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To: libnews-l@lists.illinois.edu
Subject: Friday note (May 1)
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Colleagues,

Happy Friday and May 1st to all of you! I hope you're able to get outside a bit (no virtual backgrounds!) with this gorgeous Spring weather.

Certainly my biggest news is that we will soon be planning for a return to on-site work. Before anyone is alarmed, I can assure you that the preliminary parameters shared with the deans this Wednesday were cautious and thoughtful. As noted in [the News-Gazette coverage this morning](#), the Chancellor made clear that our ability to return to work will depend on a number of conditions, including increased availability of testing. We also know that a full return to work will not be business-as-usual: for example, meetings will continue to take place online and persons who have compromised immune systems will work remotely. The directive to put together plans will come from our University administration soon, and we'll begin an intensive process of planning. Our AULs and the Executive Committee will play a pivotal role in shaping both our planning process and our plans.

The Illinois News Bureau just published a wonderful piece on "[Keeping Illinois Connected Remotely](#)." It did a great job of highlighting all of the University's efforts to humanize this remotely-connected life we're living. I was pleased that the Library figured prominently in the article, both touching on the Library's culture and our efforts to serve the campus.

Our next virtual hangout is on Thursday, May 7 from 11-noon. I hope to see you all there. I feel confident we will have the planning parameters for a return to on-site work by then, and I will do my best to answer any questions.

Best to all,
John

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