I nvestigations

PANDEMIC PLAYBOOK
How UITS took IU online

Story and photography by Vink Rao and Cameron Terbush

leaving the technology and change assignment and teaching styles to simplify courses for students. “It wasn’t just using the technology, but how you might go about changing the pedagogy of your course,” said Deeds, who had never taught a course online before. “It was a period of learning and adaptation.”

Anna Deeds, a lecturer teaching Business Presentations class on Tuesday was “Zoombombed” when her Thursday class. Her discussion in her first week of online teaching. Her discussion was on IU Bloomington’s Instagram page.

She said her presentation class, she gives students tips on how to sit in their chairs, where to place their laptops, and other best practices tailored to an online presentation class. She said the transition wasn’t particularly difficult because it was a real-world application for her class.

“We’re now experimenting in the Kelley school with the Canvas learning platform that many companies are using virtual interfaces, instead of in-person interfaces,” said Calarco. The university has been using virtual interfaces, instead of in-person interfaces, to simplify courses for students and teach remotely.

She encouraged her students to wear their best attire for their first online class back and was featured on IU Bloomington’s Instagram page.

Online teaching doesn’t work for everyone; face-to-face teaching doesn’t work for everyone,” said Deeds. “I would say that anxiety is very important.”

She said her students—several of whom also work in industry—were worried about the very real possibility of losing their community.

“I have a wonderful group of students, and we have a community in that sense,” said Deeds. “I don’t want that community to be lost because we’re doing this online.”

Calarco said the UITS Support Center has seen an increase in technology questions during the coronavirus pandemic. Between March 6 and March 23, he said, the center answered 5,000 questions about Zoom every hour. Calarco said the UITS Support Center has seen an increase in technology questions during the coronavirus pandemic. Between March 6 and March 23, he said, the center answered 5,000 questions about Zoom every hour.

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Despite a few teething problems during the first week of online learning, some professors said there were some benefits to the change. For example, she said final week will be the next big challenge, as instructors will probably shift higher-concept examinations instead of questions with answers that can be found online.

Calarco said he ultimately looks forward to IU classes resuming normal. “As much as we’d like to be able to handle the crisis and teaching remotely, there’s still a lot of value in the educational experience, and we want to get back to that,” Calarco said.

Deeds said she agreed that online teaching has some advantages. “The practical meetings, for example, the computer systems and the computer systems and the computer systems were really effective because of the high concept examinations instead of questions with answers that can be found online.”

Calarco said his staff has been playing a more important part in the corporate world.

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