



DIRECCIONES

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

June 15, 1998

Editor's note

It's probably not a good idea to start anything with an apology, but one is in order. This is the second issue of *Direcciones* in 1998 and it should have been the third. However, we can only plead the eternal "busy-ness" that seems to plague all of us much of the time. In this issue, we hope to catch you up with Partners events that have occurred since the Board meetings of January and April. Yes, we have had visitors from Bolivia, and we have had people traveling there as well. There have been changes in the national office (or proposed ones) that you should know about. Hopefully we can cover here the important points. Also, you as members can help in the process. If you know of items of interest, please send them to the Editor so that he can include them in future issues (see his address above). Thanks!

Directory for e-mail

Since many of us are now using e-mail as a means of quick communication, it seemed like a good idea to publish a list of these addresses for our members. These are now as they appear on our membership list:

Jeff Allender - jeffa@ccl.uca.edu
Ginny Brandecker - gbrand@tcac.com

Margaret Clark	-	Mary Anne Sennett	-
mclark@comp.uark.edu		mas3@tcac.net	
John Duval	-	Mary Alice Serafini	-
jduval@comp.uark.edu		mserafi@comp.uark.edu	
Robert Dzur	-	Phil Serafini	-
rob@cast.uark.edu		pserafi@comp.uark.edu	
Frank Farmer	-	Kim Smith	-
ffarmer@comp.uark.edu		ksmith@mercury.uark.edu	
Bob Frans	-	Thecia Taylor	-
rfrans@comp.uark.edu		104426.3675@compuserve.com	
Thomas Green	-	Lyell Thompson	-
tgreen@comp.uark.edu		lthompsn@comp.uark.edu	
John Harrison	-	James Van Patten	-
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Susan Heily - stjol@cei.net		Don Voth	-
Jim Horton	-	dvoth@comp.uark.edu	
jhorton@comp.uark.edu		Chuck West	-
Kay Kraeft	-	cpwest@comp.uark.edu	
kayk@cc3.uca.edu		Laurin Wheeler	-
Preston Laferney	-	glwheel@comp.uark.edu	
laferney@comp.uark.edu		Leah Wilkinson-Sylar	-
Elizabeth Lamb	-	lxwilkinson@ualr.edu	
elamb@comp.uark.edu			
Bettie Lu Lancaster	-		
blancast@comp.uark.edu			
Dede Long	-		
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Louise Montgomery	-		
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Steven Neuse	-		
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Bill Parsons	-		
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Stephen Perry	-		
sperry@saturn.uark.edu			
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These are the addresses we now have. If yours is not here, and you would like to have it published, please send it to the Editor. Also, if you find errors in the above list, let the Editor know.

Some personals

Georgia
We are sorry to report that **Georgia McDonald** died Jan.24, 1998 at age 84. Many of you from the Northwest Arkansas group will remember her as the wife of the late **Jim McDonald**. Both were staunch and supportive members of Partners, and both were early travelers to East Bolivia even before the Northwest group was formed. Georgia was a faithful

attender at meetings of this group, enjoying the fellowship and friendships formed through Partners.

Helen

It's always a pleasure to hear from **Helen Wilson** when she renews her dues, which she did recently. Thinking she had already paid up for 1998, and finding that she had not, she sent in her dues along with a \$50.00 contribution to do "penance" for her delay! Would that we all did similar penances when we forget! She also reminded me of former member **Annelies Kahan**, who moved to Dallas three years ago. Annelies was born in Europe and went to Bolivia with her family and graduated from the School of Nursing of the Methodist Church in Bolivia (I assume in La Paz), and then came to the United States with her Polish husband she met in Bolivia. Helen also served there after Annelies came to the U.S. Thanks for the information, Helen!

George Thatcher

Many of you will remember George. This is just to state that George has faithfully kept up his membership with us, even though he has been gone from Arkansas for several years. Currently, his address is: 15 Summit Ave., Weiser ID 83672 for those of you who might like to contact him. He's still interested in Partners and we were able to find a contact for him with Idaho's partner, which is Ecuador.

Travels

To Bolivia

Recently, **Paul Noland** traveled to the Santa Cruz area (from March 29 to April 11, 1998) under the auspices of the Farmer to Farmer program. He writes:

"The first few days of my stay in Santa Cruz I visited a number of farms (swine and dairy) with members of the technical staff of Columbia Agro Import. This company had paid part of my in-

country expenses for my trip. We had a 3-hour educational meeting one evening for 35 swine producers. At the request of **Miguel Cortez** I had brought current information concerning the swine disease, PRRS. The local veterinarians and producers were very interested in this information as the disease is very prevalent in the U.S. and producers in East Bolivia are fearful that the disease will enter their country. The management and technical staff of Columbia Agro Import were very helpful and knowledgeable about production practices and producers. A few days later I gave two, 4-hour sessions on swine production and nutrition. There were 62 university students, faculty and producers in the group. These sessions were given at The Autonomous University (Gabriel Rene Moreno). After the sessions 2 young ladies who are officers of the student association thanked me very graciously for coming and giving the seminars.

"One day I traveled to Samaipata with Drs. **Jose Ribera** and **Raul Montenegro** to visit some campesinos and campesinas who would be small sheep producers in a project being proposed but funds are needed to initiate the project.

"Miguel Cortez and I met with technical staff of CIAT in Santa Cruz. Our purpose was to establish a linkage between nutritionists at Gabriel Rene Moreno and CIAT in order for the CIAT analytical laboratory to be used on a fee basis to provide livestock producers a mechanism whereby they can obtain nutritional analyses of their various feedstuffs. This meeting was important for the initiation of the project.

"While in Santa Cruz, the father of **Marta Cortez** died. Those of you who know her might want to send condolences. He lived in Beni. I enjoyed visiting with several Bolivians who have been in Arkansas and they send greetings to the members of the Arkansas Chapter. These included **Max** and **Sonia Frydman**, **Demetrio Soruco**, **Carmina Saldana**, **Maria Eugenia Mosciaro** and of course Miguel Cortez. As in my first trip, I continue to be impressed with the genuineness and true hospitality of the people in East Bolivia."

From Bolivia

Recently, **Hermes** and **Gina Justiniano** were in Arkansas, primarily for the graduation of their daughter **Leila**. Many of you will remember Leila as one of our first students to attend the University of Arkansas as part of the in-state tuition program, and in fact, had started here before the program was initiated. While here Hermes, who is Director of the Noel Kempf National Park in Bolivia, visited extensively in the state, working with our own **Dan Nolan** and the Ouachita National Forest, and giving a slide presentation on Noel Kempf at UAM, sponsored by the School of Forestry. A reception was held for him on May 17 at the home of **Thecia Taylor** in Little Rock, where he also gave his slide presentation. Similarly, a reception was held for him later in Fayetteville at the home of **Bettie Lu Lancaster** where again, his presentation was enjoyed by several attendees. Although Hermes left the following day for Bolivia, wife Gina stayed behind to complete a course in water colors at the U of A.

Sue and Olivette

Susan Heily and **Olivette Dettor** from Conway, are off on a month-long trip to Bolivia to, as Susan puts it, "share information on special education and teach methods to deal with individual problems and secondly, to visit jungle schools and give them materials - basic materials for students to work with." While Partners of the Americas has been the catalyst for their trip, they are also being partially supported by the First Presbyterian Church of Conway. They expect to visit schools in the areas of La Paz, Trinidad and Cochabamba. We hope to get a full report from them when they return.

Rob's visit

Another trip, for which Partners was the catalyst, was that of **Rob Dzur**, our Vice President. His trip was sponsored by World Bank and its purpose was to learn about and review the activities of the National

Institute for Agrarian Reform (INRA). His evaluation trip took place from April 4 to 19 of this year. The Head of INRA is **Rene Salomon**, formerly with CAO (Chamber of Agriculture for the Orient) of Santa Cruz. INRA is headquartered in La Paz and its work dates back to the Bolivian revolution of 1952, when land reform and distribution began. Rob's expertise in GIS (Geographic Information Systems) procedures uniquely qualified him for this task. One of the goals of INRA is to cure legal defects in property ownership and to project the results onto maps, a process that may take several years. Rob worked with several institutions and agencies during his two-week stay in Bolivia.

Meetings

The Board has met twice since the last issue of *Direcciones*. There are just a few items that may be of interest to the membership. At the January 31 meeting, it was suggested by **Mary Anne Sennett** that a survey be made of the membership regarding interest and ways that our chapter in Arkansas might be re-vitalized. Consequently, the President asked Mary Anne to come up with such a survey instrument. We are informed that this survey is in the process, and that the membership will receive it soon.

It was also noted during that meeting that we still need reliable e-mail communication with Santa Cruz. A computer was sent there last year, but apparently there was some difficulty in getting it set-up for e-mail. (Please see the following item for an update)

Negotiations are still underway for archiving Partners material. The Mullins Library at the University of Arkansas has shown some interest in this project, and it remains for us to gather the material together so that the project can go forward. Anyone having materials of historical value, please contact **Laurin Wheeler** - he has made the

preliminary contacts. Related to this, negotiations are also underway for a person to write a history of our partnership and we hope to report more on these efforts in a future issue.

It was reported that there were 32 Bolivian students at the University of Arkansas and that 10 of them were in special classes studying English so that they might be enrolled as full-time students. **Max Frydman** of Santa Cruz is mobilizing parents of these students to become involved in Partners in Santa Cruz.

At the Board meeting held on April 25, President **Kay Kraeft** reported that she would be unavailable much of the summer, since she is attending a special music camp. Vice President **Rob Dzur** was designated to act in her absence for any special actions needed.

Thecia Taylor reported that **Fernando Murillo** will be going to Bolivia for the next two years, organizing a medical mission in ophthalmological work. He hopes that some of this work might be in the Santa Cruz and Trinidad areas. He hopes to expand his work into eye banking, low vision, and work with the blind.

News on the Internet

Home Page!

Yes, we now have one - for those of you having access to the Internet, please take a look at:

<http://www.uark.edu/misc/partners>

- it's our new home page. Vice President **Rob Dzur** is responsible for putting this together, with inputs from **Bill Millager** and **Phil Serafini**. We're proud of Rob's efforts and we think you'll agree. Of course, there are improvements to be made, and Rob will welcome any suggestions you might have to make it even better. You may note that included is a linkage to the home page from the national office - for those of you who wish to access that directly, the address is:

www.partners.net

we hope, soon, to get a direct link from that home page to ours.

E-mail to Santa Cruz

Another happening that we're pleased to announce is that we now have e-mail communication with our colleagues in Santa Cruz. Many of you may remember that we were able to get a computer to Santa Cruz last year. They now have been able to get it connected to the Internet and have an e-mail address, which is:

poasrz@infonet.com.bo

The machine is located in President **Aida McKenney's** office in her home, so if you want to communicate with her directly, give it a try! This should aid our ability to get things done much more quickly than before.

News from the National Office

Perhaps one of the sadder bits of news we have to share is the resignation of **Bill Reese**, our Partners President since 1987. He was recruited by the International Youth Foundation to become its Chief Operating Officer. He has already begun that work. **Eleanor Jones**, Chair of the POA Board, has assured us that a search is underway for the successful recruitment of a dynamic new leader. Although Bill's loss will be felt keenly, this can also be looked at as a new opportunity for Partners. We all wish Bill well in his new endeavor.

Resource Information

New Resource Information Sheets have been received. You are reminded that this information can be accessed directly from the national partners home page (see address above) for complete details. For a brief summary, the following areas of interest are open to our partnership: [Agriculture and the Environment](#), which is primarily

the Farmer to Farmer program. Bolivia is a priority partnership and **Phil Serafini** has been in charge of this program for us - contact him if you have further interest. Seeds for the Americas program is now being operated under a non-profit organization called "Seed Programs Inc." If you are interested, contact **John Batcha** at ggfg@prodigy.com or 704-597-7789. Project assistance grants are available for the Citizen Participation program up to \$2500 and can be used for travel and other strengthening activities. Women's Legal Rights is a program open to all partnerships, but priority will be given to partnerships that have been active in this area in the past. Civic Education is also supported by project assistance grants and the program is to foster an appreciation of democratic values and increased citizen participation in civil society. The Education and Culture program has grant support to foster and appreciation for the educational and cultural traditions of a given region. The Teacher-in-Residence program is available to all partnerships with bi-national centers in Latin America, which includes us. The program is to strengthen English teaching programs in Latin America. Family Life Education programs are to strengthen the capacity of communities and institutions to address the need for family planning information and services. Emergency Preparedness programs are to improve the capacity of schools, institutions and professional to reduce the loss of life and the economic and social damage caused by natural and manmade disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean, through School Programs and Professional Technical Assistance.

In addition to the above special programs, Foundation Grants are available to strengthen partnerships in the area of organizational development, such as newsletters, membership drives, and fundraising.

Progress through Partnerships

We thought a recent hand-out from the national office was particularly relevant as we continue to consider what it is we are all about in Partners. This little brochure describes our vision: *To be the most effective education and exchange organization in the hemisphere, highly sought after as a training resource that addresses the economic and social needs of citizens, north and south.* Building on that vision statement was this mission statement: *To work together as citizen volunteers from Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States to improve the lives of people across the hemisphere.* Specifically, it was noted that Partners' networks of volunteers and community organizations:

- Promotes citizen participation
- Mobilizes hemispheric collaboration to address economic and social development issues
- Trains community leaders
- Strengthens local non governmental organizations

Not bad words for what we do!

New association

We note that **Ramiro Lara**, a former Fellow, was elected as president of the National Bolivian Partners Association. This is a group made up of the three Bolivian chapters of Partners (Santa Cruz, La Paz and Cochabamba). As coordinator, Ramiro hopes to initiate joint projects and fundraising with counterparts in Arkansas, Utah and North Carolina.

FTF/Reach Out Workshop

This item should have been reported earlier, but since it was not received in time for the first newsletter, we'll report it here. This item was provided by Reach Out Coordinator, **Bettie Lu Lancaster**:

"**Phil Serafini**, Farmer to Farmer Chairman, and I joined representatives from 9 other partnerships for a Reach Out/Farmer to Farmer workshop in Washington December 15-17, 1997. The purpose of the workshop was to learn how to promote awareness and support of Partners' Farmer to Farmer program. We discussed Reach Out techniques, not in a vacuum, but as they pertained to a specific program. Each Partnership had one

representative for Farmer to farmer and one for Reach Out. Except for Haiti, which was not represented, Partners were there from each of the states partnered with countries USAID gives priority in the Farmer to Farmer program: Alabama (Guatemala), Arkansas, Utah and North Carolina (Bolivia), Kentucky and Idaho (Equador); Louisiana (El Salvador); Mississippi (Guyana); Vermont (Honduras); and Wisconsin (Nicaragua). Sometimes we met all together, sometimes we split into two groups, FTF and RO, and sometimes we planned within our own states, determining what would work best in our own political climate.

"On the last day we went up to Capitol Hill where we each met with our Congressional representatives' aides (Congress was not in session). Phil and I had 4 appointments in 4 hours, carefully planned so that we had to go from a House office building, south of the capitol to a Senate office building, or back again, between each appointment. I talked to the aides about the overall Partners organization and some of our specific projects, very briefly. Then Phil talked to them very specifically about the role of agriculture and Farmer to Farmer in international development. He had some specific requests for changes which should be made in the laws.

"Before we went to Washington, I had given Partners literature to **Asa Hutchinson** and **Dale Bumpers**, and **Steve Neuse** had given a packet to **Mack McLarty**, Clinton's special envoy to Latin America. We met with the following:

Brian Casal, agriculture aide to Rep. **Jay Dickey**

Stacy Schraeder, Foreign Affairs Aide and **Mike Platt**, agriculture aide to Hutchinson (Mike was a student of Steves', so knew all about Partners)

Brian Moran, Foreign Affairs Aide to Bumpers

Todd Weiss, Foreign Affairs Aide to Sen. **Tim Hutchinson**

Phil spoke to Rep. **Marion Berry**.

"In planning strategy, Phil and I discussed how we might turn around the Farm Bureau's attitude that helping foreign farmers takes money away from Arkansas farmers, help them recognize that building up the agriculture of Bolivia will give Arkansas a service market. Phil feels that the most productive strategy will be for Partners representatives to quietly approach those in Arkansas and Washington in position to influence policy, people who head agricultural organizations or have the ear of decision makers. We made a list of such people or positions.

We will form a committee to plot strategy and develop a plan for Farmer to Farmer/Reach Out. Our tentative list is: **Paul Noland, Don Voth, Bob and Nadine Speers, Bill Gregory and Bob Frans.** Some of the organizations we mentioned were: Farm Bureau, Arkansas Conservation Tillage Assoc., Rice Board or Rice Federation, Ozark Food Processors Assoc. the swine, poultry and cattle associations, wood processors, AR Electrical Coop, civic clubs in farm communities. We welcome board and member input in planning and executing strategy.

"By the end of the workshop, we strongly agreed that every Partners committee, every project, should have a Reach Out representative. Reach Out does not occur in a vacuum, but should be tailored to the 'attentive audience' of each project. In the workshop we worked on:

Message - What do we want to say?

Audience - Identify who we want to reach

Avenues - How do we reach that particular audience?

Activities - What specific actions will we take?

These four steps should be applied to each aspect of Partners.

"Two challenges we need help with: How to expand into other parts of the state with Farmer to Farmer? and How to get 30% of our FTF activities to involve women?

"Polly Donaldson and Anabella Bruch conducted the sessions. They were stimulating and well organized. And it goes without saying that we enjoyed the other participants.

"We hope there will be Reach Out workshops for each of the Partners program areas."

International Convention

Yes, it's time to be thinking about the next International Convention. It will be held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington D.C. from November 19 to 21, 1998. There will be a special NGO Forum on November 18, prior to the start of the convention. It's time to make reservations now at the Omni. You can write them at 2500 Calvert Street NW, zip 20008, or phone 1-800-THE-OMNI or Fax 202-332-8134. Room rates are \$130 per night single, or \$145 for a double. Make your reservations directly with the hotel. There are further details about the convention on the web site: www.partners.net.

Dues

And we must remind a few of you once more that it's past time to pay your 1998 dues. As usual, if you receive a statement with this copy of *Direcciones*, it means that our records show you haven't paid as yet. Won't you take care of this immediately? We know that you must want to stay on our mailing list (but if you do not, just let us know!), so we need your response soon! Thanks for taking care of this.