



PRESENTS

Professional Week Speaker Series May 2021

Monday May 17

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

The Academic Enterprise: The Post Pandemic Campus

Bryan Alexander, PhD

How will academia evolve beyond COVID? In this session we examine higher education's future, starting with outlining the pandemic's impact on campuses. Next we explore the major forces acting on colleges and universities that preceded 2020, including external drivers (demographics, macroeconomics, geopolitics), developments within academia (enrollment, finance, populations), and technology. We also consider how climate change can shape our forward planning. We conclude by imagining future campuses over the next ten and twenty years.



Bryan Alexander is an [award-winning](#), internationally known futurist, researcher, writer, speaker, consultant, and teacher, working in the field of higher education's future.

He completed his English language and literature PhD at the University of Michigan in 1997, with a dissertation on doppelgangers in Romantic-era fiction and poetry.

Then Bryan taught literature, writing, multimedia, and information technology studies at [Centenary College of Louisiana](#). There he also pioneered multi-campus interdisciplinary classes, while organizing an information literacy initiative.

From 2002 to 2014 Bryan worked with the National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education (NITLE), a non-profit working to help small colleges and universities best integrate digital technologies. With NITLE he held several roles, including co-director of a regional education and technology center, director of emerging technologies, and senior fellow. Over those years Bryan helped develop and support the nonprofit, grew peer networks, consulted, and conducted a sustained research agenda. In 2013 Bryan launched a business, [Bryan Alexander Consulting, LLC](#). Through BAC he consults throughout higher education in the United States and abroad.

Bryan [speaks](#) widely and [publishes](#) frequently, with articles appearing in venues including The Atlantic Monthly, Inside Higher Ed. He has been interviewed by and featured in [the Washington Post](#), [MSNBC](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#), [US News and World Report](#), [National Public Radio](#) (2017, 2020, 2020, 2020, 2020), the

Chronicle of Higher Education ([2016](#), [2020](#)), [the Atlantic Monthly](#), [Reuters](#), [Times Higher Education](#), [the National Association of College and University Business Officers](#), [Pew Research](#), [Campus Technology](#), [The Hustle](#), and [the Connected Learning Alliance](#).

He recently published *Academia Next: The Futures of Higher Education* for Johns Hopkins University Press (January 2020), which won an Association of Professional Futurists [award](#). He is currently working on *Universities on Fire: Higher Education in the Age of Climate Crisis* (2022). His two other recent books are [Gearing Up For Learning Beyond K-12](#) and [The New Digital Storytelling \(second edition\)](#).

Bryan is currently a senior scholar at Georgetown University and teaches graduate seminars in their [Learning, Design, and Technology program](#).

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Surviving to Thriving: Restoring, Evolving, and Transforming MC

Dr. Rai – Faculty Panel/Breakout Discussion

As we begin to look beyond the global pandemic, what do we need to do to restore, evolve, and transform MC? Drawing from our pre-pandemic college and experiences over the past year, faculty will be broken into groups to discuss the possibilities that exist in our future as we begin to envision the future of higher education.

Tuesday May 18

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Open Education as a Social Justice Tool

Jasmine Roberts, M.A.

Open education frameworks are known to address high-cost course materials, as there is an increase in the adoption of open educational materials. However, conversations about inclusive teaching, social justice, and anti-racism pedagogical practices need to be at the center of open practices. This talk seeks to address the urgency of adopting social justice practices in open education and strategies on how to do this.



Jasmine Roberts is a lecturer in the School of Communication at the Ohio State University, where she teaches in the areas of public relations writing, digital activism and campaign strategy. Roberts' advocacy work centers on the experiences of people of color, women and queer communities. Along with her communication expertise, Roberts is also a renowned open education leader. She has delivered numerous keynote presentations across the country on the topics of inclusion in open education. She is the author of the highly-rated, openly-licensed book "Writing for Strategic Communication Industries." In

her spare time, she loves to connect with her green babies (52 plants total), fur babies (2 dogs), and loving fiancé.

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Student Vaccine Ambassadors

Margaret Latimer
Dr Gina Wesley
Dr Ishrat Rahman
Dr Glen McGugan
Dr Collins Jones
Student Vaccine Ambassadors

Throughout the pandemic, the Coronavirus Task Force (CAT) has led the college through the trials and tribulations. Behind the scenes, Student Vaccine Ambassadors, led by Gina Wesley and Ishrat Rahman, have worked to engage, educate, and empower the community. This session, introduced by Dr. Collins Jones, will showcase the work of our Student Vaccine Ambassadors and their impact across the college community and beyond.

Wednesday May 19

11:00 am – 12:00 PM

Team Up Against Burnout

Paula Davis-Laack, JD, MAPP

Burnout has become one of the most talked about workplace topics, and its impact is far-reaching. The pace of work, constant demands, and too few resources can easily put busy professionals on a path to burnout, a cycle that has only accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Burnout affects the health and well-being of the entire organization, yet most attempts to help focus on quick-fix strategies aimed at individuals. Something is missing. In this program, Paula will focus on a holistic approach to burnout prevention, providing actionable strategies for individuals, leaders, and teams.



Paula Davis-Laack, JD, MAPP, is a former practicing lawyer, an internationally-published writer, speaker, media contributor, and a stress and resilience expert who has taught burnout prevention and resilience workshops for thousands of professionals around the world.

She also is the Founder and CEO of the Stress & Resilience Institute, a training and consulting firm devoted to helping companies and busy professionals build their resilience to stress.

Paula left her law practice after 7 years and earned a master's degree in applied positive psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. As part of her post-graduate training, Paula was selected to be on the University of Pennsylvania faculty teaching and training resilience skills to soldiers for the Army's Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness program. The Penn team trained resilience skills to more than 25,000 soldiers.

Her expertise has been featured in and on O, The Oprah Magazine, Redbook, Time.com, Today.com, The Steve Harvey TV show, Huffington Post Live and a variety of media outlets. She has also been featured in and on the Lawyerist, Law360.com, various ABA webinars, and the Women's Law Journal.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Top 10 Tips for Avoiding Burnout

Cynthia Mauris

As the days of working and teaching remotely pass into years, burnout is unavoidable with all the technological demands we face. Most of us have developed coping mechanisms, some of which may be among the top 10 ideas presented. Hear the list and add to it with your and your colleagues' contributions. Use them as you prepare for another summer and fall semester of living life in Zoomland.

Thursday May 20

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Student Focus Group/Discussion with Dr. Pollard

Students: Jonathan Spires, Crystal Ortiz, Nasser Katende Katamba, Jasmine Cox, Megan Barrett

As we conclude our first full year of remote learning, our students have not only survived but thrived in the opportunities that the global pandemic has created. In this student panel, facilitated by Dr. Pollard, you will hear of the various ways students have adapted to their new normal which will continue to influence our future college and student experience.