

Keeping Connected

Almost to the Finish Line!

It would be an understatement to say that this Spring 2020 semester has been quite a ride! While there is no need to recap the events that have led to our drastic and unexpected transitions, we would like to reflect on the lessons learned, resilience built, and grace displayed by Park University instructors, staff, and students. You've shared stories of insightful ideas and strategies to help all instructors improve our practice. You've risen to the occasion to be agile and flexible with your students and in your own personal and professional lives. And you've (once again) demonstrated your commitment to providing accessible, quality education to our learners. The past few months have been a dead sprint, and we want to thank you and congratulate you on successfully nearing the end of this epic and unforgettable semester.



Want to Protect Yourself from Corona? Get Some Sleep!

It's that time of year - the end of the semester where we are grading countless papers, submitting grades, providing feedback, identifying ways to help our

students 'virtually celebrate' their achievements and more - and one critical element of self-care that typically falls to the wayside....Sleep!

Sleep is your life-support system and Mother Nature's best effort yet at immortality, says sleep scientist Matt Walker. In this deep dive into the science of slumber, Walker shares the wonderfully good things that happen when you get sleep -- and the alarmingly bad things that happen when you don't, for both your brain and body. Learn more about sleep's impact on your learning, memory, immune system and even your genetic code -- as well as some helpful tips for getting some shut-eye.



Faculty Resilience and the Coronavirus

hosted by Ian Wilhelm and Bryan Alexander

As the outbreak of the coronavirus upends colleges across the nation, how can faculty members continue to teach, conduct research, and work together? How do they take care of their students while also taking care of themselves? What are the tips to quickly shift an entire class online? These virtual forums hosted by Ian Wilhelm, a Chronicle editor, and Bryan Alexander, a leading higher-ed thinker and futurist, will provide the latest updates on how colleges are responding to the emergency and how faculty members — including nontenured professors and adjunct instructors — are being affected. The forum will include an expert panel and also provide an open discussion for attendees to ask questions, share advice, and provide support to one another during a tumultuous time. To register and watch one or more of the on-demand virtual forms, such as "Inclusive Teaching in the Online Classroom" or "Supporting Contingent Faculty During the Outbreak," [CLICK HERE](#).



Thriving in Uncertain Times: Faculty Stories of Engagement

Paul Ford has been including a guest lecturer in an asynchronous format in his classes for a number of years. In his online classroom, Paul tells his students that he will be incorporating a "guest lecturer 'question and answer thread' -- that will provide you with insight from an expert [related to the course/discipline]." Paul then explains how the process works and provides a biosketch of the guest lecturer. "During the sixth week, [the guest lecturer] will respond to your questions...you post to this thread. To assist us with an early start, please post a few questions during week five. I will forward your questions to [the guest lecturer], who will respond [to me]." The guest lecturer's responses will then be posted in the class discussion forum.

Since adding the asynchronous guest lecture approach, Paul has received positive feedback from students. One student said, "I just wanted to say thank you for sharing your knowledge and experiences. I have been taking online classes for two years now and this is the first time that I have come across a Q&A like this. Also, thank you Mr. Ford for setting this up. I have really enjoyed reading through this!"

We have enjoyed you sharing this excellent teaching strategy with us, Paul. Keep doing what you're doing in the classroom and sharing your amazing stories with us. FCI will continue requesting faculty's 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: A Toast to the Term!

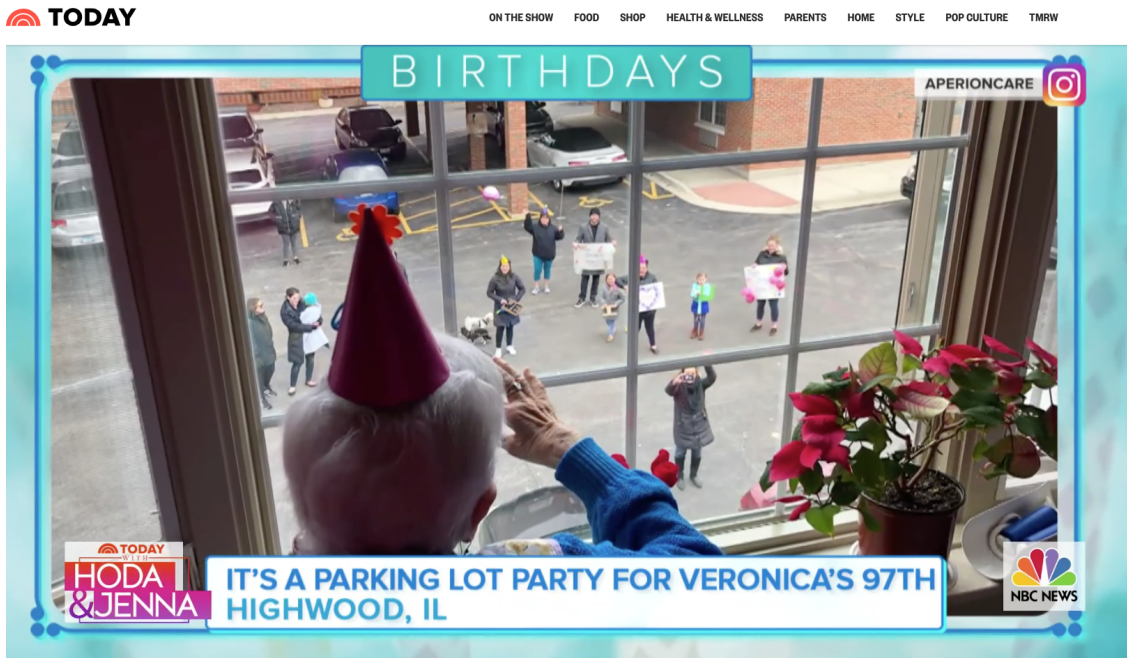
This week FCI will be hosting our final Virtual Coffee House of the spring semester. All faculty are welcome to join us this **Friday from 11:30am-12:00pm CST** for an informal social gathering and a celebration on the successful completion of the 2020 Spring Semester! We will be toasting a job well done, so be sure to come with your favorite toasting beverage and any thoughts, reflections, stories, etc. that you'd like to share! To join, click [HERE](#). Hope to see you there!



Time to Celebrate!

We have heard about SO MANY creative ways that instructors are helping their students celebrate the successful completion of the spring term and ways that folks

all across the country are continuing to celebrate as well. So if there was ever a time to kick back and celebrate, that time is NOW. Here are a few things to inspire your own celebrations!



Check out this inspiring video!

Just for Fun: Laugh Out Loud Today!

The Holderness Family has created a series of hilarious musical parodies to help get you through the pandemic. So if you haven't checked them out lately and would like a good laugh, it's definitely worth 3 minutes of your time.



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