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Fall 2012

International Panther, Fall 2012

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International Panther Panther Fall 2012







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From the Director, Phil Plourde...

GREETINGS from the UNI Culture & Intensive English Program! As the semester comes to an end, I would like to note the accomplishments of the CIEP students and staff over this past semester.

In unison with campus-wide efforts to revise programs and curriculum, the CIEP continues to improve its curriculum and delivery of instruction through the various projects and activities of its faculty and staff.

In September, Tom Riedmiller, presented to the MidTESOL Conference on the Iowa State University campus a presentation entitled "An Informal Needs Assessment for Curriculum Development and Accreditation." Next March, Tom and Lauren Rein will make a presentation about a similar topic at the international TESOL Convention in Dallas, Texas.

Moreover, Jaime Lyon and Petra Maier have worked to connect CIEP students with partner institutions abroad especially in the country of Turkey the use of video conferencing technology. The concept of students interacting to practice English language skills and accomplish online assignments with partners abroad is new for the CIEP and continues to expand.

In addition to the use of more technology, CIEP faculty members are working to improve curriculum and materials related to delivery of instruction. Gail Farber, Carol Johnston, and Mike Williams continue work to completely overhaul the writing and grammar curriculum of the program. This is tedious work requiring much research and attention to detail but the outcome will lead to a better selection of teaching materials, more relevant student

learning outcomes, and students better prepared for academic study at the University of Northern Iowa.

In addition to this work, Lauren Rein and Emily Luttrell-Narigon are working to improve students' vocabulary acquisition through field research, review of current literature, and development of lexicons for various ability levels in the CIEP. Lauren is also noted for her previous research with University of Northern lowa faculty examining the language and academic skills required of international students entering academic programs of study on campus.

Finally, Sarah Bumpus has been working to develop pronunciation materials for students and conducts an elective in learning American pronunciation of English. All of these efforts improve the delivery of instruction in the CIEP by keeping its methods current, its teachers well-informed, and its curriculum relevant.

Over the past year, the CIEP has also become one of 111 Intensive Programs in the U.S. to be accredited by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA).

As the program grows and improves, the CIEP is now providing opportunities for scholarships to current and prospective students and discounts to our overseas partner institutions. CIEP also continues working with other UNI units and departments in order to provide high quality service. We look forward to awarding these scholarships and working more]closely with our partners. On behalf of the CIEP staff, I wish you a relaxing

holiday season!

Phil Plourde, CIEP Director







CIEP's Distance Learning Exchange

Jaime Lyon CIEP Academic Support Specialist

This year, instructors in the CIEP have been working on forming distance learning exchanges with universities around the world in order to cultivate relationships and opportunities for students to practice English. As a result, this term, students in Levels two and three of the CIEP's listening and speaking classes have been involved in a distance learning exchange with students from Gediz University in Izmir, Turkey using iPads and programs such as Skype and Zoom.us. Twice a week, students gather in a small group to practice their English and discuss topics such as food, entertainment, travel, culture, and lifestyle. Students also work on the formulation of questions, vocabulary, verb tense, and sentence structure. Not only have the students been able to improve their English skills, but they have also formed friendships with students communicating in a second language. To help foster these friendships, a Facebook page was started to allow students to talk and learn more about each other outside of the exchange time. So far, the response of students has been full of excitement and anticipation of communicating more with other students using the technology.

In addition to serving the students in the CIEP, this opportunity has allowed TESOL graduate students at the University of Northern Iowa to participate and experience another realm of teaching English. For several weeks, these students have been observing and participating with the exchanges. Not only have the students learned from this experience, but the CIEP has benefited from their feedback and suggestions to help improve exchanges.

Overall, this has been a new and exciting opportunity for the program and students. Members of the CIEP hope to begin more exchanges with other universities this spring to allow more student participation and build more ties among students and staff from various universities. The CIEP looks forward to the continuation of a positive learning experience with Gediz University and using the knowledge obtained to formulate exchanges with other universities as well.



Kyle Woollums, CIEP Office Assistant

"We are lucky at UNI to be able to learn from the international students and their cultures—to have the chance to get to know people and learn about different cultures," says Jean Wiesley, the Department of Residence Assistant Business Manager.

Jean has worked in the Department of Residence at the University of Northern Iowa for eleven years, and through that time, she has seen the needs and desires of students change significantly. Especially in terms of technology and privacy,

"Students are wanting more and the background our students come from has changed."

The Department of Residence has changed its building amenities in accordance with student suggestions. This past spring, the department completed an ambitious project to install Wi-Fi throughout all of its buildings.

An even larger project is still under construction on the south side of campus. Phase II of Panther Village is scheduled to open in the fall of 2013 and will complement phase I of the project, which just welcomed its first students in August 2012. Panther Village offers apartments for one, two, or four students and features single occupancy bedrooms.

Driving these projects is student feedback. Jean says,

"We just try to listen to people and what they are wanting. How can we make this the student's home? How can we make the student feel comfortable?" Throughout the housing process, Jean enjoys having interactions with students,

"We strive to work directly with the student as much as we can."

Jean Wiesley works with CIEP students to arrange their on-campus living spaces as well as their dining plans. She finds that beginning students from the United States and international students share much in common,

"International students have the same kind of anxieties as a traditional student, but these are magnified by the cultural differences as well."

Throughout the contracting process, Jean helps to address student concerns openly and honestly and creates contracts and room assignments for the nearly 4200 students living on campus. She believes that on-campus living is a great match for the CIEP and international students because of the convenience, as all costs are included and all rooms are fully furnished, and no transportation is needed.

"We want students to be able to come to UNI without having to worry about so much—so they will know that they have

a place to live right when they get here.

"Further, dining centers and meal plans allow students to focus on their academic and social lives rather than cooking and buying groceries. CIEP students also have the opportunity to be immersed in American culture and improve their English language skills by living with a large group of students.

CIEP students are able to select residence halls in the same way as other students, allowing students to choose between traditional residence halls and suite/apartment style living. They can also enjoy a diverse food selection, featuring recipes from many different food traditions, and even submit a "recipe from home" to the Department of Residence for consideration for regular serving in the dining centers.

In all, Jean learns from the diverse international students with whom she works and enjoys seeing the excitement when CIEP students arrive after a long trip to UNI.

"I always try to get out and see the students when they first arrive and get their student IDs. There is always so much excitement. How can you not feel good when you can see they are doing well and know you had a little part in that?"

Department of Residence

- Nine residence halls available
- Students choose between traditional, co-ed, suite or apartment-style halls
- Nine-month and 12-month housing
- Facilities for laundry, mail, studying, recreation and computer lab access
 Dining centers offering choices
- including salad bars, deli, stir fry, and vegetarian selections
- 16 full-time staff members

Social & Cultural Activities

Summer & Fall 2012 activities included:

- Class Exchange
- O Dubuque Trip
- Waterloo Bucks Baseball Game
- Schrage's Farm Trip
- Minigolf
- Make-Your-Own-Pizza Night
- Talent Show and Food Potluck
- International Friendship Program
- O Retired Seniors Volunteer Program
- Salvation Army Volunteering
- Daycare Volunteering
- UNI Homecoming
- Nursing Home Visits
- UNI Class Exchanges
- O Iowa City Trip





Talent Show

Each semester, the CIEP sponsors a talent show where students have the opportunity to dance, sing, act, perform magic tricks, play musical instruments, or share any special talent they have with other CIEP and UNI students!

Schrage's Farm

In June and September, students left campus to visit the home of one of UNI's business professors, Chris Schrage. Students often go canoeing, cook over a campfire and enjoy a ride around the farm.

International Education Week

In November, UNI celebrated International Education Week through a variety of events including: African drumming and dance lessons by Nani Agbeli, film showings, international food potlucks, and information booths. The CIEP's main event of the week, "Taste of Culture," gave the UNI community a chance to learn more about other cultures. CIEP students presented about their countries and culture, prepared traditional food samples, and facilitated cultural demonstrations for the UNI campus community.

lowa City Trip and the Wickup Learning Center

In August, CIEP students spent Native American Culture Day at the Wickiup Learning Center near Cedar Rapids and toured the Old Capitol Building and the Museum of Natural History in Iowa City.



Volunteering

Dubuque Trip

This summer, CIEP students traveled to Dubuque Iowa and visited the Fourth Street Elevator, took a boat tour on the Spirit of Dubuque, attended the Hollywood musical, "Annie" at the Grand Opera House, and visited the Dubuque Arboretum.

ciep students participated in many volunteer activities throughout the past year. Students have helped in daycares, elementary schools and the at the Salvation Army After-School Program.



English and Music Pave Pathway for "Brazilian 2wins" to Achieve Dreams

"We saw things that people here

have never imagined...we have no

regret of coming from that...

because that is something that

built up who we are today"

Vanessa Hilst Robles, CIEP Administrative Assistant

"We saw things that people here have never imagined...we have no regret of coming from that....to have seen everything that we saw there because that is something that built up who we are today," Wagner Caldas expressed, reflecting on the childhood experiences he shared with his twin brother, Walter.

Brazilian brothers Walter and Wagner have not only risen above the adverse situations and deleterious lifestyles they were surrounded by as children, they are well on their way to achieving aspirations that most do not dare to dream of.

"We grew up in a very poor neighborhood and it was a very, very different reality from what we are living here today," Wagner said. Today, the brothers are entertaining thousands with their exceptional musical talents with their band "Brazilian 2wins."

How did two young men from the perilous favelas of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil come to perform in front of such impressive audiences? It all started out with an agreement between their father and a violin instructor. The boys' father makes classical instruments for a living, but did not have the opportunity to learn to play.

"It's just like a mechanic that cannot drive a car;" Wagner explained. Their father needed someone to test his instruments, and thought 'why not my kids?' He made an arrangement with a violin instructor to fix her instruments for free in exchange for lessons for his children. Initially, the brothers hated learning to play classical music, as it is a complex skill that was not particularly admired in their rough

neighborhood. After about three to four years of taking lessons, the boys actually began to enjoy their new ability to create music, especially when they attained the proficiency to play songs that they knew and liked. They did not know it then, but this was the beginning of creating a completely different life for them than what anyone had ever anticipated.

Fast-forward a few years and the brothers, at 21 years old, were interviewed by a reporter from National Public Radio (NPR) who sought them out immediately after the finale of a concert in which they performed with their small youth orchestra in Rio de Janeiro. This broadcast eventually led to the twins being invited to play at the renowned World Food Prize Award Ceremony in Des Moines, Iowa as a surprise to Brazilian award winners. The real surprise, though, came to Walter and Wagner

Caldas when the President of the University of Northern lowa, Ben Allen, offered the brothers scholarships to study music following their performance.

"We didn't know anything about the country, we didn't know anything about lowa, so it was like, a total surprise for

us," Wagner re-counted, "It was kind of, like, surreal, you know? Like, ok, what are we going to do? Are we really going to this place? We don't know how to speak English!"

Luckily, the brothers were enrolled in classes through the Culture and Intensive English Program when they arrived at UNI



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academic courses and lives in the United States. The twins consider participating in the CIEP a great beginning for their transition into life as university students. The personal relationships that Walter and Wagner were able to form with their teachers certainly impacted their experience in a positive manner.

"We have a wonderful relationship with all the teachers in the college...we had so much fun together," Wagner expressed. When asked about his favorite memory of participating in the CIEP, Wagner responded,

"They hold some very nice [social activities] for the international students in the way that they try to make the student be part of the community..."

"There is not one day

Walter commented that the Culture and Intensive English Program presented the Caldas brothers with the opportunity to create lasting friendships.

"Five years later we still have those old friends from CIEP that we met in Level 3...it's very nice to see how each one of us are doing."

So, how are the Brazilian twins doing now? They are incredibly busy but doing very well. The hard-working

duo are currently finishing up their coursework to earn
Bachelor's degrees in Music, volunteering performances for charity events
in the community, and just finished recording a live CD that will be on
iTunes by December 21, 2012. The CD includes the first song Walter has
ever written. He commented with gratification on his accomplishment,

"That was the thing -- I had never thought about writing...I came from Brazil, I didn't know English, and now I'm writing lyrics -- in English -- to sell!"Walter enthused.

His first song, titled "Dreamers," happens to be inspired by Martin Luther King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech Walter says he first learned about in a CIEP class. Wagner remarked,

"There is not one day that we that don't think about everything...we are very thankful for everything that CIEP and UNI did...they opened the door to a whole new world...we really appreciate everything that lowans and UNI as a whole did for us."

School of Music

- Accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music
- More than 40 faculty
- Performance facilities and music labs available in the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center and Russell Hall
- Offers Composition-Theory, Education and Performance degree programs
- YEight student organizations specifically for Music students
- Opportunities to participate in over 20 choirs, ensembles, bands and other musical groups

For more information on the UNI School of Music, visit: http://www.uni.edu/music

For more information on the Brazilian 2wins, visit their website at:

brazilian2wins.com

World's Window:

Japan is a nation of islands located in East Asia with approximately 127 million residents and is famous for its innovative technology and rich traditions. Japan is known as the "Land of the Rising Sun," which is based on the written characters that make up the country's name. Japan's four largest islands are Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku.

Each semester, CIEP students are invited to write about their home countries to be featured in the World's Window, a section of the International Panther, CIEP's newsletter. The following articles have been written by six students from Kansai Gaidai University. Kansai Gaidai University has campuses in Nakamiya and Hotani. Nearly 50% of all Kansai Gaidai students study abroad before they graduate. With a campus size similiar to the University of Northern Iowa, many students from Kansai Gaidai have considered UNI a home over the past years.

The authors of this article, Miki Fujita, Shiori Gima, Mayo Horichi, Takamasa Horimoto, Aya Watanabe and Sachiko Yukawa are attending the CIEP for the 2012-2013 school year and are currently studying Writing, Reading, and Listening/Speaking in levels 3-4.

Fashion

The street fashion culture of Japan is a well-known part of the larger fashion sense. In fact, some people feel that Japanese fashion is the center of the "bottom-up" culture where street styles blend East and West and influence the larger fashion sense in the country. Hot spots like Shibuya and Harajuku in Tokyo are famous for their lively Japanese fashion culture, especially unique street fashion. Every weekend, there are a lot of young people who are wearing "cosplay". According to Dictionary.com, "Cosplay is the art or practice of wearing costumes to portray characters from fiction, especially from manga (comic books), animation, and science fiction." People enjoy pretending to be characters from these types of fiction. From this information, you might think that all young Japanese like to do that. However that is wrong.

"Top-down" fashion is still in the majority among the people of Japan. Most young people tend to choose trendy fashion designs, especially university and college students. Many students always want to buy brand-name clothes, such as from United Arrows Beams, and KBF. The number of magazines indicates the

latest fashion trends' popularity. There are over 130 fashion magazines for Japanese females. In fact, some publishing companies even sell these magazines to elementary students. Whether top-down or bottom-up is most popular, Japanese

fashion will certainly continue evolving.

Tradition

Japanese traditional clothing is still popular and typically represented as a kimono, but the yukata style is also famous in Japan. What is the difference between kimono and yukata? The kimono is tailored clothing such as suit, and the yukata is a type of sports wear or more casual wear clothing thought of as similiar to T-shirts and jeans in the western mind. There are two kinds of kimonos.

First of all, there is the 'hurisode,' which has long hanging sleeves and is worn only by females. Next is the 'hakama,' loose-legged, pleated trousers worn for formal wear. Today the hakama is worn by both females and males and worn over a short or middle-length sleeve kimono. The hakama can be worn as a long skirt or culottes, a divided skirt, on a kimono. We can wear them on important anniversaries for ourselves. For example, a wedding anniversary, first shrine visit of the New Year, a graduate ceremony of school and more. However, in a coming of age ceremony, females wear suits or the hurisode, while males wear suits or the hakama. Females wear more hurisode than hakama. Recently, the hurisode has become popular among young people, for they can decorate their kimono to make themselves cute and beautiful. The hakama is designed to emphasize formal wear, so it is popular among all generations.

On the other hand, the yukata is very different from the kimono. This is also worn by both females and males as stylish clothing at

summer events, such as a fireworks display. It is very thin compared with a kimono, so it is limited to the season of summer. Also, it is not formal, so we cannot wear it to important events. On those occasions, we wear Japanese traditional clothes which are the same shape as in the past or are decorated by ourselves. However, we can say that the kimono and yukata are also Japanese traditional clothes matched by the season, the event, and the person's gender, as important Japanese symbols.



Food

Japan is also famous for its cuisine. One popular dish in Japan is called 'Osechi'. We usually prepare it on New Year's Eve, and we eat it during the first three days of January. Osechi is made up of many kinds of beautiful dishes which are set in lacquer boxes. Each of the dishes has some auspicious meaning which reflects people's wishes. For instance, a herring roe (egg mass) means 'being blessed with children,' because a lot of herrings are born from a roe all at once. A prawn also means 'people live a long life'. In addition, Osechi dishes are good for our health. We generally

cook them at home, and they are handed down from generation to generation in each family. All in all, Osechi dishes are very suitable for celebrating the New Year.

ulture

In Japan, people often go to the 'Onsen', which is a hot spring that is important to Japanese culture and loved by all ages. The hot spring is filled with water which comes from underground. This hot water includes a lot of mineral elements such as magnesium, carbonic acid, fluorine, and many more that are believed to heal diseases, an injury, and physical fatigue. These minerals are also considered good for your skin, so many women go there to cleanse and beautify their skin. The elements in the hot springs often depend on the area. The famous spots are usually surrounded by beautiful natural areas and scenery, and people can enjoy beautiful views with while taking a bath, sometimes with something to drink. For non-Japanese people, it may be a new experience to take a big bath with other people. However, you can have a great time and will be crazy about Onsen if you don't forget to follow Onsen rules: take a shower before

2012-2013 Kansai Gaidai University Students

> Miki Fujita Osaka, Japan English & Foreign Language Major

Shiori Gima Okinawa, Japan ior High English

Junior High English Education Major

Mayo Horichi *Nara, Japan* English & Marketing Major

Takamasa Horimoto

Tokushima, Japan English Education Major

Aya Watanabe

Kyoto, Japan Cultural History Major

Sachiko Yukawa

Kobe, Japan History & Business Major

Anime

Manga (comic books) and Anime (animation) are some of the most popular forms of entertainment in Japan. Both children and adults enjoy manga and anime and they can choose from a variety of genres. For example, comedy, adventure, fights, love story, sport, or friendship. Also, there are often 'cosplay festivals' in Japan. Some of the people participating in these

Japan. Some of the people participating in these festivals wear costumes of anime and manga.

Anime and manga are becoming popular all over the world now. For example, 'NARUTO' is a serial Ninjya's story in manga and anime that has become popular, especially in the U.S. in the last several years. People could learn more about Japanese culture through watching anime and reading manga.





Sally Roos, CIEP Activities Coordinator

LEARNING about United States' culture has been a highlight of the Culture & Intensive English Program experience for America Nishimoto, a student born in Peru, who has also lived in Japan. CIEP programs have offered multiple opportunities for learning about U.S. culture. The Conversation Partner Program, International Friendship Program, holiday-themed activities for Thanksgiving and Halloween, and class discussions in Listening/Speaking 7 have led to many insights for America.

"We know superficially the culture," said America about her perceptions before she came. "But we don't know why they (American people) do this...why they like competition or why they make a lot of friends but not so deeply."

In addition to her coursework, America has been paired with a conversation partner volunteer, Nicole Shatek, and a non-residential host family, Wayne and Bev Worthley, who frequently invite her to their home. She remembers attending a dance party and going to see the musical Shrek at the university's Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center with Nicole. Her favorite memories with her host family include cooking and watching American football. She smiled remembering her host family's excitement during the game.

"They always try to show me the U.S." she said. "They always want really to teach foreign students about American culture.

They're always happy to teach."

At recent activities, CIEP students had the opportunity to practice their speaking skills while teaching other UNI students about American culture. During one of these activities, America gave an informal presentation about her homeland, Peru, for other CIEP students, who listened attentively and asked questions.

For International Education Week, she participated on a small committee with other CIEP students to plan an event for UNI students to learn about cultures represented in CIEP. As a Peruvian, she recommended papas rellenas for one of the international refreshments at the event. As a former resident of Japan, she led a chopsticks game for UNI students to try their skills on small objects like M&Ms and table tennis balls. Both activities were opportunities for America to be the teacher.

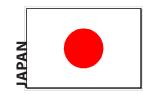
"I could learn a lot when I was doing my presentation," said America. "I was concentrating on the differences—what we have that the U.S. doesn't have."

In the future, America hopes not to be teaching so much as researching, although she recognizes that teaching is one of the employment possibilities for her major--Physics. America plans to transfer to Hawkeye Community College following CIEP for her Liberal Arts Core classes and then to another university for academic study.

Welcome new students!











CHINA: Shiyu Wang, Junyi Wu, Wanchen Han, Nan Nan, Kunpeng Peng, Haiqiang Wang, Gaihua Ye, Bowen Yu, Bowen Zhang, Hanyi Mayo Horichi, Takamasa Horimoto, Sachiko Yukawa. KOREA: Yooseun Jung, Anna Kang. MEXICO: Alma Veronica Gonzalez, Diana Alzahir, Hussain Albaqshi, Layla Almitib, Abrar Alnasser, Adnan Alsibiani, Qassim Abdulwahab, Ahmed AlSubaya, Ali Alzayer, Fatemah Alsafayan. TOGO: Etsevi Koudadje, Kossi Daklou. TURKEY: Ahmet Yildirim.



"CIEP is a preparation for academic classes, so I will use all I learned," she said.

America remembers that when she arrived at UNI, she was not so confident about her language skills. She had a hard time understanding people and struggled with listening and speaking. In addition to CIEP activities, she became involved in English Corner, a non-CIEP organization which helps international students practice English. She also began attending services regularly at a local Catholic church, where she listened closely and tried to understand the sermon.

"Some is similar," she said. "When the priest speaks, I can remember..'O, it's this part.""

Bible studies were another way that America practiced her religion and language at the same time. Based on her experience, America recommends that students make the most of all the opportunities in class and outside of class.

"Try to participate in the activities because you cannot find this in another university...Take the class seriously because they teach us a lot of interesting things. Only the CIEP teachers know that we don't understand English good, so it's a program especially for you. Don't miss the classes or activities because they're very valuable."

CIEP Staff travel to Taiwan to meet with alumni and prospective CIEP students

At the beginning of November, two CIEP staff members, Sally Roos, CIEP Activities Coordinator, and Mike Williams, CIEP Academic Support Coordinator, traveled to Taiwan to meet with former and prospective CIEP students and educational consultants.

They had the opportunity to attend the National Chengchi University (NCCU) Study Abroad Fair and interact with nearly 100 students, discussing the opportunities CIEP could offer them. Mike and Sally were also able to visit National Taipei University (NTPU) and present at an Envision Recruit Workshop and Education USA.

The trip was a great opportunity to meet with former CIEP alumni and to discuss the CIEP and the special programs with new prospective students. We would like to thank all those who met with Mike and Sally for their hospitality during their stay in Taiwan.















Zhang, Jingwei Zhang, Jing Zhao. EGYPT: Shimaa Aly. JAPAN: Tatsuya Kuwabara, Aya Watanabe, Miki Fujita, Shiori Gima, Lopez Rodriguez. NICARAGUA: Harold Blandon. PERU: America Nishimoto. SAUDI ARABIA: Doha Alanki, Zainab Alfaraj, Ali Alnassir, Assad Hakrouh, Baddah Alqahtani, Ahmed Alkhamis, Hussain Aldahan, Sara Aldahan, Mohammed AlSlamh, Marwan

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



Fall 1 2012

Saud Aldossary Safa Alramadhan Zainab Alrebh Madher Alsultan Dong Jiang Lulu Wang Jingying Zhuang

FALL 2 2012

Hawra Alghazwi Hussain Alhabeeb Saif Almutairi Ayidh Alotaibi Ahmed Alradhi Salman Alshawaf Khalid Alzaher Cheick Bally Yuning Xu





Front: Carol Johnston, Carolina Coronado-Park, Sally Roos, Carly Vogelsang, Samantha Rix, Lauren Rein, Emily Luttrell-Narigon, Petra Maier, Shawna Schrock, Gail Farber, Steve Schutz, Anastasia Bender. **Back**: Jaime Lyon, Linda Polk, Irina Varzavand, Cristy Steffen, Tim Thomas, Forest Hoff, Mike Williams, Kyle Woollums, Sarah Bumpus, Philip Plourde, Tom Riedmiller

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