

Summer 2015

International Panther, Summer 2015

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international

panther

SUMMER 2015



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



contents



UNI Connections: International Students & Scholars Office

>> Page 4

CIEP Current Student: Firuza Nabievna from Tajikistan

>> Page 5

CIEP Culture & Social Activities

>> Page 6

CIEP Staff Spotlight: Student Employees >> Page 7

CIEP Special Program: Projecta 100,000 Strong

>> Page 8

Brazil Scientific Mobility Program Special Program

>> Page 9

CIEP Intercultural Workshop >> Page 9

CIEP Staff Initiatives >> Page 10

CIEP World's Window Staff Overseas >> Page 12

Our Mission

The overall mission of the Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP) is to provide International Students with quality intensive academic English language instruction and a cultural orientation to the United States in preparation for study at the University of Northern Iowa or other institution of higher learning.

FROM THE CIEP Director

Dear Readers,

Certainly, with the beautiful summer campus, it has been almost impossible not to lose sight of the fact that the summer term is still a term. Having that in mind, we have continued to challenge ourselves professionally and academically during this quiet, but no less busy, time. In the end, I can say with much satisfaction that everyone has done an exceptional job on each level. Based on teacher-class evaluations and various other survey results, students have shown overwhelming satisfaction and appreciation for their teachers and the services provided in our program. The CIEP's highest priority is our students' academic improvement and satisfaction.

This summer the CIEP enrolled students from over 14 different countries including: Afghanistan, Brazil, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Tajikistan. We had a unique group of students with very diverse cultural and professional backgrounds who shared a great sense of camaraderie and friendship. It has been a joy to work with all of them.

Our summer students came to our program to either polish their English, learn the language to pursue academic studies at UNI, or gain new professional skills. For instance, the CIEP hosted the first group of Mexican students from the Projecta 100,000 initiative as part of the U.S. – Mexico higher education bilateral program. These students were integrated into the regular program for four weeks and took an extra course on pronunciation and American culture. The goals of the class were to develop an understanding of general U.S. culture, increase speaking fluency and accuracy, and improve pronunciation. Lauren Rein, CIEP Academic Support Assistant, worked closely with this group of students and created the curriculum for this new course. In this publication, you will be able to read more about the Projecta program and their academic experience at UNI and the CIEP. We anticipate welcoming more Projecta students to our campus this coming October.

During this summer, we also welcomed ten Brazilian undergraduate students as part of a government-sponsored program, the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program (BSMP). The CIEP was the only program selected in Iowa to receive BSMP students. Thank you to the Institute of International Education (IIE) for their trust. This is the fourth BSMP group that we have hosted throughout the 2014-2015 academic year. Additionally, this is the fourth group of BSMP to be admitted into academic programs at UNI. The summer group will start their undergraduate studies this fall semester. Congratulations to all of them!

The overall mission of the CIEP is to provide International Students with quality intensive academic English language instruction and a cultural orientation to the United States in preparation for study at the University of Northern Iowa or other institution of higher learning. With the responsibility of bringing international students to campus,

we are committed to continuing to learn and share with the rest of the UNI community the best practices of integrating and communicating in a culturally sensitive manner with international students. This past July, the CIEP sponsored the workshop for UNI staff and faculty: "Using Intercultural Tools to Understand and Support Middle Eastern Students." The event was also supported by the UNI Office of International Programs and International Students and Scholars Office. One hundred nine participants attended the workshop, and, based on fifty seven evaluation responses, most of the participants were very satisfied with the event. Also, participants stated that they will be able to apply most of the communication tools that were provided at the workshop into their work and daily interaction with Middle Eastern students. Kudos to Olivia Randolph, the CIEP Human Resources and Administrative Assistant, for organizing the event and to Cristy Steffen, the CIEP Promotions and Admissions Specialist, for her excellent promotion of the workshop. Stay tuned for the next one... We hope to sponsor a similar event next Spring 2016.

The International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) is a natural partner for the CIEP on campus. We work closely to support international students by ensuring that students feel welcome and learn about the different academic and social resources available to them on campus and in the community. ISSO provides services for international students, whether enrolled in academic or CIEP classes, and both offices act as counterparts to meet students' needs related to immigration or educational matters. In this newsletter, we have included an article about the remarkable work that the ISSO staff does in order to serve international students at UNI.

Similarly, at the CIEP we are lucky to employ an excellent group of instructional and administrative staff that range from full-time teachers and administrators to student employees. In this issue, we have featured our dedicated student employees who contribute to serving international students by taking many administrative responsibilities with the utmost professionalism and commitment. Don't miss the article about their passion for working with international students and their future professional goals. They are excellent colleagues to work with and future leaders!

This summer has been busy and productive at the CIEP. We had a full house this past session; almost all of the CIEP instructional and administrative staff have been working on various tasks. For instance, the Reading Committee has

fully implemented the newly created reading curriculum. A Listening/Speaking Curriculum Review Committee has been established and has started their work and research analyzing liberal art course syllabi to identify listening and speaking tasks required by UNI Professors at the undergraduate level. Also, the Foundations and Level One Committee has developed the structure of the curriculum for both of the new levels, selected books for the three skills areas, and created the corresponding student learning outcomes. Similarly, the CIEP administrators have been investigating the possibility of eliminating our third-party databases (GradeKeeper, TerraDotta, Smartsheet) and relying solely on UNI systems (eLearning and Student Information System (SIS)). It is still a work in progress, but we are hopeful that soon we will be able to streamline all our processes. For more information, we have included a summary of these projects in this issue.

During this past summer, two staff members had the opportunity to travel overseas to represent the CIEP and UNI. Carol Anne Floyd, CIEP Academic Support Assistant, traveled with Phil Plourde, Interim Director of the Office of International Programs, Dr. Scott Greenhalgh, Assistant Professor with the UNI Department of Technology, and two UNI students and study abroad participants: Nicole Hegewald and Sam Kapler, to Daegu, South Korea to visit Kyungpook National University (KNU). Similarly, Sally Roos, CIEP Student Services Coordinator, traveled to Shanghai, China to teach a one-month English academic writing course at Shanghai Dianji University. Thank you to both Carol and Sally for taking this opportunity and representing our institution so well.

There is no doubt that it has been a challenging but successful summer at the CIEP. We are thrilled to be working with international students, and we strive to improve our program to best meet their needs. There is still much more to do this fall semester, and we are looking forward to welcoming our returning and new students. Best of luck to everyone in the upcoming semester and academic year!

Carolina Coronado-Park

Carolina Coronado-Park,
CIEP Interim Director



International Students & Scholars Office

advising and supporting UNI international students

By Tucker Olson, CIEP Office Assistant

It is a unique opportunity when a campus can comprise an international student community as strong as the University of Northern Iowa's (UNI's). Whether students come from abroad to study English or enroll in university classes, the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) and the Culture & Intensive English Program (CIEP) are complementary partners to support these students during their US American university experience.

ISSO is located on the upper level of the Maucker Union in room 113. ISSO works to support international students through immigration and personal advising, International Student Orientation (ISO), and programming events. The CIEP and ISSO work together to provide services for international students, whether enrolled in academic classes or CIEP classes, and act as counterparts to meet students' needs.

The ISSO staff is composed of Genevieve Beecher, Associate Director; Ross Schupbach, Immigration and Advising Coordinator; Julie Hill, Secretary; and Felix Weigel, Graduate Assistant. Each staff member interacts with the CIEP within their respective duties to address any student concerns or needs that arise.

The CIEP and ISSO tend to have a lot of crossover among students. As Ross notes, "CIEP students are UNI students, that's how I see them. I provide the same advice and assistance as needed for those students as I would for other students." Genevieve added that she hopes all students feel welcome coming to ISSO with questions, regardless of their academic designations.

"A lot of the students we work with on campus may start their program at CIEP, as conditional admits, and then move over to UNI to start their academic program. We help students with their needs during that transition period and understanding that relationship," explains Genevieve.

One of the main functions of ISSO is to maintain university immigration records regarding international students. Ross mentions that immigration policy has been stable over the past few years, with the exception of an updated I-20 design. Julie recommends students be proactive regarding their immigration statuses. She mentions that cultural differences in time can often be a challenge where some cultures view time limits as more fluid than US Americans do. Nonetheless, the ISSO staff works to bridge those differences to help the students however they can.

Genevieve explains how immigration is both a valuable part of their duties while it can also spur hardships,

"I think policies and regulations are really important, but that can also be challenging at times for wanting to help a student be successful and meet their needs. But sometimes we have to give them the bad news too." Nonetheless, she emphasizes that the ISSO staff is always available to help at any stage in the process.

The ISSO staff also concentrates on providing programming for international students such as International Student Orientation (ISO), trips, and cultural events. Genevieve explains,

"I like the balance of having structures and policies in place [for immigration] and then also the creative outlet of developing orientation programming and new ways of getting students engaged."

Felix and Genevieve work to prepare for International Student Orientation (ISO) which aims to help students adjust to the new campus community and US American culture. This year's orientation will see a number of changes including cooperating with the Dean of Students Office to incorporate international students into the extended orientation for domestic students, reinstating a peer mentoring program, and focusing on small group sessions to create more opportunity for individual engagement.

After orientation, the ISSO staff continues its programming efforts to offer students opportunities to immerse themselves in the campus community, share their cultures, and enrich their time at UNI. The ISSO and CIEP have a history of cooperating regarding these efforts. Often CIEP students and ISSO students are invited to each other's events. However, both offices try not to duplicate one another's events in order to make a wide array of opportunities for the students as a whole. Julie also works to update the ISSO's website with photos from the events and to advertise upcoming deadlines and events through their weekly newsletter, which anyone is welcome to request.

Above all, the ISSO staff emphasizes how they want to be a welcoming place for anyone's questions. As Julie says,

"I like to make them feel like we care about them, that we're going to do something about their problems, if they have any, and that we're going to help them." ■



Firuza Shikirova

CIEP CURRENT STUDENT

By Beth Dove, CIEP Graduate Teaching Assistant

Firuza Shikirova is no stranger to language learning. At the early age of four, Firuza began to learn her second language, Russian, the language in which she would eventually earn her high school degree. In addition to speaking Russian and Tajik, her native language, Firuza also speaks English, Uzbek, and Persian.

Originally from the country of Tajikistan, Firuza moved to Moscow several years ago to pursue a degree in Geological Engineering from Moscow State University where she is a junior. Because it's her dream to speak English extremely well, Firuza is taking a break from her engineering studies to improve her English language skills here in the CIEP. What attracted Firuza to the CIEP, in addition to learning English, was the cultural aspect of the program. Firuza enjoys the opportunity to learn about American culture in class as well as the cultures of her classmates. She says,

"It's not only an English program, it's Culture. I can learn American culture in my intensive English courses!"

Interestingly, Firuza is learning some Spanish words from her Mexican roommate as well as the art of salsa dancing. Likewise, Firuza is teaching her roommate Russian.

When asked about her first impression of Cedar Falls, Firuza quickly responds with warm remarks about the friendly people of the Cedar Valley. In addition to the people,

Firuza lists a dozen more things she likes about living in Cedar Falls including its clean and safe parks and of course, the food, especially chili and pizza from the Other Place.

When Firuza tells family and friends back home about her experience in the CIEP, she mentions all the things that would normally make parents feel comforted: excellent and well qualified teachers, an enormous library where she can study and improve her communication skills, and friendly people from all over the world. Then, she continues to talk about what she likes to do in her free time, like participate in the CIEP activities such as Conversation Hour.

She also enjoys traveling and has taken advantage of the weekend excursions the CIEP offers. Firuza has visited Backbone State Park, Chicago, and Galena and would like to continue to see and do more while she's here. She also likes to go out for dinner or coffee with friends, shop, watch movies, and go to the gym.

Firuza hopes to continue to study in the CIEP during the upcoming academic year with her "great teachers." When she returns to Moscow, Firuza will finish her bachelor's degree then hopes to get a job in the field of geological engineering or perhaps education. ■



CIEP Social & Cultural Activities

My Waterloo Days

The CIEP was able to help kick off My Waterloo Days as a great way to end the first week of classes! Students joined the festival by visiting downtown Waterloo, watching the parade, and checking out the food vendors for dinner. Some students said it was the first time they had seen a parade, but the favorite part of the night seemed to be walking across the bridge and seeing the Cedar River.

Dubuque and Galena Trip

The CIEP trip to Dubuque, Iowa and Galena, Illinois was a group favorite! Students were able to either ride the Mississippi River boat or visit the Mississippi River Museum in Dubuque. Students also had the chance to shop and eat dinner in Galena, Illinois!

CIEP Baseball Game

After the culture talk led by Andrés Morera, the students had the chance to play a game of baseball. It was great to see students play, especially those who tried the sport for their first time with us!

Culture Talks

This summer, students participated in several cultural talks including talks about baseball, the impact of history on culture, language learning strategies, driving in the U.S. and the John Papajohn Entrepreneurial Center. Presentors included: Jay Goulden, Andres Morera, Sam Roche, Tucker Olson, Chloe Lim, Katelyn Eppert, and Katherine Kota-Uyar.

Sturgis Falls Parade and Scavenger Hunt

The CIEP attended the annual Sturgis Falls celebrations for the parade to see what "small town" Midwestern traditions are like in the summer! The scavenger hunt was a crowd-pleaser because students were able to converse with local people and learn more about the town of Cedar Falls.

4th of July Celebration & Fireworks

The CIEP went to the National Cattle Congress in Waterloo to celebrate Independence Day and watch fireworks! When the show finished students were having so much fun that we stayed a little longer and listened to a live band that was playing. The band clapped for us and thanked the CIEP group when it was time to leave because the students had been such great fans and danced to each song!

CIEP BBQ

In order to celebrate the holiday weekend the CIEP gathered for a barbecue, outdoor games, and conversation! The event was filled with laughs and bonding time between new and old students! The weather was perfect and we ended the night ended by sharing popular songs and dances from different cultures!

Backbone State Park Trip

This was one of the favorite trips and activities of the summer! Students spent the day at Backbone State Park which is located in Dundee, Iowa. Upon arriving, students had a picnic grill-out before being led around a few different trails by a naturalist from the park. After hiking the beautiful trails, the group went canoeing and paddle boating in a small lake at the park. It was a day full of adventure!

Conversation Hours

Each Wednesday during the summer session, the CIEP gathered for a conversation hour with local volunteers. A few activities at these sessions included discussions about Cedar Falls and hometowns, weddings, how to order at a restaurant, and playing board games! ■

By Katelyn Eppert, CIEP Activities Assistant

Meet the CIEP Student Employees!

By Olivia Randolph, CIEP Human Resources & Administrative Assistant



Running a successful program requires dedicated students, teachers, and administrators. The CIEP is lucky to have talented students, committed teachers, and devoted administrators, ranging from staff who have been with the department for 10 months to over 10 years. In addition to employing full-time teachers and administrators, the CIEP relies on the work of its part time administrative student employees.

Administrative student workers are employed as Activity Assistants, Administrative Assistants, Assessment Assistants, Housekeepers, Multimedia Assistants, and Office Assistants. They perform a wide range of tasks specific to their job duties, but they all support the CIEP and help make it the program that it is. In return, CIEP administrative student workers gain real life professional skills that can help them succeed in their future professional goals.

Mason Greer, CIEP Multimedia Assistant, has been with the program since December 2014. Even though he has been with the program for less than a year, he already feels a though he knows the CIEP students and staff.

"My favorite part about working in CIEP is the close environment of people. My job allows me to get to know not just the faculty but the community of students."

CIEP Activities Assistant, Katelyn Eppert, echoes the same sentiment.

"I love that I get to meet people from all over the world."

As a TESOL-teaching major, Katelyn applied for her position because she loves meeting new people, working with international students, and to prepare for her work as a teacher. Throughout her time in CIEP, she has been able to further develop her leadership and cross-cultural communication skills, two abilities that she believes are important to have as a teacher.

De'Sean Taylor, CIEP Assessment Assistant, also applied for his position to help better his future (professional) skills. As a Finance major who handles a lot of data, De'Sean enjoys the continuous nature of working in the CIEP.

"My position requires a lot of problem-solving

and data analyzing. I've been able to learn efficient and effective ways to create data reports that are concise and easy to read," he says. "I've also developed my cross-cultural communication skills and my ability to work on a diverse team and serve a diverse population of students."

Andres Morera, CIEP Marketing and Activities Assistant (he also served as the Activities Coordinator in July 2015) joined the staff at the beginning of the summer to help produce marketing materials and assist in the Student Services Office. As an international student from Costa Rica, he loves seeing the spectrum of cultures of the students studying in the CIEP.

"Cross-cultural friendships help you understand your own culture," he says.

Andres also loves that, in addition to strong academics, the CIEP provides informal ways for students to learn about culture.

"The student services office and activities give good support to the academic coursework. The activities help students informally learn about culture, and they are able to learn from each other and share their cultures with other students and the community."

Office Assistant Tucker Olson thoroughly enjoys interacting and working with international students at the activities and in an office setting.

"I applied for my position because of my interest in linguistics and language acquisition, as well as my desire to work in the structure of an office environment," he says. "Now, I really like the staff and interacting with and helping the students. I get to learn a lot about things that really interest me."

Regardless of their position, the CIEP administrative student workers are a vital part of the program. They can be found in the student services office, at activities, and in the main office. To learn more about the CIEP student workers, visit their profile pages on the CIEP website at <http://www.uni.edu/ciep/our-staff>. ■

*Thank you to the CIEP student employees
for all that you do!*



U.S.-Mexico Higher Education Initiative brings students to CIEP

By Andres Morera, CIEP Activities Assistant

Alejo, Dalia, Ernestina, and Leticia agreed that meeting people from around the world at the University of Northern Iowa has made their experience in Cedar Falls invaluable. They are the first students from the the PROYECTA 100,000 Initiative, a U.S.-Mexico higher education bilateral initiative, to come to UNI.

When they applied in Mexico to study English in the United States, they didn't know that their favorite part about studying at our Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP) would be meeting people from so many countries. Since they came to study for a short period of time, they spent every minute of their four-week summer program with their classmates on campus, as well as participating in CIEP activities and trips.

"My favorite part of studying in the CIEP is that I am meeting many new people from all over the world and I am learning a lot of U.S. culture, people, and their lives in general," said Ernestina.

Alejo Rodriguez and Dalia Gomez are both undergraduates of Forest Engineering at the Instituto Tecnológico del Valle de Oaxaca México. They knew each other before this experience, and came together with the idea of learning more about the U.S. culture and to improve their listening and speaking skills. Ernestina Paz-Gamboa is a researcher and faculty member at the Instituto Tecnológico de Tuxtepec, México. Ernestina's goals included improving her reading and writing skills, as well as learning from Midwestern culture for her various responsibilities at the Institute.

"I often need to communicate in English and that is why I am here... to improve my English," commented Ernestina.

Leticia Aguilar is a coordinator at the Foreign Language Department at the Instituto Tecnológico de la Zona Maya, where she is also a faculty member. Leticia's began the CIEP with a higher English level and she was even asked to be an interpreter for a few CIEP activities. She has the goal of continuing her doctoral degree and pursuing new academic challenges.

"I applied for the Proyecta scholarship because I wanted to

improve my English and experience life in the United States," said Leticia.

They knew their short-term program was not going to last long, so the students were highly motivated to start meeting people and they were quick to strike up conversations, attend gatherings of all kinds, and participate in all the extracurricular activities the CIEP had planned for the summer.

Ernestina and Leticia said they are amazed by the skills of the instructors at the CIEP and they plan to use some teaching techniques they've learned here. This experience has positively impacted their lives and motivated them to continue studying English in their home country as they go back to work or continue with their academic endeavors.

Alejo and Dalia said they would finish their undergraduate program in Forest Engineering and apply for a Master's in the U.S. This will require them to continue learning English, and they are determined to apply again next year to the CIEP. Leticia and Ernestina are also considering bringing other students from their institutions to CIEP next summer.

Alejo, Dalia, Ernestina, and Leticia often commented that Iowa is the most beautiful and peaceful place they have ever visited. They all had great things to say about Cedar Falls and the UNI campus. Ernestina said,

"From campus I really like the tower with the Campanile. From Iowa, the security and peacefulness, and also the technology that has been developed in agriculture."

Leticia said that she truly enjoyed the nature and the people from Cedar Falls, explaining,

"I feel comfortable and happy here."

Also, they all agreed that the trip to Backbone State Park was a great experience. They all have strong attachments with nature and being able to hike two natural trails inside the park and paddle in the lake amazed them.

The CIEP was glad to have this group of students from the PROYECTA 100,000 Initiative and the CIEP looks forward to additional groups in the future. ■

Using Intercultural Tools to Understand & Support Middle Eastern Students



On Monday, July 27, over 90 UNI staff and faculty participated in a workshop which focused on Middle Eastern culture and offered tools to support and understand students from this region. The workshop was led by Ms. Angela Kapely, a Fulbright Visiting Lecturer in the Middle East. Ms. Kapely is currently teaching at the University of Bahrain, Bahrain Teacher's College. The workshop was sponsored by the CIEP and the International Students & Scholars Office.

The goals of this event were to help participants recognize intercultural theory and cultural foundations of the Middle East and to understand the ways culture influences behavior, actions, and values. The workshop also provided participants with tools to communicate and interact with Middle Eastern students in a culturally sensitive manner. Finally, this event helped participants understand how to use culture-specific knowledge to recognize and advocate for the needs of Middle Eastern students on the UNI campus. Participants even had the chance to learn some Arabic words!

Over 30 campus departments were represented at the workshop. Additionally, some of our colleagues from other local institutions such as Hawkeye Community College and Allen College attended the workshop as well.

Overall, the workshop was a great success. In a post-workshop survey, participants commented on the information provided and the ways it can help them in their work at UNI:

"Singlehandedly, the best workshop I've been to where I can directly apply what I've learned to my daily work."

"It was so great to have the opportunity to discuss the challenges and successes of working with Middle Eastern students and to discuss best practices."

The CIEP hopes to continue to offer additional workshops in the future to help UNI staff & faculty to continue to support ESL and international students on our campus.

For more information about this workshop and future opportunities, please visit: www.uni.edu/ciep/workshops. ■

CIEP Welcomes Fourth Cohort of BSMP Students

In June 2015, ten students from the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program (BSMP) joined the University of Northern Iowa. These students will spend one year at UNI through the BSMP scholarship program. BSMP students have the opportunity to participate in six weeks of English language training, one year of academic training, followed by a summer internship in their field of study.

While in CIEP, the students participated in the regular program classes including 20 hours of coursework per week in the areas of Reading, Listening/Speaking and Writing/Grammar. The group also had the chance to participate in many of the CIEP activities and trips. They participated in conversation hours, the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP), Fourth of July celebration activities, summer barbecues, CIEP sports events, local town and city celebrations, and some even traveled to Dubuque, Iowa and Galena, Illinois with other CIEP students.

These students are the fourth group of BSMP students that have studied in the CIEP. During Summer 2015, UNI was the only university in the Iowa to receive students from this program for intensive English language training.

Beginning in Fall 2015, students from this cohort will begin academic classes at UNI. The CIEP staff have enjoyed working with this group and we look forward to additional groups in the future! ■

2015 Summer BSMP Students: Caibe Alves Pereira, Vitor Daronco Freire, Maick Eugenio, Heitor Figueiredo Fernandes, Alexandre Gamboa Henrique, Rafael Lima Traspadini, Gabriel Augusto Naves Teixeira, Daniel Pimentel Fernandes de Souza, Erika Pinheiro Machado, and Bianca Sucupira Neves

For more information about the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program, please visit: <http://www.iie.org/programs/brazil-scientific-mobility>



CIEP STAFF INITIATIVES

By Rebekah Offield, Secretary II

Our goal within the Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP) at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) is to offer the best education to our students and set them up for success as they pursue academic studies at the university level. We are constantly looking for ways to enhance our program and expand the number of opportunities for our students. One way we do this is by examining curriculum, getting student and instructor feedback, and studying student performance. We also work to create an efficient and friendly office environment so students know their needs are met and we can provide answers to their questions as quickly as possible. Our instructors and administrative staff have been busy working to enrich the CIEP and support the students and staff with whom we have the privilege to work.

Enrollment & Attendance Tracking Updates

For several months, administrative staff members, Ana Bender, Cristy Steffen, and Carolina Coronado-Park, have been working to explore the possibility of using the UNI systems, Student Information Services (SIS) and eLearning, to replace our third-party databases. We have been working closely with Information Technology Services (ITS), the Office of the Registrar, and Student Affairs to implement these steps. While still a work in progress, we may be the first department on campus to use attendance tracking through SIS. This process has taken and continues to require time, hard work, and patience, and we appreciate all of this effort as we work to bring even more efficiency to the CIEP.

New Online Application

Beginning last spring, Cristy Steffen has been working with other UNI staff, including Mike Holmes, Chad Wittrock, and Tom Reburn, to create a new online application for prospective CIEP students. The new online application will allow for the CIEP students to be integrated into the UNI Application system. This will allow for more customization in the application resulting in a better user-experience for the applicants, and faster and more efficient processing procedures for CIEP staff. The new online application will also give applicants the ability to upload all application documents electronically, pay the application fee by credit card, and create a UNI CatID at the time of application. Guides to completing the new application will be available in several languages.

Curriculum Updates

Petra Maier, Academic Support Specialist, and Christina Tsimpides, Academic Support Assistant, have been working to create a Level 1 and revamp the Foundations Level, previously referred to as the Bridge Level, for the CIEP. Petra and Christina have meticulously developed the structure of the curriculum for both levels, selected books, and created the Student Learning Outcomes for the three skill levels: Listening/Speaking, Reading, and Writing. They will continue to develop course materials and standardized exams during Fall 2015 so Foundations and Level 1 can be implemented in Spring 2016.

A Listening/Speaking Curriculum Committee was formed this summer as well. Lauren Rein and Tom Riedmiller, Academic Support Specialists, along with Jeannie Kleinhaus, Academic Support Assistant, will be doing research, conducting interviews with UNI faculty and Academic Learning Center staff, and developing curriculum and standardized exams to enhance our existing Listening/Speaking curriculum.

Additionally, the Instructor Reading Committee has fully implemented the newly created reading curriculum for Levels 2 through 7 of our program. During the Fall 2015 Semester, Academic Support Specialists, Jaime Lyon and Emily Luttrell-Narigon will be reviewing the Reading exams and curriculum based on instructors' feedback.

Special Programs

Lauren Rein, Academic Support Specialist, developed the American Culture and Pronunciation Course this summer for the Mexican students in the Proyecto Special Program. The same course was be offered this fall to Brazilian students in the Gammon Special Program. Lauren also wrote guidelines for developing curriculum and creating assessments and course materials for the CIEP Immersion Programs, which are special programs designed to introduce international students to American culture and give them a shortened, yet content-packed term of English language study.

Imaging

The CIEP administrative staff is working with individuals from ITS and Student Affairs to begin storing files electronically in OnBase, UNI's electronic file repository. UNI has been using imaging software since July 2008 and started using OnBase in April 2012. Currently, OnBase is being used by Admissions, Financial Aid, Human Resource Services, the Office of the Registrar, the Office of Business Operations, the UNI Foundation, and the Graduate College. Staff members, Carolina Coronado-Park, Cristy Steffen, Ana Bender, Rebekah Offield, and Tucker Olson are examining the flow of communication through the CIEP and organizing how documents are handled and stored. Transitioning document storage from paper files to electronic files and is also helping us see how we can improve procedures to create an even more efficient and resourceful work environment.

Library Catalog and Inventory

Tucker Olson, CIEP Office Assistant, is working diligently this summer to record all the books and materials in the CIEP Library. He is taking inventory and assigning bar codes to books, CDs, and all electronic devices so that we can switch our check out procedures in 2016. The hope is that this will simplify the check-out process and help us keep a very accurate inventory of the CIEP Library. Our main goal is that

the library be a valuable and useful resource for our instructors as they work with students and conduct research.

UNI and Community Connections

Olivia Randolph, Human Resources and Administrative Assistant, is responsible for coordinating and organizing professional development opportunities for the CIEP staff. She recently organized an insightful, university and community wide workshop, which focused on working with Middle Eastern students. The workshop entitled "Using Intercultural Tools to Understand and Support Middle Eastern Students," was led by Ms. Angela Kapely, who has several years of experience working with and teaching students in and from the Middle East.

Olivia is also working with Cristy Steffen, Promotions and Admissions Specialist, on a proposal and application for the Reaching for Higher Ground Grant. The CIEP staff hopes to obtain this grant in order to fund future workshops like the one held this summer that encourage and promote positive and effective communication with students and people of all different backgrounds and ethnicities and to create an even better understanding between different cultures.

Andrés Morera, Activities and Promotions Assistant, who works with our Student Services Coordinator, Sally Roos, has worked to create videos and a collage of photographs of the CIEP activities and daily routine this summer. He also created a promotional video for the Conversation Partner Program, which focuses on the benefits and guidelines of the program and is narrated from an international student's point of view. It is a very helpful resource to international and domestic students, who wish to participate in this program.

Andrés also worked on a series of eight videos (one for every week of the session) in order to increase student participation in the CIEP-sponsored social and cultural activities, which are part of the students' program of study. Our administrative staff has announced the cultural and social activities for the week in the videos, and Andrés has been in charge of the production and post production of these videos. The videos have been posted to the CIEP Facebook and YouTube accounts and have helped to increase social media interest in our program.

It has been a busy and productive summer at the CIEP. We are thrilled to be working with international students and striving to improve our program to best meet their needs. It is a wonderful experience to see our students improve their English proficiency and go on in their lives to advance their personal, academic, and professional goals. All of us in the CIEP look forward to a successful and exciting academic year ahead. ■



WORLD'S WINDOW:

CIEP STAFF OVERSEAS



Members of the UNI Delegation at Kyungpook National University in Daegu, Korea.

Kyungpook National University, South Korea

June 29 – July 3, 2015

Carol Anne Floyd, a CIEP Academic Support Assistant, traveled with Phil Plourde, Interim Director of the Office of International Programs, Dr. Scott Greenhalgh, Assistant Professor with the UNI Department of Technology, and two UNI student and study abroad participants: Nicole Hegewald and Sam Kapler to Daegu, South Korea to visit Kyungpook National University (KNU). The focus of this trip was to support the ongoing partnership between the CIEP and UNI with KNU and talk about ways to expand that relationship going forward.

This trip included many meetings with faculty and departmental and administrative staff and events to promote and strengthen the partnership between KNU and UNI. This included a very helpful and productive meeting with Dr. Dong Chul Sohn (Interim President of KNU) and Dr. Sung Kwang Chung (Vice President of KNU). Our two universities are grateful for the relationship we have built and look forward to working together in the future. It was a rewarding and positive trip for everyone. ■



Sally Roos with students from Shanghai Dianji University in China.

Shanghai Dianji University, China

June 26 – July 27, 2015

Sally Roos, Student Services Coordinator, traveled to Shanghai, China to teach a one-month English academic writing course at Shanghai Dianji University this summer with her spouse, Nick Roos, a UNI Instructor from the Department of Languages and Literatures. Students in the course learned how to paraphrase to avoid plagiarism, write an introductory paragraph, and write a five-paragraph persuasive essay. She taught three days each week for four weeks and worked to establish relationships with administrators in the College of Business, who have previously sent students to UNI for a 2-year program during the past 10 years. Some of the students also study with the CIEP at UNI.

In their free time, Nick and Sally arranged dinner meetings with future UNI students to help answer any questions they may have about life or academics on campus. Five of these students are future CIEP students. On weekends, Sally enjoyed traveling downtown and touring the Shanghai Aquarium, Shanghai Urban History and Development Museum, and the China Art Museum in the World Expo Park. Her favorite day was a trip to Shanghai Wild Animal Park, where she spent time with kangaroos and lemurs and observed a panda chowing down on bamboo! ■



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