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UNM CAMP NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2005

UNM CAMP
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The transition for the incoming freshmen students into the University of New Mexico and into the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) was accomplished with intensity. Our CAMP orientation was a two day event where the program staff and the students and their families were brought together to be submerged into the CAMP family. Our participants were introduced to a couple of great supporters of this program. Dr. Ricardo Maestas, Associate Vice President of Student Services, welcomed our students on day one of the orientation, this was followed by an inspiring and motivational breakfast talk by UNM’s Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Eliseo Torres on the second day. One of the highlights that the students participated in as a group was the High Ropes course located in our very own Johnson Gymnasium. This course is designed to build confidence and solidarity within the participants. This course takes place about 20 feet off the ground. It was an adrenaline pumping experience for them. All of our students succeeded in completing the course with no setbacks and building new friendships.

Our first social event was bowling night, which was a great break for the new students from their first week in college. This was well attended by our co-hort and was another opportunity for the new students to meet and get to know each other.

Although one can plan a trip well in advance, no one can plan for Mother Nature’s change of climate. Our first real excursion was to El Morro National Monument where Spanish conquistadors left a record of their passage on Inscription Rock. On the way to top of the rock it began to rain heavily and did not let up. We were fortunate enough that we were able to admire the inscriptions before we were doused by the rain. Our next big outing was to the renowned International Balloon Fiesta. CAMP participated along with other student programs to attend the Balloon Glow. The evening started great, our students walking within groups participating in a scavenger hunt discovering fun facts about the Fiesta. Mother Nature seems to have a great sense of humor because again it decided to cover us in showers of rain. As one can imagine, all students ran for cover and were huddled under tents and food stands. Unfortunately since the weather did not cooperate, the Balloon Glow was cancelled. Although these events were rained out the students enjoyed themselves in light of the water.

One event that has always had a great turnout and positive feedback is our Karaoke night. This was a great event which was attended by current CAMP students, CAMP alumni, present day CAMP staff and former staff. Everyone sang to some great hits of the past and present. There were group performances and solo acts as well. This was an event that was very relaxing and stress reducing. The staff got in full swing of the event and performed and oldie but goodie for the students. Overall, this is quickly becoming an annual favorite.

A new event that came about was that of the Thanksgiving potluck. In this occasion the students brought dishes to share with each other. It was a wonderful gathering where we had two smoked turkeys to compliment the dishes that were brought. With the theme of the holiday everyone went around the table to say what they were grateful for and with what they were blessed with.

This is an excerpt of the many events that CAMP and its students participated in. This past semester the students were able to see and experience what the state of New Mexico has to offer. This coming semester we look forward to exploring more of New Mexico and experiencing new things and events.
Laura Hernandez was born on July 1985 in Oaxaca, Mexico. She is the second oldest child in her family, and the only girl which has not always been an easy position to be in! Laura has overcome several adversities in her life. In 1989, just after turning five, Laura’s mother moved the children to Dexter, New Mexico to be closer to their dad. One of the most difficult points in her life was the passing of her mother. However from this tragic experience she was able to appreciate how important family is. Laura has taken some great advice that her mother used to give her and applied it to other challenges she has faced, “no te des porvenisda la vida sigue, lo que no te mata te hace mas fuerte” or “what doesn’t kill you only makes you stronger.”

While in high school, not only was Laura an honor roll student, but she also received several awards, including one for good character. She graduated from Dexter High School in 2003 in Dexter New Mexico a small farming town south east of Roswell. Laura has dedicated some of her free time to volunteer in the community. These experiences as varied from working with the Adopt a Highway program to working at the Physical Therapy Department’s Rehabilitation Center.

Now a sophomore at UNM, she is working towards a bachelor’s degree in Exercise Science with the hope of eventually working in Physical Therapy. Laura assists the Planning Awareness for College Education (PACE) program which provides services for potential college students to rural communities. She uses her own experiences, coming from a small town, to contribute to the objectives of PACE. While at UNM, she has worked for Upward Bound, the Ibero American Science and Technology Consortium, and CAMP.

This past summer she was part of the Undergraduate health and science enrichment program (USHEP) which is a summer program that prepares students for the medical field. CAMP students, which can be a handful. She has provided support to her students from simple questions as “Where Hodge’s Hall?” to something more delicate as “Should I drop a class?”

During her freshmen year she started an organization with several other young ladies. She has become an integral member of the P.E.T.A.L.S. – Pursuing Excellence Through A Latina Sorority, a community based service sorority. The reason that she started P.E.T.A.L.S. was because… She also has been honored to be on the Dean’s List this award is given to students who achieved a semester grade point average of a 3.5 or better and are honored …

Jess Bunker is a CAMP, alumni and currently working as tutor-mentor for the program. She is a up and coming mover and shaker. Jessa is a native of the northern part of the state, she hangs her hat in Chacon New Mexico a small community north of Mora. She Graduated from Mora High School in 2003 with a stellar GPA. That fall she was accepted in to the University of New Mexico and into the CAMP program. She is studying secondary education in history and a second major in Spanish. Her goal is to become an important influence in young people’s lives through education.

She has attained employment in areas that will help her reach her goals. Through the Upward Bound program, which serves high school youth at risk, she was one of the Math tutors that provided the intellectual and academic support for the student in the program. After completing this program she has continued with the College Prep program which is a summer program with high school students from LA and several California cities with the purpose to raise the student’s ACT or SAT scores. She served as a tutor and mentor for these kids. She is currently working for the CAMP program as a tutor-mentor. She mentors a group of five current CAMP students, which can be a handful. She has provided support to her students from simple questions as “Where Hodge’s Hall?” to something more delicate as “Should I drop a class?”

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As I packed my car for the long drive from Chicago to Albuquerque, I had no idea what the future would hold for me. I had decided to come to UNM for grad school because I wanted to experience life and culture in the Southwest. Until I moved to Albuquerque in August, I had only spent two and a half days in the Southwest in my entire life. Adapting to life here was challenging, I often felt like I was in a foreign country because so many aspects of life here are different from what I was used in the Midwest. I decided to apply to work at CAMP because I thought it would be a way for me to continue the type of work that I had been doing since I graduated from college in 2002, teaching and mentoring students. I also wanted to work for an organization that really benefits students and CAMP is definitely successful at doing that. Little did I realize that working for CAMP would help me settle into life in New Mexico a little bit more easily. Being a part of CAMP has helped me feel a sense of place and purpose here at UNM. I have gotten to meet a lot of people from all over New Mexico because of CAMP. It has been an enriching experience to get to know everyone; Rebecca, Ivan and Patty, my fellow mentors, and all of the students have taught me so much. I am grateful to work for a program that is so beneficial for the students it serves. From the weekly tutoring sessions that help students academically, to the cultural events that I got to attend with the students, like going to see Les Misérables, being a part of CAMP has been a great experience so far. It is great to know that CAMP is helping students to achieve success in college and I am glad to be a part of it. I hope that this coming semester, I will continue to learn from everyone at CAMP, as well as to share the knowledge that I have.

Dreaming of College?

Attention, Attention!!! How would you like to meet new people, from all over New Mexico? Have you ever been to Mora county, Dexter, Goddard, Los Alamos, Loving, Peñasco, Roswell, Escalante, Española, Pecos, Hatch, Rio Rancho, Albuquerque, Dixon, Las Vegas, Chimayo, even Brownsville Texas and El Paso Texas. These are the many areas of New Mexico and Texas that all CAMP Students come from.

What is CAMP? The College Assistance Migrant Program is a program were you can receive room and board, books and supplies, personal tutoring, study skill workshops, a personal academic advisor, last but not least, supplemental financial assistance.

Do I have your attention now!! My name is Felipe Aragon and I am a CAMP tutor/mentor and I want to tell you this is “one awesome program”. If you or your parents have spent at least 75 hours in the past two years working as a seasonal or migrant farm worker, then the CAMP program is for you. Or if you have participated in Employment and Training Administration, WIA (Department of Labor’s Workforce Investment Act) then this program is for you.

If you can name a program that is as easy to qualify for and that gives you the assistance that we can here at CAMP and not to mention we could even fill you pocket with some cash as well. Yeah, that’s right we can even give some money to support a college students lifestyle. Personally, since I have been in college I have never seen any college student so stress free and so relaxed in their first year in college as the CAMP student have been. When I started my first year of college I never had an opportunity like you have and you know what everybody says about their first year, “I remember my first year, it was the hardest time of my academic life.” Fortunately with CAMP we are here to assist you personally and I can say you will not be disappointed.

CAMP will fulfill your dreams of attending college, but not just any college a major University with several academic programs that have or are Nationally ranked, a Division I athletic program and most importantly the best young minds New Mexico has to offers.

So take a look, check us out, ask one of recruiters or any CAMP alumni and they will tell you that CAMP is one of the best programs you will ever find at any University. If you think you qualify for CAMP fill free to fill out an application and turn it in.

Remember there is nothing like meeting new people from all over New Mexico, receiving money for college, and investing in your future by getting your education today!
CAMPus Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

JESSA BUNKER

Coming to a university for the first time is a truly amazing experience. The University of New Mexico is a particularly great place to come and experience college life. For most of you this is the furthest away from home you have been for an extended period of time and yet it is still close enough for you to go home for a long weekend. UNM is great because there is a large variety of students and cultures, and yet we can still find good green Chile.

When I was graduating from high school a little less than two years ago I was confronted with the decision of where I wanted to go to college. I chose to come to UNM because while it is not too far from home, it is not too close either. UNM has a lot of potential, much of which I plan to and do take advantage of. There are many colleges within UNM, which allow me to look into different fields and find what I am interested in studying; in addition there are many extracurricular activities to join. UNM has strong exchange programs all around the United States and the world. With this option you pay UNM tuition and attend any place you want. It is a great opportunity.

Yet with all these opportunities and new paths to explore at UNM, still it is not home. We all miss good home cooking and the laundry room right around the corner, if no one to do it for us. There is a time when we might begin to miss those bratty little siblings that we were glad to leave behind at first. The advantage we have over every one else here at UNM is CAMP, our family away from home. My first year at UNM, I was in CAMP and let me tell you, there is no one program like it. At first CAMP was a great deal because of the money, seriously, we all need it right? But at the end of the year it is about the relationships you build, and the support you realized you couldn’t have done without.

We are headed into the spring semester and let me tell you it’s fun. As it warms up, the outdoor cookouts and games are great fun. It will fly by and before you know it you will be looking back on your first completed year at college. It makes you feel great, like you gave taken the first big step to the success for the rest of your life.

I’m proud to be your mentor and good luck, Jessa

CRYSTAL ANGELES

Arriving as a freshman to the University of New Mexico has been an outstanding opportunity. Being accepted and getting involved in the CAMP program has been a great freshman experience. CAMP as a program has provided me with academic support and adviseemnt, supplemental financial aid, and counseling. Through the program I have learned to grow as an independent individual. The program has taught me how to better establish myself as a hardworking student at an institution of higher education.

When I was first introduced to the program I was a very introverted individual, I was awfully shy and extremely quiet. Upholding these qualities made me an unsociable person, yet by getting involved in the social/cultural events provided by CAMP I have developed into a more outgoing and prosperous human being.

Without the CAMP program my transition from high school into an institution of higher education would have been quite difficult for both my family and for myself as a student. I am very thankful for this opportunity; because I am blessed with the fact that here at UNM I can continue my education knowing that I can count on the security and support I have through CAMP. For this reason the CAMP program has become my home away from home.

Through CAMP I have also obtained part-time employment. Working for CAMP has been very beneficial and convenient for me because not only am I a CAMP participant, but also a CAMP work-study. As a CAMP participant and work-study I have had the wonderful opportunity to build great friendships with CAMP Alumni, present members, and co-workers. I believe that my involvement in CAMP has greatly impacted every aspect of my life, whether the aspect may be educational, social, or financial.

MARCO CUETO

Every program at the University of New Mexico runs with different people who perform different special tasks to make the programs a helpful support for the students. At the CAMP program all the staff and tutors made a great effort to help the CAMP students and help...
Marco Cueto Continued....

them succeed in their freshmen year.

At the beginning of the term I started working as a meter in the CAMP program having a lot of great expectations of what being a mentor would be although I did not have a clear idea of what my function as mentor was. I had the idea that if I helped the students with their academic issues, I was doing enough for them. However a mentor should be more than an academic support because the whole college experience goes beyond the academic life. It also touches our daily life experience.

Working as mentor in the program allowed me to understand that being a mentor is not only being a tutor it is also being a friend, a listener and many times a learner. Therefore, the whole experience was great not only because I grew as a person, but also I was part of the experience the students of the program had making a difference in their lives.

Laura Hernandez

I was Born July 1985 in Oaxaca, Mexico to Felix and Manuela Hernandez. I live with a family that is composed of four boys Alex, Felix Jr., Saul, and Eduardo, being the only girl is not an easy task. Like every family we do have are ups and downs but I like to think that my parents educated us well because there has been no problem that as a family we have not been able to handle. Even the passing of my mother that was the lowest point of our lives, we were able to accept it and make her proud my continuing with our path. To me family is the most important aspect of life; they will always be around no matter where they are and what decisions they make.

I recall most of my childhood but the one event that sticks out in my mind would be the year of 1989, I had just turned five when my mother made a decision that would change our lives forever. We were moving to Roswell, New Mexico, of course back then it was just another town for me with no significant, but what I did know was that we were going to see my dad for the first time in about 2 years. Funny how I can recall that we moved, but I do not remember the trip or how we got to our destination. The only thing I knew at the time, was we were a family now, finally we were all together.

That year I also began my education, I finally was old enough to go to kindergarten something that I was dreading for the longest time and now it was about to begin. I walked into a room, filled with children crying and I recall my mother looking down at me and asking me to stay where I was that she was leaving. I was confused I did not know that she was not going to be around the whole day. I was going to cry but I just remember thinking that I was not going to let these kids, that I didn’t even know see me cry, so I held back the tears it was one of the hardest things I have ever done. I continued schooling at Dexter Consolidated Schools up until graduation. Along the way there were many bumps in the road but as my mother use to tell me and I am sure everyone has heard it, “no te des porvenida la vida sigue, lo que no te mata te hace mas fuerte” in other words “what doesn’t kill you only makes you stronger.” But, finally in May 2003 I had graduated. Oh! Graduation finally done or so I thought much to my dismay it was only the beginning.

Now I am attending UNM, I plan to receive an undergraduate degree in Exercise Sciences and then continue into Physical Therapy. It has been difficult but along the way there have been many people who have lended me a hand. CAMP, USHEP, among many other people. Becoming an adult is hard but we all don’t have a choice we have to grow up some time. Well maybe just a little!!!!
The Season for giving was taken to a new level this year within the CAMP Program. This year for the first time CAMP along with New Mexico Highlands delivered some goodies to families in Deming New Mexico. CAMP representatives (Ivan, Rebecca, Patty and Modesta) delivered jackets, toys and sweaters to five different families out of eleven total, New Mexico Highlands contributed the rest. These five families consisted of toddlers all the way up to teenagers and parents.

It took CAMP approximately two weeks to gather all the items necessary for the trip. Current CAMP students, Alumni, and staff all contributed to the first ever CAMP Jacket and Toy Drive. Here at CAMP we were able to supply all five families with just a “little something special”. For CAMP it was the appreciation for the things we had that gave each individual the determination to make this past Christmas a special Christmas for someone else.

All five families were very happy with the gifts they received. Knowing that the program was able to put a smile on someone’s face, made all the people involved very happy as well. The Jacket and Toy Drive was a success, with just the effort and heart that people put into the Drive made each individual’s Christmas just a little better.

To get involved with CAMP or if you want more information give us a call at 277-0469. Or just keep your eyes and ears open for the next CAMP event and get in touch with us.