

USF

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

HEP /CAMP Highlights

Center for Migrant Education

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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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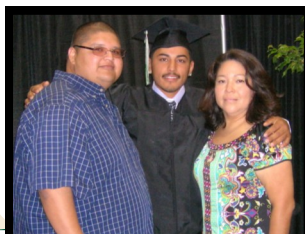
Dreams Come True by Rosa Mendez

"I accomplished the one thing family members have not done, so it was very special." -Genaro Amador

On June 11, 2011 dreams became reality for HEP students as they participated in the graduation ceremony held at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa. Students attended with their parents, families, friends and some with their own children to take part in one of the most important moments of their lives. The look of pride in their eyes was more than evident as they dressed in their caps and gowns. The struggles and sacrifices that they have endured to earn their diplomas seemed like a distant memory; as they walked across the stage when their name was called. As the ceremony came to a close, students were already making plans to enroll in higher education to fulfill the

next chapter of their lives – to become teachers, doctors, etc. After all the diplomas were handed out and smiles were captured in photos, the main focus was on returning home and continuing their graduation celebration.

"I feel like I have a new beginning in life." -Dimas Alonzo



Congratulations to the following 2010-2011 HEP Graduates

Collier

Joshua Gallegos
Juan Jose Maldonado
Cindy Vasquez

Desoto

Andrea Montez-Gonzalez
Lissette Palafox
Roy Palafox
Alfredo Rodriguez

Hardee

Homar Rodriguez

Hillsborough

Roger Aranda
Jessica Gutierrez
Anastacio Hernandez
Jennifer Hernandez
Miklo Martinez
Jesus Medina
Vance Meza
Sergio Muñoz
Olga Najera
Anna Reyna
Claudia Reyna
Francisco Rocha
Perla Rodriguez
Edward Sanchez
Fidel Serrano
Judith Soto
Lorenzo Torres

Manatee

Dimas Alonzo
Genaro Amador
Rodrigo Arana
Carlos Fernandez
Jose Morales
Jocelyn Ramirez
Adrian Trevino

Okeechobee

Imelda Delacruz

Orange

Leonardo Becerra
Yoselin Garcia
Ana Hernandez
Salvador Perez
Josefina Rodriguez

Pasco

Rosa Ceballos

Polk

Liliana Arroyo
Eduardo Barragan
Lucas Menchaca
Bertha Ruby Rubio
Abraham Santamaria
Sergio Vallin

St. Lucie

Maria Alavarez

CAMP Success Stories *Update on CAMP Students from the 2001-2006 cohorts*



Salina Klinghammer,
CAMP 2003

I graduated from USF in 2007 with a Bachelor's in Communications, with a focus on interpersonal communications. As part of the 2003-2004 CAMP cohort, I participated in all the activities provided by CAMP. I also participated in an internship with INROADS, and was a member the Pre-law society and intramural sports. My experience with CAMP and the internship were very beneficial to my success because I gained the practical skills necessary to intern with a local newspaper, *The Tampa Tribune*, which I worked full-time for three years while in school.

I attended Stetson Law School in St. Petersburg, FL, where I graduated in May of 2010. I want to focus on family law, especially child dependency. I am also a Guardian Ad Litem where I serve as an advocate for abused and neglected children.



Juanita Martinez,
CAMP 2004

My experiences with CAMP can be described as one of the best opportunities during my undergraduate years at the University of South Florida! I came to USF from Immokalee, FL and the family that I found through CAMP helped me to deal with being away from my family at home. I met many fellow students during my freshman year in fall of 2004 that I am still friends with today. Thanks to CAMP I was able to come to USF with the financial, academic and personal assistance that it offered me.

I graduated from USF in spring 2009 with a bachelor's in Interpersonal and Organizational Communications and a minor in Leadership Studies. Upon completing my bachelor's degree I worked full time and later decided to continue my education and attend USF to receive a Master's in Public Administration. I am currently a graduate student at USF and I also work for USF as the Secretary of the Graduate and Professional Student Council. Upon graduation I would like to obtain an Administration Program Director position either through the City of Tampa or in the Miami area.



Oscar Olguin,
former scholarship
recipient who was re-
cently appointed as the
coordinator of the Mi-
grant Education Pro-
gram in Collier County

Migrant Scholars Program *by Dr. Ann Cranston-Gingras*

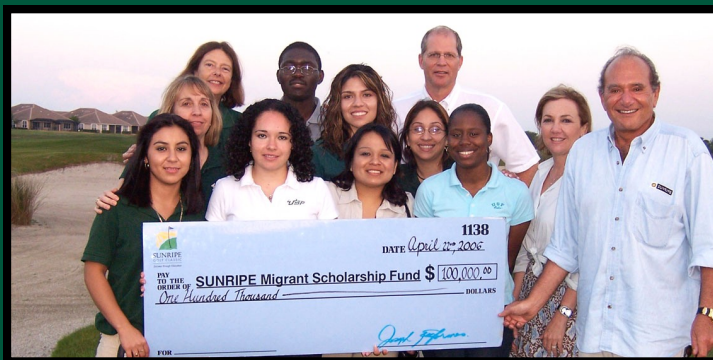
Motivated by the chance to inspire children who attend some of the same schools in migrant communities where they once were pupils themselves, over fifty students have now participated in the Center for Migrant Education's *Migrant Scholars Program*. Funded through unique partnerships with Florida agribusinesses including the Florida Tomato Exchange, Sunripe Produce,

the Florida Strawberry Grower's Association and the Wishnatzki Family, the *Migrant Scholars Program* provides generous financial support and other assistance for students from farmworker backgrounds to prepare for careers as teachers and school leaders in migrant communities

throughout Florida. Graduates are now working in many school districts and in some areas like south Hillsborough County, several former participants are teaching in the same schools. Students from migrant or seasonal farmworker backgrounds are

eligible to apply for the program and must declare education as their USF major.

For more information and to apply to apply for the *Migrant Scholars Program* contact Dr. Ann Cranston-Gingras at Cranston@usf.edu.



2006 scholarship recipients who have now gone on to become teachers, pictured here with donors and Drs. Kennedy and Cranston-Gingras



Sergio Andrade,
HEP 2005

My name is Sergio Andrade. I am the oldest of four children born to two Mexican immigrants. I am the first in my family to earn a G.E.D. and go to college. Neither of my parents progressed beyond middle school in their education. From a very early age I viewed education as my only option to better my life. As a child I would often accompany my parents to the farms where they worked. I learned what a lack of education meant as far as work opportunities. Those who had no other means to support themselves worked long hours doing exhausting manual labor during the hottest part of the day. As I grew older, I began to lose

interest in the education system and my grades began to suffer.

At the age of sixteen, when my parents separated, I left school and became employed full-time. Early on my only option was to work in restaurants for minimum wage. After a couple years I opted to move to Detroit and worked in construction. When my mother decided to move to Florida to be closer to family, I decided to join her. After a short time searching for work I learned of a program that helps students from migrant or seasonal backgrounds earn their high school diploma. The support I received from the teachers aided in my ultimate decision to seek a college degree.

I am currently enrolled full time at Hillsborough Community College working toward a degree in Industrial Engineering. I plan on attending USF in 2012.

My younger siblings, who now also want to attend college, view me as a role model. As an engineer, I hope to make a life for myself even better than any my parents could have hoped for.

Marcy Garza,
2002 HEP student,
graduated from Armstrong Atlantic State University earning her Bachelors in Science of Nursing.



"If you develop a passion for learning, you will never cease to grow" (Anthony J. D'Angelo). I am a firm believer that education is the key to future opportunities. From my first step at USF's HEP program to my latest as a graduate of Armstrong Atlantic State University, I continue to grow.

The USF High School Equivalency Program was indeed the first stepping stone of my educational career. Not that I never considered college, but it wasn't until HEP that I was truly inspired and motivated to attend a university. The guidance provided by supportive faculty and staff opened my mind to much more. As the first HEP graduate to immediately enter USF's CAMP program, I seized the opportunity with vigor as a CAMP scholar. As the first in my family to attend a university, I was eager to learn.

I completed my first year of CAMP and then returned to Georgia to continue my education at East Georgia College. Armstrong Atlantic State University's was my next stop where I changed majors from mass communication to nursing. I had new challenges and I struggled at times, but I survived and earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and became a member of Sigma Theta Tau, nursing's International Honor Society.

Currently, I am providing home health care, and I am working with dialysis patients. Ultimately, my educational goals are to return to school to earn a Master's Degree in Psychiatric Nursing, and eventually a Doctorate in Nursing Education.

-Marcy Garza, RN, BSN



2010-2011 HEP/CAMP
Scholarship Recipient
Javier Ochoa

Javier was awarded one of the National HEP/CAMP Association scholarships. His name was submitted to the selection committee by the HEP staff because of his commitment to his family and his education.

While enrolled in HEP, Javier worked closely with the staff to enroll in an EMT program at Manatee Technical Institute. Javier just completed his first year at MTI, and returns to HEP periodically to speak with the new students about his life experiences. He is the proud father of two young children, and he is optimistic about the future of his family.



HEP Students Get in Touch with their Surreal Side

In March 2011, our High School Equivalency Program students had the opportunity to visit the new Salvador Dalí Museum, in St. Petersburg. The

Dalí museum is the permanent home of the world's most comprehensive collection of the renowned Spanish artist's work. Visitors from all over the world come to St. Pete to appreciate Dalí's legacy. For our students, it was an extraordinary way to say goodbye to a challenging session and to get ready for their GED test.

The collection provides an excellent overview of Dalí's major themes, symbols, and techniques. As a result, students had the chance to observe some of the oils, sculptures, watercolors, and movies that changed the world of art forever.

An important part of HEP involves exposing the students to new and different experiences. Very few things can be more interesting than Salvador Dalí's life and art.

Making a difference...

Yearly, hundreds of USF students volunteer in the Bulls Service Break. This year 10 **CAMP** students joined the cause.

"I Say Tomato, You Say Tomahto" by Ruby Luis



Above: CAMP Student Aram (left) and CAMP Recruiter, Ruby Luis (second from right) volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in Immokalee, Florida

there are various sites where workers congregate to find employment. Our group visited a parking lot near the Coalition of Immokalee Workers headquarters. This pre-dawn morning, I realized the day to day struggle of the farm worker, whose livelihood depends on this morning ritual.

The Bulls Service Break gave me the unique opportunity to live in Immokalee for one week and reflect on the many things I take for granted. I returned with a greater appreciation for my family, work, home, and farm workers.

Volunteer Locations

1—Liliana Ibarra, Gabriel Landeros, and Aram Salazar (See: "I say Tomato" article) spent their spring break working closely with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (C.I.W.) on issues related to migrant worker rights. During their time in Immokalee, they were also able to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, the Guadalupe Center, the Early Childhood Education Center, and Highlands Elementary.

2—Cynthia Piedra helped with the Build Biloxi project traveling to Biloxi, Mississippi to work with Habitat for Humanity on home building projects for those affected by Hurricane Katrina and Rita.



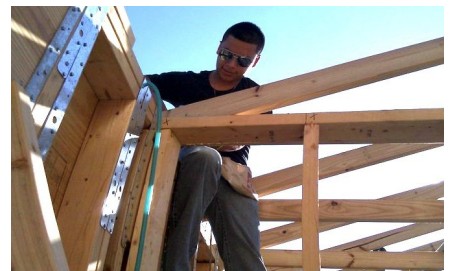
"Amazing!! That would be the word I would describe my Bulls Service Break experience. Thanks to the CAMP program, I was able to interact with a family who lost everything due to hurricane Katrina, but somehow managed not to lose hope."

3—Pedro Limas volunteered with several organizations in Washington, D.C. on the topic of public health through Metro Teen Aids, a community organization dedicated to supporting young people in the fights against HIV/AIDS through education, support, and advocacy.

To gain an experience like no other, each year, USF sends students to an alternative spring break, known as Bulls Service Breaks. Sites are chosen, based on specific issues that affect various communities.

During my time at USF, my spring break did not go beyond spending time with my family. This year, I was selected as trip advisor for the Bulls Service Break. Alongside seven students, we gave up our spring break to partake in the "I Say Tomato, You Say Tomahto" service trip to Immokalee, Florida. This small farming community has made national headlines, with the aid of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, who exposed the hardships and abuses, farm workers face. The C.I.W. seeks justice for farm workers and has been instrumental in improving their working conditions.

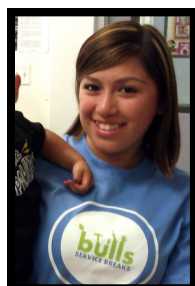
The Bulls Service Break's aspiration was to visit the community and gain a better perspective of the underlying issues related to farm work. We stayed at the Immokalee Friendship house, which is a shelter for homeless families and individuals. Our service sites included: the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Habitat for Humanity and the Guadalupe Center. The highlight of my trip, was neither tanning at the beach nor pool parties with friends. The 4 AM visit to the "parking lot" solidified the daily struggle farm workers face. In Immokalee,



"This trip was very memorable and was a well spent spring break. Not only did we enjoy the pleasure of visiting a different community, but we also enjoyed helping people in need and demonstrating that there are people who care." —Aram & Gabriel



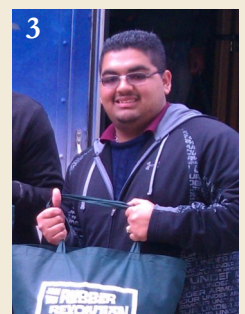
Aram Salazar and Gabriel Landeros (far right) volunteering at a local elementary school



"Even though I did not do enough for the workers, for there is definitely more that needs to be done, I at least know I contributed a little to the hard efforts." —Liliana

"This trip was an eye opener to me. Some of the youth I worked with were HIV positive but you would not have known. They saw life as a blessing and that no matter what life goes on."

—Pedro



one step at a time



4 Mercedes (red blouse) with Bulls Break participants at the Tara Hall Home for Boys

Many USF college students are anxious to begin spring break and relax at the beach, visit family, sleep in, or just be lazy. Few students consider sharing their precious time with others, especially if they are worn down by school work!

This spring break I decided to participate in USF's Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program and dedicate my time to helping others. The ironic thing is that giving back to others can actually be more satisfying and mentally relaxing than taking a vacation.

Through the ASB, lo-

cated in the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, I was placed at Tara Hall in Georgetown, South Carolina. Tara Hall is a home for abused or

troubled boys where they receive support and at times, discipline. The boys range in age from 6-14 years old. My personal experience in living with my younger siblings, gave me confidence in my ability to communicate with the boys.

I was part of a group of nine students from USF. We traveled by van for ten hours to reach our site in South Carolina. We arrived late Saturday night and slept on beds that were set up inside the church.

I met all the boys on Monday morning. Little did I know that the week was going to be packed with more fun than I had bargained for! My day began at breakfast with the

boys, and I then accompanied them to school until 2:30pm. After school, we played games, ate dinner and had evening activities prepared for them. Although structured, every day was a unique learning experience for me. I learned so much about the boys and more about myself. I have a better understanding that I control how I behave, how I respond, and how I decide to handle things. The challenge for me is doing it the RIGHT way. The boys at Tara Hall allowed me to experience a whole new world, and my life will forever be changed for the better because of them. I couldn't have asked for a better spring break.



Attending the University of South Florida has truly been a life changing experience filled with many wonderful memories. I am so thankful that I came across CAMP, a program that has become more like a second family to me. CAMP has provided me with many opportunities such as the chance to participate in the Bulls Service Break. Through this alternative spring break program I was able to experience one of the most powerful service experiences ever. Having the chance to spend time with HIV patients was truly inspiring. Despite their condition they had such a positive outlook towards life and were looking forward to accomplishing their dreams. Staying in a different state with seven other students made it possible for me to fully absorb everything. I plan to use everything that I learned to raise HIV awareness in my community in order to stop injustices towards individuals with the disease. I am so happy to have been part of the Bulls Service Breaks, not only did I learn about HIV but I also made new friendships that I know will be long lasting. Most importantly this trip assured me that I have chosen the right career. My motivation to become a registered nurse has only been strengthened by this trip and I hope one day to make a difference in the lives of many patients.

— Ericka



6 Kayleigh (left), Ericka (striped blouse), Ruben (front), and other BSB participants at the CARES Center



Volunteer Locations Continued...

4— Mercedes Nunez volunteered for the School House Rocks program at Tara Hall Home for Boys in Georgetown, S.C., a long-term residential school for neglected, troubled, and abused boys.

5— Shady Yang (below: purple sweater) volunteered with the Meels on Heels project traveling to New York, NY to work with God's Love we Deliver, an organization that delivers meals to individuals living with a serious illness and also provides illness-specific education and counseling to the client and their families.



"Feeding the sick of New York City is one of the most humbling experiences I have ever encountered."

6— Ericka Garcia, Kayleigh Devereux, and Ruben Centeno were able to interact with people with AIDS and assisted them with basic needs through the South Alabama CARES Program (Community AIDS Resources, Education, & Support), a support business for those living with HIV/AIDS.

"I was displeased to learn that I would have to wake up early in the morning for volunteering, but after the first day, I was hooked and I loved what I was volunteering for. This was a life-changing trip with many social and educational benefits."

—Kayleigh

HEP: Where Are They Now?



Maria Alvarez - Keiser University; Medical Assistant

Eduardo Barragan - Hillsborough Community College (HCC); Architecture

Jamie Cortez - Ridge Technical School; Welding

Imelda DelaCruz - Indian River Community College; Nursing

Martin Jaimes - Ridge Technical School; Automotive Program

Jessica Macedo - Travis Technical School; Nursing

Javier Ochoa - Manatee Technical Institute; EMT



Juan is attending an agricultural tradeshow showcasing the company's products

I remember clearly to this day how excited I was to attend the HEP program. I was surprised that programs like HEP existed, especially for migrant workers. All I knew is that I wanted to change my life and HEP was the first step. I thought that attending HEP while I was pregnant would be a problem, but it wasn't, it was far from that. You could say that it was the best reminder of what

On the Road to Success

Juan and Fabiola Bocanegra were HEP students and graduates in 1993 and 1996 respectively. Together, they currently operate a graphic design business in Mulberry, FL and are raising a family.

was in front of me, a better future for me and my family.

I couldn't believe how caring and understanding our teachers were, always pushing us forward with encouragement. I think that is part of the reason why I really put my best foot forward and put everything I had in it because I knew that the HEP staff really cared about me. For that matter, they cared about all of the students. As a group of young students, we forged our own identity. We were all made to feel as one. When my classmates and I finished the program, I can honestly say that we felt for the first time that we mattered, that we were someone. That is the reason HEP is near and dear to my heart. It has helped me become the person and mother I am today.

Since 2007, Juan and I have managed a business together. It is called Southern Graphic and De-

sign and from time to time we call or visit with the HEP staff. Juan is a graduate from HEP and I must say that "things are looking bright!" We would like to say a thank you to the HEP program and teachers for giving back and giving us a brighter future.

— Juan and Fabiola Bocanegra



Juan is finishing up a few details on a vehicle wrap

CAMP Students Participate in Stampede of Service



True Awareness (META), had the opportunity to make a change in our community. The Stampede of Service took place on January 15, 2011. A total of 16 CAMP students along with over 2,000 other USF students dedicated their Saturday morning to this event. SOS focused on servicing more than 60 different organizations in the Tampa

way. I must admit we found some interesting things along the road we cleaned. It made us all realize effects of littering in our community and how we should each do our part to clean up. —Liliana Valdez



Liliana, Community Service Chair for META's SOS participation

In 2006, a USF student began a very successful and traditional service to the Tampa Bay community. The Stampede of Service (SOS) is a celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday at USF and has been a tradition for the last five years that has continued to grow more and more over the years. This year, the members of the CAMP student organization, Members Empowering

Bay area including the environment, homelessness, poverty, senior citizens, and education. The members of META were assigned to work on the streets of Tampa. We were given several large black trash bags and gloves and were sent on our way to clean the streets. Our group was so motivated that after cleaning our assigned area we met with another participating organization and helped further clean the streets along the



Silvia, a member of the 2009-2010 CAMP Cohort

Extraordinary can merely describe my study abroad trip to China this summer. This experience was by far the most mentally and physically demanding of me and yet the most valuable. This trip was extremely important to me in terms of learning by exploration. As part of USF's Chinese Learning in the Culture Program I was enrolled in three courses for five weeks. During my last week I visited different cities in China's Shandong province and learned about Chinese culture first hand.

The anticipation that built up before my trip to China was breathtaking. The feeling of excitement that came when I finally arrived to China was even more so exhilarating. I was in China! I remember my first night in China walking the streets and thinking how lucky I was to be there. I visited the Great Wall of

CAMP Student Studies in China

China and also toured Tiananmen Square, Summer Palace, Silk Market, Panjiayuan Market, Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Temple of Heaven, and Laoshe Teahouse.

For the next five weeks I was enrolled in three courses at China's Ocean University in Qingdao, China. During this period I practiced reading and writing Chinese characters and understanding Chinese culture. Everything that I learned in the classroom, I used on a daily basis. Ordering food, taking a taxi cab, shopping, and communicating with my Chinese roommate are all tasks that I was able to accomplish in Chinese by the end of my study abroad program.

I spend my last week touring China's Shandong province along with 28 other USF students. This last week served as an opportunity to bond with the students in this program and finalized our study abroad trip. Climbing a 5,000 foot mountain was by far my greatest physical accomplishment that week. We all spend that last week visiting museums, rural areas, making Chinese friends, shopping the markets, and learning about

Chinese history.

After graduating college I plan to work in Washington DC. However, prior to moving there I want to join the Peace Corps and live in China. Living in China will be very beneficial to me as an international business major with China as my area of concentration. I want to be a business volunteer in China and continue to learn Mandarin Chinese while I am there.

I learned so much in the two months I lived in China than I will ever learn from any text book. Studying abroad in China has truly been a life changing experience. China summer 2011 will forever be one of my cherished memories.



Interested in visiting the USF campus?

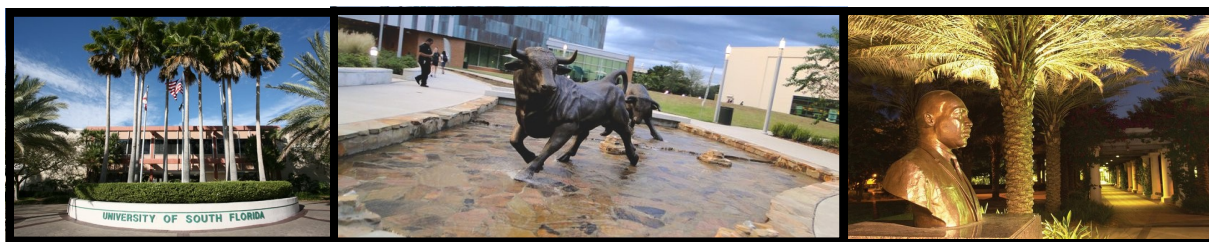
Groups of 9 or larger are to contact the Visitation Coordinator

Jonathan Earnest at: 813-974-0629 or jearnest@usf.edu 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****



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Web: www.coedu.usf.edu/cme

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

