



COCHA-LINA HERALD

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

Newsbits

- **Foundation grants** for chapters are open until August 2016.
- Registration for the NC Partners international conference is [here](#)
- **Article about** Darius Stanton's vintage clothes company and how this helps the environment.
- **Volunteered with the national Partners office or a local chapter? Count your hours for PartnersCounts.**
- Looking for a customized internship that will develop your leadership skills? Information for PIP is [here](#).
- **Partners has donated 47,000 books to Panama.**
- **Read how Bolivia, the country with the highest incidence of gender violence, is [combatting it](#).**
- **Bolivia's [altiplano](#) is one of the best places to see the Milky Way**



Cochabamba and La Paz, Bolivia

From March 10th to March 23rd, two members of the North Carolina Partners' chapter traveled to Bolivia to present the results from their project entitled, "Leapfrogging to a Green Building Code in Bolivia." Darius A. Stanton II and Theodora Tran, two-thirds of a Duke University Masters project team, spent a little less than two weeks in Bolivia, presenting their research findings to public officials, university students, local engineering and architect societies, the United Nations, and the U.S. Green Building Council. Darius traveled to Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and ended his trip by meeting Theodora and Ursula Bustillos-Daza in La Paz. Theodora spent the majority of her trip gathering information and presenting in La Paz.

Prior to going to Bolivia, the masters project team, which also included Partners member Darren Legge, conducted a feasibility study. This study evaluated the challenges and benefits that implementing a green building code could pose on Bolivian municipalities. The team also created online surveys and asked stakeholders from Bolivia and the United States to complete. The Bolivian stakeholders were asked what problems and benefits they could foresee when presenting a green building code to the public sector, private sector, and general public. Past research concluded that there was not a standard building code so the group also sought to gain more



Darius and the Duke University team sharing findings at universities and municipal governments in La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz.

NC Partners Making a Difference in Bolivia's Environment: Update on a Green Building Code in Bolivia



Darius Stanton's green building code presented at San Simon University in Bolivia.

data.

For the stakeholders from the United States, which were primarily building and construction professionals, or worked directly with either the International Code Council or the U.S. Green Building Council. The stakeholders from the U.S. were asked to give their opinions on the passing of green building codes in developing countries, and what challenges they have witnessed nations face in the past.

The information that the three team members acquired from the feasibility study and online surveys were then presented in March in the following cities: Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, La Paz, Sacaba, and Tiquipaya. In each of these cities, the team presented to staff of the municipal government.

In many instances, the team

was surprised to find that most municipal governments already had a formal set of building codes, along with environmental policies, however enforcement was not emphasized.

The main objectives for traveling to Bolivia in March was to present their research findings, introduce municipal government agencies to the International Code Council and connect stakeholders from all the municipalities that the team visited.

The team was successful in meeting these objectives. The group presented information to various governmental, academic and private and public organizations. By traveling to all of the cities mentioned, the team was able to provide contact information of various stakeholders within each city. This has helped

NC Partners Making a Difference in Bolivia's Environment: Update on a Green Building Code in Bolivia (cont. from page 1)

Save the Date!
Next
Board Meeting,
Saturday,
September 10,
2016

Location: TBA

(cont. from page 1) the organizations and various stakeholders connect, understand the current work being done to implement a green building code, and simply facilitate more conversations on the topic of green building and green building policies. After every presentation, a team member was sure to pass on the contact information of the International Code Council to not only the stakeholders in charge, but to the entire audience. Most importantly, we wished to connect architects, engineers, law makers and

public officials from all of the cities that we visited, to ensure that this project could continue to be executed, but by those affected by the building codes or therefore lack of a green building code.

Concluding the research project at Duke University, the team recognized that for a green building code to be successfully implemented, more sustainable design projects must first be completed and widely promoted. These pilot sustainable building projects can serve as proven examples to further illustrate the benefits of implementing and enforcing a green building code at the local and federal level in Bolivia.

Social for Ursula Bustillos Daza and Anita Crowley

When: After the board meeting, 2:30 pm, September 10

Where: Katushka Olave's house, 9 Spreading Oak Ct, Durham NC 27713, [\(919\) 491-0269](tel:9194910269).

What: a light wine, cheese, and dessert social

Why: to welcome back Teacher-in-Residence Anita Crowley and Bolivian Environmental subcommittee chair Ursula Bustillos Daza

Please RSVP Katushka if you are coming.

Farewell to Kathy Johnson

Leigh Duque, InterAct Executive Director, recently announced that Kathy Johnson, who has been an invaluable member of the InterAct team since 1996, is leaving the agency. From her first role as a children's counselor to her leadership in the creation of InterAct's Family Safety and Empowerment Center, Kathy was an integral part of the success of InterAct for more than twenty years. Duque states, "Kathy leaves a legacy of unconditional commitment, dedication, integrity, and excellence that will continue to be remembered and will inspire us long after her departure."

Kathy is the new Executive Director of [Pendleton Place](#), in Greenville, South Carolina. Pendleton Place is an organization

with a mission very similar to InterAct, to keep children safe and support families in crisis through prevention, assessment, and intervention. A farewell reception was held for Kathy on July 21 from, 4:30-6:30, at White Memorial Presbyterian Church, Raleigh.

Kathy's resignation e-mail to the NC Partner's Board stated, "Hi, Karen. I know that you already have the news of my leaving and moving to South Carolina, but I wanted to make sure that I sent you an email to formally resign from the board. I have so enjoyed working with Partners of the Americas for these many years and appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Board with such amazing people who are making incredible impacts in our

community and abroad. Thank you to each and every one of the volunteers who work tirelessly to keep everything running smoothly so that you can continue to impact North Carolina and Bolivia. Please keep in touch.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be part of such an amazing group of people! Keep up the great work! I will look into the South Carolina Chapter when I get there and hope to still stay involved in the Partners mission there. With sincere gratitude, Kathy"

Hank Graden recently met with Keri Christensen, Associate Executive Director of Programs, to discuss new collaborations between organizations in Cochabamba, InterAct and the NC Partners.

TWO 2016 YOUTH AMBASSADORS TO COLOMBIA SELECTED FROM NORTH CAROLINA

This year, the competition was particularly high for representing North Carolina as a youth ambassador. There were 14 NC applicants for the youth ambassador position and two applicants for the mentor position. Riley Meese from Pinehurst, NC and Katerina Lamm from Durham, NC were chosen out of 59 applicants total. The youth ambassadors went to Colombia July 5th - July 26th for their cultural exchange and to participate in service and leadership workshops.

Katerina Lamm's interests vary from tennis and yoga to baking and science. She has volunteered with organizations like the American Red Cross, Blood and Platelet Center, Durham Parks and Recreation as a donation station and special events volunteer. She dreams of pursuing a career in the field of International Relations and Health. Katerina wants to promote health preventative strategies in her community, help people attain a healthy lifestyle and access nutritious foods and hopes to make these interests part of her community service project in North Carolina.

Riley is from Pinehurst, North Carolina and is a very active young woman. One of her dreams is pursuing a career as a Midwife in the program Doctors Without Borders which combines her passion for helping others and her wanderlust. As a Youth Ambassador, she hopes to experience a different culture, practice her Spanish, and expand her understanding about the world. In the future, she wants to create and promote more opportunities for young people from her community such as providing the youth in her community with environmental awareness activities.

A requirement of the program is for youth ambassadors to come back to their community and use what they learned throughout the exchange to design and implement service projects that benefit their communities.

For more information, please go to the [Partners' Facebook page](#).



Riley Meese



Katerina Lamm

VENCEDORAS PROGRAM IN BOLIVIA

In 2015, Partners received additional funding from CAF-Development Bank of Latin America and the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia to bring *Vencedoras* to El Alto, Bolivia. It plans to reach 450 young women over two years. A group of 200 young women have already started the program, and are currently finishing up their vocational training in one of the following areas: baking, hairstyling, garment-making, soccer coaching, community project management, and university preparation.

Although the *Vencedoras* participants have yet to start their internships, the young women have already voiced the impact that the program is having on their lives.

DINOSAUR FOOTPRINT FOUND IN BOLIVIA

One of the largest ever dinosaur footprints has been found in Bolivia. It is more than a meter across and thought to have belonged to a type of dinosaur called an *Abelisaurus*. It was unearthed in a site near the Bolivian capital, Sucre.

The footprints, found on the hill of Cal Orcko close to the Bolivian capital of Sucre, are about 65 million years old. In 2006, about 5,000 footprints had already been discovered in this area, belonging to tyrannosaurs, theropods and other kinds of reptiles. Sucre's mayor Moises Torres announced he will ask the UNESCO to register the footprints in the list of world heritage sites.



Looking For Drivers

Environmental subcommittee chair Ursula Bustillo Daza will be visiting Sept. 7th and needs to get to and from Charlotte on September 11th and 14th.

Please contact Darren Legge at darren.legge@gmail.com if you can volunteer.

Pay your dues easily online now! **Go to the Website www.ncboliviapartners.org, go to the DONATE page, and you'll be able to make a secure payment of dues or other donation!**

Cochabamba Partners

President: Lic. Lupe Buendia

Vice-President: Danny Balderama

General Secretary: Celia Calani

Treasurer: Silvia Quiroga

Environmental

Subcommittee: Mike Valdivia

Education/Arts/Culture: Silvia Quiroga

Mujer and Familia:

Lic. Claudia Jimenez and Univ. Alejandra Fuentes

Dra. Marlene Mercado

Sports, Rehabilitation:

Phoebe Johnson

Science and Technology:

Dr. Saul Escalera

Health: Vacant

NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS OFFICERS

Karen Brown, President
Deborah Wilkes, Vice-President
Virginia Freedman, Secretary
Laura Cernikova, Treasurer
Christian Stalberg, Past President

Members: Includes the Executive Committee above and Hank Graden, Sallie Abbas, Judy Gibson, Steve Gibson, Katushka Olave, Carlos Vargas, Ivo A. Pestana, Benson Timmons, Lori Snyder, Jessica Kinard, Keyla Duin, Richard Whitmore, Kathryn Johnson, Jaclyn Coats, John Vickers.

Subcommittees and Chairs: (chairs are in bold)

Autism Project- **Hank Graden**
Culture and the Arts - **Daniel Johnson**, Kitty Stalberg,
Health and Clinical Practices - **Carlos Vargas**, Ben Timmons
Agriculture -**Steve Gibson**, Don Hopkins
Emergency Preparedness– Vacant
Education –**Karen Brown**, Laura Cernikova, Richard Whitmore, Deborah Wilkes
Environment and Natural Resources– **Darius Stanton, Darren Legge**
Sports–Vacancy
Membership – **Katushka Olave**

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

There are many foundation grants with an August 15th deadline available. Click [here](#) for more information.

SO YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WRITING A PROJECT-BASED GRANT BUT DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET STARTED?

This year's program activities will focus on three themes that work to:

- increase English language learning;
 - increase and strengthen university partnerships; and
 - engage youth, and promote economic empowerment and social inclusion.
- (1) If you have an idea for a project, write to the corresponding subcommittee chair. The chair will be the person that has the contacts, and helps plan the itinerary. For help with visas and the necessary paperwork, please email the president and vice-president of the Executive Board.
- (2) **Travel Grants** for volunteers and community leaders to visit partner chapter to participate in skills training, give presentations and workshops, build program action plans, and participate in community projects. Travel grants are reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Travelers from Latin America are now required to apply for a J-1 visa and are no longer allowed to travel to the US on a tourist visa. Complete instructions and application are [here](#)
- (3) **Teacher-in-Residence Grants** are travel grants for English teachers and administrators to share methodologies and pedagogy for teaching English as a second language, including methodologies for reaching out to marginalized communities. Travel requests are reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Travelers from Latin America are now required to apply for a J-1 visa and are no longer allowed to travel to the US on a tourist visa. Complete instructions and application are [here](#)
- (4) **Public-Private Partnership Events** to bring together volunteers and community leaders from throughout the region to share effective practices and build multi-national networks that include the US. Information on upcoming events will be sent out soon. If you are interested in hosting an event on one of the priority areas, please contact Melissa Golladay.

Contacts:

Carmen Sepassi, Senior Program Officer, csepassi@partners.net
Melissa Golladay, Director, mgolladay@partners.net
Barbara Bloch, Membership Specialist, bbloch@partners.net

Parachutes for the all-volunteer SAR rescue team

There is currently a campaign to buy more parachutes for the all-volunteer Search and rescue team in Bolivia. Sallie Abbas is working with one of the founding members of this group, a remarkable man, Mario Aranibar Zapata. Please help spread the word! According to board member Sallie Abbas, there have been lots of sharing of this message, but a disappointing level of contributions.

In 1988, this all-volunteer Search and Rescue group, was formed with 220 volunteers: men and women between 15 and 50 years of age. SAR is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The group helps in cases of natural disaster such as floods and earthquakes, in combatting fires, accidents, searching for lost persons.

With no outside financial help, each volunteer pays for his/her uniform, the food and drink he consumes during a mission, as well as the gasoline and whatever equipment he/she needs. Many on the team are trained as paramedics, and in parachuting, diving (underwater rescue), mountain rescue.

They have been called to seek a downed plane in mountainous areas or to rescue/recover from flood-swollen rivers.

Sallie Abbas writes, "These are people with incredible heart, who are as

selfless as any I have ever seen, giving incredible service to their community, and country.

We are seeking funds to purchase parachutes for this group. They have had to use old, out-of-date parachutes. Lacking a chute equipped with an automatic deployment device for opening the reserve chute when needed, a young man volunteer lost his life. For the safety of these selfless volunteers, they are seeking to purchase good dependable parachutes. Each parachute plus reserve chute and automatic deployment device costs \$7500. are SAR Boliviano hoping to buy 3 or more."



If you are interested in donating to this parachute project for SAR, please contact Sallie Abbas at swabbas65@gmail.com or click [here](#). The donation campaign finishes on September 30th.

NC PARTNERS' UPDATES

Delmar Update

For over 23 years, the NC Partners have received \$2,000 nearly every year from the Delmar Foundation to use on projects considered important to North Carolina and Cochabamba chapter projects.

The Delmar Foundation Selection committee includes Sallie Abbas, Rodney Swink, Deborah Wilkes, and Hank Graden.

Two projects have been submitted by the Cochabamba Partners. One is to develop and distribute written information about preventing fires and reducing burns to children. Educational presentations would be made to children of all ages, as well as families in urban and rural areas. The Project proposal states that burn accidents occur to 7 of every 10 children under the age of 15 years of age. The majority of the burns are to low-income children.

The other project is to help Search and Rescue (SAR) purchase parachutes to increase their search capabilities for air rescue missions. Sallie Abbas is working with one of the founding members of this group, a remarkable man, Mario Aranibar Zapata. This all-volunteer Search and Rescue group was formed with 220 volunteers: men and women between 15 and 50 years of age. SAR is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The group helps in cases of natural disaster such as floods and earthquakes, in combating fires, accidents, searching for lost persons. With no outside financial help, each volunteer pays for his/her uniform, the food and drink he consumes during a mission, as well as the gasoline and whatever equipment he/she needs. Each parachute plus reserve chute and automatic deployment device costs \$7500. The aim is to buy 3 or more.



Autism Update

2016 plans to continue the Utah, Arkansas and North Carolina Autism Syndrome Disorder (ASD) "capacity building" initiative are underway for several ASD experts from New Mexico, Utah and North Carolina. Carol Westby and Rosario Roman from New Mexico already traveled to Sucre, Santa Cruz and La Paz in June. Linda Watson and Michaela DuBay head to Cochabamba on August 6 and Barbara Culatta from Utah, travels to La Paz on August 7.

They will meet with ASD Coordinating/Leadership Committee members, if a formal Committee/Leadership group already exists, or with ASD stakeholders in the Department (parents and professionals) who can share information and identify ASD experts already residing in that Department. Leadership Committee within all 9 Departments. Patty Sarmiento, a psychologist and ASD specialist from Cochabamba will join the group in Cochabamba and Tarija to offer her expertise.

Additional discussions with stakeholders about their varied perspectives on the strengths and needs within the Department related to ASD and about what type of plan would best meet the needs of people with ASD in their Department. In some Departments, it may make sense to have one "autism center" that becomes the hub for ASD activities, but in

others, a better plan might be for several different existing programs to coordinate with one another in addressing the needs.

The US travelers will hold seminars and other meetings to provide new strategies and procedures for Bolivian professionals and parents on current trends about helping with the issues relating to ASD. Key people will be identified for future training either via telemedicine or face-to-face training. This will provide the opportunity for more systematic and intensive training and support for Bolivian ASD leaders than we have been able to achieve in the past.

The local group would have responsibility to collect information (for example, to develop an inventory of ASD resources) and disseminate information to other parents and professionals in their Departments. In the future, similar visits would be made to Trinidad (Beni), Cobija (Pando), Potosi (Potosi), and Oruro (Oruro), pending the identification of persons in each city who have interests in ASD and would like to work with the ASD resources from the US. With ABUTAH (La Paz/Utah) Partners, they will visit ARCO Iris Hospital and the office of the Mayor to discuss possibilities for starting an ASD clinic or center.

Registration for Partners of the Americas International Convention Still Open

Registration is still open for the POA International Convention, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, October 25-29, 2016 .

For frequently asked questions, click [here](#).
For any other questions you may have, email convention@partners.net.