



DIRECCIONES

Newsletter of the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas
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President's message

One of the delights of our particular Partnership is that the ground work was laid for us to be in the lives of some fine young Bolivian students of the U of A at Fayetteville. Some of our previous Partners approached the U. of A. to consider a means to help Bolivian students. It was established that Bolivian students could pay in-state tuition. This year alone 22 Bolivian students have graduated. May of the current Bolivian students not only have started the International Bolivians Organization, joined our Partners' chapter, but have also volunteered to serve at the International Convention this November Our partnership realized that with the difference in the cost of living between here and Bolivia there would be Bolivian students that might need a little more assistance so the Maria Teresa Frans Scholarship Fund at the U. of A. at Fayetteville was established. This is another way that each of us may advance the dreams of young Bolivians and the future of Bolivia as they see it. Charitable donations in honor of someone or in memory of someone can be sent to our treasurer **Wayne Swegle** or directly to Mr. **Michael Freeman**. Feel free to call me, **Bob Frans** or Wayne Swegle for the account number that the check would need on it.

Please keep this charitable donation possibility in the forefront of your mind when you want to remember or honor your special someone.

Susan Heily

International Convention 2005

2005 and Beyond: Promoting Innovative Partnerships

That's the theme for the annual Partners of the Americas International Convention in Little Rock. It's drawing near! November of this year will see us hosting it. Co-Chairs **George Vena** and **Thecia Taylor** have been hard at work for several months lining up volunteers to chair various committees and planning, with Washington representatives, the program and activities for the conference. The dates are November 10 to 12 at the Hotel Peabody with a pre-convention leadership training conference in Fayetteville Nov. 6 and 7. Registration for the Convention begins on Wednesday, Nov. 9 in the afternoon, with a pre-convention workshop that same afternoon on Arkansas politics and history, sponsored by the Blair Foundation. (Our Board will meet Sunday morning after the Convention)

The plenary session on Thursday will be opened with an address by **Lt. Governor Win Rockefeller** (invited), and the Awards Luncheon that day addressed by **Sen. Dale Bumpers**. There will be a reception and tour that evening at the Clinton Presidential Library. Friday's plenary session will be addressed by **Bob Nash**, Vice President of the ShoreBank Corporation. Friday evening there will be a reception at the Historic Arkansas Museum with entertainment followed by a "pub crawl" in the River Market area.

Also on Friday the Marketplace begins and continues on Saturday. Workshops and tours will be available on Saturday with the traditional banquet and dance capping the series of events that night.

Perhaps you would like to be involved in helping out with these activities. If so, just call either Thecia or George, or one of the following Chairs for these program activities: **Jo Ann Kaminsky**,

cultural activities; **Wayne Swegle**, publicity/promotion; **Tom Green**, pre and post tours; **Fran Free**, **Beth Washburn**, and **Peggy Turbyfill**, Marketplace; **Sera Vena**, volunteer helpers; **Sera Vena** and **Leah Wilkinson**, airport welcome; **Bob Frans**, onsite registration; **Carol Corning**, logistics; **Don Thurman**, Saturday events and tours; **Mark Robertson**, HAM reception; **Margaret Clark**, pre-convention leadership conference; and **Sue Heily**, **Bettie Lu Lancaster**, **Diana Worthen**, and **Libby Wheeler**, at large.

It promises to be a great convention and you will want to be involved. You may pre-register and make hotel reservations at the Partners website - www.partners.net. Having the convention in Arkansas is a real coup - let's support it with good attendance!

Bolivian Students

This has been a busy time in the life of Bolivian students on the campus of the University of Arkansas. During the past several months, students have become better organized, they've come to the end of a school year, some have graduated, and they've held their own banquet celebrating both graduates and the end of the year. These are some of their activities:

IBO

This stands for International Bolivian Organization. This year the students have, in addition to becoming better organized, have also become more closely associated with Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners. In particular we pay tribute to **Lorena Moreno**, **Vivian Careaga**, and **Ninon Gamarra** for their efforts in drawing up lists of students on campus, along with addresses and e-mails. They have graciously shared their lists with us and have encouraged students to join Partners. We certainly appreciate these efforts and hope that future efforts will include constructing a list of Arkansas alumni in Bolivia - another way of keeping in touch and strengthening our ties with Bolivia.

Asado

As per a several years' tradition, Northwest Partners held an "asado" for graduating Bolivian students. This occurred on May 13 at the home of **Jo Ann** and **Hank Kaminsky**. In years past, this event was hosted by **Phil** and **Mary Alice Serafini**. However, they were out of town this year attending the graduation of their son in Wisconsin. While we missed the Serafinis', Hank and Jo Ann did a magnificent job of hosting this event, ably assisted by **Fran Free** and **Tom Green**. We had great food, a convivial good time, and the rain even held off until the party was over! **Margaret Clark** and **Thecia Taylor** collaborated on presenting the graduates with token "Bluebirds of Happiness" to remember us by. Several parent families of graduates were present, having traveled from Bolivia to witness the graduation ceremonies for their sons or daughters. They were unanimous in their appreciation to Partners for the in-state tuition program in effect at the University.

IBO banquet

The graduation ceremonies were held on Saturday, May 14 and that evening, IBO put on a banquet at the Radisson Hotel honoring the graduates. It was a grand affair and offered an opportunity for these young Bolivians to don their finest duds and to interact and mingle one last time with each other, parents included, before many of them departed Fayetteville, some just for the summer and many of the graduates for good. There were more than a few tears shed over these parting moments. **Thecia Taylor** and **Bob Frans** were honored to be invited to share in the festivities, we think at the instigation of Vivian Careaga who stayed at Thecia's house this past semester while completing an internship in Little Rock. (Pictures of both the asado and the banquet can be found on the last page of this newsletter.)

As part of the year-end festivities concerning these students, Vivian Careaga provided this little piece on achievements of at least some of the students at the Industrial Engineering banquet:

"On Tuesday April 19th, 2005, several Bolivian Industrial Engineering students were recognized for their various achievements. Among them was **Jose A. Reyes** (a senior from La Paz) who received the 'Outstanding Senior Award' - the most prestigious award offered, as well as recognition for his service as the Vice-President of the Industrial Engineering

National Honor Society - Alpha Pi Mu (APM). **Rodrigo Barrenchea** (a senior from Tarija) received the Outstanding Co-op Award as well as recognition for receiving a 4.0 GPA in both the Spring and Fall 2004 semesters and recognition for his service as Chair of Publicity of the Industrial Engineering National Honor Society - (APM). **Mario Rioja** (Senior from Santa Cruz) received the Outstanding Co-op Award as well and was recognized for receiving a 4.0 GPA in Fall 2005. **Vivian Careaga** (Senior from La Paz) received three scholarships from the Academy of Industrial Engineers, one of them to study abroad in Germany in Fall 2005. **David Caballero** was recognized for receiving a 4.0 GPA in the Fall 2004 semester and also received a scholarship from the Academy of Industrial Engineers. Finally, **Vanesa Cabrera** (from La Paz) was recognized for completing her Masters in Industrial Engineering. The function took place in Fayetteville's Town Center and proved to be very successful. Students, faculty, and guests spent a wonderful evening together."

More Awards

Others have been receiving awards as well. These include **Thecia Taylor, Susan Heily, and Jo Ann Kaminsky**, all being recognized for their service to Partners. Thecia has received the Gold Award, while Susan and Jo Ann are recipients of the Bronze Award. Thecia's award, at the highest level of those recognized, also carried recognition from President Bush's Volunteer Service Award through the USA Freedom Corps, citing at least 2 years of service with over 4000 hours. This was submitted by our President Malcolm Butler in recognition of Partners highest level of service. Thecia also volunteers for the Clinton Presidential Foundation 2 days/week and has been a volunteer for St. Vincent/Doctors Hospital in Little Rock.

Congratulations, ladies for your dedicated service and willingness to be volunteers. All of us in Partners are made much richer for your exemplary work.

Margaret Clark earned University of Arkansas associate professor emerita status in the department of curriculum and instruction in 1998. Clark began her professional career with the U of A as a visiting instructor of French. She is the recipient of the

Panhellenic Award in recognition of Outstanding Faculty Member status and also received the Martin Luther King Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award. Clark has been involved with numerous civic organizations including the Washington County Historical Society and the Professional Women's Club. She was recently appointed to the University of Arkansas Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Congratulations, Margaret!

Board meeting

Our local board held its regular quarterly meeting in Russellville on April 16, 2005. President Heily reported on a situation developing in Trinidad, regarding the Justice Project and reporting on funds allocated to Trinidad. Apparently, reporting has not been adequate and future projects with Trinidad have been jeopardized. Discussions then led into the relationship of both Trinidad and Cobija with Santa Cruz - whether they are to be considered autonomous partnerships or sub-groups under Santa Cruz. It was concluded that this question could be resolved only with further discussions with all three Bolivian partnerships and with the assistance of the Washington office. It was noted that little or no communication with Cobija has been held and that it likely could not be considered a viable part of the East Bolivia partnership. Future relationships with Trinidad are yet to be determined, pending a satisfactory outcome regarding their reporting on the Justice Project.

Discussions were also held on the possibility of Special Collections of Mullins Library, UA-Fayetteville processing Partners records. The offer of \$1200 for this task was discussed, but it was decided to hold the decision in abeyance until the July Board meeting.

Much of the rest of the meeting was taken up with discussions regarding the upcoming International Convention and recognition of graduating Bolivian students. These items have been discussed in greater detail above. There were no reports of consequence from committee chairs.

The next meeting of the Board will be July 16, 10:00 am at the Italian Gardens Restaurant, Russellville.



Fran Free and asado hostess Jo Ann Kaminsky



Asado host Hank Kaminsky



Student Vivian Careaga and Libby Wheeler at the asado



Students and parents at the asado



Fran, Thecia and student Juan Mayta



Victor Hugo Añez, father of graduate Walter at the asado



Margaret Clark and Thecia Taylor giving Bluebirds to the graduates at the asado



Some of the graduates at the IBO banquet



Bob Frans with old friends Marioly and Claudio Mansilla, parents of graduate Olivia, at the IBO banquet

Above: pictures from the asado held at the home of Jo Ann and Hank Kaminsky, May 13, 2005 and from the IBO banquet following graduation at the Radisson Hotel, May 14, 2005 in Fayetteville

