

# MINNESOTA-URUGUAY

Partners of the Americas

November 2011

## 2011 Youth Ambassadors in September

Six Uruguayan high school students and their mentor (from the Alianza) came to Minnesota for sixteen days in September and October. Kirsten (KC) Carter, who managed the group through Stillwater High School, described them as “wonderful, open minded and flexible.” As has become customary for visiting ambassadors, the Uruguayan teens toured many and various Twin Cities locales, and also enjoyed varied experiences in our Montevideo region, coordinated by Patrick Moore and Susan VonBank.



Youth Ambassadors and (some) host siblings in Stillwater.  
*Front:* Nicolás Valiente Castro, Sarah Fernholz, Cibeles Da Silveira Sosa, Santiago Techera Alegre, Tais De Figueredo Leonardi, Fernanda Martínez Videla, Pamela Hernández Caravallo. *Back:* Courtney Swanson, Victoria Amundson, Kirsten Carter, Matt Dorwart, and Uruguayan mentor Elaine Estefan Hernandez.

## UM-Uruguay Artists Displayed Talents

The University of Minnesota Art Department students and faculty presented “Reflections of Montevideo” during October 12-21. The exhibit at the Regis Center for Art (West Bank) was inspired by 2010 and 2011 May Term credit course trips to Uruguay. Displaying artists were three U of MN faculty; two Uruguayan visiting artists; and twelve students (five from 2010 and seven from 2011). MN-UY Partners helped with the trip and had a table at the show to identify our group.

**Hold your calendar date!  
December Annual Members' Meeting**

6:00–8:00 pm, Monday, December 12, 2011

Regis Center for Art–West  
21<sup>st</sup> Ave., N of Riverside Ave.  
West Bank Campus  
University of Minnesota

Election of new Directors

The successful student and faculty visits will likely continue. Professor Mark Knierim is about to again visit Montevideo, to make further plans with our longtime friend, Marta Arjona. This will be after Mark serves as MUP delegate to the Partners of the Americas International Convention at Medellin, Colombia.

## Americas Business Fellow Magdalena Coronel

For eight weeks between mid July and September, Magdalena Coronel resided in downtown Minneapolis as an Americas Business Fellow. Representing a Uruguayan investors group, she worked out of the Milestone Growth Fund office. Magui quickly discovered most of the city – by bicycle. Marco Villanueva helped by introducing her to members of the local UY community.

Magdalena's Prosperitas capital partners group helps companies – especially start-ups – find financing. While here in Minnesota, she interviewed about three dozen venture capitalists to learn how they operate. Magui always made a point of mentioning Minnesota-Uruguay Partners.

Magdalena returned to Uruguay on 10 September. Before then, she presented her work via PowerPoint to her sponsors, Partners of Americas in Washington, DC. She was recently in Barranquilla, Colombia, to assist in discussion at the World Youth Summit (held a week prior to the Partners of the Americas International Convention, in Medellin, Colombia). There will also be a number of young people from Minnesota at the summit in Barranquilla.



## PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS and MINNESOTA-URUGUAY PARTNERS

Partners of the Americas, an outgrowth of Alliance for Progress, is a private, voluntary non-profit organization dedicated to promoting economic and social development throughout the Western Hemisphere. Since it was founded internationally in 1964, it has emerged as one of the hemisphere's most influential forces, building goodwill and private sector cooperation among people of the Americas. Today, more than 15,000 people in 46 U. S. states and 28 Latin American and Caribbean nations are active in 60 Partnerships. Minnesota and Uruguay marked 45 years of Partnership in 2010.

### MINNESOTA-URUGUAY PARTNERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

<i>Directors for 2010 + 2011</i>	<i>Directors for 2011 + 2012</i>	<i>Officers for 2011</i>		<i>Honorary Members</i>
Kirsten "KC" Carter	Audrey Arner	<i>President</i>	Erik Brand	Clifford Whitehill
Hector Garcia	Erik Brand	<i>Vice President</i>	Robert Scarlett	Ed Slettom
Lyndel King	Brian Crooker	<i>Treasurer</i>	Harlan Petersen	
Gary Kuhn	Diane Katsiaficas	<i>Secretary</i>	Gerard Lagos	
Harlan Petersen	Arne Kildegaard			<i>Honorary Advisory Committee</i>
Susan VonBank	Gerard Lagos			Stan Diesch
	Bruce McManus			Darlene Diesch
	Patrick Moore			David Pace
	Duane Ninneman			
	Robert Scarlett			

Under by-laws revised in 2008, members of Minnesota Uruguay Partners elect the chapter's Board of Directors, and may serve on chapter committees. The Board of Directors elects its own officers, and meets a minimum of six times per year. All members and prospective members are welcome to attend general meetings and meetings of the board, and ideas and suggestions are welcome.

### President's Corner—Erik Brand



#### Fresh Air

I'm always impressed, reading Gary Kuhn and Roger Moon's newsletter, with the incredible industry of Minnesota-Uruguay Partners members. The most recent period has been no more industrious than in the past, but what I notice today is the high number and quality of young people, from across Minnesota and Uruguay, who have been volunteering with the group.

As I write this message there are no fewer than four high school students from Minnesota attending the Partners of the Americas "Youth Summit" in Colombia. In fact, Tara Gupta, a high school student from Edina and an active member of our chapter, is one of the featured presenters at the convention.

In September and October, six outstanding high school students from Uruguay were in Minnesota as Youth

Ambassadors, hosted so generously by local families and volunteers like KC Carter, Patrick Moore, Arne Kildegaard, Duane Ninneman, Hector Garcia, Sue VonBank, Rob Scarlett and many others.

In the summer, five talented Minnesota students were selected by Washington as Youth Ambassadors, as well, many of whom traveled to South America and the Caribbean for the first time.

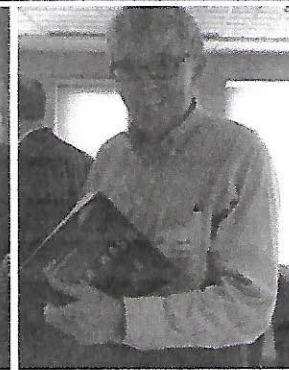
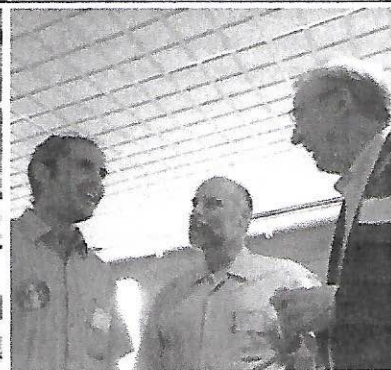
And last month, University of Minnesota students who participated in the 2010 and 2011 "May Term" in Montevideo presented their artwork, inspired by Uruguay, at a public gallery reception in Minneapolis.

Three other travelers covered in this edition--Magdalena Coronel, Federico Estol and Alina Gil, who are also early in their promising careers--shared skills and insights with scores of Minnesotan business people, artists and educators over the summer.

As Minnesota--like most of the rest of the United States--continues to grapple with sluggish economic growth and fears for our future, it's been instructive to work with these young people, many of whom cannot remember an Uruguay that hasn't had annual economic growth. I was reminded that a fifteen-year-old Uruguayan, already thinking about college, was not even in grade school during the country's last recession.

This optimism and energy has been, to me and others I've spoken with in our chapter, a breath of fresh air--invigorating and inspiring. Facing a cold winter ahead, spring doesn't seem so far away, thanks to these wonderful youth exchanges that Partners has made possible.





### Federico Estol's Photographic Essay

Uruguayan photographer Federico Estol has created a pictorial study of Montevideo, MN. More than 60 photos show aspects of life there during pleasant summertime days and nights. The text and captions are bilingual; Patrick (historical preface) and Anna (translation) Moore provide easy reading. Though printed in Uruguay, the book is to be sold here in MN as well.

Photos from the book can be found at: <http://www.180.com.uy/galeria/hellomontevideo>.

The author was in St. Paul on June 15 to present "Hello Montevideo" to UY enthusiasts meeting on the campus of Metropolitan State University (thanks to Maureen Acosta for arrangements). Special guest for the presentation of the attractive paperback was Dr. Nury Bauzan, Consul General of Uruguay in Chicago. Many other Partners people spoke and/or were acknowledged. Federico signed copies of "Hello Montevideo". Consul Bauzon would proceed to Fiesta Days on the weekend. At the reception she noted her surprise by the love of people for her country. "A piece of Uruguay in the United States; I am sure the book will be a success in Uruguay and here too, no?"

Sue VonBank's photo album from the event can be seen at [MN-UR Partners June 2011 Federico Estol Reception](#).

### ALINA GIL.....Teacher in Residence

Our busy guest in April/May was Alina Gil, an English instructor at the Alianza (Cultural Uruguay-US), selected as the 2011 participant in the POA Teacher in Residence Program. She gave more than 40 presentations, at many MN locations, toward her goal of

introducing her country and culture. Credit goes to several hosts and drivers, as she noted in the Partners of the Americas Trip Report:

*Morris, MN* (Kildegaard family) was the initial base, after the greeting at MSP International by Patrick Moore. There were several presentations to Spanish classes at UM-Morris. Alina observed ESL classes (a special interest), as given for Chinese students at UMM and for Mexican workers at the local dairy. Ms. Gil experienced small town life, with more to come elsewhere in western MN.

*Ortonville, MN* (Ninneman family): Guided by local Spanish teacher Julie Laguna, there were class presentations and new cooking experiences. Sustainability, Renewable Energy and the Environment continued to be western MN themes. After four days, the Ninnemans brought Alina to the Twin Cities area.

*Minneapolis/St. Paul I*: Three days; during which she saw important people. There was the Dalai Lama, speaking at the U of MN. There was an overnight with the Erik Brand family. Alina attended the monthly meeting of our Board of Directors. Then Patrick Moore carried her back West.

*Montevideo, MN* (Pam and Mark Dahl) Yet more Spanish classes, plus presentations to several civic groups, including CURE to plan for the upcoming Fiesta Days. Alina was a "volunteer" to help clean up the river environment. Then, she experienced our MN tradition and culture with a visit to a cabin "up North at the lake", near Backus, MN.

(cont. next page)



*Twin Cities II:* The Perpich Center for the Arts was the Golden Valley locale for a dorm stay of several days. Art, music, dance and drama classes were observed, with Alina sharing Uruguayan culture in these fields with the students.

There were more presentations to students and others. Then, on to the Sorensen family home in St. Paul for four days of touring local must-sees. Alina participated in an interview for a documentary program about the two Montevideos, directed by Indrajit Thambiah and produced by UMM students. (We look forward to viewing this!) Finally, on May 24, Alina Gil boarded her plane for home.

**Delta doesn't do Dallas (to UY)**, where Alina was delayed on her return to Uruguay for 30 hours due to tornados and hail storms. Delta Air Lines has since completed a code-share agreement with Aerolineas Argentinas that will operate from Miami and Atlanta for service to Montevideo.

## **GOAL!!! Rio de Janeiro 2014**

La Celeste, as Uruguay's team is known, has taken a step on the way to the Mundial, soccer's World Cup. In the first pair of qualifying matches they achieved a 1-1 tie at the home field of serious rival Paraguay, after defeating Bolivia at Centenario Stadium. Qualifying should not be so difficult during the next two years; Brazil has an automatic ticket as host team and will not compete in the South American qualifying group.

Uruguay has backed up its impressive record in South Africa 2010. The squad recently won the biennial Copa de America for the fourteenth time, tying Argentina for most Cup wins in this prime South American tournament.

## **The Bicentennial 1811-2011: La Redota**

On October 10, 1811, at what was then the outskirts of Montevideo, Jose Artigas was proclaimed Jefe de los Orientales (Leader of the Eastern People). This was the result of a political rupture with the junta ruling from Buenos Aires and its local agents. The situation in the entire region was unstable, as it would remain for years to come.

The celebrations of the bicentennial have now come to the capital. October 23 is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of La Redota, the beginning of the withdrawal of Artigas and his supporters across the plains to the fluvial region of the Northwest. The annual Patrimonio presentations are this year on October 22-23 to focus on this and other events at the beginning of the movement toward

independence. On November 5, an historical reenactment on horseback will recreate Artigas' armed camp, outside Salto in the NW.

Artigas never ruled from Montevideo. The port cities were not nationalistic so much as eager for European trade connections. The would-be authorities in Buenos Aires were especially antagonistic toward Artigas and his allies of the interior grasslands. This is the setting for the Spanish-produced just released film, "Artigas -La Redota." Like Hollywood movies, there are a few anachronisms and an invented character important to the plot, but reviews credit it with achieving a good sense of time, place and leader. Perhaps we can get a DVD of the film here in Minnesota before too long!

## **Globalization Expands Uruguayan Export Economy**

Meat, whether beef or mutton, has been the historic high quality export for which the country and its grasslands are known. Recently, agriculture has become more important with soybeans in the West and rice in the Northeast. The paper industry boom brings forestry and expanded port facilities.

Suddenly there is the prospect of another non-traditional export. Such changes can cause controversy.

Aratiri is a mega project open pit iron mine. Its development would require expanded transport and shipping in Rocha Department. Life would change for tranquil Cabo Polonio and other rustic spots on the Atlantic Coast. Environmental issues are being raised.

The investment (from India) would bring jobs. But how would the works be regulated? Uruguay, without a mining heritage, has as its mining code a permissive relic from the discredited military government of decades ago. Thus, Aratiri is a major debate for Uruguay. Could we in Minnesota add our Iron Range to places for our guests to visit?

## **In Memoriam**

Evelyn Addis, wife of former Board member Paul Addis, has died. A memorial service was held in Roseville on October 19. Paul Addis visited Uruguay in March 1987. As Professor of Food Science and Nutrition, he was part of the cholesterol project, finding grass-fed beef to be more healthy.

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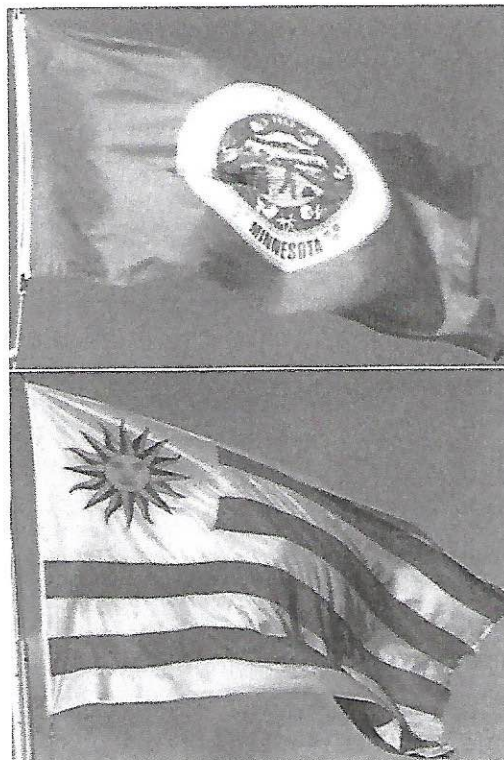
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Program committees organize and lead projects sponsored by Minnesota-Uruguay Partners. Committees and subject areas include event and international visits and coordination; agriculture and veterinary medicine; architecture, arts and culture; business and economic development; education, recreation, environment and natural resources; and health, judicial systems, and populations at risk.

Depending on subject area, financial support for travelers from Minnesota to Uruguay and vice versa is available from several sources, including the Education and Culture Program, funded by the United States Department of State, and administered by Partners of the Americas in Washington D.C. Minnesota Partners also supports travelers through its Opportunity Fund. Travelers volunteer their time, and recipient chapters provide home stays and local arrangements to carry out the traveler's work plan.

For more information, contact Minnesota's President, Minnesota-Uruguay Partners web site, and Partners of the Americas web site.

Minnesota-Uruguay Partners web site  
<http://www.minnesotauruguaypartners.org/>

Partners of the Americas web site  
<http://www.partners.net>