

## THE SENIOR COLLEGE MESSENGER

Issue 3: January, 2022

*This is an organ for members of Senior College to submit short articles that share news, opinions, reactions to the program and anything that they feel will be of general interest. Its regular appearance will allow for an exchange of opinion of topics of interest to the members.*

*There have been many changes at the University of Toronto during the years that we have been its members. We invite you to reminisce and reflect on these and share your observations.*

*Please submit contributions to the editor, Ed Barbeau at barbeau@math.utoronto.ca*

### KEEPING ONE'S FINANCES IN ORDER

One of my retiree constituents in UTFA was wondering whether there is the opportunity to get disinterested financial advice. Neither UTFA nor the University seems to offer this service. Perhaps some member of the College might be willing to offer some general guidance.

Years ago, there were fewer, but more straightforward, options for investment that provided a decent income: government bonds, trust company investment certificates, and blue chip stocks. Many were able to rely on this and not feel the need for more exposure to risk.

However, we live in a different world. Bank accounts and investment certificates are hardly better than a mattress for storing your money. To make any financial headway, today's investor has to consider a number of modern instruments such as mutual funds, while being attentive to risk. I invite one of our knowledgeable members to write a short article describing the lay of the land and the things that should be taken into account in making sure that our income is sufficient. I have in mind an article like the one we ran in an issue of the Bulletin a few years ago that dealt with homes for seniors.

### REFLECTIONS ON SENIOR COLLEGE

*A year ago, to celebrate ten years of Senior College, its Founding Fellows were invited to reflect on what the College has meant to them. The plan was to insert their essays in an issue of the Bulletin that never appeared. We will present them in the next few issues of the Messenger, in part as an introduction to some of our senior colleagues.*

**Merrijoy Kelneri, Dalla Lana School of Public Health:** In considering the importance of Senior College in my life, three things stand out:

1. *Intellectual stimulation:* The lectures, colloquia, book reviews and site visits have all been interesting and have stimulated new thoughts and perspectives. The discussions and questions raised by Fellows at these events are highly valuable for the rich background of their knowledge.

2. *Friendship:* Over the years, I have made several close friends as we have worked on various projects. These collegial relationships have added a great deal to the quality of my life, both emotionally and intellectually. I am grateful to the college for the opportunity to make new friends at this later stage of my life.

3. *A widening perspective:* When we are engaged full time in teaching and research in our respective fields of study, it is difficult to see the world in a broad perspective. We tend to view things through the prism of our own academic silos. But when we meet our colleagues at Senior College, we have the opportunity to learn informally from them, and to understand things from a variety of points of view. This is an unusual opportunity to enhance one's worldview by talking with experts in their field. In this era when cultural pluralism is under threat, I consider it very worthwhile to be presented with a range of perspectives.

**Cornelia Baines, Dalla Lana School of Public Health.** Thinking over the past decade of Senior College and previous to that, RALUT, my major thought is how Senior College has exceeded any expectations we might have had at the beginning. In short, the diversity of its members, their indefatigable commitment to the College, its accomplishments and the wide range of activities have demonstrated admirable intellectual energy, creative imagination and useful initiatives (support for Syrian refugees being one). I am sure there is not one issue globally, politically, historically, or discipline-based, that has not been addressed and discussed in some College forum. Furthermore, the College has reached out to students and to the community outside the university. The range and depth of College initiatives has been outstanding. For this to continue and to grow, support for the College must continue and preferably be expanded. From my point of view I hope the College will succeed to further its mission in the future as well as enlarge its membership considerably.

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

With the looming Omicron threat, the university has asked faculty and staff to work from home during January, so it will be a while before we can have talks simultaneously on Zoom and at the Faculty Club, with the opportunity to enjoy a prior lunch ordered off the menu. Until further notice, the events will be on Zoom only. Unless indicated otherwise, Wednesday speakers are from the University of Toronto. Events marked with **F** are for fellows and external fellows. Registration a few days ahead is necessary for each event. This can be done in response to a weekly email from Senior College to its members that describes the events or by going on line at [www.seniorcollege.utoronto.ca](http://www.seniorcollege.utoronto.ca).

*Weekly Talks: Wednesdays, 2-4 pm*

- January 5: **Peter Alberti** (UHN):  
Victorian doctor: Sir William Wilde (1815-1876)
- January 12: **Paul Frankland** (HSC):  
Memory and forgetting
- January 19 **Paul Faure** (McMaster bat laboratory)  
Development of echolocation and hearing in the big brown bat
- January 26: **Kenneth Deer** (Bear Clan, Mohawk Nation)  
The long journey toward UNDRIP
- February 2: **George Walker** (Xylographer, printmaker)  
Written in wood: visual narratives with a Canadian cut
- February 9: **Mary O'Connor** (English and Cultural Studies, Mcmaster)  
The photography of Margaret Watkins
- February 16: **Ronald F. Williamson** (Archaeological Services)  
New understandings of Great Lakes indigenous history and archaeology
- February 23: **Enid Slack** (Munk Institute)  
Financing city services: who should pay?
- March 2: **Nicholas Gunz** (History)  
Observations on analytic naval intelligence
- March 9: **Mark Lautens** (Chemistry)  
Advocating for science
- March 16: **Lynn Hasher** (Psychology)  
Aging and memory: some surprises
- March 23: **Joel Fafak** (English)  
Getting happy: learning to love musicals

*Colloquia: Thursdays, 2-4 pm (F)*

- January 13: Chair - Charles Maurer  
Is artificial intelligence artificial?
- February 17: Chair - Maggie Redkop  
Why have memoirs become prevalent and influential?  
How can we judge authenticity? Does it matter?
- March 17: Chair - Martin Klein  
Should we reform the police in Canada?
- April 28: Chairs - Daphne and Charles Maurer  
Is a post-racial society possible?

May 19: Chairs - Phil Sullivan, John Yeomans  
Are there threats to academic freedom from within the university?

*Book Club: Mondays, 2-4 pm (F)*

**Tuesday** January 4 (Chair: Daphne Maurer)

The goodness paradox - the strange relationship between virtue and violence in human evolution (by Richard Wrangham)

February 7 (Chair: Mary Jane Ashley)

Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus (by Mary Shelley)

March 7 (Chair: Marty Klein)

Caste: The origins of our discontent (by Isabel Wilkerson)

April 4 (Chair: Meg Fox)

In Montmartre - Picasso, Matisse, and the birth of modern art (by Sue Roe)

May 2 (Chair: Sara Shettleworth)

Fundamentals - the key to reality (by Frank Wilczek)

June 6 (Chair: Maggie Redekop)

Who do you think you are? (by Alice Munro)

July 4 (Chair: Linda Hutcheon & David Milne)

Lampedusa (by Steve Price)

*Coffee hours: 2-3 pm*

Tuesday, January 11; Thursday, January 27

**Summer 2022 Wednesday ZOOM Lecture Series: Wednesday at 2 pm.**

May 4: **David Moffett**, Criminology, University of Ottawa  
Immigration and criminalization in Canada.

May 11: **Tom Tiek**, Political Science, Western U, London  
The African Union.

May 18: **Carl James**, Chair in Education, Community & Diaspora, York U.  
How did we get to now? Systemic inequality, racism and the culture of exclusion in Canada.

May 25: **Barrington Walker**, History, Wilfrid Laurier University  
Blackness, violence and modern Canada.

June 1: **Brendon Gurd**, Kinesiology & Health Studies, Queen's University  
Can exercise be bad for you? The facts about exercise non-responders.

June 8: **Keith Baar**, Molecular Biology, UC Davis  
Molecular biology and living longer, healthier lives.