



Live, Learn and Thrive.™

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

CAMP NEWSLETTER



COLLEGE ASSISTANCE MIGRANT PROGRAM

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**From field to field we never leave,
From sunshine to sunset we never stop.
Faithful to ours,
Loyal to the field.
Today, proudly we leave the shovel and pick our future.
Tomorrow we'll be owners,
Owners of our past, present and future.
From field to field we never fail,
From sunshine to sunset we never stop.
Faithful to our parents,
Loyal to our books.**

*by
Concepción Mendoza
2008 CAMP Graduate*

A note from the CAMP Staff

Five generations of CAMPers have come and gone through our doors. We have seen many students grow from timid kids to outgoing professional young men and women. And now, another year has come and gone. Thankfully, we have a few more years to continue working to enrich the lives of our farm worker students and their families.

This year, as we began the first year of our second grant cycle, we saw many changes in our program. We now have a beautiful new home on our campus for our students and staff; new friends who have made their way into our hearts and old friends who have left an amazing mark on our program. We definitely look forward to seeing what the next four years (and, hopefully, many more years) have in store for us.

Dr. Cynthia Bejarano
Principal Investigator

Michelle Brown-Montaño
Program Director

Larry Salazar
Recruitment Coord.

Martha A. Estrada
Academic Advisor

Sonia Flynn
Admin. Asst.



(L to R) Omar Carrera, Reyna Avitia, Concepción Mendoza, Claudia Elizalde, Mario Cisneros outside the State Capitol in Santa Fe, NM.

Photo by Martha A. Estrada

CAMPERS MEETING THE WORLD

CAMP'S HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST:
SANDRA GUTIÉRREZ

BY SANDRA CABALLERO

Photo Courtesy of Sandra Gutiérrez



Sandra Gutiérrez has become one of CAMP's biggest human rights activist. She is not only advocating for the rights of those in the U.S., but abroad as well.

Gutiérrez visited El Salvador and lived through, what she calls, "a humbling experience."

Going to El Salvador changed Gutiérrez in more than one way, but what really struck her was the true poverty and repression people were forced to live in.

"It was sad because there were children who wanted to keep going to school but could not because they didn't have a pencil," Gutiérrez said.

From seeing the poverty level and the poor treatment of people in El Salvador, Gutiérrez learned the importance of human rights in the U.S. "We have to take advantage of what we have," Gutiérrez said.

At first she decided to go to El Salvador because it was a "challenge" for her, but what she got in return was not defeating a challenge, but gaining a life changing experience.

Besides the knowledge Gutiérrez gained from this experience, she made friends from around the U.S. and El Salvador.

As for any student who wishes to do the same, or something similar, Sandra's advice is to "do research on the country, know the country and safety [precautions]."

The Concrete Canoe experience is a challenge, a challenge that three of our CAMPers engaged in this past academic year. Fernando Sánchez, Concepción Mendoza (president of NMSU Concrete Canoe Team), and Omar Carrera worked all year, along with other NMSU engineering students, to build a concrete canoe that would float while filled with water. After building the canoe, the team members participated in the 2008 Rocky Mountain CSM/ASCE Regional Conference in Golden, Colorado where they competed with 14 other universities. In this rigid competition, NMSU's concrete canoe, named "Quetzalcoatl", finished first place overall and second in canoe design and presentation. Congrats to the NMSU Concrete Canoe Team!



Concepción Mendoza



Fernando Sánchez



Omar Carrera

NMSU CAMPER INTERNS AT
OFFICE OF MIGRANT ED.

BY SANDRA CABALLERO



Photo Courtesy of Claudia Elizalde

Life changing opportunities come when they are least expected. For Claudia Elizalde her chance came when she was chosen for the HEP/CAMP Association's Summer Internship Program. The internship, like many out there, was a highly competitive one. Elizalde took her chances.

"I was very surprised, I could not believe it. I knew it was very competitive so I never thought I was going to be chosen," Elizalde said, after receiving news of her acceptance.

Although she was accepted, Elizalde still had many fears about leaving to a different state, but her fears were overcome by her excitement and eagerness to work.

"I was mostly afraid because I did not know anyone or what I would encounter, but I was also excited to meet new people and go work in our nation's capital," Elizalde said.

Elizalde said she gained experience and knowledge and obtained a sense of what is waiting for her after she graduates. "This experience helped me grow more as a person and it also helped me defend my beliefs and fight for what I think is right."

THE CONCRETE CANOE
CHALLENGE

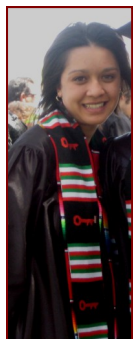
BY YESENIA LUNA



Photos Courtesy of Omar Carrera

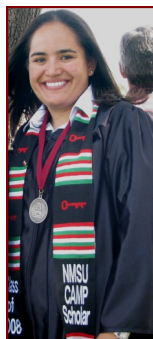


CAMP 2007 - 2008 GRADUATES



Brenda Corral,
Bachelors of Business
Administration &
Management
CAMP '04

Brenda is an active alumnus of the Bert Corona Leadership Institute (BCLI) where she has been offered, and accepted, a senior fellowship in Washington, DC.



Concepción Mendoza,
BS Civil Engineering
Technology
CAMP '04

Concepción has interned at the Texas Department of Transportation for the past two summers and now she has offers from nine different corporations in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

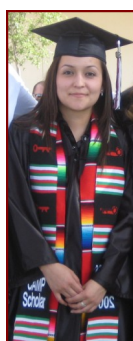
“The CAMP program has allowed the calluses in my hands to heal and my mind to grow.”

- Concepción Mendoza



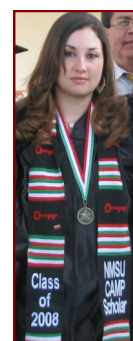
Rafael Gamón,
BS Hospitality, Restaurant & Tourism Mgmt.
CAMP '04

A Gadsden High School graduate, Rafael is one of two siblings in the CAMP program. He is the first to graduate from NMSU.



Yesenia Luna,
BA Journalism & Spanish
CAMP '05

After graduation, Yesenia plans to continue working in radio while applying to graduate school in San Jose, CA where she plans to receive her masters degree in journalism.



Angelica Lujan ,
Bachelor of Criminal
Justice; Minors in Spanish
and Security Technology & Intelligence
Studies
CAMP '05

After graduation Angelica would like to join the Air Guard, get experience in a large police department and eventually transfer to the ATF.



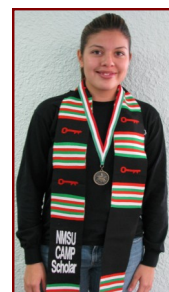
Pablo Ríos,
Bachelor of Criminal Justice; Minor in Security
Technology & BA Spanish
CAMP '04

Pablo will continue his education next Fall to complete a third degree in Engineering Technology.



Gustavo Gutiérrez,
Bachelor of Criminal Justice & BA Spanish
CAMP '05

Gustavo is the second of the Gutiérrez siblings to graduate from NMSU. As an active member of the National Guard, Gustavo has served our country abroad.



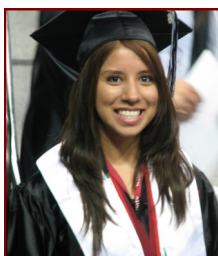
Sandra Gutiérrez,
Bachelor of Criminal
Justice & BA Spanish
CAMP '04

As a McNair Scholar, Sandra traveled to Zacatecas, Mexico to conduct research during the summer of 2007; in 2008 she traveled to El Salvador. This coming Fall she will begin her masters at the University of Michigan.



María Esparza,
Bachelor of Social
Work & BA Spanish
CAMP '04

María plans on attending graduate school next Fall to obtain her masters in Curriculum & Instruction. She hopes to become a bilingual educator.



María Leyva,
BS Chemical Engineering,
Minor in Environmental Management
CAMP '03

María has interned with Ethicon-Endo Surgery Inc., Johnson and Johnson; she has conducted research at New Mexico Tech as a participant in the REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) program; this summer María will work at Los Alamos National Laboratories and then continue her graduate work at the University of New Mexico.

Not Pictured

- **Luis Cruz,** Bachelors of Individualized Studies
CAMP '04

- **Blanca Ceja,** Bachelors in Community Health
CAMP '04

VISITORS, FUN & GAMES

¡SÍ SE PUEDE!: DOLORES HUERTA VISITS

BY YESENIA LUNA

“Sí se puede, sí se se puede (yes we can!)” chanted Dolores Huerta, cofounder of the United Farm Workers of America, as she visited the CAMP students during a

dinner and mingle event before her keynote speech at the J. Paul Taylor Social Justice Symposium on April 2, 2008.

Huerta asked students to introduce themselves and share with her their dreams and aspirations. Huerta showed support to all the students, encouraging them to continue pursuing their dreams and education. She urged them to become involved in politics to help make a difference in the

“¡ Sí se puede, sí se puede, sí se puede!”

-Dolores Huerta

lives of farm workers and other minorities.

Huerta left the CAMP students with a sense of pride and the motivation to continue working hard to achieve their dreams.



Dolores Huerta with CAMP students, staff and NM Sen. Mary Jane Garcia

¡¡¡GOOOL!!!- FIESTAS LATINAS SOCCER TOURNAMENT

BY YESENIA LUNA

It seemed as if though every Mexican soccer team from the Mexican Soccer League was represented at the Second Annual CAMP Soccer Tournament held during NMSU’s Fiestas Latinas and sponsored by the NMSU CAMP Student Council and Chicano Programs.

Organizers woke up early on an April Saturday morning to set up goal posts and get everything ready for the tournament to begin. Six teams participated in this event and after a long day of soccer winning and losing, there was a winner: Los Galaktikos! The teams were made up of different student organizations from

throughout NMSU, including CAMP students.



(Above) Erika Martinez prepares to block Albert Casillas’ play. (Left) NMSU students show off fancy footwork.



Photos by Martha A. Estrada

A TIME TO REMINISCE & CELEBRATE

BY YESENIA LUNA

The Second Annual CAMP Banquet has become a well liked tradition by all! It is a time when new CAMPers and Alumni get together to enjoy a delicious dinner. But not only that, it is also a time to recognize the CAMP students that will be receiving their college degrees in May.

At this year’s banquet, our graduates and their parents were invited to celebrate and recognize the students’ hard work, commitment and the parents’ support throughout their child’s college career. This was the second group of graduates CAMP has seen, making it a total of 17 students who have graduated from NMSU with a bachelor’s degree.

CAMP freshmen were also recognized for completing their first year of college, and all other CAMPers celebrated being one step closer to graduating. The CAMP banquet is always an unforgettable event! Can’t wait for next year’s!



Concepción and her father at the Annual CAMP Banquet in April.

Photo by Martha A. Estrada

CHANGES

THE MOVE: PERFECT TIMING!

BY MARTHA A. ESTRADA



Ferry Sánchez (left) and Omar Carrera at work!

On January 30, 2008, NMSU CAMP opened its doors to invite the NMSU and Las Cruces community to the grand opening of our new CAMP home. In mid-November, we found ourselves moving from Regents Row, a former residential complex on our campus that had

housed our program during our first grant cycle, into our newly renovated space in Milton Hall. Our new space consists of a study lounge where students and tutors can meet; a fully equipped computer lab; a conference room for students and staff to use and individual offices for all staff.

The move came at a perfect time as we began our first year of our second grant cycle.

Before



After



LAS VEGAS OR BUST!

BY MARTHA A. ESTRADA

It was the beginning of a great 2008! We had recently moved in to our new offices, where not only did students have excellent facilities to study in, but all staff had an office they could call their own...(sigh) life at NMSU CAMP was great! But then the call came: Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department was looking for a few good women to go fight crime in Sin City and yes, our very own Marina was the

perfect fit for that job.

In March of 2008, after over four years serving as our Administrative Assistant, Marina, who is also working on a master's degree in Criminal Justice, was offered a job she could not possibly turn down!

Though we miss her so very, very much, we know this was the best move for her and her career; her NMSU CAMP family can wish her only the best!

¡Suerte y Gracias Marina!



Photos by Martha A. Estrada



(Clockwise) Omar forcefully trying to convince Marina to stay; Dr. Bejarano saying her goodbyes to Marina; Marina's awesome "bye-bye" cake!

CLOSER TO HOME...¡BIENVENIDA!

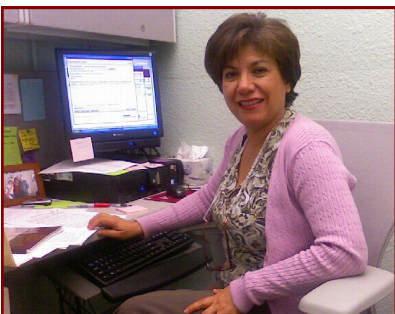


Photo by Martha A. Estrada

NMSU CAMP students and staff would like to welcome its newest full-time staff member, Sonia Flynn!

A native of Chihuahua, Sonia comes to us from San Diego, California, where she worked at the San Diego Union-Tribune. We are happy to have her in New Mexico and particularly at NMSU CAMP.

Newsletter Staff

Yesenia Luna
Editor-in-Chief



Sandra Caballero
Reporter



Martha A. Estrada
Asst. Editor/CAMP Staff



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ROAD TRIP!

CAMP GAINS LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN ARIZONA

BY YESENIA LUNA

The National Collegiate Leadership Conference (NCLC) held in Tucson, AZ, in February was the first of many trips the CAMP students will go on to gain more leadership skills. During the three day conference students learned how to become leaders, participating in a series of workshops and listening to motivational keynote speakers, such as Coach Herman Boone, made famous by the film "Remember the Titans".

This year's theme, "Your Vision, Your World" celebrated the 20 years of NCLC helping students gain leadership skills. Some of the workshops CAMP

students participated in dealt with topics as strong as human trafficking and the various ways we can help fight it.

This experience allowed the CAMPers who attended, to learn not only about how they can be leaders and make a difference in the world, but most of all, they learned they are capable of much more when they set their minds to it.



(Above) Lupillo Gallegos (left) and Marina González walk the U of A campus.



(L to R) Marina, Noel Baquera, Norma Godoy, Lupe Gutiérrez, Yesenia Aldaba and Lupillo pose after the Conference Welcome Session.