



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 Dave Penny, USA
Cast A 2009 Road Staff
Education Coordinator*

Once again, Up with People landed in a new place for the first time – Taiwan, a land of great ritual, amazing scenery, and the appropriately-named food, “stinky tofu.” For Cast A 2009, it was the first adventure outside of the United States.

There was certainly a bounty of emotions running through us all as we stepped off the plane. Enthralled by the Chinese characters on every open space of buildings, exhausted from the 14-hour plane ride, and anxious about the adventure ahead, our cast stepped onto our buses buzzing like bees.

Our first city in Taiwan was the metropolis of Taipei. Dancers, magicians, and traditional Taiwanese music welcomed us as we enjoyed our first meals of warm soymilk tea and stuffed rice balls.



Welcome performance in Yuan Lin, Taiwan

Every person in the cast was given a card for the MRT, the local train service in Taipei. It was fast, efficient, and almost entirely in Chinese. This is where the true adventure of Taiwan began for much of our cast! The first few days were full of stories of wrong trains and buses and triumphs through the maze of the city.

Taiwan offered a rich variety of community service opportunities for our entire cast. Our Community Impact projects varied from teaching at an English Village middle school to teaching real world skills to the disabled to painting and working at schools for the deaf and blind.

Following Taipei, Cast A 2009 proceeded an hour south to Taichung. On our journey we stopped in Yuan Lin at our sponsor’s hospital and were welcomed by drummers and men in Lion outfits performing for us.

It was an amazing experience to say the least.

Taichung is a much less popular tourist destination, so there was very much a feeling of sticking out – stares were very common, as well as kids and young adults wanting to practice their English with us. The city is beautiful, full of parks and museums, surrounded by the hustle and bustle of a Southeast Asian metropolis, and with stacked housing and thousands of scooters everywhere. Taichung was a continuation

of amazing Community Impact sites and interactions with locals.

The Up with People Show was well-



Cast A 2009 in Taipei, Taiwan

received in Taiwan. The audience loved our performance, whether it was a large show for

over a thousand people in the packed theaters in Taipei, Yuan Lin, and Taichung or for our smaller backing track shows in beautiful areas, such as the historic Longshan Temple. We learned two songs from the Taiwan area. The first was from an aboriginal Taiwanese tribe, the other a current pop song that had all the teenage girls screaming over our very own Andy Rogers.

The month in Taiwan went by so quickly that it was as if it were a dream. The experience was so rich with differences in cultures that awakened, inspired and challenged me, as well as most of the cast. The people of Taiwan couldn’t have been nicer and truly made us feel so special and welcome. It was an amazing opportunity that I will treasure for eternity.

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



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: YOHANNES DAWD, ETHIOPIA

the ways that I can be involved in these kinds of activities on a continual basis.

How has your UWP experience shaped your understanding of Taiwanese culture and life?

My stay in Taiwan helped me a lot to understand the culture and lifestyle of Taiwanese people. I learned that Taiwanese people are very hospitable, loving, highly caring, and very respectful people. I also learned that about family and that the hierarchy in it works very well. In addition to these, Taiwanese people are very proud of their country and the things that they do in the name of their country.

What is a world issue that you have learned about in UWP that has captured your interest or concern?

I learned a lot of issues that our world needs to work on. But the most important one is poverty. Before I came to UWP, I used to think that poverty is

the issue of a third world country like mine. But in my tour with UWP, I found out that it is the issue of every community and society, even if it varies in degree. Every community needs help in one way or another and the frustration to survive exists everywhere.

How do you think you will use what you have learned in UWP in your future?

One of the things that I discovered during my travel with UWP is that there is a big part of me that needs to help and be an advocate for the people who are suffering from different kinds of problems, in addition to that part of me that wants to have personal success in life. I also discovered that regardless of the differences that I have with everybody, I have the ability to work with anyone from anywhere for the good of the universe in which we are living.

“...the frustration to survive exists everywhere.”

What is one aspect of your UWP experience that has surprised or interested you?

The experience that interested me most here in UWP is the community service projects in which we have been involved. UWP has given me the chance to lend my helping hand to different organizations, working with children with disabilities and other different social welfare programs. This experience helped me to think about

CAN YOUR CAST MEET THE CHALLENGE?

The Send One Student Alumni Challenge ends soon! Make sure you donate by June 30, 2009 in order to make your contribution count.

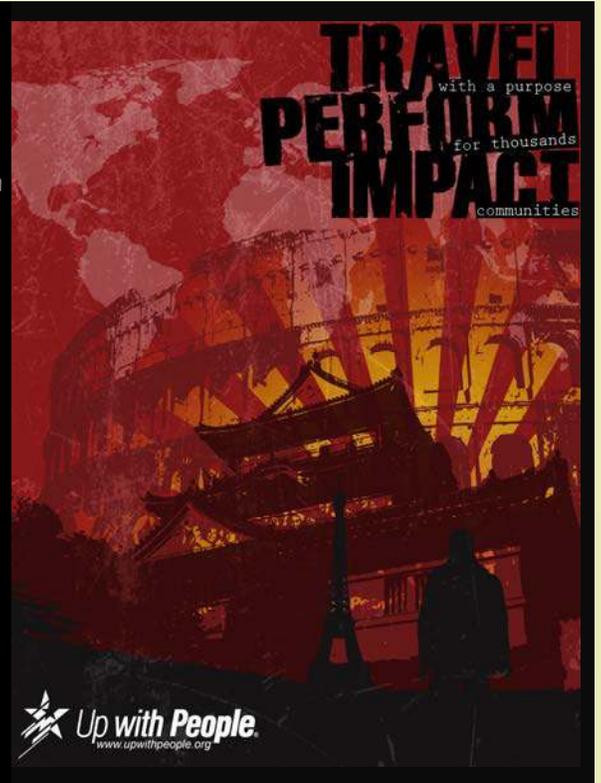


Each dollar given to the UWP Alumni Challenge will be used to fund the student experience, including scholarships, and will be matched by a dollar from the UWP Endowment for Scholarships. See page 5 for more.

For four decades, participants who traveled in Up with People have gone on to become enthusiastic leaders in their communities and the world. Equipped with the life skills and broad perspectives learned ‘on the road,’ they have made tremendous differences through a myriad of career and life choices and have truly become global citizens.

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.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LOTTE AALBERTS, THE NETHERLANDS

What is one aspect of your UWP experience that has surprised or interested you?

When I came to UWP I didn't know what to expect from living with host families. I was a little bit scared for this aspect, especially because of another language. In the US, it was really surprising for me how fast you become a part of a family. In Taiwan, I became a member of their family without speaking the same language. I was a lot of times sad to leave families and I never thought this would happen after one week living with them.

How has your UWP experience shaped your understanding of Taiwanese culture and life?

I didn't know much about the Taiwanese culture and life, so I learned a lot by living here and by having conversations with Taiwanese students. A lot of students had never talked with somebody out of Taiwan. Age is really important here. The

older you are, the more you know. Family is really important for them. The parents have a big influence on the choice of study for their child. Some students didn't have an influence in their study choice at all.

What is a world issue that you have learned about in UWP that has captured your interest or concern?

I got to think more about discrimination. Why does it exist and how we can solve this huge issue? Talking with people from so many different cultures gave me a much bigger understanding of people and their way of thinking. This wasn't only by talking in the cast, but also with other people, such as host families and students. By having conversations and discussions with those people, I could understand their different way of thinking, but I also found a lot of similarities that I never expected before.

How do you think you will use what you



have learned in UWP in your future?

I think I will be more open to people that I don't know. I won't be afraid to start a conversation or a discussion with somebody. Talking in English was a big step for me, so I will also talk with people from another country. I learned to share my opinion with other people, also in a big group. Hopefully I can share the things I have seen and heard with the people around me.

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CAST B 2009 TOUR SCHEDULE

Tour cities and dates are subject to change.

Thanks to the efforts of Eva Thimstrand (79A), UWP will be sponsored by Vattenfall, a leading European energy company based in Sweden, to help them celebrate their 100th anniversary. Performances in these cities will be for their employees only (marked below as Private show).

<i>United States</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Europe</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Denver, CO (Orientation & Staging)	10 July – 9 Aug	Luleå, Sweden (Private show)	6 Oct – 8 Oct
Aspen/Snowmass, CO	10 Aug – 12 Aug	Sundsvall, Sweden (Private show)	9 Oct – 13 Oct
Montrose, CO	13 Aug – 16 Aug	Stockholm, Sweden (Private show)	14 Oct – 22 Oct
Durango, CO	17 Aug – 23 Aug	Vänernborg, Sweden (Private show)	23 Oct – 27 Oct
Lake Havasu City, AZ	24 Aug – 30 Aug	Denmark; Germany	28 Oct – 31 Oct
		Warsaw, Poland (Private show)	1 Nov – 3 Nov
<i>Mexico</i>	<i>Dates</i>	Zabrze, Poland (Private show)	4 Nov – 6 Nov
Guadalajara	31 Aug – 6 Sept	Germany; Denmark	7 Nov – 24 Nov
Leon	7 Sept – 13 Sept	Odense, Denmark (Private show)	25 Nov – 27 Nov
Veracruz	14 Sept – 20 Sept	Varberg, Sweden (Private show)	28 Nov – 2 Dec
Puebla	21 Sept – 27 Sept	Uppsala, Sweden (Private show)	3 Dec – 7 Dec
Mexico City	28 Sept – 5 Oct	Tampere, Finland (Private show)	8 Dec – 11 Dec
		Sweden	12 Dec – 15 Dec

ALUMNI LETTER

By Heather Reilly, Canada

Casts 92A, 97A, 98B, 00E; EC 95-97

General Manager

Cirque du Soleil - Corteo

Greetings everyone! I am sitting in my office in Nagoya, Japan – at least this is where it will be for the next five weeks. I am the General Manager of Cirque du Soleil's Corteo and have toured with Cirque for over seven years. This is the third production I have worked with since 2002. I began with Corteo during its creation period in the fall of '04. We have toured through North America and are a third of the way through a 16 month tour of Japan. Do I think of Up with People every day? No, not directly. Did being a part of UWP help lead me to what I do now? Absolutely.

How *did* I get into the position I am in now? The path from teaching elementary school to working for Up with People to being the general manager of a circus is certainly not a direct one. In the summer of '92, I didn't go into UWP staging with the hopes and dreams of the limelight.

I had taken a year sabbatical from my teaching career with the goal to learn as much as I could about the world, do community service and hopefully see some other school systems along the way. I planned to bring back this world of experiences to my school in British Columbia and the community that supported me, to pick

up from where I left off and to carry on. But there is always a realization when we return home after a year on the road: I'm not the same person as I was when I left. No matter how much we prepare for that, it still needs to be dealt with.

After two more years of teaching, I returned to UWP as an Event Coordinator (EC). I stayed on staff from the summer of 1995 until the end of the operations in December 2000. I truly loved what I did – and then it ended. The cessation of UWP's operations was one of the most challenging things I have been through, both personally and professionally. It was time for me to stop and reflect on who I had become. How was I going to take this experience and all of the work that I had done and make it into a new career?

I had returned to British Columbia to work on a short term event planning contract for World Youth Day 2002 and the Pope's visit to Canada when I received a phone call from a friend and UWP alumnus, Patrick Flynn (94A). Patrick was working for Cirque in Europe at the time, and he opened the door to this world that I

had only seen as a spectator. My first reaction was that I knew nothing about working for a circus company. It did not take long for me to understand that it really was not, and is not, very different at all from my experience.

I consider UWP to be my "non-profit circus." We made everything work on a shoestring budget and the good wishes of a lot of people. Cirque is my "for profit circus." Now I have the advantage of financial support and a large infrastructure to back what we do, but the basics are no different.

The situations that we dealt with on tour are similar to what I see now and the overall, guiding principle I use is exactly the same: it all comes down to working with people. Whether it is children at school, international cast members, Olympic caliber acrobats, technicians or multi-millionaire site owners, when we understand the basics of communication and respect for each other, we can accomplish our goals. UWP gave me a platform to develop my people management skills; I've been told that I'm pretty good at it.

There are many parallels between UWP and Cirque that most people do not know. Both were started by a person with a vision who surrounded himself with believers and supporters; both have core values of philanthropy and responsible corporate citizenship; both are multifaceted with a component that is aimed at youth development. At the touring level, the shows are made up of approximately 125 –



UWP Alumni working at Corteo (from left to right): Gilbert Kroes (98B), Pat Teich (00E), Heather Reilly (92A), Kristina Henry (06A), Geoff Devenney (83E), Hina Fukuda (95B).
Missing from photo: Brian McAtee (92A)

“...when we understand the basics of communication and respect for each other, we can accomplish our goals.”



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 or call +1 303 460 7100.

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SEND ONE STUDENT ALUMNI CHALLENGE

*Interview with Retta Bellamy Overturf
Casts 76A, 77A, 78D, 79D*

Up with People's Send One Student Alumni Challenge ends on June 30, 2009. Former UWP and UWPIAA board member, Retta Bellamy Overturf (76A), shares why she supports UWP through the SOS Alumni Challenge.

How and when did you first hear about UWP?

My 7th grade choral teacher gave me two tickets to see Up with People when they first came to my hometown, Kingsport, Tennessee, in 1967. She thought this would be something "right up my alley" and my dream (and the challenge) of being a part of Up with People began that night.

What was the principle reason for your decision to travel?

After the show in 1967, UWP began a local Sing Out and I joined as soon as I was old enough. I was very involved with Sing Out Kingsport and became totally hooked on the UWP message of living by strong principals, celebrating differences and diversity, and truly making a difference in the world.

Was the program fee a significant obstacle for you? How important was receiving a scholarship to your ability to join UWP?

I would never have been able to travel in UWP without the scholarship assistance I received. My parents thought I had lost my mind and was "joining the circus." They could not afford to send me and did not pay a dime of my program fee, which at that time was \$3,950. I raised all the monies except the scholarship I received from UWP. I was accepted to travel in December of 1975, graduated from college in March of 1976 with less than \$200 in my check-account and joined UWP in July.

“...had I not received scholarship assistance, I would not have been in UWP.”

It was a huge undertaking for me and had I not received scholarship assistance, I would not have been in UWP. My late brother, Randy (78E), also received a scholarship from Up with People.

How did UWP affect the trajectory of your life? Did your experience have any lasting effects?

I spent 12 years of my young adulthood working for UWP and during that time I developed skills unimaginable to me, saw places, things, and people that totally helped shape me into the person and servant leader I am today. There's rarely a day that goes by that I don't utilize something I learned from my experience. Most importantly, I have made life long friendships, more like family, and I continue to benefit from the many opportunities afforded to me by my time in UWP. As a matter of fact, UWP is in my very DNA and I hope my life reflects that.

Have you had a chance to meet or interact with any recent students? If so, how are they similar and/or different to the students of your era?

Because of serving on both boards of Up with People and of the UWP Alumni Association, I have been fortunate to see each one of the casts since 2006. A young man from Kingsport is currently traveling in Cast A 2009 and to be truthful, the biggest difference I see is the ease we now have in communicating with one another on Facebook, by cell phone and email. I remember the stampede we'd have for mail call and how difficult it was to even place a long distance phone call home. The similarities are numerous because the UWP program continues to instill servant leadership in the participants, to

promote understanding and peace among all peoples, as well as express all of this musically – in the universal language!

You were instrumental in the creation of the Send One Student Alumni Challenge. Why do you think this campaign is so important?



Retta Bellamy Overturf (76A)

Alumni have yet to embrace UWP in the same way they support their Alma Maters and nonprofit organizations of choice. This is a collective way for all alumni to give back to this incredible program that has made a major impact on most of us. We all either

know someone in our cast or crew who would have otherwise never been able to travel without the help of the UWP scholarship assistance or we were one of those students. Either way, we have an opportunity – I'd even go as far as to say a responsibility – to "give back," to enable others to carry on the message of Up with People.

Do you have anything you would like to say to alumni who are considering donating to the SOS Alumni Challenge?

If every single one of us would sacrifice a vice we have – a weekly fast food favorite, a Starbucks coffee, forfeit going to the movies, anything that we are hooked on (and don't think twice about spending) – for one week or even a month, just think of the monies that would add up. Not everyone can give a lot of money, but everyone can give a little, and if everyone did so we could ensure the diversity of cultures and peoples in future casts and continue a tradition we all can be proud of.

Visit www.upwithpeople.org/alumnichallenge to read more about the Send One Student Alumni Challenge, including a cast progress tracker and videos!

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150 people from about 20 countries and we display our international flags with pride. We both like to celebrate milestones and anniversaries; we like to have fun. Both companies bring together people who believe in what they do. These are qualities that kept me passionate about working for UWP and add to my motivation here. This company cares about its people. We are not a machine just turning out shows.

What have I learned in my fourteen years of touring? I am a person who works with people and that is what drives me everyday; I am driven by the

reality that no two days are the same; there are still more adventures just around the next corner; and, Samsonite suitcases really do last (I've had mine for over 11 years!). I also certainly enjoy the chance to cross paths with so many friends as we tour to the world's major cities.

I think that whoever we were and whatever we brought to Up with People on the first day we entered will only be strengthened through a program and series of events that no one can plan for. It's about living them every day. It's about taking advantage of what they are. I am constantly amazed at the things I learned through

UWP that I can apply in my work. Above and beyond the personnel management, who would have ever thought that I would need to know what a dimmer rack was?!

Whether you are alum from '65 or a cast member fresh off the road or a person who has chosen the entertainment world of the circus arts, a saying from Margaret Mead sums it up for me: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN!

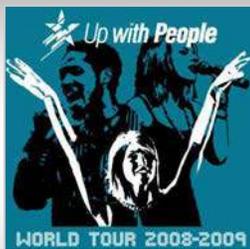
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You could entertain them...

...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
+1 303 460 7100 ext. 118.

Or email our Producer, Eric Lentz,
at elentz@upwithpeople.org.

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