

Arts & Culture

Cecilia Moreno, choreographer from Cochabamba, has been selected to come to participate in the American Dance Festival (Durham, NC) this summer. Her program is being coordinated by Art Waber and Silvia Quiroga, chairs of the NCPOA and CbbaPOA Arts & Culture sub-committees, respectively.

Education

A committee of Rick Whitmore, Deborah Wilkes, Karen Brown, and Judy Page have identified three outstanding candidates for the Teacher in Residence program. The teacher selected will go for a month about July 20 to work with the teachers at the Centro Boliviano Americano in Cochabamba.

Medical Visit to Cochabamba

Carlos Vargas reports a successful medical team visit in March with 5 plastic surgeons doing approximately 105 surgical procedures in over 45 children (which brings the total to over 710 procedures in 7 years!) and 2 endoscopic-laparoscopic surgeons performing 15 endoscopic surgeries. On the ENT side, over 50 patients were seen. See two nicely made videos of the partnership of Wake Forest University Department of General Surgery and the Hospital Viedma, Universidad Mayor San Simon, Cochabamba, Bolivia <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDnoYd-zU08> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKcMFKUggTU>



American Fellow, Dr. Jimmy Montaña

Dr. Montaña was welcomed by a number of Partners members at the home of Kitty Stalberg, shortly after his arrival in North Carolina. He spent a month here under the American Fellows Program, with a focus on women's health, and especially breast oncology, to take back new knowledge to Cochabamba. He is Quality Control Director, Viedma Hospital Complex.

A note from Dr. Ben Calvo, who arranged the recent American Fellows visit at UNC of Dr. Jimmy Montaña 3/26/12 It was a pleasure to host Dr Jaime Montano for his one-month fellowship on breast diseases at UNC, born out of the contacts of Dr Lisa Carey and hard work by Dr Vargas and Ms Stalberg.



Our objectives of exposing him to the full complement of surgical, medical and radiation oncology specialists as well as the multidisciplinary conference each week was well met. He was able to spend time with each of the groups of physicians as well as very productive time with our radiology and genetics colleagues. He spent a few days with our breast radiologists and a couple of days with radiation oncology. Susan McKenney armed him with extensive written guidelines which were in part developed by her at our program and will serve him well as he develops the program in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

As you can imagine given the depth and breadth of our health sciences campus, Jimmy has been very, very busy and I think getting a great deal out of this month. He has rotated with a total of 3 surgeons both in the operating room and clinics. He also spent a couple of days with me seeing what our institution has to offer beyond breast surgery, such as robotic abdominal surgery, a field in which we lead the world. This last week we will round out any spots we have left uncovered including a side interest he has in burn care given Cochabamba has a high incidence of such.

We hope this program has met with the Department of State expectations, and would be happy to participate in any future opportunities. Please let us know if you need any further followup.

We are also very thankful to the Partners for the Americas group in North Carolina and the work Dr. Vargas Ms Stalberg and others did on behalf of Dr Montano and Bolivia.

*Benjamin F Calvo MD, Chief, Division of Surgical Oncology and Endocrine Surgery
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill*

**Excerpt from Steve Gibson's 2012 Trip Report,
Beekeeping Activities in Cochabamba and Tarija Areas, Bolivia**



The Farmer-to-Farmer (FTF) Cochabamba Coordinator, Mauricio Ramirez remains very interested in beekeeping having been a beekeeper himself. Also Julio Ledo, professor of beekeeping at the Agricultural School in Cochabamba has constantly worked with FTF volunteers. In the entire history of FTF activities in Cochabamba, Julio is the only university agricultural worker to be interested in outreach activities to area farmers at the public institution. We also continually have worked with Greby Caillavy who works with an NGO in the Mizque area of the department. His wife Norma is a very successful honey bee queen producer. Nabor Mendizabal continues to be a main contact for educational activities in beekeeping and currently is employed with an NGO in Tarija. Also Juan Carlos has been employed by an NGO. Thanks to the efforts of Julio and FTF, all of the above now maintain strong ties to the beekeepers in the Bolivian high valley region.

The potential activities for beekeeping remain open ended due to the interest in the area. Even though Bolivia's honey bees are considered Africanized, many colonies are not so defensive thanks in part to the beekeepers selecting for gentleness. The interest remains strong and the market for their products is likewise.

My main objective for this trip was to introduce some unique technology for removing feral honeybee colonies from structures, primarily the concrete power poles all over Bolivia. The poles are hollow and have several holes about half an inch in diameter, making them ideal locations for honey bee swarms to settle and establish colonies. This method has been perfected by Kentucky beekeeper, Cleo Hagan. I talked with Cleo and he offered some very useful advice on how to customize devices to suit the general situation.

In Cochabamba, Mauricio and I assist with some rural development humanitarian activities. I raise funds from past FTF volunteers and also rural churches. Last year we began working with an NGO, CEDESOL, that manufactures high efficiency wood stoves. The funding we have been able to raise has provided stoves to 24 of the 43 rural schools in the Anzaldo school district. This area is part of the very needy Caine river valley region, considered to be the most needy region in all of Bolivia. In the news it is referred to the region "North of Potosi." Fuel for cooking is in short supply. Also the smoke and burning hazard is very much a problem in the region. The school director, Ruben told us that the use of the stoves has decreased firewood use by 80%. The stoves are provided to the schools with the idea that some of the rural families will adopt by either purchasing the stoves from CEDESOL or copy in some way the design. An unexpected development occurred-the municipality of Anzaldo is offering some cost share if rural families purchase the stoves. Some of the funds raised also have been used to repair and improve the schools themselves and the living quarters for the teachers who typically commute to work in the rural areas and have to stay due to travel times. Over the years as FTF coordinator I have been involved in many humanitarian activities. This one by far is the most sustainable since it addresses family economics, safety and health concerns of children and adults and environmental issues in the semiarid region. The stoves emit remarkably very little smoke and the smoke that is emitted is directed out of harm's way by a 12-foot chimney. No doubt in the years to come the adoption of this technology will greatly reduce eye health problems and burn injuries among the young children of the region.

My specific mission was to introduce the colony removal technique. Since feral colonies are so frequent especially in the power poles it just makes sense to harvest the bees and if possible later more of the bees and the queen. One operation near Tarata is surrounded by the concrete power poles and the beekeeper, Juan Carlos counted over 20 within walking distance of his managed colonies. Harvesting feral bees also removes them as a hazard to the power company worker and the general public and reduces the competition with the managed colonies. In time as the colonies are managed for gentleness, hopefully the Africanized trait of excessive defensiveness will be diluted and both beekeepers and society will benefit.

The Cochabamba beekeepers association and beekeeping workers also asked me to share with them how our associations in NC operate and the type of activities we conduct. I am not a beekeeping specialist but have started a local association and coordinated its activities so in this sense I am able to deliver some ideas, hopefully some that will strengthen the Bolivian associations. Extension and outreach activities that many of our US citizens take for granted were shared with Bolivian NGO workers and beekeepers as well.

Prior to the field activities we conducted several short meetings to explain the cardboard nucleus hives used to trap feral colonies. The first was in Cochabamba, the next was in Tarija with the leaders of the Tarija association and the third was in Emborozo with leaders of that local association. The way the device works was explained and picture accounts of the activity itself was given. All agreed that trapping feral bees out of the poles and other structures will greatly benefit Bolivian beekeeping.

I was asked to be the speaker at the Cochabamba beekeepers association. Thanks to the wonders of digital cameras and the PowerPoint program I was able to show the devices in action. The one in Cochabamba was successful in removing a start for a nucleus colony while I was in town and we were able to show these promising results.

One other activity we had planned but not able to follow through on was introducing new strawberry varieties. Two of these are started from seed and some others available from daughter plants. The varieties offer much better taste than many of standard varieties selected mostly for yield and berry size. I left the seed of the 2 seeded varieties with Mauricio and he was to take to a friend and organic producer in Punata when the weather improved. The producer's

wife is also planning on making jams and marmalades suitable for diabetics and we will share this information and experience also. Diabetes is common in Bolivia due to the high carb diet.

While in Emborozo Nabor told several beekeepers about our past work with locally fabricated hydraulic ram pumps. One beekeeper who also raises fish (carp and pacu) was very interested in this concept since his operation is near a river and the river has enough of a drop to operate a pump. The lift will not be too much so it is possible that indeed this will be a viable way to pump water to his ponds for aeration and replenishing water.

Even though in the news the relations between the US and Bolivia seem strained, all our volunteers report that they are well received and of course feel safe. David Whitfield the founder of CEDESOL responded to my comment on a desire for our 2 countries to once again have ambassadors. He told me and an intern with the organization that Mauricio directs that we as volunteers are the true ambassadors. Working in rural areas is indeed an experience many POA volunteers do not have and we as FTF volunteers are indeed fortunate.

Reflections on the technical side of the trip mainly involve us as US beekeepers getting more familiar with the Africanized honeybee. From my standpoint I feel the problem might be overestimated. Indeed many times I asked "Are you sure these bees are Africanized?" I could tell a difference but working the bees with skill can result in bees that seemingly are as gentle as many of ours. Don Hopkins sets the best example of working bees to avoid defensive behavior. Also in NC beekeepers do have individual colonies that seem almost as defensive as some of the defensive colonies we have worked in prior trips. If we get the Africanized honeybee in NC, very likely they will be less defensive than areas in the more southern part of the US.

The spinoff activity involving the high efficiency wood stoves was very rewarding. I was happy to hear that some of the campesino families are purchasing the stoves on their own based on what they saw at the schools. This project is so easy to administer since the NGO, CEDESOL does the training, etc. I hope that when all the Anzaldo district schools have the stoves, hopefully by next year that we can start with the other Cochabamba municipality in the Caine river valley.



Connecting with POA

Jóvenes en Acción

From Elizabeth Auciello: We are currently preparing a competitive proposal bid for the US Department of State (DOS) regarding the 2012-2014 Jóvenes en Acción (JEA) Program! The JEA program will bring approximately 35 high school students from Mexico, aged 15-17, to the US each year for a 4 to 5 week exchange in the summer of 2013 and 2014 focused on civic education, community service, and youth leadership development. Subthemes include how local communities can develop a culture of lawfulness by addressing problems related to gangs, violence, substance abuse, or social disintegration.

During the 5 week exchange, approximately 15-20 participants will spend the first 2 weeks in an intensive English Language Training and Leadership Curriculum component. Participants will either be staying in dorm-style housing or homestays and work closely with a partner University in North Carolina. The third and fourth weeks, to take place in different host community, will be a Hands-on Engagement and Community Leadership component.

Participants will be staying in homestays and learning about culture, history and society of the host community through site visits, service projects and workshops. The final week of the exchange will take place in Washington DC where participants will have the opportunity to meet with various institutions and the DOS while finalizing their community action projects.

FOUNDATION GRANTS 2012

Dennis Shaw Memorial Scholarship will assist young people of limited financial means who 1.) Have traveled on a Partners of the Americas administered grant or program or 2.) Are members of a Partners of the Americas chapter. The purpose of the Scholarship is to cover expenses associated with pursuing higher education at any university in the Western Hemisphere. Examples of potential academic expenses include: a) Travel expenses to and from university; B.) Textbooks and supplies; C.) Course fees that are not covered by scholarships or other financial aid; D.) Opportunities for travel or study abroad that the student would not normally be able to pursue for financial reasons.

Drs. Homer and Maurine Venters Health Endowment Fund The Venters Health Fund is to be used as seed money or as a start-up fund for a health project and it provides only one grant of up to USD\$750. The Health Endowment Fund provides an annual grant of up to USD\$750 to fully or partially support a project in the health field.

Jerry Perpich Endowment for Youth Leadership This award will be made to a Partners chapter that has effectively attracted young volunteers to Partners through innovative activities or programs. These programs will have offered youth leadership opportunities either within the chapter, within the program itself, or ideally, both. The winning chapter will receive a cash award of \$750 in addition to a citation/ certificate. To be considered for the Perpich Endowment, the chapter activities/ programs/ projects described must have taken place within the past two years.

Madelyn L. Laschober Endowment for Youth, Education, and Micro- enterprise Development The Laschober Endowment Fund provides an annual grant of USD\$1,000 to support a project in the fields of youth, education, or

microenterprise development. The family of Madelyn L. Laschober, mother of long-time Partners Washington-Chile volunteer member Paula J. Laschober, created this endowment fund in her memory.

Pixote Literacy Fund The purpose of the Pixote Fund is that of teaching literacy to children from 6 to 16 years old in order to improve their possibilities for a promising future. The Fund Pixote for teaching literacy offers grants to the chapters of Mexico, Central America, South America, the Caribbean and Brazil for them to work in collaboration with religious organizations of any denomination.

Organizational Development Grant Organizational development grants are for projects that advance one or more components of the Excellence Program, such as: leadership development, communications, fundraising, and membership. These grants can support board training in governance, membership recruitment and retention drives, improvement of communications within and between chapters, and creation of websites, among many other activities.

The Foundation Board reviews proposals based on plans that contain the following characteristics:

- **Creative and innovative projects** that could serve as organizational development models for other partnerships;
- An indication of the **ability** of the chapter or partnership **to carry out the project effectively** (e.g. clear goals that lead to meeting the spirit of the Excellence Program and monitoring and evaluation systems in place.)
- **Sustainability:** Activities that go beyond the life of the grant; including the recruitment of project leaders and/or participants into the chapter, and tangible support and involvement of the counterpart chapter;
- **Clear and detailed budgets** and creative use of resources to support the project. Contributions from other sources – both in-kind and in cash – are very important.

Deadline for Applications: June 8, 2012

Winners will be announced on: June 29th, 2012

All application materials available at www.partners.net/foundation

Carnaval in Oruro just seems to get bigger and better every year. A video of one spectacular group, Diablada Urus 2012, can be seen at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUHmyK40_qU



NC Partners has paid our organizational dues to Partners of the Americas. **Have you paid your dues to NCPOA?** Please take a moment to check, and if you find that you haven't (and we do need your continuing support), you may send a check to

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