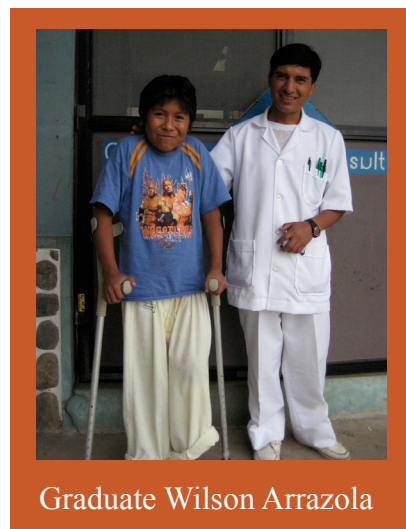


Carmen Pampa Fund

Fall 2011 Scholarship Partners Newsletter

As Carmen Pampa Fund's new Acting Executive Director, I am pleased to share the stories of two wonderful people whose lives have been affected by you, the supporters of our Scholarship Partners Program. Wilson Arrazola and Genia Santander Agramont are wonderful examples of the incredible group of students who, despite over-whelming obstacles, come to the College with a determination to change their lives and the lives of other Bolivians through education.

Wilson Arrazola, a 2008 graduate of the College's Nursing Department, demonstrates why the Scholarship Program works. A former scholarship recipient, Wilson has worked for the past three years at the General Hospital of the Yungas, which provides health care services to approximately 13,000 people living within the Municipality of Coroico. Wilson, the first in his family to go to college, chose to study nursing because, "[w]here I lived, in my community, we really didn't have access to health care services. That is why I wanted to be a nurse—to help people who would otherwise suffer." Today, Wilson is proud that, as a UAC-CP graduate and former scholarship recipient, he is now realizing the mission of the College by providing services to others.



Graduate Wilson Arrazola

Wilson credits much of his success to his scholarship. "It would have been impossible for my family to help me with all the costs of college," he said. "That is the great thing about the UAC-CP, it gives opportunities to people who wouldn't be able to afford the cost of study anywhere else."

Contributions to the CPF Scholarship Partners Program are the most effective way we can ensure that driven and committed young people, like Wilson and Genia, have the resources to complete their studies, graduate, and fulfill the mission of the UAC-CP. As a witness to the impact that scholarships have on the lives of UAC-CP students, I can only offer my sincere and humble thanks for the contributions people make to empower young women and men to be agents of social and economic change in Bolivia. You are enabling a vital and lasting change in the lives of these hard working young people.

Paz y bien,

Tara L. Nolan
Acting Executive Director

Change Someone's Life!

Contribute to CPF's Scholarship Partners Fund
Visit our website or e-mail
info@carmenpampafund.org
for more information

Carmen Pampa Fund Staff

Tara L. Nolan, Acting Executive Director
Nadine Leahy, Development Associate
Sarah Mechtenberg, Director of Advancement
Sam Steinberger, Volunteer Reporter
Rachel Lundbohm, Volunteer Newsletter Designer

www.carmenpampafund.org

1821 University Ave., S-218, St. Paul, MN 55104
651/641-1588

Student Feature

Written by: Sam Steinberger

Name: Genia Santander Agramont **Major:** Nursing



Genia Santander Agramont pictured with her grandfather.

Genia Santander Agramont stands as one of the best hopes for the future of her community. Once she completes her studies in the UAC-CP's Nursing program, Genia plans to return to her hometown of Chimate, a tea-producing village of about fifty families nestled in one of the deep green valleys just west of the Bolivian lowlands.

On the day that I met her, we sit in her family's front room. The door is open to the dirt road lined with mango and grapefruit trees, where cars between Guanay and Mapiri occasionally pass, and we talk about what inspired Genia to leave home and study. We also talk about what is drawing her back to her community.

Despite its picturesque natural beauty, life in Chimate is not easy. "My oldest brother has a wife and kids, and my next oldest sister is a single mother. My parents are farmers, and my younger siblings are studying [in high school]. We are five siblings," Genia explains. But with no high school in Chimate, anyone wanting more than an 8th grade education has to leave home and live at a boarding school. Neither of Genia's parents had that opportunity.

Most families in the area cultivate rice for subsistence, sell locally-grown tea to the nearby tea plant, and try to sell fruit to the cars that pass through town. Limited incomes mean that the costs of sending children to boarding school are impossibly burdensome for families. "Many young people aren't studying anymore because their families don't have the resources," Genia says. Some parents work extra fields and make great sacrifices for their children. "They want their children to be professionals, and although they make very little money, they still want their children to succeed; they don't want their kids to end up like them."

Don Adolfo Monzoñ Polo, a community member, estimates that about half the community's population has migrated to other areas so that families can provide an education for their children without the burden of having to pay for boarding school. Even if a family does decide to send a child to high school, and can support the cost of boarding, Don Adolfo figures only about one out of every ten students are independent enough to withstand being away from their families and actually succeed in their studies. "Genia," he says, "makes all of us proud."

Genia is a highly-motivated and generous student. Her decision to study Nursing at the UAC-CP is based on a need she sees in her own community. "I chose my major because before...there was a lack of healthcare. People would get sick and they wouldn't know where to go. It was pretty miserable." Although the community eventually built their own health post, it is only equipped with basic supplies.

Motivated by the opportunity to study, Genia wants to return with her training and help the people of Chimate. "I want to work here, in my community; I want to help people that don't have the means. If some people get sick, they don't have the resources to go to a hospital to get better." Sickness and injury are serious risks, especially for farmers who work out in the sun and rain tending to labor intensive crops.

Genia tells of the affliction she sees in the faces of the elderly and sick. "I've experienced how the people around here suffer, how they cry from pain. I've seen all that here and in other areas."

Carmen Pampa Fund's Scholarship Partners Program allows Genia to realize her dream of becoming a nurse. "Looking at my situation, I wouldn't be able to support myself in other universities, in other locations. For me, the scholarship helps with everything." Without it, she thinks she would probably be helping her parents in the fields. "For me, the College is something wonderful. They teach values." She smiles. "Father Freddy wants us to be professionals, true professionals."