

Winter 2014

International Panther, Winter 2014-2015

University of Northern Iowa. Culture and Intensive english Program.

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international **panther**

WINTER 2014




**University of
Northern Iowa**
International Programs
Culture and Intensive English Program

from the **CIEP Director**

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2015, we pause to remember some of the major highlights that occurred in CIEP in 2014. Fortunately, we continue to see an increase in application and enrollment numbers. Last semester, CIEP was honored to serve students from over 20 countries including: Brazil, Bosnia, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Germany, Honduras, India, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Togo and Venezuela.

During this past semester, CIEP welcomed 35 Brazilian undergraduate students as part of a government-sponsored program, the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program (BSMP). Some of these BSMP students have been admitted into academic programs at UNI. Congratulations to them! In addition, during the fall semester, CIEP received a cohort of 10 students from Kansai Gaidai University as part of its annual partnership program with this Japanese institution. CIEP also continues to host students who are sponsored by the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) and the Embassy of the State of Kuwait. We are fortunate to have this group of students in our program, too.

During the fall semester, CIEP staff worked very hard on different special assignments. In each of their areas, the CIEP instructional and administrative staff has collaborated in many program development projects. I am thankful for everyone's good work; especially for their willingness to help each other, to cooperate with their peers and team up in order to provide the best service possible to our international students. CIEP faculty has been working on initiatives related to curriculum development and improvements. It's exciting to see how CIEP faculty and staff focus on student learning needs and the best way to

help students succeed in our program and at UNI. In this issue, we are including a summary of some of the projects that teachers have been working on diligently, and we also are proud to showcase Ana Bender who is the CIEP Secretary and friendly face of our program.

Throughout the semester, CIEP students also had the opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities including trips to Saint Louis and Chicago, in addition to local events such as service-learning opportunities, culture talks, class exchanges, holiday parties, and international potlucks. According to CIEP students' feedback, the "Around the World in 120 Minutes" event has been the highlight of the semester for most of them. It was a great opportunity for our international students to share their culture and traditions with the UNI faculty, students, staff and people from the community. The UNI Rod Library hosted the event and CIEP was happy to co-sponsor this initiative that hopefully will become an annual event. No doubt, the occasion was a major success in promoting multicultural diversity at UNI and in the Cedar Valley Community. In this publication, you will be able to see some of the pictures that were taken at this event and watch a video clip about the cultural and social opportunities that CIEP offers to its students. Thank you to the CIEP promotional staff for such good productions!

Throughout the last semester, CIEP awarded over 18 scholarship awards to students from Bosnia, Colombia, Japan, Togo, China, Chile, Honduras and Spain. These students were awarded scholarships from one of the following scholarship programs: CIEP Tuition Scholarship, CIEP Global Connections Scholar Award, Cedar Valley Business Professionals Scholarship, Cedar Valley Permanent Resident, Refugee, and Asylum-seeker

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India

Scholarship, and the CIEP Partner Scholarship program. The award could cover 100%, 50%, 20% or 10% of the CIEP tuition.... Be sure to read about the Spring 2015 CIEP Tuition and Global Connections Scholars recipients.

Finally, but most importantly, our wish for 2015 is to expand our collaboration with other UNI departments and international partners and to keep welcoming a diverse group of students from around the world. We are particularly looking forward to continuing working with the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program that is housed in the Department of Languages and Literatures at UNI. For many years, the TESOL program has assigned many Graduate Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants to work at CIEP. In return, CIEP offers these professionals a place to put in practice their teaching skills and knowledge. We also make sure to offer graduate assistants many training and mentoring opportunities while teaching or researching at CIEP. As you go over the publication, please check out the interview with the TESOL faculty and watch testimonials of current and former teaching assistants.

That's one thing the New Year always offers: a look back and into the past before moving forward into the future. Now, at CIEP, we are ready to start a year full of projects, challenges, initiatives and service. Happy 2015 to everyone! ■

Carolina Coronado-Park

Carolina Coronado-Park *CIEP Interim Director*





Tammy Gregersen
Associate Professor



Dr. Joyce Milambilling
Graduate TESOL Coordinator



Agung Kristianto, Graduate Assistant
[Click here to watch the interview with Agung!](#)



Caitlin Dau, Former Graduate Assistant
[Click here to watch the interview with Caitlin!](#)

UNI CONNECTIONS

Teaching English Languages (T

By Olivia Randolph, Human Resources Assistant

Teaching English to speakers of other languages has been at the heart of the Culture & Intensive English Program's mission since it was established in 1982. Well-trained staff, dedicated students, and the ability to collaborate and communicate with other programs across campus are just a few of the ways that the CIEP is able to accomplish its mission.

One of the programs the CIEP works closely with is the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program. Housed in the Department of Languages and Literatures, the TESOL program offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate programs.

"It's a program that has an applied and theoretical wing," says Dr. Julie Husband, Department Head of Languages and Literatures. "The theoretical wing has to do with linguistics and how people acquire language, and the practical side helps people have a range of techniques for teaching second language learners."

The TESOL program faculty, while small, has a diverse and committed group of teachers. "Our interests vary, the way we teach varies, and I think the way that we approach our students varies," Associate Professor Tammy Gregersen says. In addition to Dr. Gregersen, Dr. Cheryl Roberts and Dr. Joyce Milambilling expressed that they thoroughly enjoy the work they do in the TESOL program.

"I like my field, I like my students, and I like the other teachers," said Dr. Roberts.

Even with their various backgrounds and approaches to teaching, they all agree the CIEP is a great asset to the TESOL program and the University in general. Graduate TESOL Coordinator and Associate Professor Joyce Milambilling says:

"I think that it really serves a very important purpose

English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Program

here. I think it benefits the university as a whole because it helps the world come to us.”

“The CIEP is a very professional organization, institution, and is attentive to the needs of the students,” says Dr. Roberts.

The relationship and mutual benefits between the TESOL department and the CIEP have grown over the years.

“It’s a very synergistic kind of relationship,” says Dr. Husband. Several of the funded MA TESOL students currently work as graduate teaching assistants in the CIEP, which has helped solidify a line of communication between the two programs, Dr. Milambilling says:

“The teaching assistantships have been a really strong bond. When we give teaching assistantships, we decide what those assistants are going to do; we try and match up what the needs are in the CIEP and who we have and it’s worked out really well.”

“The CIEP provides classrooms that I need to put my students in,” says Dr. Gregersen, speaking in regards to the fact that undergraduate TESOL students are allowed to observe CIEP instructors while they teach.

“CIEP hires phenomenal teachers, and so I always feel really good about my students going to CIEP in order to get some really good models of good teaching. The CIEP provides me and my students with opportunities to actually do research too. I feel it’s a very open relationship,” she says.

The mutual benefits also extend outside of the classroom. The TESOL Club hosts a twice weekly Tutoring and Conversation Corner, where they help non-native

English speakers with homework or with gaining greater experience with and confidence in speaking English.

Many TESOL students also participate in the CIEP Conversation Partner Program through the CIEP, which pairs American students, staff, and professors at UNI with students in the CIEP.

Dr. Cheryl Roberts hopes the relationship between the CIEP and the TESOL department will continue to grow.

“I would like to see us do even more together. More

chances for the TESOL faculty and CIEP faculty to work together on joint projects.” In addition, Dr. Milambilling points out,

“I think some more long-range plans together would be a really good thing, and maybe more common events together.”

Dr. Gregersen would like to be able to give her students the

opportunity to do more research and learn how to gather data to answer important questions and deepen their understanding about second language teaching.

“I would like to do more research. I’ve had a continual and constant interaction with CIEP, but I’d like to open up the role that CIEP could play for us to get some good research done.”

Finally, Dr. Husband hopes to see both the TESOL program and CIEP grow, since TESOL is listed as a high need area for public schools in Iowa.

“I see the whole package together as something as a growth area for UNI,” she says. ■

“I think it benefits the university as a whole because it helps the world come to us.”

~Dr. Joyce Milambilling

LARRY GÓMEZ

CIEP ALUMNI



By Katelyn Eppert, CIEP Activities Assistant

The CIEP recently had the pleasure of a visit from a former CIEP student! Larry Bleymir Gómez Martínez excitedly shared some of his experiences about his time here at the University of Northern Iowa and how the CIEP has helped prepare him for his current job. Right away, Larry was willing to answer any questions we had about his experiences studying in Iowa.

Larry studied at UNI in the summer of 2011 for 8 weeks. He visited Cedar Falls in September 2014 for the first time since studying with CIEP. Larry began by explaining how English has been special to him because he always wanted to learn it since he was in elementary school. The first time he heard the language was when some folkloric dancers came to his school and spoke in English to him. He was immediately intrigued and wanted to know what they were saying.

When Larry was asked what he liked most about CIEP he responded,

“I like how serious and intensive the program is. CIEP is always looking to improve the program so it can be better.”

“I like how serious and intensive the program is. CIEP is always looking to improve the program so it can be better.”

He loves the size of UNI; his college in Nicaragua, National University of Engineering, is much smaller. Larry also enjoyed the small class sizes in CIEP because he felt it really benefited his education. He learned about UNI

through Chris Schrage, a Marketing Professor, who has led many UNI Study Abroad trips to Nicaragua. Larry explained how he tells his friends at home to,

“Read, read, read and study English,” because Central America needs to improve. He believes that UNI and CIEP help international students by giving them a better perspective of education. If his

teacher can't give him the information he needs about a topic, he can go research it for himself. Larry feels much more independent as a student.



Larry participating in a culture activity, Summer 2011



Larry with friends at the Fourth of July celebration



[Click here to watch a video interview with Larry!](#)

Once Larry returned home he went back to his college. He worked with a computer training program, and has been teaching technology at an elementary school since 2010 during his afternoons. It was easy to see that Larry is a very motivated and ambitious student from how passionately he spoke of education. In Nicaragua, he goes to school on the weekends and attends his college year-round. He has yet to write his thesis, which takes one year! (Good luck to him!)

Last December, Larry was hired as a coordinator by Tourism and Education Programs in Nicaragua. A few things he does in his career include preparing Eco-tours and working with 16 rural schools. Each of these schools in Nicaragua have a Partner School in North Carolina that buys supplies twice a year for 1,000 students. One can only imagine how rewarding of a job it must be to be able to help so many students.

Larry also stated how he uses English very frequently in his full time job, and greatly appreciates how CIEP prepared him.

One thing Larry claimed was challenging about the U.S. was always being on time. Besides that, he loved his summer in Iowa and when he was asked to share his favorite memory from UNI he recalled the 4th of July in Cedar Falls. He remembers watching fireworks outside of the Dome while a band was playing. CIEP students were all together and it was a great memory to carry back to Nicaragua with him!

English is an important part of Larry's life, and some ways he practices using his second language apart from his job include listening to music, reading, and watching movies in English. A few other things that Larry shared included some advice for current and future CIEP students!

“Work hard and study hard. It’s a great program and I encourage them to enjoy it because it’s an unforgettable life experience. Try not to be homesick and take advantage of the opportunities you have while you’re here! ■

Au Pair Laura Rodriguez Llanza studies in CIEP

CIEP CURRENT STUDENT





Meet Laura Rodriguez Llanza! She is a 21-year-old student from Barcelona, Spain studying English in CIEP while doubling as a nanny for the two children of a local Cedar Falls family through the Au Pair Program. She enjoys surfing and many other sports, and would love to become a Panther Cheerleader, as it is simply not offered back home in Barcelona.

Prior to her arrival to the Cedar Valley in August 2014, Laura attended the University of Barcelona studying in an undergraduate Mathematics program. “I don’t study math because I have to,” she says, “but because I like to.” She has three years remaining in her studies, but decided to come the United States in order to learn English, which is a requirement in order to earn her degree.

No one in Laura’s family knew that she had been planning an extended stay in the U.S. through the Au Pair Program, until one night she stood up and announced it to her family and friends. This was a surprise to everyone, because although she has family in Ireland, this would be the longest time and farthest distance she would be away from her father, mother, and older sister. However, she maintains almost constant contact with them through Whatsapp on her phone, and they strongly support her aspirations.

Interestingly enough, Laura came to Iowa not knowing about the CIEP Program. While at a gathering with her host family, she was introduced to one of the professors, who connected her to the program. She takes the Listening and Speaking course Monday through Friday, and enjoys the time she is able to spend with her classmates.

What is more, she fell in love with campus on her first visit. It was so green, and allowed her to interact more with other students who she calls, “kindhearted,” unlike in other cultures. She has a lively personality, and other students admire how she courageously speaks English without worrying if she makes mistakes. What sparks her interest in CIEP is the amount of other outside activities she can participate in, like a trip she took to Adventure Land not long ago.

Laura truly is living every moment to the fullest here, stating, “Who knows what will happen or whom I will meet in a year.” At this point in her life she says, “I am not in a rush, I like my degree, my studies, but I am young. I want to and need to learn English and enjoy my youth.” In order to relive her memories, she writes daily in a journal she calls, “A Day in the Life of an Au Pair in the United States.”

Laura hopes to continue studying English through CIEP. She will stay in Iowa as an Au Pair until August 2015, where she plans on traveling with the money she has saved before moving back to Barcelona and its beaches she misses so much. Her dream is to finish her education, start her own business, and make it big one day. ■

By Jenelle Martin, CIEP Translator

CIEP Students Celebrate Fall with a Cedar Valley Family, the Geiger's!

By Sally Roos, CIEP Student Services Coordinator

On Saturday evening before the first day of school, new and returning international students walk in a human train from campus to the nearby home of Jim and Dianna Geiger for a potluck dinner. The Geiger home is humble in size but beautifully-made with a nice garden and spaces to sit indoors and outdoors—complete with an abundance of tender loving care and warm hospitality.

“I love, love, love having young people around....Young people bring energy into the house, and I really enjoy that,” said Dianna about the annual event.

The International Welcome Dinner has been well-attended for several years, but Geiger hospitality in the form of bonfires and smaller events trace back about fifteen years. She has collaborated with on-campus ministries such as InterVarsity and Navigators as well as university departments like CIEP and International Admissions to host similar events. Over the years, they have had both international and domestic students stay in their homes for lengths of time from a few days up to a few months.

Their interest in international people first began in her own neighborhood.

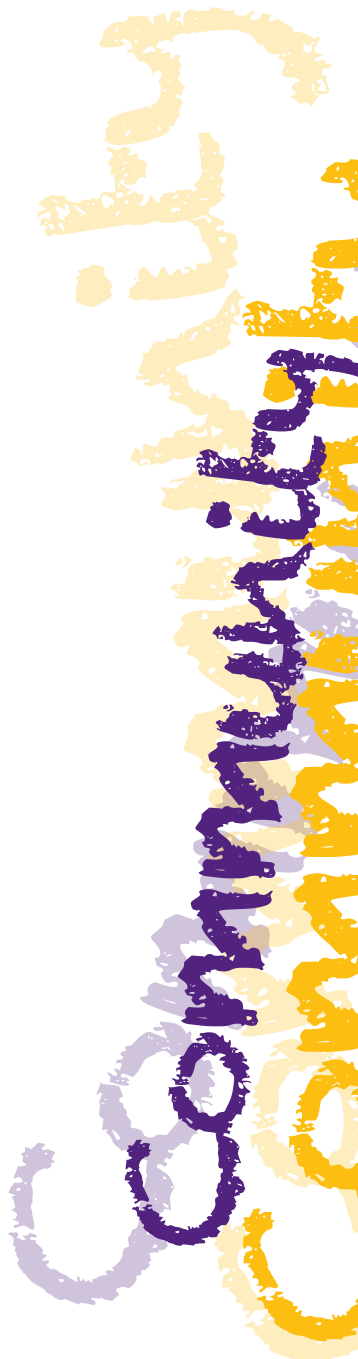
Jim and Dianna met Heshmet Amjadi from Iran and her three children, Nada, Hameed, and Omeed when they were living across the street in their neighborhood thirty-five years ago. Dianna still remembers the night that Hameed brought the two families together.

“I hadn't met him yet, but he hid behind our van, and when I came to the door he popped out and said 'Trick or treat!’” she remembered.

Jim and Dianna became an important resource for the Amjadi family, transporting them when needed and helping them register children in school.

“It's so easy to serve internationals because they have simple needs. You know, the simple human needs!”

Dianna has lived in the community for a long time, worked for four decades at John Deere, an engineering company in Waterloo,





Diana Geiger helps international students carve pumpkins during the annual fall party.

and retired about 15 years ago. As a woman of faith, Dianna entered retirement with a strong sense of biblical calling to spend her time in service and hospitality.

“When I open my house to internationals, it’s a win-win situation because I open it for them but also for myself because the more I show hospitality and serve people, the better I feel,” she said.

“When international students come to the United States, they are here without family, without country, without city, without friends, with possibly a limited income, so it’s really easy to serve them.”

Dianna often refers to a “trinity” of hospitality: open door, open arms, and open refrigerator.

The couple has two daughters who are grown and occasionally travel abroad. Dianna’s hope is that someone will befriend them the way that she has befriended students in Cedar Falls. Dianna has experienced this return of kindness through her first friendship with the Amjadi family.

“I guess I see the reasons why we opened our doors and our arms and our refrigerator to them is that now Hameed, who was fifteen, went to medical school, and now

he is our physician,” she said. “...Which is just beautiful because I think he gives us a little extra TLC because we extended our love and our compassion to them.”

Dianna isn’t discouraged when friendships do not remain tightknit. Instead, she keeps her eyes open for a person in need.

“Once I feel they are comfortable, I feel it’s best to back away and pick up someone else that... needs more,” she said thoughtfully. International student, Parash Upreti, describes her very similarly:

“Diana has been a great resource to me as an international student in the Cedar Falls community. I first got the opportunity to meet her actually my first full day in the U.S. where she had hosted the picnic for international students at her house. Over the year, I got opportunity to meet her again and again and deepen our relationship. Not only she likes to meet new people but try to help them by providing in needs. I have known people whom she has hosted in her house and last summer. She helped my lifelong dream of camping come true by lending out her camping supplies. She is a great asset to UNI community.” ■

**Are you interested in getting involved with the UNI international student community?
For more information visit: www.uni.edu/ciep/activities/ifp**



Fall 2014 Social & Culture Activities

International Dinner	Team Building Activities	Social Media
CIEP Soccer Game	Culture Hour: Compliments	UNI Theatre: Love &
Labor Day Barbeque	S'mores and Speed Friendship	Information
Harvest Festival	Game	Volunteering at the Food Bank
Culture Talk: Local Restaurants	Cooking Demonstration	International Friendship
Conversation Partners	Volunteering at the Cedar	Program Potluck
Homecoming Pep Rally	Rapids School	Around the World in 120
Homecoming Football Game	Culture Talk: Student	Minutes
Class Exchange	Involvement	Culture Talk: Study Strategies
Volunteering at North Star	Fall Party	Holiday Party
Country Presentation Night	Culture Hour: Dining Etiquette	De-stressing Day
Culture Talk: Grout Museum	Weekend Trip to Chicago	End-of-Term Party
Volunteering at	RSVP	
New Aldaya Trick-or-Treating	Culture Conversation	
	Culture Talk: Campus Safety &	

CIEPACTIVITIES

By Sarah Stephany, CIEP Activities Assistant

Around the World in 120 Minutes

During International Education Week, the CIEP collaborated with the UNI Rod Library to host the “Around the World in 120 Minutes” event. CIEP students joined the other international students at UNI to represent their home countries and share their culture with over 400 UNI students, staff, faculty, and Cedar Valley community members.

This event lasted over two hours and filled the first floor of the library with delicious foods, brightly colored clothing, dance performances, and tables representing more than 30 different countries including: Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, France, Germany, India, Iran, Japan, Kuwait, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mali, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, Tibet, United States, United Kingdom, Ukrain, Vietnam, and Wales.

Thanksgiving Potluck

CIEP students and their host families gathered for a Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner together. Students had an opportunity to try almost every kind of traditional American dish for Thanksgiving and spent time with their families. The spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday was evident as students thanked their families for all they’d done, and the families thanked them in return.

Trip to Chicago, Illinois

Over 30 CIEP students spent their weekend exploring the sights of Chicago together. This trip was one of the highlights of their time in the U.S. so far!

De-Stressing Day

To wrap up the semester and prepare for finals week, students were invited to de-stress at the Wesley Foundation with yoga, video games and board games, as well as snacks- including Brazilian brigadeiro!

Culture Talk: Campus Safety & Social Media

This Culture Talk was offered to give students a clear understanding of their rights as students and the safety procedures on campus.

CIEP Annual Fall Party

At CIEP’s annual Fall Party, students carved pumpkins, made caramel apples, and wrapped each other in toilet paper during a mummy race game!

Volunteering at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank

On a cold Saturday morning, 10 students volunteered their time at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank in Waterloo, packaging meals for the hungry in the Cedar Valley. The other volunteers that morning were very intrigued to be surrounded by people from such a variety of places- including China, Brazil, and Saudi Arabia. This event was a great growing opportunity as students were given a chance to interact with and help the local community.

A Home for the Holidays

By Sally Roos, CIEP Student Services Coordinator

CIEP students experience what it's like to be "home for the holidays" through the hospitality of Vern and Jill Hanus, a couple in the community who open their home for a Holiday party each year since 2012. The Hanus home is decorated with traditional trees, stars, and lights while the smells of festive food brought happiness to large crowds of international students enjoying the holiday culture.

"It's nice to find out where people are from, and I love watching them experience some of our traditions," said Jill.

In 2013 and this year, students participated in a Santa costume contest. Students created clothes out of red and black paper and white cotton for a beard and dressed a classmate volunteer like the famous Christmas character. Abundant laughter resonated in the foyer as several different Santas gathered on the stairs for a group photo and a vote on the best one.

Students also participated in a white elephant gift exchange. A "white elephant gift" is a general inexpensive item that is usually submitted for a holiday gift game. Each person brought a gift, and each person walked away with a different gift from the game. One of the greatest joys from hosting the party is the chance to enjoy the energy of young people.

"When you get to be a certain age, you're not around young people as much," said Jill.

Vern and Jill Hanus have been married since 1978 and have two daughters and one son: Rachel, Leah, and Dan. They first started hosting international students from Russia when their children were in middle school as part of the UNI International Friendship Program.

"Our kids had no international experience..." remembered Jill. "So it was just a really good opportunity to meet someone from a different country."

For many years, Vern and Jill worked for John Deere, an engineering company in Waterloo, and Jill's position involved a lot of travel. She also became friends with many John Deere expatriates. Jill and Vern invited them

over on occasion and became their golfing buddies.

"It was rare that we didn't have internationals at our Thanksgiving dinner," she said.

The Hanus family also lived in Mexico for two and a half years for work, during which the whole family was exposed to international living. As kids, Rachel and Leah were not excited about the move, but they all were thankful for the experience later on. Jill appreciated the opportunity to teach her kids that people are basically the same. Jill's daughter, Rachel, has enjoyed international friendships and travel to this day, including a roommate from Thailand at the University of Iowa and a recent tour of Israel.

Vern and Jill are also volunteers for the International Friendship Program.

"CIEP really wasn't new, but the countries are different," said Jill, who has hosted Sachiko Yukawa from Japan and Sara Aldahan from Saudi Arabia.

Sachiko was full of fun and laughter, and Vern and Jill enjoyed learning about Japan. Jill remembers treating her to sushi one evening in Cedar Falls. While they were nervous that the restaurant, called Sakura, would not meet expectations, they were surprised to find that Sakura's cuisine and atmosphere met Sachiko's approval.

Sara enjoys longer conversations with her host mom, and her openness to share the culture of Saudi Arabia was one thing that was surprising.

"The first time she came over she said, 'You can ask me anything,'" Jill remembered.

Sara described her host mom as a pure-hearted person.

"She is lovely and has a great personality," said Sara.

Attending a CIEP Girl's Night is another strong memory for Jill. At this annual event, CIEP women gather for snacks, conversation, games, and most of all, dancing! Jill reflects on her experiences with international students,

"We're more similar than different when you get right down to it!" ■




Students celebrate the holidays at the home of Vern & Jill Hanus

International Celebration

CIEP STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Ana Bender
CIEP Secretary





Coming to a new country to study a new language can be a little scary. Luckily at the Culture and Intensive English Program there is a host of great employees who make this experience as easy and fun as possible. One of these employees with whom all students become familiar, is the secretary Ana Bender. Ana is usually one of the first people students meet when they enter the office and helps provide students with information and assistance.

Ana grew up in Nebraska in a small town and graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a Bachelor's degree in English and minors in Native American studies, Women and Gender studies, Religious studies, and History in 2007. She began working at the UNI CIEP in September of 2010 thanks in part to her diverse range of knowledge.

"Carolina told me my minors were actually what caught her eye when they were going through all the resumes for my position."

Her education is definitely a huge asset to Ana, who has a wide range of responsibilities at the CIEP.

"My role in the CIEP is to provide support for the administrative staff, the instructional staff, and the students in CIEP. This means registering students, maintaining student files and student records, and fielding student questions. **That's my goal in my role, to provide the best service to our students that I can.**"

Ana's favorite part about working at CIEP is "...watching the students grow and succeed. I've seen students come in at the lowest level of Bridge and by the time they leave they're proficient (in English) and it is so awesome to see them grow like that."

Helping students succeed is Ana's biggest goal and suggests that students go out and make friends to help get the most out of their time at the CIEP.

"You will learn so much by befriending an American student. **You'll get to learn about our culture and you'll be sharing your culture with them.**"

She also encourages students to take advantage of the wonderful programs and activities sponsored by CIEP, like Conversation Partners and Culture Talks.

Ana also has international experience and has traveled to a diverse range of countries. She and her husband first journeyed to Munich Germany for their honeymoon in 2009. Later they traveled to Okinawa Japan, and this past summer they also spent a week in Ireland. While traveling is a passion of hers, she still loves being at home in Iowa. When she first came to Waterloo and Cedar Falls, Ana was impressed by how much the city had to offer. Theaters, shopping malls, cultural restaurants, and more make up some of the place she loves to call home.

"We have such a variety of different cultures represented here in Cedar Falls and yet it feels like a small town."

In addition to travelling and spending time with her husband and daughter, Ana also enjoys watching science fiction movies and playing video games.

"I am a nerd, I am a big nerd. I have been playing Dungeons and Dragons for a decade and in second grade, I knew exactly what I wanted to be when I grew up: it was Indiana Jones."

While she might not be running through jungles or finding artifacts, Ana says there is no other place she would rather be than CIEP. She is an integral part of the program and anyone who has talked to her knows just how friendly and helpful she is. So next time you're by the CIEP office, stop in and say hi to Ana! She is always friendly and can point you in the right direction and probably tell you a great fact about Star Wars in the process.

By Nathaniel Randolph, CIEP Office Assistant

CIEP STAFF PROJECTS



By Haleigh Weatherly, CIEP Administrative Assistant

New Writing Placement Rubric

Starting in the Fall 1 2014 term, Tom Riedmiller was made responsible to head the Writing Rubric Committee with the assistance of Jeannie Kleinhans, Lucas Plouff, Lauren Rein, and Sara Penning. The committee was to develop a new Writing Placement rubric aligned to new 2013 Writing Student Learning Outcomes. The committee was also responsible for developing some updated writing prompts because the old ones were outdated.

To conclude, the committee has successfully completed their assigned responsibilities. Lauren and Sara used their knowledge of statistics and assessment to assist Tom in creating the new rubric. Jeannie and Lucas have created new prompts that are updated and more user-friendly to students. These new developments will allow our program to continue to improve.

Reading Committee

Beginning in the Fall 1 2014 term, Jaime Lyon and Emily Luttrell-Narigon, of the Reading Committee, were responsible for a few different tasks. The committee first began by choosing textbooks for the levels. The committee then implemented supplemental packets for Levels 4-6.

Lastly, the committee reviewed and extended outcomes for all levels. To conclude, it was decided to continue using the Making Connections series in Levels 2-6 while Bridge would adopt Pathways: Foundations. In addition, new McGraw-Hill *Create* books were made for Reading 7. Also, Emily continued working on supplemental packets throughout the term. Finally, overviews and syllabi were created for Levels 2-6. Outcomes and materials for classes will continue to be reviewed to determine the proper alignment with the class outcomes.

Pre-Bridge and Bridge Proposal

Jaime Lyon and Emily Luttrell-Narigon were put in charge of creating a proposal to enhance the Bridge Level. In doing so, the two evaluated what the current level entails, the outcomes, and the grading of the level.

In conclusion, the two came up with three proposals. The first is to create a Pre-Bridge level class. This would target the students at the lower levels. The second is to implement an individual grading system for each of the different skills, instead of one average exit exam. This will create a grading system much like the one used in the other level classes. The last is to add a Vocabulary/Grammar class. The vocabulary addition would also help students with spelling.

Objectives and goals for these proposals are being created. These proposals would be developed during the Summer and Fall 2015 terms and be implemented in Spring 2016.

Staff Handbook Project

Christina Tsimpides and Petra Maier were assigned to work on the Curriculum section of the Staff Handbook, which entailed adding missing curriculum guidelines to the current handbook. The two divided the Curriculum section into equal parts and each of them was responsible for writing certain sections of the curriculum guidelines. A part of their release time project was also to meet regularly with the Staff Handbook committee to provide feedback on the rest of the sections of the Staff Handbook.

CIEP Assessment Project

Starting in Summer 2014, Lauren Rein has worked on several different projects. One of her bigger projects is evaluating and making changes to CIEP Assessment. In doing so, Lauren has used many different types of research. Lauren read extensively about assessment theory, conducted a survey for teachers to give their feedback about CIEP Assessment, attended meetings with UNI faculty, and worked with UNI staff. Lauren is currently writing a document for current and future CIEP instructional staff about our assessment philosophy and guidelines on testing. To help her with this, Lauren is enrolled in an online course through the University of Arizona. She is finding her assignments in this class to help her in writing the CIEP Assessment Guidelines.

Lauren is also using her newfound knowledge about assessment theory to work with the Reading Committee, as they write new standardized exams. Another thing Lauren is working on is some data analysis. This includes analyzing graduation and dismissal rates, and Pass/Fail rates. Lastly, Lauren is working on creating an online norming training. She is working with Sara Penning and Carol Floyd to do this. Along with the norming developments, Lauren has conducted a norming session with the new Writing rubric. Lauren has plans to continue to develop these projects, so that our program continues to improve.

CIEP Scholarship Award Recipients - Fall 2014

CIEP Tuition Scholarship Recipients

Maria Del Rosario Garcia Fino - Colombia
Alan Posadas - Honduras

Global Connections Scholars

Li Cheng - China
Andrea Sanchez Ruiz - Colombia

Cedar Valley Business Professionals Scholarship

Adin Rasidagic - Bosnia

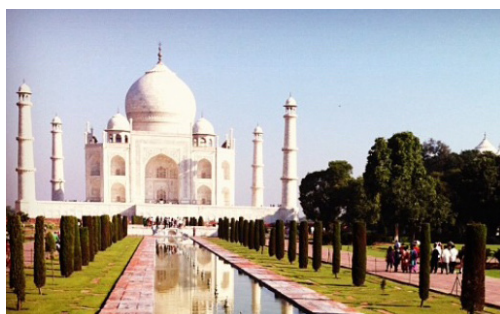
Cedar Valley Permanent Resident, Refugee and Asylum Seeker Scholarship

Harold Dams - Venezuela
Mirsada Dizdarevic - Germany
Kosi Nyanu - Togo
Tetsuya Oshima - Japan
Asami Schlicht - Japan

CIEP Partner Scholarship

Madoka Adachi - Japan
Mayuka Esho - Japan
Yanjing Huang - China
Eiko Ito - Japan
Akane Kajiwara - Japan
Ari Konishi - Japan
Rukako Maeda - Japan
Arisa Mori - Japan
Akari Osumi - Japan
Kenta Tashiro - Japan
Akari Taniguchi - Japan
Luka Williams Ortiz - Chile
Nana Yokomizo - Japan

*For more information on scholarships, please visit:
www.uni.edu/ciep/scholarships*



WORLD'S WINDOW | INDIA

Love & Language *By Alia Afzal*

It was an early morning. The breakfast table was set on the porch. The floor was covered with maroon carpet. It was the Summer Orientation at Columbia University in New York City. There were people from across the world; Russian, Omanis, Egyptian, German, Austrian, Kazakhstanis, Koreans, Chinese, Indians and perhaps many others in this huge Culture Exchange program, all ready to go begin the Foreign Language Teaching at Universities across the United States. This was the time I met Mario. Actually, I never mentioned to him before. At the first meeting, he seemed to me an interesting person. A young, white, tall man from Austria, with blue green eyes, and golden brown hair. I can still see the rimless spectacles over his long bumpy nose. The thin brown French beard running across his upper lips, ending at his well defined oval chin. I remembered how he looked around at everyone. He might burst out in laughter if he were to read. I know my English needs a lot of work but it is good for me to write him in this language. Even if it is awkward for me, perhaps this is a place where two very different people can come together....

Read Alia's full story online at: <http://uni.edu/ciep/worlds-window-india>

INDIA FAST FACTS

- Population:** 1.2 billion people
- Capital City:** New Delhi
- National Symbol:** Bengal Tiger
- Most Popular Sport:** Cricket
- Languages spoken:** Over 1,500
- Top languages:** Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil and Urdu
- Currency:** Indian rupee
- Industry:** Textiles, chemicals, food processing, steel, transportation equipment, cement, mining
- Agriculture:** rice, wheat, oilseed, cotton, cattle, fish
- Exports:** Textile goods, gems & jewelry, engineering goods, chemicals, and leather

About the Author

This World's Window story was written by Alia Afzal, from India. Ali is a former CIEP student working toward her Master's degree in English Literature at the University of Northern Iowa. She is also working as a Graduate Assistant in the UNI Department of Languages and Literatures.



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