



DIRECCIONES

Newsletter of the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas

Bob Frans, Ed., 1366 W. Altheimer Dr., Fayetteville AR 72704-6804

Phone 479-575-3978 or 443-5403, Fax 479-575-3975, rfrans@uark.edu

www.partners.net (national); www.uark.edu/misc/partners (Arkansas)

Spring Quarter 2002

President's message

Perhaps the highlight of the past couple of months concerning Partners was the trip I took, with **Bob Frans**, to Bolivia. The purpose of our trip was to attend the CONPOA meeting in La Paz (a meeting of all the Bolivian partnerships to which their northern counterparts had been invited), and afterwards for the two of us to pay another visit to Santa Cruz. After a day of recuperation from the overnight flight and adaptation to the altitude, we met the others for the beginning of the meeting at the Edificio Capitolio near the center of the city of La Paz. This first day of the three-day meeting was concerned primarily with volunteerism in Bolivia and was sponsored by the La Paz Partners. Speakers included **Anabella Bruch** from the Washington office, **Cecilia Cordova** of the La Paz Partners and several others representing various agencies around the city. That evening the group was invited to the home of Heather and Jim Dickmeyer, Cultural Attache for the American Embassy, for a reception.

The next morning we traveled by bus to Mallasa, a suburb in the southern part of the city of La Paz, to the Oberland Hotel where the next two days of meetings occurred. Representatives from the Bolivian partnerships included La Paz, Trinidad, Santa Cruz, Oruro, and Cochabamba. The U.S. was represented by one person each from Utah and North Carolina along with the two of us from Arkansas. The purpose of the meeting was coordination of efforts among the three Bolivian partnerships, North and South, with an emphasis on communication and seeking ways to share travelers when their expertise would be useful to all partnerships. It was recognized that it would take time to work out all the problems with such travel, but most believed that a good start had been made toward gaining a more cooperative effort. It was a good meeting and our thanks to Cecilia Cordova and the La Paz partners for their efforts in organizing all that went into it.

After a day of touring La Paz and visiting Bob's family, we flew on to Santa Cruz. At the airport we were met by **Miguel** and **Marta Cortez**, **Aida McKenney**, **Marialy Justiniano**, **Walter** and **Blanquita Callaú**, and **Dr. Percy**

Barha and son. During the week we met with a number of Partners, past Partners, and several potential Partners as well as other long-time friends. My impression of the East Bolivia Partnership is one of continual friendship and optimism. Their economy is very poor and were in the midst of elections while we were there. As East Bolivia in now re-chartered, we are beginning to plan new exchanges as well as build on others.

We had an opportunity to visit with **Lorgio Vaca**, artist, ceramist, and muralist. He had an exchange in Arkansas around 1986. For those Arkansas Partners who have joined since then, perhaps you have seen his murals around Santa Cruz. His wife, Ana, owns Artesiana de Campo, a place we all like to shop. The art in this shop is done by local surrounding artists, much of which is done under direct supervision of Lorgio. Perhaps Lorgio would return if an Arkansas Partner would set up an exchange. How about an exhibition of his art?

We met with **Marco** and **Heloisa Ortiz**. They are co-chairs for our budding sports program. Heloisa is a swimming coach and Marco does track. He has won several championships for Bolivia and on one occasion was named athlete of the year in Bolivia. They are a delightful young couple and true assets to our group.

I met with **Jorge Valverde** who heads a program designed to help and protect sexually-abused children, as well as provide information for all students about protection of their minds and bodies. The program is in place in 14 schools in the Santa Cruz area. They are in need of some equipment and possibly a psychology or psychiatry exchange.

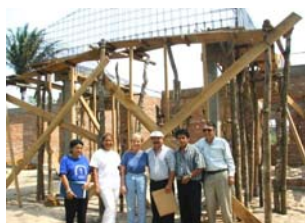
Roxanna Rivero and **Willie Tanaka**, both from Trinidad, met with us towards the end of our stay in Santa Cruz. Willie indicated he would be sports chairman for Trinidad. **Miguel Rivero**, husband of Maria Teresa, whom we know quite well, was the Trinidad representative at the CONPOA meeting in La Paz. Maria Teresa came to Arkansas last year on an education exchange.

Friday at lunch we were privileged to be with **Max** and **Sonia Frydmann**, good friends and still equipping students to participate in higher education opportunities in the U.S. and other places. That evening we had dinner with some of the medical community who had experience with Partners either currently or at present, including Drs. **Ruben Urey**, **Carlos Paniagua**, **Desiree Mostajo**, **Melvin Cuellar**, and **Wally Pareida**.

Earlier in the week I was able to travel to Buena Vista

(ask me about the trip sometime!) to visit the newly-completed hospital that Carlos Paniagua and others had sponsored along with PLAN International. Last September we had the opportunity to see the hospital during early construction. This year, at Carlos Paniagua's request, I went to see the finished product - completed but not yet occupied. While the main part of the building is completed there are still no rooms for X-ray, ultrasound, CAT scans, etc. Carlos has written a small grant (\$5,000) in hopes of getting Partners help with some of these additions. He also sent a list of needed supplies. **Paul Noland** has assumed the job of trying to meet some of these needs. **Hermes Justiniano** and **Jorge Ibarnegaray** also sent lists of needed supplies for two very small hospitals or clinics deep in the jungle.

Below are shown two photos of the Buena Vista hospital - on the left, as it looked in September, 2001 and on the right, the completed product.



All in all it was a great trip. It was very warm, windy, and humid – but typical Santa Cruz weather for their fall.

Thecia Taylor

National and International Partners News

There's lots going on and lots of news collected since the last issue of this newsletter. Perhaps one of the more important items is this:

Come to Ecuador! ¡Te Esperamos en Ecuador! Yes, the Partners' Convention will be held in Quito at the Hotel Hilton Colón, from Thursday, November 21 to Saturday, November 23, 2002. There is a registration form in the latest newsletter from Washington, or you can access it from the Partners web site (see the address in the masthead above). Cost for registration is \$195 if you sign up before September 1. Already there are several Arkansas Partners who intend to go - how about you? Quito is a beautiful city, the capital of Ecuador, with a Spanish colonial flavor mixed with Indian culture. There will be all kinds of workshops of varied interest plus guest speakers, banquets, and side trips galore. It's a great way to learn more about Partners, and to meet old friends and make new ones. ¡Vámanos!

Personnel change

Matt Clausen, most recently Farmer to Farmer Associate Program Director, is now Vice President for Partnership Development in Washington.

B.J. Hankins

New Sports Program

It was announced in the recent newsletter from Washington that a new Partners Sports Program has been started with a Coaching Coaches Exchange Program. Partners encourages all partnerships to form or reactivate a sports committee. We're pleased to announce that Arkansas-East Bolivia has already started. **Barry Brown**, Professor of Kinesiology at the University of Arkansas has agreed to coordinate the Arkansas program. In addition, the Santa Cruz partnership has appointed a young husband-wife team, **Marco** and **Heloisa Ortiz** to head their effort - they are involved in professional sports training in Santa Cruz. In addition, **Willie Tanaka**, of Trinidad has expressed an interest for that group. You will be hearing more about this program in the near future.

Resources

Although the most recent resource information we have is dated January, 2002, please check with the Partners web site for more recent information. This site is updated every month. Just to reiterate the more pertinent areas of work for our partnership:

Farmer to Farmer is funded by USAID and Bolivia has a priority for participation. Funds are available for North to South travel only.

Education and Culture has several emphases, including Travel Grants available for education methodology, University linkages, arts and culture, civic education and environmental curriculum development, citizen involvement in local governance, administration of justice and awareness of human rights, minority and indigenous civil rights protection, and in partnership development. They also give assistance for Small Projects, and Teacher-in-Residence programs.

Women and Families should soon have available travel and project assistance funds to address needs for family planning information and services.

Partnership Development funds are available once a year only - proposals are usually submitted no later than September for review by the Foundation Board at its October Annual Meeting.

These are but a few, but probably the more important, areas of work for our partnership. Again, go to the web site for more details.

Personals

Recently, we instituted this section in order to highlight the activities of a few of our members as we became aware of them. We have a couple of them for you in this issue.

B.J. was a long-time member of the University of

Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service and also made a trip to Bolivia for Partners in our Agriculture Program (before we even had a Farmer to Farmer Program!). He worked with **Miguel Cortez** in the area of grazing land management, his speciality. He wrote us recently:

"Ann and I retired in 1996. Since that time we have made six adventuresome trips abroad, but only one was related to Agriculture. I'm sure you will want to strongly abridge the project described below.

"The two week long Ag-related project involved consulting with eight corn farmers in Ukraine near the Black Sea who were interested in establishing their own seed corn business. With the breakup of the Soviet Union, land from communal farms in Ukraine was being made available for private farms. The topography of the land in that part of Ukraine where I worked (about 100 miles southeast of Kiev, the capital city) was similar to that of the rolling hills of Iowa. I have never seen such determination and excitement about the possibility of going into business for themselves as there was among these farmers after having spent so many years under the Communistic kibbutz system.

"The eight farmers were interested in forming a partnership business by building a processing plant and marketing their own brand of seed corn. They were all seasoned farmers with their own land and rather large farming equipment. The Agronomic practices (such as planting dates, planting rates, fertilization, weed control, row spacing, etc.) used by these farmers were progressive and adequate, but the country's method of keeping their farmers informed of new farming techniques seemed lacking.

"So my main contribution to the group was not as much with the Agronomics associated with seed corn production as with the design and operation of a new seed corn processing plant and with marketing techniques. By consulting with Agricultural faculty members of U.S. universities and with several private seed corn producers that I knew in Indiana I was able to share with the Ukrainians a design for a processing plant. I was not able to help them find financing for building the plant.

"Other interesting aspects of the Ukraine project were the opportunity to lecture to an Agricultural Engineering class at a small university, visit a huge communal farm, visit with two brothers who produced and marketed their own apple tree seedlings commercially, eat boiled carp soup while on a picnic hosted by the eight farmers, and stay at a hospital and visit there with children who were being treated for injuries associated with the atomic power plant explosion at Chernobyl, not far away.

"Bob, totally unrelated to the Ukraine project was our two-month work project in Southern Israel last spring where Ann and I served as tour guides through a replica of the Jewish tabernacle. What a tremendous experience that was for an old Baptist."

Paula Saldaña

This is another student profile constructed and submitted by **Bill Millager**. Although Paula has now graduated and moved on, we thought you would be interested in this

portrait of her life and family, as a student at the University of Arkansas, her work and future plans. Here's her story:

Paula graduated from the UofA School of Architecture in May 2001. Until the end of March, 2002, she worked as an Architectural intern at **Perry Butcher's** well-known and prosperous firm in Rogers.

As this goes to press - early April - she is en route to Bahia, in northeast Brazil. There Paula will live with her maternal grandparents until January, 2003, when she will move to Madrid, Spain and enroll in a master's program in environmental architecture.

Decision is Product of a Lifetime...

Paula's decision to specialize in a more technical aspect of her profession - and in Europe rather than the US or South America - arises from her experiences and observations since childhood.



University of Arkansas

Paula began her architecture course at UofA in January, 1996. She was one of the last group allowed to begin at mid-year rather than in September. Paula began her studies before the Partners of the Americas initiated the in-state tuition program for students from Bolivia. Since then, their numbers have increased from a handful to over 80. In the beginning, Paula knew all of the Bolivians. But now, only a fraction of the much larger number.

Paula became interested in architecture through her architect father. Since childhood she was fascinated by art (and by music), and was gradually drawn to the applied art of architecture. Paula first arrived at Fayetteville's Drake Field, with her father, during one of the biggest snowstorms in years. **Jim Scroggs** eventually collected them from the airport and took them home, where the father pitched in to help Jim with some of the construction on his passive solar house.

Paula's early interest in building things and taking them apart found expression in one of her architecture projects, during which the class actually built a whole house!

Connection with Jane and Jim Scroggs

Paula had applied to, and been accepted by, several universities. While the Scroggs were attending a Partners meeting in Santa Cruz, Paula's mother **Carmiña** told Jane that her daughter would probably choose UA. The choice was influenced by her mother's connection with Partners, the good reputation of UA's architecture program, and Jane's offer to look after the daughter and provide a "second home." (And the Scroggs have been a true host family over the years.)

During her student years, Paula had to concentrate on her demanding architectural course work. There wasn't a lot of time for partying. She did take a course in German literature, building on her language fluency obtained at the German School in Santa Cruz and an academic year in Spain. The story of how she convinced the German language faculty at Fayetteville that she possessed all the prerequisites is one that **Jane Scroggs** is fond of telling. Paula also continued with her interest in music by studying beginning piano, and even bought a used upright piano at a silent auction.

Family Background

Paula was born in Brazil. Her father, a Bolivian architect, was practicing in Brazil, and her mother is originally Brazilian. The family soon moved to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, where Paula lived and attended school until enrolling in the UofA. Paula had learned Portuguese at home, and since their Brazilian housekeeper moved to Santa Cruz with the family, she continued to use the language frequently. But now her Portuguese is "rusty," and this will be corrected during her stay in Bahia.

Her mother's parents were Spanish. They left Spain in the late 1930's, during the Spanish Civil War. Her grandfather had been drafted, but decided to emigrate at that time, and went first to Mexico. Paula's maternal grandmother's parents were originally from Yugoslavia (Serbia?); her maiden name was Milosevic.

Current Family Situation

Paula's mother is editor of a weekly women's section, "Para Ellas," of *El Deber*, the leading newspaper in Santa Cruz. (www.eldeber.net) Arkansas Partners who have visited Santa Cruz admire her energy and outgoing personality. These traits explain Carmiña's nickname, "La Brasileña."

Paula's three brothers are all younger than she, and tease her with, "Here comes the queen." The older two are now college students, so only one is still at home. Her grandmother in Brazil is quite elderly, and is very touched that Paula will come and spend most of the year with her.

Plans for Bahia

Paula had hoped to be able to continue her professional activities while in Brazil. She has a university contact there with an architecture professor. He has indicated that she will be welcome to fulfill an educational role, but a private sector job is dubious. (Universidade Estadual do Sudoeste da Bahia - UESB <http://www2.uesb.br/>)

Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

Paula has been able to make her final arrangements for enrollment in Madrid by e-mail. Though she does not know the faculty personally, a friend of hers in Bolivia has completed the same environmental program and given it high marks. There are thirty members in the program currently, including seven women.

Why Environmental Architecture, and Why Madrid?

Paula's experience with architecture as taught at the UofA and as practiced in the US, led her to believe that environmental impacts were not receiving competent attention. The word environment might be used, but the level of concern is shallow, and tools to deal with the subject mostly inadequate. She intends to learn to apply hard science and real numbers to the issues involved.

She investigated opportunities for specialized study in the US. UC Berkeley has an excellent program, but the cost is prohibitive. Other programs in the US may be non-existent. Thus the program that she knew about in Madrid seemed a logical choice, and the most helpful responses to her email inquiries made the decision easier. (<http://www.upm.es/>)

A Related Factor: the Brazilian Favelas

"Favelas" are a fact of life in Brazilian cities. They are informal housing developments where low-income families live in extremely poor conditions. Paula senses a raw beauty in the favelas, arising from the colorful surroundings and the irrepressible spirit of the inhabitants. She believes that applying architectural skills could yield significant improvement in living conditions at very modest cost.

Support of Friends and Associates

Paula's Arkansas friends have expressed understanding of her decision to pursue her professional interests so forcefully. Her colleagues and superiors at Perry Butcher & Associates have also been both understanding and supportive. Paula's work at the firm has drawn commendations; her projects have included a resort development in the Bahamas and the Abilities Unlimited facility in Springdale.

Paula's supervisor **Chris Shirley** subscribes to some of her comments on the favelas. He believes that Paula will make a name for herself and that we will soon be reading about her accomplishments.

And After Madrid???

The Welcome Light Will Be On

Paula may be living with the family of a friend of hers in Madrid. In any case, she will welcome visits from her Arkansas friends. One Arkansan, **Sarah Marsh**, has already made plans to visit early next year. "Sarah has committed herself to visit all of the continents before she reaches 30, and has already visited just about all of the European Union member countries."

Postscript

Paula Saldaña shares many of the political views espoused by Sarah, who was an energetic but unsuccessful candidate for the third district US Congress seat on the Green Party ticket in 2000. During her final evening before leaving Fayetteville, Paula was helping

Sarah and others prepare posters and flyers. They were to be used during a peaceful "demonstration for democracy" scheduled for the Fayetteville Square during

Vice President Cheney's fund-raising visit to the city. The demonstration, sponsored by the National Organization for Women, the Green Party, and the Young Democrats, attracted some 250 people.

Direcciones was fortunate to have the help of Jane Scroggs in finishing up this article via a long phone call with Paula during her five-day stopover in Miami.

Stephen Perry

Stephen has a new posting, from Lagos to Argentina. He writes:

"As regards my BA posting, I will be doing Library and Information Science work - the same work I had done in Bolivia for Partners of the Americas, so I am super-excited!

"My regional Posts will include Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, all so Argentina, Chile, and Peru.

"I will consult with Universities and NGO's, Government Ministries, etc. train Journalists and a variety of NGO's and Government Ministries on Internet Resources in their areas and probably be doing lots of public speaking as well on recent developments in the broad field of Information Science, including the Internet, Web Page Development, Search engines, etc.

"It will be great fun!

Steve

stephper@hotmail.com

Board meeting

The Board met in Russellville on April 6, 2002. It was reported that the three partnerships for Bolivia would be holding a meeting in La Paz in May - Thecia and Bob were expected to attend (see President's message above).

Bill Millager reported on the Hispanic Women's Organization and their work on the upcoming Cinco de Mayo celebration to be held at the Jones Center in Springdale. It was moved and seconded that our partnership participate in this event.

Phil Serafini reported on the status of Bolivian students at the University. The administration has noted the increasing numbers of students and is pleased to have them at the University. Phil also reported that **Carol Corning** would be traveling to Central America and would be asked, along with **Don Dombek**, to attend the Farmer to Farmer workshop to be held in Guatemala in June.

Ed Hawkins is working on marketing plans for the partnership. He is targeting individuals and groups to be involved with this effort.

Barry Brown has agreed to serve as our new sports

committee chairman. He is working with a student to send to Bolivia for training of coaches once a grant has been approved in Washington.

The next meeting of the Board is **July 27** in Russellville.

DUES! (Again)

As always, we make another plea for you to pay your dues, if you have not already done so. We have sent out two statements with the last two issues of *Direcciones*, and we thank you for those of you who have responded. For those of you who have not, look around and see if you might still have a copy of the invoice sent to you earlier, and please respond (along with your e-mail address). If you wish not to have your name on our mailing list - either those on the membership list or those we consider prospects, just let us know and we will gladly remove your name. You can e-mail us or send us notice by regular mail - see the Editor's addresses on the masthead of this issue. Thanks for your cooperation!

Receiving *Direcciones*

For the first time we will be sending this issue of *Direcciones* to all who have supplied us with their e-mail addresses. We have no idea how (or if) it will work. If you would prefer to have a paper-printed copy, try copying it on your printer and if that doesn't work let the Editor know and he will gladly send you a paper copy. In addition, you may know that all issues of *Direcciones* may be found on our web site, courtesy of **Bill Millager**. Give it a try!