Virtual Experiences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

A compilation of ideas, events, stories and projects to help our audiences virtually connect with the University. Feel free to add to the list.

**News Bureau**

Liz Touchstone

- It’s not an event or virtual tour, but we could re-share on social some of the more dynamic content we’ve already got – research videos, GIFs, images, and Behind the Scenes posts.
- Maybe we could even find a researcher or professor to do a BTS on their current experiences – teaching online, modified field work, etc. It would be interesting for future generations, at the least.

Diana Yates

- It occurred to me that it would be lovely if we could get a few faculty, staff and students to make their own 30-second videos about why they’re at Illinois, how they’re coping with the social distancing measures, their hopes for the future, etc.
- Have faculty talk about their students, what they love about teaching, how they’re adjusting to the new reality, what they’re doing to keep the community strong.
- Addressing the fear and hardship of the present moment head-on could be powerful if combined with hopeful messages about overcoming the difficulties, adapting to new realities and finding innovative ways to stay connected.
  - Us News Bureau folks can probably think of a few people on our beats who would be good at this and reach out to them — as a start.

**ISE**

William Gillespie

- @Diana, Heather Coit in the Grainger College of Engineering started such a project. I think it’s a great idea.

**College of Media**

Holly Rushakoff

- Illinifest Student Film Festival will offer an online experience. Details so far: submissions open to all students, deadline April 24, presentation May 2. Will be sharing on social media as soon as details are confirmed.
• Ebertfest: They plan to do some engagement with their audience as they have an archive on YouTube of past Ebertfest film discussions (with special guests after the movie) and will be sharing that
  ○ Andy Hall (the College of Media Ebertfest coordinator) or I can share with you when they do some creative outreach. Ebertfest social media can take the lead on that, since Andy is still working on a new overall strategy.

Technology Services

Sarah Holmes

• I wonder if a question and answer “town hall” with the Chancellor (or Chancellor’s office) might be a possibility. It would be great if the Chancellor might be available for an hour Zoom meeting someday soon to answer either submitted or live questions.

Dena Strong

• Video chat rooms for groups like fraternities, dorms, and RSOs to connect with each other
  ○ If people make go.illinois.edu/rsoname-videochat type short URLs that can be pointed at Google Hangouts or Zoom or MS Teams or whatever they choose, they could have digital hangout space that’s easy to find and easy to update.

Campus Recreation

Ella Bailey

• Campus Rec and Les Mills have collaborated and have been gifted FREE in-home workouts through Les Mills for all students to use in the comfort of their homes during this time.

Messaging shared on channels:

We miss you, Active Illini!

Though our facilities will be CLOSED for all usage, your health, safety and well-being is our top priority and we encourage you to continue living a healthy lifestyle in the comfort and convenience of your home.

That being said, on behalf of Les Mills and Campus Recreation, we would like to provide you with FREE Les Mills workouts during this time of social distancing and uncertainty.

FREE WORKOUTS: https://watch.lesmillsondemand.com/at-home-workouts
This platform offers 95 FREE workouts across 8 categories. All the workouts are in English but you should find it easy to follow the visual cues. No data from Les Mills will be collected and it will remain available to you as long as the disruption from COVID-19 continues.

Thank you Les Mills for an amazing offering for our campus community!

Let’s come back stronger than ever! Together, anything is possible!

Undergraduate Admissions

Chris Axtman-Barker

This is a critical season for Undergraduate Admissions. March and April are when the vast majority of students make their college choices in the lead up to national decision day on May 1. This is when the next Illinois class forms. Additionally, we normally see waves of campus visitors as seniors work to make their final decision and juniors explore universities.

We are working to make fully online visit options available. In the meantime, please share these virtual tour resources with your prospective student audiences. Students are currently missing out on getting to see and experience campus – normally a large component of college choice!

- The Virtual Visits landing page is a one-stop shop for info sessions, tours, videos, stories, and more
- Undergraduate Admissions’ Virtual Tour Page
  - This is our hub for our tour video (works in VR and as a normal video), photo tour and more
- The Admissions YouTube Channel, with our Touring Time series and more videos to come soon
- Our Journey’s story page, which showcases student stories from across campus

One more note: we know many of you are making your own virtual visit and showcase resources for your prospective student audiences. That’s great! Please do not forget to include links to Undergraduate Admissions, just like when students sign up for a college visit on your pages now.

Additionally, we want to make sure our data capture is as good as it can be! As always, we want to make sure visits and interactions are reflected in campus data. If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me or our office.

- Coming soon, all admitted students will receive geo-targeted ads about accepting their offer
- All admitted students receive emails from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and their respective colleges throughout the current yield season
- Although in-person campus visits have been cancelled, students will soon be able to sign up for alternative virtual visit options where students will be able to speak with a counselor, view an admissions presentation and more

**School of Social Work**

Becky Ponder

- During the month of April, Carol Mauck and her master's level social work course, Managing Human Service Organizations will virtually deliver 3 different in-person staff trainings to local community partners. Topics include conflict resolution, professional boundaries and sexual harassment, and workplace violence & self care.
- We are hoping to use social media to continue our "Connections Corners" virtually to highlight our community partners and the work they do. We plan to focus on organizations who have specific resources/services/information in response to COVID-19.
- Waiting to hear back from Kelly Skinner at Soul Care to see if she's interested in leading her Wellness Wednesday workshop (topic: Everyday Mindfulness) remotely.

**Department of Psychology**

Ryan Leskis

**Mental health resources**

**Extension**

Erin Knowles

Some of you may already be aware, but Illinois Extension has created a webpage around resources for responding to COVID-19.

- Resources will include everything from links to the CDC, IDPH, etc., to topics and articles geared towards families, community leaders, and beyond. Current topics in the queue revolve around financial wellness, family life, nutrition and wellness, and more. We even have a handwashing video up that is a how-to on washing your hands with soap and/or sanitizer.

**Coordinated Science Lab (CSL)**

Allie Arp
Every Friday that people are working from home, we are planning on doing a picture collage of CSL staff/faculty’s “new coworkers” aka their pets for some light-hearted content.

We’re also starting our #WalkaboutWednesday series up again, it’s usually a summer content filler, but we’re going to feature things people can see around campus from their computers.

Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE)

Tony Mancuso

As we’re preparing for Earth Month, we’re focusing on sharing compelling stories about nature, the environment, and the upcoming Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP 2020)—fittingly, the theme for this year’s Earth Day is “Climate Action.” I am including a few stories that we are planning to promote this month:

Worms and all: what you should know (and love) about composting (3/31)
Have you seen a puffin today?: 10 virtual windows (or webcams) to the wild (4/1)

Earth Month/Week/Day virtual engagement: April is Earth Month, and we are working on creative ways to learn about and celebrate the planet from wherever the Illinois community is located! Here are a few:

- **Earth Week Blackout BINGO**
  - When: Throughout the duration of Earth Week (Monday, April 20- Friday, April 24)
  - We will make a virtual BINGO blackout board public to the Illinois community. The BINGO board will include sustainability challenges that can be completed at home (watching a documentary, going Zero Waste for a day, etc.). Students can submit videos/photos of themselves completing the tasks (which we will share; some of the tasks have additional prompts and opportunities to answer questions), and we will celebrate those who completed their entire boards at the end of the week.

- **Earth Week Countdown Quiz**

- Our annual Charles David Keeling Lecture will be presented virtually via Zoom.
  - RSVP and locate Zoom info: [https://www.facebook.com/events/216025282792996/](https://www.facebook.com/events/216025282792996/)
  - Title: “Climate Science in a Fact-Free World”
  - Speaker info: Katharine Hayhoe is a climate scientist, a Political Science Professor, Director of the Climate Center, and an associate in the Public
Health program of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Texas Tech University.

○ April iCAP Celebration and Forum will likely be a Facebook livestream — More info to come

- Illini Lights Out (ILO) is transitioning to “Illini Lights Out Goes Home”: We will continue to promote ILO events at their regularly scheduled dates/times (which you can find via our Facebook event), encouraging Illinois students, faculty, and staff to participate remotely by turning off the lights wherever they are.
  ○ Date/Time: 4/17, 5/1, 5:30-7:00 PM
  ○ We are looking for creative ways (other than images) for folks to document turning the lights off — all ideas appreciated!

Facebook messaging
Help us turn off the lights to reduce the energy consumption and environmental impact of our campus community! By participating in iSEE’s Illini Lights Out, you will be demonstrating your commitment to fighting climate change and saving our planet. This symbolic event shows that climate change is an issue that the University of Illinois campus cares about.

Because of COVID-19-related health concerns, our final three ILO events of the Spring 2020 semester will no longer be held in person at the FLB. However, we encourage ALL Illinois campus and community members to do their part for the Earth by shutting off unused lights and electronics - wherever you are!

Thanks for participating, and thank you for all you have helped us accomplish this year!

Global Education and Training (GET)
Bridget Sullivan

- Brigham Young University’s Instagram stories are sharing messages from professors to students: https://www.instagram.com/stories/b Brighamyounguniversity/. They are a private school with a different background than Illinois, but a version of this could still be viable for our campus. 😊
Krannert Museum

Julia Kelly

We plan to put together regular social media features on public art that will give us an opportunity to share campus content (photos, videos, etc) from a variety of campus units and to reinforce for our students and prospects the campus experience.

- We started some of that messaging yesterday with our Hive installation.
- Would like to crowdsource a bit and make a call to social media managers to share with me any content their unit has produced related to the public art installations in their buildings. We’d put together a content calendar so we can publish to social at least weekly and drive traffic to those positive stories.
- Before I put together a Box folder and/or put a call to the social media list, I’d like to see how it can tie into campus messaging on what makes the U of I such a special place to be. I view it as a positive messaging solution.

Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology

Nick Vasi

We just started something we’re calling "At-home activities for families and friends" on the IGB website. We added a section to our home page where we'll post a new sort of activity every day--yesterday was a COVID word search and a coloring sheet, today is a draw a leaf type of science activity--and we also made a little archive section. Our goal is to post outreach activities that you can do at home, push out some engagement ideas, or just plain things to do for those facing isolation at the moment.

Also we came up with the tag #couchreach since it's outreach from your couch.

We are also in the process of planning virtual “chats” for the general community with IGB researchers.
Electrical and Computer Engineering  

Ryann Monahan  

These are the list of videos we will send via email, and share on social media (FB, Insta, TW, YouTube), and put on a website.  

- **A message from Distinguished Alumni to admitted students** (currently unlisted)  
- **Tour of ECEB** *(may reupload on YouTube to get an updated date stamp on it)*  
- Tour of NanoFabrication Lab (one of the biggest attractions to our building) [in production as of 3/121/20]  
- Student Hype Video (created by students, for admitted students) [in production as of 3/121/20]  
- WECE Video (Women in ECE video) [in production as of 3/121/20]  
- **The Quintessential Engineer: Creating a Lasting Role Model** *(targeting female admitted students)*  
- **Virtual Reality in the classroom** – how it is a new learning experience  

I uploaded 2 versions of the Quintessential Engineer video into Box.  

1. 2-minute full version with captions  
2. 1-minute shortened version for standard Instagram posting with captions.  

They can be found here [https://uofi.box.com/s/sg9takd6r131yeuei55nh0m589obvgfs](https://uofi.box.com/s/sg9takd6r131yeuei55nh0m589obvgfs)  

Illinois Distributed Museum  

Kristen Wilson  

I am the coordinator of the Illinois Distributed Museum, which highlights innovations from around campus. All of the content is digital. It is meant to have a physical component where people can travel around campus to see objects, pictures, documents and buildings related to the innovations, but it is not necessary to do so to use the Illinois Distributed Museum.  

We showcase research from the past and present, and we try to highlight innovations from all departments. The website is still very much growing, and a bit engineer heavy since the engineering college originally supported it. We currently have just over 100 “exhibits”. I have
many new exhibits to add though while I am working from home and I expect to add 10-15 more in the next week.

I am also planning to add more content to our Facebook and Twitter pages starting at the end of the week.

Please feel free to share the Illinois Distributed Museum widely, especially with prospective students. I have had many student interns the past two years and they have all greatly enjoyed getting to learn about the research on campus and how it has led to better lives and new advancements for people around the world. They have said that it makes them feel more connected to campus and makes them proud to be an Illini, because of this, I hope prospective students will also want to be a part of our Illini family and continue our great research traditions.

Website:  http://distributedmuseum.illinois.edu/
Facebook:  https://www.facebook.com/DistributedMuseum/
Twitter:  @MuseumIllinois https://twitter.com/MuseumIllinois

The Grainger College of Engineering

Choose Grainger has access to live video chats, webinars, advising office hours, departmental resources, videos, and more. We’re pushing this site in general, and information about the live chats a few times a week.

COVID-19-related projects from Grainger

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

Virtual book club meeting for the One Campus book would be a great offering for our community. If we could have the author join us for the final webinar/meeting, I believe that would be a nice touch. Other books could be considered too!

Office of Minority Student Affairs

Drop-in Tutoring

Have a question? Need help? The OMSA continues to provide drop-in tutoring for Math, Chemistry and Physics. Students may access online drop-in tutoring services tutoring by
using this link: https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/1632674. Upon receiving the students' request the drop-in tutor will send them a link to join the session. Please note, all matched tutoring appointments will continue on their normal day, at their normal time, with their normal tutor. The appointment location, however, will change to either GoBoard or Zoom.

Drop-in tutoring hours are:

**Chemistry**: Monday - Thursday 2-7 p.m.

   Friday 3-5 p.m.

**Physics**: Tuesday and Thursday 5-7 p.m.

   Wednesday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Math**: Monday and Wednesday 1-8 p.m.

   Tuesday and Thursday 2-8 p.m.

   Friday 1-5 p.m.

**Advising and Mentoring Services**

Have a question or just need to talk some things through? Our advising and mentoring services also remain available! **Our online drop-in hours for advising and mentoring are Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm.**

To take advantage of these services students should go to go.illinois.edu/OMSAAppts. In the drop-down menu select OMSA ASC Drop-In Hours and then select OMSA Advising and Mentoring. Once your students submit a request, an on-duty Student Success Advisor will send them instructions for entering a virtual meeting.

As always, if you have any questions please contact us at 217.333.0054 for OMSA Main (omsa@illinois.edu) or 217.333.7547 for OMSA’s Academic Services Center (omsa-asc@illinois.edu).
CITL Innovation Spaces

I'm Jamie Nelson, Assistant Director of Emerging Educational Technologies at CITL. We typically run several spaces at the Armory, the TechHub, Innovation Studio, and VR Lab (http://go.illinois.edu/ciltspaces), which are - of course - closed currently.

Virtual Workshops: To keep people engaged with our spaces we will be hosting several Facebook Live sessions throughout the semester (also being recorded and saved) on our Facebook Page (https://www.facebook.com/pg/citlspaces/events/). The event for today on 3D design with Tinkercad is archived, with remaining events to be listed soon.

We support a number of RSOs including VR Club and Illini Esports. These groups are continuing to meet virtually and we announce their activities on our social media @ciltspaces on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. A couple specific events are listed below.

Half-Life: Alyx Live Streaming: This Friday (4/3) at 5pm CST VR Club is streaming Half-Life: Alyx, one of the most hyped VR applications, on their Twitch channel (https://www.twitch.tv/vrclubatuiuc/).

Illini Esports Fortnite Competition: Also, we invite everyone Tune in every Wednesday from 7-9pm until the end of April to watch our Illini Esports duos qualifying for the PlayVS Fortnite Collegiate Championship. (https://twitch.tv/illini_esports)

Illinois NeuroBehavioral Assessment Laboratory (INBAL)

Trying to work and “attend” school from home presents new challenges for most people. But, if you have a condition that interferes with attention or learning, working from home is even harder. So (for a limited time), INBAL is waiving all costs for digital screenings, and offering them free to anyone who is interested in learning more about attention or executive functioning for themselves or for their families. Every part of the process can be completed online. More information: https://inbal.illinois.edu/2020/03/27/free-digital-screenings-offered-for-a-limited-time/

Center for Social and Behavioral Science


Spurlock Museum

I’m Beth Watkins, Education and Publications Coordinator at the museum. We have two virtual event series planned so far:
**Mindful Meditation** with Mary Wolters Stream this event live from [Mary Wolter's Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/marywolters/) (login required), 12:30 pm–1:00 pm on Tuesdays March 31–May 5. Each video will be shared to [the Museum Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/spurlockmuseum/) once the session has concluded.

Previous sessions of Mindful Meditation with Mary Wolters are available in the video section of [the Museum Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/spurlockmuseum/).

During each 30–minute session, Mary will help participants bring a focus to their breathing and share tips for how to engage mindfully. Present moment awareness can be elusive, and we often find ourselves distracted or lost in thought. Through the training and practice of mindful meditation, we can discover a calm amidst our to-do lists and more fully appreciate the gift of each day.

No registration or special equipment is necessary, and participants may attend as many or few sessions as they like.

**Storytelling Live with Kim Sheahan**

Beginning April 3, Kim Sheahan, our resident storyteller, will be offering family-friendly 30-minute live storytelling sessions on [Spurlock's Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/spurlockmuseum/). The sessions will be Wednesday and Friday mornings 11:15–11:45 am (Central time).