DEAR FRIENDS,

It is hard to believe that yet another year has passed. And what an exceptional year it was for the students, faculty and staff at the College in Carmen Pampa, Bolivia!

Of all the impressive institutional achievements this past year, we are especially pleased to highlight results from the College's Business Institute. Inaugurated just three years ago with initial funding from the Inter-American Development Bank and the Katherine B. Andersen Fund, the Institute has changed how the UAC-CP educates students.

Traditionally, the College's curriculum focused on five key areas: academics, production, research, social service, and leadership. Since the launch of the Business Institute, the curriculum also focuses on entrepreneurship. Young people are learning how to transform their ideas and skills into viable businesses.

In fact, the three students featured in this report were winners of the College's first-ever Entrepreneurship Challenge. After researching and developing viable business plans, 64 UAC-CP students competed for three cash prize awards to be used for launching their nascent businesses. The prize was sponsored by CPF donors Mauricio Rios and Gonzalo Berthin.

The opportunity to have start-up capital for their businesses was a big motivator for UAC-CP students to put what they’ve learned from the Business Institute into practice. The competition evaluated a variety of proposals that demonstrated business models responding to gaps in services or seizing opportunities for economic development.

The success of UAC-CP students is only possible thanks to YOU. Your commitment to transforming the lives of young Bolivians through education grants them access to an assortment of opportunities that only the UAC-CP can provide. Please remember the College in your end-of-year giving.

In gratitude for all that we make possible together,

Mark Leahy,
CPF Board Chair

Hugh Smeltekop
Executive Director

Giovana Lopez
Ecotourism Major
First Place, Entrepreneurship Challenge

Giovana's award-winning idea is a hammock-camping tourism business. The business will function as both an adventure activity and a form of accommodation for tourists. On a plot of land in the tourist-friendly town of Coroico overlooking the majestic Andes Mountains, Giovana will offer about 12 hammocks that visitors can sleep in, as a form of camping.

The hammocks, for which Giovana developed a prototype, will also be available as an adventure activity; they will hang at a relatively high height between two sturdy trees, so tourists can relax and enjoy the views of Yungas. She plans to serve food and offer additional tourist-friendly services.

Giovana wants to bring more adventure tourism to Coroico and believes that hammock-camping is a “new activity that is innovative, different and nontraditional.”

“At the UAC-CP we are encouraged to participate in hands-on academic symposiums and project-based learning that focus on serving and improving the surrounding communities. These experiences have shaped me and allowed me to grow as a businesswoman.”
Ecotourism student Leonardo Maleca’s business idea is rooted in his indigenous heritage. A native of the TIPNIS, an indigenous territory and national park located in the heart of the Bolivian Amazon, Leonardo’s plan to sell *jipijapa* crafts won second-place in the Business Institute’s Entrepreneurship Challenge.

*Jipijapa* crafts are traditional and functional art made from palm leaves that grow on trees native to the Amazon. They are used to make different types of functional art, like baskets and wall hangings.

Having watched his mother make *jipijapa* his whole life, Leonardo wants to use this project to both honor and share his indigenous culture, as well as provide jobs and opportunity to young people from the TIPNIS.

“My project intends to motivate young people from the indigenous TIPNIS region who don’t have many job options to partake in this type of business,” he said. “They already have the skills, but I want to show them that they can use these skills to become artisans and show them off to the world.”

Another key component of Leonardo’s business plan is its environmental sustainability. Expanding the *jipijapa* craft market would be an environmentally sound economic activity, which is important given the many environmental threats facing the region – an issue that disproportionately affects indigenous communities.

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**SPOTLIGHT ON THE COLLEGE: 2019 FISCAL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS**

- Women represented 63% of the 754 students studying at the UAC-CP for the first semester of 2019.
- Sixty-two UAC-CP graduates participated in commencement ceremonies at Catholic University of Bolivia in La Paz on Saturday, April 27, 2019.
- The UAC-CP Business Institute trained 419 students in different entrepreneurship modules, intensive courses, and training for research applicable to small business development.
- The UAC-CP’s Tourism Department became an official member of the World Tourism Organization. The UAC-CP and Catholic University of Bolivia are the only two affiliated members in Bolivia and only two of 11 universities in South America.
- In September 2018, the UAC-hosted a three-day conference: “Environment, Education, & Health in the Era of Sustainable Development.” In coordination with the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Mexico (UAEM), the conference focused on topics related to areas of study at the UAC-CP. Dr. Angel Rolando Endara, a UAC-CP Agronomy graduate and current UAEM faculty member, organized the joint conference.
- The College’s newly inaugurated Postgraduate Department offers students the opportunity to
Surprisingly, Wilfredo Collanque’s business idea doesn’t relate to his Agronomy studies or his thesis work. Rather, the third-place winner of the Business Institute’s Entrepreneurship Challenge envisions a new mode of public transportation in the mountainous Yungas region: motorcycle taxis, or “moto-taxis.”

*Moto-taxis*, Wilfredo says, will provide a faster and economical way of transporting passengers from the community of Carmen Pampa to the town of Coroico, which is a central economic and social hub.

The *moto-taxis* will be especially useful at times of emergency or urgency when other forms of transportation are not available to make the 45 minute trip.

Wilfredo’s business proposal includes a security plan to ensure that *moto-taxis* provide the proper safety equipment and rain gear for passengers to use in the rainy season. He plans to launch the business with the help of two friends who own and drive motorcycles.

“More transportation to and from Coroico is a necessity because other alternative forms of transportation, like taxis, can be very expensive,” Wilfredo explained. “In an emergency, a person may need to get to Coroico immediately, but in order to do so they would have to hire a taxi for 60 to 80 bolivianos ($10-11 USD). Currently, they have don’t have many other options.” Wilfredo says his business will not only respond to the local need, but also bring jobs to the greater Carmen Pampa community.

Recognizing Gaps in Local Services and Responding to the Need

Nielsen, Chairman of EWB-Denmark, and Paul Erik Hansen, professor emeritus in the Department of Science and Environment at Roskilde University, represented EWB at the College. The objective of the visit was to finalize the project “Analysis and Characterization of Water” in order to begin the work of raising funds from Danish foreign assistance.

A 12-person team from the University of St. Thomas (UST), St. Paul, MN, visited the UAC-CP January 14 –25, 2019, as part of UST’s VISION program. VISION organizes service and cultural immersion trips during J-term and spring break.

- A seven-member team made up of students and advisors from South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD, and Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT, visited the UAC-CP August 8 –14, 2018, as part of an on-going joint project between the three institutions and the local community of Carmen Pampa.

- The College received a visit from of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) of Denmark. Brent Michael

- Teresa Glass of Minneapolis, 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.

pursue advanced educational opportunities in specialized areas. The UAC-CP now offers two master’s degree programs and eight postgraduate certificate courses.

- In addition to its undergraduate program, the Education Department now offers a technical degree in Early Childhood Education.
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(July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

We are grateful to everyone who contributed to Carmen Pampa Fund during our 2019 fiscal year.
¡GRACIAS!

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We make every effort to accurately prepare this list of people who made donations during CPF's July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019. Our sincere apologies for any mistakes or omissions. If you note an error, please contact our office by phone at 651-641-1588.

† Denotes monthly or quarterly donors.
‡ Denotes donors who recently passed away.
**Founded in 1999, Carmen Pampa Fund (CPF) is a Minnesota-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization that generates resources to assist with the growth and development of the Unidad Académica Campesina-Carmen Pampa (UAC-CP). The UAC-CP is a college located in rural Bolivia that serves poor families through education, research, production, community service, and leadership formation projects.**

Carmen Pampa Fund, P.O. Box 131145, St. Paul, MN  55113     651-641-1588     www.carmenpampafund.org

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**FINANCIAL DATA** (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

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