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The Rapid Shift to Online Learning

Seemingly overnight, students and faculty adapted to an unprecedented university experience. On March 12, USU announced the remainder of its spring semester would take place entirely online. Professor of Practice Austin Ball was confident he could rise to the occasion, but he soon learned his initial strategy would fail to impress.

Ball quickly adopted a new approach. With smartphone in hand, he toured the engineering projects he had worked on as a practicing engineer, highlighting hidden features in the bridges, tunnels and roadway projects he helped complete. “A virtual field trip was the perfect approach because I could show students how various disciplines come together in a single project.”

While describing the construction process of a particular site, it occurred to Ball that illustrations would be much easier. “That gave me the idea to build the site with LEGOs, which was exciting for my kids at home because their schooling had also come to an abrupt halt.” Ball