



THE COCHA- LINA HERALD

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



Newsbits

- Bolivian doctors [go on strike](#) over unpaid salaries and layoffs in pandemic.
- [Bolivians celebrate Andean New Year](#) amid pandemic.
- Bolivia's Aymara women [train to fight back against domestic violence](#).
- Finding fangs: [new film exposes illicit trade killing off Bolivia's iconic jaguar](#).

NCPOA continues its relationship with Santa Cruz and Cochabamba.

Written by Fernando Magallanes

During the Pandemic, Bolivian colleagues Professor Rosario Claros and Professor Cesar Hurtado, maintained a NC connection and we remained busy sharing information on Zoom calls at different design and information events. The Bolivian collaborators were live Zoom guests on urban design projects undertaken by the graduate students at the NC Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Department.

More recently on a weekend in June, a two-hour morning meeting was held with Cesar Hurtado's class at the Universidad Catolica in Santa Cruz, his students displayed and explained their work. Hurtado is undertaking three research projects within the vicinity of Santa Cruz. On the Zoom call were Professor Fernando Magallanes, landscape architect NC POA and Professor Carl Smith, landscape architect Arkansas POA. We offered advice on their projects and presentations. The students are working to advance three different projects.

1. They are developing a comparative study of Chiquitano (local indigenous group) vernacular architecture with current existing standards of architecture construction. Hurtado and his students are hoping to make leveraged shifts in thinking by having architects and builders accommodate vernacular traditions into current architecture standards of buildings in the area.



Students in Cesar Hurtado's class doing field work..

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They have received a \$15,000 grant to do this study. The study is gathering gather data (temperature, humidity, air quality, etc) as part of their work-flow.

2. His students are exploring architectural design of eco-ethno touristic infrastructure to support the local economy of the same chiquitano indigenous community of Yororobá. The landscape, an existing waterfall, a cave with prehistoric cave paintings, and trails are being studied to increase tourist interest in the area.

3. The group is making continued advancement of an Environmental Handbook for Architects of tropical climates such as Santa Cruz. It will be called: El ABC de la Arquitectura Ambiental en Santa Cruz. This manual will help architects and builders prioritize low carbon passive designs and low water footprint. They have collected approximately 35% of the information needed and is expected to finish by the end of this year (2021).



An example of Chiquitano indigenous architecture.



Hurtado's class standing on existing railroad infrastructure that contrasts with the geology of mountains beyond.

It is projects like these that allow the fertile energy to flow between our two countries. It is in communicating and discussing current issues around our research that we share valuable expertise and knowledge to help advance the research in the development of environments and built infrastructure of our partners towns and cities. For us here in North Carolina, we see similar issues that can be found in our own state being attacked from a different perspective. It allows us to compare benefits and roadblocks while also contributing to the research and implementation of ideas. When studying these projects, I can see similar problems around preserving our rural and mountain environments, preserving the architectural history of our state, and including indigenous and cultural diversity in our design thinking.

The groups from Bolivia have expressed openness to expertise from anyone who wants to connect with our colleagues.

IMAGES: All photos are courtesy of Cesar Hurtado and students.



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Updates on Covid -19 in Bolivia . . .

Reported by France 24 News



- As of June 2021, the Covid-19 virus has killed some 15,500 people in Bolivia, population 11.8 million.
- The country is in the midst of a third wave: on June 9 officials reported a daily record of 3,839 new virus cases.
- Less than 15 percent of the target population have received at least one vaccine dose.
- To prevent contamination, cremation is mandatory for coronavirus victims.



NCPOA is raising money for Search and Rescue (SAR) Parachutes

by Sallie Abbas

Together with Mario Aranibar, a founding member of this Search and Rescue team, I have been working to aid this impressive group of volunteers, SAR of Cochabamba, who courageously give of their time and skill to help others. (Their motto is "So that others may live"). I have known this wonderful group for many years. Several of them even paid their own way to North Carolina to extend their training in mountain rescue, and with the Raleigh firefighters. *Story continues on next page.*



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In 1988, this all-volunteer Search and Rescue group, was formed with 220 volunteers: men and women between 15 and 50 years of age. SAR is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The group helps in cases of natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, in combatting fires, accidents, searching for lost persons. With no outside financial help, each volunteer pays for his/her uniform, the food and drink he consumes during a mission, as well as the gasoline and whatever equipment he/she needs.

Many on the team are trained as paramedics, and in parachuting, diving (underwater rescue), mountain rescue. They have been called to seek a downed plane in mountainous areas or to rescue/recover from flood-swollen rivers.

These are people with incredible heart, who are as selfless as any I have ever seen, giving incredible service to their community, and country.

We are seeking funds to purchase parachutes for this group. They have had to use old, out-of-date parachutes. Lacking a chute equipped with an automatic deployment device for opening the reserve chute when needed, a young man volunteer lost his life. For the safety of these selfless volunteers, they are seeking to purchase good dependable parachutes.

Each parachute plus reserve chute and automatic deployment device costs \$9000. We are hoping to buy 3 or more. Money has already been raised to purchase two.



To donate towards NCPOA's Parachute Project Click [HERE](#) and specify "Parachute Project" with your donation.

NCPOA is helping with a new Autism grant!

By Allison Siebens and Jessica Kinard

Jessica Kinard has been awarded a grant from Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health (AIR-P): Scholars Program and Pilot and Feasibility Funds. Dr. Kinard has been a part of NCPOA since 2014 and has traveled to Bolivia to help provide autism conferences and consultations.

The project centers on PANDABox, which stands for "Parent-Assisted NeuroDevelopmental Assessment." Basically, it is the study of a developmental assessment for children that can be done remotely from a family's home.

Dr. Kinard is currently conducting a pilot study to translate PANDABox from English into Spanish and trial the assessment with Spanish-speaking families who have a child already diagnosed with autism. The grant will trial PANDABox with Spanish-speaking families whose child has not been diagnosed with autism, but shows characteristics. The families will assess their children and be interviewed about their experience with PANDABox. (Story continues on next page).



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The goal of the project is to improve PANDABox's assessment of Spanish-speaking families with different cultural backgrounds. The project will have a Community Advisory board to exchange views and experiences on autism and the Latinx community. Another member of NCPOA, Hank Graden, will be on this board.

Besides NCPOA, the Carolina Latinx Center and The Autism Society of North Carolina will also be helping with this grant.

