ITINERARY

Wednesday, July 25, 2012
Orientation
We will arrive at Guatemala City’s international airport, La Aurora, and travel together via shuttle to Antigua where we begin our journey. Upon arrival in our hotel, the Posada de Don Rodrigo, we will relax and meet for an orientation dinner at the hotel.

Thursday, July 26, 2012
Curriculum Development – Antigua
In the morning we will head out to Casa Herrera where we will have our first meeting on curriculum development. Casa Herrera is owned and operated by the University of Texas at Austin and Fundación Pantaleón; it serves as both a research facility and meeting space for archaeologists and anthropologists in the field. We will get to use the space to work on our own curriculum development throughout the trip. We will spend the afternoon touring the beautiful city of Antigua.

Friday, July 27, 2012
Iximche – Lake Atitlán
In the morning we will pack up and go visit the pre-colonial archaeological site of Iximche, the capital of the Kakchiquel Maya group which fell to the Spanish conquerors in 1524. The site’s remains are in a pine forest characteristic of the Guatemalan highlands. There we will see a Maya temple and ball court that are part of the ceremonial center of the ancient city. A special Mayan ceremony will be held for us at this site. We stop for lunch in Tecpan, about 2 miles from Iximche, and then travel to Lake Atitlan, one of the most beautiful sceneries in the world, surrounding by three volcanoes: San Pedro, Atitlan and Toliman. In fact, this large highland lake was formed from volcanic eruptions. While at Lake Atitlán, we will be staying at the Posada de Don Rodrigo, Panajachel, the sister hotel to our “home” in Antigua.

Saturday, July 28, 2012
San Pedro
We will venture onto the lake with a boat trip to the town of San Pedro, another community on the shores of Lake Atitlan. (There is no road that encircles the lake, plus a trip on the water will afford us more views of the beautiful scenery!) In less-discovered San Pedro, we will meet with various women’s weaving collectives and learn more about the unique weaving collective they have formed to make a living.

Sunday, July 29, 2012
Chichicástenango
We will tour our way back to Antigua today. Along the way we will visit the famous market of Chichicástenango, the center of K’iche’ Maya culture. Gorgeous scenery unfolds this morning as we ascend from the central valley into the Guatemala highlands. We will drive by friendly Indian villages where crops are still hand-tilled and grown on impossibly steep hillside terraces. We will enjoy lunch in the peaceful highlands before immersing ourselves in the colorful pageantry of Chichicástenango, where we can shop for elaborately carved dance masks and
richly embroidered hand weavings. We will visit Santo Tomas Church where rose petals and candles cover the floor and copal incense fills the air. Here Mayan and Catholic rituals are blended together. At the end of the day we will be back in Antigua at the Posada de Don Rodrigo.

**Monday, July 30, 2012**

**Kachiquel language presentation**

Today we will visit the highly acclaimed language school of Proyecto Linguistico Francisco Marroquin (PLFM). The school is named for Francisco Marroquin, a bishop in Guatemala in the 1500s who took an interest in educating indigenous peoples and even founded a school for that purpose. He learned K’iche Maya and translated the catechism into this Maya language. Founded in 1969 by linguists, the goal of PLFM is two-fold: to preserve Maya culture and languages and to teach Spanish. PLFM is a non-profit organization with all of its courses taught by native Guatemalans, and proceeds from the classes are put toward creating resources such as dictionaries and grammar guides for the study of Maya languages.

**Tuesday, July 31, 2012**

**School Visit**

We will travel to Chimaltenango where we will get the special opportunity to visit a Guatemalan primary school where Dr. Judith Maxwell of Tulane University will lead us on a tour of Patchali School where lessons are conducted in both Spanish and Maya, encouraging proficiency in both languages. In the afternoon, we will work again at Casa Herrera on our curriculum project and spend the night in Antigua.

**Wednesday, August 1, 2012**

**Tikal**

Today we will need to get a very early start from Antigua to Guatemala City to catch a flight that leaves at 6:45am. The early morning trip has been worth it when we arrive in Flores, the town adjacent to the truly breathtaking ancient Maya site of Tikal. We will spend part of the day exploring the magnificent achievements of these fascinating ancient people. At its height Tikal was home to over 100,000 Maya and was a cultural and political center. Howler monkeys, spider monkeys, and coati mundi are frequently seen at Tikal National Park, and the more elusive jaguar and ocelot are also known to survive in this protected rainforest reserve. Almost 300 species of birds have been identified in Tikal including toucans, motmots, and parrots. We will spend tonight in the park at the Jaguar Inn, one of only three hotels in the National Park and only 1 kilometer from Tikal’s Grand Plaza.

**Thursday, August 2, 2012**

**Tikal**

This morning is a free morning inside Tikal National Park. One popular option is to watch the sun rise from one of the pyramids at the site. We will leave the park at 1:45pm to catch our flight from Flores leaves at 4:40 pm and arrives in Guatemala City at 5:30pm. We will spend the night at the Westin Camino Real in Guatemala City.

**Friday, August 3, 2012**

**Guatemala City**

The group will convene in the morning for a group breakfast and end to our trip. We end our program at 10:30 am. Participants will be taken from the hotel to the airport depending on their flight schedule.