



DIRECCIONES

Newsletter of the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas
Bob Frans, Ed., 276 Alzheimer Dr., Fayetteville AR 72704

December 20, 1995

President's message

As I mentioned in the last *Direcciones*, Partners is selecting a new group of Fellows. The Fellows Program is designed to "help emerging leaders address the multiple and complex problems of development and seek creative solutions to problems we share as a hemisphere." Each Fellow identifies a local project and receives seed money to develop it. Our most recent Fellow and board member, **Dan Gudahl** developed a grass roots forestry newsletter. **Desiree Mostajo** from Santa Cruz was selected as Fellow in the most recent class.

The Fellowship consists of a series of seminars held in the North and in the South. The first one last two weeks and in held in Washington, DC The cross-cultural experience of living with and learning from people from different cultures is an important part of each seminar. Participants in the program are required to pay \$500.00 or \$600.00, depending on method of payment, as an expression of commitment and to help cover administration costs. The Fellowship covers airfare, food, lodging and local transportation. The basic requirements are to be at least 25 years old, be an emerging leader, to have a commitment in community development, to have a demonstrated interest in international development and to be or become an active member of Partners.

If you are interested in becoming a Fellow, contact me or **Bob Frans**

(Fayetteville), **George Vena** in Little Rock or **Kay Kraeft** in Conway. Applications must be submitted to our local selection committee by November 1. The competition for this program is very great. Only 40 participants will be selected, 20 from the North and 20 from the South. We as a partnership can submit three candidates. One of these must be a new member

Mark the dates of our Annual Meeting, October 20-21, on your calendar and plan to attend. **Thecia Taylor** and **Don Thurman** have been planning a Gala Event and you don't want to miss it. You should have received an invitation by now. If you have not, contact Thecia or Don in Central Arkansas or Bob Frans or me in NW Arkansas.

Sometime this month, AETN is going to repeat their program on Great Train Rides about a ride from Santos, Brazil to Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The narrator seems to be more concerned about the hardships she endures rather than describing the trip. Other than that, it is an interesting program that will give you some of the flavor of that part of the world.

Laurin Wheeler

Update on Fellows

As an update to **President Wheeler's** comments on the Fellows program, the following has been received from **Dan Gudahl**, who is our most recent Fellow:

The Kellogg/Partners International Fellowship is a program designed to build individual leadership skills and

leadership for the future of the Partners of the Americas Program. There have been eight of these groups to date. Each group consists of 20 people from the "north" and 20 from the "south" and one Partner's office staff person. Over two and one half years, the group gets together five times culminating with attendance at the annual Partners convention. Fellows are also required to design and implement a project with their partner counterparts.

Originally, I became involved with Partner's of the Americas because I had never been to South America, wanted to improve my Spanish skills and meet people with similar interests as mine. I applied to the fellows program and was chosen as an alternate! Carmen Fowler, the partners president at that time, informed me that this was a great honor as the screening process is difficult and the competition is great. But soon a call came from Washington informing me that several others had not been able to accept the fellowship and asked if I could become a part of Fellows VII. I accepted without hesitation.

Fellows VII was like previous groups in that we struggled with our projects, developed closer friendships as each meeting passed and learned about partnership and leadership at each seminar. There were many unexpected learnings as well. I learned that people from the Caribbean (accent on the "be") are not South or Central Americans and they generally don't speak Spanish. They are crazy about cricket-the game and identify more with New York or London than with Panama City or Sao Paulo. I learned that the people from Santa Cruz enjoy our partnership and have an almost

unlimited capacity for hospitality. Even though my job involves traveling extensively, I rediscovered that travel and people are in most ways similar the world over. I also discovered that it is easier on your biological clock to fly south than it is to fly east or west! Our fellowship traveled to Washington, D.C. and Maryland; Santiago and Valdivia, Chile; Sao Paulo and Forteleza, Brazil; Barbados and Montserrat, in the Caribbean; and finally to Tuskegee, Alabama and Atlanta, Georgia. Skills in the group ran the gamut of Partners project involvement and included people from emergency preparedness to health to drug prevention and AIDs awareness to professors, lawyers and agriculturalists. I was able to take two side trips to Bolivia during the course of my fellowship. My fellows project was with the Agroforestry Network in Santa Cruz. A proposal was developed and I delivered \$1,500 in project funds to support a newsletter on agroforestry issues in the Santa Cruz area. Over 60 people attended the check presentation ceremony in Santa Cruz. As a follow-up to this I assisted in the initiation of a Sister Forest linkage between Arkansas and Santa Cruz through the USDA Forest Service. My thanks go out to all partners who assisted in helping me to be selected as a fellow.

Keep eating Corn Flakes!

Board meeting

The Board of Directors met in Russellville, Saturday, July 29. The following are a few excerpts from that meeting of general interest:

Agriculture

It was reported that **Phil Serafini** was in Bolivia, leading a group doing a seminar on conservation tillage, and that **Miguel Cortez** was due in Arkansas in August (see below).

Education

Margaret Clark reported that **Steve Neuse** agreed to go to Trinidad during his forthcoming trip (see below). She also mentioned a

project on acceptance of Hispanic minorities that she and **Don Thurman** would do together. A video from UAF is to be sent to our sister partnership in Santa Cruz.

Culture

Kay Kraeft reported on hosting the Crespo family in June and on her progress on fund-raising for the summit conference in 1996.

Health

Thecia Taylor reported that **Martin Ronis** is working on a health-related project for Santa Cruz and is looking for a counterpart research partner there.

Youth Development

Sue Heily reported further on her trip to Bolivia (see below) and the agreement on 5-year goals between East Bolivia and Arkansas. She also has this request to make:

"If you are between the ages of 15 to 25, our Junior Partners in Bolivia want to know who you are and what your hobbies and interests are. Please send your name to me (Youth Development Committee Chair) at 216 Locust, Conway AR 72032. If you haven't joined Partners yet because you're not sure what to do, the Youth Development Committee wants you! At only about \$1.25 a month, membership is worth it."

Several other items were discussed at the meeting, many of which are covered elsewhere in this issue of *Direcciones*.

News from East Bolivia

President Aida McKenney has kept us well-informed regarding happenings in East Bolivia. She has informed us that the Board in the Beni (Trinidad) has been reorganized by **Desiree Mostajo** as follows:

President - **Victor Hugo Callaú** (Communication Chair)
1st Vice Pres. - **Juan Carlos Aguirre** (Culture Chair)
2nd Vice Pres. - **Teresa Flores de Ruiz** (Rehabilitation Chair)

Secretary - **Roxana Rivero** (Education and Youth Chair)

Treasurer - **Carmen Iriarte de Alvarez**

Agropecuaria - **Wilson Yabata**

Forestry - **Rebeca Rivero**

Veterinary - **Pedro Mendoza**

Health - **Mary Luz Yuja** and **A. Angel Alvares**

Democratic Initiative - **Rosario Rivero**

Photography - **Susana Rivero**

Contact for communication: **Cinthia Alpire** FAX 591-4-622701

Aida has also sent us newspaper clippings of meetings held in Santa Cruz when visitors from Arkansas were there.

Annual Meeting

Just to follow-up on **President Wheeler's** announcement - don't forget the Annual Meeting, October 20 and 21 in Little Rock. This is not just the usual annual get-together - no, this is our 30th year celebration! As Laurin has indicated, the meeting has been well-planned and is an event you will not want to miss. Since you've all received an invitation, no need to go further with details - just remember that events kick off Friday evening at 7:30 with a reception at Thecia's house. Should be fun - look forward to seeing everyone there!

Tuition waiver

We're pleased to announce that the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville has granted our request for a waiver of out-of-state tuition for students enrolling in the University from Bolivia. **Chancellor Dan Ferritor** has indicated that this will be a three-year experimental program and covers all students coming to the University from Bolivia. Full details of the program have not yet been finalized, but will be worked out shortly

. We have **Max Frydman** of the Santa Cruz partnership to thank for urging us to make the request which got us started. Our Kansas-Paraguay partnership was most helpful with their assistance, since they have had such a program in place for several years and were able to provide us with details of their plan.

Ballot for 1996 Officers

The 1996 ballot is attached to this copy of *Direcciones*. We are grateful to the Nomination Committee for providing the list of nominees that you see on the ballot. The committee was chaired by **Cameron Jones**, Past President. You will note that there is but one nominee for each position (sometimes, we have more than one). However, you may vote for a write-in, providing you have cleared your nominee for agreeing to run in advance. If you want your vote counted please send back the ballot to **Bob Frans**, Executive Director, 276 Alzheimer Drive, Fayetteville AR 72704, **no later than October 10**. Results of the balloting will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

Since the ballot is going only to paid members of the partnership, your editor thought it might be of interest for everyone to know who the paid membership is, so here is the list:

Jeff Allender
Raymond and Sandy Barclay
Benjie Bartos
Fawzia Braine
Chris and Lynda Brothers
Wade and Sarah Burnside
Margaret Clark
John Duval
Robert Dzur
Manal Fares
Bob and Maria Teresa Frans
Maurice Friedman
Claude and Betty Gillette
Diann Glaze
Thomas Green
Daniel and Ana Gudahl
Bishop J Hankins
John and Rebecca Harrison
Susan Heily
Steve Hopper
Charles Ivie
Kay Kraeft

Berenice Kumpe
Preston La Ferney
Scott La Ferney
Elizabeth Lamb
Bettie Lu Lancaster
Cynthia Lenk
Beck Lentz
Dede Long
Georgia McDonald
Judy and Bill McDonald
Dan McElderry
Miriam Meijer
William and Gwen Millager
Alice Guffey Miller
Rita Monsen
Louise Montgomery
Dan Nolan
Paul and Eunice Noland
Jacqueline and Wajid Ali Paracha
Bill Parsons
Stephen Perry
Roald and Carmen Peterson
Jerry and Marilyn Poole
Lisa and Martin Ronis
Jerry Rose
Natalia and Randy Salazar
Robert and Barbara Savage
Luane Schroeder
James and Jane Scroggs
Philip and Mary Alice Serafini
Kimberly Smith
Tommy and Patsy Smith
Thecia Taylor
George Thatcher
Don Thurman
John Townsend
George and Sera Vena
Cheryl Wall-Trimarchi
Chuck West
Laurin and Elizabeth Wheeler
Leah Wilkinson
Janique Wood
Carlton and Ladonna Woods

That's the list - if your name is not on it, that means our records show that you have not paid 1995 dues. It's still not too late!

A single ballot is going to each address. If there is a family membership (two people) just mark "2" in the space for the vote (if you both agree!). For a single membership, just check the appropriate box.

News from Washington

There are a few items of general interest from our Washington office that follow:

Hurricane relief fund

A special relief fund has been set up by Partners of the Americas to help the people of the Caribbean

recover from the devastation left by Hurricane Luis.

"Damage was especially heavy in Dominica, St. Kitts, Antigua and Barbuda, and Montserrat," says William S. Reese, President of Partners of the Americas.

"The greatest need now is for cash donations for local purchases," says Reese. "Unfortunately, we're not in a position to accept or transport clothing or food donations."

Bill goes on to mention that damage in some areas was quite severe, especially in Antigua. Individuals interested in making a contribution should make checks payable to Partners of the Americas and mail to Hurricane Relief Fund, Partners of the Americas, 1424 K Street NW #700, Washington DC 20005.

International convention

The 1995 International Convention of Partners will be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad, November 16-18. Our partnership already has four persons planning on attending - **Laurin Wheeler, Kay Kraeft, Thecia Taylor, and Margaret Clark**. It's still not too late to considering going, although plane reservations will be difficult the closer we get to those dates. If you are interested, information forms may be obtained from the President's office or from your Executive Director.

Resources

The regular quarterly Resource Information Sheets arrived in our local offices from **Stuart Beechler** in July. Non-restricted travel grants remain at four for 1995 and there are various non-restricted grant available in education, culture and project assistance. Restricted grants by program areas include funds for Civic Education/Citizen Participation and for the Fellows program, as well as Family Life and other population issues. Please contact us if you would like more details on these resources.

News about travelers

Several people traveled either North or South in recent weeks or months. The following will give you a little information about their trips.

Miguel Cortez

Miguel Cortez is professor of agronomy in the Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia at the Universidad Autonoma Gabriel Rene Moreno in Santa Cruz. He teaches courses in forage crops and grazing management. Miguel visited Arkansas for 2 weeks in August to help set up more Farmer-to-Farmer opportunities between the Partners.

While he was here, he was shown around some cropping areas of the Delta by **Phil Serafini** to observe conservation tillage on soybean and cotton farms. **Laurin Wheeler** and **Robert Dzur** (new member) explained the use of computerized geographic information systems for natural resource management at the UA Center for Advanced Spatial Technology.

Ray Barclay discussed opportunities in the area of rural communications to follow-up on Ray's previous work in Bolivia. Miguel spent a lot of time with **Chuck West** (Miguel's forage counterpart in Arkansas) learning about the latest teaching materials for use in forage agronomy courses.

Luane Schroeder, a Partner who raises beef cattle near Dogpatch and who recently traveled to Bolivia, brought Miguel on trips to the Noble Foundation in Oklahoma, a cattle producer's farm in Missouri, and finally to her own ranch to demonstrate innovations in pasture management. Finally Miguel spent a few days with **Claude Gillette** at Hazen to discuss methods of delivering veterinary services to rural clients.

Stephen Neuse

Steven M. Neuse, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, spent more than three weeks on a Partners assignment in Bolivia. Neuse divided his time between La

Paz, Santa Cruz, and Trinidad working on a popular participation project assignment. In La Paz he visited with USAID official about their efforts in the same area and spent a few days "touristing" with **Bob** and **Maria Teresa Frans** who were also "in town."

In Santa Cruz and Trinidad, Neuse met with several civic action committees and government officials about their role in implementing new Bolivian legislation relating to citizen participation and administrative decentralization. In one exciting development he talked with representatives of three universities, Gabriel Moreno, UPSA, and NUR about developing joint programs in civic education, including an academic program in municipal government management.

In addition, Neuse gave more than a dozen lectures in Spanish to six universities and two high schools. His topics ranged from political participation, to the electoral progress in the United States, and new opportunities for civic action for Bolivian professionals under new democratic legislation.

He hopes to help bring several fresh faces to Arkansas in the coming months to expand and further develop the democratic initiatives program which **Bettie Lu Lancaster** began developing two years ago.

Sue Heily

The following is provided by Sue as a follow-up to her preliminary report in the last issue of *Direcciones*:

"I won the Dodge Fellowship travel grant on the premise that we need to inform the U.S. peoples of the population shift in Bolivia from the Andes to the lowlands. I am creating lesson plans of 30 minutes that teachers can use to supplement their textbook information on Bolivia.

"While on my marvelous 6-week visit to Bolivia, I also had the opportunity to interface with many, many Partners of East Bolivia. While all were outstanding experiences, there were several that reminded me of what I especially love about Partners - hope and willingness. First it was wonderful to meet our newest group in Trinidad.

They were eager to get more acquainted with their Santa Cruz and Arkansas Partners and they were proud of the help that **Jeff Allender** and **Phil Serafini** had given them in starting Yomonal Park.

"Secondly, I met with three charming young women from the Civic Education Committee. They were eagerly planning for the visit from **Steven Neuse**. They wondered what he would share with them. Third, I met 5 times with the Youth and Education Committee. They were on fire as they discussed how Partners could help the youth population of Santa Cruz. They applied great creative thinking to arrive at the get-acquainted activities for student Partners of North and South. I was honored to be a part of their meetings.

"Finally, when I was at their monthly meeting, it was exciting to see the new members. My hope is that they catch the enthusiasm of the current members, and that the current members see the golden opportunity to delegate."

Jeff Allender

"**Hermes Justiniano**, Director of Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza (FAN), contacted **Dan Nolan** of the Ouachita National Forest in late June. FAN needed a tourism development advisor to help develop long range development plans for Parque Nacional Amoro, Dan had some international travel funds from the Challenge Grant Program in the National Forest, they both knew me from Partners (and I went to FAN last summer on my Partners trip), so Dan called to see if I was available. From the time that he first called until I was in Santa Cruz on July 17 was less than one week!

"Once there I met repeatedly with Hermes and my main "mission" was to delineate two or three sites to develop as access points into Amoro and to survey the existing and needed facilities and accommodations for these access points. I then spent most of the next three weeks trying to get into the park, which is almost impossible as there are no roads that even reach the border of the park, much less get into it. I also met with numerous

tour operators, hotel and restaurant owners, and officials to discuss the area's potential for tourism development. While in Samaipata I also gave an evening public lecture on ecotourism to many of the resort owners from the area.

"I spent several days with two "orchid Hunters" on the SW edge of the park, over by Comparapa and the border with Cochabamba District, and camped solo for several days just inside the SE boundary, in a place called Los Volcanies. There was also a Partners meeting I attended, but mostly was in Samaipata or towns west, along the southern boundary of the park. There were troubles with the campesinos along the eastern edge, around Buena Vista, so Hermes thought it best that foreigners avoid that area.

"Overall, it was a wonderful three weeks and I was able to delineate one major and one minor area to develop. I also came back with over 200 flea, tick, and other insect bites on my legs! I think FAN is wise to move slowly and limit access, as it prevents farmers and their cattle from moving in and destroying it before it can be protected. I hope to go back next summer and am looking for funding, as the Challenge Grant Program was killed by Congress two days after I left."

Willy Kenning

After many years of delay, Willy arrived in Little Rock Sept. 4. He is a photographer from Santa Cruz and, under the Culture program of work, was hosted by **Bill Parsons**. During the first week of his visit, he went on several location photo shots with Bill, visited museums and a mall with **Leah Wilkinson**; spent most of a day with **Joe Phillips** in the photography division of the UALR Art Department; toured the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, courtesy of **Kay Kraeft**; meeting with **Jaime Zambrano** and **Jose Martinez**, attending several classes, and developing a friendship with **Ralph Winer**, photographer for UCA Public Relations and Publications. On Friday, back in Little Rock, he sat in on a session of catalog photography at Peerless Engravers. Saturday was reserved

for shopping and a visit to the Imax Theatre.

Willy's second week began with visits to other photographers in Little Rock, including sessions with pinhole artist **Tom Harding**, world-class architectural photographer **Tim Hursley**, and National Geographic contributor **Matt Bradley**. On Tuesday, he accompanied Bill to Hot Springs where they made a series of photographs in a factory and in a Kroger store. Unfortunately, the Hot Springs galleries were closed by the time slowpoke Parsons finished the last picture.

Willy came to Fayetteville on the second Wednesday and spent three days visiting various people. He met with **Miller Williams** and **Johnny Coghlan** of the University Press, learning about computer layout for publications. He also met with **Tim Ernst**, local photographer and naturalist, who has published his work, and with **Michael Peven**, head of the Art Department at the University and also a photographer. His last visit was with **Andrew Kilgore**, renowned local portrait photographer. The Fayetteville Partners put together a reception in Willy's honor at the home of **Bettie Lu Lancaster**.

In Santa Cruz, Willy works, primarily, with landscape photography, and, as a photography-journalist, has produced three books on Bolivia. The first is titled *Santa Cruz*, the second is *Bolivia from the Skies*, and his newest book is simply, *Bolivia*. Willy is trying to find a way to get a supply of his books to the U.S. for those desiring to purchase them. Willy's work is important to Bolivian development. His three books, his numerous calendars, and his widely-published stock photos help form both the local and the international image that Bolivia has. His work has raised that image to a new and more sophisticated level. Arkansas Partners can be proud of having made so many resources available to Willy - some of which will affect his future work, to the further benefit of Santa Cruz and Beni. He is planning new works on the peoples of Bolivia and a study on the country of Argentina.

-Contributed by **Bill Parsons**-

New Members

We have four new members for you to welcome when you have a chance. They are:

Robert Dzur, 219 W. Meadow #4, Fayetteville AR 72701-5200

Thomas Green, 506 N. Vandeventer, Fayetteville AR 72701

John Townsend, 2856 Sunny Lane, Fayetteville AR 72703

Janique Wood, 501 Napa Valley Dr. #312, Little Rock AR 72211

Let's be sure they get involved with the activities in their respective groups.

Partners Reach Out program

Appropriately, we end this issue of *Direcciones* with this topic, very important to all Partners. **Thecia Taylor**, coordinator of the program for Arkansas Partners, urges everyone to consider getting involved and speaking out in behalf of Partners and at every opportunity. **Paul Teeple**, of the national office, who works with **Polly Donaldson**, National Director of Partners Reach Out, brought the same message when he visited Arkansas, August 22 to 24. He spoke to groups in both Central and Northwest Arkansas. International Development in general, and Partners of the Americas, in particular, are in considerable jeopardy with impending cuts of international interests being discussed in the U.S. Congress at the present. There is a critical need for all of us to be willing to get up before all sorts of audiences and to pass on the word about the good such programs as Partners have brought to international understanding and goodwill. A heightened awareness as to the importance of such programs could well be brought to the attention of your church, your civic clubs, your schools, and your friends and social groups. Be ready

to do your part! In a few weeks, you will all receive a letter from Thecia asking you to designate organizations that you would be willing to speak to. Please give her your help.

Thecia has also announced that there's a good chance that we can greatly improve our brochure with funds from the Reach Out program. She and **Bill Parsons** have agreed to prepare a proposal to Washington for funds to get this underway.

Final note

Don't forget the 30-year celebration in Little Rock. See you there!