



ELCAMPESTRE

From CAMP to Camp: Enriching Our Community



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1ST FEMALE ENGINEER IN CAMP, NOT ANOTHER STATISTIC *"I'm gonna go beyond your expectations; I'm gonna do it, and I'm gonna do it better!"*



When Nere Vazquez came to Oregon State University winter term of 2007 she brought her 4-month old daughter along. Now, five years later she is the second Hispanic female to ever receive an Engineering degree at OSU, making her the first Latina Engineer in CAMP. She knew that her journey was going to be long and challenging but especially difficult.

She is receiving a Bachelors of Science in Construction Engineering and Management, not an easy field for a woman given it's a man dominated field. Vazquez is the second in her family to attend OSU and mentions that her family, friends and CAMP have been her biggest support. Both of her parents worked most of their lives in agricultural work and ever since she was a child, they wanted her to pursue an education in order to have a better future. Her friends have also been there to provide mental and emotional support throughout her time here at OSU. Vazquez mentions her daughter is her priority and reason she never gave up. If it wasn't for her daughter, and the urge to be a great role model, she wouldn't be here today. She has been her greatest motivation for succeeding and being determined. Being a single mom while working and being a full-time student has been difficult but it didn't stop her from achieving her goals.

Vazquez mentions that another struggle she had to face and overcome was that of not falling into the common Latino stereotype of not

being college material. Vazquez wanted to prove to those who thought she wasn't going to come through as a teen mother, attend a university and earn a degree, that she was well capable of it. I'm gonna do it, I'm gonna go beyond your expectations. I'm gonna do it, and I'm gonna do it better!"

her way of giving back to her community and contributing. She adds that sometimes one can't give much back but one can at least set the example and be a source of encouragement. Without a doubt, she has gone far and beyond to demonstrate nothing is impossible.

As CAMP alumni and on her way to do bigger and greater things she wills a few words to the CAMP family. Vazquez mentions that balancing time between family, school and work doesn't mean one shouldn't have a social life, it just means one needs to set his or her priorities straight. *Don't let obstacles stand in your way, you're gonna face lots of challenges in your life but you gotta keep goin'. Keep pushing yourself.* She adds that every individual is his or her own motivation *your parents or professors aren't going to hold your hand or tell you what to do; you're your own greatest motivation to succeed, I pushed myself because I was doing it for [my daughter] not myself.* All in all, *keep in mind that when you work hard for something, you appreciate it more..*

And, for those of you that remember Wendy Alemán...Nere gave special thanks to her devotion and genuine efforts in helping students succeed. "If it wasn't for Wendy's persistence and constant calls to accommodate my daughter and I, I probably wouldn't have come to OSU or be where I am now."



FIRST ANNUAL SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Roberto Trinidad had been working diligently on organizing and recruiting participants for CAMP's First Annual Soccer Tournament during the beginning of spring term. This tournament took place last week, on May 6th, at OSU's newly remodeled indoor soccer field, McAlexander Field House. The purpose of the soccer tournament was to bring Alumni and current CAMP students together and enable them to reconnect through playing soccer and catching up. However, even though we were targeting CAMP students, there were many CAMP friends who joined as well and made the event even more enjoyable. The five co-ed teams that participated invited non-CAMP students to play on the teams and it became competitive and humorous. During the event there was a surprise guest representing the Portland Timber's who spoke to the students about healthy living habits and the importance of higher education. He offered soccer tips, socialized, and took pictures with the participants. Some useful pamphlets were provided for all those who attended. All in all, there was a good turn out and everyone involved seemed to have a great time.



END OF YEAR BEACH RENDEZVOUS

The coast trip this spring took place early on in the term therefore most of the CAMP class was able to attend. As soon as we arrived, dinner was prepared and served faster than expected due to the collaborative participation those present as well as the cleaning of the common area. There were touching moments during the evening, many shared experiences and reminisced about the past two academic terms and their favorite mementos. After tears were shed there were plenty of laughs too. It was a great place and time to come back to given they all became acquainted and began friendships at that same exact place during CAMP orientation in the beginning of the school year. Overall, the trip was a bit short and the weather didn't work in our favor, however everyone made the most of it.





MENTORS AND MENTEES: WE ASKED, THEY ANSWERED

What was your favorite activity or pastime with your mentee? Do you think you were able to bond much with your mentee? And lastly, what did you gain from this experience?

Alex Arreguin (mentor):

Getting to know them and how different each one of them is. It was hard to find things in common at first, but then it got easier and bonding became like a friendship where we talk about school and life in general. It is not so much the experience I have gained but the three people I have gotten to know better and being able to see them accomplish their first year of college.

Abner Mondragon (mentor):

Having three mentees has been a very good but difficult experience it has gave me the opportunity to broaden my communication skills, and excel in helping fist year incoming migrant students. This year I had Efrain Cabrera, Eloisa Luis, and Esmeralda Flores as my mentees, all three where wonderful mentees and I had many great experiences with all three. Efrain and I went on a fishing trip during winter term which gave us the chance to get to know each other better, and to have a good time fishing which is one of our favorite hobbies. Esmeralda and I, right off the get-go got along, we were both very open to one another and have been able to talk about a lot of things that are very meaningful to both of us, over the year we have been able to connect on different levels and we know that if we ever need anyone to talk to we have each other's back. Eloisa was a bit shy at first but after our first meeting she opened up a lot and has been able to ask me for advice with any problem she was facing. She is now very outgoing and a very fun and unique person to hang out with. She's very smart and I am excited to see what she will be doing four years from now. These have just been a few of the many wonderful experiences I got to share with my mentees this year. They have helped me stay positive and taught me how to get on different levels when having to deal with different emotions, together we motivated one another to succeed in school and in life and I know that as long as we keep in touch it will always be like that.

Esmeralda Flores (mentee):

Describe different ways in which having a mentor helped you in various aspects during your 1st year at OSU? What was your favorite activity or trip that you engaged in with your mentor?

Would you like to be a CAMP Mentor next year, and why? *Having to talk to someone when I'm stressing, getting a bite to eat while getting advice helped me through stressful times my first year. Eating was fun 'cause I love food. Also, the Mt. Hood Skibowl Trip was fun; it was pretty swaggin'. Yes I would, because I want to guide students like me that are going to be going through their first year and I love talking to people so why not. I have learned and grown so much this year that I would like to see others blossom and find themselves.*

On another note, Esmeralda received the National CAMP Recognition Award this year. She is pictured alongside her family and the National Director of Migrant Education, Lisa Ramirez at the National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education conference.



Upcoming Events

- Welcome Back BBQ
First week of term
- Coast Trip
TBD
- CAMP Recognition Ceremony
June 2nd



MAY

Magali Ayala
Kathy Cervantes
Eloy Hernandez

JUNE

Francisco Castro-Guzman
Emanuel Muñoz
Esther Rodriguez Estrada
Berenice Trapero

JULY

Santi Chora-Lopez
Andrea Flores
Braulio Lopez
Nancy Lopez

AMAS' UPDATES

Hard to believe, but we are in the last weeks of 2012's academic school year. It feels like this year has practically flown by. This term has been extremely busy for us. It seemed as if we were sponsoring activities every weekend. We started off with the Peer Mentor trip to South Beach, then we organized the "Reunion" event for migrant high school students who participated in the Migrant Leadership Institute in 2011. The following weekend my staff participated in "Mi Familia Weekend" and this coming Sunday (May 6th) we will be hosting our first CAMP Soccer tournament. Our last event is the CAMP Recognition Ceremony on June 2nd where we will recognize our scholars and their families including OSU faculty, staff and community members among others.

I am excited that most, if not all of our students will successfully complete their first year in college and my hope is that most of them return for their second year of college. We are also getting ready for the new cohort of 35 incoming students for the 2012-2013 academic year. Melisa Lopez, our Outreach & Recruitment Coordinator has been working with all of them to ensure they are registered for START Bilingüe, have received their financial award package, etc. I am thrilled to meet them and their families during START Bilingüe on July 9th.

As new scholars arrive, for many past CAMP scholars it is their last year at OSU. This year, close to 20 students who participated in CAMP in previous years will be graduating with their degrees this coming June. I am happy for them and there is a genuine *orgullo* within the CAMP staff as we see this group finish their undergraduate education and see them transition to their professional lives.

Two years ago I wrote the departure of our "El CAMPEstre" editor, but she decided to continue her graduate studies. Well...she will be done with her Master's degree this year and I'm not sure I can convince her to stay for her doctoral studies. Gera Casimiro spearheaded this newsletter from the beginning, and this is the last issue she has worked on. She has done a great job on writing, editing, interviewing, and collecting information for "El CAMPEstre." Gera—you will be greatly missed.

I am pleased with the objectives we accomplished this year and the activities we implemented to ensure our scholars are successful in their academics. I'm aware there is always a room for improvement, and we will continue to do our best for our students.

Amas

