

# Keeping Connected

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## Thriving in Uncertain Times: Faculty Stories of Engagement

Debra Olson-Morrison holds synchronous sessions with her students since transitioning to online teaching. Before moving to the online environment, Debra would assess students' learning by "using creative and fun pencil/paper group problem-solving activities that I printed off prior to class." Now that her class is fully online, Debra has explored multiple assessment and student engagement strategies. "I've tried break out rooms with discussion questions, poll everywhere, google forms, and even had the class break out their own paper and pencil. None of these seemed to work as well as the face to face method." That was until Debra tried the game-based learning platform, **Kahoot**, where she received constructive input from her students. "After the game, students immediately blew up the chat in Zoom with positive feedback. Through trial and error, and in the last weeks of the semester, I think I'm finally figuring it out." To learn more about Kahoot, watch the video below or go to <https://kahoot.com/>.



## And the Winner is...

The Faculty Center for Innovation (FCI) would like to thank everyone who

shared tips, ideas, and stories for thriving. All submissions were entered in a raffle to receive a gift at the end of the semester, and the winner is Jenny Whitley. Congratulations!!!

Because we received so many great stories, FCI will continue requesting your innovative teaching and learning strategies and success each term beginning AY 2020-2021. Be on the lookout during the FCI monthly newsletter in August on where to share your ideas and achievements to be entered in the next drawing.



### **Virtual Coffee House**

Feeling isolated? Miss connecting with your colleagues? Or just want to talk to someone other than your dog? All faculty are welcome to join us **every Friday through the end of the semester from 11:30-12:00pm CST** for an informal social gathering. Topics of discussion in our breakout chat rooms will vary each week and will develop based upon your interests. Bring your own beverage of choice and join us for some brief social exchange. To join, click [HERE](#). Hope to see you there!



## **How Teaching Changed in the (Forced) Shift to Remote Learning**

*by Doug Lederman*

It will be some time before we know the full impact of the COVID-19-induced shift to remote learning this spring -- how it altered the arc of students' academic careers, for example, or affected the extent and nature of their learning.

But we now have some early data on how it reshaped instructors' teaching practices. Read this article [HERE](#) to learn more about academics' responses to online teaching and learning.





## **Managing through Crisis: How to Work Remotely**

***by Harvard Business School***

Coronavirus has forced many organizations to suddenly take the plunge into remote work with many unanswered questions. Professor Tsedal Neeley and CMCO Brian Kenny use Zoom to discuss everything from creating a routine and connecting with colleagues to using virtual presentations and flex work time to make the most out of working from home.

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Check out this video of "Managing through Crisis: How to Work Remotely"

### **Just For Fun: Using Fun to Promote Engagement**

The lingering question that each of us asks ourselves before we hop on to a remote meeting, "Do I look okay?" Of course! Whether you're dressed to the nines or in your pajamas, we love seeing your smiling face. Enjoy! And keep taking care of each other.

**me and my coworkers logging into all  
of our meetings remotely for the next  
couple of weeks**



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