



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)

2017-2018



HIGHLIGHTS



Each year, the program welcomes

25 **CAMP**
students

who are passionate and dedicated to achieve their dreams of a college education.

The **College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)** at Valdosta State University (VSU) is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Migrant Education for a 5-year grant period. The CAMP Program was established to assist migrant and seasonal farm workers, or their dependents, through their first year of college. CAMP will support these students by providing intensive academic, social, and financial support to help them succeed during their first year at VSU and continue with their postsecondary education.

CAMP SERVICES

Financial Assistance

CAMP will provide supplemental financial aid to cover costs during the first year at VSU. These include:

- Tuition & Fees
- Book Loan Assistance
- Housing
- Health Services
- Meal Plan
- Students will receive a modest stipend

CAMP Academic Support

The CAMP program is here not only to assist you financially but to provide any resource that might be needed in order to achieve success here at VSU. CAMP will assist the students academically and provide emotional support through services such as:

- Academic Counseling & Follow-Up
- Tutoring
- Learning Communities
- Research Opportunities
- Course Selection & Registration Assistance
- Skill Development Workshops
- Study Abroad Information
- Social & Cultural Events

Director's Message

Greetings from the College Assistance Migrant Program!

As a CAMP alumna, it is my pleasure to serve our students, and Valdosta

State University as CAMP Director. As CAMP concludes its second year at VSU, the program has already assisted many students to reach their educational goal of being one step closer to obtaining a college degree. Through CAMP's holistic approach to education, the program provides our students with academic and financial support, as well as emotional support to foster personal growth and self-confidence. Beyond being a well-rounded, successful college student, CAMP strives to assist all students uphold their Blazer Creed and become active participants in their V-State community.

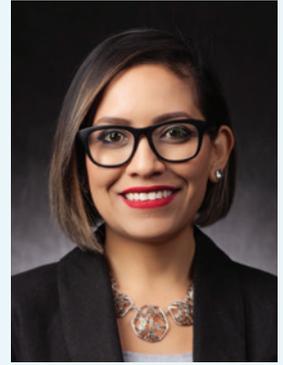
This newsletter highlights some of CAMP's activities, as well as CAMP student achievements throughout the year. These include, the bilingual program orientation, the CAMP community service project, the Farmworker's Awareness Week celebration, and study abroad to the Czech Republic, to name a few. In addition, many of our students were recipients of many recognitions, scholarships, and leadership opportunities including: University Ambassadors and Undergraduate Research Council.

CAMP would like to thank our parents, students, community, and all the people who supported our efforts throughout the year (you know who you are!); your support has made our program what it is today. We look forward growing our CAMP family as we welcome our 2018-2019 student cohort.

Finally, on behalf of CAMP, I would like to congratulate the 2017-2018 CAMP cohort for completing their first year college!

No dejes que se apague el fuego que hay en tu mente y en tu corazon, haz todo lo posible para mantener ese fuego ardiendo! No te des por vencido, nunca dejes de aprender, que yo creo en ti.

Alma Young
CAMP Director
CAMP Alumna 03'





CAMP Orientation

On August 8, 2017 CAMP students and their parents attended the program's orientation. While at the orientation, the students learned the ins and outs of being a Blazer as well as learning their responsibilities to the program. The event, which is held in the parents' native language, also provides an opportunity for parents to meet the program staff, socialize with other parents, and learn about resources available through CAMP.

President's Education Award Recipient Addresses CAMP Students

Bertha Vazquez, the Director of the Teacher Institute for Evolutionary Science (TIES), spoke with CAMP students on her experience of growing up in Cuba and emigrating to the US, as well as her passion for science education. During her two-day visit, she also held a workshop for VSU faculty on the importance of understanding Hispanic/Latinx students and how to foster their success.



(Pictured: Dr. Julie Weise & Karen Ramirez Rubio)

CAMP Hosts Nationally Recognized Scholar

Dr. Julie Weise visited VSU for two days and gave a presentation to CAMP that mirrored her book *Exploring the Corazón de Dixie, Mexicanos in the U.S. South since 1910* that talks about Mexicans and Mexican Americans coming to the South. Dr. Weise teaches History at the University of Oregon where her areas of study are identity, citizenship, migration, race, and nations in hemispheric and global context.



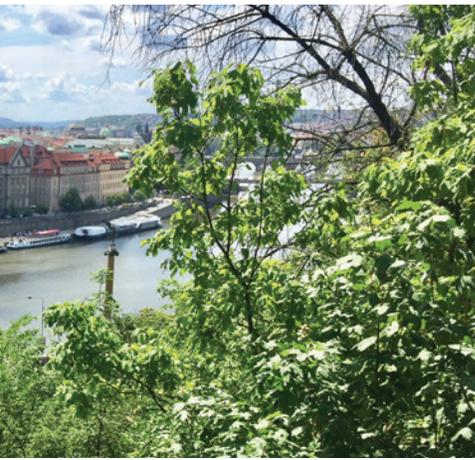
Undergraduate Research Council

"If I can see it, the question is, can't you see it?" On April 10, 2018 **Victor Soto** delivered his poem "Poem: Can You See It?" during the Undergraduate Research Symposium. The symposium serves to highlight the academic pursuits of students and showcase their work. Students who engage in research activities can build relationships resulting in enhanced learning with their faculty mentors and can enhance their motivation to pursue advanced degrees.

CAMP Students Learn the Power of Teamwork

Early in August, CAMP partnered with Center for Outdoor Recreational Experiences (CORE) to challenge students to think critically and develop trust and understanding with fellow students and staff. The students negotiated obstacles and relied on one another to complete the course.





Czech Study Abroad

CAMP students traveled to the Czech Republic this May to study abroad. The host institution Palacky University, located in Olomouc, accommodated our students as they participated in various classes and cultural activities. Dr. Kohn of the Department of Psychology, Counseling, and Family Therapy was the program coordinator for the trip and taught various Psychology classes that students were able to take. During their study abroad, students journeyed to various locations across Europe. They visited Germany, explored Austria, and even took a trip to Auschwitz in Poland.



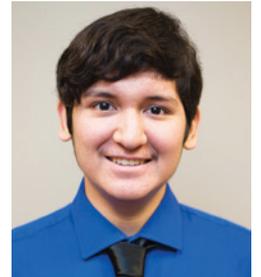
Lighting of the Palms

A time honored tradition at VSU, students joined in the holiday festivities and watched as VSU President Richard Carvajal lit-up the palm trees in front of West Hall. In previous years, the palm trees in the center of main campus were lit around the holiday season for the campus and community to enjoy. A new tradition started in 2014 when VSU decided to host an event that would include the lightening of palms and the serving of refreshments, singing, and other celebratory activities.



CAMP VSU Admissions Ambassadors

The Office of Admissions selected **Karen Ramirez Rubio** and **Jessi Salas** to become university ambassadors. University ambassadors help to provide the best student representation to future and current students, and alumni of the VSU community. They also develop student leadership opportunities and skills. They exemplified outstanding achievement in the classroom, involvement in their community, and participation in student life and activities throughout campus.



Fall 2017 Dean's List

Students who achieved a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher on nine or more semester hours with an institutional GPA of 3.00 or higher were recognized by being placed on the Dean's List.



(L-R): Juan Ramirez, Eleticia Rodriguez Gonzalez, Geizi Camarillo, Jessi Salas



(L-R): Karen Ramirez Rubio, Victor Soto, Francisco Corona

(Not pictured): Serbando Jaimes, Daniela Reyes, Bryan Ventura



CAMP student Daniela Reyes donates blood for the first time.



CAMP student Serbando Jaimes prepares to donate blood for the 2018 Cesar Chavez Blood Drive.

VSU Holds its First Cesar Chavez Blood Drive Challenge

CAMP student **Diana Hernandez** organized and participated in the first annual Cesar Chavez Blood Drive Challenge. The challenge started in 2009 as a health service learning initiative by students participating in CAMP federally-funded grants on colleges and universities across the country. These students share a related upbringing in migrant and/or seasonal farmworking, as well as their desire to pursue a college education and prosper in higher education. The National Cesar E. Chavez Blood Drive Challenge celebrates Cesar E. Chavez's legacy as a civic leader who committed to improving the quality of life for the U.S. farm labor community by engaging current college students. The drive collected thirty-four units, with nearly half from first-time donors.



(L-R): Noemi Garcia, Ashley Hernandez, Angel Lopez, Juan Carrillo, Geizi Camarillo, and Juan Ramirez



(L-R): Diana Hernandez and Eleticia Rodriguez Gonzalez

Día de Los Muertos

CAMP cohosted Día de Los Muertos on-campus with the Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion, seven student clubs, the fraternity Sigma Lambda Gamma, and the faculty and staff organization MESA. CAMP introduced the Blazers to *calaveras*, *pan de muerto*, *cempasúchil*, and *papel picado*. The students created *ofrendas* that were displayed on an altar, as well as the accompanying room décor. They performed renditions of songs, recited poetry, showcased their artwork, and danced traditional dances. The celebration centered around promoting our students' heritage and highlighting cultural differences at VSU.



Students Represent VSU CAMP at La Fiesta Del Pueblo

CAMP students **Alexxa Abraham**, **Karen Ramirez Rubio**, **Zully Watkins**, **Benjamin Antonio**, and **Serbando Jaimes** discussed their time in CAMP and what the program offers at VSU. *La Fiesta del Pueblo*, the largest Hispanic festival in South Georgia, takes place on the last Saturday of September in Tifton, GA. It celebrated Hispanic/Latino heritage with music, dance, art, and ethnic foods.



Zihuatanejo Captivates CAMP

"My abuelo used to critique me in Spanish...and it hurts your soul!" **Joaquin Zihuatanejo**, Grand Slam Spoken Word champion and award-winning teacher, engages students. Zihuatanejo hails from the *barrios* of Dallas, Texas where he draws from the rich Latinx culture to inspire university students. He delivered his poems and encouraged the students to pursue their dreams and inspired them write. Joaquin pushed the CAMP students to blend their voice with the "educational voice," one that is unique and finds extraordinary in the ordinary. He concluded the presentation by daring the students to "Make your writing daring, and be weird!"



Zihuatanejo reciting "The Red Wheelbarrow" from William Carlos Williams:

*so much depends upon
a red wheel barrow
glazed with rain water
beside the white chickens.*



CAMP Students Take on Canoe Challenge

On August 22, 2017 the CAMP Program competed in VSU's Campus Life event "Canoe Battleships" that took place in the Recreation Center Pool.

CAMP organized four teams of four participants: Team #1 CAMP Fire Squad - Benjamin Antonio, Alejandro Saucedo, Bryan Ventura, and Oscar Trevino; Team #2 CAMP Blazers- Zully Silva, Jessi Salas, Rafael Carrillo, and Araseli Martinez; Team #3 CAMP Destroyers- Mauricio Soto, Karlee Causey, Victor Limon, and Jose Gallegos; Team #4 Forgot to Warm Up- Daniela Reyes, Edith Martinez, Ashley Hernandez, and Brianne McKayla. The objective of the event was to sink the canoes with buckets of water; the last team afloat wins. While none of the CAMP teams made it to the finals, the CAMP students had a blast at the event competing and connecting with their peers during their first month of school. The CAMP teams even had the opportunity to sink VSU President Dr. Richard Carvajal's, canoe.



Group Therapy with CAMP and VSU Family Works Partnership to Encourage Mental Health

A new partnership by CAMP and VSU Family Works aimed to provide support services to CAMP students with a focus on their emotional well-being. Through monthly therapy sessions provided by Alyssa Calderon, Psychology, Counseling, and Family Therapy Graduate Assistant, CAMP students were empowered in their academics, while providing a sense of social connection.

United Farmworkers of America President Arturo Rodriguez Visits VSU

"Si se puede." TRANSLATION: *"It is possible."*



The National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), later on the United Farm Workers, adopted this mantra as a way of encouraging farm workers and

garnering support. On March 26, the current UFW President, **Arturo Rodriguez**, presented at VSU and described his experiences of working with Cesar Chavez and organizing farm workers. As part of the National Farmworkers Awareness Week, CAMP sponsored Mr. Rodriguez's visit to VSU as a way to connect the farmworking and minority populations on campus. "The greatest tragedy is not to live and die, as we all must. The greatest tragedy is for a person to live and die without knowing the satisfaction of giving life for others."

CAMP Joins the National Long-Sleeve Shirt Drive

CAMP student **Serbando Jaimes** led the effort at VSU to raise awareness for farmworkers and to bring to light some of the difficulties they endure, specifically prolonged hours working in the sun and exposure to pesticides. Every year the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) sponsors the drive during National Farmworker Awareness Week (NFAW) to help raise awareness during the last week in March. It is a celebration that honors and appreciates the millions of farmworkers that harvest our food. Jaimes collected more the one hundred long-sleeve shirts that he donated to a local farmworking community at the Lake Park Migrant Clinic.



CAMP Gives Back to the VSU Community

The CAMP crew hit the ground running at the start of the Fall semester. Arriving two days prior to the rest of the student populace, CAMP students set a precedent by volunteering to assist others during the move-in day and demonstrating their resolve to uphold the Blazer Creed of **Civility, Integrity, and Citizenship.**



CAMP End-of-Year Banquet

The program recognized students and families on April 20, 2018 for their academic achievements and community involvement throughout the year. Guest speaker Noe Alcantar, a CAMP alumnus and local entrepreneur in central Georgia, spoke to the students about their achievements and what CAMP did to set him up for success later in life. Alcantar encouraged the students to keep their motivation and strive to earn their degrees. The program recognized those who excelled and persevered during their first year at VSU. In addition, the program recognized the “Outstanding CAMP Student” who was the overall top student in academics and involvement, the “Academic Improvement Award” to the student who most improved their academic standing, the “True Grit” award for the student who persevered and fought to stay at VSU, Academic Achievement recognition for students with GPAs between 3.0-3.49, Academic Excellence recognition for students with GPAs between 3.5-4.0, students with a 3.0 and above, the “Community Service Award” to the student who volunteered throughout the community and had a positive impact on CAMP, and award of a \$1000 CAMP Alumni Scholarship. Benjamin Martinez, father of CAMP student Edith Martinez, spoke about his experience with CAMP and how it positively affected his daughter. Mr. Martinez praised the students for pursuing their goals and expressed his gratitude towards the staff.



Academic Excellence GPA 3.5 – 4.0 (L-R): Karen Ramirez Rubio, Francisco Corona, Victor Soto, Bryan Ventura, Geizi Camarillo, Daniela Reyes, Eleticia Rodriguez Gonzalez, Jessi Salas, Juan Ramirez, and Serbando Jaimes



Academic Achievement GPA 3.0 – 3.49 (L-R): Andy Escobar, Steve Cruz Rojas, Diana Hernandez, Benjamin Antonio, and Alejandro Saucedo



Outstanding CAMP Student and CAMP Alumni Scholarship:
Serbando Jaimes



Community Service Award: Karen Ramirez Rubio



Academic Improvement Award:
Alexxa Abraham



True Grit Award:
Benjamin Antonio



Parental Speaker:
Benjamin Martinez



Keynote Speaker:
Noe Alcantar



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