



Bringing the World Together



## MANILA WELCOMES CAST X: PHILIPPINES 2012

In October 2012, Up with People offered a program for friends of UWP to join the cast in Asia and experience 'life on the road'. This group was dubbed "Cast X" and had the opportunity to participate in many of the UWP program components: community service, regional learning, experiential education and performing arts.

The inaugural Cast X program was held in Metro Manila where a mix of UWP alumni, host families, family members and friends converged on the Philippines tour of Cast B 2012. The special one-week program was open to participants from all walks of life and they were truly impacted by their UWP experience.

After a welcome dinner on the rooftop of City Garden Hotel in Manila, Cast X had a busy first day joining Cast B members for a courtesy call at the U.S. Embassy. Afterwards, they headed to the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation for an International Leadership Roundtable, where they listened to and interacted with ten leaders from the Philippines who shared their ideas and advocacies related to leadership and youth empowerment.

In the following days, Cast X joined Cast B and engaged in a community impact project at Gawad Kalinga (GK) Baseco, an underprivileged area. The trip to GK introduced both casts to the program that brought the community together after a huge fire destroyed homes in the area. Once at GK, they played with young residents as well as participated in a neighborhood cleanup. Some of Cast X even played judge at the United Nations Day pageant of GK preschoolers. The children's unconditional affection for everyone left a deep impact on Cast X while the poor living conditions outside GK showed the group how far they had improved the lives of its residents. They observed that even if the GK village was very simple it was a colorful, safe, and clean place to raise a family compared to the rest of Baseco.

On show day, Cast X got creative and made their own version of the song 'We Will Rock You,' sung backstage to Cast B minutes before the show. Cast X gave GK a



The Davis Family with their GK Baseco friends. Photo from Alicia Davis.

wonderful surprise: they pooled their money and arranged for transportation of 75 children, staff, and teachers from GK to the two Manila shows. Joining the audience in the front row, the GK community cheered and clapped during the performance, especially when one of the big brothers or sisters they played with performed on stage.

During 'Voices,' Cast X had the unique opportunity to join Cast B on stage for two songs. For one alumna, being on stage again brought back a lot of fun memories. For her though, "the highlight of the week was the interaction with the children and adults of GK Baseco and feeling like in some small way we made a difference in their lives, while at the same time knowing that I learned far more from them than they did from me."

For some, joining Cast X was a great way to see their host daughters again. When the young ladies were described as lucky for having such a great host family, the host family replied, "We're the lucky ones."

All in all, it was a great week and Cast X had a wonderful time exploring the Philippines, volunteering their time, making an impact and experiencing life on the road with Up with People.

Please watch for opportunities to join a future Cast X!



A Manila welcome for Cast X members Angelina and Rosie.



Cast X & Cast B with preschool candidates for GK's UN Pageant. The photo formed part of UWP's "It's More Fun in the Philippines" campaign.

Go to page 8 to read a testimonial from a Cast X participant!

## LETTER FROM THE CEO



Dear Up with People friends,

2012 was a year full of highlights for Up with People. Our 47th year of traveling across the globe building bridges of peace and understanding between cultures showed signs of great momentum for our organization.

Our new show, "Voices," debuted in August and has received tremendous feedback. More than 200 cast members were added to our alumni family. We welcomed our first Iraqi student into our program. We performed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We continue to expand Camp Up with People, and our partnership with Florida Southern College. It was a year full of great memories for Up with People, with many more to come.

I am dedicated to the philosophy "Up with People for Life." Together with our Board of Directors and management team, we are working to create opportunities so that all may continue to experience Up with People throughout one's lifetime. In October, a special "cast" of parents, alumni, host families, and supporters of Up with People traveled to the Philippines in a collaborative effort to impact its community. Those participants were introduced and/or reconnected with the Up with People spirit so that they may bring their experiences back to their communities. We hope to continue this in the future.

**Watch for an announcement in the next few days about a very exciting milestone in the history of Up with People!**

Your financial help and commitment has enabled students, alumni, staff, host families, parents, and special friends of Up with People to look towards 2013 with excitement

Here's to a happy and healthy 2013 to all of you. Thank you for continuing to believe in Up with People.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alain L. Thiry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alain L Thiry ('75 C), Up with People President & CEO

## EXCITEMENT IN MEXICO CITY!

The first week of Cast B's Mexican tour was sponsored by the Secretary of Tourism of Mexico and the finale performed at the historical downtown Zócalo Square. This huge free public show provided national recognition for Up with People and resulted in far-reaching public relations opportunities. The UWP/Viva la Gente office has been working with the Mexican government to host the show at Zócalo for many years, and finally the cast joined ranks with starring acts such as Paul McCartney, Justin Bieber and Lady Gaga.

The timing of the show insured a crowd at capacity, as the date coincided with the weekend Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration. Millions of people are on vacation during this week and come to Mexico City to celebrate. More than 5,000 Viva la Gente fans enjoyed the show.



The Zócalo - where Cast B 2012 performed on November 4, 2012.

The Zócalo has been a gathering place for Mexicans since Aztec times and has been the site of royal proclamations, military parades, Independence ceremonies and modern events and festivals. It has received foreign heads of state and is the main venue for both national celebration and national protest.

The popular Zócalo Square is the 3rd largest public square in the world, only surpassed by the ones in Moscow and Beijing. Zócalo is situated on top of what was the largest pyramid in the world, Templo Mayor, which was destroyed by the Spanish conquerors. Its stones were used to build the current National Palace and the Metropolitan Cathedral.

The enthusiasm of performing in front of this massive crowd was a positive launch for the remainder of the tour in Mexico this semester.

## LIFE AFTER UWP:

### The Recruiting Experience of a Cast B 2009 Alumnus

By Deng Tiancheng

It has been three years since I traveled with Cast B 2009. Those six months are so clear in my mind. At that time, my cast and I were in Vänersborg, Sweden in a visitor's center of a local hydro-power plant. Brandon Serna ('08A) was playing the guitar and I was adding some impromptu raps to the rhythm and beats.

Up with People has had a profound impact on me. I am so grateful to have had the pleasure to meet people who are so willing to inspire someone and help us reach our potential along the way. Because of my experience with Up with People, I now know how to face each challenge with optimism. I am able to understand how nonprofit organizations contribute to creating better communities. I am now working for an environmental nonprofit based in western China, focused on hydropower development and migrant resettlements. I feel like this is my way of engaging people on how to create a better community.

I also felt that a more direct way to contribute back to Up with People would be to recruit future students so that they might have the great experience that I had. I have helped with the recruitment efforts of the following: Zhu Jiamin ('11A), Wu Xinyue ('12A), Xie Zizhu ('12A), Lu Guannan ('12A), and Meng Hao ('13A). I brought my Up with People journal to each of them, and told them about our travels, showed them my souvenirs and pictures, and shared my host families' words in their native languages. They were impressed and felt that a "gap year" (a time during which a student takes a break from studying prior to starting a college or university) seemed like a good idea for them. It is not easy for students in China to engage in gap years since Chinese colleges don't normally approve of it. Two Chinese students from my cast, Yunjie Zhou and Jiang Wei, didn't apply for a gap year but instead registered for courses in the fall term, joined Up with People, and only took the final examinations; which they passed!

Zhu Jiamin ('11A), one of the students I helped recruit, and I share a yuan-fen (the destiny of two persons who meet up repeatedly in life). We come from different cities and he is a year younger than me. We met when we both went to the same summer exchange program at the Punahou School in Hawaii in 2005 and 2006. We lost contact with each other until the spring of 2010 when we met on our college campus in Hong Kong. It was at that time that I felt it necessary to introduce Zhu to a third mutual experience which we could share: Up with People. The yuan-fen continued, and Zhu took a year off from school to attend Up with People.

Persuading Wu Xinyue to participate in Up with People was another experience. Our mutual friend, Wu Yue, was studying in Italy while I was in Up with People and had decided to travel

Uppsala, Sweden to watch our final show. Her flight was delayed upon arrival to Copenhagen, Denmark, causing her to miss her train to Stockholm, Sweden and, ultimately, the show. A year later, Wu Xinyue and I went to Wu Yue's home and shared our separate European adventures. What we said inspired Wu Xinyue to apply for Up with People. The rest is history!

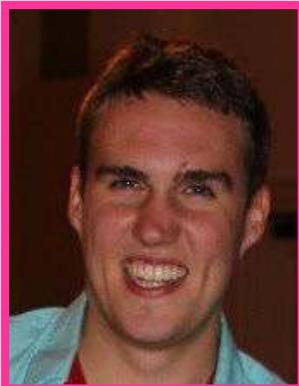
There are ample opportunities to encourage other youth to ignite their passion to travel, impact, and perform. I often think of the song I performed with Cast B 2009: "It Takes a Whole Village to Raise a Child." I feel like the village, inspiring others to do what I did through Up with People. I hope you help to do the same.

Everybody knows someone who's perfect  
for Up with People

**UWP alumni can award unlimited Golden Passports each year to students they actively recruit to travel with UWP. However, each future student can only receive one Golden Passport scholarship toward his/her program fee. All students can apply for additional scholarships through the General Scholarship Fund.**

\*Click on the Golden Passport above to be linked to a printable PDF version

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MAX RÖMER



**Name:** Max Römer  
**Country:** Germany  
**Cast:** B 2012  
**Age:** 20



*Up with People offers scholarship support to students like Max every semester. During 2012, Up with People awarded over \$300,000 for student scholarships.*

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

My brother's good friend traveled in Up with People and since my brother knew that I was interested in traveling he told me about the program. What really appealed to me when I first heard about the program was the fact that we travel to not only one but four countries and do community service in each of them.

**What made you decide to travel with Up with People?**

The program as a whole is outstanding. In most programs you go to one country for a long time and do community service cooperating with one organization. In Up with People you travel to a different city every week, do different kinds of community service and perform a show in front of thousands of people. I was a law student in college, and I felt like I needed an adventure. I wanted more variety in my life. I needed to get out of my room, and I wanted to learn more about the world and different cultures.

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

Actually, I did not really have time to prepare because I learned about the program one week before it started, so I made a really spontaneous decision. I was most excited about traveling to poorer parts of the world in which the people really need help. I was excited about making a change! At the same time I was nervous about

what the program and the other students were going to be like. But everything turned out to be great.

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

I set many goals for myself this semester. First of all, I want to grow personally and to establish myself so that I would be able to find out what I want to do with my life later on. I want to make sure I'll pursue

“ I want to go out and see what else there is in this world; to help people who need help and to be inspired by the way they see life. ”

what I am really passionate about. Furthermore, I want to make a difference. I want to go out and see what else there is in this world; to help people who need help and to be inspired by the way they see life. All in all, I want to live life to the fullest, while being a good person at the same time. I hope I will continue this way of looking at life even after Up with People.



Max Römer and his friends in the Philippines.

## HELP YOUR LEGACY LIVE ON

A gift through Up with People's planned giving program will make a lasting impact on the future of our organization. Whether you are considering an estate gift to the Up with People scholarship fund or a gift to the organization in general, your financial contribution will help Up with People continue to spread the message of peace and hope throughout the world.

To participate in Up with People's planned giving program, please contact Megan Luebke, Development and Communications Manager, at 720.215.3219 or [mluebke@upwithpeople.org](mailto:mluebke@upwithpeople.org). We will be happy to assist you and answer any questions you may have.

*The material in this article is not offered as legal or tax advice. You are urged to seek the advice of your tax advisor, attorney, and/or financial planner to make certain the gift you are considering fits into your overall circumstances and planning.*

Donate now and **DOUBLE** your investment to Up with People!

+ =

Thanks to a generous contribution from Board Member Angel Cortes ('81D) all gifts made until December 31, 2012 will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$100,000. That means your check of **\$100** will become a **\$200** investment towards

**Bringing the World Together!**

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VIEW US!

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Provide insight about your personal experience in Up with People for prospective students.

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**for more information please visit:**

[www.upwithpeople.org/gala2013](http://www.upwithpeople.org/gala2013)  
sponsorship opportunities are available.

## UWP TO PERFORM AT "SALUTE TO THE PIONEERS OF SPACE"

A small group of Up with People performers has been invited to perform at the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida on December 15th in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Apollo XVII and the last walk on the moon.

The event will be emceed by David Hartman, original host of ABC's Good Morning America, and will feature longtime friend of Up with People Captain Eugene Cernan, USN (Ret.), commander of Apollo XVII and last man to walk on the Moon. Captain Cernan's recollections of this historic voyage inspired the UWP classic song, Moon Rider, which will close the evening. Tickets are available at \$150 per guest; please call the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation offices at (800) 327-5002 for more details and to make reservations no later than November 30th. Online reservation form now available.




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## CAST X: PHILIPPINES 2012 | A TESTIMONIAL BY DAN GRAHAM

When we decided in July that we would participate in Up with People's inaugural Cast X 2012 experience in Manila, there were many things that made us feel that was the right decision for us. The opportunity to meet with our host daughters during their tour was no small part of that decision. Because we live near where UWP's Orientation and Staging takes place, we have the good fortune to host UWP students for longer periods of time than most host families. And without exception after hosting these students for several weeks we come to love them and to feel that our family has added several new members. So the chance to meet up with Noémi, Nirite and Nozomi again was a large factor in our decision to go. The opportunity to visit the Philippines and participate in Community Impact activities in the slums of Manila was also a large part of the decision, as was the chance to work more closely with UWP as an organization to get a better idea of what they were all about.

When we arrived at Gawad Kalinga Baseco community center we were welcomed with warm smiles and handshakes from the adults. The welcome from the children ranged from shy smiles to hearty hugs and everything in between, together with a clear desire from the kids to be around us. The school compound was clean and well maintained and the kids and adults were happy and healthy. While it didn't strike me at that moment, what I found at GK Baseco was certainly not what I had envisioned when I learned we were going into one of Manila's slums. The kids and adults were happier and healthier, and the living conditions – while certainly poor – were not anything like the squalor I had anticipated.

Our first morning there was spent in one large continuous play session with the children and I had a ton of fun with them. That afternoon we went around the GK Baseco community doing general clean up and had lots of enthusiastic help from the kids. Here again I didn't encounter what I was expecting. The GK row houses are small, but they were well maintained. The people we encountered were friendly. The streets were paved. There were occasional small convenience stores and even a few internet cafes. During our cleanup, a few of us were given permission from one man to enter his home. It was small but clean with low 6' ceilings; a television, small galley kitchen and a second room or partitioned area that I think may have been a bedroom. The man and his wife answered our few questions with smiling good grace and seemed proud of their home.

We spent the next days at GK Baseco participating in classroom activities for the kids mostly focused on activities that required the children to speak in English (which was a specific request made by the regular GK Baseco teachers). We watched the children rehearse for the upcoming UN Day celebration, did more clean up in the GK community, and enjoyed some more fun time with the children. We also took one memorable walk around the Baseco Compound slum where the GK Baseco community is located. And it was in that walk that I encountered the slum conditions I had been expecting. We finished our time with a large community celebration and pa-



Cast X members and staff during show day.

rade for United Nations Day on Friday. The kids all dressed up in international costumes and decorated the family tricycle for the parade. Then they all performed singing and dancing numbers before a group of international Cast B/X judges. After a final hour or so of playing with the children, we said our goodbyes and left GK Baseco.

There were several other parts of our Cast X experience in Manila that were very memorable. We had the opportunity to meet and speak with the Deputy Chief of Mission, Brian

Goldbeck, at the US Embassy in Manila. We met with local leaders and businessmen at an International Leadership Roundtable organized by Up With People and hosted by the Ramon Magsaysay Center. We participated in UWP's current show "Voices" on Saturday. As we had hoped Sue and I got to spend many wonderful hours with our three UWP girls, and we met and connected with many other Cast B members and all of the Cast X members. All in all one of our best "holidays" ever and absolutely something we want to do again.

After leaving Manila I soon discovered that I was having a difficult time getting a grasp on my experiences at GK Baseco. I wanted to do something more than I had done in order to have a more lasting impact on that community. I talked this over with Sue and found she felt the same way. There were similar talks with Nozomi, Noémi, and Nirite. All of us had similar feelings and a desire to do more than we had done. Sue and I kicked around the possibility of moving to the Philippines when I retire in a few years in order to

have more impact than we can from here. Nozomi too gave some thought as to how she might move there. But why I felt so strongly was something I didn't understand until I started writing down my experiences here. Now I think I do understand, and the answer is quite simple. It was not the poverty that I couldn't get it out my head, it was the hope. And that hope comes from Gawad Kalinga. This organization provides a path for someone living in the squalor of a slum such as Baseco Compound to move up, and eventually out of the slums. They do this through the development of sustainable communities adjacent to or within slums. The stark contrast between the clean and well maintained Gawad Kalinga Baseco community and the slum conditions of the Baseco Compound was a visceral experience that made a tremendous impression on me, but it is the hope that is offered by Gawad Kalinga that has captured my thoughts and our support. This is an organization not only with a vision, but one that has been successful in implementing that vision for many years over multiple sites, in multiple countries. They deliver hope and dignity to people living in slums that have known only desperation, violence, and misery. And they do so with a sustainable model that requires hundreds of days of volunteer effort to gain admittance. A model that works from a 7-point vision that includes faith, living in harmony, empowerment and security.

For those who may be looking for a way to make a positive impact in multiple countries around the world I would encourage you to check out Gawad Kalinga. They are truly "Building communities to end poverty." I also feel that Up with People is a great organization that continues to succeed at being a force for good in the world.



An area in the outskirts of Baseco.  
Photo by Dan Graham.



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



Up with People brings together 100 participants from more than 20 countries for a multi-continent tour immersing them in the local customs and culture of each community. Cast members travel for one or two semesters beginning in January and July of every year, participating in various community service projects, performing a dynamic musical show and experiencing a global education curriculum.

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CAST A 2013  
COMPLETE!  
WHO DO  
YOU  
RECOMMEND?

### CAST B 2012 TOUR SCHEDULE

**CIUDAD OBREGÓN, SONORA, MEXICO**  
November 12-19, 2012  
**HERMOSILLO, SONORA, MEXICO**  
November 19-26, 2012  
**DELICIAS, CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO**  
November 26-December 3, 2012  
**CIUDAD CUAUHEMOC, CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO**  
December 3-11, 2012  
**END OF TOUR/CAST DEPARTUTE**  
December 11, 2012

### CAST A 2013 TOUR SCHEDULE

**LAKELAND, FLORIDA, USA**  
January 11-February 11, 2013  
**TBD, FLORIDA, USA**  
February 11-18, 2013  
**ORLANDO, FLORIDA, USA**  
February 18-25, 2013  
**VERO BEACH, FLORIDA, USA**  
February 25-March 4, 2013  
**STATESBORO, GEORGIA, USA**  
March 4-11, 2013  
**ATLANTA, GEORGIA, USA**  
March 11-18, 2013  
**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**  
March 18-25, 2013  
**WEINFELDEN, FRAUNFELD, SWITZERLAND**  
March 25-April 1, 2013  
**NEUCHÂTEL/LA CHAUX DE FONDS, SWITZERLAND**  
April 1-8, 2013  
**VADUZ, LIECHTENSTEIN**  
April 8-15, 2013  
**APELDOORN/EERBEEK, HOLLAND, NETHERLANDS**  
April 15-22, 2013  
**MOL, BELGIUM**  
April 22-29, 2013  
**TBD, EUROPE**  
April 29-May 13, 2013  
**TBD, MEXICO**  
May 13-June 3, 2013  
**AGUASCALIENTES, MEXICO**  
June 3-11, 2013  
**END OF TOUR/CAST DEPARTURE**  
June 11, 2013

For up to date information on the current tour visit our website at [www.upwithpeople.org](http://www.upwithpeople.org)!

## Be a part of the club...

Find the giving level that works for you. Sign up today to make monthly donations to Up with People to support various programs like the UWP scholarship program, production, cast travel and more! Visit our website or call 303-460-7100 to find out more!

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