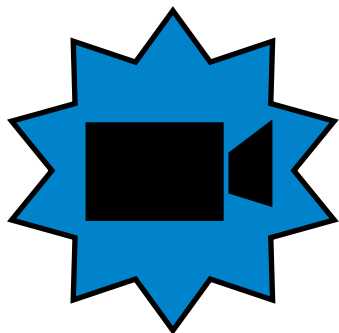


●●●● **096 LEARNING DURING COVID-19 CLOSURES**



ZOOM

Due to COVID-19, schools and universities were forced to shut down after spring break. Students went from attending school every day to being required to stay home. Many students soon learned that going to school was something they took for granted.

"I learned to take things more seriously and never take anything for granted over these past few months," said **Casey Kolbeck**.

They no longer got to see friends and staff who they had connected with. For many seniors, their last day of high school did not go as planned.

"Like many girls, I had my outfit planned for my last day of high school, but instead I was in sweatpants and a t-shirt because I did not realize I would not walk back into the school after I left for spring break," said **Ashlyn Hay**.

With all that was going on, still finishing the year was a top priority, so the school went digital. Students continued college classes on Zoom, an app to have group meetings, similar to Skype. The high school staff pushed assignments out on Google Classroom, and teachers were available on Zoom during office hours for anyone who had questions. Since new learning was required during the closure, students were also offered the choice to take their classes for a letter grade or as a pass/fail option.

Other important meetings were held via Zoom calls, like senior meetings with administration to find ways to honor the class of 2020. Zoom came with its advantages and disadvantages.

"With Zoom I could lay in bed while still being in class, which is way better than those uncomfortable chairs," said **Sydney Carver**.

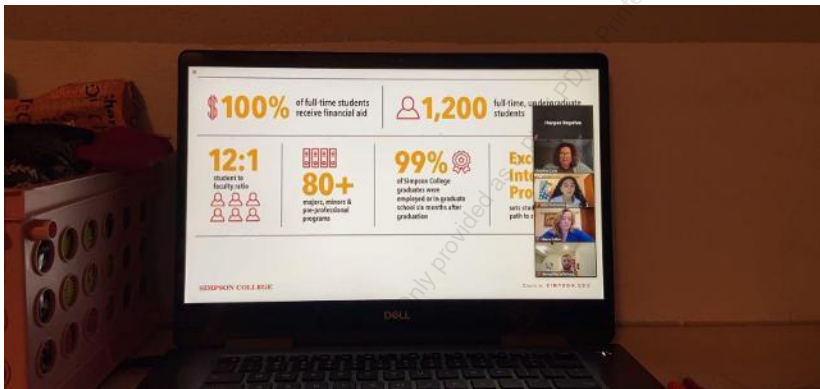
"I didn't like having classes on Zoom because I am a very social person. But at that point in time it was the safest option to keep the students and staff healthy," said **Claire Goebel**.

A few things became certain. Students and staff learned very quickly what they did not know about the challenges of asynchronous teaching and learning. Everyone, seniors especially, longed to be back in the normalcy of what should have been their crazy spring semester. What many realized is "Lynxmen Strong" has an entirely new definition now as we learned the life lesson to offer grace in situations that are out of our control.

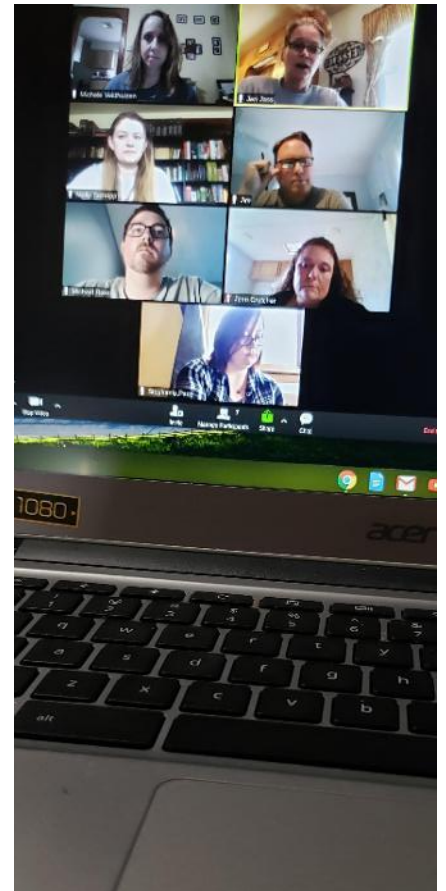
UNIVERSITY



2020 Spring Public Speaking Class



Virtual College Visits



Staff Meetings

