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Does a Liberal Arts Education Have a Future? April 25, 2023

The College of the Future: Lowering Costs for Students by Fixing the Business Model of Higher Education by Jeffrey R. Docking, PhD, and Kevin Harrington

At the Edge of the Cliff, Some Colleges are Teaming Up and Sharing Courses to Survive. New York Times, October 6, 2022, featuring our speaker, Dr. Jeffrey R. Docking.

The End of the English Major Nathan Heller, a graduate of Harvard University, assesses the future of a liberal arts education at a variety of institutions, including Harvard. The New Yorker, March 3, 2023.

The Defenders of Classical Education are Destroying It The Atlantic March 15, 2023. Annie Abrams, a public-school teacher, and Roosevelt Montás, Columbia University, argue that the Western canon is too diverse to be used as a political pawn.

Jaded with education, more Americans are skipping college, AP News March 29, 2023.

More students are turning away from college and toward apprenticeships. Some white-collar training programs have become as selective as Ivy League Universities. Wall St. Journal March 16, 2023.

Americans Are Losing Faith in College Education. People over 65 with faith in college declined to 44% from 56% in 2017, Wall Street Journal March 31, 2023.

Looming enrollment cliff poses serious threat to colleges.
There will be a dramatic drop in the college-age population beginning in 2025. Best Colleges website January 27, 2023. This is a free website which is ad supported, and they state that advertising does not influence their reporting.

Avoiding the Enrollment Cliff with AI. Educause is a nonprofit association whose mission is the advancement of education using information technology. February 1, 2023.

Why the College Rankings are getting less and less relevant. New York Magazine Intelligencer, January 26, 2023.

Breaking Ranks, How the rankings industry rules higher education and what to do about it. Book by Colin Diver, Johns Hopkins University Press, April 12, 2022.

There's Only One College Ranking That Matters: Yours. Frank Bruni, The New York Times, March 27, 2023.

STEM Who? The humanities mount a comeback. Jennifer A. Kingson, Berkeley Arts and Humanities, February 2, 2023

You Can Do Anything: The Surprising Power of a "Useless" Liberal Arts Education. Book by George Anders, 2017.

Please note that some of these sources may have a paywall for non-subscribers and will be available in public libraries. There is far more information out there. For example, a google search, "The Atlantic, Future of a Liberal Arts Education", cites magazines, newspapers and colleges with articles that pertain to today's topic.

For perspective, here is one from January 1912, "Is liberal education losing in power to attract youth?"

And more recently, in 1943, "The liberal arts have necessarily been minimized in our military training. How shall we bring them back when the war is over? E.K. Rand

About our speaker, Himadeep Muppidi.

Dr. Muppidi has been a professor at Vassar since 2000. His books include Politics in Emotion and The Politics of the Global. He teaches a course at Vassar, "Liberal Arts in Question".

Gun Island: A Novel, by Amitav Ghosh is the book Dr. Muppidi's class is reading for the remainder of this semester. "A brave experiment bringing climate change to action-adventure readers…Ghosh challenges the writers among us to remember that throughout history we have dealt with crises by telling ourselves stories." Melanie Finn, The New York Review of Books.