

Bruce Muirhead: I'm Bruce Muirhead. I'm a Professor of History at University of Waterloo. I'm also the Associate Vice President for External Research in the Office of Research, and a good friend of Jasmin too. I don't know which one of those categories has got me in front here, maybe the latter one, I think, for this. I'd like to mention everybody here tonight, and I'd certainly like to say I'm extremely excited to be here today to cap off, or this evening, I guess, to cap off the Global Engagement Seminar Program's first ever student summit.

Bruce Muirhead: I know some of the students here as well, so congratulations on all of this. I'm sure it's been a wonderful day. I'd like to begin by thanking all of you for taking the time to come out this evening, especially our Advisory Board members, past Senator Landon Pearson, and Eve Beauchamp, Executive Director of the Jarislowsky Foundation and the crowd from Ottawa and Montreal to be with us tonight. I've just come in, I was in Ottawa today myself, just come in on a plane, landed at 2:30 and it took about three hours to get from Toronto, from GTAA to here.

Bruce Muirhead: If you've participated in the events last night and throughout the day, you'll know that the Global Engagement Seminar Program advances the university's strategic objective of fostering an innovative culture of experiential education, which, of course, Waterloo is famous for. The program's out-of-the-box teaching model combining an interdisciplinary curriculum and hands-on experience is designed to offer our students the opportunity to gain valuable transferrable skills which can be applied well beyond the walls of the academy.

Bruce Muirhead: An inquiry-based program, students are provided opportunities to apply their skills, develop new ones and to recognize their potential as engaged citizens, which seems in these days is more important than ever, I think, who will take the initiative to effect change in their communities and positive change, I'm sure, as well, not maybe some of the change we've seen in other countries around the world, I'd say. This year's Jarislowsky fellow, Doctor Henry Giroux, whom some of you may have had a chance to meet at lunch today, joined efforts with Jasmin Habib, this year's course instructor, in leading students through discussions on selected reading so that they could gain a greater appreciation of the complexities of those contemporary challenges and learn how to respond meaningfully and collectively.

Bruce Muirhead: The students' projects, which were showcased throughout the day, raised important questions about civic engagement, mainstream feminism, the rise of anti-science movements. Actually, the reason I was in Ottawa today was the launch of the Canada 150, well, actually not the launch, but the Minister, Kirsty Duncan, hosted a meeting today for the Canada 150 research chairs of which Waterloo received three, we have two coming, of the 25 that were allocated throughout the country. This issue about science and the whole science-based agenda, I can certainly appreciate, and also the rise of anti-science movements as well around the world, but certainly in some countries that are quite close to us, I think, at least geographically if not in other ways. Also, the rise of capitalism and implications for democracy which we hear a lot about these days as well.

Bruce Muirhead: This evening they'll present us with a brief overview of their engaging projects as well as some of their recommendations, and I'm sure ... I don't know if there's any press person here, but surely we have to get the recommendations outside the walls of this room as well, since they're critically important. I'd like to introduce Jasmin who needs no introduction. Everybody knows Jasmin, the Director of the Global Engagement Program who'll take the floor to introduce the students and their presentations. Thanks very much again for coming out. Jasmin, take it away.

Jasmin Habib: Hello and welcome again, and welcome to some of our new audience members to the final proceedings for the summit for the last two days. I'd like to particularly thank Eve Beauchamp from the Jarislowsky Foundation who's been with us since late yesterday, who traveled here from Montreal, and Landon Pearson who is just taking a break, but hopefully she'll be coming back, as well as we have Peter Douglas here from Engineering, and Doug Peers from Arts ... both of whom were on the steering committee for the program, and what the steering committee does is helps to support the programming agenda. I wanted them also to be acknowledged for their support here.

Jasmin Habib: We have a fully packed evening tonight. This is the time when we would normally meet as a class on Thursday nights. When the class began, I would walk into a classroom that was pretty quiet. The students did not know one another very well, and you could hear a pin drop in the room. By the third class, I would walk in and ... they were all engaging in conversations, they were getting ready, they were talking about the readings, they were talking about other things happening in their lives, I'm sure. I wasn't listening,

Jasmin Habib: I think it was all really, really an incredible experience for me ... but also for all of them. What we'll have tonight is an opportunity for you to see what it was that happened in the course of the course. We have some presentations. Those of you who will have been here throughout the day will have seen some of the exhibitions, and the feminist panel which already made their presentation. They won't be presenting again, but you can engage with them in the Q&A session which we'll have to follow.

Jasmin Habib: What we're going to do is have each of the groups come up and make their presentation. They all have some PowerPoint slides. They've been given about 15 minutes max to make their presentations. There are four of them that will be presenting. One of the students, and it will be the very first person to come up here, did not have an exhibit, but chose rather to work on a paper on his own, on a scholarly paper. The students were provided the opportunity to select the kind of thing that they wanted to do, whether it was an exhibit, a scholarly paper, or a joint project.