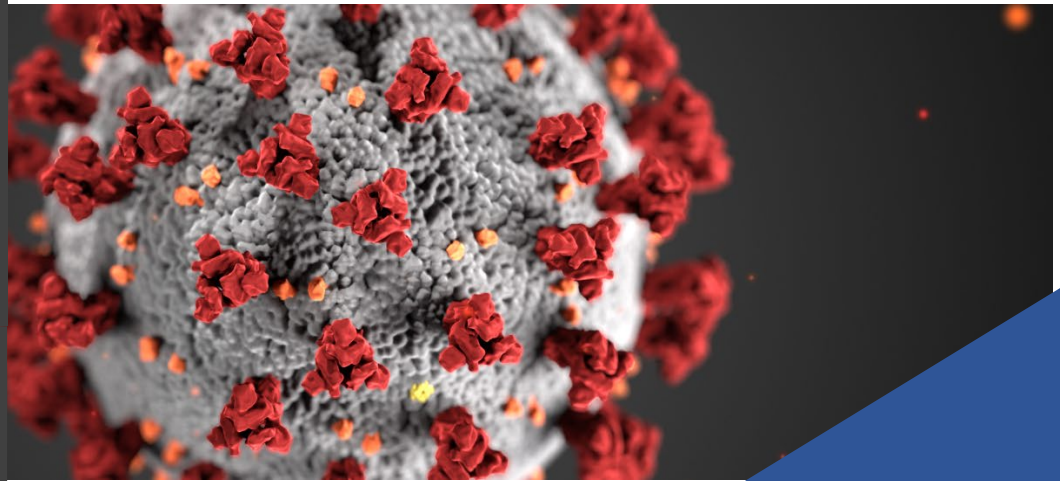


IN THE
TIME
OF
COVID19



WELCOME

This is CHOIR's collective effort for expressing and documenting our extraordinary, lived experiences in the time of COVID-19.

#COVIDCREATIVITY
@VA_CHOIR on Twitter

Editorial Team: Keith McInnes,
Rani Elwy, Gemmae Fix
Designer: Elizabeth Maguire

A HAIKU SERIES

Social distancing
An introvert's dream, but a
Working mom's challenge

My new coworkers
Ask me to look at drawings
Manuscript shall wait

Coronavirus
That meeting is now email
Will know for next time

Everyone now sleeps
A midnight analysis
Prediction confirmed!

A note under door
"Your coffee is getting cold"
Conference call now

TERRI POGODA

HOME IS WHERE THE
WORK IS



Wake up in the morning to
telework... still in my PJs
Practicing social isolation
Surrounded by boxes of...
unidentified surveys

Too quiet, but full on
concentration
Attempting not to get too... stir
crazy

Miss the people, the productivity &
predictable building mishaps at
CHOIR... What elevator fire?

Home is where the work is
For now
Be safe everyone
These times are just... wow.

LINDA AM



Today in mid-March, we broke out
some of our summer backyard gear.
The bouncy house provided much
needed exercise and laughter for all
of us. Even the smallest of joys
make us feel some normalcy during
these strange times.

JENNY SULLIVAN

Government: Work from home
Anthropologists:



**MEME BY SHAWN
DUNLAP**

Image via National
Anthropology Archives

GLASS HALF FULL

I am in isolation at home, unable to leave for the foreseeable future, but all is not lost.

Perks include...

Working in my jeans – or whatever I want to wear – no dress code

Zero commute! No gas money or rush hour stress. I am helping the environment effortlessly.

Getting to see so much more of my family

Appreciating the comforts of home during daylight hours.

Watching Spring unfold as the daffodils and green shoots emerge from the earth, and buds appear on the forsythia and viburnum.

Taking breaks with the kitty.

Feeling gratitude for connectivity when Skype for Business, remote access, and even the telephone is working smoothly!

Appreciating hearing my colleague's voices.

And when we are finally able to go back, I will enjoy...

Getting dressed up more

Listening to audiobooks, music, or the news in the car

Getting a break from my family

Having someone else provide TP, water, heat, and electricity during daylight hours

Watching the seasons unfold on the beautiful Bedford campus.

Looking forward to greeting kitty when I get home.

The ease of having everything I need in my office.

Seeing my colleagues' smiles in person again after the long separation.

STEPHANIE SHIMADA



Working from home is often hard for me – I usually focus better in a separate space and thrive on contact with coworkers. Sprucing up my desk at home with a few things from the office has helped recreate the “at work” feel, and make working at home for an extended period of time more bearable. For productivity – my daily planner, a second computer monitor, and coffee mug. To brighten my mood – plants, artwork, a light therapy box, and a tiny wind-up monkey that does flips. The graduation photo with my mentors helps keep me motivated to write, and the painting from Cuba lets me relish my last vacation and look forward to when we can all travel again!

VANESSA L. MERKER

**Government: Work from home
Anthropologists:**



MEME BY SHAWN DUNLAP

Image via Lucasfilm

Chewie says "Pass that Purell." #plaguekittens

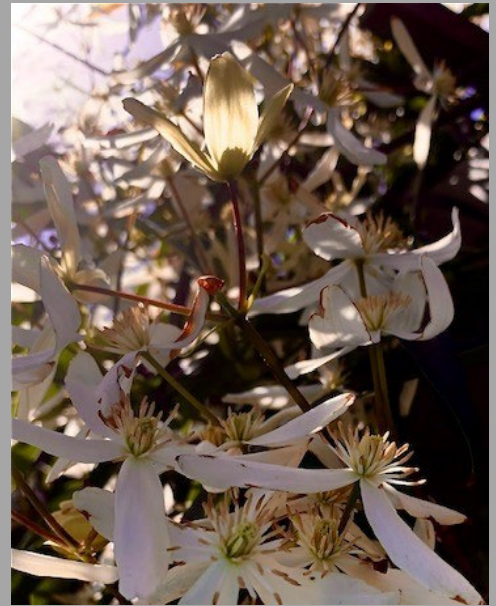


My daughter Diana, an assistant professor at U. of Oregon, has been taking care of foster kittens (named after Star Wars characters) during this time, posting calming photos with timely captions under #plaguekittens

LYNN GARVIN

AROUND HSR&D

Occasionally we will feature a submission from the larger VA HSR&D community. In this issue, VA Seattle Investigator Jodie Katon shares "Seattle Spring in the Midst of Pandemic"



#COVIDCREATIVITY

PHOTO COLLAGE BY
JENN CONTI

