



CARMEN PAMPA FUND

WIPALA

SUMMER 2019

UAC-CP Graduates Participate in Catholic University Commencement Ceremony

Sixty-two UAC-CP graduates representing all five areas of study at the College in Carmen Pampa participated in commencement ceremonies at the Catholic University of Bolivia in La Paz on April 27, 2019. They joined more than 250 of their peers and future colleagues also graduating from Catholic University's main campus.

At commencement, Bishop Fernando Bascopé encouraged graduates to live out their profession with joy and passion and to always remember service to others. He reminded graduates that this new phase of their life is filled with hope and dedication to looking for the truth—"...always draw from your heart the beauty of truth, the splendor of truth, of love, and of passion for the truth."

Students who graduate from the College in Carmen Pampa receive their degree from the prestigious Catholic University, which accredits the UAC-CP's curriculum.



"It is hard to explain just how important this day is for UAC-CP graduates. They sacrifice so much and work so hard to earn their college degree," said CPF Executive Director Hugh Smeltekop. "It's a very emotional day for them and their families to celebrate such a significant life achievement. There were a lot of tears of joy."

New Business Institute Empowers Young, Budding Entrepreneurs at the College

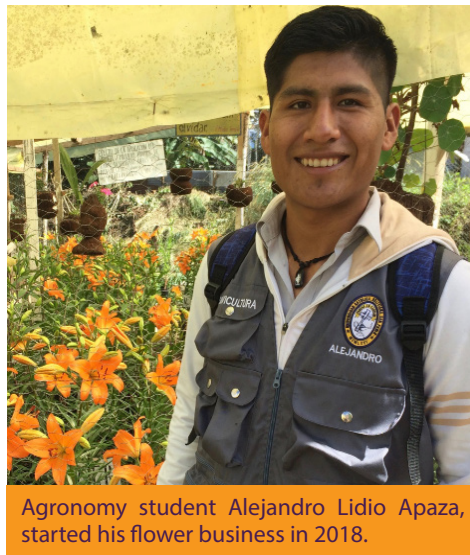
Alejandro Lidio Apaza's business is booming—or blooming, rather.

When the 23-year-old entrepreneur first considered flower production as a viable business possibility, he did some investigating first.

"I checked to see how much the seeds cost, researched the life cycle of lilies, and determined additional costs of things such as fertilizer, transportation, and my time." The numbers, he said, added up.

After interviewing flower sellers in area markets to better understand the supply chain and local demand and securing a 33,000 square foot plot of land near the College, Lidio purchased a box of 600 lily bulbs to plant. "Then I waited three months for them to grow and bloom." His success was immediate.

Now, as soon as the flowers are about to bloom, the fourth-year



Agronomy student Alejandro Lidio Apaza, started his flower business in 2018.

Agronomy student moves quickly to sell them. "I have about one week to sell my product," he said. He sells in three nearby towns that each have weekly markets that serve as commercial hubs for rural farmers.

Although he originally planned to sell just cut flowers, Lidio has

learned that there is also a market for potted lilies. While he gets about \$2 for cut flowers, he sells his potted lilies for \$3 each.

As he's watched the success of his business grow, Lidio is now considering ways to expand. He's receiving guidance from the UAC-CP's Business Institute to help develop a marketing strategy, which will include a name, logo, and advertising plan for his business.

The Business Institute also challenges him to think of ways to diversify. "I'm looking to re-invest in other types of flowers, such as roses, tulips, etc.," he said.

In the meantime, his business allows him to not only pay for his coursework at the UAC-CP, but Lidio has also generated employment for classmates. "It's a good feeling!"

¡La Fiesta de Ayni! Event Raises Funds & Awareness

A big thank you to everyone who attended CPF's ¡La Fiesta de Ayni! fundraiser on May 30, 2019, in Minneapolis.

This year, CPF recognized Ed Flahavan for his lifetime commitment of empowering the lives of Bolivians through education. The Board also paid tribute to UAC-CP co-founder Dick Leahy, who passed away in October 2018.

The Spirit of Ayni Award, which recognizes people who "work together for the common good," was awarded to the Gilligan Foundation. The Minneapolis-based foundation has supported CPF since 2000. Peggy Gilligan accepted the award on behalf of the foundation.

"This year was a huge success," said CPF Executive Director Hugh Smeltekop. "Not only did we raise \$23,970 for the College, but it's always inspiring to gather people together to celebrate our work to promote education."

Guest Lecturers Present Community-Based Rehabilitation Model

Teresa Glass of St. Paul, MN, and her Bolivian colleague Ana Maria Lanza visited Carmen Pampa April 1-3, 2019, to present a series of workshops about community-based rehabilitation.

Teresa, a Spanish-speaking occupational therapist with a master's degree in Holistic Health Studies, is the author of a book about how under-resourced populations can build their capacity to better serve students with disabilities in partnership with parents, school staff, and the community.

Teresa and Ana Maria presented the workshops with the hope that they will help UAC-CP students think differently about children with disabilities, and how they can help people with disabilities live more fulfilling lives.

"We have the tendency to think that we are the experts," said Teresa. "In truth, we need to find the talent in everyone, including people with disabilities and their families. Working together, we can figure out how to meet every child's needs."

Ana Maria and Teresa felt invigorated and hope-filled during their visit to the College.



L-R: Ana Maria Lanza, UAC-CP General Director Fr. Alejandro Mamani, and Teresa Glass.

"It was great to see so many students from so many areas of Bolivia who cared enough to work hard and get an education and reach their own potential, then use that to help their people."

Teresa's work in Carmen Pampa contributes to UAC-CP students' knowledge base--ensuring better service for Bolivia's rural population.

The model, which Teresa designed while living and working in Riberalta, Bolivia, as a Maryknoll Missionary, is the first of its kind in Bolivia and Teresa regularly visits the country to share her work through conferences and workshops.

Carmen Pampa Fund

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Former CPF Board Member Volunteers at the College



Barbara Jeanetta volunteered for three months at the College.

Former CPF board member Barbara Jeanetta served as a volunteer at the College January - April, 2019.

Jeanetta, who took a 3-month sabbatical from her work as Executive Director of Alliance Housing in Minneapolis, Minnesota, taught English in the College's Ecotourism Department and developed marketing materials for CPF.

A Spanish speaker, Barb crafted stories from interviews with UAC-CP students, faculty, and staff. She also contributed to several entries for CPF's social media accounts, blog postings, and Coffee Club videos.

Barb first became familiar with the College when she served as a member of CPF's Board of Directors from 2009 - 2012.

"When I served on the board of Carmen Pampa Fund, I loved the stories and experiences of members that had been to the College. I committed to visit when I had both the time and money. This sabbatical was my opportunity. My expectations have been more than met," said Jeanetta.

