



COCHA-LINA HERALD

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

NC Partners' Subcommittee Hosts Bolivian Environmentalist

Raleigh-Durham, NC



Ursula Bustillos Daza was invited to speak at the Sustainable goals conference at the UN during her visit to North Carolina.

Ursula was able to visit universities in the Triangle. Her presentation featured captivating photos from the high Andes and an extensive education on the Aymara's beliefs about Pachamama, or Mother Earth.

Other places she visited were Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke Gardens, Center for Global Initiatives at the University of North Carolina, Research Triangle Cleantech Cluster Annual Meeting, Solar House Tour at NC State, Eno River State Park, and the Carolina Climate Resilience Conference.

Ursula Bustillos Daza was able to attend the board meeting and help expedite many of the chapter's programs. She was able to return the computer projector that was part of the medical mission and was able to reim-

burse Anita Crowley with her tuition donation for ESL classes for students from Incallajeta. Ursula was also able to donate Bolivian books to Duke's Lily library and the Latin-American program there.

The three day CCR conference in Charlotte was an intense discussion of the perils of climate change in the Mecklenburg region. She met with the mayor of Charlotte and, at the conference, she was invited spontaneously to spend two weeks at the UN Sustainable goals conference in New York, lodging included.

- Darren Legge

In September, the NC Partners Environment Subcommittee hosted Ursula Bustillos Daza, a green architect from La Paz. Ursula came to discuss her work to develop an indigenous Aymara community on the shores of Lake Titicaca called Quilima. Ursula says her objective is to "be able to share research work on Sustainable Eco-Communities, to raise awareness of the way of life in community where they are developing aspects of re-valuation and strengthening in the social, economic, ecological and spiritual." She has spent a great deal of time with this community trying to understand their belief system and way of life. She has worked with them to re-value lost traditions, and to slowly incorporate appropriate green technologies that may provide new economic opportunities for the people of Quilima.

Currently, she is designing a museum, or "memories house," within the community that will showcase many of the tools and other items from their daily lives. She encouraged the children in the village to interview their grandparents about their lives; the children then drew up the plans for the museum.

Ursula and her sustainability think tank called Portal Urbano also believe that the Aymara have much to teach us all about how to live sustainably. They have developed advanced methods for seed production.

Newsbits

- NC Partners of the Americas is partnering with UNC-CH to make people aware of autism in Bolivia.
- Vice-president Matt Clausen writes about his experience With Partners as he joins WOL.
- Volunteered with the national Partners office or a local chapter? Count your hours for PartnersCounts.
- Job description for President/CEO position at Partner of the Americas
- Peru and Bolivia band together to clean up Lake Titicaca
- Cochabamba featured in International Living
- Concerned about climate change? Check out this slideshow of climate change in the Andes.

**Panama Teach
Accepting
Applications**

Due: March 1

Click [here](#) for more information

Report of the NC Partners Convention in Guadalajara, Mexico

Guadalajara, Mexico



Roberta Jacobson at the open plenary session of the convention.

The 2016 International Convention of Partners of the Americas was held in Guadalajara, Mexico from Wednesday, October 26 through Saturday, October 29, 2016. The meetings and workshops focused on the areas of Agriculture, Health, Higher Education, Inclusion and Innovation, Youth, and Safety. Throughout the convention there were symposia (breakout sessions) dealing with specific applications of these topics.

On Wednesday morning, the opening plenary session was opened by President Steve Vetter and an address by Roberta Jacobson, Ambassador of the United States of America to Mexico. Also speaking briefly were the Jalisco Secretary of Development and Social Integration,

the Director General of the Rector of the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara, the President and Vice-president of the Jalisco Chapter of POA.

The themes of the days:

- Wednesday, "Innovation in Inclusion: Designing a more Interconnected, healthy and safe future for everyone"
- Thursday, "Inclusion in Innovation: Innovation is Not Exclusive; Everyone Can Innovate"
- Friday, "Connectivity as a Catalyst for Inclusion and Innovation"

Attending from the North Carolina Partners Chapter were Christian Stalberg, Carlos and Wilma Vargas, and Sallie Abbas. Christian is a member of the International Board, and his time was largely taken up

with board meetings. Carlos Vargas presented "Eleven Years of Visits by Plastic Surgeons to Cochabamba, Bolivia" at one of the breakout sessions.

Noelia Colque and Jasson Albarnaz attended from Cochabamba. Pictured to the left is Noelia receiving her Emerging Leader Award. She also was on a panel of fours at one of the breakout sessions, "Participación Activa de la comunidad: Promoviendo la Resiliencia y la Sostenibilidad" [Active Community Participation : Promoting Resilience and Sustainability]. The session was led by Karen Guzman, Student Engagement Officer, Partners of the Americas.

- Sallie Abbas

Guadalajara Convention Photos



Pictured left to right: Matthew Clausen (POA), Steve Vetter (POA CEO), Victoriano Navarro Vice-President of the Capítulo Jalisco-Oklahoma-México, Noelia Colque, Karen Graham (International Board Chair), Jesús A. Sandoval President of the Capítulo Jalisco-Oklahoma-México.



Carlos and Wilma Vargas receives the Machado Leadership Award.

2016 ANNUAL MEETING FOR NC PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS

Durham, NC

This year, the NC Partners of the Americas was held at Croasdaile Village in Durham, NC and showcased the many future and current projects happening in Bolivia.

During lunch, Melissa Golladay was able to skype in to give us a brief overview of what is happening in the National office. In 2017, the national Partners office will be looking for a new financial director and President/ CEO. Steve Vetter has decided to join his son's new foundation. Melissa Golladay will be interim executive vice-president. The national office is also working on strengthening partnerships with Cuba and Mexico. Since the Mexican convention, Mexican chapters have been re-energized. In 2017, there will be another What Works Conference in Medellin, Colombia.

One youth ambassador from this year and last year was able to present during the meeting. Last year youth's ambassador, Myah Hobgood, is still accepting [funds](#) to purchase tiny houses for homeless people. Homelessness has become a big problem in uptown Charlotte because there is just not enough space for

affordable houses- there are approximately 2,001 people and 4,000 children who are considered homeless. Myah's idea is to provide temporary housing with a tiny house and then once that person gets back on their feet, the tiny house will be a refuge to other Charlotte residents who are transitioning. Charlotte Habitat for Humanity thinks it is a remarkable idea and is also trying to help her raise 12,000 for the materials and tools. Myah and volunteers would build the tiny house. She has received a lot of media [coverage](#) for this project and

Katerina Lamm, a current Youth ambassador, will do a mental health awareness project and teenagers. She would like to develop something akin to a survey that is more interactive than just a list of questions to diagnose issues among adolescents.

The NC autism project is looking for grants funding. Janis Holden-Toruno is the new Executive Director, Jessica Kinard is the new Secretary, and Sallie Abbas will be the treasurer. The Executive Board is still accepting nominations for Vice-President.

- Virginia Freedman



Linda Watson talking about the NC autism project



From left: Youth Ambassadors Katerina Lamm and Myah Hobgood talking about their projects.

2017 Delmar Funding Project Update– Fire Prevention

For over 23 years, the North Carolina Partners have received a donation of about \$2000 nearly every year from the Delmar Foundation to use on projects considered important to the North Carolina and Cochabamba Partner's Chapters. We received a \$2,500 donation in 2016. The Delmar Foundation Project Selection Committee includes Sallie Abbas, Rodney Swink, Deborah Wilkes and Hank Graden.

The project selected 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 project is called, "**PREVENCIÓN ANTE QUEMADURAS.**" The Project Coordinator is Lupe Buenida, President of the Cochabamba Partners.

All of the \$2,500 was allocated to the project. The computer and data projector cost was \$696.73. The remaining money available for the project is \$1,803. The money has been distributed to the Cochabamba Partners although there has been difficulties finding a method for secure transfer of the money. The computer and data projector are the property of the Cochabamba Partners and may be only used for other Partner's projects when not being used for the "Fire Prevention Project." A "Letter of Understanding," prepared by the Delmar Grant Committee, to clarify the use and ownership of the equipment, is in the process of being signed by both Presidents.

NC Partners Board members Darren Legge and Jacklyn Coats and La Paz Partner Ursula Bustillos provided a great deal of help in purchasing and coordinating the transfer the equipment to Cochabamba.

- Hank Graden



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

Janis Holden Toruno, President

Open position, Vice-President

Jessica Kinard, Secretary

Sallie Abbas Treasurer

Karen Brown Past President

Members: Includes the Executive Committee above and Hank Graden, Virginia Freedman, Judy Gibson, Steve Gibson, Katushka Olave, Carlos Vargas, Ivo A. Pestana, Benson Timmons, Anita Crowley, Jessica Kinard, Malcolm Marks, Laura Cernikova, Jaclyn Coats,

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, Malcolm Marks

Agriculture -**Steve Gibson**, Don Hopkins

Emergency Preparedness- Vacant

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

Environment and Natural Resources- **Darius Stanton, Darren Legge**

Newsletter Editor- Virginia Freedman

Membership - **Katushka Olave**, Virginia Freedman

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, Executive Vice-President, mgolladay@partners.net

Barbara Bloch, Membership Specialist, bbloch@partners.net

Hospital Viedma Pediatric Burn Unit Mission by Carlos Vargas and Malcolm Marks

Photos and Captions by Todd Stoeckel

Carlos Vargas initiated the Partners of America medical association with Cochabamba in 2005 with an exploratory trip that included otolaryngology, internal medicine and pathology. It became evident during that trip that there was a need for plastic- and reconstructive surgery at the hospital's pediatric burn unit.

Dr. Vargas returned the following year with Dr. Ben Timmons to provide plastic-surgery expertise and training to the pediatric burn unit at Hospital Viedma. Dr. Molnar from the Department of Plastic Surgery at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center joined the group the following year. In 2007 the Department of Plastic Surgery under the leadership of Dr. Malcolm Marks joined with Partners of the Americas to establish a formal annual mission trip to the burn unit. This augmented the ENT work being done on an annual basis organized by Sallie Abbas and Dr. Charles Mann who had been volunteering in Cochabamba for several years, with some support from the United Methodist Church.

The Partners' association with the burn unit is now in its eleventh year. The purpose of the annual trip is to provide reconstructive surgery to severely disabled pediatric burn patients and educate the providers in the burn unit to technologies and procedures utilized in the United States. The group works closely with the surgeons, anesthesiologists, pediatricians, nurses, therapists, and staff in the unit. Dr. Romero, the pediatric surgeon and head of the unit, has learned these sophisticated techniques over the years and has been joined by a young plastic surgeon, Dr. Juan Pablo Quiroga. Our plastic surgery group generally consists of two attending plastic surgeons, two senior plastic surgery residents, a burn nurse, and recently a certified nurse anesthetist. Dr. Todd Stoeckel, a plastic surgeon in Cary, NC, has been a consistent team member since 2007. This relationship has led to the care of over 450 children and over 1250 procedures. The unit's surgeons, physicians, and nurses are well-trained to care for the patients after our departure since they are an integral part of the treating providers. More importantly their training over the years during these annual missions ena-

bles them to carry out many of the reconstructive procedures on their own during the course of the year.

We bring more than 200 pounds of donated equipment and supplies for each trip, which enables care that would not otherwise be provided because of lack of local resources. This has been made possible by the generosity of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, donations from physicians who have been a part of missions, and corporate donations from companies such as Ethicon, Allergan, Mentor and Integra Life Sciences.

The relationship between North Carolina Partners of the Americas, Wake Forest Baptist Health, and Hospital Viedma in Cochabamba continues to evolve. We are now joined by a general surgeon, Dr. Carl Westcott, engaged in providing equipment and training the local surgeons in laparoscopic techniques

The mission trip would not be possible without the dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work of the Partners team in Cochabamba and Dr. Jimmy Montaña. They are integral and instrumental in the logistics required before our arrival, during the trip, and during the aftercare of the patients.

Dr. Carlos Vargas from the North Carolina Chapter of Partners of the Americas has been tireless in initiating the program, holding the group together, arranging the annual trips, navigating the unexpected obstacles in Bolivia, and working the 16-hour days during

(Right to left) Bolivian surgeon Carlos Vargas is one of the leaders of the Partners of the Americas medical team that has been facilitating and arranging the details of these missions trips for over a decade now. Dr. Romero is the local Bolivian surgeon has literally dedicated his life and work to the care of these children. - Todd Stoeckel



Most of the children at The Burn Center have burn injuries that have developed into contractures, often limiting mobility of joints and limbs. They were triaged on Saturday and Sunday and then operating started on Monday. We were able to complete scar contracture releases, skin grafts, and flaps to improve the mobility and function for about 50 children during the trip.



Our surgical team was comprised of several surgeons from Wake Forest University. Dr. Malcolm Marks is the chairman of the residency program and Dr. Ivo Pestana is a faculty member. They have both made several trips to Cochabamba as well. The other surgeons were resident physicians Lindsay Allred and Ryan Rebow. Each part of the team was critical to completing all that we had planned during our stay.



the 9-day mission.



A PICTORIAL ESSAY OF NC POA MEDICAL MISSION

After surgery, the expert local nursing staff cares for the children. Remarkably, the children are found to be very comfortable and typically seen with smiling and grateful faces. Most of the children stay for a day or so to recover and are then able to go home or are taken to Dr.



In between surgical cases, the staff and volunteers made certain that we had plenty to eat and drink. Every day, they showed us kindness and hospitality. They are, and should be, proud of the sacrificial work that they do both when we are visiting and when we return home. Despite my poor Spanish, it is easy to communicate our respect for each other and I look forward to seeing the group of workers each year that I visit.

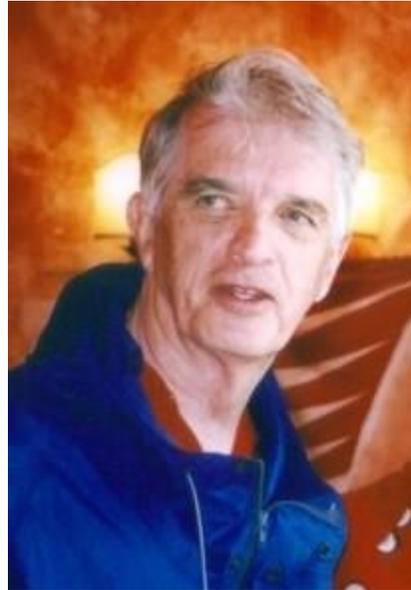


Before our return home, I was able to take the family up to see the "Cristo de la Concordia", the largest statue of Christ in the world. In previous years, I have climbed the over 2000 steps up the mountainside to reach the Cristo, but this year I took it easy and reached the top via cable car with the family. It will be a memory for my children that I hope will inspire them to travel and help others in their future.

LARRY NELSON

OCTOBER 28, 1932 - AUGUST 13,

Larry A. Nelson, 83, statistics educator and consultant, died August 13. He was born in Omaha, Nebraska and grew up in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and received a BS degree from Iowa State University in agronomy. He received a MS degree from Texas A&M University in soil science, and a PhD from North Carolina State University in statistics and soil science. He joined the department, teaching statistics and consulting internationally until retiring in 1989. Beginning in 2002 he served as interim coordinator and then assistant dean for international programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences until 2007. He subsequently wrote and presented several papers on tourism. He was active in the Capitol City Kiwanis and served as president 2014-15. He surpassed 1500 hours of volunteer service in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Rex Hospital. Avocations included bicycling, world travel, and serving as organist at multiple local churches. He was an avid genealogist, and traced his family's origin in the U.S. to John Lewis, a shipbuilder, who lived in New London, CT circa 1650. He was preceded in death by his parents Rudolph and Elizabeth (Lewis) Nelson and two brothers, Donald H. and Richard L. Nelson.



He is survived by a brother David H. (Joyce) and sister-in law Dorothy (Richard) Nelson and nieces and nephews and their families.

Visitation, Saturday, August 20, 2016 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., at Brown-ne Funeral Home, 300 Saint Mry's St. Raleigh, NC 27605

Burial will be in Lewis Township Council Bluffs, IA.



Continued from page 5

Dr. Carlos Vargas from the North Carolina Chapter of Partners of the Americas has been tireless in initiating the program, holding the group together, arranging the annual trips, navigating the unexpected obstacles in Bolivia, and working the 16-hour days during the 9-day mission.

This is a growing endeavor of which Partners of the Americas can be very proud.