

A TU LADO

Collaborations in Emergency Medical Education



Spring 2013 Newsletter

OUR MISSION:

to support frontline health workers through collaborations in emergency medical education.

Education

In March 2013 we led the second iteration of our “Intro to EMT” (ITEM) course. Like last June, the 42-hour program was a combination of classroom lecture and hands-on skills training. What stood out about this class, however, was the daily assistance of previous graduates, whose commitment speaks to the shared desire for these programs to continue.

We selected 19 students from the 28 who interviewed. Among those 19, average test scores rose from 62% to 82% between the entrance and final exams. Fifteen students graduated, earning certificates signed by Search and Rescue (SAR) Bolivia, the Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS) and A Tu Lado (ATL).

Student Course Evaluations

Learned skills I can apply to my job	3.8 / 4
Improved professional mobility	3.6 / 4
Fostered personal development	4.0 / 4
Overall satisfaction with course	3.5 / 4

Partnership

The March 2013 ITEM course created several opportunities to expand our partnership with UMSS. The nursing school provided classrooms and logistical support for lectures; they also invited ATL to lead a short course in basic life support to 33 nursing students. Now, both the UMSS nursing and medical schools are exploring ways to incorporate pre-hospital training into their regular course offerings.

Additional partner updates:

- A previous relationship between the UMSS medical school and SAR was strengthened during ATL’s June 2012 course, prompting the two institutions to begin developing a pre-hospital care track in the university.
- Cochabamba hospitals have requested ATL to partner in future training projects.
- The UMSS medical school invited ATL to formalize our partnership through a written recognition of our shared goals.



172 students
have trained with A Tu Lado.
Read *their stories*
on www.atulado.net.





Augusto Terceras Pedraza, MD

Just two weeks after graduating from ATL's June 2013 "Intro to EMT" course, Augusto landed a job with a competitive emergency medical service in Cochabamba.

Reflecting on how the course prepared him, he remarked, "The method used by ATL is experiential. After doing the scenarios enough times, I can re-live them in my head."

Augusto quickly found ways to improve the service. It was common practice, for instance, for dispatch to end a call after sending an ambulance. Recognizing the disadvantage this created for patients and responders alike, Augusto trained dispatch to talk callers through the emergency until an ambulance arrives.

The impact is clear. During a recent call for a cardiac arrest, dispatch followed Augusto's protocols; they instructed the caller to begin CPR and continue until help arrived. Augusto's team arrived on scene to find CPR in progress and, after providing additional treatment, the patient survived.



Elvia Claire Orellana, First Responder

A SAR volunteer since 2005, Elvia is one of the group's more experienced responders. But when she heard about ATL's June 2012 course taught in partnership with UMSS, she jumped at the opportunity.

"If there were a program for paramedics in the university, it would be fantastic," she later told us. "The only institution doing training is SAR." As former coordinator of SAR's logistics, budgeting and scheduling, Elvia knows the challenges of pre-hospital care in Bolivia. "A standardized pre-hospital certificate could reduce inter-institutional conflicts," she said, when explaining why she's such an advocate for ATL's work.

In March 2013, Elvia proved a valuable ally and advocate. She attended every class to help students learn the steps in patient care, and she supervised the daily practice scenarios. Elvia expects to finish her graduate studies later this year and begin a new life in another part of Bolivia, where she hopes to continue volunteering as a first responder.



Boris Castellon Castilo, RN

For six years, Boris struggled to convince his colleagues of San Juan de Dios Psychiatric Hospital that medical emergencies must become an institutional priority. Patients were dying from treatable causes like aspiration, yet nothing was being done. "I had lost hope," he told us, "until I took ATL's course."

After graduating from our course in June 2012, Boris re-dedicated himself to advancing emergency preparedness in the hospital. His campaign has since gained a critical mass. With newfound support, he is setting up an airway management training program for hospital staff and forming protocols to coordinate emergency response. For the first time, Boris is optimistic that patients will receive the critical care they need.

In addition to working in clinical care, Boris is a professor in the UMSS nursing school. This past March, he volunteered as a simulation instructor for ATL's second 'Intro to EMT' course, helping students master the material he knows is so valuable to Bolivia's capacity for emergency care.

Every contribution brings us closer to our goals.

To make a donation

visit www.atulado.net

Organizational Update

In January 2013, ATL restructured leadership to better leverage our strengths. Former Assoc. Director Terence Steinberg became Executive Director, Ethan Forsgren began a new role as Research Director, and Emily Berger, who joined ATL last June following a year of volunteer service in Bolivia, accepted a position as Academic Director.

Financial Report, FY2012

REVENUE

PUBLIC SUPPORT

Private Donations	\$ 4,910
Silent Auction	2,586

OTHER REVENUE

U.S. University Grants	3,518
Foundation Support	1,822
Course Tuition	200
Total Revenue excluding gifts in kind*	13,036

EXPENSES

PROGRAM COSTS

International Travel	\$ 6,130
Room & Board	1,400
Educational Materials	175
Local Travel	150

SUPPORTING SERVICES

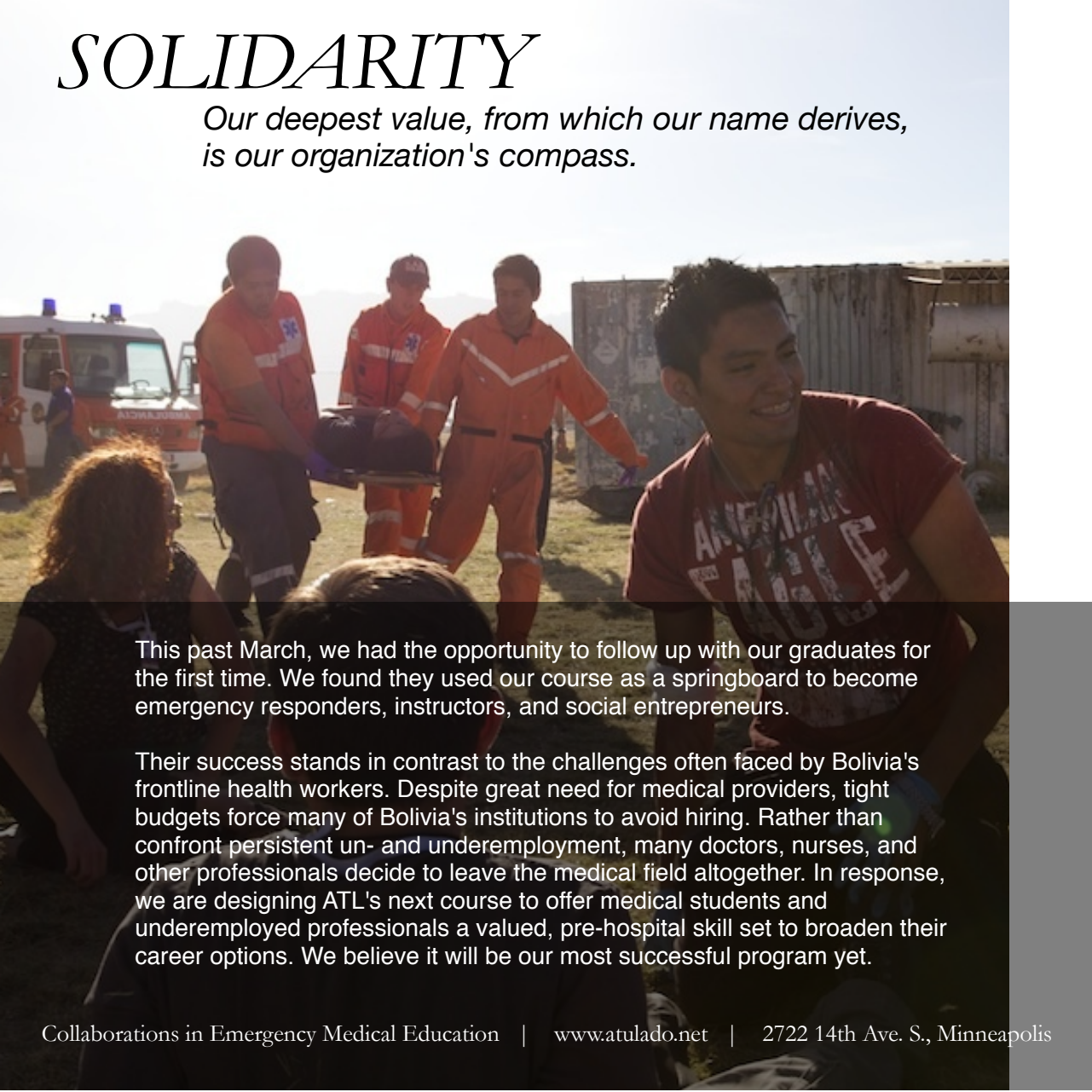
Fundraising	445
Total Expenses**	8,300

* Gifts in kind include approx. \$75,000 labor, \$7,000 equipment, & \$4,500 air travel.

** Remaining \$4,700 used to fund March 2013 course.

SOLIDARITY

*Our deepest value, from which our name derives,
is our organization's compass.*



This past March, we had the opportunity to follow up with our graduates for the first time. We found they used our course as a springboard to become emergency responders, instructors, and social entrepreneurs.

Their success stands in contrast to the challenges often faced by Bolivia's frontline health workers. Despite great need for medical providers, tight budgets force many of Bolivia's institutions to avoid hiring. Rather than confront persistent un- and underemployment, many doctors, nurses, and other professionals decide to leave the medical field altogether. In response, we are designing ATL's next course to offer medical students and underemployed professionals a valued, pre-hospital skill set to broaden their career options. We believe it will be our most successful program yet.