


COCHA-LINA HERALD

Newsletter of the North Carolina Partners of the Americas (Partners with Cochabamba, Bolivia)

Winter 2011

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held on December 11 at the NC State University Club.



After a welcome from President Kitty Stalberg and a brief business meeting, there was an election of new Board Members.

Retiring from Board positions were Celia Fuller, Stephanie Lamm, and Martha Keravuori. These three were elected in 2007. Thank you for your good service! We are happy to welcome Karen Brown, Deborah Wilkes, and Robert Pyle as new members of the Board. Both Karen and Deborah joined Partners through being Teacher-in-Residence participants, and Robert is a professor and acting department chair at A&T University. He has traveled throughout South America.



Rodney Swink, who headed up the fundraising wreath sale gave a report of a very successful one this year. Several Partners members Beth Carroll, MaryAnn Brittain, Karen Brown, Hank Graden, and Ward Patrick were top sellers.

Andrew Santos, a member of Engineers Without Borders, presented an illustrated talk about "Augmenting the Water Supply in a Rural Bolivian Community". The team was in Asanquiri for an assessment trip funded by Save the Children. They checked the water supply at sources and in homes (Water is brought in open buckets, which can lead to contamination). They proposed developing a Rainwater Harvesting collection during the wet season. They also assessed a connection to an upper spring box. Continuing on in 2011, they will have a 2-part trip: they will evaluate past work (being used; anything broken?) They are seeking a mentor to travel with them this year (see p. 6) Their Website is at www.ewbnscsu.org



Andrew Santos



Ben Timmons

Ben Timmons, plastic surgeon, gave a Medical Team Trip Report of the very productive and successful week of surgeries for burned patients at Viedma Hospital. He reported that in the years 2006-2010 there have been an increasing numbers of surgeries, now with interns. In addition to surgery, the doctors do symposia and short courses. Out of 100 patients presented, they can do 40 or so; they must triage to decide whom to treat.



The members broke into groups to discuss the Annual Plan and generate ideas for projects in the various work areas, such as Education, Emergency Preparedness, Adopt-A-Project, and others.



Carolyn Checkley chats with Bert Patrick



Carlos Vargas and Gail Kelley talk of a project in Health.

From the Board Meeting

Topics discussed included: Benefits of membership in NC Center for NonProfits. It enabled us to resolve the issue of sponsoring a student to get in-state tuition. Virginia (Ginger) Merkle (small company) has agreed to work with us. All members can access the online information.

Virginia Freedman and Hank Graden went to the conference in September. There were suggestions about donors – touch several times a year; have Thank-You telethons, use the media –have a go-to person with knowledge about Bolivia; use Twitter; always attach a photo to news releases; use talk radio. Hank said that “Telling our Story” is important. We need to be looking at effective methods. We should present touchable projects. Regarding the use of Vanguard funds: we will consider projects – perhaps incorporating a competition of project suggestions to vie for ~\$2500 (to be acceptable to NC and Cbba)

Autism Specialist Share Expertise in Bolivia

Lucia Mendez traveled to Bolivia in December to work with parents and representatives of organizations desiring to develop their programs in dealing with autism, and

assistance for parents and teachers who are working with autistic children.

The trip lasted a total of 11 days during which time she visited three major cities in Bolivia: Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and La Paz. Via focus groups, she collected information on the diagnostic and treatment practices for children with autism as well as professional training needs of providers serving children with autism in Bolivia.



She conducted 10 focus groups and visited three semi-private and a state-funded rehabilitation centers. Approximately 90 people participated in the 10 different focus groups. She also visited a couple of schools that had classrooms for children with handicaps including children with autism. In each city, the schedule of project-related activities was packed but well-organized.

She had home stays in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba but stayed with her own family in La Paz. Lucia commented that “the host families were kind and generous and made sure I was comfortable and well cared-for. I was treated for lunch by the various Partners of the Americas' volunteers in each city She also attended meetings of the Partners of the Americas in each city.

She met with various groups of professionals who serve children with autism as well as parental groups. The disciplines represented in the various groups included: physicians (neurologists, pediatricians, family doctors & psychiatrists), university professors, rehabilitation specialists (speech pathologists, PTs, psychologists), special education teachers and parents of children with autism.

Ms. Méndez stated that the next steps she will take are to analyze the data gathered, write a summary and possibly a journal article

Lucía I. Méndez a doctoral candidate, working with the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Her research interest is Early bilingual language development and literacy.

Dates of Medical Team Trip to Bolivia for 2011

The dates for the Medical Team visit to Cochabamba are finally set for the week of **March 28 – April 1, 2011.**

2011 YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

The North Carolina Partners of the Americas will host up to 9 Youth Ambassadors from **March 7 through March 23, 2011.** There will be students from Bolivia, Peru and

Ecuador. There will also be an Adult Mentor with the group to provide translation, supervision and guidance.

After their stay in D.C., they will come to Raleigh to live in homes with Raleigh-area families, attend Broughton and Millbrook High School, participate in area cultural activities and interact with other youth. All of these experiences will expose Latin American students to U.S.



society, culture, institutions and citizens, expanding knowledge, and understanding among the participants and U.S. citizens and improving their English. The Youth Ambassador Program is funded by the US State Department through the Office of Citizen Exchanges, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

The Youth Ambassador Program's goals are to: improve their leadership skills, give them opportunities to exchange views on topics of common interest with U.S. youth and serve as "Ambassadors" in projecting a positive image of Latin America with the U.S. people they meet. Each group of Youth Ambassadors will also study a "theme" such as business and entrepreneurship, environmental protection or drug and alcohol prevention and treatment services." These activities will take place outside of Broughton High School.

It is anticipated that the YA will mix days at Millbrook and Broughton High Schools and visiting community agencies and organizations. The two "themes" that will be pursued in NC are "business and entrepreneurship" and "substance abuse treatment.

The NC Partners upcoming tasks:

1. **Host families:** We are recruiting host families where at least one member of the family speaks some Spanish, although without Spanish will not disqualify a host family.
2. **Schools:** There will be a close working relationship with the Spanish Department at the high schools in order to ensure that the youth have a role during their time there and that the Spanish students/teachers can help with communication, if needed.
3. **Other meetings:** Some meetings may need translators. NC Partners will seek some bilingual volunteers to help with meetings and events.

Volunteers are needed to help with the project. Please contact Hank Graden at 919 785-2286 or at hgraden@nc.rr.com.



Youth Ambassadors

NC Partners Website

Visit our Website at ncboliviapartners.org. to see news, calendar, photos, past issues of the newsletter, and more!

CALLING YOUTH! for the **2011 U.S. Youth Ambassadors Program**

*Apply to represent the United States as a Youth Ambassador for 4 weeks in the summer of 2011. Selected youth will travel to the Caribbean or Latin America on cultural exchange to learn about **leadership and civic engagement!***

Partners of the Americas, through a program funded by the United States Department of State, is looking for U.S. youth between the ages of 15 and 18. Your mission is to:

- **participate** in promoting mutual understanding between the people of Latin America and the U.S.
- **develop** a greater sense of civic responsibility and commitment to community development
- **build** leadership capacity
- **foster** relationships among youth from different ethnic, religious and national groups
- **explore** local and national issues and become involved with or contribute to those issues

Selected youth will travel to Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Ecuador, or Paraguay for 4 weeks in July and August 2011. While in the selected country, you will attend school, live with a host family, explore cultural and historic sites, participate in community service activities, attend workshops and plan a project to be implemented upon your return to the U.S.

Applicants must meet the following requirements in order to participate:

1. Be between 15-18 years old at date of travel (Summer 2011)
2. Currently enrolled in a public high school. We strongly encourage juniors and below to apply.
3. Intermediate level of Spanish skills. Recommended that you have completed Spanish 2 (or equivalent) by date of travel (Summer 2011)
4. Good academic standing
5. Volunteer experience
6. U.S. Citizen or Resident Alien (one parent is a green card holder)

Application deadline is January 28, 2011.

You can download an application at:

www.partners.net/partners/Youth_Ambassadors_EN.asp

Please email and mail a hardcopy of your application to: NC Youth Ambassadors Coordinator, 1 Sinclair Circle, Durham, NC 27705;

NCYouthAmbassadors@gmail.com

For more information, please visit www.partners.net or contact: Lauren A. Berntsen

Program Officer, Youth Exchanges

Partners of the Americas

Washington, DC 20005

Tel: 202-637-6207; lberntsen@partners.net

2012-2013 Youth Ambassadors Program

Information provided by Elizabeth Auciello
[eauciello@partners.net]

The Department of State has released a new Request for Grant Proposals (RFGP) for a **2012-2013 Youth Ambassadors Program**. The Youth Ambassadors program is a dynamic youth exchange program between various countries in Latin America and the United States. It engages lower-income and underserved youth for a three week exchange to increase *leadership skills*, to learn about *civic engagement* and *volunteer service*, and to share their diverse cultures and history. POA is looking to develop an enriching and exciting program proposal for youth in our hemisphere.

A recap of program elements:

Locations: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and the United States.

Timeframe: One or two exchanges per year for two years.

Target group: A diverse range of disadvantaged high school students who express strong social and academic skills, great leadership qualities, and a vast interest in volunteer work in their communities. Youth from Colombia and Ecuador will not be required to know English, but the other countries will have an English language requirement.

Key themes: Primary themes include: Civic Education (Citizen Participation, Grassroots Democracy and Rule of Law), Community Service, and Youth Leadership Development. There will also be a sub-theme for each group that can include drug abuse prevention awareness, environmental protection, or business and entrepreneurship (and others that spark the interest of the youth or host community). These themes are meant to provide participants with learning experiences throughout their exchange and should be incorporated into agendas in host communities.

Exchange Duration: The duration of the exchange is three weeks; 6 days (which includes air travel) in Washington, DC and 15 days in host states.

Participants: the program will provide funding for 13-18 youth and 2 mentors from Latin American countries to travel to the US and for 9-13 US youth and 1-2 mentors to travel to Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay, or Uruguay.

Responsibilities of US chapters: For a two-week period, US Chapters will be responsible for hosting Latin American youth and mentors. Other responsibilities include:

- Recruiting and orienting host families for 15-20 participants (youth and mentors);
- Planning substantive agendas focusing on hands-on opportunities which meet the primary themes (Civic Engagement, Leadership Development, Volunteer Service) and one sub-theme (Drug Abuse Prevention, Environmental Protection, Youth Entrepreneurship, or others you feel are interesting and valuable);
- Accompanying and monitoring youth during all meetings and events;
- Recruit and participate in selecting US youth and mentors to travel to Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

- Provide support to participating US youth with follow-on projects upon their return; and
- Identify a point of contact that will be responsible for coordinating during the entire process.

*Please note: Chapters should expect to host youth from several countries at one time.

Responsibilities of Latin American chapters: Chapters will lead recruitment and selection of participants (youth and mentors), orient participants and prepare them for travel, and work with participants to implement follow-on projects and other activities.

Chapters in Paraguay, Uruguay, Ecuador, and Brazil will be responsible for hosting US participants. Please see the responsibilities listed under US Chapters. 📄

Students' Water-Testing Tool Wins \$40,000

University of Washington engineering students have won an international contest for their design to monitor water disinfection using the sun's rays. The students will share a \$40,000 prize from the Rockefeller Foundation and are now working with nonprofits to turn their concept into a reality.

Team member Jacqueline Linnes, who recently completed her bioengineering doctorate, traveled to Bolivia last year with the UW chapter of Engineers Without Borders. While there, she and other students treated their drinking water by leaving it in plastic bottles in the sun.

The concept is an old one. Solar disinfection of water in plastic bottles, also called SODIS, is promoted by many nonprofits. It offers a cheap and easy way to reduce some of the roughly 1.5 million diarrhea-related children's deaths each year. But global adoption has been slow, partly because it is hard to know when the water is safe to drink.

The UW entered a competition to design an indicator for Fundación SODIS, a Bolivia-based nonprofit dedicated to testing and promoting this method. Solar disinfection in water bottles removes more than 99.9 percent of bacteria and viruses, with results similar to chlorination.

Read more at http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2010-12/uow-swt122010.php 📄

Elena Jimenez Honored at Social Event

On January 14, a number of Partners members joined



Elena Daza de Jimenez at the home of Hank and Ellen Graden for a potluck social evening.

Elena spoke to the group about how important it is to know more about each other in the opposite

Partnership, to make their "partners" more real.

While in NC, she visited Broughton High School and spoke with administrators about the upcoming Youth Ambassadors visit.



Elena also met with Kitty Stalberg and Hank Graden to discuss aspects of the Annual Plan.

Elena is visiting in North Carolina to spend time with her sons Augusto and Franz, and with Franz's family. A new baby girl was born to Erika and Franz at the end of December.

From the POA Website: Interested in making a difference by combating climate change?

Apply to be a Climate Change Fellow!

Throughout 2011, 43 professionals from the United States and Colombia will participate in fellowships, harnessing the power of citizen diplomacy and linking it to long-term engagement around climate change issues that affect multiple communities. Read more at:



http://www.partners.net/partners/Climate_Change_Fellows.asp?SnID=1975952026

Continuation of Projects in Beekeeping and More

Steve Gibson and Don Hopkins will be in Cbba from Feb 20- March 10, 2011. They will be working on a beekeeping project in Cochabamba, Mizque and the Chaco region. They also expect to renew many contacts such that other trips can be supported by the "flex funding." Mauricio Ramirez is organizing the schedule and this year has made a commitment to restart many past projects. Most promising prospects are the Dairy project and the Fruit and Vegetable Project.

Partners of the Americas to Host 2nd IAVE World Youth Summit in 2011

Partners of the Americas has been selected by the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) to host the 2nd World Youth Summit, to be held Nov 3-5, 2011 in Barranquilla, Colombia. With the Universidad del Norte, Partners and IAVE will bring youth together from all corners of the world to explore ways to increase social inclusion and civic participation through volunteer service.



Humanitarian Projects in Rural Bolivia Supported by NC Chapter, POA --by Steve Gibson



In 2008 the project was installing a waterline for a school in a rural area. The region is semi arid and the lack of water for people and crops is critical. Pictured are Jose Terrazos and another

community volunteer looking to the West to see if a thunderstorm will develop. In 2009 the project was to refurbish living quarters for the teachers at another school as well as quarters for 5 students who would have had to commute 2 hours each day. Students got a break from classes to gather stones for the floor's bases.

The project in 2010 was to build a latrine at a very remote community school. The children in the area had very high rates of health problems related to dysentery. The school itself was also refurbished and the students provided with



school and family health items. Pictured is the project at the beginning

Donations in support of a similar project in 2011 can be sent to NCPOA, PO Box 28221, Raleigh, NC, 27611-8221

Partners Counts Don't forget to register your volunteer hours for Partners Counts. For our own future as an organization, we must be able to show the true value of the time we, as volunteers, put into our activities.

Partners Counts enables us to say that for every dollar donated to Partners, we mobilize 5, 10, or 20 times that value in volunteer time. This is a powerful statement to government and other donors of the nonprofit sector in the hemisphere. Register your hours via Internet through the website www.partners.net/partnerscounts or send in the time sheet by email (partnerscounts@partners.net) or regular mail to the addresses at the bottom of the timesheet. **This should be completed by the end of January for last year's hours (2010).**

NCPOA seeks Vice-Presidential Candidate

Our Chapter is hoping to soon identify a person who can assume the role of Vice-President/President-Elect. The Vice-President's role is to exercise all of the functions of the President if that person is unable. It is a 2-year term, in this case, ending in December of 2011. At that time, it is assumed that the VP/President Elect would move into the position of President. In addition, the Vice-President/President-Elect coordinates Program Subcommittees. If you would like to propose yourself or some other member for this position, please connect Kitty Stalberg.

Cbba Partners to Elect New Officers in February

Elections for the Cochabamba Partners of the Americas are usually held in December, but needed to be postponed until the February meeting this year. At that time, President Janet Morales de Villazón will finish her term and Daisy Marlene Mercado will take over the presidency.

Seeking Mentor for EWB Trip to Bolivia

The young engineers of Engineers Without Borders are looking for a mentor who has experience with water projects. EWB-USA guidelines state that we need a mentor who has at least 5 years experience as an engineer in industry. However if someone has experience in water systems then that rule may be waived by those higher up in the organization. We would also appreciate a mentor who would want to go on more than one trip with us.

We are planning to travel in summer 2010, and would like to go for at least 2 weeks. We would pay for the mentor's plane ticket.

Contact: Andrew Santos- apsantos@ncsu.edu
www.ewbnscu.org

North Carolina Partners of the Americas Officers:

Kitty Stalberg, President
 h 919-942-7882; kit@mindspring.com
 ---Vice-President – position temporarily vacant
 Carlos Vargas, Past President/Advisor
 h 704-825-0586; cvargas@mindspring.com
 Sallie Abbas, Secretary, Newsletter Editor
 h919-467-0382; swabbas@nc.rr.com
 Judy Gibson, Treasurer
 h704-487-4228 hbgibson@hotmail.com

Board Members:

Includes the Executive Committee above, and Hank Graden (chair), Don Hopkins, Rod Brooks, Lyle Blevins, Cathy Spargo, Heike Meissner, Rodney Swink, Larry Nelson, Ben Timmons, Steve Gibson, Bill Hasse, Virginia Freedman, Judy Page, Mary Helen Ferguson, George Wilson, March Krotee, Karen Brown, Deborah Wilkes, and Robert Pyle

Subcommittees and Chairs:

Culture and the Arts -Martha Keravouri, Art Waber, Lee Moore
 Health and Clinical Practices-Carlos Vargas, Ben Timmons
 Agriculture -Steve Gibson
 Emergency Preparedness- Steve Cohen
 Education –Karen Brown, Deborah Wilkes
 Sports -March Krotee
 Membership - Celia Fuller, Cathy Spargo
 The committees Women and Development and Democratic Initiatives are not active.
 We are in need of someone to lead the Social Committee

Officers of the Cochabamba Partners

Presidente: Janet Morales jamobar@gmail.com
 Vice-Presidente: Marlene Mercado mar_daysi@hotmail.com
 Secretario: Guillermo Zubieta guichyzv@gmail.com
 Tesorero: Gloria Terceros: gloriatercerosm@gmail.com
 Secretario de Actas: Cintia Esprella: cintiaeh155@hotmail.com
 Past-Presidente: Elena Daza: elediime@gmail.com

On the Calendar (2011): dates and locations of some future events are tentative

Executive Committee meeting	February 14 March 14	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board Meeting*	March 19	TBA
Executive Committee meeting	April 11, May 9 June 13	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board meeting*, Mid-year meeting	June 18	Cyberspace, via Skype
Executive Committee meeting	July 11 August 8 September 12	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board Meeting*	September 17	TBA
Executive Committee meeting	October 10 November 14	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board meeting*, Annual Meeting	Dec. 10	TBA

*Quarterly Board Meetings are held on Saturdays, 9:30-12:00