



Bringing the World Together

THE UP WITH PEOPLE NEWSLETTER

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Emerging Countries Program Launches in Thailand

Up with People is committed to being relevant to the needs and aspirations of the world today. In order to do so, we must build relationships among people in and from countries of diverse economic, social, and political conditions. For this reason, we are proud to announce our Emerging Countries program.

On May 17, Cast A 2007 arrived in Thailand, officially launching our new initiative to include at least one emerging country in every tour.

The value of this new program is evident, and there is no better way to demonstrate this than by sharing the stories of the students and individuals who have experienced it first-hand. We are therefore using this space to give you their voices, affirming the incredible depth of meaning Up with People provides for people around the world, the youth of today, and the global leaders of tomorrow.

Reflections on visiting the slums in Bangkok . . .

“Seeing, smelling and experiencing the slums was very impactful for me. It was like I saw my own reality in Brazil just on the other side of the world... I feel responsible to change this reality into something better.”

— *Leo from Brazil*

“The slum is a huge challenge. If there was one way to effectively handle it that would be through education, both teaching the world as well as the young children and adults living in there.”—*Patrick from Chicago*



On Host Families and people we meet . . .

“Culture shock, hospitality or over-excitement? Are these the right words to describe our first visit in Thailand? No, it is much more than that. I am all bubbly inside thinking about the experiences so far. How awesome is it to visit Thailand not just as a tourist but having the first hand experience of actually living the culture here. For instance, just the other day my host family took me to a Buddhist funeral and I ended up discussing politics with Mr Korn Chatikavanij, the Deputy Secretary General from the Democrat Party in Thailand while the Buddhist monks were making the final prays. It blew me away.... Can't believe I am here...” —*Tina from Sweden*

“Wow...my host family took me to the Grand Palace on Sunday and I was so impressed by the exquisite Thai architecture.”—*Janet from Singapore*

“I am glad that we are split up and do many different projects throughout Bangkok, working with children in the slums, working at orphanages, working with blind and deaf children, working with people with disabilities and do school project teaching about conflict resolution and cultural diversity ... the impact is better this way.”— *Whitney from Panama*



European Tour Review

European Tour Cast A 2007

Antwerpen – Utrecht – Leipzig – Bremen – Gothenburg – Roskilde

The European team congratulates Cast A 2007 for a successful tour through six cities in five countries.

The Cast accomplished a lot while building and re-building relationships in all of the European tour cities. And of course for the students, it was an amazing and intense time of being immersed in different cultures during each of the six weeks.

Here are just three examples of how the program is perceived today:

Relevance: In Leipzig (Germany), the Cast demonstrated that the UWP program is more relevant than ever. It was amazing to see how the different program components of student learning and community involvement fit together. The Cast focused its activities in one special area of town: Leipziger Osten. This is a neighborhood where major development projects in social housing, community programs, and youth development are taking place. After an introduction and tour of the historical and social components of the area, the Cast spend two days interacting with youth in schools and youth centers. The activities culminated in a big party where everyone came together and celebrated all they had accomplished throughout the week.



Leipzig project: "Respect is it."



Cast members at Burgerhaus Westerrassen

Impact: Another community project that the Cast can be proud of what was accomplished in Gothenburg (Sweden). The Cast helped local authorities plant 15,000 trees in an area that was hit by a storm last year. Up with People is leaving footprints everywhere that will last a long time and in this case, will help create a sustainable environment.

Getting connected: The Cast touched audiences, host families, youth, politicians, and of course, our alumni. The Cast and the European Up with People office team invited alumni to a reception after each of the shows to help them become reconnected with Up with People. Alumni from all eras – from Sing-Out to Worldsmart - attended and were excited about Cast A's enthusiasm on stage. This production truly conveyed the real spirit of Up with People – of sincerity in sharing thoughts, dreams, and hopes with the audiences.

If your company or the company you work for would be interested in getting connected with UWP's unique and influential activities in Europe, please contact Philip Springuel (pspringuel@upwithpeople.org), European Fundraising Director.

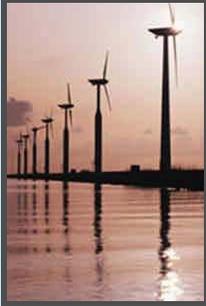
Or contact Kristina T'Seyen (ktseyen@upwithpeople.org), European Tour and Admissions Director, if you would like to be a part of our organization in any of the following ways:

- invite an UWP Cast into your town;
- introduce us to local contacts (city representatives, businesses, service clubs);
- support the European recruiting initiatives by opening doors in schools and universities recommend future students; and, learn how to support future students with your Alumni Golden Passport.

European Tour Review, Continued

At the beginning of the tour, the European team challenged the Cast to find a symbol, person or item that would represent the European continent. Patrick Singler (US) was the first one to present the idea of using “Windmills” as a symbol. He saw them throughout the tour, from the traditional ancient windmills in the Netherlands to the modern energy-producing wind turbines all over Europe.

Windmills – a perfect symbol to represent a continent with highly valued local and regional traditions and as well as a lot of energy and initiatives for a vibrant future. Up with People will be part of this.



We are looking forward to working with Casts B and C in the Fall in Espoo (Finland), Södertälje and Vimmerby (Sweden), Prenzlau and Erfurt (Germany), Luzern (Switzerland), Hasselt and Leuven (Belgium), Lecco (Italy). (Other cities to be announced.)



iGive + uGive = Sync Up with **People!**



When we make a financial statement of support to Up with People, we affirm our continued belief in the positive power of **People.**

Up with People is currently accepting donations to reach our **\$400,000 challenge match!** Call Tammie Limoges at 303.460.7100 ext 124. Please also consider sponsoring Up with People in your city. Go to www.upwithpeople.org.

Student Spotlight



A native of Singapore, Janet has participated in several cross-cultural exchange and education programs in addition to Up with People, including the Overseas College Program in Silicon Valley. She is an economics and sociology student with plans to study finance and establish her own organization focused on community services such as education. Janet's passion is to be involved in work that allows her to help transform the lives of people, especially the less fortunate.

1. What is one world issue you have learned more about in UWP that has captured your interest or concern?

Janet Neo

Immigration is a global issue that I have learned more about over the last 5 months. As the world becomes more connected due to globalization, it is inevitable that more people move from one place to another, be it for school or work. However, without any interactions, how can the locals and immigrants be friends at all? In the United States of America, I learned about the issues of immigrants between Mexico and the State of Arizona. In Europe, it was mainly the Turks and Moroccans. Many of my host families shared their personal stories about their knowledge and encounters with immigrants. One of my host brothers in Bremen, Germany, said that if he was walking down the street alone and saw a group of Turks or Moroccans, he would turn around and go off as fast as he could because he feared that he would get attacked by the other boys.

2. What do you feel should be done to address this issue?

First of all, I think that the government has a huge responsibility to integrate immigrants into a society. It is crucial that the government educate and promote racial and religious harmony to both the locals and immigrants. However, I want to say that the government is not the only group of change agents. Do not just look to the government for solutions to all the social problems that arose from immigration. Social integration is a tricky problem because of cultural differences. If people are kept within their own communities, they will not get know one another. Then, they will start to separate themselves from the locals and continue their way of life in a foreign country. Hence, I think that it is the duty of every person in the society - government, humanitarian organizations, business owners, professionals, teachers and students to work hand-in-hand to learn and educate about racial stereotypes, cultural differences and the importance of diversity.

3. Tell us a little bit about the people you've met so far that have made a difference in your life, challenged you or stood out to you in some way.

My host father, Ulf Olsen, from Roskilde, Denmark, has truly made a difference in my life. He shared with me his passion and dreams. On the fourth day in Denmark, Ulf and his wife, Elsbeth, told me that they would take me to a special place. Ulf shared about a dream he had since young and he said that after working really hard for 14 to 15 years and finally, his dream came true. He was successfully in raising funds of approximately US\$3.5 - 4 million and built the Roskilde Racing Center. Ulf and Elsbeth ran the Roskilde Racing Center until they retired last year. I was very inspired by my host father's passion for motor racing and that he dedicated his whole life to pursue his passion.

Student Spotlight



Interview with Janet, Continued

4. *What has been one of the largest cultural adjustments you've had in your Up with People travels so far?*

I think that the biggest cultural adjustment for me is to reduce my pace of life and dependency on internet. In Singapore, I am very used to having wireless internet access at home, school, shopping malls and most of the cafes so that I can multi-task on the computer. However, in the places that I have visited in the last few months, it is not in the culture of most of my host families to be technology-savvy. Many of my host families had cable or dial-up internet and had computers in their bedrooms so I could not use the computer in the evening. Initially, I felt that things were going too slow for me, and then I felt a little frustrated because I could not check the news, communicate with my family and friends via email or internet phone, or update my blog. However, I realized that is the European culture - relaxed and family-oriented. The Europeans spent less time on the internet and more time on leisure activities such as fishing, hunting, going to concerts and etc. After some time, I had learned to adapt to the relaxed European lifestyle and readjust my need to be doing multiple tasks at the same time.

5. *What hopes and expectations do you have for the Thailand tour?*

As the only student representing the South East Asia region in Cast A 2007, I am glad that my cast has the opportunity to visit Thailand and get a glimpse of what my region is like. I hope that my cast will have an incredible time learning about Thai history, the economic and political systems, visiting local places of interest, tasting local food and experiencing the way of life here. More importantly, I hope that through the various community impact projects that we will be doing in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, the cast will get to gain a deeper insight to the social needs and make can a lasting impact for the people and communities at all change levels. It is my hope that we will develop great friendships here so that we can come back to Thailand in the near future!

6. *Do you have any stories you would like to share on the road?*

Earlier today, Sasha and I had to take a red truck to go home in Chiang Mai, Thailand. When we showed the driver our host family address and map, it seemed like he did not know how to get there and he started asking the other drivers. Before we knew it, there were four drivers and two passer-bys attempting to figure out the directions to my host family's home. Both of us were amazed by their kindness to help us. They even tried calling our host family several times. Finally, after 15-20 minutes, the driver got hold of our host family on the phone and confirmed the directions.

We got on the truck and felt relieved, but that was just the start of another adventure. Apparently, the driver got lost and asked if we recognized the road to go home. Unfortunately, we could not. The driver looked exasperated but he did not give up asking for directions to get us home. We got a little worried and I think he stopped at least 8 times to ask for directions from the locals. After another hour of U-turns and driving through the countryside, Sasha recognized the place where our host mother parked her car and directed the driver to the house. This cultural experience is unbelievably priceless! If I had not gotten lost in the red truck, I would not have known how kind-hearted the people in Chiang Mai are. The driver went above and beyond everything he could do to make sure that we got home safely.

Bringing Passion and Work Together

As Up with People grows and develops, several new positions are made available throughout the year. Positions vary from the Road and Advance Staff to the Denver and Brussles offices.

Please continue to check the Up with People website at www.upwithpeople.org/employment.htm for new openings.

We are currently hiring for:

Europe:

- European External Relations Coordinator
- European Recruiter

North America:

- Director of Finance
- Accounting Clerk
- Director of Admissions
- Director of North American Sponsorships and Sales
- Development Coordinator

