

YACHASPA

QUECHUA FOR "SABIENDO" [KNOWING]...

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF AMIGOS DE BOLIVIA Y PERÚ, INC.

FALL 2007

WWW.AMIGOSDEBOLIVIAYPERU.ORG

EARTHQUAKE ROCKS PERU'S COAST SOUTH OF LIMA

Greg Bocquet
Peru 03-05

An earthquake measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale struck the coast of Peru about 150 km south of Lima in August, leaving over 500 dead and thousands homeless.

Most affected was Pisco, in the department of Ica, though tremors were felt in Lima, where one person died as a result of the shaking. With the electricity out, residents were left in the dark to search for survivors, recover the bodies of the dead, and later to guard what possessions they were able to retrieve from their destroyed homes.

Severe damage to the Panamericana highway that connects the region to Lima, as well as downed phone lines, made communication with emergency

services in the capital extremely difficult. Although rescue efforts were undertaken immediately, the small quantity and infrequent delivery of aid generated much frustration in the region.

Sickness, hunger, and lack of access to shelter or potable water continued for weeks, leading to several general strikes in the following months aimed at pressuring the central government to more comprehensive action.

The long-term future of Ica residents continues to be uncertain. Destroyed homes and businesses that many families relied on have not been rebuilt, and unemployment has skyrocketed. International relief agencies continue to address the needs of the victims, but it appears that a dedicated long-term effort will be essential to get life back to normal in the affected regions.



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Amigos de Bolivia y Perú, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation, affiliated with the National Peace Corps Association. As an affiliate of NPCA, Amigos is one of approximately 130 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 understanding among the peoples of Bolivia and/or Perú and the peoples of the United States.

LOSE ONE, GAIN ONE: AMIGOS BOARD CHANGE

The composition of Amigos' Board of Directors has changed slightly, with the resignation of Ray Brown and the appointment of Lindsey Eaves. Ray served Amigos for four years as *Yachaspa* editor and Board member. Fellow Board member Gayle Hartmann (Peru 1964-1966), wrote the following homage:

"Being a member of the Amigos Board is an unusual experience because we interact primarily by e-mail and occasionally by telephone, but none of us has met everyone face to face. Thus, I have never actually met Ray Brown, with whom I collaborated for several years when I was the Communications Coordinator. I would occasionally suggest articles, offer a bit of advice on the acceptability of certain articles, and proofread, but Ray did all the heavy lifting. And, what was especially impressive, unlike all the rest of us on the Board, Ray was not a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer or staff member.

Ray is the Director of Institutional Research at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. His eldest son, Christopher, served as a PCV (Bolivia 22) in San Lucas, Chuquisaca, in agroforestry. After two trips to Bolivia, Ray became interested in Amigos, agreeing to serve as editor of our newsletter after David Dolson resigned. Patt Behler, our former President and longtime Board member, said about Ray, 'We couldn't have done it without him! His support of the group and his steady, expert editorship of *Yachaspa* was a godsend to us.'

Ray, we thank you wholeheartedly for your hard work and wish you the best in the future!"

Lindsey Eaves is the newest member of the Board. She served as a Community Health PCV in Peru from 2003-2005, working at the local health center in Yanama, a small village in the Andes Mountains, educating the community on the importance of preventative health care. She also worked with youth groups, and artisans, teaching English and computer skills. After completing her service, she traveled through South America for four months and then worked in Peru, managing a hostel and teaching English, for another eight months. While still in Peru, she joined Amigos and upon arriving back to the U.S. became a paid member. Lindsey quickly volunteered for several Amigos activities, writing articles for *Yachaspa* and co-editing this issue.

Lindsey is anxiously awaiting the arrival of her Peruvian fiancé, Jorge, on Thanksgiving Day. "He will begin English classes at the community college shortly after his arrival and then wants to put his nursing skills to use at a local hospital." See Lindsey's photos and a brief bio on our website (www.amigosdeboliviayperu.org), click "Board" and then her name.

We're looking for new volunteers to join the Board to fill gaps from normal turnover. Write glorialevin@verizon.net Yes, YOU!!!



THE KANTUTA FUND

by Diane Hibino, Kantuta Coordinator
Bolivia 67-70; Bolivia Country Director 93-96

In 1991, Amigos de Bolivia y Perú established the Kantuta Fund, named for an Andean flower. The Fund provides small grants for sustainable projects at the grassroots level that will contribute to the development of Bolivia and Peru. Since late 2005, the Fund has been used exclusively to support current Peace Corps volunteers' projects in their communities. Recipients of Kantuta mini-grants are required to provide reports and account for all funds awarded. PC/Bolivia used its first Kantuta grant (\$1,000), awarded July 2006, to support seven PCV projects; in March 2007, an additional \$1,000 was awarded, with eight PCV projects approved. Peace Corps/Peru was awarded \$1,000 in 2005 and \$500 in 2007. PC/P will shortly be requesting additional funds for its efforts to assist in earthquake recovery efforts.

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday and new year and hope that the end-of-year giving season will encourage new contributions to the Kantuta Fund as tax-deductible donations. Please send a check payable to "Amigos de Bolivia y Peru" to Amigos, 7327 University Ave., Glen Echo, MD 20812. Please include a note (or complete the Membership Form at the end of this newsletter) indicating that the check should be targeted to Kantuta and specifying whether the donation is for Bolivia or Peru OR indicating the percentage to apply to each. You will receive verification for tax purposes.

Mil gracias!

“

I was recently discussing with a fellow PCV which was more beneficial: \$100 donated to Kantuta or \$100 worth of chocolate sent to serving volunteers. We decided the chocolate is more passionately experienced, but the Kantuta contribution actually benefits people. Kantuta wins, no contest.

”



Priscilla Novak, Bolivia 04-07

In the last few months, the following PCV projects have been approved with Amigos-sponsored Kantuta funds in Bolivia. Our Volunteers and staff are very grateful that these funds are available to support small Volunteer projects:

**Doreen Salazar, Program and Training Officer,
PC/Bolivia**

PLANT DIVERSIFICATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CENTER

Chocloca, Santa Cruz

Agriculture PCV Stephen Cooper applied for \$95 to purchase trees and other plants for an experimental university center located in his community. Quince, plum, apple, and olive trees were chosen for their high yields in the Tarija Valley. The project will increase the learning opportunities for agriculture students at the university, thus improving their overall knowledge base and making them more familiar with various types of trees, and to benefit the farmers in Chocloca and surrounding communities with alternative crop choices. If the new plants result in high yields and high prices in the market, local farmers will be able to come to the university and learn how to replicate the process on their own land. If the experiment fails, the university can afford to take the loss. Farmers, however, do not have this luxury.

SOLAR COOKER AND ROCKET STOVE PROMOTION - Tarija and Santa Cruz

Integrated Education PCV Aaron York applied for \$50 for Colonia Linares, and Natural Resources PCV Meaghan Leatherbury applied for \$189, both to promote alternative cook stoves in their communities. Both types of demonstration stoves - rocket stoves and solar ovens - have the potential to significantly reduce the amount of wood necessary to cook, mitigating the associated environmental and respiratory health impacts in the community. We have had great success in promoting these alternative stoves in other communities. In Saipina, after similar demonstrations, families ordered 189 solar ovens and rocket stoves with their own resources. In Colonia Linares, 110 community members attended the event, and twenty have expressed interest in ordering a rocket stove.

GARDEN FOR ELDERLY CARE CENTER - Sucre, Chuquisaca

Agriculture PCV Justin Taylor applied for \$148 to purchase seeds and tools for a garden in an elderly care center located in Sucre. Justin is a third-year volunteer leader who dedicated part of his time to supporting this important resource for the community. PRO VIDA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the lives of senior citizens through a community center offering extremely affordable meals and health care and free literacy classes. The center, whose small budget is financed primarily by foreign donations, also organizes cultural activities for its members and participates in local festivals. The objective of this project is to provide an additional source of nutrition in the diets of the senior citizens, lower PRO VIDA's expenses, and build capacity in nutrition and gardening. The majority of the senior citizens have worked in agriculture before and have expressed a high level of interest in this activity.

TRAINING IN TRANSFORMATION OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Saipina, Santa Cruz

Agriculture PCV Heidi Gerling applied for \$189 to train a women's group in preservation by transformation of local fruits and vegetables. The majority of income generated in Saipina is from the sale of agricultural products that are sold unprocessed and untransformed. Community members recognize that they can earn more from their harvests by processing them locally and selling finished products at higher prices. Kantuta funds were used for training courses on the production of fruit liquors, marmalades or preserves, vegetable pickles, and sauces, and techniques for lengthening the shelf-life of agricultural products. This project will provide an opportunity to increase family income and encourage women to participate in the formation of small businesses.



COMPUTER CENTER

San Isidro, Santa Cruz

Integrated Education PCV Katherine Conant applied for \$46 to purchase two hard drives to repair used computers purchased by the community. The installation was successful and the CPUs have been incorporated into the community's computer center at the Unidad Educativa San Isidro I & II. The machines were part of a purchase of 15 computers from World Computer Exchange in 2006. The school now owns 12 laptop and 3 desktop computers; all are complete and functioning with proper cables and working monitors. The school is planning formal computer training classes for the students, and possibly for community members as well. There is a technician in San Isidro that assists the teachers and provides technical support.

Michael Hirsh, Country Director,
PC/Peru

PC/Peru has recently used \$400 in Kantuta funds to get an innovative seed project underway. With some 46% of the Peruvian population living below the U.N.-established poverty level, and with a diet among lower-income Peruvians consisting almost entirely of starches, malnutrition is common. USAID estimates that a quarter of all Peruvian children are chronically malnourished. All of PC/Peru's Health Volunteers are helping their communities start school, communal, or family gardens; and over half of the Volunteers in other sectors are doing the same as a secondary activity. The Volunteers also teach community members how to incorporate vegetables into their daily diet. Peruvians have been highly receptive to this, and it has become one of PC/Peru's most successful activities.

When PC initiated this activity shortly after its return to Peru, there were two main challenges. One was how to adequately train the Volunteers in gardening, and the other was how to provide seeds to start the gardens. The training has since been arranged. All new Volunteers, during their pre-service training, receive five half-day sessions at the La Molina National Agrarian University. As to the seeds, for several years, PC/Peru received seeds donated and shipped to Peru by a U.S. NGO. While the NGO covered

all the costs, this was not an ideal situation. Communities started becoming dependent on imported seeds, the seeds were not always adapted to Peruvian growing conditions, and the germination rates were often low. PC/Peru has now put together

a new seed policy. All Volunteers are now given a small array of seed packets when they complete their training at La Molina, with seeds appropriate for the community to which they have been assigned. This will enable them to start one or two small model gardens. If the community is interested, the Volunteer and community may then apply to PC for a larger supply of seeds, which PC purchases locally, to expand the effort to a full-scale school, family, or communal gardening project. The community, however, is told that this is a one-time seed donation, and the Volunteer then works to encourage the community members to sell a portion of the vegetables produced in order to

have money to purchase seeds for the next planting season. The goal is to set up sustainable gardens in each community.

Kantuta funds have enabled a dozen Volunteers to establish full-fledged gardening projects in their communities. This is literally "seed capital" that is changing the diets and lives of hundreds of low-income Peruvians.



NEWS FROM BOLIVIA

Compiled by your editors from AP and other news sources.

SANCHEZ DE LOZADA CHARGED WITH GENOCIDE

Bolivia's Supreme Court brought forward nine charges against former President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, currently living in exile in the United States.

Among the charges is an accusation of genocide for de Lozada's alleged approval of security forces using violence against protestors in the unrest that ended his administration in 2003. 60 protestors were killed among the thousands demonstrating against the ex-president's free-market economic reforms and plans to export Bolivia's natural gas, a key resource for this landlocked country.

With the extradition request made official in early November, US courts will



determine whether or not to send Mr. de Lozada back to face the charges.

PROTESTS CONTINUE OVER CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

In late November, a new wave of protests in the wealthier parts of Bolivia saw three dead in Sucre, as well as widespread closings of shops and other businesses. Protesters, made up primarily of middle-class, relatively wealthy Bolivians, oppose President Evo Morales' continued

manipulation of a constitutional review meant to expand and centralize the power of the president.

Meanwhile, Morales rallied his supporters with claims that such reforms are necessary for him to deliver more social services to the poor, and accused protesters of trying to block those efforts.

MILITARY STORMS AIRPORT TO FREE INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS

The Bolivian Air Force stormed the country's busiest airport in Santa Cruz after airport managers held several planes on the runway demanding cash payments of \$2000 for "landing fees". Among the planes detained was an American Airlines jet that refused to pay the ransom, to be paid directly to airport managers rather than a state agency.

NEWS FROM PERÚ

Compiled by your editors from AP and other news sources.

FUJIMORI TRIAL BEGINS

Questioning has begun in the first of five charges of corruption and human rights abuses faced by Peruvian ex-President **Alberto Fujimori**, who was extradited from Chile in September.

The trial, which is being undertaken behind closed doors, is starting with the most benign of the charges, an accusation that he carried out an illegal search of the apartment belonging to his ex-head of intelligence Vladimir Montesinos, to allegedly recover videotapes of the administration's widespread bribery of media and government officials. If convicted, this charge could carry a sentence of up to seven years.

The real climax of the trial will come when deliberations turn to his role in ordering a series of murders by death squad that left 25 dead. If convicted, the 69-year old could face up to 30 years in prison.



PERUVIAN MERCENARIES IN IRAQ

Over 380 former Peruvian military and police officers have been hired by Triple Canopy, a US defense contractor, to provide "security services" in Iraq. An Inter-Press Service investigation revealed that contracts may be limiting new recruits' rights to compensation and dispute resolution, prompting an investigation by the government.

As investigations are carried out, the program continues on as usual. In some ways it appears that Triple Canopy is

recruiting with the tacit blessing of the government itself. The short two-week training takes place at an army training center, with weapons and ammunitions provided by a government supplier. Many new recruits' families are worried that their loved ones are being misled and put in unnecessary danger.

PERU TO EQUIP RURAL STUDENTS WITH LAPTOPS

Peru's education minister has announced the country's plans to order 40,000 XO laptops from the One Laptop Per Child program to be distributed to children in rural communities. Peru has already been taking part in an OLPC trial program set up to distribute 50 of the durable laptops equipped with wireless internet ability and a word processor to a poor community near the capital.

Building on the success of the trial, which has run for almost six months, the state plans to expand the project across the entire country.

PC BOLIVIA REUNION

GRAN ÉXITO: BOLIVIA RPCVs' REUNION A SMASHING SUCCESS

Don Beck (67-69)
Jeff Fletcher (67-69)

In August 2007, the long-planned reunion of Bolivia RPCVs and former staff drew an enthusiastic crowd of 116 to Estes Park, Colorado, 80 miles north of Denver. As announced in earlier issues of *Yachaspa*, the reunion was primarily aimed at those who served between 1967 and 1971, when PC was expelled from Bolivia. About 82 Peace Corps folk were accompanied by 34 spouses and guests. Some 15 groups were represented at the meeting, ranging from Bolivia 2 to 40, with the largest contingents coming from Bolivia 29 (14 attendees), B33 (9), B34 (7) and B36 (7). (Note that when PC returned to Bolivia in 1990, training group numbers began at 1 again). The 8,000+ ft altitude brought back memories of the effects of high altitude to those who were stationed in Cochabamba (8,500 ft) or the altiplano (12,000+ ft).

The initial organizers (Ed Stoll and Lee Arbuckle) conceptualized the reunion as a "group of groups". They recognized that some groups have been meeting regularly over the years, but that others had not met since their return from Bolivia. This reunion targeted individuals from inactive groups to facilitate their reconnection. Many attendees knew volunteers from other groups who served at the same time. Some groups seemed closer than others. For our group – Bolivia 29 (1967-69), the only group in the tin mines – it was our first reunion, 40 years after our training. Starting early 2007, we eventually located 32 of 36 of us, of which 14 attended the reunion. It was great to reconnect, finding out "the rest of the story" for each other. Many from Bolivia 29 had gone into government jobs, such as with USAID, and other public service careers: teaching,

social work, housing, etc. Only one of eight married couples was still with the same spouse.

First encounters were amazing, as you (sometimes instantly, sometimes slowly) recognized people by their eyes, or smile or turn of a phrase. A large contingent of former staff members attended, including two Bolivian nationals who flew in from Bolivia. Gino Baumann,



(Bill) Stacy Rhodes models pants made from Bolivian material with a reunion tee.

Country Director from 1967 until 1971, flew in from Costa Rica with his wife and granddaughter. Seeing Gino again, we appreciated having had a Country Director who was experienced in working in a PC mode, rather than a political appointee with no relevant skills, at an early point in PC's history. Michael Hirsh, a volunteer in Bolivia and now Country Director of PC/Peru, attended with his new Peruvian wife and intrigued



us with stories about today's Peace Corps. For example, he informed us that PCVs are no longer assigned to the Bolivian altiplano because of its geographic remoteness. PCVs are now equipped with cell phones and have internet access so as to keep PC staff informed of their location, for security reasons.

The reunion offered an appealing mix of activities for all attendees—workshops, slide shows, "Talking Stick" dialogue circles, trivia quizzes, social networking events, music jams, hiking, tennis, volleyball, and a tour of the Stanley Hotel and Museum, best known for its role in Stephen King's novel, *The Shining*. Substantive workshops focused on topics such as "The Feminization of Agriculture," "Microfinance in Bolivia," "Agricultural Development in Latin America," and "Bolivia Hoy Dia," an examination of current political, social, and economic developments in Bolivia. A new documentary film, *¡Salud!*, about the Cuban healthcare system (presented and partly produced by our Peace Corps physician, Bill Keck, M.D.) was followed by a spirited discussion.

Participants exhibited "mementos" from their time in Bolivia — photos, devil masks, woven handicrafts, maps, books, and our old PCV newsletter, *Pues*. All attendees received an attractive reunion T-shirt printed in earth tones that featured a llama and a palm tree. Also on display were information handouts on membership in *Amigos* and its *Kantuta*

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grants program, as well as the “Mano a Mano” medical supply and health care donation initiative that serves rural Bolivia.

The best times were just to talk and reminisce – many memories flooded back from sharing thoughts and stories. The spouses had the opportunity to confirm stories heard perhaps too many times and also hear some new ones, selectively forgotten.

With many digital cameras on hand, a large number of pictures were taken, many of which have been shared and posted online. Some of these are posted on Amigos’ website (click “photo gallery”). A larger number are posted on the Bolivia/Reunion site: <http://edweb.sdsu.edu/SDPCA/mines/group.htm>

Twenty-three Amigos members attended the reunion: Lee Arbuckle, Gino and Sarah Baumann, Don Beck, David Dolson, Richard Engan, Tom Finan, Paul Fisher, Jeff Fletcher, Pete and Sharen Gendebien, Diane Hibino, Kirk Harder, Michael Hirsh, Bob Pruitt, Alan Rom, Bill (Stacy) Rhodes, John Smith, Dwight and Peggy Steen, Luis and Pat Stelzner, and Ed Stoll.

All groups resolved to meet again in several years, as well as at PC’s 50th anniversary celebration in 2011 and possibly at a reunion in Bolivia. Our advice to newer RPCVs is: “Don’t wait so long!”



Opening night reception as people are listening to Gino Baumann’s tales getting the Reunion underway.



Staff photo. Back: Jerry Perkins, Fred Caploe, Pete Gendebien, Luis Stelzner, Bill Keck, Lee Arbuckle. Front: Maggie Arbuckle, Luisa Rojas, Teresa Morales, Gino Baumann, Miriam Dolson, Diane Hibino.

HOW TO: BRUSH UP ON YOUR SPANISH

Interested in brushing up your rusty Spanish? Or maybe you want to learn a new language or are helping someone learn English? If so, a number of do-it-yourself foreign language programs are available online. For example, you can download free podcasts from www.Spanishpod.com or pay the company a monthly subscription for more features. Better, ask your librarian about offerings of online language learning tools. RosettaStone (whose kiosks you see at airports and upscale shopping malls) has an arrangement with all states’ libraries for online access to its software. However, the company is phasing out this program as subscriptions end. If your library system hasn’t lined up a replacement to RosettaStone, speak up. An alternative choice is Auralog’s Tell Me More, a basic to advanced online program for learning six languages. Or you may be able to access downloadable language learning ebooks like Pimsleur.

TOLUCA II REUNION IN 2008 JIM HENCIN (PERU 68-70)

The year 2008 marks the 40th anniversary for Toluca II (ag extension and home economics) volunteers, who served in Peru from 1968-70. The group takes its name from its training site in Toluca, Mexico. Toluca II RPCVs will gather at the farm of John and Karen Eissfeldt in Saskatchewan, on July 18-20, 2008. Lodging and other arrangements are still in the planning stage, but if you wish to attend the gathering, contact either of the following: John & Karen Eissfeldt (kjeissfeldt@hotmail.com) or Jim Hencin (jshencin@bellsouth.net or (352) 371-9437). Remember to bring a U.S. passport if you will be coming from the U.S.

PEACE CORPS/BOLIVIA: COUNTRY UPDATE



Doreen Salazar
Program and Training Officer,
PC Bolivia
dsalazar@bo.peacecorps.gov

Greetings from Bolivia! If you have read the Bolivian news lately, you know that the political atmosphere is tense. The current political tension revolves around the constituent assembly, which began its meetings over one year ago to rewrite the constitution. The assembly was due to present its results to the public in August 2007, but political battles have stalled the process. The right-wing minority has felt left out of the process, and in the last few months the leaders of the department of Chuquisaca have joined the ranks of those of discontent as their bid for consideration of strengthening their role as the capital of Bolivia was turned down.

In terms of the PC world, in mid-August, Peace Corps Director Ron Tschetter and his wife met with government officials and traveled to the Peace Corps office in Cochabamba. He visited with Peace Corps staff and met several volunteers to discuss and observe the current projects in Bolivia.

In early September, Amigos announced a job opening for our Training Director position. I'm happy to announce that we have selected as the training director, William Green. William Green has many years of Peace Corps training experience. We are confident he will meet our goals over the next three years, which includes improving the training and support volunteers receive after they've arrived to their sites.

Currently, we have 155 volunteers in country. The newly sworn-in B-46 PCVs had been hosted by Amigos members for dinner in Washington, DC during their staging in September. Thanks to the RPCVs who attended the event and to Gloria Levin for organizing it.



Peace Corps Director Ron Tschetter and his wife during their trip to Cochabamba, Bolivia in August.

The latest edition of the AARP magazine showcases two of the new PCVs, Millie and Ben Beall, on the emphasis of recruiting older (50 years+) volunteers. The recruitment of older volunteers is an important initiative of Director Tschetter, so those of you who are 50+ and reading this, have you considered being a volunteer again? Feel free to contact me (dsalazar@bo.peacecorps.gov) or Javier (jgarza@bo.peacecorps.gov) if you would like to explore the possibility.

B-40 is COSing this month. Javier Garza will be giving those volunteers color copies of Yachaspa so they can see first hand what Amigos is doing and the wonderful support they get. The next group, B-47, will arrive in country on January 30. These volunteers will be in the natural resources and agriculture projects.



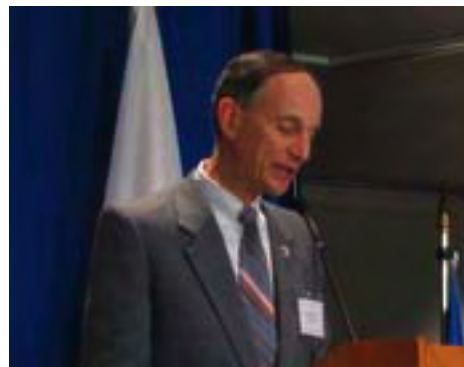
Michael Hirsh
Country Director, Peace Corps/Peru
mhirsh@pe.peacecorps.gov

¡Saludos de Lima! As I write this, our Peru #10 group is in its final stretch of training and will be swearing in at the end of November. Our Peru #6 group is in the process of completing their service. This group, which included our first Environment Volunteers, has been a highly dynamic and productive group, and I assume that all will become Amigos members.

Many of you have expressed concern about the earthquake that took place in Peru on August 15. The 8.0 quake (on the Richter Scale) was centered near Pisco, in the department of Ica. The quake killed over 500 people and seriously injured over 1,000. Some 37,600 houses were destroyed to the point of being uninhabitable, and another 12,800 were seriously damaged.

As this area is readily accessible by land, sea, and air, relief efforts were able to begin immediately, conducted by Peruvian Civil Defense, other national and local governmental authorities, the U.N., the U.S., and other international donor organizations. Immediate needs for food, water, and emergency shelter were met fairly well.

As soon as the earthquake hit, PC/Peru contacted all Volunteers in country to inform them of the situation and to make sure that they were safe. PC/Peru had five Volunteers stationed in the affected area. Through a series of coincidences (in-service training, vacation), four were



in Lima and one elsewhere in Peru at the time the earthquake occurred. All five were held in Lima until it could be confirmed that there was safe housing for them to return to, which took several days. At that point, they returned to their sites to assist in the relief and reconstruction efforts.

Another Volunteer, working with an NGO in Callao, was asked by his agency to spend three months in the Ica area

to assist with a center for orphaned and abandoned children that the NGO had set up there. The Volunteer has been there now for over a month. Other Volunteers from our Youth Development program will be rotating to the site on a one-week at a time basis to also assist.

Meanwhile, we have been actively planning with CARE on working together on reconstruction efforts. CARE has taken on the commitment of constructing 6,000 latrines in affected communities near Chincha, as well as reconstructing some housing and other infrastructure. We are starting by rotating Volunteers from our Health and Environment programs to those communities on a two-week at a time basis. We will then be bringing in a small number of Crisis Corps Volunteers for up to six months to provide more continuity to the effort. The recruitment of Crisis Corps Volunteers will be taking place about the time this edition of Yachaspa goes to press. If any of you are interested, I encourage you to go to the Peace Corps website and click on Crisis Corps for more information. So, thanks for your concern, and we'll keep you informed as the reconstruction efforts proceed.

(Ed. Note: Peace Corps has renamed Crisis Corps; it is now known as Peace Corps Response)

Yachaspa spotlights two Amigos members who share their perspectives on the impact of their Peace Corps experiences on their lives. The profiles were solicited and edited by **Jennifer Beer** (Bolivia 03-05).

KEN GOODSON *SAN MIGUEL, POTOSI AND SUCRE, BOLIVIA (97-99)*

Assignment:

Environment PCV for 2 years; Regional PCVC for 1 year

Languages learned: Spanish, Quechua

Current Location: Bucharest, Romania

Current Occupation:

Peace Corps/Romania Country Director

How has PC impacted you?

Peace Corps has impacted some of the most simple, yet profound, things about the way I look at the world. Peace Corps taught me that human beings are much more tied together by our similarities than any of our differences. Serving as a Volunteer was a humbling experience and started me on my current career track, one which essentially has resulted in never actually “returning”.

Upon leaving PC service in Bolivia, I worked for 2 years as a tech trainer in Cochabamba, and then went to PC/Belize as Deputy Director before moving to Lima, Peru to serve as part of the two-person team to start-up the Peace Corps program there after a 28-year absence. My job was to set up the programs, establish the initial host agency and community contacts for PC/Peru, identify the sites for the first 4 groups of PCVs and work with Peruvian colleagues to introduce them to Peace Corps work in the field. After 3 great years in Peru, I moved to Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar) as Peace Corps Country Director for 2.5 years and have recently relocated to Romania as PC Country Director.

**What was your housing situation as a PCV?**

I lived with a family in San Miguel. The host father and I built my room during my first months at site. After it was completed, I moved out of the host family arrangement and had my own little room up behind the village school.

What was your favorite food?

Peruvian food was fantastic. I really liked the Piura area cuisine and would go with ceviche as the top choice. Bolivia was tougher, but smashed meats such as silpancho and milanesa were my favorites. I especially liked chicha -- the more flies the merrier.

What was your least favorite food?

Tripe and any other internal organ where feces might have passed and/or developed.

Favorite saying/dicho:

“En primer lugar, que tengan todos Uds muy buenos días.”

What is the most important thing you learned in PC?

The experience in rural Potosi taught me that sometimes people who have very little, will give you everything. That lesson has proven great motivation for me and is, I believe, one of the strongest lessons PC service can teach any of us.

What do you miss most about Bolivia/Peru?

From Bolivia, I miss my daily life in San Miguel. Returning to visit your former site is nothing like actually living there, and being a part of a daily reality I never would have been able to experience if not for Peace Corps.

From Peru, I miss the staff with whom we re-opened the operation, and the people in the field who took a risk and requested a PCV despite knowing very little about the agency or what our PCVs could actually do. I also miss the excitement of being a part of a start-up program. We really had a clean slate and opportunities to define Peace Corps the way we wanted to, as opposed to my subsequent posts, where I have inherited what came before. That was an incredibly unique 3 years.

Customs that you still use today:

I still pour a little alcohol on the ground when I'm at an outdoor reception. My wife and I once buried a llama fetus in our backyard.

What interesting places have you visited post PC?

Rural Mongolia – one day doing site visits in the Gobi desert, I drove 13 hours in a Land Cruiser and all I saw were 4 camels and one ger (traditional Mongolian felt tent).

How do you keep connected with other RPCVs?

I hear regularly from former trainees and PCVs of mine from Bolivia and Peru, mostly via email. I've been able to host a few of them when they have traveled to some of the countries where I've worked.

JORDAN MALLAH LA GRAMA, CAJAMARCA, PERU (03-05)



Assignment:

My technical job was teaching people how to cultivate bio intensive organic food and incorporate it into their diets; starting small businesses.

Current Location: Malverne, NY

Current Occupation:

Yoga Instructor and Consultant

How has PC impacted you?

All of my current work is infused with the valuable lessons and skills I cultivated as a Peace Corps volunteer. As a full time yoga teacher, it is essential to be compassionate, sensitive, and tune into the energy of your students. While serving as a volunteer, I refined all of these essential skills.

What was your housing situation as a PCV?

I built my own home. It was the rural eco spa of the Andes.

What was your favorite food?

All the crazy, exotic fruits.

What was your least favorite food?

White rice with kilos of MSG

What was your favorite music from Peru?

My neighbor Carlos playing his guitar with all his soul and singing songs he invented.

What do you miss most about Peru?

I miss having the time to live fully present in the moment and share conversations with rural farmers.

Customs that you still use today:

At meetings, I still go around the room and shake everyone's hand and greet everyone individually.

What interesting places have you visited post PC?

Japan, Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Chile, Texas.

Most important thing you learned in PC?

I learned that in order to serve, I must first be strong at my core, and know who I am. With that clarity and strength, I can serve the world in life enhancing ways.

Further information about you can be found at:

My blog www.steadfastfreedomyoga.com

This site discusses my service in Peru. It will also be the home of the Steadfast Freedom Foundation, which has two main components: (1) Providing service and yoga training to underprivileged populations in Peru and (2) developing sustainable projects in Peru including small income generating businesses and sustainable food security networks.

On my vacation this year, I returned to La Grama to work with my village for three weeks. I had the opportunity to see first hand the effects of my two years of Peace Corps service on others as well as the effects of the Peace Corps experience on my life.

(See Amigos' website for Jordan's memories of his return, It is posted under link to the Fall 2007 issue of Yachaspa as a "Yapa."

FILM&BOOK REVIEWS - BOLIVIA

The American Film Institute's Silver Theatre in Silver Spring, Maryland recently hosted the 18th Annual Washington Latin American Film Festival. Among the festival's 30 films were two each from Bolivia and Peru.



AMERICAN VISA (2005)

Directed by Juan Carlos Valdivia

Lindsey Eaves

Peru 03-05

American Visa, based on the popular novel by Juan de Recacoechea, was nominated this year for the GOYA Award (the Spanish equivalent to the Oscars) for best foreign film in Spanish and was Bolivia's 2006 Oscar selection for Best Foreign Language Film.

It tells the story of Mario Alvarez, a Bolivian professor, who wants to reunite with his son in Miami and live the American dream. Mario comes from a life of failure, he smokes too much, and he drinks too much. He thinks that going



to America will solve all his problems. While attempting to obtain a visa in La Paz, Mario meets Blanca, a beautiful prostitute who is looking for a change in her life. She's an "internal" immigrant, coming from the lowlands to the Andean capital of La Paz. She is working on her

Bolivian dream and wants to find a good man to bring back to her hometown to start a family.

Mario is willing to do anything to make his dream a reality. After an unsuccessful attempt to obtain a legitimate visa through the American embassy, he decides to try his luck with fake documents from a shady operator who demands \$5000. Mario then becomes tangled in a web of criminal activities to get the money he needs.

In the end, Mario finds his dream right in front of his eyes, in his relationship with Blanca. She has helped him change his way of looking at the world, and together they make their own Bolivian dream come true.



WHO KILLED THE WHITE LLAMA? *¿Quién Mató a la Llamita Blanca?* (2006)

Directed by Rodrigo Bellott

Kristina Owens

Bolivia 00-02

The runaway hit in Bolivia in 2006, this fast-paced film is gaining popularity worldwide through Latin American film festivals. The plot revolves around an eccentric indigenous Bolivian crime couple, Domitila and Jacinto, nicknamed "los totolitos" (the turtledoves), who become notorious for their crimes throughout Bolivia.

The center of the story is the accidental killing of a baby white llama, which gets heavy media coverage despite the major scandals that are consistently under-



reported. Not to give away the answer to ¿Quién mato la llamita blanca?, let's just say the wrong group was blamed. Domitila and Jacinto meet 'El Negro' (a gringo with a strong Texas accent) and enlist him to transport 50 kilos of cocaine across Bolivia to the Brazilian border. Their journey provides a mini-travelogue of many regions of Bolivia – jungles, mountains, deserts and cities.

Throughout the film, a narrator provides political insight into Bolivian society, and the comic moments are mostly at the expense of others. Pointed out are the many ironies in Bolivian politics, life and culture. The narrator imitates Goni's strong gringo accent, criticizes the lack of political memory by the Bolivian people in electing former dictators and notes that during Evo Morales' campaign he traveled first class despite his many criticisms of others' elitism.

Not only was the acting and narrating excellent, there were many interesting graphics and effects inserted throughout. For example, scene splits and text defining Bolivian slang were used. However, the English subtitles oftentimes interfered with the Bolivian slang definitions, making it difficult (especially for non-Spanish speakers) to follow the dialogue and plot.



BLACK BUTTERFLY (2006)

Mariposa Negra

Directed by Francisco Lombardi

Gloria Levin

Peru 66-68

This political thriller – an official selection at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival -- is based on the novel *Grandes Miradas* by Alonso Cueto -- and is loosely based on real-life events surrounding Peru's intelligence chief, Vladimir Montesinos, in the Fujimori presidency. Towards the end of Fujimori's brutal regime, an honest jurist is brutally assassinated in Lima. His fiancé, sheltered schoolteacher Gabriela, teams up with a cynical, muckraking tabloid journalist, Ángela, to investigate who was behind the political assassination. When she traces the killing back to an order from Montesinos, she determines to avenge the death by murdering him, personally. Through a number of risky



maneuvers, Gabriela gets access closer and closer to Montesinos' inner circle – a vast network of illegal activities involving leaders of business, media and politics. Employed by Montesinos' favorite hotel as an escort for its prestigious guests, Gabriela finally gets her opportunity, having a private assignation with her prey. Since Montesinos is alive and in prison now, there is no mystery as to the outcome of her attempt to assassinate him. This is an excellent film, very well acted and absorbing.

The film's director, Francisco Lombardi, has directed and produced a number of films that explore the underbelly of corrupt society in Peru. His films are the most widely distributed outside of Peru. Several of his films have been reviewed in earlier issues of Yachaspa: "Tinta Roja," (Spring 2007); "Pantaleón y las visitadoras" (Winter 2005-6); and "No se lo Diga a Nadie" (Winter 2005-6).



CHICHA TU MADRE (2006)

Directed by Gianfranco Quattrini

Gloria Levin

Peru 66-68

This urban dramatic comedy focuses on Julio Cesar in Lima as he attempts to navigate through a daily life full of pitfalls, working as an unregulated taxi cab driver. In doing so, it offers a view into the underground ("black market") economy that operates out of the reach of law in Peru. Julio is in a faithless marriage -- he frequents prostitutes, and his wife is having an affair. Meanwhile, his beloved teenaged daughter reveals that she is pregnant by her boyfriend. At this shock, Julio decides to transform his



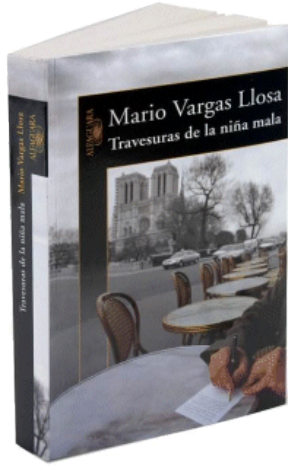
life, thereby changing his destiny. His life being unlucky and society being chaotic, he turns to Tarot cards for guidance in all aspects of his life and is trained to become a Tarot reader. He meets various characters on the streets of Lima (with references to Argentina) and becomes involved in yet another scheme to make money from a mediocre soccer team.

This film, by a 34-year old director, is, at its heart, about Peruvians' drive for survival and salvation, employing extraordinary resourcefulness, in the face of overwhelming social challenges, to achieve these ends. Ethical considerations are shoved far back in the scheme of lives lived at the margin.



TRAVESURAS DE LA NIÑA MALA *Mario Vargas Llosa* (2006)

Jane Wolff Taylor
Peru 67-69



Mario Vargas Llosa, Peruvian author of about twenty fiction and non-fiction books, has published a new novel called *Travesuras de la Niña Mala* (translated as *The Bad Girl*). If you like reading about hippies, the City of Light, and uninhibited sex, this novel will enthrall you.

The novel starts out in 1950 in Miraflores, the wealthy suburb of Lima, with the protagonist, Ricardo, enjoying his adolescent summer going to parties with his friends. At one of these parties he meets Lily, who portrays herself as “una Chilena” (a Chilean woman). Ricardo spends time with her, falls in love, and shares his dream of wanting to live in Paris. Unfortunately, Lily’s guise of being una Chilena is uncovered, and she is banished from the group. This is the start of her many *travesuras* (mischievous pranks) throughout the novel.

The novel moves to the next decade, the 1960’s, and Ricardo has now moved to Paris where he is starting a career as a translator for UNESCO. He makes friends with other Peruvians, and they discuss the hopes of revolution in South America. Ricardo offered to meet several young communist women coming through Paris en route to Cuba. One, Comrade Arlette, looked familiar, and yes, she is LILY. Ricardo professes his love to her, which he says started ten years ago, back in Peru. At first, she

denies that she is Lily, but then admits that she is his Lily (the *travesuras* continue!). Their time in Paris is short-lived, as she must continue her journey to Cuba as a Revolutionary.

This pattern continues throughout the novel -- Ricardo longs for his lover; she comes back into his life, only to do more mischievous and evil pranks to him. The decades of the 1970’s, 1980’s, and 1990’s pass with la niña mala returning and leaving, in ever more tender and violent events. Ricardo vows not to take her back, and then relents, and again, she disappears! There is a cast of interesting characters—her husbands, his neighbors and work friends, his family. The reader is educated about real people and events in the decades the novel covers.

Vargas Llosa has always been interested in Flaubert’s *Madame Bovary*. The similarity of this plot line to *Madame Bovary* cannot be overlooked. His 1986 book, *The Perpetual Orgy*, is about Flaubert and *Madame Bovary*. But *La Nina Mala* is a novel in its own right and you, the reader, will want to follow Ricardo through the decades and countries (Japan, Peru, Spain) as he experiences the *travesuras* of Lily, Comrade Arlette, and the other persons she portrays to get what she wants.

READ A GOOD BOOK LATELY? SEEN A GOOD MOVIE?
SUBMIT YOUR OWN REVIEWS TO YACHASPA@GMAIL.COM
AND SPREAD THE WORD!

Gloria Levin (Peru 66-68)
GloriaLevin@verizon.net

Certainly, the most memorable event in the past 3 months was the earthquake in Peru, which resulted in many deaths and great suffering among the survivors. I was in contact with PC staff continually as the dimensions of the event were revealed and also with Amigos members who were traveling in Peru at the time. I emailed updates to Peru-related members throughout. After analysis of the relief effort underway, Amigos' Board decided to follow PC/Peru's lead, staying true to PC's mission of long term, sustained assistance. Individually, we contributed to respected organizations which provide emergency assistance and encouraged our members (and other inquirers) to do the same. But, as an organization, we waited until PC/Peru had a plan in place so we could support that plan with Kantuta funds. Just in the past week, Amigos member, Rosemary Pricci, of Jacksonville, FL successfully advocated for her local RPCV group to make a donation of \$410 to Kantuta, to be earmarked for an earthquake recovery project. We will need additional funds to support mini-grant proposals, to be selected by PC/Peru staff from those submitted by Crisis Corps Volunteers deployed to the recovery effort and by current PCVs who will be rotated through the affected region. Of course, we need to continue supporting the kinds of projects described by Peru Country Director in this issue for other PCVs in other regions of Peru.

Many Amigos members were involved in the reunion of Bolivia PC staff and volunteers from the mid 1960s to 1971, held in Estes Park, Colorado in August. We attracted some new members, including one who made a particularly generous donation to our Kantuta/Bolivia fund. And the conference leaders voted to give the Kantuta/Bolivia fund the money

remaining after expenses were paid – to be shared with two Bolivia-based NGO's. Thanks to Amigos members Diane Hibino, Dave Dolson and Ed Stoll for their advocacy. PC/Bolivia has selected a wide range of PCV community projects to benefit from our funds, including truly MINI grants.

As you are making out checks for charities at year's end, please remember Kantuta. (See instructions in Diane Hibino's article on Kantuta.) Small sums of money go a long way in Bolivia and Peru and can bring about substantial changes in people's lives. Make a difference.

**SMALL SUMS OF MONEY
GO A LONG WAY IN
BOLIVIA AND PERU
AND CAN BRING ABOUT
SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN
PEOPLE'S LIVES. MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**

Amigos' Board of Directors held a teleconference meeting on September 15, engaging in an open discussion on three topics: (1) Responsibilities of Board members; (2) Methods for increasing membership; and (3) Fundraising and grant making for our Kantuta (donations) program to benefit PC/Bolivia and PC/Peru. Clever Steve Jacobs identified a teleconference service that not only cost the organization nothing but also produced an audio recording, accessible online. Our second board meeting will be held later in December, via simultaneous emailing, at which time we will vote on the 2008 budget and elect officers for 2008. Please note elsewhere in this issue the call for candidates to run for Board offices. We have an ongoing need for volunteers, the lifeblood of any organization like ours. Of particular need

now are communications skills – editing, publication policies, web design, etc. If you think Amigos is fully “staffed,” think again!!

Amigos has seen a few changes in our all-volunteer force, as discussed in this issue, but nothing compared to the PC Desk for South America. Since the Summer, our “longtime” Desk Officer, Shawn Wesner, was replaced by Chris Cole (Peru 1), who transferred over from the Caribbean Desk. Kevin Brendle is the new Desk Assistant, having transferred from PC's field assistance unit. Kim Coyne is the one carry-over from the prior staff. Our in-country managers remain intact. We are very fortunate to have excellent relations with “our” in-country PC staffs. ¿Como no? Both country directors are RPCVs from Bolivia and Peru!!

I extend warm appreciation to each member of the Board of Directors – Patt Behler, Lindsey Eaves, Jeff Fletcher, Gayle Hartmann, Diane Hibino, Steve Jacobs, Franklin Salveson and Jane Wolff Taylor – for their cooperation and thoughtfulness in responsibly steering Amigos. A big thank you to the Fall 2007 co-editors of *Yachaspa* – Greg Bocquet (design and layout) and Lindsey Eaves (content) for a super issue. And kudos to our webmaster, Don Beck, who devotes much time and talent every day. Well done, all. These people knock themselves out to provide Amigos members a sound organization, support for PC activities in “our countries” of Bolivia and Peru and informative and attractive communications.

As always, I end with a yapa (a little bonus) to keep you reading to the bottom: In watching this video, wait patiently for the action to start. Can you do this? <http://www.glumbert.com:80/media/koreanfreestyle>

Happy Holidays.

George Washington University's Latin American and Hemispheric Studies Program and the Washington Office on Latin America (www.wola.org), both in Washington, DC, jointly sponsor seminars on topics of current interest about Latin America. Frequently included are seminars pertaining to Bolivia and Peru. Amigos members in Washington who attend the seminars summarize them for Yachaspa readers.

ASSESSING BOLIVIA'S MORALES ADMINISTRATION: INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

Kristina Owens (Bolivia 00-02)
Jeff Fletcher (Bolivia 67-69)

Four Bolivians of diverse backgrounds, who have been involved in some manner with the Morales administration, presented at a GWU/WOLA seminar on September 14, 2007. Each provided a unique perspective and critique of the Morales Administration in discussing the positive effects of the first indigenous president of Bolivia and the challenges which face the Morales administration.

Casimira Rodriguez Romero greeted the audience in Quechua, dressed as a typical Bolivian *campesina*. She detailed her inspiring life story, beginning at age 13 when she became a domestic worker for wealthy families. Realizing the many atrocities committed against *empleadas* or *trabajadores del hogar* in Bolivia, she determined to raise public awareness of these issues and led many strikes, protests and negotiations to ensure fair wages and just treatment. Through a domestic workers' union, she became active in supporting Evo Morales' presidential campaign. He appointed her as Minister of Justice, serving 2006-7. When she voiced hesitancy about taking on this role because she had very little formal education, Morales responded: "I, too, have little experience and education; we can learn together." She worked on various programs to increase transparency and eliminate corruption. She continues to be recognized throughout the world by various organizations, and recently was honored with the World Methodist Peace Award.

The second speaker, Maria Eugenia Choque, is Co-founder of the Center for

Aymara Studies, having spent most of her career advancing the cause of Aymara peoples. She also was a Vice Minister for Indigenous Rights and Policies for President Carlos Mesa. She discussed important Bolivian historical events and fundamental policy changes by the Bolivian government. This included changes in the education system, participation of women and policy shifts, such as the 1990 Right of Dignity and Right of Ethnic identity. As a result of Morales' policies and programs, Choque said, Bolivia is moving toward a more pluralistic, multicultural state, one in which women are now playing a major role in the struggle for indigenous rights.

The third speaker was Javier Hurtado Mercado, founder of Irupana Andean Organic Food, Inc. who discussed change in Bolivia from an economic perspective. Although not of indigenous origin, he has worked with indigenous farmers for many years, encouraging organic farming and diversity of crops. He claimed a role in the rise in popularity of quinoa by bringing it to the Bolivian and international markets. He feels Bolivia is capable of developing a sustainable system of agriculture, environment and technology if it focuses on conserving its natural resources and the environment. In this way, Bolivia can prevent many of the mistakes made by the developed world in their own countries. His advice to Evo Morales? "We need to stop looking at trade and international politics through the lens of the Cold War. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is our friend, but not our model."

In contrast to the other speakers, Mamerto Perez, Consultant to Oxfam/Spain with

three decades of experience in Bolivia, sounded a cautionary note about the possibilities of rapid structural change in Bolivia. Perez stated his belief that, while Bolivia has an indigenous president, it may not have an indigenous government, saying "Bolivia has a friend in the State, but he may not create a changed State." He questioned the wisdom of the current effort to change Bolivia into an indigenous state because of Bolivia's diversity. Not to acknowledge the concerns of the middle and upper-class will lead to their lack of support, Mr. Perez stated, and their support is essential for progress. Perez acknowledged that Bolivian citizens are more often actively participating in changes. The good intentions of Bolivia's Andino-centric government, Perez fears, may run aground due to failed leftist economic policies.

The audience then joined in a spirited discussion. Most acknowledged the positive changes under Morales and agreed about what needs to be done in the future. However, one audience member, from the Morales administration, voiced a strong defense for the government.

In summary, the panelists were pleased with the changes brought on by the election of an indigenous president; however, they felt that the Morales administration has to prove itself, beyond attaining the presidency. His administration needs to be inclusive of all the diversity present in Bolivia, be open to economic opportunity, willing to compromise, address the inequalities of education and opportunities for all Bolivian children, conserve Bolivia's natural resources, increase transparency and reduce corruption.



“MANTENGA VIGILANCIA!” URGE PERUVIAN EXPERTS ON FUJIMORI’S TRIAL

Gloria Levin (Peru 66-68)

Two well-placed Peruvians urged that Peru and the world community be vigilant in assuring that judicial proceedings against ex-President Fujimori hold him accountable. At a seminar on October 2 in Washington, DC, they discussed many implications of the decision by Chile’s Supreme Court to extradite him to Peru.

First was Anel Townsend, former member of the Peruvian Congress (1995-2006) and currently consultant to the Inter-American Development Bank. During her Congressional term, she chaired a special committee studying illegal activities of the Fujimori Administration. She considered the decision of the Chilean Supreme Court a landmark decision in the treatment of heads of state involved in human rights violations and/or corruption. Fujimori is the first former head of state who has been extradited to his home country for such violations. Former heads of state Pinochet of Chile, Charles Taylor of Liberia and Slobodan Milosovic of Serbia were turned over to an international tribunal. In the case of Fujimori, many international groups brought pressure to bear on Chile. Ms. Townsend felt that Chile’s action would send a message to other corrupt heads of state that they could be treated similarly.

Under its Freedom of Information Act, the U.S. was pressured to release documents pertaining to Fujimori and his collaborator, Vladimir Montesinos, to the Peruvian Congress in 2001. Especially helpful was a 1990 report from the then U.S. Ambassador, Anthony Quainton, to the State Department, detailing the Fujimori Administration’s secret plan for conducting counter-terrorism activities, involving paramilitary groups. While these documents arrived too late to prevent the government’s abuses, they are of historical importance in documenting

abuses by Fujimori and others in his government, including those judges and government officials who did (or did not) “act with impunity” beginning in 1992.

Townsend praised NGOs, both Peruvian and international; three subsequent Peruvian presidents who allowed the judicial process to play out; and Peru’s Congress, which played a key role in investigating the abuses of the Fujimori regime. She emphasized that how Fujimori’s trial is handled will be a test of Peru’s democratic institutions.

The second speaker, Javier Diez Canseco, served six terms (up to 2006) in the Peruvian Congress, was its vice president, and is a leader of the Peruvian Socialist Party. He was a leader in Congress’ investigation of the government illegalities under Fujimori. A journalist/scholar by profession, he is currently a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Mr. Canseco discussed the regional implications of the extradition, especially on Chile which had never adequately resolved its own efforts to bring Pinochet to justice. In contrast to former Bolivian president Garcia Mesa (facing 30 years prison time), Fujimori could face 50 years imprisonment if convicted of just the current charges against him (to which other charges could be added).

He discussed the role of the unfair distribution of wealth in the rise of Fujimori’s corruption, human rights abuses and violence. The Peruvian media, having been corrupted by Fujimori, is widely discredited in society. He asserted that the foundation that led to Fujimori’s human rights abuses had been constructed by Alan Garcia (Peru’s current president) and that Montesinos held a key role in Garcia’s earlier government. While painting a gloomy picture of Peru, he warned the audience “my skepticism keeps me alert”!

Prof. Cynthia McClintock, the seminar’s discussant, agreed that this “landmark decision” to extradite Fujimori is a strong warning to repressive, corrupt dictators in Latin America and a sign of the maturation of Latin American democracies. She noted a poll showing that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Peruvian populace had supported efforts to extradite Fujimori and upheld Peru’s democratic values. Fujimori’s alleged political astuteness has been belied by gigantic miscalculations, such as his voluntarily leaving Japan for Chile en route to Peru and then running for election to Japan’s Senate while in custody in Chile. He is now caught in the classic trap – on the one hand, if he admits to knowledge of the abuses that transpired, he’s complicit, but his predicted defense – having had no knowledge of abuses – will face overwhelming evidence accumulated against him.

She noted that Chile withstood great pressure from Japan in the extradition battle. While only a small percentage of the approximately 1,750 Peruvian officials charged with offenses were convicted and sentenced, Dr. McClintock said the percentage compares favorably to the record of accountability compiled in other Latin American countries. She noted that the Peruvian media is just recently showing signs of building back trust with the populace.

All agreed that bringing Fujimori to trial raises broader legal questions, including standards for the statute of limitations and double jeopardy. To be expected are an increase in political tensions and pressure on Fujimori’s daughter, Keiko, his heir apparent, who won election to the Peruvian Senate in 2006 with the highest popular vote. Fujimori and Montesinos bring significant resources to the legal battle. It is estimated that Fujimori accumulated \$300 million and Montesinos \$1 billion in ill-gotten gains.

NPCA Investment Loan Pool Assets Approach \$1 Million

By the end of the year, the NPCA expects to have \$1 million in its MicroEnterprise Program (MEP) loan pool. The program, administered by the 501(c)(3) Calvert Social Investment Foundation, allows individuals and groups to invest in developing world micro-credit programs.

Investors with a minimum of \$1,000 purchase Community Investment Notes and earn a fixed return of 0-3 percent (investor's choice) over the investment term (from 1-10 years.) In addition to the high social returns in jobs and businesses created, no investor to date has ever lost principal or interest.

By accepting a below-market investment yield, investors guarantee that one hundred percent of their MEP dollars are put to work in micro-credit initiatives. While most investors are individuals, several NPCA affiliate groups currently participate in the program also.

Investments can be made directly with the Calvert Foundation or through individual brokerage accounts. To request a free investor kit, visit <http://www.calvertfoundation.org>.

For further information, see <http://www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=1793>



NPCA Embraces New Media

To connect with untapped segments of the Peace Corps community, NPCA is experimenting with new media and emerging social networking tools on the Internet. Look for NPCA under the name "PeaceCorpsConnect" on such sites as YouTube.com, Facebook.com, Flickr.com, and Widgetbox.com.

Former volunteers can also access NPCA's legislative agenda and broader advocacy and community-building initiatives through the social activism network site at Change.org, <http://www.change.org>.

Peace Corps Items for Purchase

NPCA has a "shop" featuring a selection of Peace Corps and NPCA-related apparel and merchandise. Sales proceeds support NPCA's advocacy, education, and community-building efforts. Visit <http://www.cafepress.com/pcorpsconnect>.

Sign up for the National Peace Corps Association's monthly e-newsletter (<http://www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=1177>) to stay on top of news and opportunities within the Peace Corps community.

PEACE CORPS WELCOME BOOKS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Welcome books for Peace Corps invitees to Bolivia and Peru training can be accessed online. Dated January 2007, the Bolivia Welcome Book is 107 pages long. The URL is <http://www.peacecorps.gov/welcomebooks/pewb527.pdf>. The 99-page Peru Welcome Book, dated March 2007, is found at <http://www.peacecorps.gov/welcomebooks/bowb511.pdf>.

If you have a slow internet connection, you can more quickly access a text (only) version of these books via wikipedia – <http://www.peacecorpswiki.com/index.php?title=Peru> or <http://www.peacecorpswiki.com/index.php?title=Bolivia>. Each welcome book gives an overview of the country's history and culture, explains what the trainee and then PCV is likely to experience and details PC rules.



SURF'S UP!

Lindsey Eaves (Peru 03-05)

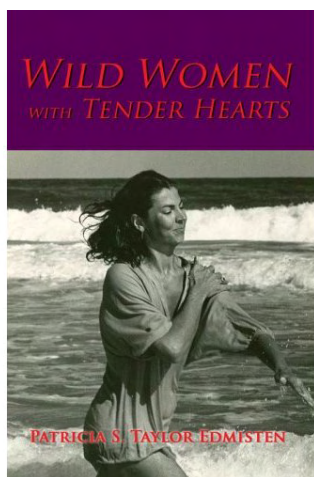
Dave Aabo and **Kevin Fitzpatrick** (Peru 03-07) are making WAVES -- Water, Adventure, Voluntourism, Education, and Sustainability that is. They have

created WAVES for Development (www.wavesfordevelopment.org), a Peruvian not-for-profit organization dedicated to making the world a better place through surfing. The idea for WAVES began in 2004, when a group of international surfers wanted to offer surfing to local youth. While Dave and Kevin were PCVs, WAVES grew into a network of over 30 dedicated individuals, organizations, and institutions in 10 countries. In 2006, Global Surf Industries committed to donating a shipping container of surfboards to be used in WAVES programming in Peru. These surfboards arrived in Peru in mid-2007.

Fall 2007 was their "soft launch" in Peru, during the women's surfing World

Championship Tour (WCT) event – the Mancora Peru Classic. February of 2008 marks its first pilot project scheduled for Lobitos, also in the Piura province. They are signing agreements with the Peruvian Sports Institute, Peruvian Surfing Federation and the Ministry of Education to bring educational surf programs to Peruvian schools. WAVES has also partnered with Burton Chill, which is a non-profit geared towards teaching at-risk kids board sports.

Aside from their non-profit, Kevin and Dave stay busy with their other venture; www.trulyperuvian.com, which offers fair-trade Peruvian jewelry.



POETRY AWARD TO AMIGOS MEMBER

Congratulations to **Patricia (Silke) Edmisten** (Peru 62-64) for winning the 2007 Peace Corps Writers Award for her poetry book, *Wild Women with Tender Hearts*. (Is that title not a "must" to give to almost anyone for the upcoming holidays? It's available from Amazon.com).

The paperback (iUniverse, Inc., 2006) received a glowing review from another RPCV prize winning author; that review would sustain any writer for years. It can be found on PC Writers website by searching by her name at <http://www.peacecorpswriters.org/>

IN SEARCH OF: IMAGES FROM BOLIVIA 1967-70

Tom Yerg (Bolivia, 1967-1969) is assembling photos, slides, or videos for a video project. Send jpeg images to him (yergtom@cox.net) or write him (Tom Yerg, 6503 Kemper Lakes Ct, Alexandria, VA 22312). He is specifically seeking images from the South Yungas; Caranavi of the North Yungas; the Road of Death; Unduavi; any of the "Hotels" along or just before the road in the Yungas; Atocha, and the mines at Santa Barbara; trains running across the Altiplano; El Alto and the airport; The Hotel Torino; the main plazas of La Paz; Tarija; loaded down trucks headed to the Yungas; Beni River and Puerto Linares on the Beni River. Tom hopes to create a CD with images of the Bolivia Peace Corps experience.

“WORLDVIEW” GOES DIGITAL

Available online to “the Peace Corps family” (i.e., including nonmembers of NPCA) is the premier and very glitzy electronic issue of NPCA’s excellent “WorldView” magazine. John Snow, Inc. (a longtime friend of Peace Corps that works on public health issues globally) provided financial support for the issue. The Fall 2007 issue is devoted to the Boomer Generation serving in Peace Corps – the focus of Peace Corps’ director, Ron Tschetter (India RPCV from the 1960s), for persons aged 50 and older – now accounting for 5% of PCVs. On p.43 of the premier issue are examples of RPCVs continuing to work for global development. Described is Partners for Just Trade’s work with 230 Peruvian artisans to market their products to fair-trade conscious consumers. See www.fairtradeperu.com. The next issue will feature appropriate technologies designed to reduce world poverty. Individual subscriptions to “WorldView” cost \$25, but a membership in NPCA costs only \$10 more. See www.worldviewmagazine.com or (for a membership) www.rpcv.org and click Join/Renew. Or email worldview@rpcv.org.

AND THE WINNER IS...

In October, Amigos announced a silent auction of a phone card with 612 minutes that were no longer needed. The winning bid would benefit our Kantuta fund – the country designation to be decided by the winner. Marilyn and Mike McGuire of Buffalo did not need the minutes but made a Kantuta donation anyway and suggested the card be donated to a worthy organization. The Washington Office on Latin America (www.wola.org), which co sponsors the seminars featured in Yachaspa, was delighted with the phone card.

The McGuires designated Kantuta/Peru to receive their donation. Lógico because their son, Michael, is a Peru PCV. (Before leaving for training, Michael gifted his parents with a two-year membership in Amigos!) Thanks to the McGuires for their generosity.

MEET THE EDITORS



Lindsey Parramore Oliver (Peru 04-06) resigned as co-editor of Yachaspa after the Summer issue was distributed. No wonder!! Not only does she work full time, but she began a graduate program in social work in Atlanta. And to top that – she’s pregnant!!! Lindsey invites you to visit her blog to follow her gestational progress (<http://familyoliver.blogspot.com>). Very best wishes, Lindsey, and thanks.

Continuing the “Lindsey” name as co-editor, we welcome **Lindsey Eaves** (Peru 03-05) who co-edited this issue as a temporary appointment. A recent addition to the Board of Directors, a brief bio and photos are available on our website, under “Board”.

Lindsey (Eaves) was the Senior Production Coordinator for Knowlera Media, a web-based production company that operates a website, www.monkeysee.com, hosting thousands of how-to videos across a wide range of categories. She is responsible for finding local experts to appear in videos demonstrating their particular skill in a featured task. She has recently been promoted to manager of the MonkeySee Filmmaker Program. This program will recruit interested filmmakers and experts from across the country to produce and appear in their own how-to videos.

Lindsey E’s talents are needed elsewhere in Amigos, so the (content) co-editor position is crying out for a volunteer. (We have no more members named Lindsey!)

Meanwhile, the amazingly talented **Greg Bocquet** (Peru 03-05) continues as (design and layout) co-editor, dazzling us all.

EVEN MORE REASONS TO VISIT

WWW.AMIGOSDEBOLIVIAPERU.ORG

Amigos' webmaster, Don Beck, has proved to be a high energy, creative and technically knowledgeable godsend, who has improved our website (<http://www.amigosdeboliviaperu.org>). We still intend to re-design the site's colors, graphics, organization, etc. (any volunteers to critique design ideas?), but we've first applied our energies to updating and expanding content. You can, should, and must help!! Send quality news items and links about Bolivia, Peru and Latin America as we are updating them regularly. The RPCVs page awaits submissions about Amigos members' lives. Inform us of PCVs and staff who have died so we can add them to the list of our departed comadres y compadres.

The photo gallery includes more photos. However, we are sadly lacking photos of Peru. What, only Bolivia PCVs have cameras?? Ándale!! Send us suggestions for links to resources (relevant organizations, websites, etc.). Send all website content to boliviaperu@hotmail.com

Finally, a new feature, called "yapas" (little bonuses) is associated with *Yachaspa*. These are additional articles and pictures that were submitted for publication in *Yachaspa* but did not fit. They are, nonetheless, worthy of your attention. When you receive Gloria's email announcing the availability of the newest *Yachaspa*, the "nonpublic" (members only) URL link will carry you to the newsletters for the current year and, underneath, the yapas for that issue. For this Fall 07 issue, the yapas are about Jordan Mallah and Patt Behler, both writing about their return visits to Peru, and from PC/Bolivia's Doreen Salazar who submitted vignettes and photos of Bolivia PCVs working in different job sectors.

YACHASPA SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Yachaspa welcomes submissions on all Bolivia and Perú-related material. From simply sending a link to an interesting news story to writing a memoir of your recent visit to your old site, we look forward to hearing from you.

Submissions will be edited for length and content, as well as relevance to *Yachaspa's* goal to provide Amigos members with continued links to developments in Bolivia and Perú. Please send submissions either in email text or as an attachment, WITH PICTURES whenever possible, along with your country and years of service to yachaspa@gmail.com.

Thank you for your contributions, big and small. We look forward to hearing from all of our members, regardless of country or years of service.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE WINTER 2008 YACHASPA IS
JANUARY 21**

BIENVENIDOS TO NEW AMIGOS MEMBERS

The following persons became new members of Amigos since the last issue of *Yachaspa*:

PC Bolivia: **Mary Ann Dueppen** (65-66); **Tom Finan** (67-69); **Dr. William** (staff 66-69) and **Ardith Keck**; **Kristina Owens** (00-02); **Jill Smith** (91-94); **Dwight and Peggy Steen** (67-69); **Luis** (staff 67-69) and **Pat Stelzner**; and **Shane Townsend** (03-05).

PC Peru: **Janet Morrison Bell** (64-66); **Meghan Herwehe** (03-05); **Spence Limbocker** (66-68); and **Lindsey Parramore Oliver** (04-06).

Other: **Gino** (Peru staff 64-7; Bolivia staff 67-71) and **Sarah Baumann**; **Geoffrey Groesbeck**.

The following newly returned PCVs accepted a free, one-year membership in Amigos since the last issue of *Yachaspa*:

PC Bolivia: **Travis Avery**; **Nikolaus Eichman**; **Sarah Ellgen**; **Mandy Ewing**; **Lauren Gaudio**; **Kristian Mickelson**; **Katherine Milam**; **Melissa Morris**; **Abby Olson**; **Janice Pauken**; **Peter Schechter**; **Jacob Sutherlun**; and **Clayton Witt**.

PC Peru: **Lauren Brereton**; **Jean Cassandra**; **Garrett Chau**; **Noah Domnick**; **Derek Drizin**; **Rob Elliott**; **Lenah Geer**; **Anne Hosey**; **Drew Lewis**; **Zandi Llanos**; **Brian McHugh**; **Annie Mooser**; **Jimmy Nguyen**; **Isaac Pearlman**; **Emily Rowland**; **Erin Stratta**; and **Marta Young**.

ISO CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OFFICES

Amigos' Board of Directors will be holding its second meeting for 2007 in the latter half of December. In addition to passing the 2008 budget, the Board will elect its 2008 officers. Officers are President, Secretary, and Treasurer and Coordinators for Communications, Kantuta and Membership. Officers are elected, by the nine-member Board of Directors, by secret ballot, and their terms are January 1-December 31 2008. If you are interested in becoming more actively involved in Amigos, now is the time to step forward. Contact Gloria Levin (glorialevin@verizon.net) by December 3 for information on what the officers' jobs entail. Self-nominations are encouraged. We are particularly interested in more recent members becoming active, but there is work aplenty for all.

AMIGOS DE BOLIVIA Y PERÚ
MEMBERSHIP FORM (REV. Nov 2007)

MAIL THIS FORM AND A CHECK (MADE OUT TO AMIGOS DE BOLIVIA Y PERÚ) TO
AMIGOS, 7327 UNIVERSITY AVE., GLEN ECHO, MD 20812
TO JOIN OR RENEW VIA THE NATIONAL PC ASSOCIATION, USING A CREDIT CARD, GO TO
[HTTP://WWW.RPCV.ORG](http://www.rpcv.org) AND CLICK "JOIN/RENEW"
WHEN PROMPTED FOR AN AFFILIATE GROUP, CHOOSE AMIGOS DE BOLIVIA Y PERÚ

SURNAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ SURNAME AS PCV _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE/COUNTRY _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME TELEPHONE _____ EMPLOYMENT: _____

WORK TEL: _____ E-MAIL: _____

HOST COUNTRY & DATES OF SERVICE _____ (E.G. BOLIVIA, 1997-1999)

(IF SPOUSE IS ALSO JOINING AMIGOS) SPOUSE SURNAME AS PCV _____

SPOUSE SURNAME NOW _____ FIRST NAME _____

WORK TEL _____ E-MAIL _____

SPOUSE'S EMPLOYMENT: _____

SPOUSE'S HOST COUNTRY & DATES OF SERVICE _____ (E.G. PERÚ, 2002-2004)

CHECK, IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF NPCA: _____

PLEASE CHECK AS APPROPRIATE AND TALLY THE SUBTOTALS IN THE RIGHT-HAND COLUMN.

_____ FREE (CLOSE OF SERVICE WITHIN ONE YEAR)	1 YR.	FREE MEMBERSHIP
_____ ANNUAL DUES (DOUBLE OR TRIPLE FOR 2- OR 3-YEAR MEMBERSHIP)	\$15 INDIVIDUAL	\$ _____
	\$22.50 COUPLE/FAMILY	\$ _____
	\$8 STUDENT/RETIRED	\$ _____
	\$4 HARDSHIP	\$ _____
_____ FOREIGN ADDRESS (Via U.S. MAIL)	\$5	\$ _____
_____ TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO AMIGOS' KANTUTA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS EARMARK YOUR DONATION TO: (____ BOLIVIA) (____ PERÚ) (____ 50/50)		\$ _____
	GRAND TOTAL	\$ _____