



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

HEP /CAMP Highlights

Center for Migrant Education

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

FALL 2012

USF Welcomes 2012 - 2013 CAMP Students

Top Row (left to right): Lisbet Escobedo, Erica Hurtado, Jessica Barron, Violeta Cervantes, Andres Dela Fuente, George Maravilla Jr., Nestor Gamez, Marcos Gonzalez, Renee Garcia, Andres Martinez, Antonio Galvan, Daniel Guzman-Ramos

Bottom Row (left to right): Veronica A. Juarez, Alexia Salazar, Yessenia Juarez, Yanet Ramos, Giselle Rangel, Vanessa Andrade, Yaritza Lozano, Norma Badillo, Flor Rodriguez, Daisy Olvera, Ruth Estrada, Teresa Contreras

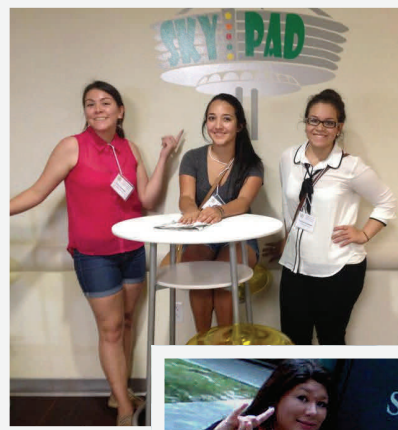
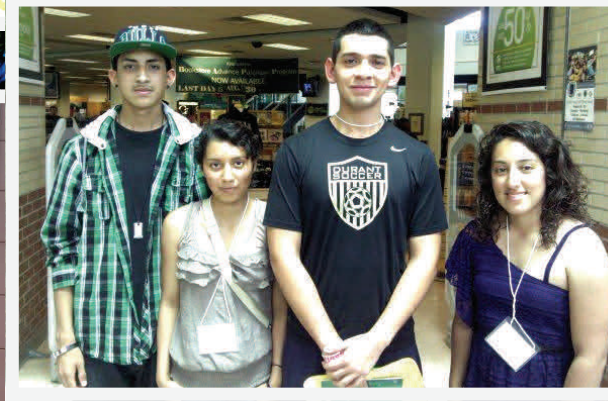
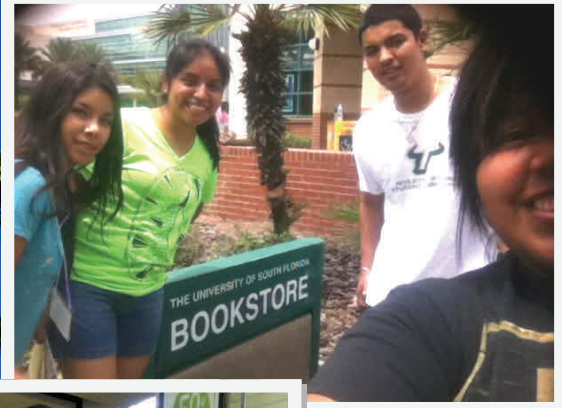


HEP (High School Equivalency Program) (PR#S141A090025) and CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program) (PR#S149A090027) are federally funded grants through the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Migrant Education. They are administered through the Center for Migrant Education in the Department of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

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2012 - 2013 CAMP Students



Students in the 2012-2013 CAMP cohort were welcomed to campus by Director Patrick Doone during a two day orientation. Orientation provides students with an opportunity to acclimate to campus life and bond with the cohort.

To familiarize students with the campus, CAMP unveiled a new tradition: the CAMPus Scavenger Hunt. Students were formed into teams and provided a map and clues. They were instructed to take group pictures at various campus locations and upload the images to the College Assistance Migrant Program at USF Facebook page. Through team work and strategic planning, students raced to complete the hunt in one hour.

Collier County

Violeta Cervantes
Ruth Estrada
Marcos Gonzalez
Daniel Guzman-Ramos
Veronica A. Juarez
George Maravilla Jr.
Daisy Olvera

DeSoto County

Nestor Gamez

Hardee County

Antonio Galvan
Flor Rodriguez

Hendry County

Yessenia Juarez

Highlands County

Vanessa Andrade
Norma Badillo
Erica Hurtado
Yaritza Lozano
Alexia Salazar

Hillsborough County

Teresa Contreras
Renee Garcia
Yanet Ramos
Liliana Reyes-Munoz

Orange County

Giselle Rangel

Palm Beach County

Andres Dela Fuente

Polk County

Jessica Barron
Andres Martinez

Putnam County

Lisbet Escobedo

Student Transition, Success, & Retention

The USF College Assistant Migrant Program (CAMP) provides financial assistance to incoming freshman students from migrant and seasonal farmworking backgrounds. Moreover, student support specialists direct CAMP participants to additional academic and financial campus resources to help ensure a smooth transition as they continue their academic careers.

Individual counseling sessions inform students of on-campus services, scholarship opportunities, undergraduate research positions, leadership opportunities, and internships. To facilitate the students' transition to the university, CAMP refers students to various departments and offices that specialize in student transition, success and retention. This includes, the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, the Bulls Service Break, and the Office of Undergraduate Research, among many others.

CAMP also hosts seminars designed to inform students of potential scholarships, and assist them with scholarship applications, scholarship essays, and the appropriate manner in which to request letters of recommendation from faculty and staff.

Through the assistance of the Career Center, CAMP works to ensure that students develop the skills necessary to enter the workforce. This includes building a resume and posting it on the Career Connection site for review by potential employers or internship recruiters. Students also attend a business etiquette dinner and undergo a series of career assessments to help students fine-tune their academic and career goals.

2011 CAMP Cohort Earned Over \$65,000 in Scholarships

Student

Scholarship

Ivan Calderon

Hispanic Scholarship Fund
Wachovia Community Forum Scholarship

Javier Cruz

BK Scholarship of America
Gloria and Joseph Mattera Scholarship
HSF Monsanto Fund Scholarship
Sebring Historical Society Scholarship

Maria Delpilar

Florida Tomato Exchange Scholarship
Sunripe Scholarship

Cindy Ibarra

Florida Tomato Exchange Scholarship
Sunripe Scholarship

Ronkevious Smalls

Alpha Kappa Alpha Education Advancement Foundation
Florida Tomato Exchange Scholarship
Sunripe Scholarship

Jesus Vidaurri

Florida Council Rural Housing Scholarship

Pedro Zamora

American Legion Scholarship
HSF Monsanto Fund Scholarship
Migrant Farmworker Baccalaureate Scholarship
Student Action with Farmworkers
USF Honors Scholarship

Congratulations

Office of Migrant Education Internship

Washington, D.C.



I used to think of Washington D.C as a city that television anchor like Jorge Ramos, from Primer Impacto, would talk about. “La Capital” was important, but foreign and far removed from my life.

During my Freshman Year at USF, I was selected to participate in the 2012 HEP/CAMP Internship in Washington, D.C. Once I arrived in D.C., I met three other CAMP interns: Brenda Espinosa, Marvin Rodriguez, and Kimberly Luna. Our first week in D.C., we visited our internship host and underwent leadership training with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute.

We met 40 other interns from across the U.S and Puerto Rico. Marvin and I were placed at the Department of Education, while Brenda was placed in the office of Representative Xavier Becerra and Kimberly was placed in Representative Ruben Hinojosa’s office.

I worked with the Office of Migrant Education (OME), where I met the nicest, hardest working people in D.C. The Director, Dr. Lisa Ramirez, was a phenomenal leader. Her calendar was always packed, and she never let the word



Top Picture (left to right): CAMP Interns, Marvin Rodriguez, Brenda Espinosa, Miguel Martinez, and Kimberly Luna

Bottom Picture: Miguel Martinez (top left) and Marvin Rodriguez (bottom right) with the Office of Migrant Education (OME) Staff

“No” stop her, yet she always had time to help me figure things out. I wasn’t used to working in an environment with air conditioning and computers, but it was better than working with your hands and back in the humid fields of Florida. “So this is what my parents meant when they wanted me to work in some place nice,” I thought. I’m grateful that I was able to work with OME. They granted me such a wonderful opportunity to enhance my college education. I felt humbled to be part of a team that help future CAMP students succeed like I have.

We did a lot in eight weeks; we visited the Washington Monument, the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial. I’d seen pictures of the Lincoln Memorial before, but I never stood so close to an enormous marble statue, much less one so detailed with the stern features of a man who cared so much for his country. I looked into his eyes and wondered what he was looking at.

After eight weeks of the city, saying goodbye was not only depressing, but unexpected; I became so familiar with the place that I couldn’t fathom that I had to leave. Two months had really brought us interns together, and it was without a doubt an amazing experience for all of us, an experience I hope to revisit soon as my education expands and my career takes off!

By: Miguel Martinez

Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF) Internship

Beaufort, SC

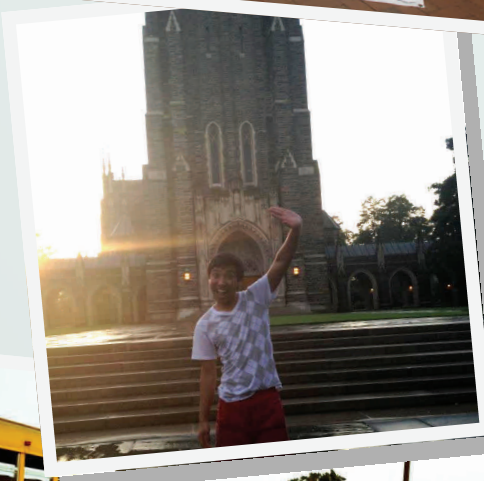
Winston Churchill once said that, "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give." This quote summarizes my great sentiment and appreciation for volunteering work and community service.

For this reason, I applied for a summer internship with *Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF)*. This organization, centered at Duke University, works with students across the nation to better the working conditions for farmworkers. I was placed at a clinic in the southeastern part of South Carolina, where the population of farmworkers is rapidly increasing due to the high demand of tomatoes and watermelons harvested in that area. At the clinic, I interpreted, checked blood pressure, and transported patients who did not have access to transportation to and from the clinic. In addition, I participated in conducting research regarding pesticide exposure in the fields and the effects that it has on farmworkers' health.

This internship was a great experience because I was able to meet farmworker families and relate to them and their conditions in the fields. Surprisingly enough, most of these farmworkers were from Immokalee and other parts of the state of Florida. This allowed me to get closer to the farmworkers because they valued what I was doing. One of the farmworkers once told me, "People like you are rare. Nowadays, people don't give up their summer to contribute to our success in the fields. They don't care about us!" Hearing him say this inspired me to work even harder and help him and others in any way possible.

Furthermore, the other interns working with this organization and I became really good friends. We shared unforgettable memories and inspired each other. At the end of the internship, we all had a fabulous celebration and promised to stay in contact. To this day, I still talk to most of them, and we continue to inspire each other. Without a doubt, participation in this internship allowed me to become a more developed individual and to make a change in someone's life, which is my ultimate purpose in life. I invite others to join the purpose and make a change; remember, thank a farmworker for the food on your table!

By: Pedro Zamora



Top Picture: Pedro Zamora (top right) with other SAF Interns
Middle Picture: Pedro Zamora at Duke University for a SAF Workshop
Bottom Picture: SAF Interns performing at a migrant camp

VotoLatino

It's your country...represent!

USF Lecture Series



What do HEP students and Hollywood star, Rosario Dawson, have in common? Both coincided at the USF Lecture Series this last September in Tampa. Students were thrilled to be just a few feet away from the actress who once performed in the movie *Rent* and even

got to kiss Will Smith! Most importantly students were delighted to join the USF community and learn about the many ways they can become involved in social issues, such as: voter registration, prevention of child/spousal abuse, and promotion of education.

Dawson visited USF to promote the organization Voto Latino, a nonpartisan voter registration organization. The star of famous movies such as *Seven Pounds* and *Men in Black 2* encouraged young people to support the arts, support social equality and register to vote.

After listening to the entire lecture, HEP students were impressed with Rosario because of their apparent similarities with her;

Ms. Dawson is someone who beat poverty, homelessness and discrimination. She's also someone who

as a child had a dream that one day she would be part of something bigger than her. HEP students were captivated by her message and the candid, informal, yet personal way in which she communicated it.

Many of our students expressed that like Rosario, they will accomplish their dreams, get an education and most importantly, give back.



Top Picture (left to right):
HEP Students, Adolfo
Pena, Fernando Sanchez,
&
Jose Luis Rivas



Bottom Picture (left to right):
HEP Student, Hanna Flores
with HEP Student Assistant,
Cynthia Piedra & CAMP
Student, Flor Rodriguez

THE DAILY



Top Picture: Fernando Sanchez
Bottom Picture: Jocelyn Luciano & Sergio Guerrero



Convention, votes, debates....

This semester Social Studies lessons took a walk outside the classroom onto our university campus, our city of Tampa, and the entire nation.

During our first session of the school year, the City of Tampa hosted the Republican National Convention with our USF campus being the center for media operations during the convention. This was a perfect opportunity for our HEP teachers to introduce lessons about political platforms, editorial cartoons and even our electoral process. Then came the political debates. GED lessons became more alive as students participated in several activities and watched the debates at the USF Marshall Center. Students expressed the importance of voting and encouraged others to vote.

"Check out the political cartoon"; "Here's what the 'fiscal cliff' means!"; "Wow, now I know what the health reform is all about"; "I disagree with the judge's decision on page 3".

The HEP program receives free copies of the "Tampa Bay Times" daily, so each student can interact with the text at their own pace. Speaking of politics, the editorial section and the political cartoons both fascinate most students and challenge them. They quickly learn how to differentiate between types of text and become engaged with "hot" topics. It is then when students discover the editorials which are embedded with cultural and political information sometimes unfamiliar to some of our students. It catapults students into reading and learning!

Newspapers are a great resource to use in the classroom because they are very versatile, current, colorful and engaging. Along with passing their GED exam and obtaining their high school diploma, hopefully, students will continue reading the newspaper at home. HEP students have experienced that the media and newspaper in particular are a source of learning, information, entertainment and community.

Blood Drive Challenge

CAMPers for Life! Award

2012 National César E. Chávez
Blood Drive Challenge

MigrantStudents.org

University of South Florida

7th Place
Among (35) CAMP Grants

META President, Miguel Martínez
(left) and Blood Drive Organizer,
Micaela Martínez (right) receiving the
blood drive awards from CAMP
Director, Patrick Doone (middle)



drive. For the first time, the University of South Florida was one of the top ranking universities amongst the 225 participating colleges and universities. USF was honored to receive plaques for the “2012 Most Successful Blood Drive Award” and the “2012 CAMPers for Life! Award” ranking 17th and 7th, respectively. Inspiration for META came from Cesar Chavez’s own words: “We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community...Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own.”

By: Micaela Martínez



2012 National César E. Chávez Blood Drive Challenge

MigrantStudents.org

University of South Florida

17th Place
225 Participating Colleges/Universities

A Touch of Mexico

HEP students, residents and commuters alike, enjoy the exposure to a kaleidoscope of activities that take place at the University of South Florida. Not only can students visit the museums and galleries on campus, but they can mingle with successful young adults in a variety of other extracurricular activities like sporting events, fairs, movies, and concerts. Their educational experience gets enriched as they broaden their world view and aspire to be part of the academic community.

During session 1, HEP students had the opportunity to attend the event “Touch of Mexico” held at University of South Florida (USF) campus and sponsored by the Mexican American Student Association (MASA). This event was held in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month to bring culture awareness to the USF community. There were many activities which included creating banners typically used in fiestas, line dance, taco eating contest, and pop quizzes. It was a great opportunity for HEP students and dorm counselors to get in touch with the Mexican culture while meeting new USF students and community members. Not only was this activity entertaining but it was also very informative. “Touch of Mexico” is definitely in our plans for next year!

Continued on page 9

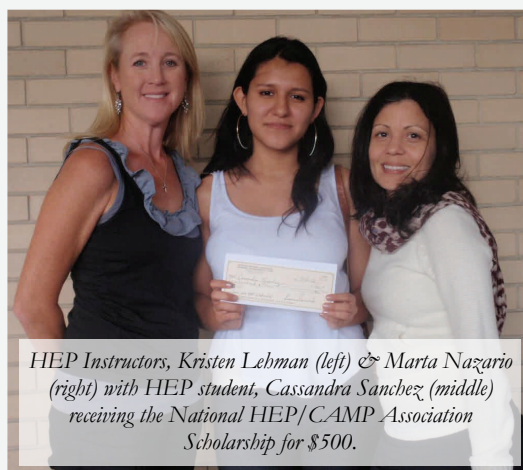
HEP: Where are they now?

The following HEP alumni are now college students:

Antonio Martinez	Hillsborough Community College
Jose Martinez	Universal Technical Institute
Cassandra Sanchez	State College of Florida
David Hernandez	Hillsborough Community College
Roselia Delgado	South Florida State College



HEP student, Ivan Luviano



HEP Instructors, Kristen Lehman (left) & Marta Nazario (right) with HEP student, Cassandra Sanchez (middle) receiving the National HEP/CAMP Association Scholarship for \$500.

The following HEP alumni are enrolled in technical programs:

Ivan Luviano	Aparecio Levy Technical Center (Veterinary Assistance Program)
Johana Paredes	Gasden Technical Institute (Certified Nursing Assistant)

“A Touch of Mexico” continued...

“Experiencing and participating in this event was incredible because most of the attendees had a similar cultural background as me. The fun games and the Spanish music were so much fun. I did not stop laughing all night, especially during my participation in one of the games in which you tie balloons to your feet and avoid others. I was one of the last ones to leave the game, but I laughed a lot. It was such a family atmosphere. First, I felt like I did not want to dance but as I warmed up, I didn’t stop dancing with my HEP friends: Hanna and Cynthia because my other friend Amy was getting a bit shy... Our dance moves earned us a ticket to a fabulous Mexican meal: chicken quesadilla, rice, beans, and salsa. Yummy! I really felt comfortable here at the university on that night. I never thought USF held events like this one; it was just like celebrating Mexican Independence Day at home!



HEP Students: Amy Herrera (left), Marcela Martinez (right), & Hana Flores (second from the right) with HEP Student Assistant, Cynthia Piedra (second from the left)

By HEP student, Marcela Martinez

NEW STAFF

Brigita Gahr

Brigita B. Gahr is the new part-time CAMP Academic/Program Support Specialist who assists CAMP freshmen in preparing and applying for scholarships and internships. She has served farmworker families/students for over 25 years, including assisting the HEP Program when it was initially established at USF. In addition, she has worked with the Collier, Hillsborough and Manatee Migrant Education Programs.

When her parents first immigrated to the United States from Latvia, they lived and worked in rural communities while they learned the English language. In fact, Brigita's father's first job was building corn silos in Minnesota. Ms. Gahr is thankful that her parents, like many immigrants, exemplified the values of a strong work ethic and the importance of education.

Ms. Gahr is inspired by motivated students who are often the first in their family to have graduated high school and entered college. She enjoys assisting them to communicate their achievements and aspirations through resumes and essays. What has always impressed Brigita is that students from agricultural communities often express their gratitude regarding the sacrifices their parents have made in order for them to pursue education and a career. Not only do these students want to improve their lives by attending college, but they also have a strong desire to help their parents and serve as role models for younger siblings and relatives.



Paula Sandusky graduated from Waynesburg College in 2003, majoring in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. She earned her Master's Degree in Biology last May at USF, specializing in Physiology and Morphology, with a project focusing on the biomechanics of tongue projection in *Rana pipiens* (pictured).

Paula tutors CAMP students in general life sciences, specializing in biology courses such as Anatomy and Physiology. After finishing her undergrad, Paula interned at several fisheries with the Student Conservation Association, and then worked five years with American Red Cross Blood Services

before coming to USF for her Master's Degree. Paula hopes to move forward into Robotics and Computer Sciences, but in her off-hours she volunteers with HandsOn Suncoast, a Tampa branch of United Way, Pet Pal Animal Rescue, and Habitat for Humanity.

Paula Sandusky

Pedro Zamora

Pedro Zamora, 2012 CAMP participant, is currently a sophomore seeking a degree in Chemical and Biomedical Engineering with a minor in Chemistry. During his time here at the University of South Florida, Pedro has been able to complete many of his goals. One of which was to become a Resident Assistant to help incoming freshmen connect with the University and developing friendships.

Furthermore, Pedro was also selected to participate in an internship with an organization called *Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF)*, located at Duke University in North Carolina. Pedro enjoys making people laugh and help them in any way possible.

In addition, his love and passion for chemistry guided him into becoming a tutor for CAMP, so that he can develop friendships with the incoming students while teaching them about the complexities and wonders of chemistry. Pedro's long-term goal is to attend Medical School to become an Oncologist and treat patients with cancer. In the meantime, however, he is continuing to grow by participating in numerous organizations and research.



Born and raised in Hidalgo, Mexico, Luis Quezada first came to the U.S. in 2002. Luis had trouble meeting people he could relate to, but little by little he came to know several people within the Mexican-American community. Coming to USF, Luis met others with similar cultural experiences, who pointed him towards CAMP.

CAMP sped up his college integration, providing him with a familiar community and sense of belonging. Though he was not a CAMP beneficiary, he came to know many friends and colleagues through CAMP.

Now in his third year at USF, Luis is pursuing a Double Major in Computer Science and Computer Engineering with a Minor in Mathematics. This is Luis's first year tutoring CAMP students in Mathematics, but Luis understands the importance of community and support, knowing how much it can influence Freshmen students.

Luis hopes to get CAMP students involved with student organizations, and he encourages them to ask questions, to explore different opportunities, to talk with professors, and to build connections that will maximize their college experience, helping them embrace their education, as well as giving them a sense of familiarity that will keep them on track.

Luis Quezada

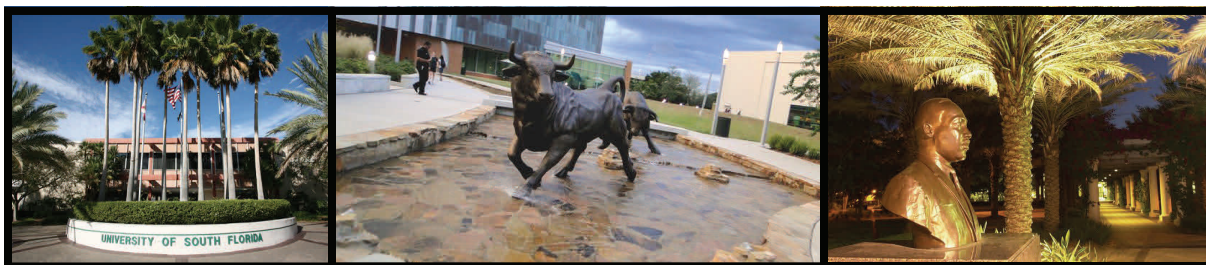
Interested in Visiting the USF Campus?

Groups of 9 or larger are to contact the New Student Welcome Center at 813-974-7878, preferably 45 days in advance.

Tours last between 1hr to 90 minutes and are available Monday through Friday

Groups that have scheduled an official visit are provided an informational session given by one of the admissions representatives. 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.

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



HOW TO REACH THE CENTER FOR MIGRANT EDUCATION:

Mail: University of South Florida
Department of Special Education
Center for Migrant Education
4202 E Fowler Ave, EDU 105
Tampa, FL 33620

Phone: 813-974-5806

Fax: 813-974-0485

Web: www.coedu.usf.edu/cme

Visiting the campus: Human Services Building (HMS) 206
(Please make sure to have an appointment)



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