



Winter 2014

Newsbits

- Learn more about travel grant recipient [Jennifer Curtis](#), an acclaimed violinist, or follow her [performance schedule](#).
- Learn more about Bolivian member Adolfo Tradero and [Fundación Sinfónica Cochabamba](#)
- How to apply for a [travel grant](#)
- Read how Partners is training [mother leaders](#) in Haiti.
- [McDonald's](#) returns to Bolivia
- [Local food policy](#) in La Paz, Bolivia and the US
- North Carolina Partners of the Americas Vice-President Deborah Wilkes will be a speaker at the 2015 [WIDA conference](#).
- Interested in visiting Cuba? Join our member Jeffrey Ensgimer on a [Agroecology, Rain Water Harvesting & Alternative Energy delegation](#). There is a discount for NC Partners members.
- College students who wants to get their campuses involved in international service projects, click [here](#).
- [Caravana 43](#), a caravan of relatives of missing children, came to Durham, NC.

North Carolina- Partners of the Americas' student members are doing great work in South America. One remarkable example is former Darren Legge's, former environmental chair, work on establishing a building code for Bolivia.

A group of master's students at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment will be working with Partners of the Americas on a project titled, "Leapfrogging to a Green Building Code in Bolivia." They will collaborate with Partner chapters in La Paz, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz to analyze the costs and benefits of green construction codes. Ursula Bustillos-Daza, Environment and Natural Resources Subcommittee Chair of La Paz Partners and Director of Portal Urbano, a sustainability think tank, is looking to raise funds to bring a delegation of consultants from the International Code Council to assist with the project. The students hope to produce a strategic plan for stakeholders in Bolivia to achieve passage and enforcement of green development codes throughout the country. They are planning to travel through Bolivia in separate trips in August, January, and March.

Partners has also taken an active role in changing young people's lives in North and South America. Past NC Youth Ambassadors have traveled to Paraguay and forged strong ties with their host families as well as gained a window into another country's cultural and community resources. These students came back to the States to give presentations in their communities about Paraguay and implemented community service projects to link the North and South.

Partners has also started a new initiative for teachers who might not have time during the school year to travel North or South.

Partners of the Americas and Youth



POA is expanding its online presence among students by teaming up with [learn](#), a leader in K-12 virtual exchange and project-based learning. Online projects have taken place in more than 30 languages, including Spanish, French, and Portuguese.

Partners of the Americas will be offering travel grants to teachers to attend the [2015 Conference and Youth Summit](#) hosted in Brasilia, Brazil, July 26th- 31st. [The trip](#) will also include meeting with the partner chapter. Post-conference, the teacher must present a workshop detailing best practices learned from the conference with a partner teacher and school as well as initiating an online project with that school. The deadline for the application is [May 29, 2015](#).

The NC Partners of the Americas welcome suggestions from its members on youth or any type of travel project. NC Partners of the Americas is **your** organization and we want you to be a



part of some of these cultural experiences. If you need to update your membership information or renew, please contact Virginia Freedman at virginia.freedmancom or Katushka Olave.

Do you have a **business** or
 a
service you would like
 to advertise?

As a current member, you
 can advertise for free
 In our classifieds
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Please send ads to
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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

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Please
**renew your
membership**
to continue this
work!

(see p. 5 for
online method
of paying dues)

JENNIFER CURTIS: USING MUSIC TO BEGIN AN INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE OF HEALING

Chapel Hill - NC Partners of the Americas and Cochabamba Partners is pleased to announce that the local, acclaimed violinist Jennifer Curtis will travel to Bolivia on a travel grant, holding recitals, coaching a youth orchestra, and engaging with the community by visiting local schools, hospitals, underserved communities, and/or people who are not mobile (such as in-care facilities) to offer music.

The New York Times has described Curtis' second solo performance at Carnegie Hall as the New York Times as "one of the gutsiest and most individual recital programs," and celebrated her as "an

artist of keen intelligence and taste, well worth watching out for."

As a violinist Jennifer eliminates boundaries of musical genres, traversing the globe with musical diplomacy, playing in symphony halls and backroom rock clubs. Recent activities include solo performances with the Simon Bolivar Orchestra in Venezuela, The Knights Chamber Orchestra, featured artist at the Brasov International Festival in Romania in honor of George Enescu, featured violinist/composer and percussionist for El Festival de las Artes Esénias de Lima, Peru, appearances at the Mostly Mozart Festival,



International Brahms Festival, Ecstatic Festival, Festival musique de chambre a Giverny, Darmstadt Festival, Iceland Airwaves Festival, Wein Modern Festival for Contemporary music and playing at the Cat's Cradle.

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THE MEDICAL COMMITTEE HAS PERFORMED 1,000 SURGERIES FOR BURN VICTIMS IN BOLIVIA



The Medical Burn/ Plastic Surgery Team at a welcoming dinner in Cochabamba, Bolivia



The Medical Burn/ Plastic Surgery Team at their goodbye Party with alpaca knitted hats as gifts.

MUSIC WORKSHOPS IN BOLIVIA

BY DANIEL JOHNSON, ARTS AND CULTURE CHAIR



Dr. Johnson leads a movement activity at the La Paz workshop for area musicians and music students

This past summer, I was glad to receive a Partners of the Americas Education and Culture Grant to fund travel to Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, and La Paz, Bolivia. The partner chapters were integrally involved in my visit, and their hospitality was wonderful! They provided local transportation, home-stays, meals, and other essential accommodations.

In Bolivia, I spent ten days delivering workshops, conducting meetings, and visiting schools for the main purpose of promoting music and education in Bolivia. I presented educational workshops for Bolivian teachers on music, taught demonstration music lessons in area schools, and met with Bolivian

teachers and administrators to discuss mutually beneficial initiatives. In addition, I learned about how Bolivian culture influences musical expression from both Bolivian teachers and students.

In Santa Cruz, my main focus was a six-hour workshop for private and public school music educators. The 34 Bolivian teachers who attended were very enthusiastic and made some great music! In addition, I made valuable connections at the Centro Boliviano Americano, Colegio Saint George, La Asociación Departamental de Colegios Privados, the Association of Private Schools in the State of Santa Cruz, (ADECOP), and Colegio Juan Pablo II.

In Cochabamba, my nine hours of workshop sessions lasted three days and were co-sponsored by Fundación Sinfónica and Universidad Mayor San Simón. In addition to the nineteen teachers attending the workshop, I met with administrators and teachers at Centro Boliviano Americano, the La Ciudadela (orphanage), and The Loreda School.

In La Paz, my final stop on this trip, I presented eleven hours of workshop sessions for music students and music educators at Universidad Mayor de San Andrés.

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Dr. Johnson demonstrates rhythm sticks, *chapas* (a shaker made from goat toenails), and other hand-held percussion instruments

As a long-term NC Partners volunteer with my Bolivian counterpart, Mauricio Ramirez, I have conducted and coordinated agricultural exchange projects with a humanitarian aspect. For the first few years, we simply made up “goody bags” and gave them to students at selected schools in Bolivia with the goal of eventually reaching all the schools in the Anzaldo School District.

Mauricio’s mom, Viki has roots in this region and as her health permitted accompanied us. I will never forget her speaking to the kids in Quechua and her dedication to the region. As her health declined, I always considered it her work and, indeed without her, nothing would have happened.

After detailed discussions, it was decided that we should use the raised funds for a more sustainable impact. Mauricio and I started renovating some of living areas for the teachers at these

same schools and In 2011, Partners “partnered” with the NGO CEDESOL, and during the 4 year period of 2011 to 2014, from Mauricio’s suggestion, Partners provided about 35 stoves In 2015. Our wish was that each of the 40+ schools in the Anzaldo school district would have stoves and the larger schools will have more than just one.—a type of rocket stove with a chimney and dual cook surfaces. These stoves are manufactured in Cochabamba and some have been made at the city’s prison. By design, they are very efficient and are estimated to use 80% less fuel, which is important in the semi-arid region ...no more environmental or economic stress from collecting biomass for fuel or firewood. At one school, we were shown that a complete meal could be prepared using only eucalyptus bark gathered off of the ground. Health and safety issues also have been addressed.

In summary, this project is one that is broad in spectrum and by design has led to the resolution of many issues.

The stove project has had continual support from the Anzaldo municipality, which has provided a large international truck and a smaller pickup to deliver the items. In some regions, there are no roads and the community volunteers have had to carry the stove items on a foot path, walking for 3 hours. The biggest plus has been helping the children receive nutrition. If you look closely you can detect the off-color hair so distinctive of Kwashiokor inadequate nutrition, especially in the most remote regions.

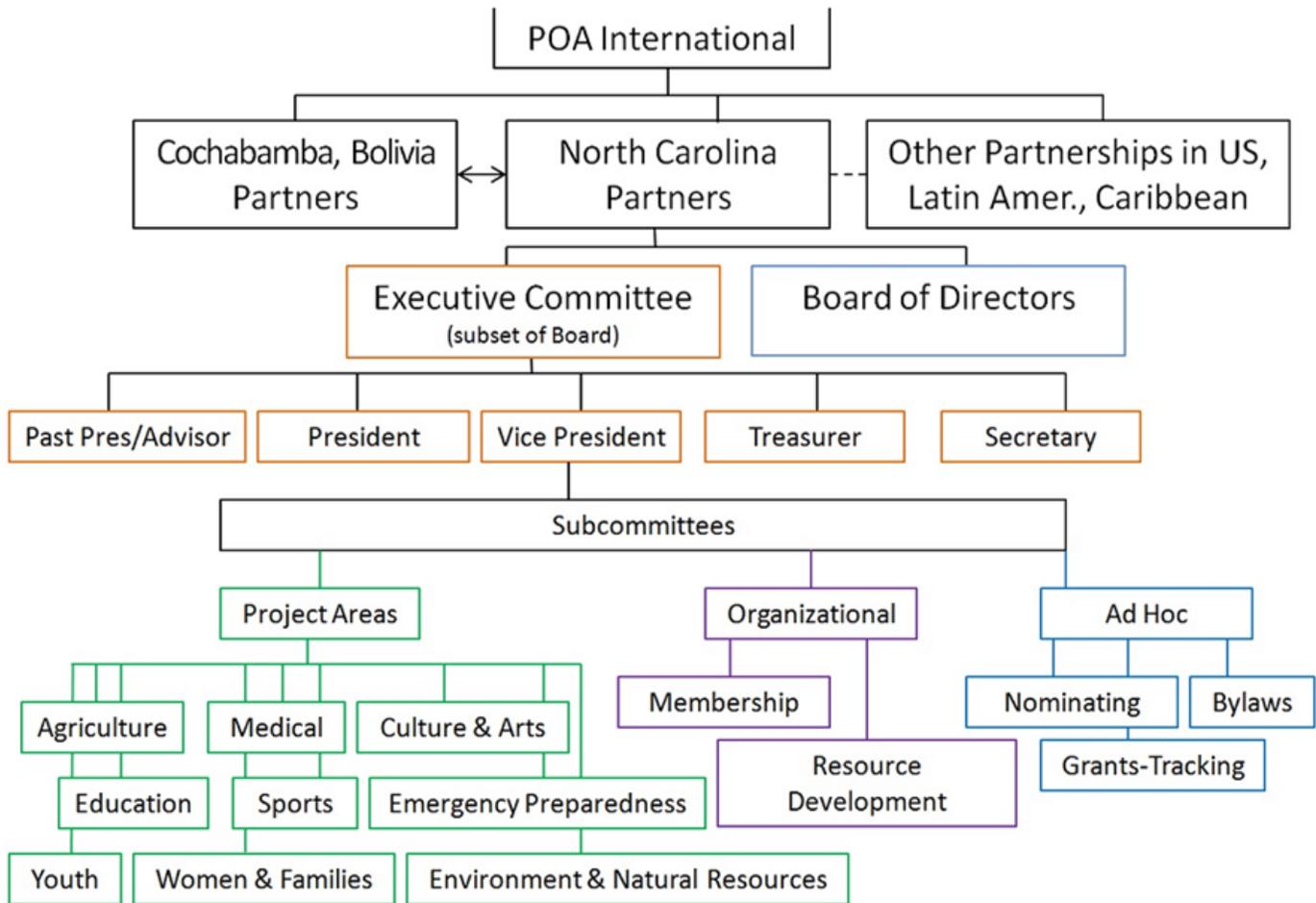
Funding for the project has come from Del Mar funds, several POA members, church members, and sale from honey from local hives.

The hard work of Mauricio and the dedication of his mom, as well as the work of the volunteers and the school super has made the project possible.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE STOVE PROJECT

BY STEVE GIBSON, AGRICULTURE CHAIR

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
FOR THE PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS
AND THE NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER**



**JENNIFER CURTIS: USING MUSIC TO BEGIN
AN INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE OF HEALING**

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toured with her original works and concerti of Mozart, collaborated and studied with Musical Shaman of the Amazon and the Andes, improvised for live radio from the interior of the jungle, and taught in conservatories and public schools.

Curtis considers her musical vocation as a type of humanitarian mission. In Turkey, she has held musical exchanges with Kurdish refugees in Van and Istanbul.

Perhaps the most memorable event was an impromptu concert for a community of earthquake survivors in Van, Turkey. The community was living in containers that the government had provided, but their water and electricity had been turned off. An impromptu concert with 100 local members of that village was held via candle with generators supplying a few lamps.

Only social media was used to advertise.

Currently, Jennifer is an artist-in-residence at the Saxpawhaw Haw River Ballroom. Next spring, Jennifer will be teaching a course at Duke University: An Approach to classical repertoire through harmony and improvisation, and plays on a 1777 Vincenzo Panormo.

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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.

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(The committees Women and Development and Democratic Initiatives are not active.)

Newsletter Editor- **Virginia Freedman**

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

**MUSIC WORKSHOPS IN BOLIVIA**

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The 90 participants were mainly university students and local teachers. In addition, I consulted with teachers and administrators at the Conservatorio Plurinacional de Música and mentored Partners aspiring to travel to the United States to study music.

Given my high workshop evaluation ratings, the 143 Bolivian musicians and music teachers who attended my workshops benefitted from my visit. I expect that their growth and development will positively impact the musical lives and education horizons for thousands of children. In addition to music, my workshops and meetings focused on twenty-first century skills such as creativity, language, collaboration, non-verbal communication, and critical thinking. The Partners Chapters in all three cities invited me to return! Although I could present the same material for other musicians and teachers, I plan to tailor future workshops to address the requests of other institutions and organizations in those cities. I also plan to design similar workshops to enhance the teaching of English as a second language, and connections between music and promoting wellness.

Throughout my trip, the local Partners Chapters were wonderful hosts and provided me with great hospitality. It was a great visit, and I look forward to returning!



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www.ncboliviapartners.org, go to the **DONATE** page, and you'll be able to make a secure payment of dues or other donation!

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Did you know that you can support **Partners of the Americas** by designating the organization to receive a portion of selling price (you choose the percentage) on **eBay** ...or shop through **SMILE.AMAZON.com**. Here you again designate POA as your chosen charity, and shop as you usually do. You don't pay any more, but POA receives a donation!