



COCHA-LINA HERALD

Newsletter of the North Carolina Partners of the Americas (Partners with Cochabamba, Bolivia)

Newsbits

- President Morales invited 17,000 Chinese workers into Bolivia as part of this [agreement](#).
- National [car-free days](#) in Bolivia make a significant impact in pollution.
- Oruro has become well-known for its Carnival and [Antonio Banderas was Invited](#).
- [Arte Fotogata](#) works with disadvantaged youth in Bolivia.
- Volunteer at [CAICC](#) in Cochabamba, Bolivia
- 10 things that Bolivia does better than anybody from [CNN español](#)
- Will Bolivia become like Nicaragua or Venezuela? Here's [one person's opinion](#).
- One jail in Bolivia has a reputation as the "[party prison](#)."

PartnersCounts Hours

Partners of the Americas wants to be able to show grantees and Donors that this organization really does make a difference In North and South America. Please log in your volunteer hours

<http://www.partners.net/partnerscounts>

Bolivia

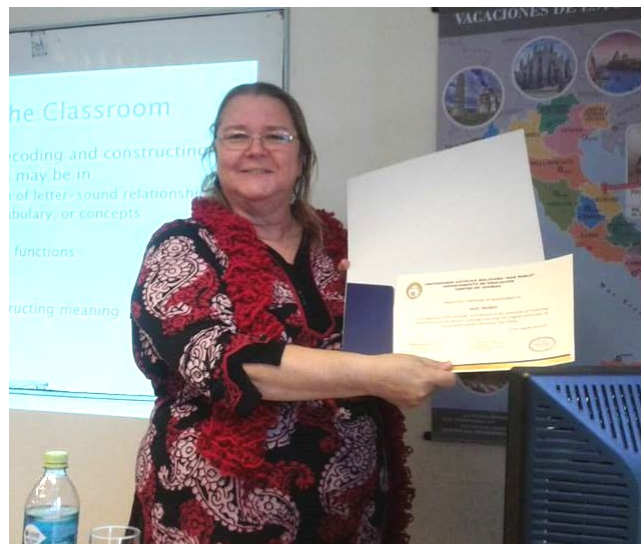
More teachers in residence were sent to Bolivia this summer than any other time in recent history. Alison Stalberg gave writing workshops in La Paz in Cochabamba, Virginia Freedman gave literacy workshops to children and ESL workshops for teachers. There were two month-long teachers in residence: Lisa Uribe Ceciliano from Wake Tech who gave teacher workshops in Cochabamba. Wake Tech ESL teacher Angus Bowers gave teacher training workshops in La Paz and Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Later, in September, NC POA president, Janis Holden-Toruno, went to many points in Bolivia to evaluate current and future programs there.

She was the final plenary speaker for Centro Boliviano Americano's conference, "Learning Disabilities and Second Language Acquisition." Janis also visited Oruro for [teacher training workshops](#).

Thanks to Partners of the Americas travel grants, teachers in residence were able to travel together and train teachers in most large cities of Bolivia. Bolivian ESL teachers in the Cochabamba and La Paz CBA have received online training through a partnership between Bolivian and North Carolinian chapters. Ms. Holden-Toruno was able to give certificates to the ESL teachers for completion of the training program

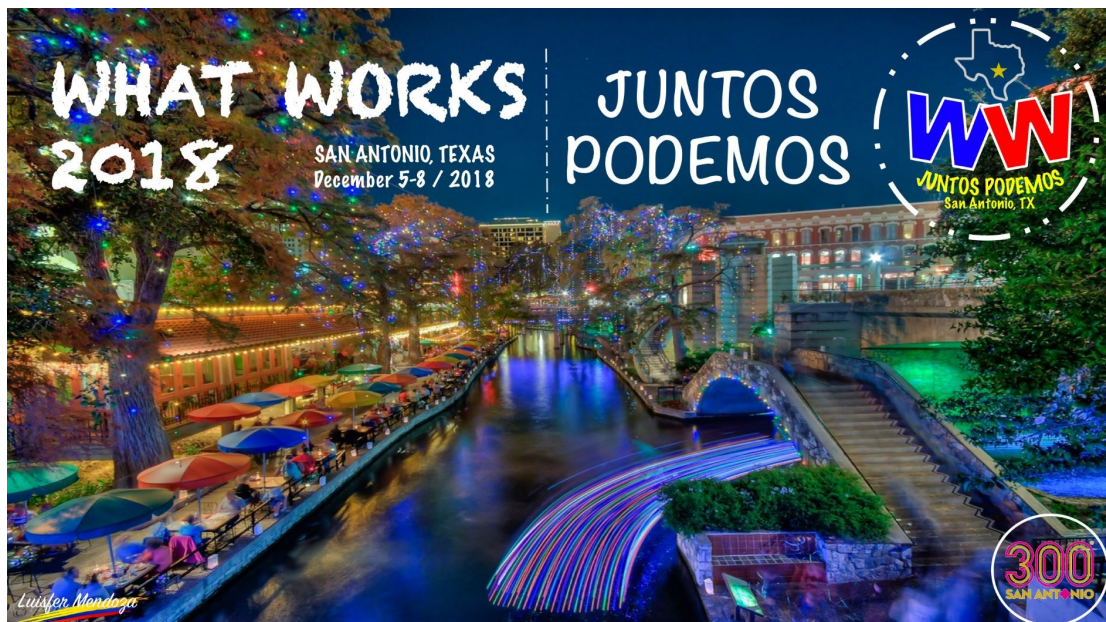
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NC Partners of the Americas Travel Exchanges this Summer



NC POA president Janis Holden-Toruno receiving certificate for her Learning Disabilities and Second Language acquisition presentation.

that originated in the NC community college program, and was created by ESL teachers from NC Partners. There were also many gastronomical excursions, beautiful vistas, and best practices shared.



Teachers in Residence Trips to Bolivia



Armadillo Soup
At the CBA Santa Cruz

From July 15– August 12, Lisa Uribe visited Cochabamba, Bolivia as part of NC POA's annual teacher in residence program. She is an adult ESL teacher trainer at Wake Technical Community College and primarily worked at Centro Boliviano Americano In Cochabamba. Her mission was to introduce formative assessment for ESL /EFL in the classroom so that assessment becomes more organic to the lesson. Formative assessment also encourages students to check their

own progress. She also introduced new games and dialogue journals inside the classroom.

Some of the games for pronunciation were re-constructing a dictation, pronunciation journey, and a game similar to Connect Four. "Making Tracks", which focuses on syllable stress in words. This game has students working against each other to complete "tracks" of 4 or more words which match the stress pattern identified by rolling a die. These are examples of how to embed engaging activities into pronunciation instruction and practice.

Angus Bowers, another Wake Tech teacher trainer, traveled during the same time as Lisa but to the CBA's at Santa Cruz and La Paz. The Santa Cruz CBA has many students that later travel to Miami and is a very state of the art facility.

In La Paz, Angus Bowers reviewed CBA's HR policies for teachers

and also helped La Paz with their curriculum overhaul. He also got to visit other language schools in La Paz.

Cultural excursions included visiting nun cloisters, hiking in some frighteningly narrow paths, and experiencing exotic dishes such as armadillo soup and piche. Virginia Freedman was also able to travel to the Anglo American high school in Oruro and give EFL workshops that are equivalent to CEU's in the United States. Having two teachers in residence made the trip more enjoyable for the teacher themselves and helped NC POA make new connections.



Dictation Exercise at
CBA Cochabamba



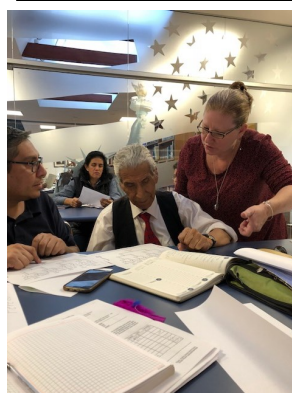
Making Tracks pronunciation
exercise with Lisa Uribe
Ceciliano.



Note-taking in the 21st
century with cellphones



Hiking near La Paz



Lisa teaching the Pronunciation
Journey exercise



Dialogue journal writing
class for EFL instructors
at CBA



Valle de Ancestros near La
Paz

WRITING WORKSHOPS IN BOLIVIA

BY ALLISON STALBERG

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From June 15th through the 30th, I spent a week in La Paz and a week in Cochabamba presenting workshops and giving out resources on different kinds of writing. The workshops and seminars included essay and creative writing, resume writing, tips to improve English writing in general, and letters to the editor.

The first workshop drew over one hundred people at the Unidad Educativa Vida Verdad in La Paz. I was slightly nervous with the first presentation. However, when I began to talk passionately about why fantasy and fiction is worth recognition in academia, I saw youth eyes light up in the audience. Like, "Wow! Dragons and magic can be educational and important?" Their response and level of interest was very positive and I approached the remainder of presentations, in La Paz and Cochabamba with confidence and joy.

One particularly popular activity among the students and teachers was a creative exercise envisioning their home city (La Paz or Cochabamba) as a person, and describing the type of person they would be. This was to show how a place is important and can be creatively personified. We were thrilled to see a lot of the same trends. For example, La Paz was a bipolar woman who loves to party. People described their city as pets (e.g. llama) or talked about their relationship with other places who are now people (for example, El Alto being La Paz's best friend). This activity got a lot of cheers and laughs.

In Cochabamba, I met with journalist students at Universidad Catolica. There were ten students which gave us the opportunity for an intimate discussion. I learned a lot from them about journalism while they also learned from me. Bolivia has no letter to the editor practice or a way for the community to contribute to news in a personal and productive way. It was a sobering situation to hear the students' concerns about the lack of good journalism in their community.

Since writing involved critical thinking skills, I also visited El Alto to speak to indigenous youth about thinking critically. I shared stories with them about it being okay to break the rules to follow your heart and we discussed disagreeing while maintaining friendly and loving relationships. My prime example was my grandfather being a conscientious objector in World War II. I told them people usually fear following their hearts over what society wants them to do because it's lonely, but that they are never truly alone because the world is big and there are always people out there who think the same.

There was also sightseeing and exploring the country. I visited Death Road and Cocomar where there is farmland, wildlife, and jungle flowers. Fellow Partners took me to see ancient Catholic churches and fed me coca tea with delicious meats. I toured an old convent where nuns lived in the 1700s. I climbed the giant Jesus statue that looks over Cochabamba and hiked around Valle de la Luna in La Paz.

Getting sick for a time in Cochabamba did not matter, because what I remember are the presentations and places I had the opportunity to visit. I hope to go back to contribute more within the North Carolina partnership as well as with our southern partners. As a result of the visit, I hope more volunteers will also hope there will be more people to pursue writing-centered volunteer exchanges in the future. Many teachers told me that students in Bolivia write far less than North American students. Writing is a key power source to share knowledge and explore common values and I think this visit sparked interest, particularly with the youth participants to expand and explore writing practices.



Allison Stalberg's arrival at the Cochabamba airport



visiting the Jesus statue with the Cochabamba Partners Youth group



UNTPEC presentation

Pay your dues easily online now! **Go to the Website** www.ncboliviapartners.org, go to the **DONATE** page, and you'll be able to make a secure payment of dues or other donation!

Cochabamba Partners

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Agriculture -Steve Gibson, Don Hopkins

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Sports—Vacant

Membership – **Anita Crowley**, Katushka Olave

(The committees Women and Development and Democratic Initiatives are not active.)

Newsletter Editor- **Virginia Freedman**

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE GRANTS : Due October 31,2018

SO YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WRITING A PROJECT-BASED GRANT BUT DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET STARTED?

This year's program activities will focus on three themes that work to:

- increase English language learning;
 - increase and strengthen university partnerships; and
 - engage youth, and promote economic empowerment and social inclusion.
- (1) If you have an idea for a project, write to the corresponding subcommittee chair. The chair will be the person that has the contacts, and helps plan the itinerary. For help with visas and the necessary paperwork, please email the president and vice-president of the Executive Board.
- (2) **Travel Grants** for volunteers and community leaders to visit partner chapter to participate in skills training, give presentations and workshops, build program action plans, and participate in community projects. Travel grants are reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Travelers from Latin America are now required to apply for a J-1 visa and are no longer allowed to travel to the US on a tourist visa. Complete instructions and application are [here](#)
- (3)**Teacher-in-Residence Grants** are travel grants for English teachers and administrators to share methodologies and pedagogy for teaching English as a second language, including methodologies for reaching out to marginalized communities. Travel requests are reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Travelers from Latin America are now required to apply for a J-1 visa and are no longer allowed to travel to the US on a tourist visa. Complete instructions and application are [here](#)
- (4) **Public-Private Partnership Events** to bring together volunteers and community leaders from throughout the region to share effective practices and build multi-national networks that include the US. Information on upcoming events will be sent out soon. If you are interested in hosting an event on one of the priority areas, please contact Melissa Golladay.

Contacts:

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Melissa Golladay, Director, mgolladay@partners.net

Barbara Bloch, Membership Specialist, bbloch@partners.net

Carlos Guaman : Prosthetist and Orthotist

Carlos Guaman works in Orthotics and Prosthetics at CERECO and was especially interested in training for Prosthetics for teenagers and children in the United States. Having a prosthetic can make a big difference in a teenager's development. At Cereco, many of the prosthetics are improvisations and a handiwork of ingenuity, with very few materials available. Educated in the most up to date methods of rehabilitation, Bolivian prosthetists overcome the lack of equipment by creative use of appropriate technology.

Mr. Guamán has a background in mechanical engineering and he applies the biomechanics of gait to teach his patients how to walk with prostheses.

With limited material resources and no public health support for P&O, Mr. Guamán seeks to provide economical clinical care for his clients; also, he pro-actively supplements available training and education to improve standards of local P&O delivery.

Amputation in Bolivia is due to trauma, cancer, congenital amelia, or diabetes. Medical care in Bolivia does not offer interdisciplinary, team rehabilitation, so after discharge from hospital, patients must find prosthetic care without assistance and pay for their prostheses without insurance.

Mr. Guamán creatively improves his patients' quality of life by re-purposing available and affordable materials and parts,

such as tire rubber, balsa wood, leather and swivel casters intended for office chairs. Mr. Guamán can minimize costs by using leather and laces to create transtibial sockets for prostheses, "Soak leather until it is malleable and mold it on a positive cast of the residual limb. When the leather dries, it contracts. Tight lacing achieves suspension on the residual limb."

During his two weeks in North Carolina, Carlos Guaman was able to work and train at an RTP prosthetic facility that will donate materials to him. He was also able to travel to Northwestern University for further talks and training. Carlos Guaman's work is a testament to how people can help others with limited resources but limitless ingenuity.

-Virginia Freedman



Carlos Guaman in his workshop in Cochabamba

Biblioteca Thurchapitas and the "Dangerous Women "

It all began with 400 books being donated to NC Partners of the Americas from the Appalachian State University's library department. 400 children's books in Spanish. What was Partners of the Americas supposed to do with these books? One could write a Pixote literacy grant and, in July 2018, go to Bolivia with four suitcases and teach literacy workshops at Centro De Apoyo Integral Carcelario y Comunitario and Biblioteca Thurchapitas, the only children's library in Bolivia.

In Bolivia, most reading is done on Kindle. The public University of San Simon has a large library but there is only one public library in Cochabamba..

Former teachers dubbed "The Dangerous Women", led by writer Gaby Vallejo, make the most of the resources they have. They travel to remote, rural areas., giving households a bag of books to share with the families. The children of these remote places gather when the buses come and are overjoyed.

The women were dubbed "dangerous" by a man when he saw them sitting in a field reading to children in one of these remote areas and the nickname stuck. Knowledge is power, after all. In Cochabamba, the kids go out in public plazas and ask adults if they can read their favorite books to them. As a person who worries about the future of reading, watching children share and read their favorite books made my heart skip..

I gave writing workshops with the books at two sites: Biblioteca Thurchapitas and CAICC (<https://www.achcaiccbolivia.com/>). The association of Association Civil Hamiraya

Centro de Apoyo Integral Carcelario y Comunitario is an all-volunteer run school for students who have to live in female prisons. In Bolivia, there is no social service infrastructure to house these children and the government only pays for the children's meals. Like many things in Bolivia, CAICC is all volunteer-run and is a respite for the children living in A female prison. They continue to run their program through donations and if you are interested in donating or learning more, please click [here](#).



Children's workshop at Biblioteca Thurchapitas



Hearing *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak at CAICC.