"Up Close and Personal" – British Council Features Taylor’s Professor

What keeps you up at night? What are your Guilty Pleasure? These and other questions featured as part of a “Up Close and Personal” interview by the British Council of Professor Perry Hobson.

The British Council is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities, and they have a presence in six continents and in over 100 countries worldwide. The British Council recently interviewed Professor Perry Hobson, the PVC for Global Engagement at Taylor’s University in an “Up Close and Personal” interview for their Education Intelligence series. Zainab Malik, Director of Research of Education Intelligence at the British Council, said that the interviews are an “invited feature of influential colleagues in international education”. The interview was certainly up close and personal, with Professor Hobson observing “I was rather surprised by some of the questions – and particularly the ones about what Keeps You Up At Night? and identifying my Guilty Pleasures!”. When asked about what kept him up at night he commented “Rapid globalisation has brought many benefits with it. It’s lifted people out of poverty in many countries and allowed them to become more educated and travel. However, it’s also left a lot of people behind – both economically and socially. It has also made a lot of people insecure and fearful, but sadly we know where the logic of nationalism and self-interest can take us. One only has to overlay this situation with a series of religious fault lines, and I see the world is setting itself up for more conflict and less openness. Many of us see that we have an opportunity to help solve the world’s problems with better education and bringing about more global understanding. I think it’s now more than just an opportunity – it is a responsibility. I have two daughters still at school, and so what keep me up at night is what happens if we fail with that responsibility as the generation in the 1930’s did? Commenting on the interview, Ms. Anna Esaki-Smith, the Editorial Director of Education Intelligence at the British Council said,
“I’ve found your answers extremely thoughtful and, at some points, truly moving and meaningful”. Previous “Up Close and Personal” contributions have come from people such as Dr. Rahul Choudaha who is the co-founder and CEO of DrEducation, a U.S.-based global higher education consulting firm, as well as from Gavin Fleer who is the Director of Partnerships and International with Online Education Services (OES). To access the full interview with the British Council click here. – Global Matters

Who Governs the Internet? – Taylor’s Academic Delivers Keynote Presentation in India

Dr. Raja Kumar Murugesan focused on issues relating to governance of the internet during his Keynote address at the 6th International Conference on Advances in Computing & Communications in Kochi.

Dr. Raja (TU) delivering the keynote presentation

Dr. Raja Kumar Murugesan, from the School of Computing and IT was recently invited to present a Keynote address at the 6th International Conference on Advances in Computing & Communications 2016 at the Rajagiri School of Engineering and Technology (RSET) in Cochin/Kochi (India). The theme and focus of the conference was on "Ubiquitous computing & communication systems for a smarter world" and Dr. Raja's presentation focused on “The Internet: Challenge, Opportunities and Governance". He pointed out in his presentation that, “The Internet, will be shaping the economy and society of the 21st century. Continued evolution of the Internet impacts difficult issues to be addressed making Internet Governance significant and complex.” and added that “the multi-stakeholder approach for the Internet Governance is critical for ensuring the future of the Internet as a key driver for social and economic innovation.” The other invited Keynote speakers included Dr. Mark Gahegan, Director, Centre for eResearch, University of Auckland (NZ) who spoke on “The (R)evolution of science: Big data and Big computing opportunities for smarter communities" and also Dr. Deepak Padmnabhan from Centre for Data Science and scalable analytics, Queen's University (UK) who spoke on “Operators for similarity search”. Taylor’s University along with James Cook University (Australia) were technical sponsors of the conference. Selected papers from ICACC 2016 conference will be published in Pertanika Journal of Science & Technology which is a Scopus Index journal (see http://www.pertanika.upm.edu.my/JST.php)
based at UPM in Malaysia. There were over 200 delegates from across India and other parts of the world who attended this International Conference. Dr. Raja commended the organisers on developing an interesting conference. He said that “the acceptance of only 138 papers out of 680 submissions speaks about the quality”. Adding that “the conference was a melting pot of great researchers and I foresee this becoming the premier conference in this region”. Shruthy Y. from the International Office at RSET said that on behalf of the organisers we’d like to “express our sincere gratitude to you, for spending your precious time with us……It was thanks to your support and presence which led to us to be successful in organising this great event……once again a big THANK YOU from the entire Rajagiri family”. RSET was an inbound articulation partner of TU for many years, with a number of their students coming through their RISER programme to study a degree in Computer Science, and IT leading to a pathway to RMIT, Australia back in 2009. The two institutions are currently exploring potential collaborative links and Dr. John M George, the Dean and Vice Principal also recently visited Taylor’s University. To find out more about the School of Computing and IT click here. – Global Matters

What's Next for the UK? The British High Commission Offers Some Thoughts and Insights

Paul Rennie OBE, the Deputy British High Commissioner to Malaysia, shared his thought on the “Future of the UK in the World” as part of the Global Engagement SHINE Distinguished Speaker Series

Given the recent Brexit vote in the UK, Mr. Paul Rennie OBE the Deputy British High Commissioner to Malaysia was invited to Taylor’s University as part of the Global Engagement SHINE Distinguished Speaker Series. Speaking to a packed lecture theatre, Mr. Rennie engaged the audience on the topic of "What's Next for Britain? The Future of the UK in the World". Rather than starting the session by focusing just on the subject of Brexit, he engaged the audience by sharing some projections and his thoughts on what the world would look like in 20-years. He then shared with the students some key traits that he saw would help to make individuals relevant in the world economy of the future. Finally, he tied all this together by giving some interesting insights on how he felt the UK would fare in the future. Given his background in economics, and having worked in diplomatic posts in Brazil and India and well as at the UN and the Cabinet Office in London,
he not only provided a macro-view of changes in the world but also brought it down to an individual micro-view of what this means for students will shortly be heading out into the real-world. A number of Q&A sessions were interspersed throughout the 1.5-hour talk as students posed a wide range of questions, particularly the ones pertaining to post-Brexit UK. The questions included several from some of the EU-funded British exchange students from Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). Throughout, Mr. Rennie delivered an engaging interactive session, which was also laced with a hint of British humour. He was thoroughly open in sharing his thoughts on range of topics except one. As he has put it “In the finest traditions of the diplomatic service, I feel it is far too dangerous to make any pronouncement on my football allegiances”! The Distinguished Speaker Series hosts renowned individuals to speak on various topics and issues, and share professional insights that contribute towards an awareness of global issues trending in contemporary times. For more information about previous speakers who have included YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin of IDEAS Malaysia click here, and Prof. Gregory Slayton of Slayton Capital click here. – Global Matters

WORLD NEWS

Integrated Work Practice Key to Raising Employability - Sweden Identifies Canada as a Role Model

The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis has on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Research compared how other countries are catering for university graduates employability. They looked at Denmark, the UK, Canada, the Netherlands and Singapore. The strongest measure for employability is a greater ‘professionalisation’ with regard to collaboration between the private sector and universities, notably with private industry being represented both on the boards of higher education institutions but also in the curriculum development processes. The report clearly demonstrates that Canada is now at the forefront of such collaboration, with its so-called ‘co-operative education’ model – defined as academic university studies with integrated periods of practice in working life – and that the University of Waterloo in Canada is in the top ranks of universities in this field in the world. For the full story read the University World News

Australia: Minister intervenes as Changes Bring International Student Visa Delays

Australia’s assistant minister for immigration and border protection, Alex Hawke, has been forced to step in to address visa delays that struck the international education sector after the introduction of the Simplified Student Visa Framework in July. David Larbalestier, director of studies at the University of Technology, Sydney and president of Universities English Centres of Australia, said his university saw a “pretty dramatic” impact on visa processing during the month of August. “[Applications] weren’t being rejected; they weren’t being processed,” he said.

“At one point, two and a half to three weeks out from course start, we only had 10 new students and we were expecting up to 180. That threw us into a bit of a panic,” he said. “It made it extremely difficult to plan. “So we’re all astounded. This has never happened before.” For the full story read The PIE News
Facing up to International Students Who Cheat

The Wall Street Journal raises the alarm: international students enrolled at United States universities typically cheat more frequently than their domestic counterparts. According to the newspaper, US public universities recorded about five cases of alleged cheating for every 100 foreign students, and only one for every 100 domestic students, in the 2014-15 academic year. The Times of London revealed that almost 50,000 university students were caught cheating at United Kingdom universities in the period between 2012 and 2015. Students from overseas – from outside the European Union – are more than four times as likely to cheat, according to the newspaper. In the same academic year, the Department of Immigration in Australia cancelled the visas of more than 9,000 international students over academic misconduct. Why does this happen, and what does academic misconduct mean? How are we to stop it? For the full story read the University World News.

China Seeks to Exert Control on Students Overseas as it Pushes 'patriotic education' of Chinese Students

As larger numbers of Chinese students study abroad, and are exposed to unrestricted and frequently critical media coverage of the Chinese government, greater efforts are being made to ensure they do not return with new-found opposition to the Communist Party. A directive handed down in January by the Ministry of Education emphasised the importance of "patriotic education" in ensuring all university students – even those studying overseas – "always follow the party". Official CSSA chapters which maintain close links with Chinese embassies and consulates proliferate on university campuses worldwide, and are increasingly vocal in countries with large Chinese student populations such as Australia. For the full story read the Sydney Morning Herald.