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AEC Newsline

The Student Newsletter of the Applied English Center at the University of Kansas

Succeeding at KU

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In the February issue of the AEC Newsline, in the Counselors' Corner, you learned about some things you could do to help adjust to the language and the new school system at an American university. This month, the 034 Reading/Writing students share some of their observations about how to be successful in KU classrooms.

Last month, students in the 034 Reading/Writing classes researched what it takes to be successful in KU classrooms. Each student visited a KU class and observed student and teacher behavior. The students visited classes in a variety of departments, including Spanish, Classics, Linguistics, Math, Psychology and Architecture. Afterwards, they had a short interview with the professor of the class. Then, they took information from their observations and interviews and wrote up a report. In their reports, they discussed differences and similarities between behavior in American classrooms and classrooms in their own countries. Then, they



Some students from the AEC 034A Reading and Writing class.

determined what was necessary to be successful at KU. Here are some of their conclusions.

About class participation, Joo-Hee Park says, "I'm sure that I will need to ask questions as a volunteer so I should be brave . . . I believe I should positively participate in class like what I saw in the American classroom." Similarly, Momoko Iwaki reported that, "if I have questions, I should ask the teacher during the class or after. I think I ought to show my enthusiasm because most of professors answered my questions willingly and particularly when I asked some questions. I'm sure if I need more information and I want to study more, they give me guidance, advice and suggestions." Dae-Han Kim discovered that he can "have a friendly relationship with [his] teachers." He says that, "through talking to my teachers, I can solve my problems."

On the topic of note-taking, Chisato Ikeda concludes that, "I should take time to prepare for the next class; it is necessary to take notes as American students do. If I prepare for the next class, it is easier to listen to what the teacher and other students are saying when I take notes." Kuan-Che Hung says that, "in order to succeed at KU, I have to take a lot of notes. I can study notes at home, and review what the teacher taught." Momoko Iwaki noticed that "I need to take notes quickly and organize them in the short time because some teachers talk fast, so I should do that to follow him or her."

Some students from the AEC 034B Reading and Writing class.



Fall Advising and Enrollment

It's only April, but it is already time to start thinking about fall classes!

All AEC students should have received their enrollment information by now. If you have not, see Doris at the AEC office. Remember, if you are an AEC student, you DO NOT use on-line enrollment. All AEC students use the paper Course Selection Forms.

Fall enrollment has already begun. Look for the date and time given on your course selection form. This shows the earliest date you can enroll. For students admitted only to the AEC and for undergraduate students, you can enroll from the date on your course selection form until May 28 and then again from August 2 until August 18. Try to enroll during these times because beginning on August 19, you will have to pay a late enrollment fee of \$75.00. Beginning August 26, the late fee goes up to \$150.00!

If you are a graduate student, you can enroll from the date and time on your course selection form until August 18. After August 18, the same late fees listed above apply to you, too.

Paying Fees

For all students enrolling before July 20, KU must receive your money by 4 p.m. August 13 or you must have signed up for the AMS payment plan. For all students enrolling between July 21 and August 18, KU must receive your money by 4 p.m. September 15.

Add/Drop/Withdraw

Add/Drop dates are the same as enrollment dates. To get a 100% refund of your money, you must drop a course by August 18. If you decide to leave KU, you must withdraw by August 13 to get a 100% refund. If you have other questions about adding or dropping classes or withdrawing from the university, come and ask Doris at the AEC office.

Summer Enrollment

It may seem strange, but you need to enroll for FALL courses now, but not SUMMER courses. The AEC asks you NOT to enroll for summer courses until you have the results of the proficiency test. This means you can enroll for summer courses anytime between May 17 and June 7. Beginning June 8, there will be a late enrollment fee.

Between the afternoon of May 17 and June 7, come to the AEC to get your course selection form. Your summer schedule for your AEC classes will be ready for you at the AEC office on June 7.

Calendar – What's UP

April						
Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

29. End of Semester Reception from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Centennial Room in the Kansas Union.

May

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

6. Last day LEO open until Summer 2004.

7. Last day of AEC classes.

8. Final Proficiency Exam 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

13. Last day of KU classes.

17. Final results available 1:30 p.m.

June

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

8. First day of KU and AEC summer classes.

Summer Class News

If you are thinking about going to summer school, here is some news that you may find interesting. For the first time, Summer ESLP 110 will be an intensive, six-hour course, and students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their improvement in all areas of English by creating a portfolio. (In the past, all Summer ESLP 110 students had to take the proficiency test at the end of the session.)

The class will meet every day from 2:10 to 4:20 and will focus on one topic: the Effects of Globalization.

Being Successful at KU (continued from page 1)

On grading policies, Eunmee Song learned that "doing assignments is important to succeed at KU. The assignments are for a grade, but are also necessary to improve my own self." Khawla Al-Mamari reports that she asked the professor of the class she observed about his grading policies. He told her that "he graded the students down if they didn't do assignments or they didn't participate." Piyawit Siribodhi found out that "the first important [thing] is students have to attend on time and should not be late for checking attendance. They should have a proper reason for being absent because teachers grade on attendance."

Regarding classroom behavior, Farideh Pirzad noticed that "the students in America have more right to have comfortable behaviors in their class, and they are more free and relaxed to do right behaviors that help them to be successful in their study and life."

From all the students, we wish to thank all of the KU professors who so kindly let us observe their classes and gave us time to ask them questions!

The AEC Final Proficiency Exam

TESTING

The AEC Final Proficiency Exam is on Saturday, May 8 at 9:00 a.m. You will get a letter from your teacher telling you what room and what time you should report for the test.

Please remember to bring your KUID, two pencils, and an eraser with you. The final proficiency test is a formal part of your course work in the AEC. As you know, your test scores affect the final grades you will receive in your AEC courses. You may also want to bring a pencil sharpener and a sweater or jacket with you. If you think you will be hungry, you can bring a snack, such as a candy bar or fruit, to eat during the break. (Eating is not allowed in the test rooms.)

We want to remind you of the rules of good behavior when taking any university test:

- You should work quietly and not bother students around you.
- You should keep your eyes on your own desk.
- Don't give the proctors reason to suspect you of cheating.

The university gives proctors the right to dismiss any student who bothers other students in the room or who is suspected of cheating. Don't let this happen to you.

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THE TEST

Do something relaxing the evening before the test and get a good night's sleep. Don't stay up late studying. Plan to get up early enough to eat breakfast. Try to relax and keep a positive attitude during the test. Good luck!

RESULTS

When will results of the test be ready?

The Final Proficiency Exam scores, spring class grades, and course recommendations for the spring semester will be available at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, May 17. You should pick up your exam results on Monday, May 17 at 1:30 p.m. It is important that you pick up your test results at that time in case there are any problems with your test scores. If you are leaving town before May 17, come to the AEC office and speak with Doris Gasper.

When you pick up the scores on May 17, you may make an appointment to see a counselor on:

- Monday, May 17, from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. or
- Tuesday, May 18, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Counseling appointments begin again Monday, June 7, 2004.

WHERE DO I TAKE THE PROFICIENCY TEST?

Your AEC teacher will give you a letter telling you where you will take the exam. If you have any questions about the exam, please come to the AEC and talk with Doris Gasper.

TRANSPORTATION TO THE TEST

Plan ahead! KU buses do not run on Saturdays. Lawrence city buses do run, but you will need to check the schedule for times.

STUDENTS WHO MUST BE ABSENT THE DAY OF THE PROFICIENCY EXAM

The final proficiency test is a formal part of your course work in the AEC. Without final proficiency test scores, you may not continue to study at the AEC or KU. You must take the test on Saturday, May 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., unless you can document unavoidable circumstances. Please be aware of this date when you make travel plans. If you cannot get to the test due to

Statement of Policy Toward Cheating in The Applied English Center

The Applied English Center, like all other parts of the University of Kansas, does not tolerate cheating. Students caught cheating can be dismissed from the university.

One form of cheating is plagiarizing. If you use someone else's words or ideas and pretend that they are your own, you are guilty of plagiarizing. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive an F on the assignment. In addition, you may receive an F in the entire course or even be dismissed from the university.

Another form of cheating is getting answers from someone during the test. Because of the seriousness of the charge of cheating, it is important that you not appear to be cheating when you are not. For example, during a test or quiz, be sure to keep your eyes on your own paper, never talk to another student, and don't leave open books or exposed papers where you can see them except when your teacher says, "You may use your books during this test." If you finish your test early, don't look at other students' papers; keep your eyes on your paper. You can fill the extra time by checking your answers to be sure that you made no mistakes.

Another form of cheating is showing a false identification card or passport or taking a test for another student. This is a very serious offense at the University of Kansas. The punishment for all people involved in this offense is possible dismissal from the university or possible criminal prosecution under the laws of the United States government. Do not change any identification card or use false identification. Do not take a test using someone else's name or identification card or passport.

circumstances beyond your control, it is your responsibility to contact the office as soon as possible to make special arrangements. Ask to speak with Doris Gasper.

Counselors' Corner

Cross-Cultural Adjustment: Three Skills that Help

During March, the new students at the AEC had two New Student Orientation Sessions. One of the topics we talked about was cultural adjustment. Here is some more information on that topic that can be helpful to both new and returning students.

Getting used to life in a new culture is not the same for everyone. Some people seem to have an easier time adjusting to living away from home in a new country. Also, how similar (or how different) the new culture is from your own affects how easily or how quickly you begin to feel comfortable in your new surroundings. Not surprisingly, it is easier to adjust to a culture that is somewhat like home. Maybe it has the same geography, the same climate, similar foods, similar religious practices, or similar values about family, education, and friendships. If your country is very different from the United States in most of these areas, you may find that getting used to living here will present some personal challenges.

Here's the good news! Thanks to millions of travelers who have lived in new cultures before you, we know that there are certain skills or traits that can help ease your adjustment to your new culture, even when it is very different from your own:

- Sense of Humor
- Empathy
- Curiosity
- Motivation
- Self-Reliance
- Ability to Fail
- Open-mindedness
- Perceptiveness
- Strong Sense of Self
- Warm in Human Relationships
- Tolerance for Differences
- Tolerance for Ambiguity
- Non-Judgmentalness
- Flexibility/Adaptability
- Communicativeness
- Ability to Set Realistic Goals

Look through the list. On a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high), rate yourself in each of these traits. Write the number beside each trait and total them. Dr. Robert Kohls, an expert in the area of cross-cultural adjustment, has found that people who score below 55 (out of a possible 90) on this list tend to have difficulty during the cross-cultural adjustment process.

If you score below 55, what can you do? One strategy is to pick one or two traits on your list that received a score of 1-4. Work on improving those skills first, and then move to a new skill on the list. Three traits are considered more important than all of the others in facilitating cross-cultural adjustment. If you don't know where to get started, you might want to work on one of these:

1. SENSE OF HUMOR - At times getting used to a new culture can be anything but funny! Developing the ability to laugh

when you'd rather cry or get angry helps fight the difficult times of adjustment.

2. ABILITY TO SET REALISTIC GOALS - Setting unattainable or unrealistic goals leads to disappointment. We

feel like a failure even though the goal we set for ourselves was impossible to reach. People who are able to relax and handle new circumstances as they happen tend to be more effective and enjoy their overseas experience more.

3. ABILITY TO FAIL - This can be tough for students who are used to being very successful in their personal life and academic life. If you have experienced very little failure at home, this may be hard to accept. However, the ability to fail when living overseas is critical. "Everyone fails at something when living overseas." Fortunately, academic success generally returns quickly to students who were successful at home due to their motivation and hard work in their new academic environment.

At times, getting used to living in a new country can be overwhelming, no matter how many cross-cultural communication skills we have. If you are experiencing a particularly difficult time right now, please make an appointment to see an AEC counselor. We'd be happy to talk to you!

Source: Survival Kit for Overseas Living, Robert Kohls (pp.71-73).



Counselors' Corner Online

Have a lot of homework? Having trouble getting it all finished? Find out how to establish good study habits in the online Counselor's Corner at <http://www.aec.ku.edu/counselors/corner.html>. Click on the link to "Study Habits." You can also get information on a variety of topics such as stress management, how to get a driver's license, laughing in class, and a lot more! Just select the topic that interests you, and click on it.

Say "Hi!" to Your Fellow Students

France

Hi! My name is Marie-Anais Levesque. I'm from France and I've been here since the beginning of January. I enjoy so much being here that I don't want to leave and go back home!



KOREA

Hello. My name is Yong-il, and I'm from Korea. I hope I study Public Administration in graduate school next semester. I went to Haskell University to meet the students this semester. This program was very exciting for me.

Senegal



Hi! My name is Alhousseynou Diallo. I'm from Senegal, and I'm a student at the AEC. I want to study Electrical Engineering. I like to work out and to party!

Kuwait

My name is Mohammad Al-Sahli. I'm from Kuwait. My hobbies are playing soccer and reading. My major is geography.



Best of Luck!

To all the students who are leaving us--to enter KU classes full-time, to return home, or to move on to other universities--all of us at the AEC wish you the best of luck in all your future pursuits!!

AEC Field Trip to Abilene, Kansas



AEC and Meikai students on their trip to Abilene, Kansas.

On March 13th the AEC sponsored a fun and educational field trip to Abilene, Kansas - boyhood home of America's 34th president, Dwight D. Eisenhower. After the long bus ride to Abilene, the hungry travelers stopped at a very typical "greasy spoon" restaurant called Joe Snuffy's. These restaurants are found in small towns all over America and, while the food there is not fancy, it is delicious! Joe Snuffy's is actually located in the town's bowling alley - so we were able to watch a few games while we ate. After lunch, the field trip participants visited the Eisenhower Museum, which included the house where he was raised, a separate museum of

artifacts from his time as a general in WWII and as president of the United State and, of course, a gift shop where we bought mementos of the trip. Near the Eisenhower Museum we toured Old Abilene Town, a replica of the "old west" town that Abilene used to be. Finally, before leaving to return to



A Meikai student studies an exhibit at the Eisenhower Museum.



Conversation leaders and AEC students take a minute to enjoy some lunch.

Lawrence, we went to the Russell Stover Candy factory where we stocked up on sweet, chocolate gifts for friends, family and ourselves.



A Meikai student at the Russell Stover Chocolate Factory.

LEO News

It's been a very busy semester in LEO. We hope you have made good use of our lab!

Here are a few reminders about the end of the semester and the end of the year:

LEO Library News

- 1) The LEO Library will stop lending books out on Friday, April 30.
2. Please return all borrowed books to LEO no later than Thursday, May 6.
3. Please do not keep books over the break. You can borrow books again in the summer, starting on Tuesday, June 8.

LEO Closing for Break

LEO will close on Thursday, May 6, at 5:20 p.m., and will open again on Tuesday, June 8, the first day of AEC summer classes.

KU Lab Hours Between Semesters

Main labs, like Room 10 Budig Hall and Room 452 Kansas Union, will be open between semesters. You can check open hours and information for all KU labs at <http://www.ku.edu/~complabs/>; click on Labs on Campus; click the lab name that you want information about.

IMPORTANT: COPY YOUR WORK SAVED IN LEO

Did you save any papers or other work on the LEO Server? Do you want to keep them?

If you want to keep anything that you saved on a LEO computer, please bring in a disk or memory stick and copy it.

All work saved by students on the LEO Server will be removed after the summer semester. If you want to keep anything that you saved on our computers, be sure you make your own copy, either now or by the end of the summer. Ask a LEO assistant if you have any questions.