Hello, my name is Norma Ramirez and I am the new Adviser for the College Assistance Migrant Program at the UW. I was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA but my parents came to the United States from Mexico over 40 years ago in search of a better life for their family. I graduated with a B.A. in Spanish Literature from the University of California, Irvine. I also have a Masters in Public Administration from CSU Dominguez Hills and a Masters in Educational Leadership in Policy Studies form the University of Washington. Go Huskies! I’m excited to be part of the CAMP family and to continue helping our CAMP students not only succeed in their first year, but go on to graduate!
CAMP Students Doing It BIG, Around the World!

By: Jose Carmona

It takes hard work and dedication to fill the shoes of Abraham Guadarrama, an undergraduate student at the University of Washington (UW). He plans to major in Computer Science and is passionate about empowering individuals in communities with lower resources.

He enjoys meeting new people, volunteering, and learning new customs. This has inspired him to volunteer abroad in Guatemala with the Alexander Hamilton Leaders Academy. He also participated in the Office of Minorities Affairs & Diversity Study Abroad Program in Brisbane, Australia which is affiliated with the UW College of Engineering and Queensland University of Technology. While he was there, he worked with a group that conducted research with an underwater robot in support of global ecosystems. He will continue to study abroad during early fall start to China with the e-Commerce & Enterprise Exploration Transformation Seminar. Abraham, is just one of a handful of CAMP students who are exploring new opportunities around the world.

Red Stars represents where students have traveled to. Yellow stars represents where they will be traveling.
CAMP Host 1st Annual Dare to Dream Summer Academy

By Karrissa Sanchez

CAMP staff along with the help of the CAMP Mentors put on the first annual Dare to Dream Academy. The purpose of this academy is to motivate high school migrant students and help them pursue a higher education. Fifty-two migrant high school students from across the state participated in this event, coming from Mt. Vernon, as south as Tacoma and as far East as Wapato.

During their week-long stay at the UW campus, students were able to experience a variety of things; such as, dorm food, college class settings, and the infamous University Avenue. Some of the workshops and presentations included a financial aid presentation, a scholarship presentation, a personal statement workshop, a goal setting workshop, and a career workshop. Griselda Gonzalez, a high school student from Tacoma states, “I learned that money shouldn’t stop me from reaching my goal and attending college.”

Along with all these helpful workshops and presentations, the students also attended an Academic Fair. This was very beneficial to students as they were able to talk to the different college departments on campus and get a head start in preparing for their intended majors. It was interesting to witness the social transition throughout the week. On the first day the students arrived, they wouldn’t talk to each other, which is understandable as they didn’t know one another. However, as the days passed by, and with all the interactions and planned activities required of them, students began to bond. It was incredible to see all the new friendships they created.

Gonzalez added, “My favorite part about the Dare to Dream Academy was the talent show. After spending almost a week together we got a chance to share/show a little of a talent we have and I learned that money shouldn’t stop me from reaching my goal and attend college.”

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Griselda Gonzalez

Helen Malagon talks to the students about the Dare to Dream Academy.

had some amazing talents that we probably wouldn’t have ever known about if we didn’t have the talent show.”

Before coming to this conference, many students considered money a huge barrier and a reason why they wouldn’t be able to pursue a college education. After attending this academy, many truly left as dreamers and realized that nothing can stop them from pursuing their career but themselves. This is the first of many Dare to Dream Summer Academies. The Mentors were asked if they would participate in the future academies? They all seemed to have the same thought, that they would do this academy next year in a heartbeat; not participating wouldn’t even be an option. They hope future students have such a great time like these students have. They were really thankful for the opportunity, and for giving the students this amazing opportunity to expand their options about higher education.
Camp Orkila Welcomes Cohort 2

By Jose Carmona

In late August of last year, the second CAMP cohort was notified about their upcoming orientation at Camp Orkila. At the time, most of the students were saying goodbye to friends going off to college already and finishing summer jobs. The notice of the week-long retreat came at a great time for students to get used to the idea of moving away from home and making new friends before the freshman year started.

During their stay at the camp, students participated in various activities directed by the camp staff and student mentors. Most of these involved developing leadership skills and building trust among team members.

They also went through different challenging courses involving high and low ropes. Students really enjoyed the giant swing. This was a swing suspended from two very tall trees. The whole group was engaged in this activity as they had to pull on the rope that would make the two people hanging from the swing go up and down. Mischievously, the group would then let go of the rope, at the highest point, and the two people on the swing would drop with fearful screaming and excitement.

All the different challenges they faced brought them together and taught them the meaning of companionship. Another highlight of the week at Camp Orkila was the many bonding opportunities the students had. At night they would have cabin interaction and share their stories with all the other CAMPers. They also developed a liking of different group games such as charades and Mafia. Fredy Garcia commented, “The most memorable moment during the camp retreat was on the last night when the mentors organized a bonfire, and we all just gathered around the fire with our newly found CAMP Familia.”

Camp Orkila was a great way to start off a new chapter in the life of the CAMP students. They needed to find that support system that would help them through their first year of college. At the end of the week the students were exhausted but the friendships they made while at the camp retreat were well worth their time.

Northwest Student Leadership Conference

By Osvaldo Guel

During Winter Quarter, several of our CAMP students attended the 22nd Annual Northwest Student Leadership Conference (NWSLC) along with over 400 students from across the Pacific Northwest to interact with community leaders, social activists, and professionals. The NWSLC is the Northwest’s largest leadership development opportunity of its kind! This year’s conference featured over 90 workshops with presenters from across the Pacific Northwest, as well as 3 keynote speakers, and a dance party.

The conference focused on many social justice issues happening around the world. Students attended workshops...
Washington State CAMP Consortium Student Leadership Conference

By Norma Ramirez

Over 50 college students from seven different CAMP programs from around the state (Washington State University, Columbia Basin College, Heritage University, Wenatchee Valley College, Central Washington University and Eastern Washington University, and the University of Washington) attended the Consortium Student Leadership Conference. CAMP staff came together to help students gain self-confidence and strengthen their leadership skills. This was also an opportunity for students to meet other CAMP students from different campuses. The Consortium was held at Lazy F Camp near Ellensburg, WA.

During the Consortium the students were split into groups and engaged in activities so that they could have a chance to meet everyone. These activities helped them build leadership skills and prepared them to host a Student Leader Program (SLP) Conference for high school student at their own campus later in the year. The purpose of the SLP Conference is to show the students around the University campus and help them build their leadership skills so the high school students can take those skills back to their communities. The Consortium gave the CAMP students an idea of how they would be able to run the SLP Conference and how to handle unexpected situations with the high school students. An activity that Salvador Gomez, a first year CAMP student, really enjoyed was "Building Your Lifeline". Salvador comments, "This activity helped me put together my entire life within a matter of 10 minutes, it helped me puzzle a life for my future so that I know what I want to succeed in and accomplish, and the goals that I have set for myself". The students were able to make great memories and most importantly make lifelong friendships. The students that attended are more excited than ever to be involved with the Consortium next year. Gomez adds, "I hope to be involved in this Consortium for the following years and continue being involved with the CAMP program as it helps me develop newer skills that follow up to my dream of becoming a Social worker".

The students from seven CAMP programs take one last final group picture before saying goodbye.

(NWSLC) Continued from page 4

where speakers, including professors from other institutions, talked to groups of students about a particular issue that they specialize in. One workshop in particular had students watch a video called 'I told you so Colbert Report', where a comedian was hitting on some key points in the immigration issues around the United States, including a focus on farm laborers in the state of Alabama. One needs to watch the video to see the cruel reality. Daisy Mendoza, one of the students who attended the conference, says, "The workshop showed me that there is a lot of injustices occurring in which I want to help out with. Working for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will help me to guide myself to initiating youth centers in Central America to help prevent youth from entering the cartel world, gangs, or landing in jail."

Throughout the rest of the week, the CAMP students went on to explore the city of Portland, including downtown, shopping centers, and the Famous Voo-Doo donuts. The place is so popular that the students had to wait 45 minutes to get their donuts! Overall it was a great opportunity to network with each other and meet other college students from the Pacific Northwest.
By Carlos Gonzalez

Flowing into the main conference room for the College Assistant Migrant Program (CAMP) National Conference in Nashville, TN was like stepping off the side of a swimming pool and being submerged into the depths and waves of deep collaboration among CAMP teams across the nation states," student mentor, Laurie Bazan. She was one of three student mentors that included, Jose Carmona and Zorida Arias, that shared the vision and mission for the success of first year CAMP students. Along with the camp staff, they took their experiences and the University of Washington Peer Mentorship curriculum to share with other CAMP programs in the United States.

The goal of the presentation was to share on effective ways to peer mentor first year students. Based primarily on their experiences, the CAMP peer mentors presented on what did and didn’t work while peer mentoring. To aid the presentation they also created a power point and video highlighting the students and mentors in action.

The trip to Nashville would have not been complete without exploring the city. It was the first time the students went to Nashville. The students were able to visit local museums, historical theaters and of course take pictures with the many Elvis Presley memorial statues and stand up cardboards. During this time they also planned events that as mentors they wanted to take their mentees to, and de-briefed with the CAMP staff their successes and not so successful experiences as peer mentors.

“Being allowed to present as an undergraduate student to CAMP directors and advisors was an honoring opportunity. It was an opportunity to grow as a public speaker and experience a conference held for leaders at my institution," states Zorida Arias.

"It's Game Day and Time to Tailgate!

By Yasmin Herrera

Near the football stadium, surrounded by friends and other super hyped up fans, wearing their husky gear and food everywhere you turn, how better can that get? In late October as the Huskies were getting ready to play the University of Arizona the CAMP Program was tailgating for an exciting game. Lupe Guel a second year student states, "We experienced the opportunity to express our team spirit as we anticipated game time. Eating hamburgers, meeting new people, and wearing our husky gear, were all part of what made this event worthwhile." This event was a great opportunity to gather and interact with both first and second CAMP cohort as the CAMP students celebrated the game day excitement.

CAMP students take a group picture before heading out to the game.