Each SAS must be registered for prior to the program to receive the Zoom info. To receive credit for any virtual SAS, students must submit a paragraph response to a prompt after the program attended.

1. WELLNESS UNDER PRESSURE – BUILDING RESILIENCY DURING DIFFICULT TIMES

Michele Guerra
Director of Campus Wellbeing Services
Thursday, September 17, 2020
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.
Zoom info will be sent to registrants prior to the program

We are living during a time of unprecedented stress. Stressors specific to the COVID-19 pandemic include the risk of social isolation, fear of (or actual) serious illness, financial stressors, uncertainty about the future, and more. This session attempts to equip participants to cope with these stressors, through dealing with uncertainty, addressing stressful thinking patterns, taking care of themselves with kindness and compassion, and discovering practical ways to enhance social wellbeing while physically distancing.

Learning objectives – Participants will:
• Discuss how to cope with uncertainty
• Understand the role of control in managing stress
• Learn about how to manage runaway thoughts/adopt helpful perspectives during times of crisis
• Discover how to self-nurture
• Explore ways to enhance social connection and support

In her role as Director of Campus Wellbeing Services, Michele Guerra is responsible for overseeing life-enhancing programs for faculty, staff and students at the University of Illinois. Michele has 30 years of wellness management and health promotion experience. During this time, Michele has designed and implemented health promotion and fitness programs in health clubs, hospitals, communities, universities, and workplaces. Michele is also a research collaborator, focusing on applying health promotion research to real world settings. Michele has a Bachelor’s degree in journalism, a Master’s degree in health promotion management, and a Certificate of Advanced Study in behavior change.

2. WHY WE ALL SHOULD CARE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

Donald J. Wuebbles
Harry E. Preble Professor of Atmospheric Science
UI Presidential Fellow
Wednesday, September 23, 2020
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.
Zoom info will be sent to registrants prior to the program

New observations and research have increased our understanding of past, current, and future climate change. The 4th National Climate Assessment confirms prior assessments in concluding that the climate on our planet, including the United States, is changing, and changing rapidly. Observational evidence for a changing climate abounds, from the top of the atmosphere to the depths of the oceans. Documented changes include surface, atmospheric, and oceanic temperatures; melting glaciers; disappearing snow cover; shrinking sea ice; and rising sea level. Many lines of evidence demonstrate that human activities have been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century. Changes in the characteristics of extreme events are particularly important for human safety, infrastructure, agriculture, water quality and quantity, and natural ecosystems. Some extremes have already become more frequent, intense, or of longer duration, and many extremes are expected to continue to increase or worsen, presenting substantial challenges. The Earth’s climate is projected to continue to change over this century and beyond. This presentation provides an overview of the science of climate change from the 4th National Climate Assessment, and discusses what this means for the U.S. and our planet.

Donald J. Wuebbles is the Harry E. Preble Professor of Atmospheric Science at the University of Illinois where he has been since 1994. He is also a Presidential Fellow at the University of Illinois, with the aim of helping the university system develop new initiatives in urban sustainability. From 2015 to early 2017, Dr. Wuebbles was Assistant Director with the Office of Science and Technology Policy at the Executive Office of the President in Washington DC. His other roles on campus have included Director of the Environmental Council and the School of Earth, Society, and Environment;
he has led the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) through a variety of reports and initiatives, and is the Lead author of the U.S. National Climate Assessment.

3. **“CREATING YOUR POWERFUL RESUME” WORKSHOP**

Emma Andruczyk  
Senior Assistant Director, The Career Center  
Wednesday, September 30, 2020  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.  
Zoom info will be sent to registrants prior to the program

Having a well thought-through and strategically laid out resume is key to landing an interview. Upon completion of this workshop, you will be able to draft an effective resume that describes your qualifications, skills, and experience.

4. **FOOD FLOWS BETWEEN COUNTIES IN THE UNITED STATES**

Megan Konar, Associate Professor  
Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Tuesday, October 6, 2020  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.  
Zoom info will be sent to registrants prior to the program

Food supply chains are critical to our food security, yet detailed spatial information on food flows within countries is rare. This talk will present research to estimate and evaluate the national food supply chain of the United States. Estimates of food flows between all counties in the United States will enable future work to understand vulnerabilities within a national food supply chain, determine critical infrastructures, and enable spatially detailed footprint assessments.

Professor Konar’s research focuses on the intersection of water, food, and trade. Her research is interdisciplinary and draws from hydrology, environmental science, and economics. Dr. Konar received a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Princeton University in 2012, MS in Water Science, Policy and Management from Oxford University in 2005, and BS in Conservation and Resource Studies from UC Berkeley in 2002. She was recently awarded the NSF CAREER award and Early Career Award from AGU Hydrologic Sciences.

5. **IF IT’S NOT BIRTH ORDER, THEN WHERE DO WE GET OUR PERSONALITIES?**

Brent Roberts  
Professor, Psychology  
Director, Center for Social and Behavioral Science  
Tuesday, October 13, 2020  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.  
Zoom info will be sent to registrants prior to the program

Brent Roberts will discuss research that conflicts with what parents across the globe say about siblings’ birth order, ie., the oldest takes the lead, the middle child plays the role of mediator and the baby grabs attention at every opportunity. A spate of studies in recent years, including one co-authored by Roberts, has debunked the idea that birth order has impact on personality. Learn more about the effects of birth order, and if it impacts – or doesn’t impact – personality traits.

Brent W. Roberts is a Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Social and Behavioral Science at the University of Illinois. Dr. Roberts received his Ph.D. from Berkeley in 1994 in Personality Psychology and worked at the University of Tulsa until 1999 when he joined the faculty at Illinois. Dr. Roberts's research has focused on determining the replicable patterns of continuity and change in personality traits across adulthood, the life experiences associated with changes in personality traits over time, and the significance of these changes for individual functioning. He has received multiple awards for his work including the Carol and Ed Diener Mid-Career Award in Personality Psychology, the Theodore Millon Mid-Career Award in Personality Psychology, the Henry Murray Award, the Jack Block Award for Distinguished Research in Personality, and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Basel. He has served as the Associate Editor for the *Journal of Research in Personality* and *Psychological Science* and is the Past President for the Association for Research in Personality.

6. **ELECTION INTERFERENCE IN 2016 – AND ANTICIPATED IN 2020**

Nicholas Grossman  
Teaching Assistant Professor, Political Science  
Thursday, October 15, 2020  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.

Nicholas Grossman is Teaching Assistant Professor of International Relations at the University of Illinois, senior editor of Arc Digital, and the author of Drones and Terrorism. His writing on drones has appeared in the Washington Post and War on the Rocks, as well as other venues.

7. AN UPDATE ON THE EARTH BIOGENOME PROJECT

Gene Robinson, Swanlund Chair of Entomology
Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Director, Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology
Monday, October 19, 2020
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.
Zoom info will be sent to registrants prior to the program

An international consortium of scientists co-led by Professor Robinson is proposing a massive project to sequence, catalog and analyze the genomes of all known eukaryotic species on the planet, an undertaking the researchers say will take 10 years, cost $4.7 billion and require more than 200 petabytes of digital storage capacity. Eukaryotes include all organisms except bacteria and archaea. There are an estimated 10-15 million eukaryotic species on Earth. Of those, the team proposes sequencing 1.5 million.

Gene E. Robinson holds a University Swanlund Chair and has served as director of the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology and director of the Bee Research Facility; he is current the Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He served as director of the Neuroscience Program from 2001-2011, leader of the Neural and Behavioral Plasticity Theme at the Institute for Genomic Biology from 2004-2011, and interim director from 2011-2012. He is the author or co-author of over 300 publications, including 26 published in Science and Nature; has been the recipient or co recipient of over $60M in funding from the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Agriculture and private foundations; pioneered the application of genomics to the study of social behavior, led the effort to gain approval from the National Institutes of Health for sequencing the honey bee genome, and heads the Honey Bee Genome Sequencing Consortium.

8. PRESIDENTIAL RHETORIC – HISTORY THROUGH TODAY

John Murphy
Professor, Communication
Wednesday, October 21, 2020
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.
Zoom info will be sent to registrants prior to the program

Join us to learn more about U.S. presidential rhetoric in history through today, including timely reference to campaign speeches. From “Ask not what your county can do for you” to “I alone can fix it,” what does language say about the political process – and the presidents themselves?

John Murphy studies the history of American Public Address and political rhetoric. He is the author of John F. Kennedy and the Liberal Persuasion, a critique of President Kennedy’s greatest speeches and the liberal tradition. He studies the evolution of political languages. He’s written on John and Robert Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Bill Clinton, Martin Luther King Jr., George W. Bush, and Barack Obama. His scholarly work has appeared in journals such as Rhetoric & Public Affairs, Quarterly Journal of Speech, and American Literary History. His commentary on the presidency and presidential rhetoric regularly appears in popular media outlets such as The Conversation USA, Washington Post, New York Times, and USA Today. He is currently working on a book project concerning the civil rights rhetoric of James Baldwin, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

9. MEDIA STEREOTYPING: HOW DO WE MAKE ADVERTISING AND BRANDING LESS RACIST?

Jason Chambers
Associate Professor, Advertising
Thursday, October 29, 2020
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.
Zoom info will be sent to registrants prior to the program

How do we make advertising and branding less racist? As reckonings around racism in the U.S. grow, a new focus has emerged: decolonizing the American supermarket. Recently, a number of multinational food and drink conglomerates,
including PepsiCo (which owns Aunt Jemima) and ConAgra Foods (which owns Mrs. Butterworth’s), announced major changes to brands that many shoppers have long felt uncomfortable supporting. These include Aunt Jemima, who many have long argued is a racist “mammy figure”, the “happy black cook” figurehead on Uncle Ben’s rice (owned by Mars Inc.), and the perceived racist packaging of Mrs. Butterworth’s. Cream of Wheat has also announced a review of its mascot. But what about the other legacy entities in America popularized through harmful images? Land O’Lakes butter retired its indigenous maiden character in April, and the Washington Redskins are in the process of changing their name and mascot – will other initiatives follow? This information session will address branding built on harmful stereotypes – what Professor Chambers calls “ethnicity as authenticity” – and what needs to happen next.

Jason Chambers has presented his research into the African-American consumer market both nationally and internationally. His work has been published in books and journals in the United States, Asia and Europe. He has been invited to speak to gatherings of practitioners and academics throughout the United States, Canada and Asia. He also has appeared on The History Channel discussing advertising issues, and his opinions have been sought by a variety of periodicals, including Forbes and Black Enterprise magazines. Chambers also has served as a consultant on advertising history programs appearing on the BBC. In addition, he has consulted with national nonprofit organizations and Fortune 100 companies, as well as advertising agencies on matters of diversity, stereotyping and various consumer issues. The University of Pennsylvania Press published his first book, Madison Avenue and the Color Line: African Americans in the Advertising Industry, in 2008. This incisive work examines the employment and entrepreneurial experiences of Blacks in the advertising industry and their fight to diversify both the industry and advertisements.

10. THE PHYSICS OF BASEBALL

Alan Nathan  
Professor Emeritus, Physics  
Thursday, November 5, 2020  
5:15 – 6:30 p.m.  
Zoom info will be sent to registrants prior to the program

It’s been a whirlwind of a Major League Baseball season! We will learn more about the dynamics of the collision between the ball and bat and the aerodynamics of a baseball in flight – including new technologies that enable the study of these topics with unprecedented precision.

Alan Nathan has been engaged in this baseball research for over two decades, and he is regularly consulted about this work by national organizations. Professor Nathan has served on the editorial board of the journal Sports Engineering and has served on panels advising Major League Baseball, the Amateur Softball Association, the NCAA, and USA Baseball. His previous research focused on the field of intermediate energy nuclear physics, particularly the study of the quark structure of the nucleon, using the Compton scattering reaction as a probe.
Whether or not you will ever become a union member, issues related to organized labor have direct impact on all workers – who may also experience more subtle effects. Understanding broad history and upcoming changes through recent court cases will provide context for important knowledge and tools.

Robert Bruno is a Professor of Labor and Employment Relations at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and he is the Director of the Labor Education Program. His research focuses on organized labor, workers’ rights, and political and economic trends related to these issues, as he probes the balance of power between large corporations and working-class Americans, the role of the workplace in civil society, the political power of labor organizations, and ways that unions promote worker interests.