

*An honorary Doctor
Arts and Social Sciences
Nussbaum's convocation*

Madame Chancellor,
friends, and above all
unique history and distinctive
ingredients of a tradition
over the world, in our
core of a time-honoured
Seen as useless frills
competitive in the global
and hearts of parents
science and social sciences
thought – are also long
useful, highly applied

Why should
science, social
studies?
into the heart
of tall things

We could
First, it is
the expansion
could also
emphasize
and dynamic

imagination so important in a mobile economy, where we need innovation and people cannot get by with a set of skills learned by rote – and the importance of critical thinking in producing a business culture that is not simply a culture of yes-people. China and Singapore, who focus single-mindedly on business success, not on democr

wrote that a novel such as his could be “a raft of hope, perception and entertainment” on which American culture could “negotiate the snags and whirlpools” that stand between us and our democratic ideal. His novel, of course, takes the “inner eyes” of the white reader as its theme and its target. The hero is invisible to white society but he tells us that this invisibility is an imaginative and educational failing on their part, not a biological accident on his. Here at SFU, where such a large portion of students come from a wide range of minority cultures, you are a microcosm of modern Canada and your instruction encourages you to inhabit many different viewpoints.

Your new strategic vision here at SFU recognizes the centrality of the humanities to learning across the disciplines. What would we have however, if these three parts of university education wither away? Nations of technically trained people who don't know how to criticize authority, useful profit-makers with obtuse imaginations. What could be more frightening than that?

But the future does not have to unfold this way. It is in our hands and especially in the hands of all of you, who are giving and receiving this sort of education, you know its value and will come to know it more as the years go on. You graduates can spread the word that what happens on this campus is not useless but crucially relevant to the future of democracy in the nation and the world. And you can begin right now to think of ways to keep on pursuing the goals of that

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