



Up with People®

A Special Valentine's Day Edition

UP WITH PEOPLE'S ALUMNI COUPLES CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY

Love is in the air. It's during this time of year, filled with chocolate hearts, flowers, and surprises, that one shows appreciation for the people he or she loves most. At Up with People, one group that we especially appreciate is our dedicated alumni. With a growing network of over 22,000 "Uppies" from around the world, it's no surprise that two of them will meet and decide that their relationship extends past tour buses and show costumes. Up with People recently interviewed some couples who met through our program and have been together ever since.



JOHN PARKER, USA, '65A AND ANN (MITCHARD) PARKER, ENGLAND, '66A

What is your favorite memory of your Up with People experience?

John: *We have many favorite memories but the most meaningful are the life-long friends we made. We're looking forward to seeing them at the 50th anniversary reunion.*

Do you have a pet name for each other?

Ann: *Yes, they are Teddy Bear and Chickadee.*

What advice do you have for Cast A 2013?

Ann: *Make the most of the opportunities of traveling. Spend time with your hosts and learn all aspects of the culture. Take the time to get to know every one of your cast members. You will never have another chance to get to know so many people from different places.*



MICHAEL GRUZUK, CANADA, '92C AND CAROLINA SODERHOLM, SWEDEN, '92C

How did you meet?

Michael: *We hardly knew or noticed each other at the beginning of the year. We had cast friends in common, and eventually started to hang in the same circle. By Christmas, we were a cast couple. As I like to say, "Carolina was a dancer. I was a trumpet player. I literally blew her away."*

What is one memory you have of your time together in Up with People?

Carolina: *Running off and making out in the corner of a crumbling castle in Germany. It was a teenage dream come true.*

How will you celebrate Valentine's Day this year?

Carolina: *We won't because we always celebrate our wedding anniversary instead since it is a week later. 15 years coming up!*



ERIK GROSSNICKLE, USA, '96D AND BRETT HERMAN, USA, '99D

Do you have a pet name for each other?

Brett: *I have been known to scream "sweetheart" across the house when I am having a breakdown over a jammed kitchen drawer or clogged drain. Unfortunately, my dramatic overreactions and high maintenance have earned me the nickname "Britney."*

How/when did you know that he was "the one?"

Erik: *There wasn't a single moment but we quickly realized that we rarely disagree and enjoy each other's company. Having the shared experience of Up with People is also an advantage that we continue to cherish.*

How will you celebrate Valentine's Day this year?

Brett: *We don't have any special plans. Instead we will celebrate with our closest Up with People friends the following weekend.*





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LEE WALKER, USA, '84C AND DEBORAH (MOLINE) WALKER, USA, '84C

What is one memory of your time together in Up with People?

Lee: *We were in Rome, Italy. While there, we had most afternoons off and we would go sight-seeing. We went to the zoo and as we were standing in front of the elephants, the baby elephant threw mud at me and made a small mess.*

What is your favorite memory of your Up with People experience?

Deborah: *There were so many favorite moments. We met Pope John Paul II and played on the steps of the Vatican for him. I loved wandering around Rome with Lee and exploring all of the churches and art work. And of course, the elephant!*

What advice would you give to Cast A 2013?

Deborah: *Keep your eyes and hearts open. Cherish all of the differences in the cast. Explore everything. Ask lots of questions. Take lots of pictures. You are doing something so very amazing that it is hard to describe but it will change your life for the better if you let it. Lastly, plan on attending reunions!*

PETER HOLLIS, NEW ZEALAND, '07A AND YASUYO YOSHIDA, JAPAN, '07A

How/when did you know that he/she was "the one?"

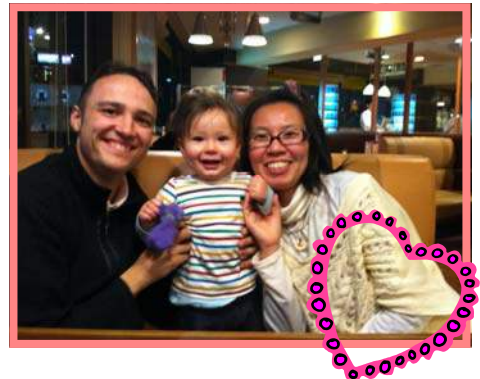
Peter: *We both knew at around the same time. It was on a bus ride back from a community impact session. It was a late night. I was tired and sat down at the first free seat which happened to be where Yasuyo was sitting. She sang Japanese songs to me to help me sleep. From there, we started spending more time together.*

How will you spend Valentine's Day this year?

Yasuyo: *We will celebrate by getting ready for our son, Masato's, birthday. He was born on February 15. This year will be his first birthday. We are both more excited for his birthday than for Valentine's Day.*

Where do you live now?

Peter: *We are both living in Yasuyo's home country of Japan. I am from New Zealand.*



SOREN OLESEN, DENMARK, '86E AND VIKKI (NIEBAUER) OLESEN, USA, '91E

What is your favorite memory of your Up with People experience?

Vikki: *My cast visited Estonia shortly after the attempted coup to overthrow the government. There were still Soviet tanks parked on the path leading up to the parliament. Host families borrowed from their neighbors to ensure a lovely meal for us. One family told me it had been several years since they had had pineapples or bananas. I found those very items in a store that next day and took them back to my host family. They were overwhelmed.*

How will you spend Valentine's Day this year?

Soren: *We will celebrate Valentine's Day together with our three children: Anna (10), Anders (7), and Amanda (5). Not romantic in the traditional sense, but we will enjoy it just the same.*



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BRANDON CHAMBERLAND, USA, '10B AND JOELLE (REBOLLEDO) CHAMBERLAND, USA, '10B

What is your favorite memory of your Up with People experience?

Brandon: For me it was stepping out in front of over three thousand people in Taiwan and thinking how I had come so far and how much I had changed and experienced in Up with People

Joelle: Mine was in Pitou, Taiwan. My host dad spoke no English but motioned for me to come somewhere with him. I hopped on the back of his scooter and we drove through rice fields to get to this beautiful temple. On the way home I looked up at the stars and remember thinking, "This is my life."

How/when did you know that he/she was "the one?"

Brandon: For me, it was on tour in Hopi, AZ. Joelle got really sick. I remember thinking that I cared so much about her and wanted to take care of her.

Joelle: In Taiwan, I was watching a silly video Brandon and I had made on the bus during a long travel day. I kept watching the video over and over. Then it hit me. I remember thinking, "He is it."

WILLIAM CONE, USA, '71A AND SHEILA QUINLIN, USA, '75B

How did you meet?

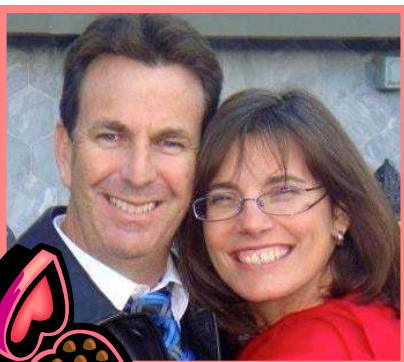
Sheila: I started during the summer of 1975. Willie was already on staff. Since he had overseen much of the scheduling for the American Bicentennial tours, he was providing the overview to our cast. I remember him from that moment on.

Do you have a pet name for each other?

Willie: Yes. They are "Boo-boo" and "Willie-Man."

How/when did you know that he/she was "the one?"

Sheila: He offered to do my laundry during the busy days before our nationally televised event at the U.S. Capitol. It opened my eyes to the possibility of something more with him although, ironically, he's rarely done the laundry since then.



DAVID BURTON, AUSTRALIA, '94E AND ANN-MICHELLE (WALKER) BURTON, USA, '91A

What is one memory you have of your time together in Up with People?

David: We got engaged in 1997 during our semester break in Stevanger, Norway. The following year when we were co-cast managers for Cast 1998 D, the cast threw us a mock wedding. It was a complete surprise.

Do you have a pet name for each other?

Ann-Michelle: Not really. We just call each other "Babe." David tried to get "Sir David" to be his pet name but it didn't stick.

How will you celebrate Valentine's Day this year?

Ann-Michelle: We live in Qatar in the Middle East so the holiday isn't celebrated here. However it's safe to say there will probably be bubbles and chocolate!