Spring Trip 2010: Do Ducks Like Pasta??
By: Miriam L. Bocchetti, Director

For our annual Spring trip, we decided to take the students on the Duck Tours of Seattle. The bus departed from campus at 8:00 am and arrived in downtown Seattle around 10:00 am. The students had a couple hours of free time so some students went to Gameworks while others went shopping! Around 2pm we headed to the Duck Tours! This tour is a different take on the typical city tour. It starts out pretty typical as you board an open air vehicle that takes you on a tour of the magical city of Seattle. However about halfway into the tour, the “captain” turned on the propeller and the vehicle went straight into the water of Lake Union. It took us about 45 minutes to cross the entire lake but we learned some very interesting tidbits about the city! Our tour guide “Flip” was pretty hilarious and was an actual certified captain. He was of Norwegian heritage and had us saying “uff da” all day! After a 90 minute tour, we were all hungry so we got dropped off in front of the well-known Italian restaurant Buca di Beppo’s. They had our table for 20 all ready when we arrived and the food started coming out immediately. We had two different kinds of pasta, fresh salad, garlic bread and endless soda coming to the table for over an hour. By the time we were done eating, everyone was more than stuffed! The bus was quiet on the way home as everyone fell asleep. It turned out to be our best Spring trip yet!
“Sunny” Southern California?
By: Manuel Rodriguez, Recruiter/Retention Specialist

Sunny Southern California sounds like the place to visit in April to escape the long cold and snowy winters of Central Washington. I must admit there was much excitement and anticipation to attend the 42nd Annual National Migrant Education Conference in Anaheim, California this past April. However, a week prior to my trip, I took a glimpse at the extended weather forecast for Anaheim and it was not much different than what I was currently experiencing in Ellensburg.

Upon my arrival to Los Angeles International Airport, or LAX, I was greeted by extreme turbulence due to the gusty winds and rain showers covering “sunny” California. Out of my six-day and five-night visit, I experience the weather I wanted to for only two days. The location of the hotel provided all conference participants with an excellent opportunity to visit Disneyland and California Adventure, which are only located a couple blocks from the hotel.

Despite the uncooperative weather, the conference was a success. Fortunately, all the workshops were presented indoors. Once again, the conference offered an exceptional array of workshops valuable to directors, recruiters, counselors, parents, students, and staff. It was also a great time to reconnect with friends and colleagues who we do not see on a regular basis and to meet new individuals and expand our networks.

On a final note, I am not one to give much advice. However, I would like to leave you with something to think about. The hotel I stayed at during this conference was very elegant and clean. Or so I thought. I would have never imagined that I would make such a shocking discovery. The night of my arrival, before heading to dinner, I noticed what looked like a white towel next to the couch in my room. As I approached it and took a closer look, I realized that it was a rolled up baby diaper. Luckily, it did not smell and I was able to successfully dispose of it without getting dirty.

I’m not exactly sure what my advice to you is. But, I am certainly going to look for suspicious items every time I stay at a hotel and not let the luxury of the hotel distract me from such surprises.
Spring Monthly Meetings  
By: Meghan Steele, Graduate Assistant

Our Monthly meetings are a chance for both students and staff to come together to discuss upcoming activities and enrichment opportunities. For our May monthly meeting Neil McFarlane, Director of Student Support Services, came to speak to the students about the academic and personal wellness services that SSS provides to CWU students. We also heard from Rob Harden, the Director of the Center for Disability Services (CDS), who spoke about accommodations that CDS can provide to students. We ended our monthly meetings this year with our annual end of the year barbeque/June monthly meeting. At this event the students had the opportunity to celebrate the end of the academic year with a BBQ and a friendly game of volleyball. As this year is coming to a close, I would like to thank all the students, staff, and families that have supported the CAMP students this year. Without all of your support, this program would not exist. Thank you for a wonderful year, and I hope that you have a fun-filled summer break!

Disneyland: The Happiest Place on Earth?  
NASDME 2010  
By: Miriam L. Bocchetti

The National Association of State Migrant Directors, also known as NASDME conference, was held this year April 10-14th in Anaheim, California home to Disneyland. Three CAMP staff were able to attend—myself, Manuel and Mateo. We had hoped for some nicer weather but when we arrived, we were slightly disappointed to find that it wasn’t much warmer than back home!

After checking into our rooms and promptly requesting a room change for myself, we registered for the conference and received a very nice insulated tote bag, perfect for carrying groceries. The conference was not scheduled to start until the following morning so we met up with some CAMP staff from other programs and decided to explore downtown Disney. It was quite the bustling area but after parking in the Pinocchio Lot we went to a Mexican restaurant that didn’t have too long of a wait to eat dinner. I recommend the fish tacos; they were excellent! We called it an early night so that we were refreshed for the early morning!

The next day was a busy blur full of workshops and rushed meals. I was glad that I asked for a room in the tower nearest Starbucks! The line was so long in the morning, I had to get up extra early to get to the opening sessions on time! I attended several good workshops, mostly facilitated by the Office of Migrant Education, which is our HEP and CAMP’s main funding source. Manuel and I also had the opportunity to attend a workshop that presented research findings that proved the effectiveness of the CAMP Program.

The final night of the conference is always the most exciting as this is when we find out the location of next year’s conference. We all gathered in the ballroom and went through the various buffet lines so we could eat while watching the video that would reveal the surprise! We were in suspense for the first few minutes until we all saw the words “NEW ORLEANS, NASDME 2011” flash across the screen! Everyone cheered with delight as the conference organizers confirmed that we had rooms reserved at the Marriott in the French Quarter in New Orleans for next April.

NASDME 2010 was an enjoyable, informative conference and we look forward to attending next year!
Spring Trip

CAMP Consortium Conference

End of the Year BBQ
An opportunity for students to meet fellow CAMP students from across the state, learn leadership skills and qualities, and have fun during this learning experience is exactly what the Washington State CAMP Consortium offers. This past March, students from Central Washington University, Washington State University, Heritage University, Columbia Basic College, and Wenatchee Valley College were present at this conference which took place at the Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center located just 20 minutes from Ellensburg.

Lazy F provided everything necessary to make this conference a success. Beginning with a welcoming feeling, great food, clean and cozy cabins, recreation opportunities, and trails to explore the outdoors was more than what each one of us expected.

The main purpose of this conference is to provide the students with the skills and knowledge necessary for them to be able to facilitate similar activities at their institutions for high school students. The activities focus on effective communication, goal setting, team building, and problem solving techniques. During the conference, students are divided into groups of about ten students where they create new networks and learn from each other.

Overall, the conference was very successful. The only negative comment I heard was regarding the lack of cell phone reception availability in the area. In order for a cell phone to receive service, students had to climb up a challenging and steep hill about 1,000 feet from the camp site. It is fair to say that students would do anything for cell phone service, and during recreation time, this trail seemed to be the most popular sport. Luckily, everyone was able to climb up and down safely and after three intense days with no cell phone service and plenty of leadership curricula, we were all ready to join civilization once again.

As mentioned earlier, students who participated in the CAMP Consortium were required to facilitate similar workshops and activities for a Student Leadership Conference hosted at their institutions. Eleven Central CAMP students attended the conference and everyone did an outstanding job demonstrating what they learned at the consortium and sharing it with prospective college students.

Due to the high number of students interested in attending our student leadership conference at Central Washington University and the limited number of students who received training to facilitate, we decided to split our conference for two different days. Our conferences were held on April 6th and 22nd. High school students from the Yakima Valley attended and according to our reviews, highly enjoyed their visit. In addition to the leadership curriculum, the conference also provided the students with a campus tour, admissions and financial aid presentations, and a firsthand experience of our university dining services.
On Thursday, May 27th CWU CAMP hosted our annual end of the year banquet. We had 165 guests join us in recognizing both our CAMP first year students and graduates. 58 students completed this year and we recognized nearly 30 graduated during the 90 minute ceremony. At about 6:15, President Jim Gaudino took the podium and congratulated our students for completing this year. We then had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Jacob Diaz, the VP for Student Development at Seattle University, as our esteemed keynote speaker for the evening. He spoke about growing up as a Latino in California and not performing well in school. However, he then went on to obtain a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Dr. Diaz’s keynote was both inspiring and interesting; everyone who attended really enjoyed it!

After enjoying a delicious meal of pasta and watching a CAMP slideshow (created by office assistant, Angela Chavez-Lara) highlighting this year’s students and activities, we moved onto the recognition part of the evening. CAMP staff awarded personalized certificates to all of our first year students and graduates, announcing their name one at a time so they could come to the stage and accept their recognition award. Pictures entire group were taken with their certificates which will be included in this year’s yearbook. After the cake was cut and served, we wrapped up the program and said goodbye to our guests. We look forward to seeing everyone again soon and we thank all the families and friends who were able to attend the evening’s event.