A Pictorial Appendix

to the History of the

North Carolina – Cochabamba Chapter

of Partners of the Americas
1978

NC Partners applied for Federal and State tax-exemption status in January. In August, the IRS granted an employer identification number to NC Partners.

“Construction of Low Cost Wheelchairs” project

1979

In October, the David Holt Trio traveled through Bolivia on a concert tour playing folk music. This tour included stops in La Paz, Santa Cruz and Cochabamba.

1980

Claude Graves, potter, traveled to Cochabamba. Sucre and the community of Villa Rivero to explore an exchange of potters and weavers with craftsmen in Tryon.

1982

Dr. Donald Brockington, Chairman of the Anthropology Department at UNC-Chapel Hill, traveled to Cochabamba in answer to a request for assistance on archaeological excavation techniques. Future archaeological visits were planned.

1982

Dr. Ward Patrick (General Physician) and Gail Kelley (Public Health specialist) went to Bolivia to do a project in good nutrition, educating indigenous people on how to better feed their families.

1985

Eva Marcus spent two weeks in North Carolina observing programs in health, education and drug rehabilitation. She was the training coordinator for the Cochabamba Partnership and was on the Board of CERECO (Centro de Rehabilitación de Cochabamba).
1986
For fund-raising and to help a cottage industry in Cochabamba, NC Partners sold designer sweaters knit from alpaca and angora yarns.

Carlos Guaman, a prosthetic technician, traveled to North Carolina to study at Duke University under the guidance of John Michael, director of the Department of Prosthetics and Orthotics, Duke Medical Center.

1987
Johnny Villazon, Cochabamba President, visited North Carolina and attended the mid-year meeting. as well as continued to work with the NC Partners President, David Shanklin, to strengthen organizational ties and project activities. A small grant was awarded to promote the training of disadvantaged urban and rural youth in animal husbandry at the Universidad Mayor de San Simon under the leadership of Johnny Villazon.

Sylvia Quiroga, Cochabamba Partners Culture and Arts Subcommittee chair, traveled to North Carolina in October to develop a plan for travel and small grants in the area of Arts and Culture.

Dr. Mirtha Cordova, a Cochabamba dentist, traveled to North Carolina to attend the NC Partners Annual Meeting and to help develop several health project concepts for Partners small grant applications.

During October-November, NC Partners directed its first subcontract activity to provide training and cultural experiences for 20 Bolivian knitters sponsored by US AID.

1988
Alberto Centellas, Cochabamba beekeeping expert, visited North Carolina in May in order to receive advanced training in beekeeping techniques. He worked on the previously funded Partners beekeeping project and hoped to expand his activities using the existing hives from that project. He returned to Bolivia with several technical books and 20 live queen bees.

Alejandro and Pastor Camera also visited North Carolina during May. These outstanding musicians performed Bolivian highlands tunes with the traditional instrumentation. Several of their concerts served as fund-raising events for the Partnership and resulted in over $1,000 being raised.
1989
Sallie Abbas delivered computer equipment and provided computer training to staff at the Cochabamba School for the Deaf, instituting a computer classroom program for upper-level students.

1990
A small grant of $4967 was awarded in March to help fund the “Cochabamba Art Exhibit” scheduled for showing in NC later in the year.

Sadie Bridger spent the month of August in Bolivia taking photographs to be included in a NC exhibit.

1991
Emily Arcia went to Cochabamba in mid-March to provide technical assistance to caregivers at the Salomon Klein Orphanage. She made evaluations and recommendations on institutional policies and practices of the orphanage.

Freddy Martinez from Cochabamba came for a two-month internship with zoo director Les Schobert to learn about construction and management of the zoo in Asheboro, NC.

Phoebe Johnson, long-time Cochabamba Partner, spent 2 weeks in September in NC visiting community organizations serving the needs of women, and selling sweaters knitted by women in prison in Cochabamba.
Eloise Cofer, Jessie Cannon, Carolyn Checkley, Sallie Abbas, Elena Jimenez, and Judith Gale attended the Partners of the Americas International Convention November 19-21 in Charleston, SC.

Annual meeting, December.
Willy Yamamoto presents the Wiphala banner to Sallie Abbas, incoming president.

1993

Steve Gibson and Julianne Heggoy were selected as Farmer to Farmer representative and delegate in Civic Education (democratic initiatives), respectively and attended the Santa Cruz conference, as did Sallie Abbas (president of NCPOA Partners), Flavio Vargas (president-elect), Napoleon Araujo (president of Cbba Partners), Edgar Villaroel, Fernando Peña, and Marcelo Cardona.

Among those attending the Partners International Convention in San Jose, Costa Rica were Randy Dodd, Victor Guaraguara, NCPOA President Sallie Abbas, Diane Catotti, Elena Daza de Jimenez, Jessie Cannon.
Eloise Cofer watches as Hank Graden fills a salteña under Katushka Olave’s guidance. Dec 3, 1994

Melva Okun tells of her environmental project in Bolivia

Sallie Abbas passes the Wiphala--symbol of leadership--to incoming president Flavio Vargas

1994
Annual Meeting

A Leadership Development workshop for NCPOA interested members was held, guided by a professional

The James S. Bramham Award for volunteer service was presented to Sallie Abbas

1995

In May, John Rushing, fruit culture specialist from NCSU, traveled to Cochabamba to work with a peach-producers cooperative in the Punata area.

Sallie Abbas received the Dumond Peck Hill Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Bill Reese at the Partners of the Americas International Convention in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This award honors one individual from a northern partnership and one from a southern partnership for “extraordinary dedication to international volunteerism through their work in Partners”. The award is named for Partners’ late general counsel who served the organization’s board and leadership for over 20 years. She has been a member of the NC-Cbba Partners of the Americas chapter since 1986.
The Ballet Folklorico de Cochabamba was brought to NC and dancers together with live musicians put on a show at Stewart Theater at NC State University.

[bottom center Hank Graden, Leon Abbas, Carolyn Checkley; right Sally & David Hubby.]

1998

In April, mimes Hilarie Porter and a partner (the “Silent Partners”) performed and conducted workshops for public schools in Cochabamba, La Paz, Tarija, and Santa Cruz. Silvia Blanca de Quiroga of the Cochabamba Partners, arranged events and performances. Funding was provided by the Arnold Schwimmer Foundation.

Morris and Shirley Shamley, through two dairy cooperatives, addressed problems of milk production throughout the Cochabamba region.

1999

Sallie and Leon Abbas and Dr. Charles Mann carried $1000 from Delmar Foundation, and presented it, together with Elena de Jimenez, to Grupo SAR (Search and Rescue) for the purchase of a communications system.

March: Sallie Abbas visits the new office of Cochabamba
Partners
René Machado, curator at the Museo de Archeologico in Cochabamba, learned techniques for a Museum Study Program emphasizing educational program development and implementation particularly for students, at his museum.

NC Partners had fun learning to dance the Bolivian huayño at the Mid-Year meeting.

Janeth Pereira entertained at a social gathering given in her honor, playing guitar and singing.

Carolyn Checkley shows off the display board purchased to show some of the activities and accomplishments of the partnership.
The three US Partners of the Americas organizations, Arkansas/Santa Cruz, Utah/LaPaz and North Carolina/Cochabamba collaborated on a Women In Politics project involving women leaders from the nine Departments of Bolivia.

Ellen Farrior traveled to visit the Cerro Verde Clinic in late July. In an effort to improve public health and to make the clinic's services more accessible to the population of Cerro Verde, a perinatal outreach program was established at the beginning of this year under the auspices of NCPOA. Funding for this project comes from the Ruth Bell Graham International Child Health Foundation which Ellen had succeeded in obtaining.

The group of 8 participants in the Leadership Project César Pérez in Environmental Education, Aida Claros in Community Health, Deysi Marlene Mercado in Dentistry and Medical Waste Disposal, Juan Carlos Rodríguez in Pork production, and a group of 4 in Paramedical and Rescue: José Luis Ramos, Carlos Rocha, Olivia Micaela Gómez, Mario Aranibar.
The medical team of Charles Mann, Lori Scears, Tim and Cathy Mannix, Leon and Sallie Abbas worked at the Inmaculata Concepción orphanage at Vinto and the Instituto de Audiologia in Cochabamba. The Mannixes had learned to do teeth-sealing to prevent decay on healthy teeth.
Sallie Abbas was elected to the Inter-American POA Board of Directors. Steve Gibson was awarded “Volunteer-of-the-Year” for his work with the FTF program. The NC POA chapter won organizational development “Award for Excellence” for achievements in communication for membership development, public relations, and chapter organization.

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Martha Keravuori for her chairing of the Arts & Culture Committee.

2002

Cerro Verde Project
Kitty Stalberg visited the project in April of 2002, and Hank Graden and Melva Okun visited Cbba July 12-19 to assist with manual development, formulation of evaluation criteria and training.
At the annual meeting in December, Melva Okun reported on the Cerro Verde project.

Many donated medicines were presented to Eva Marcus at the Viedma Hospital pharmacy by Charles Mann, Leon and Sallie Abbas.

Sallie Abbas created and presented workshops in the use of computers in classroom teaching of English at the Centro Boliviano Americano as part of Teacher in Residence Program.

10 students from the Orange Charter School visited the Laredo Institute in Cochabamba for series of coaching and performance experiences.

2003

A collaboration between the NCPOA, the Orange Charter School, and the Duke String School brought 10 young Bolivian string players of the Laredo Institute and the Orquesta Sinfónica Municipal de Cochabamba to the Triangle from April 18-May 2, 2003. Adolfo Taborga, director of the strings program at the Laredo Institute accompanied the group along with chaperone Ruth Quiton.
Viveka Alba, Teacher-in-Residence, arrived in Raleigh on Oct. 11th to observe and interact in various teaching settings, and experience NC culture.

A reception for Mauricio Ramirez and Elena Jimenez was held Nov. 23 at the home of Hank and Ellen Graden. A social gathering was held Nov. 29 in honor of Mauricio, visiting president of the Cochabamba partnership.

Mauricio Ramirez was awarded the Bramham-Marcus Award for outstanding volunteer. This was the first time it had been awarded to a Partner from the Cbba Partners.

2004

January – Don Hopkins and Allen Langley visited Cochabamba to continue the work with beekeepers, and helped with the arrangements and execution of a Honey Fair in Cochabamba.
February – March
A medical team, consisting of Carlos Vargas, Charles Mann, Britt Mann, Lori Scears, and Leon and Sallie Abbas traveled to Cochabamba. Lori worked on evaluating the new audiology machinery together with Ina, an audiologist from Europe who spending a year at the Instituto de Audiologia. Dr. Mann did ENT exams, and gave a symposium on sinus infections to students at the medical school UDABOL.

Leon Abbas cleans instruments and translates while Charles Mann does ear-nose-throat exams

The medical team at lunch with CbbaPOA members

Alejandra Dorado, a multi-media and performance artist from Cochabamba presented works entitled La Imagen Amable de mi Misma or, translated, A Kind of Image of Myself and a series of self portraits based on Las Alas de Lucrecia at Rebus Works Gallery [Alejandra, left; Lee Moore, right]

Nov 18-20 – International Convention held at Antigua Guatemala NC POA had a table with 2 displays at the Marketplace of Ideas –one of the young musicians exchange and the other of the new database-oriented Website.
NCPOA Annual meeting – Musical entertainment on guitar and charango was presented by Carlos Vargas and new member Johnnie Camargo.

Maria Garcia Ovando came January 9-19 to make connections for a project to exchange the art of indigenous artists from NC and Bolivia.

2005 Board of Directors

Some of the honorees for Partners Counts: Don Hopkins, March Krotee, Sallie Abbas, Leon Abbas, Virginia Freedman
Claudia Chiarelli arrived November 11 as Teacher-in-Residence.

Carlos Villaroel, President of the Cochabamba Partners chapter, attended the International Convention followed by a visit to NC.

At the annual meeting, the Bramham-Marcus award was presented to Kitty Stalberg to recognize her work as an outstanding volunteer.

Partners members Alvaro Pozadas, Ken Sorensen, Steve Gibson, involved in Farmer-to-Farmer projects.

Days Azogue from Cochabamba visited NC to learn about therapy for special needs people.
The medical team of Dr. Charles Mann (ENT), Laura Mann, Dr. Mike Fisher (Primary Care), his wife Dr. Dennie Nadeau (OB GYN), Dr. John Warlick, Cindy Jackson, , Carlos A Vargas M.D. Chair of Health Committee NC POA, Carlos’ wife Wilma. Some of the team are plastic surgeons whose major purpose was to remove scars of burn patients. The other members of the team offered other specialty services.

An EMT group from Cary --Steve Cohen, Marion Houle, and Greg Edwards-- conducted workshops for SAR of Cochabamba in trauma management. Translations were provided by Leon and Sallie Abbas and – of Cochabamba.
Adolfo Taborga visits with John Montgomery, violin maker in Raleigh. Taborga collaborates with the Laredo School of young musicians in Cochabamba.

Adolfo Taborga, director of the Cochabamba Orchestra, receives a donated violin, presented by Sallie Abbas.

Karen Brown, this year’s Teacher-in-Residence, conducted two workshops for teachers at the Centro Boliviano Americano in Cochabamba.

CEOLI (Centro de Educación y Organización Laboral del Impedido), a center that serves the physically handicapped, directed by its founder Eduardo Villaroel, is preparing a workshop in the construction of orthotics and prosthetics. These would be made available at low cost to those in need. The workshop funding, provided by a grant from the Delmar Foundation, will be used to purchase tools and supplies necessary.
At the annual meeting on December 2, 2006, Heloisa Andrade was the special guest from Partners of the Americas office in Washington, DC. President March Krotee presented the Bramham-Marcus Award to Carlos Vargas.

2007

Youth Ambassadors to North Carolina:
Melissa Quispe Cabrera and Diana Valdez Vargas

Board members, September 2007

Alberto Rojas, teacher at the Bi-National Center (Centro Boliviano Americano, CBA) in Cochabamba came to North Carolina from October 8 to November 5, 2007 to experience the culture and amplify his methods of English language teaching.

In November Sallie Abbas represented the Partnerships at the International Convention in Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Her she received recognition for her 6 years of service on the International Board of Partners.
Prior to the convention Sallie visited Cochabamba. She met with President Elena Jimenez and our counterparts and attended a “Partnership” meeting the Prefecture of Cochabamba. Nutrition, leadership, sports and medical projects were on the agenda and topics of keen interest.

The end-of-year Annual Meeting: Matt Clausen and Elizabeth Auciello visited from Washington, D.C. and discussed the future of Partners and Round 2 of the Youth Ambassador Program.

Partners recognition awards were given to Bill Ayers, Donald Brockington, and Miriam Murdock.
2008

Elena Jimenez, President of Cochabamba POA, visited the Raleigh area with family in January. She participated in several meetings with the executive committee and with subcommittee members of NCPOA.

Agriculture Subcommittee Chairman Steve Gibson travelled to Cochabamba in February with two purposes: First was to work on a waterline for a School. A large water tank was installed in the community of Torancaly. Steve Gibson’s visit coincided with the visit of the new CEO of Partners of the Americas, Stephen G. Vetter to Cbba, and they had time to talk at length about the need to get our funding for Farmer-to-Farmer restored.

Delivery of 1000’s of Stop Hunger Now nutritious meals to Ansaldo and Arampampa under guidance by Mauricio Ramirez.

Guillermo Zubieta arrived March 5 in North Carolina for a program that would give him skills and ideas to develop workshops and training for volunteerism. Here he is meeting with Jason Reynolds, Executive Director, Triangle Impact.
President Kitty Stalberg traveled to Cochabamba where she participated in multiple meetings with the Subcommittees of the Cochabamba Partners and collaborated with them to develop a comprehensive NC-Cochabamba Partners Annual Plan for 2008-2010.

Willma Vargas and Kitty visited Centro Focolar, a community service center. They were accompanied by Janet Morales (above right) who together with her husband Jhonny Villazon is instrumental in assistance to this program. $1000 from the Delmar foundation was approved to go to Burn Care International for a sewing machine to be used for making special garments for children with serious burns. Cindy Jackson will oversee this project.

At the NCPOA Mid-year Meeting, William Mendoza from Bolivia, UNC- DUKE World Peace Fellow through Rotary clubs, was the guest speaker. He is working towards a master’s degree and is a research assistant at Duke and UNC-CH. He discussed the volunteer migration issues and the effects in the disintegration of the families.

Deborah Wilkes - 2008 Teacher-In-Residence to Cochabamba Centro Boliviano Americano, receiving a certificate from Maria Julia Suarez. Deborah taught a daily EFL (English as a Foreign Language) for a month, July 6-August 9, class to teenagers; gave workshops for teachers, and more.

Rod Brooks, through Stop Hunger Now, arranged for a 40-foot container, with 280,000 dried packaged nutritious meals to be shipped to Arampampa and Anzaldo, Bolivia
Youth Ambassadors 2009: Three Bolivian youth, Fabricio Suarez (Cochabamba), Nineth Miranda (Chuquisaca), and Fiorela Palomino (Tarija) participated in a five-day study tour of Washington, followed by a visit to the Raleigh area.

At a farewell social, March 6, at Cathy Spargo’s home, the Youth Ambassadors made presentations about their experiences in the US. They returned to Bolivia on March 7.

Medical Team Visit to Cochabamba March 20 – April 7 Team members: From the Plastic Surgery Department of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University, Malcolm Marks M.D., Chairman, Joe Molnar M.D., Assoc. Professor, and Chief residents Bill Kortesis M.D. and Christina Plikaitis M.D; Benson Timmons M.D., Plastic Surgeon; Cindy Jackson of Burn Care International; Natalia Zapata Myers, Assistant Nurse; Andrew Timmons, student at UNC Chapel Hill; Carlos Vargas M.D., Team Director; Willma Vargas, Team Assistant and Laura Marks.

Children in the Center for Burn Patients at Viedma Hospital receive little stuffed animals brought from North Carolina.
Joe Repp served as the Duke work-study student to work with Partners, assisting with Member Relations, with tasks such as researching internship opportunities in Cochabamba for interested North Carolina students and possible grants that would jointly fund NCPOA and DCID (Duke Center for International Development) projects.

A 3-Partnership meeting was held on August 12 in Bolivia: Matt Clausen of POA was in Cochabamba to coordinate a meeting with the 3 Bolivian Partnerships. Topics covered were: training center for volunteers (Cbba and La Paz POA), successful projects from each chapter, integrating youth into Partners, a report on Citizens for Justice and national coordination among the chapters.

Daniela (Danny) Balderrama, teacher at the CBA in Cbba, was selected as this year’s Teacher in Residence in NC.

Arts and Culture Subcommittee Chair and Arts Management Specialist, Art Waber traveled to Bolivia, spending time in La Paz and in Cbba Art. He held a two-day arts management workshop for professionals.

Lucy (left) and Phoebe (right) shown here with Donna Kurtz with whom they stayed while in the Triangle area.

Following the Higher Education & International Volunteer Service Conference, in Washington DC, Phoebe Johnson and Lucy Vasquez visited programs in NC for Senior Citizens.
Anne Wolfley of Witness for Peace was a guest speaker at the Annual Meeting as were Maria Gibbs, Philip Danser, Ben Gagne, Ming Lee, four Duke students from Engineers Without Borders who spoke of a water irrigation project in Obrajales, near Cbba.

**2010**

**Medical Team:**

Interact/Domestic Violence Project: Phase I of the Interact Project (Claudia Jimenez’s visit to Interact) was completed. Claudia Jimenez Daza visited various agencies and sites related to her Domestic Violence, Interact in particular. Here she is shown talking with Larry Nelson at the Mid-year Meeting.

Autism Project (Phase I) November 29-December 10, 2010: Lucia Mendez, Bolivian-born research assistant at the UNC Chapel Hill Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences (DSHS) spent 10 days (Nov-Dec) collecting information about autism in Bolivia.
Youth Ambassadors: Hank provided leadership and coordination for the April 13-28, 2010 Youth Ambassador visit.

Deborah Wilkes at the Annual Meeting spoke of her Teacher-in-Residence experiences in Cochabamba.

2011

Steve Gibson visited rural sites to carry out school and community improvements such as supplying bags of school supplies and family health items to children in rural schools; repairing the school in the Torancaly community; running a water line to the school and community of Torancaly; conducting hydraulic ram pump demonstrations in the Caine Valley region.

Apiculture specialist Don Hopkins helps beekeepers in Bolivia with marketing their products.
August - Christian Stalberg traveled to Cochabamba to present six seminars in Cbba and Santa Cruz entitled "LEED Certification: Buildings and Professionals-

Youth Ambassadors: The first-ever north-south Y.A. exchange took place. NC Partners received nine applications and recommended five applicants to POA. Richard Whitemore (Charlotte) was selected as a mentor traveling with the group going to Chile. Shawnice Rodriguez (Wilmington) and Michelle Peedin (Hillsborough) traveled to Chile; Peter Green (Apex) and Haley Pratt (Chapel Hill) traveled to Ecuador.

Clelia Calani was the 2011 Teacher-in-Residence, visiting NC from October 10-November 8, 2011.

Sallie Abbas, Clelia Calani, Cathy Spargo, and Judy Page at a social event in Clelia’s honor.
The 2011 medical team members included Malcolm Marks M.D., Jeremy Pyle M.D., Clay Forsberg M.D., William Todd Stoeckel, M.D., Charles Mann, M.D.-ENT, Keyla K. Duin, RN, J. Walter Dutton, Willma Vargas, Team Director Carlos A Vargas M.D., Leon and Sallie Abbas.

Doctors assess which patients to accept for surgery

Wreath Sale Fundraiser - NCPOA made about $1500; Rodney Swink was coordinator of this annual fundraiser.

2011 International Convention – Medellin Colombia Our representatives at the convention were Sallie Abbas (NC) and Elena & Raul Jimenez (Cbba).

NCPOA and CbbaPOA received an award for “It Started with an Exchange” for the many spin-off projects coordinated by Steve Gibson growing from the Farmer-to-Farmer project. Shown left to right are Peggy Carlson of POA, Sallie Abbas, Tasso Lugon (Chair of the International Board of Partners) and Elena Jimenez.
2011 Annual Meeting Kathy Johnson of Interact received a special recognition award.

Youth Ambassadors --Shawnice Rodriguez (Wilmington) and Michelle Peedin (Hillsborough) to Chile; Peter Green (Apex) and Haley Pratt (Chapel Hill) to Ecuador--gave a presentation of their experiences in South America. Richard Whitmore (Charlotte) was selected as a mentor traveling with the group going to Chile.

Through a program coordinated by Art Waber and Silvia Quiroga, chairs of the NCPOA and CbbaPOA Arts & Culture sub-committees Cecilia Moreno, choreographer from Cochabamba, was selected to come to participate in the American Dance Festival (Durham, NC).
Medical Visit to Cochabamba: 5 plastic surgeons doing approximately 105 surgical procedures in over 45 children and 2 endoscopic-laparoscopic surgeons performing 15 endoscopic surgeries.

Dr. Jimmy Montaño spent a month here under the American Fellows Program, with a focus on women’s health, and especially breast oncology.

Steve Gibson traveled to Bolivia to introduce unique technology for removing feral honeybee colonies from structures and he also spoke at the Cochabamba Beekeepers Association.

Another aspect of the trip was to provide high-efficiency wood stoves to 24 of the 43 rural schools in the Anzaldo school district-- part of the Caine river valley region, considered to be the most needy region in all of Bolivia. These special stoves are made in prisons.

**Autism Conference June 2012**

Specialist in Autism Linda Watson (faculty, UNC), tells of the work and workshops given in Bolivia by herself, Maggie Fitch, Terrence Carter, and Betsy Crais on Phase III of the Autism Project. These conferences were given in Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and La Paz to medical professionals, parents, teachers, and others on the identification of autism disorder, and programs to aid those with it.

At the Youth Engagement workshop in September at the Partners of the Americas office in Washington, DC.

Participants from selected partnerships, north and south: Sallie Abbas (NC), Gilda Battagliese and Romina Castellini (Uruguay), Heloisa Andrade (Brazil), Nick Bratcher (KY), Margaret Clark (AR), Linda Weber (WI), Steve Kirk (MA), Patrick Moore (MN), Patricia Natke (IL) Lowell Adams (MD), Doug Walters (WV), Carolina Escobar Partners Colombia) and from Partners Washington: Steve Vetter, Matthew Clausen, Lindsey Suggs, Melissa Golladay, Abraham Cisne, Barbara Bloch.
Laura Cernikova, 2012 Teacher-in-Residence in Cochabamba

Kathy Johnson of Interact, just returned from her Domestic Abuse visit to Cochabamba was a presenter at the NCPOA Annual Meeting:

POA President Steve Vetter video-taped a “fireside chat” report to NCPOA to be shown at the annual meeting. He mentioned by name some of the projects of our Partnership —of Steve Gibson, Carlos and Willma Vargas, the Autism conferences, Elena Jimenez.

Daysi Marlene Mercado receives the Bramham-Marcus award, sent to Bolivia and presented here by Rosario Claros.

2013

March – Once again a team of plastic surgeons performed many operations on patients with burn scars.

Team members: Malcolm Marks M.D., Chairman of the Plastic Surgery Dep., School of Medicine, WFU (Wake Forest University); Benson Timmons, M.D., Plastic Surgeon, Gastonia, NC; William Todd Stoeckel, M.D., Plastic Surgeon, Cary, NC; Benjamin C. Wood, M.D., Chief Resident, Plastic Surgery, School of Medicine, WFU; Clayton Cranford, M.D., Chief Resident, Plastic Surgery, School of Medicine, WFU; Katherine I. Habenicht, M.D., Chief Resident, Surgery, School of Medicine, WFU; Keyla Duin RN, Burn Center, WFU; Natalia Zapata, Nurse Assistant-Translator; Lara Marks, Translator; Gregory Timmons, Premed College Student; Brock Weston, Premed College Student; Carlos A Vargas M.D., Team Director
Below: Sallie Abbas attended a regional Partners of the Americas conference in Greeley, Colorado. The focus: share workable ideas from various partnerships.

Elida Hildago, Autism School Administrator from La Paz visited facilities that offer services to children with Autism Spectrum disorder.

The four AYLP-ers from NC: McKenzie Maddox, Maggie Cardaropoli, Lindsay Carey, Nathaniel Vang, and the 3 mentors, Sallie Abbas (NC), Ari Comart (VA), and Maggie Salazar (TX)

Darren Legge delivered a series of conferences in Bolivia on creating green buildings.

At the annual meeting in Chapel Hill, three of the American Youth Leadership Project participants from NC, Nathaniel Vang, Lindsey Carey, and Maggie Cardaropoli, gave a report on their experiences in Paraguay.
March: (Cochabamba) Medical Team Leader Dr. Carlos Vargas, with team members Wilma Vargas, Dr. Andrea Fernandez, Dr. Todd Stoeckel, Dr. Brian Showalter, Dr. Ivo Pestana, Dr. Michael Buckley, Dr. Maria Elliot, Keyla Duin RN, Dr. Lindsey Wong, Dr. Carl Westcott

The 8 surgeons worked in close collaboration with Dr. Oscar Romero, Director of the Pediatric Burn Center, Dr. Eduardo Amaya, Department of Surgery, Viedma hospital and Dr. Jimmy Montano, Materno-Infantil hospital.

June – Five professors from UNC Chapel Hill provided several days of training on TEACCH and on a variety of diagnostic methods for assessing Autism Spectrum Disorder in Bolivia.

L to R: Dr. Betsy Crais, Dr. Linda Watson, unknown, Dr. Grace Baranek, Dr. Adriana Avila, Dr. Pam DiLavore, Ms. Patricia (therapist from Altiora in Cochabamba), Dr. Laura Velayos Amo (psychologist from Spain currently working in Cochabamba, Ms. Jessica Kinard

Rosario Claros, president of the Cochabamba Partners visited NC in July. A focus of her trip was environmental issues. She gave a talk at the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) in Research Triangle Park on the environmental degradation of the Department of Cochabamba and touched on air quality issues which was of particular interest as the RTP office leads EPA on air quality issues for the entire United States.
Daniel Johnson, of the music department of UNC-Wilmington, gave workshops in La Paz, Santa Cruz, and Cochabamba to music teachers on methods of instruction.