



REVISTA SATURNO

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ASU CAMP



Day of the Dead Altar set up by CAMP students.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CAMP STAFF

BY DR. SELINE SZKUPINSKI QUIROGA, SWEEANN MORENO, MEGAN BOLAÑOS, DIANA CRUZ

Welcome back to the Revista Saturno. We're excited to be able to communicate with you, our students, parents and alumni, like we did before. Although so much has changed, some things stay the same. We have a new cohort of CAMP students who are succeeding academically and navigating the constant changes of attending a university that is striving to provide the most "normal" educational environment. We have new staff members who are quickly familiarizing themselves with all the resources that CAMP students have access to within our program and within one of the largest public universities in the country. Our CAMP offices, which were under temporary construction, will open again in the spring semester. The CAMP team still works tirelessly to support both students and alumni achieve their goals. We know that Covid-19 has permanently changed so much, but our message to you is that CAMP is still here to provide guidance and support.

A LETTER FROM A CAMP TUTOR

BY JOSE MARTINEZ (SENIOR, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING)



Dear CAMP Scholars and Parents,

My name is Jose Martinez and I work as a tutor for the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) at ASU. Tutoring is just one of the many resources available to CAMP students, but I think sometimes it can be underutilized. CAMP currently has two tutors, including myself, that can help in-person and remotely in math, science, and English with homework assignments, projects, and even answer general questions about ASU. Our mission is to help each student meet the academic requirements set by their professors and CAMP. To achieve this mission, we are available in both study halls and

office hours throughout the week.

I am a senior majoring in mechanical engineering which relies heavily on math and science courses. Some of the courses I can help with are the following: MAT 117 (College Algebra), 142 (College Math), 170 (Precalculus), 265 (Calculus I), 266 (Calculus II), PHY 121 (University Physics I), ENG 101 (First Year Composition I), and 102 (First Year Composition II). In addition to these courses, I can help with MATLAB which is a coding program used in the STEM field. One reason CAMP students prefer asking CAMP tutors for help is that we can tutor in both Spanish and English depending on the student's preferred language.

As a CAMP alumni, I decided to become a tutor because I am confident in my ability to help students meet their academic requirements. In addition, by being a CAMP tutor I am serving my community by supporting other migrant students, just like me, succeed. What inspired me to become a CAMP tutor was a saying that I once heard, "be the help that you needed." As migrant students, we face similar challenges when moving

away from home to pursue our educational and professional goals.

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IT IS HARD TO ASK FOR HELP. I REMEMBER FEELING EMBARRASSED ABOUT NOT KNOWING OR UNDERSTANDING...

It is hard to ask for help. I remember feeling embarrassed about not knowing or understanding certain concepts and terms from my classes when I started as a CAMP student at ASU. The reason I am writing this letter is to remind you that the tutors were once in your shoes. It is normal for students to need help sometimes which is why CAMP hires tutors like me. The benefits of tutoring can include improving your grades, relieving stress, and connecting with other students who are struggling with the same material so you can work together to succeed. I encourage CAMP Scholars to take advantage of the tutors. We love when we are able to help students overcome challenges and be successful because that's our job.

MEET SWEANN MORENO

OUR NEW ACADEMIC
SUCCESS & FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR

Sweann Moreno is a Chicana from El Paso, TX passionate about helping students reach their academic goals. For the past five years, Sweann has

worked with a diverse population of students and mentored them throughout their first year of college. A proud graduate of the University of Colorado – Denver, and the University of Texas – El Paso (UTEP) Sweann strives to build community, hope, and ganas to keep students on track in their academic paths. She empowers students to reach higher than they can ever imagine by assisting in meeting their personal, academic, and career goals through CAMP resources.



MEET MEGAN BOLAÑOS

OUR NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Megan Bolaños was born and raised in Southern California and has lived in Arizona since 2018. She has a degree in Communications

from UC Davis and completed her MBA at INCAE Business School in Managua, Nicaragua. Megan has also studied and worked in Spain, Thailand and Costa Rica. She hopes to bring the adaptability and creativity that she has cultivated throughout her dynamic career to support CAMP Scholars and Alumni in achieving academic success.



HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE FINANCIAL AID TERMS?

BY ERWIN PANUCO GAMEZ (SENIOR, FINANCE) & ITZEL MEZA (JUNIOR, DATA ANALYTICS)

There are a lot of terms and acronyms, rules and requirements when it comes to navigating financial aid. It's easy to get overwhelmed or stressed when you see an unexpected charge on your student account. Our team has two CAMP alumni who now work as office aides and specialize in understanding and tracking student finances: Erwin Panuco Gamez (Senior, Finance Major) and Itzel Meza (Junior, Data Analytics Major). They have compiled a list of some of the most commonly misunderstood terms so that we can all improve our financial literacy and make the best decisions for ourselves.

Voucher Code: Students who are Pell Grant recipients are given a voucher code six weeks prior to the start of the semester which can be used to purchase books at Sun Devil Campus Stores (in-person or online). You cannot charge more than \$650 using the voucher code.

How it works: Rather than using cash/card to complete your bookstore transaction you will provide the voucher code at checkout. You will go home with your books and the bookstore will transfer your

book charges to your ASU account. However, it is important to note that when the financial aid money is disbursed into your account it will pay off any open balance, not just books.

For example: Let's say you have \$300 in bookstore charges and \$500 in meal plan charges currently on your account. When \$300 is paid to your account from financial aid the new charges will be: \$300 in bookstore charges and \$200 in meal plan charges. Your \$300 in financial aid for books was applied to your meal plan balance. Sometimes that can be confusing.

Federal Work-Study (FWS): Students who have federal work-study should keep in mind that the amount that appears on their finance tab in their MyASU is not awarded to them immediately. The award is given to them as part of their wage once they are hired in a FWS job. If the student

does not find a FWS job, that money will not be paid out to the student.

Meal Plan: When choosing a meal plan, the student should consider the amount of times they eat during the day. The way meal plans work is that you get meal swipes during the semester and are able to use it at any dining hall on campus. Each meal swipe is an entry into a dining hall where you can eat as much as you want while you are there. The meal plan can also be used at small convenience stores on campus (POD Markets) by using what ASU calls Maroon & Gold Dollars (M&G).

“In my experience, the best plan has been the Gold Plan: (\$1,575 per semester): 7 meals per week with \$300 M&G. I made the mistake my first year of obtaining Sparky's Favorite meal plan and so many meal swipes went to waste. It was more than I could eat. With Gold, I use the meal swipes only for dinner or lunch and I just cook a quick breakfast at my apartment...”

-CAMP Alumni Testimony



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INTERVIEW WITH AGLAE MENDEZ



Aglae Mendez (front center stage) singing la La Lámpara with the ASU Mariachi Ensemble

It's less common, but we do have CAMP students who choose to go into the arts and we want to highlight their talent and creativity. One of those students is Aglae Mendez, who in addition to studying theater, participates in the ASU Mariachi Ensemble playing trumpet and singing with her extraordinary voice. Several CAMP students attended her recent recital. Following is an interview that Algae gave with CAMP Peer Mentor Diana Lara.

What is your major?

My major is theatre.

How did you choose that major?

Actually I was really struggling with what to major in after coming to university, but I spoke with one of my teachers and she asked me what I was passionate about. After thinking about it a lot I realized (...) this is for the rest of my life. I'm passionate about theatre so I chose it as my career path.

Why are you passionate about theatre?

Many reasons. It's a way to express yourself in many ways either through acting or through the technical aspects of theatre. In acting, you can express what your feeling and communicate a story to the audience, but you can also communicate those things through designing a set or a costume. It all comes together to tell a story. Theatre is also a safe space and a welcoming environment that feels like a family to me.

What do you love about your program?

I love a lot of things about it. I like acting, but right now I'm more into the technical side. I love the hands-on experience of building a set, making this world where the story takes place come to life. It's amazing to see the transformation.

What was your best experience so far?

My lab class where I learned about all the tools and techniques and ways to build a set. When I entered the scene shop I was like wow (...) It's been such a cool experience learning to use each tool and working with the students and professors. I also had the opportunity to work on an actual production where I did wardrobe and I got to experience the other side of theatre helping actors do their quick changes between scenes, making sure they had their costumes, etc.

What would you say to a student or parent who might think that a creative discipline is risky because the career path is less clear?

Being in theatre is different from other careers because it's a lot of teamwork and processes to put a production together so there are a lot of things to specialize in and a

lot of jobs to fill. It's ok to be unsure, but if it's the right major for you and if you're passionate about the subject then you will be motivated to look for professional opportunities after graduation. Also, skills I learn in theatre can be applied beyond theatre. Lights and sounds are also used in a concert hall. I'm confident that I can find ways to apply all of the skills that I am learning because I'm

CAMP STUDENT TRAVELS TO ORLANDO FLORIDA

Gabriel Sepulveda, first year CAMP student and Computer Science major, was sponsored by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) to attend their national conference in Orlando Florida this past November. During the conference, Gabriel joined mostly junior and senior ASU students in a career fair where he met with professionals in his field, discussed internship opportunities and learned first-hand how to deliver a convincing elevator pitch.

“There was a really cool company that I spoke with called Lutron; they make light switches. I gave them my resume and I hope next year I can reach out to them when I have more experience to hopefully get an internship.”

The companies that Gabriel spoke with were honest about how they prioritize giving internships to juniors and seniors, but he made a lot of meaningful connections that he hopes he can revisit later on in his college career when he does have the necessary experience to apply.

“This conference definitely made me want to get more involved at ASU. Now I know juniors and seniors who

doing what I love.

Would you recommend your major to someone who is unsure what to study?

I would totally recommend this major (...) Coming here has expanded my knowledge x100, but also you have to do what you are most passionate about. Where I am from in San Luis there isn't a lot of theatre, (...) but something that I want to do is help

theatre become more accessible in the communities that I come from. Theatre can break borders and cross language barriers.



can mentor me in my major. I learned about a really interesting engineering club called EPICS that I am definitely going to join.”

He hopes to get more involved now so that it will help him later on to obtain an internship and hopefully a job.

Gabriel's message to any parent who is unsure about letting their student travel to another state for this type of event is that they should remember that these are important opportunities that don't come along very often. When asked how he managed to obtain that sponsorship, Gabriel explained that he was nominated by the community assistant in the Tooker Residence Hall who was a part of the SHPE club on campus.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Southwest Leadership Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico - Spring 2022

Group Outings to the Phoenix Zoo and performances - Spring 2022

Resume workshops - Spring 2022

CAMP Washington DC Summer Internship Program - Summer 2022

San Luis Summer Internship Program - Summer 2022

Speak to a CAMP staff member to learn more about these opportunities.

STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND (SEF)

The National HEP/CAMP Association recognizes we are currently in unprecedented and challenging times and our students are faced with a multitude of unexpected issues.

Students experiencing financial need due to an emergency may be eligible to receive one-time, per calendar year, emergency funding up to \$599.00.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible students for SEF funds must be either currently in CAMP or recent alumni who are completing their undergraduate program.

For the purposes of this fund, an emergency is defined as a financial hardship within the academic school year, such as a medical issue, accident, child care, or emergency such as fire, flood, unexpected death, victim of a crime etc.

Funds will not be granted to students who request funding to cover tuition, fees or books, non-essential utilities, or debt/owed payments.

Speak to the CAMP Staff if you are in need and think you qualify.

MEET DIANA CRUZ

RECRUITER & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Diana is the new Recruiter and Family Engagement Coordinator. She's a first gen Latina from the Chicagoland area. She's the daughter of two incredible Mexican immigrants. They always supported her and believed in her ability to go to college and succeed. Diana graduated from Wellesley College in 2019 with a Spanish major and is now in Arizona looking to give back the support to other young students. She was also a part of a college access program in high school that provided a lot of resources and helped her go to college, so she's happy to share what she learned. In this role she's excited to help scholars prepare for college and connect to the ASU campus and CAMP program.



LESSONS FROM STUDY SKILLS & TIME MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

BY GUADALUPE BUSTAMANTE (SOPHOMORE, COUNSELING & APPLIED PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE)



Sarah Bennett presenting to CAMP students during study hall workshop.

On October 17 and 19, ASU CAMP invited students to learn from Sarah Bennett, the Associate Director of Academic Success Programs. During her presentation, she outlined some useful study skills and discussed how students can improve the way they manage time. The workshop was interesting to me because these tools were not taught to me in high school in a way that actually helped me learn properly and retain information.

First, she introduced the Pomodoro Method, and ever since I learned how

to apply it to my courses, it is much easier to finish my homework on time. To use the Pomodoro Method, I divide my time into 30 minute intervals of focused time directed towards coursework, then I take a 5-10 minute break. According to Sarah, a person's ability to focus declines after 30 minutes so it is important to take breaks. I used to stress about not having enough time, feeling overbooked and overwhelmed. Like most students, I find it hard to concentrate on one thing at a time. However, breaking

up big projects into small actionable items, remembering to take breaks, clearing my mind before studying, or simply taking a nature walk before starting a big project has helped me.

Sarah went on to discuss how our bodies and brains thrive on routine so if we don't create regular sleeping/eating patterns, we will not be able to concentrate as effectively. Furthermore, our bodies associate specific places with specific activities so Sarah reminded us that if we study in bed, our bodies are naturally going to go into sleep mode because that is the associated activity. Absorbing all of this information made me realize that I have some areas where I can improve. However, one thing that I tell myself when I'm learning a new skill is that everyone has different strengths and weaknesses and it's ok to not be the best when you start out.

After the presentation, I shared that sometimes I have difficulty meeting deadlines, maintaining a healthy social life, and finding time to do my hobbies. Sarah insisted that I create specific time slots for the activities that are important to me. For example, 9:30-11 AM on Mondays is when I complete a section of a long term project or exercise or call my family, etc. Another tip I received was to plan my next day the night before and write down my plan! One final point that stood out to me during the study skills and time management workshop was that it takes 23 days to create a habit. I'm taking it one day at a time.