State University – Sacramento, or Sac State as it’s called. She comes with high energy and a plethora of new ideas. Previously she worked at Sac State in the Multicultural Center and volunteered at the Santa Fe Community College.

As these fresh faces become a part of the CAMP program, Bertha Rodriguez who is our admin assistant, Claudia Cano our recruiter, Saray Argumedo our project assistant and Durae Gutierrez our lead EMT will all assist them in becoming an intricate part of the CAMP familia.

Written by CAMP Program Specialist: Ivan Olay
It's become tradition to demonstrate our pride in our CAMP alumni by featuring them in our newsletters. Recently, we caught up with a CAMP alumnus from our 2008-2009 cohort and asked him a few questions about his journey after participating in our program. Below we share a part of his academic experience as well as his future professional goals.

Our CAMP alumni have been through the program and are currently moving forward with their academic and professional careers, so take advantage of their experiences and continue the path of growth by being curious and asking them how they are achieving their goals. Please contact him if you have any questions or wish to know more about his experiences. Enjoy!

Alex F. Gonzalez is a soon to be graduate of the University of New Mexico (UNM), Anderson School of Management. In May, 2014 he will obtain his Bachelors in Business Administration with a concentration in International Management.

During his college career he participated in the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP). CAMP gave him the great opportunity to attend the Bert Corona Leadership Institute, “a service and training organization in civic education, leadership, and workforce development”.

He has since studied abroad in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada through the UNM study abroad program; and thanks to Anderson School of Management grant program, and the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program. Over a period of one year, he attended Dalhousie University. In addition to a year course work abroad, he participated in an internship with Coburg Consultants.

Currently he is finishing up his International Management concentration credits, as well as an internship with the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce Convention and Tourism Department (AHCC). As part of the AHCC, he assists in the promotion and marketing of Albuquerque globally and among the Hispanic and Native American markets as the destination for tourists and associations to hold their meetings and conventions here.

Alex aspires to work internationally. He is currently working on his Peace Corps application to promote global understanding. In the long run he aspires to work for the U.S. Department of State as a U.S. diplomat in the Foreign Service. As a program, we are very proud of what Alex has accomplished thus far!

Introducing our CAMP Tutors:

Brenda Ramirez:
Brenda is a Hatch Valley High School graduate and currently seeking her degree in both Political Science and Spanish. She is currently a 20 year old sophomore and a CAMP alumnus here at UNM. Her wide variety of interests include reading, playing soccer, religion, being involved with the community, and spending time with family. She really wanted to give back to CAMP, because it gave her the opportunity to be here at UNM. She wants CAMP to help her grow into a stronger leader. Most importantly, she wants to help the program give the best attention to the future CAMPers, just as they did for her freshman year.
CAMP Tutors Cont’d:

John Ortega:

John is a Cibola High School graduate and seeking majors in Biology and Spanish. It is John’s 5th year here at UNM and he is currently 22 years of age. His current interests include traveling, snowboarding, and hiking. John was originally a UNM New Student Orientation Leader during summer of 2013 and thought it would be a great transition from introducing students to the university to something more personal with CAMP. He also heard a lot of great things about CAMP from his fraternity brothers who are CAMP alumni.

Charlie Chavez:

Charlie is a Santa Rosa High School graduate and currently seeking his degree in Nursing. He is a 19-year-old sophomore and CAMP alumnus here at the University of New Mexico. His current interests include the outdoors, weight lifting, fitness, family and a wide variety of foods. He really wanted to contribute to the same family that he was once a part of. He wanted to provide the same feelings and opportunities that were presented to him during this time with CAMP.

Durae Gutierrez:

Durae is an Estancia High School graduate and a CAMP alumnus who is currently seeking her degree in Nursing. It is her junior year here at UNM and she is currently 20 years of age. Her interests at the current time include CAMPing, shopping, and spending time with friends and family. We asked a common question to our tutors as to why they wanted to work for CAMP. Durae wanted to give back and help students to continue their education, just as she was helped & motivated by CAMP to further hers.

Stephanie Vasquez:

Stephanie is a Hatch Valley High School graduate currently seeking her degree in Nursing & Spanish. She is a 20-year-old sophomore and a CAMP alumnus here at UNM. She has a wide variety of interests that include playing sports, working out, dancing, family and friends, shopping, helping and meeting new people, sleeping, eating and being outdoors. She wanted to work for CAMP in order to give back for the great opportunity she had her freshman year. She wanted to take the things she learned as a CAMPer, and share those experiences with the upcoming freshmen. Her goal is to motivate others and support them during their first year of college.

Stephanie Rocha:

Stephanie is a Chaparral High School graduate and a CAMP alumnus that is pursuing her major in mechanical engineering. She is a 19-year-old sophomore that is interested in music, tennis, engineering, and helping others. When she was a freshman, CAMP was not only a support system, but also a family. They helped her succeed and have an awesome freshman year. She wanted to continue being a part of CAMP by sharing her knowledge with the awesome individuals that are now a part of this family. She really enjoys the fun and safe environment that is provided by CAMP.
**Newsletter Created and Edited By:** Claudia Cano

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*Ivan Olay*
Program Specialist

*Claudia Cano*
Sr. Student Program Advisor/Recruiter

*Diana Campos-Martinez*
Sr. Student Program Advisor

*Bertha Rodriguez*
Administrative Assistant III

*Tutors:*
Durae Gutierrez
Brenda Ramirez
Stephanie Vasquez
Stephanie Rocha
John Ortega
Charlie Chavez
Saray Argumedo
(Project Assistant)

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**The University of New Mexico**
College Assistance Migrant Program
Mesa Vista Hall Room 3045
MSC06 3840
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Phone: 505-277-5492
Fax: 505-277-2182
Email: camp@unm.edu
Website: http://ceop.unm.edu/camp
Facebook: UNM CAMP

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