



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH FLORIDA  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

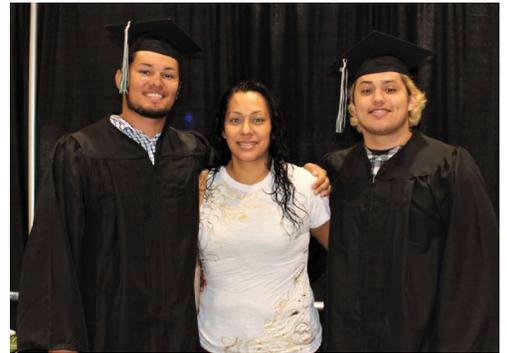
# HEP /CAMP Highlights

Center for Migrant Education

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SUMMER 2018

## 2017-2018 HEP Graduates



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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# Giving Back to the Community: Hurricane Relief

In September Florida was hit by Hurricane Irma which caused the most damage in Florida history. Students and staff got together to help local communities after the storm left many families in need. Students organized a drive to collect food, water, clothes, and toiletries for migrant communities. Students also helped transport and distribute the donations to families in person.

We're proud of our students who didn't forget about their communities and gave a helping hand to families during a difficult time.



*Manolo Mejia packing food and clothes*



*Marlene Aboytes and Mario Leon packing clothes*



*Abigail Nunez packing donations*



*Natali Delpilar sorting clothes*

## 2017 - 2018 CAMP Students



*Left to Right: Jesiel Rivera, Michael Garibay, Ricardo Rojas-Hernandez, Pascual Jabney, Jose Garcia, Juan Garcia, Damian Gonzalez-Perez, Gabriel Perez-Pereira, Benjamin Lopez, Elizabeth Caballero, Ana Olguin, Cory Amilcar, Esmeralda Garcia Hernandez, Alina Quintana, Olga Ortiz-Hernandez, Yesenia Martinez, Elton Perez, Ebony Hernandez, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Graciela Cervantes, Alicia Huapilla-Mendoza, Anna Beltran, Emilio Ibarra, Martha Balleza, Elizabeth Marquez*

*Not Pictured: Francisca Velasco, Edith Vega, Selena Palacios*

**Collier**

Emilio J. Aguirre  
Abran Gonzalez  
Raul Martinez  
Frankie Sanchez Jr.  
Manuel A. Trejo

**De Soto**

Fernando Becerra  
Thomas Galindo  
Pascual Gonzalez-Sanchez Jr.  
Sonia Martinez

**Hardee**

Jose Sebastian Castillo  
Jailene V. Figueroa-Juarez

**Highlands**

Rodrigo A. Nolan  
Sean S. Nolan  
Josue Ramirez  
Rosa Torres

**Hillsborough**

Austin Bence  
Marian Deleon  
Steven R. Eguia  
Ivonne M. Figueroa  
Daisy Garcia  
Tony S. Garcia  
Ycela Garcia  
Brian Gonzalez  
Lance A. Herrera  
Daniel Juarez  
Noe Longoria  
Erika Lopez-Hernandez  
Giselle Maya  
Joshua Moreno  
Leidi Y. Perez  
Maria G. Pizano  
Rodrigo Renteria  
Xenia Salazar  
Victor Sanchez  
Reni Sanchez-Ramos  
Luis A. Santos  
Angel L. Valencia  
Karen A. Villalon  
David M. Wise  
Noemi Zeferino

**Manatee**

Gloria Alfaro-Castro  
Abrahan Castillo  
Melissa A. Matias

**Okeechobee**

Fernando J. Bucio  
Saul N. Garcia  
Janet Ramos

**Pasco**

Maria A. Abonza  
Stefanski

**Polk**

Marissa Delgado  
Martin A. Gaona  
Louise E. Luna-Rivera  
Rosalio Ortiz Jr.  
Hector F. Rivera  
Jesus G. Romero



2017 - 2018 HEP Graduates to Date

# Congratulations CAMP Graduates



**Concha Prieto**  
*Palm Beach County*



**Ruben Sanchez with family**  
*Manatee County*



**Maria Zamora with family**  
*Hardee County*



**Jose G. Flores**  
*Collier County*



**Abigail Calderon**  
*Palm Beach County*



**Justin Jimenez with family**  
*Dade County*



**Fernando Sierra**  
*Hendry County*



**Jimmy Bayes with son**  
Collier County



**Kayleigh Devereux**  
Manatee County



**Jairo Garcia with family**  
Palm Beach County



**Karen Sanchez**  
Desoto County



**Mayra Garcia-Jaral**  
Polk County

- Luis Aguilar**  
Political Science
- Jimmy Bayes**  
Public Health
- Abigail Calderon**  
Elementary Education
- Vanessa Cortes**  
Health Science
- Kayleigh Devereux**  
Public Health
- Jose G. Flores**  
Political Science
- Jairo Garcia**  
Electrical Engineering
- Mayra Garcia-Jaral**  
Public Health
- Justin Jimenez**  
Biomedical Science
- Ilda S. Martinez**  
Communications
- Jorge G. Medrano**  
Computer Engineering
- Concha Prieto**  
Public Health
- Flor Rodriguez**  
Business
- Karen M. Sanchez**  
Social Work
- Ruben Sanchez**  
Business
- Fernando Sierra**  
Computer Science
- Maria Zamora**  
Information Technology

2018 - 2019 CAMMP Graduates to Date

# Life after HEP: First Semester in College

*Melissa Matias, HEP class of 2017-18, is currently pursuing an associate degree in natural sciences at the State College of Florida in Bradenton. Melissa is one of the recipients of the HEP/CAMP Association Scholarship. She shared some remarks about her first semester experience:*

College is a milestone in life, one that greatly determines the future. My first semester at the State College of Florida (SCF) showed me responsibility and hope for the future. Some of the best things about my first semester were the campus clubs, new friends, and schedule flexibility.

Everyone welcomed me and encouraged me to join clubs and study together. Students and staff let me know they are here to help. I made new friends in the classroom, and I appreciated fellow classmates' support if I missed a class. Not only does SCF have plenty of clubs, but they also have a full circus that they bring to campus a couple times a year for student and staff enjoyment.

Being able to go to college and still work is an advantage. I worked on the weekends and evenings but still had time to get my classwork done.

Whether I want to study or just blow off steam, the campus facilities are amazing. For example, the newly built library has projectors, smart boards, and plenty of study spaces. If a student ever needs financial aid assistance or schedule advice, SFC provides plenty of resources. I look forward to my next semester!

*By Melissa Matias*



*Melissa Matias*

## HEP Graduate: Developing New Skills



*Victor Sanchez*

To learn more about job training programs, HEP students tour Erwin Technical College. Additionally, for the past two years, visits to a Career Source Training Site in Tampa have enhanced this experience.

HEP students are introduced to different certificate programs that prepare them for careers that are often in high demand across the state. Students also become aware that CareerSource Tampa Bay offers free pre-vocational programs to build specific skill sets to enhance employability and/or explore a career through hands-on entry-level training.

2017-2018 HEP graduate, Victor Sanchez, participated in several programs at the Career Source Training Site in Tampa. He earned certification by the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute in two online hospitality industry programs: *Certified Guest Service Professional* and *Certified Maintenance Employee*.

In addition, Victor successfully completed a seven-week *Welding & Fabrication Program*. He commented that the skills acquired through these short-term training programs not only helped him prepare for the world of work, but also improved his general communication skills. This August, Victor will begin a fourteen-month *Automotive Collision Technician Program* at Manatee Technical College where he will be sponsored by another Workforce Opportunity Investment Act funded entity: the *Farmworker Career Development Program*.

# CAMP Spotlight

## Nancy Garcia

*Nancy Garcia is a former CAMP student and CAMP mentor majoring in Elementary Education. She is also a recipient of the College of Education Sunripe Migrant Scholarship.*

*This article was originally published by Educators Rising, a free national membership organization for aspiring teachers and their mentors.*

### ***I Learned That I Love Teaching While Helping My Own Parents***

Teaching is said to be one of the most rewarding careers, and boy, were they right!

The biggest reason why I love teaching is because it is life-changing. While it may not be immediately evident, as an educator you are affecting the lives of your students, as well as their families.

Personally, this is something that I experienced while growing up. As an elementary student, I was a native Spanish speaker placed in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes because neither of my parents spoke English.

After a couple of years and some amazing teachers, I eventually became fluent in English and was finally able to help my parents with the issues they faced due to language barriers, such as translating documents or phone calls.

### **TEACHING MY PARENTS**

As a bilingual child, being able to help your parents with these things means the world because it signifies one less struggle that they will have to endure. Additionally, because of the dedicated educators who constantly motivated me, I was able to begin my journey here at the University of South Florida as a first-generation college student majoring in elementary education.

These successes and experiences that I have had, such as studying abroad, are all things that I can now share with my parents and those teachers, and I can proudly say, “Thanks to you and your sacrifices, I am where I am today, and where I go, you go.”

I use myself as an example to say that the gifts you share with your students as a teacher are sometimes multiplied over and over, and that there is power in teaching!

In my case, because I was influenced by amazing teachers, I was able to pursue my goals and share these successes with my parents, who never had such opportunities. My parents were able to see all their goals and aspirations completed through me.

This is something that I always carry with me into my classroom, to this day, with the hope of being able to change my students’ lives the way my teachers changed mine.



*Nancy Garcia teaching in classroom*



*Nancy Garcia (seventh right to left) with her Elementary Education cohort at Lewis Elementary in Spring 2018*



*Nancy Garcia reading to students*

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.

### *Clarkston, Georgia: Minority Empowerment & Refugee Rights*

I had the opportunity to go on a service trip for Minority Empowerment and Refugee Rights. I volunteered with the organization Friends of Refugees in Clarkston, Georgia. We learned about social issues and about different ways of understanding refugees. We learned to look past the word "refugee" and understood that, regardless of their experiences, refugees just want to be treated as people. My group and I worked on the community garden, where each family had a section to plant what they wished. We went to the state capitol and witnessed how people gathered to stand up for the refugee community, and we watched as state legislators debated a bill that would negatively affect refugees. On our last day, we went to different family homes to help some of them build their resume and start their job hunt. Overall, this service experience was eye opening because I learned a great deal about refugees and different ways to help them.

*By Elizabeth Marquez*



*CAMP Student: (from left to right) Elizabeth Marquez, Francisca Velasco, Elizabeth Caballero, and Pascual Jabney*

### *Birmingham, Alabama: Education*

This spring break was like no other. I joined the USF Bulls Service Break family and traveled to Birmingham, Alabama, where we learned about youth education and homelessness. My BSB peers and I volunteered in the Highlands United Methodist Church, Pathways a Woman's Way Home, and a local Boys and Girls Club. Through our service, we helped the community but also grew as individuals. I learned and valued many small things, especially how important a home address is when applying for a job.

This trip was an amazing opportunity that allowed me to create an unbelievable bond with the rest of my BSB peers. It was incredible to see how in less than a week we went from being strangers to becoming a family. My trip to Birmingham, Alabama during spring break was unforgettable. Never did I imagine how much of an impact this experience would have in my life. Most importantly, we served in love, for love, by love.

*By Alicia Huapilla-Mendoza*



*CAMP Student: Elton Perez (second from the left) and Jesiel Rivera (second from the right)*

### *Rockwood, Tennessee: Environmental Issues*

I went to Cumberland County, Tennessee to help build the Cumberland Trail, a new hiking trail that will stretch about 310 miles from its northern tip in Cumberland Gap National Historic Park to its southern tip in Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park. We did a lot of digging and moved many rocks—even two or three boulders. Back at the campsite, we received fascinating presentations on different topics such as hiking, birds, caving, and traditional Tennessee dancing. In addition to the trail building and presentations, my favorite part had to be when all the students would interact and become friends. I became friends with everyone on the trip! I want to thank the CAMP Program for making this experience possible for us, and I recommend future CAMPers to take advantage of this opportunity.

*By Jesiel Rivera*

### *Atlanta, Georgia: Child Development & Disability Awareness*



*CAMP Student: Ana Olguin (center)*

This spring break I went on a service trip to Atlanta, Georgia. My group focused on Child Development and Disability Awareness, and for that week, we volunteered at one of the Easter Seals Child Development Centers. I worked in a classroom filled with energetic three-year olds. Throughout the week, I was able to have a connection with each one of them. They were not afraid to ask me questions or ask for help. I loved helping them play memory games and teaching them the alphabet. My heart ached on Friday when I had to say goodbye, because they made such a positive impact in my life. I am thankful for being a part of this year's Bulls Service Break because of all the amazing and memorable experiences I was able to make with my group and with my students. Who knows how my spring break would have been if I had not gone, but I would not trade it for anything.

*By Ana Olguin*

### *Clarkston, Georgia: Minority Empowerment & Refugee Rights*

I had the good fortune to embark on an eye-opening service trip with some of the most amazing people. We joined the effort to help refugees in Clarkston, Georgia. We learned about the difficult process that refugees go through when seeking asylum and assisted them with adapting to life in the United States. We tutored refugee children, helped them with their schoolwork, and listened to each child's story. We also informed local families about the programs and opportunities that Friends of Refugees offers to help them adjust to their new home. My favorite part of the trip was our dinner with a Syrian refugee family. We ate traditional Syrian dishes and discussed their story. I found their resilience inspiring: it gave me a new outlook on life. Returning from the trip, I felt empowered with the new knowledge I gained. I want to become more active in my community and help others. I am extremely thankful that BSB and CAMP provided me the privilege to take part in such a life changing experience. I hope to be able to continue participating in my remaining years at USF and to serve as a catalyst for positive change.

*By Pascual Jabney*



*CAMP Students: Francisca Velasco (far left), Pascual Jabney (fifth from left), Elizabeth Caballero (far right), Elizabeth Marquez (third from right)*

### *Rockwood, Tennessee: Environmental Issues*

I traveled to Rockwood, Tennessee for this year's Bulls Service Break. The main objective for this trip was to help with the ongoing construction of the Cumberland Trail, which passes through 11 different counties, along with two time zones. This trip was very important because the result will be a sustainable trail that will be available for recreational use, for future generations. I had a great experience on this trip because of the many cheerful participants that I worked with, including another group of students from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Since there was not any cell phone reception in the area we were staying in, both of our groups usually met in the lounging area and played card games and, on some nights, started a campfire by the lake. From this trip, I learned to appreciate the effort state parks and even small recreational areas have put to allow people to enjoy their parks. Trail building is not an easy job, but it is rewarding and worthwhile.

*By Elton Perez*



*CAMP Student: Elton Perez (third from top left)*

**Clarkston, Georgia: Minority Empowerment & Refugee Rights**

I volunteered at Friends of Refugees in Clarkston, Georgia, a non-profit organization that focuses on providing assistance and empowerment to refugees. My peers and I had the privilege to spend our week aiding in a truly wonderful community. The staff and refugees we met were welcoming and loving. They opened their doors immediately and formed deep connections with us almost instantly. We listened to their stories and to everything that they have learned throughout their journeys, stories I now carry with me and will always remember. I will use all that I learned as motivation to advocate for those who suffer the great injustices that happen around the world yet work relentlessly for a better world. My trip's purpose was "minority empowerment and refugee rights." Before I left, I thought that I would go and help change lives. However, by the end of the week, what had really changed was my life. I left Clarkston feeling the most empowered I have ever been, and I am honored to be a friend of refugees.

*By Elizabeth Caballero*



*CAMP Student: Elizabeth Caballero (third from right), Elizabeth Marquez (second from right), Francisca Velasco (far right)*

**Clarkston, Georgia: Minority Empowerment & Refugee Rights**



*CAMP Student: Elizabeth Caballero (bottom right), Francisca Velasco (second on right), Elizabeth Marquez (third right), Pascual Jahuey (second on the left)*

My spring break was unforgettable. I volunteered and gave back to the community of Clarkson, Georgia, where I worked with Friends of Refugees. On the first day, we went through a powerful simulation that made us feel as refugees, and we learned a great deal about the refugee cause. The information completely changed my perspective because I understood the complexity of the issue. Our schedule was full of exciting events that involved helping refugees: we helped with the community garden, had an incredible lesson about chai tea, talked to the executive director of the organization, and had an amazing dinner with Syrian refugees. I loved working with the kids, especially with the little girls I tutored. My favorite part was our trip to the capital, where we opposed bill SB 452. I witnessed how the whole community came together and helped one another. This trip is something that I will always remember. Not only did I gain more knowledge about refugees, but also I got the opportunity to hang out with my friends and make new friends. I enjoyed every second of my experience.

*By Francisca Velasco*

**HEP**

HEP Alumna Update: Yadira Luviano

Yadira Luviano, 2016 HEP graduate and recipient of the HEP/CAMP scholarship, completed the medical assistant program at Erwin Technical College last year. Yadira passed the state certification exam and has been working fulltime at a medical facility since January.

Talking about her HEP experience, Yadira said, "Even though I didn't think I was ready for school, the HEP teachers encouraged me to continue studying; they believed that I could do it."

Way to go, Yadira!



*HEP Alumna Yadira Luviano*

# Seeking Adventure: Study Abroad Trips

CAMP students Jennifer Cervantes and Nancy Garcia participated in USF study abroad trips.



## France



(Top Picture) Jennifer at the Louvre Museum  
(Bottom Picture) Visiting the Eiffel Tower

Paris, the city of lights, is a city I wanted to visit at least once in my lifetime, and during the spring break of 2018, my wish came true. I had never traveled abroad, let alone been in an airplane. I come from a migrant family, and the only traveling we do is for work. My parents were especially happy when I told them about the trip and fully supported me. During my week in Paris, my group visited iconic places such as the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, the Sainte-Chapelle, and the Louvre. We walked the small alleyways of the Marais and toured around the Latin Quarter. The Catacombs left me in awe! I tried escargots, enjoyed a jazz performance, and visited a cute cat café. What I enjoyed the most was the magnificent view from the top of the Eiffel Tower. I had always dreamt about it, and being there felt somewhat surreal. The study abroad program lasted only a week, but I enjoyed many experiences. My love for travel has increased, and I hope for more opportunities to travel around the world. This spring break was undoubtedly one of the best.

*By Jennifer Cervantes*



## Costa Rica

Last summer, I took part in a program called Studying and Teaching Abroad, through USF's College of Education. I want to become a teacher, so this experience was rewarding because I worked with children in a new school setting. We visited public and private schools in Costa Rica, interacted with students and faculty, and provided hundreds of school supplies. We also translated for students, assisted teachers with grading, and taught language arts lessons. I had never traveled to a country other than Mexico, so leaving home was challenging. However, once I arrived there, I knew this was going to be an experience of a lifetime! I saw a volcano for the first time and visited rainforests, coffee plantations, and various museums and churches around Costa Rica. Perhaps the best part of the whole trip was staying with a host family: I enjoyed the wonderful food and had the opportunity to feel like a *tica*, as the Costa Ricans would say. I came back home with some of the best experiences of my life so far, eager to share these experiences with my parents, who sacrificed so much in order to give me the chance to do any of this!

*By Nancy Garcia*



(Top Picture) Visiting school in San Jose, Costa Rica.  
(Bottom Picture, sixth from left to right) Arenal volcano in Alajuela, Costa Rica

## 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.



### HOW TO REACH THE CENTER FOR MIGRANT EDUCATION:

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

Phone: 813-974-5806  
Fax: 813-974-0485

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



### HEP/CAMP STAFF

**Dr. Ann Cranston-Gingras**  
HEP/CAMP Principal Investigator  
[cranston@usf.edu](mailto:cranston@usf.edu)  
813-974-1387

**Patrick Doone**  
HEP/CAMP Director  
[doone@usf.edu](mailto:doone@usf.edu)  
813-974-0915

**Virginia Flores**  
CAMP Student Services Advisor  
[vflores@usf.edu](mailto:vflores@usf.edu)

**Ruby Luis**  
CAMP Admissions Recruiter  
[rluis@usf.edu](mailto:rluis@usf.edu)

**Rosa Mendez**  
HEP Outreach Specialist  
[rmendez@usf.edu](mailto:rmendez@usf.edu)

**Maria Diaz-Vega**  
HEP Lead Instructor  
[mdiazveg@usf.edu](mailto:mdiazveg@usf.edu)

**Jessica Barron**  
HEP/CAMP Secretary

**Brigita Gahr**  
HEP Instructor  
[brigita@usf.edu](mailto:brigita@usf.edu)

**Kristen Lehman**  
HEP Instructor  
[klehman2@usf.edu](mailto:klehman2@usf.edu)

**Student Assistant**  
Abigail Nunez

**HEP Residential Assistant**  
Yessica Chavez Grimaldo  
Abigail Nunez

**CAMP Mentor Facilitators**  
Marlene Aboytes  
Concha Prieto

**HEP/CAMP Tutors**  
Christopher Cardona  
Brittany Clift  
Mario Leon-Espinoza  
Justin Jimenez  
Valeria Pereira Martinez  
Magali Salinas