



Winter 2014

Newsbits

- [Teach English](#) in Panama or [volunteer](#) in Colombia this summer
- Two Bolivians received [heart](#) operations at East Carolina University
- [Farmer to Farmer](#) program is still seeking US technical volunteers
- Partners of the Americas ' [interactive map](#) for chapters in the Northern and Southern hemisphere.
- [Videos](#) from NC's 50th [anniversary celebration](#) that took place in Cary.
- Click [here](#) to sign your organization up for 100K Strong updates and study abroad opportunities.
- Check out the [Partners' blog](#) for first hand accounts of Partners' programs .
- Board member Kitty Stalberg helped sponsor premiere of [Los Jets](#) show at UNC-CH
- The [A Ganar program](#) works with some of the toughest kids in the toughest neighborhoods in South America.
- In 2015, Bolivia will be the site for the [ALBA counter-summit climate change conference](#) . During 2014, Bolivia faced [flooding](#) and [melting glaciers](#)
- [Radio Ambulante](#), a Spanish-speaking radio program, is looking for stories about Bolivia.
- [Christmas traditions](#) in Bolivian blog

Cary and Cochabamba- The Cochabamba/North Carolina POA celebration of the 50th anniversary of Partners of the Americas was held in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Well attended, with old and new members and invited guests. Deborah Wilkes, Christian Stalberg, and Sallie Abbas from the North Carolina partnership were on hand as well. Rosario Claros gave a nice speech of the nature of the organization, and Silvia Quiroga told of the history of the chapter. Many certificates of appreciation were presented to people who had served the organization in many ways.

Hors d'oeuvres and wine were served, and, of course, a toast was made to the fifty successful years. This was followed by entertainment of two Caporales dancers, and two others dancing the traditional Queca. Then live piano music presented the opportunity for some of the guests to dance.

In Cary, there were presentations of a group of Bolivian dancers -Caporales Ruphay, coming in from Arlington, Virginia. Interspersed with the dances were [videos](#) of [Partners](#) ([click](#)) and music of the Andean mountains to give the audience the flavor of Bolivian music with some explanation of the traditional



Caporales Ruhay dancers in Cochabamba

50th Celebration in Cochabamba and Cary



Top picture, left to right: 1 to r: Silvia Quiroga, Monica Niño de Guzman, Lupe Buendia, Rosario Claros, Christian Stalberg, Sallie Abbas

instruments.

One of the live musicians had been taken ill, but the dancers persevered and their performance was great. To view the Andean music, click [here](#).

The event was free and open to the public. We provided some typical Bolivian snacks which included mo-cochinchi (a drink made from peaches and clove and cinnamon spices), api (another beverage made from dark red corn, sweetened), alfajores (with dulce de leche spread between two cookies), a type of puffed corn snack, and freshly made empanadas from a member, along with some llajwa (a hot sauce made with tomato, and a special type of Bolivian pepper, the locoto).

Sallie Abbas was mistress of ceremonies, with Kitty Stalberg introducing some of the videos. Some Bolivian items were sold, donations received, and some income realized from selling the empanadas.

- Sallie Abbas



At Cochabamba celebration, two dancers performing the traditional queca.

REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

NCPOA still seeks Environmental Committee Chair

The environmental committee is one of the most active committees of the North Carolina chapter. Its projects are making great strides such as involving US students in developing a standardized Bolivian building code and collaborations between Bolivian and US groups. If you would like to fill this position or know of someone, please email Karen Brown at kareneslbrown@aol.com

Cochabamba Partners

President: Arq. Rosario Claros

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Past President: Dra. Daysi Marlene Mercado V.

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General Secretary: Monica Nino de Guzman

Chapel Hill - Darren Legge, former environmental chair, spoke about his project for his master's thesis at the Annual NCPOA meeting. Currently, there are no building codes in Bolivia even though there is an interest in green feature coding. Bolivia is very similar to India in that there is no building public safety code and India began with green code certification. Legge's work hopes to answer the question if it is a good idea in Bolivia to leapfrog to green building codes or should a country begin with a more basic building code? Should there be voluntary building certifications similar

to green code certifications or a more enforced code?

Legge's thesis might be grand in scope, but it hopes to answer some questions for Bolivia. Already there is an international co-counsel and La Paz is providing funding for this project. Local students and internships will be involved in this project.

Legge is a certified International Green Rater and Quality Assurance Designee for the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED for Homes certification program, which is currently expanding to over 120 countries. Darren was able to meet with Green Building Council

Bolivia representatives in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz to exchange ideas about the development of a green homes rating system for use in Bolivia.

There will be unexpected consequences and questions from this project such as what resources are needed to enforce codes? These codes will not affect historical construction and it is still not clear if green certification is the starting point.

MORE PHOTOS FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Caporales Ruhay and Sallie Abbas at the United Methodist Church, Cary, NC



Caporales Ruhay performing



Christian Stalberg receiving Certificate of appreciation at Cochabamba celebration

NEW NC BOARD MEMBERS

Keylin Duran is an RN in critical service at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. She has participated in NC Partners of the Americas medical missions.

Kathryn Johnson is the associate Executive Director of Inter-Act. She is a NC licensed marriage and family therapist with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy, East Carolina University. She has worked with Inter-Act, Wake County's family violence prevention center for the past 12 years.

Jacklyn Coats is the owner of Carolina Speak Now, Durham, NC. She received her M.Ed. in Communication Disorders from North Carolina Central University. She is a certified bilingual (Spanish/English) speech language pathologist. Her experience spans from birth to death. She has experience working with children with a variety of disabilities such as childhood cancer, deafness, autism, Down syndrome, motor speech disorder and developmental delays.

Ivo A. Pestana, M.D. Assistant Professor, Associate Residency Program Director Plastic Surgery Clerkship Director, Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. He is a highly trained and experienced surgeon with specialized training in plastic and reconstructive techniques.

PLAQUES PRESENTED TO DONORS



Plaque for Gregory Poole

The North Carolina Partners of the Americas presented a plaque to the Autism Society-NC Mr. Tracey Sheriff, Chief Executive Officer and Sara Gage, Program Director, Camp Royall, for recruiting and hiring 2 camp counselors from La Paz, Bolivia to work at the camp during the summer of 2014. The counselor's names are Matheus Barrenechea and Cristian Bravo. The purpose of hiring the counselors is to increase the knowledge of Bolivians about the use of special camp programs for persons diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

der (ASD).

This initiative occurred after an information gathering visit by Elida Hildago, Bolivian autism advocate, to North Carolina and 2013. Ms. Hildago asked for future collaboration with the Autism Society-NC and with the NC Partners and three Bolivian Partners Chapters.

The N. C. Partners also thanked Mr. Gregory Poole, Jr., III, Chairman and CEO of the Gregory Poole Equipment Company, Raleigh, for their generous donation to help improve services for persons

with ASD in Bolivia. The donation of \$1,000 was used to hire translators at lectures presented by UNC-Chapel Hill professors at a conference this past summer in La Paz.

- Hank Graden



Plaque given to Autism Society

THANK YOU 2014 DONORS

- Sallie Abbas
 - Jessie Cannon
 - Pamela DeLavore
 - Virginia Freedman (in kind)
 - Steve and Judy Gibson
 - Hank Graden
 - Gregory Poole Company
 - Rodney Swink
 - First United Methodist Church of Cary
 - Linda Watson
- and everyone who committed their time and dedication.

JÓVENES EN ACCIÓN LOOKING FOR HOSTS

NC Partners of the Americas is scheduled to take part in the Jóvenes en Acción program the summer of 2015. This exciting U.S. State Department program gives low-income Mexican teens a chance to meet with high level representatives of the U.S. Department of State as well as gain leadership skills to take back to their home country.

NC Partners of the Americas will host approximately 15

-20 students for 1-2 weeks in the summer. The first week, participants will take part in an intensive English Language Training and Leadership Curriculum component. The program will focus on civic education, community service, and youth leadership development. Focus on civic education and community service, with focus on civic education and community service, with special attention to addressing problems related to gangs, violence, substance abuse, bullying, hu-

stance abuse, and social disintegration would be incorporated into the exchange programming. If you are interested in hosting with a homestay Or a site visit , please email Karen Brown at karenelbrown@aol.com or Virginia.freedman@gmail.com For more information, click [here](#). For information en español, click [here](#)



2014 AUTISM SUMMARY

Cochabamba and North Carolina- The Partners of the Americas Chapters in North Carolina (NC) and Cochabamba initiated discussions in 2007 about the lack of services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Conversations later expanded to Chapters in Santa Cruz and La Paz. The chapters, parents, and professionals asked for assistance and confirmed a widespread need for more resources to serve people with ASD in Bolivia. Planning for a collaborative project began in 2008, with the identification of faculty with ASD expertise at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) to get involved in the project. A plan for a multi-phase project evolved.

In Phase One, Ms. Lucía I. Méndez, a bilingual speech-language pathologist traveled to Bolivia in 2009 to conduct a needs assessment to expand services for ASD. This was accomplished through a series of 10 focus groups in three cities by utilizing discussions with parents and professionals. Feedback from the focus groups resulted in providing 2 day seminars on ASD in Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, and La Paz in June, 2012.

Hank Graden, NC Partners chapter member, provided overall coordination for the project and secured funding. The content of the seminars included: a) Communication Assessment and Intervention for Young Children with Autism; b) Medical Treatment of Autism and Co-Morbid Psychiatric Conditions c) Addressing Challenging Behaviors in Children with Autism and d) Resources and Strategies for Autism Awareness and Advocacy in Bolivia.

In La Paz, Bolivian representatives and the UNC-

CH team met with the Director of Special Education in the Ministry of Education, the Minister of Health and Sport, and the Director of the Bolivian office of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). In each visit, multiple challenges to ASD in Bolivia were acknowledged and the officials indicated they were open to formal proposals related to improving awareness and/or services related to ASD. The reception from the various groups in 2014 was not quite as receptive to working with UNC-CH and the Partner's Chapters. The NC team and representatives from Autism Speaks recommended that the stakeholders form a national organization for ASD. Those involved suggested the organization be called

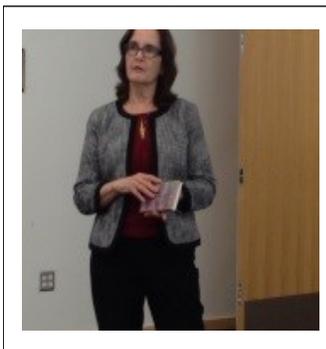
“Bolivian Association for Autism Spectrum Disorders.”

In the summer of 2014, a UNC-CH team again provided ASD training in La Paz. A group of people, Ms. Mengoa, Liez Gutierrez, Mario Benavides, Elida Hildago and others from the La Paz Chapter of Partners coordinated meetings, home stays, and coordination with the Chapters in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, Again Linda Watson and Betsy Crais participated in the seminars. Pam DiLavore, Grace Baranek and Jessica Kinard joined the group from UNC-CH. The 2 day seminars focused on TEACCH structured teaching principles and 2 days on the use of a variety of diagnostic methods for assessing Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The participants in the training were parents, teachers and other professionals in the field of ASD. Several hundred people attended the various training sessions.

The long-range plan for NC Partners and UNC-CH experts

will continue to assist in more development of Bolivian ASD resources. Once the leadership structure in Bolivia is clarified, the Plan should be written by Bolivians, using the priorities identified by discussions and the information obtained in meetings with PAHO, the Ministries of Health and Sport and of Education to guide the development of the Plan. The NC team expressed a willingness to provide support in the development of a Plan as requested by the Bolivian ASD leaders. It is anticipated that ASD experts from Utah (Barbara Culatta) and Arkansas (Peggy Whitby) will join the ASD initiative in 2015.

- Hank Graden



Linda Watson talking about the Autism project at the NC Partners of the Americas winter Meeting

Looking for Wreath Coordinator

NCPOA is looking for a wreath coordinator next year. If you are looking for a short and easy way to become involved with the NC POA or a community project, please email Rodney Swink at rodney.swink@att.net



NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS OFFICERS

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Board Members:

Includes the Executive Committee above, and Hank Graden, Karen Brown, Judy Gibson, Hank Graden, Katushka Olave, Kitty Stalberg, Rodney Swink, Benson Timmons, Carlos Vargas, Richard Whitmore, Ivo A. Pestana, Keyla Duin, Jessica Kinard, Lori Unruh Snyder, Kathryn Johnson, Jacklyn Coats, Jon Vickers, Sallie Abbas.

Subcommittees and Chairs: (chairs are in bold)

Autism Project- **Hank Graden**
 Culture and the Arts - **Daniel Johnson**, johnsond@uncw.edu
 Health and Clinical Practices - **Carlos Vargas**, Ben Timmons
 Agriculture -**Steve Gibson**, Don Hopkins
 Emergency Preparedness– Vacant
 Education –**Karen Brown**, Laura Cernikova, Richard, Whitmore, Deborah Wilkes
 Environment and Natural Resources– Vacant
 Membership – **Katushka Olave**, Virginia Freedman
 (The committees Women and Development and Democratic Initiatives are not active.)
 Newsletter Editor- **Virginia Freedman**

2014 BOLIVIAN ELECTIONS: EVO MORALES WINS THIRD PRESIDENTIAL TERM

Out of five presidential candidates, incumbent president Evo Morales won a third term this Fall by a strong majority. Bolivia's re-elected president has dumbfounded critics in Washington, the World Bank and the IMF. Having rejected neoliberal policies from the North, Evo has tread a rather unique and original approach towards developing Bolivia and has been called a 'Radical Conservative'. There are multiple reasons why Morales was re-elected, even winning the department of Santa Cruz in the election, long a bastion of resistance. Bolivia's economy has grown faster under Morales than in any other period in the past 35 years, according to the Center for Economic and Policy Research. The nationalization of the gas and oil industries in 2006 provided resources to build savings and increase social spending. International reserves are equivalent to approximately half of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and represent the highest ratio in the world, while spending on programs such as health, education and cash transfer programs to the elderly poor, pregnant women and schoolchildren is up 45 percent.

Despite warnings from economists,

that nationalizations will scare away international investment, Bolivia had the highest foreign direct investment as a percent of GDP in South America in 2013. During Morales' tenure, poverty has fallen by 25 percent, extreme poverty dropped by 43 percent, and the inflation-adjusted minimum wage has increased by almost 90 percent. Investment in infrastructure development and public works projects like roads, soccer fields and stadiums have been popular. While elected to a third term in office, Morales is still not without his critics. Opponents have accused him of using the system to concentrate power, such as when he changed the constitution to allow a third term in office. Environmentalists remain critical of his reliance on resource extraction policies for economic growth on the one hand while speaking of respect for the rights of mother earth on the other.

-Christian Stalberg
 Past President

NCPOA seeks Sports, Emergency Preparedness and Environment & Natural Resources Committee Chairs

If you would like to fill this position or know of someone, please email Karen Brown at kareneslbrown@aol.com

To honor the golden jubilee of the founding of Partners of the Americas, we ask that you make a tax-deductible contribution to NCPOA before January 1st.

Pay your dues easily online now! **Go to the Website** www.ncboliviapartners.org, go to the **DONATE** page, and you'll be able to make a secure payment of dues or other donation!