



Colorado Springs Guitar Society Newsletter

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

January 2011

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Last Month's Meeting

Last month's CSGS meeting was held Monday, December 13th, at ASUUC. The performers and pieces played were:

- Group ensemble (dir. Mike Zimmerman): "Up on the Housetop", "Over the River (and Through the Woods)", "Angels we have Heard on High", "Jolly Old Saint Nick", and "I Saw Three Ships".
- Rock Goldberg (guitar) and Mike Richard (recorder): "My Lady Carey's Dompe" (Anon.), and Siciliano, BWV1030 (J. S. Bach, arr. M. Suzuki)
- Rock Goldberg: Waltz (F. Carulli) and "Spanish Ballad" (Anon.)
- Bill Davis: "El Testament d'Amelia" (Miguel Llobet)
- Mike Richard: Sarabande (Francis Poulenc) and Rondo in G (F. Carulli)
- Bert Bradford: "O Come All Ye Faithful" (John Reading), "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (F. Mendelssohn), and "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Anon., arr. Duncan)
- Jim Bosse: "Silent Night" (F. Gruber), and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (F. Mendelssohn)
- Tom Stringer: "Tiento Antiguo" (Joaquin Rodrigo), and "Fandanguillo" (Frederico Moreno-Torroba)

CSGS Officers:

- **Mike Zimmerman**, President
- **Jim Bosse**, Vice President
- **Bruce Downs**, Secretary
- **Greg Playle**, Webmaster
- **Tom Stringer**, Newsletter Editor
- **2010 Student Coordinator:**
 - **Ashley Lutton**

Contact information: <http://www.coloradospringsguitarsociety.org/>

The Next Meeting of the CSGS

Meetings are always **the second Monday of each month**, at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church (ASUUC), 730 North Tejon, at 7:30 PM. The next meeting is **Monday January 10th**.

All guitarists that wish to may join in playing a set of several easy to medium difficulty ensemble pieces, attached with the newsletter:

- "Follow me up to Carlow" (Irish trad.)
- Minuet in G major (G. F. Handel)
- Gavotte (G. F. Handel)
- The Pavane of Welburn (Anon.)
- Chorale in the 16th Century Style on the theme "Veni Redemptor Gentium" (Nancy Stringer-Jung)

This will be a group activity at the start of the meeting. If you are going to join in on these, please pick and practice the parts you would like to play, if possible please print and bring the sheet music, and please have your guitar tuned to standard pitch before the meeting begins.

Puzzle

What does the following sequence of numbers represent?

{10, 14, 14, 11, 9, 13, 11, 8, 12, 10, 14, 12}

(answer is given on page 2)

Music Quotes

"To play the guitar well is easy, to play the guitar poorly is difficult."

- *Pepe Romero*

"...it is, in my considered opinion, a debatable virtue to search for greater volume of sound at the expense of sound quality."

--*J. Bream* (Introduction to "Antonio Torres Guitar Maker - His Life & Work", *J.L. Romanillos*)

"It's kind of 19th century tradition that practice should be hard work, leftover from the Victorian thing. I think this is a totally destructive idea. The essence of the thing is that the work should be enjoyable...When people are learning instruments, they should be encouraged and advised: if they say they don't enjoy their practice, I always say, well, *find* a way to enjoy it.

-- *John Williams*, on Practicing an instrument

Upcoming Concerts

“**Guitar legends**”---Featuring **Eliot Fisk and Bill Frisell**, January 21st 2011, 7:30 PM. Newman Center, 2344 E. Iliff Ave., Denver, Co. www.newmancenterpresents.com

Classical guitarists Alex Komodore and Jeff LaQuatra, presented by the Denver Classical Guitar Society, Saturday, February 5, 2011, 7:30 PM, South Broadway Christian Church, 23 Lincoln Street, at Ellsworth, Denver, Co., tickets \$20. For additional information call 303-940-7097.

Classical guitarist Paul Galbraith, presented by the Denver Classical Guitar Society, Saturday, April 2nd, 2011, 7:30 PM, South Broadway Christian Church, 23 Lincoln Street, at Ellsworth, Denver, Co., tickets \$20. For additional information call 303-940-7097.

Stargazers Theater*, at 10 S. Parkside Dr., Colorado Springs www.stargazerstheatre.com brings in a number of music concerts potentially of interest to CSGS newsletter readers (for more information on these concerts contact: John Hooton, Tel: 719-476-2200, Email: stargazers2525@aol.com):

- Tiny Barge and The Big Chill: “Let the good times roll.” This band plays a variety of rock, blues and R&B with James Brown- style antics. Date of show is Saturday, January 22, 2011. Doors open at 7:00 P.M. and the show is at 8:00 P.M. Tickets are \$10.00.
- Arch Hooks in concert: he presents a rock n roll “dance party”. Date of show is Friday, January 21, 2011. Doors open at 7:00 P.M. and the show is at 8:00 P.M. Tickets are \$10.00.
- Peppino D'Agostino, acoustic guitar (voted 2007’s “Best Acoustic Guitarist” by the readers of *Guitar Player* magazine). Joining him is Laurence Juber (fusion of folk, jazz, and classical styles), a two-time Grammy-winner and former lead guitarist for McCartney's Wings. Date of show is Thursday, February 17, 2011. Doors open at 6:00 P.M. and the show is at 7:00 P.M. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 day of the show.
- Firefall—the rock band that formed in Boulder, Colorado in 1974. Date of show is Saturday, February 5, 2011. Doors open at 7:00 P.M. and the show is at 8:00 P.M. Tickets for this all-ages show are \$15 in advance and \$18 day of show. VIP Reception tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 day of show; for VIP tickets, call Stargazers at (719)-476-2200.
- Sunday concert series showcasing the finest local and regional rock and blues artists. The event will be hosted by the new band "Starburn". This four-piece band includes local music scene veterans Dale Creel and Jack Baker, formerly of the Channel Cats. Invited guests and

featured performers will be The Rampart High School Jazz Band. Date of show is Sunday, January 23, 2011. Doors open at 5:00 P.M. and the show is at 6:00 P.M. This is a free concert with general admission seating.

*Stargazers Theatre and Event Center www.stargazerstheatre.com is a multi use indoor facility with a seating capacity of 500 people concert style and 220 people banquet style. They feature concert events ranging from rock, country, blues, jazz, classic rock, folk, Celtic, bluegrass, comedy and much more.

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Answer to Puzzle on page 1

The days of the month for 2011 of the CSGS meetings.



Musicians wanted for Sunday Services at ASUUC

ASUUC occasionally requests classical guitarists for their Sunday services. The agreement is that the CSGS is allowed use of the church facilities for the meetings in exchange for providing music during their services. Solos, duets, etc are welcome. Please contact Mike Zimmerman if you would like to perform occasionally at ASUUC services. (*Editor's note: if you play for a service, we will, if you wish, include a photo and a brief note about the pieces you played.---TAS*).



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Status of the New CSGS Website

Greg Playle continues to work on and update the CSGS website. He has placed several back issues of the CSGS newsletters on the site, as well as some recent photos of members, concerts, etc. If you have any ideas about what you would like to see added to the website, please contact him at Webmaster@ColoradoSpringsGuitarSociety.org or discuss them with him at the next meeting.

Here Jim Bosse tells us about his recent trip to Argentina, and his musical experiences with Alejandro Dávila, his guitar partner in the Dos Américas duo.

Dos Américas – Argentina 2010
by Jim Bosse

Monday, November 8th

Our flight from Colorado Springs to Dallas on American Airlines departed early. We had a nice dinner at the Dallas airport before boarding at 8:30pm for our long overnight flight (also on American Airlines) from Dallas to Santiago, Chile.

Tuesday, November 9th

We enjoyed a spectacular view of mighty Aconcagua (the highest mountain in North and South America) in the early morning as we approached Santiago. We arrived scruffy and tired at 9:45 am. We had several hours layover so my daughter, Krysty, and I rehearsed in the airport prior to boarding our last flight. As we were boarding this LAN flight from Santiago, Chile to Mendoza, Argentina, a nice couple complimented us on our music. We discovered after chatting with them, that they live in Castle

Rock, Colorado, not very far from us. We had a spectacular view as we crossed the Andes on this flight, but our flight path was too far South for another look at Aconcagua.

My guitar duo partner, Alejandro Dávila, met us at the Mendoza Airport and drove us the 2 ½ hours to San Juan. He had some trouble at the police control stop crossing the county line, because his auto insurance card was expired. He negotiated our passage without hassle but it brought back memories of our bad experience at this same location in 2001 when the insurance card of our rental car was also expired.

We had a nice dinner at the Dávila home for our first night in Argentina. Krysty got to meet Alejandro's wife, Monica, and their son, Federico. One of their other sons, Santiago, had already visited Krysty with us in Santa Fe in 2006. They were already good friends and were both looking forward to this visit. Alejandro and I had rehearsed just a little before dinner but he knew that I was exhausted from the long travel, so this rehearsal was brief and limited only to four pieces that we would perform the next day. Serious rehearsals would commence the next day.



Dos Américas performing in Argentina, November 2011

Wednesday, November 10th (Cancelled Festival, Curse of Krysty)

Alejandro and I had a long rehearsal in the morning, polishing up all the pieces that we would perform this week. Alejandro's daughter Natalia took Krysty and my wife, Nancy, to the Grafina Winery for a tour. Santiago and Natalia's one year old daughter, Lucia, also went on this tour.

Nancy, Krysty, Santiago and I had lunch at our favorite San Juan restaurant, Las Leñas. Krysty and I shared a parilla, my favorite Argentine meal. For this Argentine cuisine, a mountain of meat is brought to your table on your own personal barbecue grill. This always involves a few oddities. This time it was pieces of cow udder.

Krysty and Nancy took a taxi downtown for shopping in the late afternoon while I took a siesta and then practiced. Alejandro and I had another short rehearsal at 7:00pm, and the Guitarras Sin Fronteras Guitar Ensemble rehearsed at 8:00pm at the auditorium just prior to our concert.

This concert was put together as a replacement for a guitar festival that Alejandro had organized, but then had to cancel. The original plan was for a Patagonia/Cuyo Festival featuring several of our guitar friends from southern Argentina and those from this region. At the last minute, the Patagonian guitarists had to back out, so this Guitarras Sin Fronteras concert was the replacement. The last time I invited Krysty to join me at a guitar festival in Mexico; it was also cancelled at the last minute. So the guitar festival curse of Krysty caused another festival to meet its demise.

Dos Américas opened the concert. It was scheduled to begin at 9:30pm but we were all accustomed to these events really starting one hour later than posted. At 9:35 Krysty and Nancy returned from shopping and found me backstage. When someone came to get me, we all thought it was for sound check or something preliminary. Krysty and Nancy almost left to get a pre concert glass of wine. If they had, they would have missed the first half. To our surprise, the concert began rather punctually at 9:40.

We began by performing “Angel of Shavano” and “Hanging Tree”, two movements from my “Shavano Suite”. These pieces are based on folklore tales from frontier days around Maysville, Colorado. I announced the pieces in Spanish so the audience could understand their meaning. “Angel of Shavano” depicts the tragic events of three young Ute Indians; Stone Face, Little Drum and Corn Tassel, the pretty Indian maiden. They were all childhood friends but trouble arose when both boys fell in love with Corn Tassel. They decided the only solution was to fight to the death, the survivor free to pursue the affections of Corn Tassel. Corn Tassel discovered their plan and tried to stop them, in the middle of their battle. Little drum turned to look at her. Stone face took advantage of this and stabbed Little Drum. With his last dying breath, Little Drum shot an arrow through Corn Tassel’s heart. Her spirit rose to the side of Mount Shavano to form the Angel of Shavano and Stone Face wandered away into the wilderness never to be seen again. My piece presents this tale in musical form and is dedicated to Krysty. It was a great pleasure to dedicate this performance to her at the concert hall in Argentina, although she almost missed it.

The second movement, “Tie Hacks”, depicts a day in the life of two Tie Hacks, robust men from frontier days who earned their living cutting down trees and sectioning them into railroad ties. We closed our portion of this concert with four Argentine milongas. This set of pieces was selected to present various styles of this popular folk dance rhythm. “Milongueo del Ayer” by Abel Fleury demonstrates the old traditional style (“Milonga of Yesterday”). We then played two milongas by Jorge Cardoso; “Milonga” from “Porteña Suite” showing the Buenos Aires style, then “Milonga” from “24 South American Pieces” to show the campo or country style milonga. Our final modern “Milonga” was by José Paredes. The campo style milonga by Cardoso is unique in that it is quite melancholy, and performed at a slower than usual tempo. Jorge wrote this gorgeous milonga after an evening in 1978 when he watched his country’s soccer team play in the finals of the world cup, against Holland. Jorge was living in Paris, exiled from Argentina during that period of civil unrest known as the “dirty war”. The match was played in Argentina and the paradox was this; Jorge wanted his country to win (which they did), but he did not want them to win! The military regime wanted the team to win, to take the spotlight away from all the kidnappings and murders

going on. So this complex emotion gave birth to Jorge’s most famous composition.

The second half was presented by the “Guitarras Sin Fronteras” guitar ensemble comprised of two National University of San Juan teachers, Alejandro Dávila and Gabriela Perez, and eight of their students; Maria José Barbero, Daniela Ayelen Alcaraz Marinero, Daniel Ismael Toret Bravo, Maria Soledad Vega Coria, Tania Guigni Rodari, Gerardo Andres Siere, Nicolas Alberto Bustos and Emilio Perez. This ensemble had just returned from a concert tour in Germany so they were presenting all the music that was prepared for their European adventure. While in Germany they all bought matching gray guitar cases made in China, that were very light, durable and inexpensive. One of their members had fallen down stairs a few days ago and broken her arm so she could not perform at this concert.

The ensemble was well rehearsed displaying virtuosity and a high level of musicality. They performed music of Argentina with aplomb. Their program was: “Milonga Mafiosa” by Marcelo Coronel, “Dolce Tonadita” by Hugo Figueroa, “Novitango” by Astor Piazzolla, “Melancolico” by Julian Plaza, “Alfonsino y el Mar” by Ariel Ramirez, “Danza Final” by Alberto Ginestera and “Gato y Malambo” by Hector Ayala.

After the concert we all went to Rigolettas pizza place for a celebration dinner.

Thursday, November 11th

In spite of being up quite late, Alejandro and I rehearsed at 9:00am. After our duo rehearsal we met with the orchestra conductor, Miguel Scebba, to go over our concerto with him. Afterwards we had a thorough rehearsal of “Suite Indiana” by Jorge Cardoso, with the string orchestra. This beautiful concerto has four movements: Argentina (milonga), Venezuela (aguinaldo and joropo), Paraguay (guarania) and Brazil (aires de samba and marcha). At this point we know the piece quite thoroughly. We had the good luck to perform with composer Cardoso at the Guitarras del Mundo Festival in this same Auditorio Juan Victoria in 2006. We met with him and he showed us all the rasgueado rhythmic strum patterns and reviewed the entire piece with us. We have performed it with string orchestras in Arequipa, Peru; Manitou Springs, Colorado; and Talagante, Chile. My pianist/composer friend Sylvia Hazlerig and I arranged the string orchestra score into piano reduction a few years ago. Pianist Abe Minzer and our duo have performed this version numerous times during our 2009 Dos Américas U.S. tour.

While we were rehearsing, Alejandro’s daughter Natalia drove Nancy, Krysty, Monica, Santiago and Lucia to a cave bodega that makes champagne, for a short tour.

In the early evening, Alejandro and I had an interview and live performance on Radio Light for a radio show, “Como Tú Quieres” hosted by Betty Puga. We performed the four milongas. We had a nice dinner at the Dávila’s home and then Krysty went to a club to hear Santiago’s band perform in a battle of the bands.

Friday, November 12th

Alejandro and I rehearsed in the morning and then had our brief final rehearsal with the orchestra. Nancy and Krysty went downtown again for some shopping in the late afternoon while I rested and practiced.

The concert was part of this season's series for the Orquesta Sinfónica de la Universidad Nacional de San Juan. This evening was with guest conductor, Miguel Augel Scebba. Miguel is a respected pianist and composer. The large and beautiful Auditorio Juan Victoria was about half full with perhaps 450 people plus this entire concert was broadcast live on Radio Universidad.

The orchestra began with a modern work, "Esterbend" by Adrian Russoud which had a Stravinsky like sound. We performed "Suite Indiana" next to finish the first half of the concert. Everything went quite well. Better than any of the rehearsals! The audience received this performance well and called us out for an extra bow with a standing ovation. What a thrill, to perform this magnificent concerto with such a fine orchestra. I can't wait to get the recording that was made.

During the intermission, we were congratulated by a long line of San Juanino friends and much of Alejandro's extended family. For the second half, the orchestra performed "8 Cantos Rusas Op 56" by Anatole Lladov and "Pequeña Suite OP 56" by Claude Debussy. After the concert, our dinner was at the same restaurant downtown where we had dinner with Jorge Cardoso in 2006 after our Guitarras del Mundo concert with him. That seemed like an appropriate choice.

After our celebration dinner, Krysty and Santiago went to Mamadera's Club where Krysty performed as a guest, for a band that was friends of Santiago's.

Her performance was also well received so we both, father and daughter, enjoyed successful musical evenings in San Juan, Argentina.

Saturday, November 13th

Nancy and I walked back to the auditorium at 10:00am to listen to a student concerto competition. Six university students were competing for a chance to perform with the orchestra. We listened to a very talented young female perform a Mozart sounding piano concerto accompanied on another piano by the conductor from last night, Miguel Scebba. Alejandro's student Emilio Perez then performed the Rodrigo Concerto Aranjuez. This amazing young guitarist handled all the demanding rapid scales with ease. After listening to Emilio play this demanding and gorgeous concerto, I felt like my concerto performance the previous evening was child's play.

A Vivaldi Concerto was next, performed competently on English horn. Ivan Amoros, a guitar student of another National University instructor, Juan Olguin, then performed the Rodrigo Concerto again. I had heard Ivan perform in Junin de los Andes a few years ago. He is a very good guitar student but not exceptional like Emilio. I was expecting that his performance would be inferior to Emilio's, but that was not the case. Emilio did nail the rapid fire scales effortlessly which Ivan did not, but Ivan played the piece very well and perhaps with a little more emotion. Ivan's piano accompanist also played more musically than Emilio's. All things considered, I would judge it a draw. Ivan probably had to work much harder to match Emilio's performance but he obviously did what was necessary. We left before the flute and violin students performed but in my opinion the piano and English Horn concertos had no where near the depth of musicality nor the display of virtuosity that the Aranjuez has, so

I would judge a guitarist to be the possible winner. The guitar is the red headed step child of classical instruments however, and Alejandro has told me that the orchestra conductor is strongly prejudiced against guitar concerti, so who know? I later learned that Ivan was awarded first prize, shared with another student. Emilio shared second place.

In the afternoon, Alejandro and I performed a short introductory show, then a one hour interview and live performance for Radio Universidad. We played our four milongas plus "Triunfal" by Astor Piazzolla. I closed the program with a solo, "Light My Fire".

In the early evening we performed a short concert at a small church in San Juan. Krysty and I opened the concert with "Just the Way You Are" by Billy Joel, then my two Scottish songs; "Lullaby for Mirabai" (lyrics by Rudy Melena) and "Air for Chiara". Krysty sang beautifully. It was a great pleasure to perform with her in Argentina. Dos Américas finished the concert with our four milongas.

Our final evening in San Juan was celebrated at the Dávila's home with a traditional Argentine asado. Natalia's boyfriend, Jano, served as asador and cooked the meat on the outdoor grill. After the delicious meal, we all performed for a closing musical event. Krysty and I performed my two Scottish songs first, and then Natalia joined us for the Billy Joel song. Natalia then sang an Argentine folk song with Jano accompanying her on guitar. She then sang again accompanied by her father. Santiago then closed the evening with some good old rock 'n roll. Alejandro and I joined in for his last medley of popular 60's tunes. It was a wonderful evening. I made a fitting toast; Para la amistad de Dos Américas y dos familias.

Sunday, November 14th

Alejandro arrived at 9:00am to take us to the bus terminal in San Juan. He could not drive us to Mendoza because of the problem with his auto insurance card. Alejandro's son, Gabriel, met us at the bus terminal in Mendoza. After checking into our very luxurious Hotel Huentala, we walked through the beautiful plaza and had a nice lunch at an outdoor café. After lunch we connected with Santiago who decided to join us in Mendoza, taking a later bus.

We spent the afternoon at Parque San Martín viewing the impressive monument atop Cerro de Gloria, a massive sculpture depicting San Martín's crossing of the Andes to defeat the Spanish army during their battle for independence. After walking down Cerro de Gloria, we walked around the zoo for three hours.

Nancy, Krysty and I joined the two Dávila brothers again in the evening to go to an all girl's vocal comedy show which was energetic and quite well done, but we gringos did not comprehend any of the verbiage.

Krysty spent one final late night with Gabriel and Santiago, partying with a few of the cast members of the girl's show.

Monday, November 15th

We enjoyed spectacular views for our second flight over the Andes, from Mendoza back to Santiago, Chile. This time the flight was close to Aconcagua so we were able to photograph this ominous peak. We had a quick and easy pass through Chilean

customs and a few hours layover at this airport before flying to Calama, Chile (a two hour flight) for a short vacation. It was almost midnight when we arrived at Hosteria San Pedro in San Pedro de Atacama. After the one hour bus ride, we were all complexly exhausted, so we rapidly checked into our room and all went to bed.

Tuesday, November 16th

We walked around San Pedro in the late morning, getting acquainted with this beautiful and unique desert oasis town. All of the streets are narrow and unpaved with 6-8 foot high adobe walls on either side on the front of buildings, homes or shops constructed right up to the edge of the narrow sidewalks. By code, all building must be constructed from mud adobe giving the town its signature rustic desert appearance and tourist charm. The city is packed with fine restaurants, hotels and hostels, shops of many kinds and numerous tour offices. Our hotel was conveniently located two blocks from the central plaza. Our Chilean friend, Rosemarie (Alfredo Muro's wife) had told us of the magical charm of this special place. We were not disappointed.

Our first tour began at 4:00pm with a spectacular view of a canyon in the Salt Mountains and stops in Death Valley and Valley of the Moon. We viewed the Three Marias rock formation, the amphitheater and hiked up a log ridge to view sunset at the Great Sand Dune. Every location was spectacular. We all fell in love with this place. During this tour we made friends with two young adults, Jenny from South Africa, and Morgan Semanski. Morgan was living in England but was from Mexico. We discovered on the next day that he was a professional classical guitarist, also in South America performing concerts with orchestras in Argentina and Chile. We found lots to talk about and had several mutual guitar friends.

Wednesday, November 17th

We had a very long tour this day, starting at 8:00am and returning at 5:30pm. We visited several lagoons in the National Flamingo Reserve, some at about 13,000 foot elevation. The scenery at the higher lagoons was breathtaking. One of the bird species at these high lagoons was the "James" Flamingo. We also saw a fox, an ostrich, numerous vicuñas, gulls, and two other types of flamingos and many other bird species. Our guide for this long tour was a spicy, attractive, dark skinned young lady, Angela. She spoke very good English, unlike our guide the day before whose English was marginal. Jenny and Morgan were on this tour. We also befriended a Canadian couple who would be with us on the remainder of our tours. We had a nice lunch at a rustic restaurant in the small village of Toconao and then visited the old church, centro with shopping and the river oasis area of this village. Angela showed us many arrowheads and pottery shards from the ancient indigenous people, that she has illegally collected.

We had a nice dinner at another fine restaurant in downtown San Pedro. Nancy and I commented that it was too bad that Krysty didn't make plans to meet one of her new friends, to enjoy the active night life here. No sooner had we said this when she perchance met Morgan. Thus Krysty was able to stay up late with the safe accompaniment of a companion and Nancy and I would get to bed relatively early.

Thursday, November 18th

Our morning tour was a snoozer. We visited two small archeological sites. The ancient ruins of Tulo and the Inca era fort, Pukara de Quito. They were both interesting but we could have walked through and gleaned all we wanted from them, easily in one hour. The four hours was achieved by our handsome young guide, Gustavo, talking endlessly about the entire history of this area, first in Spanish, then in English.

We had a relaxing afternoon. Upon the recommendation of Jenny, we went off the main strip to a very nice but more reasonable priced restaurant for lunch. Morgan was there already, so we joined him. Thus Krysty once again met Morgan unexpectedly. Morgan had just returned from the Geyser tour that we would do the next day.

Krysty went on a sand skiing tour in the afternoon which involved hiking up a large sand dune in ski boots, carrying her skis. No surprise, she was the best skier on the dune that day. This, although exhausting, turned out to be her favorite tour while in San Pedro. We had another nice dinner then all retired early anticipating the adventure which would commence rather early the next day.

Friday, November 19th

We awoke at 3:30am to dress ourselves in many layers, the underneath being our bathing suits. We tried to sleep during the two hour bumpy bus ride to the Tatio Geysers at almost 14,000 feet of elevation. It was -11 degrees centigrade, (about 10 degrees farenheight) upon our arrival. The vistas were spectacular at predawn. Our guide was Gustavo again. We were afraid he would talk too much again but his discussions were brief and informative. He placed a bag of eggs and containers of hot chocolate in one of the hot water ponds and walked us all through this fantastic geyser basin. We enjoyed dawn and were able to peel off a few layers as the sun warmed the area.

After consuming our boiled egg and hot chocolate breakfast we went to a hot spring pool where we stripped down and went for a short bath. There was no changing facility, only a four foot high stone wall. After our bath everyone had to hide themselves with a towel, best they could, and change back into their clothing. Mrs. Canada has a nice butt! The geyser and mountain views and the overall experience were incredible.

On our way back to San Pedro we stopped at the high altitude village of Machuca where we tasted llama kabobs and cheese fry bread. We arrived back at our hotel at noon, packed up and took a bus back to Calama.

Saturday, November 20th

Our room at Ayelen Hotel was a three bedroom apartment. It was nice enough but in a sketchy part of town, three blocks from the central plaza. We all slept in, being exhausted from our geyser tour the previous day. By the time we got information about bus schedules to the coastal town of Tocopilla, which was our plan, we had already missed the only morning bus. In lieu of a one day visit to the coast we took a short tour to the desert oasis village of Chiu Chiu with the picturesque, oldest adobe church in Chile, Iglesia San Francisco. After a tasty but ridiculously long lunch at a very nice rustic restaurant, we made a

stop at the beautiful tiny Laguna Inka Cuyo where the constant strong wind almost blew us in.

Sunday, November 21st

We all slept in, then leisurely packed our luggage for our long journey back home. Our first flight left Calama on time, to arrive in Santiago where we had a long layover before our overnight flight back to the U.S. We had a bit of a layover in Dallas also. It was Monday by the time we returned home after 29 hours of travel. I always use this long travel time to reflect on the events and fond memories of each trip. This trip was definitely well endowed with both.