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Out of Our Minds

04.09.2013 | Students, Campus and Community, Culture and Society

People who find where their passion meets their talent can change the world.

That's Sir Ken Robinson's inspirational message to audiences all over the world. Next stop: University of Dayton.

Robinson, one of the pre-eminent thought leaders on creativity, innovation and human potential, will offer an address, "Out of Our Minds, Learning to be Creative," at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, in the RecPlex on campus. It's free and open to the public. Parking is available in C and P lots.

The talk, part of the annual Brother Joseph W. Stander Symposium, closes out the 2012-2013 University of Dayton Speaker Series.

"Sir Ken Robinson is one of those outstanding public intellectuals who brings a rare combination of impeccable scholarly credentials, broad, international experience in education and the arts, and a compelling voice that can engage a really broad audience. His UD address promises to inform, inspire and provoke, all at once," said Sheila Hassell Hughes, chair of the University of Dayton's English department, who directs the series.


In 2011, Robinson was listed as "one of the world's elite thinkers on creativity and innovation" by Fast Company magazine, and was ranked among the Thinkers50 list of the world's top business thought leaders. His new book, Finding Your Element: How to Discover Your Talents and Passions and Transform Your Life, will be released next month.

"Imagination is the source of every form of human achievement. And it's the one thing that I believe we are systematically jeopardizing in the way we educate our children and ourselves," said Robinson, who calls creativity as important as literacy.

Robinson works with governments and educational systems in Europe, Asia and the U.S., as well as with international agencies, Fortune 500 companies and some of the world’s leading cultural organizations. In 1998, he led a national commission on creativity, education and the economy for the UK government. All Our Futures: Creativity, Culture and Education (The Robinson Report) was published to wide acclaim in 1999. He was the central figure in developing a strategy for creative and economic development as part of the peace process in Northern Ireland. The resulting blueprint for change, Unlocking Creativity, was adopted by politicians of all parties and by business, education and cultural leaders. He was one of four international advisers to the Singapore government for its strategy to become the creative hub of Southeast Asia.

For 12 years, he was professor of education at the University of Warwick in the UK and is now professor emeritus. He has received a number of honorary degrees. He was been honored with the Athena Award of the Rhode Island School of Design for services to the arts and education; the Peabody Medal for contributions to the arts and culture in the United States; the Arthur C. Clarke Imagination Award; the Gordon Parks Award for achievements in education; and the Benjamin Franklin Medal of the Royal Society of Arts for outstanding contributions to cultural relations between the United Kingdom and the U.S. In 2005, he was named as one of Time/Fortune/CNN's "Principal Voices." In 2003, he received a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II for his services to the arts.

Co-sponsors for the University of Dayton Speaker Series include the Dayton Daily News, WDAO-Radio, YWCA Dayton, the Bob Ross Auto Group Ross and Markey's Audio Visual.

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