

Spring 2010

International Panther, Spring 2010

University of Northern Iowa. Culture and Intensive english Program.

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The International Panther

Culture and Intensive English Program

Spring/Summer 2010

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From the Director



Greetings. The CIEP has been busy these past months. The increase in enrollment is welcome but it is a challenge, too. Luckily, the CIEP has had the help of a few dedicated office volunteers, most notably Laci Ames and Maryna Lysun. Laci is a former CIEP student, who worked as a teacher in Brazil and currently resides in Waterloo, Iowa. Maryna is working at CIEP on an internship as part of her coursework requirements at UNI. We thank them for their contributions to CIEP.

The teachers have also been busy. In the past months, Gail Farber and Carol Johnston have worked to build a new curriculum for the Bridge level, or beginning level, students in the CIEP. The new curriculum will be piloted in the fall and includes an exit test for promotion to the CIEP's higher levels.

Also new is the integrated writing skills classes. In the fall, the writing classes will teach composition and grammar skills in a two-hour block instead of offering separate classes each one-hour in length as in the past. This will help our students to better focus on the use of grammar in their writing.

Lastly, thanks to all for their time, hard work and dedication to improving the CIEP this past semester, and I wish everyone a healthy and happy summer.

Philip Poudre

Current Student Spotlight: Diana Mhela, Tanzania

Carolina Coronado-Park



Ms. Diana Enos Mhela was born in Arumeru, Tanzania. Diana came to the United States in 2009 to learn English. Later, in January 2010 she arrived at UNI to be enrolled in CIEP. Diana came to CIEP with the idea of polishing her English, but also getting used to the American academic system before perusing one of her educational dreams: an MBA. Diana has only been in the CIEP for a few months, but she claims that "it has expanded my writing, reading and speaking skills in general. It is such useful program that one needs to take it, even for a short time, before starting academic classes."

While studying in CIEP, Diana participates in the CIEP extracurricular activities such as our Conversation Partners Program, field trips, culture talks and so forth. Diana is also a member of the African Union Association, which is currently one of the most progressive student clubs at UNI. Diana explains: "in this club we share our African cultures and languages and we expose them to the UNI community through cultural activities such food expositions, musicals and cultural presentations. We come from different African countries but we are united here at UNI, especially when somebody is in need."

Since the first day at UNI, Diana admired "the beauty and spaciousness of the campus, the outstanding facilities and the people willing to help all around." After she has her MBA, she would like to go back to Tanzania and dedicate herself to work on mortgage loans for people with low incomes so they can build or buy their own home.

Former Student Profile: Laci Ames, Brazil



Shannon Farley

“I have completed all my tasks this morning; do you have anything else for me?” This is a common phrase used by Laci Ames as she volunteers in the CIEP main office. Enthusiastic and upbeat, Laci is always willing to lend a helping hand.

In fall 2008, Laci came to the University of Northern Iowa’s Culture and Intensive

English Program (CIEP) with some basic English skills. Before coming to America, Laci worked as a Portuguese teacher for nearly 25 years in Brazil. When her husband accepted a transfer to the John Deere plant in Waterloo, her family moved with him. She decided to take CIEP classes in order to improve her English skills and to learn

more about American culture. Eduardo, her 20 year old son, also graduated from the CIEP and has now returned to Brazil to go to college. Since graduating the CIEP, Laci has been volunteering at the CIEP’s main office.

Because she had no desire to attend college after learning English at CIEP, she found the program to be a perfect fit. Although many CIEP students go on to study at UNI, the program’s courses are suited for students of all kinds. Laci’s favorite aspects of the CIEP were its small class sizes and the speed with which she was able to develop her language skills. She liked how the teachers challenged their students to always do their best. She uses her English skills in all her daily activities – when she speaks, shops, reads or watches TV and movies. She also uses these skills while volunteering in the CIEP office – where she helps with general office duties such as filing and organizing information.

Laci encourages those students thinking about coming to the CIEP to do it and make their dreams come true. To current students, she suggests that they immerse themselves in the program as much as possible – everything in the CIEP is organized for their benefit. She urges them to ask questions and participate daily so that they do not have any regrets in the future.

New Students

Chile

Catalina Farina
Muriel Ponce Saldias

China

Xioazhen Lei
Caili Ma
Sen Mei
Yuan Shen
Yufei Wang
Chaochao Xu
Kan Xu
Zheng Yang

India

Veena Kolli

Russia

Mariya Bogodist
Liudmila Lebedeva

Saudi Arabia

Yousef Alabdulaal
Mohammed Alabuabdulla

Abdullah Alafraij

Ali Alfaraj

Salem Alghubari

Mahdi Alhamadi

Azhar Almohsen

Omar Alnasser

Zahra Alawami

Fares Alfares

Mustafa Aljishi

Yousef Alkhair

Wardah Almahdi

Ahmed Almasoud

Ahmed Almuallim

Hassan Alobaid

Oday Alowa

Saud Alqahtani

Safa AlRabie

Reda Alrebeh

Fatimah AlSaeed

Mohammed AlSaeed

Wadea AlSaeed

Mohammed Alshaiban

Salma Alshammasi

Mohammed Alsharaf

Ghadeer Alsharari

Hamed Alsharari

Mohammed Alshayeb

Mohammed Alsitrawi

Ali Alsultan

Omar Alsultan

Mohammed Alturki

Fahad Alwaily

Ahmed Alyousif

Ali Alzاهر

Mohammed Alzayer

Yousef Maouf

South Korea

SooYoung Kim

Ji-Won Kang

Tanzania

Diana Mhela

Vietnam

Anh Thuy Le

Graduates

Spring 1

Mohammed Alabkri
Emad Alluhaiden
Ahmed Almahuzi
Zahra Aluraif
Jin An
Ximan Cui
Alex Durinova
Catalina Farina
Muriel Ponce Saldias
Jialing Sun

Spring 2

Ramla Alemsallam
Nawaf Alosami
Mohammed AlRabki
Jiahao Cai
Natsuki Fujinaga
Makoto Ishibashi
Wei Jin
Naomi Kosako
Takuya Soga
Masahiro Takahashi
Sachiyo Yamagata

CIEP Students Learn Leadership Skills

Tatiana Gusakova and Ellen Johnston



At the end of March, CIEP students visited the John Deere factory, a giant manufacturer selling tractors to America and Europe since 1837. While the tour train was following the assembly line in the heart of the factory, the students were given an exciting high-tech lecture and could see how various machines were being made.

John Deere offers tours at their Tractor Assembly facility to anyone. The tour was arranged to encourage CIEP students to consider the possibilities which exist after their graduation from the CIEP program, and to introduce them to the local industry that exists in Iowa, which happens to be a very international industry. Our contact at John Deere was Dr. Guang Jin, the global manufacturing engineering manager for the tractor platform at Deere & Company. Dr. Jin possesses leadership

roles important in her field. She earned her master's degree and a PhD in industrial technology from UNI in 1995.

After the tour, students had the opportunity to practice team-building skills. The Student Leadership Center on the UNI campus offers Team Building Programs which promote communication, leadership, trust, sensitivity to the needs of others in the group, diversity, conflict management, critical thinking, problem solving, public speaking, listening, observing, challenging oneself and having fun. CIEP students from levels B, 2 and 7 were invited to take part in fun activities which encouraged them take on leadership roles and work together to solve problems.

CIEP Honors Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ellen Johnston

CIEP students celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by volunteering with other UNI students at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank in Waterloo. The day of service was sponsored by the American Democracy Project, the Center for Multicultural Education, and the Volunteer Center of the Cedar Valley.

Being a university student can often be very busy, but many still manage to find the time for community service. For CIEP students, volunteering provides the opportunity to interact with and give back to their American community. It also allows them to meet other UNI students who are interested in volunteering. American students get the chance to learn about international students on campus, what countries they are from and what they think about their studies at UNI.

Many of the CIEP students were not aware of the reasons American's celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. with a national holiday, so this event allowed them to learn more about American history and culture. Also, the idea of a food bank is not always international and may not have been something they had seen in their home countries. While volunteering, the students were asked to clean food packaging and box up various food items for delivery.

The eight CIEP students involved came from Chile, Japan, Russia, Saudi Arabia and South Korea. UNI Provost Gloria Gibson also took part in the holiday's celebration.



Spring 2010 CIEP Culture Activities

Shannon Farley

Field Trip to Amana Colonies

In mid-January, CIEP students took a field trip to the Amana Colonies in central Iowa. There, they had an opportunity to witness colonial American activities and culture from the 1850s. Students had the opportunity to sample traditional food and participate in wood-cutting races.



Culture Talks

Throughout the year, the CIEP holds several Culture Talks. These lectures have a wide range of topics, including: dating, religion, education, mathematics, sciences and setting goals. Each lecture is led by a different speaker - either from UNI or the community. CIEP students sit in to learn more about American culture, as well as how to develop themselves as successful adults.

Taste of Culture Potluck

In late February, CIEP students and other members of the Cedar Falls/UNI community came together to share the various flavors of their cultures. In addition to eating dozens of different food dishes, participants also had the opportunity to swap stories and enjoy live music by a UNI jazz student.



Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Each session, Listening/Speaking classes go to the Wesley Foundation in Cedar Falls for RSVP. This program is guided by seniors (age 65+) from the community who volunteer their time one hour a week to meet international students from the CIEP. It also provides an opportunity for students to speak one-on-one or in small groups with a native speaker. Students also get the chance to learn more about American culture and history.



Blackhawk Hockey Game

In early April, CIEP students and their Conversation Partners attended a Waterloo Blackhawks hockey game. In this way, they were able to get to know their partners better and also had the chance to watch a popular American sport: ice hockey.

Host Family Picnic

In mid-April, CIEP students and their host families (through the International Friendship Program) gathered together for a picnic at a local park in Cedar Falls. There, they ate hotdogs and various other tasty treats. They also flew kites, played Bocce Ball and catch.



ISA Fashion Show

In April, CIEP students joined the International Student Association (ISA) Fashion Show. This event allowed students to dress in their home country's traditional or contemporary style in order to showcase the varied cultures represented at UNI.

Class Exchanges

Throughout the year, CIEP students meet with various students in academic classes at UNI. As part of the exchange, students are split into smaller groups where they discuss their cultures and the experiences they have had with American culture and learning English.



CIEP and the Community

Ellen Johnston

African American Read-In Day

February 22, 2010

CIEP students had the opportunity to interact with first and second grade students from the local elementary schools, Black Hawk Elementary and Walter Cunningham School of Excellence as the elementary students visited UNI to attend the African American Read-In. This event gave children the opportunity to meet author and illustrator Jan Spivey Gilchrist as she read to the group from some of her own works.

CIEP students volunteered their lunch hour to sit and eat with the first graders. Many of our students have left behind families in their home countries, so the opportunity to interact with local children in Cedar Falls is a fun way to use their English and interact with American children. The event was held by the Multicultural Teaching Alliance (MTA), College of Education and UNI's Rod Library.



Black Hawk Elementary Visit

April 1, 2010

Black Hawk Elementary students, teachers and parents visit UNI for an annual field trip to the campus. While on campus, elementary students engaged in educational programs and activities with UNI faculty, staff and students. Thirty CIEP students and three members of the UNI Tibetan Students had the opportunity to once again share their culture with Black Hawk first graders, playing cultural games and learning about life around the world.

The Tibetan students shared games and dances with the first graders, Naomi Kosako and other students from Japan taught the children origami folding. Students from Saudi Arabia showed first graders how to wear the traditional Ghutra, or male head dress and students from various countries showed the first graders how to write their names in other languages, such as: Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Vietnamese.



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