



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH FLORIDA  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

# HEP /CAMP Highlights

Center for Migrant Education

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2016

## Naivi Arreola: from USF HEP to USF Graduate

The HEP family couldn't be more excited to share this graduation news: former HEP student Naivi Arreola earned her University of South Florida bachelor's degree in microbiology on May, 2016.

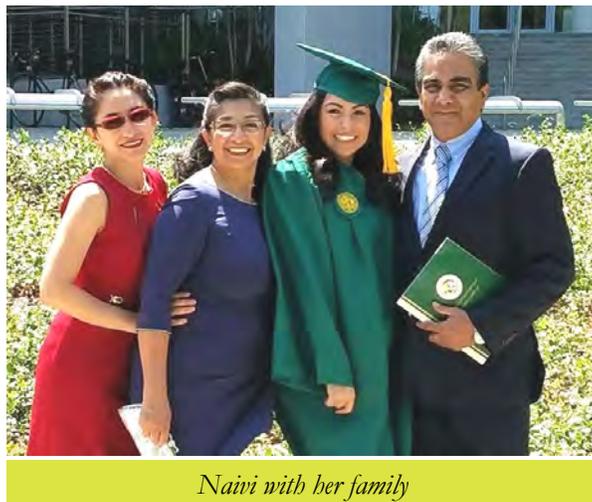
Naivi joined HEP in October, 2009. She is originally from Mexico City and moved to the United States as a teenager. In three short years, Naivi learned English, played sports, took violin lessons, kept good grades, and helped her mother as much as she could.

Education has always been important for Naivi. During her time in high school, she dreamed of becoming a biologist: "I want to go to college," she wrote in her HEP application. Her performance and attitude during her participation in our program demonstrated that she was serious about that goal. She worked diligently to pass the GED test, and her efforts paid off. One of the HEP teachers wrote in her evaluation that Naivi was, "The perfect student." Not surprisingly, Naivi received the HEP Student of the Session Award and the 2010 HEP/CAMP Scholarship once she continued her studies at State College of Florida.

From her HEP days, Naivi says, "I remember the time I spent at the dorms where I met students who nurtured my interest to continue my education. Also the teachers at HEP insisted that I could continue my education in the United States by applying to scholarships."

.... story continued on page 2

2009 HEP Graduation



Naivi with her family

2016 USF Graduation



USF is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success.

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 College of Education at USF. They are designed to assist eligible participants from migrant and seasonal farmworker backgrounds.

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...continued Naivi Arreola



Academically, Naivi struggled with one GED subject since she was still learning English, but her determination never wavered: “HEP prepared me well enough to have the necessary skills to pass the GED ...The only subject I did not pass was writing, but that did not stop me from retaking it and pursuing my goals.”

After HEP, Naivi attended State College of Florida. She did a fantastic job in all her classes, became an active member of several student clubs, and even ran for student government, but she always worried about all her academic costs. Looking for scholarships became a fundamental part of her journey. “HEP taught me how to look and apply for scholarships and gave me the opportunity to receive a scholarship to continue fighting for my goals and to not give up even when everything looks impossible.”

Naivi came back to USF to complete her undergraduate studies in microbiology. Once again, she took advantage of every opportunity to expand her knowledge and experience new things. She fell in love with research and worked diligently to complete her bachelor’s degree. Naivi is a remarkable young woman, and when we asked her to share some final words for our HEP and CAMP students, she said, “I’m 23 years old and work for a pharmaceutical company. I plan to continue my education pursuing my master’s and physician assistant degrees. I can only say that going to school can open the doors for bigger opportunities to succeed in life. It does not matter what degree you choose, but be passionate about it, and success will come. Look for financial help because there are many ways to pay for your school...School offers a competitive advantage that will help you get the job of your dreams. Even when a situation looks difficult, do not give up, and always pursue your dreams with courage and determination.”

***Congratulations, Naivi! We can’t wait to see what you’ll do next!***

## 2015 - 2016 CAMP Students

**GO BULLS!**



*Left to Right: Yasmin Cortez, Lorena Santiago-Hernandez, Yessenia Lopez, Vanessa Cortes, Juliana Leon, Yessica Chavez Grimaldo, Amado Perez, Brandon Lopez, Eddie Salas, Abigail Calderon, Manolo Mejia, Magali Salinas, Rodrigo Cruz, Diana Prieto, Mario Reyes-Munoz, Lyncee Romelus, Ridley Reynolds, Nestor Perez, Matilde Velasco, Jose Flores*  
*Not Pictured: Yesica Boxtha, Odalis Garcia, Kasandra Molina, Brunard Octavins, Iridian Resendiz-Sanchez, Karen Sanchez*

**Collier**

Jonathan Cabrera  
Carmen Cuevas  
Josiah Gallegos  
Silvestre Gallegos  
Mary Ann Garcia  
Jose Gomez  
Abraham Hernandez  
Diego Plata

**De Soto**

Hugo Gonzales  
Alejandro Palafox  
Joaquin Rangel  
Jesus Resendiz

**Hardee**

Cesar Bravo  
Aaron Briones  
Cristian Juarez  
Issaih Palacios  
Jorge Perez

**Hendry**

Stephanie Mendoza

**Highlands**

Robin Murillo

**Hillsborough**

Claudia Alvarez  
Ana Eguia  
Jose Garcia  
Ruby Garcia  
Pedro Gonzalez  
Daniel Hernandez  
Fernando Jaimes  
Mayela Jimenez  
Juanita Juarez  
Javier Leon  
Felix Lopez  
Yadira Luviano  
Javier Mendez  
Kaila Mendiola  
Merleni Montenegro

Stephanie Ortiz  
Jacqueline Pena  
Jennifer Torres  
Jorge Vasquez

**Manatee**

Veronica Alaniz  
Dominique Consuegra  
Alexander Guadalupe  
Juan Olivares  
Rolando Soto

**Marion**

Kendra Erazo

**Okeechobee**

Daniel Estrada  
Crystal Vargas  
Manuel Vargas

**Orange**

Lizet Zepeda

**Polk**

Manuel Aguilar  
Maria Alvarez  
Mino Barrios  
Juan Martinez  
Tomas Miranda  
Lesley Ovando  
Cristina Ramirez  
Leonardo Velasquez  
Miguel Villalobos



2015 - 2016 HEP Graduates to Date

# USF's Education Living Learning Community

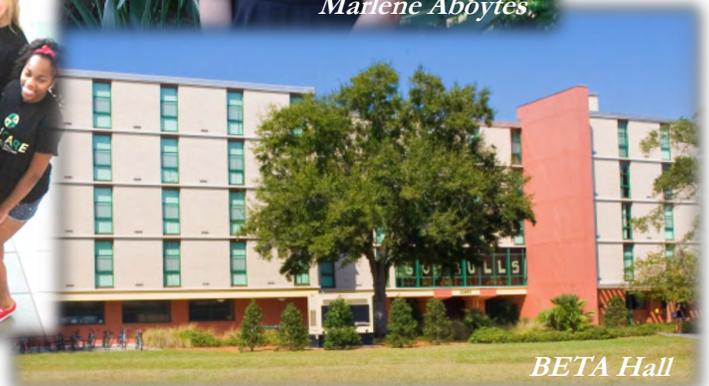
Living Learning Communities, known as LLCs, are residential communities with a special emphasis on an academic major or an area of interest. In an LLC, students meet friends with similar majors and interests, connect with faculty and staff right in their residence hall, and enjoy experiences designed especially for them. There's no better way to learn something than to really live it!



*Marlene Aboytes*



*eDUCARE participants*



*BETA Hall*

Being part of the Education Living Learning Community (eDUCARE) has given me many opportunities to explore different areas in the field of education, improve collaboration and leadership skills, and, most importantly, build amazing bonds with other students and staff who are also passionate about the education field. Freshman year was an unforgettable experience. I was paired with an incredible mentor who was there to guide me through my first year in college and who became one of my best friends. I enjoyed being part of the community so much that I decided to stay in Beta Hall my sophomore year. I was the only second year student who lived with the first year students, but I enjoyed it so much because I was their mentor. One of my favorite parts was joining the peer mentor committee because I had the opportunity to organize events such as the panel of educators, where different professionals from the education field came to talk to students about their experiences as educators throughout their career.

*By Marlene Aboytes*

## HEP: Where Are They Now?

We recently caught up with some HEP graduates:

<b>Mino Barrios</b>	Welding	Ridge Technical College
<b>Cesar Bravo</b>	Patient Care & Surgical Tech	Ridge Technical College
<b>Alex Guadalupe</b>	Electronic Technology	Manatee Technical College
<b>Yadira Luviano</b>	Medical Assisting	Erwin Technical College
<b>Elvis Macedo</b>	Auto Repair	Ridge Technical College
<b>Juan Martinez</b>	Auto Repair	Ridge Technical College
<b>Tomas Miranda</b>	Welding	Ridge Technical College
<b>Jacqueline Pena</b>	Dental Assistant	Erwin Technical College



Tropicana awarded \$50,000 in scholarships to the MTI Foundation for 10 farmworker students ages 18 to 25 to attend Manatee Technical College for career preparation. HEP Alumni, Esmeralda Hernandez (6th from the left) was the recipient of a \$5,000 Tropicana-PepsiCo Scholarship.

*"My dream and goal is to become a nurse. I would love to work with members of my community and help them feel healthy and well."*  
**Esmeralda Hernandez**



HEP Alumni, Juan Lupercio (right) was the recipient of the HEP/CAMP National Migrant Association Scholarship. He received \$1000 to assist with his AC Repair studies at Manatee Technical College.



Congratulations

2015 CAMP student, Abigail Calderon (right) was recognized as the recipient of the Lydia Cruz and Sandra Maria Ramos Scholarship by Delta Tau Lambda Sorority, Inc. The \$500 scholarship is awarded annually to young Latinas who demonstrate outstanding commitment to academic excellence and community service.

## HEP Alumni Profile: Antonio Martinez



**Antonio Martinez**

Antonio Martinez participated in HEP during our year 25 (August-October 2011). He is originally from Querétaro, Mexico. In his HEP application, Antonio wrote about his dream of becoming an architect, and he's been quite busy ever since, doing his best to make his dream a reality.

When Antonio joined HEP, he was learning English and getting used to his life in the States, yet with effort and determination, he succeeded in all his classes. In

*USF's Architecture Building*



addition, he was always happy to help his classmates whenever they needed help, especially in math. Antonio worked hard, passed his GED test, and earned his high school diploma in October 2011. It was pretty clear to all of his instructors that his education achievements weren't going to stop there.

After HEP, Antonio enrolled in the Hillsborough Community College where he earned his Associate of Arts degree in architecture. His ultimate goal has always been to come back to the University of South Florida as an architecture student, and this past fall that is exactly what he did. He earned outstanding grades in the introductory classes he took and has been fully admitted to the architecture program for fall 2016. Great job, Antonio!

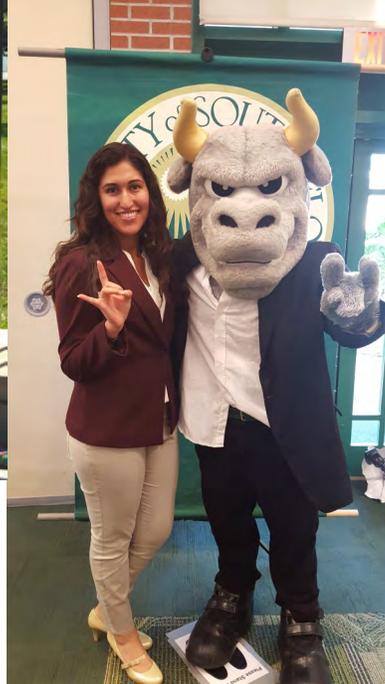
*"Since he was younger, Antonio enjoyed drawing and dreamed of going to college to pursue his dream."*

**María Díaz-Vega**  
**RLA Instructor**



*2011 Antonio (right) attending HEP Orientation with family*

# CAMP Spotlight



Jessica  
Barron

**Freshmen Year:** 2013 HEP/CAMP Internship in DC (Left Photo)

**Sophomore Year:** META Farmworker Awareness Trip (Bottom Right Photo)

**Junior Year:** 2015 Study Abroad Trip to Florence, Italy (Top Right Photo)

**Senior Year:** 2016 Graduation Photo and Photo with Rocky D. Bull (USF Mascot) (Center)

When I received my acceptance letter from USF four years ago, I had no idea how many amazing experiences I would have. My freshman year was one filled with nervous excitement because I was the first in my family to attend a university. In my first year I participated in undergraduate research with fellow classmates. I later got to present my research at the USF Research and Arts Colloquium, and my team was awarded first place in our division. In my first year I joined the Mexican American Student Association as a folkloric dancer. With the help of the CAMP program I was also able to participate in the Bulls Service Breaks Program. I traveled to Memphis, Tennessee my freshman year to advocate against gang violence. In my sophomore year I went to Texas to work with La Union Del Pueblo Entero, an organization that focuses on improving farmworker's rights. One of my most rewarding experiences as an undergraduate student was when I was accepted to be a part of the HEP/CAMP internship in Washington D.C. where I interned for the office of Senator Marco Rubio. As a sophomore I became a Mentor Facilitator for the CAMP program, and as a junior I also began working with the HEP program. In these two years I also volunteered as a CAMP mentor. As a sophomore I also got the opportunity to volunteer as a site leader for the annual USF Stampede of Service event. Farmworkers' rights are very important to me. It's this passion that led me to become the President of Members Empowering True Awareness (META) at the University of South Florida for two years. META is a service club that focuses on spreading awareness on social issues affecting the community, such as farmworkers' rights and human trafficking. In my junior year, I decided to challenge myself in my education and enroll in the Honors Program. The coursework was difficult, but it gave me the opportunity to create my very first thesis project. Later that year, I was fortunate to be accepted to go on a USF Study Abroad trip to Florence, Italy. Studying abroad immersed me in a new culture, and I learned about different customs and traditions. My years as a USF bull have given me lifelong experiences that have changed me into the individual I am today. Now that I've become a USF alumna, I plan to pursue my dreams of going to graduate school and becoming a news reporter at a TV station.

The GED test has changed twice since sisters Yesenia and America Alaniz joined HEP in 1999. Some things have not changed that much, however. Some are unfortunate, like the challenges that prevent students from graduating high school; others turn out to be just fine, like those friends you treasure your whole life. For some Florida farm working families, HEP belongs to the second group: they know that if their loved ones need help obtaining their high school diploma, HEP is the right place to go.

Yesenia Alaniz has vivid memories of her first years as a migrant child: “Our first move took us to Statesboro, Georgia, to work in the onion fields ... I remember my mother teaching me how to hold a bundle of onions with small bulbs ready to plant. You could say I became an expert, moving on my knees, placing one bulb in each hole, and using my index finger to cover the bulb with dirt.” The Alaniz family worked in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, and, like in many other migrant families, the children’s education took a toll. Life moved on for the Alaniz kids, and between hard work and responsibilities, earning their high school diploma became a distant dream. Eventually, sisters Yesenia and America Alaniz learned that there was an option to obtain their high school diploma, so they joined HEP in 1999.

Yesenia says that HEP gave her more than a diploma: “I learned to believe in myself and understood that there were other options for my future.” Yesenia was 29 then, and she has continued furthering her education ever since. She earned an associates of arts degree from State College of Florida and has come back to USF to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher. Likewise, her sister America continued improving her skills and education after her HEP experience, and she also joined USF and has been taking classes in the areas of chemistry and environmental sciences and policy.

This past year, it was the youngest Alaniz sister’s turn to earn her high school diploma, and, following her sisters’ recommendations, she chose HEP. Veronica joined our last session of 2015 and successfully completed the program. She attended classes during the week and worked during weekends. In class, she produced quality work and quickly mastered her GED preparation. Now, Veronica wants to follow her own journey and is getting ready to attend college. She has been accepted into State College of Florida and plans to begin the dental hygiene program in August 2016.

We loved being part of this family’s success, and we hope to continue serving other families like theirs.



*Left Photo: America & Yesenia Alaniz during their HEP participation, 1999-2000*

*Right Photo: Veronica Alaniz Session 2, 2015-2016*

*“Thanks to the High School Equivalency Program, I learned to believe in myself and understood that there were other options for my future.” -Yesenia Alaniz*



## Gaining Real World Experience...

I am thankful. I am blessed. I am honored because this summer I met the people who feed the world. This summer I was an Into the Fields intern through the non-profit organization Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF). This organization brings students and farmworkers together to share experiences, improve farmworker conditions, and work towards social change. I was placed in Kinston, North Carolina, working with the Lenoir and Greene Migrant Education Program, where I was able to develop personal and professional skills that will last a lifetime. When I accepted the internship, I did not know what to expect other than the fact that I was going to be an English as a Second Language teacher for out of school youth. A typical day of work included driving from camp to camp teaching students English, and although it was a physically draining experience, it is one that I would not change. My intern partner's car became our office, dining table, and place to reflect. Being part of SAF reinforced my drive to become a teacher because I learned that in order to be the teacher, you have to be the student first. More than anything, I think this experience was a very humbling one because it reminded me that sometimes we take the little things for granted. I learned to appreciate everything I have because having nothing is just reality to someone else.

*Marlene Aboytes*



Over the summer, I had the opportunity to intern with the construction company Archer Western. I was assigned to the Tampa office and was mainly responsible for reading and analyzing plans for various projects as well as for getting quotes from other companies. I was part of a team that always strived to get the best results and worked hard to meet deadlines. From this job, I saw the amount of time and effort that went into a construction project. I learned to adjust whenever changes were made and to be ready to present my work at a moment's notice. This internship gave me the opportunity to explore a field that could potentially be my career. It was such a great learning experience and a great preparation for what to expect in the future. I formed solid relationships with my coworkers and found a job that would challenge me everyday. It's not always easy finding a job that is challenging yet fun, and I was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to be part of the amazing company that is Archer Western and to advance my professional journey.

*Maria Delpiar*



Limit  
Opport

As a kid, I was mesmerized every time the linemen came to my home area and worked on power lines or transformers, so, by the time I was in high school, I made it my goal to find a way to get an internship with the Florida Power & Light (FPL) company. Through networking with people from the scholarship committee of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE), I met the Chairperson of the AABE-FL scholarship committee who then recommended me with the recruiting manager at FPL. Shortly after my interview, I was offered an internship at FPL for the summer of 2015, in Melbourne, FL.



*Jairo Garcia*

My internship helped me better understand both the operational part and financial part of the company. The most memorable moment in my internship was when I saw one of my projects for new residential power lines with a transformer get done all the way through: from my design on the computer to its full completion by the linemen.

With this experience, I gained new knowledge, applied what I learned from my classes, and bettered my soft skills. My hiring manager and boss were so impressed with my work that I was offered the opportunity to come back the summer of 2016 and do another internship with them in another area of the company. So through networking, I was able to get an internship with a company I've been in love with since I was a kid. As my CAMP mentor, Danny Guzman-Ramos, always says, "It's not about who or what you know; it's about who knows you."



Part of growing up professionally and understanding better the numerous possibilities and avenues that one, as a professional, can explore upon graduation requires the immersion of ourselves into different paths. For this reason, I decided to take a year off to put in practice my skills as a chemical engineer, and, at the same time, develop a new set of skills that could help me propel my career after USF.

I interned at Johnson & Johnson as a Supply Chain Engineer and at The Monsanto Company as a Production Engineer. These experiences planted in me great responsibility through the projects presented to me. For instance, I was able to use my programming skills to generate a reporting tool system that allowed the warehouse personnel to manage the raw materials unloading trailer process more efficiently. This system now

**Pedro Zamora**



helps prevent material quality issues and minimizes demurrage cost by an annual estimate of \$474,729.00. In addition, I was introduced to Six Sigma concepts, which benefitted me tremendously by equipping me with the necessary tools to consolidate Target Fill Weights for several Lubriderm SKUs leading to a reduction in bulk waste accounting for \$27,300.00 annually.

Similarly, Monsanto introduced me to the environment in which most chemical engineers develop a career: the chemical industry.

I was able to truly practice chemical engineering theory during this experience because understanding the process itself required knowledge of various separation techniques and the driving forces for such separations to occur. *Continued on pg. 15*

The summer of 2015 I had the great opportunity to intern for the National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association (NMSHSA) in DC for 8 weeks. I lived in Silver Springs, Maryland with my host family and commuted to DC every day on the metro. Some of the work I did for the internship was help lobby at Capitol Hill and speak in front of the Migrant Head Start Executive Directors. I worked in the U.S. Department of Education (DOE): the Office for Civil Rights (OCR).

There were many memorable experiences during my internship. Some of the few that will always stay with me are meeting Julian Castro (U.S secretary of HUD), his brother Joaquin Castro (Congressman), Arnie Duncan (U.S. Secretary of Education), as well as having dinner with Dolores Huerta (the famous civil rights activist). A lesson I learned that I will always keep with me, for example, is that networking and making connections with people is very important because it can open doors to some amazing opportunities.

Leaving my comfort zone was by far the best thing I ever did. I was nervous about doing the internship, and I am glad to have friends who encouraged me to do it. If it wasn't for this internship, I wouldn't have conquered my biggest fear: public speaking. Not only that but I wouldn't have met so many people who are as passionate as I am about the migrant community. They have motivated me to come back and continue fighting for what I believe in. As the executive director for NMSHSA, Cleo, says, "To whom much is given, much is expected". I was given very much, and now I am back in Florida to continue to pay it forward.

During the summer of 2015, I interned for Wal-Mart Supply Chain and Logistics at the Wal-Mart Distribution Center 7038 in Fort Pierce, Florida. During the internship, I designed the break-pack department inventory layout to increase storage capacity and improve the efficiency of distribution, and partnered with the engineering team to streamline the order-filling process down to a single step. I had the opportunity to present my projects to the Senior Vice President in Supply Chain of Wal-Mart and received approval for funding.

After my internship, I obtained several internship offers with Eaton Corporation, Cummins, General Motors, and General Electric. In the end, I accepted a 12 week internship offer with General Electric in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Before this internship, I participated in the USF London and Paris study abroad program and went abroad. I am extremely thankful for all the opportunities and experiences I have had.



less  
tunities



**Ilda Martinez**



**Daniel Guzman**

# Congratulations CAMP Graduates

***Maria Delpilar with family**  
Major: Civil Engineering  
Hillsborough County*



***Javier Cruz**  
Major: Civil Engineering  
Highlands County*



***Krista Gutierrez**  
Major: Geology  
Hendry County*

***Congratulations Krista on being accepted to the 2016 Arthur R. Marshall Foundations for the Everglades summer intern program!***



***Ruth Estrada**  
Major: Public Health  
Collier County*



***Jessica Barron with family**  
Dual Degree  
Mass Communications  
International Studies*





**Renee Garcia**  
with family  
Major: Criminology  
Hillsborough County

**Erica Hurtado**  
Major: Health Science  
Highlands County



**Miguel Martinez**  
with family  
Major: Nursing  
Hillsborough County



**Teresa Contreras**  
Major: Business  
Hillsborough County



**Andres Dela Fuente**  
Major: Education  
Palm Beach County



2015 - 2016 CAMMP Graduates to Date

- Roxana Aguilar**  
Health Science
- Jessica Baltazar**  
Nursing
- Jessica Barron**  
Dual Degree:  
Mass Communications &  
International Studies
- Teresa Contreras**  
Business – Marketing
- Javier Cruz**  
Civil Engineering
- Miguel Cuevas**  
International Studies
- Ruth Estrada**  
Health Science
- Andres Dela Fuente**  
Social Science Education
- Maria Delpilar**  
Civil Engineering
- Maria Gabby Franco**  
International Studies
- Ivan Garcia**  
Information Technology
- Renee Garcia**  
Criminology
- Juan Garza**  
Information Technology
- Marcos Gonzalez**  
Business Management
- Krista Gutierrez**  
Geology
- Erica Hurtado**  
Health Science
- Yaritza Lozano**  
Health Science
- Miguel Martinez**  
Nursing
- Max Olivares**  
Mang. Information Systems
- Daisy Olivera**  
Public Health
- Claudia Rodriguez**  
2nd Degree: Nursing
- Ricardo Salinas**  
Information Technology
- Jesus Vidaurri**  
Business Management

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 Leadership and 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.



CAMP Students: Lorena Santiago-Hernandez (4th from left) & Jose Flores (3rd from right)

**Atlanta, Georgia: Hunger and Homelessness**

This spring break trip opened my eyes to the world, and it made the issues of hunger and homelessness real to me. For my BSB trip, I went to Atlanta, GA, where my fellow participants and I met with the Medici Project and were able to collaborate with several organizations that work to bring about positive change. Moreover, we also learned about the wide range of challenges people face. Here, we met some of the most amazing people in the world, whose stories both inspired and moved all those who listened.

Every day of the week, our group met up with a local community organization, and we did our best to help out. We could be found packaging meals with Open Hand, gardening with Truly Living Well, and painting nails at the Gateway Center! The diversity of the projects truly kept us looking forward to the events of the day, and, most importantly, it allowed us to learn about the different aspects of hunger and homelessness.

For me, the people who are stuck in the grasps of poverty and who struggle with hunger and homelessness became the faces of these issues. When I think of hunger, I think of those elderly people who have no one to support them. When I think of homelessness, I think of those who were in the Gateway Center, people who are not really sure what to do next. As the rest of the BSB students and I talked about, now we really know about these issues. Now, if we are to do nothing, a part of us will die with each injustice. These issues have become real to me, and as long as there is injustice somewhere, I know that there is work to be done. I am grateful for this BSB trip; I am grateful to have been part of a life-changing experience.

*By Jose Flores*

**Crossville, Tennessee: Environment**

I went to Crossville, Tennessee to work on building the Cumberland trail in the mountains. The social issue was the environment, and even though in the short run we were destroying part of the environment, the ultimate goal was to have a sustainable trail that would motivate future generations to help the environment. Building the Cumberland trails is also a project that will connect with the grand eastern trail, which will go from Florida to New York. Hiking and building a trail is a workout, but because I was with a team, the experience was great. Each member had valuable lessons and perspectives to share, and they had a good sense of humor. I learned a great deal on my trip. For example, I learned that white berries are poisonous; I learned how to play poker; and I learned facts about the trail and Tennessee. The trip was memorable, and I hope to do the trip next year.



*By Mario Reyes-Munoz*

**San Juan, Texas: Immigration**



I have had the fantastic opportunity to do lots of fun things at USF; one of them was the BSB trip. I was granted the chance to go to San Juan, Texas and work on the issue of immigration. My team members and I did a lot of work with an organization called LUPE, located in San Juan, Rio Grande Valley. Our work included painting, helping construct homes, distributing flyers at houses, informing people about events that were going to happen in the community, and working together as a team to be more involved with the members of this organization. I thank CAMP for sponsoring me and giving me the opportunity to attend this trip.

*By Karen Sanchez*



**Alabama: Inclusion**

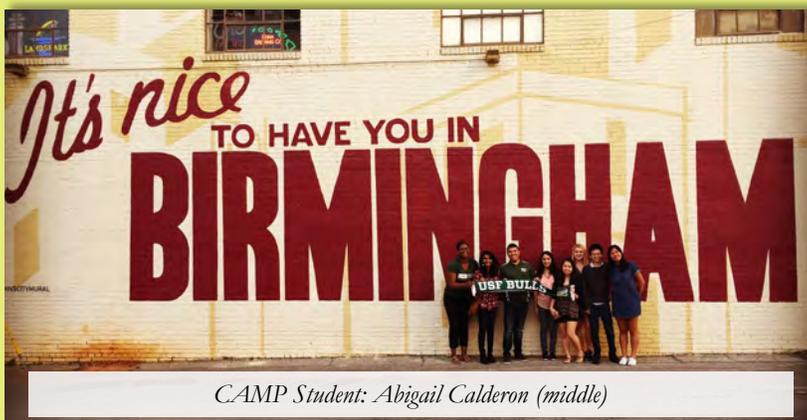
I traveled to the state of Alabama and volunteered at The Arc of Jefferson County, a facility on a mission to serve people with disabilities. The Arc is the only program in the state of Alabama that accepts people with disabilities at all levels of severity. My week was well spent serving the residents of The Arc. I participated in many of their daily activities such as baking, going to the gymnasium, and interacting with them in their classroom environment. Apart from these responsibilities, our group also painted a residential home over a course of two days.

I can say I strengthened two character traits during this trip: being humble and caring for the needs of other individuals. I also developed the ability to create a bond with others I just met. Volunteering is the act of freely offering one’s services with the expectation of receiving nothing in return. This trip emphasized that the service we provided may have seemed like a small act of kindness, but to the residents of The Arc, our time meant lots of happiness.

*By Amado Perez*

**Birmingham, Alabama: Education**

This spring break was definitely a spring break unlike all others because I joined the USF’s Bulls Service Break Program. My group and I had the opportunity to travel to Birmingham, Alabama where we volunteered with a non-profit organization called Junior Achievement. Junior Achievement focuses on the importance of financial literacy in Title 1 schools. Through this organization, we volunteered at Oxmoor Valley Elementary where I personally taught students from kindergarten to 4th grade. Having the opportunity to teach and interact with the students was something I enjoyed tremendously because I saw how eager to learn the children were and how much they loved having us there. Having the opportunity to teach various classes and to see how much the students enjoyed what I taught them was an experience that definitely helped reinforce my decision to become an elementary school teacher. I absolutely loved every moment I spent with each of the different classes I taught throughout the week.



*CAMP Student: Abigail Calderon (middle)*

After the school day ended each day, my group and I also had the opportunity to explore the city of Birmingham. We were able to see a variety of places: from the historical landmarks to its well-known restaurants. I really appreciate being able to explore a city that has such a historical importance in our country. I am truly grateful to CAMP for giving me the opportunity to go on this trip. My Bulls Service Break in Birmingham, Alabama was an experience I will never forget!

*By Abigail Calderon*

**Savannah, Tennessee: Animal Rights**



This year, I had the privilege of embarking on an unforgettable adventure. I traveled along with ten of my peers to Savannah, Tennessee for the Animal Rights Bulls Service Break. We all volunteered at Horse Creek Wildlife Sanctuary and Animal Refuge, which is home to a variety of species and is a safe haven for abandoned and abused dogs.

Throughout our stay at Horse Creek, we collaborated with the employees every morning by executing various tasks. One morning, we raked leaves in order to prevent copperhead snakes from hiding in them. This day was amazing because after completing our raking duty, we all were able to ride with the massive piles of leaves in the back of the truck. Another day, we patched up the holes that were dug up by the zealous dogs. This was done in order to ensure that the dogs could not be at risk of breaking a leg in any of their digging achievements. Yet another morning consisted of cleaning and sanitizing the kennels for the new dogs that were to arrive the following week. Even though in the morning we did not have much interaction with the dogs, our afternoons were always a great closure to our day.

Our afternoon was spent walking various dogs around a two mile trail and through this interaction, we were able to establish a relationship with the dogs.

Despite the short duration of our stay at Horse Creek, participating in Bulls Service Break fortified my dream of advocating for animal rights. The laws concerning animal abuse are less regulated in the south compared to northern states, so by attending this trip, I was able to become more aware of the issue.

*By Yasmin Cortez*

Mostly everyone I talked to about studying abroad, including my Orientation Team Leader, had suggested I should wait to do it during my final summer at USF. I didn't follow this advice; instead, I decided to study abroad during my first summer. Never in a million years did I think I would have the guts to travel halfway around the world on my own - never mind the opportunity to go on a study abroad program. Yet that's exactly what I did.

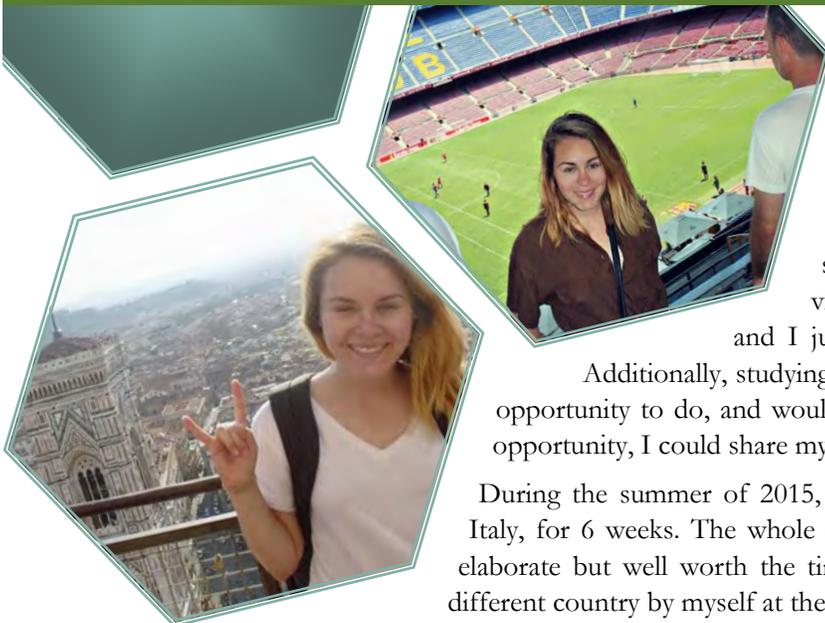
During the summer of 2015, I conquered my fears and went to London, England, as part of the USF in London program. The program lasted four short weeks, and it was the best experience of my life! I loved immersing myself in a culture that is very different from my own, and to say that I lived in England for four weeks is something that not everyone gets to say.

Since I had such an incredible time in London, I've decided to study abroad for a second time to Florence, Italy. Yes, I do have a thing for traveling the world, and, luckily, USF has the perfect opportunities for students like me to be able to fulfill our dreams.

*By Andrea Barajas*



# USF Study Abroad Experience



Ever since I started at USF three years ago as a first year student, I was interested in studying abroad, specifically in Europe. A lot of this came from my love for adventure, my interest in visiting new places, and my desire to follow in my older sister's footsteps. The only other country I had ever visited was Mexico, where I went to see my family, and I just felt that it was time to explore a new culture.

Additionally, studying abroad is something my parents had never had the opportunity to do, and would never, so I knew that if I took advantage of this opportunity, I could share my experience with them.

During the summer of 2015, I made the decision to study abroad in Florence, Italy, for 6 weeks. The whole process for preparing for the trip was lengthy and elaborate but well worth the time and effort. It was quite frightening going to a different country by myself at the age of 19: I had never flown on a plane alone, and I did not know the language. I was hoping my Spanish would come in handy, which it did at times.

While in Europe, my friend Sophia and I planned our own trips to Paris, Barcelona, and Cinque Terre. With the school, we traveled to Rome and Venice. Ultimately, this was a once in a lifetime experience I will never forget. Studying abroad gives you the opportunity to immerse yourself into a different culture and learn about the people there. It offers a new perspective on life that you would never find in the U.S. It changes you - but for the better. This is why I recommend studying abroad to EVERYONE! So, if you ever think that studying abroad is impossible or cliché, think again! No matter where you choose to go, you are bound to open a world of possibilities.

*By Leonor Calderon*

*Pedro Zamora Internship Experience continued...* One of my main contributions to this company was my implementation of a machine hierarchy for all of the production units to more accurately quantify equipment downtime and thus prevent recurring issues from happening in the future.

There is no doubt that these experiences expanded my skills set, sparked in me numerous other interests, and helped me become a more confident engineer. I had the opportunity to make presentations in front of business unit leaders and plant managers, network with other professionals, and develop lasting friendships. Most importantly, these internships allowed me to better understand the avenue that I want to pursue after graduation. I recommend to everyone--regardless of his or her major--to explore opportunities both within and outside of your area of concentration, as it is through these experiences that one better understands the impact that we can make as professionals.

## Overcoming the Odds: Returning HEP Student Shares His Experience

HEP is an intense 8-week program that requires lots of motivation, hard work, and serious effort. At the end of their participation, HEP students get to experience the satisfying feeling of earning their high school diploma. Our program is highly successful, but some of our students struggle with one or two of the GED subtests and may have to test multiple times before obtaining their high school diploma. There are various reasons for this situation: some students may need to improve their academic skills; others may need a better state of mind. One thing is true for all: if they are determined to earn their high school diploma, HEP will support them until they do - and it's pretty amazing to see what their hard work and dedication can accomplish.

This last year, one of our HEP graduates has truly inspired us with his commitment to achieving his goal. For Tomas Miranda, the test that "got in the way" was Reasoning through Language Arts. He joined the last session of HEP's previous academic year (2014-2015). The disappointment and frustration of not passing one of the GED subtests by a few points worsened when he missed last year's graduation ceremony. That was not going to stop Tomas, however, even if he had to wait some time to try again. During the summer months, Tomas worked with his dad in the watermelon fields. He was very honest and let us know that his summer was going to be a time to work - not study. The GED test never left his mind, though, and he picked up his preparation as soon as the new academic year started.



*Congratulations,  
Tomas!  
We are very  
proud of you!*

We brought back Tomas during the first session of the 2015-2016 year, and he knew exactly what to do. He focused 100% on improving his reading and writing skills. He worked patiently and tirelessly, by himself and as part of a new group, and his effort paid off! When we asked him about writing about his experience for this piece he immediately agreed. He hopes that his journey can inspire others who may need a little extra work to achieve their goals. The message is clear: don't give up, but be prepared to work harder than ever before.

Tomas is finishing the welding program at his local technical college, and we are sure that he will do great. He believes that HEP is a very good program where students get the help they need. Tomas says HEP teachers are excellent, and, if students are serious about obtaining their high school diplomas and willing to do the work, they will succeed with HEP's support.

## Interested in Visiting the USF Campus?

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

To schedule a campus visit, make a request at least 45 days in advance online: [www.usf.edu/admissions/freshman/cve/groupvisit.aspx](http://www.usf.edu/admissions/freshman/cve/groupvisit.aspx). 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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4202 E Fowler Ave, EDU 105  
Tampa, FL 33620

Phone: 813-974-5806

Fax: 813-974-0485

Web: [www.coedu.usf.edu/cme](http://www.coedu.usf.edu/cme)

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



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