

HEP (High School Equivalency Program) (PR#S141A090025) and CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program) (PR#S149A090027) are federally funded grants through the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Migrant Education. They are administered through the Center for Migrant Education in the Department of Special Education at USF. They are designed to assist eligible participants from migrant and seasonal farm-worker backgrounds.

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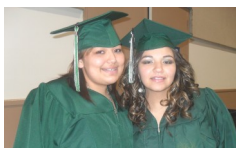
### Students' Efforts Rewarded

by Rebecca Sandy

Excitement filled the air as HEP students from five different counties participated in a graduation ceremony held at the Florida State Fairgrounds on June 10, 2010. Enrique Gonzalez, who was working in Georgia over the summer, drove to Tampa just for the ceremony, because, "there was no way he was going to miss this." Sergio Rivas brought his whole family, including his sister, a former HEP graduate, and his toddler son who was decked out in a bow tie just to celebrate his daddy's achievement. Stephen Gamble, accompanied by his proud parents, rushed into the auditorium right at 7 pm after working all day in Clewiston. Naivi Arreola, Cynthia Gonzales, and Valerie Gomez all earned their diplomas back in October, so they were especially enthusiastic to see each other again to celebrate their accomplishments.

Many of the students were eager to share what they have been doing since leaving HEP. Joshua Hernandez has been working towards an education

in the surgical technology program at Everest University in Polk County. Rosario Ramirez, Chelsea Garcia, and Maria Alarcon completed the Certified Nursing Assistant program and planned to take the CNA exam before the end of the summer. Adelfa DePaz's family had more than one reason to celebrate as they welcomed a new baby girl into their world a few weeks after Adelfa took the GED exam. Ms. Rebecca, one of the HEP instructors, proclaimed graduation night a "rousing success." "I think this was our best turnout since I have been a part of the program."



### Congratulations to the following 2009-2010 HEP Graduates

#### Collier County

Audrey Alvarado  
Jose Pedro Galvan  
Michael Gomez  
Gabriela Ladezma

#### Hardee County

Joshua Hernandez

#### Hendry County

Stephen Gamble

#### Manatee County

Naivi Arreola  
Rigoberto Rangel  
Chelsea Garcia  
Fernando Hernandez  
Rosario Ramirez

#### Orange County

Rigoberto Rangel

#### Polk County

Abraham Aparicio  
Jairo Calvillo  
Jaime Cortez  
Estefania Heredia  
Martin Jaimes  
Jessica Macedo  
Marcos Santamaria  
Victor Velasquez  
Edgar Zamarripa

#### Gadsden County

Julio Anzuelda

#### Hillsborough County

MaHerlinda Alarcon  
Fabian Carrillo  
Yanira Castillo  
Adelfa De Paz  
Alma. L. Feregrino  
Norma Gamez  
Crystal Garcia  
Nicandro Garcia  
Ricardo Garcia  
Valerie Gomez  
Cynthia Gonzalez  
Enrique Gonzalez  
Elida Gracia  
Mauricio Hernandez  
Angelica Hester  
Kisleb Martinez  
Eduardo Perez  
Maria Ramirez  
Sergio Rivas  
Daniela Rodriguez  
Sonia Sanchez  
Modesto Santibanez  
Brittany Townsend  
Maria Vasquez  
Juan Villarreal

## USF CAMP Student Selected for D.C. Internship



*Silvia outside of Congressman Ruben Hinojosa's office*

This past summer I was one of two CAMP students selected by the National HEP/CAMP Association to participate in its summer internship program. I spent eight weeks in Washington, D.C. working on Capitol Hill in Congressman Ruben Hinojosa's (D., TX) office and in the Office of Migrant Education (OME). I lived at George Washington University which is just blocks from the White House and other historic sites.

I truly enjoyed my experience in DC. I remember the feeling of anxiety, uncertainty, and excitement all jumbled together when I first arrived. Settling in my first week was my biggest challenge. Learning Metro routes and street names was possible after a few trial and error situations. My first day of work was overwhelming and I was overloaded with information, so much so that I was ready for a break which came that first Friday as I participated in a leadership seminar with other interns in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute

(CHCI). As a CAMP intern, I was also invited to participate in the CHCI leadership seminars held weekly. I met other young Latino students with high aspirations and dreams and developed lasting friendships with many of them.

I was able to do so many interesting things during my eight week internship. I helped with Congressman Hinojosa's 2010 Regional Leaders Conference. This is an annual event organized by the office and hosted by the congressman. This event invites South Texas leaders including elected officials, educators, key nonprofit organizations, and business community leaders to participate with members of congress to discuss issues critical to the region. I accompanied Rep. Hinojosa to Speaker Pelosi's office and attended a White House meeting with Roberto Rodriguez, Special Assistant to President Obama for Education. I attended the National HEP/CAMP Association's Annual Director's Meeting and performed various duties in the Office of Migrant Education.

It was an honor to participate in the National HEP/CAMP Association Internship Program. This opportunity has made a world of difference for me. I was able to interact with political and community leaders while I broadened my knowledge and interpersonal skills. I am certain that this opportunity alone will open new doors for me in the future and help shape my future as well. Because of the internship, I want to come back



*Silvia with other interns and Nancy Pelosi*



*Silvia and fellow intern Ricardo Mendoza meeting with Lisa Ramirez, Director, Office of Migrant Education*

as a CHCI intern for the summer of 2012. My goal is to one day get a job working in a congressional office. And in order to prepare me for this opportunity, I volunteered on Representative Kathy Castor's (FL-11) campaign this past election which was a rare democratic victory in an otherwise bleak election year for the party.

Last May, if I had been asked if I was interested in working on the hill, my response would have been quite interesting.

So there's a hill in D.C.....do I get to sit on it?



## CAMP Student awarded \$500 Scholarship by Mercedes Nunez

As a freshman, college can be overwhelming and hard to adapt to. But, with the help of CAMP, I have had a wonderful freshman experience here at the University of South Florida. My name is Mercedes Nunez, and I am a very ambitious and determined person who believes that success is something a person earns with hard work.. I am from a small town so Tampa is a big difference in comparison. So far, I have had a wonderful experience, and being a part of the 2010-2011 CAMP cohort has definitely influenced this experience. I was recently awarded the Shannon Mohammed Scholarship by the Alpha Psi Chapter of Lambda Phi Fraternity this November. In 2006, the Lambdas started a foundation in memory of one of their fallen brothers, Shannon Mohammed, who passed away in fall of 2003. At the Annual "Flashing Lights" Date Auction and Fashion Show, I was awarded the scholarship, and members of my cohort as well as staff were there to accompany and support me. The CAMP staff also helped with the application process. I truly appreciate all of the benefits that I am reaping from this wonderful program and the opportunities that I have been given here at USF. I look forward with anticipation and excitement to all of the amazing new experiences during the rest of the year.

# Widmarck Dorilas Former HEP Student



I was born and raised in Port-au-Prince, Haiti until the age of 19. I came to the U.S in the beginning of 1993. Upon arriving, I attended ESOL classes at John Hopkins Technical Center in Miami where I heard a presentation about the High School Equivalency Program.

In early Fall of 1993 I got on a train and traveled to Tampa where I received a very warm and friendly welcome. I have to say that my participation in the HEP program was nothing but excellent. The HEP staff was instrumental to my success. Ms Nixon took us on a career day where we were exposed to many opportunities we could

take advantage of following graduation.. During Thanksgiving, Ms. Carmen invited us over to her place where we had a potluck dinner. We also had car washes for fund raising as well as other outings that

were part of getting us involved with the community. One of my fondest memories was the time we tutored migrant children in the America Reads Program. There was a sense of community involvement at HEP and everyone was free to express their opinions. HEP was a place where we could actually believe in ourselves and do anything that we put our minds to. The ability of the staff to see good in everyone made it possible for me to graduate and build a foundation for future scholastic achievement.

After completing HEP and earning my diploma, I enrolled in Miami

Dade Community College just long enough to fulfill the academic requirement to enlist in the Marine Corps as an infantryman in 1995. After my enlistment ended in 1999, I returned to Miami Dade Community College to pursue an Associate in Arts degree.

In the summer of 2000, I joined the Marine Corps Reserve for a year. In 2003 I enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program at Florida International University where I received a double degree in modern languages (French) and criminal justice.

Upon graduating, I was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Florida National Guard in May 2005 in the Transportation Corps Branch. The following year I attended Officer Basic Course as a quartermaster officer at Quartermaster Center & School in Fort-Lee, Virginia. Currently I am serving in Kuwait in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn as the executive officer for Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 124th Infantry 53rd Brigade Combat Team. I have



worked for the postal service in the processing and distribution at various levels. Law enforcement was always a calling to me from the time I was a boy, and it also played a big role in my family. I became a police officer; however this was short lived because during the summer of 2008 I was called upon to serve in active duty

## The Best and the Brightest by Rebecca Sandy

The great inventor, Thomas Alva Edison, once said, "There is no substitute for hard work." That quote defines three former HEP students who recently returned to USF to share their success stories with the current students. On September 24<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed back Martha Ramirez (year 16), Nicole Sedillo (year 17), and Alejandro Flores (year 22). "Inspirational" is how Jessica Gutierrez and Maria Alvarez described the presentation from Martha, the National HEP Student of 2004. As a young widow and mother of two sons, Ms. Ramirez faced an uncertain future until she persevered through the HEP GED classes and ultimately graduated from Erwin Technical School as a surgical tech. Today she continues to receive medical training while holding down a full-time job at University Community Hospital in Tampa. When asked why she likes to speak to the HEP groups, Martha replied, "I want you to know that if I can

make it, so can you." Nicole Sedillo, a Palmetto resident, took a different path after passing the GED. She enrolled at Manatee Community College where she received her A.A. degree, but her transfer to USF was postponed after she gave birth to her first child. In 2009, the 23 year old mom was accepted into the psychology program at USF. Now, she looks forward to a 2011 graduation date. Like Martha, Nicole enjoys motivating and encouraging young people, especially those students who had difficult high school years. Alejandro Flores graciously agreed to take time out of his day to come for the third time to speak with our students. Alex spoke honestly about his business fail-



Former HEP students Nicole Sedillo, Alejandro Flores, and Martha Ramirez

ures that preceded his decision to finally take GED classes. "I couldn't even write a sentence when I came to HEP, but now, I am at Hillsborough Community Colloeege hoping to get a degree before coming to USF for engineering." Currently, Alejandro balances school, work, and family, all while maintaining a positive and grateful attitude. No doubt about it—these former Heppers make us all proud!

# New CAMP Students!



*“Don’t give up. College is as fun as they say it is but it’s a lot of hard work so you have to learn to balance school and other activities.”*

*-Omar Garcia*

*As the first one in my family to graduate from high school and to attend college, I always feared the lack of knowledge about the “college life.” But, thanks to CAMP, I have been able to find new friends and to get involved in campus activities. At USF I’ve learned that education is not a right but a privilege... a privilege that I must not take for granted because it is the key to my success, and the door to my dreams.*

*-Sarah Arreola*

*“With CAMP our opportunities are endless. I am willing to work harder for my goals, as I always have. I have also learned to never give up on my goal, no matter how tough things get.”*

*-Ruben Centeno*

**CAMP STUDENTS:**

Patricia Andrade  
 Sarah Arreola  
 Marcial Cardenas  
 Ruben Centeno  
 America Delgado  
 Kayleigh Devereux  
 Perla Espinoza  
 Ericka Garcia  
 Omar Garcia  
 Jacyn Garza  
 Juan Garza  
 Jannet Gomez  
 Mayra Gomez  
 Gabriella Hurtado  
 Liliana Ibarra  
 Gabriel Landeros  
 Pedro Limas  
 Mercedes Nunez  
 Eloy Ochoa  
 Max Olivarez  
 Samantha Ortiz  
 Cynthia Piedra  
 Paul Rangel  
 Claudia Rodriguez  
 Sergio Rodriguez  
 Aram Salazar  
 Juan Soria  
 Alejandra Torres  
 Shady Yang

**DISTRICT/COUNTY:**

Putnam  
 Palm Beach  
 Collier  
 Manatee  
 Volusia  
 Manatee  
 Volusia  
 California  
 Hillsborough  
 Palm Beach  
 Palm Beach  
 Palm Beach  
 Palm Beach  
 Putnam  
 Manatee  
 Hillsborough  
 Manatee  
 Hendry  
 Desoto  
 Hillsborough  
 Hendry  
 Volusia  
 Hendry  
 Hillsborough  
 Volusia  
 Highlands  
 Hillsborough  
 Orange  
 Hillsborough

**MAJORS:**

Psychology  
 Pre-Med  
 Physics  
 Pre-Med/Athletic Training  
 Psychology  
 Pre-Med  
 Engineering  
 Pre-Nursing  
 Criminology  
 Education  
 Engineering  
 Pre-Nursing  
 Education  
 Pre-Nursing  
 Political Science  
 Computer Science  
 Pre-Med  
 Education  
 Finance  
 Pre-Med  
 Education  
 Undecided  
 Pre-Med  
 Pre-Nursing  
 Architecture  
 Environmental Science  
 Pre-Med  
 Pre-Med  
 Education

# CAMP Recruitment Process by Ruby Luis

Each fall, classes begin and there is excitement about what the new school year may bring. As high school seniors begin their final year, applying to universities is among the tasks they anticipate. As the recruiter for the College Assistance Migrant Program, I too look forward to the fall season. Open recruitment for the fall 2011 CAMP cohort began in August 2010 and continues until April 2011.

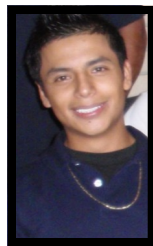
The University of South Florida is home to the Center for Migrant Education. CAMP is a program which is administered by this Center. As a recruiter, I network with the state of Florida migrant education programs and community organizations. I am able to work closely with the migrant advocates and home/school liaisons per district. Our recruitment process is distinct from general undergraduate admissions. As a recruiter, I visit schools with a migrant population. I meet with the students and inform them of the great opportunities at the University of South Florida. Furthermore, I meet with parents and discuss the options available to the students. Families are then invited to visit our campus and meet the staff.

For students, the application process is overwhelming. At times, they do not know where to turn. This is one reason many students do not apply to universities. As a recruiter, I am dedicated to demystifying the application process. I work with the students individually until their application is complete.

Some students have special circumstances and need further assistance from other university officials. At this point, I link the students with the contact person at USF. For this reason, I make myself available to the students. I am here to provide assistance with the application process and

give referrals when I do not have the answer.

Overall, the recruitment process for CAMP is extensive and inclusive. Recruitment begins in the high schools and homes. Then it moves the family to the university, so students can visualize themselves in a university setting. It concludes with them starting their freshman year at the USF. The process is inclusive because we engage the family and the community in the process. Families are an important part in the process and are encouraged to be present throughout the process.



**Aram Salazar**, from Lake Placid High School in Highlands County, did not think about attending a university after

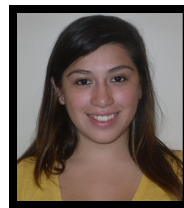
graduating from high school. He had his mind set on attending the local community college and transferring after two years. "Well, USF was the only college that I applied to and that was because Ruby came to my hometown to recruit me. She encouraged me to apply and I did. But the satisfaction was tremendously great since she was there every step of the way to assist my transition to college." Encouragement and belief that he could succeed at a four-year university was just what Aram needed to start his path towards his degree.



**Gabriella Hurtado**, from Crescent City High School in Volusia County, saw herself at the

local community college after

graduation. After meeting with her and discovering she was academically ready for a university setting, I encouraged her to apply. "Overall, (Ruby) had a great impact on me. She motivated me to attend a university. I originally planned to attend a community college but she pushed me to achieve higher goals," Gabriella stated after our meeting.



For **Liliana Ibarra** from Lakewood Ranch

High School, in Manatee County, USF was not in her future. Liliana recalls: "Even after we met and (Ruby) knew USF wasn't my first choice, she didn't pressure me on my decision. Whenever I had a question I would call Ruby and ask her for help and she would give it to me. In one situation she even referred me to another person who could understand my situation more and could help me." I met with Liliana and her mother and discussed the application process and what to expect as a college student. Liliana recalls, "Ruby had a major impact in my overall decision to attend USF. After talking to her, my mom felt a lot better about USF and that was very important to me. I was glad that my mom was comfortable talking to Ruby about any further questions that could surface in the future. Not to mention, Ruby was very helpful, and she encouraged my mother to seek her in case she needed to know anything else about USF."

*"I also love the idea of CAMP. Going to school with people that have the same background as I do gave me a sense of comfort."*  
- Gabriella Hurtado

*"Ruby was very helpful ... I am very thankful that she went to my house and was able to talk to my mom. I was able to leave home knowing that my mom was comfortable with my decision."*  
-Liliana Ibarra

*"Throughout the USF application process, my parents were able to understand the process better so that they would know what was going on when it comes time for my other brothers and sisters to apply for college."*  
-Aram Salazar

*"I just forgot about all the other universities I was going to apply for and decided to go to USF, because of all the benefits CAMP was going to provide. Ruby gave me the feeling that USF is where I needed to be, and that it would help me to a brighter future."*  
-Juan Soria

*"I had a lot of issues getting into USF. Everything was resolved because of Ruby's help."*  
-Kayleigh Devereaux

# HEP Students Get in Touch with the Arts by Maria Diaz-Vega



*Session I CAMP Students and Director at the Museum*



*Edward Sanchez and Jose Morales*

During the fall semester of 2010, HEP students had the amazing opportunity to attend two unique art exhibitions.

“*Artefacto Cultural*,” by G.B. Stephens, a show of digital color photos of graffiti art found in murals from Oaxaca, provided excellent samples of free expression, political statements, and popular culture of Oaxaca’s youth. HEP students enjoyed the collection that portrayed a vibrant mixture of Mexican tradition and popular elements that, as the artist states, “captured the soul and rhythm of Oaxaca.” Students had a good time taking pictures and choosing their favorite graffiti among the diverse photographs that carried strong messages of identity, pride and awareness. The students said that they really liked this exhibit because they all could relate to the creations of the young Oaxacan artists. Edward Sanchez even became inspired by the images and painted his own version of a Maya warrior.

“*La enmienda que hay en mí*,” by recognized Cuban artist Carlos Garaicoa, also conveyed the power of art as a means to address issues of politics, history and human rights. Garaicoa uses a variety of materials

and techniques like paper-cutting, drawing, photography and sculpture to create pieces of art that range from large-scale installations to stunning miniatures. HEP students benefitted from a comprehensive tour that showcased the artist’s work, and they also received the “V.I.P.” treatment that included active conversation with staff members of the USF’s Contemporary Art Museum and a “behind the scenes” tour. Jocelyn Ramirez especially liked the clever photographs with the sculpted Spanish texts, and Maria Alvarez enjoyed the tiny replicas of the buildings that Garaicoa brilliantly casted in silver.



*Inspired by Artwork, HEP student Edward Sanchez draws own version of Maya warrior.*



## Volunteering for a Good Cause

by Rebecca Sandy

It has become a tradition with the HEP program to have our students participate in the Wishnatzki Farms Strawberry Sales in support of the Migrant Student Success Fund. In March, the HEP students helped out with the selling and loading this year. It was proclaimed a rousing success by the organizers from USF and Wish Farms. Marcos Santamaria stated that “he was used to hard work like that” so he enjoyed helping out. Ms. Rebecca nominated Stephen Gamble as “Salesman of the Year” in recognition of his stellar performance. Gabriela Ledezma, Crystal Garcia, and Estefania Heredia all agreed that it was a fun time volunteering, especially when they were given free strawberries in reward for their service!

# CAMP Students Tackle USF Ropes Course

August 28 started like any normal day. I woke up, got dressed and left my dorm. I met up with my CAMP friends and I thought it was going to be another boring Saturday morning. When we got to the park, I was surprised to see how cool the course looked. We did a lot of events that day, but the one that had the biggest impression on me was the high-ropes course.

I am terrified of heights. I can't even go 20 ft without freaking out. When I saw this enormous course, I instantly felt a knot in my stomach. Even though I was scared, I knew I couldn't back out. My friends were with me, and I knew with their support, I could make it. I am glad to say that two hours later, I was making my way down from the top of the course knowing that I had made it. I conquered my fear and learned a lot that day. I made new friends, I learned to have faith in my friends, and I had fun while doing it. By the end of the day, I was completely filled with confidence and I knew that if I could face my fears, I could make it through college.

So this past Saturday made me a better person and I'm completely thankful to CAMP for helping me confront those fears and giving me the belief that I can make it, not only through college, but also through life.

*-Sergio Rodriguez*





I learned that you can never leave your partner behind. My overall favorite event was the ropes course. I didn't think I was afraid of heights until I actually got up there and started shaking!! My partner Mercedes kept encouraging me to continue and not to look down!

-Samantha Ortiz

Once we got engaged in the activities, I realized how much we had to work as a team, and we did an awesome job working together.

-Liliana Ibarra



The CAMP Team Building Event has helped me in so many ways. The activities also helped me bond with other members of CAMP. I formed a couple of friendships, which helped me feel more comfortable at the activities that we had that afternoon..

-Gabriela Hurtado

I entered the ropes course full of excitement and no fears at all, as I have never really had a fear of heights. My partner, Sergio, on the other hand, was extremely nervous and confessed to me right before we started that he was afraid of heights and was considering backing out from the course. Throughout the course I was pushing Sergio to continue and to go faster to the point that he was speeding through the entire course like he was a seasoned pro. Sergio wasn't the only person I met. As we were taking a break, I got to know Omar a little more, and although we are from rival schools we kicked it off great and to this day we are still good friends. Overall the ropes course event was great and I had an awesome experience doing something I have never done before.

-Max Olivarez



Though height is not a fear of mine, it was a fear of my partner. Her commitment to finish the ropes course and to conquer her fear pushed me to be a more supportive partner. The joy everyone had riding down the zip-line was proof enough that something amazing happened; we became a team, perhaps even a family. -Pedro Limas

The activity that I remember the most was balancing the giant teeter-totter, only because it took a couple of tries to do the challenge. I had a fear that I had horrible balance, but it turned out that I did not have bad balance, especially on the ropes course. My teammates and my friends inspired me to continue the high ropes course. I made a few new friendships that have continued. I am willing to work harder for my goals, because I will appreciate them more, and working harder will make me a stronger person.

-Kayleigh Devereux



# School Spirit by Rebecca Sandy

The HEP students showed their school spirit by attending USF Day on April 9, 2010. Marcos Santamaria was the only brave soul who tried riding the bull. Martin Jaimes and Marcos showed off their athletic prowess by tackling the obstacle course. The girls excitedly stood in line to have their USF posters signed by the baseball and soccer players. Everyone was eager to have their pictures taken with Rocky the Bull. The excitement of the day continued when many of the students stayed late in order to get some crazy animal balloons. Ms. Maria was thrilled that the Heppers enjoyed the events: "I was glad to see the students participating in the activities. They were all so happy when they returned to the classroom."



*Top: Martin Jaimes, Ana Garcia, and Crystal Garcia with USF's Rocky the BULL*

*Left: Marcos Santamaria on the mechanical bull*

# Beyond Academics: HEP Students and Families Attend their First Football Game

by Carlos Fernandez and Maria Alvarez



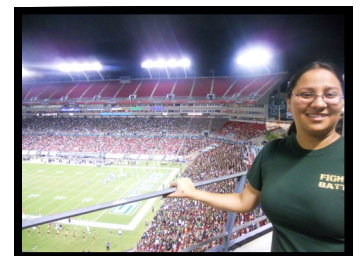
*Top: Carlos Fernandez and his two sons at the USF Football game*

*Right: Carlo's Wife and son's*

I had an awesome time at the football games! I went to the game with my family. My two boys were really excited when they got there, as we all were. The seats were great. We were sitting really close to the field and right in front of the cheerleaders and next to the band. They really entertained the fans and made them cheer for their team. Being at the game is not the same as watching the game at home. The crowd's cheering gets you even more excited about the game since you feed off their energy. I really liked the atmosphere at a football game. Of course, the best part of the game is when your team scores! An even better part is if the team wins, but sadly this does not always happen. Even if the team loses, going to a game is a great and fun experience. I want to thank the HEP program for giving me the opportunity to attend this game. GO BULLS!! USF!!



The game between USF and FAU on October 2, 2010, was amazing and exciting. It all started with my arrival at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa. Everywhere I looked there was USF school spirit. There was an amazing vibe in the air because everyone was super excited about the game. Walking inside of the stadium, however, was a different story because it was even louder. All I saw in the stadium were the colors gold and green. Everyone was cheering like crazy for USF. At halftime, both school bands came out and started performing which was pretty awesome. Then the second half provided more fun and thrilling plays especially with USF winning. Yay! This was certainly a memorable day, mainly because it was my first football game ever. Although I didn't know what was going on most of the time during the game, I still enjoyed it immensely. Hopefully this will not be my last game. Go, Bulls!



*Maria Alvarez*

# CAMP Success Stories

## Update on CAMP Students from 2001-2006 grant



**Phavienne Celestin, CAMP 2004**

I was accepted into the CAMP program in 2004. I received a lot of help from my mentor and the staff. Being away from home was really hard; I got really homesick to the point where I had to go back home for a year, where I attended Florida Gulf Coast University for that year. Then I returned to USF and completed my Bachelor's degree in finance. It was hard, but I was determined to stick around this time and complete my degree. My journey through college was very tough having to support myself through part-time and sometimes full-time jobs. I decided that I wanted to get a degree in finance because I enjoy working with numbers and helping people, and I thought that this major would fit my aptitude very well and allow me to do what I enjoy.

I graduated in the summer of 2008 with a B.S. in finance. After graduation, I was offered a financial specialist position at USF Health Information Systems. I recently accepted an offer for a fiscal & business specialist position at USF in the Molecular Pharmacology & Physiology Department. I enjoy what I do as I'm learning a lot about the business field and growing professionally.



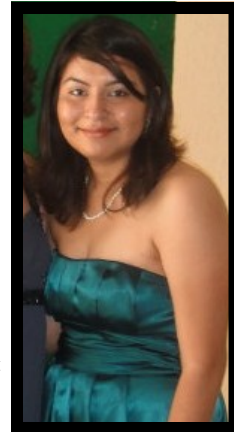
**Maria Rodriguez, CAMP 2003**

The CAMP Program is by far one of the best programs that I could have been a part of while at USF. CAMP made the transition from high school to college a lot easier for me. I was able to count on the program for support, whether it was academic or personal. I was also very fortunate to meet such outstanding and remarkable people through this program.

After graduating from USF and leaving CAMP, I started to substitute for the county as well as work as a residential counselor for various high school academic programs. I was very fortunate to find a job at Wimauma Elementary as a migrant reading teacher. I absolutely love my job, because it was always a dream of mine to be given the opportunity to teach at the elementary school that I attended, and because I specifically work with migrant kids. It is such a wonderful experience because I relate so much to my kids and I understand them, when so many people don't. I work as hard as I can and put as much passion as I can in the work I do because I want to be a positive role model for my kids. I want to be an example for them.

My advice to incoming CAMPers is to take full advantage of all the resources that lie within CAMP and USF. Most importantly, make your stay at USF memorable!!!!!!

**Nereyda Licea, CAMP 2005**



As a CAMP student, I was able to overcome my anxieties about college and being away from my friends and family. Since I am the first from my family to attend college, I didn't know what to expect being 200 miles away from home. I experienced homesickness because all of my friends from high school decided to attend universities closer to home; however, CAMP allowed me to make friends quickly. As a result, I was able to settle into the college environment without a problem.

I decided to major in chemical engineering even before I graduated high school. I wanted a career that was challenging and one that provided me many opportunities to lead and solve current problems. For example, my senior design project involves the production of diesel from algae via the Fischer-Tropsch process. This form of alternative fuel is currently being researched and investigated throughout universities and companies around the world. As a chemical engineering student, I have had the opportunity to participate in two internships with Dow Chemical and a three semester co-op with ExxonMobil. Although my graduation was delayed by a year, I was able to gain valuable technical and communication skills.

Upon graduation I will be working for ExxonMobil in Houston, Texas, as a process design engineer. I hope to work on projects in alternative fuels to develop a sustainable renewable fuel source to counteract carbon emissions.

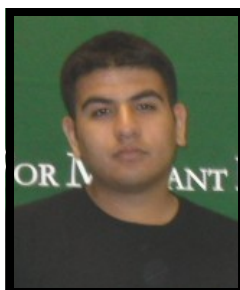
# Welcome, Newest Staff!



HEP Instructor

In September, the HEP program enthusiastically welcomed **Kristen Lehman** as our new math instructor. Ms. Lehman, who has been teaching for 18 years, is employed part-time by the HEP program. She brings a wealth of experience, creativity, and education to HEP. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Michigan and then her Master's Degree in Special Education from USF. Currently, she is completing coursework for a Ph.D in Special Education while also supervising interns for the department. Her work experience includes teaching students with disabilities at Brandon High and at Alonso High School in Hillsborough County. She was also a Reading Specialist and Indian Education Teacher in Brighton Community Schools in Michigan for several years.

When asked why she wanted to teach in the HEP program, Ms. Lehman replied, "I enjoy working with students of all ages, and I felt the HEP program at USF was a unique opportunity to continue working with students outside of the regular high school classroom but still making a difference with a unique population of students." We wish Ms. Lehman the best in her current role as a viable member of the HEP team.



HEP/CAMP Tutor

Our HEP/CAMP Tutor, **Xavier Vega**, lived on a strawberry farm in Plant City, until he graduated from Plant City High School with honors and gained the title of AP Scholar. On the farm, Xavier picked and filled flats of tomatoes, strawberries and cucumbers. Occasionally he operated a conveyor belt and a forklift.

During high school Xavier volunteered at the RCMA, participated with Key Club and Amnesty International, all while working 25 hours a week at Pizza Hut.

Xavier came to USF in the fall of 2009 and maintained admirable grades with an undeclared major. Halfway through his first semester, Xavier joined CAMP and became associated with MASA and eventually visited Washington, D.C., for the 2010 Immigration Reform rally.

Xavier is now majoring in creative writing, tutoring HEP and CAMP students, still working at Pizza Hut, and mentoring a new CAMP student.



HEP Dorm Counselor

**Silvia Monroy** is the HEP residential counselor. She is a sophomore at the University of South Florida majoring in international business and marketing. This summer she participated in the National HEP/CAMP Association Internship Program. Currently, she is enrolled in Mandarin Chinese as a first-year student. For her major requirement she plans to study abroad in China during the summer of 2011.

Silvia keeps a busy schedule volunteering, studying a third language, and working as a dorm counselor for the HEP Program. She enjoys volunteering for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Tampa Bay as a Big Sister for first grader Estevan.

*"I truly enjoy working with the HEP program and think that this is such a growing and learning experience for me."*



CAMP Tutor

CAMP tutor, **Carolina Lopez**, hails from Bucaramanga, Colombia. She arrived in the U.S. at the age of ten in an attempt to avoid guerilla warfare. Living with her father until her mother arrived five years later, Carolina managed to learn English quickly and began to thrive in her scholarly pursuits.

In high school, Carolina attended honors, AP and dual enrollment classes, worked at Allstate Insurance and did taxes for corporations and individual partners for RJR Accounting Services. Carolina joined the NHS, Mu Alpha Theta, and the junior varsity volleyball team without letting her grades slip. Although she may have struggled, Carolina faces the world with an optimistic view and a clear vision of her future.

Starting at USF in the summer of 2008, Carolina immediately majored in chemical engineering and has since interned for Marathon Petroleum, and has conducted research for the chemistry department involving the synthesis of organic chemistry. Currently, she is conducting research for the Chemical Engineering Department in Bimetallic for Ag-Cu in controlling the catalytic and optical properties.

Carolina worked as an residential assistant in 2009, and at the moment she is a CAMP tutor and mentor. She is currently an officer for SHPE (Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers) and occasionally volunteers for PET. In addition she holds the title of Marathon Scholar and Jenkins Scholar. She hopes to attain her Master's soon, as she is in her final year of the five-year program.

## The Dream Act March by Xavier Vega



Why would any reasonable human being cram himself into a tiny seat, on a freezing cold bus for a grand total of 36 hours, surviving off of McDonalds, Waffle House, and hole in the wall restaurants from different states? The answer to that riddle was to make history in a recent trip to Washington DC. Thanks in part to the organization, Democracia U.S.A., several buses around the country were similarly crammed tightly with supporters for Immigration Reform. While the voyage on each respective vehicle varied as did the motivations, the goal was unified.

Personally, I don't know how many people were there, although some say 100,000, and some say 500,000. However, it is agreed that at least 200,000 supporters were in Washington D.C., that day, and my bus had the benefit of arriving early. Before the rally started, I obviously took in the sites with my USF peers. Our main goal was, of course to support immigration reform, but specifically the group M.A.S.A (Mexican American Student Association) was to promote the DREAM Act, an act to assist undocumented college bound students in gaining temporary residency.

What was my firsthand opinion of D.C.? Well, like everyone says, the architecture was astounding. Everything looked so deliberately, painstakingly, detailed in its construction. I took nearly 200 pictures until my camera died. Of course, I digress, the rally itself was massive to say the least. The National Mall, which takes perhaps two or three minutes to walk through, took ten minutes of crowd avoidance to locate my group. All around were shouts of “sí se puede” or “yes we can” in Spanish. American flags were everywhere, giving credit to the notion that immigrants all around felt like this country is their home, and unique signs were held by many giving a quick peek at their story. Yes, everyone had a story to tell. Me? My parents were both immigrants, although my mother is now a full citizen, and my father is a permanent resident. Of course, the more tragic tales were posted up above on poster boards as far as the eye could see: “My husband has paid taxes for 25 years and raised a family here” and “People are not illegal.”

Overall, the spirit was powerful and forged by a strong motivation. Even opponents of the rally failed to rile a negative response. At one point a few girls dressed as mimes began blowing whistles in people’s faces and blocking cameras. Thankfully, a man with a bullhorn started shouting, “Ignorale! Ignorale!” then demanded that a path be cleared to safely let these supposed inciters leave. Embarrassingly enough, upon further research, I found out those mimes were actually practicing some social disobedience against a camera crew for an ANTI-Immigration pundit of sorts. It just goes to show you that just because you were there, it doesn't mean you knew everything. I guess what I'm trying to say is that I loved the experience, got caught up with the moment, and gave my support for a worthy cause. Not to mention, I finally got to travel.



# M.E.T.A

Members Empowering True Awareness is a student organization that was founded by CAMP students in September of 2004. META strives to provide support to collegiate students of all cultural backgrounds. By serving the farmworker community and other communities, META aspires to create awareness of current issues and support personal growth.

**President:**

Perla Espinoza

**Vice-President/  
Historian:**

Sarah Arreola

**Secretary:**

Kayleigh Devereux

**Treasurer:**

Erica Garcia

**Fundraising Chair:**

Cynthia Piedra

**Public Relations Chair:**

Jacklyn Garza

**Multi-Cultural Committee Representative:**



*"I personally decided to run for the vice-presidency for META because the experience that I can gain from this position is enormous. Not only will I gain leadership skills, but it will also help me with the university experience." -Sarah Arreola, Vice-President*

*"I am part of META because I want to make a difference in my new community. I know that I could probably achieve this goal alone but nothing can be as empowering as working in a team with individuals that have the same goal as I do to create a difference in our school and community." -Erica Garcia, Treasurer*

## Interested in visiting the USF campus?

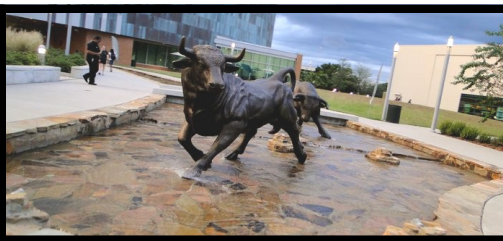
Groups of 9 or larger are to contact the Visitation Coordinator

Jonathan Earnest at: 813-974-0629 or [jearnest@usf.edu](mailto:jearnest@usf.edu) preferable 45 days in advance.

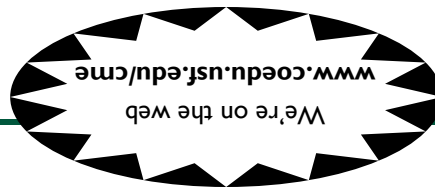
Tours last between 1hr to 90 minutes and are available Monday through Friday 9:00, 11:30, 12:30, and 1:00

In the event that the slots are to capacity and additional tours cannot be accommodated, we encourage groups to do "self-guided tours" in which they can explore the campus on their own and pick up information for the group at the New Student Welcome Center. Groups that have scheduled an official visit are provided an informational session given by one of the admissions representatives.

**\*\*After confirmation has been received regarding your tour, please contact Ruby Luis at the Center for Migrant Education to confirm your itinerary\*\***



Center for Migrant Education  
University of South Florida  
Department of Special Education  
4202 E. Fowler Ave., EDU105  
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HEP/CAMP Secretary  
Mentor Facilitator

## HEP: Where Are They Now?

Daniela Rodriguez – Fortis Institute; Medical Assistant Program  
Joshua Hernandez -Everest University; Surgical Tech Program  
Julio Anzualda - IIT Tech; Computer Graphics Program  
Edgar Zamarripa - Polk State College  
Jose Pedro Galvan - Immokalee Tech; Multi-media Program  
Marcos Santamaria - Traviss Career Ctr; Auto Mechanics Program  
Estefania Heredia-Traviss Career Ctr; Administrative Assistant  
Program then transferring to Polk State College  
Mayra Hernandez—Hillborough Community College

