



AUAP CWU NEWSLETTER

Report #4 ~ May 2025



May Topics & Skills

American Studies

- World War 2/Great Depression
- Cold War
- Civil Rights Movement
- 1960s Counterculture
- Student presentations
- Discussion of American culture with CWU students

Global Issues

- UN Sustainable Development Goals
 - Sustainable Cities
 - Quality Education
 - Gender Equality
 - Clean Water & Sanitation
 - Health & Well Being

Career Development

- Building an American style resume
- Start writing International Experience Portfolio
- Discussion with CWU students about work experience and job hunting

TOEIC

- Comparative/superlative adjectives
- Subject-verb agreement
- Singular/plural nouns
- Inferences
- Part 3 listening practice
- Writing TOEIC style questions

Integrated English Skills

- Writing and summarizing interviews for Discovery Project
- Global Service Learning team project presentations

Special Projects Summary

Term 2 started with a lot of energy and renewed motivation. Students are active and pushing themselves to use English as much as possible these days.

One on Ones: Students had the opportunity to meet with the Program Director for 30 minutes to process their AUAP life and set goals for Term 2. Students are positive and happy with their efforts to speak English and make American friends. Most students are trying English Only Days every day!

Video Chat: Students concluded the Video Chat project this month. Many groups continued to meet online while some took the opportunity to gather face to face with their group. The topics of discussion this month centered around SDGs, economic development, and geopolitics.

"I had a good experience in video chat. Before AUAP, I did video chat (Native Camp), but this is 1 on 1. This is my first time to talk with 2 on 1, so I need to listen both opinion."

"It was exciting for me because I had many chances to ask my partner many aspects of America. I was interested about his hometown's product that use advantage of his home area's characteristics. I think my English improve. To interview, answer questions and talk with my partner while using the Zoom are different from normal conversation and this is good practice."

CWU Student For A Day: Students paired up with a CWU student to shadow for the day, attending regular CWU classes and spending at least one hour of social time together.

Global Service Learning: For the third GSL activity, students worked as a team to create a fictional service-learning activity at CWU or in the Ellensburg community. Groups spent several AUAP classes researching facts and creating a PowerPoint. Teams considered important event planning details such as determining the location, transportation, supplies, rules, and schedule of their event all within a \$1,000 budget. Students also created a poster to advertise their event. The four groups showcased their ideas in a 12-minute PowerPoint presentation followed by a 8-minute student led Q&A session.

For GSL #4, students were divided into three teams, each working on a long-term service project. This month the SOURCE group helped CWU students with logistics during the event and the Community Garden group met with the garden planner to choose a tree that will be planted in the "Food Forrest" and be taken care of by future AUAP students.



DAVE Classes

Global Issues- Students met with the CWU ROTC class. AUAP students interviewed the CWU students about their perspectives and opinions on various global issues and challenges, including broader topics like war and peace. This unique class was a great experience for students to find new ideas but also to discover that sometimes both sides shared similar ideas about global issues.

"I learned that each person focused on different problems, and these are very important. Japanese students tend to focus on children problem. On the other hand, American students tend to focus on environment problems. My new vocabulary is protest. This means a statement or expressing disapproval of or objection to something. I was interested and surprised that an American student referred foods price inflation. It is because both America and Japan have this."

"Someone thought very deeply and it is very difficult problem. Global warming, war, and food/water are main problem of global issues. American has protesting to solve the problems, it is unusually for Japanese."

Career Development #1- AUAP students were grouped with CWU students in an Intro to Communication class studying non-verbal communication. First, both sets of students taught each other some common gestures in their culture and had the other try to guess the meaning. The second half of the class was a lecture by Professor Josh Nelson-Ichido based on the difference between Japanese and American perceptions of happiness tied to facial expressions.

Career Development #2- AUAP students were paired 1-1 with CWU students in an Intro to IT class. They discussed their ideas about what is important in a job interview, and both groups of students practiced answering job interview questions thoroughly and smoothly.

IES- Students met with a class of CWU Education majors. The first portion of the class was dedicated to CWU students' teaching demonstrations which provided them with firsthand experience teaching English Language Learners. The second portion of these three classes involved AUAP students receiving guidance and feedback on ideas for their GSL #3 activities.

TOEIC- Students met with the CWU Communication class again and learned about the differences in communication styles between high and low contact cultures. After a lecture, students met in small groups with CWU students and discussed how they would react/say in various situations, analyzing the differences between Japanese and American communication culture. This tied in well to TOEIC class and studying the use of inferences.



DAVE Classes Continued...

American Studies- Students teamed up with a Cultural Anthropology class to discuss cultural differences and values by participating in an activity called "Walk to the Line." The activity gave students a chance to compare values related to food, family, society, and themselves as individuals. Small group discussions helped debrief cultural values and perceptions.

Career Development #3- Japanese Career Panel: Four local Japanese guests, all of whom are Japanese natives living and working in Ellensburg shared their wisdom and experiences. The panelists (Mr. Kikuchi, business owner; Ms. Sorey, a teacher's assistant, and Ms. Tanikawa, a social worker) explained their studies and career paths, and then students asked many thoughtful questions about fields and industries, skills, cultural differences, English ability, etc. Students were able to connect their own experiences and challenges with the advice from the panel.

"Mrs Tomoko's advice, 'make connections and improve your skills' helped me the most because I'm not good at making connections. However, her advice give me a challenge mind and energy about talking and making relationships with other people."

"Mr. Kikuchi's advice helped me the most. He has optimistic thinking. I have two interesting ideas from him. One is connections are very important in life. The other is finding your goal and heading for it. I'd like to find my goal during AUAP."

"I think that these three people's courage is great. It's because they are working in a country which they weren't born in. I learned that studying English in America is more effective than in Japan because we can get more opportunity to speak English. So I have to speak English more during study abroad."



"I had a lot of surprising things in DAVE class... I can feel the difference between America and Japan."



Student Services

Finally, it has started warming up in Ellensburg! Flowers are blooming and we have been soaking up the sun. Everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather!

Mid Cycle Break: At the end of April, AUAP students had 3 day weekend. The students enjoyed going to Seattle for 1 day and enjoyed doing nothing in Ellensburg the rest of the break!

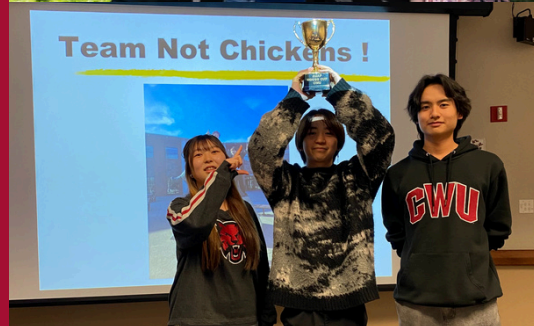
AUAP Friendsclub: Every Thursday, Student Services Assistant holds AUAP Friendsclub where AUAP students and CWU students spend time together. Each week, they have different activities, such as doing the crafts, playing board games together. Now since the weather is nice, they are able to meet outside and play sports together! What a fun way to spend after class.

AUAP Photoshoot: We had a group photo shoot session in the middle of May and it was a bit windy, but a beautiful day. Unfortunately Wellington, the CWU mascot, could not join us, but students still enjoyed being photographed in front of Wildcat statue.

IPA 1-1 meetings: Students had the second 1-1 with their IPA. This is a great time for them to make a deeper connection with their IPA. Moreover, this is a perfect opportunity to see how much their English has improved compared to the first 1-1 right after they got to CWU! IPAs are always impressed how far students have come by the second One on one meeting.

House Cup Challenge Winners: Beginning of May, there was an announcement for House Cup Challenge #4 winner after the 3-week challenges. Team NOT CHICKENS won the challenge again! Since their first victory, they have been consistently a strong team! The second winner of May went to Team Konjac! It was their first time winning the House Cup Challenges which made them very happy. The last winner of the month was Super Salad. Great work everyone! Keep it up with your great work!

Memorial Day Holiday Weekend: During this 3-day weekend, some students have joined an overnight backpacking trip planned by CWU OPR (Outdoors Pursuits and Rentals). A student went back to his roommate's hometown close to Olympia (Capitol of Washington State) and enjoyed the mini homestay! Some went to see the Snoqualmie Fall with CWU friends.



AUAP Student of the Month: It is hard to choose a student for this award since all of the students have been trying really hard since Day 1. May's award went to 2 students! Keep it up your great work, everyone!

AUAP BBQ: AUAP students and their friends gathered for AUAP BBQ to enjoy the night together before the CWU final's week begins. They have enjoyed BBQ food and played cornhole and some sports. What a fun night!



Volunteering

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

International Cafe – The final International Cafe of the school year was hosted by AUAP and UESL students! The theme was "Japanese Festivals". They gave a short presentation on Japanese festivals and holidays. After that, each group had an activity table based on their festival/holiday themes. AUAP students chose 1. Coming of Age Day and Ceremony (Kahoot & Try the Yukata), 2. Ohanami (Shared sakura flavored treat and play the traditional card games.), 3. Children's Day & Girl's Day (Origami & Newspaper Kabuto Hat) and 4. Shooting target for Summer Festival. It was a great opportunity to share their culture with CWU students! AUAP students did an excellent job giving brief presentations about the holidays/festivals. Everyone had a blast!

Wildcat Farm – Some students went to the CWU Farm to prepare for the planting season. They raked and weeded. Now they are ready to plant some basil, tomatoes and more!

CWU SOURCE – Every year at CWU, there is an event called SOURCE (Symposium of University Research and Creative Expression) where CWU students showcase their work such as research projects, presentations, clothes they made and more. 3 AUAP students volunteered at the event and saw CWU students' masterpiece. It was a great opportunity for them to see what CWU students have accomplished in their classes.



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