



YACHASPA

Newsletter of Amigos de Bolivia y Perú, Inc.

Update from PC/Peru

Greetings to all the RPCVs from Peru. PC/Peru continues to grow and build on the experiences that you all had here in country. As of March 19th we will have 60 Volunteers and 16 trainees. We continue to assign Volunteers to the departments of Piura, Cajamarca and Ancash.

We just had a meeting with the Volunteers who are finishing their first year of service in country. I would believe that many of their comments would sound very familiar to you all. They said they are amazed at how

open and welcoming the families and communities have been. They have been frustrated that they have not been able to do more...but when they sit back and reflect they see that they have made slow but sure progress.

In two weeks we are receiving a new group of trainees. They will be in our new program of youth development. As staff and Volunteers traveled the country it became quite clear that there were very few organizations working with young people. For the

young PCV it is a natural client group. PCVs will work on self-esteem building, productive skills, responsible parenting, etc.

You might be interested in the profile of the PCVs in Peru today. The median age is around 24. We have approximately 60% women and 40% male. They all have their college degree and probably about 15% have their Masters.

There is a new U.S. Ambassador. James Struble arrived a couple of

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Update from PC/Bolivia

Greetings to all our Amigos! A lot has been happening in Bolivia. Last October's civil unrest (which ended in the resignation of former President Sanchez de Lozada - nicknamed Goni) has been followed by an uneasy calm. President Carlos Mesa (née Vice President) has managed to avoid any further major social upheaval,

but threats from a variety of political interest groups are ever-present. Everyone is concerned about what the coming months may bring in terms of Bolivia's economic and social situation.

In the midst of this angst, PC/Bolivia moved our headquarters office from La Paz to Cocha-

bamba. This move had been planned prior to the civil unrest that rocked the country last October. However, the fact that La Paz was totally inaccessible, and virtually a city under siege for several weeks in October made the move to Cochabamba even more critical.

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Spring 2004

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Amigos de Bolivia y Peru Board of Directors & Officers

Patt Behler (CTZ)
514 Belair
Jefferson City, MO 65109
573-635-0608
pabehler@socket.net
Lead Peru Coordinator

Steven Huffstutlar (GAL)
Suite PB00110,
8424 N.W. 56 St.
Miami, FL 33166
591-173-4480 (Bolivia)
Steven_Huffstutlar@dai.com
Suyu Bolivia
Coordinator

Gloria Levin
7327 University Ave.
Glen Echo, MD 20812
301-320-5068
g-levin@comcast.net
Membership Coordinator

Hugh Pickens (ETZ)
2450 Eutaw Place,
Baltimore, MD 21217
410-669-2383,
PickensH@aol.com
DC Area Coordinator,
NPCA Policy Board
Representative

Ken Rustad (MTZ)
2710 Edgecliff Dr.
Farmington, NM 87402-
4528
505-325-9194
boliviayperu@earthlink.com
Group Coordinator,
Steering Coordinator,
Kantuta Coordinator,
Rendezvous Coordinator
Acting Treasurer
Acting Board Chair

Non-Board Positions:
Elections Judge:
Rita Anberg;
RR Outreach Coordinator:
Kate McPeek
Webmaster: Bill Sherry
Yachaspa editor: Ray Brown

Current Vacancies:
Treasurer
Corporate Secretary
Advocacy/Fellows Coordinator

Amigos de Bolivia y Peru, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation, affiliated with the National Peace Corps Association. As an affiliate of NPCA, *Amigos* is one of approximately 140 organized groups of returned Peace Corps volunteers, former staff and friends who work together and separately. *Amigos* promotes and supports a variety of activities for the purpose of enhancing cooperation, and the understanding among the peoples of Bolivia and/or Peru and the peoples of the United States.

... *Yachaspa* is
Quechua for
"sabiendo" or
"knowing"...

Yachaspa, the newsletter of *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru*, is distributed quarterly with deadlines:
Spring Issue-March 15th
Summer Issue-June 15th
Fall Issue-September 15th
Winter Issue-December 15th

Articles and other materials are welcome and may be submitted to:
ray-brown@acck.edu.

Yachaspa is distributed to members by mail or electronically in .pdf format. Past issues are also available on the *Amigos* web site at www.amigosdeboliviayperu.org.

Levin Joins *Amigos* Board as Membership Coordinator

As of March 1, 2004, Gloria Levin (Peru 66-68) began her 2-year appointment as Membership Coordinator of *Amigos*, replacing Bill Sherry who is now devoting all his energies to being *Amigos*' Webmaster. As Membership Coordinator, Gloria also joins the *Amigos* Board.

Gloria was a PC Selection Officer (1965-66) when, tempted by photos of El Misti brought to work by a newly-returned PCV, she volunteered and "selected" Arequipa, Peru as her PC site. She was a community developer in the Clorinda

Malaga de Prado barriada (now called Urb. Independencia) and organized a regional birth control referral network.

Back home, she was a community organizer for migrant and urban health projects and an anti-war and civil rights activist. Over the years, she has consulted for PC selection, been involved in PC organizations and organizes and moderates the Peru country updates at NPCA's anniversary conferences.

Gloria earned a Ph.D. in community psychology from the University of Michigan in 1975 and joined the National Institute of Mental Health to organize its national center for rape prevention. She retired from her federal career in 2002 and is devoting her retirement to community volunteerism in the Washington, DC area, to professional activities, and to "goofing off." Gloria can be contacted at glevin@comcast.net, 301-320-5068 or 7327 University Ave., Glen Echo, MD 20812.

Hartmann to Serve as Publications Coordinator

Gayle Harrison Hartman has agreed to serve as Publications Coordinator. As provided for in the Bylaws, this is a Board position and would be an appointed term of two years. She will coordinate the publications of *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* as an adjunct to the Board.

Gayle served in Arequipa, Peru, from 1964 to 1966. She worked at a men's prison as a "social worker," trying to find work for the wives of prisoners, speeding up trials and

other judicial procedures for prisoners who didn't have money, working to get equipment into the prison (woodworking equipment provided by an Austrian mine manager) so the long-term prisoners would have something to do. Gayle also, taught an anthropology course at the Nurses College within the Catholic University and worked at Medical Clinics.

Gayle earned a B.A., Anthropology, University of California; M.A., An-

thropology, University of Arizona. She has been involved with anthropological, archaeological and environmental work for a variety of institutions including the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, and the Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.

Gayle can be contacted at gayleh@theriver.com, (520) 325-6974 or 2224 E. 4th Street, Tucson, AZ 85719

I'M AN INFORMANT!...ABOUT THE PEACE CORPS!

I hope that many of you were able to join in commemorating Peace Corps Day in March with presentations to community groups and that, by doing so, more citizens, both younger and older, have come to realize that our organization is still a vital, strong representative force in developing nations around the world.

With the word "war" on so many lips today, I wish for the word "peace" to be spoken, too, and often. As many of us remember, those with whom we worked during our Peace Corps days saw in us the part of our society that represents not might, but right...right ways to get to know each other, right ways to work together, right ways to solve problems together.

In Jefferson City, MO, where I live, Lincoln University is one of our important institutions. Although it was originally founded by six re-

turning Black Union Civil War soldiers, it is now, of course, integrated. Last year the students who attended a program in the campus library about the Peace Corps were an ethnic mix, which pleased me since one of our aims is to attract people of varied backgrounds and cultures.

Because of that contact, I have been given the OK to develop a Peace Corps Corner in the library where materials, reference items and handouts will be located. I also want to have visiting speakers there from time to time. We have a PC recruiter on the campus of the nearby University of MO in Columbia and I hope he will be able to visit the campus, upon occasion.

We have been promised a supply of current promotional materials and we will also be providing a subscription to *WORLDVIEW*. The fine world map showing countries of

service included in this year's Peace Corps Day promotional packet will be framed and placed in the Corner. Perhaps you will find a spot for a Peace Corps Corner!

As we develop our presence in Peru with "new" volunteers, more stories of friendships, projects and accomplishments will emerge.

For those of us who will be attending the dinners, social events, workshops and panel discussions about Peru at the national NPCA conference in Chicago August 5-8, there will be opportunities to talk about earlier times together as well as to meet and greet recent volunteers who have their own stories to tell all of us!! I hope to see all of you in Chicago.

Hasta luego,
Patt Behler
Peru 62-64
Peru Coordinator

Volunteer Opportunities with *Amigos*

Contact: boliviaperu@earthlink.net or call 505.325.9194 or write to P.O. Box, 901, Flora Vista, NM 87415

There are a number of opportunities for service to Amigos. Contact Ken Rustad if you are interested in the positions described or have other skills. Board positions usually start as two-year appointments, although there is the option to run for election to a six-year term.

Corporate Secretary. This is a Board position. Due to abuses like those with Enron and WorldCom, there is legislation in the works to have corporations maintain all e-mails as permanent records. There is a chance that non-profit corporations would not be exempt. Most of our business is done by e-mail and we need to prepare. The nice part is the computers record the “minutes.”

The other side is that we need better facilitation of web meetings, etc. When the time comes, *Amigos* must decide either to maintain our own internet business records, pay for a company to do this or go out of business. This position would function as archivist for providing materials to the Peace Corps materials to the “Peace Corps” museums (Boston, Portland, San Diego—others?)

Advocacy/Fellows Coordinator.

This is not a Board position. If this position is not filled, advocacy by *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* will be dropped. The advocacy part of the job is an extension of the NPCA advocacy program to the extent we decide to support it (some issues, but all?). The coordinator would also work with the Peace Corps Fellows program.

Years ago it was decided that *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru*, as part of “bring the world home” provision of the Peace Corps Act, would venture into advocacy in conjunction with the advocacy of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). At the time, the NPCA’s advocacy program was not a well developed model. A place was set aside on the *Amigos* website, but no one ever volunteered to be the Advocacy Coordinator or to serve on an Advocacy Committee for *Amigos*.

Meanwhile, the advocacy program of NPCA has evolved somewhat now has NPCA advocacy input, though there are currently no surveys of NPCA members (We might want to do our own.). The essence of NPCA advocacy has been lobbying Congress and Presidents and it has progressed from a newsletter to a listserv for members and affiliate coordinators.

Our government takes actions that affect Bolivians, Peruvians and other citizens of the Americas who have no vote in these matters. Our members don’t have many votes either, but we can mobilize voices. We can provide information. The driving force between the Peruvian and Bolivian governments and ours is the War on Drugs. This is a juggernaut overriding other issues.

The first *Amigos* advocacy position has been that the U.S. war on drugs in Bolivia and Peru focused too much on small-acreage farmers who grew the coca. Attempts to force the “eradication” of their coca fields

without pulling the plugs of the distribution rings, would be futile. We focused our information on such official distinctions as the coca grown in the Yungas of Bolivia being legal while the coca grown in the Chapare is not legal.

One of the underpinnings for democracy is the concept “with liberty and justice for all.” This has been used in constitutions of Latin American countries. We tend to use freedom and liberty interchangeably. For the most part, standards for judging democracies in Latin America have not gone beyond “democratic elections.” Great philosophers have made some distinctions, but justice in the Americas, particularly Peru and Bolivia, was the second advocacy issue selected for *Amigos*. Follow-up could include the extremes of the “justice” system of Fujimori regime, for example.

The third issue selected was child labor in the Americas. RPCV’s know something about the rural conditions of child labor. The mines have always been unhealthy. There are children engaged in prostitution. Materials need to be collected in order to culturally define our positions on these issues.

These may be replaced or issues may be added with Board approval. We just need some members working on this, including a coordinator.

Donald A. (Don) Drga Passed Away in October

Donald A. (Don) Drga passed away suddenly October 17, 2003, at his home in Austin, TX. He and his wife, Linda, retired to Austin in November, 2002, after 28 years of federal government service.

Don is survived by his wife, Linda



Maynard Drga; son Todd Drga and his wife, Rachel, and granddaughter, Madeleine, of Austin; daughter Kalima Drga Abreu and

her husband, Willi, of Annandale, VA; mother May Kafka Drga, Havre, MT; three brothers: Robert of Wakashaw, WI; Fred of Ismay, MT; Jim of Big Sandy, MT; one sister, Barbara Drga Chig-

brow of Los Alamos, NM. He was preceded in death by his father, Frank Drga, Jr. of Havre, MT, and a brother, George.

Don was born October 5, 1942 in Havre, MT, and grew up on the family wheat and cattle ranch and attended the first eight grades in a one-room, one-teacher school. He graduated with a B.S. degree in Animal Science from Montana State University where he also did graduate work in Economics.

During 1969-74, Don was owner/operator of a 20,000-acre ranch near Camiri, Bolivia. In 1970, he married Linda Maynard, a public health nurse from Pennsylvania, whom he met while she served in Bolivia as a missionary.

His government service included eight years with the Peace Corps beginning in 1965 as a volunteer in

Bolivia and later as assistant Peace Corps Director in Jamaica and Paraguay and Chief Agricultural Officer in Washington, D.C. In 1981, he was appointed as Agricultural Development Officer for the United States Agency for International Development in the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. He served at posts in Washington, D.C. (1981-83); Panama (1983-87); The Gambia, West Africa (1988-93); and Mozambique (1993-95). He concluded his USAID career in Washington, D.C. (1995-2002) while residing in Falls Church, Virginia.

Contributions may be made to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Avenue, Austin, TX 78739-1702

You may view memorials online at http://obit.wcfish.com/obit_display.cgi?id=84162&clientid=wcfish&listing=Found.

Plan to Attend *Rendezvous Cochabamba 2005*

The preliminary plan for *Rendezvous Cochabamba 2005* follows. The main *Rendezvous* would be held in conjunction with two or more training groups on and around August 6, 2005, Bolivia's Independence Day. After a few days in Cochabamba, the *Rendezvous* attendees would separate into smaller groups (sub-organizers needed) and individual travel.

Smaller side trips could go to Copacabana (Bolivia); Santa Cruz, La Paz, Tocoaya, Los Negros, Patanal (then Brazil), Sucre-Potosi, Peru Arequipa, Peru, Ayacucho, Peru, Cusco Peru etc. and Amazonia. If it could be arranged a small group

would travel to the Amazonian border area national parks along the Bolivia-Peru border" (and demonstrate the difference between this border and those between our host countries and other neighbors which have been locations for border conflicts.

Possible connections with National Geographic would be explored for this and other parts of the *Rendezvous*. Hopefully enough would sign up for a charter flight from Miami to Cochabamba. Fewer *Amigos* would be on a return flight(s) from Lima. Whether or not this would be opened up to others, especially other RPCVs, like was done by a

similar "tour" of the Kenya RPCV group would be determined by the Board..

Itinerary: August 4, 2006. Arrive in Cochabamba and approximately two weeks later gather in Lima for return trip from Lima to Miami (or Houston, New Orleans?)

For more information, contact Ken Rustad, at boliviayperu@earthlink.net or, call 505.325.9194 or, write to P.O. Box, 901, Flora Vista, NM 87415

PC/Bolivia Update (continued from p. 1)

The relocation was a decision based on improving program effectiveness, even though concerns about future civil unrest gave it additional momentum. Four out of our five Project Directors (APCDs) are duty stationed in Cochabamba. Our Training Center has been there for over ten years, and our Medical Office relocated there in early 2001. With the relocation, the Country Director and most of our administrative staff is now also located in Cochabamba. Our Deputy Country Director (yours truly) will remain in La Paz until her tour ends later this year. The new Deputy Country Director will be duty stationed in Cochabamba early next year.

We continue to maintain a small, Regional Office in La Paz with one APCD and several administrative staff members. However, the three Volunteers whose sites were in the Department of La Paz were relocated following October's civil unrest. While they were safe in their sites, they were inaccessible in the event we had to get them out. We hope to be able to place Volunteers La Paz altiplano in the future, however we will be unable to do so until the political and social situation is more stable.

Moves, of course, have their challenges. However, we are now situated in lovely new Country Headquarters Office in Cochabamba, and an equally lovely – though much smaller – Regional Office in La Paz. Beyond the management efficiencies the move provided, senior staff members also have more interactions with Volunteers, which

is always beneficial.

It appears that budget challenges for Peace Corps worldwide will require us to slightly reduce the number of Volunteers in Bolivia over the next couple of years. Current projections indicate that, by the end of 2005, we will drop from approximately 158 total PCVs in Bolivia to about 134. We are confident that we will be able to maintain all five of our projects, and that we will continue, through our Volunteers, to have a meaningful impact on development efforts in Bolivia.

And speaking of our five projects and the results PCVs are achieving in Bolivia, I'd like to share with you a Volunteer profile from each of our five projects. These were submitted as part of our 2003 Project Status Reports to Peace Corps Headquarters.

Agriculture PCV Renee Lorion works with the Mother's Club in a growing community several hours outside the Departmental capital city of Tarija. She followed another PCV in her community who had been working on an organic garlic project. Renee worked with the women in the community to not only continue with a small-scale rotation of garlic, but to add additional crops including potatoes, fava beans, and chamomile.

Renee has worked closely with the Mother's Club to ensure that crop production is totally organic. Beyond supporting and encouraging organic techniques in the community, she has helped create a seed

bank of quality seed, and developed leadership among local women.

A Masters International Volunteer, Renee's research focused on soil improvement in the women's communal plot. She recently completed her thesis research in soil sciences by comparing the crop production in plots fertilized with rock phosphate, manure, and a compost mixture of the two. During her first year of service the women's plot was sown with potatoes; this year it is sown with garlic. Renee's results showed that natural rock phosphate worked effectively as an organic phosphorus source. Both women and men farmers in her community are now applying this organic fertilizer to improve future crops.

Basic Sanitation PCV Ken Kartchner recognizes that the key to improved health in rural Bolivia is not simply building water systems and latrines but using and maintaining them. In 2002, the Vice Ministry of Basic Services published a community development handbook emphasizing training and maintenance but it was not being used in small rural communities because of its complexity. Ken revised and simplified the handbook and tested it in communities where he is working with his counterpart agency, CARE.

Additionally, Ken developed a project notebook format to accompany the community development handbook. The notebook

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months ago. He is a career diplomat with many years in Latin America and State in the US. He has already been over to visit the Peace Corps office. He was at the embassy in Ecuador and was familiar with PC there. He is making the rounds of introductory meeting with government and private sector leadership. He will be meeting with the Volunteers in Peru 2. to share his thoughts on the role of PC in the development of a country. This will give us an idea as to how he views PC and its potential contribution to a country.

Peru has had its ups and downs, as I am sure you have been watching. President Toledo's popularity has been quite low and he continues to make numerous changes in his cabinet. Outside of Lima there is far more concern about lack of rain and transportation strikes.

One of the questions that I have received from various RPCVs is "What can we do to support PCVs serving today in Peru?" I now have a far more concrete suggestion. There have been numerous Volunteers who are involved in small, community driven projects in which the community contributes most of the resources needed but they get to a point where they still

need \$30 or \$50 to finish the project. This is to buy educational materials for a youth camp; to pay for transportation for women to come into a training program, to buy a software for a farmer association.... the list goes on and on.

To date I have been trying to find the money or cover it personally... but for the long run that will not work. If we could establish a small fund to address some of these small requests the PCVs could work diligently to identify resources with the community with the knowledge that there is a small source of money to help them finish.

I was thinking I could ask one of the RPCV/Peru who are living here to receive the money. PC cannot set up a separate fund to receive private money. We would provide whatever degree of detail you all would want and of course the PCVs would be in touch with stories and photos.

Let me know what you think about the idea. I have a folder of mini projects sitting on my desk all the time!

I want to thank all of you who continue to assist me to track down "lost" RPCVs that people through-

out Peru are looking for. There are also a couple of permanent fixtures here in country that I and the PCVs see....Bill Cotner who teaches here in Lima, Mark Sardowsky still in Piura, Maureen Dundon teaching in Cajamarca and Mahlon Barash working with CHF in Cajamarca. David Buentello who was staff here is the Consul General at the US embassy.

Aquiles and Blanca Landao spoke to the Volunteers. As I said to Aquiles if HALF of the stories are true it is all so amazing. He had all the Volunteers on the edges of their seats. Both of them speak with such passion about the "campo" and the plight of the poor. Each Volunteer was challenged by them to do the very best that they can during their service. It was great.

The welcome mat is always out for you here in Lima. I hope this note finds you all well. Please feel free to contact me in the future.

Our address: Cuerpo de Paz, Via Lactea 132, Surco 51-617-2200.
Kraftery@pe.peacecorps.gov

Kate Raftery
Country Director
Peace Corps Peru

PC/Bolivia Update (continued from p. 6)

provides a step-by-step checklist of activities and a file system for the process of community development and project execution. The PCVs in Bolivia have been trained to use the revised handbook and project notebook. Having a guide to follow has given Volunteers the confidence to carry out the education and community development components of their projects, as well as contributed to standardizing our efforts.

Ken presented the program to USAID and Vice Ministry personnel. As a result, using Ken's revised handbook and project notebook concept is being considered for adoption on a nation-wide basis to help assure that education and maintenance receives the attention they must have if a construction project is to be more than a flash-in-the-pan.

When **Kristin McKennon** began her service as an **Integrated Education Volunteer** in a rather large town located in the Valleys of Santa Cruz, she taught nutrition classes to 1st through 5th graders. Although the teachers remained in the classroom and offered their opinions during her classes, the curriculum was mainly up to her. While Kristin enjoyed being in the classroom, her schedule was quite intense and she was essentially acting as a teacher, which she soon realized was not very sustainable.

During the first school vacation, she designed and implemented a workshop for the teachers of her site, as well as those from a small

rural community school about a four-hour walk from her site. The workshop focused on broad health issues, teaching strategies, and ways of implementing long-term health projects that span behavior change both in the classroom and at home. The local hospital agreed to donate first-aid kits to those schools that implemented a long-term health project the following year.

Kristin also began working regularly with the small, rural school. Initially, she focused on introducing self-esteem and nutrition themes into the classroom. By the end of the school year, she and her Counterpart had initiated a bean project in the school garden with the intention using the harvested crop as a means to compliment nutrition courses. By the end of the school vacation, the community harvested and cooked the beans for the school breakfast.

Kristin's work has included managing four health projects in four separate school systems. Having trained the teachers themselves to present health curricula, she now focuses on assisting teachers to improve their knowledge of health issues and teaching methodology.

Microenterprise Development PCV Tomas Denmark recently completed his first year of service with an artisan organization working in the department of Chuquisaca. Tomas lives and works in one of a handful of small, isolated villages where his counterpart organization maintains a system of community textile workshops. He pro-

vides basic administration, organizational, and production support to each workshop, and conducts periodic training courses directly with the weavers. Tomas works in three community workshops where a total of 120 women and 20 men participate in the weaving and training programs.

In addition to his fieldwork, Tomas provides active assistance on several department-wide projects sponsored by his counterpart agency. He has coordinated the development of a new web site for a museum in Sucre. Additionally, he has helped translate and edit several project proposals and promotional pieces delivered to funding organizations, and works to develop new sales opportunities in Bolivia and abroad. Tomas successfully initiated and attended artisan exhibits with the US Embassy and USAID in La Paz, and has traveled with local weavers to share work experiences with other artisan groups outside of the Department of Chuquisaca.

Tomas works on several secondary projects in and around his community, as well. He gives weekly English classes at the local school to about 100 students in three levels. He is helping create new economic opportunities by assisting in the administration and development of a textile museum, hostel, and food store in his rural site, the first ones of their kind in the region. He has helped the community solicit funding for these projects from the regional government office in Sucre. Tomas also coordinates with a

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nearby Community Tourism PCV to provide field training and collaborate in conducting community-needs assessments.

Prior to finishing her service several weeks ago, **Natural Resources PCV Sandra Sussman** lived in a high valley rural town in the Department of Tarija. Her work involved collaborating with the Government Ministry of Agriculture and Environment to develop a community stewardship ethic through the Ministry's infrastructure and informational resources. Her primary activities included offering courses in agricultural technology, and bringing resources and technology to rural and isolated communities. The courses she designed and presented covered fruit tree pruning and grafting, soil

erosion and conservation, organic pesticides, production technology, and dead and live barriers.

Sandra focused on organic production to minimize cost, protect the environment, and emphasize traditional agricultural methods. She also worked closely with a Women's Association that produces eggs, flowers and honey. Sandra provided critical assistance in organizing the association, and helping them improve production and commercialization of their products. In addition, Sandra applied for a USAID Small Projects Assistance (SPA) grant to improve local soil preparation technology by reducing soil erosion and increasing soil fertility through the use of low-till plows. She also implemented a pro-

ject financed by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to build communal potato silos, decreasing the cost of seed as well as potatoes for consumption. Throughout her service, Sandra focused on economic development through natural resources management and conservation.

Clearly, both our staff and Volunteers have been very busy over the past months – and the results are admirable. We continue to be grateful for the support of all our Amigos de Bolivia and Peru. Until next time, ¡que les vaya bien!

Charma Lefton
Deputy Country Director
Peace Corps/Bolivia

2004 NPCA Conference is Coming Soon!

Mark your calendar for August 5th to 8th, 2004 at the Palmer House Hilton as nearly 2,000 RPCVs from around the country descend on Chicago.

Register before March 31st to take advantage of special "early bird" registration fees. Additional discounts are available for seniors and recently returned PCVs (COS after August 1st, 2000). Registration fees range from \$95 to \$220.

The Chicago Area Peace Corps Association has lined up an exciting list of speakers/performers. Visit the website – www.rpcv2004.org - for information about the program, country of service events, speakers, hotel information and registration.

For a list of COS events to date, visit: www.burnisongroup.com/rpcv/CountryofServiceEvents.html (and if your group isn't there, we haven't gotten your info yet!).

Pass this message on to your RPCV friends and encourage them to register now and meet you in Chicago this summer.

For out of town folks, the Palmer House is the official conference hotel. For those desiring less expensive accommodations, there is a newly refurbished youth hostel several blocks away. United Airlines is offering discounted airline rates. Full details are on the website under "Register".

Serving Up some Primera

On a site development trip to the highlands of Piura I was given a bowl full of sugar cane juice from a farmer with one tooth. He smiled widely as he passed it my way, and I can see that tooth just as clearly now as I did that morning. The man was working with his family in a rickety shack along a road in the Piura highlands that can only be traveled during the dry season, and even then only by motorcycles, coffee trucks and Toyotas. There is no public transport, and to say that foreigners are an uncommon sight would be an understatement.

A bull was in the center of the sugar cane shack, tied to a pole that was tied to a wheel. Everything was held together by strips of goatskin; the developing world's duct tape. As the bull was marched around in circles by a barefoot 5 year-old boy, the wheel spun, and crunched stalks of sugar cane into a fine paste, the liquid of which ran through a tube and into giant oil drums. There were three oil drums located about 20 feet down the mountain from the shack, each looking remarkably similar in contents, and all looking like things that Mary correctly told you not to drink during PST.

The farmer was surrounded by a group of men and women, boys and girls, of differing ages. School was in session, but the kids, including the 5 year-old in charge of running the "motor" of their factory, were busy at work. Everyone was helping to produce sugar cane juice, which is later fermented to become "aguardiente", a firewater used for intoxication in much of Ecuador and northern Peru. The farmer offered us

up some "primera", an unfermented refresco which is essentially straight sugar in liquid form. Why this particular beverage was "primera", and the other 2 barrels offered something of a lesser quality was unclear, but equally unimportant. To him it was "primera", the finest thing available. His family watched in anticipation as I held the glass, counted the bugs and unidentifiable materials floating on top, then guzzled it down. The fact I finished the brew was confirmation on their part that I had enjoyed it, and before I could thank them for their generosity, I had another cup coming my way.

It was the best they had, they wanted to share it with me, and they wanted desperately that I respond with approval. It was "primera", and it deserved a smile and a second helping on my part.

"Primera" shows itself in many different forms. Over the past year many Peru #1 PCVs have shared stories with me about how your communities have offered you the best they had. In only 2 months, Peru #2 is falling victim to "primera". Such winners have included a full cuy when everyone else had only half rodents, a piece of meat in a community where nobody had access to meat, sips of really bad whiskey when everyone else had only the local alcohol, the food off of someone else's plate, and even... someone passing you the uneaten food on their own plate when they realized there was not enough food for you to be offered a meal. While each of you moves into the next months of your PC service, these moments and

memories become some of the best, yet not necessarily most tasty, indicators that your community is glad to have you there, and that you are doing a good job as a Volunteer. One of Peace Corps' painful realities is that oftentimes people with very little will offer you everything they have. Occasionally, when they are really glad to see us, really glad we are living or visiting their town, really pleased with the efforts you are making in the development of their communities, they dish you up some "primera".

Responding to "primera" can be one of the most challenging and sometimes uncomfortable scenarios of being a PCV. How do you respond when in a room of friends, each with a plate full of potatoes, you have a big fat cuy, teeth and all- sitting on your plate? Instincts often cause us to feel uncomfortable, and to want to cut the cuy into 20 small bits so everyone in the room has a shot at it. Maybe it's because you had a hamster growing up, but I must believe there is something greater than small pets driving our instincts. Occasionally PCVs can even feel the eyes of those in the room watching you, unclear on whether they are ogling to see your enjoyment of their "primera", or envying the perceived delicacy on your plate. Whatever the rationale, it is almost always certain that you cannot cut up the cuy into 20 pieces, and any efforts on your part to do so would be greeted

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Serving Up some Primera...

(Continued from p. 8)

with disgruntled responses and even possibly offending your hosts. The fact is that the cuy is yours and yours alone to enjoy, the finest offering available of your hosts. A “welcome to our community”, “bienvenidos a mi casa”, a “we are glad you are here”, a “thanks for your hard work”, a beady eyed “primera” that you as a Volunteer can receive.

Despite your flavor responses to cuy, beverages with more solids than liquid, items served in gourds, and any of the other “primeras” you get offered up as the residents of your site get to know you better and offer you their finest, you must absorb these moments and transform them into part of the motivation in your daily life as a Volunteer. Working as a development worker with extremely limited resources is a tough job, and one that oftentimes features moments of great frustration. *How well am I doing? Am I making a difference? What are the changes I have brought about?* All of these are difficult questions to answer, yet

understandable ones for a Volunteer to be asking. As you head into your second year of service, or your first Quarterly Report, these challenging questions *should* be on your mind. A “primera” in whatever shape or form, provides you with a unique opportunity for your clients, the residents of the communities you serve, to give you their opinion.

More importantly however, what “primera” gives you is a motivation to do your best to serve your community. When the town offers up their best, we as Peace Corps have to figure out how to offer up our best as well. Each one of you will go about this in your own way, and the Peace Corps Peru staff takes on the responsibility to offer you up some “primera” Volunteer support so that you can provide “primera” community development and capacity building support to your sites and it’s residents. Patience, perseverance, flexibility and resourcefulness are all components of a PCV “primera”. However there is much more that can be added in. What will you put in?

I drank 3 glasses of the sugar water. It was less than spectacular in flavor and wrecked my stomach for a good stretch, but it probably made my month, and hopefully made that farmer and his family’s day. The unique opportunity of being a PCV in Peru is made evident to me on just about every trip I do to the campo. Not all countries where PCVs are serving get such wonderful indicators of how they are doing in the community. Not all PCVs get the opportunity to be motivated by small animals, gourds, bad beverages and faulty dental work.

Dish out some “primera” today. One tooth, a few gourds, lots of floaty stuff, 5 year-olds, or two beady eyes... you and your community deserve it.

Ken Goodson

The author serves as Director de Programacion for PC/Peru and is currently starting a youth development project. This article also appeared in a recent PCV newsletter.

Directory of Volunteer Organizations for Latin America



Registration in the Directory of Volunteer Organizations for Latin America is under way. Registration is free of

charge at: <www.iadb.org/etica/DirVoluntariado-i/Introduccion.cfm>

The Directory aims to: facilitate the identification of organizations; contribute to increasing the number of volunteers; increase collaboration and cooperation between volunteer organizations; provide organizations with greater access to information on potential sources for financial support; improve collaboration with international organizations and the

Inter-American Initiative on Social Capital, Ethics and Development.

The Directory is organized by the Inter-American Initiative on Social Capital, Ethics and Development and the Youth Development and Outreach Program of the Inter-American Development Bank.

Recent Seminar on Peruvian Political History

A February 6, 2004 seminar sponsored by George Washington University's (GWU) series on Andean Culture and Politics, featured José Luis Rénique, an expert in Peruvian political history and the Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso). The seminar promoted his 2003 book, *La Voluntad Encarcelada: Las "Luminosas Trincheras de Combate" de Sendero Luminoso del Peru* (Instituto de Estudios Peruanos).

Dr. Rénique served as a consultant to the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission and, in this role, gained access to Yanamayo prison near Puno to interview prison officials and Shining Path (SP) prisoners. He also conducted interviews in other prisons.

The book aims to embed the imprisonment of SP militants within the context of the radical tradition in Peruvian politics, using prison as a metaphor for the modern history of (frequently violent) insurgencies in Peru. Rénique sees the SP as an extreme within Peru's political history, having roots in Haya de la Torre's APRA party of the 1930s and 40s. Like APRA, SP aims to appeal to a dormant insurgency among Indian campesinos. He examines the microsocial order created by the SP in prison and the

way in which the movement has shaped the prison experience, in so doing, shaping itself for a future role in Peru. Although imprisonment is meant to suppress an insurgency, the SP has used it to build greater ideological conviction among its militant supporters.

Dr. Abimael Guzman, the charismatic and relentless leader of the dogmatic movement, has no viable successor, according to the author. Guzman gambled with the lives of his followers by the tactic of taking prison hostages, culminating in a prison massacre at Fronton.

On the other hand, evidence was given to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that the State-employed sharp shooters were given a list of which prisoners to "pick off," resulting in 40 dead. The massacre was a "shooting gallery." Yet, Guzman "did not utter a word of compassion" for the loss of his followers, interpreting the massacre only in militant, fanatic terms. His logic was that a tactical win in sympathy after the prison riot would pave the way to future strategic victories.

Rather than blame Guzman for the consequences of his high-risk tactic, his followers credited him with pre-

science for accurately predicting "a selective massacre."

Characterizing Peruvian prisons as "grim," Rénique notes the particular crudeness and brutality of the SP's imprisonment. Nevertheless, the movement's ideology still motivates the imprisoned Senderos who remain clean, physically fit, well educated and disciplined, "the best prisoners ever seen" by their guards. Rénique recounted an anecdote from one prison visit. Unable to use a prison official's office for their interview because it was in use, Rénique peeked in and saw a prisoner at a blackboard in front of young students. The prison official explained the Sendero prisoner was an excellent math tutor, and the students were his own children!

In response to an audience question, Dr. Rénique stated that the downfall of the SP movement came from campesinos' eventual rejection of the movement, SP's relocation from rural to urban locations, and increasing laxness in security.

Gloria Levin

The author serves as Membership Coordinator for Amigos and is a RPCV (Peru 66-68)

Bush Asks Congress for \$401 Million for Peace Corps

In February President Bush unveiled the fiscal year 2005 budget, in which he asked Congress to provide the Peace Corps with \$401 million – the largest budget request ever made for the agency.

www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.media.press.view&news_id=904

Also, see the pages at *Peace Corps Online* that provide links to news

articles along with posted messages and comments from the Peace Corps community, <http://peacecorpsonline.org/messages/messages/2629/2019510.html>

Amigos de Bolivia y Perú

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Membership Form

Please complete this form as thoroughly and accurately as possible and mail it to the address indicated above.

Surname _____ First Name _____ M.I. _____

Street _____ City _____

State/Country _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (H/W) _____

E-Mail: _____

[Amigos typically uses e-mail for communication with members to enhance efficiency and reduce costs. You have the option of leaving this blank if you prefer not to receive these e-mails.]

Host Country: _____ Years of Service: 19 ____ — 20 ____

Spouse's Name _____ PCV Surname _____

[Include spouse's name if he/she is also joining Amigos and indicate the surname used during Peace Corps service.]

Vocations _____ / _____

Please check each box as appropriate and tally the subtotals in the right-hand column.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Annual Dues for NPCA and Amigos	\$50 Individual	\$ _____
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Donation to <i>Kantuta</i> or Other <i>Amigos</i> Project		\$ _____ (Optional)
		GRAND TOTAL	\$ _____

Make checks out to Amigos de Bolivia y Peru, Inc.

¹ NPCA is the National Peace Corps Association.

² Recent RPCVs (within 6 months of PC Service) are eligible for a complementary membership. Hardship refers to those members with economic hardships such as unemployment or disability.

Kantuta Project Award

Northwest Medical Teams International Inc. (Portland, OR) is the recipient of a Kantuta Project Award of \$400 to help pay the transportation costs for two Honduran trainers to go to the Calca, Peru region between Cusco and Machu Picchu.

This is to be a replication of a pilot project in Honduras (and Uzbekistan) with a joint partnership of the Honduran Red Cross and the CONSEDE, a consortium of indigenous NGO organizations with village healthcare outreach. The process is to establish networks of trainers to provide international emergency medical services to firemen,

police and emergency first responders programs of the pilot countries.

Northwest Medical teams has been recognized by Forbes magazine as one of the top charities on the basis of how efficiently they collect and distribute funds. They are active throughout the world including Iraq.

For more information, check their www.northwestmedicalteams.org.

Northwest Medical Teams is also interested in medical professionals and others with overseas experience to volunteer with their projects.

Amigos de Bolivia y Peru is interested in forming a committee of one or more members to visit the training site in June and do a short evaluation in order for *Amigos de Bolivia y Peru* to provide testimonials about this project. The value of travel expenses apportioned to this task would tax deductible. Remember...this site is between Cusco and Machu Piccu!!!

Contact Ken Rustad at Boliviayperu@earthlink.com or 505.325.9194 or P.O. Box 901, Flora Vista, NM 87415.

Yachaspa is published quarterly by Amigos de Bolivia y Perú for its membership. The newsletter welcomes articles and other material pertaining to the general purposes of the organization. Except for copyrighted material, items may be reprinted as long as attribution is provided to Yachaspa and Amigos.

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Post Office Box 901
Flora Vista, NM 87415-0901

Email: boliviayperu@earthlink.net

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