Dear Friends,

As this newsletter is sent out, the world is experiencing a very challenging time due to the Coronavirus/COVID-19. Our last face-to-face LEAP class met on March 10 and since March 16 we have, like the rest of Wright State, held our classes online and will do so for the remainder of spring semester. The LEAP students are already used to Wright State's web-based learning management system Pilot, but they have been introduced to some new features, like real-time video conferencing which we are now using so that our classes can meet live. Sometimes special guests like teachers’ family members or pets join class! Pictured above is Tom's cat Arrow.

The faculty and staff in LEAP hope this finds you and your family safe and well. As always, we would love to hear from you so please send us a message and let us know how you are doing. We are always your #LEAPFamily and we are #RaiderStrong.

We hope you enjoy catching up with us even in these difficult times.

/ Jeannette

Teaching LEAP Remotely
LEAP faculty had a couple of days to get their classes ready for remote teaching when the university suspended face-to-face classes. They tested new technology on each other to make sure they would be ready to meet and work with students online. Faculty also set up work stations at home from which to deliver their classes. With remote classes now underway, the LEAP teachers are keeping in close touch. And, each Friday, they end the week by holding a virtual 'fika' (coffee break) in the Faculty Lounge they have set up on Blackboard Collaborate Ultra.

"My new classroom, complete with 'students.' I think the fairy penguin is going be trouble."
--Pamela Everly, MATESOL
Adjunct Instructor, LEAP Intensive English Program

A special shout-out to the LEAP students who have been doing a great job keeping up with their remote classes so far!

Below is an example of Level 1 Grammar students doing some collaborative grammar work and a Level 3 Listening/Speaking student giving an online presentation and holding a class discussion on the importance of sleep.
LEAP Into the News

LEAP was featured in a recent Wright State Newsroom article where faculty members were interviewed about different ways they are embracing the opportunity to work remotely with their students. Click the button or link below to read the article, "Remote Control."
WSU Student Emergency Fund

"During the unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wright State Foundation has established the Student Emergency Relief Campaign, which includes several emergency relief-related funds that can make an immediate impact in critical areas of need for Wright State students.

The campaign is in response to Wright State's measures to ensure the safety and health of students and the greater Dayton community. Such measures have included moving all classroom instruction to remote delivery, suspending all university events, closing of on-campus residence halls, and limiting operations on the Dayton Campus and Lake Campus to only essential employees on campus.

While many students have been able to return home safely, many students are facing difficult circumstances related to food, housing, lost wages, mental health, various other financial constraints, as well as educational challenges."

Click here to make a donation

Thank you for your support!

LEAP Day Celebration!

Did you know that 2020 is a leap year with one extra day? We held a LEAP Day Celebration on Friday, February 28. Dayton's Mayor Nan Whaley issued a special LEAP Day Proclamation. A big thank you to City Commissioner Matt Joseph for joining our celebration and presenting the proclamation to us.

LEAP students and guests enjoyed refreshments and a peek into the LEAP Time Capsule we made on LEAP Day 2016. We are making a new LEAP Time Capsule to be opened on LEAP Day in 2024.
Have you checked out the LEAP website lately? If not, click here to visit!

Also, be sure to take a look at the new Wright State University - Virtual Brochure! If you know anyone interested in studying in the U.S., suggest Wright State to them and pass along this brochure so they can learn more.

Graduates, Where Are They Now?

Bi Zhang from Dalian, China, came to Wright State University and LEAP in Fall 2011 with a group of 30
graduate-intending students from WSU's then partner institution Dalian Jiaotong University. After completing LEAP Level 4 successfully and earning the LEAP TOEFL Waiver, Bi began her studies in the MA TESOL Program in the English Department. She graduated with her master's degree in Spring 2014. While at Wright State, Bi assisted with a 4-week LEAP Summer Program held in Dalian in the summer of 2012. She also completed her TESOL Internship in LEAP. We recently caught up with Bi to ask what she has been doing since returning to China after her graduation. "In 2015, I joined Dongbei University of Finance and Economics in Dalian, China. Serving at the School of International Education, I work as an academic advisor and a specialist of scholarship programs for international students. My experience of studying in LEAP and at WSU and being exposed to diverse cultures has enabled me to better understand international students and perform well at my workplace."

#WrightStateRightSchool
We love to follow up with LEAP alumni and would like to feature your story in an upcoming edition of LEAP News!

#LEAPIntoWSU - Campus Art Gallery Visit

Did you know Wright State has its own art gallery? If you haven't been there, be sure to visit the Robert and Elaine Stein Galleries in the Creative Arts Center (Wright State University College of Liberal Arts) when campus opens up again. It's free and open to the public. Irena and Jeannette took a group of students over for a visit before spring break and students gave it "thumbs up!"

#LEAPIntoTheCommunity

LEAP had a fun time at Dayton Human Relations Council and Welcome Dayton's International Women's Day Celebration on March 7. After City Commissioner Matt Joseph welcomed everyone, the day continued with informative speakers, exciting dance performances, delicious food from local
restaurants, health screenings, city resources, stand-up yoga with Dayton’s Chief of Police and much more!

A wonderful day with awesome people all around!

Coming Soon:
....another session of LEAP Pronunciation Improvement!

The deadline to register for our 6-week evening course, LEP 0550 - Pronunciation Improvement is Friday, April 24. The course will be offered online. Contact us at leapadmissions@wright.edu to learn more.

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

- Do you want to communicate more effectively with North American English speakers?
- Did you know that it's possible to be clearly understood without having a native accent?
- Did you know that there are some specific skills you can learn that can make a big difference in your pronunciation?

Pronunciation Improvement is a 6-week interactive course to help you improve both your pronunciation and your listening comprehension skills so that you'll have more confidence when you speak English. The course focuses on:

- Learning important pronunciation patterns and techniques to help native and non-native English speakers understand you clearly.
- Improving your ability to understand the speech of North American English speakers.
- Helping you recognize your own pronunciation problems, set goals for improvement, and establish methods for ongoing pronunciation enhancement.

Days and Times
Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:30-8:10 p.m.

Next Session
May 11 - June 18, 2020

Registration Deadline
Friday, April 24, 2020

Fee
$412.50+ cost of textbook
Well Sold, 4th edition

For information or to register, email leapadmissions@wright.edu or call: (937) 775-5287

Follow us on:
facebook.com/wsu-the-leap
Instagram.com/leapwsu
twitter.com/leapwsu

Website: www.wright.edu/leap

#PreparedForSuccess
Upcoming Events:

Due to the current Coronavirus/COVID-19 situation and Wright State University being open only to essential personnel, we currently have no in-person events scheduled. But, we look forward to connecting with you face-to-face soon!