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UWP CONNECTIONS AROUND THE WORLD

A UWP participant finds a surprising connection during a recent tour stop.

Hello! My name is Britt van Rozendaal and I am from the Netherlands. I am currently traveling with Cast B 2015. Last week we were in Gainesville, Georgia. I had a wonderful week thanks especially to my host family. Let me tell you a bit more about them.

Like every travel day, we arrive in the afternoon to our next destination. I received my allocation card with my host family information. It read: Scott Purcell and Jamy August. Our host dad arrived and my roommates and I introduced ourselves. My host dad asked me where I was from. I replied that I was from a small town close to Eindhoven in The Netherlands. "You probably don't know it," I said. "Maybe," Scott replied. "Is it called Schijndel?"

I was shocked. "Yes," I answered. "I am from Schijndel. How do you know my home town?" Scott then told me that he was an alumnus of UWP. "I traveled with Cast 1986 C and was on the public relations team in Schijndel." I thought that was really awesome and mentioned that my parents hosted for the first time during the cast's visit to Schijndel. Scott then asked for my parents' names. After I told him, his facial expression changed. "Oh my gosh! I stayed with your parents! You weren't even born then."

I couldn't believe this. "You're the Scott?!" I exclaimed. "My parents told me so many stories about you!"

I immediately called my parents who were vacationing in Spain. It was 1:00am there. My mom answered the phone, worried that something was wrong. After telling her who I was with, my mom and Scott spoke for the first time in 29 years.

During our host family day that week, my parents Skyped with Scott and reminisced about UWP and the great times they had together. I am so happy I could reconnect my parents with Scott. I look forward to visiting them again.



Top: Scott (center) smiles with Britt (top left), other UWP participants, and friends. Bottom: Scott (left) types up a public relations report—on a typewriter!—with Britt's father in the background.

Brit van Rozendaal

A VIEW FROM THE STAGE AT WORLD YOUTH DAY

A UWP alumnus recalls performing for thousands on a summer day in 1993.

During the summer of 1993, Eduardo Aguirre ('84E) was an Assistant Cast Manager for UWP and learned that Cast 1993 C would be performing for Pope John Paul II in Denver for World Youth Day along with two other casts, alumni and staff. The three summer casts were in the middle of staging and orientation when this event occurred, so all the stops were pulled out to provide a quality, professional performance at Mile High Stadium.



UWP casts, staff, and alumni perform at World Youth Day at Mile High Stadium.

Pope John Paul II left a legacy for youth in his institution of World Youth Day in 1986 in Rome, which has continued, carrying on the hope for the youth of the world and inviting them to participate. There have been 12 International World Youth Day celebrations where young people continue to answer the invitation of the Pope in staggering numbers. While these events are organized by the clergy of the Catholic Church, youth of all faiths are invited to attend, making this gathering truly global.

Eduardo's recollection of the event was one of excitement and reverence. The cast was able to rehearse on the stage just prior to World Youth Day and performed a lineup that included the songs "What Color is God's Skin?", "Up with People," an international medley, and "Room for Everyone." In fact, "Room for Everyone" had to be extended and repeated because the Pope's helicopter was late. The cast kept singing the song over and over. Eduardo noted, "It was just crazy, performing in front of 60,000 people, and it was one of the highlights of our year before we even hit the road! I will remember this forever."



From left to right: Michael Scott Curnes ('80B), Eduardo Aguirre ('84E), Todd LeBlanc ('90E), and Miguel Eduardo Lopez ('83E) perform "Cielito Lindo" as part of the international medley for World Youth Day in 1993.

Video clips and photos of this 1993 international experience were displayed in the "Journey" room at the recent Celebrate 50! Reunion in Orlando. Many attendees recalled the event, and emailed or texted Eduardo photos of him performing at World Youth Day. Eduardo commented "...to experience this historic fifty-year reunion and hear from friends who saw photos of me in the 1993 display was really special."

Another Pope will be entertained by UWP this year. Cast B 2015's world tour will end in Rome this semester. During their week in Rome the cast will perform for Pope Francis during his weekly address in St. Peter's Square. Pope Francis has also announced a Jubilee Year of Mercy which begins on December 8, 2015. Pope Francis will be celebrating this day by going to the Piazza Mignanelli and the Piazza di Spagna (the Spanish Steps). He will lay a wreath at the Colonna dell'Immacolata on the Spanish Steps and will also give his annual message there. This event is being hosted by the Mayor of Rome. UWP's Cast B 2015 has been invited to perform at this auspicious event.

If you'd like to join the cast in Rome to experience the sights, sounds, and gelato, we invite you to sign up for Viva Roma, UWP's guest experience program. More information can be found at www.upwithpeople.org/vivaroma.

Written by Amy Jordan Russ ('76B). Amy really hopes her husband reads this article and tells her that she can sign up for the Viva Roma guest experience program.

Up with People.

IMPACT CLUB

A Monthly Giving Program



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UWP appreciates its monthly donors who, together, contribute more than \$40,000 each year.

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Phil ('76C) and Leigh Ann (Koussa)
Worcester ('77A)

"I give to Up with People through the monthly IMPACT Club because it's easy to set up. The monthly gift is small enough to not make a major difference to my bank account and at the end of the year, I've made a huge impact. As an alumnus, I want to support Up with People and for me, this is the easiest way."

- Grant Axton ('87A)

Due to the overwhelming support since the 50th Anniversary reunion in Orlando, we were not able to list all monthly IMPACT donors in time for publication. We sincerely apologize.

UWP CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS IN ORLANDO

Over 2,000 alumni attended the five-day celebration and left with memories to last a lifetime.

There was a party at the Swan and Dolphin Resort in Orlando in August 2015. Everyone was invited: alumni, host families, parents of current and former students, former staff, and fans and friends. There were dance parties until the early morning hours, hugs happening each second in the hotel lobby, and random swing clap breakout sessions. One could walk through "The Journey," an emotional and beautiful experience put together by a group of people led by John Gonzalez ('67C) to commemorate UWP's story. People from around the world came to reconnect with one another, reminisce about how UWP has impacted their lives, and celebrate the organization that has made a positive difference in global communities since 1965. Check out a handful of the photos taken at the celebration below. A special thank you to Terry "T" McCreary ('68B) and Vickie (Henthorn) Law ('66B) for their many months of planning such a successful and dynamic event.



Top left: UWP alumni celebrate the swing clap, a classic UWP move. Top middle: Audience members were moved as large fabric doves flew around the ballroom during "Can We Sing A Song Of Peace." Top right: Members of the Tapestry Cast strike a pose after "Throw Me the Ball." Second row middle: Cast B 2015 sings "A Single Step" at EPCOT. Second row right: President and CEO, Dale Penny ('71A) speaks about his vision for the next fifty years of UWP. Third row middle: Clayton Colwell sings "There's Gonna Be Another Day." Third row right: Members of A Common Beat Japan perform at the Celebrate 50! reunion. Bottom left: a young Common Beat performer entertained audience members during each performance. Bottom right: UWP Founder, J. Blanton Belk, signs the globe during The Journey walkthrough.

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STUDENT PROFILE

Meet Jeani Tamakloe from Ghana, a member of Cast B 2015.

What are you hoping to teach your fellow cast members?

I make sure to share differences in social interactions like table manners and how to address elders. I'm also educating them about food in Ghana, and our history and how it impacts our community today.

What are you hoping to learn from your UWP journey?

I really want the opportunity to learn more about production management. I was chosen as the production intern and I'm learning a lot of new things. I think it will help me achieve my dream to work in the live event management industry. I plan to eventually attend graduate school and get a Masters degree in event management or entrepreneurship.

What are your thoughts of your UWP experience thus far?

UWP is an invigorating journey that transforms you through the experiences you will have with the rest of your cast. Prepare yourself to learn and experience new things you may not be used to. Be more confident in who you are because each of us has something unique to bring.



Jeani sings a song in one of the medleys from "The Journey."

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CAST B 2015 TOUR SCHEDULE

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

June 28—August 2, 2015
Denver, Colorado | **Staging & Orientation**

July 29, 2015 | **Cast B 2015 Premiere**

August 3—9, 2015
Orlando, Florida | [50th Anniversary Event](#)

August 10—16, 2015
North Fulton County, Georgia

August 17—23, 2015
Gainesville, Georgia

August 24—30, 2015
Statesboro, Georgia

August 31—September 6, 2015
Melbourne, Florida

September 7—13, 2015
Venice, Florida

September 14—20, 2015
Aguascalientes, Mexico

September 21—27, 2015
Monterrey, Mexico

September 28—October 4, 2015
Zacatlán, Mexico

October 5—8, 2015
Toluca, Mexico

October 9—19, 2015
Puebla, Mexico

October 19—25, 2015
Oostende, Belgium

October 26—November 1, 2015
Antwerp, Belgium

November 2—8, 2015
Neuchâtel, Switzerland

November 9—15, 2015
Weinfelden-Frauenfeld, Switzerland

November 16—22, 2015
Vaduz, Liechtenstein

November 23—29, 2015
Brussels, Belgium | [50th Anniversary Event](#)

November 30—December 10, 2015
Rome, Italy