

Fall 2010

## International Panther, Fall 2010

University of Northern Iowa. Culture and Intensive english Program.

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Fall 2010

From the Director, Phil Plourde

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The CIEP Staff has been very busy these past months. This summer, we hired three new instructors: Lauren Rein, Petra Maier, and Jaime Lyon. We also hired two new administrative staff members: Anastasia Bender and Sally Roos. We are especially glad to see this group join the ranks of CIEP staff.

In August, the CIEP enrolled over 100 students for the third session in the past year. We are very glad for the increased interest in the program and the hard work of various parties on campus to bring students to the CIEP. The CIEP continues to make adjustments to accommodate a larger enrollment and continues to meet with staff members from the Registrar's Office, Student Health Clinic, and Department of Residence to meet our needs as a program and those of individual students and staff.

At the end of October, the CIEP completed its self-study report for the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) in Washington, D.C. The report was submitted electronically under deadline and is being reviewed by the CEA in preparation for a site visit. Much thanks to all who participated in making the report, including Tom Riedmiller and Petra Maier of CIEP who spearheaded the effort, and Shannon Farley for her technological expertise.

I would also like to extend my thank you to all of CIEP's partner agencies and friends overseas. It has been a great year for CIEP.

Happy Holidays!

### Online Learning in CIEP

*Lauren Rein, CIEP Instructor*

In my Writing classes, we have been using eLearning, an online education system. This program allows students to show text and images, exchange ideas, turn in assignments, take tests, and chat with me or their classmates. They have been writing journals online, and also participating in a class-wide discussion group.

One of the goals of Writing is to increase writing fluency through journaling, a process made easier by eLearning. Each week, students get two topics to write about in their journals; they submit these exercises twice a week through eLearning. This has many benefits, such as the fact that

students do not have to worry about printing paper, and they can turn it whenever they want before the deadline. Also, since many university classes utilize eLearning, it is preparing them for their academic life at UNI, in addition to practicing their English.

Once a week, I put a discussion question online. Students can then read and respond to the answers of their classmates. Everyone has the opportunity to say what they want, and they do not have to worry about being perfect, since this is simply a chance to practice writing. It gives everyone a chance to use the new grammar we learn in class.

eLearning is a great tool to help students learn and allows for an easy way to manage assignments outside of class.





### From UNI to UNICEF: Ibrahim Cisse

*Carolina Coronado-Park, CIEP Program Coordinator*

It has been almost six years since Ibrahim Cisse completed the CIEP. Recently, he has been hired as an Emergency Health Specialist for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) based in Kinshasa, Congo.



Dr. Cisse, who is originally from Mali, Africa, came to UNI in 2002. Before coming to America, Cisse attended medical school in Mali and worked there as a physician for several years. Cisse began his studies in the United States at CIEP. He came to learn English in order to broaden his career choices. After graduating from CIEP, Cisse started his graduate studies in the Department of Health Promotion and Education in the College of Education at UNI.

For the last four years, Cisse has worked for the International Medical Corps of the United Nations. He was the Gaga Camp Site-Manager in eastern Chad, near the border with Sudan. For the 20,500 Darfurian refugees who live in this camp, International Medical Corps is the only healthcare available, providing primary and maternal/child care, mental health, nutrition services, and HIV and hygiene education.

Twice a year, Cisse goes to the United Nations headquarters in New York for professional development and training on community health approaches. Whenever Cisse is in the United States, he tries to come to Cedar Falls to visit his UNI friends, classmates and professors. It is always a pleasure to learn about Cisse and the work that he is doing in Africa.

### From the CIEP Classroom:

#### Field Trip to Des Moines

*Salha Alsadeq, CIEP Student*

On the morning of November 6, 2010, some CIEP students and teachers went to Des Moines, Iowa to see a new city and have fun. For many students, it was the first time to go to Des Moines, so they were surprised that Des Moines is much larger than Cedar Falls.

First, we went to an Italian restaurant and ate a delicious salad and pasta for lunch. Then we walked to the Science Center. An interesting thing on this



trip was a 3-D movie about Greece that we saw at the IMAX Dome Theater. After that, we did a scavenger hunt in the Science Center and looked for some pictures and information about those pictures.

The last thing we did on our trip was to go to the shopping mall in West Des Moines. The mall was very big. It had many places to shop at and it was crowded. Some students bought a lot of things and then had dinner at one of the restaurants there.

On the way back, we watched a movie and the winners of the scavenger hunt were announced. The trip was a lot of fun and we really enjoyed it!

*Salha Alsadeq is currently a Writing 5 student in Petra Maier's class for the Fall 2 2010 session.*



## Brazilian Students Exchange Program

*Natalie Goh, CIEP Office Assistant*

Professor Chris Schrage is an instructor at UNI's College of Business Administration Marketing Department and coordinator of international programs promoting international presence. She described her experiences working with international students and providing international opportunities for UNI students as one of her favorite duties to do at UNI and in her personal life as well. Professor Schrage also stated that building partnerships for student exchanges opens up opportunities to gain knowledge about other languages and develop a network of friends and future associates.

This summer, Professor Schrage was involved with CIEP as she bridged the opportunity for UNI to welcome four new students from Brazil. Dr. Schrage submitted a grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Education to create the exchange. This grant requires a consortium with partners in the United States and Brazil for faculty and student exchanges.

UNI is the lead university for partnerships with Hawkeye Community College, Kirkwood Community College, Universidade Federal de Goias and Universidade de Brazilia. The Brazil Students Exchange Program is four years in length and both governments provide stipends to students and faculty for the exchange.

Diogo Silva Pena, Paula Mendes, Fernando Pinheiro and Danillo de Carvalho Rocha are students from Universidade Federal de Goias who are participating in the exchange. They arrived in July, looking forward to the many new experiences that they will learn at UNI. After four months at UNI, they have each developed a fondness to this life away from home. Last summer, they took two weeks of intensive English course at CIEP as a preparation for academic courses.

Diogo states that CIEP is a great program that helps people learn English. Teachers are always well prepared to handle the differences of cultures among the students in class. Besides classes, Diogo likes going to the Wellness Recreation Center (WRC), particularly the rock-climbing facility and the outdoor recreation trips offered there.

Paula describes her keenness to study at UNI as a non-stop learning experience even when classes end. Learning continues outside of class with other international students in UNI's friendly environment. She enjoys attending the cultural events offered on campus as well.

Fernando enjoys the campus life at UNI the most; where students, professors and staff show great school spirit. His advice for prospective students is to temporarily put aside the mindset of where they are from and embrace the different culture here in the United States, that way they can open up new doors to greater learning.



## Fatih University Exchange Program

*Carolina Coronado-Park*

This Fall, seven Turkish students from Fatih University are enjoying the CIEP. Nadia Korobova, International Programs Assistant Director explains: "These are our first exchange students for CIEP. We are hoping to host more academic exchange students in Fall 2011 as a result of the Protocol on International Education Cooperation between Fatih and UNI that was signed on August 6, 2010."

Fatih University was founded by the Turkish Association of Health and Medical Treatment in 1996. It carries out its educational and research activities in Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey. Fatih envisions UNI as being a sample university for its future activities, which are based on a global approach while remaining attentive to local perspectives and development.

The Fatih exchange students are currently enrolled as full-time CIEP students and seek to add English proficiency to their resumes. As Esme Kose, an exchange student, explains, "At Fatih, I was studying International Trade. However, since I found out about the educational cooperation between UNI and Fatih, I decided to come to CIEP to learn English, in order to complete my

business major here at UNI. I think that will give me the international background that I need to find the job that I am dreaming of."

The areas of cooperation between UNI and Fatih include: exchange of faculty; exchange of students; joint research activities; lectures; participation in seminars and academic meetings; exchange of published academic materials; and special short-term academic programs. Since the beginning of the agreement, administrators and staff of both universities have visited each others' campuses.



### New Students

#### China

Yiming Hu  
Yi Jin  
Man Lin  
Yuze Song  
Yi Sun  
Danyang Wang  
Heng Wang  
Xiao Xiao Wang  
Yufei Wang  
Yang Yang  
Kan Xu  
Jia Wen Zhou

#### Japan

Tomotaka Kato  
Kazuki Komatsu  
Erii Taniguchi

#### Saudi Arabia

Yousef Alabdulaal  
Mohammed Alabuabdulla  
Abdullah Alasmari

Mohammed Alesmail

Abdulsalam Alfaiifi

Ali Alfaraj

Ali Fawzi Alfaraj

Talal Alghamdi

Salem Alghubari

Madhi Alhamadi

Wardah Almahdi

Safa Alrabie

Safa Alramadhan

Majed Alrebh

Zahrh Alrebh

Balagh Alruibh

Fatimah Alsaeed

Wadea Alsaeed

Salma Alshammasi

Mohammed Althawimer

Hussain Althowimer

Ahmed Alyousif

Mohammed Alzayer

Ghufan Owaishir

#### South Korea

Ji-Won Kang

SooYoung Kim

#### Turkey

Senem Gurses

Merve Esna Kose

Ali Kurnaz

Ersin Kurt

Yildiz Nedirli



### Graduates Congratulations!

#### Fall 1

Moayad Altowaireet

#### Fall 2

Heba Abualsaud  
Mohammed Alsaeed  
Wenyan Dong  
Xiaozhen Lei  
Sen Mei  
Yuan Shen  
Jia Wen Zhou



## Fall 2010 Activities

*Shannon Farley, CIEP Promotions Assistant*

This semester, the CIEP has hosted over twenty social events for its students. These activities target areas of improvement and education for CIEP students, including opportunities to meet with other CIEP students, American UNI students and faculty, visit Iowan cities and landmarks, and improving their overall knowledge of the English language and American culture. As such, these activities play a vital role in a student's ability to speak with others in a conversational manner and within the context of American society.

### The Fall 2010 CIEP Cultural Activities included:

International Student Association (ISA) Halloween Dance

Coffee Hour with Conversation Partners

International Food Potluck

Field Trip to Des Moines

CIEP Girl's Night Out

Field Trip to Schrage Farm

International Orientation Week

UNI Homecoming Festival

Field Trip to Cedar Rapids

Wii Night

Pumpkin Carving



CIEP Instructor Julie Zagor shows off a Saudi Arabian dish called Engryah, made with stuffed eggplant and lamb, from the International Food Potluck.

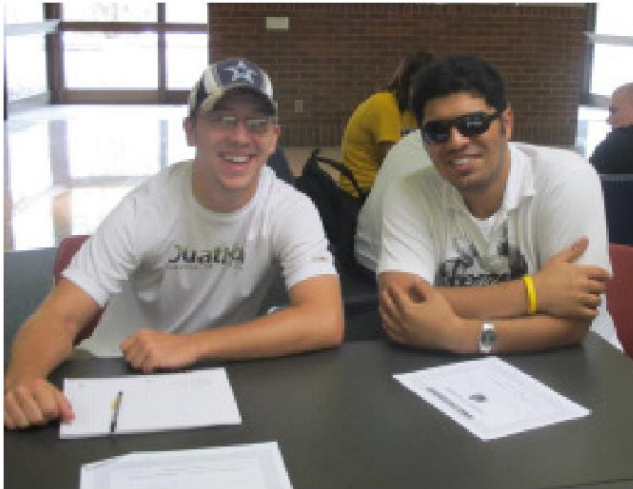


CIEP students and their Conversation Partners display their pumpkins.

## Class Exchanges

*Sally Roos, CIEP Activities Coordinator*

Every semester, students from CIEP classes meet with Human Relation students from UNI. These class exchanges give CIEP students an opportunity to practice their English conversation skills and discuss their culture while academic UNI students gain skills for working with diverse groups of people, in addition to gaining an insight into the lives of international students on campus.



Learning about different cultures is enjoyable for many American students, like Jenna Moser, an Elementary Education major. “I loved having a conversation and learning about another culture,” said Moser, “My conversation buddy has had many experiences different than mine, but we also have many similarities, as well.”

CIEP students also learned new things about American culture. “It’s not a TV show,” said Lei Xiaozhen, a CIEP student from China. “Americans are close to their families and they’re so nice.”

When CIEP students first arrived to the Human Relations class, Oakland demonstrated how the exchange worked by selecting students for a short conversation. She asked them questions such as where they were from and what they liked to do on the weekends. She then paired American and CIEP students and gave them the freedom to choose which topics they wanted to discuss. One Turkish student showed her partner pictures from her country. An American student taught his partner about American football.

“We talked about some differences between China and Iowa, including the weather, school, the food. And we talked about some hobbies we have – her job, sports and travel,” said Jiawen Zhou from China.

Communicating well was a challenge, but most American students were impressed with the CIEP students’ progress in English and enjoyed helping the international students improve their English. For CIEP students, they had a chance to speak with Americans in a fun, social situation that allowed for them to grow in their use of the English language and their understanding of American culture.



### Contact the CIEP

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