



AUAP CWU NEWSLETTER

Report #4 ~ May 2026



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 starting to try English Only Days!

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 half a 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 media to advertise their event. The five groups showcased their ideas in a 12-minute PowerPoint presentation followed by a 8-minute student led Q&A session. Classroom volunteers were active participants and had great discussions.

For GSL #4, students were divided into three teams, each working on a long-term service project. This month the WildCat Farm group helped plant various vegetables and flowers and watered the garden plot assigned to international programs.



DAVE Classes

Global Studies- Students met with the CWU Asian Studies class two more times this month. 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.

"From the Global Challenge interviews in meeting #3, I learned that many global issues such as education, inequality, and sustainability are closely connected. I also learned that different people have different priorities and solutions depending on their experiences and cultural background."

"My partners thinks problem is economic gap. I was satisfied with that. But in Japan, in general people think problem is about environment. The perspective is different between Japan and America."



TOEIC #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- 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.

TOEIC #2- 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.



Global Studies #2- AUAP students teamed up with a Spanish class to focus (in English) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by participating in a trivia game. Students enjoyed discussing SDGs with CWU students in a fun way that also challenged them to think critically.



DAVE Classes Continued...



Global Studies #3- Students teamed up with a Cultural Anthropology class to discuss families and create kinship charts. Next, students answered discussion questions about traditional family roles, habits, and lifestyles; comparing Japan and the US.



Career Development #2- Japanese Career Panel: Three 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.



American Studies- Students teamed up again with the 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.

CCE (CWU Class Experience):

4 CCE students continued to multitask in significant ways. While continuing to attend their CWU class they were able to exhibit clear development of their in-class skills such as speaking English, participating in class activities with CWU classmates, raising their hands in their CWU classes, and learning so much from a vast array of subjects (psychology, nutrition, intercultural communication, and theater).

"I learned that Japanese people should learn a bit from Americans because American students took classes seriously. They took notes and asked questions seriously."

CWU Student For A Day reflection





Class Summary

個別面談: AUAP生はプログラムディレクターと30分の面談をし、AUAP生活を振り返り、後期の目標を決めました。学生たちは、英語を話すことや友達を作ることに前向きで、自分たちの努力に満足しています。多くの学生が「英語のみの日」に挑戦しました。

ビデオチャット: ビデオチャット・プロジェクトが終了しました。多くのグループはZoomでの顔合わせでしたが、中には直接会って、話し合うグループもありました。今月の議論のテーマは、SDGs、経済開発、地政学でした。

CWU学生体験: CWU生とペアを組み、半日その学生に同行してCWUの通常の授業に参加し、授業外では少なくとも1時間は一緒に時間を過ごしました。

GSL: GSL第3回は、チームに分かれてCWUまたはエレンズバーグを舞台とした架空のサービス・ラーニング活動を企画しました。各グループは、授業中に市場調査を行いパワーポイントを作成しました。1,000ドルの予算内で、開催場所、交通手段、備品、ルール、スケジュールなど、イベント企画における重要な詳細を検討しました。また、学生たちはイベントを宣伝するための広報資料も作成しました。4つのグループは、12分間のパワーポイント発表でアイデアを披露し、その後、学生主導による8分間の質疑応答セッションを行いました。



GSL第4回では、学生は3つのチームに分かれ、それぞれが長期的なサービスプロジェクトに取り組みました。今月、WildCat Farmグループは、様々な野菜や花の植え付けを手伝い、菜園の水やりを行いました。

Global Studies: アジア研究クラスの学生たちに戦争と平和といった広範なテーマを含む、さまざまな地球規模の課題や問題に対する見解や意見についてインタビューを行いました。新たな視点を得る絶好の機会となっただけでなく、地球規模の課題について、双方の考えが時に共通していることに気づく貴重な経験ともなりました。

TOEIC #1: コミュニケーションの授業に参加し、非言語コミュニケーションについて学びました。まず、両グループの学生が互いの文化における一般的なジェスチャーを教え合い、相手にその意味を当ててもらいました。授業の後半は、表情に表れる「幸福」に対する日本とアメリカの認識の違いについて講義が行われました。

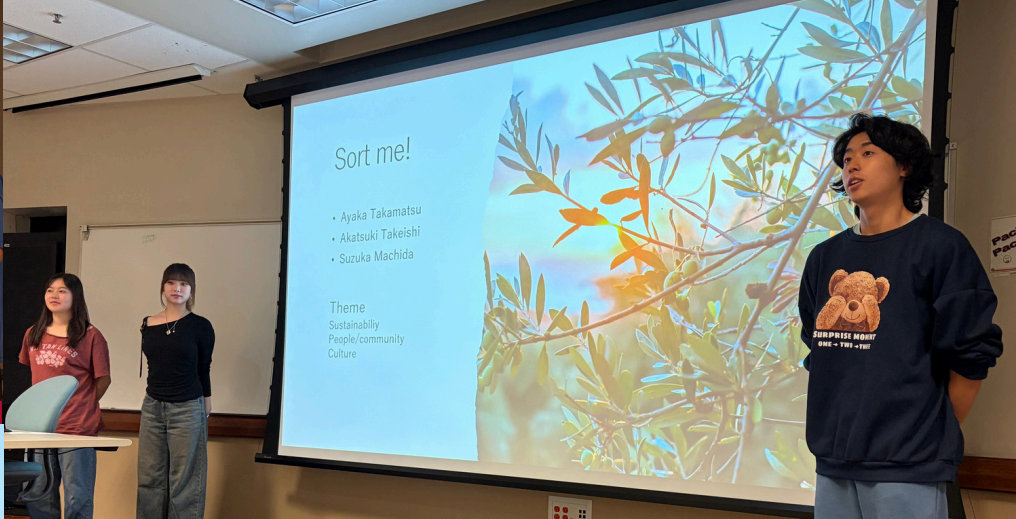
Career Development: IT入門クラスとの合同授業では、CWU生と1対1でペアを組みました。就職面接で何が重要かについて意見を交わし、就職面接の質問に的確かつスムーズに答える練習を徹底的に行いました。



"I learned that I can communicate more gently and clearly than I expected. I did not know I could adjust my speaking style so naturally."

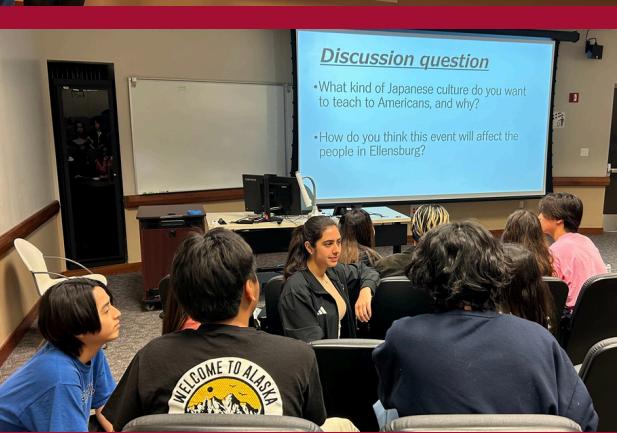
Video chat reflection





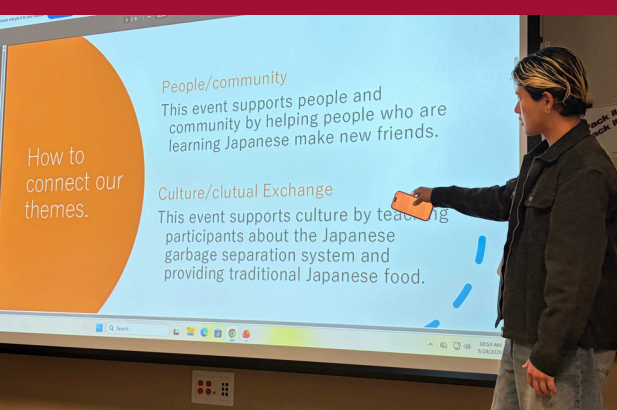
Class Summary

TOEIC #2: コミュニケーションクラスとハイコンテキスト文化とローコンテキスト文化におけるコミュニケーションスタイルの違いについて学びました。グループに分かれて、様々な状況下でどのような反応をし何を言うかについて話し合い、日本とアメリカのコミュニケーション文化の違いを分析しました。これはTOEICの授業や推論の活用に関する学習内容とよく結びつきました。



GS #2: AUAP生たちはスペイン語の授業の学生たちと協力し、クイズゲームを通じて（英語で）持続可能な開発目標（SDGs）について学びました。SDGsについて楽しく議論しながら、批判的思考力を養う機会となりました。

GS #3: 文化人類学のクラスとの合同授業で、家族について話し合い、親族関係図を作成しました。続いて、日本とアメリカを比較しながら、伝統的な家族の役割、習慣、生活様式に関するディスカッションの質問に答えました。



Career Development #2 日本人キャリアパネル: エレンズバーグ在住で現地で働く日本人3名のゲストが、その知見と経験を共有しました。パネリスト（事業主の菊池氏、ティーチングアシスタントのソレイ氏、ソーシャルワーカーの谷川氏）が自身の学歴やキャリアパスを説明した後、学生たちから、分野や業界、スキル、文化の違い、英語力などについて多くの質問が寄せられました。学生たちは、自身の経験や直面している課題と、パネリストからのアドバイスを結びつけることができました。

アメリカ研究: 文化人類学の生徒と「ウォーク・トゥ・ザ・ライン」と呼ばれるアクティビティをし、文化の違いや価値観について話し合いました。このアクティビティを通じて、学生たちは食、家族、社会、そして自分自身に関する価値観を比較する機会を得ました。少人数グループでのディスカッションでは、文化的な価値観や認識について振り返りを行いました。

CCE (CWU Class Experience): CCEの学生4名は、引き続き多方面の取り組みを精力的に行いました。CWUの授業に出席し続ける一方で、英語での会話、CWUのクラスメートとの授業活動への参加、授業中の挙手など、授業におけるスキルが明らかに向上したことがうかがえました。また、心理学、栄養学、異文化コミュニケーション、演劇など、多岐にわたる科目から多くのことを学びました。





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: The first weekend of May was their Mid Cycle Break and AUAP students had 3 day weekend. The students enjoyed going to Seattle for 1 day, going to the campus events and enjoyed doing nothing in Ellensburg the rest of the break!

Intramural Sports: Some students have joined intramural sports which are organized by CWU recreation center. There are multiple sports students can choose from. Some students chose to play soccer with CWU friends and others chose softball to play. There is a game every week and a couple of practices throughout a week. It is a great way to get to know new people and enjoy the beautiful weather!

Seattle Trip & Mariners game: Students went on a Seattle trip organized by the Office of International Studies and Programs. They enjoyed walking around in Seattle during the day, and went to a Mariners game at night. Ichiro made an appearance as one of the special guests that night which made baseball fans all excited. What an amazing surprise!

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.

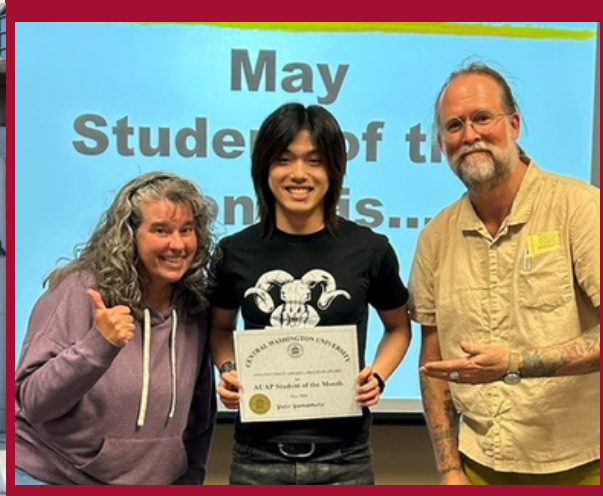
IPA 1-1 meetings: Students had the second 1-1 with their IPA. This is a great time for them to make a deeper connection with their IPA. Moreover, this is a perfect opportunity to see how much their English has improved compared to the first 1-1 right after they got to CWU! IPAs are always impressed how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

Student of the Month: This award is presented to the student who has demonstrated the greatest effort in both academic and personal life. Many students worked hard to challenge themselves in May but the awardee has continuously pushed himself in and out of class!

Memorial Day Holiday Weekend: During this 3-day weekend, some students went to other towns in WA with CWU friends, Oregon state and Vancouver, Canada.





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 students! The theme was "Japanese Culture and Trivia". There were 5 activities including 1. Teaching useful Japanese phrases, 2. Target shooting with chopsticks gun, 3. How to use chopsticks & taboos of chopsticks, 4. Kahoot of Japanese culture, 5. Drawing picture-chain-game. It was a great opportunity to share their culture with CWU students! AUAP students did an excellent job giving explanations about their activities and engaging with CWU students. Everyone had a blast!



May 2026

