PURDUE “ALL-AMERICAN” MARCHING BAND

Medellin, Colombia
August 4-10, 2015
AGENDA POINTS

• Health and Safety
• Passports/Visas
• Travel Plans and Procedures
• Performance Locations
• Money Issues
• Academic Expectations
• Emergency Planning
• Study Abroad Obligations
HEALTH AND SAFETY

• There are no specific medical risks for Medellín. This is a highly developed country with good medical systems.

• No special vaccinations are required for entry into Colombia.

• Your medical forms must be on file in our office before the trip begins. Extra forms are available here tonight.
HEALTH AND SAFETY

• Colombia carries a travel warning from the U.S. Department of State. The travel warning may be seen on their website, and has been in place for many years (updated annually).

• Concerns are more a function of travel in rural areas outside of the major cities. We will be in the very large city of Medellin throughout our entire trip.

• Our trip is undertaken in partnership with the Mayor’s office in Medellin. Our safety is the priority of EVERYBODY involved. We had to be assured of this before we would allow this trip to happen. You will be in good hands.
PASSPORTS AND VISAS

- It is YOUR responsibility to secure your passport. If you have not applied yet, we insist that you pursue (and pay for) expedited processing.
- No special visa is needed to enter Colombia from the United States.
- International students are expected to check their home country’s requirements for entry into Colombia.
- We will not let you travel without a completed passport form. Extras are available here tonight. Pat Newton is responsible for those forms.
TRAVEL PLANS AND PROCEDURES

• The program will begin in Indianapolis on August 4, 2015. Rehearsal location TBD.

• Lodging provided near the Indianapolis International Airport.

• Bus transportation provided to Indy Int’l Airport for departure. Some students will be on a charter flight, others will fly commercial.

• All instruments will go on the charter flight so luggage issues will not happen.

• An exact itinerary is forthcoming, but events in Medellin will be addressed later in this presentation.
• Medellin is the second-largest city in Colombia, with around 3 million residents.

• The city has several large commercial centers and universities, surrounded by residential property of all types.

• Generally speaking, the more affluent areas of the city are lowest in elevation. Medellin is in a valley ranging from around 4,000 to 8,000 feet above sea level.
Medellin is a highly innovative city. Many of the major innovations (such as the metrocable to get up the mountain, or an incredible escalator through residential areas) were built to allow the poorest citizens access to and from the city center.

Despite this, you will see evidence of a very wide class divide.
We will stay at the TRYP Medellin, a nice tourist class hotel in a populated and safe area of the city.

- Occupancy is three to a room.
- Room signups are available here tonight. People not signed up will be placed into a room.
EXPECTED WEATHER

- Average high: 82
- Average low: 62
- Medellin does not really have seasons, though there is a strong tendency for increasing rain in September and October.
- Medellin is sometimes referred to as the “City of Eternal Spring”
STAYING CONNECTED

• In our experience, Wi-Fi is available nearly everywhere, but connections are often fairly spotty.

• Cell phone service is excellent in the city, and even up in the mountains, signal was available.

• We encourage you to set communication expectations with your families BEFORE departure! We (the staff) do not want to get emails/calls from nervous parents!
MONEY MATTERS

• Once we’re on the ground, all meals are provided:
  • Breakfast at hotel
  • Box lunches
  • Dinners ranging from hotel restaurants through banquet-style celebrations.

• Any cash would be needed only for personal purchases like souvenirs, snacks, elective transportation, etc.

• It is recommended that you acquire money from an ATM rather than an airport exchange service.

• Contact your banks and card providers to let them know of your trip!
EMERGENCY PLANNING

• The Purdue Study Abroad office is solidly connected with this trip. Their website has many informative links regarding emergency procedures.

• You will be provided a card with every significant contact process before departure (including staff contacts, all lodging/transportation contacts in Medellin, medical information, police, etc.). You will be expected to carry that card at all times.

• The staff EXPECTS that you will keep us apprised of anything you observe in yourself and others that might be problematic when out of the U.S. We will be in constant contact with local officials who can assist with any major issue that arises.

• Dr. Sayger will be traveling with us, and will attend to all medical concerns that she is allowed to do. If needed, we will refer severe issues to the excellent medical practices in Medellin.
PERFORMANCE VENUES

• We are conducting a site visit next week to finalize these venues, so this is subject to some minor adjustment.

• Our intent is to give at least one performance on each full day we are in the city. Attire for these concerts may vary between our new Summer Uniforms, Gold Day Uniforms, and the Black Band Polos.

• Most performances will be with the full ensemble, but one day may require us to divide our travel party into smaller ensembles.
STUDY ABROAD INFO

• Register for your study abroad experience in the Summer 2015 semester. Study Abroad course number is 10315.

• To withdraw from the trip, I need to have that in writing. Effective today, withdrawals are still obligated to pay a total of $850 of program costs. After June 1, there are no refunds, with possible airline cancellation fees also assessed. This was all on the study abroad participation form you turned in with your deposit.

• Scholarships (per federal guidelines) are applied approximately 10 days before departure.
STUDY ABROAD INFO

• Purdue disciplinary procedures are in place throughout the entire trip.

• Study Abroad Office has historically not been kind to students who encounter disciplinary problems. On a previous trip with problems, the faculty member was instructed to “drop him off so that adult can find their own way home.”

• Colombia is strict on drug issues. If you are arrested for possession/consumption, we will not be able to assist.
SMART TRAVELER INFO

- ALWAYS stay in groups. Take care of each other.
- If utilizing transportation outside of our group, make sure the car service is reputable. When in doubt, check with the hotel staff.
- Basic familiarity with the Spanish language will be extremely helpful. While we will have several translators with the group, please understand that the typical citizen of Medellin does not speak English.
- Continue to respond to all requests for information or action within 3 business days.
SMART TRAVELER INFO

• Hydrate VERY well in the weeks leading up to this trip. At these elevations, you might find yourself getting dehydrated easily.

• If you ever use an inhaler, BRING IT. Especially up in the mountains, the air is noticeably thinner.

• Be smart with your food and drink consumption. Those with food allergies would do well to bring a translating dictionary.

• Alcohol will affect you more abruptly in Colombia. Remember that we are performing every day and you need to be in peak condition.
All travelers are required to register with Music Travel Consultants. If you are going through the Study Abroad program, you should not pay any money to them. Provide all other requested information. This is for insurance purposes.

Remember their payment schedule – payments are due on the 5th of each month until departure.
ACTION ITEMS

• Room Sign-Ups (TONIGHT)
• Passport (IMMEDIATELY)
• Medical Forms (ASAP)
• Risk/Responsibility Form (on Study Abroad website, send to Pat Newton)
• Respond to all requests for information within 3 business days.
• Bus Sign Ups (will happen via Google Doc over the summer – watch your email)