



# Bringing the World Together

THE UP WITH PEOPLE NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2, ISS. 8

SEPTEMBER 2007

## A Message from Tommy Spaulding

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Twenty years ago, a group of people decided to create an organized forum for bringing Up with People alumni together. Since then, the Up with People International Alumni Association (UWPPIAA) has kept thousands of alumni connected by hosting reunions, sending newsletters, maintaining the alumni database, and running the UWPPIAA website.

Two years ago, Up with People began to be rebuilt on a solid financial foundation with a relevant program model. Throughout this effort, alumni have been an invaluable resource to Up with People: financially, through recruitment efforts, volunteer time, as staff members, as host families, and in so many other ways. In fact, the successes of the past two years in Up with People and the unforgettable weekend at the UWPPIAA 20th Anniversary Reunion this past month are a testimony to their strength.

I would like to extend a thank you to the Board of Governors and other volunteers representing the UWPPIAA who worked so hard to make the UWPPIAA 20th Anniversary Reunion unforgettable.

Let me take a moment to share with you some highlights from the Reunion that reveals how far we have come in the past two years and where we are destined to go. On the evening of Friday, August 10, Casts B and C 2007 performed an incredible two-hour show benefiting the Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault (SACASA). Sponsored by Jim Click Automotive, the show was performed at Centennial Hall to a sold-out audience of 2,400 people, including nearly 1,400 alumni. The Colwell brothers and Herb Allen, musical founders of Up with People, performed several songs remembering back to the early years of the organization. At the end of the night, approximately \$12,300 was raised through ticket sales for SACASA to help them continue their work against sexual assault.



One particular moment of that night touched me like none other: when Herb, Paul, Steve, and Ralph sang "El Puente" on stage, they were joined by alumni families whose own relatives are traveling in our program right now. This says to me that what we are doing is important. It is valuable and necessary to the youth of today.

## *A Message from Tommy Spaulding, Continued*

Now, more than ever, your support is needed in order for the work that we do to continue to make a difference. We look forward to traveling to emerging countries, increasing our enrollment, and maintaining fiscal responsibility in the upcoming year. I invite you to join us at this exciting time.

Sincerely,



Tommy Spaulding  
President & CEO

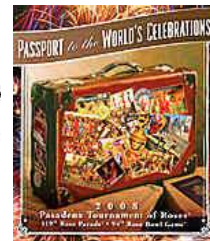
## **UP WITH PEOPLE TO PERFORM AT THE MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE AND ROSE BOWL PARADE**

Up with People has been invited to perform at two of the most popular and most televised American parades this winter. As previously announced, Cast C 2007 will participate in the **82nd Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade** on November 22. Their presence will be accompanied by a 60 second television slot, viewed by more than 26 million people around the world. For more information, visit [www.upwithpeople.org/Media\\_Events.html](http://www.upwithpeople.org/Media_Events.html).



**Up with People**<sup>®</sup>

Bringing the World Together



Most recently, Up with People was officially selected to produce and perform the **Opening Ceremony of the 119th Rose Parade**. The 2008 Rose Parade will kick off the New Year on January 1, 2008, and is themed *Passport to the World's Celebrations*. It will be broadcast on ABC, NBC, Univision, HGTV, Travel Channel, and Discovery HD and will be seen in more than 150 international territories.

We are honored and excited to participate in both of these events and hope you will watch!

## Student Spotlight



*Sophie comes from the industrial city of Taiyuan in the north of China. She recently finished her second year at Beijing Foreign Studies University and is interested in business and finance. She has been traveling with Cast B and is currently in the United States.*

*1) Why did you decide to join Up with People and what were some of your expectations before you came?*

### **Sophie Zhang**

I read an interview of an UWP alumnus on our university's website. I thought it must be interesting to live and work with peers from all over the world and travel to three continents. I expected to find out about different opinions and actions of people from various backgrounds, learn to appreciate differences and celebrate similarities, develop my leadership skills and make many friends.

*2) How have your experiences been similar to or different from your expectations? Have your expectations changed?*

I would say my experiences have been meeting my expectations. We have discussed topics like the Iraq war and the death penalty and it's interesting to see that we can find people with similar views from all kinds of nationalities and backgrounds. Also, my fellow cast members and host families have shown great interest in the Chinese culture and the major events happening in my country. In the course of discussing these topics I feel that we have both learned a lot more from each other. This kind of open communication has made deep connections, and I have made many new friends from different continents. Also, I was fortunate enough to have become the marketing intern of the cast, working in a team from the North American, Latin American and European cultures. And we have had a great time together.

*3) Do you have any memorable experiences from the alumni reunion in Tucson?*

Oh there are so many stories to tell and it was generally an amazing experience to see UWP alumni of all ages to come together and celebrate the great legacy of UWP. We met some alumni in our community impact days at the Community Food Bank, but I didn't realize they were alumni at first - I thought they were employees of the Food Bank. Later, I saw these same alumni at a reunion reception and was a little puzzled to see them there. I asked them to prove their identity by singing the Up with People theme song and they did! I told them I now understood why they weren't working faster than us on the production line (at the food bank). Everyone laughed and it was such a delight to laugh with people of such different ages because we share the UWP spirit and to see that the legacy still carries on and that we always try to bring a positive impact to the community.

## Student Spotlight



### *Interview with Sophie, Continued*

5) *How do you envision yourself contributing to the legacy of Up with People you witnessed at the Reunion?*

I believe I have the UWP quality of being open, friendly, seeking truth and trying to bring positive changes to the community. I would like to help UWP to come to China, bring more excellent youth to this amazing experience, help connect with local partners and let more people know about this wonderful program.



### **BRINGING PASSION AND WORK TOGETHER**

The following positions are currently available at Up with People:

- Director of Marketing & PR
- Director of Admissions
- North America Admissions Recruiter – Rocky Mountain Region
- Accounting Clerk/ Office Manager



## Student Spotlight



### **Vania Kisova**

*Vania joins Up with People from Bulgaria. She is traveling with Cast C which has been in Thailand for the past month.*

1) *How did you hear about Up with People?*

I heard about Up with People from a very good friend who traveled with the program a year ago. She informed me about it and recommended that I do it. In Bulgaria, almost no one knows about Up with People.

2) *What do you think of the program so far?*

I am completely fascinated by it! There are so many professional people working on staff with bright ideas and smiling faces. There are many outgoing and enthusiastic people. I feel happy I get a chance to take part in the program and believe it has influenced my life.

3) *What have you learned from your experiences so far?*

I learned that a smile could mean a lot and that it is not so difficult to do something to change the world. I learned that working together with others and sharing inspiration is a huge power that can influence many people. Our first show was the first time I ever performed on a stage and I have gained a lot of confidence from performing for a huge audience. It has also been great to work on community service projects where I have been challenged and had to do hard things.

### **Wiebke Kruger**

*Wiebke, from Germany, is also a member of Cast C. In September, they will be traveling to Europe and will visit her home country for two weeks.*

1) *What Community Impact projects have you been a part of here in Phuket?*

I was a part of the Life Home Project that is a community for HIV positive mothers and their children who have no family to support them.

2) *What did you do while you were there?*

We were a part of several of the women's daily tasks, which involved cleaning, tidying up, and gardening. We also joined them on volunteer actions like cleaning the beach and a temple.

2) *How did you feel about this experience?*

I treasured the opportunity of being able to talk to the ladies and hear their stories and thoughts. Also, when we were working at the temple we experience the friendliness and hospitality of Buddhist monks and at the end of the day received a blessing from them. That was a really wonderful experience.

3) *What has the rest of your Up with People experience been like?*

I joined Up with People mostly because I wanted to experience different cultures through the internal view in the host families. So far, I have only been positively surprised! Even families who are not what I necessarily wanted them to be (which was the wrong way to look at things to begin with) have taught me things I did not imagine and helped make my Up with People experience a time to learn and grow.