Dear Friends,

March was the month of guest speakers in LEAP! First, Lieutenant Kurt Holden and Officer Dexter Hicks from Wright State’s Police Department spoke to our students about the services they provide and how to stay safe on campus and in the community. Pictured here with our guest speakers is local student Del, a native of Thailand. Then, Librarian Beth Anderson from Wright State Libraries conducted a very informative research workshop for our Level 3 students. They are now ready to tackle their research papers! Finally, we enjoyed meeting WSU President Sue Edwards who came by to chat with our students. She asked them about their intended majors, what differences they have noticed between their home countries and the U.S. and shared her own experiences coming here from Australia.

We are truly grateful to members of the WSU community for interacting
with our students. That's what makes #WrightStateRightSchool!

Jeannette Horwitz
LEAP Director

Librarian Beth Anderson explaining how to do a keyword search.

President Sue Edwards chatting with L3 students about the importance of being lifelong learners.

LEAP For Locals
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.

Scholarship Available!

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.

Graduates - Where Are They Now?

Martha Jeannette Rodriguez
Bogotá, Colombia
In 2014, LEAP initiated the "LEAP for Locals" program, half-price classes and the LEAP Community Scholarship for local ESL residents. Martha Jeannette Rodriguez was one of our first "locals" and scholarship recipients. She has since become a close friend of LEAP and someone we enjoy collaborating with on community events and initiatives.

Martha Jeannette left her native Colombia after her family suffered several years of persecution. She has lived in Dayton since 2004 when she, her five children and ex-husband were granted asylum in the US. "My sister lived here and thought Dayton would be a safe place for us. I felt Dayton was home when I first put my feet on the ground here. I love the people! They have very good hearts and are so welcoming."

For the past seven years, Martha Jeannette has been working with Dayton Human Relations Council and its Welcome Dayton initiative for which she is an Immigrant Resource Specialist. "My job is to educate immigrants in civil rights and connect them with resources in the community. I organize various events to help with this such as International Women’s Day, World Refugee Day and World Soccer Games and a play about civil rights to help immigrants integrate with the Dayton community and promote advocacy." She says she likes everything about her job but is especially happy when immigrants call with problems and she’s able to connect them with organizations in the community. “I like to hear their stories. I can understand them because I have had a similar experience. I can also bring them hope that things will get easier. I am grateful to give back in return for the help I received when I first arrived."

Martha Jeannette has taken numerous courses in LEAP between 2015-2018 and says the reason for doing so is because she is a firm believer in needing to grow and venture outside your comfort zone. “I like to improve myself and I think it’s important to learn all the time. Learning the language of the country you live in is very important. You will have more opportunities if you know the language and you won’t have to depend on other people to help you.”
suggests that anyone new to Dayton, whether immigrant or international student, finds ways to get involved in the community or on campus. "Not only will it help improve your language, but it will help you connect to your new home."

Martha Jeannette representing Welcome Dayton in a *Dia de los Muertos* parade downtown Dayton and performing a civil rights play with Dayton Human Relations Council at International Women's Day.

**Fun Fact: 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!**

**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!

**Free English Placement Testing and Course Consultation**
We offer **free** English language placement testing and course consultation for anyone interested in taking English as a Second Language classes in LEAP.

The LEAP Placement Test takes about two hours to complete. It tests writing, listening, grammar, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. After the test, you will meet with a faculty member to discuss your results, look at the Summer or Fall 2021 schedule for course options and learn more about how LEAP can help **YOU** improve your English!

**Test Date & Times:**

**Date:** Contact LEAP to schedule a date.

**Times:** Test starts at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 a.m. or 12:00, 1:00, 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** LEAP Intensive English Program, 106 Allyn Hall at WSU. Test can also be done remotely.

For more information, contact LEAP:

- **email:** leapadmissions@wright.edu
- **phone:** (937)775-2935

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**Green and Gold in Saudi Arabia**

Check out the green & gold office of 2019 Wright State University [Raj Soin College of Business](https://www.wright.edu/rsoin) (MBA) graduate Ahmed Almithn from Saudi Arabia! A Lecturer in a governmental training institution, *Institute of Public Administration*, in Saudi Arabia, Ahmed trains employees who work in various other government institutions on management and technical skills to help them raise their productivity levels. Ahmed is pictured on his last day in the US when he stopped by the LEAP Office to say "See you later!" (In LEAP, we never say good-bye; only "see you later"!)
Online Mini-Lessons on YouTube!

We have created mini-lessons to help students prepare for the TOEFL & IELTS. We also have some cool pronunciation lessons available.

Consonants and Vowels: What Are They?

- **Consonants:**
  - Closed or Partly Open Mouth
  - Restricts Airflow

- **Vowels:**
  - Open Mouth Shapes Airflow

LEAP Pronunciation Improvement – Vowel Length
Spring Semester 2021 Office Hours:
The office is open for in-person visits on 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