



AUAP CWU NEWSLETTER

February/March, 2026



Topics & Skills

American Studies

- 1970s movements including:
 - Civil Rights
 - Feminism
 - American Indian
 - Gay Liberation
 - Farm Workers & Environmentalism
- Movie: Forrest Gump

Global Studies

- Sustainable Development Goals
 - SDG #4 - Quality Education
 - SDG #5 - Gender Equality
 - SDG #1 - No Poverty
 - SDG #16 - Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Career Development

- Creating the International Experience Portfolio
- Revising American Resume
- How to read job descriptions
- Peer Career Counseling - helping peers find a suitable job based on experience and skills

TOEIC

- Suffixes
- Modal verbs
- Verb tenses
- Question types
- Tips and timed practice

Integrated English Skills

- 7 page written Discovery Project
- Create Powerpoint for DP Presentation
- AUAP Life Show & Tell

Class Summary

February was another busy month. With the end of AUAP nearing, students were busy with final exams and important project and presentations.

IES: Discovery Project Presentations. The DP presentation is the culminating project in IES class. Students have been working on the DP since the first week of classes, and it was a powerful way to finish the course. To prepare for the final phase of the project, students first had a one-hour class in mixed sections to practice giving their DP presentation, and a few days later they gave their presentation in their own sections. Each presenter had 7 minutes to present their research topic and findings and 3 minutes to answer questions from the audience. Students asked thoughtful questions and took notes on each presentation. Afterwards, they voted on the best presentation. DP presentations were debriefed in class through a written reflection as well as oral discussions with teacher feedback. Students were visibly pleased with their skill development and improvement in confidence throughout the duration of the project.

GS: Sustainable Development Goals Presentations. The SDG presentation is the final presentation in GS class. Working in teams of 3, students spent seven weeks gathering research on one of the SDG topics of their choice to compile a PowerPoint to present to their classmates. Students had time each week to conduct research and create their PowerPoint slides. The presentations were roughly 20 minutes apiece and were a great way to conclude GS class. Each presentation included at least one video clip to further explain the SDG and required audience participation through small group discussions and asking questions. Students participated attentively and took notes on each presentation. The SDG project was debriefed in class when the presentations ended. Students were proud of seeing this project through to the end and could see their growth and progress in this accomplishment.



DAVE Classes

Career Development- Field Trips: This month, students attended field trips to visit two different local businesses. Site visits focused on the following industries: tourism, hotel, coffee, and non-profit organizations. The focus of this field trip was for students to compare two businesses and better understand these jobs and industries. Having voted on field trip sites of interest last month, students prepared for the field trips this month by reading an article about each of their two sites as well as writing 3 thoughtful questions to ask per site.

Students visited two of the following destinations: Kittitas Cafe, Hope Source, Chamber of Commerce, Best Western Hotel, and Windrow hotel. Students had a tour and enjoyed learning from the friendly and accommodating staff they met at the various sites. These unique field trips proved to be an eye-opening and enriching experience. After the field trip, students completed a written reflection comparing the two visits and explaining connections between CD and GS class, their future careers, or their personal interests.

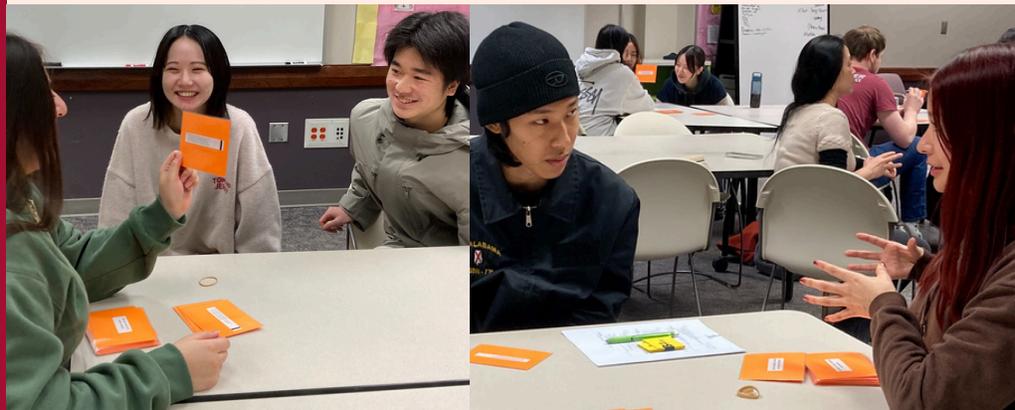


"I visited two companies. The two companies are a little similar because both help people and connect to the community. NGO helps poor people and the Chamber helps local business (not big companies). I think to help people is connected to my major. My major has to help people. This experience will help me in the future, when I choose my job. I can use what I have learned."

TOEIC - Test Practice: This month, in order to prepare for the official TOEIC exam, students met with a CWU Education class two times. In the first session, CWU students used flash cards to help simulate different parts of the listening test. In the second class session, CWU students used flash cards to quiz students about various grammar points they have learned and may see on the official test.



"I have been interested in NGOs so this experience is very helpful for my future. I'm glad to ask questions to the staff. I will never forget it, and I will try to get some skills that I lack for my future."





DAVE Classes

Career Development: Students participated in a unique class with Information Technology students. The class was dedicated to analyzing and discussing cultural comparisons of what's most and least important at a job interview and/or when hiring someone. The second portion of the class involved both CWU and AUAP students practicing how to answer common job interview questions. CWU students gave feedback to the AUAP students on how to make their answers stronger and relevant to specific jobs that they may be interviewing for in the upcoming AUAP Job Fair.



IES: To prepare for the final phase of the Discovery Project, students met for 1 hour with a CWU Education class. The CWU students listened to AUAP students practice their DP presentations in small groups. Each presenter had 7 minutes to share their research topic and findings in a PowerPoint presentation, and they had 2 minutes to answer questions from the audience. CWU students provided feedback regarding the presentations and asked thoughtful questions to challenge the presenters.



Global Studies: Video Chat – Students completed the Video Chat project this month working with a CWU Sociology class. They met 1-1 on Zoom, discussing a variety of complex global problems and sociological issues as well as focusing on communication through casual English conversations. Topics included international relations, culture, small talk, lifestyle.



"Second video chat is kind of easy for me, so I learned that I can speak in English with confidence more than first video chat."



"Through this conversation, I realized that I have changed more than I thought. When I talked about education differences and fitting into American culture, I noticed that I am now more confident and adaptable. I also realized that I have developed my own perspective about both the U.S. and Japan."



"AUAP gave me many valuable experiences and lessons. I learned the importance of challenging myself and trying new things. My desire to work overseas and solve global problems became even stronger. Also, through many activities, I was able to improve my skills. These experiences gave me confidence. I believe these five months will be very helpful for my future and my life."

Culminating Projects

Cycle 2, 2025 concluded with the following projects:

International Experience Portfolio - Students finished working on their International Experience Portfolio (IEP) using Microsoft Publisher. The contents included topics such as English communication usage, cultural understanding and initiative, global service learning, problem solving, and accomplishments. Students typed detailed paragraphs for each topic including examples of experiences during AUAP, what they learned, and what skills they developed. Students also attached a personal photograph to help illustrate each page in the IEP.

AUAP Job Fair - On the last day of classes, all students attended the AUAP Job Fair. 13 CWU staff members and other Ellensburg professionals helped facilitate the interviews. Each AUAP student had two formal interviews. This capstone project for CD class gave students a chance to use the skills they learned in class, to talk about their skills and experiences positively and professionally, and to connect themselves competitively to the jobs they "applied" for. Students also used their American style resume and their IEP in their interviews.

"AUAP Show and Tell" - As a final assignment for IES, students participated in a "My AUAP Life: Show & Tell" mini-presentation by bringing a personally significant object to class. Students talked for a short time about their object and its connection to their AUAP life, and they answered questions from the audience. There was a good balance of entertaining objects and more serious objects, and students articulated their memories well.



Student Services

The students spent time in the last few weeks with their CWU friends, enjoying campus activities, and soaking up American culture.

AUAP Night - Before AUAP students went back home, we had one last big gathering with CWU friends. At AUAP Night, food and refreshments were served for the students to enjoy. For activities, we did musical chairs, 1 2 3 Grab, Bingo, and Pinata! Lots of laughers and fun made the AUAP night very special and memorable to all students who joined.

AUAP Friends Club - AUAP and CWU students had a farewell gathering. Many of friends came to spend the last time with AUAP students. Lots of laughter, but also shedding some tears. AUAP students made such an accomplishment making great connections and friendships with so many CWU friends within 5 months. So proud of them!

Connections Class - In the final Connections class of the cycle, students learned who had gotten jobs at the Job Fair, filled out the final program evaluation and learned about ways to stay connected to English upon returning to Japan.

Group dinner - IPAs planned a final group dinner for each group. Some were not able to make it, but they all enjoyed the last eat-out in Ellensburg with their group.

Saying good bye - The hardest moment of study abroad. Lots of CWU friends stayed up all night with AUAP students to spend the last night together. More came to say good bye in early morning before they left for the airport. They were able to make a deep connections with each other. We look forward to seeing you again in the future! Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat!



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Cycle 2, 2025 final celebrations and honors:

Student Speakers - 2 AUAP students were chosen to represent their class by speaking at the Farewell Banquet. To honor these students, they met with CWU President Wohlpert. He presented each with a special CWU pin to commemorate this achievement.

Farewell Banquet - The AUAP students and staff gathered for a formal dinner followed by speeches, awards, and the End of Cycle Video which highlighted the best memories from the past 5 months.

Perfect Attendance Award - One AUAP student was awarded with the Perfect Attendance Award for having never been absent or late to any class over the entire five-month cycle.

Super Scholar Award- Five students received the Super Scholar Award for earning 95% or higher in all of their AUAP classes for both terms.

House Cup Award - Team Crazy Girls won the overall House Cup Award by completing the most challenges over the cycle.

