



DIRECCIONES

Newsletter of the Arkansas-East Bolivia Partners of the Americas
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Summer 2007 (No. 50)

President's message

Join us in Little Rock on October 19-20 for our annual Arkansas-Bolivia POA meeting. If you did not receive information about the meeting let me know at sneuse@uark.edu.

The year is coming to an end and so too is my tenure as your president. We all look forward to the fresh and energetic leadership of our new Jefe, **Wayne Swegle**.

We've had several successful programs since May. **Margaret Clark** hosted a successful Youth Ambassadors visit by five East Bolivia high school students in May.

In July, one of our newest members, **Cindy Lenk** spent a month in Santa Cruz teaching at the Bolivian-American Cultural Center (CBA) under the visiting teacher program. As a result of her efforts, we are planning three more programs with the CBA in 2008. One is an invitation for our chapter to take part in an international conference involving CBAs all across Latin America. Another is a reciprocal visit by a CBA teacher to Arkansas under the Visiting Teacher program. The third is an effort to find a sponsor for an indigenous high school student to study at an American University.

Jo Ann Kaminsky and **Budhi Kling** also spent much of August in Santa Cruz on Education and Culture Projects using their therapeutic art expertise to work with women and children.

Unfortunately for two other projects with Trinidad, we received word from **Bill Stedman** that the Education and Culture Program had run out of money for 2007. **Judy Selle** and one of her colleagues at Peace at Home were planning on heading south to conduct domestic violence education. We were also negotiating with Trinidad

to bring someone up to work on a special education project. Again, Margaret was right in the middle of working up these projects. Needless to say, we'll be on these projects when the new year rolls around.

I want to thank everyone in Partners, especially my fellow board members, for super support during my two years as president.

Steven M. Neuse

Traveler

New member, **Cindy Lenk** has been on a Teacher-in-Residence program in Santa Cruz, and she has sent us some interesting commentary while in Bolivia. We think you will be interested, too. This is a four-part report - one e-mail to your president and two to your editor (all edited somewhat), followed by her final report (again, edited).

Dear Steven,

I talked to **Aida McKenney** at a 4th of July celebration at the CBA. I met the director and all the board members of the Partners. A lawyer (Callau?) was really nice. Most of them have visited Arkansas. I told Aida that we wanted to make arrangements for an exchange with a teacher from here, and she said: "well, pick one!" She also said your arrangements for the Baroque Festival are all in order. I also met three indigenous students who have visited the states in a leadership program who are very interested in a scholarship program for indigenous people. Additionally, I met two of the teen-aged students who came to Arkansas two months ago. I woke up at 6:00 am to go to a TV station to be interviewed about the 4th of July, and I

was also on national TV that evening at the CAB reception. I am a real queen here. My host family has a spacious condo in the first ring, 8 blocks from the CAB with a full time maid who hand-washed my clothes. My Yankee/Puritan ancestry makes me cringe (a lot) when someone else does all of my menial chores for me, but I think I will get used to it. This woman who is an English teacher (with three jobs) is from San Ignacio and she was thrilled when I told her I wanted to visit the missions. We are going next Saturday night through Monday by bus. I am teaching 16 hours of advanced writing. I am also visiting the individual classes to observe and consulting with the teachers afterward. I will also visit the English classes that my host gives to homeless children through a program she directs which is funded by the power company. Miguel and his wife are taking me to Samaipata and I still need to go to Lake Titicaca. I feel very comfortable here and very welcomed. I think I'll really enjoy teaching the English teachers for four weeks.

Cindy

Dear Mr. Frans,

Greetings from Santa Cruz!

I am being treated very well. My host family is fantastic. I am giving 30 hours of writing workshops to the teachers here and I think it is going very well. I hope to return next July to help with a big ABLA (Bi-national Centers) convention here in Santa Cruz. I told Mr. Gamarra I can help with the plenary speakers from the states and Mr. Arrazola said I could also present in the sessions for English teachers.

I also told Mr. Gamarra I can look into people from non-profit organizations in Fayetteville who may be interested in coming and presenting on non-profits and professors from the U of A who may want to present in the leadership sessions of the conference but that we probably won't be able to contact them until after the summer is over. I loved visiting the missions. I stayed with my host family's relatives right on the main plaza in San Ignacio, and we went by bus to San Miguel. It was definitely a cultural experience. I am going to Samaipata this weekend and the Mariposario the next. I also went to a fair in Cotoca that was so crowded it was almost scary. AND COLD. I managed to be in South America for their coldest weather in 100 years. Thirty-two people died in Patagonia of hypothermia. I think it

was 42 degrees outside and 40 degrees in the condo. I am living right in the first ring, about eight blocks from the main plaza in Santa Cruz. I walk back and forth to the CBA four times a day. I come at 9am, go home at 12, return at 2:30 and leave at 7:30. I am really very busy and time is flying by.

My host is a devout Catholic and I have been to mass every Sunday, and we are going to a contrapunto concert at her church, San Roque, tonight. She has told me it is beautiful music. I need to get a CD of the baroque music that they play in the missions.

I also have three more tasks. The teachers here who teach the smaller children would love more picture books. I brought some with me to leave, but they want more. I am sure I can do a book drive in Fayetteville, but could we get the books sent here by the US Embassy?

Also, I stayed with the head pediatrician at the Catholic hospital in San Ignacio, and he would like for me to try to raise funds for their nutrition program and their Children's House. They are underfunded and swamped with children with malnutrition. I have the information and took photos. Additionally, I visited a program for homeless children in Santa Cruz funded by the power company and a group from Spain called Hombres Nuevos. My host teaches English for them and I visited her class and have an appointment to visit the head of her program (computer literacy and English). Many of the children live in a huge orphanage here in the city.

This is an incredible experience, and I am so happy to be here.

Cindy

And in a follow-up message from her:

Dear Mr. Frans,

This is what I wrote to my husband:
Yesterday I went to the butterfly park or Mariposario. The owner was sitting in this very nice restaurant, our age, gray pony tail, in this big park, with a huge screened dome for the butterflies, an orchid park, two natural looking swimming pools, a lake, kayaks, horses, and horses and buggies. I get into a horse and buggy with an English teacher from the school here, and my host family son, and they tell me to sit in the back seat of the buggy because I will be more comfortable. I say OK in English, and this pretty young woman with a little boy starts

talking to me. She says she is from La Paz, Bolivia, but she lived in the states for 11 years. I say I am from Arkansas. She says, "Fayetteville?" She had a Bolivian aunt who lived there with a professor from the U of A, but the aunt has passed away. The uncle has been on her mind, and she really wants to get in touch with him. I said, "Is he Robert Frans? I just saw him before I left for Bolivia, and he is one of the people who arranged this trip for me". " Oh yeah!! That is my uncle and I really want to get in touch with him." So, I got her email address and am getting ready to send her address to him. Small, small world, right?

So Mr. Frans, your niece Miny wants to get in contact with you. I am about to send her your email address. Hers is CL_F63@hotmail.com.

The weather has turned cold, gray and rainy again, but I am in my last week of my stay, and I can only say that it has been a fantastic experience.

Cindy

And here's her final report:

As a Teacher-in-Residence at the Centro Boliviano Americano, I worked directly with the Director, Lic. **Luis Allberto Gamarra**, the Academic Director, Lic. **Miguel Arrazola**, three Academic Counselors, **Alvaro Del Castillo**, **Luis Fernando Morales**, and **Alejandro Goldshmidt**, and approximately 50 teachers. Forty teachers received a certificate of completion for the workshops which I gave: 14 hours, one hour, four nights a week, over four weeks, and 16 hours, over four consecutive Saturdays, or 30 hours in all. (There are photos of these teachers participating in the workshops on the disc which I have included with this report.) I also observed 22 teachers in their classrooms (I have included a number of photos of the teachers with their students in their classrooms on this same disc.) I met with the teachers privately to discuss their teaching, lessons, and objectives. My daily schedule was to walk from my host family's condo in the first ring of the city to the CBA about 8:30am. From 8:30 to 12:30 I conferred with the teachers, met with the academic counselors and Mr. Arrazola, or planned and made materials for my workshops. At 12:30, I walked back to the condo to eat. At 2:10, I returned with my host family to the CBA, as the host person, **Maria Lourdes Mendia** taught a class at that time, and her son Steven took a class. I observed classes from 2:30 until 5:40, and then taught from 6:00 until

7:00. I walked back to the condo between 7:15 and 7:30 each night. On Saturdays, I taught from 8:00am until 12:00pm.

In addition, I offered to edit the materials that the CBA is putting together as hosts for the extensive Binational Language Centers Convention which will be held in Santa Cruz next summer. I worked closely with **Rene Valdivia** on this project, as well as Mr. Gamarra and Mr. Arrazola. I have assured them that I would like to continue helping with this project via e-mail during the coming year.

Finally, although it was not a part of my original plan, I went with my host to a special English program that she is involved with for three of the four Fridays I was in Santa Cruz. She is developing and teaching in a program for young teens from nine schools in Santa Cruz. The students must be from low- income families and must have good grades. Many of the students live in a large orphanage run by a Catholic priest.

The program is funded by the Electric Power Company (CREE) and a men's Catholic group from Spain called Hombres Nuevos. I went to team-teach English with her from 8:00 to 10:00 on the above mentioned Fridays. I have also included photos of these teens. They were a real joy to work with, and they had a small party for me in their classroom on the last Friday of my stay.

Each weekend that I was in Bolivia, I visited a different site. The first Sunday, my host family took me to a fair in Cotoca, a nearby town with a large market. The following weekend, we traveled to San Ignacio on a Saturday evening, arrived in San Ignacio Sunday morning, traveled to San Miguel the next morning, and returned to Santa Cruz late on Monday. The next Sunday an English teacher from the CBA took my host family and me to visit the Mariposario outside of Santa Cruz, and the last Sunday, the academic director, his wife, and his daughter, home from the university in Buenos Aires for her winter vacation, took me to Samaipata. I must say I loved San Ignacio and San Miguel the



Cindy Lenk



most of the trips we took. Maria Lourdes mother and sister live there, and I have promised her mother that I will return and stay with her for a week in the future! The Jesuit Missions are incredibly beautiful.

Although I lived in San Juan, Puerto Rico in the past, I was jolted just a bit by the noise and hustle and bustle of the city. My room looked over a main artery in the first ring of the city, and I heard taxis and buses honking their horns and just a lot of noise in general until late into the night. Of course, we have noise as well as homeless people and people who look like they are drunk or on drugs in the US, but there not so many people in such dire circumstances in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and in such close proximity. The people, poverty, and the resultant problems were heartbreaking when viewed from close up. I saw them everyday, on the sidewalk, inches away on the route which I walked to and from the CBA.

Since my host looked out for my health, I was never sick for a day. I ate good food, drank filtered water, and the condo was always immaculate. I walked everywhere and took normal big city precautions. I never wore anything expensive and wasn't speaking English in public unless I was with my host family. Then, we spoke a mixture of English and Spanish.

I think it helped immensely that I could speak passable Spanish and understand everything. I spent a great deal of time with my host family and all of their relatives in Santa Cruz and San Ignacio, and my stay would not have been the same had I not known Spanish. I know that Maria Lourde's relatives were put at ease as soon as they knew I could understand them and participate in their family life.

I left for Bolivia with several tasks in mind. First and foremost, I planned to teach in the CBA. Second, I planned to arrange for a teacher-exchange; and third, I wanted to find indigenous students who might be interested in coming to Arkansas/Oklahoma to go to attend the university. I talked to several of the Partners here before I left, including **Betty Lou Lancaster**, Steven Neuse, and Robert Frans. Once in Santa Cruz, I met with Aida McKenny, **Elsa Boland**, **Walter Callau**, **Modesto Saldana**, and, especially, **Jorge Ybarnegaray**.

All three of these "missions" are possible. I met a wonderful English teacher from the CBA who would love to be a part of a teacher-exchange. I met three indigenous students who would like to study

here, who have already come to the US and Washington DC in another program.

I also feel that my Teacher-in Residence at the CBA accomplished the goals which we set out in a very successful manner. I say that because the 40 teachers attended all of the workshop hours, participated, were enthusiastic and engaged, and responded in a positive manner.

Finally, I have volunteered to help the CBA in hosting their convention in July of 2008. I told them I can help with the participants, work at the hotel to make the convention run smoothly, and present. Walter Callau has kindly offered me his home, and the board of the Partners of Eastern Bolivia have extended their warm hospitality into the future as well.

The CBA will continue in strengthening their writing program for all students from Beginners to Advanced. My goal was to teach techniques to teachers from which they could draw ideas and basic methodologies. By teaching a Writers' Workshop format to teachers, I had them experience what their students must do to learn: write, write, and write some more. By discussing the techniques, modeling writing, offering a myriad of lessons and writing assignments as well as ways to assess writing, I helped the teachers gain insight into how they can improve their methods for teaching writing. The teachers have solid support in Mr. Arrazola and the academic counselors, and my month-long stay will serve as a foundation on which they can build and grow in the teaching of writing and as an academic community.

I plan to present information about my experience to: my school (in a Gifted and Talented Assembly), my district (during our school-wide workshops in January), the University of Arkansas, as a guest speaker in an English as a Second Language course and a School of Education literacy course, at the local Partners of America meeting and at the meeting in Little Rock in October, 2007. I will also be a speaker at a meeting of Rotarians in Fayetteville.

Mr. Arrazola and I plan to continue to plan for future Teacher-in Resident visits and Teacher-Exchanges between Santa Cruz and Fayetteville. We would like to see one teacher visit the other country every year. I would also like to return to work in the Binational Center Convention next July in Santa Cruz. Additionally, I want to work to collect children's picture books in English to send to the children's English program at the CBA. Good

quality children's books are hard to find and expensive in Santa Cruz. I am sure I could conduct book drives through the local schools and churches in Northwest Arkansas.

A trip 6,000 miles away from home and family leads to a lot of introspective thinking. I learned that people have good hearts and difficult lives all over the world. I already knew that, but I saw it up close in Bolivia. I learned that I could be appreciated for my hard work and genuine concern for others. I learned that although I am an American, I don't have enough money to solve everyone's problems, but I can try to put one foot in front of the other to help as much as possible. I found myself the object of great respect, concern and care, and actual love. I found out that getting your face barely kissed several dozen times in a row is tolerable, although maybe never really comfortable!!!! After all, I am an American, and we like our space!

Finally, I learned, once again, that getting outside that cozy cocoon we call home and viewing a culture from the inside is priceless, incomparable. Living with a family with a 14 year-old boy who asks you how you are every day and *means* it is a delight. Eating a big family meal every afternoon and discussing politics, religion, family and country, and *then taking a nap* is heaven. Spending a month teaching English and living with a gracious Bolivian family is an experience I will keep with me for the rest of my life. Thank you so much for making it happen.

Editor's note: Although Ms. Lenk's material is a bit longer than usual, I thought she offered some unique insights that would be of interest to all. I hope you agree

Happenings of a Past President

Your Editor, being Presbyterian, picked up this item from a recent Synod of the Sun newsletter:

“When a teacher of Spanish, **Susan Heily**, returned to class August 20 at Conway High School, her story of ‘what I did on summer vacation’ was the most compelling in the room. Heily, a member of First Presbyterian, Conway, served as an accompanier in Colombia during July.

“Accompaniers are asked simply to ‘be with’

Colombian Presbyterians and other human rights workers who employ non-violent means to secure peace in a country plagued for almost 40 years by violent internal conflict. Citing an earlier accompanier, Heily said, ‘The program proves an umbrella of safety which extends far beyond the Presbyterian Church – It helps all of us who seek to improve the lives of the poor and oppressed.’ Heily and a partner accompanier participated as international observers in a women's retreat and a congress of victims of government abuses, and she intends to return to Colombia next summer. Heily said, ‘I am astounded by the joy and commitment that all Presbyterians there have to work six or more days a week to accompany their fellow Colombians to a better world.’”

Annual Meeting

Most of you have heard about the Annual Meeting in Little Rock, but, as a reminder, here again is the itinerary:

Partners of the Americas
Annual Meeting
October 19-20, 2007
Little Rock, Arkansas

October 19

6:30 pm Bar-b-que dinner at home of Thecia Taylor, 7020 W. Markham, 501-280-0505

October 20

9:00 am Garden Room Clinton Library
1200 President Clinton Avenue
(Coffee service and pastries will be served)
Business Meeting—Steven Neuse
Speaker--- Ambassador James Cheek
Travelers reports
Student presentation

(We must be out of the Garden Room by 2:00 pm. Lunch is on your own.

You may choose Café 42 in the Library, eat at the River Market or go to one of the malls)

2:00 pm Board Meeting
Heritage Arkansas Museum
200 East 3rd Street

501-324-9351

6:30 pm Dinner
Vieux Carre Restaurant
2721 Kavanaugh Blvd.
501-663-1196

Puedes comer lo que te da la gana pero lo tienes que pagar
Translation: you can eat anything you want ...but you have to pay for it!

REGISTRATION: \$25.00

This amount will help cover Friday night, facility costs and Saturday morning coffee/pastries.

Please send checks to: George Vena, 3011 Echo Valley Dr., Little Rock, AR 72227

Name:

Number attending:

Amount sent:

Will you be attending dinner at Vieux Carre?
yes __ no __

Please respond before October 10

Dear Partners,

We have chosen a weekend that includes the RACE FOR THE CURE and the final weekend of the STATE FAIR. Not the best of planning, so hotel reservations need to be made as soon as possible. Below are addresses for hotels near where we will be. They are within walking distance and also have mini vans for transport about the city.

www.hipresidential.com	Holiday Inn
www.doubletreelr.com	Double Tree
www.comfortinnlittlerock.com	Comfort Inn
www.peabodylittlerock.com	Peabody

Check out www.littlerock.com for more

information.

WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT EVERYONE WILL COME TO LITTLE ROCK.

THECIA, GEORGE AND WAYNE

Additional comments from Wayne Swegle

We have an unusual opportunity to hear and visit with one of Arkansas' outstanding authorities on Latin America--former U.S. Ambassador to Argentina, **James R. Cheek**--during our annual meeting in Little Rock, October 19 and 20. Ambassador Cheek chose to live in Little Rock following his retirement from the U.S. diplomatic service in January 1997. He has agreed to share his vast knowledge with us. He is familiar with POA and what we do.

He will tell us, and answer our questions, about such interrelated issues as the yen for a federal system by some leaders of Santa Cruz, implications for us of the socialist leanings of Venezuela's President Chavez and certain other Latin American leaders, economic and political progress in countries like Brazil, and what may lie ahead in these and other countries.

Ambassador Cheek will come to our opening event reception at Thecia Taylor's home Friday night, then briefly address our group Saturday morning, followed by a hearty Q and A session. He is a delightful as well as knowledgeable conversationalist. And he is knowledgeable about world affairs as well as those of Latin America, having served in Africa, Asia, and Europe as well. Prior to serving in Argentina from June 1993 until December 1996, he was a member of President-elect Clinton's transition team at the State Department, following an assignment as Ambassador to Sudan from 1989-92. He was Acting Ambassador and Chief of Mission to Ethiopia during the great famine from 1985-88, and was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for American Republics Affairs from 1979-81, during which time he also was Acting Ambassador to El Salvador. Ambassador Cheek also was Deputy Director of Regional Affairs, Bureau of Near East and South Asia affairs at the State Department,

1975-77.

Joining the State Department as a Foreign Service Officer in 1961, Ambassador Cheek's assignments overseas included tours at our embassies in Santiago, Chile; London, England; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Managua, Nicaragua. He was Deputy Ambassador in Montevideo, Uruguay (1977-79) and Deputy Ambassador, Katmandu, Nepal (1982-85).

Again, we can tap into this vast pool of experience at our annual Arkansas Partners meeting, October 19 and 20. Plan now to attend.

Board Meeting

The Board met July 14, 2007 in Russellville. There was good attendance of members and included a guest, University of Arkansas student **Alejandro Paz** from Bolivia, doing an internship in Little Rock, and staying with **Thecia Taylor** during the semester.

Bill Millager gave an interesting presentation on our local website, noting the features available, its utility and he encouraged greater use of it by all members. It is easily accessible at www.uark.edu/misc/partners. In addition, Bill discussed the site he created for blogging and its availability to all Partners. Although he received encouragement to create this site, it has been little used. He will attempt to attain greater publicity for it in the Partners newsletter (also, see below for more details).

Concerns were expressed about lack of leadership at the national level. It is to be hoped that once leadership positions have been filled and leadership stabilized, we may expect greater attention to local issues.

Margaret Clark talked of planning done to receive the Youth Ambassadors (see last issue of *Direcciones*). She mentioned the "asado" [party held for graduating Bolivian students at the University. The party was well-attended and enjoyed by all.

Bill Millager discussed the possibility of a meeting among the three partnerships associated with Bolivia. It was noted that such a meeting had been held some years ago, attempting to facilitate cooperation among the three partnerships and working on projects of common interest.

Bob Frans announced that the annual Maria Teresa Frans scholarship was awarded to **Karen Balderrama**.

Steven Neuse reported on the proposed tour to Bolivia in 2008, indicating problems in making arrangements with local travel agencies there. Further developments will be reported later.

Margaret Clark gave an extended report on the Youth Ambassadors project and activities the participants were involved with (see the previous *Direcciones* issue and the newspaper account reported there.

Jo Ann Kaminsky reported on a proposed art therapy program and the book she has produced for people working in shelters designed to assist work with children of families suffering from domestic violence. She also reported on a proposed travel project to Bolivia in August. This project was approved by the Board.

Bettie Lu Lancaster reported on the Citizens Working for Justice project, indicating its linkage with the Youth Ambassador program. They are attempting to work with the present constituent assembly program in Bolivia, although it must be noted that political differences still hamper final progress.

Bill's Blog

Bill Millager has prepared an article for publication in the national newsletter. We are reproducing it here for your information (see next page).

Put Your Partners Intercom BLOG to Work!

Indirectly, Matt Clausen got Arkansas Partners into the blogging business. Now we want to get the whole POA Universe involved in the joys and rewards of blogging. Since the very idea is still mysterious to many people, let's peel the onion by answering the following questions: What is a Blog? What is Blogging? How can Partners use and operate a Blog? What Benefits can Blogging bring us?

Definition - "Blog" is shorthand for "web log." Think of it as a cross between a ship's log and Letters to the Editor. A blog is a website whose entries appear in date order, with the newest on top. Blogs contain news and commentary on a topic such as education, politics, or sports; you name it. A successful blog will appeal to a core group -often of younger people - sharing a strong interest in its topic. A typical blog combines text, images and links to other blogs, web pages, and other media focused on its topic. Many blogs allow readers to leave comments. This can spark active discussion and sometimes arguments. It helps make the blog a dynamic, interactive, stimulating communication tool.

Adopting the Partners Blog as a Project - The November, 2005 POA International Convention was hosted at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock by the Arkansas East Bolivia Partnership. Extra-curricular highlights were a visit to the Clinton Presidential Library, an exhibit of Bolivian Artworks, and impromptu concerts by a marvelous brass band from Ecuador. On the technical side, a continuing sub-theme was how to capitalize on the newly ubiquitous and practically "free" Internet technology. **In that context**, the BLOG was proposed by Arkansas member Bill Millager. Chance discussions and informal meetings with Board and Partners officials and participants outlined a project. An official BLOG would supplement Partners' quarterly newsletter and the partners.net website. It could speed and ease exchange of information, plans, and accomplishments among all chapters and POA staff. After a "Do it!" from the top, and a go-ahead from Arkansas' board, the blog was officially adopted as a project. Initiated by Arkansas Partners, it was to be run in partnership

with Headquarters Staff.

Blogging 101: Partners Intercom - Shortly after the convention, Millager created the blog on Blogger.com, which is owned by Google. The blog is called Partners Intercom. Its address is <http://partners-intercom.blogspot.com>.

Initial entries are built upon the 2005 International Conference. There is no cost at all, and the intuitive publication tools are first class. Future entries will depend on the response to this article.

The meat of the blog is contained in short entries presented in the right-hand two-thirds of the screen. Entries appear in date order, with the most recent one at the top. Show is an entry from July 1. It's a story prepared by Steven Neuse about an upcoming "Baroque Music Tour" to Bolivia. With the live blog on-screen, you can scroll down to earlier postings. Also shown is one from January, 2006. Several useful links are listed on the left side of the screen (beyond the picture). They include the Santa Cruz newspaper El Deber, and Google News covering the very latest events in Bolivia. Our Arkansas Partners' quarterly journal Direcciones can be accessed, and so can a couple of colorful Power Point slide shows. Steven Neuse's far-reaching Bolivia Travel Guide is also linked.

Posting on the Partners Intercom Blog - New entries are centrally controlled by password. But every reader is encouraged to post a comment on any entry. This is the key to exchanging news and views, almost in real time. At the bottom of the July 1 entry, you can see "# posted by Arkansas - East Bolivia Partnership at 8:49 p.m. 1 comments." There is also a little envelope icon. Clicking the envelope allows you to email someone else a copy of the entry plus a personal message. All you need to do is put in a destination email and your own name and email address.

Clicking on the word "comments" opens up the comments window. There you see previous comments on the entry, together with the "screen names" of their authors. The blank area is for you to type in a comment to be posted on the blog.

Publishing Your Comments on the Blog- Your typed comment can refer to the entry itself, or it can be a reply to one of the previous comments. To post the comment, you type in a Google ID and password. Then you click "Publish Your Comment." If you don't already have a Google ID

(such as from gmail), just click the "Signup here" button to get one. You can also choose a distinctive screen name; and that's what will identify your comment.

Ready to Roll? - The Partners Intercom blog has a worthy purpose. It's to "exchange information, plans, and accomplishments among all chapters and POA staff." Yet we've failed to let everyone know about the opportunity, and the blog has languished.

We ask that Partners now become involved and move the project off dead center. Please visit the site, <http://partners-intercom.blogspot.com> and leave a comment. Let your comments be as far-ranging as you like. Let them be provocative. Let them invite other topics to be tackled. We'll find a way to take advantage of your ideas.

Use the email icon to email comments and topic suggestions to your Chapter President; or to Arkansas Partners, via Bill Millager, wmillage@uark.edu, or Steven Neuse sneuse@uark.edu; or to Washington, via Matt Clausen, mclausen@partners.net; or to . . .

Put your imagination to work. Show Matt we care. Let's make the Partners Intercom live up to its name! Let's Make "Partners Intercom" a big Plus for Your Chapter and for the POA Universe

* <http://partners-intercom.blogspot.com>

Visit from a Past President

Finally, a short blurb from Bill Millager regarding a visit from Past President **Phil Serafini**. Bill's e-mail to Phil was meant to be edited further, but it seems to stand alone very well. Phil, as many of you know, is an agricultural entrepreneur in East Bolivia. This message is a result of a recent visit of his back home to Fayetteville.

Phil:

Many thanks for organizing breakfast at the Bowling Alley today. Gwen and I both enjoyed ourselves immensely.

And it was good to see the old mob! Y'all oughtta come 'round more often.

Bill

Don't miss the motto on the window ledge: "Live Responsibly."



Two long-time Partners, Paul Noland and Phil Serafini discussing world affairs

All I remember is that Phil's farm is somewhere outside of Santa Cruz in Santa Cruz province.

4,000 acres are cleared and windbreaks are in place. No more land is readily available for the enterprise.

1,000 acres are devoted to cattle, and another 1,000 will be added soon - diverted from ???.

Mountain lion got one calf; policy is that if one more goes, there will be mayhem aimed at mountain lions.

Foxes eat cotton bolls, and foxes eat irrigation pipe ("puppy toy"?). Shotguns kill foxes and shotguns also devastate irrigation pipes. Yields have been excellent, thanks to Phil's bmp's.

Phil gets into Santa Cruz once every two weeks. Money was tight for a long time, and he would often wind up staying in the back of their office - in the center city - to cut expenses. There are only about five full-time employees. Much of the operational work has been contracted out. Hard to beat the rates. But now there is some money, and Phil is buying equipment during this trip.

Don mentioned that he has boodle of seed available. Phil said he could use a bag of seed, to be delivered by FedEx???

Discussion by Don Dombek, Phil, Paul, Gwen et al of rice varieties, of herbicide-resistant varieties of rice and of corn. Mention of seeing resistant corn spears growing among resistant rice crops! "Procedures" for preventing contamination of one variety by another. Mention of Asian rust -

blowing on the wind - and other varieties, of useful pesticides and mechanisms of control.

Bolivian singer

Bolivia native **Andrea Ramos Inchauste**, a freshman at the University of Central Arkansas, will appear as a leading soloist in the Songs Unlimited School of Singing 3-week Artist Residency for Fall 2007 in La Paz, Bolivia. The Residency, co-sponsored by Songs Unlimited and the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia, is offered to honor the Bolivian National Conservatory during its Centennial Celebration. Artist Residency activities begin with a major public concert of Vocal Chamber Music in La Paz, followed by a Master Class in Collaborative Piano Art for selected piano students, and culminating with a daytime educational concert in the nearby Bolivian city of El Alto. Ramos began her musical studies at the Bolivian National Conservatory, later continuing with Russian professor Irina Efanova in piano and with Armenian soprano Karina Stepanian in voice. She led the soprano section and was soprano soloist with the Bolivian Choral Society, and later she was a soloist with the Bolivian National Symphony Orchestra.

In January 2007, as a result of her musical and artistic achievement at the Songs Unlimited School, Ramos received a full tuition scholarship from UCA, where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in vocal performance. After only one semester here, because of her excellent academic record, her achievements in musical studies and service to the university, she was awarded a UCA Foundation grant of full room and board expenses for the remainder of her undergraduate studies. Songs Unlimited is a non-profit corporation with offices in Conway and La Paz dedicated to the worldwide promotion of the Art of Song. Activities in support of that goal include presentation of Songs Across the Americas Festivals during alternate years in various parts of the Western Hemisphere. Those Festivals began in August 2003 in Bolivia and continued most recently in May 2006 in Conway. In Arkansas and Bolivia, Songs Unlimited carries out projects designed to bring deeper cross-cultural understanding through classical and popular music.

Songs Unlimited has organized various musical artist interchanges between Arkansas and Bolivia, beginning with a U.S. State Department cultural tour of Bolivia commemorating the centennial of the death of American soprano Marion Anderson, by former award-winning student of UCA soprano **Kristin Lewis**.

Songs Unlimited helped to secure a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residency Fellowship at UCA for **Ricardo Estrada**, musical director of the Philharmonic Society of La Paz, during the Spring semester 2000, and the enrollment at UCA that same year of cellist **Alejandro Villegas** of Bolivia. In January 2007, the two organizations collaborated to bring UCA mezzo-soprano **Jennifer Crippen** to Bolivia as a leading singer in the Philharmonic Society of La Paz production of Rossini's "The Barber of Seville."

Some final words on Youth Ambassadors

The following picture was provided by **Rosario Keele** when the Youth Ambassadors from Bolivia visited NW Arkansas. As part of their visit they went to Roaring River Park in Missouri at the invitation of Rosario (at the far right). They had a good fishing experience!



THAT'S IT FOR THIS ISSUE!