Dear Friends,

In December 2015, a group of Iraqi students gave me a hydrangea plant. In the summer of 2016, I planted it outside my front door. Every summer since, it has bloomed with beautiful blue flowers. This year, the plant had outgrown its home by the front door so I moved it. In its new home, to my surprise, it bloomed with pink flowers. Why did the flower change colors? It's quite simple. The type of soil where the hydrangea grows determines the color of it. As I've been watching my now pink hydrangea bloom this summer, I've been thinking about how 2020 has been a year full of unexpected changes. Just like the hydrangea has to adapt to the type of soil in which it grows, we have to adapt to life in the new COVID-19 world. Since March, our students have gone from taking all in-person classes to emergency remote lessons to courses fully online this summer. The LEAP teachers have had to make changes to how they teach and are spending time this summer learning new ways to work online. The journey has not always been easy, but as summer semester
comes to a close this week, I am proud to say that our students and teachers have done very well adapting to their new environment.

Blue or pink, as long as you're able to bloom, it's all good!

/ Jeannette

LEAP Into the News!

LEAP recently landed in the Wright State news with a WSU Newsroom article written by Jim Hannah. Click the green box below to read the article about our second collaboration with Al-Furat Al-Awsat Technical University in Iraq that took place in June. LEAP adjunct instructor Pam Everly gave a webinar on English pronunciation to an audience of close to 2,000 participants.

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

#PreparedForSuccess
Each semester, LEAP offers Success Workshops on various topics of interest and importance. In July, we offered our *Pronunciation Improvement Success Workshop* to the Dayton community. Pam Everly, LEAP adjunct instructor, created and taught the workshop via Zoom. We hosted a great group of 12 local ESL speakers from China, South Korea, Syria, Mexico, Colombia, Pakistan, Turkey, Rwanda and Togo. The interactive workshop had participants complete various worksheet activities and use rubber bands to practice patterns of emphasis in spoken English and tissue paper to explore qualities of English consonants. We also enjoyed spending some time chatting about ways to practice pronunciation as we go about our daily lives. A special shout-out to WSU MA TESOL graduate Lakmini Grant Siriwardana and LEAP Student Services Coordinator Cathy Lee for joining and sharing their experiences learning English with the group!
Have you checked out the LEAP website lately? If not, click here to visit!

EXAMPLE: Focus Words in Questions

• Question grammar is tight in English.
• Can’t move words around very much.

#WrightStateRightSchool

Graduates, Where Are They Now?
Meet Eugenie Kirenga from Kigali, Rwanda!

Eugenie came to the United States 14 years ago and lives in Dayton with her husband and three children. Of Dayton she says, "It is my home because that's where I have family. That's what I like, being with my family." We first met Eugenie in Fall 2015 when she, as one of our first two "LEAP for Locals" students took part-time classes in LEAP. At the time, she was working full-time for Welcome Dayton and she joined us twice a week to take the Level 3 Integrated Skills class to improve her English skills. Eugenie is the perfect liaison to what's going on in the community through her work as an Immigrant Resource Specialist for Dayton Human Relations Council. When asked what she most enjoys about her job, Eugenie says it is to see someone happy because they get help with something they were not able to do by themselves. "New immigrants, or even the ones who have been here for a while are most of the time struggling to find the resources they need, and it makes me happy when I help them. My job connects me with many different people that can help me help those who need it." In LEAP, we enjoy collaborating with Eugenie at various local events including World Refugee Day and International Women's Day Celebration, both hosted by the Dayton Human Relations Council and Welcome Dayton. Eugenie has participated in LEAP’s Community Open Houses at WSU and we are grateful for her continuous support of the program! Though it has been a while since Eugenie studied in LEAP, she still has fond memories of her time in the program. "It is a good program for those learning English. The teachers are very helpful and flexible."

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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!
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 tuition. LEAP is proud to offer in-state fee options for Ohio residents. You can study full-time or part-time. This Fall Semester, we will offer three levels of study: Intermediate, High-Intermediate and Advanced.

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

LEAP Community Scholarship

We are proud to introduce our Academic Year 2019-2020 recipients of the LEAP Community Scholarship: George (US/Mexico) and Bilal (Afghanistan). Both have been taking classes in Level 4 this summer. George, who is a member of the US Navy Reserves, is planning to study nursing at Wright State and Bilal is starting his studies in the College of Engineering and Computer Science this fall, majoring in Information Technology and Cybersecurity. These two young men will be great additions to the Raider family after LEAP!

To learn more about the LEAP Community Scholarship and to apply, click here:
LEAP Community Scholarship

The deadline to apply for Fall Semester 2020 is August 1.

Consider a donation to LEAP. Your donation helps bring students together in social, cultural, and academic activities. It helps connect the world.

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

Click here to make a donation

Thank you for your support!

**Fall Semester Evening Classes**

Fall Semester, we are offering three evening classes. Two of them are short-term classes meeting twice a week for six weeks. These are great options for local non-native English speakers who might be working during the day but want a chance to improve their English at night. Check out the flyers below for more information. Contact us at leapadmissions@wright.edu if you have questions.
Full semester course:

**American Culture and Communication**

American Culture and Communication helps develop the fluency and communication skills of intermediate to advanced non-native English speakers in common everyday settings. You will improve your understanding of American culture by communicating in individual and group discussions, preparing and giving presentations, and by engaging with a variety of guest speakers. Cultural themes covered in the course will include American traditions, customs, and behavior in the workplace and informal social settings.

- Improve your ability to understand and be understood when interacting with Americans.
- Communicate effectively in whole class and small group discussions.
- Conduct interpersonal communication with improved confidence.
- Demonstrate an understanding of common cultural issues found in informal social settings.
- Demonstrate an understanding of social cues in discussions.

New ESL Course!

**American Culture and Communication**

Six-week evening courses:

**ESL Grammar Refresher & Pronunciation Improvement**

Are you a non-native English speaker? Do you want to improve your English grammar?

English grammar can be tricky to master - and to remember after a few years away from formal study!

LEAP’s ESL Grammar Refresher is a survey of the following topics to help non-native English speakers brush up their grasp of:

- Which articles to use, when to use them - and when NOT to!
- English word order and sentence structure in simple, compound, and complex sentences.
- How to use grammar structures to express ideas more effectively.
- The meanings and uses of English verb tenses and voices.
- The meanings and uses of verbs that express levels of certainty and social obligation.

Each class will be an overview of one topic and will include instruction and practice.
Upcoming Events:

Due to the current COVID-19 situation and Wright State University being open only to essential personnel, we currently have no in-person events scheduled. Remember, we are active on social media so please connect with us there!

We continue to work remotely and you can reach us via email: leapadmissions@wright.edu