

TITAN REPORT

2020'S INFLUENCE ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The novel coronavirus has upended daily lives and routines so much this year that even the English language was forced to change and adapt.

Sources like Merriam-Webster named “pandemic” as their Word of the Year for 2020. New words like “flatten the curve,” “shelter in place,” “contact tracing,” “PPE” and especially “coronavirus” entered our vocabulary in March and April and were seared into our collective consciousness, said Stephen J. Mexal, chair and professor of English, comparative literature and linguistics at Cal State Fullerton.

The pandemic, particularly in the United States, inspired new words and expressions like “the before times,” “coronacut” and “coronials.” Meanwhile, words like “COVID-19” and “coronavirus” are more likely to be shortened to simply “COVID.”

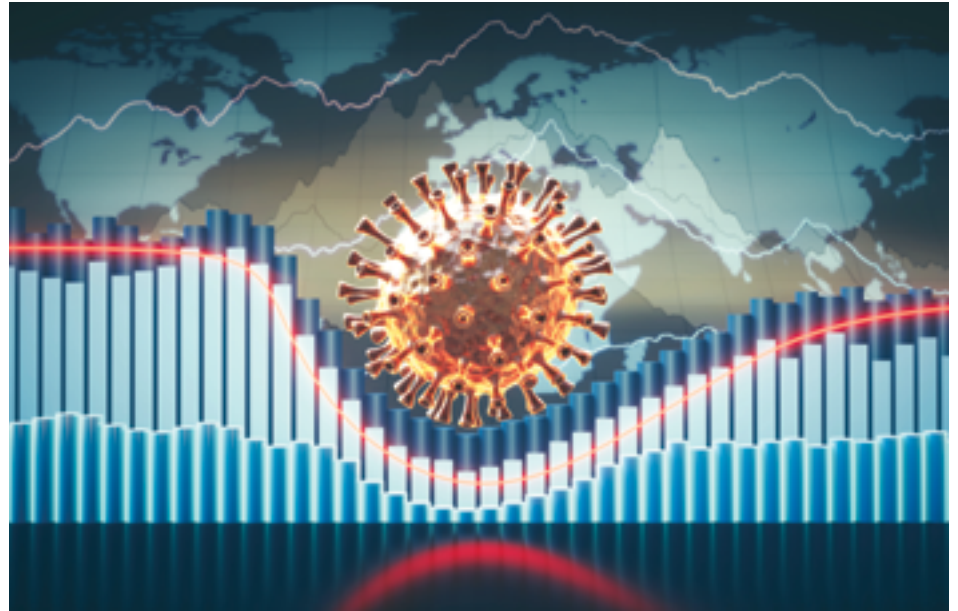
Mexal said one way to spot the pandemic’s influence on the English language in the future is if, months from now, phrases like “go to work,” “go to school” or “get a drink” are unclear, requiring questions on whether one would need to get into a car or get on a laptop.

“Thirty years in the future, some future version of us may look back on news articles from 2020 and think, ‘Remote work?’ What is remote work? Oh, I get it — he just means work,” Mexal said.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-2020S-INFLUENCE-ON-LANGUAGE](https://bit.ly/CSUF-2020S-INFLUENCE-ON-LANGUAGE)

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Former U.S. Public Health Official Shares Insights on COVID-19 Crisis

With COVID-19 cases soaring, Cal State Fullerton science alumna and former U.S. assistant surgeon general Pamela M. Schweitzer warns, “I hope everyone keeps their family safe by following recommendations we know will reduce the spread of COVID-19.”

As an undergraduate, Pamela M. Schweitzer ’82 (B.A. biological science) took immunology courses and was a teacher’s assistant in immunology as a postgraduate. “This provided me with the foundation of understanding how COVID-19 testing works and how vaccines are being developed,” she said. During her four-year term, Schweitzer provided leadership and coordination to field officers to ensure they were prepared for deployment and assignments, including to such places as West Africa during the Ebola virus outbreak, Puerto Rico to tackle the spread of the Zika virus or other public health emergency responses.

Following her 29-year career in federal service and 2018 retirement, Schweitzer remains engaged in improving public health.

“Pharmacies nationwide are partnering with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to make sure our communities have access to COVID-19 vaccines when they are available,” said Schweitzer.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-FORMER-US-PUBLIC-HEALTH-INSIGHTS-COVID-19](https://bit.ly/CSUF-FORMER-US-PUBLIC-HEALTH-INSIGHTS-COVID-19)

PRESIDENT VIRJEE HONORED WITH OC INFLUENCERS FOR GOOD AWARD

President Fram Virjee was one of six recipients of an OC Influencers for Good Award presented by the Institute for Community Impact and the Passkeys Foundation. This award recognizes Orange County leaders who serve as pillars of the community. Virjee delivered the keynote address.

“I am happy to accept this award on behalf of all Titans,” Virjee said. “It is a great honor to share this with others who are working collectively and collaboratively to make Orange County a national leader in diversity, inclusion, social justice and equitable access to health care, higher education and upward mobility.”

[BIT.LY/CSUF-FRAM-VIRJEE-INFLUENCERS-FOR-GOOD-AWARD](https://bit.ly/CSUF-FRAM-VIRJEE-INFLUENCERS-FOR-GOOD-AWARD)



Fullerton Ranks Third in Nation's Best Universities in Social Mobility for Students

Cal State Fullerton was ranked third among the top 10 universities for social mobility by Education Reform Now, a non-profit advocacy group. The study focused on social mobility for enrolling low-income students and assessing their graduation rates at four-year colleges and universities over a three-year period (2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19).

During this time, 48.42 percent of students at Cal State Fullerton (16,883) received Pell Grants. Nationwide, almost 7 million college students received Pell Grants, which typically go to individuals from households earning less than \$65,000 a year. Of 1,900 colleges and universities in the United States, only 614 were identified as institutions of higher education where students with Pell Grants were more likely to graduate.

At Cal State Fullerton, 65 percent of Pell Grant students graduated.

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Fullerton, CA 92831

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TITAN noun | tī-tən
one who stands out for greatness of achievement

TITANS of Giving



Every year, thousands of people donate to Cal State Fullerton to help the university continue to fulfill the promise of higher education.

The names of those who have supported the university are listed in the Honor Roll of our 2019-20 Annual Report. Their contributions allow us to continue the Cal State Fullerton legacy of preparing our students to meet the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

To learn more about giving opportunities at the university, please visit GIVING.FULLERTON.EDU

View the CSUF 2019-20 Annual Report at news.fullerton.edu/publications.