2018 Festival of Ideas: “The Entrepreneurial Spark in Liberal Arts”

February 9, 2018   UT Arlington, Bluebonnet Ballroom
8am
Registration, Breakfast Buffet Open

9am
Welcome Comments & Introduction of Featured Speaker by Dean Elisabeth Cawthon

**Ryan Musselman, “Esports Opportunity Above Esports Passion”**

Kenton Rambsy presents “The Black Anthology Data Project.”

David Arditi presents “MusicDetour: an Alternative Approach to Cultural Distribution.”

10am
**Chris Christian, “Fail Forward”**

Kelly Bergstrand presents “The Effects of Emotions on Collective Action and Activism.”

Break

Jamar Jones/Dan Cavanagh present “UT Arlington Records: Startup, Distribution and Creative Development.”

11am
**Scott Cook, “Axes & Access: Pushing Toward Creative Futures Through Student and Faculty Mentorship”**

Sonia Kania presents “Data-driven Discovery and the Age of Exploration.”

11:35am
Box Lunch Distribution

12:30pm
**Zeb Strong, Director, UTA Recruitment Initiatives and Outreach Services**

**Micka Alves, UTA Student Entrepreneur**

Closing Remarks

Interactive Displays Open to Participants
Welcome to the 2018 Festival of Ideas half-day forum. This year’s forum theme is Entrepreneurship. UT Arlington Alumnus Mustaque Ahmed (’81 BS) endowed the Festival of Ideas Global Research Institute to the College of Liberal Arts (CoLA). Ahmed’s intent was to create an outlet for students and the community to explore cultural and academic ideas together. His overall goal was to highlight the amazing initiatives within UTA, and the College of Liberal Arts specifically, while engaging the community towards the betterment of the world. In February 2017, the College of Liberal Arts, through the Festival of Ideas Global Research Institute endowment, sponsored a half-day forum for scholars and students to examine the impact immigration has on people, ideas, and actions in the US. The event was titled Borders, Boundaries and Barriers: Expansive Thinking & Global Solutions. It is the intent of Mr. Ahmed and the College of Liberal Arts to sponsor at least one Festival of Ideas public forum each year.

During the 2018 Festival of Ideas, “The Entrepreneurial Spark in Liberal Arts”, we will explore how following your passion could lead to being your own boss, innovating the workplace, and ultimately, the world. Each presenter will inform and inspire through discussion on entrepreneurship or research. We encourage audience participation, questions and student interaction.

The term “Find your passion” may seem a bit overused but it should not be underestimated when it comes to entrepreneurship. It is even better if your passion becomes the solution to someone else’s problem.

During the 2018 Festival of Ideas, we will also examine why many people have ideas, a few have good ideas and only a tiny fraction of those people have taken those ideas and actioned them into success. Successful entrepreneurs know that it is only by moving from thought to action that you make a difference in the real-world.

Liberal Arts graduates have a great base of training for turning an idea into a plan of action whether in business, research, or creative projects, we understand what comes after the “spark” of an idea. We are great planners and communicators. We appreciate diversity, experiential learning and transformative experiences which are all important in business.

CoLA’s Festival of Ideas Global Institute believes that there is an undeniable global link to entrepreneurship and the liberal arts. Some experts believe that effective far-reaching change needs to be driven from the top down and must be rooted in deep planning (i.e. “big problems require big solutions”). However, exploring entrepreneurship says to the world that ‘I have a solution to a problem that I think can be “sparked” locally, within my community, with bottom-up experimentation.’
**SPONSORS**

**Mr. Mustaque Ahmed** is a dedicated UTA alumnus and benefactor of CoLA’s Festival of Ideas and UTA’s Mustaque Ahmed Loan Fund. Mr. Ahmed, a native of Bangladesh, was vice president of the first UTA international student organization. He graduated from UTA in 1981 and has since turned a small freight company into a successful international shipping company.

**Dr. Elisabeth A. Cawthon** is Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and an Associate Professor of History. She has been in the Department of History at UTA since 1988.

**Dr. Sonja Watson** is the Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and an Associate Professor of Spanish. She has been in the Department of Modern Languages at UTA since 2007.

**Dr. Eric Bolsterli** is the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies for the College of Liberal Arts and has been with UTA since 1994.

**Dr. Les Riding-In** is the Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies for the College of Liberal Arts and has been with UTA since 2005.
**GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Chris Christian,** with more than 30 years in the music industry, has received nine Grammy Award nominations as a music producer with four wins. He has also been nominated for seven Gospel Music Association Dove Awards resulting in five Dove awards.

**G. Scott Cook** has served as the Coordinator of Studio CreaTec and taught Information Visualization, Web Typography, and Emerging Technology Studio courses as an Assistant Professor of Visual Communication at The University of Texas at Arlington since 2015. Cook is also a nationally and internationally shown studio artist and designer.

**Ryan Musselman,** OpTic Gaming President, is an early pioneer in the convergence of digital media and esports. He now leverages his history of industry-defining expertise as Senior Vice President of Revenue for Infinite Esports & Entertainment, while continuing his role as President of OpTic Gaming.

**Zeb Strong, Jr.**
Director of Recruitment Initiatives and Outreach Services

**Micka Alves**
Student Entrepreneur, graduating UTA senior with a double major in Legal History and Communication.
Dr. Kenton Rambsy is an Assistant Professor of English and has been in the Department of English since 2015. He received an iLASR grant for his research titled “The Black Anthology Data Project.”

Dr. Kelly Bergstrand is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and has been in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology since 2015. She received an iLASR grant for her research titled “The Effects of Emotions on Collective Action and Activism.”

Dr. David Ardit is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and has been in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology since 2015. He received an iLASR grant to work on a local music archive called “MusicDetour.”

Jamar Jones is an Adjunct Professor of Music Industry Studies and has been in the Department of Music since 2016. He is the co-recipient of an iLASR grant for “UT Arlington Records: Startup, Distribution, and Creative Development.”

Dan Cavanagh is the Interim Chair of the Department of Music and an Associate Professor of Jazz Studies. He has been in the department since 2005. He is the co-recipient of an iLASR grant for “UT Arlington Records: Startup, Distribution, and Creative Development.”

Dr. Sonia Kania is the Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and an Associate Professor of Spanish. She has been in the department since 2003. She received an iLASR grant for her research titled “Data-driven Discovery and the Age of Exploration.”
About the College of Liberal Arts

UT Arlington’s College of Liberal Arts has 12 departments: Art & Art History, Communication, Criminology & Criminal Justice, English, History, Linguistics & TESOL, Modern Languages, Music, Philosophy & Humanities, Political Science, Sociology & Anthropology, and Theatre Arts. Within those departments we offer 67 different undergraduate major degree plans and dozens of minors and certificates – covering fields in humanities, social sciences and fine arts. In addition, COLA offers: 11 M.A. degrees, 1 M.F.A. degree and 3 Ph.D. degrees.

Mission

CoLA departments and centers cluster into the social sciences, humanities, and fine arts. They are comprised of highly skilled faculty and students who are dedicated to elevating the human condition through research, scholarship and creative activity.

Values

Throughout the college, we cultivate the following values:

- **Local Engagement and Global Thinking.** Foster a community-based understanding at UTA, in DFW, throughout the state, and on a global level. This capacity encourages students to act locally while being globally conscious.
- **Creativity and Innovation.** Ensure students are engaging and cultivating various pursuits in entrepreneurship and artistic expression.
- **Inclusiveness and Diversity.** Encourage an environment that is open to diverse backgrounds, ideas, and ways of thinking. Teaching respect, empathy, and tolerance for all people and cultures develops thoughtful, well-rounded students and citizens.
- **Community and Collaboration.** Provide students with the ability to examine their place and space in the world. Promoting partnerships and collaborative efforts produces an impact on society and helps students in an increasingly global, ever-changing world and workplace.
- **Curiosity and Imagination.** Speak to allowing the brain to roam free, question unexpectedly, think divergently instead of convergently, and not be afraid to express one’s self and ideas.
2018 Festival of Ideas Displays

cART + WILD PONY EDITIONS

CART+ Wild Pony Editions focus students and faculty on considering the idea of expanded studio practices and entrepreneurial experiences. The Art + Art History goal is to help students tie together a serious art practice with real-world knowledge and to drive their career experiences towards finding a balance between what they love and a sustainable income.

MUSICDETOUR: DFW MUSIC ARCHIVE

MusicDetour: DFW Music Archive is a digital depository for music created and performed in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. By archiving this music, MusicDetour (www.musicdetour.uta.edu/omeka/) serves as a permanent record of local music upon which new culture can be produced.

STARTUP LOUNGE

The StartUp Lounge is a collision space for entrepreneurs on and off campus. We provide entrepreneurial resources including seminar series and working/meeting spaces. EpICMavs is a free weekly interactive, conversational entrepreneurship seminar series designed to help entrepreneurs get started. EpICMavs (www.epicmavs.com) is hosted by the University of Texas Startup Lounge each Thursday from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. It’s open to all start-up entrepreneurs, on or off-campus.

UT ARLINGTON ESPORTS

Esports (also known as electronic sports or competitive gaming) is an emerging industry based on multiplayer video game competitions that feature professional players. With viewership numbers in the tens of millions, there are many opportunities for students to build careers in the industry.

UT ARLINGTON RECORDS

UT Arlington Records is a new record label housed in the Department of Music. Focusing on releasing the highest quality art and concert music, the label will initially showcase UT Arlington faculty and students.

UTA ENTREPRENEUR SOCIETY

Entrepreneur Society is an online social network on Facebook dedicated to providing guidance and support for students who are interested in learning from real-world entrepreneurs in regards to money and business. They are promoting #PITCH UTA, a MAVSCHALLENGE.ORG “Shark Tank” style event powered by AGNI.

Thank you for attending the 2018 Festival of Ideas: “The Entrepreneurial Spark in Liberal Arts” sponsored by The University of Texas at Arlington’s College of Liberal Arts in partnership with the Festival of Ideas Global Institute.

To find out more about the Festival of Ideas or other CoLA initiatives, Connect with us: @utarlibarts

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http://www.uta.edu/libarts/