



## SPRING EDITION

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# CAMP Roughwriters



## 2016-2017 CAMPers

### Our Shared Migrant Experience by Anita Botello-Samson

The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) assists students who have performed migrant or seasonal farm work, or whose families have performed such work, pay for their first year of college. While CAMP students come from a variety of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, they all have a migrant and/or agricultural background in common.

CAMP students and their families' are proud of their migrant and agricultural backgrounds. I am also proud of our students and their families for the hard work they have done and continue to do every day. Therefore, I have chosen to write about our students and their families shared experiences and what it is like to perform migrant and seasonal farm work. The shared experiences below are based on interviews I conducted with many of the current CAMP students.

Some students have been performing migrant and seasonal work since they were very young. Glory Sweet has been working on her aunt's farm since she was six years old, planting and growing corn. (continued on the next page)

## Our Shared Migrant Experience (continued from page 1)

Her parents also perform migrant work, and Glory has worked with them planting tomatoes, peppers, black beans, and eggplant as well as tilling the garden. Hector Rivera started working on farms when he was just five years old. Hector continues to work on farms today, feeding cattle and training horses to herd cattle.

The most repeated phrase I heard when interviewing the students was how difficult migrant and seasonal farm work can be. The conditions of this type of work require the individual to work long hours and often work in extreme temperatures (either very cold or very hot temperatures). “I worked long hours, and it was sometimes stressful,” stated Adriana Martinez, who worked taking care of horses on a friend’s farm on a temporary basis. Furthermore, much of this work can be hard on a person’s body. For example, much of this work requires the individuals to crouch and bend their bodies for long periods of time (especially if they are picking fruit or vegetables). This can result in sore and stiff muscles, injuries, and long term health problems (such as joint problems). “This work can be physically difficult and challenging, but you don’t give up,” stated Oscar Escobedo, who has worked on horse farms and performed horticulture work.

Most of the students felt the hard work they did prevented them from taking things for granted. Alexis Blankenship, who has worked on a horse ranch, stated, “The hard work I did made me appreciate the things around me.” Allison Wilkerson, who has worked on a beef and a dairy farm, claimed, “I enjoyed my agricultural work; it taught me a lot of responsibility, patience and appreciation.” Hector Rivera claimed, “Living on a farm and training horses has made me a respectful, responsible, honest hardworking person.”

Another very common sentiment most of the students relayed to me was the hard work paid off in the end. Many students stated that while performing this type of work can be difficult, it can be worthwhile and that migrant and seasonal workers should not lose hope or give up. “Never give up, no matter the circumstances. Always keep trying” is what Adriana Martinez advised her fellow migrant and seasonal workers. Adriana stated, “The work was worth it. Not only did I make the money that I needed to help pay for food and gas, I got a CAMP scholarship and got to go to college as a result of my hard work.” “Hard work pays off,” claimed Hector Rivera, who has worked to help his family. (continued on the next page)

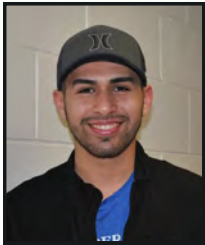


CAMP students relate to one another, despite their differences, because they all have agricultural and migrant backgrounds in common. These students see the value in doing agricultural and migrant work, even if this type of work is difficult to perform. All of these shared experiences help the students establish initial rapport with each other in the program. Additionally, these shared experiences help them form everlasting friendships that continue after they complete the program. These special friendships can and do last a lifetime, and are one of the many benefits of being in the College Assistance Migrant Program.

### **Former CAMPer Scholarship** by Anita Botello-Samson

CAMPers are informed of numerous scholarships for which they can apply throughout the school year. These scholarships can help students pay for the cost of school in their second year at Crowder after they graduate from CAMP. Therefore, these scholarships help students who would otherwise not be able to afford to attend college in their sophomore year. One of the most popular scholarships CAMPers apply for is the Former CAMP Scholarship.

For the Spring 2017 semester, the current recipients of the Former CAMP Scholarship are the following:



Luis Rueda



Dayana Rivera



Eh Say



Jessica Perez



Itzel Cervantes

The Former CAMP Scholarship is a scholarship offered by the CAMP Program. CAMP awards five of these scholarships to former CAMPers each semester. Anyone who is a former CAMP student, who is in good standing with the college and the CAMP Program, who is taking at least twelve credits a semester (i.e. going to school full-time), and has at least a 3.0 grade point average can apply. This generous scholarship is worth \$500 a semester and is renewable up to three times. Therefore, a student can receive as much as \$2,000 with this scholarship over a total of four semesters provided he or she continues to meet the above stated criteria.

While there is considerable competition for the five Former CAMP Scholarships, CAMP encourages CAMPers who meet the eligibility requirements to apply each year. These scholarships are always awarded to the students who demonstrate a strong grade point average and who are actively involved in Crowder College and CAMP.

We could not be more proud of these Former CAMP Scholarship recipients.



# University of Arkansas College Visit

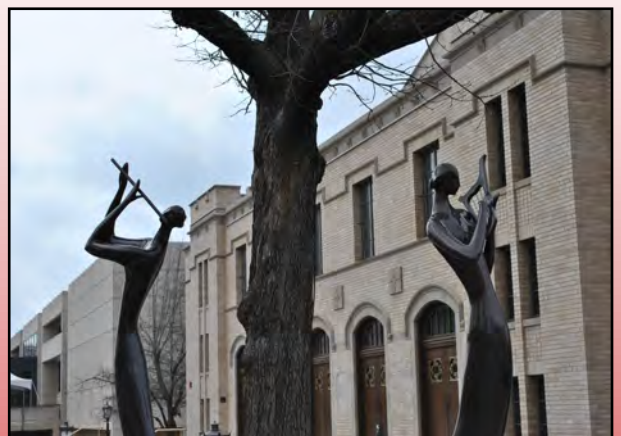
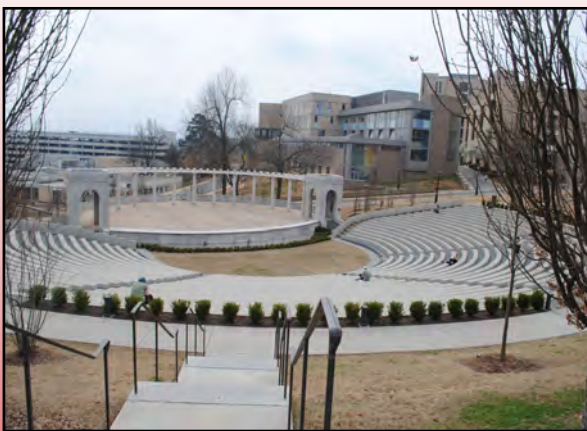
by Pablo Varela

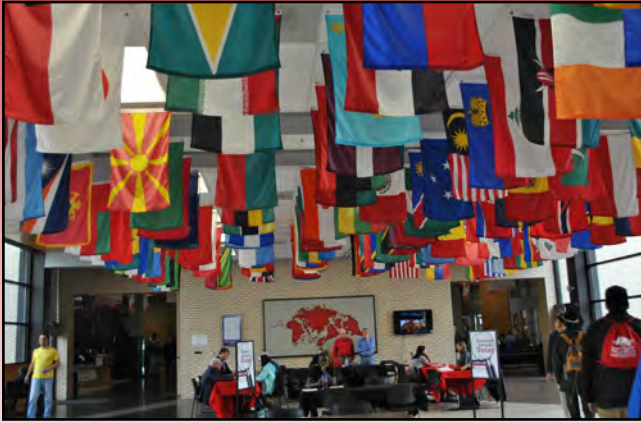
During the spring semester, CAMP students and staff had the opportunity to visit the University of Arkansas (U of A) in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Once we arrived on campus, we met with Rafael Arciga Garcia, the Senior Assistant Director for the Office of Admissions. Mr. Garcia led us to a conference room in which we all sat down to listen to presentations.

At first, a panel of current students talked to us about their experiences at the U of A. They spoke to us about diversity and various organizations we could join. They also spoke about some of the struggles students face being away from home. Lastly, they discussed racial and ethnic demographic information at the university.

Then Mr. Garcia started his presentation. Mr. Garcia asked the CAMP students to share the majors they were interested in pursuing at the U of A. Then he talked about all the different majors the university offered, and provided us with detailed information about many of them. He also told us many reasons why the U of A is such an outstanding university. For example, he mentioned the university's small student to teacher ratio which is 19-1. He also told us that the university is among the top outdoor universities in the nation, which means that the U of A has a lot of opportunities for students to do activities outdoors.

After Mr. Garcia's presentation, the CAMP students and staff went on a tour of the campus. During the tour we saw the Old Main building, which was built when the university was founded in 1871. We finished up our tour at one of the many cafeterias on campus where we ate a delicious lunch. We then left to come back to Crowder College. Overall, this trip was very informative, and many students are now interested in transferring to the U of A after they graduate from Crowder College.







## Crowder College Latino Union by Maria Rodriguez

The Crowder College Latino Union (CCLU) is a College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) sponsored organization that promotes student involvement in various Crowder College and community activities. CCLU held many different events in the 2017 Spring Semester including a raffle, a Valentine's Day sale, and a concession stand at the Thunderdome soccer tournament. Each event was an opportunity for the club members to raise money for charity. One of the charities the CCLU donates to is the Crowder College Giving Tree charity. This charity helps parents struggling financially to buy toys for their children.

The club members worked hard during each event to ensure it was successful. For example, club members sold many tickets to raffle off a pair of Beats headphones. Additionally, they stayed up late one evening making chocolate-covered strawberries, chocolate-covered pretzels and cupcakes for the Valentine's Day sale. They also put in long hours to sell nachos, candy, chips, water and Gatorade at the Thunderdome.

CCLU is like a family. Club members form close friendships with each other and enjoy working together toward common goals. They also treat each other with respect. Additionally, club members find the events rewarding and enjoy giving back to the community.



## Thunderdome by Glory Sweet

The 35<sup>th</sup> annual Crowder College Thunderdome took place on March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in various local area gyms, including the Crowder College Bob Sneller Gymnasium and the Neosho YMCA. The Thunderdome is a soccer tournament which this year featured men's teams, women's teams, and teams consisting of both men and women players. Many teams from all over the four-state region participated in the hope of winning the championship trophy.



I really enjoyed watching the tournament. Audience members cheered loudly as they watched the different elimination games. The players were very energetic and focused on the games. I witnessed some incredible defensive moves throughout the tournament by both men and women players. Samba Elite was the men's team who won the tournament, and the Alliance was the women's team who won the tournament. Both of these teams played very well, and they deserved their trophies. I look forward to watching more soccer tournaments in the future.



## Baseball by Allison Wilkerson



Pictures courtesy of Crowder College Website

CAMP student Nathan Gregory is also a member of the Crowder College baseball team. The team's regular season record is 44 - 10. The team goes into the post season ranked third in the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) Division 1. Nathan has enjoyed his baseball experience at Crowder. The team, including the coaches, share an unbreakable bond. Nathan said, "You get the best of both worlds; you get to have fun, but still get to experience serious competitive baseball." The team worked hard during the past fall season preparing themselves for the upcoming spring season; it is very reassuring seeing how much hard work pays off. Nathan and his teammates are extremely excited to see the outcome of the post season.



## Dixie Stampede - Cultural Event by Hector Rivera

### *Civil War - A Nation Divided*



Picture courtesy of Dixie Stampede

The Dixie Stampede show was an amazing and fun experience. CAMP students and staff loaded a bus on March 3, 2017, to travel to Branson, Missouri, to see the show. When we arrived, we unloaded the bus, and the friendly Dixie Stampede employees walked us to the horse stables. Once we arrived at the stables, we got to see the horses that would be performing in the show that night. We took pictures of the horses and then entered the building where we took a large group picture and then small group pictures. After taking pictures, we sat down to watch the pre-show which included three performers singing bluegrass songs and making jokes.

Once the preshow was over, we were invited into the main show room where we watched horses performing amazing tricks. The performers in the show talked about the history of the American Civil War. The audience members were divided into two teams, the North and the South, and various competitions were held between the two sides. The competitions included chicken chasing, pig races, and a game of horse shoes. I think my favorite part of the whole event was the food; it was delicious. At the end of the evening, the performers told us that as a country we have learned not to be divided, but instead united, and to celebrate our diversity. I have also learned it is important to celebrate diversity and to encourage people from different cultures and areas of the country to come together and be united, rather than divisive. Overall, the Dixie Stampede was a great show!



Picture courtesy of Dixie Stampede





Picture courtesy of Dixie Stampede



Picture courtesy of Dixie Stampede



Picture courtesy of Dixie Stampede

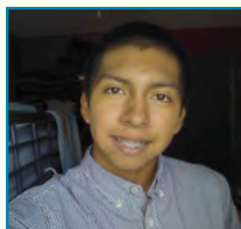


Picture courtesy of Dixie Stampede

# What is your advice for new/incoming CAMP students?



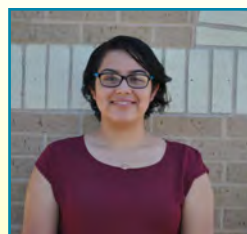
Stay focused on your studies and make sure you meet deadlines for assignments and projects. Try to make as many friends as possible and get along with your roommates and your semester should go smoothly. *Carmen Renteria*



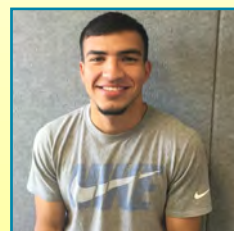
Help other CAMP students by forming study groups. Do not procrastinate on your assignments. Be respectful of other people's things in the dorms. Be aware that you are not alone; you have the other CAMP students and staff to help you. *Jilberto Alejo*



Have fun with friends, but stay focused on school by doing your homework and going to class. Making a To Do List is helpful to keep track of all of the things you have to do. *Kazandra Martinez*



College is a time you should enjoy. Prioritize things and make sure you get everything done. Try not to stress out and enjoy the moment; you only get to be a college student once. *Adriana Martinez Albarran*



Do not take things for granted and don't procrastinate. *Hector Rivera*



# We are Family!

By: Allison Wilkerson



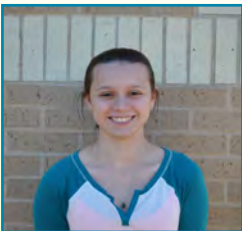
The following quote inspires me and motivates me to stay in school and work hard: "Shoot for the moon even if you miss you'll land among the stars," by Norman Vincent Peale. *Pablo Varela*



Crowder College is very accepting of people from diverse cultures. Everyone is very helpful and friendly. *Ngae Lay*



My advice is to stay on top of things and try not to get distracted. Take advantage of all the opportunities CAMP provides for you. Most importantly have fun! *Oscar Escobedo*



My advice to students is the following: no matter how far, how close, the stars we live under are all the same. Hopefully, that will give students some peace of mind. *Alexis Blankenship*



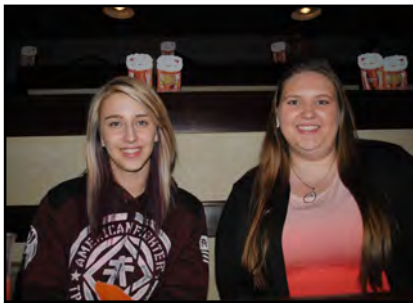
Be sure to do your work and don't procrastinate. Don't have too much fun or you will lose focus on your school work. *Luis Monares*

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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, including financial assistance, tutoring, academic advising, career counseling, stipends, and other supportive services as needed. A CAMP scholarship is an honor that is presented annually to 45 students who qualify as migrants or seasonal farm workers, and who are either United States citizens or qualified aliens eligible for federal public benefits.

We are on the web!  
[www.crowder.edu](http://www.crowder.edu)



*Have a Great  
Summer !*

