

SENIOR COLLEGE BULLETIN

SPRING 2018



REPORTS

Scholars Give Sanctuary (SGS)

A brief progress report

Peter Hajnal

The Scholars Give Sanctuary (SGS), an informal refugee support group of Senior College Fellows, at its meeting on November 14, 2017, discussed options and next steps now that the application of our refugee candidate was turned down in a final ruling. To clarify our remaining options, Diana Baxter, Margrit Eichler and Peter Hajnal asked for and had a meeting on November 28 with Kerith Paul, Senior Project Coordinator, Ryerson University Lifeline Syria Challenge. Ryerson Lifeline Syria coordinates refugee activities of various support groups, including ours. It also holds the money we previously collected, a little under \$25,000.

Several options were presented to us by Ryerson, but they did not suit our current requirements and capacity. Ryerson then promised to find another group for us to join but that, too, turned out to be the wrong approach. Fortunately, we were alerted to a new opportunity to work with Humanity First Canada, a large NGO with extensive activities including assistance to refugees. A representative group of our SGS met with the chairman of Humanity First and we were able to reach a positive conclusion. As a result, a small refugee family (mother and her adult daughter from Pakistan who arrived in Toronto this past January) was identified. As they were not yet being helped by anyone else, an email poll of all members of our Scholars Give Sanctuary group was conducted. The majority agreed that we should undertake financial and settlement support for this family.

Currently Ryerson Lifeline Syria and Humanity First are completing the formalities to transfer of our previously collected funds held by Ryerson, so we can begin giving much-needed assistance to this mother and daughter. So the long saga is finally coming to fruition. Meantime, some SGS members have taken the initiative outside the Ryerson process to help refugees or others needing assistance; for example, support for the Romero House and for the Daughters for Life, a foundation that assists young Palestinian, Israeli, Jordanian and Syrian women students with scholarships and study awards; individual commitment to work with another refugee settlement group, and other ways to assist refugees. We may be getting older and less energetic but our group's commitment to help refugees or others in need has not diminished.

Report on the Alternatives to Reconciliation: Indigenous Peoples in Canada –

January 18, 2018

Discussion Leaders: Peter Russell, Shiraz Dossa

Moderator: Martin Klein

Report: Harold Atwood

Extensive reading lists were sent out in advance, including several chapters from Peter Russell's recent book *Canada's Odyssey*, several other articles by Peter Russell and other authors, a recommendation to read the 94 policy actions in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report; and from Shiraz Dossa,

three short critical readings on recognition of the “settler mentality” in Canada, anti-native racism in Canada, and rejection of the Canadian narrative (attachments include some of this material).

The Colloquium opened with statements from the discussion leaders. Peter Russell argued against accepting “reconciliation” as the primary goal for policy, since it implies that the present relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous dwellers in Canada could be acceptable. Instead, the alternative of “decolonization” would be preferable; and although progress in this has been slow, there does not seem to be a better alternative. The 94 calls for action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s report provide good objectives.

Shiraz Dossa’s opening comments, reflecting the assigned critical readings, emphasized the destructive effects of Canada’s past actions on the indigenous communities, and the continuing prevalence of the “settler colony mentality” in non-indigenous society — the idea that the colonizers are necessarily dominant and directive is still widely held. Decolonization is a crucial step towards normalizing a relationship.

The full report can be viewed at:

<http://seniorcollege.utoronto.ca/report-colloquium-reconciliation-aboriginal-peoples-canada-jan-18th-2018/>

Colloquium Report on East Meets Modern Secular West: Two Examples from India - October 26, 2017

Discussion Leader: Peter Slater, Cathy O’Connell

Report: Martin Klein

In the recent colloquium “East Meets Modern Secular West: Two Examples from India,” organized and co-chaired by Peter Slater and Kathy O’Connell., there was a brief initial presentation by O’Connell and Slater on the thinking of Mohandas K. Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore concerning the confrontation of East and West. The speakers pointed out that both Tagore and Gandhi wanted a Hindu state independent from England but had very different views on many subjects (relationship with Western culture and religions, civil disobedience, education, idol worship, technology and science, sexuality etc.).

The full report can be viewed at:

<http://seniorcollege.utoronto.ca/report-colloquium-26-october-2017east-meets-modern-secular-west-two-examples-india/>

Registration for Senior College's 13th Annual Symposium:

Topic: Inequalities and Their Consequences

Date: Thursday, April 5, 2018.

Location: The Faculty Club, University of Toronto, 41 Willcocks Street, Toronto

For more information and to register please go to: <http://seniorcollege.utoronto.ca/event/13th-annual-senior-college-symposium/>

CURAC 2017 CONFERENCE

The 15th Annual CURAC/ARUCC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada/Association de retraités des universités et collèges du Canada) was held this year at Carleton University, May 24-26, under the hospices of the Carleton University Retirees Association, and in recognition of the 75th anniversary of that University's founding. Senior College was represented by Peter Russell as Principal and Past President of CURAC, and by Ken Rea and Alexander Gregor, as College Delegates.

The 2018 CURC Conference will be held on May 23-35 in Halifax at Dalhousie University and the National Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. The program and registration information is available at <http://adrp.dal.ca/curac2018>.

Further information at: <http://seniorcollege.utoronto.ca/curac-2017-conference/>

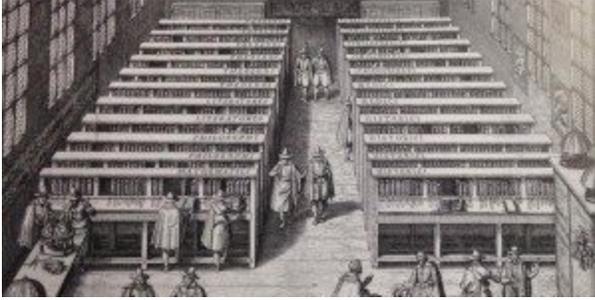
NEWS AND EVENTS

Weekly Programs

One of the College's most popular activities has been a series of weekly talks held at the Faculty Club during the academic year. The presenters are often Fellows reporting on their recent work, but outside speakers are also invited.

Upcoming weekly talks and other events can be viewed at:
<http://seniorcollege.utoronto.ca/events/calendar/>

Monthly Colloquium



Although the weekly talks have proven to be very popular some Fellows have sought opportunities for more direct participation in discussions of particular topics and issues. To this end a more-or-less monthly series of colloquia has been established.

Reports on Senior College Colloquia

It is appreciated that a number of Senior College members will have a significant personal and professional interest in various of the topics considered through the Colloquium series, but will not have been able to participate directly in the initial discussions. A digest report of the Colloquium discussions is entered on the College website, and a brief notice linking readers to the full reports appears regularly in the Bulletin. Readers interested in commenting on the topic itself or the discussion reports themselves are encouraged to submit any such observations - including, for example, suggestions for further readings, important links, *etc.* Those supplementary observations will be added to the Senior College Record website, to become part of the College's permanent record of its contribution to the topic concerned.

An example of such continuing comment and discussion of a Colloquium topic may be found following the report on the recent Colloquium on The Populist Challenge to the Universities:

https://sce.library.utoronto.ca/index.php?title=Populism_and_Universities

The Colloquium series is recognized as an important vehicle for bringing together the broad

perspective and experience of the College membership on issues of topical importance; and it is hoped that this opportunity to continue and expand the Colloquium discussions on-line will encourage the wider College membership to contribute to this important set of conversations.

Comments may be submitted to: sce.college@utoronto.ca

Senior Scholars Annual

Call for Submissions – 2017 Senior Scholars Annual

Please take a moment to compile your accomplishments for inclusion in the Senior Scholars Annual covering the period January 1-December 31, 2017. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2018.

See last year's Annual for inspiration: <http://seniorcollege.utoronto.ca/publications/senior-scholars-annual/>.

The 10000 PhDs Project

Between 2000 and 2015, 10886 PhDs were granted by the University of Toronto. SGS located 88% of them; a report on how they fared can be found on its website

<http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/about/Pages/10,000-PhDs-Project.aspx>

Reinhart Reitmeier wrote a short opinion piece in University Affairs:

<https://www.universityaffairs.ca/opinion/in-my-opinion/10000-phds-project-closer-look-numbers/>

In Memoriam

[Gad Gunter](#) was appointed to the Department of Geography at Erindale College (now UTM) in 1972 and received his Ph.D. in 1976. He taught at the St. George campus post-retirement until 2009. (Obituary at: <http://v1.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/Deaths.20170916.93393040/BDAStory/BDA/deaths>)

[Frances Halpenny](#) died on Christmas Day, 2017 at the age of 98. Frances was truly a U of T giant. (Obituary at: <http://seniorcollege.utoronto.ca/frances-halpenny/>)

[John C. Roder](#), John C. Roder, a distinguished neuroscientist holding appointments to Mount Sinai Hospital and the University of Toronto died at age 67. (Obituary at: <http://seniorcollege.utoronto.ca/john-roder-july-17-1950-january-6-2018-a-triumph-of-mind/>)

[Helen Stephanie Rosenthal](#) was a skilled teacher whose mathematical acumen and commitment to equality and social justice led her to become an active and influential member of the University of Toronto Faculty Association. (Obituary at: <https://www.utoronto.ca/news/helen-stephanie-roenthal-mathematician-who-loved-teach-and-was-active-faculty-association>)

[Arthur Sheps](#) received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Toronto and spent an academic career as a professor of History at the University of Toronto, where he specialized in American and British social and intellectual history. (Obituary at: <http://v1.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/Deaths.20171114.93395260/BDAStory/BDA/deaths>)

In Memoriam section added to Encyclopedia

By Alexander (Sandy) Gregor

The College has initiated an *In Memoriam* section to its encyclopedia website, which will have as its goal to develop appropriate testimonials to the life and careers of deceased members. The Senior College *Bulletin* will be publishing brief notices of passings, and inviting colleagues to contribute any memories they might have – personal or professional anecdotes, observations about the member’s contributions to the University and to the world of scholarship, links to commemorations offered elsewhere, *etc.* An encyclopedia page will be prepared on the basis of these contributions, and brought to the attention of the larger community through subsequent issues of the *Bulletin*.

Through this commemoration, the College hopes to be able to provide an appropriate and lasting record of the role the retirement community has had in fostering the growth and stature of the University.

The In Memoriam section has been placed on the Main Page of the encyclopedia, with a few of the initial entries included. Examples may be seen in the entries that have been prepared for John Roder and Cicely Watson.

It should be noted that there are several hundred personal entries included in the main body of the encyclopedia, in various stages of development. Senior College members are invited to identify any former colleagues for whom they might like to contribute additional information and reminiscences. Also most helpful would be advice on any names which should be added to the encyclopedia record.

Encyclopedia website:

https://sce.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/Main_Page

Contributions may directed to: SCE.college@utoronto.ca

An exploration of similar memorial projects at other institutions showed the following project at Boston College, which follows very closely the sort of format and content we were

hoping to develop in the In Memoriam section of the Senior College Record. Readers may find it helpful to consider the Boston College website, in considering the sorts of contribution they might wish to make to the commemoration of former colleagues here.
<http://www.bc.edu/sites/retiredfaculty/remember.html>

University Arts Women's Club

The University Arts Women's Club (UAWC) was originally founded in 1929 by Lady Falconer, wife of Sir Robert Falconer, then President of the University of Toronto. The purpose was to provide friendship, support and interesting activities within the Faculty of Arts and Science for faculty wives. The purpose of the Club has remained the same, however, its focus has evolved through the years as lifestyles have changed.

Currently membership is open to: women, active or retired, who are or were members of Teaching Staff, Academic Staff, Senior Administrative Staff or Library Services, as well as women who are or have been married to, or a partner of, any member or retired member of Faculty, Academic Staff or Administrative Staff.

Those interested in joining UAWC are invited to visit their website:
<http://groups.chass.utoronto.ca/uawc/>

Board of Management and Committees of Senior College

<http://seniorcollege.utoronto.ca/people/committees/>

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