



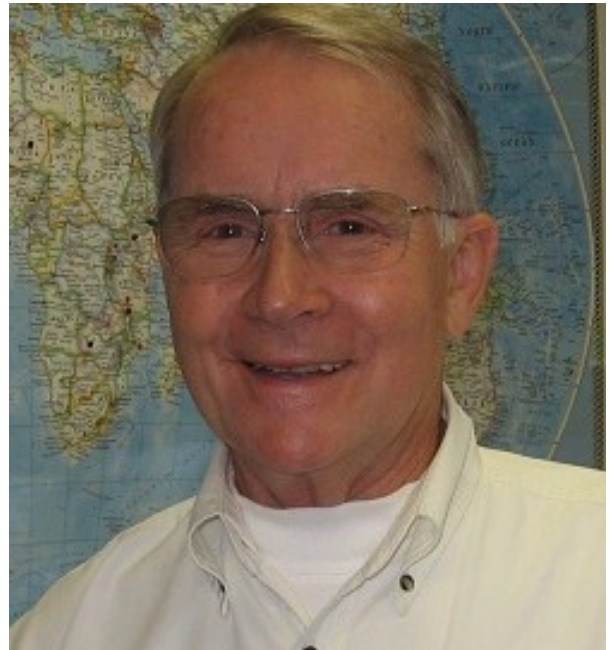
Newsbits

- Uyani Salt Flats opens “one of the best **restaurants** in South America.”
- **Urban art** in poor Bolivian Neighborhoods to capture Indigenous cultures.
- Bolivian jazz prodigy **Jose Miguel** plays for the **Pope**.
- One of the highest ski resorts in the world is **abandoned** because of climate change.
- Looking for a customized internship that will develop your leadership skills? Information is **here**.
- **Lake Poopo**, Bolivia’s second largest lake, has dried up.
- **Travel grant blog** post written by Virginia Freedman

L. George Wilson, NCPOA President, has been a lifetime member of the NC-Cochabamba Partners of the Americas since 1975, serving on the agriculture and other committees. During his first trip to Cochabamba in 1998 as a Farmer-to-Farmer volunteer, he learned about plans for a new USAID (US Agency for International Development) counter-narcotics agricultural project (CONCADE). Wilson subsequently successfully negotiated with DAI (Development Alternatives, Inc.), who was awarded this five-year contract, for a \$4.5 million NC State University sub-contract to develop and implement the agricultural components in the Chapare Region during 1998-2003. To the extent possible, CONCADE was linked with our NCPOA Cochabamba partners.

Dr. Wilson is Professor Emeritus of Horticultural Science at North Carolina State University. He joined the faculty in March 1975 after a decade as Research Postharvest Physiologist and Technology Transfer Specialist

Meet Your New NC POA president George Wilson



for bananas and other tropical crops for the Division of Tropical Research of United Fruit Company (Chiquita International, LLP)

(continued on next page)



NCPOA JOINS SOCIAL MEDIA

NC POA has finally caught up with social media. Lindsay Naumann, a recent NC State graduate, has offered to volunteer her expertise and time to create and maintain our social media sites. At one of our board meetings, Lindsay explained to us the lingo and efficacy of Instagram and Twitter. She quickly developed Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts and has made links on the updated website [here](#). If you have any pictures, announcements that should be shared, please

send them to Lmnaumann@ncsu.edu. The social media accounts are listed in the far left column on this page.

Here is an introduction to Lindsay Naumann, in her own words:

“My name is Lindsay and I have a degree in Plant and Soil Sciences with a concentration in Crop Production and Minors in Spanish and International Studies. I came across NC Partners - Bolivia because of my study abroad experience with Partners of the Americas and a coincidental volunteer opportunity with Career Connections.

I am excited to expand the connective horizons of NC Partners and hopefully connect our members here at home with our friends in Bolivia. I am looking forward to serving you in this role. “



NC POA Social

Media Accounts:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/NCPOA/>

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/nc_poa/

Twitter:

https://twitter.com/nc_poa

Meet Your New NC POA president continued

Please Save the Date

September 21, 2019

Location: TBD

NCPOA Board Meeting

All are invited.

in La Lima, Cortes, Honduras -- where he learned Spanish. At NC State, Dr. Wilson was statewide sweet potato and potato Extension Specialist; taught postharvest physiology/technology; was Assistant Dean for International Agriculture; and Vice Provost for University International Affairs.

A native of Niagara County, NY, the seventh of 10 children of a diversified farm family fruit, vegetable and dairy farm, George earned his B.S. in Pomology/Agricultural Economics at Cornell University, his M.S. in Horticulture at Washington State University, and his Ph.D. in Post-harvest Horticulture at Michigan State University.

He served in Peru for two years as Chief of Party of the NC State USAID Applied Technology Transformation (ATT) project and

was team leader in Bulgaria with the USDA/FAS (Foreign Agricultural Service) Bulgarian American Extension Project.

During 2006-08 George was Senior Advisor for University Relations and Agricultural Research, Training and Outreach for the Office of Agriculture of USAID/Washington. Since 2009 he has represented NC State on the International Advisory Board of the USAID Feed the Future Horticulture Innovation Lab.

In addition to his work and travels in all but two Latin American countries, Wilson's global experiences include more than 55 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania. During 2018-2019 he was president of the Rotary Club of West Raleigh. George was married for 52 ½ years to Claudia, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandsons.

Cochabamba . Bolivia Executive Board

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TESORERO



Building More Capacity in Bolivia to Serve Persons with the Diagnosis Of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD/TEA)

by Hank Graden

For years, we have spoken to many Bolivians about the lack of services and resources for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in Bolivia. Thanks to the collaboration of the US and Bolivian Partners of America chapters, professors from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Brigham Young University, two New Mexican autism specialists, an Arkansas ASD specialist and "Autism Speaks,, we now are now seeking financial assistance for an important component of this project

It is our belief that this project, although successful since 2008 when we started, will have limited growth potential without some paid staff and resources in the U.S. and Bolivia to coordinate the implementation of our plan. **We believe it is time to establish an office in the Raleigh, Durham or Chapel Hill area accessible to the current professionals and other resources.** Our goal is to eventually hire a part-time paid staff person in both locations. We do not currently have funding for the Project, but finding space for an office would be part of our application process. We would negotiate a rental agreement for office space and other services.

We have encouraged parents and professionals to establish Coordinating/Leadership Committees in several Bolivian Departments. Representatives of these groups met with Bolivian Ministries of Education and Health and Sport and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) office in Bolivia. A number of other Bolivian organizations and individuals have been identified as potential collaborators and are included in the planning process.

The Bolivian and U.S. professionals participating in the Autism project strongly recommend increasing the number of people

knowledgeable about the methods and applications of TEACCH principles. This would be our second capacity- building initiative to secure funding and contract with the TEACCH Program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, to hold 2, 3-day TEACCH seminars in Bolivia in 2019. The TEACCH Program already has a history of presenting in Spanish-speaking countries so there are already Spanish-English materials and English-Spanish translators for presenters.

TEACCH has set methods, services, and demonstration programs meeting the clinical, training and research needs of individuals with Autism Spectrum disorder and their families- "the premise of this foundation is an understanding of the learning styles of individuals with ASD and how to use teaching strategies that capitalize on learning strengths. An emphasis is placed on the use of Structured TEACCH principles to teach individuals with ASD skills in the areas of academics (literacy and numeracy), communication, independence, social and leisure, vocational, relaxation and coping strategies." (teacch.com/trainings/five-day-classroom-training)" Copied from the <https://teacch.com/trainings/five-day-classroom-training/>

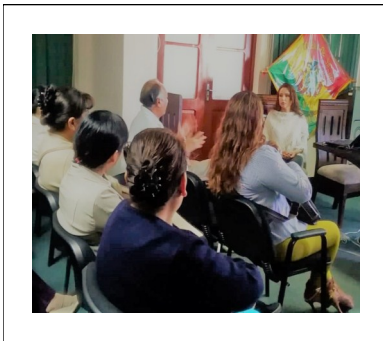
The Spanish-language resources we are developing for the Bolivian project could be shared with the Autism Society (e.g., sharing the Spanish-language video series and other Spanish-language presentation materials). The group could also offer to do workshops or in-services about ASD in Spanish.

Our long term goal is to help all nine departments improve existing services and increase a comprehensive continuum of services for those diagnosed with ASD/TEA. We have contacts in the Departments of La Paz, Chuquisaca (Sucre), Cochabamba, Oruro, Santa Cruz and Tarija. We also plan to add Potosi, Benni and Pando to the project. We plan to help build a model *CONTINUUM OF SERVICES including, but not limited to the following: Early identification, diagnosis, treatment at home or in a program, parent training; pre-school/ other schooling, vocational/work/ supported employment, adult intermediate care, housing at different levels, post-high school, independent living and community consultation.*)

Future Plans for Autism Project

by Hank Graden

1. Provide support and training to Bolivia autism leaders in diagnosis of autism.
2. Arrange for TEACCH seminars to be held in several locations throughout Bolivia to help up-grade and increase training for professionals about the TEACCH concepts and strategies;
3. Facilitate sending an Occupational Therapist or Vocational Services professional (with vocational assessment background) to begin developing vocational services for the older (late teens through employment ages) person with TEA/ASD
4. Nearly all professionals who desire to get an Master's or Doctorate Degree MUST leave Bolivia to receive advanced training. The Psychology Department at UMSA (Universidad Mayor de San Andreas) in La Paz, has expressed interest in adding courses to create a Master's Degree in Autism or related neuroscience degree. This could include courses also for medical students.
5. Courses could be located in appropriate Departments and/or Allied Health and Medical School curriculum in Speech and Audiology, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Pediatric Medicine, Neurology, Special Education and other courses. UNC Chapel Hill and various Arkansas and Utah Universities volunteer to review curriculum for relevancy in autism as-



Patty Sarmiento, former autism exchange expert, training in Cochabamba expert.



Sossi Dorado, leading a training in autism, in Tarija, Bolivia.

assessment, treatments and adaptive environments;

6. We encourage ASHA members in Bolivia (particularly La Paz) to apply for the ASHA-PAHO collaboration designation. If accepted, this project could receive funding from ASHA and PAHO for professional visits and consultations. Honduras, El Salvador and Guyana were self-identified in 2013. Paraguay, Cuba and Ecuador were chosen in 2016 and Belize was added in 2017. It is reported that new projects will be selected in 2018-19. The request needs to come from Bolivia through the PAHO representative.

7. Parent groups and professionals working with persons having the diagnosis of ASD/TEA mentioned numerous times during my visit the need for teachers to have a better understanding of how to deal

with behaviors in the classroom. We are ready to help with this issue if the invitation comes from Bolivians active in this project.

8. Linda Watson and others will continue to create videos and other media modes to be used in telemedicine locations throughout Bolivia. Distribute the Spanish-language videos now available at <https://www.med.unc.edu/ahs/pearls/service/en-espanol/>

Join Partners
Connect ([https://
www.partners.net/
partnersconnect](https://www.partners.net/partnersconnect))
and become
connected to other
chapters and higher
institutions. Record
your volunteer hours
there as well.

Partners' Alumni Career Connections Seminar Held in Raleigh, NC by Karen Brown, Lindsay Naumann, and Lori Snyder



Attendees of the Alumni Career Connections Seminar.



Karen Brown, Lindsay Naumann, and Lori Snyder



Career Connections organizer Summar Lyons with attendee

Partners of the Americas, in collaboration with the Office of Alumni Affairs at the US Department of State, developed the **Alumni Career Connection Seminars** and their first stop was in Raleigh, NC, in February 2019. The two-day Alumni Career Connections Seminar provided networking and dialogue among participating US alumni. The US Alumni are those who served in the Peace Corps, as Fulbright Scholars, and as US government-sponsored Exchange Alumni. This event linked the US alumni to experts, professionals, and international leaders who demonstrated how versatile their study abroad experiences were while navigating the professional and employment fields. The seminars were designed to guide alumni in translating their international work and study into concise language that highlighted transferable skills and that communicated their professional value in the job market.

NC Partners of the Americas members, Karen Brown, Lori Unruh Snyder, and Lindsay Naumann, provided local support and technical assistance for the two-day seminar. Partners of the Americas Summar Lyons organized the series of Career Connections Seminars with colleague Randi Knox.

The featured speaker of the 2019 Alumni Career Connections seminar was US Assistant Secretary of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Marie Royce. Other notable presenters included Minnu Paul, the Assistant Director of

International Programs at Methodist University; Jennifer Ramos, the Director of Study Abroad at Methodist University; Thomas DeGeorges, Kenan Institute of Ethics at Duke University; Kathryn Crockart, Diplomat in Residence with the US State Department; Alexandra del Solar, US Alumni Coordinator; and Amy Christianson, US Alumni Outreach Manager. These professionals and others presented on topics of transferable skills and how to apply them, maximizing professional qualifications and federal resume-writing, resources for the US Exchange Alumni, communication strategies for sharing the exchange experience, and civil and foreign service careers. These experts worked one-on-one with the alumni to critique their résumé, to offer tips on the art of the informational interview, and to know the do's and don'ts of job interviewing.

As an extension of the Seminar, a field trip to NC State University's Global Training Initiative/GoGlobal NC on the Centennial Campus was held. A panel of distinguished experts including NC Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, US

Assistant Secretary Marie Royce, and other experts held a Q&A for the US alumni and other attendees. A networking reception was also held at the conference hotel and NC Secretary of State Elaine Marshall attended along with NC Partners members.

The Alumni Career Connections Seminars were also held in four other locations across the US. The 2019 Alumni Career Connections Seminar held in Raleigh, NC, proved to be a success and another series is in the works for next year. Many local alumni who were returning to this metro area were interested in the project work of the NC Partners Chapter. More information about Alumni Career Connection Seminars are available [here](#).



Q&A Session with panelists, US Asst. Sec. Marie Royce and NC Sec. Elaine Marshall

NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS OFFICERS

George Wilson, President , Email: george_wilson@ncsu.edu

Vacant, Vice-president

Karen Brown, Past President

Jessica Kinard, Secretary

Karen Brown, Treasurer

Board Members:

Includes the Executive Committee above, and Hank Graden, Virginia Freedman, Gail Kelley, Lori Unruh Snyder, Katharine Souris, Jacklyn Coats, Carlos Vargas, Daniel Johnson, Kitty Stalberg, Katushka Olave

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,
Emergency Preparedness– Vacant
Education –Karen Brown, Deborah Wilkes
Environment and Natural Resources– Vacant
Sports—Vacant
Membership – Virginia Freedman
(The committees Women and Development and Democratic Initiatives are not active.)

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Partners of the Americas is excited to announce that travel and small project assistance grants are now available!

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) 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](#)

(2)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](#)

(3) 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:

Carmen Sepassi, Senior Program Officer, csepassi@partners.net

Barbara Bloch, Membership Specialist, bbloch@partners.net