



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

HEP /CAMP Highlights

Center for Migrant Education

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SUMMER 2015

Congratulations 2014-2015 HEP & CAMP Graduates



HEP (High School Equivalency Program) (PR#S141A140020) and CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program) (PR#S149A140017) 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 Teaching and Learning at USF. They are designed to assist eligible participants from migrant and seasonal farmworker backgrounds.

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2014 - 2015 HEP Graduates to Date

Collier County

Ceasar Carrillo
Alexsander De Leon
Andres Francisco
Eddie Martinez
Gerzo Martinez
Roberto Ozuna

Desoto County

Aimee Castillo

Hardee County

Stephanie Juarez

Highlands County

Rolena Antonio
Yulissa Briseno
Betsabet Montoya

Hillsborough County

Servando Alcocer
Oscar Arcos
Araceli Fermin
Laura Garza
Yesenia Hernandez
Martin Leyva-Pascual
Oscar Lopez
Luis Manuel Martinez
Jesus Pantoja
Selena Ramirez
Mel Sanchez-Ramos

Lee County

Aaron Estrada

Levy County

Magdalena Rodriguez

Manatee County

Genaro Garza
Esmeralda Hernandez
Juan Carlos Lupercio
Juan Sarmiento

Okeechobee County

Fidel Serrano

Palm Beach County

Clairemencia Pierre Saint

Polk County

Roberto Benitez
Itzayana Elias-Aguinaga
Benito Lopez
Elvis Macedo
Francisco Martinez
Griselda Sanchez
Pedro Villegas

Sarasota County

Kayla Lacosta





Steven Aboytes
Business - Management
Information Systems

Sarah Arreola
Exceptional Student
Education

Nataly Barrientos
Public Health

Ivan Calderon
Business - Marketing

Maggali Callejas
International Studies

Karina Escobedo
International Studies

Perla Espinoza
Civil Engineering

Omar Garcia
Criminal Justice

Gabriela Hurtado
Nursing

Cindy Ibarra
Early Childhood
Education

Juan Lopez
Finance

Micaela Martinez
Health Science

Janet Medina
Economics

Silvia Monroy
International Business

Mercedes Nunez
Elementary Education

Cynthia Piedra
Public Health

Ivan Salazar
Public Health

Mercedes Sanchez
Business Management

Ronkevious Smalls
General Studies

Shady Yang
Exceptional Student
Education

2014 - 2015 CAMMP Graduates to Date

USF's Gilman Scholar

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program offers grants for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies or credit-bearing, career-oriented internships abroad. Such international exchange is intended to better prepare U.S. students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world.



Growing up as a migrant child whose parents never finished middle and high school, I never would have imagined I would have the opportunity to travel abroad. My idea of traveling was limited to the trips we made to the *norte* between Florida and Michigan each summer in order to follow the cucumber harvest. This past summer, I spent an unforgettable four weeks living and learning in the heart of Cambridge, England. I am confident that my study abroad experience was unlike anyone else's. While abroad, I spent my days in a Year 1 classroom (the equivalent to Kindergarten in the US). Even though I had to wake up early to catch the bus and take a 20 minute bus ride to my school, it was well worth it. I had the opportunity to teach some lessons to the children in my classroom, all while learning from them and their culture. I was invited to field trips with my class as well as given the opportunity to participate in collaborations with my cooperating teacher and the other teachers. Outside of the classroom, I was able to explore Cambridge, London and Barcelona. I stepped out of my comfort zone and, with an open mind, I took in every experience. As each day goes by, I cannot help but miss the place I called home for a short, yet unforgettable month. A piece of me has stayed there, and I only hope to return and get to explore some more. This trip was only the beginning. Since then I have pursued ways to share what I got back from that experience with my own colleagues and sought ways to continue to travel even if it means to a different city.

By Cindy Ibarra, 2011 CAMP Student

NASDME Awardee



At age fifteen, Elder Salvador faced what he considers his biggest challenge: he became the sole provider for his family. Elder promised his dying father that he was going to look after their family, and he has kept that promise ever since. Despite his young age, Elder understood the importance of his commitment. Providing for his family became his priority, so he took his father's place in the agricultural fields to make ends meet. Elder knew, however, that education was the key to providing a better future for his siblings, so he joined the University of South Florida's HEP program in October 2012. All of the HEP teachers recognized his exceptional work ethic, his absolute commitment to his family, and his genuine interest in helping others. Elder's motivation and enthusiasm for the goals of the HEP program were exemplary, and he knew that obtaining a high school diploma was only his first step.

Since he was a young boy, Elder felt inclined to serve his community. It is not a surprise that, after HEP, Elder joined the Criminal Justice Academy and successfully completed all his courses. Elder received an award as the best shooter of his class, and took and passed the state test. Elder says, "My future goals are to help out my community and hopefully get hired with the sheriff's office in Highlands to give back to my community, protect and serve all that I can."

In recognition to his efforts and achievements, Elder received the NASDME (National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education) HEP Student Award. We are very proud of him!

The Teachers: The teachers at HEP are great at what they do. If you think about it, we ask a lot from them. And if you give them what they ask for, which is your time, effort, respect, and your full potential, then I guarantee that you will leave with what you came for (*diploma*).

The Experience: The experience you will gain at HEP is like none other. It feels like a different kind of society sometimes. It feels like a community for young adults.

The Events: Events held at USF are amazing; they have an environment that can't be created at any other place. During the first week at USF, I was able to attend USF's WOW (Week of Welcome) Events. The week was packed with a variety of events geared towards welcoming students to campus and informing them of the resources USF has to offer. The type of environment these events create is awesome: everyone's spirits are high, and the excitement is through the roof. If you go to these events, it will be something you will always remember.

By Genaro Garza, 2014 HEP Student



Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF) is a non-profit organization that seeks to provide farmworkers and their families greater access to existing resources through collaborations with farmworker advocacy organizations and community groups. SAF has a mission to bring students and farmworkers together to learn about each other's lives, share resources and skills, improve conditions for farmworkers, and build diverse coalitions working for social change.

My experience with SAF was one to remember. It began with a rough start, but finished with self-developing and a memorable experience. At first, I did not have a vehicle and had to drive a car from the organization in Durham, North Carolina to Kinston, North Carolina (2 hours). I arrived in Kinston with no difficulties, but the day after, the car's brakes no longer worked and I had to walk 2.5 miles to the nearest grocery store every other day. I was not allowed to carry too many things which is why I went shopping an average of 4 times a week. With that being said I humbled myself and found a way to get around. A couple of weeks later another intern came down to Kinston to be my partner and together we were teaching English courses to the youth and providing them with any supplies they needed. It was a wonderful experience having many people crowded around you just to hear what you have to say.

As time passed by, in mid retreat, I got closer to the other SAFistas and hung out with them on the weekends. This is what made my experience one to remember. I met people who are as passionate as I am about migrant and farmworker rights. I made connections which I still continue today. This internship allowed me to learn a lot about myself and to adapt to any situation that GOD puts in front of me, but most importantly I realized that the amount of effort you put towards a certain task directly affects the results you will get in return.

By Jose Guzman-Ramos, 2014 CAMP Student



Bulls Service Break Experience

Alternative Spring Breaks are volunteer missions that send students across the country to assist in humanitarian causes. Bulls Service Breaks (BSB) are USF's particular Alternative Spring Break program, led by the Center for Civic Engagement (CLCE). Created to increase awareness of social injustices and encourage cultural exchange, Bulls Service Breaks are meant to highlight 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 social causes. 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. Volunteers were sponsored by CAMP and Citi.

BSB Locations & Issues

Atlanta, GA	Public Health
Birmingham, AL	Education
Lafollette, TN	Environment
Raleigh, NC	Migrant Worker Rights
San Juan, TX	Immigration
Selma, AL	Social Injustice & Youth Ed.



Raleigh, NC: Migrant Worker Rights

CAMP Students: Eduardo Martínez, Blanca Flores, & Maggali Callejas



San Juan, TX: Immigration

CAMP Students: Lucilia Ruiz, Ilda Martínez, Alexia Salazar, & Mayra García-Jaral

I was part of the Immigration Bulls Service Break group, and we traveled to San Juan, Texas. My group stayed at Sacred Heart Church in McAllen, and we drove to different areas each day. We worked with LUPE (La Unión del Pueblo Entero) and Sacred Heart.

With LUPE, we created posters for people to carry during the Cesar Chavez March on March 28. We visited different *colonias*, and we had the privilege to meet a very humble older couple who told their story of struggles living in the *colonias*. With Sacred Heart, we worked with border detainee families. I felt a sense of fulfillment as I found clothes for them and led them to what (for many) were their first showers in days. We also visited the border wall. Even though it looks like just a wall, it represents much more to many families, including mine.

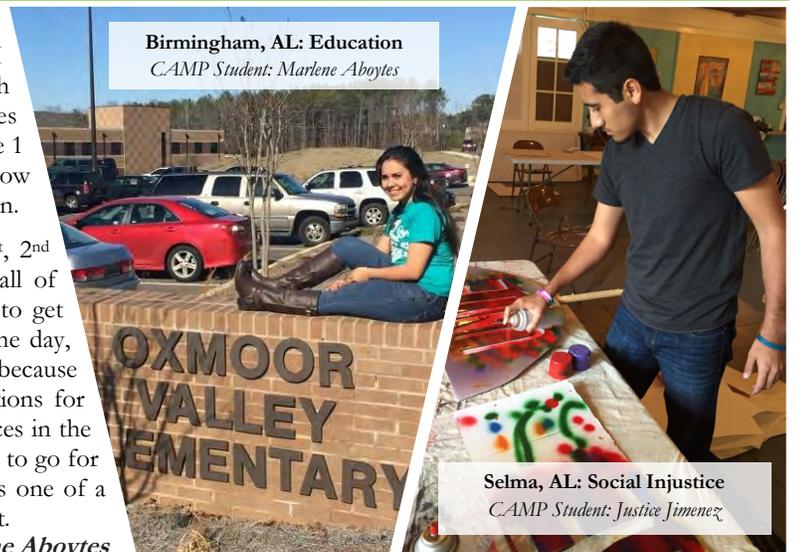
Even though we only stayed for a week, I learned so much. I learned how immigration affects people in Texas and Florida. I gained knowledge and experience, and I had the chance to make a difference. I will never forget the smiles we were able to put on people's faces during this trip.

By: Ilda Martínez

This spring break stands out from any other because I traveled to the beautiful city of Birmingham, Alabama. I volunteered at Oxmoor Valley Elementary School through Junior Achievement, a non-profit organization that emphasizes the importance of financial literacy among students from Title 1 Schools. Thanks to this experience, I was able to reinforce how much I am looking forward to my career, elementary education.

During Bulls Break, I was able to teach in kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 5th grade classes, and I learned something new from all of them. A week was definitely enough time for the students to get comfortable with me. Lunch time was my favorite part of the day, not because I was able to drink chocolate milk again, but because that was when the students' imaginations roared with questions for me. After school hours, I was also able to visit historical places in the city that made me realize that our country still has a long way to go for the well-being of our children. All in all, this experience was one of a kind and it will always hold a special place in my teacher heart.

By: Marlene Aboytes



Birmingham, AL: Education

CAMP Student: Marlene Aboytes

Selma, AL: Social Injustice

CAMP Student: Justice Jimenez

CAMP: Where Are They Now?

Perla Espinoza	Civil Engineer	Archer Western Contracting
Jaclyn Garza	Elementary Teacher	Pioneer Park Elementary School
Pedro Limas	Program Director	Pinellas County Human Services
Juan Lopez	Management Associate	Regents Bank
Janet Medina	Marketing Coordinator	ATEC Systems
Brenda Escutia	Therapy Intake Coordinator	United Cerebral Palsy of Tampa Bay
Eloy Ochoa	Financial Analyst	MetLife
Samantha Ortiz	Elementary Teacher	East Side Elementary School
Cynthia Piedra	Outreach Coordinator	Medical Practice Office
Alejandra Torres	Science Teacher	West Orange High School

2010 CAMP Student, Omar Garcia, is currently employed as an Operations Graduate Student assisting with the daily operations of USF's student union. In fall 2015, he will begin his graduate studies in the College Student Affairs Program at the University of South Florida.



2010 CAMP Student, America Delgado is working as an ER Nurse in the Tampa Hospital.

2010 CAMP Student, Mayra Gomez is a Child Development Specialist for a non for profit organization.



2010 CAMP Student, Liliana Ibarra is employed by The Law Place as a Legal Assistant.

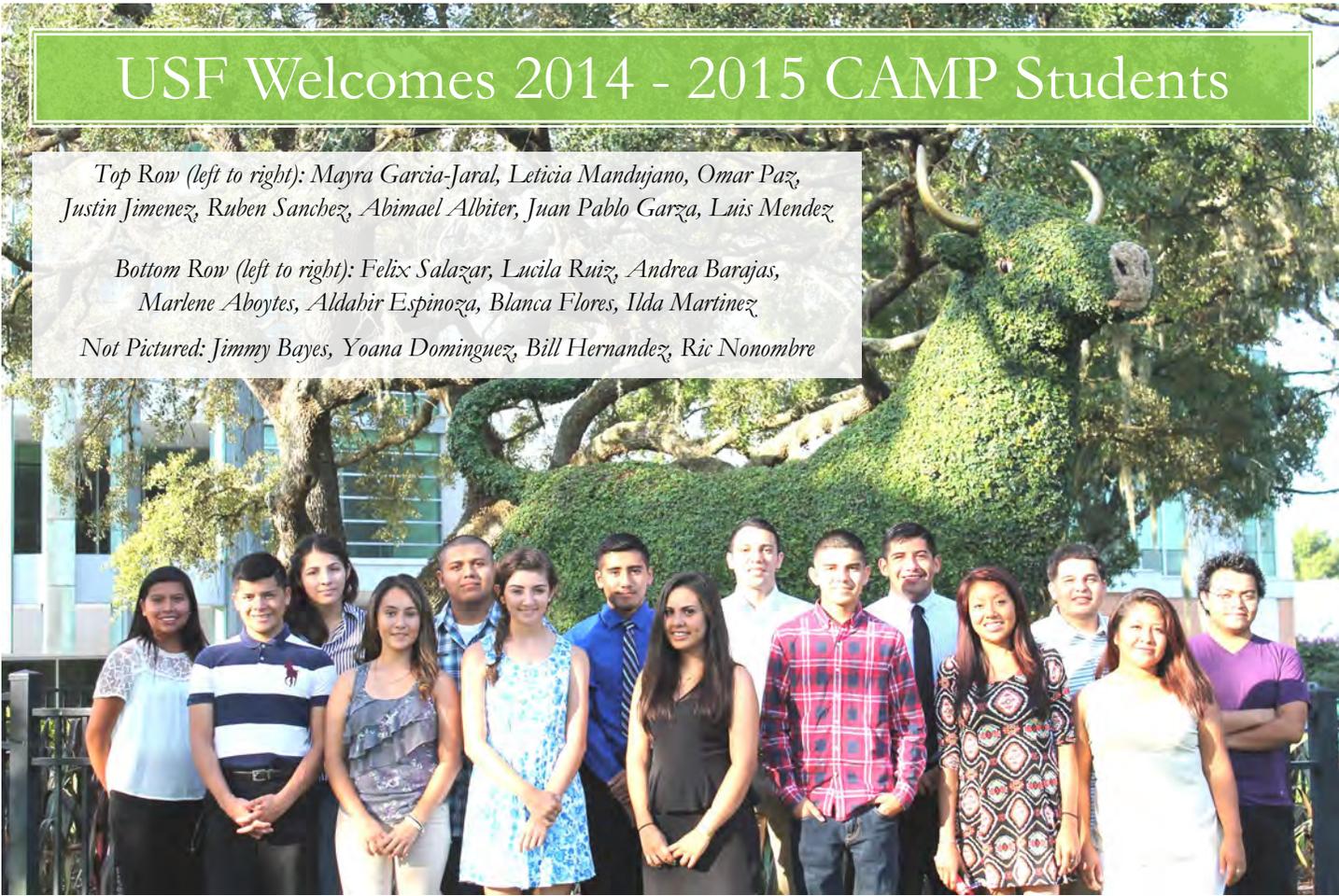


USF Welcomes 2014 - 2015 CAMP Students

Top Row (left to right): Mayra Garcia-Jaral, Leticia Mandujano, Omar Paz, Justin Jimenez, Ruben Sanchez, Abimael Albiter, Juan Pablo Garza, Luis Mendez

Bottom Row (left to right): Felix Salazar, Lucila Ruiz, Andrea Barajas, Marlene Aboytes, Aldabir Espinoza, Blanca Flores, Ilda Martinez

Not Pictured: Jimmy Bayes, Yoana Dominguez, Bill Hernandez, Ric Nonombre



USF's DreamCatchers

DreamCatchers is a nationally recognized organization dedicated to fulfilling the final wishes of hospice patients. During my freshman year I decided to establish a chapter at the University of South Florida after I saw the impact the organization had in my hometown. The organization was introduced to me by a friend who is dear to my heart and after I graduated from Pahokee High, I promised her that I would take it with me. Establishing the organization was difficult to do as a freshman because I knew little about the university experience, but thanks to CAMP and eDUCARE, I was able to find people who were supportive and knowledgeable throughout the process. Dreamcatchers at USF is now partnered with Chapters Health System where our members will be volunteering and providing our service. The USF community has been very supportive with the organization and within the first year we were able to organize a fundraiser which will enable us to begin fulfilling dreams this upcoming year.

By Marlene Aboytes (left)





The CAMP Ambassadors Program is a volunteer peer-to-peer collaborative effort to assist CAMP's recruitment of students to USF. This academic year marked significant growth and recognition of the program. Twenty-two CAMP students served as hosts and role-models for K-12 migrant students by assisting with campus tours and presentations that focused on USF and other post-secondary opportunities. Additionally, the ambassadors volunteered at the 2014 National HEP/CAMP Technical Assistance Conference, and were highlighted in Ruby Luis' workshop "Recruitment & Retention: CAMPus Visitation programs."

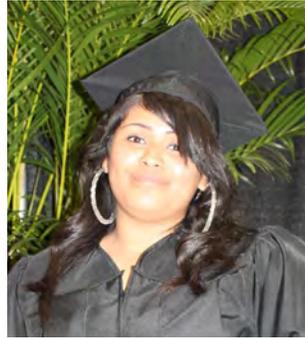


CAMP Ambassadors

HEP: Where Are They Now?

The following students graduated and are now enrolled in post-secondary institutions:

Lucia Alvarez	Cosmetology	Fort Myers Institute of Technology
Oscar Arcos	Automotive Service Program	Manatee Technical College
Tania Dominguez	Pre-Nursing	Hillsborough Community College
Fernando Herrera	Pre-Nursing	Tallahassee Community College
Benito Lopez	Automotive Collision Repair	Travis Career Center
Juan C. Lupercio	AC Repair Program	Manatee Technical College
Francisco Martinez	Automotive Collision Repair	Travis Career Center
Isabelle Pequeno	Cosmetology	Fort Myers Paul Mitchell School
Lizbet Sanchez	Education	Pasco-Hernando State College
Angelica Torres	X-Ray/Medical Assistant	ITECH



(left to right) Isabelle Pequeno, Lucia Alvarez, & Lizbet Sanchez

“The High School Equivalency program at the University of South Florida has been the most memorable time of my life. I had the opportunity to experience a university lifestyle by living on campus, being social, outgoing, and meeting new friends. I also accomplished one of the main goals I had sought by earning my high school diploma and now continuing with my education at Pasco-Hernando State College. I will never forget HEP!”
 ~ **Lizbet Sanchez**

HEP: Student Spotlight



Clairmencia Pierre Saint (left) & Itzayana Elias (right)

Itzayana Elias

Itzayana is one of the best examples of hard work and determination. During her session, she worked weekends as a nurse assistant, finishing her shift Monday mornings. She came to class anyway, with all her homework done and the best of attitudes. She now works full time as a child care aide and wants to attend community college to study social work because she wants to help others.

Clairemencia Pierre Saint

Clairemencia is another great example of hard work and commitment. She struggled with the GED material due to her limited English skills, but she didn't lose focus despite the obvious challenges. After receiving her diploma, she was awarded a scholarship to attend Patient Care Technician training, and plans to start community college in January 2016.

On November 6th, USF Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Faculty, USF Office of the Provost, and the USF College of Arts and Sciences invited Jose Antonio Vargas to share his story about the challenges he faced growing up in the US as an undocumented immigrant. Jose Antonio Vargas is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who outed himself as an undocumented immigrant in a ground breaking essay published in *The New York Times Magazine* in 2011. Vargas explores one of the most divisive questions facing our country today: how do you define “American?”

The following is a HEP student’s response to Jose’s story:

There are experiences that you will never forget, not because they are bad, but because they change your life in such a positive way that you might think it is all a dream. HEP did that for me: from the teachers to the guest speakers: all aspects of my participation in the program made HEP a great experience.

Listening to Jose Antonio Vargas speak about his life as an immigrant made a big impact on me. He visited USF and shared his amazing story. The audience learned about how challenging it was to overcome all the obstacles thrown at him because of his undocumented status. It is inspiring to know that after hiding the fact that he was an immigrant for a long time, he decided to speak out and let everyone know about his reality in hopes of a better future.

Remembering Mr. Vargas’s speech makes me think about my own challenges, about the obstacles I am facing and will face. My goals in life are constantly being put on hold. I want to further my education, and even though the road will be challenging, I am inspired by people like Jose Antonio Vargas to keep giving it my all and to not give up.

Like Mr. Vargas, I too wait in hopes that one day the Dream Act will be passed. All I want is a chance to make my own dreams a reality, the possibility to reach my goals and be a better person. Right now, though, that chance isn’t in the cards for young people like me and Jose Antonio Vargas. But we all hold on to our American dreams.

By Magdalena Rodriguez, 2014 HEP Student



HEP & CAMP Students with Jose Antonio Vargas (center). (Left to Right) CAMP Recruiter, Ruby Luis with CAMP Students: Eduardo Salgado, Cindy Ibarra and Maria Zamora (Right to Left) HEP Students: Kayla Lacoasta, Araceli Fermin, Magdalena Rodriguez and Esmeralda Hernandez

Jose Antonio Vargas: How do you define “American”?

Interested in Visiting the USF Campus?

Tours are available Monday through Friday and are approximately 90 minutes.

To schedule a campus visit, please contact the New Student Welcome Center at (813) 974-7878, preferably 45 days in advance. Groups will be provided an informational session given by one of the admissions representatives. In the event that the slots are at capacity and additional tours cannot be accommodated, groups can request tours by CAMP Ambassadors. Contact Ruby Luis to schedule tours with CAMP Ambassadors.



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 Tampa, FL 33620

Phone: 813-974-5806

Fax: 813-974-0485

Web: www.coedu.usf.edu/cme

Visiting the campus:
 Human Services/Architecture Building (HMS) 206



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 Juan Reyes
 Matthew Ro
 Trang Tran
 Pedro Zamora