



EL CAMPEstre



“No se rajen...”

“... don’t give up and keep trying.”

“No se rajen,” simple words that hold a powerful message for the Mexican community. For Juan Bolaños, not giving up made the difference between doing agricultural work and putting his degree to work in an engineer position.

Every year, thousands of students enroll in a higher education programs in hopes of pursuing their dream career. In 2008, Juan began his journey at Oregon State University (OSU) with support from the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP).

In 2013, he graduated with a degree in Construction Engineering Management, yet his experience after college would be anything but a dream.

Juan explained the struggle he faced as a college graduate trying to find a job in his field. “It’s harder than you think it will be, it’s difficult because there are not as many jobs as you think there will be.” For some time, Juan returned to the world of hard labor and began working in the agricultural fields. The humbling experience would not hold Juan back. *No se rajó*. He continued searching for jobs in the engineering field, filling out countless applications. Soon, his perseverance would pay off and he would land a position as Project Manager for a company in Los Angeles, California, yet it would not be without sacrifice.

The move from his small hometown in Oregon to one of the biggest cities in California came with many adjustments. From the traffic to the social environment, everything he knew had changed and that included his work experience. Juan spoke of the difficulties that came with adjusting to a team environment stating how “construction depends on many different people”. He expected to have designated tasks that he would complete on his own, but was surprised to find out that his work would depend on others. As the Project Manager, he led a team and relied heavily on communication. Juan was in charge of ordering and getting the material necessary for different projects, making him especially dependent on teamwork. Reminiscing, he explained that it was something that he was not used to.

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Juan Bolaños – *continued from page 1...*

All throughout college, he had worked alone and was known as a shy individual, so the transition to L.A. was not an easy one. With time however, Juan adjusted and began to thrive leading to a whole new adventure in Seattle, WA.

With some experience under his belt, Juan later received an offer from a construction company in Seattle for its estimation department. Juan accepted, and is currently working for them. Within this position, he is responsible for estimating the quantity of supplies that a project will use, what type of labor is necessary and what equipment they will need, then works on budgeting for different projects. When asked about his future plans, Juan admitted that he is not really sure what he wants to do. He is happy with his current job, but he does hope to climb up the ladder and be a successful engineer.

Through Juan's perseverance, he has managed to be an inspiration to students from similar backgrounds. His two younger brothers Francisco and Jonathan Bolaños currently attend OSU and are also a part of the CAMP family, a family that helped Juan through some challenges, including that of finding a job after college. Juan spoke of the help that CAMP provided and how it made all the difference in his success. His hopes are that other students recognize the challenges that come with life and push through, saying **“No se rajen, don't give up and keep trying.”**

CAMP Scholars Go Abroad

Jakelyn Santa Cruz – *A Trip to Italy*

With a love for traveling, Jakelyn was eager to find a study abroad program. Through a mentor, she heard of the trips organized by Kelly McElroy, the librarian at OSU. Jakelyn, excited to hear of such opportunity, made an appointment with McElroy to discuss the program. She later applied and was accepted into the program. While in Italy, she was fascinated by their culture and how the country was dealing with their current immigration crisis. Jakelyn came to enjoy her experience so much that she already has plans for this upcoming summer. She hopes to study social justice in Barcelona and then continue on to travel Europe and visit her host family.



Jasmine Meraz – *Lessons in Uganda*

With a passion for education, Jasmine was eager to study abroad in Uganda and participate in a program that helped better education efforts. Before learning of this program, Jasmine had no idea here she wanted to go. She just knew she wanted to study abroad somewhere in Africa. After doing some research and meeting with faculty, she learned of her program and fell in love with it. During her time in Uganda, she held a workshop in which she compared the U.S. education system to that of Uganda's, ultimately leading her to work with the teachers to properly deliver lessons without changing legislation. The time spent in Uganda led to many relationships and experiences. Her advice to students who are looking to study abroad is to just do it. **“Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and just do it.”** She also added that the best opportunities are found in countries that are not very well known.

Upcoming Events

- January 11 – Welcome Back Pozole
- January 18 – Trail Blazer s. Indiana
- February 15 – United States Hispanic Leadership Institute



July

Marisol de la Torre
Kellie Zepeda

August

Diego Diaz
Carla Medel
Wenceslao Bolaños
Xenia Velasco
Alfonso Nuñez
Mixtli Rodriguez
Silvia Arizmendi
Orlando de la Torre

September

Linda Lomeli
Jazmine Tellez
Jennifer Rodriguez
Jaime Rodriguez

October

Brenda Nuñez

November

Araceli Ortiz
Marvin Guerra

December

Francisco Virrueta
Andrea Valencia
Asusena Muñoz

CAMP Alumni...Where Are They Now?

Magali Sanchez – CAMP Scholar 2012

Magali Sanchez graduated from OSU in 2016 with a Bachelor’s in Ethnic Studies with an emphasis on Chicax Studies and a minor in Spanish. Much like Juan Bolaños, Magali experienced some hardships while trying to get a job after college. After graduating, Magali went on a study abroad trip and upon her return had to get a job at a mall shop as she had missed the deadline for most job applications. She then went on to work as a teacher’s assistant before she began her position as a Latinx Services Librarian in Newberg Public Library. Magali is responsible for programming, outreach, and development of the Spanish collection. She is loving her job, but she has hopes to get a Master’s in Ethnic Studies or Library Science in the near future.



Cristian Reyes – 1st term of grad school

Cristian has dedicated much of his life to others. A son, brother, friend, and mentor, he is always doing things for others. This year, Cristian set out to do something for himself and began graduate school. He is currently enrolled in an Environmental and Occupational Health program, 1 of 6 students in this cohort, he is the only Latino male. He admits it is challenging, but he is stepping up as a student and accepting the challenge.

Cristian is currently looking to work on research and keep up with his homework. As he put it, “it’s like a race, and as soon as you start, you have to go full sprint.” He hopes to graduate from his program and specialize in Environmental Health, perhaps leading to a PHD Program.

CAMP Orientation



The CAMP Summer Bridge Program went great this year! Out of the 40 CAMP students we had 37 attend and the other 3 students were recruited after. This year we brought back some activities that we have done in the past and collaborated more with the other Summer Bridge programs. Our 7 mentors did a wonderful job working with the CAMP students and its always great to end orientation with students having a mentor for the year!

A word from the Director – Amas' Updates



Welcome to our first issue (volume 9) of “El CAMPEstre” newsletter! As I write this section of the newspaper, we are in finals week of the fall term. As usual, time keeps ticking away and also the cold weather has returned back to this beautiful campus after an unusual sunny and warm fall. I just wanted to recap our CAMP activities since the last issue. First, on July 9th and 10th we were busy during START Bilingue hosting our 4th cohort of this grant cycle. We were able to meet their families and ensure they were registered for fall term classes. Then, for the ninth year in a row, we hosted the Oregon Migrant Leadership Institute (OMLI) in July as a result of our working collaboration with the Oregon Migrant Education Program (MEP) and the Forest Grove School District. Over 150 migrant students from throughout the state participated in two week-long sessions. This was the largest group of migrant students we have hosted on campus since 2009.

On another note, this year, we have 40 new CAMP Scholars from different high schools throughout the state. Boardman High School is the largest group with four students. The CAMP staff spent time with the incoming students for a week in September as part of our Orientation Program that ended with a nice trip to the beach in Newport, OR. We also started this term with a Welcome BBQ event the first week of classes. We like to eat in CAMP! This cohort appears to be eager to succeed in college, and so far, they have been busy with their college classes and activities.

This year, CAMP is going through a few changes. Greg Contreras, CAMP Academic Counselor, transitioned to become the CAMP Director at Portland Community College, Rock Creek Campus on July 1st. Greg has been with CAMP for over three years and he had a very positive influence on our students. We have a new Academic Counselor! Her name is Aleksandra Dos Reis and she come to us from Gervais, OR. Aleksandra was a participant in CAMP in 2009-10. She graduated from OSU in 2014 with a degree in Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS). She is also received her Master's in College Student Services Administration (CSSA) in 2016. I appreciate her energy and willingness to go the extra mile to work with our students.

Also, I want to take this opportunity to welcome to CAMP, Gloria Ramirez as the new editor for this newsletter and Miguel Paniagua, the new CAMP Peer Ambassador Coordinator. Both are CAMP alumni and have tons of energy and willing to make a difference in CAMP and with this cohort. I am fortunate to have them on my team. So, we begin another successful academic year. ~ Amas

CAMP Activities



The CAMP Annual Potluck is always a success! Our mentors Ana Maria and Quetzi did a wonderful job planning the event. The event included our usual potluck, where each mentor group cooks something together. This year we had chicken flautas, tatortot casserole,

pozole, BBQ chicken, enchiladas, tinga and hotdogs. We also had an Ugly Sweater contest, which was won by Oscar Ramirez and of course our White Elephant Gift Exchange!

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