



# BRINGING THE WORLD TOGETHER

THE UP WITH PEOPLE NEWSLETTER

*Meeting the needs of communities, countries and the world by building bridges of understanding for world peace.*

## ON THE ROAD WITH CAST A 2009

**By Phil Woods, USA**  
*Cast A 2009 Road Staff*  
*Business Administrator*

Cast A 2009 arrived in Denver, Colorado, USA on January 9th to begin 5 ½ months on the road. The cast consists of 88 students and staff representing 22 different countries and 6 continents.

The students are spending this first month in Denver in Staging, a time to get to know each other, learn the show and prepare for life on the road. Following Denver, the cast will visit eight cities in the southeastern United States before departing to Taiwan for a month. From Taiwan, the students will embark to Mexico where they will visit four cities. The tour will finish up with a visit to the southern United States for the final two weeks. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Up with People was the first international group to visit China. This year, Cast A 2009 will be the first Up with People cast to tour Taiwan.

The students were given their initial exposure to the show on the weekend they arrived when the staff performed songs from the show. Cast A's show will include three new songs written and produced by Up with People

alumnus Angel Cortes (see "Cortes Enterprises Works with UWP Creative Team," page 2). These songs, along with others from the show, will be available from popular online retailers and on CD in February.



Arrival Day for Cast A 2009

During the past few weeks, the cast has had some great opportunities to present their creativity. The students participated in Culture Jam, where they showcased their unique cultures through song, dance and storytelling. In attendance were many of the host families who have welcomed the students into their homes. "After only a week, I have grown to love my host family as my own, and I will miss them when staging is over," said Sanne from Belgium. Culture Jam was the first of many opportunities for the students to perform for their new families and cast mates.

Despite Staging's busy schedule, the cast also found time to make an impact on the local community. On Martin Luther King Day, the students joined 45,000 Denver residents for the annual MLK Day Parade (a parade and march), the largest in the country. The day started

with UWP students linking arms in a human chain, to allow an aisle for the Parade to commence. "We may not always be the one giving the speech or

**It is going to be a good trip!**

be the loudest marching band, but we are there, starting the chain, making way for the message," remarked Sofie from Sweden. The students then joined the march, meeting local community members who share a common vision – one of diversity, understanding and acceptance.

The cast has also spent time connecting with UWP alumni and metro Denver community leaders during two separate sessions. Students were able to ask questions about life after Up with People and learn about skills that will help them each become a leader.

From the beginning, Cast A 2009 has shown an eagerness to learn new things, meet new people, travel, perform and make an impact. It is going to be a good trip!



Marching in the MLK Day Parade in Denver, CO

Follow Cast A 2009 on their blog: [www.uwpontour.com!](http://www.uwpontour.com/)



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ZELDA LIANG, CHINA

make a change, which I appreciate most.

### *What made you decide to travel with UWP?*

The main motivation is to look for the answer to the question, "Who am I?" and to figure out the next step of my future. Insightful reflection can be gained by immersing yourself in other cultures - when I say immerse it doesn't mean watching on the shore, but more importantly, to be a part of it. And, I have developed a strong interest in community service through volunteer work at home. Therefore, UWP seems perfect for me.

### *As you prepared for the program, what were you most excited or nervous about?*

During the few months before I came to the program, I was growing excited about meeting so many people from diverse backgrounds because we started to get to know each other on Facebook. It was great that we talked about serious issues such as politics, sexuality, religion for the first assignment while we had not met yet. And it is also what I am most nervous about -

**I am seeking an answer to "Who am I?" on the road.**

thinking about the never easing misunderstanding and prejudice between cultures. I am worried whether we are going to get along well. Will I - a person who has never been to the Western world before - be accepted by others?

### *What goals do you have for yourself during your time with Up with People?*

First and foremost: promote peace. Don't laugh! I mean it. It is one of my three birthday wishes since I was six. And I know many other people are also serious about it. If there are reasons that we cannot make it, one of them must be that we laugh at it. So practically, my specific goal is to gain experience from community service and bring it back to nurture the bud of civic society in China. I think if we can finally develop democracy and civil society in China, it would be a huge step toward world peace because it would be precious experience of improving the world and making a change. And personally, I am seeking an answer to "Who am I?" on the road.

### *How did you first hear about Up with People and what first appealed to you about the program?*

I heard about UWP from a friend who encouraged me to apply. I found the homepage and the blog of Chinese alumni and it turned out to be an amazing program. I was first attracted by the opportunity of world travel. But I think the UWP program is also appealing. It breaks down the serious issues such as world peace and global understanding into practical and interesting actions. UWP takes concrete actions, like community service, to

Everybody knows somebody who's perfect for Up with People...

**The Golden Passport** empowers alumni to have input in the future makeup of our casts. UWP will award a student recruited by an alumnus/a a \$1,000 Golden Passport scholarship upon acceptance.

Contact the Admissions Department for more information at +1 303 460 7100.

Who do you know?

## CORTES ENTERPRISES WORKS WITH UWP CREATIVE TEAM

*UWP reaches out to young urban audiences through fresh new music*

Angel Cortes (81D), President and CEO of Cortes Enterprises, is working with the UWP creative team on new music for Up with People through his 62 Music Company. Angel and his Orlando-based business have long been involved in the entertainment industry. Several of his writers and musicians have collaborated on new UWP music that is fresh, hip and designed to reach young urban audiences. The new music will soon be available at your favorite online music retailer, along with

several other new songs included on the "World Tour 2008-2009" album. The scheduled release date is the end of February. And, keep an eye out for the first single from the album, "Arm Yourself."

Tremendous thanks go out to Angel and his writing team: Rod Wilson, Eli Jacobsen, J. Czerniewski and Rick Dunn.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JEFFERY FOREMAN, USA

*How did you first hear about Up with People and what first appealed to you about the program?*

When I was six years old, I saw an Up with People performance. I was immediately fascinated with the performance aspect of the show (singing and dancing). Since that time, I've always wanted to join the group. I believe inspiring people around the world through song, dance and community service is very important and I'm very excited to finally have that chance.

*What made you decide to travel with UWP?*

I've always wanted to and the opportunity was finally presented to me. Our Cast Manager, Jen Moody, and I ran into each other back home. We're from the same hometown. We had coffee and talked about the possibility of me joining the cast. After finally mak-

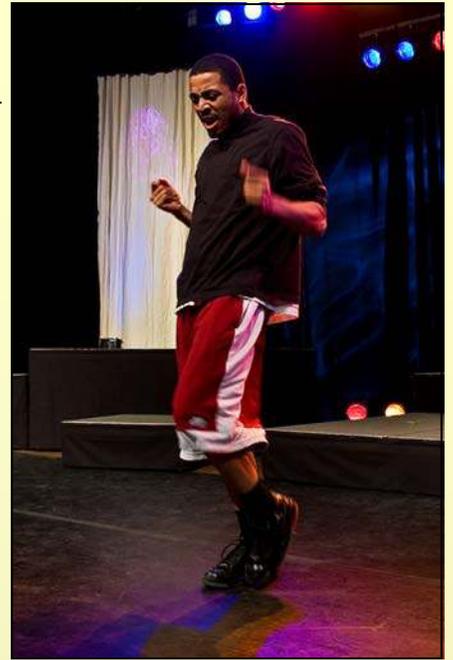
ing my decision to join, I had only nine days to prepare for the next six months. I just looked at everything in my life and told myself, "This is something I have to do."

*As you prepared for the program, what were you most excited or nervous about?*

I was really excited to share the gifts that God bestowed upon me with others from all over the world. I never got nervous, but I was so anxious on the plane from California to Colorado, I couldn't rest. The night before leaving, I only got maybe two hours of sleep and I was awake the entire plane ride. When I arrived at the airport, I was surprised to see a lot of the staff there, waiting for students, with big signs and big smiles. You could tell that they were really excited to see everyone.

*What goals do you have for yourself during your time with Up with People?*

**"I just looked at everything in my life and told myself, "This is something I have to do."**



My main goal is to use my talents in any way I can to inspire people to change. If that's singing a song to thousands of people or helping the less fortunate in some of our community service projects, that's what I'll do. I really want to see true change around the world and help in that process.

## Buy Your Up with People Merchandise!

[www.upwithpeople.org](http://www.upwithpeople.org)

Show your UWP spirit with official merchandise. Choose from t-shirts, sweatshirts, travel mugs, bumper stickers and more!



## DESTINATION: BERMUDA2009

*Celebrate Bermuda's 400th anniversary with Up with People*

Up with People is going to Bermuda in June 2009! We'll be there as part of the Bermuda2009 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and will be participating in community projects and activities, as well as performing several public shows on the island.

Up with People has enjoyed a long, meaningful relationship with the people of Bermuda. Casts have made eight tours of Bermuda since 1970 and there are more than 80 Bermudian Up with People alumni.

We will be assembling a cast of recent alumni to conduct this two-week tour of Bermuda. As our schedule in Bermuda includes several full performances of the current Up with People show, participation in this opportunity is available exclusively to student and staff alumni from Casts A06, A07, B07, C07, A08, B08 and A09.

Cast members for Bermuda2009 are responsible for arranging their own transportation to the island and will pay a tour fee to cover some direct costs of the tour while in Bermuda.

Interested alumni from Casts A06, A07, B07, C07, A08, B08 and A09 should email us at [bermuda@upwithpeople.org](mailto:bermuda@upwithpeople.org) for more information and to request the online application for participation.

Alumni from all eras are invited to join Up with People during this once in a lifetime occasion to take a vacation in beautiful Bermuda, experience cast activities on the island and see the Up with People show outside amid gentle Caribbean winds. For more information on vacationing with Up with People in Bermuda go to [www.upwithpeople.org/bermuda](http://www.upwithpeople.org/bermuda).

## ALUMNI LETTER

By Erin (Ignat) Jorgenson, USA

Cast D 2000

Executive Director

Mirror Image

When people ask me what is the most important thing that I got out of traveling with Up with People, I never really know how to answer that. The year I spent on the road with Cast D 2000 was one of the best, hardest, most rewarding and most challenging experiences of my life, and I could never adequately put it in to words. Life on the road in Up with People was like having life magnified, intensified. It was a curious mixture of extremes. I learned to be patient, flexible, friendly and open-minded. I also learned that that is not as easy as it sounds. I learned I can be difficult, stubborn and cranky. I learned what kind of friend I am, and what kind of person I wanted to become. And I would not change a minute of it.

In many ways, Up with People made me who I am today. I have UWP to thank for my ability to see the beauty in everyday events, as well as my inability to tolerate standing in line at a buffet. I have always been the kind of person that wears her heart on her sleeve and that can make life hard sometimes. But when I joined UWP, for the first time in my life, I realized that was okay, even normal. And I felt like I had come home. The friendships I made will last for the rest of my life. Cast D 2000 will always be a part of me, and whether they know it or not, I take them with me everywhere I go.

After our last show, the final banquet, the last host family, strike, bus loading and plane ride, it was time to say goodbye. I remember feeling like my heart had been ripped out and I couldn't

imagine going back to boring everyday life. Every time I board a plane these days, I say a silent apology for the poor flight attendants and passengers that were on that final flight with us from Tokyo to Houston – we must have been unbearable!

But against all odds, life went on. I moved to Ohio, then to California, where I stayed put for five years to earn my Bachelor's degree in creative writing. And now, all of a sudden it seems, it is nine years later and I am married to a wonderful man and pursuing a career that I frankly would never have had the guts to attempt if it were not for my time in Up with People. I am the Executive Director of an outreach theatre company called Mirror Image ([www.mirrorimagearts.org](http://www.mirrorimagearts.org)) that deals with food and body image issues.

You see, I have struggled with an eating disorder for the last 15 years of my life. Anorexia and bulimia are very personal struggles for me. It has taken me over half my life to find my way to health, to feel comfortable in my own skin, to love myself regardless of what the scale says; but I am living proof that it is possible. I feel it is my duty to share this message with as many people as I can. As part of my healing process,

**I have UWP to thank for my ability to see the beauty in everyday events, as well as my inability to tolerate standing in line at a buffet.**

I wrote the play, "Breaking the Silence," a series of vignettes that presents the different faces of eating disorders.

The cast of Mirror Image travels to schools in the Denver Metro area performing "Breaking the Silence," trying to make them understand, as UWP

made me understand, that it is okay to wear your heart right out there on your sleeve. Perhaps even more important than the performance is the conversation that follows the presenta-



Cole & Erin (Ignat) Jorgenson, Cast D 2000

tion between the cast and students. This allows students to ask difficult questions and hear from other young adults who have faced the same problems. By presenting this topic in a non-confrontational and creative way,

Mirror Image fosters an environment of compassion and facilitates discussion. We strive to educate, heal and encourage people to seek the help they desperately need to fight this terrible disease in all its forms.

My hope is that someone in the audience will hear our message and realize that they are not alone, that there is hope and help out there for them. Up with People taught me once and for all that I am more than a number on a scale, that I mean something. And so with my theatre company, Mirror Image, and our show, I am passing that torch to a new generation of young people.

So thank you Cast D and all of Up with People, for all that you have taught me and for all that I am able to teach others because of my time with you.

Sincerely,  
Erin (Ignat) Jorgenson  
[erin@mirrorimagearts.org](mailto:erin@mirrorimagearts.org)

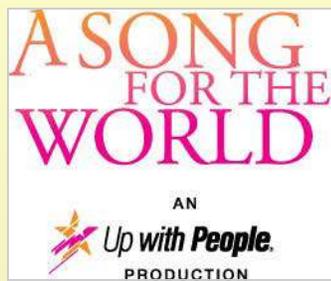


## UWP & UWPIAA TO PREMIERE *A SONG FOR THE WORLD*

*Join the Colwell Brothers, Herb Allen and your fellow alumni in Branson, MO, USA*

In a few short months, UWP alumni from around the world and across the Eras will be gathering in Branson, Missouri to perform some of the most loved UWP tunes in the premiere of *A Song for the World*. Join us for this historic production!

*A Song for the World* is a special event co-produced by Up with People (UWP) and members of the Up with People International Alumni Association (UWPIAA). The 2 hour premiere will showcase and highlight the best loved songs from Up with People's 43 year history. Headliners will be the Colwell Brothers and Herb Allen, while the musical backbone of the production



will be provided by the Smith-Wade Band. Alumni cast members from all UWP eras will provide the energy and passion associated with every Up with People show. Soloists and featured dancers will be drawn from the ranks of the alumni.

Goals of this event include:

- To commemorate the invaluable contributions of the "founding musical fathers" of Up with People: the Colwell Brothers and Herb Allen;
- To engage Up with People alumni in a unifying stage show that celebrates the rich musical history of the organization;
- To raise money for the Up with People student scholarship fund.

Direct expenses of the event will be covered by registration fees paid by participating alumni cast members.

If you are interested in finding out more – from how to register to participate in the event to how you can purchase tickets to the show as an audience member – please visit [www.upwithpeople.org/branson](http://www.upwithpeople.org/branson).

**... and Make a Difference!**

Donate...



Visit [www.upwithpeople.org](http://www.upwithpeople.org)  
or call +1 303 460 7100.

You could entertain them...



...or,

you could inspire them, motivate them,  
rock the house and knock their socks off.

Discover the power of Up with People to move your group.  
*The Professional Cast, consisting of UWP alumni, is not tied to a cast tour schedule and is available for events large and small.*

For information on availability, rates and booking, call  
303 460 7100 ext. 118.  
Or email our Producer, Eric Lentz,  
at [elentz@upwithpeople.org](mailto:elentz@upwithpeople.org).

## DENVER OFFICE WELCOMES NEW STAFF



**Rob Prytherch**  
*Admissions Counselor*

Rob is an alumnus from Cast A 1992 and was a member of road staff for six casts from 1998 - 2005. He is thrilled to return to UWP to combine his tour experience and passion for the program with his extensive customer-focused background. Rob will serve as the primary contact for prospective and incoming students from the USA. Currently marking a personal record of living in the same place for over 18 months, he is proud to call Denver home!

**Cecilie Nygaard**  
*Admissions Intern*



Cecilie Nygaard joins Up with People as Admissions Intern after traveling with Cast B 2008. She had an amazing student experience that allowed her to learn more about herself and to develop new skills that she didn't know she had. Originally from Denmark, Cecilie now has friends from all over the world and a place in Denver that she can call her second home.

## HELP BRING UWP TO YOUR HOMETOWN

*Alumni can open doors for UWP*

Have you ever wished your community could experience the energy and excitement of Up with People? You might be surprised to learn that you can make this wish a reality! Our Corporate Sponsorship and Tour teams work very hard to ensure that a cast's visit is successful for all involved – sponsors, host families and non-profit partners. But they can use help opening doors to a community. UWP alumni can get the ball rolling by introducing UWP to their contacts.

Andrea (Schuster) Luong from Cast C 2007 came off the road eager to bring UWP to her home town of Burlington, WI. As a citizen of Burlington, Andrea had special insight into the community, including what businesses were capable of sponsorship, which venues would be best for the show and what media needed to be involved to reach the most people. With some materials from our office, she contacted community businesses. She then passed these leads along to Cathy DeGraff (79C), UWP's Manager of Sales & Sponsorships. With just a little work, Andrea was instrumental in bringing Cast A 2008 to Burlington in February 2008. Read more about Andrea's experience:



## Sponsor Up with People

Give your community an unparalleled week-long program with the international cast, culminating in the Up with People Show.

For more information, contact [sponsorship@upwithpeople.org](mailto:sponsorship@upwithpeople.org) or call 303 460 7100.

*Why did you decide to bring UWP to your community?*

I knew that UWP had been to Burlington in the past, but it was before I



Members of Cast A 2008 with Andrea Luong, Cast C 2007 (green shirt)

moved there. The community has always been very supportive of the arts, and I never had much trouble fundraising around town for high school mission trips, so I figured Up with People would be a great fit!

*How did you go about getting sponsors?*

The first business I contacted was the bank where my dad works. I gave contact info for a couple other businesses to Cathy, but First Banking Center agreed to do the full sponsorship before any of the others responded. Amazing things happen when you use your resources.

*What did you learn about your experience that might help others?*

For others who would be interested in bringing UWP to their hometowns, I would like to state the obvious: you're not going to find sponsorship if you don't ask anyone.

*How was working with UWP?*

Cathy was great to work with. She gave me the basic information to pass along, which I mailed with a personalized note. I let them know that Cathy would be following up with them, and gave them her contact info in case they had any questions. I think it's definitely more effective for the initial contact to come from someone in the community, rather than a stranger.

*Would you recommend this to other alumni?*

Having an UWP cast come to my hometown was pretty exciting. I loved hosting some of my former cast mates, and I know the cast enjoyed coming to Burlington. Towns arranged by alumni were some of my favorite when I was on tour, so I wanted to be a part of that excitement.

If you are interested in bringing UWP to your community, please contact Cathy DeGraff at [cdegraff@upwithpeople.org](mailto:cdegraff@upwithpeople.org) or +1 763 416 9319 to get more details on how you can open doors for UWP.

### Have you moved? Let us know!

Contact Stephanie Wilmer at [swilmer@upwithpeople.org](mailto:swilmer@upwithpeople.org).  
Or call +1 303 460 7100 ext. 123.



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**Websites:** [www.upwithpeople.org](http://www.upwithpeople.org) • [www.vivalagente.com.mx](http://www.vivalagente.com.mx)

**Cast Blog:** [www.uwpontour.com](http://www.uwpontour.com)