

## ***Uiowa Continental Crossings - Baileys Crossroads Virginia RC Bridge, Cuatro Cayos, Izabal, Guatemala*** **Dedicated to George J. Pierson & Family**

Members of the original **Continental Crossings** team of The University of Iowa, a small group of engineering students who in 2007 built a suspended cable bridge in Yavina, Peru, reassembled for two weeks in August to finish construction of the **Uiowa Continental Crossings - Baileys Crossroads Virginia RC Suspension Bridge** in Cuatro Cayos, Guatemala. The Cuatro Cayos site was brought to B2P's attention by Julio Grazioso of the **Rotary Club of Guatemala Vista Hermosa**. Julio has been a champion for this bridge in the humid Izabal region of Guatemala along the Caribbean coast, where his club has a tradition of development projects and has built a strong relationship with the local community.

The team members, Lyndsey Simmons, Ryan Wallace, and B2P's own Avery Bang, were joined by Manuel Contreras, a bridge engineer from Madrid, Spain, and B2P intern Netta Ophir. Manuel and Avery designed the 60 meter bridge together, based on B2P's experience with the **Ross Construction** suspension bridge in Honduras two years ago, and this year's two **Flatiron/McNary Bergeron** bridges in Guatemala and Honduras, to design a bridge for flat floodplains that can be built as locally and as sustainably as possible. Netta spearheaded the foundation construction and logistics efforts in the weeks leading up to the main group's arrival in August. The towers were erected and the decking installed faster than expected, and what B2P has learned from this experience brings the organization one step closer to having a simple and fully locally-sustainable suspension bridge design.



Residents of the Cuatro Cayos region walk across the suspension bridge for the first time as soon as the safety fencing is installed.