



ELCAMPESTRE

From CAMP to Camp: Enriching Our Community

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EVERY ENDING IS A NEW BEGINNING CAMP cohort of 2010 has over 200 attendants during the graduation ceremony

Being behind the scenes was a one of a kind experience, I felt like I'd gotten a free backstage pass to a fancy gig; award presentations, live music, the company of great friends, not to mention dinner and all, *ya know... the whole shebang*. An hour before the ceremony the students in the band, composed of this year's CAMP students and fellow friends, began by setting up their stage ambiance by tuning their instruments and vocalizing in order to provide entertainment for the evening. Soon after they began playing their itinerary as family and friends for the current students began strolling into the ballroom. The parents and siblings, as well as staff and friends, seemed very rejoiced, proud and excited to see their special person(s) graduate as a CAMP Scholar, which is a great accomplishment for each freshman student; for lack of better terms and simply put: *they made it!* Many of the students' families traveled well over 8 hours in order to be supportive of their child (yes, child because to parents, we're *always* their children) and his or her triumph. It may not seem like such an endeavor to an outsider but it's the little *big* things that make it or break it for some.

Each and every one of the students must leave their hometown and be apart from family, probably for the first time, take the risk of living in a whole new atmosphere and being independent (cooking, cleaning, studying, learn to administer financially, etc.) That being said, CAMP is honored and feels the need to recognize these little yet big adjustments each individual has to make as well as the obstacles they each overcome as the school year progresses. At the end of the year, for each cohort, CAMP hosts a graduation ceremony for the students and invites their families as well as other staff that worked in collaboration with the program in order to cater to students and their needs. This year's ceremony had more than 200 attendants! We weren't expecting more than 150 individuals, however, we had to request additional tables be set up in order to seat parents and friends who kept arriving to the event. It was a complete success; the agenda consisted of 30 certificates of completion, 6 recognition awards, medals for CAMP alumni graduating with a Bachelor's this year, keynote speakers and a delicious Mexican dinner. (*cont'd on page 3*)

Two of a Kind

Peer Mentor Program



During the school year, Eder Mondragon and Jaqueline Diaz were paired up and they formed an outstanding Mentor-Mentee Duo.

We asked and they answered...

Jaqueline, what are 1 or 2 ways in which having a mentor helped you during your 1st year at OSU? And, would you like to be a CAMP Mentor next year and why? "My mentor helped make the transition from high school and home to college easier. He gave me advice and when needed, pointed me to the right resources. I would like to be a mentor next year because I know how hard it is when you first start out college and I would like to help make it easier."

Eder, what was your favorite activity or pastime with your mentee? And, do you think you were able to bond much with your mentee? "Hangin', chillin' little bit of illin'. Yes. Throughout the year we were able to learn more about each other and from that relationship we both benefited. Whether it was by me giving her tips on how to triumph while at college or her putting certain things in to perspective and helping me learn more about myself, such as what careers to consider."

This year was my first year coordinating the CAMP Peer Mentor Program. I would like to say that it was a very successful year. The 32 CAMP students were paired up with upperclassmen who served as mentors. The mentor volunteers committed their entire academic year to helping their mentee navigate the university system. This enabled us to foster academic success and helped incoming students use their resources. The students had the opportunity to participate in enjoyable extracurricular events that we planned throughout the year.

Some of the events were: going to and watching a Blazers game as a group, snowboarding at Mt. Hood, traveling to Ashland to watch Shakespearian plays and going to OSU sporting events (Basketball and Football games). While our main focus is to see our students succeed academically, another goal is to provide them with a fun sane time during their first year as a college student. Now that the end of the school year has arrived, one would say we've come together as a family and students feel more confident in and about their studies as well as individuals at OSU. However, there is always room for improvement and next year looks like a promising year full of activities and events. -Miguel Santiago



SUMMER INTERN

"Thanks to the MANRRS conference, this summer I will be a sales intern with Elanco Animal Health. While attending the MANNRS conference during spring break I interviewed with them for a sales intern position and was awarded the position. This is a summer internship in which I will learn to develop valuable sales and communication skills to help me out in the future." - Salvador Rios



ALUMNI...WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Emmanuel Garcia, CAMP 2005

After graduating from Oregon State in 2009 and unsure of my post-graduate plans, I decided to re-locate to Los Angeles, CA with the hopes of landing a job within the field of web development & design. Currently I am employed as the lead web developer at Cubed Interactive in LA. As an integral part of the company I am helping to move the company forward as an interactive web agency and providing technical, creative, and interactive solutions to our continually expanding list of clients. I look forward to the challenges and experiences that this position will provide and hope that it will lead to even greater success and opportunities in the future as I work towards improving my own skills and expanding my career within this great city. As I look back, I realize that none of this would have been possible without me being open to taking risks, having confidence in myself, and ultimately the support of my family.



Cesiah Vega, CAMP 2005

I am living in Corvallis and working as a Pre-School teacher. I will be attending Lewis and Clark for graduate school next June to obtain my M.A.T in Early Childhood/Elementary Education. In the long run I plan to teach in a bilingual Kindergarten classroom and to continue with my education. =)

OSU CAMP Scholars Go Abroad



Vanessa Baez
Internship Location:
Guadalajara, Mexico
Year: Fall 2010



Susana Valle, pictured in Huacachina
Study Location:
Peru
Year: Summer 2010

CAMP CEREMONY (cont'd)

Jose Meza, former OSU CAMP graduate, was the keynote speaker for the evening as well as Emanuel Cortes, who is a current student. As for the CAMP alumni graduating class of 2010, it consists of 20 individuals; Ruben Mendoza spoke on behalf of this class, as he will be graduating as well. Other award recipients were: Mentor-Eder Mondragon; External Harvest of Hope- Cecilia Casillas-Rentsch; Internal Harvest of Hope-Eric Hansen; Community Service-Lorena Birrueta; Academic Achievement-Lizeth Ochoa; Outstanding leader-Jacqueline Diaz; Si Se Puede-Elisa TzinTzun and Emanuel Cortes



April

Agustin Vega
Anna Marquez



May

Jaqueline Díaz
Julia Gámez



July

Elisa TzinTzun
Maritza Trinidad
Gabriel Martinez



June

Araceli Mendez



AMAS' UPDATES

We are in the last weeks of this academic year. This year has practically flown by. I am excited that most of our students will successfully complete their first year in college. I believe most, if not all will be returning for their second year. We are also getting ready for the new group of 32 incoming students for 2010-2011. We received over 60 complete eligible applicants and it was rather difficult to select the students with the highest academic and financial need. My staff and I are excited to meet them and their families during START Bilingue on June 27th and 28th.

As new participants arrive, some CAMP alumni will be leaving this year. This year, around 20 students who participated in CAMP in previous years will be graduating with their degrees in June. They'll be transitioning to the "real world" and put into practice those skills they have acquired at OSU. Perhaps the odds were against them, but they have successfully accomplished their higher education goals. I am proud of their accomplishments!

Our "El CAMPestre" editor will be one of those students graduating this year. I could not convince her to stay for another year. Gera Casimiro spearheaded this newsletter from the beginning, and this is the last issue she will be working on. She has done a great job on writing, editing, interviewing, and collecting information for "El CAMPestre." I wish her good luck on her future plans, and she'll be missed greatly.

Summer will soon be upon us. CAMP will be involved with the START Bilingue at the end of June. Also, the CAMP staff and CAMP students will be hosting three Migrant Student Leadership Institutes in July and August for the Oregon Migrant Education Office and for the Forest Grove School District. I am excited for these collaborations with other agencies that provide services to migrant students. I look forward to an eventful summer.

Amas



They keep it familial



Pictured: Eder and Abner Mondragon

It began with Eder, it did. Being the first to attend OSU, he led the way for the rest of his family. His brother, Abner Mondragon, as well as their cousin, Victor Modragon, also decided to attend

OSU when they both graduated from high school. After interviewing both Abner and Victor, who are in the same CAMP class, they both weren't too sure about what they planned on studying, however, they agreed that having a family member in college motivated them to follow in his footsteps and give OSU a try. Having someone here who already knew the ropes and told them about how he benefited from the CAMP program also influenced them to study at the same university. They are all still attending OSU, been through the CAMP program and continue to come around the office. They always have time to contribute and give back; they've volunteered as mentors for incoming freshman and show their support by attending events on and off campus. The Mondragon family has also become part of the CAMP program here at OSU.