
DIRECCIONES

Newsletter of the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas

Bob Frans, Ed., 1366 W. Altheimer Dr., Fayetteville AR 72704-6898
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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President's Message

Rainy days are often dim for me so as I drove in the rain to the POA Annual Meeting in Fayetteville with a prediction of a rain-filled weekend, an enjoyable gathering seemed dubious to me. Not so! Partners were treated grandly by the archaeological facility and Tom Green its Director, and we saw wondrous items. Tom shared with us in his presentation some similarities in archaeological elements between Bolivia and Arkansas. Ask them for a tour. You won't regret it!

The Saturday night dinner at the Powerhouse restaurant was lively, loud and flavorful. We were honored to have four young Bolivian students come in costume and perform a typical dance for us. They were charming and gracious.

"Let neither rain nor sleet nor snow—" (sound familiar?) stop YOU from participating in Partners of the Americas functions. They are a treasure regardless of the weather. Put the International Convention in Guatemala in November 2004 and the November 2005 International Convention in Little Rock on your calendar.

Sue Heily

Travel Reports

George Vena

We have a couple of reports from people traveling to Bolivia recently. The first of these was compiled by **Wayne Swegle** on behalf of **George Vena**. George traveled to evaluate the status of the justice project in Bolivia. Here is his report as summarized from the recent meeting of the Partners Board, October 9, 2004:

Vena said one of his assignments was meeting with prosecutors and public defenders in La Paz and in Santa Cruz. Main subjects of discussion involved some difficulties the prosecutors and public defenders were encountering in implementing Bolivia's relatively new

justice system; and how experience in the US justice system might suggest means of ameliorating these problems. He also was asked to discuss the subject of management of case files, and how to have a transparent investigative system.

He illustrated the differences between the old and new Bolivian systems this way: Under the old system, if someone stole a person's cow, that person would make a complaint and the police would arrest the alleged culprit and put him in jail. Then the procedure would go to a writing process, without verbal testimony. The culprit might spend 6 or 7 years in jail before his guilt or innocence was determined. If he were found innocent through the long written trial process, he still would have served the time in jail. Under the new system, the culprit would given a more-timely public trial, not a written one. There are differences between the new Bolivian system and the US system. For example, in the Bolivian system, there is a trial before a citizen jury comprised of three ordinary citizens and two attorneys. The attorneys guide the citizen judges in matters of the law to help the citizen judges in reaching their decisions. Typically, the case is decided in a year to 18 months. Although, technically, under the Bolivian system, the accused's defender can get access to his case file early on or before the case is formally filed, it doesn't always work smoothly. While the accused can't be taken to a backroom and "talked" into confessing, his attorney may have a problem getting his case file. The police may not be able to find it or it may get "misplaced" in the records system. (Vena went to an anti-corruption seminar held for the Santa Cruz prosecutors and public defenders to learn more about how the system operates in real time.)

Luis Fernandez, a skilled video producer and Santa Cruz Partner, came to Arkansas about a year ago for a series of meetings with video production people, the state's television producers, legal authorities, and other specialists to mutually share helpful ideas. Fernandez produced a series of videos for use in educating citizen judges and others about the system and how it works. Vena said the videos are very effective in informing potential citizen judges about their rights and responsibilities, what is expected of them, and assuaging some of their concerns about serving on the juries.

The educational process works by bringing potential and actual citizen judges to a convenient place to show the videos and give them a chance to ask questions and

discuss the procedures. They will learn the process and be put more at ease. Citizen judges' names come from election rolls. Perhaps a dozen citizen potential judges are called, from whom the three may be chosen to serve.

There are some problems with the citizen judges system. For example, citizen judges may have concerns for their safety. That's because the accused is free to roam, pending trial, unless he is found to be a flight risk or he is interfering with the system--the ruffian is allowed to be at large, not incarcerated, while he is awaiting trial. Since he may remain at liberty, citizen judges fear what harm he may do to them in that "free" period.

USAID funding for the project ends in September, 2005. Vena and the group working on the justice project agreed that those implementing the project need to collect data to justify continuing and expanding the effort beyond that date. They will be collecting information on such matters as how many citizen judges have been trained, what further training materials are needed, how the system itself might be changed to be more effective, and soon. They want and need to be ready to move to the next proposal.

A next step in the north/south exchange process is expected to be inviting and bringing the head prosecutors from La Paz and Santa Cruz to Arkansas to meet and confer with their counterparts on matters of mutual interest. The Bolivian prosecutors can discuss how the US system, based on many decades of experience and with a different historical base, might help resolve some of their new system's issues.

On the wish list of Santa Cruz Partners is finding funding to buy a mobile unit and equip it with videos, projection equipment, screens, sound systems, two-way radios, and other educational equipment in order to take these and other worthwhile messages to communities outside the metropolitan cities.

Caroline Kinsey

Caroline is a French horn teacher who traveled to Santa Cruz, Bolivia Aug.23-Sept.5. This is her trip report

Purpose and Activities – To teach the fundamentals of brass playing which will include basic techniques as well as all around knowledge of the instrument. To teach proper sitting position, instrument fingering and ensemble playing, distribute brass playing literature for future reference.

Individual 45 minute lessons were given to each student at Bellas Artes Institute and Army Band members. There were two 8th grades students and two adults. I attended one youth orchestra rehearsal with the two adult students and played in the section with them. The last day of the visit the two young students performed a short duet for fellow students.

Results/Impact:

The purpose of my trip was accomplished in the best way that was possible. The Bella Artes Institute was the location of my teaching and my students were **Enrique Lopez** and **Lucas Romero**. Both boys are in 8th grade and have been playing French horn for 3 months.

My main goal was to teach the basics of horn playing

through private and group lessons. The first week was group lessons for an hour and a half each day. The second week was 45 minute private lessons each day.

The other two students were **Silvestre Sanchez** and **Angel Quispe**. They are members of the local army band and the Santa Cruz Youth Orchestra. The gentlemen are adults and I had 30 minute lessons with each of them everyday for the two weeks. I also attended one youth orchestra rehearsal and played in the section with them. I performed a short demonstration for the youth orchestra and for the young kids at the Bella Artes Institute. The youth orchestra has around 45 members and the kids in attendance at the institute were about 60.

At the end of the two weeks the two young boys performed a memorized duet for their peers to show what they had learned during my two week residence. They learned proper entrances of the stage, correct handling of the instrument, breathing techniques and most importantly, working with your colleagues.

The two adults students learned proper warm ups, transpositions technique, sitting position, advanced rhythm, and quality of sound.

My biggest difficulty was language. I do not know Spanish therefore when my translator was not around ideas were lost and progress was slowed significantly. For future travelers it would be nice to know what kind of material the students already possess so the teacher can come with the most efficient material.

Aida McKenney was the most involved as she picked me up every day to take me to lunch and to the school. Ms. McKenney was a very gracious host and made me feel very comfortable. My host family, **Rosaria Anaya** was very hospitable and was very helpful in my stay. Taking me to local events and restaurants.

I will be forming a lesson plan with recommended books and schedules and send to Aida McKenney. This will be for the young students. This lesson plan will also include suggested repertoire as the students progress in their studies.

The expected benefits will be the faculty at the Bella Artes will have a better idea of what is expected of their French horn students. The French Horn is one the most misunderstood and complicated instruments in the orchestra. They will be able to better guide these students and future students in the right directions. If all goes well, maybe one of the students can come back and be a French Horn teacher at the institute. This would be the best outcome.

Follow – up

The Bella Artes Institute would benefit greatly by having a French horn teacher on staff but in the mean time encouraging my students to want to teach and possibly my colleagues to want to take a trip to Bolivia would be a goal. Sharing my experience with the community and letting them know how important Partners of the Americas is will be a goal of mine in the coming year. I believe many teachers would be interested in this project but they are just not aware of it.

A call or email every 3 or 6 months to the institute would be good thing to keep motivation up for the students. Making sure they are on track and that they have recitals

scheduled will also keep them going. Sending them fresh and interesting ideas and publications that I receive on horn literature could go to the school.

The staff at Bella Artes Institute were very generous and enthusiastic about my visit. Again, the main problem was communication. If I am invited and I decide to go back, learning some Spanish would definitely be a good idea.

I joined Partners of the Americas this summer.

Awards and a Profile

It is a pleasure to announce both awards and a profile in this section. At the outset it must be admitted that it is difficult to mix professional objectivity and modesty in announcing these, but we will try. You see, two of the awardees are heavily involved in much of the reporting that occurs in these pages. You will see what is meant below.

Bill Millager

The Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas (HWOA and www.hwoa.org) awarded Bill a certificate at last September's Conference in the Union. It says, "For untiring commitment to improving access to voter participation for all Arkansans."

It started during the intense election campaign in the fall of 2002. The then-President of LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) encouraged Bill's interest in voter registration for Hispanics. He was handed a copy of a registration form that had been obtained from the Arkansas Secretary of State's office. Bill looked it up online at <http://sos.state.ar.us>. A convenient, interactive English registration form was there, along with a link to a Spanish form, with an FEC web address. But the link was a dead link.

Sleuthing revealed the then-current Spanish language document. The address was http://fecweb1.fec.gov/votregis/pdf/nvra_spanish_public.pdf. (This is now a dead link, too.) The document turned out to be "The National Mail Voter Registration Form" This is "the one document that allows you to register to vote from anywhere in the United States." It contained a generic voter registration form, plus a page for each state giving the changes needed to make the generic form comply with that state's procedures, plus the appropriate mailing address at the state capital. The document was pdf, about fifty pages long. So it helped to have patience and paralegal know-how to download, modify and complete the standard form.

This was far inferior to the convenient on-line form available in English. It also turned out that the identification requirements in the resulting Spanish instructions were more restrictive than those in the English version.

The situation seemed inherently unfair, and Bill



ascertained that was illegal. So he started a telephone campaign which reached the SOS's chief counsel, the head of the Election Division, the responsible official at the FEC in Washington, and the Governor's office, among others. In several of the discussions it came up that it wouldn't do much good to have the form in Spanish, because the employees who would need to hand out and receive the forms, and record the information, "did not understand Spanish."

But after several rounds, it became generally accepted in principle that if a Spanish form was legal - and its existence on the FEC website made that fairly obvious, then equal access should be a given.

So the Arkansas SOS website needed a Spanish form just like the English form and it should also be available from each of the County Clerks. So then the need for a certifiable Spanish translation of the Arkansas form became the next hurdle. And then, at the beginning of 2003, major personnel changes in Little Rock intervened. And then the Legislature was required to implement the new federal HAVA (Help America Vote Act) for Arkansas, so it was necessary to await the new legislation.

But eventually all of these things worked out, and Spanish forms do now exist, on the Secretary of State website - under Online Services, and in the County Clerks' offices.

(Editor's note: the above information was provided by Bill in his matter-of-fact and unassuming manner. The fact that his efforts were instrumental in easing the voting process for Hispanics in the State is certainly a tribute to his persistence and patience. But beyond this most laudable effort, Bill has been an invaluable asset to Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners in managing our web site and in pursuing and writing the many interesting profiles you have been reading, primarily on Bolivian students. Your Editor and, indeed, Direcciones and the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners have benefitted tremendously. Thanks a bunch, Bill!)

Bob Frans (write-up provided by Bill Millager)

As October, 2004 rolled around, Bob Frans was quietly preparing for another of his near-annual treks to Bolivia as a Partner of the Americas. On the evening of Friday, October 1, the spotlight found him at a packed Rogers Youth Activities Center, enjoying Mexican food and entertainment among friends, and receiving a coveted award.

The occasion was the 6th annual Heroes de Corazon celebration, jointly sponsored by LULAC and Wal-Mart. Bob received one of 10 Olympic-style medals presented to NW Arkansas residents. Nominees were chosen by a broad-based selection committee for selfless contributions to the betterment of the Hispanic community.

Bob was cited as a "researcher, humanitarian, and helper." He was commended for these outstanding career contributions: "Taught Latinos agricultural methods; traveled throughout Latin America, helping along the way; has



given Latinos skills to help their families." The person who surprised Bob by phoning to let him know of his nomination reported that he seemed to be very excited and gratified by the award.

Identity of the nominator is a closely guarded secret, but it does appear that the committee did not know of at least one of Bob's major contributions. About ten years ago, he instigated the hugely successful Bolivian Scholarship Program by which Bolivian students pay only in-state tuition at the University of Arkansas. More about this can be found online at http://www.uark.edu/misc/partners/Direcc37_Spring04.html#asado.

The **League of United Latin American Citizens** (LULAC) - Northwest Arkansas District - consists of Councils 754 (www.nwalulac754.org), 757, 758 and 761 with approximately one hundred members. LULAC national is the largest and oldest Hispanic advocacy group in the United States. It was founded in Texas in 1929. The annual Heroes de Corazon awards recognize outstanding efforts to further the well-being of the NWA Hispanic community. As described in separate articles (preceding and following), two members of the Arkansas POA circle were among the eleven 2004 medal winners. The accompanying photo captures the scene

(L to R: Brent Wilkes, LULAC, Washington; Manny Gomez; Pepe



Estrada, Wal-Mart; Shawn McGrew, LULAC State Director; Carmen Kingston, Wal-Mart)

as NWA LULAC stalwart Manny Gomez receives his medal in the capstone award of the evening. His well-deserved citation reads, "Selfless, willing, all-heart; regularly translates where needed; education is his top priority; assists students to gain higher education; helps displaced families in time of need; takes food and clothing to families in need."

Casandra Foliart (both an award and a profile)

Former UofA Bolivian student **Casandra Foliart**, recalls asados at the Serafinis. Along with Bob Frans (see above), she is another of the 2004 Heroes de Corazon.

Casandra's citation in receiving her award: "Descriptive words - tireless, worker, compassionate, advocate. What makes her stand out? Comforts women diagnosed with cancer, translates where needed, helps women find needed resources." Casandra has agreed to allow her profile to appear in Direcciones and provides this:

Background

I was born **Casandra Nuñez**, and raised in La Paz, Bolivia. I am the middle child of three girls. My mother taught at the American Cooperative School in La Paz where all three of us went to school.

I graduated from high school in 1993 and started working at a pre-school. Higher education is limited in Bolivia and I never dreamed of being able to come to America to go to school. Dr. OK Park, a professor at the U of A came to my school in Bolivia to teach a computer class. I loved to learn, so my mother allowed me to take the computer class in her place.



Invitation to U of A

Professors from this university often come to ACS in La Paz to offer continuing education credits. As I was casually sharing my story with OK, he mentioned the opportunity [for a special in-state tuition rate] that Bolivian students have at the U of A. It seemed impossible to me, but he encouraged me to pursue my dream. Two weeks later I was enrolling at the U of A.

Looking back I can truly see the hand of God giving me encouragement and courage to jump out and reach for the stars. After four years at the University I graduated with honors with a bachelors degree in Health Science in 2001. Through the scholarship opportunity offered by Partners of the Americas, and hard work, my dream had come true.

Graduate Assistantship

Fantastic professors encouraged me to pursue my masters. I knew I could not afford it, so they offered me a graduate assistant position. After one more year of hard work, I obtained my masters in Community Health.

I met my husband, who played football for the Razorbacks, during my masters and married him here in Arkansas in December 2001.

The Most Important Aspect

Wow! It has been an amazing journey. I do not want to leave out the most important aspect of my coming and that was my coming to know the Lord Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior through Chi Alpha Campus ministry my freshman year at the University. I have found fullness of joy, life and purpose in Him.

God continued to show me his favor, and six months before I graduated from my masters I was awarded outstanding masters student of the year. My name got out and **Mary Lou Wilson**, who was then director of women's programs at the Washington Regional Medical Center, contacted me. She asked me if I would like to fill a position funded by a Grant at Washington Regional Medical Center. I told her that I would love to but I had to finish my masters program. She was generous enough to wait for me until I finished, and six months later I was on board with Washington Regional Medical Center.

Breast Care Navigator

I served as the Director of the Breast Care Navigator Program, funded by a \$100,000 grant from Wal-Mart. I trained under Educare to become a breast health specialist and began my journey serving women facing breast cancer.

In that position I was responsible for navigating the patient through the various aspects, hardships, doctors, treatments of the disease. I would educate, translate, and connect them to as many resources available in the community as possible. I was privileged to establish a strong relationship with patients, doctors and many influential people who serve in the community.

Serving Special Needs of Hispanic Patients

My heart bled for many Hispanic patients who faced a plethora of hardships in addition to the common difficulty cancer patients encounter. They couldn't receive assistance from Medicaid. Most of them lacked insurance. Many lacked education and were not able to communicate with or understand health care personnel and the health care system. Since then I have developed many strong relationships with precious women and have loved and served them as much as I possibly can.

Highlands Oncology

Last year I was offered a full time position at Highlands Oncology in Fayetteville, where I continue to serve cancer patients and translate and assist all Hispanic cancer patients.

New nurses training opportunity at Bates

I am excited about the new training laboratory that is being set up at Bates, jointly sponsored by all five regional schools of nursing. The program will greatly expand health care training opportunities in the area. I encounter many Hispanic women who long to study but do not have the means. I see the need daily for bilingual

staff in the health care field. The Hispanic population is growing in leaps and bounds. It is almost overwhelming to see how many people are in need and how few are educated to assist them.

<http://www.nwaonline.net/archive/2004/10/01/SpringdaleNews/295274.html>

Future Plans

My husband serves as a full time minister to the Athletes on campus through Arkansas Athletes Outreach (AAO), a non-profit organization. He is a spectacular husband, friend and minister. He impacts lives daily through his love and knowledge of Christ. Our plans for the future are to continue to love and serve wherever God leads us.

Thanks to the Partners for your support and your interest in my journey.

Annual Meeting

The Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners Annual Meeting was held October 8-10. If you were not there, you missed a good one! We started with a reception at the home of **Bob Frans**, the highlight of which was the last presidential debate (after hors 'd oeuvres and refreshments). That was a lively affair with certain attendees talking (shouting?) excitedly at the television set. All very worthwhile, though, and informative.

Then on Saturday we had a most interesting venue for the meeting - the Arkansas Archaeological Survey building. Director **Tom Green** started things out by taking us on a fascinating tour of the facility, including a brief look at some of their holdings. It's intriguing and well worth your while to get a look at it if you're in the area. President **Sue Heily** conducted the business meeting during the day and we heard an oral report from **George Vena** on his recent trip to Bolivia to consult on the new justice project in Bolivia (see above for his report). He also reported on the planning for the 2005 International Convention, which he and **Thecia Taylor** co-chair. He talked about the possibility of getting an indigenous musical group from Bolivia to be a part of the convention.

The results of the election of Officers was announced. **Tom Green** will complete his term of office as Director-at-Large this year, but beginning in 2005, will become the Regional Vice President for Northwest Arkansas. **Le Ann Robertson**, completing her first term as Director-at-Large, agreed to serve a second term. **Joe Waldrum** will begin service to Partners as a new Director, while **Ed Hawkins** and **Diana Worthen** continue their service as Directors for one more year. **Susan Heily** will continue as President through 2005.

In the evening we met for dinner at the Powerhouse restaurant - the highlight of the evening was entertainment

by Bolivian students, showing us a typical dance. It was well-received and we appreciated these young folks.

Sunday morning we met at Ella's restaurant on the campus of the University for a relaxed and delightful Sunday morning brunch, which concluded the activities for the weekend. If you haven't attended one of our Annual Meetings, you're missing a great opportunity to interact with fellow Partners, and to learn more about what we do. It's certainly worth the effort and time to be a part of the group.

The next meeting of the Board will be at 10:00 am, January 15, 2005, at the Italian Gardens Restaurant, in Russellville.

Dues

Yes, it's that time again. The fall of each year is when we solicit your payment of dues for the next year (2005). It's an important factor in the operation of this state Partners group. It's how you continue to signify your interest in Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners. So, won't you take care of this matter soon? It's only \$30 for a family membership and \$20 for individuals. Just send your checks to Bob Frans (address at the top of this newsletter) and he will record your payment and send the checks on to our treasurer **Wayne Swegle**.

We also want to keep up and expand our list of e-mail addresses. If you received this copy of the newsletter electronically, then we have a correct and valid address for you. If you received the newsletter via paper copy in the mail, then we do not have an e-mail address (or a valid one). So, let us hear from you! Just send that address, if you have one, along with your check for dues. It will be a big help. Thanks!

Other news

President Heily reported that she had received a letter on our rechartering process. The letter reads:

"On behalf of the Partners of the Americas Board of Directors, the Partnership Development Committee, and the Partners' staff, we congratulate the Arkansas chapter for satisfactorily completing the rechartering process for 2004-2007.

"As we celebrate our 40th anniversary in Guatemala, and look toward an exciting future, we count on your chapter's support, leadership and commitment to the Partners Mission. To work together across borders to build understanding and to improve the lives of people in the Western Hemisphere.

"It will be our great pleasure, at the meeting of the 2004 Partners Congress in Antigua, Guatemala, to announce that your chapter is among those that are rechartered.

"Congratulations!"

Final notes

That's about it for now. By the time you read this (or soon after) several Partners will be traveling to Guatemala for the International Convention, and some on to Bolivia afterwards. In the next issue of *Direcciones*, sometime after the first of the year and after the next Board meeting, we will report on the Convention and some of our Partner's activities. Until then, have a happy Fall, Winter, and holiday season, and look forward to a great new year.