Dear Friends,

We are already one-third done with Fall Semester 2020. Time flies when you're having fun! Even though this semester is like no other, our students have adjusted well to the "new normal" on campus. Guangyao "Daniel" Chen, MBA-intending student from China in Level 4 says, "Wearing a mask and keeping social distance make us look weird in class. We can't see each other's facial expressions but can feel them in the heart. The COVID-19 epidemic does not reduce our enthusiasm in class. Stay safe. Hopefully, everything will get better soon."

I hope you enjoy this edition of LEAP News and a peek into what we've been up to during September.

Jeannette Horwitz
LEAP Director

Wright Day To Give

October 1 is Wright Day To Give, Wright State's annual online-based fundraising event. For 24 hours, students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents,
retirees, and friends are encouraged to give back to support our amazing students at Wright State. What will YOU support this year? #WrightDay2Give

Consider a donation to the LEAP Scholarship Fund or the LEAP Program Fund.

Click the picture to learn more and to donate.

Thank you, Wright State University!
Thank you, Greater Cincinnati Chinese Chamber of Commerce!

All Wright State University students, faculty and staff received a WSU cloth mask at the beginning of the semester. Pictured here are some of our Level 2 students sporting the black - very comfortable - WSU face cover.

Mr. Leo Chan, Executive Director with The Greater Cincinnati Chinese Chamber of Commerce donated 1,000 disposable masks to WSU and each LEAP student received a 10-pack.
In the Classroom

Technology makes it a breeze to have some of the students join in person while others connect from home!

We use WSU's learning management system "Pilot" in all our classes. One of the many great features of Pilot is Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. CU allows students to connect remotely to class and see and hear everything that's going on as they participate, almost as if they were in the classroom.
LEAP's Fika Friday - Now Virtual!

Every Friday in LEAP, we have "fika." Fika is a Swedish word that means to take a break, have some coffee or tea and chat with friends. On Fridays, students can stop by the LEAP Office for coffee/tea and a sweet treat. This semester, we've moved to a Virtual Fika instead. While not the same as our in-person activity, with a little bit of creativity we are finding ways to connect and have fun. Fika To-Go-Bags one day and LEAP & WSU Trivia another!
It's been over 10 years to the day since Xiaowen "Owen" Cheng arrived in the United States from Dalian, China. He still recalls his first meal on US ground: a hamburger from Wendy's on Colonel Glenn Highway across from Wright State University. His first quarter as a Raider, Owen studied in LEAP Level 4 and took two ESL courses along with an engineering graduate course, Mechanical Vibrations. "At that time, I struggled to understand the local and fast speech of the engineering professor," says Owen. "He said he was concerned about my progress in the class. I remember him being very up front with me, telling me, "you are not ready." I didn't want to let myself and my family down. I appreciated and respected the professor's honesty. I decided I was up for the challenge and looked for ways to improve myself. I took advantage of all the resources available at WSU. I went to my LEAP teachers' office hours. I studied at the Dunbar Library. By going to the student lounge in Russ, I connected with my American classmates and we set up study sessions together. Little by little, I also made American friends that I spent time with outside school. Michael Adams, one of my first American classmates and I are still very close friends. In fact, his family has become my American family. They have invited me to their house for holidays and I've never missed spending a Christmas with them since coming here!"

Owen explains that during his 10 years in the US, he has learned to take advantage of his surroundings. "You never know where there might be an opportunity to learn something or meet someone new," he says. In LEAP, he participated in extra-curricular activities to help him improve his English further. Going places like the Cincinnati Zoo with the other LEAP students and teachers helped him connect with his home away from home. While in graduate school, he signed up to have a host-family through the University Center for

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**Graduates, Where Are They Now?**

**Xiaowen "Owen" Cheng - Dalian, China**  
LEAP Intensive English Program, 2010

MS Engineering, 2012  
(Industrial and Human Factors Engineering)

_Hartzell Propeller_  
(Technical Liaison), 2012 - 2016

_Fuyao Glass America_  
(Program Manager), 2016 - current
International Education. The family took him to American football games and he shared his interest in cooking with them. When he was working for Hartzell Propeller Inc, he joined coworkers to watch their children play baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball and wrestling. "Don't be afraid to knock on the door, but make sure you also enter and start talking!"

What he learned in his LEAP courses 10 years ago has come in handy in his professional life. Writing well, incorporating and citing sources, taking notes, answering interview questions, participating in discussions, giving presentations - these are all skills Owen has used in his positions at Hartzell and Fuyao Glass America. "LEAP makes you feel as if you are a professional and you will definitely benefit later on from what you learn while in the program." Owen's ties to Wright State are still strong. He and the local band 5325 he plays in have participated in UCIE's International Festival numerous times. As an alumni, he takes advantage of the Dunbar Library and services provided by OhioLink. And, when his parents visited from China back in 2015, he took them to LEAP for a visit and fika.

Owen plans to continue pursuing his career as an engineering professional in Dayton. Aside from spending one year in Fountain Inn, South Carolina with Fuyao, Dayton is now home. "Living in Ohio is peaceful. It's quiet and a good place to live with friendly people," he adds.

Happy 10 years in Ohio, Owen! Thank you for still being part of the #LEAPFamily!
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!

Interested in learning more about LEAP? Check out our website. Click here to visit!

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.

To learn more, visit our website, LEAP for Locals, or contact us at leapadmissions@wright.edu to schedule a one-on-one virtual meeting.
Improve Your English Pronunciation

Fall B-term Evening Class

Deadline to Register - October 2

Our evening *Pronunciation Improvement* course is a great option 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 flyer below and link to our Pronunciation Improvement website for more information. Course offered in-person but can also be taken remotely.

Contact us at leapadmissions@wright.edu for more information.

[Click the button to go to the Pronunciation Improvement page on the LEAP website:]

**Pronunciation Improvement**

**#PreparedForSuccess**

**Upcoming Events:**

**Thursday, October 2:** LEAP Paint-the-Rock at Wright State!

The LEAP Office is open for in-person visits on Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. We continue to work remotely and you can always reach us via email: leapadmissions@wright.edu