

Fall 2017

## International Panther, Fall 2017

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**University of  
Northern  
Iowa**

**International  
Programs**

**Culture and Intensive  
English Program**



35TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

# INTERNATIONAL PANTHER

FALL 2017

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# from the director



**CAROLINA CORONADO-PARK**

## Dear Readers,

The UNI Culture and Intensive English Program opened its doors in 1982. This year, we are celebrating 35 years of striving to provide international students with intensive English language instruction and a cultural, social, and academic orientation to the United States. Throughout the years, CIEP has been UNI's front door for many international students. Regardless of the length of time students need to achieve academic English language proficiency (from one term to a couple of years), CIEP has provided a welcoming landing point of caring and supportive faculty and administrators. Our primary mission has been to provide the academic language skills and cultural orientation to help students succeed in any American higher learning institutions, especially at UNI.

We are proud of many of our alumni who succeed in pursuing their academic and professional goals and dreams. CIEP started as a small program serving the needs of students admitted to UNI. In 2006, the program began to grow as it accepted larger numbers of sponsored students sent to study English before seeking admission to academic programs, not only to UNI but also to universities throughout the United States.

Since 2007, UNI began increasing the number of students admitted on a conditional basis - academic admission guaranteed once students satisfy their English language requirement through CIEP classes. Over the past decade, the students in CIEP's classrooms mirrored world economic and political trends as the program had students from more than 25 different countries, most notably from Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Mexico, Japan, and China. According to the data provided by the UNI Registrar's office, in 2016-2017 alone, 371 former CIEP students were enrolled in different academic programs at UNI.

While many CIEP graduates have gone on to receive undergraduate and graduate degrees at UNI, others have come to CIEP for its immersion programs and summer camps. CIEP has hosted various special programs designed to provide English instruction with a specific focus such as business, STEM, multicultural education, and American culture. Programs like these have helped us expose UNI to students and professionals around the world. In the future, we are hoping to open our immersion programs to fields such as teacher training programs, sustainability, and technology.

During the past decade, CIEP went through reviews and two accreditation processes. We become part of the Consortium of

## 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.

University and College Intensive English Programs (UCIEP) and the American Association of Intensive English Program (AAIEP). In 2010, the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) accredited CIEP for 5 years and at the beginning of 2017, CEA granted 10 more years of accreditation to CIEP.

The faculty and staff also have assumed leadership positions in their professional fields. They have served at MidTESOL, TESOL and UCIEP. Within the past year, members of the CIEP staff have presented at seven state, regional and national conferences.

At the CIEP, we also try to involve as many domestic students, faculty, staff and friends from the community to interact with our international students. Within the past two years, we have had 222 volunteers working with us through the International Friendship Programs, Conversation Partners Program, and the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program.

Thanks to the support of many offices and academic departments on campus, we have been able to serve and welcome our students throughout the years. We are a well-established program and we hope to continue serving international students and bringing the world to our campus and community.

As we celebrate our 35th anniversary, we are proud to see many of our alumni succeed in their careers and lives. Those who have been in international education for many years know that our field provides the opportunity to serve people from every culture the world has to offer, or understand the dynamics of the education systems in countries that did not exist only a few years ago, such as Kosovo or Burma, as well as others. Our work makes a meaningful difference in the lives of real people; however, it also brings many challenges.

Opportunities and enrollment in international education are cyclical. From time to time, international student enrollments will rise and fall through no fault of the institution. Government scholarships can disappear as quickly as they appear. In trying times, it can be tempting to consider quick fixes that promise greater numbers of students for low or limited institutional cost. However, the benefits of working with international students cannot be given a price tag, and are more satisfying, rewarding, and beneficial than any of its challenges.

Our 35th anniversary arrives during challenging times; however, we are committed to continue bringing the world to our campus and ensuring international students receive the highest quality intensive English instruction before going on to succeed in undergraduate or graduate programs at UNI.



**Carolina Coronado-Park,**  
CIEP Director

## CIEP HISTORY



## A look back at CIEP's 35 year history

**BY AMBER MAST, CIEP OFFICE ASSISTANT**

This year, UNI CIEP turns 35! What started in 1982 as a small summer program teaching students English is now a year-long, 5 level program with students from countries all over the world.

Philip Plourde, former CIEP director, has been working with international students for 20 years, first as a full-time teacher for CIEP, then as director of CIEP, and now as Executive Director of International Programs. Over the years, he has noticed how domestic students interact with international students, and how it can benefit both groups. When he was a college student himself, he said, "it helped me see the world is bigger than my hometown," and also how talking with people from around the world can help remove stigmas people may have about other cultures.

When Plourde started working at CIEP in 1997, the program only had 3 full-time teachers, some part-time staff, and the majority of the student population was from only one world region. Now, CIEP enrolls students from 20 countries annually. Plourde has also noticed that during his time with CIEP, the program continually works to improve in professionalism, programming, curriculum, and service to students, maintaining high standards in all that they do.

During its 35-year run, CIEP has seen many student successes, including when former CIEP student Emiliano Lerda became the UNI student body president in 2004. He came to CIEP in 1999 speaking little English, but never let that stop him. He also founded UNI in Peace, and was president of the International Students Association, which you can read more about in the following pages. CIEP alumni have gone on to earn both graduate and undergraduate degrees at the University of Northern Iowa and other colleges and universities in the United States and throughout the

## CIEP HISTORY CONT.



world. In addition, CIEP students have also gone on to achieve endless success in a variety of professional careers in education, technology, engineering, math, science, music and more.

In 2005, CIEP was chosen as one of the 12 university English programs to teach scholarship students from Partnerships for Learning Undergraduate Studies (PLUS) program, part of U. S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. In an article from UNI's newsroom, Robert Pesek, CIEP director at the time stated, "It is a real honor to have the Department of State choose UNI's Culture and Intensive English program to teach their scholarship students English for the second year in a row." Throughout the years, CIEP has developed many partnerships with overseas colleges, universities, government entities and educational institutions. Additionally, CIEP has gained many national and international recognitions, including accreditation by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation. CIEP staff have presented at regional, national, and international conferences based on their in-house research and scholarly activity. Additionally, CIEP has partnered with overseas institutions to provide new study abroad opportunities to students, such as the 100,000 Strong Innovation Grant Project that CIEP and the UNI Study Abroad Center were awarded just this past year.

CIEP continues to change the lives of people around the world, whether they are just brushing up on their English for one or two terms, or if they graduate from the program and go on to academic classes. Leila Rod-Welch, former CIEP student, stated, "Without attending CIEP, I could not have succeeded in my education or in my life in the U.S.," and has now gone on to publish a book and a number of articles, as well as presenting at a few conferences.

The CIEP has a rich history, providing opportunities for both domestic and international students to engage in cultural activities, and has provided the tools necessary for thousands of students to achieve their academic and professional dreams and goals. We look forward to continuing to serve our current and future students and providing opportunities for growth and achievement!



# Partnering with Classic Upward Bound to Enrich the Immersion Program Experience

BY JENNIFER CURTIS, CIEP OFFICE ASSISTANT

This past summer marked the beginning of a partnership with Classic Upward Bound, a program with a mission “to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.” Students attending CIEP observed two or three Upward Bound classes each week for four weeks.

Classic Upward Bound is a program that works with high school students whose parents never attended college and students from a lower socioeconomic status so they can survive and thrive in college. Participants in the Upward Bound program come from a variety of backgrounds and upbringings. The program gives tips on college application, college survival skills, and studying tips. In order to do this, the program offers academic/instructional classes to the students in the areas of math, science, English, and Spanish. Upward Bound also provides other various experiences like tutoring, mentoring, counseling, and cultural enrichment classes to help high school students understand finances and economics so they may better succeed when they enter the world after completing high school.

Sally Roos, CIEP Activities Coordinator, initiated the partnership with Classic Upward Bound by contacting Dr. Wilfred (Micky) Johnson, the director of Classic Upward Bound at the University of Northern Iowa. Sally coordinates special programs for students from the Kyungpook National University (KNU) who attend CIEP to improve their English and learn about multiculturalism in the classroom. KNU was looking for American classrooms with diversity to observe and Classic Upward Bound offered just that.

The students who attend CIEP from KNU are future educators, so their time in the United States is partially spent with an emphasis of observing classrooms to learn how to use cultural differences as an asset rather than a barrier. One of the largest differences the KNU students noticed was that students speak up in

class; they ask questions and raise hands in response to the teacher’s questions. This partnership exposed the KNU students to various teaching methods, appreciation of students asking questions in class, and a professor asking the class if there is any confusion on a topic.

The KNU students observing the classroom also benefited the Upward Bound participants. The KNU students demonstrated leadership in the classroom and exposed the Upward Bound participants to a new culture. Since many of the participants are from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, their opportunity to travel the world at this time is limited. However, the KNU students’ visit to the classroom was like bringing the world to them and gave them an opportunity to explore a whole new culture different from theirs. The high school students enjoyed interacting with the Korean students on several occasions.

Overall, this partnership was a tremendous success. It allowed for KNU students to experience diversity in America while the Upward Bound participants were able to experience a new culture while staying in their home country.





# CIEP Alumni: Emiliano Lerda, Executive Director of Immigration Law

BY KRISTINA HULING, CIEP PROMOTIONS ASSISTANT

Emiliano Lerda, a UNI and CIEP alum from Morteros Córdoba, Argentina, began his academic journey at the Culture and Intensive English program in October of 1999. When looking for a University to study at he decided on UNI, not only for its English program, but for the fact that it is close to the setting of one of his favorite movies, The Bridges of Madison County. This had a huge influence on his decision, but what sealed the deal was when Emiliano learned the University of Northern Iowa offered a program that could help solidify his English. As he said, “[It was the] best decision I made.”

Upon arrival to Iowa, he stated, “There are not very many differences from where I am from. Agriculture plays a big role, similar values and principles.” The one thing he did notice that differed was how friendly and welcoming the community had been. He had no fears of being turned away as people are always willing to help. It did help that the atmosphere felt like home with the importance of agriculture. In Argentina, they grow a high abundance of soybeans, corn, and dairy, making Iowa feel much more like home than expected.

CIEP gave Emiliano a better chance at a higher education, he explained: “It helped enhance my speaking, reading, and writing/ technical education. I got to meet new friends from all around the world with a warm community welcome.” This program set him up for a great future when he became a full student at UNI. He was a member of many student organizations such as International Student Association and Student

Government. Emiliano Lerda started out in the Student Government cabinet and served as the Director of International Affairs. The following year, he served in the student senate, founded UNI in Peace and was the former President of the International Student Association. All of these experiences led him to being the first international student elected UNI Student Government President.

Emiliano gave insight on the most influential people at UNI that helped him keep believing in the American Dream: Dr. Bob Pesek, Kristi Marchesani, and

Emiliano is now the Executive Director of Immigration Law at the Justice for Our Neighbors of Nebraska. He did want to pass on a message for any students currently or considering attending CIEP: “Have an open heart and mind. Get involved in student groups and organizations, they will help you do things you are passionate about and meet new people.” His biggest piece of advice is, “Get involved, make a difference, and leave the campground better than you found it for future generations. Pay it forward.”

**“Have an open heart and mind. Get involved in student groups and organizations, they will help you do things you are passionate about and meet new people.”**

Roland Carrillo. He said, “These people stuck in my mind because they helped me transition into a new environment and encouraged me to keep reaching for my dream.”

That dream took him beyond UNI. After graduating from the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in Communications, he went on to get his Masters at the University of Arkansas, and a juris doctorate at Drake University Law School.

# Expanding Partnership Relationships: CIEP welcomes UCP Summer Students



This summer, CIEP welcomed faculty and students from the Catholic University of Pereira (UCP). While here, they attended class, interacted with native speakers, and participated in many activities, including traveling to Chicago as a group. The University of Northern Iowa and UCP have partnered together before through the College of Business, but this summer was the first partnership between UCP and CIEP.

In recent years, the two schools have partnered to bring UCP to Iowa for summer business programs. This allowed UCP faculty and students to increase their knowledge of business, but it did not necessarily make UCP more globalized. UCP has an internationalization initiative to increase the amount of foreign students attending UCP and allow the university to become a center where international relations and study abroad opportunities can flourish. UCP plans to do this by further improving the English proficiency of their students and faculty in order to allow more content courses to be taught

in English. These internationalization goals provide a great opportunity for CIEP and UCP to collaborate.

This summer, students attended twenty hours of intensive English class each week focusing on the areas of reading, writing, and listening/speaking. After completing a placement test on their first day at CIEP, students were placed in levels that would allow them to learn and grow the most in their English skills. Culture Talk classes were also offered and covered different topics in American culture. The students attended Conversation Hours every Wednesday where they spoke and interacted with native English speakers. Beside attending classes, UCP students participated in all events CIEP coordinated. The first big activity of the summer was Host Family Weekend. Students were assigned to a local family and spent the day with them for an entire Saturday. This activity encouraged students to interact using only English with their host family. Many of the students made strong connections with

their host families and continued to meet with them throughout their time in the U.S. Another big event was the 4th of July Potluck, where students made popular dishes from their countries to share with everyone at this event. It offered an opportunity to exchange culture, and food from numerous countries while learning about the American Independence Day. Near the end of their program, the CIEP also planned a weekend trip to Chicago, where students were able to explore the Windy City, gain additional knowledge of American culture, and practice using their English skills.

CIEP was glad to have students from UCP join us for the summer session and to contribute to the personal and professional goals of the students while also assisting UCP in working toward their internationalization goals. It is always rewarding to witness students' growth in English skills and to see their confidence improve, even within their short time here. We look forward to our continued collaborations with UCP.



## Student Spotlight: John Kabemba Vika

**BY AMBER MAST, CIEP OFFICE ASSISTANT**

When John Kabemba Vika first came to CIEP, he couldn't speak enough English to get information about the program. He had heard about UNI, but had to ask help from a friend who spoke English to find out if there was a way he could learn English here. That's when he learned about CIEP.

John is 26 years old and originally from Congo, but now lives in Iowa and works for Sparboe Foods Corporation in New Hampton. When he first came to Iowa, he couldn't speak English, but now with the English speaking skills he has learned through CIEP, he has become an informal translator between the Congo people that work with him, and the English speakers. Iowa is the first state John ever visited in the U.S., and although he isn't a fan of the cold winter weather, he still believes

he can learn a lot and is enjoying his time here. He says the weather is the biggest change he has had to get used to because Congo only has two seasons, and it never gets very cold there. He also explained that in Congo, you can call your friend a sister or brother, and that has caused confusion here where that means a different thing.

John stated his belief that "English is key," to everything in the U.S. Before attending CIEP, he couldn't ask questions to get information about things. Now he helps his friends sort out problems, including a friend who lost \$1,000 in a rare banking error. Additionally, he has even helped friends by translating for them when they wanted to get a divorce, but were unable to communicate with people at court to find out information.

After graduating from CIEP, John would like to study petroleum engineering and work for a big oil company in the U.S. He isn't sure what college he would like to study at, but has been searching online for colleges and universities that offer his program of interest.

John has also participated in the conversation partners program and believes it is a good way to practice English. When he can't figure out what word to say, sometimes the other person can find the word he is looking for and help him learn new words. He says he would definitely recommend CIEP to his friends because of the progress he has made in learning English, and all of the ways he can now help his friends.

# Minneapolis Memories

BY JACLYN ENGELMAN,  
CIEP ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT

At least once every eight weeks, the CIEP activities staff plans an excursion outside of the Cedar Valley. Sometimes that means going an hour away to Cedar Rapids; other times it's crossing state lines to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Traveling to the capitol of Minnesota was exactly where the staff took a group of 36 CIEP and international academic students at the beginning of the fall semester. This was a special trip because it was a two-day, overnight adventure. The more time in Minneapolis, the better.

On Saturday, the group spent the day at Mall of America. This is the biggest mall in the United States. There is an amusement park inside, along with eleven other attractions and 520 stores to shop at. Nine whole hours were dedicated to shopping and seeing the attractions at the Mall. Was anyone annoyed at spending that much time at the mall? Not at all. In fact, the majority of students were ready to go back the very next day!

The following day, everyone went to the famous Minneapolis Sculpture Garden in the Uptown District. There are over 40 different sculptures with their most famous piece being the Spoonbridge and Cherry. Afterward, the group visited the Mills City Museum. This museum was once a flour factory. There was a flour tower tour everyone enjoyed and showed more about how the factory used to run back in the 1800-1900s.

This trip provides students with the opportunity to experience the country's biggest mall, while also helping students to create new friendships with the students and help them learn more about the United States. The trip itself cost \$70 per person, but it created memories that will last for a very long time, making it a priceless experience.



## CIEP Fall activities:

- Ice Cream & Volleyball
- Des Moines Trip
- Minneapolis Trip
- Labor Day BBQ & Soccer Game
- Chili Night
- Culture Talk: Greek Influence on American Life
- Pep Rally
- Conversation Hours
- International Coffee Hours with ISSO
- Bonfire with IFC
- Pumpkins & Coffee Hour
- RSVP Class Visits
- International Friendship Program Thanksgiving Potluck
- Student Presentations at Holmes Junior High
- Student Presentations at North Star Community Services
- Christmas Party

# A look into the Gammon Presbyterian Institute Immersion Program

**BY HAYLEY TILL, CIEP ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

The CIEP has had the honor of collaborating with Gammon Presbyterian Institute since 2013. Gammon is a private Presbyterian high school located in Lavras, Brazil. This past August, the CIEP was pleased to welcome 13 students, as well as 2 chaperones, to our program for one month. These students participated in the regular CIEP program, which consists of a reading, writing, and listening & speaking class, as well as a specialized culture class to familiarize themselves with American culture.

The Gammon students participated in a variety of activities during their time here, all of which were designed to improve their English skills and immerse them in U.S. culture. They spent a day with a host family, which gave them the ability to experience true Midwestern hospitality, all while practicing their English. They also took a trip to Des Moines where they had



the chance to learn more about the state of Iowa by touring the capitol building.

Perhaps the most exciting trip these students went on was a two-day trip to Minneapolis, Minnesota. While on this trip, the students toured the Mill City Museum, shopped at the biggest mall in the United States - the Mall of America - and participated in team-building activities on the bus to get students out of their comfort zones and introduce them to other international students.

One thing that makes this special program unique is these students participated in a high school class exchange day with Columbus High School in Waterloo, Iowa. The students enjoyed having the ability to meet other high school students like themselves and have conversations about high school life in the U.S. These students also observed classes, which gave them



a chance to apply the English skills they were gaining to a real life situation. “What was best for my future was to lose the fear of talking to strangers”, Jose Augusto Porto, a Gammon student, said when asked about how his time with the CIEP will help him in the future.

Toward the end of their studies, the Gammon students had the opportunity to take the TOEFL exam. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam is an English exam that is offered internationally and recognized by more than 10,000 universities in more than 130 countries around the world.

The CIEP is grateful to have the opportunity to work with Gammon Presbyterian Institute and we look forward to the future collaborations!



# staff spotlight

## Carolina Coronado-Park



**BY HAYLEY TILL,  
CIEP ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

For some students who have come through our program, studying at the CIEP is not always in their life plan. Maybe they do not have the resources, or maybe life just gets in the way and they are unable to make it happen. However, whether it be fate at hand or simply pure circumstance, sometimes students find themselves in Cedar Falls, Iowa, studying English in the University of Northern Iowa's Culture & Intensive English Program. That is how Carolina Coronado-Park first found her home within the CIEP family.

Carolina started her educational journey as a student in the Universidad de Piura in Peru, pursuing her bachelor's in communications, with an emphasis in journalism, while specializing in promotion, public relations, and organization communications. At that time, Carolina had the opportunity to do her internship at the Televisa international broadcaster in Lima. During the 80s and 90s, Peru experienced a great political, economic and social crisis due to Shining Path, Spanish Sendero Luminoso, terrorist actions during which some reports estimate as many as 70,000 people were killed. By covering the local and national news, she gained firsthand experience in the journalism profession, but also the violence that Peruvian society was facing at that time.

Carolina completed her undergraduate degree in this environment and wanted to continue her post-degree studies in a safer place. She decided to tour some universities in Italy and Spain upon completion of her bachelor's degree. She traveled with two of her mentors from Universidad de Piura while attending an International Conference in Rome. She fell in love with Universidad of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain and was hoping to come back to pursue her master's degree there. Carolina has always wanted to learn

about different cultures, travel overseas and find opportunities to work in fields related to public diplomacy or international relations affairs.

Coming back from Europe, Carolina traveled to Iowa as a visitor with the only intention of spending time with family before pursuing her master's degree in Spain. However, while she was here, her mother recommended that she look into this "wonderful English program" at UNI. Her mother, being a former CIEP student, and her stepdad being an emeritus professor of UNI, convinced Carolina to take classes, with the intention of only staying for the summer. Carolina knew that learning English would be helpful for her future, so she gave it a chance. Dr. Virginia Hash was the CIEP director at that time and welcomed her to the program. "It was certainly a wonderful program," Carolina shared about her experience with the CIEP. She enjoyed her classes so much, she actually finished the program and graduated from the CIEP.

While studying with CIEP, Carolina had the opportunity to meet many UNI professors through the numerous activities the CIEP offers. Through these activities, she met Dr. Philip Maugeri and Dr. Dharendra Vajpeyi in the political science department, and after hearing that she would be able to focus on international relations, she decided to stay at UNI and complete her master's degree in political science.

Upon completion of her master's degree, Carolina worked in Washington D.C. in Senator Grassley's office for one year. She then returned to Peru, where she taught international relations and citizen's diplomacy at the Universidad de Piura, her Peruvian Alma Matter. However, deep down she knew that she should be in Iowa,

surrounded by her family. Her father passed away when she was 16 years old and the rest of her close relatives were living overseas. Therefore, she decided to come back to Iowa and be closer to her Peruvian-American family.

Carolina was then re-admitted to UNI and began studying in the communications department, focusing on intercultural communications, with the ability to complete her master's in international relations. While pursuing graduate courses, Carolina was hired by the CIEP as a student employee. Throughout her time at the CIEP, Carolina has taken on many different roles. She served as a student employee, then a program assistant, and eventually became the Program Coordinator. In 2015, Carolina became the CIEP Director, and she has been in this role for almost two years. Carolina has been working at the CIEP since 2004 and has had the privilege of meeting many students from all around the world and watching the program grow and change. "I have seen so many students go through the CIEP, and it has been very rewarding to see them become successful," Carolina said, which is one of her favorite things about working at the CIEP. However, the CIEP does not just pride itself on teaching our students English. We aim to immerse our students in the U.S. culture while providing them opportunities to grow academically as well as in their personal lives.

"It is very rewarding to see our international students become successful professionally and also personally. They grow as a person, as individuals. Learning the language gives the students the needed tools to continue their professional journey. Their success impacts their families and friends back home and it is wonderful to see how we can make a difference in somebody's life and future. That is the pride and satisfaction that we have at CIEP."

Going forward, Carolina hopes the CIEP will always be a place where students feel comfortable and welcome. Carolina describes her hope and mission at CIEP: "I am an idealistic person which sometimes is not a positive quality. I like to believe that through our work we can contribute to making a difference in the world... I believe in the power of the ordinary work in order to transcend in life. Certainly, we won't have the power to change or fix the whole world, but we may be able to help improve somebody's world and future."



# Volunteer Spotlight: Bri Carter

BY JACLYN ENGELMAN, CIEP ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT

to go back to Saudi Arabia saying entire sentences in English,” Bri remarked.

Bri knew at that moment she wanted to switch her major to TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) with an emphasis in Spanish. She truly enjoys teaching English to students from other countries and Bri finds a great deal of purpose in doing so. As she continued to progress in her major courses, she also found out about Conversation Corner through the TESOL program.

Conversation Corner was a program established through the Culture and Intensive English Program to bring domestic students and CIEP students together. The students would meet to have conversations about various topics

with each other, practice English, and build friendships. Bri joined the program this past summer and has been a faithful volunteer ever since. She has a love for international students that is so evident through the way she interacts and talks with the students.

In the future, Bri plans to move to South America and teach English after she graduates from the University of Northern Iowa. She believes that the CIEP has helped her grow in her passion of welcoming and befriended international students here on campus. Not only does volunteering look good on a resume, she believes it means much more than that. Thank you for your work, and good luck in all of your future endeavors, Bri!

Born and raised in Iowa, this Davenport native is in her fourth year at the University of Northern Iowa. Switching from major to major, Bri was struggling to figure out what she wanted to do with her future career path. She began tutoring a twelve-year-old girl from Saudi Arabia to gain tutoring skills and to help earn money to pay for schooling. “The only words she could say when we first met were ‘hi’ and ‘bathroom.’ After a month of teaching her, she was able

# CIEP Welcomes Overseas Visitors

BY KRISTINA HULING, CIEP PROMOTIONS ASSISTANT

Over the past semester, CIEP has welcomed visitors from the Partners of the Americas program to join our classes and learn more about the CIEP. These opportunities provide opportunities to enhance partnerships, promote programs, and grant personal insight on what the institution has to offer.

In September, CIEP and International Admissions had the honor of hosting the Partners of the Americas Iowa-Yucatan chapter on campus. Sorrel Brown, President of the Iowa Partners chapter, gave a presentation during the quarterly meeting; staff from the CIEP, Admissions, STEM, Languages and Literature were also invited to attend. Brown also discussed

what the Yucatan chapter has done to improve their branch along with talk about potential collaborations between CIEP as well as the UNI departments.

During the fall semester, Norma Joseph from the Universidad Federal de Lavras in Lavras, Brazil studied at CIEP. She was granted a full scholarship to cover 100% of her tuition fees, while her home University covered the remaining costs of her stay. While here, Norma took part in CIEP classes to help improve her understanding of the English language alongside taking a customized class focusing on U.S. American culture with another group of Brazilian students attending an immersion program. This visit provided both

institutions with the opportunity to learn more about programs and initiatives being offered at both campuses, and allowed the CIEP to strengthen our relationship with this prestigious university.

Overall, the CIEP welcomed more than six visitors from different partner universities and countries. We are always glad to welcome our partners to our campus!

