

HEP/CAMP Highlights

Center for Migrant Education

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2012

2011-2012 HEP Graduates

Hillsborough Adriana Lerma Alberto Novola Hillsborough Alejandra Chavez Orange Ana Narciso Polk Anakaren Barrios Hendry Angel Vargas Hillsborough Anna Carranco Hillsborough Antonio Martinez Hillsborough Araceli Santamaria Polk Berta Rocha Polk Brenda Castillo Collier Bryan Zavala Manatee Cassandra Sanchez Manatee Damian Angeles Polk David Hernandez Hillsborough David Santiago Polk Dulce Hernandez Desoto Epifanio Alvarez Polk Eric Tavira Polk Estela Tavira Polk Heriberto Ramirez Hillsborough Hillsborough Ivan Luviano Jaqueline Carranco Hillsborough Johana Paredes Gadsden Jose Martinez Orange Juan Flores Hillsborough Kenia Lerma Hillsborough Leticia Ibarra Hillsborough Maria Garcia Manatee Mariana Segovia Pasco Miguel Novola Hillsborough Mindy Martinez Collier Obet Alavez Polk Oscar Soto Polk Ricardo Garcia Manatee Roberto Alvarado Manatee Roselia Salgado Hardee Servando Carbajal Polk Silvestre Tavira Polk

Tonee Sandoval

Time to Celebrate!!!

June 9th 2012 was a special Saturday for a group of HEP students who came out to the Florida State Fairgrounds for their High School Graduation. On any other given Saturday morning many of them would have been working –often in the fields-, running errands, shopping, baby sitting or just relaxing at home with family, but on that day everything was different. That Saturday morning marked the culmination of a high school education and the genesis of a post secondary education. Dreams do come true.

Some families traveled from as far as Collier County to attend the Hillsborough County Adult Education Graduation. HEP families were proud to share this moment with their sons and daughters, staff and teachers.

Families nervously snapped pictures, fixed hats and hairdos as siblings ran around playing and taking it all in. As they gathered before the graduation many of students reconnected with old friends and classmates as well as the teachers and staff of the HEP program and the Adult Migrant Program. Then, it was time to line up for "the walk." All of the sudden students stood taller, looked forward and prepared for one of the most symbolic walks in their young lives

As the names of the students were called one by one to receive their diploma, our families celebrated and cheered them on. It was a magical moment: against all odds and without a cohesive educational experience, our HEP students accomplished one of the most elusive things for migrant farmworkers: a high school education. Congratulations to ALL 2012 HEP graduates!



The Noyola Family with HEP graduate brothers Alberto
(Llft) & Miguel (right)



Dulce Hernandez, Brenda Castillo, & David Santiago



The Tavia Family: (left to right) Eric, Estela, & Silvestre

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.

Hillsborough

THIS ISSUE

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Juan Flores

Demesis Pereyra

This spring, HEP students participated in the Third Annual Chinese Culture Festival at the University of South Florida (USF). The festival featured guest speakers as well a plethora of educational experiences.

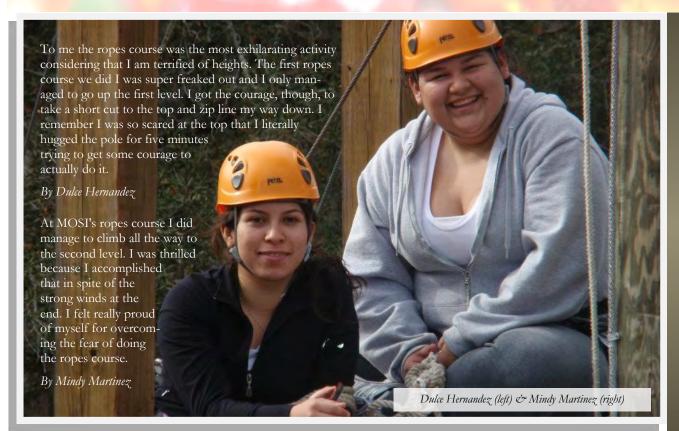
HEP students were impressed with the initial lion dance and exotic music. That set the stage for other performances and hands on activities that the students really enjoyed; such as: paper fan making, mythology mini lessons, and a tea ceremony ritual. The all time favorite performances were the martial arts demonstration and the impressive Chinese acrobat who juggled countless porcelain plates while dancing flawlessly to a cool beat.

Knowing Mandarin was not a requirement to enjoy the lively story telling presentation in which a USF college professor narrated a funny tale about a man getting an injection at his doctor's office. (Some things are just universal!). We all laughed when the narrator ran across the stage imitating the reaction of someone glancing at a big needle who knows he's about to get "treated". Speaking of needles, the Chinese doctor (and acupuncturist) at the festival demonstrated to our HEP students, the proper location of acupuncture needles after doing a mini anatomy lesson with them.

Aside from HEP students, the USF community was also present as well as many school-aged children. That obviously added to the energy in the room. The food provided at the closing of the event was both delicious and exotic.

Many of our students commented on how much they learned about the culture and expressed interest in traveling there one day. Our USF cam-

pus offers so many learning opportunities to our HEP students that they otherwise would miss out on. Ultimately, attending the Chinese Culture Festival was the most comprehensive social studies lesson we had all session.



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Farmworker Awareness Week kicked off Sunday, March 25th and ended Friday, March 30th, 2012. META (Members Empowering True Awareness) focused on educating the USF community of the working and living conditions of seasonal and migrant farmworkers. Farmworker Awareness Week had four goals: to describe the Lives of Farmworkers, to hold a Blood Drive commemorating Cesar Chavez, to conduct a Panel for the Children of Farm Workers, and volunteering at the Annual Salsa Fest in Balm, FL.

META wanted to educate USF students on the working conditions, salaries and scheduling of farming. Our goal was to bring in actual farmworkers to speak about daily life, focusing on hardships, financial struggles, racism and the general discomfort of their labor. Attendees were eager to learn more about the day to day life of these hard working people, realizing that there is a huge gap in their respective standards of living.

The Panel for Farm Worker's Children allowed USF students to share their experiences as the children of farm workers, speaking about financial struggles, culture clash, identity crises, migration, immigration, success, failure, racism, friendship, good times and bad. The goal was to make other farm children feel that they are not alone, showcasing their backgrounds, and

proving that others have gone through the same obstacles but come out on top.

We ended the week strong, volunteering at "The Annual Salsa Fest" in Balm, FL. The festival had a large Salsa contest and a myriad of food stands, all in a celebration of Latino culture, showing the public how open the community of farm workers can be.

Farmworker Awareness Week was a learning experience that helped others grasp the reality of farmworker's lives. People learned that farmworkers should be appreciated for their contributions to the community, the economy and day to day American life.



By Jessica Rodriguez

CAMPer for Life

USF's Cesar E. Chavez Blood Drive among the top 10!

The national Cesar E. Chavez Blood Drive was held to celebrate Chavez's legacy as an American civic leader by promoting health education, civic engagement and the saving of lives.

As a student organizer this year, I was required to get people to come out and donate. I learned that networking is a big part of promoting an event, especially on a wide-range campus.

Posters were displayed, announcements were made, and Facebook events were created. It was interesting to see how many people came. Our goal was to reach a total of 50 donors in two

days, but we surpassed that with a total of 131 donors!

By working as a group META was able to raise awareness of Cesar Chavez and his lifetime accomplishments helping farmworkers. It's just as Cesar Chavez said, "From the depth of need and despair, people can work together, can organize themselves to solve their own problems and fill their needs with dignity and strength" ~ Cesar Chavez.

By Micaela Martinez



Alternative Spring Breaks are volunteer missions that send students across the country to assist humanitarian causes. Bulls Service Breaks are USF's particular Alternative Spring Break program, led by the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE). Created to increase awareness of social injustices and encourage cultural exchange, Bulls Service Breaks are meant to illuminate problems in the community, yet show students what can be done to improve their environment.

Volunteers are partnered with local, heavily involved organizations to get hands on experience with whatever cause they sign up for. Several of our own CAMP students earned a volunteer opportunity with Bulls Service Breaks this spring and have written pieces reflecting their experiences, as well as their reactions and realizations.





"This experience showed me how fortunate I am. Helping those less fortunate then myself gave me a sense of accomplishment. Change starts with the individuals willing to take time to help those in need, and as I left Texas, I knew I left a piece of myself behind. I knew I had made an impact in the community and I knew my presence there mattered."

~ Javier Cruz

This Spring break I embarked upon a journey for Bull's Service Break 2012. As a Site Leader, I was fortunate enough to travel to San Juan, Texas with a group of nine members to work with L.U.P.E. (La Union del Pueblo Entero). L.U.P.E. is a nonprofit organization founded by labor rights activist Cesar Chavez that works to offer a stronger and healthier living environment for colonia residents. We also worked with Proyecto Azteca, an organization that constructs houses for people in rural communities where potable water, electricity, and decent sewer systems are strongly lacking.

Our group mainly contributed by painting houses, working in yards, and by protesting against high wage cuts on independent pharmacists. The wage cuts independent pharmacies face affects local colonia residents because independent pharmacies are the colonia's main resource for medications. At the end of each day, people thanked us with brilliant smiles for helping complete their work.

Hearing "thank you," over and over again gave me feelings of pride and accomplishment that can't be obtained any other way. I learned that times get difficult, but just like Cesar Chavez said, "People can work together... to solve their own problems and fill their own needs with dignity and strength." Bull's Service Break offered me the opportunity to work with other people in an effort to obtain justice, and I'm grateful to them for such a life changing experience.

By: Pedro Zamora

This spring break I was involved in the Alternative Spring Break program. I was sponsored through CAMP, and my team was sent to New Orleans to help restore the wetlands lost from Hurricane Katrina.

We stayed at a local church and helped plant over a thousand trees. This was an

experience like no other, I felt so accomplished dedicating a week of free time to volunteer at a place that is truly struggling. Seeing so much damage still there was very eye-opening. It taught me about the problems within our country's own borders and how something needs to be done.

Exploring New Orleans was a huge plus as there's some great history behind the city. It was an unforgettable experience and I made some lifelong friends in my group. I am so thankful for CAMP providing me the opportunity to participate with this program and I look forward to doing it again!

By: Juan Lopez



CAMP Students: Jessica Rodriguez (left) & Roxana Aguilar (second form the right)



Alternative Spring Break Locations	
New Orleans, LA	Environment
San Juan, TX	Immigration
Moblie, AL	Public Health (HIV/AIDS Awareness)
Georgetown, SC	Youth & Education
Montgomery, AL	Youth & Education

For many college students, spring break is the perfect time to catch some sun, relax, and take a break from the rigors of college life. During the Spring semester, I was in that same wagon. I didn't expect to do much during that coveted week of vacation, especially anything work related. Little did I know I would spend my break in South Carolina.

My group was assigned to the Tara Hall Home for Boys, a home for troubled youth in Georgetown, South Carolina. At first glance I thought I'd made a mistake; who would want to spend their vacation dealing with troubled kids? I spent the entire nine-hour drive contemplating my decision, wondering how much I was going to regret it.

Every day was filled with EVERY sport known to man. As I spent more time with the kids, I realized I misjudged them. These kids were labeled troubled because of their behavior, but the truth was that the real trouble came from not having someone they could talk to and express their thoughts with.

After a week of bonding, I began to realize that these kids are as typical as the rest of society. At the end of the day, they're still boys who just love to play. All they really lacked was attention, and that was exactly what we gave them for seven days. At the end of the trip we all decided to become pen pals and stay in touch with each other.

Despite my misconceptions, I loved my time at Tara Hall. The experience and connections I had with those boys was immense and insightful. My spring break wasn't filled with beaches and parties, but instead it was filled with realizations that there is more to life than what one claims know.

By: Ivan Calderon

I never thought I'd be in another state without having to work in the fields with my parents. Luckily, I got to go on a Bull Service Break trip. Besides being the first spring break where I had free time, I got to make a difference in the lives of others.

I was one of eleven USF students that worked with the South Alabama Cares Center in Mobile, Alabama. We bonded as a group and spent time with many of the centers patients who were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

We learned a tremendous amount of information regarding the disease itself, numerous preventative measures for it, and we also had a first-hand experience listening to the issues many of these patients encounter on a daily basis.

Not only did we volunteer, but we also got familiar with the Mobile area and visited several tourist attractions. We got to see the Alabama USS Battle ship, explore the Cathedral downtown and get a taste of the Oyster House, where fresh sea food is served the true southern way; deep fried or steamed.

It was a week long experience away from home, away from everything I was familiar with, but every day I got to experience something new and it's made a huge impact in my life.

By: Miguel Martinez



"We were able to plant a few hundred trees and I got to meet many new people and help restore New Orleans one tree at a time. It was a spring break I'll never forget!"

~Miguel Cuevas



eft to Right: CAMP Students: Micaela Martinez, Pedro Zamora, & Maria Delpilar

The air smelled like freshly grilled burgers and pico de gallo, and the water in the Hillsborough River was flowing quietly under the bright blue sky. Cumbia music resonated throughout the Riverfront Park. The sun *was* warm, but warmer were the smiles of all those who gathered together on January 9th, 2012 to celebrate the Second Annual HEP/CAMP Family Day.

The most enjoyable activities were the games played; mostly every visitor participated, from toddlers to our very own CAMP students and the staff from The Center for Migrant Education at USF. Races, relays, volleyball and Frisbee games were the most popular.

Aside from the games and delicious food, CAMP had the opportunity to recognize those students who volunteered throughout the year who supported CAMP sponsored activities. They were awarded a ribbon and a beautiful basket or a useful goodie bag.

HEP's staff set up a welcome team to meet with students and families who were dropping off their students at the USF dormitory to start the eight-week program. After getting settled in, students and their families joined staff members and others at the park.

From tamales, to rice, chips, potato salad, to flautas, we had it all. The food available was a reflection of the diversity and generosity of our community of students and staff. At the end of the day, enjoying a meal with great people at such a great setting made this an amazing and unforgettable family day.

By Marta Nazario





Ever since I've been part of CAMP, I feel I've become part of a family, here on campus. The staff is always there for us, and they do whatever they can to help. We even had our families over at the Annual Family Picnic.

Knowing that my family doesn't go out much, I was happy to see my two families interact. I could see everyone enjoying themselves, having the fun they've been missing out on for a while. My mother went crazy

playing bingo, but I didn't care, that was the most excited she'd been in a long time.

My brothers and sister played volleyball, soccer, even the three legged race. It was good to meet my friends' families, and seeing my family come together with the CAMP family made me feel privileged to be a part of this organization.



Miguel Martinez (top left) with his family

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Annual HEP/CAMP Fan

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Top Picture: HEP Students: Tonee Sandoval, Elizabeth Lira, & Jaqueline Carranco in the MOSI Hurricane Simulator

The experience of going to MOSI was great because other than being in class, we also got out and had fun while learning interesting things. I learned many things about flying dinosaurs and also the human body. MOSI also had many fun activities that helped us learn more about hurricanes, tornadoes, and wild fires. Also the body's exhibit showed us how the human body works. We learned about certain diseases and how alcohol affects the brain and our various systems.

At the end, I did the ropes course even though I was scared. We all enjoyed this team building activity. It was fun. What a wonderful and informative experience.

By Roselia Salgado



After learning about the human body at various interactive centers on the second floor of MOSI, Antonio Martinez relaxes playing with a giant "Operation Game". Can we say future heart surgeon?



Ruben Centeno 2010 CAMP Student

Getting scholarships has become one of my favorite activities in the past couple of years. Thanks to scholarship money, I have had my tuition paid for, as well as, spending money without having to get a job as I focus on my studies.

Many students don't apply to scholarships because they think they can't get them. I have a different mentality; I apply to as many as I can, knowing I'll win some of them. Thanks to that mentality, I was awarded five scholarships, earning \$6000 fresh out of high school.

With that money, I was able to live on campus, buy a meal plan and keep the leftover money, making my first year of college successful one with much less stress.

I had some doubts my second year of college. I thought because I was already a college student, I wouldn't receive much help with scholarships. Initially I was discouraged, but thanks to CAMP I was given several scholarship opportunities. One of CAMP's several requirements is that students must apply to at least three. Ultimately, I applied to five scholarships with their help, and to my surprise, I won four! This got my head straight. I realized that it's still possible to be awarded scholarships in college. I made almost \$5000 and had my second year of college paid for.

Many fellow students inquire as how to receive these awards and the answer is simple; I make myself stand out when writing the essays. Since I have the time and I am grateful of the free money I receive, I feel obligated to give back to the community so I participate in any volunteer opportunity available. "Good things come for those who help the ones in need," my mother always says and perhaps that is the reason why I have been lucky.

I would not be in the position I am today were it not for scholarships. They help pay my expenses, and they open doors to many new opportunities.

Persistence Pays Off



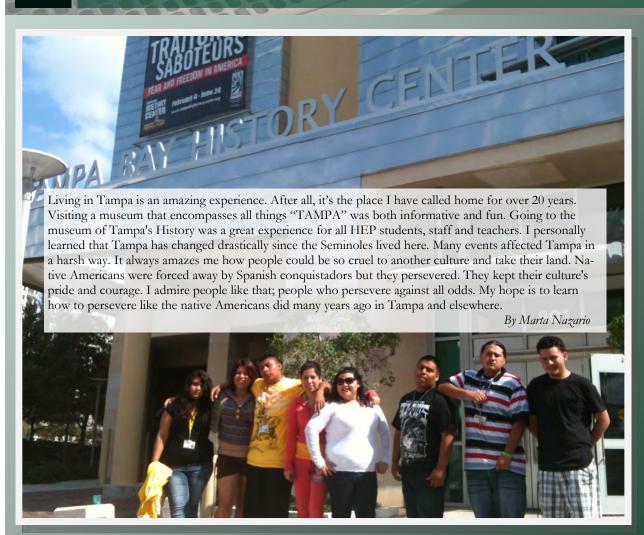
Ricardo Salinas 2011 CAMP Student

As a freshman student majoring in Chemical Engineering, I know the importance of getting involved in Undergraduate Research prior to going to Medical School. After a brief period of email exchanges with Dr. Shufeng Zhou, Professor at the College of Pharmacy, I started my training on hazardous waste safety and how to handle a lab rat.

Along with two other undergrads, I was assigned to work with Dr. Ruijuan Luo. Together we prepared various drug solutions and applied them to HepG2 cancer cells.

A week in the lab consisted of culturing HepG2 cells for upcoming treatment, creating drug solutions, applying those solutions to HepG2 cells, then performing an MTT assay to determine how well the drug worked. Using the data from the MTT assay, we determined the IC50 value of the drugs, then repeated the entire process with a new drug, all in order to learn as much as possible about HepG2.

The experience taught me basic lab skills, how to culture cells, how to create drug solutions, how to apply different types of treatments, and how to collaborate with a team. Overall, it was more than just something to throw on a resume; the experience gave me a better understanding of my field of study. I urge any student looking to get an edge on the competition to consider undergraduate research.



Left to Right: HEP Students: Roselia Salgado, Brenda Castillo, David Santiago, Dulce Hernandez, Mindy Martinez, Miguel Gabriel, Servando Carbajal, & Epifanio Alvarez

Mentor Spotlight

Javier Gonzalez

Double Major: Psychology & Spanish 2012 Graduate

When I was first introduced to CAMP, I was given the opportunity to serve as a mentor. My goal was to be as great a role model as my own parents were to me, but I wanted to make sure that no one had to have the same somber feelings I did when I first came to campus. I didn't want anyone to overlook the many resources I've found after my 4 years here at USF. Now, as a graduating senior with a double major in Psychology and Spanish, and a double minor in Humanities and American Sign Language, I have not only kept on top of my studies, but I've become prominently involved on campus with several organizations, trying to give back to the community as well.

As the oldest of seven siblings, and as a first generation college student, a great deal of responsibility lays upon my shoulders. When I arrived at USF, I felt there was no one to go to for help, no one I could depend on. I thought I had to figure things out on my own, just like I spent a great part of my life helping my single mother support our family. It wasn't until my stepfather blessed us with an extra hand that my family was provided with a much need father figure. Both of them serve as great role models and I strive to do my best so that one day I can make them proud. Being part of different organizations and a mentor are a step in the right direction.

Through organizations like The Mexican American Student Association (MASA), The Latin American Student Association (LASA), Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Incorporated, and the Unified Greek Council, to name a few, I've held executive positions like Historian, Secretary, Parliamentarian, and even President (current president of the Unified Greek Council). But being involved isn't just about holding positions; rather it's about learning and progressing from them. It's about giving back to the organizations that help us in our time of need, as well as the community as a whole through countless services and events.

As a son, a brother, a President, as a Secretary, and as a mentor, I aim to truly give back and lend a helping hand any way I can, whenever I can. A simple gesture of kindness can go a long way for anyone, so why not help out if you can? It's thanks to this mindset that I can continue at USF as a graduate student, and as the future Supervisor of Homecoming for the Center of Student Involvement through the College of Student Affairs, knowing that I have all my experiences to thank, especially being a mentor for CAMP.

As a mentor, I have the privilege to get to know some great students and future leaders, not only in the Latino community, but one day the world! To spend just a few moments with these students, knowing you've made an impact, knowing you've helped them grow, is the greatest reward imaginable. CAMP not only benefits their students, but also their mentors. Gaining this sense of reward helps drive me forward, it keeps me going, knowing that I am significant and can make a difference. I hope to continue seeing CAMP move forward so that others can experience the benefits of helping students as I have.

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Javier Gonzalez (right) with CAMP Mentee, Pedro Zamora (left)

Mentee Perspective

The transition freshmen encounter their first year at a University is difficult. Unfamiliarity with the people and resources make things harder, but having a mentor can help solve these problems and make the transition simpler.

I was assigned Javier Gonzales my freshman year. His outspoken personality and knowledge of the university allowed me to adjust to my new environment quickly. Javier and I bonded with ease and we shared many similarities. Javier is a busy person but he's always been very responsible and enthusiastic about spending time with me. If I ever needed help, he would always do whatever he could. If he couldn't help, he would guide me to the right person.

A year has passed and Javier is graduating while I will continue studying at USF. However, we plan to continue our friendship for years. Without a doubt, having a mentor is a great experience and I am grateful to Javier Gonzales for being my mentor, but more importantly, my friend.

By: Pedro Zamora

Mentor Spotlight

Mentee Perspective

The first time I met Tiffany, I knew we were going to get along well. Her smile is genuine, she's easy to talk to, she likes to dedicate her time to volunteer, and on top of that, she just has such an enthusiasm for everything she does.

Tiffany is very flexible and I've always enjoyed the many activi-

ties we've done together. We've done morning workouts, study sessions, we even had frozen yogurt dates.

She's been truly supportive my first year here at USF. Because of her, I've been able to meet new people, expose myself to different opportunities, and stay motivated when things seem their worst. I have been greatly pleased to have Tiffany as my CAMP mentor.

By: Micaela Martinez



Left Picture: Tiffany Piquet (right) with 2011 CAMP Mentee, Micaela Martinez (left) Right Picture: Tiffany Piquet on her USF Study Aboard

Trip to Coimbatore, India

Tiffany Piquet

Major: Biomedical Science

2010 Graduate

How excited would you be to apply what you've learned and make an impact in students' lives? One of the most priceless gifts you can share with others is time. Becoming a CAMP mentor was a chance to impart what I've learned as a USF student. Attending USF, I've had the privilege of serving as President to the USF Ambassadors, President of Alpha Phi Omega, and as a Resident Assistant, balancing the rigorous schedule of a Biomedical Science degree and a minor in Public Health.

I am pursuing my Masters in Public Health and work full time as a Clinical Coordinator for two surgical oncologists. Without the generosity of Harri & Ruth Kosove, I would be unable to complete my Master's degree and I wouldn't have traveled to India last summer, where I acquired knowledge about alternative medical treatments.

To complete my degree this August, I've chosen a Special Project and International Field Experience in Arusha, Tanzania. I plan on working with The Joshua Foundation to incorporate the uses and process of *Moringa oleifera* into their school, as well as the surrounding community in hopes of combating malnutrition. I will also help to expand health education for the primary school children of Arusha.

Looking back, I can't see myself being an alumna of any other University because USF offers a world class education with opportunities benefitting any college student.

My heart's desire is to become an M.D. in Women and Child Healthcare and practice in the Tampa Bay area. Once I'm a physician, I hope to sponsor mission trips around the world and combat communicable diseases by educating people on health prevention techniques.

As best stated by Osa Johnson, "I want to live every day as an adventure, too, seeing each moment as an opportunity to learn something about the world around me or myself."

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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