



DIRECCIONES

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

December, 1998

President's message

October saw another successful Annual Meeting of our Arkansas Chapter at the UAF campus and environs. Our reception Friday night was held at the home of **Bettie Lu Lancaster** since **Bob Frans** was sadly detained by a death in his family. The adults and the Bolivian students who attended were warmly entertained and spirits were high.

The Saturday meetings, although a bit under-attended, were very informative, entertaining and fully appreciated.

Dr. **George Schuyler**, from the UCA History Department, brought us up to date on the current Latin American economic and political situation with respect to volunteer NGO's like ourselves. **Susan Heily** and **Olivette Dettor** reported on their recent trip to Bolivia and the work they did there with handicapped children and the Bolivians who try to teach them. Susan and Olivette are preparing to return as part of their three-year effort. Their trip, partially funded by the Presbyterian Church, is just the kind of enterprise we like to see, where the "multiplier effect" is involved.

Thomas Brook, a graduate student at UAF, showed us wonderful examples of his computerized bird mapping in Central America. This can be used also in Bolivia. The Bolivian student Junior Partner organization was represented by 3 students who related their efforts at getting the fledgling group underway. **Margaret Clark** and **Jane Scroggs** agreed to lend a hand in getting some of their projects off the ground and at some organizational items.

Dan Nolan reported on his efforts to establish an exchange between Bolivia and UA Monticello. The Monticello Departments of Forestry and Social Work are quite interested in working with our Bolivian counterparts.

It is hoped that Arkansas can begin a true membership unit in the Monticello area of the state.

At our wonderful banquet we were treated to keynote words of wisdom from the former Ambassador to Argentina, the Hon. **James Cheek** of Little Rock. The only source of disappointment for the weekend was that more of our membership were unable to share in the festivities, which were enhanced by the AutumnFest celebration going on in the Fayetteville square at the time.

The Sunday morning Board meeting covered an extensive agenda and all left feeling the effects of the hard work and with many tasks to accomplish. We adopted a response letter to our Santa Cruz partners which we believe will solidify our mutual efforts to work together. This was forwarded to Santa Cruz and I can report that it was read and well received. Our Board meeting in January will include input from at least 2 Southern members so that we can work out a long-range plan together. We look forward to at last being able to do that.

What I would like to ask all the membership to do now is to think over what you understand the mission of Partners to be. Are we living up to this? Yes, we have completed our rechartering and in the process we had to do some preliminary thinking along these lines. But more ideas from everyone would help in charting our direction for the next years. With the world changing as it always does, but in a rather drastic way lately, and with diminishing resources, it may be time to assess our place in the scheme of things. It may be the right time to rethink such things as: (1) how does our purpose fit in with the crowded lives of just exactly the people we want to work with? (2) What effect does our Annual Meeting have on our membership? Is it relevant to our efforts? What kind of things would you like to see included or excluded? (3) Is our financial status adequate for what we want to accomplish? Do we perhaps want to raise extra funds for travel, for at least 1 scholarship to a state university, for publicity about work? (4) We often mention wonderful ideas but just as often these are quickly forgotten or lost or simply not followed up. Are we trying to do too much? (5) As a member please consider what we can do to make you feel more effective a part of the whole. Feel free to respond via the communications options provided here in *Direcciones*. (Ed. Note: see also the survey form attached).

Some dates to remember - mark your calendars now for the coming year:

January 22, 23, 24 1999	JOINT BOARD MEETING (Bolivian members will attend)
April 24, 1999	BOARD MEETING
July 24, 1999	BOARD MEETING
October 22, 1999	ANNUAL MEETING & BOARD MEETING (pending verification of fall dates)

Hasta la vista,
Kay Kraeft

Travels

A couple of our people have completed trips recently that will be of interest to you. Brief summaries follow:

Bettie Lu Lancaster

I attended a Farmer to Farmer/Reach Out workshop October 18-20 in Baton Rouge LA. It was a typical Partners gathering: stimulating, informative, well organized, and fun. I knew I was with real Partner-Farmers when I was driven in an ancient pick up truck to view innovative community gardens to feed the poor.

In addition to the nine North American Farmer to Farmer states, Partners came to the workshop from Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador. I can only hope these four Compañeros safely survived Hurricane Mitch.

Was the Partner's Washington staff eavesdropping on our October Arkansas Board Meeting? This workshop couldn't have done a better job of addressing our chapter's concerns: recruiting and retaining members, orienting travelers, and increasing our visibility in the community.

We received some very useful training and shared ideas among Partnerships. I shared our Arkansas-East Bolivia brochure to rave reviews. Good news: the Washington office will soon be distributing a colorful brochure featuring Arkansas-East Bolivia Farmer to Farmer projects.

The purpose of the Reach Out program is to increase community awareness of all our Partners' projects. Small grant funding is available, so I hope to hear your ideas.

Chuck West

Chuck just returned from a 12-day journey to Santa Cruz (Nov. 8-20). He is a UA Agronomy professor specializing in pasture management. His host was **Miguel Cortez** of UAGRM, who also works with forages. Chuck's aims were to learn about tropical grasslands and methods of pasture improvement, and share experiences he has had with the Arkansas Grazing Schools with a view toward setting up similar grazing workshops for technicians and farmers in the Santa Cruz area. He also learned about their methods of forage quality analysis and integration of crop by-products into pasture-based dairy rations. Chuck felt right at home when he and Miguel took his university forages class on a field trip and explained the finer points of forage growth and grazing management to the students. Chuck remarked that it was an eye-opening experience and a profitable follow-up to Miguel's previous visits to Arkansas.

Bob Frans

I took a brief, 12-day trip to Bolivia in October. This was a personal trip to visit family in La Paz and friends in Santa Cruz, but I thought you might be interested in some of it.

It's always good to go to La Paz, since I still have quite an attachment for the place, having been traveling there for some 26 years. It's still a fascinating city to me, and of

course, I have many friends and family there as well.

After about four days in La Paz, I traveled to Santa Cruz, where I was met by **Marialy** and **Oswaldo Justiniano**, who were my hosts for the week, and by **Aida McKenney**, President of Partners in Santa Cruz. I was able to meet with several Partners in the city, and made a trip to UPSA, to reestablish friendships there. One friend (and cousin), **Jorge Estenssoro**, is in charge of the Business School there, and another friend, **Victor Hugo Limpias**, heads up their architecture endeavor. We are hoping to work out good relationships with these folks under an existing Memorandum of Understanding. At the kind invitation of **Desiree Mostajo**, I was able to visit her mother's ranch in the Beni, where I spent several saddle-sore hours, visiting various parts of that 17,000 ha spread! It was a great experience. Oswaldo and Marialy, who are the parents of a University of Arkansas student, Rodrigo, introduced me to the finer points of cattle raising in Santa Cruz. Oswaldo is the Vice-President of the cattlemen's association, FEGASACRUZ. The annual September fair was in progress, and at the fair I was able to meet with **Max** and **Sonia Frydman**, and discussed our relationship with students they have helped train to become students in Arkansas. During time at the fair, and quite by accident, I ran into **Carlos Paniagua** and **Marioli Mansilla**, both old friends and with ties to Partners.

Also, while in Santa Cruz, several of the parents of UA students apprized me of a foundation they had started to assist deserving students to attend the University. I was quite touched by this development since it is named after my late wife (see related article, below). All in all, it was a great trip.

Rob Dzur

Some of you may not know that our Vice-President has "flown the coop." But he's in our favorite country, Bolivia. Rob has accepted a two-year stint working with the national agrarian reform agency of Bolivia (INRA). Rob is an expert in GIS techniques, and had an earlier trip to Bolivia to explain how these techniques might be used in surveying land, resolving legal problems, and finally issuing valid titles. Apparently, that agency was sufficiently impressed for them to ask Rob to come help them out for a period of time. So he and his wife Stephanie are doing just that.

In a recent communique, Rob indicated that he was very busy working with World Bank representatives, explaining what it is that he is doing, and taking on new responsibilities. The agency is in the process of naming a new director, so there may be a bit of uncertainty as to the direction the work will take.

Rob has indicated that he is enjoying the work, but that resources are short (sound familiar?). If you would like to get in touch with him his e-mail address is: rdzur@yahoo.com. Unfortunately, Rob's absence dictates that we must select a new Vice-President, which we have done by means of the ballot mailed to the membership recently (see report on nominations below). We wish Rob the very best in his new endeavor, and look forward to the time he returns.

Sue Heily and Olivette Dettor

As promised in the last issue of *Direcciones*, we are now able to provide an account of their recent trip to Bolivia. Sue, in this brief report, says:

"I consider our trip this summer to Santa Cruz, Trinidad and Buena Vista a big success. Not only were three NGO's involved in the planning, funding, and implementation, but a minimum of 17 educational institutions benefitted. One of the NGO's was the 1st Presbyterian Church of Conway. They have asked to see a slide show of our trip on Jan. 24th at a pot luck fellowship dinner at 5:30 pm. I encourage any of you who didn't see the slides at the Annual Meeting to come join us at 2400 Prince St. on Jan. 24th. There is no fee, etc.; just bring a covered dish or a veggie. The project Olivette and I worked on is called Hope for the Special (special education) Children.

"I have already received e-mails from Buena Vista and Cochabamba confirming their commitment to having the seminars presented in their cities next summer and them helping with the meeting place, organization, and housing.

Our tentative date for departure is June 10th for two and one half weeks."

Election of Board Members and Directors

Based on the work of the Nominating Committee and the subsequent ballot mailed to the membership recently, we are pleased to announce the Officers and Board Members for the coming year. They are:

PRESIDENT - **Kay Kraeft**
VICE PRESIDENT - **Phil Serafini**
REGIONAL VP, CENTRAL AR - **Don Thurman**
REGIONAL VP, NW AR - **Steven Neuse**
SECRETARY - **Susan Heily**
TREASURER - **Paul Noland**
PAST PRESIDENT - **Margaret Clark**
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE (1999) - **Mark Robertson**
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE (1999) - **Robert Reilly**
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE (2000) - **Thecia Taylor**
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE (2000) - **Mary Anne Sennett**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - **Bob Frans**

And, as noted above, the first Board Meeting for this new group of Officers and Directors, will be January 22, 23, and 24, 1999. All are invited to attend. Committee chairs, if not on the Board, are urged to attend.

Annual Dues

Yes, it's that time once again - time to pay your dues. Attached you will find a dues invoice, convenient for you to fill out and to mail back to the Executive Director. We hope you will do this right away so that we can start the year in good financial condition. The dues for individuals is \$20, and for families is \$30 - a bargain!

But here's another idea: how about entertaining the thought of a sustaining membership? Could be this is an idea who's time has come! We had three sustaining members last year. They were: **Cameron Jones**, **Steven** and **Jeanine Neuse**, and **Kay Kraeft**. Wouldn't it be nice if we could greatly add to that number for 1999? **Bettie Lu Lancaster** will be brining to the next Board Meeting some innovative ideas for memberships, that promise to help us increase and improve our financial situation.. More of that in the next issue of *Direcciones*.

But for now - **do your dues soon!**

Meetings of the Board

At the July 25th Board meeting, plans were discussed for extending the in-state tuition program for Bolivian students attending the U of A. Further discussions were held concerning the possibility of mounting a similar program at other institutions in the state. Related to this **Don Thurman** reported on the possibility of establishing a closer relationship with the U of A at Monticello, particularly in light of the strong forestry interests there and the involvement of **Dan Nolan** in these programs.

In response to a letter from the Santa Cruz Board, Kay asked that **Bob Frans**, **Margaret Clark** and **Phil Serafini** provide her with comments to be used in drafting a response. Rechartering was also discussed and Kay indicated that nearly all items requested had been prepared and sent to our partnership representative, **Anabella Bruch**. It was noted that most of our historical materials had been deposited in Mullins Library at U of A and that we were ready to begin working on a history of our partnership.

At the October 11th Board meeting, considerable time was spent in discussing declining membership, and means of revitalizing interest in Partners. A discussion was held on the possibility of establishing a biotechnical institute in Bolivia, possibly on the campus of UPSA, in Santa Cruz.

Priorities were established for possible travelers for the near future. **Mary Anne Sennett** was given top priority for an early trip, as was **Mark Robertson**. Others on the list for 1999 include **Jim Scroggs** and **Sue Heily**. It was noted that **Chuck West** was scheduled for a trip soon, under the Farmer to Farmer program (see his report under

“Travels”).

New Foundation

In a recent trip to Bolivia (see above under “Travels”), **Bob Frans** was informed of progress being made to form a foundation to help deserving Bolivian students. The Foundation was named in honor of his late wife, and is called the **Maria Teresa Villanueva de Frans Foundation**. Its purpose is to: “—help Bolivian students, with outstanding grades who do not have sufficient economic means, to apply for scholarships granted by the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, United States of America.” The foundation has been formed in the city of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and is a nonprofit organization, nonpolitical and non-religious, with its main objective to grant each year scholarships to Bolivian students with outstanding averages, based on an evaluation. The Foundation was established by a group of Bolivian parents who have children attending or in the process of beginning to attend classes at the University. The Board of Directors of the Foundation will be responsible for selecting qualified Bolivian students to receive financial assistance. Contributions made in Santa Cruz are being directed to **Sra. Marialy Monasterio de Justiniano** or to the office of the Executive Director in Arkansas.

New Members

We do have new members to report, as follows:

Olivette Dettor, 1824 N. Hughes #9, Little Rock AR 72207, Tel. 666-9077.

Marty Goff, 872 N. Lewis, Fayetteville AR 72701, Tel. 442-8908.

Bob & Nadine Spears, 13255 Little Elm Rd., Farmington AR 72730.

Olivette, of course, has already been to Bolivia with **Sue Heily**, on a privately sponsored trip in special education. Bob and Nadine have also traveled to Bolivia under a Farmer to Farmer program. Please help welcome these new members!

News from Washington

There are a few items from our Washington office that should be of interest to all Partners.

New President

Quoting from the most recent issue of the Partners newsletter: “**Dr. Norman A. Brown**, president emeritus of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, was appointed the president of Partners of the Americas at the July 18 meeting of the organization’s inter-American Board of Directors.

“Brown succeeds **Bill Reese**, who resigned in May after 17 years with Partners to accept the position of chief operating officer at the International Youth Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland. When Brown takes office January 1, he will become the fourth president in Partners of the Americas’ 35-year history.

“Norm Brown is a visionary thinker and an innovator who has dedicated his life to improving lives all over the world,” said **Eleanor B. Jones** of Jamaica, chair of the Partners Board of Directors. “We are very fortunate to have the benefit of Norm’s expertise and dedication as we take Partners into the millennium. The challenges and opportunities are many. We feel that with Norm’s commitment to our philosophy and mission, Partners of the Americas will be well-placed to conquer new frontiers.”

“(Brown) served for ten years with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, starting as program director in 1984, then moving up to executive vice president in 1986 and president in 1988. In 1991 Brown was named president and chief operating officer. He retired as president emeritus in 1995. While at Kellogg, Brown was responsible for the foundation’s first activities in Africa, including a major program in South Africa to address racial discrimination.

“Brown also served as dean and director of the Minnesota Extension Service at the University of Minnesota Extension Service at the University of Minnesota for four years in the early 1980s. From 1964 through 1980, he held a variety of positions at Michigan State University coordinating academic programs in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, teaching and directing 4-H Youth programs through the Cooperative Extension Service.

“I am very pleased to have been selected to serve as the new president of Partners,” said Brown. “I believe strongly in the importance of dialogue and collaboration among citizens in this hemisphere, and I know of no organization that promotes North-South cooperation better than Partners of the Americas.”

Help for Hurricane Mitch Survivors

Partners of the Americas’ (Partners) chapters in Wisconsin, Nicaragua, Vermont, Honduras, Louisiana, El Salvador, Alabama, and Guatemala are banding together with their communities to respond to the short- and long-term needs of Hurricane Mitch victims. As a people-to-people organization which conducts both relief and development activities, Partners is focusing on the immediate reconstruction needs of Central America with an eye toward developing longer term strategies to rebuild communities.

Partners' response to Hurricane Mitch is consistent with the "joint declaration" of the Central American Presidents in Comalapa, El Salvador on November 9, 1998, which stresses a short and long-term response to reconstruction.

For those interested in making a contribution, please make checks payable to Partners of the Americas and mail to: Partners, Hurricane Mitch Relief Fund, 1424 K Street NW #700, Washington DC 20005.

All travelers

Effective October 1, 1998 the federal government will require all airlines to collect and maintain information on all U.S. citizens traveling into and out of the United States. This includes full name, passport number, persons to notify in case of emergency, and telephone numbers for emergency notification. We have the form to be filled out **and attached to the Travel Grant Application**. If you are traveling for Partners, please contact the Executive Director's office for a copy of this form.

News from George Thatcher

We are pleased that George keeps up with us, even though he no longer resides in the state. Here are some excerpts from a recent letter:

"I recently resigned my administrative post with the Oregon prison education system, in order to take a teaching position with Treasure Valley Community College. I'm now teaching in the Spanish and Bilingual Education programs here, and finding the classroom a most welcome change from the office drudgery. We are working hard to develop both areas into first-rate teacher training programs, and there are scholarships available to ethnic minority students. Our program is pipelined with the baccalaureate program at Boise State U. You may be acquainted with deserving students who would like to know more about us, and I encourage any Arkansas Partners to recommend potential scholars to us. My college address is as follows:

Dr. George R. Thatcher
Dept. of English and Foreign Languages
Treasure Valley Community College
650 College Blvd.
Ontario, Oregon 97914
Tel. 514-889-6493 x-245

"At the same time, Jean and I have relocated to Boise, a first-rate city with excellent cultural attractions and a wonderful, dry climate. We feel very blessed to be enjoying the best of health and continued professional opportunities. In addition to teaching, we have developed a consulting business in the development of scholar/teacher competencies in higher-order and critical thinking skills. We believe this area holds great importance for the future of education.

"----please remember me to the Partners as you greet them, and wish them every success."

International Convention

President **Kay Kraeft** files this report about the International Convention held in November:

"**Jeff Allender**, of the Kellogg Fellows XI program, and I represented Arkansas at the Partners International Convention in Washington DC in November, 1998. The convention celebrated our 35 years of work, highlighted the new president, **Norman Brown**. And laid plans for building on those 35 years. The 'M' word (millennium) was tossed about with great plentitude, with the inevitable jokes and/or rolled eyes in response, but in all seriousness we did feel a sense of urgency in responding to such things as the Treasurer's Report of a substantial DEFICIT!!, a DECLINE IN ACTIVITY!!, and to the need to address these and other concerns. Some of us will be taking a closer look at the work of the POA Foundation Board (not the same as the POA Board). Much attention also focused on responding to the effects of Hurricane Mitch. Partners can be proud of taking a leadership role hemisphere-wide in helping with aid to all the countries affected.

"I arrived early for the pre-convention Leadership Forum which, in addition to a rousing address by **Frank Gomez** of the Hispanic Council on International Relations, featured Cochabamba's **Ramiro Lara** and La Paz's **Gonzalo Garcia** as speakers. I was especially interested in the differing responses to the concept of VOLUNTARISM presented by these as well as others during the rest of the Convention. This might be a concept worth some of our discussion time.

"Thursday we all went to Capitol Hill where we met in the House International Relations Committee Room. We were amused to note how members of Congress relished the opportunity to meet with us as a welcome relief to the Impeachment Hearings which began exactly that same day right down the hall! POA Board Meetings, which were open to us and Friday sessions on Health, Voluntarism, Women and Girls, Environment, and Civil Society filled the next two days. Another concept which we can expect to see expanded is that of the TWO-WAY nature of our partnerships. This idea will pervade everything from projects, to funding, to structure and to our image of ourselves.

"Saturday morning our Bolivian group met for a breakfast session where we noted with regret that East Bolivia and Utah were missing representation. Nevertheless, since the Bolivian three partnerships have now met several times, we agreed that Ramiro will forward to us a copy of the education project which they worked out. More about this at our own up-coming Board meeting.

"After the elections I was able to take in an art gallery before the final awards banquet. We all look forward to next November in Mexico City."

Forthcoming visitor to UCA

The University of Central Arkansas has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Grant enabling the Bolivian scholar and tenor **Ricardo Estrada** to teach at the University for the Spring term. Mr. Estrada, who was a resident guest artist at UCA during Spring 1998, will return this time expanding his duties by teaching in the departments of History, Geography, Journalism, Sociology, Political Science and Music. There is also a possibility of his appearance at the UALR Law School.

Mr. Estrada, a Paceaña tenor of wide acclaim. A successful voice teacher and currently General Manager of the Philharmonic Society of La Paz, is also a certified attorney and a journalist who writes for British, German and Spanish publications.

Some highlights of his residency will include collaboration in February with Venezuelan soprano **Noemi Lugo** in back-to-back public concerts plus a lecture/demonstration on the Spanish Zarzuela for the UCA Honors College, and the presentation in April of a student program of Zarzuela music with the UCA Opera Workshop. Estrada will also direct a state-wide evening of opera excerpts using voice students from various college programs throughout the state. Performance dates for these are yet to be announced. He will be available as his schedule permits, also, for outreach to are service clubs and to Partners. He is bringing a talented young cellist also, **Alejandro Villegas**, to attend UCA under a Music Scholarship.

Partners survey

Attached to this issue of *Direcciones* you will find a letter and survey form sent over the names of the Executive Director and the President; however, the form was developed by **Mary Anne Sennett** in response to the nagging questions surrounding declining membership and apparent falling away of interest on the part of several long-time members. We are asking that all of you fill out the form and return it to Bob Frans, Executive Director, 276 Altheimer Drive, Fayetteville AR 72704 (please note that his home address is at the bottom of the form - that's O.K., too, if you wish to send it there). In addition to those currently on our mailing list (those receiving this issue of *Direcciones*), we will endeavor to also send the form to former members no longer on our list (you get dropped after three years of non-payment of dues!!).

We really hope you will take time to fill this out and send it back (you can just include it with your check for 1999 dues!). It will be a big help to the Board as they begin long-range planning for the future (see also the next announcement).

Next Board Meeting

President Kay has just announced that the next Board Meeting will be January 22, 23, and 24. Yes, this is a change - a three-day meeting instead of just one (as announced above). But there is a very important reason for this. This will be a joint Board meeting with representatives from our Partner's Board from East Bolivia. We do not yet know who or how many will be here from Bolivia, but the meeting is of great importance in getting together for long-range planning between our two entities. All Officers and Directors should make every effort to attend this meeting (as you should every Board meeting!), as well as all committee chairs. All Board meetings are open to the membership, so even if you are not on the Board and would like to attend – welcome!

This meeting should help us all understand sometimes varying points of view between our Boards, and help forestall any possible misunderstandings that may arise. It's a great opportunity for a most meaningful get together.

Editor's final note

On behalf of all the Officers and Board Members - have a great holiday season!!