



AUAP CWU NEWSLETTER

Report #2 ~ October 2023



October Topics & Skills

American Studies

- Field Trip to Native American town and museums
- Colonial America
- Slavery & Abolition
- Wild West & US/Indian Wars
- Discussion of American culture with CWU students

Functions of English

- Invitations and Small Talk
- Presentations about American culture
- Problem solving skills
- Shopping and restaurant language
- Using hedge words and modals

Career Development

- Panel of Japanese working in the US
- Success & AUAP alumni
- Japanese companies with English in the workplace
- Discovering skills and interests
- Discussion with CWU students about future goals and jobs

TOEIC

- Pronunciation practice (Sound alike words)
- Listening practice - Parts 1 & 2
- Vocabulary building - synonyms and antonyms

Integrated English Skills

- Interview Americans and international students about Discovery Project topics
- Global Service Learning projects

Monthly Class Summary

Students are busy and having fun in classes. It's clear to see the improvement in confidence and English ability in the students.

One of the biggest projects for students during the program is the AUAP Discovery Project (DP). The DP requires students to choose a topic that they will compare between Japan and America, and the project is designed to improve students' listening, speaking, writing, and critical thinking skills. To help students ease into the project, pairs of students first interviewed an AUAP staff member by writing unique questions tailored to the staff member. They later shared their findings in class in an informal presentation. This is a great opportunity for students to interact with the staff as well as practice their skills in English. Later, students began a mini-DP using any topic of interest to them and interviewing 3 CWU students and 3 AUAP or international students to familiarize themselves with the interviewing process. They shared these results in class in a short presentation summarizing their findings and were impressed by one another's topic choices and results. Students then began the official DP, choosing their own topic but one that was deeper than what they chose for their mini-DP. They created and revised six interview questions and began their interviews. Over the next month, students will interview at least 16 students: 8 CWU students and 8 international and/or AUAP students. Students also drafted their DP Introduction this month and reinforced their writing skills by focusing on paragraph skills.

Another highlight this month was the AS field trip. Students first visited the Yakama Nation Cultural Heritage Center in the small rural town of Toppenish and saw some of the more than 70+ historical murals located downtown and got to visit a traditional Indian bakery to try local pastries. Next, students visited the Yakima Museum, and an adjacent old-fashioned soda fountain. The field trip gave students a chance to see Native American and cowboy life up close.



CWU Class Experience

Five qualified students are attending CWU classes (3 as student observers, and 2 as regular CWU students). Student observers are not required to do homework or tests for that class, but they are expected to attend lectures, take notes, and participate in class discussions. All 5 students meet together with AUAP faculty once a week to debrief their CWU class experiences and receive support.

The AUAP students continue to impress the AUAP staff with their goals, increased effort and participation in CWU classes, and the depth of their weekly reflections.

The CWU courses students attend:

- Introduction to Sustainability
- History of Rock and Roll
- Appreciation of Theater & Film
- US History Since 1865
- Intro to Law & Justice
- Expressive Black Culture
- Intro to Public Speaking
- Intro to Theater
- General Psychology
- Environmental Studies
- World History Since 1815
- Exploring Cultures in Modern and Contemporary Societies

"I learned there are many definitions of sustainability. The teacher said sustainability is connected with everything. Environment, economy and society are integrated."



DAVE Classes

An important part of our curriculum is combining with CWU classes. Students are usually matched 1-1 with a CWU student so they are able to engage actively in conversation.

FUNCTIONS - a special 1-hour combined class with a CWU Nonverbal Communication class. The class was split between a half hour of a CWU faculty-led activity regarding cultural difference in facial expressions and a half hour discussion of different gestures used among Japanese and American students. Both groups of students enjoyed teaching one another popular gestures used in their respective countries.

AMERICAN STUDIES- "Walk to the Line." AUAP students and CWU military science students faced each other on both sides of a line down the middle of the room and answered an assortment of yes/no questions by walking to the line if their answer was "yes." An interactive debriefing followed in small groups as students discussed their observations of cultural differences/similarities, values, and perceptions. They also ranked 20 different values from Japanese and American perspectives then talked about the rankings, cultural values, and stereotypes.

AMERICAN STUDIES- Cultural Anthropology Class: At the end of the month, students teamed up with CWU students to discuss cultural differences regarding holidays and festivals such as Halloween, Dia De Los Muertos, and Obon as well as other related topics such as spirits, ghosts, horror, and entertainment in Japan and America. Students shared information and supporting media via their phones, tablets, or laptops. Further discussion focused on extraordinary creatures (the title of the Cultural Anthropology class), horror movies, manga, anime, ghosts and the supernatural.

Career Development- Japanese Professionals Job Panel: The panelists included participants from Ellensburg: a counselor, and restaurant owner, and a cost accounting manager at an international hay company. Each panelist gave an introduction that covered his/her studies and career path. The Q & A session proved to be a great exchange; topics covered a wide range of information from dealing with culture shock to advice on skills necessary for success in a global job market to differences between working in the U.S. and Japan to and when/how panelists chose to learn English and work abroad.

Career Development- A one hour class with Cultural Anthropology where students interviewed their CWU partners about their majors, future career goals, career-related interests, and other factors that will help them be successful in their careers.



Student Services

AUAP students have been active and trying their best to get involved with CWU students in their halls, around campus, and in the community.

International Student Welcome Party: A party was held to welcome and thank the 150+ international students at CWU. AUAP students had a chance to meet students from a variety of countries. Currently, students from 54 different countries are studying at CWU.

AUAP Friends Club: Each week AUAP and CWU students join club meetings and plan fun activities to do together. Activities have included a movie night, playing board games, teaching Japanese calligraphy, making masks, and having conversation together. We had our first club meeting and students made an AUAP banner with CWU students. It was a big success and everyone had fun together.

CWU Homecoming Activities: AUAP students took part in many of the Homecoming events on Oct. 20-22, like enjoying Wellington's Wildfire, running in the 5K race, watching the football game, and playing games in the Rec Center.

Pumpkin Patch: Several students joined other international students on a fall outing to enjoy the gorgeous day at a pumpkin patch.

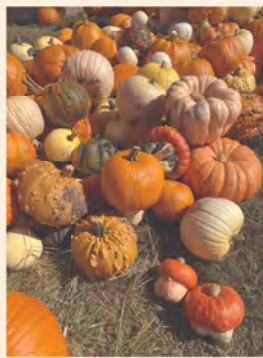
1st House Cup Challenge Winner: AUAP students have bi-weekly challenges to compete against each hall. The winner will be announced in Connections Class. The 1st House Cup Challenge winner goes to Hitchcock!!!

Campus Friend Program: 10 AUAP students are participating in the program and were matched with their CWU partners. A reception with ice breakers was held to help pairs connect and get to know each other. Students are now encouraged to meet their partners once a week.

Intramural Sports: Some AUAP students and IPAs formed a group with CWU students to participate in Intramural Sports. They play volleyball against other teams every Wednesday.

Birthday Celebrations: There were 2 birthdays since students arrived on campus! They celebrated with their cohorts and CWU friends. This was the first time for most of AUAP students to try the true American cake.





AUAP Student of the Month

The 1st AUAP Student of the Month was announced in Connections class. There are about 15 rules students need to follow in order to win the award. Those who got selected have been trying the various new things since the beginning. Their hard work and dedication got recognized by AUAP staff!

Volunteering

AUAP students have been trying their best to get involved with CWU students in their halls, around campus, and in the community.

Buskers in the Burg: 7 students participated in the annual Ellensburg music and art festival. They helped at the various craft and activity stations around downtown. It was a great way to get involved with the Ellensburg community, especially kids!

Culture Nights: Each residence hall with AUAP students held a Japanese Culture Night. AUAP students showed peers from their halls how to write in kanji, fold origami, and play with traditional Japanese toys.

Japan Goes Central: Same concept as Culture Nights, but for Japan Goes Central, Student Services Assistants (SSAs) led the event. The first one was held at Kamola Hall lead by Noah and the second was at Wendell Hall B lead by Makaila. Students typically do not go to these halls so it was something new to them.



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