

Virginia Partners of the Americas

Annual Report

2015-2016

The Virginia-Santa Catarina Partnership

Of

Partners of the Americas

June 25, 2016

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Compiled by:

**Glenda M. Snyder, President, J. Dewey Brown, Executive Director, Mary Katherine O'Connor: treasurer
and Allan S. Mills: Membership Director**

Introduction

Projects and activities of our partnership are initiated by embracing the mutual interests and needs of the partner states, Santa Catarina, Brazil and Virginia, United States of America

The chapters alternate in hosting an annual planning visit by the President of the opposite state for the purpose of updating the partnership's Biennial Plan. This plan serves to guide the development of specific project plans and the implementation of these plans.

Partners' members serve as volunteers, sharing their time and talents and serving without financial compensation. The sharing of professional talents to promote social and economic development and the sharing of cultures are integral and rewarding dimensions of the partner's experience.

The following pages will summarize the accomplishments of the Virginia/Santa Catarina Partnership during 2015-2016. Please read about these accomplishments in the Accomplishment section of this document.

Many other programs and projects are in the early development stages presently. We will strive to further develop and facilitate each of these projects during 2016-2017.

Due to the current economic situation in Brazil our projects may be on hold until the situation improves.

2017 is the year of 50 years of our partnership between Virginia and Santa Catarina. We have a committee who is presently gathering ideas for a special program and celebration of this milestone. Those of you who have ideas please share your idea with Denise Decker and join her in preparation for this event.

Chapter Leadership: Virginia Partnership

President	Glenda M. Snyder
Vice President, Programs	Peter Nebel
Vice President, Membership	Allan S. Mills
Secretary	Denise Decker
Treasurer	Mary Katherine O'Connor
Executive Director	J. Dewey Brown
Registered Agent	Patricia J. Brown

Board of Directors: Virginia Partnership

Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
William Bailey	Dewey Brown	Gil Dibiasi	_____
Patrick Hughes	Alix Fink	Peter Nebel	_____
Rose Anne Burgess	Angela Neilan	Lois Long	_____
Judith Cline	Glenda Snyder	Helen W-Burke	_____

Note: The Class of 2019 will be determined during this meeting today, June 25, 2016

Nominations for 2019 Class

Rose Anne Burgess, Patrick Hughes, Patricia Brown and Dana Shaw



PARTNERS *of the* AMERICAS
VIRGINIA-SANTA CATARINA, BRAZIL

**COMPANHEIROS DAS AMERICAS
COMITÉ DE SANTA CATARINA**

Gestão 2015-2017

Presidente: Patrick Almeida Cavalheiro

Vice-presidente de parcerias: Fabiano Zoldan

Vice-presidente de programas: Marcelo de Oliveira

1º secretário: Marília Deisenroth

2º secretário: Daisson José Trevisol

1º tesoureiro: Fernando Wolf

2º tesoureiro: Ana Paula Pacheco

Diretor executiva: Wilson Schuelter

Diretoria de Assuntos Interinstitucionais: Aquilles A. Cordova Santos

Direção regional sul: Nadya Becker

Direção regional oeste: Patrick Almeida Cavalheiro

Direção regional norte:

**Partners of the Americas – Virginia Chapter
Annual Meeting
Tuckhoe Library, 1901 Starlling Drive, Henrico, VA 23230
June 25, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.**

- **Welcome**
- **Minutes**
- **Treasurer's Report**
- **Membership Report**
- **Executive Director's/President's Report**

Program: Dr. Joanne Kong, University of Richmond pianist and harpsichordist – Music Exchange to Santa Catarina

Program Committee Reports

-

Unfinished Business

- **50th Anniversary Committee: Denise Decker**

New Business

- **Elections – Board of Directors**
- **Funding for Partners programs (meals, lodging, etc.)**
- **Membership – Recruiting new members**
- **Noticias**
- **Website**

Announcements:

Meeting Dates for 2016-17:

Fall _____

Winter _____

Spring _____

Summer _____

Spring Meeting of the Virginia Chapter of Partners of the Americas
April 30, 2016
Partners International Office
1424 K Street NW

The meeting was called to order by President Glenda Snyder at 10:05 AM at the Partners International office. Present were: Glenda Snyder-President, Dewey Brown-Executive Director, Pat Brown, Dana Shaw, Christina Viira, Patrick Hughes, Mike and Marilia Deisenroth, Lois Long, Denise Decker-Secretary and guest, Rob McAdams. Sherrita Wilkins, Executive Assistant to the Partners CEO, attended, representing PoA International. Glenda announced that our Summer Board Meeting would take place in Richmond, place to be announced, on Saturday, June 25.

Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting

Denise distributed the minutes of the Executive Board meeting, held at Dewey and Pat's home on March 25, 2016. This meeting was held because the winter meeting had to be canceled due to the snow emergency. Glenda reviewed the highlights of the minutes. Mike moved and Dewey seconded that they be approved as read.

PoA's International Update

Sherrita reported on behalf of International PoA President Steve Vetter. She reminded us that the PoA International Convention will take place from October 26 to 29 in Guadalajara, Mexico. She also mentioned that PoA would be hosting two interns starting in June. One of these interns is from Colombia and needs a home stay for ten weeks. She is a PoA Presidential Intern who will be working out of the Partners office. Sherrita also mentioned to us that if we knew of a Brazilian from our partnership who would be interested in an internship, to keep that in mind. The intern has to have a working knowledge of English.

Sherrita also mentioned that this year, there will be an advertisement for one open position on the PoA International Board from the U.S. Region. Meeting attendees asked about the "give or get" rule as it is called. Sherrita explained that anyone elected would have to pay \$1,000 for each of a three-year term. However, they could raise that money if they wished and did not have to pay it out of their own funds. Concern was raised that if someone did not have the money and they could not raise it, that they would be prohibited from serving on the International Board.

Treasurer's Report

This was accepted as prepared by Mary Catherine O'Connor, Treasurer, who was not present at the meeting. Glenda presented her report.

Membership Report

There was none submitted, but Glenda talked about the importance of our members helping particularly with what is going on in Brazil and that the Santa Catarina Chapter will not be able to raise money. We agreed to investigate new ways of funding projects, including outreach to our current membership.

Rob McAdams Report

Rob reported on his visit to Santa Catarina. He is a professor teaching with Dewey and Pat. He teaches creativity and self-expression through art. He worked with Wilson Scheulter and Nadia Becker to organize his trip. He was able to meet with some of Nadia's students and with others.

The language was no barrier for him, as everyone communicated through art and drawing, including the teenagers who he taught. He trained teachers and met with the Mayor, who gave a recognition to him for Pat and Dewey.

50th Anniversary

Denise proposed using the PoA teleconference line to host a planning teleconference. Alan and Joan were not present but are on the committee. However, Joan is ill and may not be able to participate. Denise will check if they wish to continue. Lois is also a member and Denise asked Patrick and Dana to join the committee, because they have experience in creating these kinds events. We believe that an event could be in Richmond and could be a lunch, which would allow for easier travel and could include one or several individuals from Santa Catarina. We believe that the letter we want to send to members to solicit additional funds could include the 50th Anniversary activity, which is why it is important to have a planning teleconference as soon as possible. That way, we could include some specifics in the letter.

President's Report

Glenda reported that economically, things have gotten worse in Brazil. Based on what she experienced during her Character Counts visit, school administrators are having to work again as teachers because there is not enough money to pay them. People are retiring if they can to get their pensions. Workers are asking for a 20% raise because prices have gone up so much. Petrol and electricity have gone up 50%. Food cannot be transported because truck drivers do not have fuel. Water is also scarce.

If we want to continue with our projects, we will have to pay, as the Brazilians cannot afford to host. It is not clear how long it will take for things to right themselves. It will probably take years. When we do our fundraising letter to solicit funds, we need to explain in it that this is some of the reason why we need additional funds. Dewey reminded us that Daison and his wife had to postpone their study visit, due to lack of funds.

Executive Director's Report

Dewey reported on the insurance issue which the chapter has been researching. He said that there was just not enough demand for insurance to warrant it. Dewey asked Denise about the insurance options from the American Association of University Women that she had sent to him. Denise said that the only reason why she sent the info was to try to help out with the issue. Dewey said that VA Partners has not had insurance for 50 years and that PoA National was finding that the chapters do not want to take advantage of the insurance being offered, that perhaps we do not need it as a chapter because we have adults who travel, not youth. Members also have their own insurance that they would need to draw on first. The Board voted not to have insurance at this time and to study the issue further.

Dewey also reported that he would like to find ways for VA Partners accomplishments to be reported in PoA International newsletters and communications updates. This issue will continue to be studied and will continue to be discussed with PoA International staff.

Dewey requested that board members come to meetings and that a number are not. This issue is important because board members have responsibilities, including committees to chair.

Nominating Committee

Glenda said we have four positions to fill on the board. Christina said that she would consider taking one after she gets back from Brazil. The person responsible for the website also has to be determined. Patrick said he could help. The board proposed a student as a possible solution, perhaps from one of the internships that PoA International sponsors. We agreed that we could pay up to \$1,000 for someone to maintain the website.

In addition, Glenda and others talked about the importance of each member bringing a new member so we can build the chapter.

Other Items

Glenda said that she would pursue the request from PoA International to include sustainable voluntarism. We asked for more information about this initiative.

There has been some discussion that Sister Cities is going to become a state-focused organization, which at least in most of Latin America, would duplicate what we already have in PoA. We will try to get more info on what is going on.

Denise thanked Christina for having met with her when she visited Florianopolis. She also mentioned that she participated in a video as a result of her attendance at the You Lead Now workshop at the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC). PoA International is looking at using the KLC model as leadership training, combined with the Kellogg Foundation.

Denise also brought copies of her book, *Canine Angel*, so that they could be shared among the attendees. Those who took a copy of the book were asked to make a donation to the chapter. *Canine Angel* describes how guide dogs help and how Denise and Quadrant, one of her Seeing Eyes, managed their Kellogg VIII fellows project in Brasilia, Brazil, that established an independent living center for Brazilians with disabilities.

Conclusion

Glenda thanked the local organizers, especially Dana, for having provided such a nice breakfast for us and for having arranged for the meeting space. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM. As noted above, the next meeting will be in Richmond, VA, on June 25.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Decker
VA Partners Secretary

Virginia Partners of the Americas
Financial Statement 2015-2016

	<u>June 30, 2015</u>	<u>March 31, 2016</u>	<u>May 31, 2016</u>
Union Bank, Richmond	\$ 6,863.30	\$ 6,875.45	\$ 6,875.45
Franklin Templeton	\$14,651.64	\$13,792.27	\$13,792.27
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> TOTALS \$21,514.94 \$20,667.72 \$ 20,667.72 </div>			

Expenditures

Harland Clarke (Check order)	\$ 29.10
Rob McAdams (Reimbursement exchange trip)	\$ 233.75
Patricia Brown (State Corporation commission)	\$ 25.00
Partners National (Annual dues)	\$ 250.00
	TOTAL \$537.85

Income

Dues	\$ 50.00
Unsolicited donation	\$ 25.00
Donations from fund raising letter	\$ 450.00
	TOTAL \$525.00

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Mary Katherine O'Connor

Executive Director's Report

June 25, 2016

2015 and 2016 were great years for Virginia Partners as several members traveled to Santa Catarina to participate in the Character Counts Programs, Music and Art Programs. These programs were successful even with all the economic turmoil that has been going on throughout Brazil.

The work of Artist Nadya Becker, from Santa Catarina, in Virginia over the past 5 years caught the attention of the National Partners of the Americas to invite her to paint a mural for unveiling during a session at the 50th Anniversary Conference in Santa Catarina, Brazil in 2014. Virginia and Santa Catarina Partners were asked to perform the unveiling of the very beautiful mural depicting the history of Partners of the Americas.

Artist Becker's completed mural now hangs in the conference room in the international office in Washington, DC.

Since Virginia Partners will be fifty years old in 2017, I am going to ask Nadya if she might select a few of her photographs for including much of the art work she and Santa Catarina and Virginia Partners have done over the years. These photos or a small mural could help tell the Art story of Virginia-Santa Catarina Partners. I hope she will be willing to do the small tribute which could be used on promotional materials of both Virginia and Santa Catarina chapters.

I will also ask some of the other artists who participated in Bridging Cultures through the Arts to offer copies of some photographs that remind us of that program which began the Arts Program between Virginia and Santa Catarina. Of course let us not forget the work of Penny Moseley in initiating this outstanding program and to Rugene Paulette and Rob McAdams for their work in Santa Catarina and here in Virginia. We will want to include some works of art or photographs from all the people involved.

I am going to call upon Dr. Joanne Kong, to collect some of her photographs that were taken during her very successful musical visit to Santa Catarina in 2015. These photographs will become part of a display for all to see during the celebration. Dr. Kong is an outstanding musician and we look forward to Patrick Cavalheiro and Dr. Kong to continue the programs here in Virginia in 2017. It is my hope that Patrick will visit on his official President's status and will be present during the Anniversary Celebration.

I will also call upon Rob McAdams, Artist, who conducted many Art session with not only students but with the teachers and members of the educational arena in Braco do norte. His work there was outstanding and will be continued here in Virginia and in Santa Catarina. He also has photos that will enhance our collage.

Let's not forget the Bell Choir. They should have an opportunity to participate in our anniversary celebration.

Let us not forget the Choral Encantos and the Judges exchange. If you have photos, please share.

Since we are on the topic of the 50th Celebration we currently have a committee who will be working on the kind of celebration we should have. If you have ideas to share, please contact Denise Becker as she is spear heading this task.

If any of you have photographs depicting people and events that have taken place over the past 50 years, please share with me. Please identify the people and the event in the photo and I will use them in the collage for the celebration.

I feel that we as a partnership need to set aside some money to help with the cost of the 50th Anniversary event.

This brings to mind how important it is to involve those from various parts of the state. We as board members should always be on guard to locate and let people know about our organization and possibly get them to join us in membership. Follow-up is necessary to further entice new members. Remember, it is not the responsibility of the Vice President of Membership to do all the recruiting, This task is also every member's responsibility.

I as your Executive Director I would encourage all Board Members to latch onto one of the many programs or a program of interest and help develop that program. Get in touch with the chair of that program and volunteer to help

Board Members are encouraged to participate in board meetings each year. Also remember that we as board members should make contributions to support our programs. Because we have paid our lifetime dues, we still need to contribute as we can to make our programs continue.

We do need to establish a Virginia Partners of the Americas Fundraising Committee. We need a committee now more than ever to serve in this capacity. Volunteers are welcome!!!

An effort to communicate with those members who have not paid their current dues should be a priority. Possibly Allan Mills could use some volunteer service in getting this task completed.

I communicated with Dr. Wilson Schuelter recently about the Economic Situation in Brazil. His Words,"Things are getting a little better in Brazil now. The new government invited some good economists to help him put in order the finances".

The situation there has impacted some of the Character Counts programs and is the reason that many of our projects are listed as being on hold or a work in progress.

Submitted by J. Dewey Brown, Executive Director, VA Partners of the Americas

Membership Report

June 25, 2016

Submitted by Allan Mills, Vice President of Membership

- 1. Members were asked to pay their annual dues or life membership dues for the year.**
- 2. Efforts were made to update the membership list for distribution at the annual board meeting in June.**
- 3. Efforts were also made to review and update the Virginia Partners section of the new POA website. As membership, Allan Mills was given access to this part of the web site by Ukiah Busch from the International Office.**

Tourism

Submitted by Allan Mills/ June 25, 2016

No accomplishments in tourism are reported for the past year.

Tourism 2016-2017: Objectives and Future Plans

- A. Objective: Introduce SC Tourism marketers to "coopetition" as used by VA Tourism Corporation and others in Virginia.
 - a. Activities: 1. Trip to VA by SC tourism professional to learn about VA marketers' use of coopetition.
 - 1) Resources Needed: POA travel grant.
- B. Objective: Promote use of urban forestry practices in SC, for improving the environmental ambience of communities for both residents and tourists.
 - a. Activity: Joint VA/SC Urban Forestry urban forestry workshop in either VA or SC.
 - 1) Resources Needed: POA Travel Grant.
 - 2) Funding by SC tourism promotion organizations.
- C. Objective: Exchanges of Oktoberfest Musicians and visitors for both VA and SC Oktoberfests.
 - a. Activity: Visit by a Virginia group to the Oktoberfest in Blumenau, and other nearby similar SC musical events (Fennechop, Trece Tiliias, Etc.) in October of 2015.
 - 1) Resources: Self-financed by VA tourists.
 - b. Activity: October 2016 VA visit by musician from a SC Oktoberfest Band (Cavalinho Branco, Etc.), to participate in several VA Oktoberfests (eg. Richmond, Newport News, Smith Mtn Lake)
 - 1) Resources Needed: POA Travel Grant.
- D. Objective: Visit by an Environmental and /or Cultural resources "interpreter" from a representative park or cultural tourism attraction in Santa Catarina.
 - a. Activity: Identify a Santa Catarina "interpreter" (eg. from Caldas da Emperatriz) interested in learning about the different kinds of interpretation done at a representative Virginia Park or cultural tourism attraction. (S)he would spend 10 days rotating between VA parks and cultural sites, working with resident VA interpreters and learning their interpretive techniques and applications.
 - 1) Resources Needed: POA Travel Grant.
- E. Begin in 2015 to promote a trip to Santa Catarina and other parts of Brazil during the year in which Brazil will host the Olympics.
 - a. One or more trips by groups of Virginians traveling to Brazil for the Olympics.
 - 1) Resources Needed: Self-Financed by VA tourists.

Pen Pal Program

Dr. Dorothy Suskind

I have contacted Dr. Suskind at the St. Christopher's School who is still working with this project.

Last year there was a change in the Santa Catarina Partners contact. She is going to be working with Dorothy in 2017.

At the time of this printing, Dorothy has not responded but I'm sure she wants to continue this program with the lower school students at St. Christopher's or she would have indicated that to me. She most likely will ask some other teacher at St. Christopher's to work with this project since she just became the Head of St. Christopher's and her time will be limited.

Culinary Arts Report

(J. Dewey Brown)

A personal note about the Cookbook

My goal is to have the cookbook completed for the 50th Anniversary. However, I will need some volunteers to help me review the recipes, looking for correctness and also identifying anything that appears out of order in the recipe. It would be best to test each recipe, but that is a task that could not be completed within our time frame.

I am working on locating a reasonable Printing Service. If anyone has knowledge of a printing service, I would be happy to follow up with that information.

All the recipes I have received have been downloaded and are being placed in a notebook.

I still have several Recipes that have to be translated. I had a person that does this very rapidly and but she and her husband moved to Florida. Other translators are welcome to help.

We could use some more recipes in almost all the categories:

Appetizers,
Beef, Pork and Lamb
Breads
Cocktails and Punches
Poultry
Salads and Dressings
Sauces and Gravies
Seafood
Soups, Chowders, Chili and Stews
Vegetables and Side Dishes
Vegetarian

Rugene will be in charge of adding some artwork in appropriate areas within the book and a cover page. She has the ability to involve her students who have already done some of the artwork.

I will be calling on fellow partners to agree to test out recipes that appear to be rather complex. I don't think we need all the recipes tested but checked carefully for any recipe that sounds complex and you think the recipe needs to be revised. We should not publish any recipe that does not work according to the direction. I predict that this will take us until December to accomplish this goal.

I need several Partners volunteer to screen and test the recipes. Before leaving the meeting today, June 25, 2016 I would like to have the volunteers let me know of their willingness to help with the screening and tasting test.

I am letting the donor who is helping to pay for the publishing know that we are nearing the time for publication.

Hopefully we will have all in place and published by Virginia and Santa Catarina's 50th Anniversary next summer.

Emergency Preparedness

Submitted by Glenda M. Snyder

There have been no exchanges in the area of Emergency Preparedness this year; however, this program is included in the Biennial Plan. Plans are to work with Santa Catarina to secure appropriate representatives for exchanges with flooding and landslide hazards expertise; engineering; road and street engineering for safer driving conditions; emergency services, government planning, assistance to families, volunteer based emergency services and notification system; and all facets of emergency management.

Efforts are being made to secure a chair.

CHARACTER COUNTS!SM

Submitted by Glenda M. Snyder



CHARACTER COUNTS! efforts continue to be an emphasis in an effort to increase positive character traits while decreasing violence and other negative student behaviors in Joinville, Santa Catarina. The Brazil team of five Virginia Tech, Virginia Cooperative Extension faculty, conducted a two-day Basic CHARACTER COUNTS! training in March, 2016 for about 150 teachers, principals, and community leaders. They also conducted three half day training session about 4-H Positive Youth Development, Advanced CHARACTER COUNTS! training, and True Colors, a personality, team building program to about 100 participants. During the trip, the team met with a judge and a group of law students discussing strategies for working with youth at risk particularly youth with an incarcerated parent. The team visited schools, met with the Rotary club president, met with school officials from both the municipal and state school systems, and visited a non-profit.

In October the team presented a poster at the National 4-H Agents Association meeting in Protland, Oregon about the work in Brazil.

Development

- Due to the economic situation, plans for a Judicial Symposium Exchange with judges, probation officers, attorneys, etc. traveling to Santa Catarina for a symposium with Brazilian judicial representatives is on hold.

Future Plans

- To continue to support the CHARACTER COUNTS! efforts by conducting training in Brazil every two years. The training team is making plans to conduct additional trainings in March, 2018. Plans are to expand the training to include other locations. Plans are being made to conduct Leadership development and True Colors training for educators and community leaders.
- A Teen Leadership exchange is being explored for future opportunities.
- Education and university linkages exchanges are being planned for 2016-17 between Virginia Tech, UDESC and UNISOL to share research, academics, and extension.

Natural Resources

Submitted by Glenda Snyder

Development

During the meeting of the Presidents of the Virginia Chapter and the Santa Catarina Chapter it was decided that Santa Catarina would send a representative to Virginia to learn about the Virginia seafood industry, the work that has been done in the bay and inlets to encourage oyster production, and other environmental efforts. In addition, the representative would work with Virginia Partners to develop working relationships and a more comprehensive plan of work for both states to share and learn from each other.

Future Plans

Other program possibilities -

- Project Learning Tree "train the trainer" workshop in Santa Catarina by a Virginia forester, building on Sandy Hodge's training done there over ten years ago.

- Bring a Santa Catarina forester or arborist to Virginia to see visit Virginia communities where urban forestry is an important community service with a positive Benefit to Cost ratio.
- Promote establishment of a certified "Tree Farm" program in Brazil by sharing with the Brazilians the requirements for inclusion in the national tree farm program here in the U.S., as well as the assessment criteria for maintaining that status. The benefits here of landowners have certified tree farm status include begin able to sell their saw timber for more money because it is "certified" wood.

Rural Economic Development

Submitted by Glenda M. Snyder

The Rural Economic Development Committee is currently seeking a chair or co-chair to help further develop and guide the work of this committee. There are opportunities for potential linkages with Heartwood, Virginia Tech, and other institutions, and Partners in Santa Catarina have expressed interest in continuing the work of previous exchanges.

University Linkages

Agriculture

Submitted by Glenda M. Snyder

Plans are being made to have an Agriculture related (livestock, crops, fruit, wine, vegetables, food security, etc.) exchange with Virginia Tech, the University of Santa Catarina (UDESC) and Unistal in 2016-2017. This will be conducted with visits to both universities, farms and producers. It will provide a good opportunity for sharing of knowledge and skills and working together to strengthen agriculture efforts to feed the world.

Autism

Submitted by: Dr. Patricia Johnson Brown and Dr. Mary Katherine O'Connor

The committee set out to explore the possibility of a training program for children with autism that links theory with clinical practice, including physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech.

Development 2014-2016

The proposed model would use "train the trainer" approach. The original concept for the proposed model was designed by faculty members at Old Dominion University in the departments of special education and physical therapy.

Pat and Mary Katherine traveled at their own expense to the 50th anniversary of Partners held in Santa Catarina, Brazil, in September of 2014. While in Santa Catarina they met with Dr. Alavaro De Oliveria, retired professor of medicine at Federal University of Santa Catarina, to explore the interest in this program. Dr. Alavaro indicated that there is and has been great interest in autism at universities and nonprofits serving people with disabilities. He pledged to contact people who he thought would be interested in the project, especially individuals teaching in the field of autism.

Dr. Alavaro is currently continuing to make contacts and has indicated he will get back to us with names of people interested in exploring a collaborative project.

Future Plans

We will continue to explore an exchange of professors and other qualified people interested in the field of autism training.

Dental Health

Submitted by Gil Dibiasi

There has been no correspondence from any of the dentists in Santa Catarina. If they are interested, arrangements can be made to have them participate in some way in our activities, such as lectures, conferences, meetings, conventions and dental school functions.

Legislative Fellows Program

Denise Decker and Wonder had the opportunity to participate in the 50th Anniversary of Partners of the Americas Convention in Florianopolis and continue her stay in Santa Catarina as a Legislative Fellow. At the conference she gave a presentation that received a standing ovation from the audience.

During her stay she visited centers for disabilities, met with those involved in training personal assistance dogs, participated in interviews, served on panels, etc. She also initiated discussions about the possibility of bringing someone from Santa Catarina engaged in working with people with disabilities to Virginia to receive training.

**Partners of the Americas
2016 Ballot**

INSTRUCTIONS: PLACE AN "X" ON THE LINE TO THE LEFT OF EACH NAME FOR WHICH YOU WISH TO VOTE. THEN SAVE THE DOCUMENT AND ATTACH IT TO YOUR EMAIL AND RETURN IT TO DEWEY BROWN AT MY EMAIL ADDRESS, Glenda Snyder, gsnyder@vt.edu by June 24, 2016 or bring to the meeting on June 25, 2016..

YOU MAY TYPE YOUR SELECTIONS INTO THE BODY OF AN EMAIL AND SEND IT TO Glenda OR

YOU MAY MAIL A HARD COPY AT 5986 Springwood Road, Buchanan, VA 24066.

YOU MAY ALSO BRING YOUR BALLOT TO THE MEETING ON JUNE 25, 2016

**OR YOU MAY VOTE DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2016.
AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE TUCKHOE LIBRARY, 1901 STARLING DRIVE, HENRICO, VA 23230**

WHATEVER YOUR CHOICE OF DELIVERY, MAKE SURE THAT YOUR BALLOT IS RECEIVED AND COUNTED.

Candidates for the Board of Directors

(PLEASE VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 4 CANDIDATES)

_____ ROSE ANN BURGESS

_____ PATRICIA BROWN

_____ DANA SHAW

_____ PATRICK HUGHES



PARTNERS of the AMERICAS
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Trip Report

The following information is very important. It will help Partners' International Office as well as your own Partners Chapters assess the impact of your travel on chapter activities, report back to our funders and prepare proposals for new grants to support your work. You may attach additional pages. Photographs, newspaper media reports, flyers, and materials you used are very helpful and should be included.

Trip reports must be submitted **no later than thirty (30) days after the completion of your trip.**

Chapter: Virginia Chapter, Partners of the Americas

Name of Traveler:

First Name **Joanne** Middle Initial/name **Lan-Funn** Family Name **Kong**
 Date of Application Application received on March 16, 2015 by the Washington, D. C. office.
 Profession/occupation and title University Music Professor, Director of Accompaniment and
 Coordinator of Chamber Ensembles _____

Mailing Address: (Home)

Organization _____
 Street 1211 Claremont Avenue _____
 City Richmond _____ Province/State Virginia _____ Zip code 23227 _____
 P.O. Box _____ Country U. S. A. _____
 Phone (804) 264-1457 _____ Fax none _____ e-mail joannekong1@verizon.net

Travel Dates:

Left Home **May 15, 2015** __ Returned Home **May 27, 2015** __
 Itinerary **May 15:** Richmond, VA, USA – Dallas /Ft Worth, TX, USA, AA #2324
 Dallas/Ft Worth, TX, USA – Sao Paulo, Brazil, AA #963
 Sao Paulo, Brazil – Florianopolis, Brazil, GOL #2064 arriving **May 16**
May 26: Florianopolis, Brazil - Sao Paulo, Brazil, GOL #1269
 Sao Paulo, Brazil – Dallas/Ft Worth, TX, USA, AA #962
 Dallas/Ft Worth, TX, USA, AA #2324 arriving **May 27**

 Traveler's signature

 Date

 Print Name

Joanne Kong's Trip Report/ 2015/Brazil/ Santa Catarina

1. **Purpose and Activities:** What was the main purpose of your trip? (should be same as purpose stated in your travel grant application). What specific activities took place? (please include your final schedule)

- To experience Brazil's outstanding tradition of Western Classical music performance, gaining understanding of its music educational system, classical music training, and how it compares and contrasts to music study and performance in the United States
- To establish meaningful connections and achieve highly artistic, enthusiastic music-making with Brazilian musicians through intensive rehearsals and public performances
- To share my creative expertise, facilitate progress in music performance abilities, and offer different insights and musical perspectives through my teaching activities with pianists and chamber music ensembles
- To broaden my awareness of and exposure to Brazilian music and culture and the rich music-making traditions of Santa Catarina
- To serve, through my visit, as a follow-on exchange activity to Patrick Cavalheiro's visit to the state of Virginia in 2013.

THE FINAL VERSION OF MY DAILY ACTIVITIES AS THEY TOOK PLACE IS ATTACHED AT THE END OF THIS REPORT.

2. Results/Impact:

2a. Did you accomplish the purpose of your trip? Describe the results in measurable terms. Please include names of institutions/organizations you worked with. Summarize all discussions held, lectures or workshops given, type/size of audiences.

Abbreviations for universities/schools:

UDESC: Universidade do Estado de Santa Catarina, Florianopolis

UNISUL: Universidade do Sul de Santa Catarina, Florianopolis

ATG: Association Tania Gaboardi Music School, Curitiba

AMIMU: Associação dos Amigos da Música Music School, Cacador

Yes, I definitely accomplished the purpose of my trip, in these ways:

- 1) It was so rewarding to experience how music is such an important way for musicians to connect with one another, regardless of our different cultures. The various performance and rehearsal activities reinforced for me the fact that between different people and countries of the world, there are many more similarities than differences. Having a sense of shared, united purpose in making music and creating a meaningful, even moving experience for listeners was especially valuable, and I will always look upon this trip with immense gratitude and appreciation for the important cultural connections that are made possible by the Partners of the Americas.
- 2) Especially in the smaller cities of Curitiba and Cacador, I gained a greater understanding of

how education in the arts so often has to be made possible through the efforts of local community leaders and artists who donate their resources, even if limited, to providing musical training for young students. Through my interaction with the ATG, AMIMU and Sonorità Music Schools, I was so impressed with the dedication of the teachers to nurturing the musical abilities of students, even though the availability of good musical instruments (such as pianos) was in some cases quite limited.

- 3) I felt that my teaching activities in the master classes helped the students to improve their performance abilities, particularly in the area of creating more nuance and expressive direction in musical phrases, through tonal and dynamic shaping. At the conclusion of the classes, I often played a short solo piano selection, and some of the teachers at the ATG school realized how important and valuable an opportunity it would be, for *them* to regularly perform for their students as effective role models, providing incentive for their students.
- 4) I particularly enjoyed the mini-performance of Brazilian *gaucho* music and singing, performed on 3 accordions and guitar. Other aspects of Brazilian culture and geography that I enjoyed were the beautiful Araucaria pine trees and their delicious *pinhao*, the beautiful green hills of Florianopolis, the landmark Hercilio Luz bridge, *chimarrao*, my new favorite dessert *sagu*, and how people seemed to take more time than Americans to enjoy the company of others in social and family settings. I especially will remember their generosity in welcoming me with such friendliness, affection and enthusiasm!

ACTIVITIES:

Piano Master Classes given at UDESC, UNISUL, Sonorità Music School (Florianopolis), ATG, and AMIMU: The age of students ranged from young students to adults, and class size averaged around 10–15, including the participating students, teachers, and parents.

About 4 students performed in each class, and I worked for 15 – 20 minutes with each one of them.

Lecture: “Techniques to Overcome Performance Anxiety”; UDESC, attended by about 40 students and music faculty. The lecture included practical tips on how to prepare for public presentation through effective practice techniques, mental preparation, visualization, and techniques to enhance poise and communication. During the workshop, students participated in practical exercises, and many of the students told me that these skills would be extremely helpful to their future work as musicians.

Three rehearsals with the Orquestra Unisul, Patrick Cavalheiro, conductor

Rehearsals, and informal performances given as piano soloist, for the following choirs:

Italian-Brazilian Chorus, Lyric Chorus of Santa Catarina. Also had Question-and-Answer sessions with both of these choirs.

Rehearsals, and informal performances given as piano soloist, for ATG and AMIMU small string ensembles

Meeting with Valdir Cobalchini, President of Education and Culture, Government of Santa Catarina

Meeting with Mayor of Cacador

Discussion topics at both of these meetings included importance of the work of Partners of the Americas, significance of the performance and teaching activities as a means of cultural

connection, and the importance of broadening educational opportunities and experiences in the arts through the Partners' projects and programs.

Concert performance in Cacador (Concerto Internacional); Attendance about 300

Concert performance in Florianopolis (Concerto Internacional); Attendance about 150
(small concert hall at UDESC was totally filled)

2b. What difficulties did you encounter? What lessons did you learn that might be useful for future travelers?

I did not encounter any difficulties whatsoever, and I attribute this to the amazing organization and hard work that was done by the Santa Catarina chapter, to set up all aspects of my visit, including all the music rehearsals, teaching activities, meetings and press interviews.

Not being a native Portuguese speaker, I particularly appreciated the translators who assisted me during my visit. As this trip took place at the end of a very busy Spring semester for me at the University of Richmond, I was only able to learn some rudimentary Portuguese prior to leaving for the trip, but was able to communicate in Brazil with some very basic phrases. Therefore I would recommend that future travelers try to learn as much Portuguese as they can, in preparing for the trip. Everyone I met in Santa Catarina was so friendly and welcoming, and they appreciated my efforts to use the local language!

2c. Please describe how the host Partners chapter was involved with your visit? And what kinds of follow-up activities are likely?

The host Partners of the Americas Santa Catarina Chapter did a superb job of organizing a detailed daily schedule of activities for my visit. The members who made all of these arrangements were Patrick Cavalheiro, Wilson Schuelter, and Daisson Trevisol, as well as Fabiano Zoldan. Patrick provided all of my transportation, including the lengthy trips between Florianopolis and Cacador, and provided housing at his apartment. I also appreciate so much that I was able to stay at Patrick's parents' home in Cacador and become familiar with local traditions and foods. Everyone was so accommodating to my dietary needs (vegan) and really went out of the way to cook wonderful meals; I appreciated this so much!

At the end of my visit, I had a lengthy discussion with Patrick Cavalheiro about future activities between the Virginia and Santa Catarina Partners. This is an outline of possible plans:

1) BRAZIL MUSICIANS travel to VIRGINIA in 2016 or 2017:

8 – 10 instrumentalists from Orquestra Unisul

Maestro Patrick Cavalheiro

Karolyne Liesenberg, soprano

ACTIVITIES:

--visiting musicians play in a concert with the University of Richmond Symphony Orchestra:

Patrick Cavalheiro serves as guest conductor, and Karolyne Liesenberg as guest soprano

--visiting musicians perform a program of Brazilian Classical ensemble music and will be joined by student musicians from the University of Richmond

Concerts would be held at the University of Richmond, local churches, schools and retirement homes.

2) UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, MUSICIANS travel to Brazil in 2017 or 2018:

Maestro Alexander Kordzaia, conductor

6 – 8 University of Richmond students, mostly wind players, and maybe a couple string players

ACTIVITIES:

--Performance by UNISUL orchestra plus University of Richmond students – programming of chamber orchestral works that have wind instruments (not normally possible in Florianopolis universities, so this would be a wonderful opportunity). Alexander Kordzaia serves as guest conductor, and Patrick Cavalheiro would play in the orchestra.

--Alexander Kordzaia – possible lectures or presentations

--University of Richmond players would bring chamber repertoire and perform in schools, churches, retirement homes. The chamber groups *might* be supplemented with UNISUL orchestra members, but they would have to want to volunteer. (UNISUL players normally are paid, but not much.)

--there is a music school, AMIMU, in Patrick's home town of Cacador, to which the Richmond community could donate much-needed instruments and music supplies.

For both trips, musicians would ideally stay with host families. Funding for air travel would have to be worked out to make these trips possible.

2d. What are the expected or anticipated long-term benefits of your visit to the hosting Chapter?
(Specific examples are most useful)

As apparently this was one of the few, if not the first time that a Classical music soloist visited Santa Catarina as a result of the Partners project, my teaching activities in particular provided local music teachers with new ideas and methods for teaching music performance. This was especially true in the inland cities of Curitibanos and Cacador where, as Patrick Cavalheiro pointed out, the level of student musicianship is not at the highest level. He mentioned that in these cities, the ideas I shared through my teaching gave positive incentive to both the students and their teachers. Visits by guest musicians are always of value, in that they introduce new ideas or approaches to consider, and reinforce and expand upon the artistic skills that each student is learning as a part of their music education.

This visit will also enable the Virginia and Santa Catarina chapters to explore even broader ways of strengthening and deepening their partnership, especially through greater student participation as outlined in the previous section of this report. State administrator Valdir Cobalchini, in our meeting, mentioned that my trip could serve as an important model for future exchange visits between the two states.

Finally, I feel that my activities and collaboration with Patrick Cavalheiro served to give the Brazilian students and musicians a greater sense of appreciation for, and awareness of, what *he* has done to promote musical excellence and enhance the importance of music as a critical part of young people's education. Santa Catarina is so fortunate to have a musician like Patrick who works so tirelessly to promote opportunities for artistic growth and expose audiences to the beauty and meaningfulness of Classical music performance.

3. Follow-up

3a. How do you plan to share this experience with your own Partners chapter and your community?

I had a meeting on June 1st, 2015 with J. Dewey Brown, Executive Director, Virginia Chapter, Partners of the Americas, to share this report with him and brief him about the trip and activities that took place.

My university, the University of Richmond, will also do post-trip publicity in the form of printed and website articles. The university and its Department of Music have an outstanding record of international activities both by its faculty and students, and my trip will serve to highlight the importance of, and commitment to, global cross-cultural activities of our institution.

3b. What follow-up activities do you recommend to continue building on the items carried out during your visit?

As listed in Item 2c, it would be especially beneficial to continue building on this exchange, by expanding upon the number of participants that travel between our Partner states. While Patrick Cavalheiro travelled to Virginia in 2013, and I travelled this past month to Santa Catarina, I feel it is of great importance that our respective *university students* have to opportunity to participate in this exchange and gain tremendous artistic and personal growth through interaction with peers in their sister state. Therefore, the proposed follow-up activities include in-depth artistic activities by these students. In 2013, I organized a similar trip by University of Richmond music students to Cartagena, Colombia, and not only was the trip of tremendous educational and cultural benefit for these students, but they formed lasting friendships with the Colombian musicians that still continue to this day. The Partners of the Americas program is wonderful and so valuable in that it creates the opportunity for such important cultural exchanges to take place between the citizens of the Americas!

4. Please provide any other general comments/suggestions regarding your trip.

Some of the cultural/sightseeing activities that were planned for the trip could not take place, due to the unusual amount of rainy weather that took place almost every day (!), but this did not at all diminish my excitement of visiting Brazil for the first time, experiencing a different culture, and having the experience of amazing musical collaborations with all of the musicians.

I know that Patrick Cavalheiro generously covered so many expenses, including meals at his home and restaurants, and gasoline expenses for travel. (I did insist though, and treated him to a dinner!) He told me that the Santa Catarina chapter budget is very low, but I wish that there could be some provisions for even a portion of the expenses to be covered, as he paid for all of them by himself.

5. Are you a member of Partners of the Americas? Yes No

If you are not a member of Partners of the Americas, do you now plan to join the Chapter

that sponsored your trip?

Have you registered on PartnersConnect? Yes_ NoX

6. Please report the number of hours of volunteer time you spent on the visit, including preparation and follow-up activities. Please log your time using the attached Partners Counts form. Thanks.

Estimated number of volunteer hours: 122

Please fill out and return this report with your:

- Expense report with respective receipts.
- Copies of any newspaper/media reports or photos of you engaged with host country nationals in professional activities.

Trip reports must be submitted as soon as possible following your return and no later than thirty (30) days after the completion of your trip.

Send to: Partners of the Americas
Att: Senior Program Officer
Education and Culture Program
1424 K Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 628-3300, Fax: (202) 628-3306

NOTE: We cannot process claims for reimbursement of appropriate travel-related expenses, as well as visa cost or exit tax, unless we receive a satisfactory trip report.

Revised: Nov/2014



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Trip Report

The following information is very important. It will help Partners' International Office as well as your own Partners Chapters assess the impact of your travel on chapter activities, report back to our funders and prepare proposals for new grants to support your work. You may attach additional pages. Photographs, newspaper media reports, flyers, and materials you used are very helpful and should be included.

Trip reports must be submitted **no later than thirty (30) days after the completion of your trip.**

Chapter: Virginia

Name of Traveler:

First Name Robert Middle Initial/name Stewart Family Name McAdams

Date of Application July 26, 2015

Profession/occupation and title: University arts integration education program, Interim Director

Mailing Address: (Home)

Organization

Street 3815 Fauquier Ave

City Richmond Province/State VA Zip code 23227

P.O. Box _____ Country USA

Phone 804 615 6222 _____ Fax _____ e-mail Rmcadams@richmond.edu

Travel Dates:

Left Home: October 11, 2015 Returned Home: October 25, 2015

Itinerary: **October 11:** Richmond, VA, USA – Atlanta, GA, USA – Sao Paulo, Brazil – Florianopolis, Brazil – Braço do Norte, Brazil Arrived **October 12**

October 24 Braço do Norte – Florianopolis, Brazil - Sao Paulo, Brazil – Detroit, MI, USA – Richmond, VA, USA Arrived **October 25**

Traveler's signature

Date

Robert S. McAdams
Print Name

1. Purpose and Activities: What was the main purpose of your trip? (should be same as purpose stated in your travel grant application). What specific activities took place? (please include your final schedule)

The purpose of this trip was to:

- Work with teachers and artists in Santa Catarina, Brazil to develop sustainable teaching methods for teaching all subjects through the arts and implement those practices in local schools
- Assist educators in developing and integrating creative practices into their classroom to discover how students are curious, their different ways of learning, and how they express the new knowledge developed from following their curiosities
- Validate that the arts are the universal basis of learning and communicating that can engage and empower all students even through barriers such as language and cultural differences
- Expand my personal and professional experiences and vision of the world by immersing myself in a community through making things as an individual artist and as an educator.

Activities listed below with names of institutions and individuals

2. Results/Impact:

2a. Did you accomplish the purpose of your trip? Describe the results in measurable terms. Please include names of institutions/organizations you worked with. Summarize all discussions held, lectures or workshops given, type/size of audiences.

I did accomplish the purpose of my trip and was delighted by how any expectations I had were far exceeded. The measurable outcomes include: feedback from the training sessions with 26 teachers from the 7 cities in the region, the work made by the 6th grade students from EEB Annes Gualberto, and the work of 9th grade students from ENG Don Joaquim.

Activities:

- Teacher training in a partnership with the *Gerência Regional de Educação (GERED)* held onsite for two days
 - 26 teachers participated in training from the following 7 municipalities; Rio Fortuna, Braço do Norte, São Ludgero, Armazém, Grão Pará, São Martinho, Santa Rosa de Lima.
 - Hosted by GERED region 36, director Ademar Rohling
 - Discussions with Ademar Rohling included how similar our approaches to reaching students through engaged and empowered teachers and providing teachers with support and training to utilize their passions was key
- Attended meeting of ABRALE, an academic letters and literature group
- Meeting and lunch with the mayor of Braço do Norte, discussed importance of creative education, the work teachers do and engaging students in the community
- Tour of Braço do Norte region with Secretary of Culture, Tourism and Economics, Vanessa Schwanz, Silvio Kniess, ABRALE representative and local businessman
 - Kailash Terapias Naturais. Learned horsemanship and holistic therapies for educators
 - Learned about the NGO Gaia Gaurdians which is a similar pedagogy model that expands to holistic support and training for educators
 - Visited Márcio Buss' farm where they produce flour, rum, molasses, honey and various products of the region.
- Worked with Nadya Becker in a juvenile delinquent rehabilitation program engaging youth through visual arts
- Attended music rehearsal at the Espaço Cultural Aromáticos
- Visited EEB Annes Gualberto and met with 6th grade, 8th grade, and kindergarten students
- Toured an exhibition of historical photos of Braço do Norte at the school EBM Professor Antônio Rohden with photographer/historian Roberto Pereira of the Rotary Club
- Made urban installations using found materials in the city of Braço do Norte, collected image artifacts, created video piece in support of the work the students Work in collaboration with educators, students, and community members to find interesting things in the community and create artifacts for others to interact with and wonder about
- Worked with students and teachers in 3 schools over 3 days to develop observation and inquiry skills and help students create comics based on their observations and interviews. EEB Annes Gualberto and EEB Dom Joaquim, and Casa Lar, Asacad

- Attended the founding ceremony of ABRALE and gave an overview of the work done through Partners of the Americas project. Met Gildo Volpato, rector of UNESC, and discussed creative and innovative training for educators at the university level.
- Media included appearance and interviews on; Mais Mulher (Unisul TV - Tubarão), ARTV – Braço do Norte, Entre Vista Radio Verde Vale, local and online newspapers

2b. What difficulties did you encounter? What lessons did you learn that might be useful for future travelers?

There were no difficulties on this trip. The exceptional planning and support of both the Santa Catarina and Virginia chapters made this a smooth journey. I approach most days as an adventure and enjoy problem solving and we had some great adventures in Brazil. I was unaware of a couple of holidays during my trip, which had businesses closed, and the banks were on strike for the two weeks I was there which required some creativity to resolve. Luckily, I had exchanged currency at the airport and I was able to find businesses in Braço do Norte that would accept US dollars and give me change in BR Reals. However the airport exchange rate was very bad, so I would recommend knowing the rate and negotiating if possible. One lesson I would share would be to eat whenever someone puts food out. I had not realized that dinner may happen very late and passed on an early evening “snack” thinking dinner would be soon.

While I studied some rudimentary Portuguese before I went and knowing more Portuguese would have helped someone else, I feel like it made me a better listener and our attempts to communicate in ways other than words fit into the purpose of my trip of communicating in alternative ways.

2c. Please describe how the host Partners chapter was involved with your visit? And what kinds of follow-up activities are likely?

Santa Catarina chapter president, Patrick Cavalheiro provided transportation from Florianopolis to Tubarão to meet executive director, Wilson Schuelter, for transportation to Braço do Norte. Wilson Schuelter and chapter member Nadya Becker were incredible in planning and support prior to and during my trip. Nadya Becker took my proposal and developed and managed my schedule, provided room and board, transportation, translators, and was a great friend and colleague in discussing art making.

I was a little anxious about our media day and being able to communicate the history, mission and extent of the support and work done by Partners, but Wilson Schuelter was part of each interview and it was not only a comfort to have him there but it helped me highlight the work we were doing with the teachers and students in Braço do Norte. My student translator, Stefani Hemkemeir, from Rio Fortuna, was arranged for by Nadya with input from the GERED director, and she was a highlight of my trip and also modeled the importance and power of student-directed learning. She has taught herself English, driven by personal motivation to learn the language and travel to the U.S. One of my favorite moments was when Wilson (a university professor of Linguistics and excellent English speaker) was taking Stefani and I to our next television interview and he suggested that she listen to audio books in English. Stefani responded by saying that yes that is a good idea and that she does that and reads the book in Portuguese at the same time. Wilson paused and just said, “Oh that is a great idea.” Stefani’s family hosted me for dinner and I hope a follow-up activity includes bringing her to the states at some point. She was a finalist for the Youth Ambassador program but was not selected.

2d. What are the expected or anticipated long-term benefits of your visit to the hosting Chapter?

(Specific examples are most useful)

Nadya Becker shared a thought that I think best answers this question. She said that when Ed Trask came to BN as part of a Partners project a few years ago, his mural in the center of the city helped people see art in a different way. She added that what I did was to help the people of BN see art everywhere, including within themselves, and we helped them realize that they had the tools to create and share that art from within with the world.

We were able to engage and empower students and teachers, spark their curiosity and inquiry and I hope this will help them be more involved in the community. They now have a model for not only highlighting what they appreciate about where they live, but also add to it through creative expressions and work collaboratively to improve things that are important to them. One group of older students made a newspaper retelling a history of their city that they created and merged with actual BN history. Other students made objects in their neighborhoods to spark curiosity of people walking by.

The timing could not have been better for the workshops on teaching more holistically to reach all students as it aligns directly with the mission of Gaia Guardians that Ademar Rohling Director of GERED, is trying to implement. The very first day, as Ademar was welcoming teachers and speaking (in Portuguese) about his vision I knew I was in the right place as I heard “differentiation, sustainability, and creativity.” The students also see their teachers differently and my translator,

Stefani best expressed this when I asked her what she thought about the work we were doing. Her biggest take-away was the fact that all of those teachers were there learning and exploring ideas to help their students, and she now could see how much teachers care about their students. The final long-term outcome I anticipate is that Stefani will one day be Brazil's minister of education. We developed a rapport and she absorbed all of the information presented in the workshops and by the end of the first day was able to work directly with the teachers. She was also involved in many conversations between myself, educational and political leaders in the community and adds those perspectives to her own as a 15 year-old student in the system that we are all trying to improve.

3. Follow-up

3a. How do you plan to share this experience with your own Partners chapter and your community?

I will attend the next Partners chapter meeting in January 2016 and present images, videos and my personal experiences and the outcomes in schools. I have already met with Dewey Brown, Executive Director, Virginia Chapter, Partners of the Americas and shared images and the framework of this report. I have also shared a presentation with the University of Richmond School of Professional and Continuing Studies staff and will be sharing a presentation and outcomes instructional specialists from six Richmond region school systems on December 4.

3b. What follow-up activities do you recommend to continue building on the items carried out during your visit?

I have three recommendations that I feel would help both chapters make a substantial impact on education and the arts in their respective states.

- 1) Bring Ademar Rohling and other Santa Catarina regional education directors to Richmond to participate in our weeklong summer institute course on integrating creativity into education to reach all students.
- 2) Establish a teacher exchange where VA Chapter educators could do a summer (VA) study abroad through University of Richmond and go through the holistic training with Gaia's Guardians and work with teachers in Santa Catarina, as they will still be in school.
- 3) Work with UNESCO and UNISUL or other universities to establish a semester-long faculty exchange to teach courses for educators based on these mutual ideas and current courses.

4. Please provide any other general comments/suggestions regarding your trip.

One unanticipated outcome was becoming connected to many teachers and students in Braço do Norte through Facebook. I left some small installations at one of the schools that they found a week or so after I had departed and the school is using those ideas to create another project. Nadya and I were discussing how we now have an army of artists aged 11-14 that can activate a community and share their work via a few Facebook posts.

The welcoming and generous nature of the people in Brazil was evident throughout my trip and one example was on a Saturday afternoon when I was going to walk around the city and sketch and make some "urban Andy Goldsworthy" type work. I had walked a half block away from where I was staying and I saw one of the teachers I had met the day before. She did not speak English but I understood that she wanted me to go to her house to speak with her son. I expected a "menino" and that was solidified when we got there and she said he was playing video games. When he came out he was taller than I am, 29 years old and an attorney. They invited me to lunch at a "simple, family" place and another friend, the son's girlfriend, her father and brother all showed up and it turned into a wonderful, three-hour afternoon of great food and conversation.

My final comment is that this experience really helped me validate our connections and similarities as humans and get back in touch with who I am as an artist, husband and a father, which helps me grow as a program director and educator. I thank you for this opportunity and experience.

5. Are you a member of Partners of the Americas? Yes No

If you are not a member of Partners of the Americas, do you now plan to join the Chapter that sponsored your trip?

Have you registered on PartnersConnect? Yes No

6. Please report the number of hours of volunteer time you spent on the visit, including preparation and follow-up activities. Please log your time using the attached Partners Counts form. (*NO FORM attached)

Estimated volunteer hours logged: 132

Please fill out and return this report with your:

- **Expense report with respective receipts.**
- **Copies of any newspaper/media reports or photos of you engaged with host country nationals in professional activities.**

Trip reports must be submitted as soon as possible following your return and no later than thirty (30) days after the completion of your trip.

**Send to: Partners of the Americas
Att: Senior Program Officer
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Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 628-3300, Fax: (202) 628-3306**

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Revised: Nov/2014