



# COCHA-LINA HERALD

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

## Newsbits

- [Inspiring story of how UCLA grad wants to become next president of Bolivia.](#)
- [Join Innovation Network if you are interested in receiving grants for your college or university.](#)
- [Volunteered with the national Partners office or a local chapter? Count your hours for PartnersCounts.](#)
- [Rap-jumping in La Paz. \(You can feel what it's like to be a superhero and even dress up like one.\)](#)
- [Opportunities to volunteer with Farmer to Farmer](#)
- [If you are a member of Partners, please sign up at the members portal.](#)
- [Top five places to visit in Medellin for the What Works conference—September 14, -16.2017.](#)



Register [here](#) for this conference.

## Meet New CEO for Partners of the Americas

### Washington, DC

After a comprehensive search, the national office of Partners of the Americas has found its next CEO: John McPhail. Longtime CEO Steve Vetter decided to retire at the close of 2016 to work in setting up a family foundation with his son's business. Under his nine year tenure, Steve Vetter began A Ganar which helped 15,000 youth gain employment through soccer teamwork and workforce development. Educato Futuro and The Haiti NSP program flourished as well with moving 65,000 children from child labor to school and educating over 20,000 mother leaders in Haiti about the importance of nutrition, respectively.

John McPhail comes to Partners with an impressive background. He began his career in international development by volunteering with the Peace Corps in El Salvador. After serving in the Peace Corps, he stayed in El Salvador for 15 years. He was the country and regional director for international nonprofits including Save the Children, World Vision, and Project Concern International.



John McPhail has been the Partners of the Americas CEO since June 1, 2017.

He was the country and regional director for international nonprofits including Save the Children, World Vision, and Project Concern International. McPhail has held leadership positions on the boards of numerous local nonprofits and associations in El Salvador, providing operational and strategic direction. He coordinated or co-

coordinated multiple national and regional networks in Central America in health, water & sanitation and agriculture/food security. Mr. McPhail received a BSc in Civil Engineering from MIT and a Master's in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois / Urbana-Champaign.

**HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**  
INTERNATIONALIZATION IN THE AMERICAS  
SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE, MEXICO | OCTOBER 17-19 2017

**2017 THEME: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

## Youth Ambassador's Project Comes to

### Fruition

by Riley Meese Youth Ambassador ' 16

Save the Date!  
Next  
Board Meeting,  
Saturday,  
June 24, 2017, beginning 10:00 am  
Chapel Hill Public  
Library , Room C  
For more information,  
please contact Jessica  
Kinard at  
jessi-  
ca.kinard@cidd.unc.edu



Moore Kids Outdoors first camping trip was a success

After traveling to Colombia, I immediately knew that I wanted to do something involving the outdoors and working with local youth. I grew up in a very outdoors orientated family; my first time camping I was only nine months old, and ,ever since then, I have developed a really strong relationship with nature. During the past two summers, I have attended an outdoors adventure camp in Florida for military teens. This past summer I was a counselor and will be again this summer. This camp had such a tremendous impact on me, I knew I wanted to start something similar to give kids an experience like the one I got. It has always been my dream to create and run my own nonprofit.

Moore Kids Outdoors, my project for Youth Ambassadors, is a program that is designed to teach youth in Moore County basic outdoor and camping skills over a three-week period through six hands-on classes at the Boys and Girls Club. At the end of the three weeks, the youth will be able to put all of these skills to the test during an overnight backpacking trip to Pisgah National Forest. I created this program because I wanted to give youth in my community who would not normally be able to experience the outdoors the opportunity. In my opinion, many kids today are constantly distracted by technology and the latest TV show, or they simply are not given the opportunity due to limited financial means or lack of family interest. By implementing Moore Kids Outdoors, I would be able to

share my love for the outdoors with kids, while giving them an opportunity to learn skills that will last a lifetime. During the school year, each session will last three weeks. Classes are Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-5, and we will leave for the overnight trip the third weekend on Saturday morning and come back in the afternoon on Sunday. The first session is scheduled to start May 1st and run through May 21st. During the class sessions , there will be topics such as: shelter building and locations, fire building, water filtration, navigational skills using a compass and topographical maps, basic first aid, and knowledge of poisonous animals and plants commonly found in North Carolina. I will personally teach all of the classes, with assistance from outside adult help for two topics. A military family friend who is educated in first aid is going to come to teach the kids how to use medical supplies and wilderness safety. A park ranger will bring animals to class, such as snakes when we learn about poisonous wildlife in NC. Another teen volunteer in high school who has an outdoors background is going to assist me at every class. My dad and a teacher at my school will chaperone for the overnight trip.

The Boys and Girls Club is generously letting the program use their facility for classroom space, and their bus for transportation. However, this program is completely donor-funded. I have created a GoFundMe page where I am collecting donations, and have shared it on social media sites and with friends and

family. I also, have been going to local businesses asking for donations. Moore Kids Outdoors is not legally a nonprofit so some businesses may be hesitant to donate, which is why I have been targeting more local stores rather than corporate. However, I am working with a lawyer right now to establish Moore Kids Outdoors as a registered business and to obtain nonprofit status, and he is doing all of this pro-bono! We submitted the business registration and are waiting to hear back! I For funding, there are also monthly spirit nights at a restaurant in my community, as well as car washes. My school is helping me by allowing me to host a drive for nonperishables (such as food, bug spray, and first aid supplies), and we are holding a dress-down day to raise money. Receiving funding is definitely the most difficult part in getting this program started, especially since the startup costs of purchasing all the equipment is so high. I applied for the Gloria Barron for Young Heroes award, and find out in September if I won! This is a program that I am extremely passionate about, and one that I will do anything for to make it a success.

For more information, you can go to Riley's [Facebook page](#) moorekidsoutdoors/  
This program has a fundraising page [here](#).

## MEDICAL REPORT 2017

Dr. Carlos Vargas and the medical team visited Bolivia April 29 - May 9, 2017. Five plastic surgeons, a nurse anesthetist and a nurse worked with Dr. Romero at the Children Burn Center of the Pediatric Hospital, to add to the 1,306 plastic and endoscopic surgeries of the past eleven years.

Carlos Vargas, M.D. and his wife, Wilma, recently visited the monthly meeting of Partners of the Americas in Cochabamba. Dr. Vargas officially presented \$1,803,271 from the Delmar Foundation to the Cochabamba Partners. In addition, Dr. Vargas delivered a "Letter of Understanding" that was signed by Danny Balderrama, current Cochabamba President and delivered back to Janis Holden-Toruno, NC Partner's "Letter of Understanding" provides the guidelines for use of the equipment purchased to support the project.

The project selected is to develop and distribute written information about preventing fires and reducing burns to children. Educational presentations would be made to children of all ages, as well as families in urban and rural areas. The Project proposal states that burn accidents occur to 7 of every 10 children under the age of 15 years of age. The majority of the burns are to low-income children. The project is called "PREVENCIÓN ANTE QUEMADURAS." The Project Coordinator is Lupe Buenida, President of the Cochabamba Partners.



Wilma Vargas attending the monthly Cochabamba chapter meeting



Children at the burn center post-surgery. Dr Carlos Vargas and Wilma Vargas are in the center of the picture

### 20 Travel Scholarships for Students

To celebrate GoAbroad's 20 year anniversary, we're excited to help 20 meaningful travelers fund their experiences abroad through our #GoAbroad20for20 campaign! GoAbroad will be awarding 20 (yes, twenty!) \$500 scholarships – that's \$10,000 worth of Meaningful Travel Scholarships to help get 20 people abroad. Winners will be selected based on the quality and completeness of their scholarship applications and whether they have chosen and enrolled in a program. Scholarships can be used for programs taking place in

### Upcoming Board Meetings

- **June 24, 2017, 10:00 am, Chapel Hill Public Library, Room C**
- **September 9, 2017, Location : TBA**
- **December 2, 2017, Location: TBA**

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

#### NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS OFFICERS

Janis Holden Toruno: Current President

Vice-President : Vacant

Jessica Kinard: Secretary

Karen Brown: Interim Treasurer

Christian Stalberg, Past President

**Members:** Includes the Executive Committee above and Hank Graden, Judy Gibson, Steve Gibson, Katushka Olave, Virginia Freedman  
Carlos Vargas, Ivo A. Pestana, Benson Timmons, Lori Snyder, Keyla Duin, Jaclyn Coats,

**Subcommittees and Chairs:** (chairs are in bold)

Autism Project- **Hank Graden**

Culture and the Arts - **Daniel Johnson**, Kitty Stalberg,

Health and Clinical Practices - **Carlos Vargas**, Ben Timmons

Agriculture -**Steve Gibson**, Don Hopkins

Environment and Natural Resources – Vacant

Education –**Karen Brown**, Laura Cernikova, Deborah Wilkes

Sports–Vacant

Membership – **Katushka Olave**

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

Newsletter Editor- **Virginia Freedman**

### TRAVEL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

**There are still higher education and travel grants available. Click [here](#) for more 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:**

Carmen Sepassi, Senior Program Officer, [csepassi@partners.net](mailto:csepassi@partners.net)

Barbara Bloch, [bbloch@partners.net](mailto:bbloch@partners.net)