

THE SENIOR COLLEGE MESSENGER

Issue 34: August, 2024

This is an organ for members of Senior College to submit short articles that share news, letters to the editor, 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. In particular, it would be interesting to record reactions to the talks, colloquium topics, books discussed and items appearing in the Messenger.

Please submit contributions to the co-editors, Ed Barbeau at barbeau@math.utoronto.ca or Mary Finlay at booksaplenty1949@gmail.com.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW FELLOWS

This month, we welcome to Senior College, **Stephen Poulin** and **Eva Mate**.

Stephen Poulin joined the college as a spousal Fellow, being married to our principal, Patricia Brubaker. Not quite retired, Steve is a professional art conservator or restorer, specializing in the care of paintings and works of art on paper. Along with his wife, Pat, he originally studied biology at McGill, but switched focus to attend Queen's University in Kingston, earning his master's degree in Art Conservation in 1980. Post graduation, the real life learning began. For the past forty plus years, Steve has undertaken commissions and projects for public museums and art galleries, corporate and private collectors, major acution houses and also for friends! From vintage stamps and 'master pieces' to church and legislative ceiling murals, the challenges were and continue to keep Steve decidedly NOT retired, but mellowed. Steve looks forward to interacting with Senior College colleagues to share stories and collect stories anew.

Eva Mate became a Fellow of Senior College in 2023, having read an article about the organization. She was very keen to continue with intellectual stimulation.

As a foreign medical graduate, she started her Canadian training program in Montreal at hospitals affiliated with McGill University in 1975. Subsequently, she had the opportunity to transfer to the University of Manitoba to complete her specialty training in respiratory medicine; she remained there until 1990. During that time, she was greatly involved in medical education and, later, in the newly created Clinical Teaching Units (CTU), as well as continuing her practice that included intensive care.

Because of family commitments, she subsequently relocated to Toronto to work at the University Teaching Hospitals, initially Wellesley and then St. Michael's, where she continued her involvement in medical education and clinical practice until retirement in 2021.

During retirement, she is dedicated to the study of languages, reading and sports related activities.

EDUCATION FOR CITIZENSHIP

Having gone to school in Ontario during the 1940s and 1950s, I think it would be fair to say that preparing pupils for citizenship was a thread that ran through the syllabus. This was seen in the practical arithmetic syllabus. As well, pupils were taught conventions of behaviour, standards of writing and speech, civics, history, geography and literature, so that they would be assimilated into their social and physical environment.

This emphasis on citizenship seems to have become lost in an educational environment that puts more emphasis on personal identity and ambitions. At this point in our history, it seems that this neglect has led to a weakening of a collective perspective in society. At the same time, the practicalities of living in our present society are much more complex than a half century ago, and we have to reconsider how school education has to be adapted to meet these needs. This is certainly true in mathematics, where citizens are called upon to negotiate complicated transactions in commerce and investment and to understand the role of data management and mathematical models in policy decisions. It is surely true in other areas, history, writing, literature, science.

I invite readers to look at the education system through the lens of their own disciplines, and how it can help children know and understand the dimensions of the societal decisions that are urgently needed, and be tolerant of the diversity of the world around them. *Ed Barbeau*

IN MEMORIAM

David Gauthier (September 10, 1932 - November 9, 2023)
Professor of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts and Science

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

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 or the Faculty Club to its members that describes the events or through the Senior College website.

Talks: Wednesdays 10-12 (Zoom and in person at the Faculty Club)

September 11: Marlene Shore, *Down from the mountain: reckoning with unrest, risk, and charlatanism in the Canadian university, 1919-1939*

September 18: Kent Roach, *Wrongfully convicted: lessons from the Canadian registry*

September 25: Lissa Paul, *Children's literature and literary history*

October 2: Ian Cusson, *Indigeneity in contemporary opera*

October 9: Ken Bartlett, *Raphael and the mystery of the frame*

October 16: Nandita Bajaj, *Connecting the dots between reproductive autonomy and environmental sustainability*

October 23: Soren Brothers, *Climate, lakes and museums*

October 30: Liat Margolis, *A land-based indigenous youth program*

November 6: Mary Nyquist, *Early modern freedom, tyranny, and the rhetorical poser of 'slave'*

November 13: Yvonne Bombard, *Delivering precision genomic medicine*

November 20: Clifford Orwin, *The 2024 election result*

November 27: Franca Iacovetta, *Remembering Emma Goldman in Toronto*

Book Club: Mondays 2-4 pm (Zoom only) (F)

September 9: Margaret Atwood, *Hag-seed* (2016) (Leader: Linda Hutcheon)

October 7: George Monbiot, *Regenesis: feeding the world without devouring the planet* (2022) (Leader: Sara Shettleworth)

November 4: Jane Mayer, *Dark money: the hidden history of the billionaires behind the rise of the radical right* (2017)

December 2: Martin Puchner, *Culture: the story of us from cave-art to K Pop* (2023) (Leader: Meg Fox)

January 6: André Alexis, *Fifteen dogs* (2015) (Leader: Meg Fox)

February 3: Kenneth Miller, *The visionary scientists who unlocked the mysteries of sleep* (2023) (Leader: Daphne Maurer)

March 3: Timothy Garten Ash, *Homelands: a personal history of Europe* (2023) (Leader: David Milne)

April 7: Ursula K. Le Guin, *The dispossessed* (1974) (Leader: Molly Wills)

May 5: Emily Wilson, *The Odyssey, by Homer in the new poetic translation* (2017) (Leaders: Linda Hutcheon & Martin Revermann)

June 2: Andrew Stobo Sniderman & Douglas Sanderson (Amo Binashii), *The Valley of the Birdtail* (2022) (Leader: Janet Paterson)

July 7: Fei-Fei Li, *The worlds I see: curiosity, exploration and discovery at the dawn of AI* (2023) (Leader: Susan Pfeiffer)

Aftermath

Our representation of whole numbers in base 10 leads to some odd relationships involving the digits. Take for instance the equation

$$13 \times 62 = 26 \times 31,$$

where the digits on the right side are those on the left written in the opposite direction. This is easy to check. If we want such an equation involving 13, then the second factor on the right is 31. So you need to multiply 13 times a multiple of 31. Using this strategy, you can find other pairs of two-digit numbers besides (13, 62) which give the same situation.

However, there are more striking examples involving numbers with more digits or products with more factors:

$$12 \times 231 = 132 \times 21; \quad 13 \times 682 = 286 \times 31; \quad 28 \times 451 = 154 \times 82;$$

$$3516 \times 8274 = 4728 \times 6153;$$

$$992 \times 483 \times 156 = 651 \times 384 \times 299.$$