CAMP scholars begin their university experience by enrolling in the Intensive summer semester which helps students make the transition from high school to the university environment. For 2006, CAMP enrolled 36 first semester freshman. Students were enrolled for History 1302, University 1301, and TLC 0109. All students successfully passed their courses with a C or better; 100% Success rate.

For the summer program, CAMP employs four peer leaders that help students adjust to college life, provide academic tutoring, lead extra curricular activities and serve as role models. Claudia Ochoa, Peer Leader, encountered many obstacles this summer such as balance. “We had to find the best way to help the students succeed and at the same time make sure that they where not misbehaving or falling asleep in class,” said Claudia. Not all of the methods that the peer leaders applied worked. “We learned by trial and error. For example, I quickly learned that using a high-tone of voice only diminished their attention and caused them anger,” said Claudia.
LEADING BY EXAMPLE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Claudia Ochoa is a junior here at UTEP. Her major is Psychology with a minor in Translation with the College of Liberal Arts. “My greatest achievement has been attending college, and being able to keep a high GPA. One must learn to sacrifice to earn a college degree. I hope to continue my education until I earn a P. H. D. in Psychology,” says Claudia.

Anna L. Garcia is majoring in Speech Language Pathology with the College of Health Sciences. “I plan to work with kids that have disabilities with their communication skills, in order for them to be successful socially. This will be my contribution as far as for them to be successful in life. I want to work with kids with communication differences and communication disorders. I plan to either work in a kid’s hospital or in a school setting as a speech therapist,” says Anna.

Janeth Villela, sophomore, is pursuing a career in Political Science with a minor in Criminal Justice with the College of Liberal Arts. One of her short-term goals is to apply to the Pre-Law Institute at UTEP. This will enable her to apply to several Law Schools such as Harvard Law School. Janeth states: “I plan to do criminal prosecution specifically rape cases, and after a couple of years go into the Innocence Project. After that I hope to have enough experience to go into politics, maybe even Senator of Texas. I wish to take this career because I know that I can make a difference if I do this.”

MEET THE NEW ADDITION TO OUR TEAM
BY JANETH VILLELA

As most of you are aware, Rueben Moreno has been appointed as the Director of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) but the new Mr. Moreno that has taken his place is entering with a splash. Aaron Moreno graduated this past May from The University of Texas at El Paso with a BA in Creative Writing and a Minor in Psychology. He will take over Rueben Moreno’s position of monitoring all students, presenting the College Success Seminar, and corresponding with the Peer Leaders. Aaron explains that he is here because he knows that this is familiar territory and that his background is a great contribution to CAMP. He also states that, “I believe that this is a great opportunity because I know what needs to be done and I am familiar with the student’s background making it easier to connect with them.” Aaron, when asked about his goals, commented that he has two main objectives (1) to make sure that he can help all the students pass and (2) make them independent learners, this will allow them to go out more confidently into the university next year. Aaron, who has also been a Peer Leader for the 2005 CAMP class said that the main difference is that he now is the one in charge of planning out what happens. He explains that the summer will be the most challenging because he has to create the curriculum for the new incoming students. Aaron has also commented that he will be attending Graduate School the following fall in order to obtain a Masters in Fine Arts in Creative Writing. Aaron Moreno has been welcomed with open arms and will make a great addition to the CAMP family.

To avoid criticism:
Do nothing,
Say nothing,
Be nothing.

—Elbert Hubbard

Celebrating the CAMP Peer Leaders Birthdays. Left Anna L. Garcia, and Vincent Castillo to the Right.
As President of Mighty Association of CAMP-ers, I would like to give an overview on how the Homecoming Week went for our members. This year the homecoming week had the theme “Ready to Launch Texas Style,” in honor of Danny Olivas. Mr. Olivas is an UTEP alumnus that will go up into space. Overall we received great participation from the new and previous MAC members.

Homecoming consisted of many activities which Mac participated in. These events consisted of: the Penny Wars, Canned Food Drive, the Banner Contest, Name that Tune Y’ all, lip sync, Texas Canned sculpture, float making party and the Parade. In order for these events to be accomplished we created some committees. I led that banner contest committee with help of Mac members. In the Banner we did a mixture of a barn and the UTEP football field.

Vincent Castillo had the Lip sync committee. He and other members created a spectacular Lip sync that consisted of finding a way of rescuing Princess UTEP from the hands of some terrible owls. Janeth Villela with the help of Jessica Garcia had the Float Making committee. Together with the help of other members created the UTEP Triumph. The UTEP Triumph participated in the parade, where many of the MAC members were left with out a voice because of so much yelling supporting UTEP and MAC. After a great week of entertaining events, Clau-dia Ochoa led the Tailgate committee. She and other members did a great job on organizing the tailgate which had the theme UTEP Spirit. At the Tailgate we had lots of fun playing volleyball, football, dancing and filling up our stomachs with great food.

This year’s Homecoming week was a success for MAC. The participation and ideas of the new MAC members was amazing. The President Anna Garcia and the Director Rueben Moreno would like to thank everyone who participated during the homecoming week.

As you make a mistake, there are only three things you should ever do about it: (1) admit it; (2) learn from it; and (3) don’t repeat it.

—Paul “Bear” Bryant
More than a tailgate, it was a snack fest. You could find everything from cheese dip to ice cream, yes, ice cream, in November! It was not the average tailgate, but it was perfectly suited for our singular group of CAMPERS!

The traditional camp tailgate starts out with a warm welcome and a table where you can sit and simply chat, nothing out of the ordinary. The tailgate was viewed by the former campers as a requirement that had to be met, and even then very few people actually attended; we had very low compliance rates. “It was a place to go eat before the fun actually started,” confesses former CAMPER Jessica Garcia. She never missed any of the tailgates, but she assures that her perfect attendance was not due to the excitement rush provided by the tailgate.

This year, however, the homecoming tailgate was given an amusing twist and a touch of enthusiasm by our very own students. A new tradition was started with the creation of the first tailgate committee in the program’s history. The tailgate committee was composed of several of the students and thanks to their delicious and creative contributions, the 2006 tailgate became the one with the highest compliance rates ever. Not only that, but the people actually seemed to be having fun at this tailgate. The event broke several of the stereotypes originally given to the CAMP tailgate, and it almost broke my face, too.

It was not the actual tailgate that was close to breaking my face, it was the volleyball that came rushing into my face as I passed through the competitive game that was headed by our campers. Of course it was an accident, but trust me, everyone was laughing. Fun was not the only plentiful feeling; everyone at the tailgate had their sweet tooth feeling worshiped! There was candy to throw like confetti, cookies, ice cream, and cake added to the hamburger plate that was offered as the main entrée. The cake was presented as a “Happy Birthday” to all the campers that celebrated their birthday during the fall semester. All the new features added to the 2006 tailgate were the ideas of students to make the event an unforgettable experience. The volleyball game, the ice cream, the cake, and the candy put a zesty new taste to the CAMP tailgate. See you at next year’s tailgate!

“Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.”

—Albert Einstein
As May 2006 came to an end, there was a golden opportunity that allowed me to give back to the program that had given so much to me. The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) was hiring new Peer Leaders for the incoming class of 2006. Given that I was mature and able to handle myself in groups of professionals, I was given the chance to be part of the staff for CAMP, making this a new experience and transition that had to be made from student to Peer Leader. As a student of CAMP, the only responsibility I had was to maintain my grades and attend the functions that were expected of me. Looking at CAMP from that perspective, it seemed like there was not much happening. As I became part of the staff, however, I was able to look through the other side and find out that there was more to the program than what I had previously thought.

There are so many functions that a Peer Leader performs that student’s don’t get to see, and for me getting accustomed to these new tasks was the hardest thing to accomplish. The amount of time preparing, planning, and the implementation that goes into running a summer program is amazing, but it’s the details that become a major factor in serving students. Although there are many things that I did not expect from this program, the most unexpected was the close knit family that the staff becomes in that short period of time. As part of the employment conditions, all Peer Leaders are required to go through the basic training that is provided by the Tutoring and Learning Center and Rueben Moreno, CAMP Director. During these training sessions, the Peer Leaders were able to develop a sense of what needed to be done in order to make sure that all students were served with care.

Then, the summer program began, and we realized that we needed to get along with all co-workers and ensure that the students came first. This was something that could have become a problem if we had not dealt with it from the very beginning, because an issue like that can make the job harder. However, obstacles like these are the best way to see clearly what your differences and similarities are, in that they help you focus on what makes you stronger as a team. I believe that this is the hardest lesson to learn but it is the most rewarding of all. I, as a Peer Leader, would like to thank all the staff and students for making this one of the best semesters that I have ever had here at UTEP.

The College Assistance Migrant Program at UTEP opened its doors in December 2002. Dr. Arlene Sonnen was hired as CAMP Director. In her four years as Director, Dr. Sonnen was dedicated to serving students and helping them succeed at the college level.

The main goal for CAMP is to assist first-year students with the transition from high school to college. Dr. Sonnen and I had the opportunity to create a program that would serve students with migrant backgrounds. For example, we created, developed and implemented the Intensive Summer Semester in June 2005. Although students sacrificed their summer vacation, the program enabled them to be fully prepared for the fall semester.

In addition, Dr. Sonnen helped her staff grow and develop as professionals in the working world. She implemented the CAMP Mentor program for CAMP Alumni which encouraged former CAMP students to stay connected with UTEP and CAMP. Dr. Sonnen was the Chair Person for the Students Affairs Staff Development Committee. She provided leadership and enthusiasm to her colleagues on campus. In October 2006, Dr. Sonnen retired from the university and left her mark on CAMP. She was a mentor, friend, colleague, and an excellent listener. She moved on to the next phase of her life – retirement. We all wish her happiness in what I often refer to as the “golden years.”

Heading into 2007, there are three goals that we hope to achieve:

1. The current CAMP class to have a 100% success rate: 2.0 GPA or higher for the spring semester
2. To serve 30 students (FY6) in the Intensive Summer Semester
3. To submit the Grant Proposal to the U.S. Department of Education for funding renewal.

On behalf of the CAMP staff, we wish you Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year!!!!

Rueben Moreno
Director
Across
1. Class Selection
3. Helps you with school (2 words)
5. CAMP Office Building (2 words)
6. UTEP Mascot (2 words)
8. Guidance for Degree Plan
10. Entrance Exam

Down
2. CAMP Current Director
4. UTEP Outreach Program
7. CAMP Student Organization
9. Admission Test