

Overseas International Program Travel Grant Report

Name: Kevin Delgado/Bill Yeager

Faculty/Rank: Assistant Professor/Professor

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Proposal title: SDSU Jazz Ensemble United States State Department Tour of Bolivia

Country visited: Bolivia

Institutions visited: Centro Boliviano Americano in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba; Conservatorio Nacional de Musica in La Paz; concerts and performances in major venues in Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, El Alto, and La Paz.

Dates of travel: July 11-23, 2004

Number of student participants: six

Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded (list titles, countries and dates): none

Have all required reports been submitted? yes

Other funding for this activity available/applied for: yes

Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum):

A series of concerts and masterclasses throughout the country of Bolivia by the SDSU Jazz Ensemble along with faculty members Bill Yeager and Kevin Delgado (both performing and lecturing with the students). This undertaking is officially sponsored by the American Embassy in Bolivia and the Youth Symphony Orchestra (Roland Schlieder, Director and SDSU alumnus) as a “goodwill tour” to help put a positive face on American culture in these difficult political times.

Travel report:

I. Opening/overview of intentions/activity

II. In preparation for the trip abroad

- Professor Yeager coordinated the planning with: SDSU officials and offices; with US Embassy Cultural Affairs Officer Rolf Olsen (OlsonRA@state.gov); with Cultural Programs Coordinator Fabiola Ibaregaray (IbaregarayFX@state.gov); and with Roland Schlieder of Youth Symphony Orchestra of Santa Cruz (rschlieder@hotmail.com). Plans were made for teaching and performing in the Bolivian cities of Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, Oruro, La Paz, and El Alto.

Professor Yeager also arranged for the collection, packing, and shipping of numerous musical instruments and musical supplies to Bolivia for donation to the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Santa Cruz. (A list of instruments and supplies shipped includes: 26 drum heads; 9 violins; 3 trumpets; 1 clarinet; 1 saxophone; 4 trombones; 4 tubas; and 5 french horns.)

- On June 29th, 2004, the ensemble performed live on KUSI's morning show to promote the tour and SDSU.

III. Upon arrival/specific activity

- In Santa Cruz we conducted workshops and taught master classes at the Centro Boliviano Americano (CBA), performed two formal concerts (Los Tajibos Hotel and MAD, which donated a portion of the concert proceeds to the Santa Cruz Youth Symphony), and performed informally (at the CBA and Janis nightclub). We also performed and/or were interviewed on morning and evening television programs (including the highly regarded show *Que no me pierda*). We also met with Cecilia Kenning de Mansilla, director of the Asociación Pro Arte y Cultura regarding future opportunities for scholarly research by faculty or students. In Cochabamba we conducted a workshop and taught master classes at the Centro Boliviano Americano (CBA) and performed concerts at the Centro Patino Open Air Theater and at the Mandarin Lounge. Maria Julia Suarez and Silvia Quiroga assisted with transport. Our initial plans to go to La Paz and then on to the town of Oruro were canceled due to a referendum that was held during our tour. (Referendum days permit no travel [including driving], commerce, or other business/education affairs. Bolivia has a history of political upheaval and protests, especially in the highland areas and the cities of La Paz and El Alto. As recently as October 2003, violent protests forced Bolivia's President from power. This referendum was the first public vote since that change of power. As referendums approach or political tensions rise, many forms of protest are seen, including the physical blocking of highways. A great deal of

uncertainty was caused by the referendum, and rumors of everything from voting area violence to a coup d'état were circulating. Because of this, the Embassy felt that our group should wait out the referendum in Cochabamba, which is less volatile than the capital. Also, plans for the Oruro concert were canceled as this involved ground transport through areas vulnerable to roadblocks.) After the referendum (which passed peacefully, to the surprise of many) we traveled to La Paz and then to El Alto, where we presented the first jazz concert in that city's history at the Teatro Municipal de El Alto. In La Paz we conducted workshops and taught master classes at the Conservatorio Nacional de Música. Professor Yeager also conducted a clinic for La Paz Big Band (directed by Juan M. Pereira), with several student members of our group also participating and assisting. In La Paz we performed two concerts, one at the Teatro Municipal, and one at the Thelonious Jazz Club.

IV. Conclusion, recommendation, and next step?

- This trip provided an extraordinary experience for SDSU students and faculty from a cultural, pedagogical, performative perspective. I am proud to report that our tour of Bolivia that our SDSU students carried themselves in an extremely professional manner, always friendly, patient, and flexible in the face of scheduling issues or physical challenges (for example, the elevation at our performance venue in El Alto was at over 13,000 feet and the temperature cold). This ensemble's teaching and performance were worthy representatives of our Jazz Program, the School of Music and Dance, our University, and our nation.
- Institutions. A frank appraisal of the potential for exchange Sustainability of project (is there a high likelihood that students in the department will be interested in studying the proposed subject area at the prospective partner university and vice versa)?
- How will this exchange program (or expansion) increase participation by students in international activities, or enhance international learning environments for students?
- What students will benefit?
- In Santa Cruz, the possibility of future research by students or faculty is promising, as What will be their activities (e.g. course work, international internships, field research, etc.)?
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V. Additional Information

All information should be sent to The Office of International Programs via e mail:

oip@mail.sdsu.edu