Greetings, Colombia Travelers!

This is the first summer bulletin for our upcoming trip to Medellín, Colombia. It is my plan to issue these twice during June, and as often as necessary through July. It is critical that you read these carefully and observe each item as if it requires action.

**UP-TO-DATE TRIP INFORMATION**

http://www.purdue.edu/bands/columbia

This includes all current forms that require completion (nothing new), as well as the slides from our pre-trip meeting on May 1. This site will be regularly updated throughout the summer as new trip information is made available. Please check this frequently, as some updates may occur between these bulletins.

**AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

We expect that all students respect that there are three significant parties here that are critically important in providing you the best possible travel experience. Here are those parties and their expectations:

- **Purdue Band Faculty and Staff**
  - Communicate regularly regarding travel updates,
  - Provide materials you need to fulfill all travel requirements,
  - Coordinate our arrangements with our friends in Colombia, and
  - Design performances that will highlight all that is good about our program.

- **Purdue Study Abroad Office**
  - Coordinate all legal/insurance elements of your overseas travel,
  - Provide scholarship assistance for those who applied,
  - Manage the academic component of this trip, and
  - Provide international resources in any emergency situation.

- **Purdue Band Students**
  - Respond to all requests for information in the prescribed time frame,
  - Pay all fees to the Bursar or to Music Travel Consultants as prescribed,
  - Communicate all trip details with parents, and communicate with the band staff on their behalf (due to the academic component of this trip, it’s a touchy subject on whether we’re even allowed to communicate directly with parents on these details. In any case, you are young adults who are expected to handle these arrangements professionally.),
  - Stay in good physical and playing condition throughout the summer (if you’re in town, Summer Concert Band is an excellent way to help this!), and
  - Be prepared to represent Purdue University with class for the entire duration of the trip (which includes the rehearsal and travel days).
CURRENT ITINERARY

The most updated itinerary for this trip may be found here:

https://www.purdue.edu/bands/colombia/colombia-itinerary/

As with everything else on this trip, all elements on this itinerary are subject to radical change as our friends in Medellín continue to refine performance and travel details.

REGISTRATION OBLIGATIONS

It is critical that you make sure you have completed the following registration requirements for this trip. Prof. Conaway and Pat Newton will be reviewing all rosters on Monday and Tuesday, and it is expected that all travelers will have taken care of all appropriate registrations by that time.

- **Register with Music Travel Consultants**
  - I have been told there are around 25 travelers who have not completed this yet. All travelers are required to register with MTC *whether or not they are registered with Study Abroad*!
  - Go to [www.music-travel.com](http://www.music-travel.com) to register or to verify your registration. If you are with Study Abroad, no payments should be made to MTC. If you are NOT traveling with Study Abroad, your initial payment should be $600 at this time, with the next payment of $400 due June 5.
  - If you are registered for Study Abroad, but are receiving bills from MTC, DO NOT pay them; forward me that message so I can remove you from their billing list. Your payments will come directly from the university.

- **Register for Study Abroad (website AND course)**
  - If you are intending to receive course credit and the $1,000 scholarship, you must register through the Study Abroad website ([http://www.studyabroad.purdue.edu](http://www.studyabroad.purdue.edu))
  - You also must register for Study Abroad course 10315 for the Summer 2015 term. If this is not on your schedule, you will not receive credit OR the scholarship!

- **Provide Medical, Risk, and Passport Forms to the Band Office**
  - Pat Newton is collecting all forms. If you are off campus, we ask that these forms be mailed to the band office (Purdue Bands and Orchestras, 712 Third Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907).
  - Additional copies of the required forms may be found on the Colombia trip page ([http://www.purdue.edu/bands/colombia](http://www.purdue.edu/bands/colombia))
  - You will NOT be allowed to travel if any of these forms are missing. If you have not applied for your passport yet, you are critically late, and must pursue expedited processing.

INFORMATION ITEM: There will be a new online form for you to complete with the next bulletin. This will allow us to collect even more current information including updated weight, dietary restrictions, and other significant information that will allow our planning process to be even more helpful to our hosts. Please be on the lookout for that online form, which will be due one week after it is emailed out.
INSTRUMENT AND UNIFORM INFORMATION

All travelers were expected to sign out a school instrument and a new summer uniform for the Colombia trip.

**ACTION ITEM:** If you have not done this yet, you are expected to email the appropriate office head to make arrangements to secure these items. **You are expected to complete this process within the next week.**

Clothing: Billy Shank (wshank@purdue.edu)  
Supply: Matt Sagstetter (msagstet@purdue.edu)

PRE-TRIP READING ASSIGNMENTS

There will be some very limited expectations of pre-departure work. This work will likely take no longer than 10-15 minutes per bulletin released. There is a fierce sense of regional pride in Medellín; there, it is far more common to hear the Antioquia Hymn (a sort of state song) than it is to hear the Colombian national anthem. All travelers are therefore required to read what is provided, as it will help develop your understanding of Medellín, and Colombia in general. These assignments will serve as verification to the faculty that you are indeed reading these bulletins. They also will provide one component of the grading for those enrolled in the Study Abroad course.

**INFORMATION ITEM:** There are no assignments to complete with this bulletin. Beginning with the first bulletin in June, assignments will involve the reading of short prepared documents and the completion of an online assignment involving multiple choice questions related to the reading.

CLOSING REMARKS

There shouldn’t have been a whole lot of new information in this bulletin, but it does provide you a digest of what has already been distributed or discussed. The next bulletin will come out the week of June 1, and will include updated itinerary information, the first pre-trip assignment, and a new form to complete for our planning purposes.

Please remember that you have committed to immediately responding to all requests for information in a timely fashion. If you are going to be away from your email for more than three days in a row, please remember to email Prof. Conaway (conaway@purdue.edu) so you are not penalized for failure to respond.

Thanks for reading – best wishes to all of you as you begin your summers!

Matthew R. Conaway  
Assistant Professor of Bands  
Travel Coordinator