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# THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HUMAN CONNECTION

*A Cast A 2016 cast member writes about an experience in Sioux Falls, South Dakota*

One of the most important things that sustains through the decades is human connection. During our time in Sioux Falls, SD, members of Cast A 2016 were privileged to work at the Avera Prince of Peace Retirement Community Center. During our time there, the other members of Cast A 2016 and I gave manicures to the elderly, facilitated a global education workshop, and held an international fashion show. Between these activities, I had the chance to speak with one inspirational woman.

This woman was fairly self-sufficient but her husband was not. She lives on her own in the retirement facility while her husband lives in the assisted living portion of the center. The woman walked me to her husband's room and

introduced me. He was confused yet very cooperative and happy to see his wife. He agreed to take a short walk with us and trusted his wife to lead him around the facility that he still did not know very well. His faith in his wife was unwavering. I was so inspired by their true human connection and love for one another. Though the man most likely does not remember me, I can only hope that I made a positive impact on both him and his wife. I walked out of the facility feeling inspired by the amount of trust and love people truly have for one another and I hope to give that much love and trust to others throughout my time with Up with People and in my life after.

Pheng Xiong once said, "A bond is a deep connection that cannot be broken. Even if apart, heart and heart are connected." This is a theme that is essential to the goals of UWP and was extremely relevant in Sioux Falls. As a cast, we had the opportunity to interact with the city's residents and share our passion for the human connection, reaching further into the community to make a lasting impact.



*Cast A 2016 spent time at a retirement and assisted living community during their world tour to Sioux Falls, SD.*



*Rocky (far right) and other members of Cast A 2016 outside of a community action site.*



*One of UWP's Education Coordinators, Kim Taylor ('15B), helps a resident paint part of a mural.*

**Rocky ('16A)**

# UWP AND YOUTH WORK IN PERFECT “HARMONY”

*Cast A 2016 volunteered with a children’s orchestra and together, they made beautiful music.*

While visiting Sioux Falls, South Dakota, members of Cast A 2016 had the opportunity to work with Harmony South Dakota, an orchestra and choir full of children from diverse backgrounds. Most come from low-income households and are able to participate in the music programs for free. The Harmony students performed for the UWP cast members who, in turn, performed for the young students.

“We sat in a circle and got to know each other. They asked questions about where we were from and how we joined UWP. We asked them if they would like to join UWP someday and all of their hands shot up in the air,” said Darlene Richardson, Cast A 2016’s Assistant Cast Manager and Sound Technician. “Witnessing the Harmony group come together to perform for us was truly amazing,” said Matthew Serafin, a Cast A 2016 participant. “I loved the spirit and clear drive of the children to connect with one another through music. No matter their past circumstances or current struggles, the Harmony students find joy in performing that all can identify with, demonstrating that music is truly a universal language.”



*A Harmony student prepares for her performance for UWP.*



*Two Harmony students listen eagerly to UWP students during a circle discussion.*

# UWP CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN MEXICO

*Alumni and supporters joined together in Mexico City to continue UWP’s 50th Anniversary Celebration*

There was a party in Mexico City April 13-16. Hundreds of UWP alumni and supporters—primarily from Mexico—gathered to celebrate UWP as its 50th Anniversary party continues around the world. Stephen Browning (’72A) wrote about the opportunity he had to join in on the festivities. “Because I am currently living in Mexico, I had the special chance to attend one of the many 50th Anniversary celebrations being held on several continents by UWP.” Browning wrote about attending the jam-packed, three-day event which included a special dinner with UWP’s Founder, J. Blanton Belk, the current UWP show, *The Journey*, and a special performance at the Russian Embassy in Mexico City. Browning is still very passionate about UWP’s vision and its importance in the world today. “That was a powerful message for kids to embrace in the 1970s; and even more vital today in a far more complex and polarized world order.” Read more about Stephen’s experience [here](#).



*Some of UWP’s alumni from Mexico group together for a picture at the Russian Embassy in Mexico City.*

# STUDENT PROFILE: CHARLENE RHINEHART

*Get to know Charlene, a member of Cast A 2016*

## **How did you hear about Up with People?**

*In 2007, I received a scholarship to attend a leadership conference anywhere in the United States. I chose to go to Arizona. At the end of the conference, I was surprised by an impactful performance from people from all over the world. I had never seen any show like it and the sense of purpose that I had gathered from listening to the speakers made me feel like I had found a piece of me that I was always searching for. This was my first exposure to Up with People.*

*In January 2016, I decided to take a leap of faith and purchased a one-way ticket to Denver to join Up with People's Cast A 2016. I was terrified. I left my job as a Certified Public Accountant at a top financial services firm in order to discover the magic that existed beyond my comfort zone. I had a strong feeling that the moments of discomfort would lead to eye-opening discoveries that could change my life and positively impact the lives of those around me.*

## **What are you most excited or nervous about?**

*I am excited about building relationships with community leaders from all over the world and experiencing the cultural traditions of different host families. I am nervous about going to countries where I don't speak the native language but that is why I joined Up with People. I want to become comfortable being uncomfortable so that I can be more flexible and adaptive to any situation that comes my way.*

## **What do you think of Up with People's current show, *The Journey*?**

*"The Journey" speaks to my experiences and values. The show confirms that this moment as a cast member is just another chance to discover the unique gifts that exist within us all. My favorite song is "Who Will You Be?" It's a reminder that you have to jump in and live your best life now. You have to be bold in your purpose, choose faith over fear, and live a life that you can fall in love with over and over again. You are the link between everything that you want. Your life is waiting for you!*

## **Tell us about a favorite community action day.**

*My favorite community action project was participating in the Step Up program at a high school in Houston, Texas. The students were engaged, socially conscious, and eager to learn more about Up with People. It meant a lot to work with high school seniors and learn about their community ambitions and then share the Up with People show with them a day later.*

*I could see the students smiling in the audience when I was dancing on stage and that moment proved that differences disappear when you dance. Dance was a way to unite people beyond the classroom and they expressed their curiosity about Up with People after the show. Even the students who were not comfortable contributing to the classroom conversations were filled with questions about Up with People and could imagine a life that was greater than their current circumstances. This moment confirmed why Up with People exists.*

Presented by:



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[WWW.UPWITHPEOPLE.ORG/GALA](http://WWW.UPWITHPEOPLE.ORG/GALA)

# Gala 2016

## FACES AND PLACES

On Friday, March 18, 2016, 500 guests attended the 2016 UWP Gala at The Westin in Westminster presented by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in association with Elite Brands. More than 280,000USD was raised in support of UWP and its programs. Attendees enjoyed live and silent auctions, a special performance by an UWP cast, and the opportunity to connect and reengage with one another. One of the night's many special moments was when Cynthia Cochran ('79D), President of UWP's International Alumni Association, presented a 100,000USD check to Dale Penny, ('71A), President and CEO of UWP. Another highlight of the evening took place when Jim MacLennan ('65A) and Steve Woods ('65A) were presented with the first ever President's Awards by UWP President and CEO, Dale Penny ('71A), in appreciation for their service to and support of Up with People since 1965. A huge thank you to Chris Mygatt ('81C), Terry Cekola ('87B), and UWP's Gala Host Committee lead by Bruce ('73B) and Linda Erley ('78E) for their unwavering dedication and support.



# CALLING ALL PARENTS!

*What are your teens doing this summer?*

Camp Up with People (CUWP) is a one-of-a-kind three-week experience for 13 to 17 year olds and is located in the heart of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, approximately two hours from Washington D.C. The purpose of CUWP is to provide young people with an opportunity to explore their interests, develop their talents, and experience what traveling with UWP would be like, and to create a safe, caring environment where young people can make friends, have fun and achieve personal growth. Campers from all over the world attend camp with 40% to 50% of our campers coming from outside the U.S. The camp is based on the core program components of UWP: performing arts, community service, leadership, and culture.

Throughout the three-week program, CUWP cast members will receive much of the performing arts training that UWP's touring cast members go through including dance workshops, vocal training, stage movement and theatrical arts. Our counselors are actually former staff and cast members from UWP. They support and reflect UWP and Camp UWP's values of integrity, compassion and respect for others. At CUWP, young people can build healthy relationships, gain self-confidence, and learn to see their lives as part of today's amazing and challenging world. CUWP's program may include typical camp activities, such as swimming, horseback riding, hiking and campfires as well as some other activities like zip-lining, rock climbing and high/low ropes courses. We typically visit Washington, DC, where campers might stay with host families for one or two nights. They may also be involved with community service projects in the Harrisonburg, VA area.

At the end of the three weeks, CUWP cast members will put on a free public performance, made up primarily of UWP music, showcasing their talents, cultures and hopes for the world that reflects the UWP spirit....and make lifelong friends in a supportive and safe environment, while having *a lot* of fun! Through this unique combination of components, including outdoor activities, service projects and staging, campers will gain a sense of social responsibility, confidence and purpose, as well as the skills and appreciation of working cooperatively as part of a diverse group.

**Session 1 | Cast A | June 27 to July 16, 2016**

**Session 2 | Cast B | July 18 to August 6, 2016**

**The camp fee is 3,350USD for each three-week session.**

**Fees include:**

- Lodging and meals
- Administration and staff
- Transportation to/from CUWP and Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C.
- Activities and program materials
- Performance production costs
- Field trips
- Service projects
- CUWP t-shirt



Anyone who attends CUWP, then later travels with UWP, will receive a 1,000USD US scholarship toward their UWP program fee, in addition to any other scholarships for which they may be eligible.

Hurry! A fun and action-packed summer is waiting! To learn more about CUWP and how you can get involved, please visit the website at [www.campupwithpeople.org](http://www.campupwithpeople.org).

# TACO BELL TO SPONSOR UWP IN SACRAMENTO

*UWP to assist with Taco Bell's fundraising effort to benefit Boys and Girls Clubs across the United States*

UWP alumnus and Taco Bell franchise owner, Dave Smith ('74B), is bringing UWP's Cast B 2016 to Sacramento, California to benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento. Smith got into the Taco Bell franchise through his father who opened his first store, Store #89, in 1967. He is now involved with more than 35 stores in Northern California. Cast members will spend one week in the greater Sacramento area from September 26 through October 3, 2016, volunteering approximately 1,000 hours at up to eleven Boys and Girls clubs in the area. They will be hosting a culture fair, facilitating leadership and international dance workshops as well as completing clean up and beautification projects. Cast members will also have an opportunity to experience Sacramento's Old Town and share their talents, cultures, and traditions with the community through host family stays. Smith mentioned that Taco Bell has pledged to raise \$25 million for Boys and Girls Clubs across the United States. UWP is pleased to be a part of a fundraising effort via our performance at Sacramento Memorial Auditorium on Friday, September 30. More information can be found at [www.upwithpeople.org/Sacramento](http://www.upwithpeople.org/Sacramento).



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CAST A: June 27-July 16, 2016 • CAST B: July 18-Aug. 6, 2016

CALL: (540) 437-0609; EMAIL: [Contact@CampUpwithPeople.org](mailto:Contact@CampUpwithPeople.org)  
[CampUpwithPeople.org](http://CampUpwithPeople.org)

# CAST A 2016 TOUR SCHEDULE

[Check out where our current cast will be traveling on their world tour!](#)

April 18—May 2, 2016  
Bermuda

May 16—22, 2016  
Helsingborg, Sweden

May 2—9, 2016  
Falkoping, Sweden

May 23—30, 2016  
Genk, Belgium

May 9—16, 2016  
Copenhagen, Denmark

May 30—June 8, 2016  
Leuven, Belgium

June 3-4, 2016  
[Celebrate Europe 50th Anniversary  
Event; Brussels, Belgium](#)

