



DIRECCIONES

Newsletter of the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas

Bob Frans, Ed., 1366 W. Alzheimer 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)

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Editor's note

I know it's not good to start every edition of *Direcciones* with an apology, but what else is new? I can only say it's been a long time since the last issue and it is entirely my fault. Extenuating circumstances? Yes (for me) quite a few. As many of you know I've been suffering for nearly a year with a bad back, which left me mean, cantankerous, and down-right hard to live with (not that anybody had to live me since I live alone!). The back problem kept getting worse and finally culminated in surgery in March. Happily, it was a huge success and my recovery is proceeding apace, albeit somewhat slowly. I must confess that during the last six months or so, I didn't much care if Partners existed or not, let alone my involvement with *Direcciones*. But, things are improving, and I'm able to sit before my computer for longer periods of time, so, finally, I have turned my attention to this edition of the newsletter. I can only apologize to all those folks who have faithfully sent me articles to include, etc. I will try to get most of them in. On another note, at the beginning of this year I submitted my resignation as Executive Director and as Editor of *Direcciones*. It's time for new blood! At the last Board meeting, which I was not able to attend, **Laurin Wheeler** agreed to become Executive Director at the end of this year and **Stacy Ericson** to become Editor of *Direcciones*. I think we are most fortunate to have such capable people available and willing to step in to continue in much better shape than I've been able to in these positions. Please give them your every courtesy and help in assuming these new duties.

With that rather long-winded explanation, on with the news!

President's message

I know this newsletter is going to be long, therefore my message will be brief. I would like to thank all Arkansas Partners for the work that has been going on in the past few months. It is wonderful to see so much activity.

I want to remind everyone that the Arkansas Annual Meeting will be toward the end of October in Little Rock. The final dates have not yet been set. AND, the International Partners Convention will be November 20 to 22 in Lexington, Kentucky. It isn't often that the international meetings are this close to home, so let's try to make a good showing.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe summer.

Sincerely,

Thecia Taylor

Travels

Much of the bulk of this edition will be taken up with trip reports of various people who have traveled in the last several months.

Kyle Brunen

Kyle was our first traveler to go to Bolivia under the new sports program. Although an account of his trip was given in an earlier edition of *Direcciones*, this account is in Kyle's own words. We thought you would enjoy his first-hand impressions. Here is his report:

Partners of America Sports Program

I arrived in Santa Cruz, Bolivia on Wednesday, August 24. After some extensive touring and education of the city, a few days were spent in preparation of the seminars in the following days. I evaluated the facilities and equipment available for the seminars and workshops and tried to determine exactly how many coaches and athletes would be attending as well as the sport that they were associated with. I found that the equipment and

facilities were better than I had expected. The stadium in Santa Cruz provided us with a great location for drills and instruction in each of the designated areas. Later that day, I worked with some of the coaches who wanted to gather more information about their elite athletes in order to be able to document the improvement of their athletes with the training. Some of the tests performed were the vertical jump, standing long jump, and 20 and 40-meter sprints. Approximately 20 coaches attended the first seminar without any athletes present. The seminar covered training principles and the tests used to measure the performance of their athletes as well as their fitness levels. The coaches expressed a lot of interest in the information that I had for them and were very enthusiastic about the workshops. The range of sports that were represented at the workshops were much more diverse than I had originally planned. I had originally designed the program for sports such as track and field, soccer, basketball, baseball, and swimming. After meeting each of the coaches, I adjusted the program to fit the needs of each of the sports represented. Other sports included karate, volleyball, and boxing to mention a few. The largest contingent was in Track and Field. The first day went surprisingly well. The information was passed on and understood without much difficulty. For this, I must thank my translator in Santa Cruz, **Marco Ortiz**, for his wonderful help and invaluable guidance. On the second day of the seminar, the coaches performed a "hands-on" workshop with their own athletes. This workshop put into action the principals and tests that they had learned the day earlier in order to have some personal experience with the material and their athletes. The coaches that had attended the day before arrived again with approximately 2-3 athletes in their designated sport. This workshop was also a success, even more so than the first. I was delighted to see a lot of smiles and enthusiasm when the coaches and athletes performed the tests designed to measure speed, agility, power, cardiovascular fitness, and body composition. The coaches developed a better understanding of the tests and information that was given to them the day before as well as learning valuable information about the training level of their athletes. Following the second day of the seminar, the coaches were presented with complimentary booklets of the University of Arkansas Strength and Conditioning exercises and principals as well as donated t-shirts from the University of Arkansas men's athletics department. The coaches in association with the Santa Cruz Track and Field Association were very thankful and asked a lot of questions about programs that may follow in the future. Each coach and athlete received a certificate stating that they had completed the seminar. The rest of my days in Santa Cruz were spent relaxing, seeing the rest of the city, and helping some coaches that wanted some help with their athletes. I went to a baseball practice and helped the coach evaluate their throwing and hitting mechanics while conducting a practice. Other activities included a dinner with the rest of the Partners of America. The group was very

hospitable and happy to have me in Bolivia. **Miguel Cortez Escalante** expressed his happiness in my arrival in Santa Cruz. He and his wife were very gracious and hospitable and expressed options for the sports program in the future. I must also thank them for their hospitality and genuine interest in the program. Special thanks must go out to **Sandra Angela Antelo** for her guidance, dedication, and attitude towards the program, not to mention her hospitality.

I arrived in Trinidad on Monday, August 19. I met with several partners at the airport such as **Mr. Willie Tanaka** and **Roxana Rivero Chavez**. Roxana was a very gracious and helpful host as well as her son Carlo, who was my translator for the second day of the seminar. I also went to eat with **Victor Hugo Callau**, a radio broadcaster in Trinidad and a very nice man. He provided me with a lot of good stories about Trinidad and introduced me to some great food native to Trinidad. The needs in Trinidad were much different than in Santa Cruz so I had to adjust the program to compensate for the different facilities and lack of equipment that was apparent in the city. The Sports Palace of Trinidad provided a great place for us to hold the seminars and aside from strength, conditioning, and fitness assessment equipment, the equipment that they had was very good in comparison to Santa Cruz. The first day of the workshops went well. The orientation of the material went very well with the 16 coaches present. They had a little more trouble grasping some of the material at first, but following questions, were a little more comfortable with the material. The second day of the seminar also cleared up any confusion about the principals from the day before. The drills and tests covered from the day before were put into action with approximately 15 athletes at the Sports Palace. This is where the real learning and experience happened for the group in Trinidad. They reacted very well and seemed very gracious for the workshops. The coaches and athletes in Trinidad were a delight to work with. They were constantly laughing and having fun while staying tuned to the tasks at hand, a skill not yet mastered by most Americans. I must thank **Carlo Chavez** for his help on the second day of the workshop, his guidance, and his hospitality for the duration of my stay in Trinidad. After the workshop, I went with Victor and his wife once again to dinner, where Victor educated me about his trip to America years ago. What a great experience and what great people! For the rest of my stay in Trinidad I worked with more coaches as I did in Santa Cruz. I worked with a basketball team and evaluated their mechanics while observing their practice style as well. I also gave them a few helpful pointers on how to improve their game. Next I worked with a girl's volleyball team and taught them the specific skills of the serve, pass, set, and spike. I addressed other situational skills and special plays that can confuse the opposition. I am very proud of the strides that the girls made in such a short amount of time. I hope that the skills and drills that I introduced to them will help them progress further. I

was extremely fortunate enough to meet the mayor of Trinidad who presented me with a certificate thanking me for the help that I had provided for them. I was very humbled by the honor and can only hope that I was as gracious in return. My final days in Trinidad were a great experience. On one day I was introduced to a restaurant that was located by the river, which served some of the best fish that I had ever tasted. Carlo also showed me around the city and educated me on some of the scenery and buildings that had a lot of history for me to learn. What a great experience! My last night in Trinidad was very nice. Roxana hosted a dinner for myself, and some of the partners in Trinidad. It was a fabulous night with a lot of stories and discussion about plans for the future. As a new member of the Partners of America, it was a very informative and educational experience about the other programs and areas of interest. Again, I must thank Roxana for her fabulous hospitality and aid during my stay in Trinidad.

I left for Cobija on Monday, August 26. The city was a very pleasant surprise! For those who have not had the pleasure of traveling to Pando, if you have the means, I highly recommend it. It is a tropical environment and has a slower-paced style of life than I had become accustomed to after spending a lot of time in Santa Cruz and Trinidad. The city is very nice and the scenery is breathtaking. I met with **Carol Carlo Duran**, my host, at the airport. I appreciated her organization and her help with the planning of the seminars as well as recruiting the coaches and athletes. My greatest gratitude must go out to my translator, Paolo. Paolo provided me with great translation and a very useful guide and companion in a new and strange place. My first day in Cobija was a memorable one. After settling in my hotel room, I spoke to a soccer coach and his team about dedication to their sport while maintaining a high level of enjoyment. I followed up with some warm-up drills and begun to start a practice for them until a downpour ensued. It was a rainfall that I had not seen in many years. I was soaked from head to toe but it was a day that I will not soon forget. I then met with some of the coaches that were going to attend the meetings the next day. I gave them some background information about the program and exactly what I would be talking about. The first seminar was the next day. It went very well. I was surprised to see the coaches learning the material fairly quickly. I also learned the value of a good translator when you are not fortunate enough to speak the language. Twenty-one coaches came to the first seminar, which was held at a building that was once the city hall. The coaches were very interested and asked a lot of questions regarding the tests and drills that I had showed to them. The only problem with this workshop was that it started at 8:15 pm. Everyone was a little tired at the end of the night. Unfortunately, the second seminar was planned to start at 8:15 as well. Despite the late starting time, the second workshop went well. Similar to the coaches in the other cities, the practical application of the tests and drills was very beneficial for them. They also gathered some

great information from their athletes and expressed their interest in a program similar to this. Following the final workshop, I was invited to discuss some of the ideas that they had for sports programs in the future. My last few days were spent touring the city of Cobija and learning about the differences between Pando and the rest of the country. I also passed over to Brazil and ate some fabulous food and experienced some of the culture that they had to offer. You could definitely tell when you crossed the border. The music and joyous atmosphere was evident as soon as you crossed. I also spoke to a classroom of physiotherapy students and expressed the importance of their profession and services to the entire population. Being in a physiological domain as well, I also demonstrated how similar our fields were. They had a lot of questions as well! This was a beneficial time for the students, teachers, and myself.

My last stop in Bolivia was in La Paz. I did not perform the seminar that was started in the other cities but I talked to **Cecilia Cordova** and other partners who were very optimistic about starting a sports program. With La Paz being such a large city, the needs were numerous and diverse. Cecilia expressed the importance of getting their youth into playing more sports instead of heading toward a path of crime. Other ideas included the program that was started in Santa Cruz, Trinidad, and Cobija, as well as increasing the activity level of the youth in different areas of the city and different levels of economic status. The rest of my stay in La Paz was a great experience. The scenery was beautiful and the buildings were very authentic looking. I enjoyed this stay very much. I ended the trip with lunch at Cecilia's house. Her hospitality was very appreciated as well as her interest in our sports program. My greatest thanks must go out to Luis, his kindness and hospitality were excellent. Hopefully I will be able to speak Spanish and communicate with him a little more clearly next time.

I returned to America on the 3rd of September. I want to thank the Partners of the Americas in the United States and in Bolivia for the chance to be a part of a new program and the invaluable experience that I had. I am very optimistic about the sports program in the future. I think that there are many areas of interest in many areas of the country. We have knowledge and resources that can benefit them greatly and I think that this program can develop into one of the most successful programs associated with the Partners of the Americas.

Victor Hugo Callaú

Victor Hugo came to Fayetteville on October 12. While in Northwest Arkansas he was hosted by **Bettie Lu Lancaster**, **Phil Serafini**, and **Bill Millager**. He attended the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partner's Annual Meeting and gave a brief talk to this group. Later, he participated in the reception and fiesta at the Episcopal Church in Fayetteville, and the next day at the Board meeting. He then spent a couple of days with **Bill** and **Gwen Millager** at their Rogers home.

While there he was able to arrange for emergency equipment for his radio station in Trinidad. He also visited a radio station in Rogers and witnessed a television debate between two state-wide candidates for the U.S. Senate



L: Jorge Mendoza; R: Victor Hugo Callau - Farmer's Market, Fayetteville

from Arkansas. Back in Fayetteville,

Victor Hugo visited the local NPR station and lunched with **Rick Stockdale**, station manager. He was also hosted for dinners by **Margaret Clark** and **Mary Ann Sennett**. He also was able to visit the local Farmer's Market in Fayetteville and there met with **Jorge Mendoza**, a local Hispanic artist.

On October Victor Hugo transferred to Central Arkansas, spending a couple of days with **Sue Heily** in Conway and the remainder of his time with **Thecia Taylor** in Little Rock. He departed for Bolivia from Little Rock on October 25 .

Miguel Angel Mendoza S.

Sr. Mendoza attended the International Partners Convention in Quito. Because he was a scholarship awardee for that conference, he was able to visit his Arkansas counterpart partnership afterwards. Miguel represented East Bolivia from his home city of Trinidad.

He arrived in Northwest Arkansas on November 24, following the Quito conference, and was met at the airport by **Gwen** and **Bill Millager** and by **Bob Frans**, who was his Fayetteville host. Although Miguel had only a week for his visit, including both Fayetteville and Little Rock, the days were full of activities. Initially, he was able to tour Washington County agricultural areas with the kind assistance of **Merle Gross**, Staff Chair of the county extension service. **Juan Carlos Mehta**, top student in the Crops, Soils and Environmental Sciences Department and from Bolivia, was his translator. Later, he toured the Springdale Jones Center and met with Hispanic leaders there. These arrangements were made by Gwen Millager.

Although it was Thanksgiving week, he took it in stride. On Wednesday night, Bob took him to Ft. Smith for a Thanksgiving dinner with Bob's daughter **Cecilia** and **Mike Callaway** and family. On Thanksgiving day, **Phil** and **Mary Alice Serafini** were his hosts with their family and friends. On Saturday of that week we transferred to Little Rock where **Thecia Taylor** was his host for the rest of his stay. Part of his stay in Central Arkansas was devoted to shopping and to a tour of the Pine Bluff and Stuttgart area. The last day of his stay

in the area he was taken to Mariana and hosted by the Staff Chair of Extension, **Lazaro English**, a former Weed Science student and colleague of Bob's. Lazaro graciously invited us to the weekly Rotary Club meeting, where both Bob and Thecia were able to outline the purpose of Miguel's visit, as well as the Partner organization. Bob was able to meet several former colleagues at this meeting - he worked for many years at the adjacent Cotton Branch Experiment Station. In the afternoon we were able to visit the station where we were met by **Claude Kennedy**, Director of the station. We were also able to tour one of the leading and modern cotton gins of East Arkansas and briefly visited a fish farming operation nearby. The next day, December 3, Miguel departed for Bolivia.

Don Dombek

Although we do not have a running account of Don's most recent trip to Bolivia, we thought his report to the Washington Office would be of interest to you in keeping up with his activities with Farmer to Farmer in East Bolivia. This is his account:

December 26, 2002 – January 11, 2003

What was the purpose and primary objective of your trip?

To meet with the Santa Cruz FTF coordinator, the FTF Committee, the National FTF coordinator and as many representatives of NGOs as possible to help reorganize the FTF partnership between Arkansas and Eastern Bolivia.

What Institutions/organizations/groups were you primarily providing assistance to?

SEDAG (Servicio Departamental Agroquimicos) Ministerio de Agricultura. ASOFRUT (Asociacion de Productores Horticola y Frutas). CAVECRUZ (Centro de Accion Vecinal Santa Cruz). D. World Concern.

What services/assistance did you provide?

The majority of my time was spent working with the Santa Cruz FTF organization. Together, we identified three projects on which we will focus our resources before expanding to other projects.

Any recommendation/suggestions for future volunteers, or comments?

I think it is important to give careful thought to what you will try to accomplish before visiting. Because you have relatively little time "on the ground", pre-travel orientation is very important. Try to learn as much as possible about the challenges you will face before you leave. Beyond that, go, be flexible, have fun and remember that you are there to try to help. Don't take yourself too seriously.

Please provide some comments on how the trip affected you personally, or how you generally feel about the Farmer to Farmer program. Because I spent most of my time doing administrative-type work, it was not as much fun or as interesting as previous trips. I do believe that the groundwork done on this trip will make the Arkansas-Eastern Bolivia FTF partnership more productive.

Please attach any photos, documents, or a "freestyle"

trip report in addition if you like.

As mentioned above, this trip was mostly about meetings, and there were several good ones. I spent a lot of time with **Miguel Cortez** and **Juan Antonio Pereira** discussing ideas and future projects. We met with representatives of all of the groups listed above, and as a consequence of those meetings we refined existing FTF proposals and developed a new one that I believe will be successful. An important part of this trip was my visit to Cochabamba. I am very impressed with what **Mauricio Ramirez** and his colleagues have accomplished there and I believe we can learn from their successes. This trip has already resulted in a volunteer trip for **Paul McLeod**, we have another traveler scheduled for May and I'm currently recruiting two other volunteers and searching for another. My goal was to begin to reenergize our end of the partnership, and some progress has been made.

Paul McLeod

Paul, an entomologist from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, also traveled to East Bolivia under the Farmer to Farmer program. Again, since we do not have a running account of his trip, we present his trip report as submitted to the Washington office:

Dates: 15-24 March 2003.

What was the purpose and primary objective of your trip?

- A. Provide instruction in development and use of IPM programs for insects of corn and vegetables.
- B. Analyze current cropping systems and provide suggestions for improvement.
- C. Determine areas of future cooperation.
- D. Establish links for future cooperation including student exchange.

What Institutions/organizations/groups were you primarily providing assistance to?

Servicio Departamental Agroquimicos (SEDAG)
– Minister of Agriculture

Partners and Farmer to Farmer members and volunteers from Santa Cruz.

Agricultural sciences faculty of Universidad Autonoma Gabriel Rene Moreno

Productores de Maiz y Sorghum (PROMASOR)

Asohfrut (Asociacion de Productores Horticola y Frutas

Asociacion Nacional de Productores de Oleaginosas (ANAPO)

What services/assistance did you provide?

Provide instruction in development and use of IPM programs for insects of corn and vegetables.

The following seminars were provided :

Los Negros seminars 3/19 – 48 producers/technical personnel were in attendance

- a. Use and Misuse of Pesticides in Agriculture
- b. Development and Use of IPM for Vegetable

Insects

PROMASOR seminar 3/20 – six technical personnel were in attendance

- c. IPM in field corn

University seminar 3/21 – about 85 students and 8 faculty were in attendance

d. Development and Use of IPM in India
Analyze current cropping systems and provide suggestions for improvement.

Discussions were held with

a. Dr. Christopher Pruett and several staff of Universidad Autonoma “Gabriel Rene Moreno”

b. SEDAG personnel – suggested ways of improving pesticide applicator safety

c. PROMASOR personnel and producers – offered advice on choosing new insecticides for corn production; use of IPM

d. ANAPO

C. Determine areas of future cooperation.

Discussions were held with

a. Dr. Christopher Pruett and several staff of Universidad Autonoma “Gabriel Rene Moreno” on

i. Student exchange

ii. English instruction

iii. Future assistance with publication of extension literature

b. With SEDAG personnel on

Future assistance with extension literature

.PROMASOR personnel and producers

Additional visits to view insect problems and their management in corn

Establish links for future cooperation including student exchange.

Discussions were held with

Dr. Christopher Pruett and several staff of Universidad Autonoma “Gabriel Rene Moreno”

Assistantships are sometimes available but requires student interested in a particular area, e.g. entomology, and with English skills

Explored graduate student opportunities with other visiting faculty from the University of Arkansas

What were your observations, and what do you feel you accomplished through these activities?

I believe that Dr. Pruett has an outstanding knowledge of the insect situation in Santa Cruz agriculture and should be considered “the source” of entomological information in the future. I hope that each of the organizations I consulted with will be aware of this information source. By establishing the linkage between Dr. Pruett and myself, I believe that future collaboration will be achieved. I hope that I will be able to assist him in further development and publication of extension literature on insects of vegetables. This visit was the first step in the process. It also was the initial step in development of student exchange.

Some newer information was provided to vegetable and corn producers. Use of this information should help in better management of insect pests, improvement of pesticide safety, and resistance management.

From the information that you have, did you notice or become aware of any changes that resulted from recommendations of previous FTF volunteers?

Several of the organizations mentioned previous

visits by FTF volunteers and successes instigated by the volunteers. This includes improvements in seed production, forages, dairy and cotton.

What future volunteer assignments do you think are needed, and what are the next steps in moving the program forward?

I believe that the greatest potential for future success is in the area of extension bulletin development and publication. I have the ability of taking quality digital photos of insects and writing descriptions, biologies, and management strategies for insect pests of vegetables and corn. Together with a pathologist, the bulletin for one or two crops could likely be put together during a two week visit. Translation in Santa Cruz would be required and the document could be quickly printed and distributed to producers. Perhaps a bulletin on backyard vegetable insects and diseases could be developed between the University of Arkansas and Dr. Chris Pruett.

Sending post-graduate students from agricultural sciences of the Universidad Autonoma "Gabriel Rene Moreno" should be developed further. The two requirements needed from Bolivia are

1. a strong student with a specific interest, e.g., entomology, and
2. good English skills. Efforts will be made to match students with appropriate faculty with support funds at the University of Arkansas.

Both of these objectives should be able to be accomplished during the next visit – possibly July but, for me, more likely October or November.

Any recommendation/suggestions for future volunteers, or comments?

Remain flexible, be prepared to work hard, but take time to enjoy the wonderful country and friendly people. Please provide some comments on how the trip affected you personally, or how you generally feel about the Farmer to Farmer program.

I believe that Bolivia is now my 15th foreign country to work in. I would rank my enjoyment and satisfaction of this trip among my best. Without exception, the technical personnel, the corn and vegetable producers, the organization staff and in particular, the FTF staff and their wives were highly interested in interacting with me and gaining as much knowledge as possible during the short visit. I, however, am sure that I gained far more than I provided.

Profiles

Continuing our practice of providing information about our Partners or Bolivian students, **Bill Millager** has provided us with an interesting piece on a former student. Here is her profile:

Patricia Cors

Studies in Bolivia and in Fayetteville - I graduated from Franco Boliviano School in Santa Cruz. Then I went to UPSA University and studied business administration for about a year and a half. While there, I was studying English - a little bit. I had wanted to

come to Fayetteville from the beginning, but we didn't know about the scholarship money until later.

After some time, I talked with **Paula Saldaña**, and her mom told me about this program, and I talked with my parents. They decided they would send me here to study English and maybe to attend the University. So I came to Spring International Center. It was the fall of 1997 - I was 20.

After about six or seven months, I passed the TOEFL. I went back home until classes would start again in the fall of 1998. I taught English for a while - with the little English that I knew! I was an English instructor with the CBA (Centro Boliviano Americano), which is the English institute in Santa Cruz.

I came back to Fayetteville in the fall of 1998 and started studying at the University. In 2001, I finished my degree; I have a business degree with a major in finance.

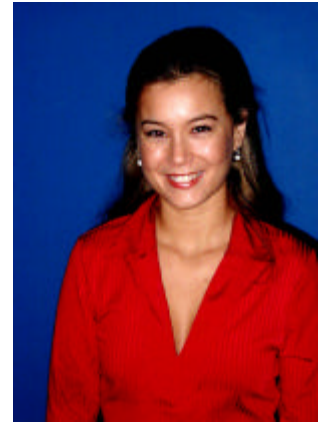
Extracurricular - There are a lot of Bolivians who like to hang out together. We have always liked to have parties to celebrate our independence together, like the 24th of September, which is the Day of Santa Cruz. We like to enjoy our typical foods, such as majadito (rice with meat and eggs), plátanos, corn cakes, and fried yucca.

Community Activities - While at the University, I was also active in SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise). We tried to help people start businesses. For example, we had a project where we taught hispanics some tips about management, marketing, and legal procedures to start a business in Northwest Arkansas. We also sent some people to the SBDC (Small Business Development Center) at UofA. It was a good feeling to know that we had helped some people get started with a good business.

Experiences at Tysons - After graduating, I started working at Tysons. I worked as a production supervisor on the night shift at the entree plant in Fayetteville. They do the Uncle Ben's Bowls - have you seen those? That's their main product, rice and meat dishes. They also make the kit bags like fajitas, pata dinners, and Asian foods.

I worked there for almost a year. I worked in different departments: purchasing, quality control, and production, as a trainee. My favorite was working in the purchasing department, because I had a chance to look at production from a different perspective, and it also improved my communication skills.

After about a year, I got promoted to an HR (Human Resources) position, which is where I'm working right now. What I do there is . . . I am an Employment Manager. I interview people - most of



them are Hispanic. I recruit them, interview them, and then hire them. I send them to different plants in Northwest Arkansas. I really enjoy working in this field. I feel that I am learning very useful things for my career and improving my people skills.

There are three supervisors. We hire for about 21 locations in Northwest Arkansas. There are a lot of hatcheries and plants in this area. I really like my job. I feel very comfortable where I am, and I really like the people who I work with and what I'm doing.

Patricia and Mauricio's Wedding - Actually I recently got married; you may have seen the pictures in the newspaper *El Nuevo Dia* from Santa Cruz. (www.el-nuevodia.com/Fiesta/Enero/fie030107b.html) It was a nice wedding; it was a beautiful day for me and Mauricio. Mauricio and I met about five years ago, while we were students at the University. The wedding was on January 4th of this year.

Future Plans - My husband Mauricio Ribera is working in Alabama right now. My visa status doesn't allow me to move to Alabama for a while yet.

I will stay here probably for two more months, and after that I'm going to move to Alabama and look for a job. I'm very excited about it. Mauricio tried to get a job here, to be close to me, but he got an offer from Rheem Incorporated - he had an internship with them at the air conditioner plant in Ft. Smith. He also graduated from the UofA; he's an industrial engineer. (Mauricio came about eight years ago to Texas, to a community college in Corpus Christi. Later on he transferred to the UofA for his degree and a masters in industrial engineering.)

So he got a job with Rheem in Alabama - in Montgomery - but they make heaters there.

I have been there once. I'm very excited about going to Alabama, but I'm a little bit scared because I'll have to get started there all over again. We have a lot of friends here; we've been here for almost six years.

He's making friends, people who work with him, Latin people, American people, people from some other countries: Brazilians, Argentinians, different countries. I think he's comfortable; he feels happy there.

Montgomery is a bigger city than Fayetteville, but I like Fayetteville; it is very safe here, and people are so friendly. We have a lot of friends.

Further Studies - So, in two months I'm going to move there. Actually, I was thinking in a year I would begin to study for a masters degree in human resources. I was thinking I could do it at some school in Alabama, possibly at Auburn University. If I could get a job and pay for my tuition, that would be good.

Long Term - Our plan - long term - is to work for about three more years in Alabama and then go back to Bolivia. We'll go back to Santa Cruz. We haven't searched for any jobs there yet; but probably a year before we go there, we'll start looking for some jobs.

Montgomery is a bigger city than Fayetteville, but I like Fayetteville; it is very safe here, and people are so friendly. We have a lot of friends.

Family - I look forward to going home eventually; I

miss my family a lot.

I have one brother; he's 22. His name is Freddie, and he's studying there in Santa Cruz. He's going to a university. It's called UTEPSA. He's studying business, too.

My family is from Santa Cruz. My father is "from everywhere," he says. He went to school in Argentina, and then he came back to Bolivia, but they have been in Santa Cruz for most of their lives.

My parents came to graduation a few years ago. Ooh, my father was very excited about it. He took pictures of everything! It was the first time they came. They really liked it. I think they were very comfortable being here, because it's safer than Santa Cruz right now.

Travels - I have been, when I was a child, in Argentina. I've been in Brazil, in Chile, in the Dominican Republic - that was very nice. Where else? Jamaica - just one day - it is beautiful.

In the United States, I have been in Dallas and some other cities in Texas. Also in Florida and in Washington, DC. We went to some monuments, to the Mall, to the White House, to some museums. It was really interesting. We would also like to go to New York City.

Other News

Sue Heily provided us with a couple of items as follows:

The Central Arkansas Partners gathered for a delicious potluck at **Thecia Taylor's** home on March 9. The program focused on networking with the director of the Arkansas International Center at UALR, **Martha L. Morton**. Martha is also director of "Bringing Mexico to Arkansas Teachers" and "Bringing China to Arkansas Teachers." Her phone is 501-569-8618 and her e-mail is milmorton@UALR.edu.

An additional experience was having a UALR Peruvian student join us for the evening, Jose, who was a guest of **Leah Wilkinson**.

On April 15 approximately 20 Partners met at **Thecia Taylor's** house for another potluck. No, we weren't rejoicing about having to pay taxes, we were welcoming **Osman Pereyra Q.** representing Academia de futbol Tahuichi Aguilera. **Le Ann Robertson** was in charge of his program which was facilitating his meeting coaches and other people interested in soccer.

While our Executive Director, **Bob Frans**, was unable to attend our welcoming potluck, he saw to it that we had a beautiful spring bouquet for the table. **Joe Waldrum**, director of the Leader program for Arkansas, reminded us that **Ray Barclay** of Fayetteville also had experience with Tahuichi. He was able to come to the party and shared with us his experience of sending his sons to the school while he

and his family were in Santa Cruz on a Partners trip. These experiences were particularly helpful for **Lynn** and **Kayleigh Smallwood**, who were at the party. Kayleigh currently is playing soccer in Little Rock.

Osman presented a video and commentary to add to our understanding of Tahuichi - his trip was a continuation of our efforts in the Sports Program. While in Little Rock Osman visited with **Robert Trevino**, the governor's representative for Hispanic affairs and **Pepe Becete**, a central figure for soccer affairs in Central Arkansas. Pepe's daughter Claudia, **Irene Compadre** and **Desha Peacock** all assisted in translation for Osman.

Democratic Initiatives

Recently, **Bettie Lu Lancaster** traveled to La Paz on a special project. This is her report:

On March 30 **Ingrid Arinez** (a lawyer from La Paz and a doctoral student at the UofA) and I met in La Paz with Partners from La Paz, Oruro, Potosi, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Cobija and Trinidad, to plan projects for the Bolivia Justice Project, *Ciudadanos Trabajando por la Justicia*. After three days of intensive workshops in La Paz - we even worked through breakfast - those of us from Cobija, Trinidad and Arkansas flew to Santa Cruz where we joined about a dozen more members of their Justice Committee for several days of further meetings to develop specific projects.

Bolivia has instituted a new Code of Criminal Procedures (CCP), based on a United Nations model and Latin America legal concepts. The new code introduces many of the democratic principles we take for granted here in the United States, such as the principles of innocence until proven guilty, justice and equality. Accused can no longer be held more than 8 hours without due cause and must be informed of their rights. A bail system was instituted, and trials, must be completed within three years. Lawyers must be provided for those who cannot afford them. Both sides will present their arguments orally and publicly. It attempts to correct abuses of the old system. Previously, accused persons were often detained without a judicial order, kept isolated, and often the subject of abuse. Lawyers were not provided for those who could not afford one. Many were not informed of their rights. Detention sometimes lasted more than five years before sentencing. Cases were not public, but were handled through the passing of paper documents.

Under the new system, a jury composed of two technical judges (with legal training) and three citizen judges now hears cases in which the sentence is more than four years. Trials are public and oral.

The new code respects the basic rights of both the accused and victims. But the CCP is not well understood, especially among the most disenfranchised segments of society, such as the

indigenous, poor and women. There is widespread distrust of the new reforms and lack of understanding. The general perception among Bolivians is that the CCP is causing an increase in crime and that the new code favors criminals. This perception is fostered by sensational media coverage.

Under a contract with USAID, Partners has established a program entitled *Ciudadanos trabajando por la Justicia*, a 3-year, \$4 million program which seeks to (1) achieve measurable understanding, acceptance and support for the reformed justice system in Bolivia, and (2) increase the capacity of civil society, through a network of organizations, to monitor the implementation of the CCP and advocate for continued reforms, improving access to and participation in the justice system. Partners has set up an office in La Paz, under the direction of **Martha Cecilia Villada**, with an expert staff to carry out the project.

Partners chapters, along with other non government organizations (NGO's) are invited to submit proposals for 2-year projects to carry out the objectives of the program, targeting women, indigenous, youth and the poor. We Arkansas Partners were there to advise on what resources we might have to help with implementation. By the end of our stay a project for Santa Cruz had been outlined. When detailed projects are drafted, Cobija, Trinidad and Santa Cruz will each send them to Arkansas for our comments. Representing East Bolivia at the La Paz meetings were **Miguel Cortez**, **Marisol Guzman** and **Luciano Velasco** from Santa Cruz, **Carol Carlo** and **Rosario Vaca** from Cobija, and **Gladys de Munoz** and **Roxana Rivera** from Trinidad. The Santa Cruz Committee chair is **Gaby Saruco de Parada**, past president of the Comité Civico Feminina. **Gabriela Eugenio** and **Aida McKenney** are very active members of this hard working committee, which had met 19 times before the La Paz meeting. Partners President **Malcolm Butler**, and representatives from USAID participated in the La Paz meetings, and **Anabella Bruch** participated in both La Paz and Santa Cruz.

Here in Arkansas, several meetings were held to gather expert advice before Ingrid and I traveled to La Paz. **Will Miller**, Director of the Ph.D. program in Public Policy, has been particularly helpful, and **Amilcar Medina** gave us advance information after his February meeting with Martha Cecilia and her staff in La Paz. Others involved have been: **Judith Kilpatrick**, **Molly Sizer Stephenson**, **Don Voth**, and **Steven Neuse**. Arkansas will be expected to be involved throughout the implementation of the East Bolivia projects.

We worked hard in Bolivia. The meetings were intense, the code complex and the grant requirements complicated, but Bolivian hospitality prevailed. **Rosario Anaya** was my gracious homestay hostess, feeding me delicious meals, and driving me to meetings. Those of you who remember her daughter, **Gabriela Equino** as a young girl in love, will now find her a dedicated wife and the mother of a delightful

two-year old boy. The committee hosted a restaurant dinner, we were feted for luncheons and teas, and **Gladys** and **Miguel Justiniano** hosted a dinner. Although a weekend in Samaipata was planned, the weather was bad, so I dined at the home of **Blanquita** and **Walter Callaú** with two of their lovely daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren, and spent a day in the country with their other relatives.

The only bad note was that Ingrid was detained by the INS in Miami without explanation, a frightening experience, causing her to miss her connecting flight. Fortunately, her papers were all in order and she was released after four hours.

The Graduation Weekend *Asado*

From **Bill Millager**:

On Saturday, May 10, longtime members **Phil** and **Mary Alice Serafini** hosted a fabulous *asado* for the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners. The party was a welcome feature of the UA graduation weekend for the 2003 class of Bolivian students.

The crowd was impressive in size, tangible joy and relief overflowed. Barbecued meats and fried yucca, flowing constantly from the outdoor grill and jumbo backyard deep fryer, were the menu of choice. A great selection of other traditional foods and Arkansas favorites was accompanied by copious smacks and beverages.

A great many Arkansas Partners mingled with the students and the significant number of parents who had traveled from Santa Cruz and La Paz for the graduation weekend.

The Bolivian student community has grown rapidly in size ever since (retiring) Executive Director **Bob Frans** negotiated the pivotal in-state tuition program with then-Chancellor **Dan Ferritor** in 1996. Currently, over eighty Bolivian students are enrolled during each semester. Recent *asados* have also witnessed a growing population of infants and toddlers, tagging along - or being carried in - by their student parents.

When it came time to recognize individual graduates, President **Thecia Taylor** and Regional Vice President **Margaret Clark** presented tokens of remembrance blown-glass bluebirds of happiness created by a renowned nearby art studio. Each student was greeted by applause, cheers, and affectionate comments from the crowd. Eleven Bolivians had graduated in 2002. This year, there were between 11 and 13 graduates, depending on whose numbers were accepted.

As the party got underway, guests became aware that one of the graduating students had special reasons to celebrate. **Juan Carlos Mayta** was the outstanding student in Bob Frans' former department (used to be called Agronomy, but now is Crops, soils, and Environmental Sciences). He was honored as one of four first Honors Program Distinguished Graduates from the Bumpers Agricultural College.

Commendably, Juan Carlos had managed to raise the

money to bring his parents **Lidia Apaza** and **Julio Mayta** to graduation - their first time away from Bolivia. We understand that his folks are Aymara and Quecha respectively. Juan Carlos is scheduled to pursue the Masters degree in soybean breeding this fall under a new faculty member, **Dr. Chen**.

Arkansas Partners also met **Yvan Cordova**, who has been Juan Carlos's roommate. Yvan is a bright young Bolivian attorney who had been a law professor at a private university in La Paz. He is in Fayetteville to refine his (already excellent) English at Spring International and will work for a masters degree (LL.M) in San Diego, CA starting in August. His intent is to learn more about U.S. legal provisions which are comparable to the new Bolivian system. As described by Yvan, the new is vastly different from the "old" approach, in which arguments are/were submitted exclusively in writing for a judge's ruling (in other words, no jury). All of this makes for fascinating dynamics as the transition unfolds. Yvan expects to return to Bolivia. He intends to teach law again, helping to train lawyers in the newly essential skills.

This was all very timely, as it relates directly to **Bettie Lu Lancaster's** recent trip to Bolivia. (Some of us had heard a verbal report, and a more detailed version appears elsewhere in this *Direcciones*. Bettie Lu had gone to learn more about the newly-enacted Bolivian judicial code and its implementation progress. She was accompanied by first-year Public Policy PhD candidate **Ingrid Arinez** (who has already earned an LL.B. in La Paz and an LL.M. from UA). Significantly, USAID has funded Partners for a large "Bolivian Justice Project" to support the process.

Bob Frans conversed at some length with both Juan Carlos and Yvan. "Both young men spoke of how their attitudes had changed since being on campus - both, initially, were 'leery' of us gringos, having heard only the horror stories from their homes. I think the experience at the Serafini home Saturday night had a profound effect on both of them. They seemed to both confirm that we were much different than they had been led to believe.

"An interesting sidelight, both the young men were quite adamant about returning to Bolivia upon completion of their respective degrees; I liked that!"

The party was not all serious conversation. Later in the evening, two young Bolivian ladies visiting from Canada gave a memorable guitar and vocal performance to an exuberant crowd response.

Editor's FINAL Note

As promised, this has become a too long edition of the newsletter. In the next issue, we will include those items that normally would have gone here. Also, PLEASE **don't forget to pay your dues!**

At the *Asado*:



Left to right: Walter H. Añez, Jaime Barrenechea, Juan Pablo Ribera, Ana Von Bergen, Eduardo Serrate, Alejandro Rioja, Juan Mayta, Eliano Cadario (2003 graduates)



Mary Alice and Phil Serafini (Our hosts), Ana Von Bergen



Ana Von Bergen, Eliana Cadario, Juan Mayta, Thecia Taylor (President)