It's a new year in LEAP!

2020 is off to a great start in the LEAP Intensive English Program! We welcomed 22 new students this semester from 12 different countries. Together, LEAP students represent 16 different countries from five continents! Ten of our students are locals who live in the Dayton and Cincinnati area and have come to LEAP to improve their English for academic or professional purposes. Afghanistan, Burundi and Uzbekistan are all new countries to LEAP. We are very excited to have students from these countries add to the diversity of our program!

Did you know? 2020 is a leap year (February has 29 days) and we are excited to celebrate with a special LEAP Day event on February 28! Stay tuned for details.

The LEAP Community Scholarship

The LEAP program promotes linguistic and cultural diversity, and intercultural understanding with quality English instruction taught by highly qualified instructors. Your donation helps bring students together in social, cultural, and academic activities. It helps connect the world.

One of our ten locals this semester, Bilal Ahmadzai from Afghanistan, is this semester's recipient of the LEAP Community Scholarship. Bilal came to the U.S. with his family two years ago. He will begin his undergraduate studies at WSU in Fall 2020 after first brushing up on his English skills in LEAP.

Available Funds:

- LEAP Scholarship fund: Award recipients and number
and amount of awards will be determined by the LEAP program office

- **LEAP Program fund**: Supports the activities of the LEAP program

[Make a Donation]

Thank you for your support!

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**LEAP Cultural Hour: Welcome Party**

We kicked the semester off with our traditional LEAP Welcome Party in the LEAP Office. Students completed a "Human Bingo" to get to know each other, won school supply prizes in a raffle, wrote and shared goals for the semester and enjoyed cheesecake from The Cheesecake Factory, provided by Level 3 student Paula (Brazil) and her husband. Obrigada! Pictured below are Paola (Mexico) and Cyprien (Burundi) interviewing each other for Human Bingo; Jose (Honduras) proudly displaying his school supply prizes, and former LEAP student Vlad (Ukraine), adding his Spring 2020 goals to the wall.

[Click here to visit our website]

Happy Lunar New Year!
The second week of the semester ended with a Lunar New Year Celebration in the office. Cathy Lee, our awesome Student Services Coordinator, brought Vietnamese goodies including mung bean cake, coconut candy, umbrella cookies and dried jack fruit. She also prepared red envelopes with a lucky penny and message for all students. Level 3 student Henry from Vietnam prepared his delicious Vietnamese iced coffee for everyone. It has become a LEAP favorite!

**LEAP Graduates Giving Back**

We are grateful for our former students who come back to LEAP to volunteer! A big shout-out to Global UGRAD Program students Hsan (Myanmar), Francisco (Nicaragua), Vlad (Ukraine), and Purity (Kenya) for helping during LEAP Placement Testing and at our Registration Workshop in early January. Thank you also to Maryam, Norah and Mohammed (all three from Saudi Arabia) for being guest speakers at our LEAP Success Workshop, "Being a Successful International/ESL Student." We appreciate you!
Classroom Action

LEAP classes are highly interactive and students often work in groups or move around in the classroom. Pictured here are Level 1 Grammar students sorting adjectives on the board and Level 3 Listening/Speaking students practicing recognition of the 1- and 2-vowel rules with a shopping list contest.

As the saying goes, "practice makes perfect!"

Graduates, Where Are They Now?

Mohammed Alshammari from Ha’il, a city in north-western Saudi Arabia, started LEAP Level 1 Fall 2016. He completed Level 4 Fall 2017.
and started his graduate studies in the MS Mathematics program in the College of Science and Mathematics in January 2018. This spring, he will graduate from WSU! Before coming to the U.S., Mohammed was a teaching assistant at Taibah University in Saudi Arabia. The school provided him with a scholarship to complete his master's and PhD degrees. After graduating from WSU this spring, Mohammed plans to return home to work for a year, then enroll in a PhD program to continue his mathematics studies. About studying math, Mohammed says, "When I started my master's degree, I hated math so much, but right now it is fun doing math. I love analysis classes and for sure algebra classes are fun too." When asked what he has enjoyed the most about being a Raider, Mohammed shares that the best part of being at WSU has been to meet and learn about people from so many different cultures. Congratulations on your upcoming graduation, Mohammed!

#WrightStateRightSchool

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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!

#LEAPIntoWSU

LEAP's Orientation Week activities include not only getting to know new teachers, classmates, textbooks and course schedules, but also exploring campus and getting familiar with resources available at WSU. During the first week of the semester, LEAP students visited the Dunbar Library for a tour and information on the many different services the library provides. Thank you to WSU librarians Ximena Chrisagis and Mandy Shannon for taking us around the library! LEAP students have also met with writing coaches from the University Writing Center who have explained the services the UWC provides. Students in Level 3 and 4 attend regular UWC sessions.
Coming Soon:
....another session of LEAP Pronunciation Improvement!

Mark your calendars: Spring Semester 2020 we are offering another session of our 6-week evening course, LEP 0550 - Pronunciation Improvement. Contact us at leapadmissions@wright.edu to learn more.

Deadline to register is February 28.

We are also offering a "free sample" of the course on **Tuesday, February 18, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. in 393 Millett Hall** for anyone interested in learning more about the course and getting some hands-on pronunciation practice!
Meet a LEAP Student!

Each week, we introduce a new student on our social media. Meet our first student feature for Spring 2020: Bilal Ahmadzai from Afghanistan, this semester’s LEAP Community Scholarship recipient! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to meet our students and to read about their experience at WSU. #LEAPFamily
Meet a LEAP Student

Get to know our LEAP students!

Name: Bilal Ahmadzai
Level: 3
Major: Cyber Security
From: Jalalabad, Afghanistan

I am: Hardworking - Responsible - Honest - Meet Bilal from Afghanistan!

In late 2017, Bilal came to Cincinnati, Ohio, with his parents, four sisters and four brothers from Jalalabad, the second largest city in Afghanistan. The only English Bilal knew at that time were, "Hi, hello!" He enrolled in ESL classes at a Catholic charity in Cincinnati and through lots of hard work, determination and with help from his American mentor, Brandon, and his family, he has managed to learn the language quite well.

Today, Bilal lives in Dayton with one of his brothers while the rest of the family lives in Cincinnati. For the past year, Bilal has been working as a Lyft driver. This semester, however, he started part-time classes in LEAP with the goal of improving his English further before starting his undergraduate studies at Wright State University in the fall. Bilal is planning on studying cyber security. He is currently preparing to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test and hopes to join WSU’s ROTC program once he enrolls at WSU as an undergraduate student. His long-term goal is to eventually complete a PhD in cyber security and work for the U.S. military.

During this free-time, Bilal enjoys spending time with friends and play cricket, a very popular sport in his native Afghanistan. About five years ago, he took an interest in body-building and spends a lot of time at the gym. Before leaving Afghanistan, he took first place in a body-building contest and he hopes to continue competing once he has more free-time.

When asked what he would like others to know about Afghanistan, Bilal says that Afghans are a very welcoming people. "Hospitality is #1 for us. You don’t have to call ahead to visit someone's house. You just show up and you will always be served something to eat and drink. It is an old tradition to serve guests green tea." Famous dishes you might encounter if you visit Afghanistan include Kabuli Pulao, a pilaf made with rice, raisins, carrots and lamb. Karahi made with chicken or lamb is another famous dish, with the meat prepared in a special deep two-handled pan. "Generally, Afghan food is quite spicy," Bilal adds.

LEAP Intensive English Program, Wright State University, Spring Semester 2020

#PreparedForSuccess

Upcoming Events:

Donuts 4 Dudes, February 4, 11:00 - 12:20 p.m., LEAP Office

LEAP Cultural Hour Valentine's Day, February 13, 11:00 - 12:20 p.m., LEAP Office

Workshop: Pronunciation Improvement, February 18, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., 393 Millett Hall

Ladies Tea & Talk, February 24, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., LEAP Office
LEAP Day Celebration (2020 is a leap year!), Time TBA, LEAP Office