

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Cast Quotes 2

Don't Miss UWP's 50th Anniversary Gala 3

Happy Birthday, Mr. Belk! 4

UWP "Clowns Around" to Build Bridges 6

The Life of a UWP PR Member: Then and Now 8

Meet Terry Adams 9 ('81A, United States), UWP's new Vice President of Advancement

# GO ON A JOURNEY WITH UWP'S NEWEST SHOW

Is Cast A 2015 coming to a city near you? Find out if an Up with People cast will be visiting a city near you by [clicking here](#). Enjoy our newest show, "The Journey."



Members of Cast A 2015 strike a pose after the song 'Peace Party.'



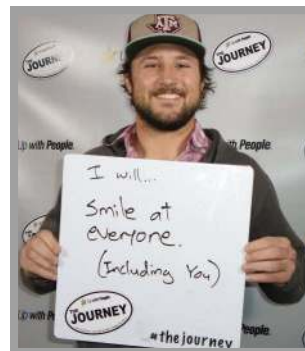
A member of Cast A 2015 sings 'Footsteps of a Girl,' a song inspired by Malala Yousafzai, the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate.



A new song is 'Cuba en Mi Corazon.' UWP traveled to Cuba in 2014.



UWP alumni will enjoy the European medley featuring the dance, 'Gypsy.'



Cast members display their commitments to their communities and the world during the song 'I Will.' Statements include "change the world" and "fight for equality."



UWP invites audience members to post their own "I Will" statements about how they will affect positive change in their own communities.

# CAST QUOTES

Read what members of Cast A 2015 have to say about their UWP experience.

## ON HOW TO BE UNIQUE IN A BIG GROUP:

*"Share what you enjoy doing and be true to what you feel. Don't be afraid to share that. I think that's how you stay unique."*

**Paulina ('08B, Mexico)**  
Education Coordinator

## ON BEING A FIRST-TIME PERFORMER

*"This is one of the most fun things I've done in a long time!"*

**Oskar ('15A, Sweden)**  
Cast member

## ON EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS:

*"The most memorable for me was when each of us in the cast had the opportunity to share about personal things we've experienced. We all come from different places. We all have something that has happened to us."*

**Saki ('15A, Japan)**  
Cast member

## ON COMMUNITY ACTION:

*"There is nothing more gratifying than being recognized for something that you do. After we led some workshops in middle and high school classes in Denver, the students wrote us thank you notes and showed us that we can make a difference."*

**Rafael ('15A, Brazil)**  
Cast member

## ON DOCUMENTING HER JOURNEY:

*"I love how photography helps me connect with my cast mates and feel part of the group. It's a great ice breaker: you take a picture and people talk to you about it. The hardest part is to find a balance between living the experience and capturing the moment with my camera."*

**Kara ('15A, United States)**  
Cast member

## ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY:

*"Cultural diversity is something I have been looking forward to since the moment I knew I was going to travel with UWP. When you know that differences exist in the world, you learn to value others. That's how you light the candle for peace."*

**Asmita ('15A, Nepal)**  
Cast member

## ON BACKSTAGE ADVENTURES:

*"The fun we have backstage is the same as on stage, except that no one is watching you so you can go full out with no shame. Then, sometimes, things happen and you have to react quickly. During the dress rehearsal, a rolling platform lost a wheel and we had 20 seconds to fix it before it had to go on stage for the show. Nobody noticed anything!"*

**Bram ('13B, Belgium)**  
Stage Technician

## DON'T MISS UWP'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Mark your calendars for one of UWP's largest fundraising events. Read why Linda (Lowe) Erley ('78E), one of UWP's Gala Co-Chairs, thinks YOU should attend this year's event.

As you review your 2015 spring calendar, we have an important 'Save the Date' for you. Don't miss UWP's 50th Anniversary Gala: *Celebrating our Story... Igniting our Future* presented by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in association with Elite Brands. The event will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center, a new and exciting venue for UWP.

As UWP celebrates the big 5-0, let me give you the top **five** reasons why you do not want to miss out on this special evening:

1. It is UWP's 50th Anniversary, of course! Join us for friends, food, drinks, auction items, and other festivities.
2. You do not want to miss live entertainment showcasing highlights from UWP's 50th Anniversary show, *The Journey*.
3. You can enjoy being with the special people in your life through our "Build-A-Table" option. [Click here](#) for more details.
4. Make it a weekend in Denver with special rates for UWP at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center. [Click here](#) for more details.
5. This event is big for the future of the UWP program. Every dollar raised at the Gala will be matched by an anonymous foundation. This foundation has already awarded UWP \$500,000 and will award an additional \$500,000 if UWP can raise \$250,000 by June 30, 2015. Your contribution will have triple the impact in supporting UWP's worldwide mission!

The zero in the big 5-0, it says it all. There are zero reasons to miss it! In just four years the UWP Gala has become one of the organization's top fundraising events and a key gathering of alumni, former road and office staff, host families, community supporters, and friends. Let us begin to **ignite UWP's future** by opening our doors even wider to extend invitations beyond our UWP network in the Denver area. Why not think outside the box by inviting others who have yet to hear about UWP and our great vision? What about **celebrating our story** with business owners and community leaders who you think could have an interest in our incredible program and the relevant work it does nationally and internationally? The 50th Anniversary Gala is

a perfect platform for this type of introduction! This is your moment to help take UWP into the next 50 years and the 2015 Gala is one of the vehicles to begin to take us there.

For those who have not attended a prior Gala, you will find it a unique experience like no other. The opening cocktail party in the ballroom foyer provides ample time to catch up with old friends while bidding on a wide variety of silent auction items ranging from coffee for a year to vacation homes to spa packages. You can also enjoy complimentary wine thanks to Terry Cekola ('87B) and Elite Brands. Once inside the spacious ballroom you will enjoy a sumptuous dinner and a special evening of entertainment showcasing highlights from UWP's 50th Anniversary show. The evening concludes with a live auction featuring exciting, one-of-a-kind items such as a 2016 Rose Bowl experience thanks to Gala Co-Chair, Bruce Erley ('73B), to a guitar signed by the hottest country music artists from the Academy of Country Music and Erick Long ('91B).

For information regarding sponsorships and the Build-A-Table option, contact Tim Lane ('75C), Director of Alumni Engagement and Camp UWP, by [clicking here](#) or by calling 720.215.3201. **Buy your tickets today!** If you or your organization have any auction items you'd like to donate to our live or silent auction, contact Megan Luebke ('09B), Development and Communications Manager, by [clicking here](#) or by calling 720.215.3219. Many individuals worked hard at igniting the first 50 years of UWP. Mark your calendar today so that you can make your mark on the next 50 years!



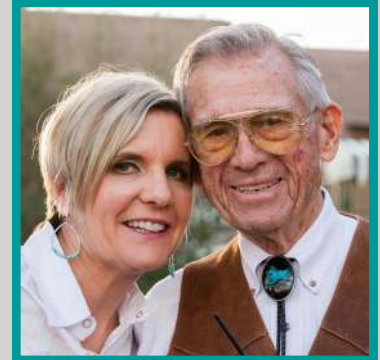
Participants at last year's Gala had a great time seeing friends, singing UWP songs, and supporting UWP's global mission. Don't miss this year's event. Get your tickets today by [clicking here!](#)

# Happy Birthday, Mr. Belk!

UWP friends around the world gathered in Tucson, Arizona March 6 and 7, 2015 to celebrate Mr. Belk's 90th birthday and UWP's 50th Anniversary.



J. Blanton Belk, the founder of UWP, celebrated his 90th birthday on February 4, 2015. To read more about the birthday celebration and celebrate UWP's historical timeline since 1965, [click here](#).



Belk and his daughter, Jenny Belk-Gupta ('85C).



Belk and his wife, Betty, enjoy the first dance at the birthday celebration.



Larry Lunt (left), a former UWP board member practices a song with UWP musician, Herb Allen ('65C).



Alain Thiry ('75C), former UWP President and CEO, poses with Chuck Jarrett ('74A), UWP's Chairman of the Board.



UWP singer and songwriter, Pat Murphy ('72A) (left), poses with longtime UWP friend, Beatrice Lunt (center), and Captain Eugene Cernan, a former UWP board member and the last man to walk on the moon.

1965 2015



*Up with People.*

*Join us for our Signature 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events*



DESTINATION: DENVER, COLORADO  
**"THE JOURNEY" PREMIERE**  
FEBRUARY 14, 2015



DESTINATION: TUCSON, ARIZONA  
**LAUNCH OF THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**  
MARCH 6 & 7, 2015



DESTINATION: DENVER, COLORADO  
**FOURTH ANNUAL GALA**  
CELEBRATING UWP'S 50<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY  
APRIL 25, 2015



DESTINATION: ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
**CELEBRATE 50! REUNION**  
AUGUST 4-9, 2015



DESTINATION: MEXICO CITY, MEXICO  
**MEXICO 50<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION**  
OCTOBER 17, 2015



DESTINATION: BRUSSELS, BELGIUM  
**EUROPE 50<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION**  
NOVEMBER 14, 2015



# UWP “CLOWNS AROUND” TO BUILD BRIDGES

*UWP works with Todd Zimmerman ('93D) to add the universal language of laughter to its newest production, “The Journey.”*

Over the years, UWP has been able to transcend cultures through music. However, while the message of UWP is carried worldwide through the vehicle of a song’s lyrics, humor based on the English language quickly falls flat once the tour leaves the United States. However, physical humor - a common language around the globe - can unite an audience in laughter. Actions based on character and emotion can resonate with everyone regardless of age, culture or language. UWP’s newest show, *The Journey*, adds a specific focus on physical comedy to bring a unique, new aspect to the performances.

Shortly after my tour with Cast D 1993 I was fortunate enough to audition my way into Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Clown College. It was an institution of higher hilarity with an incredulous 1% new student acceptance rate. Harvard currently rests at 5.8% acceptance rate. From there I toured with the Ringling Bros and Barnum and Bailey Circus for almost a decade. After years of performing, I settled in Orlando, Florida, producing award-winning physical comedy shows for SeaWorld, Busch Gardens, and Walt Disney World. My experiences led me to a discussion with Eric Lentz ('86E), UWP’s Senior Vice President and Executive Producer, during an alumni reception at a UWP International Alumni Association Board of Governors meeting. He talked about adding a new dimension to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary UWP show by infusing it with some physical humor.

Working with the writing talents of Lynn Hart ('71B) and some scene placement, intent and direction from Michael Bowerman ('81C, United States), Lentz, and Humberto Alabado ('75B), we created two characters for *The Journey* that are affectionately called “Tech Clowns.” These two cast members are designed to be the “technicians” on the show tour that keep the technical aspect of the production on track. Our comedic characters are not there to tell a specific story or plot line throughout the show. Rather, they are a conduit through which we hope our audiences will be able to loosen up with some laughs and make a special connection with the production.

During staging, the cast’s tech assistant, Bram Serpieters ('13B, Belgium) led some theatre improvisation games as sort of a comedic litmus test for the new touring cast members. We identified around a dozen students in the cast who could tell a story with their physicality. We looked for natural comedic timing and a willingness to make a fool of themselves in front of an audience. In the end, we tasked four students from Belgium, Sweden and Mexico to initially

breathe life into our tech clowns that now had names: Dakota and Charlie!

The unique opportunity that we now have is one in which speaking English is moot. Physical comedy is the most primordial human medium of expression. It predates language! Through these two characters and their silly moments, UWP is adding a new perspective to the show to make a connection with our audiences in ways that haven’t been given specific focus before. While Dakota and Charlie’s moments in the show are not lengthy or plentiful, they are endearing and will most likely be the memorable moment for many of our audience members.

With our clown characters—UWP participants—regardless of where they are from, will be able to tell a story, create a moment, and illicit chuckles with audiences around the world. We will continue to bridge cultural divides with something that is universal: laughter! After all, that is what it is all about: creating the shortest distance between people.

*Todd Zimmerman has helped create, produce and perform shows and atmosphere entertainment for places such as Walt Disney World’s Magic Kingdom and Royal Caribbean Cruise Line. He specializes in arts such as slapstick and physical comedy, custom show creation, and performance consultation. To find out more about Todd and his business, Odd-O-T’s Entertainment, [click here](#).*



*Thibaut ('14B, Belgium) (left) is a second-semester student who plays one of the “Tech Clowns” in UWP’s 50th Anniversary show. Here, he acts out a scene with Cristy Pereda ('15A, Mexico).*

UWP offers scholarships to support students every semester. Thanks to your gifts during this past fiscal year, we were able to award many scholarships to deserving students in Cast B 2014 and Cast A 2015.

UWP's scholarship program is made possible through the generous support of individuals and foundations. Every gift has an impact on the life of a student; from \$10 to \$1,000. We depend on your support to run our program. Please help impact more students with your gift!

To make a gift:

[CLICK HERE](#)

## STUDENT PROFILE

Meet Alejandro Bermudez from the United States, a member of Cast A 2015.

**UWP: How did you hear about UWP?**

**Alejandro Bermudez:** *In 2011, Up with People came to my high school in Washington, DC. The show was free for the students so I went to see it. I knew I was interested in joining at that point. After I went to college for one and a half years, I realized that going straight from high school to college was a hard transition for me and that I wanted to do something different. So at that time, I decided to apply for UWP.*

**UWP: What aspects of your culture are you hoping to share/are sharing with Cast A 2015?**

**Bermudez:** *My biggest goal is to open everyone's eyes to the fact that culture includes many different aspects: your race, the part of the country that you are from, your social and economic status, and your gender.*

**UWP: What are you nervous about?**

**Bermudez:** *Many people are not exposed to different types of black people. My family is Hispanic but I am black. My fear is that people make assumptions and stereotype a person's situation.*

**UWP: How has your host family experience been so far? What favorite memory do you have?**

**Bermudez:** *Staying with host families has had a larger impact on me than I thought it would. I love the fact that I am still in my country but I am exposed to so many new things anyway. While in New Mexico on the current tour I played frisbee golf and I had no idea it existed before. I also learned a lot about the Native Americans and the Navajo Nation.*

**UWP: What do you think of "The Journey?" What is your favorite song/part?**

**Bermudez:** *I'm looking forward to learning new songs in different languages as we visit new countries. I have three favorite songs from the show. 'Nkosi' which is the national anthem of South Africa. I love that it is in a completely different language. 'Raise a Ruckus' is a really fun song to perform. I also love 'One to One' because we perform the choreography in sign language and it is a song I dance in.*

**A well-known foundation—that wishes to remain anonymous—has awarded UWP a \$1 million grant.**

**We have already received \$500,000, and will receive the additional \$500,000 with YOUR help! If we can raise \$250,000 by June 30, 2015, it will grant us the additional \$500,000. Help us reach our goal.**

[Give to UWP today!](#)

# THE LIFE OF A UWP PR MEMBER: THEN AND NOW

Ann (Pedersen) Arabian ('76B) and Marie Dubern ('13B) both have experience working as members of UWP's PR team. Arabian worked for one year—from 1977 to 1978—and Dubern is a member of the current team. While the job may have changed, PR members remain a crucial part of UWP's team.

**UWP: Today, the individuals who go ahead of the cast into different cities to promote UWP's tour are called promotional representatives (PRs). Was that your title when you worked for UWP?**

**Ann Arabian:** My UWP business card simply had my name and the title "Promotion." But we were referred to as "PR Staff" which stood for public relations.

**UWP: What were/are your responsibilities?**

**Arabian:** Along with being a regular cast member, I would arrive in a city two to three weeks prior to the show and work directly with the show's sponsor. The sponsor typically provided an office with a typewriter, phone, and copier, as well as a car. Remember, this was in 1977. We promoted the show through the local newspaper outlets, radio and TV stations, and would speak at schools and service clubs. Colored posters would be printed and shopkeepers would display them in their store front windows. We would even search for marquees to promote the show. We organized all the logistics with the show's venue as well as schools, shopping centers, and hospitals where assemblies and acoustic shows were often performed. We secured and negotiated cast meals with local restaurants and searched for approximately 40 host families.

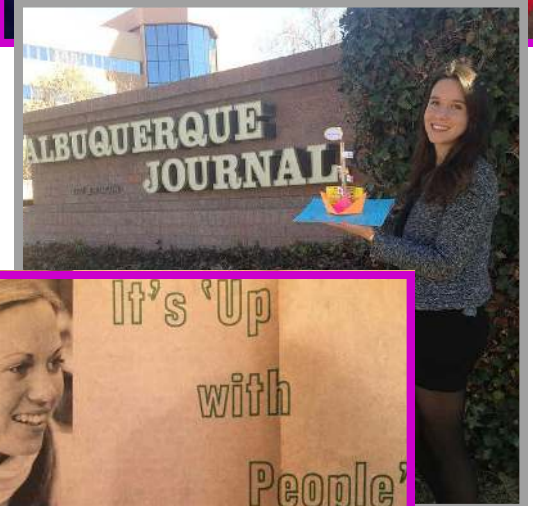
**Marie Dubern:** One of our largest and most important responsibilities is to maintain good sponsor relations and help to fulfill all of their benefits. The responsibilities of a PR team today in a city are also to find all the host families for the cast and road staff, to connect with alumni in the area, to find media coverage regarding the cast's visit, and to promote the show. We also have to find donations such as meals for the cast, transportation, printing promotional materials, staff hotel rooms for emergencies, and facilities where the cast can meet everyday for their morning and evening meetings and educational workshops. Managing the ticket sales is also one of our tasks.

**UWP: What were some ways you promoted the cast's arrival:**

**Arabian:** When the cast finally arrived, I always greeted them dressed in the theme of the area such as on horseback in Gunnison, CO, as lumberjacks in Orofino, ID, on water skis in Lakeland, FL, as yell leaders for our University of Central Arkansas sponsors in Conway, AR, or as golf pros in Hilton Head, SC.

**Dubern:** In Manzanillo, Mexico, we had our sponsor organize a concert in the main plaza to welcome the cast. It was a small city so everyone came out for that. I was on the PR team for Cast A 2015's recent tour visit to Albuquerque this past February. The cast arrived at the Balloon Fiesta Museum and learned about hot air balloons!

UWP is grateful to all PRs who have worked or currently work tirelessly to promote a cast in cities around the world. If you're interested in working on UWP's PR team, contact [employment@upwithpeople.org](mailto:employment@upwithpeople.org).



Top: Dubern (second from left) and other members of UWP's PR team joined community members and area alumni in Laconia, MA to promote a cast's arrival. Second from top: Dubern poses in front of the Albuquerque Journal with a media kit promoting Cast A 2015's tour stop in that city last month. Third from top: Arabian is pictured in a newsletter article about UWP. Bottom: (left) Arabian poses as a yell leader for the University of Central Arkansas.



## CAMP UWP PARTICIPANTS JOIN UWP

*Each semester, more and more former Camp UWP participants beginning their journey as a UWP cast*

Cast A 2015's newest UWP cast has five Camp UWP alumni traveling this semester. They are: Sally Verschueren (Belgium, Camp UWP Casts A 2011 and A 2012), Marco de Biolley (Belgium, Camp UWP Cast B 2014), Emily Jones (United States, Camp UWP Casts A 2012 and A 2013), Roger Galindo (Mexico, Camp UWP Casts B 2011, B 2012, B 2013, A 2014 and B 2014), and Julien Claes (Belgium, Camp UWP Casts A 2013 and B 2014).

Together, the former "campers" made a presentation during Cast A 2015's Staging and Orientation in Denver about Camp UWP to their new UWP cast mates along with Yui Mihara ('00E, Japan) UWP's Operations Manager who was Camp UWP's Show Manager during the summers of 2012 and 2013, and Kyle Chan ('10B, United States), a member of Cast A 2015's Staging and Orientation Staff, who the Dance Captain for Camp UWP during the summer of 2011. Each expressed one or two of the activities they did at camp along with what they learned and how it prepared them for traveling in UWP.

At the end of the presentation, they joined hands in a circle with the rest of Cast A 2015 and taught everyone the chorus of "We Are Many, We Are One" which is the theme song of Camp UWP. It is sung at the end of each day at Camp UWP before saying goodnight.

Each Camp UWP alumnus who travels with UWP receives a \$1,000 scholarship toward their UWP program fee. So far, there are 13 Camp UWP alumni preparing for their UWP tour as cast members of Cast B 2015. To learn more about Camp UWP, [click here](#).

Front row: Marco de Biolley, Roger Galindo  
Back row: Sally Verschueren, Emily Jones,  
Julien Claes

## GET TO KNOW UWP'S NEWEST STAFF MEMBER

*Meet Terry Adams, ('81A), UWP's new Vice President of Advancement.*

**UWP: Please explain your role with UWP:**

**Terry Adams:** *I will be working hand-in-hand with Dale Penny ('71A), UWP's President and CEO, and UWP's Board of Directors to secure funding for our future through the management of annual giving, major gift-giving, planned giving, and special events. In addition, I will create and advance relationships with corporations and foundations that have aligned interests with our program.*

**UWP: What was your most memorable moment during your UWP tour?**

**Adams:** *Having Pope John Paul II hold my face and say "Thank you for what you are doing!"*

**UWP: What is your favorite UWP song?**

**Adams:** *"There's Gonna Be Another Day."*

**UWP: What was your most memorable tour city?**

**Adams:** *Moscow, USSR.*

**UWP: If you could plan an UWP tour to anywhere in the world, where would you go?**

**Adams:** *I would love to visit inner cities in the United States.*

**UWP: If you decided to travel with UWP for another six months, what are five items you could not live without?**

**Adams:** *Connection to my family, my cell phone, ESPN, flip flops, and my golf clubs.*

**UWP: What will be the most rewarding part of your job?**

**Adams:** *The opportunity to reconnect with so many people that have touched my life through UWP.*

**UWP: What's one thing you would do differently if you were to travel with UWP again?**

**Adams:** *I would document the memories better. I just don't remember it all and wish I could.*



Adams began his tenure with UWP on March 16.

1965

50 *Up with People*

2015

50th Anniversary

# Gala

Celebrating Our Story...

Igniting Our Future

Saturday, April 25, 2015  
Hyatt Regency - Denver, CO

*Presented by:*



*Click here to purchase tickets*

*In Association With:*



# CAMP Up with People

## PERFORMING ARTS

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Email: [Contact@CampUpwithPeople.org](mailto:Contact@CampUpwithPeople.org)

*Inspiring the community through service & song*



## “SHIRTS” HELP UWP GET READY FOR “THE JOURNEY”

*During Staging and Orientation, UWP relies on a team of volunteers to help make magic happen. Jeremy Boik, UWP’s Technical Operations Manager, writes about the impact one volunteer had on Cast A 2015’s new show.*

When you see the UWP show, you experience the finished product: the flashy costumes, the polished dances, the lighting, the music, and the videos. It is easy to forget about the countless hours of work that go into making the two hours of a UWP show unforgettable. At the helm of this process is the creative team and the production road staff, but we also have an equally important team of volunteers—mostly alumni—who work behind the scenes making all of the magic happen. These are eager individuals who are excited for a chance to learn more about a certain craft and just happy to put their mark on the production. In order for the participants to recognize them, we give them t-shirts with their names emblazoned in bold letters. Their nickname: “Shirts.”

During the staging for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production of *The Journey*, one name on a black t-shirt stood out for me: “Manuel.” UWP’s technical team quickly realized that Manuel Schwizer (’14B, Switzerland) had a special knack for all things ‘tech.’ During his time as a cast member with UWP, he was a Spotlight Operator and on the Lighting Focus Crew.

Manuel is an electrician in his home country. He studied as an apprentice for four years, starting at the age of 16. This fall, he will be heading back to school to further his education, possibly studying electrical engineering or geology.

Although Manuel’s love for technical things was apparent while he was a participant, we never imagined what he would bring to the table as this semester’s Technical Intern. The to-do list for the technical department was unusually long as we prepared to send a new show out on the road. We used Manuel’s skills as an electrician and a carpenter, and enjoyed his perfectionist approach to all things. You’ve never seen lighting gels cut with such precision!

In addition to the mundane tasks including cleaning, repairing cables, and fixing road cases, Manuel was full of new and innovative ideas to make the technical elements of the UWP show run more smoothly. He installed a new LED cargo light system in the back of our truck. He built road cases to house our new riser lighting system. He created a new system for powering our crazy network of colored cyclorama lights. The list goes on and on.

We would like to send a sincere THANK YOU to Manuel and all of the staging “shirts” who were instrumental in making the premiere tour of *The Journey* possible.

**Manuel (’14B, Switzerland)**  
**Staging and Orientation**  
**Technical Intern**

## A MONUMENTAL YEAR

*Kiwanis International, UWP promotional partner, celebrates a milestone itself during UWP’s 50th Anniversary year.*

This is a big year for Kiwanis International and UWP. It is the first full year of our partnership and a year of historic milestones for both organizations. Kiwanis is proud to welcome UWP to our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in Indianapolis this June.

As UWP celebrates its own 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the members’ performance and service will come at a perfect time in our rich histories. In fact, Kiwanis is also excited to welcome UWP to Anaheim, California on March 9, 2015 as a part of the Centennial Tour that is taking Kiwanis leaders to local celebrations throughout the year.

But it’s not all about celebrating the past. Both events are a great example of the opportunities that await us. We already have so much in common: service projects, leadership development and

the kind of inspiration that changes lives.

In fact, Kiwanis club memberships are ideal opportunities for UWP alumni. Each Kiwanis club is made of local adult volunteers performing service in their local communities. And each member is a person with a passion for making a difference; a fellowship of like-minded people. Sound familiar?

[Find a Kiwanis club near you!](#)

# SARANAM PARTNERS WITH UWP IN ALBUQUERQUE

*Cast A 2015 works to instill hope and trust with families during their second tour stop.*

Saranam is a nonprofit in Albuquerque, NM in its twelfth year of operation. In February, the Saranam families had the opportunity to meet and work with more than 25 cast members from UWP for two full days. The experience was rewarding for both the cast and the families associated with Saranam.

The word Saranam means “refuge.” The vision is to transform the lives of homeless families. Saranam’s mission is “to empower families to end their homelessness and poverty through housing, education, and supportive communities.” Saranam was founded in 2004 through the generosity of Frances Thaxton Ash, whose dying wish was to start a program specifically intended to help homeless families in Albuquerque. Over the last twelve years, Saranam families have had the opportunity to gain the necessary skills to permanently end their homelessness in a supportive community thanks to her vision and generosity. Each August, Saranam accepts new families into the program, and this year, 57 families applied for eleven openings. Since 2004, Saranam has opened its doors to 79 of Albuquerque’s homeless families, including 95 adults and 155 children. Of the families that have left the program, over 74% have left successfully/ Today, they have 16 families pursuing their path to self- sufficiency, including 17 adults and 33 children.

Saranam families gain skills in several areas—education, general health, parenting, and financial literacy are a few—but Saranam gives them so much more. They become part of a community, attending classes together and living in the same complex. They learn to resolve conflict, rely on one another, and offer help to their neighbors. They learn to negotiate, to support one another through difficult times, and, most importantly, they learn to accept help and to trust.

When UWP’s Cast A 2015 volunteered at Saranam during its Albuquerque tour stop, adults were immersed in meaningful workshops from cast members who provided diverse cultural perspectives. They challenged the families to listen and learn about other cultures and opinions. UWP leaders posed thought-provoking questions that required everyone in the class to reflect on their own values and societal values and to share revelations and deeply ingrained perceptions. Some reflections following the evening and morning sessions included: *“Their perspectives, energy, and desire to volunteer gives me hope and has softened my view of the world,”* and *“I didn’t know there were people out there, like you, who want to make the world a better place.”*

Equally enlightening was the enthusiasm and trust that our children immediately had for cast members devoted to working with children throughout the world. Rarely have these children been seen to laugh, engage, and fully participate in games, artwork, and one-on-one attention as they did with these amazing young adults. In two days, these children had the opportunity to see a whole different world, and they loved it!

The magical experience doesn’t end here. Because of the generosity of UWP alumni, all of the Saranam families had the opportunity to see the performance of *The Journey*.

Saranam is a transformational experience for these families and the UWP experience will have a lasting impact on their future decisions and actions. These young individuals instilled a sense of hope that will give them strength as they pursue their path to self-sufficiency and healthy, loving relationships.



*Members of Cast A 2015 worked with the youth at Saranam to paint a Tree of Hope as well as assist with landscaping projects.*



## CAST A 2015 TOUR SCHEDULE

Make sure you are up-to-date with our current cast. Click [here](#) to find out where Cast A 2015 will be next!

[Denver, Colorado | Staging and Orientation](#)

January 9—February 16, 2015

[February 14, 2015 | Premiere of "The Journey"](#)

[Farmington, New Mexico](#)

February 16—23, 2015

[Albuquerque, New Mexico](#)

February 23—March 2, 2015

[Tucson, Arizona | 50th Anniversary Signature Event](#)

March 2—9, 2015

[Orange County, California](#)

March 9—16, 2015

[Coachella Valley, California](#)

March 16—23, 2015

Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

March 23—30, 2015

Mexico City, Mexico

March 30—April 6, 2015

Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico

April 6—13, 2015

Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

April 13—20, 2015

Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico

April 20—27, 2015

Suhr, Switzerland

April 28—May 4, 2015

Brig, Switzerland

May 4—11, 2015

Wolfrathausen, Germany

May 11—May 18, 2015

Rheinfelden, Germany

May 18—May 25, 2015

Apeldoorn, The Netherlands

May 25—June 2, 2015

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