



# Bringing the World Together

THE UP WITH PEOPLE NEWSLETTER

VOL 2, ISS 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

## A Message from Tim Lane, Vice President

Dear Friends and Alumni,

As I was driving several members of Cast A 2007 to their performance site this morning for rehearsal, I couldn't help but pick up on their contagious excitement for this week and their show on Thursday. As they discussed back and forth about dance steps, lyrics, and their upcoming travels, I just smiled, remembering my early days and wondering how many times I had been a part of similar conversations.

Thinking back to my years on the road, I realize how different things are for the young passengers in my van today than when I was in their shoes. With the news of 200 people killed in an insurgency battle in Iraq today, three Israelis dead from a suicide bomber in a neighborhood bakery, and our own political conflicts in the United States, it seems that today, there are so many more challenges in the world as ideologies, religions, and cultures clash. I don't mean to be nostalgic and overlook the global conflicts that took place during my youth, but it seems to me that as globalization increases interaction and communication around the world, we face an unavoidable choice of either learning to work together, or being in constant struggle with each other.

Up with People has always proactively chosen to help people work together. How privileged I feel to be a part of this effort! And considering the unique challenges of the world today, I am glad that we have remodeled our program in a way that really

touches the needs of people and communities across the globe. Spending one week in each city, rather than jumping from place to place with show/travel/show days, we are able to build stronger relationships and leave a broader and deeper mark on each community we visit. Again tuning my ear back to the students in my van, I know that there is a need within young people today to be a part of something that models the world they want to live in, and I believe Up with People is meeting that need.



In the past, many students used to say they had joined Up with People because they had seen a show or hosted someone. Today, students are saying they joined because they talked with an alumna/us or someone who had been involved in the program. In fact, **60 percent of students from both Cast A 2006 and Cast A 2007 were recruited**

**by alumni.** The truth of the matter is that students are intrigued by personal stories. They know they have hundreds of options for traveling and serving after high school. They want to know that Up with People is unique. And you, my friends, are the best ones to tell them.

Our goal for July is to have two casts traveling with 100 students each. To reach this goal, we estimate a **need for 380 additional new applications by March.** In the next few weeks, we will be announcing a cast challenge for alumni to work together to help us meet this goal; please be on the lookout for this announcement.

You have probably already noticed the picture of an incredibly handsome, though somewhat aging, man with a couple of kids above. (I had to slip that one in!) I'm pictured here with the next generation. Each of these pictured Cast A 2007 members has a parent or parents who traveled in Up with People in the past. This picture is significant because it is proof of the most important point I can make to you today: Up with People is just as relevant to youth today as it was in the past. You are our visibility. Please, let people know.

Sincerely,

Tim Lane, Vice President



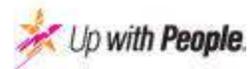
**YOU CAN HELP!**

Please print and remove the card below, give it to a prospective student, and mail to either:

Up with People—World Headquarters  
1600 Broadway, Suite 1460  
Denver, CO 80202  
USA

Up with People—Europe  
Avenue de Tervueren 300  
B-1150 Brussels  
Belgium

Our admissions team will follow up with the young man or woman you have identified.



Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/postal code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

This is your: Home (permanent) Address School Address If yes, Valid Thru \_\_\_\_\_

School Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Program Interested In: July 2007                      January 2008                      July 2008

*For the latest news and program information, visit us at [www.upwithpeople.org](http://www.upwithpeople.org)*

## Student Spotlight



Armando is a native of Mexico City, Mexico. He graduated in December 2005 from the Technological University of Monterrey with a degree in Communications. His biggest passions in life are volunteering and the performing arts. After his time in Up with People, Armando would like to continue working together with his castmates to make his country and world a better place. He would also like to work for an international NGO for people in Mexico in greatest need of assistance.

1) What inspired you to join Up With People?

**Armando González Pérez** Big things start with small sparks. And that it's the way that it started for me...

The first time I heard about Up with People, I was in high school, in 2000. That day, for sure, is one of the most important days of my life. Thanks to that instant, I am finding myself here a few years later, face to face with my biggest adventure. On that day, a group of enthusiastic people talked to my friends and me about Up with People and asked us for help; they need host families for young people from all around the world. Of course I was the first to offer my home to these great guys and girls!

Nelleke Klump from The Netherlands was my host sister. She stayed in our home for two weeks, and I can tell that her presence there changed my vision of the world completely; there she was, a European young woman with a new, fresh idea of what the planet is. She talked about values I had never known before - values of international collaboration and intercultural communication. After seeing the spectacular "A Common Beat" show at the Metropolitan Theater in México City, I knew that I should be part of Up with People.

For many different reasons, I postponed my participation in Up with People seven years after 2000. Those were seven years of dreaming, seeing my self participating in a educational program which includes the four things that are my "passions" in life: community service, performing arts, social studies about international affairs and traveling, and knowing on a very intimate level the most exotic and wonderful cultures of the world.

What more inspiration did I need? This is my place: a group of people working together since 1965 with the goal of building a better world and creating the opportunity to construct international, cooperative networks that bring cultures closer together and destroy social barriers, prejudices and stereotypes.

Everything starts with a small spark... because a better world is possible.

2) What are you looking forward to most about your time in Up With People?

My main interest in participating in Up with People's international leadership program is, without a doubt, to build international cooperative networks to support my country. Mexico is a beautiful corner of the world with a lot of natural resources, but there is still a lot of suffering and hunger which destroy many Mexicans' dreams. One of my goals is to learn how each non-profit community partner we will be working with has found solutions to their societies problems. With this experience and knowledge, I will be able to return my country and apply that what I have learned.

## Student Spotlight



### Interview with Armando González Pérez, *Continued*

I am also planning to build networks around the world for people to work together as change agents in our communities, sharing knowledge and other kinds of resources that can be utilized in different areas of social assistance in México.

3) *How do you anticipate being challenged over the next six months?*

The main challenge for me will be family. In Latin America, family is one of the most important values of our societies. Being away from one's family represents a huge challenge for a Mexican. This experience will help me to redefine my relationships.

I see myself facing little daily challenges: strange food, host families, living conditions, exhaustive community service hours of work, but... as the old saying goes: Rome wasn't built in one day!

4) *Tell us about one aspect of the past two weeks that has surprised or interested you.*

My main impression: being in the same classroom with people from far away places like Singapore or Sweden. It is incredible to see that we are not that different. A curious thing that had been happening is that in only two weeks, we have built such a very close and warm community, we act as if we had known each other for many years. I can't imagine how we will be after six months! For now, this has been the most exciting two weeks of my whole life.

The difference between the ordinary and the extraordinary is a little effort; in Up with People we always do this little effort.

Thank you.



## Student Spotlight



*Megan joins Up with People from Nova Scotia, Canada. She is passionate about singing and drama and believes music is a powerful means of bringing people together. She is excited to travel outside of her home country and learn from her castmates.*

1) *What inspired you to join Up with People?*

While in high school, I was contacted by an Up with People alumna who then explained the program and her experiences to me. I knew that this was a much better choice for me than the university, so here I am!

**Megan MacIntosh**

2) *What are you looking forward to most about your time in Up with People?*

I'm most looking forward to the cultures. Before this experience, I had never left my country and hardly traveled within it, so to think that soon we will be in Europe, traveling to a different country every week is completely unbelievable to me at this point.

3) *How do you anticipate being challenged over the next six months?*

My main challenge this semester, I think, will be any language barriers I come across. Having English as my primary language, I'm not used to going anywhere without fellow English-speaking locals.

4) *Tell us about one aspect of the past two weeks that has surprised or interested you.*

I cannot believe how quickly everyone, cast and staff, are bonding and building friendships! It seems that already, we all know more things about each other than family or friends at home, and the support we show each other while sharing about our personal lives is overwhelming. At this point, I'm looking forward to seeing what's next!



# *You're Invited*

to the



## Show Dress Rehearsal

Thursday, February 1  
at 7:00pm (doors open at 6:30)

Teikyo Loretto Heights University  
3001 S Federal Blvd.  
Denver, CO

***Please come and support Cast A 2007!***

Email [rsvp@upwithpeople.org](mailto:rsvp@upwithpeople.org)

with your name, phone number, and number of guests