OSU Student Takes Term Off to Fill the CAMP Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator Position.

It was exactly one week before the school year started, when Laura Mondragon was asked by the CAMP staff to possibly fulfill the position as the CAMP Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator for fall term of 2014. Being the Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator would require a majority of her time, thus she would have to withdrawal from fall term. Being only one school year away from graduating, Laura definitely had to take this proposal into deep consideration. After days of consideration and after hearing the advice from her family and friends she accepted the proposal. And October 1 marked her first day as part of the CAMP staff.

After Laura graduated from CAMP in 2011, she was a mentor for the next two years with CAMP along with being Maria’s office assistant for the following years. She was expecting to continue as Maria’s office assistant this school year, but they had a different plan for her. Laura has always had a love for CAMP, and what’s a better job than doing something you love?

Initially, Laura was worried about all the responsibilities the job came with, which were traveling alone (with no GPS), having to set up her presentations and having to fluently give her presentation to all these schools. Given her young age of 22 and her even younger appearance Laura felt as if others would discredit her professionalism. But, even though they are usually shocked upon seeing her, they always treat her with friendliness and professionalism. And having the love that she does for CAMP giving those presentations comes out naturally and fluently.

Now that Laura gets to be behind the scenes of the College Assistance Migrant Program, she has discovered the phenomenal work that Maria, Greg, and Amas put into the program every day. Laura now acknowledges that we don’t appreciate the staff as much as we should. She feels veryafortunada to be able to work with such a great staff. Laura has always admired Amas for everything he has accomplished and everything he continues to accomplish, but “he is my inspiration” and “I hope to be like him some day” are some phrases that can’t even begin to describe how outstanding Amas truly is.

“I am really happy I said yes!”
Four New CPA (Mentors) for the New Camp Cohort

Arturo, Eloy, Alfredo, Guillerma, Azalea, and Monica are this year’s CAMP Peer Ambassadors (CPAs). Six mentors for the thirty-seven CAMP scholars, which each CPA has approximately six to seven scholars to mentor for. This year will be Eloy’s third year as a mentor for CAMP. Eloy became very attached to camp since he was a scholar and wished to stay involved with the program by supporting the new CAMP scholars. This will be Alfredo’s second year as a mentor. Alfredo has also become attached to CAMP and enjoys being able to help the scholars grow into professionals. Arturo, Azalea, Guillerma, and Monica are new mentors to the program and are enthused to start their journey as mentors. As mentors, they are entitled to meet with the scholars once a week for a minimum of thirty minutes, they must each completely plan and facilitate an event for CAMP, and they must all monitor study tables two hours a week. Along with that they are entitled to help the first year students through this new transition in their lives.

2014-2015 Mentors

Arturo Sayago
Eloy Hernandez
Alfredo Vazquez
Guillerma Vasquez
Azalea Martinez
Monica Isiordia

The 2014–2015 CAMP Orientation

Each year the CAMP orientation is slightly modified, in the search for improvement. Greg Contreras is the person in charge to plan out the agenda for the orientation. A major difference with last year’s orientation was the breaks students got between the events. The start to their orientation was a bit later and also ended a bit earlier than last year, which gave the students enough sleep to be energized throughout their busy schedules. The events still relied on building connections and trust mostly within one another. Orientation also helped the scholars connect with the mentors and staff. Many of the students enjoyed having the scavenger hunt, which allowed them to familiarize themselves with the campus, particularly with class locations.

2014-2015 CAMP Scholars

Upcoming Events

- Dec 5 – Peer Mentor Potluck
- Jan 7 – Welcome Back BBQ
- Jan 31 – Ski Trip
- Feb 27 – CAMP Consortium
Alumni.....Where Are They Now?

Marco graduated from Oregon State University in the spring of 2014. Marco double majored in Construction Engineering Management and Innovation Management. Upon his graduation he was hired by Construction for Change, a non-profit organization based in Seattle. He is currently in Neno, Malawi in Africa building a health clinic for the organization. Marco is amazed by the adventures life has taken him and is excited to see where life will take him next.

“I see myself happy and enjoying life. I may be a billionaire, the first Hispanic president, or I may be helping other Latino kids reach their dreams. The possibilities are limitless.”

Alexsandra graduated from CAMP in June 2010 and graduated from Oregon State University in June of 2014. She majored in Human Development and Family Sciences with an option in Human Services and a double minor in Spanish and Psychology. She is now a graduate student at Oregon State University for the College Student Services Administration program, which is a two year program. She is also a supervisor for the Human Services Recourse Center. Upon graduation, Alexsandra wishes to get involved with migrant students at a college level and help them succeed in their higher education. She plans to live in a Spanish speaking country for an entire year to perfect her Spanish, which will help her in working with these students.

CAMP SCHOLARS GO ABROAD!!!

Esmeralda Flores had the amazing opportunity to volunteer abroad in Chinchina, Colombia. She was able to go through a non-governmental organization called International Service Learning. Her trip lasted from 15 of June to the 28 of June. A group of nine students were in charge of visiting three nearby villages. During those visits they would interview families and ask them about their health, home, and family. They would set up clinics in nearby elementary schools. They even had workshops on how to take blood pressure and how to protect one’s self from malaria and dengue. They got to tour the coffee farm, go zip lining and horseback riding, and enjoyed the hot springs, “I enjoyed every single second of my trip even if we got poured on or bitten by mosquito's I would never change anything about my experience.”

Johnny Mondragon had the opportunity to study abroad in Italy. He got to travel from Rome to Gubbio for two weeks. Johnny applied through the College of Agriculture. This trip required that he would take a two credit class. The trip was focused on the different agriculture that other countries carry. It consisted of seeking soils, livestock, and farms and comparing them to the soils, livestock and farms we use here. They would walk from place to place every day. They were also taught and were able to make their own cheese.

Term Birthdays

September
Miguel Leon
Erica Morales
Ivette Orozco
Laura De La Torre

October
Silvia Vazquez
Mercedes Villarreal
Angel Torres

November
Alejandra Rojo

December
Nelson Hidalgo
Ricardo Perez
Viviana Castaneda
Alondra Padilla
Welcome to “El CAMPestre” newsletter, the first issue for this academic year. As I write this section of the newspaper, we just had a few freezing days. Now thankfully the rain is back and everything is as it should be. We are going into our eight-week of fall term classes; dead week and finals are coming up soon. I just wanted to recap our CAMP activities since the last issue. First, on June 29th and 30th we were busy during the START Bilingue hosting our 1st cohort (36 scholars) of this grant cycle. We were able to meet their families and ensure they were registered for fall term classes. Then, for the sixth year in a row, we hosted the Oregon Migrant Leadership Institute (OMLI) in July and part of August as a result of our working collaboration with the Oregon Migrant Education (MEP) program and the Forest Grove School District. Close to 150 migrant students from throughout the state participated in the three week-long sessions.

On another note, this year, we have 36 new CAMP Scholars from 25 different high schools throughout the state. Forest Grove High School is the largest group with 3 students. All of us spent (4 staff, 6 Peer Ambassadors, and 36 students) four full days in September as part of our Orientation program. In addition, Melisa Lopez and Maria Andrade-Diaz in collaboration with Suzanne Flores from the Alumni Center organized the first ever “10 Year CAMP Celebration.” More than 100 current and past CAMP students attended the event that was followed by watching the football game against San Diego State. I’m looking forward to celebrate our 15th year! This cohort appears to be eager to succeed in college, and so far, they have been busy with their college classes and activities.

This year, CAMP is going through few changes. Melisa Lopez, CAMP Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator, transitioned to the Cesar Chavez Cultural Center Coordinator position on June 13th. Melisa (CAMP scholar 2005) has been working for CAMP for over 3 years and she had a very positive influence on our students. Fortunately for us, Laura Mondragon (CAMP scholar 2010) accepted the challenge to perform the duties of the outreach and recruitment position. I’m glad she has been very effective on her job and already recruiting potential scholars for next year. Also, I want to take this opportunity to welcome to CAMP, Lorena Ambriz (CAMP scholar 2013) as the new editor for this newsletter. I am fortunate and thankful to have all of the staff on my team. So, we begin to another successful academic year.

In the fall term, CAMP hosted its annual Advisors Lunch in La Raza room of the MU. This event is a unique opportunity for OSU Academic Advisors to meet and greet the new CAMP Scholars. This year, nearly 30 advisors representing all of the colleges attended. Students got a chance to begin networking with the advisors who will be helping them in the years ahead at OSU. Lots of conversations filled the room as the new CAMP Scholars learned lots about their majors. Special thanks to OSU Catering for supplying the pizza! And also a shout out to the MU for continuing to welcome CAMP in using their facilities to host this great event.