

Episode 11: Return to Campus – Part 4

Nicole Thomas

Welcome to the fourth episode of our Return To Campus series for fall 2021. I'm your host Nicole Thomas, Undergraduate Education Librarian here at UB. My first guest today is Stacy Snyder, Co-Director, Digital Scholarship Studio and Network, which is located in Lockwood Library. Hi, Stacy. Tell us about what's new in DSSN for the fall.

Stacy Snyder

Well, we have five or six presentations that are going to be going on. We're doing a combination of some of them will be on Zoom only and others will be hybrid. And we're leaving that up to the presenters as far as what they're interested in. So, our first one is going to be a really interesting presentation by Maria Rodriguez from the School of Social Work, talking about some Twitter research that she's been doing on bystander interventions in racist interactions online. So that's going to be really, really interesting. And then later on in September, Sarah Handley Cousins from the History Department is going to be doing DH101 for graduate students and other beginners. Because while I think a lot of us understand what Digital Humanities and Digital Scholarship are, graduate students don't necessarily know what that is, and some of them have asked, you know, they've seen our presentations, but they don't really know what DH or what DS is and how they can incorporate that into their studies and into their research.

Nicole Thomas

OK, well, that's lots of exciting things to look forward to. Would you like to share how you feel about returning to campus after being remote due to the COVID 19 pandemic?

Stacy Snyder

Coming back has been interesting. It's much more tiring than I thought it was going to be, and I don't know if that's. I think that's a combination of emotional tired and physical tired because I haven't been around people, my children and, you know, close family for a year and a half. So that kind of tension of being around other people, even when we're masked and all of that is is different. And also, you know, bringing the commute into it and, you know, actually having to put on, you know, the face that we give to each other when we're working together instead of, you know, sitting in front of a screen at home just takes extra time and and having to pack my lunch instead of being able to just walk into the kitchen and whip something up when I get hungry is...the remembering how much time the morning routine takes is is a challenge. But I'm happy to see everyone and you know, I hope that we can all be healthy and together going forward, even if that means that we're doing that with masks on.

Nicole Thomas

Thank you so much, Stacey, stopping by to talk to us today.

Stacy Snyder

It was my pleasure. Thanks.

Nicole Thomas

Now I'd like to introduce Cynthia Tysick, head of the UB Library's Educational Services Team. Cindy, tell me what upcoming projects you have for the fall.

Cynthia Tysick

Well, for the fall, one of the big things we're going to be doing is going back into the classroom, teaching Library and Information Literacy for the English 105 courses, which is the primary writing course for the UB curriculum. So, it's about 75 separate sections of the class, roughly maybe 1500 students; freshmen that we're going to be welcoming back to UB. So, we're excited about that, and we're also rolling out a UB approved micro-credential in Digital Information Literacy. It's being offered through Coursera. We worked on it during the pandemic and we offered it simply through Coursera. But SUNY, as part of Open SUNY, allows us now to be able to reach out to all of the SUNY students and offer that micro credential through Coursera, but it will have a UB badge to it. So, we're very excited about that.

Nicole Thomas

Well, it sounds really exciting. And could you offer your feelings on returning to campus full time after working remotely for the past year and a half due to COVID 19?

Cynthia Tysick

OK, so for the past year and a half, I work mostly on campus, except for the the early days of COVID and over the summer. So, fall of last year, I was in the classroom teaching and we had our masks, we were social distance and it was very challenging. But the students did a great job of trying to make it the best college experience. We all try to make it the best college experience, so for me, I can't wait to get back into the classroom. I can't wait to meet this new group of freshmen. I'm so excited to meet them and give them as much of a normal college experience as possible. Mask up, hopefully won't have to social distance too much because I love to walk around the classroom. And if I can't do that, I don't. I don't know. Having to be chained to the front was really difficult last year. So anyways, I'm really looking forward to welcoming everybody back to the campus. It's going to be really exciting.

Nicole Thomas

This is really great. Thank you very much for providing your perspective.

Cynthia Tysick

You're welcome.

Nicole Thomas

I'd like to thank everyone who has been a part of our Return To Campus series this fall. We're looking forward to a great semester, and I hope you'll tune in to future episodes of our Libraries Out Loud podcast.