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Dear Percussionist and Family:

Welcome Back! Thank you for registering for the 2014 edition of the MOBILE PERCUSSION SEMINAR at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. As a veteran MPS student, you know you are in for another exciting and productive week! This packet contains all the necessary information you will need before arriving in Amherst on July 27th, as well as a UHS Health Form, Waiver & Release Form, and a UMass-Amherst campus map. Make sure to read through the packet and have your parents read it as well. Remember, you are responsible for everything that is included here.

I hope that the Seminar is lots of fun for those that attend. In addition, I would also like to emphasize that our primary purpose throughout the week will be to develop you into the best percussionist and student leader you can be. Please be certain you are both physically and mentally prepared to devote 100% of your energies toward the accomplishment of this goal.

We will be using the same two books as in previous MPS years: "A Percussionist's Guide to Check Patterns" textbook and "Championship Concepts For Marching Percussion" student workbook. Be sure to bring both of these books with you. If you have misplaced your books, you will be able to purchase them during registration. The student workbook is \$5.00 and the textbook is \$20.00.

The Staff and I are very excited about the Twenty-Fourth Annual MOBILE PERCUSSION SEMINAR at the University of Massachusetts and we look forward to seeing you in July! If you have any questions, please contact our Business Office at (413) 549-8066 or send an email to office@percussion.org.

Best wishes,

Thom Hannum,
Mobile Percussion Seminar Director

REGISTRATION

Registration will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 PM on Sunday, July 27, in the lobby of a "yet to be determined" dormitory in the "Southwest Residential Area" of campus. Once our dormitory has been determined, you will be sent a letter via snail mail and an email with the name of our dormitory and any other updated information regarding Registration.

Be sure to bring your completed UHS Medical Form and Waiver & Release Form, as well as your balance due for the Seminar (if applicable). As in previous years, we encourage you to mail both your Medical Form and Waiver & Release Form to our office in advance, as it will be one less thing to worry about on July 27!

PLEASE NOTE: At this time, we are unable to accept credit cards as a form of payment. Tuition balances and books may be paid for with cash, check or money order. We apologize for the inconvenience.

After settling into your room and storing your instrument (and case if applicable) in the designated location, you will then go to Berkshire Dining Commons for dinner. Remember, this is the only meal that will NOT be done as a group, so you must plan your time accordingly.

The first session will be held Sunday evening at 6:00 PM at the GNP Minuteman Marching Band Building/Grinnell Arena. All MPS students will meet outside of our dormitory at 5:40 PM and we will walk over to the GNP Building as a group. You will need to bring your books, instrument, and a pencil or pen with you to the First Session.

TRANSPORTATION

If you are traveling by bus:

Make sure your final destination is AMHERST CENTER. The phone number for PETER PAN BUS LINES is (413) 781-3320. The MOBILE PERCUSSION SEMINAR will provide transportation from Amherst Center to UMass. Please call Sally Johnson at (413) 549-8066 by Saturday, July 26, with your arrival time.

If you are traveling by airplane:

The final destination is HARTFORD/SPRINGFIELD BRADLEY AIRPORT. The MOBILE PERCUSSION SEMINAR will arrange for shuttle service from the airport to UMass, as well as the return trip to the airport on Wednesday.

If you are arriving by car:

From Springfield/Hartford/Bradley Field:

1. Take INTERSTATE 91 NORTH to EXIT 19. (Northampton/Amherst).
2. As you exit, take ROUTE 9 EAST to Amherst. (Bear RIGHT and cross the bridge.)
3. Follow Route 9 to ROUTE 116 NORTH. (4.5 miles; on the left)
4. Take Route 116 NORTH to the FIRST EXIT (UMass).
5. BEAR RIGHT at the end of the ramp.
6. Drive to the BLINKING TRAFFIC LIGHT and turn RIGHT on to University Drive.
7. Look for the "Mobile Percussion Seminar" signs.

From Boston and Points East:

1. Take Massachusetts Turnpike WEST to EXIT 4.
2. Follow Interstate 91 NORTH to EXIT 19 (Northampton/Amherst).
3. Follow From Springfield/Hartford directions.

From New York City:

1. Take INTERSTATE 95 NORTH to New Haven then to INTERSTATE 91 NORTH.
2. Follow I-91 North to MASSACHUSETTS EXIT 19.
3. Follow From Springfield/Hartford directions.

From New York State: (Albany, Utica, Syracuse, Buffalo)

1. Take the New York State Thruway EAST to the Massachusetts Turnpike.
2. Drive EAST on the Mass Pike to EXIT 4.

3. Follow INTERSTATE 91 NORTH to EXIT 19 (Northampton/Amherst).
4. Follow From Springfield/Hartford directions.

From New Jersey:

1. Take the Garden State Parkway NORTH to New York State Thruway.
2. New York State Thruway SOUTH to EXIT 8.
3. Follow ROUTE 287 WEST (Cross Westchester Expressway) to Interstate 95 NORTH.
4. INTERSTATE 95 NORTH to New Haven.
5. Take INTERSTATE 91 NORTH to MASSACHUSETTS EXIT 19 (Northampton/Amherst).
6. Follow From Springfield/Hartford directions.

From Vermont:

1. Take INTERSTATE 91 SOUTH to EXIT 25. (So. Deerfield/Sunderland/ Rte.5-10).
2. Turn LEFT at the end of the ramp.
3. Drive to the "T" and turn RIGHT on to RTE. 5-10.
4. Pass Yankee Candle then turn LEFT on to ROUTE 116 SOUTH to Sunderland/Amherst.
5. Follow Rte.116 South to the UMASS/AMHERST EXIT. (8.5 miles)
6. Bear LEFT at the end of the ramp and cross the bridge towards UMass.
7. Drive to the BLINKING TRAFFIC LIGHT and turn RIGHT onto University Drive.
8. Look for the "Mobile Percussion Seminar" signs.

From New Hampshire:

1. Take VERMONT INTERSTATE 91 SOUTH.
2. Follow INTERSTATE 91 SOUTH to EXIT 25 (So. Deerfield/Sunderland/Amherst).
3. Follow From Vermont directions.

<<OR>>

1. Take INTERSTATE 93 SOUTH to Massachusetts 495 SOUTH.
2. Follow 495 South to ROUTE 2 WEST to ROUTE 202 SOUTH.
3. Take Route 202 South to EXIT 16 (Amherst/Belchertown).
4. Follow ROUTE 202 SOUTH for 15 miles towards Amherst/Belchertown.
5. Turn RIGHT to: Rte. 9-116/AMHERST/NORTHAMPTON at blinking yellow light.
6. Drive 7 miles to Amherst Center (your 3rd set of lights on this road.)
7. Continue straight, down AMITY STREET (between the two Banks) to stop lights.
8. Turn RIGHT at the lights on to UNIVERSITY DRIVE. Look for "Mobile Percussion Seminar" signs.

PARKING

If you will be driving yourself to and from campus, you must use our assigned parking lot. You will get information on where to park your vehicle from a staff member during Registration. Resident students will park their cars after Registration and turn in their keys to the appropriate staff member.

Commuter students are expected to report to our Dormitory before the start of the morning session (time will be announced at the conclusion of the evening session), and to remain with the Seminar until the end of the evening session. Commuters' cars are to remain "off limits" during the day.

If you park in any area not specifically designated for MPS, you may be subject to having your vehicle ticketed and towed at your own expense.

HOUSING

Once we receive confirmation of our dormitory in the Southwest Residential Area, you will be sent both an email and a letter via snail mail regarding the name of the dormitory and helpful tips for Registration. As you know, we can receive dorm confirmation from as early as May 1st to as late as second week of July, so thank you for your patience regarding this matter.

ROOMING ASSIGNMENTS

You will be housed with another MPS student at random to enhance your experience of meeting new friends and working with new people. If a specific roommate is desired, please provide the name of the student you wish to be roomed with on registration form or via email. All roommate requests must be sent to Sally Johnson at office@percussion.org no later than JULY 22. NO EXCEPTIONS.

MEALS

All meals will be eaten in Berkshire Dining Commons. The first meal will be Dinner on Sunday, July 28, served from 4:30 to 5:30 PM. The final meal will be Lunch on Thursday, August 1.

Please visit www.umassdining.com/nutrition to view menus and special dietary needs options

TELEPHONES

The telephone number for the University Conference Services is (413) 545-2591 or, in case of an emergency, call the University Police at (413) 545-2121. Students may bring cell phones; however, they must be either turned off or set to “vibrate” during each session.

EQUIPMENT

Marching percussion students should make every possible to bring their own instruments and harnesses. If this is logistically impossible, equipment can be loaned out from Mobile Percussion Seminar. All requests for equipment must be sent to our Business Office by either phone or email. Please Note: IF YOU WILL BE BORROWING MARCHING EQUIPMENT FROM THE SEMINAR, THE DRUMS WILL BE OF “COLLEGE/ DRUM CORPS” WEIGHT!

All Seminar students will receive a pair of sticks or mallets during Registration. Mallet players will be provided instruments at the Seminar. Students in the drum set program should bring their hi-hat stand, hi-hat and ride cymbal and stand, and a drum seat.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Any medical emergencies that arise will be handled through the University Health Services (UHS). The UHS Health Form is required for all students who attend a University sanctioned camp. This form will be kept confidential and on file at UHS in the case of an illness or accident. In extreme circumstances, students will be transported to Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, which is approximately 20 minutes away. Please note that any ambulance transportation will be billed to the parent/guardian's medical insurance policy.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Family members and friends are invited to join us for our Closing Ceremony on Thursday, August 1. The Ceremony is scheduled to take place in the parking lot in front of Gladchuck Field--immediately adjacent to McGuirk Stadium with parking available in E Lot--in conjunction with the George N. Parks Drum Major Academy. The Academy and the Mobile Percussion Seminar students will perform a small demonstration for each other. The Closing Ceremony will start between 1:00-1:15 PM and it will last approximately an hour.

CHECKOUT

Checkout will be Thursday, August 1st following the Closing Ceremony. All Resident students must return keys and meal cards as directed. There is a \$60.00 charge for any lost keys and a \$20.00 charge for any lost meal cards!! Please be sure to check all desk and closet drawers for belongings before you leave. The Mobile Percussion Seminar and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst are not responsible for any personal belongings left in dorm rooms.