About this publication

*AEC Newsline* is the digital newsletter for students at the Applied English Center at the University of Kansas. *AEC Newsline* is published twice per semester and once during summer.

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To provide feedback or suggest content, please send an email to aecnewsline@ku.edu.

Spotlight:

**AEC Welcomes BSMP and Kansai**

*By Marie Osterhaus, AEC Education Program Specialist*

While most students were sunbathing on the beaches of Florida or making road trips to the West Coast, 21 Japanese students (Kansai program) and 15 Brazilian students (BSMP program) arrived to the KU campus over the spring break week. The silent halls of McCollum were quickly filled with Portuguese and Japanese, and the new students were eager to meet their American roommates and see all that KU and Lawrence have to offer. The orientation days seem like a blur, but it was a unique experience to interact with two groups from very different parts of the world. Already, I could see friendships between both nationalities forming, using basic English as the main means of communication. Even though they arrived mid-semester, and the spring term is almost over, I know that these students are very bright and determined to advance in their English level. Both groups bring energy and excitement to KU and we are more than happy to welcome them to the Jayhawk family. Best of luck to all at the AEC as you prepare for the proficiency exam as the semester comes to a close.
AEC Visits the Zoo

It was a beautiful, sunny day. There were a few clouds that obscured the sun sometimes, and it appeared at other times. Actually, it was a perfect day to visit the KC Zoo.

First of all, we gathered at the front of the AEC building. Then, we rode a yellow bus that was extraordinary. It was like any other bus from the outside, but on the inside it was like an art gallery. There were a lot of superb graphics on the roof of the bus.

Next, we arrived at the zoo at 11:00 a.m. and we had four hours to explore the zoo. I was interested to see the monkeys because I had read about seven smart chimpanzees who escaped from the KC Zoo for one hour, but when I went inside I forgot to see them for three reasons. First, there were many animals I hadn’t seen before such as Polar Bears, Rhinoceros, Tigers, Zebras, Jelly Fish and Raccoons. Second, the zoo was huge, like a large village. Although we had four hours, unfortunately it wasn’t enough to explore everything.

Last, but not least, we took pictures together under the logo of the zoo. On this trip I made new friends from Japan and Brazil. In addition, we enjoyed exploring together. What we did is an example of the expression, “the more, the merrier”.

AEC student, Hussain Bohuliga, shares his experience and picture from the AEC trip to the Kansas City Zoo on April 19th. Hussain has a keen interest in photography and asked everyone to “jump” for the picture. He is pictured here with his little brother.
Hello every AEC student. With the spring breeze flowing, it is near the end of this semester. I hope everybody had a great semester. As a student who graduated from the AEC, I think I do have some tips for you to study English as an international student.

What do I usually do in order to improve my English skills? I will illustrate from the different parts which are listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

Listening, as the most effective way for people to gain information, is really necessary for us to get information correctly. What I do to improve my listening skills is watch English movies and American TV shows, and listen to the radio. Here, I highly recommend “Scientific American Sixty Sec Science” which you can easily find from your iTunes and it is also free to download. This radio show is about interesting science stories and it takes just one minute to listen. When I was waiting for a bus or someone, I liked to listen to the one which broadcasted that day. Although the speed is fast, you are able to listen several times.

Reading is extremely important because when you graduate from the AEC and become a full time KU student there will be mountains of books and papers you have to read. So, it is significant if you know how to find useful information from the materials you are reading. I believe most of you have noticed that there are many blue boxes around the campus which require you use your KU ID to open it. These are free newspapers! What I do every day is take a piece from the New York Times and read it. I prefer the New York Times because their tone is very serious. That means they will use a lot of vocabulary that I haven’t seen and also they use perfect grammar which will delight your teacher. You also can choose any newspaper you like. However, perseverance is the only key to achieve success.

Writing is the most difficult part for me because I am not a talented writer. However, I practice my writing skills by communicating with my instructors as much as I can. I always send my rough draft to them asking for help to discuss and correct the mistakes that I had made. I followed their comments and talked with them. Finally I reviewed every time I made a change. Sometimes if I found some sentences which were helpful for me to write academically, I would remember the patterns and use it next time. But do not plagiarize!

To improve your speaking, go to the conversation groups. They meet Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. while class is in session. They meet on the first floor of the Kansas Union.

English is a basic survival tool which you need when you study abroad in the U.S or other English-speaking countries. Like I mentioned, it is a tool. You need to use it every day and everywhere from speaking to writing in order to master it. At last, I hope everybody has a great life in the AEC, also, good luck for the proficiency test.
Planning to Travel? Read This First!

A Reminder from International Student Services

The skies will soon be filled with international students jetting home for the summer. If you plan to travel abroad, you must do several important things first. Take your I-20 (F-1/F2 status) or your DS-2019 (J-1/J2 status, sponsored by KU) to the ISS office for a travel signature. If you have a DS-2019 issued by a non-KU sponsor, you will need to get that sponsor’s signature, as noted in section two of the DS-2019. Remember: Many students will be requesting signatures, so plan ahead. You’ll need to leave your document at the ISS office for two business days. For example, a document left on Friday will be ready Tuesday. Give yourself time to take care of this when making your travel arrangements. Be sure that your passport and visa are valid and appropriate to your status for returning to the United States. Also take with you proof of finances, your SEVIS fee receipt (if you’re subject to this fee), and proof of full-time enrollment. These are rarely requested at the point of entry, but they are almost always required if you’re applying for a new visa. ISS recommends you carry them anyway.

If you plan to travel in the U.S., remember to carry all of your immigration documents, including your passport, visa, I-94, and I-20 (F-1) or DS-2019 (J-1).

All AEC students, regardless of whether they travel or stay in Lawrence, should make copies of their immigration documents and keep them in a safe place.

If you have other questions, please contact the ISS office, Room 2 Strong Hall.

Pack Your Bags!

Here are the top 10 destinations in the U.S. according to the website TripAdvisor.

1. New York, New York
2. Chicago, Illinois
3. San Francisco, California
4. Las Vegas, Nevada
5. New Orleans, Louisiana
6. Los Angeles, California
7. San Diego, California
8. Seattle, Washington
9. Washington D.C.
10. Orlando, Florida

Proficiency Test to Be Held May 3

The AEC proficiency test will be held Saturday, May 3. 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 12, 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.
Clinton Lake BBQ

Stop Day - Friday, May 9
Time: 1:30pm—6pm
Location:
East Bloomington Beach
Shelter #6

Ticket Information
Bus & Food: $8
Food Only: $5
Spouses & kids welcome
Kids under 5 = FREE

*Buy Tickets by May 7th*
at Union Programs,
in SUA Office on
4th floor in
KANSAS UNION.

American BBQ • Hamburgers • Vegetarian options
Beach Activities • Soccer • Volleyball • Games

Happy Summer!