Picturing the World: AEC Students, Teacher Are Winners

By Barbara Yoder, AEC instructor & editor of AEC Newsline

Two Applied English Center students and one teacher were winners in the annual *Picturing the World* photo competition this month. Ahmad Muyidi, Shoichi Tachiyama, and Carol Elk received multiple prizes for their entries. An awards ceremony was held on April 19 to honor all winners.

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My Biggest Challenge

Last summer, I faced the biggest challenge of my life. My family decided to travel to Spain while I was working on a project in Saudi Arabia. As a result, I had to finish my project in a hurry and meet them later. I gave authority to the travel agency at work to arrange my flight, and they deducted the amount from my salary. They did that and sent me a confirmation by email. Unfortunately, I did not read the email carefully. On my travel day, I left work and went to the airport to fly to Spain. My adventure started when the flight landed in Turkey. I left the airplane because I thought I was in Spain. I did not recognize that the flight was in transit, because I was so tired. I was very brave when I called my brother to tell him I was in Spain. The biggest shock came while I was waiting for my luggage. I began asking the people around me, “Is this Spain?” They were laughing and thought I was crazy. I asked other people, but they did not understand me. For a second I wanted to cry, because first I was lost, my mobile phone was dead, and I did not know what to do. Finally, I decided to take a taxi and asked for a reservation office. I was taken to another side in the airport. There I saw a nice woman who made me feel relaxed by her words, “Do not worry. I will do my best.” After that, she ordered lemon juice for me and also allowed me to charge my phone. Then she arranged my flight to Spain. Moreover, she told me, “Your luggage will arrive in Spain before you, because it is on the previous flight.” When I was charging my mobile phone in her office, my brother called me. He asked me, “Which gate are you coming in?” I told him, “I am in Turkey, and you can pick up my bag in Spain!”

Leaving Lawrence? Don’t Miss This Important Information!

Please think about the following events and dates if you plan to leave Lawrence between semesters.

TRAVEL PLANS

It is best for all students to make travel plans (including plane reservations) for a time and day after Thursday, May 16 for the following reasons.

1. Retests

If you are asked to retest in any area of the proficiency test, it is best to do that before you leave Lawrence. Retest while you can still remember what you learned! If you’re asked to retest and do not do it before you leave, you may retest when you return. If you wait, please return in time to retest before classes begin.

2. Students Currently on AEC Academic Probation

Please review your probation letter for “Terms of Probation.” You are required to pick up your results at the AEC before you leave Lawrence.

3. Students Who Have Left Lawrence and Who Are Going on Academic Probation

If you are placed on probation at the end of the semester and you have left town, even though you talked to Doris about mailing your results, you will not receive the results by mail. Instead, you will receive a letter telling you to talk with a counselor as soon as you return. Students going on probation often have many questions, and counselors can help you understand your probation status.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please see Doris in the AEC Office, 204 Lippincott.
KU students, faculty, and alumni submitted 292 photos representing 36 countries. Photos were entered in one of four categories: “People,” “Places,” “Cultural Traces,” and “Flora/Fauna.” AEC language specialist Kellie Smith Herrod, who organized the competition, explained that winning entries were selected on the basis of their overall content, quality, composition, technique, and perspective.

In the category “Places,” Muyidi’s Castle and The Farms in Najran were judged noteworthy. His photo Pray received the same under “People.” Muyidi’s photos were taken in Saudi Arabia. In the same category, Tachiyama’s Traditional Light UP, taken in Japan, received honorable mention. Within “Cultural Traces,” Muyidi took second place for Khangar-ksa and received honorable mention for The Horsemanship. Tachiyama received third place in the same category for Fortunate Cat.

Among faculty entries, Elk’s work received four prizes, including a first for Self Service, taken in Japan, and entered under “Cultural Traces.” Within “People,” she received second place for No Hurry (Israel), honorable mention for Cariocas (Brazil), and noteworthy for Field Trip (Jerusalem).

Muyidi said, “Winning is really important to me because I challenge myself before I challenge others. Any great result doesn’t come without hard work or just by luck, so when I won, I knew that this victory came from a long time of work.”

These photos and others are on display on the third floor of Watson Library until April 26. Go see for yourself the wonders of the world’s many cultures and appreciate the talents of our KU students, faculty, and alumni.
A Message from the Director

Have you ever considered what affects your learning? Does your family affect how you learn? Your friends? What about the place you live? When I was in college, I wasn’t always a very good student. I lived in a fraternity house and went to a lot of parties. I was always with my friends, and usually, studying was not my number one job. I was too busy having fun. One day my mother and father called me after they saw my grade report. My grades were not very good. My parents pressured me to do better – and I did! I had to because they were paying for everything. I changed my activities — and even some of my friends. I’m glad I did.

There are many ways to think about the influences on achieving (learning). One person did some research on this. You can see the findings on the chart on the right. (Research results are called “findings.”) Who has the biggest responsibility for achieving? YOU do!

I hope you’ll consider how you use your time, and how and where you study. Think about your education goals. While you study at the AEC, your goal is to learn academic English. This goal requires a lot of reading and writing. It also takes a lot of time and effort. Ask yourself: “How much do I use English outside of class? and “How much do I study and review?” The spring semester is almost finished. Use all of the time you have to learn as much as you can, and find opportunities to use English during the semester break.

Mark Algren

What Influences How Students Achieve?


Proficiency Test to Be Held May 4

The AEC proficiency test will be held Saturday, May 4. Testing begins at 9 a.m. and ends at approximately 1:30 p.m. All students should have received information from their AEC teachers about where and what time to report for the test. If you haven’t received this information, see Doris at the AEC office.

Results will be available Monday, May 13, at 1:30 p.m. You are the only person who may pick up your test results. Also, due to privacy laws, the AEC cannot give you results by email or telephone. However, your results can be mailed. See Doris for more information.
What’s all the BUZZ…

App (n)
An application or program designed for a particular purpose on a computer or mobile phone device.

Search the App Store on your phone for “Preposition Builder”.

What is LEO? For those who don’t know, the LEO, or “Learning English Online,” lab is a teaching lab and place for students to work independently, using technology to improve their English skills. LEO, located in room 226 Fraser Hall, has 20 computers for AEC students and staff to use. Lab hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Some students use LEO with their teachers during class time, while others use it in their free time to check e-mail, print AEC assignments, and practice language skills.

Technology Pro Tips – Using Windows Shortcuts

Would you like to be more computer proficient? If so, you can learn some commonly used keyboard shortcuts to save time and energy. Consider adding one of the following shortcuts to your list.

- F5 will refresh your computer screen.
- Control + F will help you search for text within a document.
- Control + P will print your document.
- Control + S will save your document.
- Control + Z will undo a command.

References:

http://www.macmillaneducation.com/MediaArticle.aspx?id=1834
http://lifehacker.com/5941496/top-10-simple-things-every-computer-user-should-know-how-to-do

SPOTLIGHT: STUDENT RESOURCES OF THE WEEK

Listen and learn with your IPAD/IPHONE
http://www.manythings.org/ipad/listen

Practice vocabulary on your computer, phone, or IPAD. In a hurry? You can practice your vocabulary words while waiting for the bus!
http://quizlet.com/

Check out famous movie speeches and watch your favorite selection http://www.americanrhetoric.com/moviespeaches.htm

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Get the **Point?**

The Point is the Applied English Center’s independent learning center. It’s in Anschutz Library. More than 150 AEC students visited the Point this semester for help with English language skills. Fourteen AEC instructors and other volunteers helped students with class assignments and held several workshops on writing sentences.

Although it is now closed, the Point will reopen in summer.

An open house honoring its opening was held April 8. Students, instructors, and administrators attended the ceremony. Speakers included Kent Miller, associate dean of operations and administration; Susan Gronbeck-Tedesco, associate vice provost for international programs; and AEC director Mark Algren. Nikhat Ghouse, the AEC library contact person, also attended. The large group enjoyed refreshments and asked many questions.

The Point staff thanks students and faculty for their support. Staff member Perrin Blackman reminds students that the Point is there to help them succeed.

“Remember,” she said, “If you didn’t come this semester, don’t worry. We’ll be here to help you in the summer and fall!”

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If you’ve participated in an AEC student activity this semester, you may have already met **Marie Osterhaus**. Please join the AEC in saying, “Welcome, Marie!”

**A Note from Marie Osterhaus**

Greetings!

I’m a new program assistant for short-term programs at the Applied English Center. A contribution to the AEC Newsline seems like an appropriate opportunity for me to introduce myself, as it may appear that I’m hiding in the office corner by Geri Lamer!

I’m a native Kansan and an alumna of the University of Kansas with a global and international studies degree and a minor in business. I’ve studied in Germany and traveled in much of western Europe and the U.S. I couldn’t be more excited to be working at the AEC! In my free time, I enjoy baking (I’m known for sharing 😊), taking photos, and running. While I often like to enjoy the comfort of my couch, more often than not I find myself out and about trying new things and meeting new people. I very much look forward to getting to know the AEC staff, faculty and students, and I’m eager to welcome and assist new students as they adjust to American culture and KU.

**Marie Osterhaus**