

Spring 2018

## International Panther, Spring 2018

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**University of  
Northern  
Iowa**

**International  
Programs**

**Culture and Intensive  
English Program**



# INTERNATIONAL PANTHER

SPRING 2018

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## from the director

**CAROLINA CORONADO-PARK**



### Dear Readers,

Everybody has a story. And in my 15 years at UNI CIEP I have heard many from colleagues, students, friends and partners I have met on campus or overseas. Each one is unique, but I usually find one common thread: education for better-quality opportunities.

When I first started working at CIEP, I did not realize how important our role was in attracting international students to our campus and introducing them to the many academic opportunities at UNI or other higher academic institutions in the United State. In our program, we have had students from many different countries, and each of them brings a full bag of dreams and hopes. Their presence makes our campus more diverse and hopefully, more inclusive, too.

Recently, we heard from one of our alumni, Hassan Al Yousef. Hassan is working at UNICEF as Global Health/ Humanitarian Assistant and is researching leading health issues affecting Arabic language speakers, particularly Muslim populations, in Iowa. After completing CIEP, Hassan enrolled at UNI and completed his Bachelor's degree in Health Promotion with an emphasis on Global Health. We are very proud of Hassan's professional achievement and personal growth and glad to be part of the beginning of his professional journey. In the next pages, you will be able to learn more about Hassan and his experience at CIEP and UNI.

UNI CIEP serves all international students, from those in short-term immersion programs, to conditionally admitted students looking to further their studies, to undergraduate and graduate programs and university administrators who rely on our ESL program to support their international students' academic and linguistic needs. Our services bring positive impacts to not only the CIEP and the institution, but even more importantly, to the overall student body experience as well. We find different ways to foster cultural exchange opportunities on campus and in the community. As an example, in this issue, we are featuring Jonathan Reyes, a current CIEP student who has a great determination and support from his host family.

In this newsletter, we are featuring our student employees because they also have a great story to tell. Throughout the years, CIEP has been the place where student employees have met a foreigner for the first time. This fact is also true for many of the UNI students, faculty and staff who volunteer in the Conversation Partners or host families programs. In the next pages, you will learn how our student employees have become passionate for international education and how their work is shaping their education, life, and future. Most of them would like to study abroad, too. Certainly, CIEP student employees are learning firsthand the advantages and benefits of diversity. This year, we have faced many 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.





# Creating Bridges with Partners of the Americas

BY KRISTINA HULING - PROMOTIONS ASSISTANT

the challenges negatively affecting international student enrollment in the United States. However, we have been working with the implementation of new projects such as our first online course. We were also awarded two grants through the Partners of the Americas, enabling us to create new partnerships with Universidad Latina in Costa Rica and Universidad de Piura in Peru. As a result, this spring we welcomed ten students to participate in the CIEP English and Sustainability Immersion Program and 18 UNI students will be traveling to Costa Rica in May. In the next pages, please read about these initiatives.

Working at CIEP, I have been fortunate to watch many students achieve their dreams by learning the language and completing their undergraduate or graduate degrees. Most of them are working in many different places around the world and spreading the benefits of international education, cultural exchange, and the many stories learned in our campus and community. I am proud to say I work for the UNI CIEP. On behalf of CIEP and my colleagues, thank you to all of our alumni, current students and partner institutions for trusting and placing your hopes for better education in our hands.

**Carolina Coronado-Park,**  
CIEP Director

The Culture and Intensive English Program was selected to receive the Marlene Johnson grant from the Partners of the Americas as part of the 1,000 Strong in the Americas initiative. The \$25,000 grant was used to help develop an exchange program between UNI and Universidad Latina de Costa Rica, which has been put into effect this past April.

Univ. Latina sent ten students and one faculty member to come study at UNI through the CIEP Sustainability Immersion Program. CIEP, the Study Abroad Center, and the Recycling Reuse Technology and Transfer Center (RRTTC) worked together to help the ULatina students study culture, language, and sustainability while taking part in local and UNI activities: such as Earth Day Celebration, an American BBQ, tour of Hansen's Dairy Farm, going to the movies, and spending time with their host families.

The goal between UNI and Univ. Latina is to help create and implement a new curricula between English and Sustainability. Not only did UNI gain new students group of students, but Univ Latina will be taking in UNI students to study in Costa Rica. At a welcome dinner, the students got to sit down together and discuss the differences between universities and countries along with what to expect when they get arrive.

Giovanni is an instructor for Universidad Latina de Costa Rica

who accompanied the students on the trip said "By coming to UNI allowed all of us to learn the major differences between education. In Costa Rica our university is just one building where at UNI it is a lot of buildings and the students live there." All but one student who attended the course are studying tourism and by giving them the chance to come to America they got to experience their field and take part in a culture they are not used to.

The 1,000 Strong in the Americas grant played a major role in allowing the two universities come together to create a new curriculum and a study abroad experience for students.



## UNI CONNECTIONS:

# UNI Budgeting with Bruce Rieks

BY AMBER MAST, OFFICE ASSISTANT

Bruce Rieks has been director of budget development and analysis for 11 years at UNI. After studying accounting at UNI, he began his career in private industry as an operations auditor, where he realized his love for cost analysis and working with people, instead of the usual book work associated with accounting. After helping implement a computerized budgeting system, he was able to get his job at UNI as senior accountant. He was then promoted to assistant controller where he spent his first few years doing software updates and developing a budget system for UNI

where he grew to enjoy budgeting. As the director of budget development and analysis, Bruce is in charge of developing the university's budget and analyzing the budgets and operations for various self-supporting programs on campus, but most of his time is spent answering questions and helping people be good stewards of funds. At CIEP, we consult Bruce on our budget and financial situation throughout the year. He also helps to plan for lower enrollment or higher expenses than originally expected.

His favorite part about his role here at UNI is being able to work with everyone across campus to develop their own budgets, but his job does come with challenges. When a budget needs to be reduced, it can be difficult to figure out where a department can save. He always tries to do what is best for the employees and tries to make sure to budget for things such as low enrollment. When budgeting, he tries to look ahead and see where problems may arise and set targets and goals. We appreciated Bruce's dedication and guidance throughout the years.

## New CIEP Online Course

BY KRISTINA HULING - PROMOTIONS ASSISTANT

This past session, CIEP began offering online courses, considered a pre-course to those who would like to study English in America and need further help in advancing their proficiency. It can also be used as a standalone course for anyone who would like to brush up on their English or take a class from a native speaker.

The course is taught by Jaime Lyon, an academic support specialist, and offered twice a week for an hour and a half through Zoom. This helps students learn through face-to-face interaction along with immediate feedback. They will also do work outside of class through eLearning. It is currently focused on reading and writing, with plans of opening it up to listening and speaking classes, along with teacher training.

The customizable course doesn't follow normal CIEP courses and level placement, making it accommodatable to the students. It is open to anybody who wishes to enroll who is at a



placement of at least a level five in English proficiency as tested by CIEP. The course currently has four students from Brazil enrolled, with a preferable minimum of 10 and a maximum number of 15 students per classroom.

It is currently in the framing stage with a trial run. CIEP has a goal to open any class online and include the immersion programs also: sustainability, business English, college preparation, and English/culture. There are also plans to teach these courses at a higher level online.

**“Students learn through face-to-face interaction along with immediate feedback.”**

# UNI CIEP won two grant funds through Partners of the Americas

BY KRISTINA HULING - PROMOTIONS ASSISTANT



CIEP works closely with the Partners of the Americas whose mission is to “connect people and organizations across borders to serve and change lives through lasting partnerships.” Partners works as a grassroots organization that use partnerships between the U.S. and Latin American countries or regions to foster cultural exchange and education among other initiatives. In 2013, the Partners of the Americas Foundation began offering grants to institutions of higher education as a part of The 100,000 Strong in the Americas initiative. These funds are provided to colleges and universities committed to helping more of their students study abroad.

During this past academic year, CIEP was awarded two Innovation Fund grants to develop study abroad programs with Universidad Latina in Costa Rica and Universidad de Piura in Peru.

In May 2017, the UNI Culture and Intensive English Program, in partnership with Universidad de Latina de Costa Rica, received \$25,000 to develop a new immersion experience program with focus on Language, Culture, and Sustainability. Through the program, students from the partnering institutions

will not only engage in social and language exchange but also in hands-on activities and experiences about sustainability. From April 23 to May 6, Costa Rican students traveled to Iowa to participate in a Sustainability Immersion Program while integrating existing courses from their home institution, Universidad Latina de Costa Rica. Similarly, UNI students will travel to Costa Rica to complete a capstone course that will help them develop an understanding of how individuals and groups impact the environment through tourism and campus life. Jennifer Bruss will be leading a group of 18 UNI students to Costa Rica from May 7 to May 19. UNI Study Abroad Center has been collaborating with CIEP in many of its initiatives to be able to promote mobility and international opportunities for UNI students and faculty.

The experience gained administrating grant funding and implementing a new curriculum and immersion program will be used to develop our second grant project with Universidad de Piura in Peru.

In February, the U.S. Department of State, Embassy of Peru, Partners of the Americas, and NAFSA: Association of International Educators announced the latest Innovation Fund grant winning

teams sponsored by CAF: Development Bank of Latin America, the U.S. Department of State, and SEMPRA Energy.

Among the thirteen new higher education partnership, UNI CIEP and Universidad de Piura were selected to receive \$25,000 to implement a new study abroad opportunity for pre-service teachers focused on providing environmental education and English language training to Peru’s future teachers.

Students from UDEP’s Beca Vocación de Maestro program are the target participants for the study abroad opportunity, enabling students coming from disadvantaged economic backgrounds to work towards their degrees with study abroad experience. The program will start with ten students, and begin with three weeks of online instruction before two weeks of immersion on UNI’s campus, and concluding with an additional three weeks of online instruction. By the end of the program, all participants will receive the necessary training to become certified in the GLOBE program and will be connected to the GLOBE representative in Peru. The program will be implemented from January to March 2019.





# staff spotlight

BY: JENNIFER CURTIS -  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

## Meet the Student Office Employees of CIEP!

“It’s an overall fun atmosphere. When you come in, you immediately feel comfortable and you get to meet so many new people at the same time.”

– Kristina

“I absolutely love working here. I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to work in such a great environment with such a dedicated, fun staff. I enjoy coming to work everyday, which is not something most college students get the pleasure to say.”

– Jen

With some recent changes in the CIEP, the student employees have all accepted more responsibilities in the office. CIEP is devoted to giving our best service to the students, and these students help make sure this happens. Let’s meet these dedicated and hard-working students!

Jaclyn Engelman, activities assistant, is the current student employee who has been working in CIEP the longest. She started working at CIEP in November 2015 after first becoming familiar with the program as a volunteer conversation partner. She studies social work because there is such a wide array of possibilities to help others. In CIEP, Jaclyn helps organize, plan and sometimes lead the activities we provide for our students. One of her favorite things about her position is building personal relationships with the students. This ties into some of her fondest memories of working in CIEP: a culture trip to Pella, taking students to ice skate and playing laser tag.

Jennifer Curtis, administrative assistant, has been working in CIEP since August 2016. She studies Spanish, TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages) and translation. She works on surveys, data and evaluations, but

also enjoys translating some English documents into Spanish. One thing that she loves about CIEP is working with such a wonderful and dedicated staff. She also really enjoys how much her studies are applicable in the office, such as translating and being in an environment that teaches English to non-native speakers.

In August 2017, CIEP hired two more student employees, one of whom is Amber Mast, office assistant. In the office, Amber’s main duties deal with admissions and finances. Outside of work, she loves seeing our CIEP students around campus and being a friendly face for them. Her favorite aspect of working in CIEP is all the staff and students. Amber currently studies business with a focus on supply chain management. However, after being inspired by working at CIEP, she is thinking about switching her studies to focus on something that helps connect people around the world, such as international relations.

Kristina Huling, promotions assistant, was the other new student employee that joined our team in August 2017. She studies public relations with a sports emphasis and also a little business communication. Her main

duties in the office include reaching out to prospective students, communicating with partners and agents and promoting programs. In CIEP, she enjoys talking with current and prospective students because it helps bring people from across the world together. This ties into her favorite aspect of CIEP, talking and connecting with the students.

Our newest student employee is Chloe Mundy, administrative assistant. She was first introduced to the office in Fall 2017, but started working in January 2018. She mainly works on indexing, although she helps out in any way she can. While she knows that she is still learning all the ropes, she appreciates how much learning comes with the process and how willing the other staff members are to help. In fact, one of her favorite things about CIEP is how welcoming the staff is.

Our final student employee is Hayley Till, administrative assistant, who is currently studying in Oviedo, Spain, for the spring semester 2018. She studies biology and Spanish. Hayley first started working at CIEP in the fall of 2015 and will continue work at CIEP when she returns to UNI in the fall of 2018.



## CIEP Alum Spotlight: Former Student Hassan Al Yousif

**BY: KRISTINA HULING, PROMOTIONS ASSISTANT**

Hassan Al Yousif, a UNI and CIEP alum from Qatif, Saudi Arabia, started his journey as a student wanting to advance his English at the Culture and Intensive English Program. In his home hometown of Qatif, he explained how it is an oasis with rich underground water wells, famous fresh fish markets, and warm humid weather in the summer and cold humid weather in the winter. The name Qatif comes from the picking of fruit from trees since in the past people depended on fishing, agriculture and explorations of pearls.

Coming from an oasis-like place, he noticed many differences in the American culture. Hassan explained that “Americans thrive on competition. We are taught to work hard and try our best to succeed.” He described America as ambitious with better attitudes as well, along with being proactive. “Americans go for it and not wait for it to come to you.” This is what helped him decide on coming to America to advance his English.

Hassan chose to learn English as it helps understand people’s culture, ways of thinking, and behavior. He believes learning another language helps students advance in their education and career goals. He decided to go to a native place in which they speak his chosen language. That is when he picked the University of Northern Iowa. “The facility is amazing. They are always there to help you with any of your needs. They do not want you to fail and they will help you as much as they can,” Hassan stated. He enjoyed his time at the CIEP since it was the perfect opportunity to make new friends, improve his command of English, and learn another education system. His favorite part of UNI and CIEP was the entire experience. “Everything and all the teachers. I think that the welcome, support, and management were excellent.”

Hassan Al Yousif, while studying at UNI, majored in health promotion with an emphasis on global health. Currently, he is a UNICEF global health/

humanitarian assistant. His goal is to assist in the development of an Arabic language health education resources library. He is conducting research on leading health issues affecting Arabic language speakers, particularly Muslim populations, in Iowa. He also writes and collects health education materials for these immigrant populations, and develops a health education binder and compiles these written health education materials in Arabic for Muslim immigrants in the state.

Hassan would like to let current and prospective students know, “Have an ambitious mentality. The beauty of being young is that you are expected to make mistakes, so don’t [be] afraid to make them! Be bold and courageous about everything you want in life. Don’t be afraid to ask people what you want; have the courage and self-discipline to work for it.”



# student spotlight

BY CHLOE MUNDY -  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

## Jonathan Reyes Romero



Jonathan “Tequila” Reyes Romero came from the Dominican Republic to study English at the CIEP in June 2017. Jonathan worked as an entertainer and aerobic dancer, where he got his nickname Tequila, at a resort in the Dominican. After meeting the Beys on vacation, the couple offered him the opportunity to learn English in the United States. Without a second thought, he accepted and made his way to Iowa to study in the CIEP at the University of Northern Iowa.

UNI alumni Josh and Sarah Bey met at UNI and have been married for 11 years and have two young children. On their 10-year anniversary, they took a trip to the Dominican Republic where they met Jonathan and got to know him. They began to form a friendship and talked about their hopes and dreams. After leaving, the Beys continued to keep in touch with Jonathan online.

From the start, the Beys knew that Jonathan had a good heart and a lot of potential. When asked why she would let someone into her home from a different country, Sarah brings up the starfish story. An old man finds a young boy throwing starfish back into the



ocean one by one. The old man laughs and tells them there are thousands and he is never going to save them all. The boy goes on to tell him that he may not help all of them but he is making a difference to the one. Since coming to the United States, not only have the Beys made an impact on his life, but he does the same for their family every day.

Jonathan came in knowing very little English and could not hold a conversation. Since then, he has gained the knowledge to do so and loves interacting with people. Jonathan has really enjoyed his time here, and goes on by saying, “Even though the cold weather here is crazy, compared to the other cities I have been to, like Chicago

and Minneapolis, Iowa is not crazy. It is a beautiful place to live.” When asked about his favorite memory while being in the CIEP Jonathan replied by saying just being able to see growth in his English. He enjoys being able to understand what people are saying, knowing how to answer, and being able to understand movies and music in English.

When Jonathan graduates, he would like to continue to study and improve his knowledge. Sarah talked about how Jonathan would tell her, “Some people come to the CIEP for short periods of time for the experience, but for me this is not just a certificate.” Jonathan would like to thank all of his instructors for what they do and helping him learn English.

# Spring 2018 Social & Cultural Activities

**BY: JACLYN ENGELMAN**  
**CIEP ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT**

At the Culture and Intensive English Program, the overall mission 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. One way of immersing the students in American culture is through various cultural activities that are organized each academic session.

Every January, to start the new year off strong, staff coordinate the CIEP International Potluck. Students and community members are welcome to join this dinner. The intent is that each person brings a side dish of food to share with others that is either traditional or their favorite meal from home. Each year, the International Potluck is a big success. This year was no different, with nine countries represented at the dinner. It was like watching the world come together, right here in Cedar Falls, Iowa. It was beautiful to see the diversity in food choice, but also in diversity of the people who attended. Many students commented, "This needs to be a weekly thing!"

At the International Potluck, many of those who came found their way to a large map nailed to the wall. Not only were people curious to try new foods like empanadas or tsumire-nabe, they wanted to learn about each others' cultures. That is one wonderful aspect of the CIEP, because the students do not just learn about the American culture but also the cultures of their classmates. This is one of those events that will continue for a long time in the CIEP. Hopefully next time, you can join!



## CIEP Spring Activities:

- **International Coffee Hour with ISSO**
- **International Potluck**
- **Host Family Weekend**
- **Class Exchange with Kathy Oakland**





## A Dream Come True

**BY GRACIELA ESPINOZA MOSCOLFORMER CIEP STUDENT  
UNIVERSIDAD DE PIURA-PERÚ**

I am a Peruvian girl, and my dream since I was a teenager was to go to the United States. I could say that my dreams came true when I traveled to Iowa, which is in the Midwestern United States, in January of 2018 in order to study at the CIEP at the University of Northern Iowa. My goal was not only to share information about my own city with the Americans, but also share information about other interesting attractions that may hopefully attract people to come visit and get to know my country in the west of South America. During my journey, I came across many beautiful moments that reminded me of my place back home.

I told my friends in the U.S. that Peru was an underdeveloped country that, when being compared to the United

States, could be overshadowed by the tall American skyscrapers, long wide highways and roundabouts, large beautiful farms, very advanced technology, and more. However, Peru has its own beauty in its biodiversity. For example, there are arid plains on the coast, great steep peaks in the mountains, and tropical rain forests in the Amazon. Needless to say, its nice, varied weather allows people to enjoy the sights and every moment when visiting each of its regions.

Living on campus at UNI in Cedar Falls was a chance for me to experience its pace of life. Despite the fact that it was a quiet and safe area to live in, activities such as work and interesting classes had to be done fast with the help of the tick tock of the Campanile. Compared

to this, Piura, the city where I am from, was slow. I think it may be due to the heat or the temperature, but I certainly knew that things were accomplished at their own pace in Peru.

I enjoyed the cold Iowa weather even though I got sick during my stay. I tried all kinds of American food. I tried to find a similarity to Peruvian food, but it was difficult, so I soon started to miss my country's cuisine badly. However, an international potluck event allowed me to make, share, and eat a Peruvian meal called "Arroz con Pollo" (chicken with rice). During my stay, I began to miss my family, friends, and colleagues and wished that all of them were there to see and enjoy what I was experiencing. Hopefully, one day that dream could also come true for them.





People cannot deny that certain differences between the country I came from and the United States exist. Nevertheless, I realized that the good attitude of the people, on and

off campus, could bring attention to the similarities of both peoples. For instance, both Cedar Falls and Piura may be small but great and humble in heart. Both are willing to give a foreign person a helping hand, greeting, or smile when going about their daily lives.

**“I realized that the good attitude of the people, on and off campus, could bring attention to the similarities of both peoples.”**

I wish I had more time to stay longer and enjoy the American culture and its people. I know that I could share, do, and give more there such as attending more lectures, continuing with my English classes, sharing more things about my country, spending more time with friends, etc. I am thankful to the University of Northern

Iowa and the Universidad de Piura for letting me accomplish a cherished dream and granting me the opportunity to travel to such a beautiful state to learn, to interact with great teachers, and to make wonderful friends that will be always remembered in my heart.



## Yamanashi University Immersion Program

**BY: JACLYN ENGELMAN, CIEP ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT**

This February, the CIEP had the honor of partnering with the Yamanashi University located in Kofu, Japan. It was founded in 1949, then divided into two universities in 2002. The university has four undergraduate schools and five graduate level schools. Today, there are around 4,800 students who attend the University of Yamanashi.

The Culture and Intensive English Program was able to host three students from UY for a month-long immersion program in February. Those students were Daisuke Endo, Tomoko Komiya and Yuri Hioki. Each student was in their first year of higher education. Daisuke and Tomoko were majoring in computer science, while Yuri studied engineering back in Japan. In addition, Dr. Kataoka, a professor from the Yamanashi University, came to

UNI to visit. He paid a visit to the CIEP on Feb. 20. During his time, he was able to meet with the provost, take a tour of campus and spend time with the Yamanashi students.

These students participated in the regular CIEP program, which consists of reading, writing/grammar and listening/speaking classes. The Yamanashi students also participated in a variety of activities to help improve their English skills, as well as immerse themselves into the American culture.

One of their favorite moments was meeting with their conversation partners. Each student was paired with a fluent English speaker. They would meet each week for at least an hour. The majority of the time, they spent much more than just an hour with their

partner. This opportunity gave them a chance to experience more of the college student culture of the United States.

Other activities included joining the International Friendship Program. This program helped pair them with a host family, where they got to do many activities outside of campus. There were also classroom exchanges with Professor Kathy Oakland's academic class at UNI. In addition, elderly volunteers through the Retired Senior Volunteer Program came into their CIEP classes to help teach them about the English language.

The CIEP is grateful to have the chance to partner with the University of Yamanashi. We look forward to future collaborations!