Bute Jeghe is one of the most popular symbols that Iranian people created thousands years ago. The design which is Zoroastrian symbols is originated from cypress. It is called “Persian pickles” in the U.S. Such patterns became very popular in West in 18th and 19th centuries. Some design scholars believe it is the convergence of a stylized floral spray and a cypress tree which is a Zoroastrian symbol of life and eternity.

Iranians call this pattern Bute (bush) which literary means a bunch of leaves which the simplest form is very similar to serrated leaves. Bute (bush) has a very complex and rich root in Iran which is in the shape of different objects such as flame, fruit, pine tree and etc.

As Iranians love to invent different and complex types of art patterns, they have developed various forms of plants and call them by specific names. Pattern of Bute is one of the most popular decoration items which is used in different types of art such as illuminated manuscript, textile printing, carpets weaving, and metal fabrication.

Bute Jeghe has been represented the symbol of freedom, dignity, modesty, and humanity of Iranian people during the years. As such, Iranian people have tried to save Bute Jeghe as the most popular traditional symbol. Bute Jeghe has been used for decorations in most of the Iranian traditional events and holy days such as in Persian New Year (Nowruz), Yalda night (the last night of fall), and Mehregan (one the Iranian ancient festival). For instance, Iranian people have kept the tradition of exchanging gifts in New Year holidays, and as such they preferably provide gifts with traditional patterns such as Bute Jeghe to perpetuate the Iranian traditions and beliefs.

This World’s Window was written by Fatema Bordbarjavidi. Fatema is from Tehran, Iran. In Fall 2015, Fatema was in CIEP Writing Level 5.
Dear Readers:

Welcome to 2016! This last year has been inspiring and now a new one has arrived, bringing with it many opportunities for learning, growing and strengthening the best in us and our institutions.

Last year, we were privileged to welcome students from Asia, South and Central America, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Each of these students has brought to our program their personal stories, culture, and traditions. It has been very rewarding to see the culture exchange among our international students and as a result, the diversity awareness among domestic students, UNI faculty and staff, and local volunteers who had the opportunity to interact with our international students on a regular basis. We like to believe that our work is contributing to building a more tolerant and peaceful world.

Our primary mission is to provide International Students with quality intensive academic English language instruction and cultural orientation to the United States as students learn about their host culture. We accomplish our mission at the classroom level, but we also provide our students several opportunities to practice their English skills and fluency through social activities, culture talks, field trips, and service-learning projects.

Last semester, the CIEP among other campus departments, partnered with the UNI Rod Library to sponsor the Around the World in 180 Minutes for the second year. Our students had the opportunity to showcase their home countries, traditions, music, and more. Over 20 countries were represented at
The Culture & Intensive English Program (CIEP) is constantly innovating. Whether it be welcoming a new special program, creating a new level, or updating a procedure, things change constantly and quickly. This is one of the many reasons that Jaime Lyon, CIEP Academic Support Specialist, likes teaching in an intensive English program like the CIEP.

“I like the challenge. You come to work and never know what’s going to change. For example, I don’t know what I’m going to teach next term, but I look forward to the challenge,” she says.

Jaime, who began working in the CIEP in 2008 as a tutor, has seen many changes occur in the CIEP.

“We added the Bridge (level B) program, we changed offices, and we have more diversity now,” she says.

Jaime started her language teaching career as a high school Spanish teacher in a small town in southern Iowa.

“I was doing a lot of teaching and enjoyed it. It was a good opportunity for me to learn another language and teach people another language.”

She became involved in the CIEP when she came to UNI as a graduate TESOL student.

“I was asked to tutor some students who had low-proficiency. We didn’t have a Bridge program at the time, so I was asked to tutor them so they could start into level 2 or 3.”

When she completed her Master’s Degree, she applied for and was offered a full-time teaching position in the CIEP.

In addition to teaching classes, Jaime has been involved in many special projects in the CIEP. She is one of the members of the Reading Curriculum Committee, which was tasked with looking at new reading textbooks, as well as reviewing the student learning outcomes and how they could be altered to help CIEP students benefit from them.

“We’re just finishing the reading curriculum revisions, and we want to make sure everything flows smoothly,” she says.

She also worked on a distance learning program which facilitated online class exchanges between CIEP students and a school in Turkey.

“I had our students all have a CIEP ipad and use them to communicate with the students in Turkey. That was a lot of fun,” she reflects. Due to her interest in distance learning, Jaime, along with other CIEP and UNI staff members, is currently working on a new distance program with the goal of starting some CIEP online classes for special programs.

“I see more distance programs in the CIEP’s future. We live in a global world but that doesn’t always mean that students can travel here. Some students just need a little
The Culture & Intensive English Program’s mission focuses on providing quality English language instruction and cultural orientation to prepare students for university studies. This mission cannot be met without addressing the needs of the whole student. For the CIEP, campus partnerships are integral means to provide the support and services to enable our students to succeed. Student Wellness Services strives to support students’ journeys toward optimal health of mind, body and spirit in order to meet these same goals.

Located in the Wellness and Recreation Center, Student Wellness Services promotes wellness through health education, events and activities. Full-time staff, graduate assistants, and undergraduate student workers comprise the wellness team to fulfill a wide variety of responsibilities. Mark Rowe-Barth, Associate Director of Student Wellness, oversees the office and general administrative duties. His main focuses include substance abuse programs, mental health promotion, violence prevention initiatives, and the Healthy Campus Coalition. Joan Thompson, Health Educator and Victim Services Advocate, serves as a confidential resource for all students. Her duties include education and outreach programs, specifically concerning services for victims of relationship violence and sexual assault, healthy eating and general health promotion.

Student wellness is pivotal to student success, according to Mark.

“The whole reason our office exists is to help students succeed. We know that there is a direct correlation between student wellness and academic success, and vice versa.”

For the CIEP, we know international students face a unique set of challenges. They often face the same stressors as domestic students with added pressures of being away from their usual support systems and in an unfamiliar environment.

The CIEP’s relationship with Student Wellness Services began four years ago when the CIEP reached out to Student Wellness Services to develop a variety of ways to address cultural difference concerning student conduct, sexual misconduct, and discrimination. The intent was to best equip students and staff to understand cultural differences of conduct and empower them to access resources, should they ever become necessary. This was part of a broader conversation to be proactive against violence prevention. Mark elaborated,

“I was very impressed with, at the time, Phil, Carolina and Sally being central to that conversation.”

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**UNI STUDENT WELLNESS SERVICES**

- Violence Intervention
- Substance Abuse
- Eating Well
- Health Education

Visit UNI Wellness Services at **UNI Wellness & Recreation Center, Room 104.** Learn more at: **http://www.uni.edu/studentwellness/**
Mohammed Al Sharif
CIEP FORMER STUDENT

By Haleigh Weatherly, CIEP Administrative Assistant

For former CIEP student, Mohammed Al Sharif, the opportunity to learn is something he always took advantage of and still does today. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Accounting (in Jordan), Mohammed worked as an accountant. While working as an accountant, Mohammed decided that he wanted to expand his spread of skills and learn English. Mohammed started an English program in Miami, Florida before deciding that Iowa may be a better fit for him.

A large part of Mohammed’s decision to study English in Iowa was Mohammed’s sister. Then, and still today she resides in the Cedar Valley area. She was familiar with UNI’s CIEP and suggested her brother give it a try. Mohammed knew it was the right fit for him upon his arrival for orientation. Mohammed says his first impression of Iowa and Cedar Falls was that the people were friendly and offered a “warm” welcome. His welcome in Iowa was very different from his welcome in Miami, which changed his view of the U.S. as a whole.

Mohammed did have some worries when coming to Iowa and some things were hard for him to adapt to. Mohammed says that one of his biggest struggles during his time at UNI and still today, is the public transportation system. He also worried that people would not talk to him, like in Miami. He quickly found that his struggles would be diminished by the good that the Cedar Falls area had to offer. Mohammed comment,

“I tell everyone in my home country that I wish everyone could experience CIEP because it will change how they think of America.”

If you need help, someone will help you. And they will be happy with [being able to do] that.”

A major influence on his outlook was his host family. Mohammed talks of how his host family taught him about the culture, helped him practice his English, and took him around the Cedar Valley area. He thought the option for a host family is the best part of our program. Mohammed also took it upon himself to get involved with everything else the CIEP has to offer by participating in CIEP activities and participating in the conversation partner program. In his free time, Mohammed most enjoyed playing soccer with his CIEP friends.

While in the classroom, Mohammed says his favorite part was the relationships he built with his instructors. He explained they were all so helpful, with classroom work and everything in between. He found a good mix of teacher and friend with the instructors. They helped him develop critical skills that are continuing to pay off.

Mohammed is currently in California, finishing his Accounting Master’s Program. After he finishes his studies there, he plans to return to his home country in Palestine where he hopes to transfer his skills and experience, and make an impact on the people there. Mohammed is constantly telling his friends and family about UNI CIEP, and still wears his CIEP lanyard that he received on his first day of orientation. Mohammed stated,

“I tell everyone in my home country that I wish everyone could experience CIEP because it will change how they think of America.”
CIEP Trip to Des Moines
CIEP students took a day trip to our state’s capital city, Des Moines. They toured the capitol building, walked the John Pappajohn Sculpture Park and downtown, visited the local farmer’s market, and did some shopping at the mall.

S’mores and Speed Friendship
Students enjoyed the warmth of a night-time campfire with s’mores. After the fire, students played a Speed Friendship game that helped them meet more people in CIEP and at UNI.

CIEP Talent Show
The CIEP Talent Show was an opportunity for students to show off their hidden talents. Students sang, played the piano, showed traditional games and skits from their culture, and free-style rapped.

Culture Hour: Dining Out
CIEP staff and volunteers taught students manners and formal vocabulary for dining out. They learned about U.S. American dining culture and why tipping is important in local restaurants.

Habitat for Humanity Volunteering
Students had the opportunity to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. They help build a house for people in need by tearing down walls, installing framework, and putting up drywall.

Around the World in 180 Minutes
The CIEP partnered with the UNI Rod Library once again to sponsor this event during International Education Week. During the event, many UNI students, staff, faculty and community members visited with international students about their home countries, sampled food dishes and viewed traditional clothing and country artifacts.

Northeast Iowa Food Bank Volunteering
Volunteering at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank was a great way for students to help their local community. CIEP Students prepared over 1,000 meals for children in need.

Culture Talk: Iowa Hometowns
CIEP Students attended a presentation from Conversation Partners about their hometowns. The towns discussed were Story City, Des Moines, Traer, and Kalona. They learned more about the Iowa culture and Iowa’s most popular places.

CIEP Trip to Minneapolis
CIEP students enjoyed a two day adventure in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It began at The Mall of America where students had the opportunity to shop, visit the SEA LIFE® Minnesota Aquarium, ride roller coasters at Nickelodeon Universe®. The following day students went downtown to enjoy food from the Midtown Global Market and visit the Minneapolis Institute of Art.