

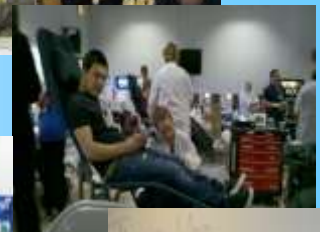
Crowder College

CAMP RoughWriters

Volume 1, Issue 2

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THE SERVICE SEED



Beginning in the fall of 2010, Crowder College students had to complete four hours of community service and a reflection essay as part of the College Orientation one-hour graduation requirement.

The mission of Crowder College is to *Build a civil, serving, literate, learning community of responsible citizens.*

Reflection Essay by Rodolfo Vargas

The influences of community service have taught me a lot about respect for one's self and also respect for the community and others who live within it. It's easy to stand by and watch someone show disrespect to a community by littering, but it takes something else to stand up and make a difference by helping and giving back. You may be alone when helping, but that doesn't mean that your good deed is going unnoticed. Just by making a difference you can also change the minds of others by getting them to want to help you out. If others don't want to make a difference in life or in your community then that doesn't make you wrong. It wouldn't hurt if you could just take an hour off of your day and give a helping hand to someone or to the community. The holidays were just around the corner when I put in the community service seed for my College Orientation class. I have to say that it is much better to give than to receive. In the end, it's more than just donated time; you're also demonstrating commitment and leadership.

In the past, the expression "community service," was heard only when you got in trouble with

the law, and were being punished as a result of your wrong doing. Growing up, I also saw it as a punishment, but you're really learning and making a difference for yourself and the community. You are giving back something that can't be bought.

In the past, when I was in a S.T.E.P.S. program at school, we completed a couple of hours of community service in a town nearby. The job we had was to remodel a house as perfect as possible. At first, I was thinking, "I got out of bed for this?" Later in the morning, I learned that the house was going to be given to a family that had a son who needed medical attention. I felt so bad about what I had thought and felt that morning when I got out of bed. Now I thought to myself, "there are a lot of unfortunate people in the world. I may not have helped all of them, but I did manage to help this young boy and his family." When the house was given to them, tears rushed from the family's eyes. The young boy once again had something to smile about; he would have a nice corner by the fire place to enjoy the view of his first Christmas tree. The Community

service that I did for Crowder College was far different than the one I did back in Verona when I was in high school. For Crowder, I was completing my four hours of community service at the Monett Recycling Center. It was kind of slow, but I got to have a new experience on a job that I've never done before. I have to say that it's not that much work if the day is cold and there aren't many people coming in. The people that did come in brought in newspapers, magazines, plastic and aluminum cans. I also got to learn how to drive a "jack," something I've always wanted to learn how to do.

Helping the community can come in many different ways, and it can help teach you something about being a leader. The recycling center was really the best place I've ever done community service. It showed me a new trade for my future. I also got to learn how to use different types of machinery. Even though the hours were required for my grade, I really enjoyed trying something new. If the recycling center needs help, I really think I would do it not for a grade, but just to be able to say that I gave a helping hand where it was needed.

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“Texting Can Wait” by 2010-11 CAMP Students

CAMP Students were asked to watch a video regarding texting and driving and give their opinions. Here is what some of them said:

“We should never text and drive! We’re putting ourselves and others at risk out on the road. I know I’m guilty of this, but I only do it at red lights. However, that doesn’t make it any better. This video hit close to home because the girl who died in it lived in Rogers where I’m from, and she never made it to her graduation. She was supposed to graduate in the class before mine but she didn’t. I wasn’t friends with her but I have friends that were really close to her. I attended her memorial service at Rogers High School and it was really sad.”~Rocio Martinez

“I’m surprised at the big impact a simple text can cause. I try to tell myself not to text while I drive, but I just don’t know why I don’t do the right thing. After watching this video I committed myself to stop texting while I drive. I wouldn’t like to be one of those kids in that video. I feel like I have a lot to achieve in life before anything else happens. I like the video; it made me realize that life can be lost in a split second.” ~Rebecca Rosillo

“Everyone knows that if you take your eyes off the road even for a second, someone in front of you could be turning or switching lanes. I think the best thing to do is just stop on the side of the road, and then check the text message.”
~Derik Hernandez

“Seeing this Video is a really big eye-opener. I’ll admit that I text and drive occasionally. I know it’s bad, but I guess it’s an addiction. As young adults, we think we’re invincible and that it will never happen to ‘Us’ so to speak. I know it’s bad to text and drive, but so is drinking, doing drugs, and smoking. These are behaviors that have taken over the lives of many teenagers. It’s just the sad truth. In order to prevent this, I would think the authorities have to definitely get stricter rules, laws and regulations regarding this issue. Hopefully, it won’t take experiencing an accident and having a first hand experience to completely eliminate this problem. I don’t think ANY text message is worth losing your life over or causing others grief for the rest of their lives. Not only is the person affected by texting and driving, emotionally and physically, but they also hurt others, especially

their family members. I guess the message I also took from this is what it said at the end, ‘Texting can wait.’” ~Maria Navarette-Collins

“Watching that video left me awestruck for a while. Most of my friends text and drive. If they aren’t doing it, it’s because they don’t have a cell phone. You cannot text and drive at the same time, your attention is not fully on driving and focusing on what is in front of you as it should be. My teachers used to compare texting while driving to driving under the influence of alcohol; your reaction time is hindered dramatically. I’ve also read that cell phone providers are working on technology that would allow speech recognition. You would basically speak what you want to be texted, and the cell phone would type and send it for you. This would allow drivers to keep all of their attention on the road, as they should do. I think that if such technology can be perfected, it would prevent many accidents from taking place, and make safer drivers out of all of us.”

~Aldo Carrillo



Missouri State University College Visit by Jose Garcia

On Thursday, March 4th, the CAMP staff took us on a very fun and educational tour of Missouri State University, located in Springfield Missouri. We left the Crowder Neosho campus around 8:15 a.m. and arrived in Springfield around 9:40 a.m.

Let me say this on behalf of all the fellow CAMPers: thank you for this great tour! On our way there, it's sufficient to say that we all had fun either by listening to music on our mp3 players, just talking with each other or sleeping. Too bad we couldn't sing 99 bottles because the bus driver would have gotten mad.

Before starting the tour, we went into the Plaster Student Union to listen to some information on scholarship opportunities and ask questions about classes and the campus. We heard from two current

graduate students and the Vice President of Multicultural Student Services of MSU. We received a lot of very good information from them.

After that we went to the Blair-Shannon House for lunch. The dining hall had very good food and many options to choose from. After lunch the tour started and we split up into groups of three. Lucky for me I got stuck with all the girls. In my group was Elizabeth Martinez, Maria Romero, Katia Hurtado, Ana Garcia, and Belem Ibarra among others.

Our tour guide was Jon Stubblefield; he did a great job of giving us a lot of useful information about the campus, where buildings are located, and history and fun facts about the university. We toured some of the dorms and got to see the difference in room sizes. In addition, we toured the library and saw all that it has to offer students, and visited many other halls.

Jon was good at communicating with our group throughout the whole tour. He even walked backwards in order to communicate better with everyone. He has awesome back walking skills! He gave our group time to take lots of photos of the campus. He commented on how he had never had a tour group that took so many photos.

We took tons of photos of everything at MSU, including the dorms, campus, and even some of the students. Most important of all, we got up on top of the big bear statue right in the middle of campus to take a group photo. Poor Jon, he had to take four different photos with four different cameras. It was obvious to everyone else at that point that we were on a tour. It was a great tour; fun and informative.



The Legend of Kung Fu Show in Branson, Missouri Cultural Event

The Legend of Kung Fu shared an inspiring story of a young boy, Chun Yi, in a magical tale told by an ancient Kung Fu Master.

Designated as the main show of the Beijing Olympics and having been performed more than 4000 times world-wide, The Legend of Kung Fu wowed and amazed the audience with its unique combination of the art of Kung Fu, aerial ballet, dance and music. It was a breathtaking adventure that thrilled the CAMPers on their last cultural activity for their CAMP year.

The show was followed by a nice dinner at the Gardens Restaurant. This restaurant is one of Branson's most unique dining experiences with its great atmosphere and even better food! When you enter the Gardens Restaurant, you immediately realize this is no ordinary diner. It has a domed ceiling over 40 feet high, and a décor that resembles an Italian courtyard.



A Night in Paradise by Yancy Quintana



Homecoming was a great success for all Crowder students. Virgin Piña Coladas, Virgin Strawberry Daiquiris, food, music, dancing and fun, were all part of Homecoming 2011, “A Night in Paradise.” Homecoming this year took place on March 3rd in the Wright Conference Room. The room was decorated in colorful leis, beach balls, and palm trees. Homecoming was like a getaway to paradise with all your friends.

Former CAMPer, Thomas Corona and Yancy Quintana jump started the night’s events by winning Homecoming King and Queen for Crowder College Latino Union (CCLU). The night was full of CAMPer and former CAMPer taking pictures, dancing, and participating in a limbo contest. Everyone had a blast including former CAMPer Jessica Lopez who stated, “I thought homecoming was awesome! I had a blast, and Yancy and Thomas won!”

Current CAMPer, Danely Flores also had a great time. She stated that, “Homecoming was better than I expected. The music was really good! There were a lot of people there and I had lots of fun!”



THE PAST FIVE YEARS OF CAMP STUDENTS



2005-2006



2006-2007

2007-2008



2008-2009



2009-2010



2010-2011



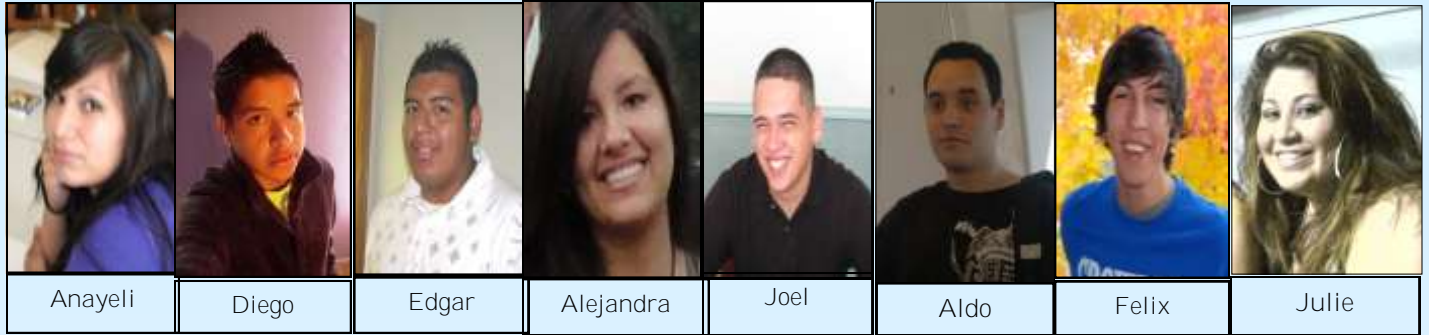


Faces of CAMP

2010-2011

by Yvonne Sanders

Alicia Irsik, CAMP Director



CAMP Program Changes Lives by Mayra Garcia



Recently, at a local Parent night at Springdale High School, a High School Migrant Tutor was asked how she felt about the importance of the CAMP

program. She stated that, "The CAMP program has changed many lives for the better. The opportunity to attend college changes not only the future of the students but also that of many in their families.

Knowing that there is a possibility of obtaining this scholarship motivates students to stay in school and keep up their grades. The CAMP program provides both economic and academic support, as well as enriched experiences for our migrant students. It is the best, most comprehensive scholarship program that I have worked with. I can't thank CAMP enough for giving our students a path to be successful, productive citizens!"

~Barbara Arnold, Springdale Public Schools, Springdale, Arkansas



Former CAMP Student's Experience by Monica Ramos



Monica Ramos
CAMP Year 08-09

My name is Monica Ramos and I am a Crowder College Alumnus. I began my journey at Crowder with the help of the College Assistant Migrant Program

also known as CAMP. The best way to describe my experience with CAMP is by saying that the program gave me direction. The College Assistant Migrant Program gave me orientation to how college works and allowed me to discover my own expectations. My year with CAMP was demanding, but rewarding.

Direction is something my academic life was missing, and CAMP gave me just that. With the many helpful workshops, I was able to learn necessary skills to succeed in college, from testing skills to becoming more organized as a student. CAMP

workshops were a great part of my academic success at Crowder College. The wonderful CAMP staff encouraged me throughout my first two semesters and encouraged me to pursue my academic dreams. CAMP staff went beyond their designated tasks. After I completed my year with CAMP they continued to encourage me and continued to believe in the strength of my abilities as a student.

Being part of CAMP also allowed my confidence to grow in regards to academics. After successfully completing my academic studies at Crowder College I was able to earn an Associate of Arts Degree. I now continue my education at the University of Arkansas where I am currently pursuing a degree in Food Science and two minors: French and Business Management. I am grateful to be where I am today. I recognize the doors that opened when so many others closed, and one of those doors was CAMP. I have the utmost

respect for the CAMP program and the impact it has on the lives of so many first generation college students. I am proud to say I am a CAMPer.

Academic Major: Food Science

Academic Minor: French and Business Management

Accomplishments: Ozark Food Processors Association Scholarship 2010-2011 Reward Amount: \$1500.00

Academic Challenge Scholarship 2011 Reward Amount: \$2500.00

University of Arkansas Quiz Bowl Team (Food Science Department) 2010-present (member)

University of Arkansas Product Development Team 2010-present (product developer)

Career Goals:

Finish Bachelor of Science at the University of Arkansas

Life After CAMP by Erika Perez



Andere "Dre" Edward
CAMP year: 2008

There are moments in life that truly help shape you as a person. For many, it's that moment in which they first enter college. Former CAMPers Andere Edward and Miguel Ramirez look back to their first year at Crowder College and acknowledge how much the CAMP Program helped them, not just academically but on a more personal note as well.

Andere, most commonly known as 'Dre,' is a Pre-Physical Therapy major at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, Missouri. With much enthusiasm he declared, "I only have 2 semesters left here! When I graduate there's no time to waste; I'm off to Missouri State University for graduate school!" Dre shared how CAMP allowed him the opportunity for a better life. He mentioned how exciting it feels to know he's making it this far in his academic career. After his completion of graduate school, Dre plans to seek employment in locations related to his field such as nursing homes, hospitals, or even sports.

He also stated how moving on to a 4-year university was much harder; but also, how his experiences in CAMP had helped ease that difficult process. Dre, who had been part of the program in 2008, stated that, "CAMP really helps a person with his first steps into college," and explained how useful the program was to him. He added, "Everything you go through, CAMP staff is there to help you out. They never turn their backs on you! They're like a real family because they believe in me!" Dre assured, "This program made a big impact on my life! Every day I see my own kind struggling, and I don't want that! Not only that, but it also opens up some peoples' eyes to show the endless possibilities."

Similar were the thoughts of Miguel Ramirez, current student at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. Miguel, who had been in CAMP in 2009, is an Athletic Training major and the Historian for the LEAL (Leading in Education to Approach Latinos) student organization at his university. He has gone on to represent MSU at the National USHLI (United States Hispanic Leadership Institute) Conference. Miguel's primary goal is to obtain his Master's Degree in Athletic Training and "work as an Athletic Trainer at a well-known university."

Like Dre, Miguel also believes that CAMP was very beneficial to him in being able to attend college. He said, "Being in CAMP was absolutely awesome; they gave me all the knowledge, support and resources I needed to start my education." Miguel claims CAMP as having had a life changing impact on him: "If it wasn't for CAMP I honestly think I wouldn't be in school right now." CAMP helped Miguel get to the stage in his life where he finds himself today. He had set the goal of completing a degree from a four-year university and today finds himself doing just that. The CAMP staff always provided all the information he needed and "happily answered all the questions" he had; because of this, he feels that his transition to MSU went smoothly and "was very exciting."



Miguel Ramirez
CAMP year: 2009

Both Dre and Miguel feel that CAMP helped them in their moving on to four-year universities. They expressed how it helps the students adjust to college while also placing many resources and opportunities at the tips of their fingers. Students have truly come to appreciate all that CAMP has done for them and believe that the only impact it can have is a positive one; especially on those students who truly realize what kind of help CAMP is offering.

CAMP...It Runs in the Family

by Erika Perez



Olivia Torres-Perea

CAMP year: 2008

The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) has served as an open door to opportunity for many students over the past ten years. It's provided hope, an avenue to attend college, and the resources necessary to obtain a better future. However, for sophomore Olivia Torres-Perea, CAMP has opened doors to success and a promising future for both her and her family alike.

Olivia will be graduating with her Associate of Arts Degree in General Studies from Crowder College this coming May 2011. She then plans to become a part of the Physical Therapy Assistant Program at Northwest Arkansas Community College starting in the fall. Olivia came to Crowder College through CAMP in the fall of 2008, but that was only the beginning of her academic career. Olivia firmly declared, "While I am attending classes at NWACC, I will volunteer in a nursing home where I will obtain some experience in my intended field. Once I have 'conquered' and graduated from the program, I will apply for a position where I can finally work on my career."

She plans to move back home to Rogers, Arkansas, which will be closer to her family and where her true motivation to attend college began. Olivia stated, "My older sister Maria had an immense influence on my applying for CAMP. I was twelve when she left for her CAMP year." Olivia's older sister, Maria Torres-Perea, had been a part of CAMP in 2002. She recalled, "I realized how much CAMP had helped my parents pay for my sister's first year of college. I also wanted to help my parents, and I knew that by applying for CAMP I

could give them a hand and also pursue my own goals." With that set in stone, Olivia joined CAMP six years later.

Her primary goal was to follow in her big sister's foot steps and become an engineer. However, like many other students, she discovered her own true calling, which for her was to become a Physical Therapist. Olivia stated, "My family served as a big motivation for me to attend college, and the CAMP Program was another great motivation." CAMP provided Olivia with more than financial assistance for tuition, student fees, textbooks, room and board. The assistance that the program provided impacted her life immensely. She shared that, "CAMP gave her the opportunity to attend college and pursue her dreams. It allowed her to learn what college life was all about, and prepared her for the real world."

Due to Olivia's leadership, determination and active involvement, she accomplished and achieved recognition for many things during her CAMP year. She was a member of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), International Club and the Cheerleading Club, where she had the opportunity to participate in the MCDA Dance Competition in St. Louis, Missouri. Her team won 1st place! That same year, she was also Vice-President of the Crowder College Latino Union (CCLU).

Although Olivia has had personal success, she stays true to her roots and remembers to also thank her family for this opportunity. She said, "CAMP not only made an impact on me but on my family as well. I come from a large family, and this was a big aid for my parents. If it hadn't been for CAMP, my sister and I probably wouldn't have even known that there were scholarships out there. And, without the CAMP scholarships that both my sister and I received, we would not have been able to attend college." Her sister, Maria, who attended the University of Arkansas after her completion with CAMP, graduated with her Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering in December of 2009.

CAMP not only gives students the opportunity to attend college, but it inspires hope in families for a better tomorrow. Olivia's final comments were, "CAMP gave me the opportunity to be a leader and helped give me confidence. It helped me grow as a person and know what really matters in life, like my family. If it wasn't for CAMP I wouldn't be who I am or where I am today! I am very grateful and thank God I received this scholarship!"



Olivia (left) and her older sister Maria (right), both former CAMPers

What CAMP Has Done For ME by Martin Perez



Martin Perez 2011
CAMP Year: 2008-09

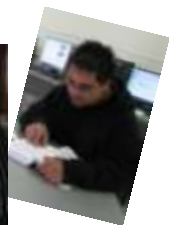
“What is CAMP? CAMP is a program funded by the government for migrant students; most importantly, it helps them to start a college education. What does CAMP do for you? CAMP pays EVERYTHING for YOU –your freshman year of college! It takes care of all the essentials from tuition, books, dormitory housing, food, and you even receive a stipend at the end of each month.

So, what did CAMP do for me? CAMP showed me that college is for anyone who truly wants to become someone in life instead of settling for minimum wage employment out there. How did they show me that? CAMP got me started in college. They paid for it all and even though it was hard to believe, that one year of college was free. I had nothing to lose but to try it and see if it was for real. Once I was in the CAMP program I found out it had to do with more than just getting my first year of college paid for. College allowed me to see all the opportunities that are out there. Your part is to know what you have to do and realize that the opportunities are there and then try to achieve them.

Another thing I learned is that there is no need to be scared of going to college; you get a weekend of CAMP ROCS. CAMP ROCS is where you get to meet the other CAMPers and learn about college before you start. They do everything possible to get you prepared for what is ultimately one of the biggest changes in your life. My personal experience with CAMP was AMAZING, FUN, and UNFORGETTABLE! I made lots of new friends; and while taking my classes really seriously, I always made room to have fun.”



Fall 2008



Spring 2009

Martin Perez, former 2008 CAMPper, will be proudly graduating from Crowder College in May 2011 with his Associate of Arts Degree in General Studies. He recently had the honor of attending the 52nd Annual Missouri Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference: Breaking Barriers in Jefferson City, Missouri. Colleges and universities from across the state met for a weekend at the capitol in order to compete for the privilege of moving on to the National Conference in Orlando, Florida, this coming June. Martin was asked to develop a presentation on how to 'kick-start' the job hunting process, which could be later used by the college career center. Among explaining resume and interview techniques he also had to explain strategies for landing a first, full-time job. Martin won second place with his Business Presentation. He now qualifies to attend the National Conference in Florida this summer.

Where Are They Going Now? By Erika Perez

Angel Portillo

CAMP Year: 2009-2010

Major: History

Transferring to: University of Arkansas; Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences

Significant accomplishments: Chosen to spend a week in Paris, France for spring break because of his academic success.

“CAMP really gave me that boost I needed to move on to a four-year institution. I honestly did not know where I was going to go to college during my senior year of high school, but when CAMP came my way, I knew that Crowder College was the place to go. CAMP has wonderful staff members that are always happy to assist you, and they will always answer your questions with a smile. I don't regret at all coming here. I really thank the people in CAMP for having given me the opportunity to enjoy a great experience. It is time to move on and leave Crowder but the great moments I experienced will always stay with me wherever I go.”



Yancy Quintana

CAMP year: 2009-2010

Major: International Relations

Transferring to: University of Arkansas; Fulbright College of Arts & Science

Significant accomplishments: Homecoming Queen, 3rd Place in PBL-SIFE, State Competition for International Business



“CAMP has helped me tremendously with financial assistance. Having one year fully paid for has made it easier for me to save up and find other ways to pay for college. CAMP also helped me become more involved with the college by tutoring and getting to know a whole variety of people. Being in CAMP helped me be more organized and focused on reaching my goals and accomplishing what I want in life. Without CAMP I don't think I would be as determined as I am to get my law degree in Immigration. CAMP was an unforgettable experience!”

Irvin Sosa

CAMP year: 2009-2010

Major: Web Design/ Web Processing, Minor: Business
Transferring to: Undecided (Either Central Baptist College, Conway, AR. or Ashford University, Clinton, Iowa)
Significant accomplishments: All Region Soccer Player Award-1st Team.

“CAMP has helped me by beginning my college life. It was difficult for me to find a college where I could get good scholarships and I got an awesome opportunity with CAMP. The program was fun and an awesome experience. I experienced life more as a young adult, with more opportunities and a lot more freedom. It helped me get situated, and it helped me begin my college life with good grades and a good understanding of how I should live my life in college. Thanks to CAMP I made awesome friends. Some were friends I already knew, but then I met Jessy Lopez, she was an amazing friend, and now happens to be my best friend yet!!! Best friend ever and now my girlfriend!!! What I'm trying to say is thanks to CAMP, I met her and all my other friends. CAMP ROCKS!!!! Literally!”



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Leonardo Munoz
Olivia Torres Perea, Former CAMPer

The Crowder College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) assists eligible scholars in successfully completing their freshman year of college. The college has designed a program of activities that provide support which include financial assistance, tutoring, academic advising, career counseling, stipends, and other supportive services as needed.

We are on the web!

www.crowder.edu



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