



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Meet Ethar, a refugee from Iraq who has joined Cast A 2017.

How did you hear about Up with People?

In 2015, I met Larry Swenson ('78D) who helped me get a job at a resort near Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. It changed the course of my life. The following summer, I returned to the resort where I got to sing and dance in a weekly musical called the "Fair Hills Hootenanny" which is put on by the resort staff. It is the longest-running summer musical in the area. I even performed the song "Border Guards" which is an UWP song. After seeing me perform, Larry encouraged and helped me apply for UWP.

Then, what is so incredible is that many, many UWP alumni gave money for my tuition and expenses. Hats off to those who encouraged so many people including Larry, Amy Stoller Stearns ('89D), Ruthie Shimabukuro ('77B), Lee Ann ('77D) and Randy ('79B) Hamilton, Cynthia Cochran ('79D), Amy Jordan Russ ('76B), Bob ('68B) and Pat Berry Glassner ('69B), Shawna Grierson ('90C) and Lindsey Johnson-Suddarth ('78D). Thank you!

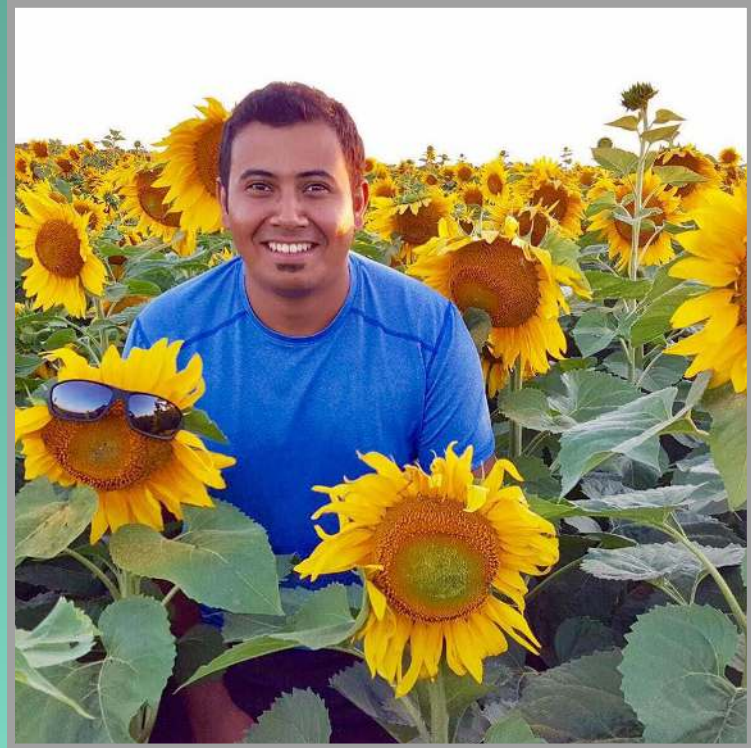
What do you want to teach about your culture?

*I do think what is most important for people to learn is that refugees from Iraq are **real people** and are **not terrorists**. Refugees such as myself love our home country, our families, our food, and our culture. We would not leave if life were safe. Right now, my country is not safe.*

What has Staging and Orientation been like for you?

The first week of Staging and Orientation was difficult. I am one of the older cast members and I just couldn't figure out why everyone was screaming, yelling, and clapping happily at everything. It was a bit of a culture shock. My family was calling me telling me to return to Iraq because they said it was safer in Iraq than in the United States because of the new political system. Now that there have been some clarifications about green card holders and that we can be allowed to return to the United States, I don't have to worry anymore. I can focus on the show, my cast mates, and the host families. I am really looking forward to dancing "Raise a Ruckus" in the show and being able to sing a solo or two.

Do you have any goals that you want to accomplish while traveling in UWP?



When I was a student in Iraq, I wanted to study music and the arts. At the time, my family thought there was no future for a music career in Iraq so they had me study other subjects. There was never a chance to follow my dream of music or performing. So now I am really hoping that the UWP staff will teach me and allow me that opportunity.

Do you have anything else to share?

I feel that it is important for me to let others know that things are happening outside of the "world of Up with People" that I find very disturbing and offensive. One weekend, I went to a local pub to relax with one of my UWP cast mates. We were playing pool and I won a game. My friend cheered, "Yay, Iraq!" Then, a man and woman came over and saw, "Are you from Iraq? Go home! You are not welcome here!" Another day, I was at a Subway sandwich shop and an older man looked at me as if he knew me. He came over and asked, "Are you from Iraq or Syria?" I told him I was from Iraq. Then he said to me—in a very threatening way—"Your friends are going to miss you when you're gone."

So, twice in the last week, I was told to leave the United States because I am from Iraq. Some people say they know of no harassment happening in the United States. Now, you know me and my reality.

CAST A 2017'S
TOUR SCHEDULE

MY JOURNEY TO TRAVELING THE WORLD

UWP's new Associate Director of Recruitment shares his story of how he came to be an alumnus.

In my role as the Associate Director of Recruitment, I want to find young people from all over the world, ages 17 to 29, to travel in UWP. My journey started in Tucson as a college football and strength and conditioning coach when my path was detoured to UWP. My late and best friend Bill Holmes ('75C) encouraged me for more than a year to join this amazing organization and I finally accepted. After traveling in UWP for 18 months as both a student and staff member, I returned to coach college football for three more years, only to find myself returning to work for a team I love. My job is to give young people the same opportunity that my friend, Bill, gave to me. My connection with sports helped me become a feature dancer while traveling as a UWP participant. Sports, specifically football, baseball, and basketball for me, is more about competition and winning than the actual skill of the sport. The adrenaline of the crowd. The chance that you can mess up in front of hundreds or thousands of people is a rush like no other. The preparation to be great, to be better than yourself, and to dominate your craft is a skill I found in dancing just like I found in sports.

When you read this, I want you to think of someone you know who is in high school or anyone who ranges from the ages of 17 to 29. The person can be a talented performer, a 29-year-old accountant, a high school senior who's not sure about college plans, a young teacher looking for a career change, or a passionate college football coach that wants to impact the world. UWP has been around for 52 years! By reading this and recruiting just one person to travel, we will be around for **at least fifty more years**, spreading our message of global unity, understanding, and peace. Please contact me if you or someone you know wants to travel the world in a positive and unique way.

All the best,

Beyah Rasool ('13A)
Associate Director of Recruitment | Up with
People

Denver, CO (Staging)
January 27—February 26

Aurora, CO
February 27—March 5

2017 Gala
Saturday, March 4
The Grand Hyatt in Denver

Albuquerque, NM
March 6—March 12

Tucson, AZ
March 13-20

Orange County, CA
March 20-26

Coachella Valley, CA
March 27-April 2

Farmington, NM
April 3-9

Midland/Odessa, TX
April 10-16

Houston, TX
April 17-23

Leiden, The Netherlands
April 24-30

Son en Breugel, The Netherlands
May 1-7

Genk, Belgium
May 8-14

Geneva, Switzerland
May 15-21

Basel, Switzerland
May 22-28

Bulach, Switzerland
May 29-June 4

Bocholt, Germany
June 5-11

*Tour schedule is
subject to change.*



Rasool, right, was a former college football coach prior to joining UWP's Denver staff in January 2017.



Rasool, center, dances an international Irish dance in the UWP show, "Voices."

UWP CELEBRATES MLK JR. DAY IN DENVER

Beyah Rasool ('13A), Associate Director of Recruitment, tells his MLK Jr. Day story.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: what are you doing for others?" On a day the world honored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I had the privilege of marching with one of UWP's most influential musicians and song writers, Mr. Pat Murphy ('72A),

The Denver community met by the hundreds on a day filled with snow and cold, only to be matched by determination and love. Pat and I marched alongside educators from Denver Public Schools as well as Alpha Phi Alpha African American Fraternity. At the end of the march, Pat became excited about someone he could see getting into her car. That someone happened to be the honorable, and incredible, Mrs. Wilma Webb, the former First Lady of Denver. The march could not have concluded any better. We met the woman largely responsible for bringing the MLK celebration and "marade" to Denver. I hope hundreds more students continue to see Up with People as an opportunity to travel the world and impact thousands, just as hundreds gathered on a cold snowy day to honor Dr. King's immense impact.



Murphy (left) and Rasool (right) pose with Mrs. Wilma Webb, a notable figure in the Denver community.

GIVE THE GIFT OF A RETAINED LIFE ESTATE TO UWP

Gift your house to Up with People and live in it for the rest of your life (while saving a bundle in taxes)!



Perhaps you like the tax advantages a gift of real estate to UWP would offer, but you want to continue living in your personal residence for your lifetime. You can transfer your personal residence, farm, or ranch to UWP but keep the right to occupy (or rent out) the home or property for the rest of your life. You continue to pay real estate taxes, maintenance fees, and insurance on the property. Even though we would not actually take possession of the residence until after your lifetime, since your gift cannot be revoked, you receive an immediate federal income tax charitable deduction for a significant portion of your home's value. "There are so many ways to give to UWP outside of writing a check," said Terry Adams ('81A), UWP's Vice President for Advancement. "Giving a gift of a retained life estate is a great way to ensure that you have a great impact on the future of UWP."

Join the many alumni who have already included UWP in their estate plans, living trusts, and other funds. To plan your UWP legacy, visit <https://upwithpeople.planmygift.org/>. For additional information, you can also contact Terry Adams at +1 720.215.3209 or tadams@upwithpeople.org.

The information provided is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor.

Another star is born in the UWP family:

Up with People Jr. (UWP Jr.) is an arts-based day camp experience for boys and girls ages 8-11 focused on leadership, equality, and cultural awareness. In true UWP fashion, UWP Jr. culminates with a high energy show at the end of the session.

THIS COMING SUMMER, WE WILL HAVE SIX SITES SPANNING THE UNITED STATES:

Phoenix, AZ

Zionsville, IN

Greensboro, NC

Lawrenceville, GA

Portland, OR

Denver, CO



- We are eagerly looking for alumni around the world who are interested in bringing the UWP Jr. experience to their communities. It is a great way to:
 - Keep the UWP spirit alive
 - Make some extra cash
 - Get involved in your community
 - Give the children back their childhood!

For more information on one of our U.S.-based sites or to find out how you can bring UWP Jr. to your town, visit: www.upwithpeoplejr.org.

Have you heard about the next generation of Up with People casts?

If not, pull up a chair. Camp Up with People (CUWP) is a one-of-a-kind, international, three-week experience for 13 to 17 year-olds based on the same components as UWP. CUWP is located in the heart of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, approximately two hours from Washington, D.C. We are already planning for the summer and **YOU** should be too! Make this summer one to remember for a deserving teen. A summer at CUWP is full of adventure, service, and an incredible UWP-style show. Plus, campers meet awesome friends from around the world.

UPCOMING SESSIONS

Session 1 | Cast A | June 25-July 15, 2017

Session 2 | Cast B | July 16 to August 5, 2017

\$3,450 for the entire three-week program!

If you know someone between the ages of 13 and 17 who would love CUWP or if your cast would like to sponsor a camper, let us know!

For more information:

WEBSITE | www.campuwp.org

PHONE | +1 540.820.2296

EMAIL | contact@campupwithpeople.org



IF MORE PEOPLE WERE FOR PEOPLE CAMPAIGN

UWP's latest campaign raised more than \$300,000 in support of the program.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! More than 500 donors made a gift to UWP during our latest "If More People Were For People" campaign, raising more than \$316,000. Here are the results of the campaign, by the numbers:

First-time donors | 110

Re-engaged donors | 28

Total number of gifts | 682

Total number of donors | 582

(Some people gave more than once!)

New alumni donors | 101

New monthly donors | 31

Total campaign amount | \$316,000

including donor match of \$158,000

We are overwhelmed by your support and grateful for your gifts. "We cannot thank our alumni, friends, and the UWP community enough for their generosity. By making a gift, you not only helped us reach our goal to receive the matching gift, but you also showed that you support what we do and want to invest in the future of UWP's next fifty years," said Terry Adams ('81A), Vice President for Advancement. "

If you would like to make a one-time gift or sign up to be a monthly donor, visit www.upwithpeople.org/give.



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! REUNION 2017 GET 25% OFF

Limited Time
*Adult Registration Only

What are you waiting for?

REGISTER
NOW

Ignite the fire #UWPIAA



eXperience

  Paris &  Amsterdam 

 Up with People.

JOIN US APRIL 23-30, 2017 FOR A WEEK'S
WORTH OF ADVENTURE!



upwithpeople.org/ParisAmsterdam