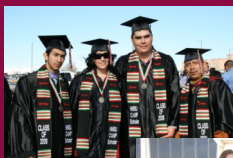


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**Newsletter Contributors:**

Yesenia Luna, Editor  
CAMP Graduate, May 2008

Sandra Caballero, Reporter  
CAMP '05

Martha A. Estrada, Asst. Editor  
CAMP Academic Advisor

## A note from the staff...

Greetings CAMPers and friends! We are excited to share with everyone all that has been accomplished by NMSU CAMP students this 2008-2009 academic year! We hope you enjoy reading about and seeing the many events and activities our students have been a part of. We are extremely proud of their hard work towards completing their undergraduate degrees and their desire to continue with their education at the masters and doctoral levels. We have an amazing group of students that believe being active members of society is not an option, but a must. Here, we highlight only a few of the many outstanding students we are fortunate enough to see walk through our doors every day. We look forward to seeing what 2009-2010 has in store for us all!



Con Cariño,

Dra. Bejarano (PI), Michelle (Director), Larry (Recruiter), Martha (Acad. Advisor), Sonia (Admin. Asst.) and Oralia (G.A.)

CAMP Professional & Student Staff. *L to R:* Maria López, Fernando Sánchez, Michelle Montañó, Larry Salazar, Dr. Cynthia Bejarano, Norma Godoy, Guadalupe Gallegos, Sonia Flynn, Omar Carrera, Martha Estrada.

## CAMP Heroes

By Martha A. Estrada

The NMSU CAMP Student Council joined the National CAMP Alumni Association by hosting the *CAMPers for Life! National César Chávez Blood Drive Challenge*. On March 31, 2009, CAMPers around the nation donated not only their blood, but their time by recruiting donors. Thanks to everyone who took the time to save a life!



*Left:* First year CAMPers, Cecilia Contreras and Nancy Lozano, show off their bandages!

*Top:* Raymundo Chavira, junior, gives us a thumb up (it would've been two "thumbs" up, but his other hand was a bit busy!)

## A Feast to Honor

By Yesenia Luna

April 23, 2009, was a night to honor this year's graduates and their parents, friends and professors who stood by and supported them throughout their college years.

The night began by welcoming special guests, including NMSU's former Interim President, Dr. Waded Cruzado. A delicious dinner then followed, as well as a slide show with highlights of this past academic year.

The night was full of surprises! Not only were there raffles,

but each graduate was individually recognized for their achievement. That evening, graduates were accompanied by their families, who were also honored for their support. Between tears and laughter, each graduate received a gift basket and a CAMP graduation stole to proudly wear at commencement ceremonies. "Thank you's" were definitely expressed, especially from the graduates to their parents.

The night ended with a dance, thus, according to some students, making this year's banquet the best of them all!

Congratulations Class of 2009!



L to R: Erika Martinez, Norma Godoy, Audrey Kight, Daniel Ramirez, Maria Trejo, Abelardo Rodriguez, Gloria Gamon

## Class of 2009!

By Sandra Caballero



### Audrey Kight, BS in Education

Once she has her diploma in hand, Audrey will become a part of the faculty at Rio Grande Elementary in Hatch, New Mexico as a Special Education teacher. She also plans to begin her masters de-

gree in the near future.

Audrey met the CAMP Staff just before her second semester at NMSU, and was she glad she did so! CAMP was able to provide her with a place to stay on campus, which was extremely helpful given that she had been commuting from

Hatch, NM, the entire Fall semester. Her time at NMSU has helped her obtain the experience needed to go out and work in her field. Audrey said, "My experiences at NMSU and the staff in the College of Education have prepared me immensely to be a great teacher."



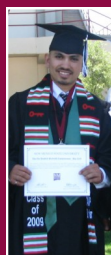
### Gloria Gamon, Bachelors of Social Work

This summer, Gloria will continue her education at NMSU as a graduate student. By May 2010, she will have completed her Masters in Social Work. As an undergraduate, Gloria was in-

involved in the CAMP Student Council, the Social Work Student Association, and was a member of the Phi Alpha Honor Society.

According to Gloria, her family and the CAMP staff are the people who have inspired her to work hard to accomplish

her goals. Gloria says CAMP has not only been there for her financially, but has also "empowered" her to continue her education. "They motivate me by recognizing my hard work and I really appreciate that" said Gloria. She says that to her "they are like family."

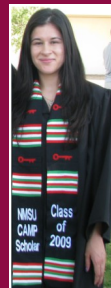


### Abelardo Rodriguez, BS Mechanical Engineering Technology

After graduating, Abelardo will pack his bags and move to Phoenix, AZ where he has accepted a job at the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Generating Station.

During his time at New Mexico State University he was involved in organizations such as Latinos For Exito, MAES and CAMP, who he says has helped him by always being there and getting moral support from them. In his life he says the people who have inspired him the most

are his parents because they taught him the value of an education. CAMP has also helped him out, not just financially, but emotionally as well. He says that because of it, he will always appreciate everything CAMP has done for him.



### Norma Godoy, Bachelors of Criminal Justice & BA in Spanish

A few weeks before graduation, Norma was offered a HACU internship with the USDA in Albuquerque. After this summer, she will resume her studies at NMSU where she will work on a joint master's degree in Public Administration and Criminal Justice.

For the past four years, Norma has volunteered her time with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southern New Mexico where she continues to serve as a mentor.

Norma's biggest inspiration is her mother whom she says has inspired her the most and is the one who made her realize that "education was her top prior-

ity". "She has always been very supportive of my decisions. Thanks to her sacrifices, I am where I am today," said Norma. She says CAMP has helped point her in the right direction, and allowed her to feel comfortable in the university environment. "The CAMP offices have been like my home away from home," Norma said.





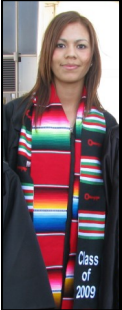
**Maria Alejandra Trejo,  
Bachelors of Criminal Justice  
& BA in Spanish**

Summer 2009 will be the year Alejandra leaves her mark at New Mexico Legal Aid where she has been hired as an outreach coordinator. After this summer, Alejandra plans on attending law school in Austin. During her time at NMSU Alejandra was

an active member of the CAMP Student Council where she served as President her senior year. She was also part of the Hispanic Council and PACE.

A large part of her inspiration comes from her parents because they have worked hard and are the reason why she wishes to help farm workers and immigrants. Alejandra says that Dr. Bejarano has also

been an inspiration in her life because, "she is a person that is involved and dedicated to helping others." Alejandra wishes to follow in her footsteps so that she, too, can "help people who can't or won't defend themselves." CAMP has helped her out in "every way possible." CAMP has been there for the good and the bad, and always gave her advice on her career.



**Erika Martinez, BS in Education  
& BA in Spanish**

After graduating, Erika plans to attend graduate school to obtain her masters degree in either Social Work or Education. Not only does she plan on getting her masters degree, but she also plans to teach High School in Las Cruces, El Paso or Denver.

Erika was very involved in CAMP Student Council where she served as President in 2005 and Vice President in 2007. Outside of CAMP she has been involved in many programs like Families and Youth Inc, Center for Academic Success, as well as a tutor at DACC. Erika has been the recipient of various scholarships like the NM PEO Sisterhood and the Danny

Villanueva Scholarship. People who have inspired her to continue her education are her elementary bilingual teachers as well as her parents and daughter. CAMP has also been a great support, especially Larry. CAMP has helped her out because, "they have given me their friendship and opportunities to grow professionally" said Erika.

## December 2008 Graduates

*Pictured from Left to Right*

**Emmanuel Diaz,**  
Bachelors of Business Administration

**Sara Hurtado,**  
Bachelors of Community Health

**Tirzio Lopez,**  
Bachelors of Criminal Justice

**Francisco "Tony" Moran,**  
Master of Accountancy



## CAMP Freshman Graduation

By Martha A Estrada

On Saturday, May 2, 2009, twenty-six first-year CAMP students were recognized by the CAMP Staff, friends and family, for successfully completing their first year at NMSU. Like many other first-year college students, these young men and women overcame barriers and proved that dedication and perseverance definitely pay off. In a few

years, they will all be attending yet another graduation, where they will receive their bachelor's degrees. Some, will follow in the steps of former NMSU CAMPers, continuing with a masters and even a doctoral degree. Congratulations to all students, as well as their families, for they, too, have played a vital role in the success of their student!



## My Summer Fighting for Immigrant Rights

By Alejandra Trejo

Farm workers are a very important part of our lives. They are the ones who harvest our fruits and vegetables. They are the ones that break their back so that we can have that food on our tables. There are two to three million farm workers in the United States. The majority of them are underpaid, treated badly, discriminated against, and hated, as if they have committed a crime or done something wrong.

In the summer of 2008, I was chosen to take part in an internship in North Carolina, to work with farm workers in that part of the country. As a Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF) intern, my main focus was that of the organization's: to help and educate farm workers about their rights.

Living in North Carolina for two months was difficult, but at the same time it was an amazing experience! I had the opportunity to see how farm workers in that part of the country differed from those over here in the southwest.

North Carolina is known for its tobacco fields. I experienced and saw so many injustices! Experiencing all of that firsthand and not being able to do much to help was very frustrating, there was so much I wanted to do to help. It was, and still is, hard to believe that some of the laws that we have are not enforced and do not protect farm workers who are the ones that have the most difficult jobs no one is willing to do.

As students, we need to be aware of the many injustices that are happening. There is no need to mistreat and discriminate people because of who they are and where they come from. We need to encourage student commitment to justice and social action. We need to get involved and fight for the right things, fight for those who can't fight for themselves.



Alejandra Trejo (left) with SAF members, after first "Teatro Campesino" performance at one of the camps.



## On the Road to a Ph.D. By Sandra Caballero

Daniel Ramirez is the first CAMPer to pursue a Ph.D. Here, he shares with us how he has made it to this point.

Daniel was born in Guajuato, Mexico, and moved to the U.S. not knowing any English. However, with hard work and dedication he prevailed and learned to speak English. Learning English was a challenge for him, however that did not stop his determination to succeed in school.



He graduated at the top ten percent of his high school class. During his first year at NMSU, Daniel decided that he did not want to wait four years to graduate, so he decided to take 18 credits a semester while working 35-40 hours a week at a local restaurant. "Sometimes I would only get 2 to 3 hours of sleep a

day," he said. Because of this, he went through a moment in his life where he seriously thought about dropping out of school. However, with the help of Larry Salazar and Dr. Benjarano. He learned that the best thing to do was to decrease both his class load and his work hours.

Because he did not give up on his education, Daniel graduated with honors and received bachelors degrees in Biology and Spanish, as well as a supplementary major in Latin American Studies.

Throughout his academic journey, Daniel was never alone. He always had the support of his parents who would encourage him to continue his studies. "They did not have a chance to go to the university be-

cause their parents were too poor to send them to school. So they tell me that they want me to get the education they were not able to," he says.

Daniel also had the support of his current advisor, Dr. Elba E. Serrano, who gave him the opportunity to work in her laboratory. "Thanks to her I have become a great scientist," he said.

Currently, Daniel is finishing his biology masters thesis, which he will defend this July. During the Fall, he will officially begin his doctoral program. His reasons for obtaining a Ph.D. are that he wants to "merge" his passion for research and teaching. Daniel encourages all current and future CAMPers "to never give up", and "to never forget where you come from; be proud of who you are and never forget your roots...It is in our hands to make sure the CAMP program continues to be successful."



## CAMP Moms: Leading by Example

By Martha A. Estrada

Balancing a college career and family can be extremely difficult, but these CAMP moms are proof that nothing is impossible! Here, they not only share a piece of advice to all students, but they also share what they hope to teach their children by setting the example that a college education is important.

**Erika Martinez:** “What I hope my child will learn from me being in college is to appreciate all the effort I have put into my education to give her a better future. I also hope she learns to love school as much as I love it, as we have done school projects together (for her preschool!)”

**Erika’s Advice:** “In order to be successful in college, be persistent, have patience, be confident, don’t give up and learn to manage your time wisely!”

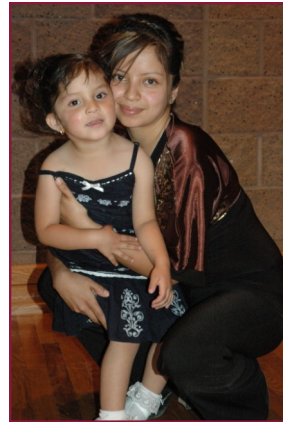


**Sandra Gutiérrez:** “I hope that my son will learn to be a disciplined and determined individual. I hope to instill strong values for education and want him to know that he can dream big and that the sky is the limit.”

**Sandra’s Advice:** “My advice for college moms is to never give up. To follow their dreams because motherhood is only the beginning and while sometimes viewed as an obstacle by society, it can also serve as a source of motivation to keep going.”

**Gloria Sotelo:** “I hope my daughter learns how important an education is and I hope she will learn that there are no barriers that can stop her from becoming an educated and successful woman.”

**Gloria’s Advice:** “¡Sí se puede! Never give up and have patience because in the end everything will be worth it and always have in mind that education is the best tool we can have in order to give our children a great future and become role models for them.”



**Nohemi Moran:** “I try my best to be the perfect role model for my daughter, I hope she sees that even though we have faced a lot of obstacles we are still going and mommy is trying very hard to get a college degree to give her a better future. I know she is very proud of me because she already tells me so!”

**Nohemi’s Advice:** “*La vida universitaria es muy dura y más para nuestros pequeños, pero por ellos..¡sí se puede!*”

**Gabriela Dominguez:**

“What I hope my baby learns from me being a college graduate is that later in life, when he goes to college and feels that he cannot make it, I hope I will serve as a model to help him continue with his career because if a mother and a wife made it, then there is no reason why a regular student should not make it to the top.”

**Gabriela’s Advice:** “The advice that I give to all college students, especially moms, is that once you have started college never give up even if it looks like it is the end of the world. *Afèrrense a luchar por sus sueños hasta que logren lo que quieren porque al final todo va a valer la pena.*”



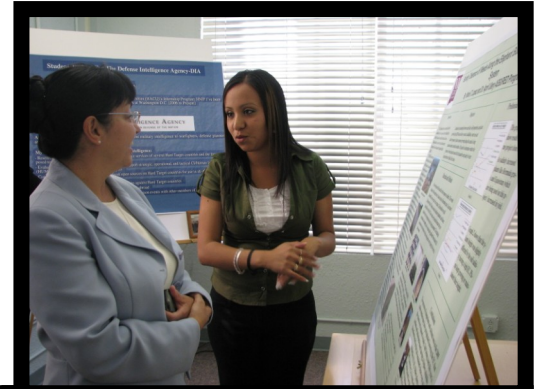
**Selene Baquera:** “What I hope my daughter learns from me being a college student is that just because things get difficult doesn’t mean you have to give up and that everything I do is because I am thinking of the best for her.”

**Selene’s Advice:** “My advice to college moms would be not to think that it’s impossible to keep on with your studies because there is a lot of help out there and to try their best. It might get hard at times but just to remember that everything will get better and you will be proud of yourselves.”

## Displaying CAMP Student Achievements

By Martha Estrada

A group of CAMP sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students, shared their research and internship work with the Las Cruces and University communities. Ten CAMPer prepared and presented posters during the First Annual NMSU CAMP Poster Expo. The topics varied from scientific research they are conducting with top-notch researchers, to internship and co-op experiences around the nation. Get ready for Spring 2010's Expo, which promises to be filled with many more stories (and posters) of students currently conducting research, travelling abroad and interning around the nation!



College Assistance Migrant Program  
New Mexico State University  
MSC 3487  
PO Box 30001  
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8004