Dear Friends,

Here we are, at the end of 2020, one day away from ringing in the new year. A big thank you to all the students who LEAPed with us this year despite the many challenges we faced. You did a fantastic job! A special shoutout to the amazing LEAP faculty and staff who rolled with the flow, came up with creative ways of teaching and made sure our students were well taken care of while learning lots of English.

In this edition of LEAP News, we look back at some of the highlights of 2020, share a couple of LEAP Fun Facts from the past decade, celebrate this semester’s graduates and introduce new program initiatives to be launched in the new year.

Warmest Wishes for a Happy & Healthy 2021!

Jeannette Horwitz
LEAP Director

Fall Semester 2020 Achievements

Congratulations to Level 4 student Guangyao Chen from China on
completing LEAP Level 4 successfully and earning the TOEFL Waiver for Graduate Studies at Wright State! Daniel, pictured here with Rowdy Raider, will join the MBA Program Spring 2021.

**Fun fact:** Guangyao will be the 90th LEAP student to start the [MBA Program](#) in [Raj Soin College of Business](#) since 2010.

**Perfect Attendance**

Sally Aljanabi (Iraq)
Guangyao Chen (China)
Bowen Gao (China)
Paola Galindo Murillo (Mexico)
Yukari Takizawa (Japan)

---

**LEAP 2020 Highlights**

Touring [Dunbar Library](#). Lunar New Year celebration. Sharing love on Valentine's Day. A visit to the [Robert and Elaine Stein Galleries](#). Celebrating that 2020 was a leap year with a LEAP Day Proclamation from the [City of Dayton](#), signed by Mayor Nan Whaley and presented by City Commissioner Matt Joseph. Being photographed. Collaborating in class. Pivoting to remote teaching. Faculty meetings on BBCU. Fika Friday going virtual on WebEx. Masks on. Social distancing. Painting the WSU rock. Learning new ways of doing things. - *And so much more!*
"Sometimes the best thing you can do is not think, not wonder, not imagine, not obsess. Just breathe, and have faith that everything will work out for the best."

(2020 Quote - Author Unknown)

LEAP Into the News

The Wright State Newsroom published four articles about LEAP this year and you can read each of them here:

"International students transitioning to Wright State quiz faculty on test-taking, course-load"

"Exchange students experience American college life through LEAP Program"

"Wright State’s LEAP Intensive English Program shares knowledge with university in Iraq"

"Some international students maintain campus presence with in-person classes"
Graduates, Where Are They Now?

Back right: Mohammed Khdhaier Mohammed, Ph.D. in Engineering Fall 2020
He is also the recipient of an M.S. in Materials Science and Engineering, WSU 18'

Middle: Tahseen Al Wattar, Ph.D. in Engineering Fall 2020
Picture from L4 Adv Academic Success class, December 2015

Congratulations to this semester’s graduates! Among the 1,300 students graduating this fall were numerous students who started their WSU journey in LEAP. A few examples include Jiayi Zhang and Haotian Bu from China who both received M.M. Music - Voice from the School of Music in College of Liberal Arts; Yan Yang, also from China, M.S. Applied Statistics from College of Science and Mathematics; Ahad Alruwalli from Saudi Arabia, M.S. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from Boonshoft School of Medicine and her husband, Saad Alrowaily, MBA in Finance from Raj Soin College of Business. Khaled Alsomaili from Saudi Arabia graduated Cum Laude with B.A. in International Studies and has already started coursework in the M.A. International and Comparative Politics Program in SPIA, School of Public and International Affairs. Five students from Iraq, who earned LEAP TOEFL Waivers for Graduate Studies in 2015, received their Ph.Ds in Engineering from College of Engineering and Computer Science. We'd like to extend a special congratulations to Dr. Farah Hamandi, Dr. Mohammed Khdhaier Mohammed, Dr. Hasanain Abdulhadi, Dr. Aamir Hamad and Dr. Tahseen Al Wattar. We look forward to hearing about your future accomplishments!

Former LEAP Students:
What are you up to? Do you have a success story of your own?
Email Jeannette at jeannette.horwitz@wright.edu
We love to follow up with LEAP alumni and would like to feature your story in an upcoming edition of LEAP News!

LEAP Fun Facts 2010 - 2020

Did You Know?

- For the past ten years, 1310 international students from 56 countries have studied in LEAP.

- Since 2010, 577 students who first studied in LEAP have enrolled in academic programs at Wright State University

- 124 is the number of academic programs at WSU that LEAP students have enrolled in after they have studied in LEAP.

- 66 is the number of locals (citizens & permanent residents) who have studied in LEAP 2010 - 2020.

- Top six countries LEAP students have come from 2010 - 2020: Saudi Arabia, China, Libya, Iraq, South Korea and Brazil.

NEW ONLINE COURSES

Starting in January 2021, we are offering two fully online courses:

1) The LEAP Basic Writing Workshop is a 6-week fully online self-paced program that takes beginning non-native students of English through basic
2) The LEAP Test Preparation Workshop is designed to help non-native students of English prepare for standardized English tests such as the TOEFL and IELTS. The workshop includes strategies for test-taking in addition to practice exams with instructor feedback.

For more information and to register for these courses, contact us via email: leapadmissions@wright.edu or click here.

---

**A REMOTE TEST PREPARATION COURSE FOR STUDENTS IN IRAQ**

In the middle of December, we finalized a new partnership between Al-Furat Al-Awsat Technical University (ATU) in Iraq and Wright State University. The partnership makes it possible for LEAP to deliver a six-week remote Test Preparation (IELTS) course to Iraqi students. We are excited about this new opportunity that began this spring with LEAP faculty delivering remote workshops to faculty and students at ATU. Hashim H. Abada, faculty at ATU (LEAP 15’ & WSU 17’ MS in Aerospace Systems Engineering) initiated the collaboration with LEAP's Director Jeannette Horwitz this summer and the two have since worked together on the partnership between their two universities.

---

**Online Mini-Lessons with LEAP**
Assistant LEAP Director Tom Fenton has created five online mini-lessons focusing on strategies for the IELTS test. The lessons are available on LEAP's YouTube channel. Be sure to check them out here: LEAP on YouTube

Coming in January, 2021: TOEFL Tips with Tom and Pronunciation with Pam!

LEAP For Locals

Are you an Ohio resident holding U.S. citizenship or permanent residency? Are you looking to improve your English skills for academic, professional, or community advancement? If so, you can take advantage of LEAP’s half-price fees. We are proud to offer in-state fee options for Ohio residents. You can study full-time or part-time.

To learn more, visit our website, LEAP for Locals, or contact us at leapadmissions@wright.edu to schedule a one-on-one virtual meeting.

#PreparedForSuccess

Upcoming Dates

Week of January 4, 2021: Remote Placement Testing (new students) & Registration (all students)
January 11, 2021: Spring Semester Classes Begin
January 15: Virtual Welcome Party!

We are currently working remotely. You can always reach us via email: