



Dana Brown, Sprott School of Business

Deep Roots: Business Schools in their communities

Drawing on examples from around the world, the talk will focus on the impact that business schools, as partners with other university faculties, can have in their local communities through education, outreach and research. Business schools can and should help to bridge university connections to local business, NGOs and commerce related government organizations. A case will be made that increased local presence and 'anchoring' in the community contributes to a business school's internal connectivity and its overall competitive advantage.



Cynthia Cruickshank, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

How Hands-on Learning Can Power a Lifelong Passion for Engineering

As an undergraduate and graduate student, Dr. Cruickshank participated in a multidisciplinary student team that designed, built and raced solar powered electric vehicles. As a professor, Dr. Cruickshank participated in a competition that challenged twenty collegiate teams from around the world to design, build, and operate solar-powered houses. In this talk, Dr. Cruickshank will share how her past hands-on experiences have fostered connections and increased learning engagement in the classroom as well as shaped her career as an educator, mentor and research group leader.



David Hornsby, Associate Vice-President (Teaching and Learning), Norman Paterson School of International Affairs

The Citizen Scholar and the Future of Higher Education

Universities face becoming redundant unless the way teaching and learning takes place changes. This presentation will explore some of the global and local trends influencing higher education and why the way we teach needs to evolve. Teaching and learning has to become more than the transfer of disciplinary content and prepare our students to be capable of making connections. Drawing on experiences from South Africa, the UK and now in Canada, the notion of the Citizen Scholar is proposed and defined with the intent of offering a way to 'future-proof' higher education.



Jacqueline Kennelly, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Burnt by democracy? Urban youth, inequality, and the erosion of the public sphere

Forging connections is at the basis of democracy. Yet increasingly young people are disenchanted or disenfranchised from our current democratic structures. Based on qualitative research with young activists and homeless youth, Burnt by Democracy? explores the limits of a democratic model that relies on the self-regulating and economically productive (i.e. neoliberal) citizen, whose participation is largely limited to voting. The presentation will offer insights from young people about their political participation, and initial analyses of the shape of liberal democracy in the twenty-first century.



Nduka Otiono, Institute of African Studies

Popular Culture, Bob Dylan and the African Connection

Very often, discussions of Bob Dylan's transgressive art and creative persona understandably focus on his American and European influences. Yet, Dylan's life and work connected with (and indeed cast a spell on) a generation of African writers from Nigeria. In this talk, Dr. Nduka Otiono explores his encounter with Dylan's work in the context of contemporary writers in Nigeria in the late twentieth century, and how this impacted his research, teaching, and writing across two continents. The talk is informed by Dr Otiono's research and publication of a new book on the Nobel laureate for literature entitled Polyvocal Bob Dylan (2019).



Samah Sabra, Office of Quality Initiatives (OQI)

The Importance of Connection in an Era of Self-Care

While we are bombarded by messages about self-care, self-improvement, and self-sufficiency, a plethora of research and experience highlight the need for social connection. We must practice self-care in the context of community support, seek feedback to guide our efforts at personal growth, and counterbalance self-sufficiency with recognition of our interdependence with others. Indeed, connection with others can be our greatest strength, even in our personal and professional development. In this presentation, I share how our work at OQI is guided by the belief that collaboration and connection help us grow as individuals, teams, and as organization.

Jaffer Sheyholislami, School of Linguistics and Language Studies

Stating the Obvious: Language is Key to Making Connections

We acquire our native language by the age of 3-7 without much explicit effort. Perhaps this is the reason we take language for granted. But I suggest that we shouldn't. It is because of the use of language that we perform social roles, express ourselves, and construct identities. In this talk, I will discuss how and in what ways language is key to making connections. More importantly, I will argue that linguistic diversity and multilingualism are key not only to our survival but to our imagination to build a world defined by creativity, dignity and prosperity.