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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 B 2009, UPDATE FROM POLAND

*By Laura Lynn Horst, USA
Music Coordinator
Cast B 2009 Staff*

What an incredible week! The cast spent a week in Poland between the cities of Warsaw and Zabrze. It felt like a moment that the cast had been anticipating all semester. When we finally arrived in Warsaw, Poland you could feel the excitement running high. For most it would be their first experience with a host family that spoke little to no English and I think many of the cast members were secretly crossing their fingers, ready for the challenge. What I don't think the cast knew was how warm and inviting the Polish host families would be. Even though we were only in Warsaw for three days I saw more tears at host drop off than I've seen all semester.

Although the stay in Warsaw was short there were several experiences that left a lasting impression on the cast. On the very first day several members went to a Children's Hospital to interact and laugh with the children. They were all expecting and prepared to work with very small kids, however when one group arrived they were escorted to a different wing and were asked to interact with youth around their own age. I think this really struck a chord with several members of the cast and caused them to see just how lucky they are to be having the Up with People experience. Many students came back to the facility raving about how special this Community Impact was to them. Later

that evening the cast celebrated Halloween together with costumes, games and an impromptu performance of Michael Jackson's Thriller. It was a nice break in our usually hectic schedule.

After another successful event day the cast headed on to Zabrze. Upon arriving, the cast had a two hour session discussing per-



CAST MEMBERS PRACTICE JOISTING IN POLAND

sonal values and world values. We ended the session by watching a video created by Education Interns Annie Matthews (Arkansas) and Emil Walner (Sweden) highlighting the different values in the cast. The next day the cast was split up between the high school and the technical university to give the same presentation on values to the students in Zabrze. It went incredibly well and the cast was very impressed with conversations that grew from the discussions. Saturday was our Regional Learning day and

arguably one of the most impactful days of tour so far. The cast spent the morning visiting the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. Before arrival some of our German students and Jewish students shared what impact the history had on their lives and what it meant to them to be going to Auschwitz. Emotions ran high for the entire visit as we viewed cases full of suitcases marked with the names of people resettled to Auschwitz, hairbrushes and eyeglasses that were looted from the prisoners as they exited the train cars, two tons of human hair that was removed from the bodies after being taken to the gas chambers, and clothes and toys that were left behind by the children kept captive there. It was a somber but incredible experience to walk the streets of such a moment in history.

The cast left Auschwitz to spend the afternoon in Krakow and the conversations on the bus were intense. The time we spent in Krakow was short, but very fun to see a city that Poland takes so much pride in. I think it is safe to say that Warsaw, Zabrze and Auschwitz will be highlights of the tour for the cast.

*Follow Cast B 2009's tour on their blog:
www.uwpontour.com*



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KRISTINE DALEVOLL, NORWAY

What is the best part about traveling with the cast?

The challenges I face everyday. I know the 'headlines' of what I am doing day to day, but I have to improvise making the most out of every situation. It has made me feel a lot more secure and knowledgeable. I love the social aspect as well, getting close to my cast members and being able to connect with them in a different way than I thought I would.

What is the most challenging part?

For me being the only student from Norway, I felt forced to speak English all the time. I can't express myself the way I wanted all the time and I am the only representative from my country. I almost felt alone. I had to build a network and step out and I have learned a lot from it. It was

Where did you grow up and how did you become drawn to UWP?

I grew up in Stathelle in the south of Norway in a family of 4. My grandmother took me to an UWP show when I was 8 years old and I immediately loved the show and thought "wow this would be awesome to be a part of." I have always thought about that moment and when I finished high school I decided to make it happen. I worked really hard, and took a loan out to travel. I worked for about 6 months to get the rest of the tuition. Fundraising in Norway isn't common so I had to raise the money on my own.

What is your Favorite City that you have travelled to?

Leon, Mexico- because I had a great connection to my host family. It was the first Mexican city on the tour and I was hosted by myself. My family spoke very little English, so I did a lot of sign language. I get a lot of emails from them telling me they miss me, and that they want to visit me in Norway. It's amazing that we made such a valuable connection.

“ I learned that if I try new things, it usually turns out for the best.

tough to build everything from scratch. I am proud of what I have achieved. I have learned so much about myself and about my values.

What have you learned about yourself since joining UWP?

I have learned that I can be more independent than I ever thought I could be. Also how important it is to have someone to support me in accomplishing things. I learned that if I try new things, it usually turns out for the best and allows me to step out of my comfort zone. I learned a lot about my values and how I want my family relationships and friendships to be. My self perspective has grown and I am happy being myself and accepting who I am .

If you could pick your dream role in a movie, what would it be?

Wow what a hard question-- I would love to be Annie Oakley from *Annie Get your*

Gun. I think she is a cool girl and I love the music. I watch it and think, I really want to do that one day!

What's the best part about staying with host families?

The conversations, even though we talk about the same things to start out, I am always surprised in the end. Also, with the cultural differences, I get a variety of answers to the same questions from the different places we have been.

What community project touched you the most?

There was a small group of us that went to Warren Village, a crisis center for women and children. I stood there doing something so simple as painting a room for a woman who was about to move in. All of a sudden she walked in and saw what we were doing and was so overwhelmed by our work. She stood there watching and was so grateful and astonished. It truly touched me. I will never forget the look on her face, seeing her light up to all of us that were there, which to us, was just painting a room. I had forgotten the importance of everything little thing we do.

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

The Golden Passport
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Who do you know?

NOTES FROM THE ROAD– Mexico, Sweden

Hello and Greetings from Mexico and Sweden! As we're halfway through our semester I wanted to send a quick report from the road. What an incredible journey we've had thus far. With 80 staff and students from 20 different countries there's never a dull moment and so many things to be thankful for!

Transitioning from city to city provides us this unique opportunity to impact lives; whether by working with kids in schools introducing them to different cultures, or comforting the elderly in nursing homes, we leave lasting impressions in the communities we visit while they too impact us. In the U.S. alone we completed 36 hours of community service performed for 1500 people and took time to visit the Grand Canyon. Even the rain couldn't stop us taking pictures or standing in awe of such an incredible place!

Next stop- Mexico! In Mexico we traveled to five cities, each one different from the next. We were warmly embraced by the most hospitable people you've ever met, most familiar with Viva la Gente, which is what Up with People is known as in Latin countries, and excited to have us back.

We were welcomed and greeted by the Governor, in addition to celebrating their Independence Day, the biggest party of the year! The cast was nice and sunburned after cleaning the beaches but made the best of it as each day was full of memorable projects,

exciting introductions and GREAT food! Mexico was complete with a tour of Los Pinos, Mexico's official presidential residence, a visit to the Pyramids and an enthusiastic crowd excited for Viva la Gente's performance outside in an ecological garden, Xochitla. The cast were all treated like rock stars, without exception, each show night consisted of encores, autographs, pictures and security keeping excited fans from getting "too close." What a fun place Mexico was!

Next stop, Sweden! After a 5am drop off in Mexico City, a 2 hour bus ride to the airport, a 5 hour flight to New Jersey, an 8 hour flight to Sweden and a 12 hour bus ride we finally called Luleå home! Though the travel day was long, the change in climate, cuisine and language was embraced with open arms and appreciated by all.

We're currently in Stockholm, Sweden, a city surrounded by water and we have draped ourselves with scarves and hats braving the fall weather and getting ready to start a new week! Our European tour will consist of 14 cities in 5 countries and unforgettable memories to complete our semester!

Please know, as the Cast Manager, it's been a huge honor of mine to connect with your sons and daughters and I think the world of them! I love watching them take risks or step out of what was formally known as "comfortable" in an environment that's safe. My favorite



Jen Moody– Cast Manager

part of this cast is watching them support one another ... whether it is through laughter or tears, I love getting up each morning with great anticipation as to the days events. They have so much to offer and to give ... Thank you for supporting them on this trip, as we know none of this would be possible without your help!

Just recently I asked several students to "write letters home" ... here's what they had to say about their experience thus far ...

Dear Mom and Dad ...

I feel as though this experience has really changed who I am and how I act. I have learned a lot about different cultures and the diversity of our world.
-Michael

I saw, I listened, I discovered different points of view. I push myself and I don't want to miss anything. Being in Mexico was an incredible experience. The Mexican people are so different to what I'm used to. I did a lot of sign language in Mexico and it was really funny and a good communication experiment. I really have to say thank you so much for this trip! -Nolwen

The best thing for me out of all the different aspects of this program has definitely been getting to know all my cast mates. I never thought I would grow

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Faith Walls
Chicago, IL
Dean, Maria High School
Cast B 2007

How did you decide to join Up with People?

I was half way finished with my principal internship and had only three months of graduate school at Howard University (Washington, DC) left when I applied for Up with People. I knew that I wanted to be a school administrator and was proud of what I'd accomplished until that point academically and socially. Girl Scouting and my high school experience in an all-girl environment helped me to understand my role as a young woman in society. My six year tenure at Howard University, a historically black university, taught me the importance of recognizing my role as an African American in the world. I only thought that my experiences as a leader lacked one important perspective; an international one.

My professor at the time, who had once been the Superintendent of Schools in Phoenix, Arizona, told me that UofA was a great resource to use when looking for opportunities abroad. While browsing their study abroad website, I bumped into a program that seemed way too good to be true-Up with People. With no real job prospects I figured that traveling the world would be a perfect opportunity at the time. I honestly didn't think I'd get in. I will never forget the day I was accepted. I had just returned from a cruise with friends. My friends were so excited for me, but really I had no idea what I was getting myself into.

Describe your experience with UWP?

It seemed like the perfect day, 7-7-07. I can remember that day as if it were yesterday. I wasn't completely confident in my decision to travel because I didn't know much about what to expect on the road. After all, with two degrees, many people told me that I was crazy for postponing my career to go "play." My mother dropped me off at the airport and was so thrilled that I decided to travel despite what other "adults" around me urged. I had no idea that the day my mother dropped me off at the airport would be the last time I saw her. I was traveling with my cast in Vimmerby, Sweden when she passed away suddenly. I returned home to Chicago to plan services and take care of family business. However, something in

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me knew that I would not feel complete unless I decided to finish out the tour with my cast. And so I did, and two years later, it was one of the best decisions I could have made. My castmates, who represented nearly 19 countries, gave me so much love and support and I was able to see my own strength as a person and leader at that time.

I can say without reservation that I came to Up with People a girl and returned home a woman, and this is true for so many different reasons. Like many experiences, I only got from my time on the road what I decided to give to it. I could have stayed in Chicago when my mother passed away and always thought about what it would have been like if I'd left. Up with People has a way of teaching us through various situations the importance of applying our current circumstances to our future. In my opinion; that's true leadership.

How did UWP affect your view of the world and your role in it?

UWP made the world seem so much smaller. Many times as leaders we understand our role, but when we look at the world things seem so big and a lot of times the things we do and initiatives we take part in seem so minuscule in comparison to the larger scheme of things. I understand now, how my decisions as a leader affect the world specifically. I am more conscious of others around me and realize how influential I can be to others; especially youth. I have a better understanding of different cultures and am much less ethnocentric in my thinking.

Overall, UWP showed me how to be more balanced in my thinking as a leader and to be self-confident and humble, a listener and a speaker, powerful yet meek all at the same time. I realize my importance in the world, but the welfare and well-being of those around me is even more important. If only every world leader traveled in Up with People, I can only imagine what this world would be like.

How do you think Girls Scouts and Up with People, two leadership programs, complement each other?

I'm a proud lifetime member of Girls Scouts of America. I became a Girl Scout at 7 and ten years later when all my other childhood friends, except one, thought they were too "cool" for scouting and were too preoccupied with teenage life, I was working with the younger girls in my troop by preparing them to "take over" the troop as I left for college months

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ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT

later. Girl Scouting taught me how to be a young lady, to be respectful, how to be sisterly and to be a resourceful leader. Up with People taught me how to apply what I'd been learning nearly my whole life. The two programs complemented each other perfectly. Once I returned from my tour, I felt like I'd earned at least a thousand new badges.

What are you doing today?

I'm currently working as Dean of Students over discipline and student activities at my alma mater, Maria High School. It's an all girl community on the southside of Chicago. Who knew being an administrator would be this fun? I'm a much better administrator today than I would have been if I had just began working directly after Graduate School. Students hate to come to my office most often, but whenever they come, they're always so amazed by the artifacts I've collected from the places I've been. It gives them hope that one day they can get to Thailand or Sweden....or to wherever they want to go in life.

Why is UWP important in 2009-2010 and why is it important for alumni to support the program?

I am a firm believer in training my replacements. In the same way that I prepared those younger scouts on troop finances and procedures as I left for college, I have made it a point to recruit friends to travel with Up with People. In addition to Vivia Armstrong (A08), my best friend Timothy Lewis is currently traveling with B09. Trust me, I'm looking throughout the student body at Maria for some new Uppies.

Just as important as giving financial resources to Up with People, is the recruitment of quality of applicants to ensure that this program is still around years from now. Up with People participants are our next generation of leaders. I know what the program did for me. By supporting Up with People, we are supporting the world and the future of it.

Chairman's Letter

Dear Alumni, Supporters and Friends: Up with People launched yet another wave of global understanding, goodwill, and service in 2008-2009. The vehicle is our dynamic musical performance, the voice is the voice of our young people from dozens of nations across the planet (Ethiopia, Belgium, China, Israel, Slovakia, Brazil, Nepal, Korea, the U.S. and more), and our message – in the words of these young people, is – social responsibility, learning, community service, leadership, cultural appreciation, inspiration, and of course, changing the world. Aren't you proud to be a part of this?

Up with People took these messages to thousands of people across the globe this past year – in small towns across America, as well as in Mexico, Taiwan and the Philippines. And each student has returned home to their native land, energized, motivated and inspired to work in their communities to build a global network to make our world a better place.

This fiscal year was not without challenges; Up with People seems to thrive on them! We rerouted our tour in Mexico due to the fears of the flu, but had a wondrous experience at the Hopi Reservation in Arizona. We also made Up with People's first trip to Taiwan and helped Bermuda celebrate its 400th anniversary. We hired a new CEO, Alain Thiry (Cast 1975C), originally from Belgium, who brings a wealth of experience to lead our beloved organization forward. Like many non-profit (and for-profit) organizations, we weathered a difficult economic climate in 2008-2009. While ending in the red, we are confident with opportunities on the horizon and the support of our alumni, we will deliver a positive financial picture this coming year – we are well on our way. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely, Stuart Shepherd



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Seeking Alumni Recruiters!

UWP Alumni are our **best source for recruiting** great candidates for our program. Our casts cannot reach all the deserving participants out there and **we need your help!**

Up with People - Denver is building a **volunteer Alumni Board** to assist with our recruiting efforts in North America. We need your outgoing personality, organization skills and commitment to keep our program thriving.

To volunteer or learn more about this new opportunity, **please contact Rob Prytherch, Manager of Recruitment: +1.303.460.7100 x110 or rprytherch@upwithpeople.org**



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this close to so many people in just four months. We laugh, we cry, we travel, we perform, we encourage each other and no matter what happens you always have someone to support you! I consider Cast B 2009 my new family! - Tinna

On language barriers ... if you face and talk to people from your heart, you can talk to anybody. -Nao

Up with People is an opportunity of a lifetime ... I'm blessed you are both so supportive. I have never wanted so badly to reach out and help others like I do here. -Megan

I'll never forget my host family in Leon, Mexico, where my host family surprised me with a birthday party! When I left to the next city my host mom said, "I know we don't have much money but what we do have is so much love to give." They touched my heart in ways I will never forget. -Rachel

UWP is about a lot of first times ... my first time eating crickets, climbing a pyramid, being in cold winter weather, whitewater rafting, performing an encore, staying with host families, signing a ton of autographs, petting the president of Mexico's dog, and so much more. Things are constantly changing, as am I. Most importantly, none of us will

be the same as when we first got here. -Michelle

I've changed a lot as a person. I have new perspective, am better now than before I left home. I'm much more organized than I used to be and through our Community Service projects have decided I want to help people in my career. -Willemijn

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you do and for being part of this journey along with us! Know you're thought of and missed! - Sincerely, Jen ■



Follow the journey of our current cast with their blog www.uwpontour.com and become a fan at www.facebook.com/travel.perform.impact.

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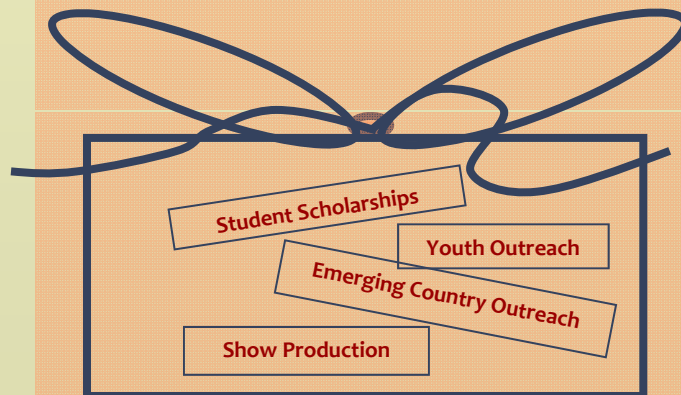
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