Juan, a Miami native, well known as Coach JC, is a P.E. teacher at Pinecrest Cove Preparatory Academy, currently completing his 4th year. Coach JC has had previous experience in training high school, college and professional baseball players. He holds 2 state championship titles and currently trains 5 minor league players and 2 major league players in the off season. He has a passion for sports and helping kids reach their highest athletic potential.

Tom Soria received his bachelor’s degree in secondary education and his master’s degree in sports administration from Wichita State University. He has been a part of the Mini Canes camp staff since 2006 and has been the camp director since 2014. He is CPR/AED certified and is also a Registered Collegiate Recreational Sports Professional (RCRSP). Tom enjoys officiating sports, traveling, the beach, and is a proud father to his two boys.

Marena Gavilan joined the Department of Wellness and Recreation in August 2007. She works directly with Dave and Tom Soria assisting with club sports, intramurals and special events, and camp. Marena has two sons and a daughter. She enjoys traveling, reading, music, and exercising. Marena is responsible for all camper registration and is very excited for her eleventh summer of camp.

Emelyn Dure received her Bachelor’s degree in Exercise Physiology at The University of Miami in 2015 and then moved on to receive her Master’s of Science in of Strength and Conditioning and Entrepreneurship in 2017. Emelyn recently came from The Pennsylvania State University where she served as the Coordinator of Fitness and Wellness. As a believer of “exercise is medicine” she is excited to educate and promote the importance of wellbeing to our future Canes!

Mary is a University of Florida graduate and a current Miami-Dade County School teacher. She will be returning to school to seek her master’s in education. She is a Miami native who really enjoys running, hiking, and the beach. Mary is passionate about working with children of all ages. She cannot wait for camp to start!

The Mini Canes Camp office staff is available for parents in need of receipts, additional T-shirts, and extra pick-up slips. The office is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and can be reached at 305-284-8510 for any questions or concerns.
Destiny is a sophomore majoring in Health Science at the University of Miami. Upon completing her first year, she had to return back to her hometown of Miami and enjoy my mini canes for a summer full of fun. She loves the color pink, enjoys shopping, trying new foods and dancing to fun music. She has had 2 years of experience as a P.A and is very excited to lead her new campers into a summer full of fun.

ESTEBAN

Esteban is a junior majoring in sports management at Towson University. He is a military brat who grew up in Miami and enjoys basketball, baseball and playing video games and has previous camp experience working at Big 5 with 6-12 year olds. Esteban likes to watch movies, play sports and video games in his free time.

TJ

TJ is a University of Miami graduate with a degree in Criminology. He was born and raised in Miami, Florida. He has worked with Ponce De Leon Middle School, Ronald Reagan Doral Senior High School, Francis Tucker Elementary School and Coral Gables Senior High School. Both volunteering and acting as a site director for several years. He played for the University Of Miami football team and enjoys athletics and sports.

AISHA

Aisha is a sophomore at the University of Florida studying Mandarin, and spending time with China. In her free time she loves doing yoga, as a first-grade ESL teacher near Shanghai, Starting in the Fall, Maria will be working in Gainesville and loves working with middle school aged children. She likes dancing and looks forwards to learning new moves from the kids.

KAI

Kai is a senior majoring in Mass Communications at Miami Dade College. He has grown up in Miami where he enjoys playing football, basketball, and soccer. He has worked with kids during his time with the City of Miami Parks and Recreation, ages 6-13. Kai’s life revolves around sports, sports, and sports.

ADI

Adi earned her bachelors degree from the University of Miami and is currently continuing her studies at GWC in Wisconsin for Nursing. Growing up, her parents have raised Adi to be active and become involved in many sports like basketball, swimming, football and dancing. Ever since 2012, Adi has had a multitude of experiences working as an after school coach and a summer camp counselor. In her free time, Adi loves to travel, try out local food places and going to the beach.

STEVEN

Steven, is a sophomore majoring in Business Administration at Florida International University. I was born and raised in Miami, and I have participated in multiple sports throughout my life including football, baseball, and wrestling. I have attended Mini Canes both as a camper, program aid, and facilities worker. In my free time I enjoy, hanging out with my friends, playing video games and playing basketball.

MARIA

Maria is a recent graduate from Rutgers University who majored in history and political science. A New Jersey native, she looks forward to beach season all year long. Starting in the Fall, Maria will be working as a first-grade ESL teacher near Shanghai, China. In her free time she loves doing yoga, studying Mandarin, and spending time with her family.

ASHELEY

Asheley is a psychology major, working toward becoming an Art Therapist for children and young adults. A few years ago, while looking an art session with her peers at Hie House Children’s Home, Asheley insightfully saw that her passion for art was not meant to only serve her friends and the homeless. This inspired her to pursue using art as a service to children in distress who needed an expressive outlet. Asheley enjoys spending time with her children, a group of energetic three and four year olds, as an after school teacher.

KELVIN

Kelvin is a proud dad of a 2-year-old son and is currently a senior at FIU majoring in Physical Education. He is a Miami native, born and raised. He enjoys playing flag football, working out, mixed martial arts and other activities. Kelvin is very down to earth and during his free time enjoys spending time with his son and staying active. This is Kelvin’s third year of Mini Canes.

2019 Camp Calendar

**Camp Dates**

- **Session 1**: Week 1: June 10 - 14
  Week 2: June 17 - 21
- **Session 2**: Week 1: June 24 - 28
  Week 2: July 1 - July 3
- **Session 3**: Week 1: July 8 - 12
  Week 2: July 15 - 19
- **Session 4**: Week 1: July 22 - 26
  Week 2: July 29 - Aug 2

**Camp Theme Days - Wednesdays**

- **Session 1**: June 12: Sport, Jersey Day
  June 19: Superhero Day
- **Session 2**: June 26: Pajama Day
  July 2: Red, White and Blue Day (Tune)
- **Session 3**: June 12: Disney Day
  July 17: Tie Dye Day
- **Session 4**: July 24: UM Spirit Day
  July 31: Wacky Tacky Day

**Sport of the Week**

- **Session 1**: Week 1: Soccer
  Week 2: Basketball
- **Session 2**: Week 1: Volleyball
  Week 2: Kickball
- **Session 3**: Week 1: Flag Football
  Week 2: Basketball
- **Session 4**: Week 1: Track & Field

**Daily Activities**

- Arts and crafts
- Games and team sports
- Swimming instruction

**Weekly Activities**

- Special events
- Theme days
- Wellness education

**As part of the 'Green U’ initiative at the University of Miami, Mini Canes Camp uses recycled materials for some of our arts and crafts activities. To assist in our green efforts in using recycled materials, we encourage campers to bring: empty and cleaned milk cartons and soda/water bottles, old newspapers & empty paper towel tubes.