



AUAP CWU NEWSLETTER

Report #3 ~April 2025



April Topics & Skills

American Studies

- World War 1/Consumerism
- Roaring 20s
- World War 2/Great Depression
- Cold War
- Mini research presentations
- Discussion of American culture with CWU students

Functions of English

- Ordering at a restaurant
- Idioms & Slang
- Travel Language and preparation: Vocab, airport, hotel, and safety
- Problem solving skills - especially for travel related issues

Career Development

- Connecting personal skills and experiences to job descriptions
- Interview AUAP & CWU students about work culture
- Discussion with CWU students about changes in work since the pandemic

TOEIC

- Suffixes
- Listening practice - Parts 2 & 3
- Parts 5 & 6 tips & strategies
- Adjectives and adverbs
- Practice TOEIC & Term 1 final exam

Integrated English Skills

- Interviews for Discovery Project
- Writing and summarizing interviews for Discovery Project
- Global Service Learning activities

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.

FUNCTIONS: Video Chat Project: Over the past month, students have been working on the Video Chat project. Students were assigned 2 CWU partners from an Asian Geography class and tasked with negotiating, scheduling, and completing a video meeting with their partners. The focus this month was on discussing American and Japanese culture as well as more specific topics related to the geography class such as natural landscapes, weather, and population. Most students used Zoom for their video chat and reported great fun with their CWU partners, enhanced communication skills, and new Zoom knowledge.

IES: Global Service Learning: Over the past month, students participated in 2 volunteer activities related to a selected theme. Additionally, each student was assigned a long-term volunteer project to be involved with. 6 students, working on a local elementary school's diversity festival, visited the school and participated in the cultural event. A second group of 4 students are helping with the spring planting and preparation at the CWU community garden.

CD: Mock Job Interviews: The final exam in CD class was the mock job interviews. Students first brainstormed important skills, experiences, duties, and interview questions for specific jobs. The focus of the mock job interviews was on students remaining positive, having confidence, elaborating, and selling themselves to potential employers. During the mock job interviews, students role-played in four interviews: once as an interviewer, once as an observer who took notes and helped make the hiring decision, and twice as an interviewee making use of the best skills, experiences, and personal qualities on their role sheet. They later debriefed the mock job interviews in class.

"I enjoyed to do Mock Job. My favorite was interviewee. It was fun to think about my good point and ideas for company. I think these experiences are very important for my future job hunting."



DAVE Classes

FUNCTIONS – Students had a “City Travel” group research presentation where each group focused on a different popular U.S. or Canadian travel destination. Cities included Seattle, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Seattle, New York City, and Vancouver (Canada).

Career Development– Students had a combined class with a CWU Anthropology course, where they participated in an exciting Kahoot competition. AUAP students were shown names of jobs in Japanese and had to quickly describe in English what these jobs were while CWU partners guessed. The jobs and descriptions were elaborated on and debriefed with all students, and some students had time to ask meaningful career-related questions they wrote prior to class.

IES #1 – Students worked on their Discovery Project by completing several in-class interviews when they combined with a class of CWU Education students. The AUAP students had an opportunity to team up with CWU students, ask questions, take notes, and learn and discuss new perspectives.

IES #2 – AUAP students met with CWU Communication students to discuss their DP Introduction and conduct DP interviews. CWU students also helped build vocabulary related to the DP topics.

IES #3 – AUAP students completed their final exam in a combined class with CWU Communication students. AUAP students gave mini-presentations about the full results of one of their six DP interview questions. They then led the group (CWU and AUAP students mixed) in a Q-and-A discussion and received feedback on their presentation.



“I learned that community is not just a place. There are people working together and make connections.”

“The many things that I learned in CD class will be useful a lot when I decide my future job.”

“It’s good for me to think about my future in English.”

“I liked everything about Functions class because I could learn phrases I can use every day. I also experienced meeting with Americans and gave the presentation. It was good experience.”





Student Services

AUAP students have had another active month. Students have reached the halfway point and have been trying their best to spend time with their Campus and Community Friends, CWU students, and try "English Only Days."

AUAP Students of the Month – 2 students received recognition for their outstanding efforts in and out of the classroom. Students of the month show determination and a large effort to use English, participate actively, and interact with Americans.

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, doing the childhood games, and having conversation together. Fun fact: Beginning of April "The Observer" CWU student led newspaper came to Friends club and wrote a full-page article about AUAP! (See the last page of this report)

Campus Friend Program – Since their first get together, AUAP students have been enjoying their Campus Friends. The examples of activities – Some went shopping in Yakima and some cooked dinner together.

Community Friend Program – Students who were matched with their community friends visited their house and had dinner together. It is great for the students to learn the American life and what the local family's life is like.

Seattle/Mariners Game – On April 26, AUAP students joined a Seattle trip organized by the Office of International Studies and Programs. During the day, they walked around the downtown Seattle and explored. At night, they went to see a Mariners game against Miami Marlins at the T-Mobile stadium. How exciting to watch a Major League game in person! There were so many home runs and Mariners defeated Marlins 14-0. What a great game for students to watch!

AUAP Mid Cycle Break – 4/25~4/27 was AUAP Mid cycle break for AUAP students. This was their first 3-day weekend since they arrived in America. Some students volunteered at the elementary school on Friday, and all of them went to Seattle on Saturday. They had a nice break and are ready for term 2!





Volunteering

April was a busy month for AUAP students with lots of options for volunteering. Students engaged in the community through:

International Cafe – AUAP students joined CWU and other international students. The Cafe was hosted by Geography club. Each table had an interactive activity related to geography.

Spring Involvement Fair – AUAP students have tabled with AUAP student services assistant to introduce AUAP program & AUAP Friendsclub and showcase Japanese culture to CWU students. AUAP students also walked around the tables to see other clubs and student organizations they may be interested in joining!

Day of Service – On April 12th, many students joined CWU students on the annual Earth Day event to clean up the the various locations in Kittitas County. They assisted by helping with planting, picking up trash, and restoring structures.

World Languages Day – Upwards of 400 high school students were visiting campus to experience university life through language and culture activities. AUAP students showcased Japanese and Japanese culture by sharing the experiences of Calligraphy, Origami and Kendama with the prospective students.

Cultural Celebration Night – Students had an opportunity to participate in Cultural Celebration Night held by Ellensburg School District on April 25th. The purpose was to celebrate cultures, diversity, and all the differences and commonalities in the students and community members in Ellensburg. It took place at Ida elementary school, and AUAP students taught community members how to make Onigiri, Calligraphy, and Origami. There were dance performances from different cultures. At the end, students enjoyed a potluck meal with foods from different cuisines.



CONNECTING CULTURES

Origami night at the AUAP Friends Club

Jackson Roberts
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Asia University America Program (AUAP) gives students from Asia University a chance to come to America and immerse themselves in new cultures. It is a study abroad program where the students learn communication skills through content instruction. Each week the AUAP Friends Club has a different event in the Black Hall 202 for the students to kick back and hang out with their new friends they have made at CWU.

The first meeting of the quarter was origami night, where many students alike were showcasing their artistic abilities through making art with paper. Over 15 students made their way to Black Hall as they all sat down with smiles on their faces eating snacks, folding origami and talking amongst one another.

President of the AUAP Friends Club Reyhaneh Bagherian elaborated more on what the club is all about. "The purpose of our club is that our students are coming here to Japan and staying here for almost five months. They are mostly here to learn American culture and everything related to America," Bagherian said. "The mission of the club is that we have an environment for all students, CWU students and AUAP students to just engage and have space for themselves."

"It's really interesting because they are coming from a totally different culture, and

it is totally different with US culture. So, the most important part for me personally is sharing different cultures and seeing the differences in our cultures," Bagherian said.

Intercultural Communications Professor Josh Nelson-Ichido, highlighted the importance of Wildcats on campus to befriend the AUAP students who are likely farther away from home than they have ever been. "For the AUAP students, having domestic students who are eager to engage with them and are willing to actively accommodate to their communications styles and actually think, 'Okay I want this person to feel welcome, to feel comfortable, I want to make sure that they feel understood or at least valued,' that stuff is hugely important for a second language learner who is now in a foreign country."

"Some of my favorite moments have been seeing students of mine who have never heard of AUAP, never done anything with intercultural groups or even thinking interculturally at all. Once they start to interact with AUAP and they do these joint classes or the classroom volunteering, it becomes a passion for them. They become very interested and involved with AUAP," Nelson-Ichido said.

In the Intercultural Communications class, Nelson-Ichido has the students volunteer to have an in person experience with communicating interculturally.



"It can be very hard to drive home some of the elements because people often have that mentality that 'oh well intercultural only applies when I'm interacting with someone from a different country or somebody who speaks another language,' which it is obviously not but it is very hard to drive that home for a lot of students," Nelson-Ichido said. "Having the option or opportunity to be able to get our students involved with and interact with people from very different cultural and national backgrounds can really highlight some of the concepts that we're talking about in class that we might not see in their day to day intercultural interactions."

The AUAP Friends Club will continue to host interactive events throughout the quarter on Thursdays where all students alike have the opportunity to get to know our AUAP Wildcats.



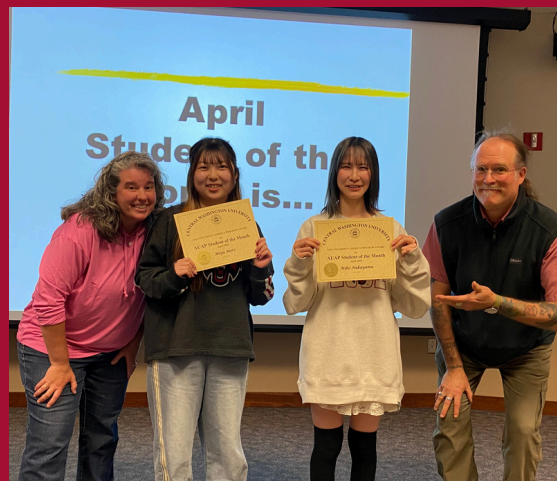
Origami night at AUAP Friends Club.
(Photos by Jackson Roberts)



House Cup Challenge Winner



Students of the Month



@CWUObserver CWU Observer CWUObserver cwuobserver@gmail.com cwuobserver.com



April 2025



Term I
Perfect Attendance