

#### Can You Hear Me Now?

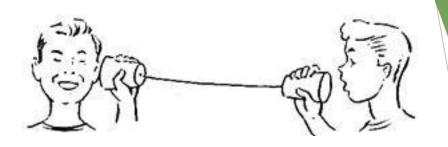
A Guide to Staying Connected to Students and the Office of Education Abroad During Study Abroad Programs

UNC Charlotte Legal Symposium, October 26, 2017

Amy S. Kelso, Senior Associate General Counsel

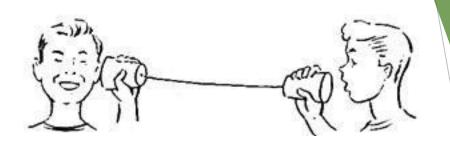
Brad Sekulich, Director, Office of Education Abroad

#### Introduction



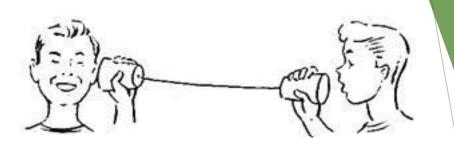
- This session covers the importance of
  - staying connected with students and the Office of Education Abroad (OEA) during study abroad programs;
  - legal responsibilities of faculty program directors; and
  - program decision-making in light of current global unrest.

## Staying Connected: Administrative



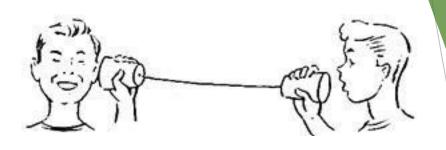
- TDS (Terra Dotta Software) study abroad database
  - Locating students during disasters or emergency events
  - Students self-reporting location/status
  - Messaging from Education Abroad
    - Security
    - Health

## Staying Connected: Methods



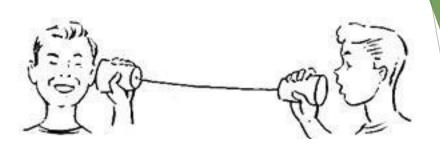
- Cell Phones
  - Are students expected to have phones/international service?
  - Faculty
    - Phones are required
    - Call trees
- Email official means of communication
- Time zone differences
- GeoBlue travel insurance
  - Incident response; family, health facilities, etc.

## Staying Connected: Methods



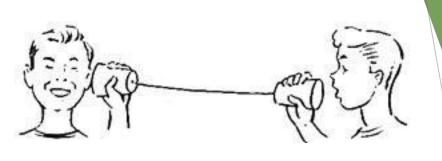
- Social Media
  - Talking to students about how to use it while abroad
  - "Mark yourself safe"—communicating with friends, family, faculty, students in a crisis
  - Faculty-created social media pages for groups/trips
    - Best practices
    - University social media accounts (Section III <u>University Policy</u> 302, <u>Web Communications</u>)
  - OEA will use as last resort to contact students in time of crisis

# Legal Responsibilities: Resources



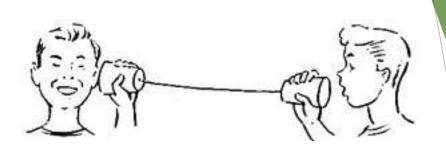
- OEA Training and Faculty Handbook
  - Required to attend workshop
  - Handbook is required reading
  - Highlights:
    - Emergency Reference Guide
    - On-Site Program Management
    - Emergency Response

### Legal Responsibilities: Compliance



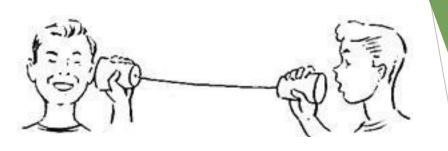
- ► Title IX
  - Faculty as "<u>responsible employee</u>"--responsible for reporting any alleged violation of Title IX
  - Online report form
  - Provide the victim/survivor with the Interpersonal Violence Resource Guide
  - Obtain on-site assistance from host institution, local authorities, consulate, etc.

### Legal Responsibilities: Compliance



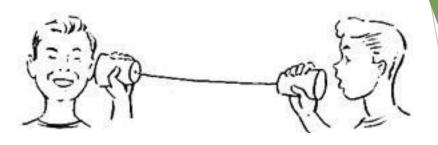
- Clery Act
  - Obligation to report crimes that occur on property that the University "owns or controls"
    - "Control" includes rental/lease/use of all or part of a building or property by written agreement
  - Work with OEA to report to PPS
  - Obtain on-site assistance from host institution, local authorities, consulate, etc.
  - See <u>CUA Note</u> and <u>NAFSA paper</u>

#### **True Stories**



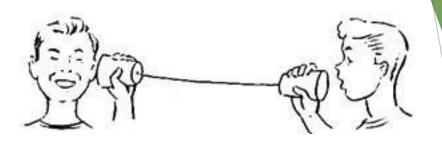
- Berlin example
  - Best practices
  - Lines of communication:
    - ► Faculty → OEA
    - ► Faculty → local authorities (including consulate/embassy, police, etc.)
    - ► Faculty → other program participants
    - ► OEA (not faculty) → parents
    - ► OEA → other University offices

### Current Global Unrest



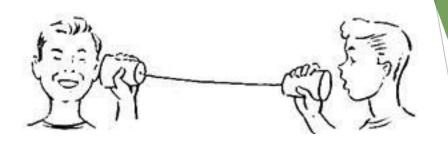
- What are policies for running/cancelling programs?
  - Travel Warnings (new policy forthcoming)
    - US State Dept.
    - ► CDC
    - ► WHO
- Enrolling in <u>STEP</u> (Smart Traveler Enrollment Program)

### Current Global Unrest



- How sites are chosen
  - Who is involved?
  - What are the barometers?
- Communicate with OEA whenever there is a current crisis at or near site location(s)

#### **Q&A**



- Questions for OEA or OLA?
- Contacts:
  - Brad Sekulich, Director, Office of Education Abroad
    - sekulich@uncc.edu
    - **704-687-7747**
    - edabroad.uncc.edu
  - Amy Kelso, Senior Associate General Counsel
    - amy.kelso@uncc.edu
    - **828-232-4990**
    - ► <u>legal.uncc.edu</u>