



# COCHA-LINA HERALD

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

Winter 2014

## Newsbits

- Information on 2014 Youth Ambassadors is [available](#)
- Partners of the Americas is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in [Brazil!](#) If you have ideas about celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the local chapter, NC Partners of the Americas, please email Sallie Abbas at [swabbas@nc.rr.com](mailto:swabbas@nc.rr.com)
- You can still sign up for 100,000 Strong in the Americas [campaign](#)
- NC POA's agricultural committee raised \$1300 locally for stoves to be installed in Bolivian schools. In the future, the agricultural committee will work on installing kitchen areas in Bolivian schools.
- Committee environmental chair Darren Legge visited Cochabamba to develop a [residential green rating system](#) for use in Bolivia and visited [the living house](#) of Bolivia's most famous architect, Mario Moscoso
- Are you on Twitter? Partners of the Americas' name is [@PartnersAmerica](#)
- Bolivia's Evo Morales [Assumes Presidency Of G77 UN Coalition](#)
- Was 2013 the "[Year of Quinoa?](#)"
- Bolivia Urges Cocoa Leaf to be Taken Off of [Internationally Banned Drugs List](#)

Washington DC— A live webcast of the press conference held for promoting the Obama's administration 100,000 STRONG initiative was broadcast on January 17, 2014 with Partners of the Americas' work being spotlighted.

The opening speaker was Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, who made remarks about how very important education is to international relations and, particularly, to our hemisphere. Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Roberta Jacobson mentioned her time as a student in Chile as being very influential in her life. Ben Rose of NSA said, "This is bigger than governments; it is as big as all the people of the hemisphere."

Secretary of State John Kerry acknowledged Steve Vetter, President of Partners of the Americas: "I'm really pleased to see that Steve Vetter is here. He leads the Partners of the Americas, and that's created opportunities across the hemisphere for more than five decades, no small accomplishment." Some of his comments: "Education is the great equalizer of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."

Obama's initiative was launched to improve connections with the Caribbean and Latin America. "I am proud that the State Dept has taken this on. Many U.S. corporations are supporting this," Obama said, "We haven't devoted enough to building relationships with countries in this hemisphere." This initiative may help change that.



Press conference held with Roberta Jackson, Kathleen Townsend Kennedy, Joe Biden, and John Kerry. Matt Clausen, vice-president of POA, seated in front of Kerry.

## OBAMA LAUNCHES 100,000 STRONG INITIATIVE: INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR LATIN-AMERICAN/CARRIBEAN/ US EXCHANGES



Clockwise from top left: Ben Rose, Joe Biden, Roberta Jacobson, Kathleen Kennedy

Vice-president Joseph Biden said we must not overlook the 275 million strong young people in this hemisphere. A trillion dollars in trade can be developed. I believe that economic energy and might in the world will be in the Western Hemisphere – It will depend on the population being connected."

Currently there are just 45 thousand students going from the US to Latin America. By 2020, the goal is 100K students from the U.S. to Latin America and the Caribbean and 100K from those countries to the U.S. This kind of exchange will be the cement that holds growth together, adding economic growth for all. There will be a new synergy. This is more than just another government program. There will be new grants and programs for Latin American

students to US universities. This partnership will be of equal benefit to all partner countries. The greatest advantage is exposure. This impacts stability and benefits those who experience education in a different country. "But we have to invest in feeding young minds, and give opportunities." "We see this as expanding not just arithmetically, but geometrically." Young people who see that someone like them is doing it will say, "I can do that."



John Kerry talking about 100,000 initiative.

# TEACHER -IN- RESIDENCE TESTIMONIAL



Claudia Rivera and Karen Brown attending the Kruger Brothers Bluegrass Concert at Yadkin Cultural Center,

**CHARLOTTE-** The main purpose of my trip was to have the opportunity to know what it is like to live in the US, the most important English-speaking country for a month, which will improve my English teaching abilities.

The activities that took place in the project included cultural trips (Raleigh, Rocky Mountain, Jacksonville, Wilmington, Franklin VA, Sanford, Fayetteville, Yadkinville, Charlotte), the Regional TESOL Conference in Myrtle Beach SC, visits, meetings, class observations and trainings (community colleges, literacy councils, preschools, elemen-

tary, middle and high schools, charters, magnets), Thanksgiving celebration, and a cultural travel to Washington DC and New York (by my own).

I also had the privilege to make presentations about my country, Bolivia, for students of different ages (ESL and Spanish students) and met amazing ESL teachers as well as Partners fellows.

I did accomplish the purpose of my trip. I am very thankful to Partners and all the people involved in the Teacher-in-Residence Project that made it possible. My guests helped me to deal with every small difficulty I encoun-

tered. The host Partners chapter prepared the schedule and coordinated traveling, home staying, and academic, cultural, and social activities. Everything.

I am ready to share in this year all that I learned with my colleagues, my Chapter in La Paz and my community. I will also give free English classes for the street children at ALA-LAY Center.

-Claudia Rivera

## TEACHER-IN-RESIDENCE THROUGHOUT NC



Rosemary Zeballos at Estes Hill elementary school



Cape Fear Literacy Council. L to R: Barbara Biba, Karen Brown,



Claudia Rivera at community college.



Claudia Rivera making a presentation about Cochabamba, Bolivia in a classroom at Hough High School in Charlotte, NC.

## 2014 TEACHER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM: EXPANDING THE TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The NC Partners' chapter was pleased to host two Teachers-in-Residence- Romery Zeballos from Cochabamba and Claudia Rivera- from La Paz. The TIRs' visited over six cities, giving classroom presentations in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in Charlotte, Raleigh, Chapel Hill, and Fayetteville. The students, in turn prepared questions to learn more about Bolivia from our TIRS. This year, TIRs visited a number of intensive adult English lan-

guage programs in the community colleges located in Fayetteville, Wilmington, Raleigh, and Charlotte.

The TIR experience is coordinated with the professional development conference TESOL ( Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages). The 2014 conference was a regional conference held in Myrtle Beach, Scand and included nine states and international keynote speakers. The chair of the 2014 TIRS, Karen Brown, and the TIRS gave a presenta-

tion on the ESOL professional development plan for local teachers in Bolivia. The online ESOL courses include training on second language acquisition, formative assessment, second language teaching, and, upon completion, Bolivian teachers are awarded a certificate. This program was developed through a federally-funded initiative.

On the weekend, the TIRs were hosted by families and visited NC museums and even attended a bluegrass concert.

-Karen Brown

## SEEKING FUNDING FOR TEACCH/ ADOS AUTISM TRAINING IN BOLIVIA

**Bolivia**– NC Partners are collaborating with professors from UNC-Chapel Hill and Ms. Roman, president and CEO of Bilingual Multi-cultural Services, to design a 2-week series of seminars to familiarize professionals and parents about the principles of TEACCH and ADOS. The purpose will be led by all or some of the persons listed below: UNC-CH: Linda Watson, Jessica Kinard, Pam DiLamore, Debbi Reinhartsen, Maggi Fitch, and Ms. Roman.

The training will be held on April 28 -May 2, 2014. The proposed location for the TEACCH and ADOS training-(1<sup>st</sup>) **first week** would be in Cochabamba or La Paz (not finalized yet) for 2 professionals & 1 parent teams from all 9 Departments of Bolivia; (2<sup>nd</sup>) **second week** a small team will go to La Paz, Cochabamba, Sucre and Santa Cruz to work with a group of professionals and parents. Local arrangements, including home stays in Cochabamba/La Paz need to be developed for the first week and for the teams during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the program.

The training professionals and parents selected from all over Bolivia will be asked to AGREE to provide continuing education back in their local areas after completing the training; the representatives would ideally include 1 parent and 2 professionals from the same city/area so when they return to their city/area and they will continue to work together as a “team.”

Cochabamba/La Paz/Santa Cruz Partners Autism Coordinating Committees are being asked to provide home-stays for up to at least 27 Bolivians and up to 7 other trainers (total about 34) who will attend the training. The purpose of selecting persons from throughout Bolivia is to build a “critical mass” of autism resources (people with skills).

The 3 Bolivian Partnerships are asked to seek funding from the

Bolivian Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Sports to provide stipends for transportation to get to the training and subsistence to the individuals selected, as well as “approved leave of work” for the training. There may also be up to 20 additional participants from Cochabamba/La Paz who will not need home-stays because their home is close to Cochabamba/La Paz. The Cochabamba/La Paz Partners Autism Coordinating Committees will be asked to find a location/venue for the event, provide publicity, arrange for translation at the first week seminar, and find sponsors for snacks and other local amenities.

A selection process for choosing participants from throughout Bolivia will need to be developed. It is suggested that the original autism Coordinating Committees from Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and La Paz form a selection committee in the 3 cities, formulate a plan to recruit at least 2 professionals and 1 parent from each of the 9 Departments of Bolivia and also select a number to be determined by the Cochabamba/La Paz/Santa Cruz Partners (estimated 27 individuals from 9 Departments. Others from Cochabamba/La Paz/Santa Cruz Partners are identified as “at-large” candidates). The “at-large” candidates from Cochabamba/La Paz/Santa Cruz should be determined by the number of home-stays available for the entire group or

include people who reside sufficiently close to the city of Cochabamba/La Paz that they will not need a home-stay. The total group selected should not exceed 50 people.

We are seeking funding for international airline tickets for: (6) people at the estimated cost of \$1,500 per ticket=\$9000; intra-Bolivia travel for 6 people at \$150 each=\$900. (One presenter will only be in Bolivia for 1 week.) Total transportation \$11,400. Translation services at the conference for 5 days in Cochabamba/La Paz @ 8 hours per day (40 hours) and \$75 per hour=\$3,000. **TOTAL FOR THE PROJECT IS \$12,900.** The NC Partners of the Americas is actively seeking funding for all or part of the expenses. In-kind resources (goods and services) are estimated to amount to \$40,000. For years, Bolivians expressed concern about the lack of services and resources for people with autism as the result of the increased number of people diagnosed with Autism Spectrum disorder. The overall goal of the group is to create “The Autism Society of Bolivia” which will concentrate on a wide-range of efforts to become known as “One Strong Voice” for autism and to pursue new goals for the autism population in the country. Accomplishments so far have been a needs assessment done by Ms. Lucia Mendez in 2010, a two-day conference on Autism Spectrum Disorder already held in Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and La Paz during the last two weeks of June, 2012.

(cont. on page 6)

### Partners Blog

([www.partnersoftheamericas.net](http://www.partnersoftheamericas.net))

**Don't forget to check the Partners blog, which is different than the website, to find out what is going on in other partnerships. What else is featured? Youth programs, follow-up articles on Colombia, sports for development programs, sustainable energy, employment, and so much more!**

Pay your dues easily online now! **Go to the Website** [www.ncboliviapartner.org](http://www.ncboliviapartner.org), go to the **DONATE** page, and you'll be able to make a secure payment of dues or other donation!



Gingerbread University competes at the POA gingerbread house competition. The staff at Partners of the Americas has some fun.

**PartnersConnect Features:**  
<https://www.partners.net/Login.asp>

**What Works Library:** The Partners Project Forum to highlight the effective projects throughout our network.

**Partners Pass:** Gives you exclusive and discounted access to select Peer Learning events, conventions, regional meetings, webinars, and other events.

**Partners Market:** Your source for stationery, brochures, promotional materials, apparels, manuals, and safety items.

**Discounts:** Exclusive discounts for Partners of the Americas programs.

**Discounts:** Exclusive discounts for Partners of the Americas programs, events, trainings, and select products in the PartnersMarket.

**Cochabamba Partners**

**President:**

Arq. Rosario Claros  
 Rosario-claros@hotmail.com

**Vice President:**

Lupe Buendia

**Past President:**

Daysi Marlene Mercado V.  
 Mar\_daysi@hotmail.com

**General Secretary:**

Monica Nino de Guzman

**NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS OFFICERS**

Christian Stalberg, President, [chris@stalberg.net](mailto:chris@stalberg.net)

Karen Brown, Vice-president

Sallie Abbas, Past President/Advisor  
 h919-467-0382; [swabbas@nc.rr.com](mailto:swabbas@nc.rr.com)

Kitty Stalberg, Secretary 919-942-7882; [kit@mindspring.com](mailto:kit@mindspring.com)

Judy Gibson, Treasurer  
 h704-487-4228 [hbgibson@hotmail.com](mailto:hbgibson@hotmail.com)

**Board Members:**

Includes the Executive Committee above, and Hank Graden (chair), Karen Brown, Mary Helen Ferguson, Virginia Freedman, Stephen Gibson, Judy Gibson, Hank Graden, Katie Houk, Heike Meissner, Larry Nelson, Katushka Olave, Robert Pyle, John Sabella, Christian Stalberg, Kitty Stalberg, Rodney Swink, Benson Timmons, Carlos Vargas, Deborah Wilkes, Richard Whitmore, L. George Wilson.

**Subcommittees and Chairs:** (chairs are in bold)

Autism Project- **Hank Graden**

Culture and the Arts - **Art Waber**, Martha Keravouri, Lee Moore

Health and Clinical Practices - **Carlos Vargas**, Ben Timmons

Agriculture -**Steve Gibson**, Don Hopkins

Emergency Preparedness- **Steve Cohen**

Education -**Karen Brown**, Laura Cernikova, Richard Whitmore, Deborah Wilkes

Environment and Natural Resources- **Darren Legge**

Sports - **March Krotee**

Membership – **Katushka Olave**

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

Newsletter Editor- **Virginia Freedman**

**GIVING BACK THROUGH EBAY**

Do you sell items on eBay? Do you know that you can designate a portion of the sale to Partners of the Americas? eBay (through PayPal) will periodically send a check to POA. The process is explained below.

**How it works:**



## ANNUAL HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE VISIT SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 22-28, 2014

From 2006 to 2013, Dr. Vargas organized annual visits of teams of volunteer plastic surgeons to Cochabamba, Bolivia, to perform reconstructive surgeries on children of indigent families, victims of previous burn injuries.

The preparations started 4 months before the visits with the recruiting of team members, advice for travel visas, the collecting credentials to be presented to the Medical College of Cochabamba, review and the implementation of the procedures for authorization, by the Bolivian Consulate in Washington, the collection of donations from Wake Forest University, flight and hotel reservations, pre-selection of patients from photographs sent by the Burn Center and almost daily communication with the Cochabamba volunteers.

The preparations for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Medical Team visit to

Cochabamba started 2 months ago with communications with the prospective members and Cochabamba partners. The date: March 22-28, 2014.

Joining the team are: Dr. Malcolm Marks, Chairman of the Department of Reconstructive and Plastic Surgery, WFU, as well as the 2 chief residents of the same service, Dr. Carl Westcott, Professor of Surgery, specialized in endoscopic surgery, Dr. Andrea Fernandez, OB/Gyn Section Head, specialized in Gynecologic Endoscopic Surgery, Dr. Maria Elliot, Resident of the same service, Dr. Todd Stoeckel Plastic Surgeon in private practice in Cary, N.C. and Dr. Charles Mann, ENT also from Cary.

The 7 surgeons will work in close collaboration with Dr. Oscar Romero, Director of the Pediatric Burn Center of Hospital Viedma in



Cochabamba and the surgeons at the Viedma Hospital and at Materno-Infantil Hospital. In eight years of the team visits, the surgeons performed a total of 820 surgical procedures.

At the request of surgeons of Viedma Hospital in Cochabamba Dr. Carl Westcott, Associate professor of Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgery joined the surgical team and performed several laparoscopic surgeries at Viedma Hospital in 2012. He will join the team in 2014 with 2 other surgeons specialized in endoscopic gynecological Surgery.

-Dr. Carlos Vargas

### NCP History

Years ago, a small committee put together a history of our partnership, which was founded in 1976. Kitty Stalberg as past president has written the summary of her two years as president to bring it up to date. It is available in digital form.

### DID YOU SPEND ANYTIME VOLUNTEERING OR ATTENDING MEETINGS IN 2013?

Please fill out the form at  
this link

( [www.partners.net./  
partners/connect-to-  
partners.asp](http://www.partners.net./partners/connect-to-partners.asp)) to report  
your volunteer hours.

Recording and reporting  
Partners Connects hours,  
whether you have done  
lots or a little.... It all  
helps! If you cannot find  
the link, email your hours  
to  
[partnerscounts@partners  
.net](mailto:partnerscounts@partners.net)

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

*I wanted to introduce myself as the new newsletter editor. Partners of the Americas will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and the local chapter is just buzzing with successful projects that have made a difference to Bolivia and the US.*

*I hope the newsletter is engaging for you and want it to be about issues, opportunities, and articles that you will want to read. If you have any ideas for stories, news items, opportunities, you can email them to [nepoanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:nepoanewsletter@gmail.com).*

*Saludos,*

*Virginia Freedman*



**SAVE THE DATE**

September 23-26, 2014

Costão do Santinho Resort



Partners of the Americas announces the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala and Convention in collaboration with the Association of Bilingual National Centers of Latin America (ABLA)

POA Board Chairman, Tasso Lugon says "Costão do Santinho is the "must" in terms of hotel, resort, meeting space and quality in Brasil."

**Come celebrate and build the future in partnership**

Full details coming soon.

## SEEKING FUNDING FOR TEACCH/ADOS AUTISM TRAINING IN BOLIVIA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

A team of volunteers including Rosario Roman, Elizabeth Martinez, and Carol Westby traveled to Bolivia in the Summer of 2013 to follow-up on previous contacts to improve autism services in Bolivia. They met with professionals and parents in Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and La Paz. They visited several organizations serving autistic people, met with officials from the Bolivian Ministry of Health and Sport and the Ministry of Education, as well as a person from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency

(JICA). They provided professional seminars to parent, teachers and professional on introducing new technique and methods of improving behaviors of autistic children. PHASE (III) will be ongoing, which is a collection of data to identify challenges, strengths, priorities and resources related to ASD in Bolivia.

PHASE (IV) the development of a strategic short-term objectives, outlining long-term goals, and strategies to achieve the goals and objectives to improve the capacity in Bolivia to meet the needs of individu-

als with ASD and their families.

In 2013, Peggy Schaeffer Whitby, Ph. D., traveled from Arkansas to the Santa Cruz area to discuss methods of serving persons with autism. A travel grant was provided to the Arkansas Partners of the Americas from the Partners of the Americas, Washington, D.C. It is anticipated that Dr. Schaeffer Whitby will join the existing U.S. consultants on this project. For more information, please contact Hank Graden at hgraden@nc.rr.com.

## AMERICAN YOUTH LEADERS GIVE PRESENTATION AT NC POA MEETING

A mini-reunion at the Annual Meeting of North Carolina Partners of the Americas with three of the participants from the American Youth Leadership Program happened. Nathaniel Vang, Maggie Cardaropoli, and Lindsay Carey presented a summary of their experiences in Paraguay.

The program is similar to the POA Youth Ambassadors program and consisted of a one week orientation in Washington, DC, followed by three weeks in Paraguay, living with host families, interacting with other youth, visiting volunteer and service projects, and getting to know a bit about the country. Upon their return, each participant has a small grant from the U.S. Department of State to start a sustainable community service volunteer project in their home communities, especially one that

could involve other youth.

Lindsay Carey reads the lovely introduction written by Maureen Gleason, another participant, which was used at the start of their debriefing presentation at Partners of the Americas office in Washington, DC. :

*Waking up, the first few sounds I hear are unfamiliar—inviting but different. ... Taking a deep breath, I mentally prepare myself for the words I'm planning on saying to my new parents, worrying about how to specifically articulate my appreciation.... I learned that it didn't matter. Connection with people ... isn't about the words. It's the warm smiles, the curious eyes and the esteemed expressions, the hugs and loud laughter, the smells of baking chip and fresh peach juice, the bumpy roads and tastes of terere. Wordlessly, a country has stolen your heart, leaving you, in return, speech-*

*less. We're going to share with you feelings still inarticulate to ourselves about lessons and ideals instilled through first-hand experience. As we relive these experiences with you, try to feel the unspoken emotion in our stories and hopefully you'll share with us some of the attachment we have for our new home.*

Then each told a part of what their time in Paraguay meant to them, what their families were like, etc. These participants didn't know each other at the start of this experience, but brought together in this AYLP program, formed such strong bonds, became such good friends. They also served as very worthy and well-received young ambassadors from the U.S.A. to Paraguay.

-Sallie Abbas



Three youth ambassadors with Paraguayan flag.



Lindsay Carey reading participant Maureen Gleason's introduction.

### Tentative Dates on the Calendar 2014

Executive Committee meeting	January 14, February 10	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board Meeting*	March 8, 9am-noon	A&T Univ. Greensboro
Executive Committee meeting	April 14 May 12	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board meeting*, Mid-year meeting	June 14	TBD
Executive Committee meeting	July 14, August 11	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board Meeting*	September 13	TBA
Executive Committee meeting	October 13 November 10	Cyberspace, via Skype
Board meeting*, An- nual Meeting	December 13	TBD

\*Quarterly Board meetings are held on Saturdays, 9:30 am –12:00 pm. Members may attend these meetings.

## THANK YOU 2013 DONORS!

Vivian Agudelo	Spurgeon Mackie	C.K. Torrence
Giles & Jennifer Beal	Chuck Meakin	Chris Vandemeer
Randy Beam	Mark Memolo	Chris Vandemeer
B.F. Beasley	Tim Moore	Henry Whiteside
David Belk Cannon Fund	E. Anthony Overton	Jesse Yarborough
Marthe Caldwell	Ted Paige	Steve & Deborah Yates
Alan Clark	William Quarles	
Kevin Dul	Rehobeth UMC	.....And everyone who
Hendricks Foundation	Jeet Singh	committed their time
Fundacion Caritas Felices	T.J. Solomon	and dedication.
Herman Gore	Mike Stanforth	
Ana Gutterez	Dolph Sumner	
Clark Hochradel	Robert & Jane Sumner	
David Kirlin	Henry Thomasen	
Bill Lawson	Ben Timmons	