

Carmen Pampa Fund

Winter 2011 Scholarship Partners Newsletter

In a world filled with high speed Internet, fast food restaurants, automatic cash machines, and movies on-demand, many of us have come to expect cheap, easy answers and quick results.

As donors to CPF's Scholarship Partners Program, you know that transforming lives through education, particularly higher education in a developing country such as Bolivia, requires time and patience. Change does not happen quickly or easily; it requires persistence and unwavering dedication.

That is why CPF's Scholarship Partners Program is so successful—it is a platform that allows you to make a direct and tangible difference. As our graduate surveys show, scholarships play a significant role in UAC-CP students' abilities to finish their coursework, defend their thesis, and obtain their college degrees.

Your support to students who demonstrate scholastic achievement, extreme financial need, and strong, moral character, is making an incredible and long-lasting investment in the economic and social development of Bolivia's impoverished, rural population. You are helping students afford to stay in school and finish their college degrees.... and make change.

Gracias...for choosing to transform the lives of Bolivians through education.

Sarah Mechtenberg
Communications Liaison



Sam Steinberger, UAC-CP Volunteer, with
UAC-CP graduates

In this issue of Carmen Pampa Fund's Scholarship Partners Newsletter, you will hear from UAC-CP volunteer Sam Steinberger. Sam, a recent college graduate, spent part of January traveling to remote, rural areas of Bolivia to visit CPF scholarship students at their homes.

Thanks to Sam, you will meet two current UAC-CP scholarship students who share their unique experience of studying at Carmen Pampa. May you find their stories to be inspiring; and their words of gratitude to be heartfelt!

**Looking for a way to change more lives?
Encourage others to donate to CPF's
Scholarship Partners Program!**

Together, we can make a difference.

Visit our website or e-mail sarah@carmenpampafund.org

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Student Features



Name: Ruber Ramiro Quispe Luque
Age: 20
Major: Agronomy
Favorite Classes: Soil Science and Agricultural Entomology

A short walk downhill from his house in Bolivia’s rural mountainside, UAC-CP Agronomy student Ruber Ramiro Quispe Luque and his brother harvest tea on their family’s land. When they finally stop for a break, Ruber talks about why he studies in the College’s Agronomy Department.

“Here in Bolivia, more than anything, we need agronomists to improve our crops, to develop our people.” In a country with such a large rural population, he added, “We can also help alleviate poverty in different groups [or] a family...to help the people that need it.”

Specifically, Ruber sees an opportunity to expand the production of organic teas in his area. His ideas are rooted in his home region. “Here, in this sector of Caranavi, there is not a lot of interest in tea. I want to inform people about tea, so that they know about it—it should be a product that’s more valued.” In a place where coca and coffee are the most popular crops, Ruber said it is common to drink tea,

but there isn’t a company that specializes in tea, which is why he wants to do his research on tea—production, processing, transportation, and sales.

Once he graduates from the UAC-CP, Ruber’s dream is to help others by creating economic opportunities. “More than anything I’d like to start with a small product and build up from there and develop a company—to have my own company.” He sees a future in the production of seeds or other raw materials. He believes that by developing his own company he can contribute to the development of a particular agricultural sector or community.

As one of six siblings, Ruber’s scholarship makes his education possible. “[The scholarship] helps me a lot, because as a result of this scholarship, I’m studying. Without it, I wouldn’t be able to study.”

It’s been a long, uphill struggle, but UAC-CP student Amparo Rojas is well on her way to becoming a nurse thanks to her scholarship from CPF’s Scholarship Partners Program.

“I always wanted to study in one way or another, but looking at [my family’s] financial situation, it wasn’t a possibility,” Amparo said. Before her scholarship, Amparo earned money for tuition and food by harvesting coca every weekend in the fields around Carmen Pampa.

Last year, just as the stress of working and attending classes began to build, the College awarded Amparo a full scholarship from CPF. “The scholarship gave me hope to continue moving forward. Without it, I might have had to leave my studies behind.”

Today, Amparo is studying to realize her vocation. “I’ve always dreamed of having a profession, especially in health care. I see that here in my community, if there was an accident, there is a lack of qualified health professionals. The truth is that since high school I’ve had...a desire to enter health care and that is why I chose nursing.” When she graduates, she wants to bring her education to rural areas and provide service “to my people; to give what I can give.”

Amparo knows she has an opportunity that many other Bolivians will never have. “There are young people, many young people here, in this community—my community—that for lack of economic resources can’t make progress.”

Both Amparo and her mother María can’t say enough positive things about the importance of education or the assistance provided by Carmen Pampa Fund’s Scholarship Program. “The truth is, the scholarship is a huge help. I believe that I’m in one of the best colleges,” Amparo said.



Name: Amparo Rojas Roca
Age: 30
Major: Nursing
Year: Second