Dear Friends,

February, which brought snow and cold temperatures to Dayton, has come to an end. Today is our last day of classes before WSU's spring break. The LEAP students, who are enrolled in 18 hours of English classes a week, are looking forward to having some time off - and to warmer temperatures!

WSU's University Activities Board organized "Spirit Week" on campus in February. Our students, including Level 4's Bowen from China pictured here to the left, warmed up with these sweet #iHeartWSU shirts!

Jeannette Horwitz
LEAP Director

LEAP For Locals & LEAP Community Scholarship
LEAP touring Dayton in October 2019 and posing in front of the Wright Brothers and Paul Laurence Dunbar Mural in the Wright-Dunbar neighborhood on West Third Street.

Are you an Ohio resident holding U.S. citizenship, permanent residency, or refugee status? 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.

LEAP Community Scholarship

The deadline to apply for the LEAP Community Scholarship for Summer Semester 2021 is April 23. Don't delay - apply today! You'll find instructions and the scholarship application by clicking here: Community Scholarship.

Bilal from Afghanistan received the LEAP Community Scholarship Spring 2020 and enrolled in the College of Engineering and Computer Science’s Information Technology and Cybersecurity Program Fall 2020.
Happy Lunar New Year & Valentine's Day!

Our Lunar New Year and Valentine's Day celebrations looked a little different this year as we could not celebrate with our usual LEAP Cultural Hour. Instead, students received to-go gifts. LEAP Student Services Coordinator Cathy Lee, who was born in Vietnam, made "red envelopes" for each student. The envelopes included a lucky golden (chocolate) coin and a note explaining the meaning behind the monetary gift which is given during holidays and on special occasions. We also enjoyed the virtual Lunar New Year celebration organized by LANA, Office of Latinx, Asian, and Native American Affairs and the UCIE, University Center for International Education.

#LEAPIntoTheCommunity

On February 17, we held a virtual LEAP Success Workshop on "How to Improve your English Pronunciation." Local English as second language learners and WSU international students from Chile, South Korea, Turkey, Greece, Togo, Rwanda, Venezuela, Mexico and Saudi Arabia participated. LEAP Instructor Pam Everly, who received her MA TESOL from WSU in 2015 and teaches LEAP's 6-week evening Pronunciation Improvement course, led the workshop. Lakmini Grant Siriwardana and Alaa Baader, both 2020 WSU MA TESOL graduates, helped out with breakout rooms. We had a great time! Here you see us practicing voiceless and voiced sounds using tissue paper.

Voice and Aspiration

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voiceless: Puff of Air</th>
<th>Voiced: No Puff of Air</th>
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<td>P 🌈 – Pond</td>
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<td>/k/ 🌈 -- Cold</td>
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Our next virtual LEAP Success Workshop takes place on **Wednesday, March 17, 6:30-8:00 p.m. EST.** Led by LEAP Assistant Director Tom Fenton, the topic is "Understanding and Preparing for the TOEFL and IELTS."

**Interested in joining?** Email Jeannette at jeannette.horwitz@wright.edu for the meeting link and workshop materials.

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**Graduates - Where Are They Now?**

**Did you know that since 2010, 1320 international students from 56 countries have studied in LEAP? 578 of these students have enrolled in 124 different academic programs at WSU!**

Mohammed I. Salman from Baghdad, Iraq, is one of these 1320 students. In January 2015, he arrived in Dayton. Together with 30 other students from Iraq, Mohammed had been awarded a scholarship from the Higher Committee for Education Development in Iraq to study English for one year in LEAP and then continue in a graduate program at WSU. Mohammed earned the LEAP TOEFL Waiver for Graduate Studies and in January 2016 began his studies in the [PhD in Computer Science and Engineering Program](#) at WSU.

"**Being in the CECS PhD Computer Science and Engineering program has been a great experience for me. I have learned many skills in Computer Science in general and in research specifically. The road to becoming a researcher is not an easy one, but the wonderful faculty and staff at the CECS department are here to assist. I feel happy that now I am able to publish my research in high-profile journals. Currently, I am wrapping up new research that exploits the Artificial Intelligence technique to improve the performance of the Internet. As my time here at WSU comes to an end, I feel confident that I am ready to continue doing more research and to help future students through both teaching and research.**"

"**Living in the US for the past six years has not only been about studying. As a family, we have had a great experience and met many wonderful friends. My children have had the opportunity to experience the amazing school system and learned a new language that will remain with them forever and help them build a better future.**"
Mohammed attending a local soccer tournament with Iraqi LEAP classmates Ali & Hasanain and his son Mustafa in 2015.

**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!

**Improve Your Pronunciation with LEAP**

The next session of LEAP's 6-week Pronunciation Improvement course is offered during Spring B-term, March 9 - April 15, 2021. Deadline to register is March 1. **Not in Ohio or the US? No problem!** The course meets "live online" Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-7:50 p.m. EST. Contact us at: leapadmissions@wright.edu to find out how to join!

[Click here to learn more about LEAP's Pronunciation Improvement course.](#)
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 sentence structure and grammar to complete sentence and paragraph writing.

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.

Online Mini-Lessons on YouTube

New online mini-lessons have been added to LEAP's YouTube page!
LEAP Assistant Director Tom Fenton has created lessons to help students prepare for the TOEFL & IELTS. LEAP Instructor Pam Everly shares Pronunciation Improvement lessons. Be sure to check them out here: [LEAP on YouTube](#).

#PreparedForSuccess

Spring Semester 2021 Office Hours:
The office is open for in-person visits, Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Appointments are encouraged. All other days, we work remotely. You can always reach us via email: leapadmissions@wright.edu