

Spring 2009

International Panther, Spring 2009

University of Northern Iowa. Culture and Intensive english Program.

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Copyright ©2009 Culture and Intensive english Program, University of Northern Iowa

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/ciepnews>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

University of Northern Iowa. Culture and Intensive english Program., "International Panther, Spring 2009" (2009). *International Panther*. 15.

<https://scholarworks.uni.edu/ciepnews/15>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Culture and Intensive English Program at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in International Panther by an authorized administrator of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.

Offensive Materials Statement: Materials located in UNI ScholarWorks come from a broad range of sources and time periods. Some of these materials may contain offensive stereotypes, ideas, visuals, or language.



The International Panther

The Culture and Intensive English Program

Spring 2009

Upcoming Activities in the CIEP

Mike Williams

Students and teachers from City College of DongGuan University of Technology in Guangdong Province of China (CCDGUT) will be coming to the CIEP to study American English and culture for three weeks this July. Not only will they be improving their English language abilities while they are here, but they will be accumulating an abundance of cultural experiences as well. This year they will travel to Iowa City to tour the state's first capital and absorb the local campus culture.

In Cedar Falls, they will have the opportunity to observe the works of regional artists on display in the College Hill Art Festival. CCDGUT students will also be sharing their own artistic and entertainment skills with other students during a CIEP talent night. They will visit a dairy farm where they can assume the role of a local farm hand. CIEP faculty, staff and students look forward to having these adventurous members from CCDGUT joining us again this summer.

From the Director

Dear Reader,

I would like to recognize some outstanding accomplishments by CIEP students. First, a former CIEP student, **Abdulellah Alsheddi**, will be presented with UNI's Lux Award for outstanding academic success and service to the University. Upon graduating with honors in Biology, he will continue to conduct research at Inove Hospital in Washington, D.C. and attend medical school nearby. We wish him well and consider his achievements an inspiration to all international students everywhere.



Second, **Nao Sato** from Kansai Gaidai University was very important in organizing the recent Japan Exhibit. Thanks to Nao's work and leadership, the exhibit was a huge success and many undergraduates and UNI folks came to participate.

Finally, I am glad for all our students' achievements these past months and wish everyone a pleasant and relaxed summer.

Regards,

Philip Ponder

Drama Class

Carol Johnson

In order to provide extended speaking practice in a creative context the CIEP has implemented a new subject: Drama. So far, members of this class have learned about pantomiming, voice acting, speech, and improvisation. Participants comment that the most difficult part at the beginning of this class was overcoming the fear of appearing foolish and mustering up the courage to perform in front of an audience.



Now, they feel that a door has opened: they are not as inhibited to stand in front of an audience and are not as self-conscious

about their body language. Participants indicate having a great deal of enjoyment while performing, a feeling of accomplishment and stronger self confidence in their English speaking skills after that.

During the speech module, students delivered individual speeches and engaged in controversial debates about Capital Punishment and Euthanasia. One of the biggest challenges, according to the members of this class, has been multitasking while speaking, that is, worrying about voice quality, eye contact, body language as well as remembering what their note cards meant and doing it all in a second language were very challenging. Also, they report that defending a position that is against their point of view in a debate is not always easy, but it is not impossible. They affirm to have found new strengths in their speaking abilities: use of moderately slow speech to make sure the audience follows, use of thought groups and techniques to pronounce clusters more easily to speak clearly, and use of eye contact with the whole audience. Hopefully, all members will present their scenes at our CIEP graduation.

1



Venus Hernandez: Former Student Profile

*Carolina Coronado &
Shannon Farley*

Venus Hernandez began her studies in the United States at the University of Northern Iowa's CIEP with very few English skills. Before she came to America, Venus worked as a dentist in Mexico but came to UNI to learn English in order to broaden her career choices. Through intensive study in speaking, writing, and reading and interaction with native and non-native speakers, she was able to use the English skills that she learned in CIEP to help her succeed in her university studies. Within one year at the CIEP, she moved from the Bridge level all the way to level 7. Venus is still living in the United States and is currently working on a Master's

Degree in the Public Health Department at UNI, focusing on community health education.

Venus' favorite feature of the CIEP was that not only do international students get the chance to interact with Americans, but also with each other. Often times in her classes, she was only able to communicate with others using English, which enhanced her understanding of the language. She also greatly enjoyed having Conversation Partners during her time in the CIEP. This was how she first started making American friends on campus and it also helped her to learn a more casual version of English.

Venus suggests that future international students come to the CIEP because the best way to learn English is in the United States surrounded by native and non-native speakers to get a full grasp on the language. She suggests to current CIEP students to sign up for a Conversation Partner and to try to talk with American students as much as possible. She said, "There are many Americans who want to make friends with international students." Don't miss out on an opportunity to make new friends!

New Students

Belgium

Thibault Vandennebe

Brazil

Marilia da Silva

China

ShiYuan He

Fan Liang

Nan Liang

Shun Wang

Guang Yan

Tingting Zhang

China

Judith Pena Quevedo

Germany

Kathrin Greving

Japan

Kayoko Takada

Mexico

Adriana Ayala

Ana Chavez

Eva Machuca

Russia

Volodya Tkachenko

Natasha Tokar

Tanya Zueva

Rwanda

Diane Ihimbazwe

Saudi Arabia

Mohammed Alabkri

Ghaleb Aldalouj
Faisal Hadi Alfahhad

Ahlam Alfaraj

Sakhr Alfaris

Abdullah Alfihaid

Moayad Alhodaithy

Munthir Alhudaithi

Saleh Alhudaithi

Hussain Aljishi

Emad Alluhaidan

Mohammed Almubarak

Abdulmohsen Alnasser

Nawaf Alosaimi

Zahra Alowa

Abdullah Rashid Alqahtani

Mohammed Alqahtani

Ali Dia Al-Qudaihi

Ali AlRobh

Mahmoud Alsaihati

Moayad Altowaireet

Sarah Altowaireet

Naif Alwayli

South Korea

Bin Kim

Jongchan Lee

Sang Hun Lee

Jeajun Yoo

Turkey

Kadir Zora

Suleyman Kilicaslan

CIEP Graduates

Congratulations to the Spring 1 and prospective Spring 2 2009 graduates! We are very proud of all of you and appreciate all of your hard work during your time at the CIEP!

Spring 1

Amal Almohsen

Sultan Alharthi

Taherah Aljishi

Mengna Liang

Spring 2

Ju Young Lee

Mika Matsumoto

Ayako Mukai

Noriko Ogawa

Nao Sato

Shujiro Yoshida

Xiaoya Zhang



Class Exchanges

Shannon Farley

Each session, CIEP students in a chosen Listening/Speaking class get the opportunity to visit with an academic class from UNI. This allows them to apply their English skills while talking with American students who, in turn, get to learn about another culture. This mutually beneficial practice allows both parties to get the chance to learn something new. It is especially helpful for CIEP students due to the fact that they are able to converse in English with a native speaker their own age.

For each exchange, the students are generally given a topic to discuss, such as conflict resolution, friendship or other relevant issues. After splitting up into groups of three or four, students will first ask each other 'ice breaker' questions before getting to the main topic at hand. The goal is to have an interesting conversation on a familiar theme and to see where differences occur given that some answers may vary from culture to culture. By the end of their discussions, students may come away with a different mindset when it comes to the subject after having learned about how various cultures approach it.

After students are finished, their teachers may ask them to write a summary about who they talked to and what about. They may ask them if the answers were what

they expected, or not and how that has changed their point of view regarding the topic.

This sharing of cultural intricacies and opinions is a great opportunity for both UNI students and CIEP students because they get to experience another culture's point of view when it comes to an easily-relatable topic. Not only are differences shared, but similarities as well. Music especially is often cross-cultural. These class exchanges offer a great way to create new international friendships.



Iowa Senior Citizens and CIEP

Mike Williams

Eight members of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) have been providing eager ears and advice about American English and Culture every Tuesday afternoon to students in the Listening and Speaking classes of the Culture and Intensive English Program. The volunteers, many of whom are retired teachers, and students meet each afternoon for English conversation and



discussions about American culture, especially as it connects to them locally in Iowa and the Midwest. Not only do the CIEP students practice the English they have learned in their classes, but also learn more about the local culture and ways of expressing themselves. The RSVP volunteers benefit as well, learning more about the students and the countries and cultures from which they come. This has turned out to be a win-win situation for both groups.

Spring 2009 CIEP Culture Activities

Caiyi Deng & Shannon Farley



Field Trip to Pella

At the beginning of April, CIEP students visited a “touch of Holland”—Pella, Iowa. Students were given an interesting tour of the Dutch Windmill. Then they visited the Historical Village to learn more about the early life of Dutch immigrants. The pair of yellow wooden shoes in the picture is part of the traditional outfit worn by the Dutch in Pella.

Pizza Night

CIEP students spent a fun evening making their own pizzas with UNI students in their dorm hall’s kitchen. Many toppings and cheeses were made available to students and after cooking, they all sat down together to enjoy their delicious creations.



Lamost International Potluck

An international potluck was held at Lamost Theater in Cedar Falls. Many CIEP students, UNI students and local residents participated in this potluck. All attendees got the chance to enjoy food from other countries, as well as a wonderful musical performance.



Conversation Partner Recognition Night

On April 25th, CIEP students and their conversation partners got together to recognize all conversation partners’ participation. At first, some CIEP students and their partners helped with preparing pancakes while others set up the tables. When the recognition time came, CIEP students wrote down what they wanted to say on “thank you” cards, which they then gave to their partners, along with certificates to express how thankful they were.



Host Family Meet and Greet Night

Early in the year, host families and new CIEP students met each other for the first time. They had good conversations and shared their cultures with one another. After this initial meeting, CIEP students will visit their host families at least once a month for dinner or a family activity in order to learn more about the English language and American culture.



Bowling Night

CIEP students spent a fun night at Maple Lanes Bowling Alley. During Quarter Mania night, customers may buy snacks for just a quarter. Students spent the night bowling with their friends and conversation partners. Look at their smiles! They were having a good time.

Black Hawk Elementary Visitation Day

A group of Black Hawk Elementary students came to visit UNI. CIEP students from Japan, Saudi Arabia, Korea, and China played games and shared their cultures with the 50 young children. While the children were having fun, they were also learning more about the world.



Japan Exhibition

The CIEP sponsored a Japan Exhibition to inform UNI students of the Japanese culture. Students were able to taste some traditional Japanese food and view displays which informed them about Japanese culture. The Japanese students gave a few performances and presentations to illustrate their culture. They also performed a traditional Japanese dance called *soran-bushi*!

A Little Bit of Japan at UNI

Sally Calcara

Seven students from Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, Japan, who are currently enrolled in the Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP), held an exhibition about their culture on Friday, April 17 from 11 am to 2 pm. Japanese sushi samples drew a crowd to the Japan Exhibition, but presentations by students from Kansai Gaidai kept the crowd interested in learning about their culture.

The CIEP sponsored the event to inform UNI students and staff and the Cedar Falls community about the way of life in Japan. UNI students had the opportunity to see, taste, hear and celebrate the Japanese culture. For many years, Kansai Gaidai University has sent over a group of students to learn English at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) through the CIEP.

“Since there are a few Japanese in UNI, we thought it would be a good chance for people to know about Japan,” said Nao Sato, a Kansai Gaidai student.

The students dressed in a traditional costume called “happi” to perform a traditional Japanese dance called “soran-bushi.” CIEP Japanese students also prepared poster displays informing attendees about school, leisure, food, fashion and humorous aspects of Japanese culture. Liv Summerlot, a UNI student who studied abroad at Kansai Gaidai University, also created a board about her experiences in Japan.

“I wanted to make something that would really show off the Kansai Gaidai campus and get other students excited,” said Summerlot.

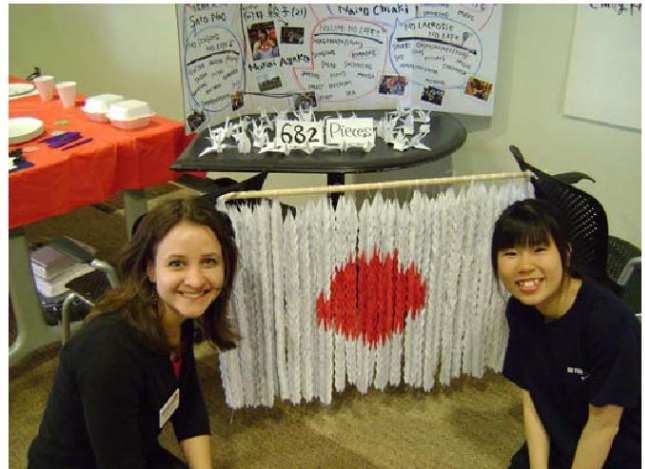
Each of the students gave a presentation about various topics, incorporating slideshows and skits to keep the audience entertained. Sato wanted to use humor to keep the crowd laughing and learning, but she said this was a challenge.

“We had a hard time to think how to make Japan look fun,” said Sato. “We didn’t want the event to be boring, so we tried to show modern Japanese culture; however, it was more difficult to show people Japanese culture in English than we had expected.”

According to Sato, they tried to use their resources. They discussed their experiences with roommates from the United States and searched the internet about the Japanese reputation in the U.S. Some things that were normal in Japan were amusing and unusual for people from other cultures.

While the students spent a lot of time preparing the displays, the most time-consuming element was creating a Japanese flag made out of 682 origami cranes. The Kansai Gaidai students spent hours folding paper cranes and taught several students from the U.S. how to make them as well. They strung the cranes together and hung them on a pole to be displayed at the exhibit. The flag was the first thing attendees saw when they walked into the room.

Overall, Summerlot said the event was very successful, and she was happy to be a part of it, “Plus, it felt like I could re-experience a little bit of Japan even while in the U.S.”



Contact the CIEP

Culture and Intensive English Program

University of Northern Iowa

72 Baker Hall

Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0511

Phone: (319) 273-2182

Fax: (319) 273-3333

Email: ciep@uni.edu

Web site: www.uni.edu/ciep