

SENIOR COLLEGE BULLETIN

FALL 2017



A Message From The Principal

Fall, 2017



To Members and Fellows of Senior College:

The programs and good works of Senior College, built up and launched by our founding Principal Peter Russell, continue unabated as we start the Fall Term.

Our mainstay is the program of weekly seminar meetings, held at the Faculty Club, and embracing a wide range of topics. The Program Committee, led by Jim Gurd (scientist) and Linda Hutcheon (humanities), makes a determined effort to recruit seminar speakers who have done interesting work of general interest, and who are able to present talks that appeal to our multi-disciplinary assemblage. These meetings are open to all members of Senior College, and there is the option of lunch at the Faculty Club for those who are both physically and intellectually hungry. The Fall program can be found on the Senior College website, and a brief inspection will show you the range of topics. The website address is: www.seniorcollege.utoronto.ca/.

[Full article included at end](#)

A Word From The New Editor



Let me introduce yourself myself as the new editor of the Newsletter Bulletin, the successor of Ken Rea whose contributions to Senior College, which go far beyond the newsletter, are both considerable and distinguished. I am a mathematician who was an undergraduate during the placid fifties and joined the faculty during the more tempestuous sixties.

I am struck by how much our university has changed in so many respects over the last half century, and hope that one of the functions of this Newsletter is to provide a forum in which members of the College can reflect on the changes and what has been gained or lost.

I hope that you will find this Newsletter Bulletin a convenient way to keep up with the many activities of the College and of those who constitute it. Readers are invited to submit their own short articles, announcements and news.

Ed Barbeau

REPORTS

Senior College Annual Report: 2016-2017 By Peter H. Russell

This is the first annual report I have written, and it is ironic that it is a report on Senior College in my final year as its Principal – indeed, its founding Principal. I and my colleagues who established the College in 2009 were too busy getting the College up and running in its early years to do annual reports. But it is now clear that Senior College has a life beyond its founders and can benefit from having an annual account of its activities and development.

Full article included at end

Report of Research Committee

Daphne Maurer, Chair & Vice Principal (Academic)

Members: Cornelia Baines, Scott Rogers, Trevor Levere

May 28, 2017

This year the College introduced a program of small research grants to assist in the costs of Fellows' ongoing scholarship. There were five applications submitted for the December 31st deadline, with requests for funding totalling \$12,324. The available budget for this round was \$5000.

The Research Committee, comprised of Cornelia Baines, Scott Rogers, Trevor Levere and myself, solicited two external reviews for each proposal and read them carefully ourselves. Because of the number and quality of submissions and our limited total budget of \$5000, we were unable to provide funds to all the proposals and when we could, it is only a partial grant to aid with the

research. The grants are for expenses in the year beginning April 1, 2017.

Full article included at end

Symposium Committee

Suzanne Hidi & Daphne Maurer, Co-Chairs

Members: John Kennedy, Peter Russell, Merrijoy Kellner, Scott Rogers, Harold Atwood, Cornelia Baines, Larry Bourne, Ken Rae

May 28, 2017

The Symposium took place at the Faculty Club on 6 on the theme of The New Technology: Good, Bad or Just Different? There were 8 speakers and 125 attendees, including a table of students from the University-in-the-Community program, invited at no charge. A few students/unemployed were also admitted at no charge. A video of the event will be available for distribution.

Full article included at end

Save the date for Senior College's 13th Annual Symposium.

Topic: The all-day event will center on
Inequality: Causes and Consequences

Date: Thursday, April 5th, 2018.

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

More information will be provided in January.

SENIOR SCHOLARS ANNUAL



***SENIOR
SCHOLARS
ANNUAL***

2016

A Compendium of Publications, Honours, Awards, Invited Lectures, Teaching Activities and Other Significant Accomplishments of Fellows, Retired Faculty, Librarians, and Senior Administrators of the University of Toronto

This compilation presents a sample of the ongoing scholarly activities of Fellows, retired faculty, librarians, and senior administrators at the University of Toronto. Information was collected in 2017 by the Senior College Centre under the guidance of Professor Daphne Maurer. Items are in alphabetical order by surname, and date from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. The variety of citation styles reflects standard practice for each discipline. The document will remain available on the website of the Senior College Centre.

[See Senior College website for contents](#)

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.

List of lectures on website

Points of Prevention By John David Stewart

Vaccination Immunization: The Sharpest Arrows in Both Personal and Public Health Prevention

When you were born one of your first critical tasks that they probably did not tell you about was to inform and train your immune system to distinguish between the "good guys" and the "bad guys".

Full article included at end

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.

Full article included at end

Counter-memory: Fictions of 150? by Shiraz Dossa

It is a cliché that Canada is damn nice. In fact, its niceness is fabled in the Canadian mind. It seems to be a political principle for us. Indeed, Canadian identity presupposes "niceness". Yet as the Canadian novelist Richler noted, this sort of fame is "world famous" only in Canada. Its truth is not universally conceded. Richler, to the contrary, discerned "apathy" and "envy".

Caution for Retirees! Contracts for Rental Retirement Residences in Ontario

By Anne-Marie Ambert,
Ph.D.

Generally, seniors who are looking to move into a rental Retirement Residence, whether for Independent living or Assisted Living, tend to look at everything, from the location, food, staff, activities, and accommodations--but there is one key question they never ask: **Can I see the contract I would sign?**

Full article included at end

Honours

Daphne Maurer received an honorary degree and delivered the convocation address at the Convocation of the Faculty of Science at McMaster University on June 16, 2017. The citation printed in the Convocation program read as follows:

Full article included at end

In Memoriam, 2016-2017

[Michael Bliss \(May 18, 2017\)](#): Michael Bliss, historian and University Professor was considered as "one of Canada's most prominent public intellectual" produced 14 books on political, medical and business history and frequently (and sometimes controversially) contributed to public debate of Canadian affairs.

[Merritt Davis \(July 22, 2017\)](#): he led an accomplished life as a professional engineer, highway and vehicle safety expert, and Professor at UoFT.

[Gordon Michael Froggatt \(July 15, 2016\)](#): Gordon Froggatt was a cardiologist at Sunnybrook Hospital and professor of medicine.

His contribution to medical training was to ensure that students entering the medical profession had excellent clinical experience.

[Calvin Gotlieb \(October 16, 2016\)](#): Calvin Gotlieb is considered to be the father of computing in Canada. He was a cofounder of the Computer Centre at the University of Toronto in 1948 and established the

Full article included at end

In December, 2016, it was announced that James Bruce Falls was inducted as a Member into the Order of Canada in recognition of his achievements as an ornithologist and conservationist. He was noted for his research on birds and mammals at the University of Toronto, and in 2012 received the Distinguished Ornithologist Award from the Ontario Field Ornithologists.

Philanthropy

Jonathan Dostrovsky, professor emeritus in the Department of Physiology and in the Faculty of Dentistry established the Jonathan Dostrovsky Award in Neuroscience to support graduate students in the Collaborative Program in Neuroscience.

first university computer science department in Canada shortly afterwards.

[Shuichi Nagata \(July 11, 2016\)](#): Professor Nagata's fieldwork including the study of the Hopi people and indigenous societies of Malaysia. He served for a time as chair of the Anthropology Department.

[Orest Rudzik \(December 8, 2016\)](#): Orest Rudzik taught English at University College from 1961 until 1986. He established a second career when he was called to the bar in Ontario in 1975, and was an active member of the Canadian Ukrainian Committee.

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/>

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A Message from the Principal, September 2017



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Our mainstay is the program of weekly seminar meetings, held at the Faculty Club, and embracing a wide range of topics. The Program Committee, led by Jim Gurd (scientist) and Linda Hutcheon (humanities), makes a determined effort to recruit seminar speakers who have done interesting work of general interest, and who are able to present talks that appeal to our multi-disciplinary assemblage. These meetings are open to all members of Senior College, and there is the option of lunch at the Faculty Club for those who are both physically and intellectually hungry. The Fall program can be found on the Senior College website, and a brief inspection will show you the range of topics. The website address is: seniorcollege.utoronto.ca

In tandem with this program, we have two other major forums for intellectual engagement: a series of monthly colloquia, designed to foster in-depth discussion of selected topics; and the annual one-day Symposium, built each year around an issue of high importance. This year, the topic selected for the annual Symposium is “Inequality”, and it will take place early in April 2018.

We also try to set up “field trips” each year to locations of interest, and on occasion to other countries. The most recent expedition (March 29th, 2017) was to the Centre for Applied Genomics, located in the Hospital for Sick Children’s new research building, the Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning at 686 Bay Street (a very impressive example of today’s “big science” endeavours). This trip was initiated by Jim Gurd following a Senior College lecture by Steve Scherer

(Director of the Centre) on genomics of autism spectrum disorder. Our tour group of 14 Senior College members was guided and instructed by Richard Wintle (Assistant Director, Centre for Applied Genomics). We were in turn guided to the machines (compact and expensive) that disassemble and report the composition of the genetic material, to roomfuls of analysts poring over the data spewing forth from the machines, and to a large room of computers, noisy in their labours, that enable the collection of results and the subsequent analysis of the enormous amount of information being generated. Some of us were inspired to send our genetic material (from collected drooled saliva) to “23 and Me” or one of the other companies set up for genetic analysis. Not infrequently, unknown relatives surfaced, and we were surprised to learn that about 2% of genes derived from the Neanderthals commonly show up in those with European ancestry. (My own sample was at the high end, about 3%, and I am trying to figure out which of my characteristics might be attributable to this ancient gift). We welcome suggestions for additional “field trips” for this academic year.

The above programs, and several other others, fulfill one of the objectives of Senior College: support and stimulation of ongoing scholarly and creative activities of retired faculty and librarians. We also support outreach activities, including University in the Community which mounts educational programs for community members who have not had the opportunity to attend university courses; sponsorship events; and a Speakers Bureau. These and other outreach activities contribute to another of our objectives: engagement with the community at large.

A more complete account of our activities and accomplishments over the past 9 years (since Senior College began) can now be accessed in a report by our retiring Principal, Peter Russell. His report, which is clearly and engagingly presented, will be installed on the Senior College website.

We hope to see retired faculty at our events, and we encourage applications for Fellow status, since this enterprise (one model for faculty and librarians who have retired) will continue to succeed if we enrol new younger members who will join the Fellowship and keep up the momentum of the College.

With best regards,
Harold Atwood, Principal

Senior College Annual Report: 2016-2017

Senior College Annual Report: 2016-2017
By Peter H. Russell

This is the first annual report I have written, and it is ironic that it is a report on Senior College in my final year as its Principal – indeed, its founding Principal. I and my colleagues who established the College in 2009 were too busy getting the College up and running in its early years to do annual reports. But it is now clear that Senior College has a life beyond its founders and can benefit from having an annual account of its activities and development.

Changing of the Guard

2016-17 was a year in which Senior College underwent a changing of the guard. In June, the Senate (Senior College's AGM) approved a slate proposed by the Nominating Committee that designated Vice-Principal (Admin) Harold Atwood to succeed me as Principal and Jim Gurd, Co-Chair of the Program Committee, to succeed Harold as Vice-Principal (Admin). The other College officers – Daphne Maurer (Vice-Principal Academic), Charles Chaffey (Bursar) and Edna Hajnal (Registrar) – remain in place. We have the hard work of the Nominating Committee headed by Merrijoy Kelner to thank for this good blend of change and continuity.

The Nominating Committee with the help of Vice-Principal Atwood also did excellent work in developing a slate of candidates for the College Council and finding Fellows to strengthen the College's Standing Committees. I would like to welcome Milton Charlton and Mary Finlay as new members of Council and thank John Dirks for his many years of service to the College as a Council member. Also, with much sadness, let me acknowledge the sudden death of Orest Rudzik who as a member of Council gave so much to the College through his intellectual energy and the remarkable range of his scholarly interests.

Academic Program

Over the last few years, Senior College's academic meetings have developed a steady rhythm of large weekly seminars on Wednesday mornings in the fall and Wednesday afternoons in the winter, monthly colloquia and the Annual Symposium in April. Thanks to the great work of the committees that organize these activities the three elements of the program had excellent years.

The weekly seminars at the Faculty Club continue to attract forty to fifty people each week, most of whom are Fellows. Members of Senior College who have not chosen to become Fellows also attend and are asked to pay a small \$10 charge towards the cost of the seminars. The seminars have proved to be a good recruiting ground for Fellows. The schedule of speakers put together by the Program Committee headed by Jim Gurd and Linda Hutcheon, this year, as in the past, was systematically multidisciplinary, with a good balance of humanities, natural science and social science topics. The fall term, for example, included presentations by Alan Bewell on how the ecological impact of British colonialism on global natures is reflected in English literature, Audrey Macklem on Canadian immigration policy and Steve Scherer on the use of genetic research in the treatment of autism. A group of Fellows followed up Professor Scherer's talk with a visit to the Hospital for Sick Children's Centre for Applied Genetic where downtown Toronto. Professor Richard White took us on a fascinating tour of this new research facility in downtown Toronto.

Attendance at the monthly colloquia is capped at 15 – first come, first served. The smaller number permits sustained discussion of topics that are usually fairly controversial. This year ageism, the military use of drones, and the modern graphic novel were among the topics discussed and debated. No “expert” gives a talk or leads the discussion. All present have read some of the selected books and articles. The exchange of ideas and insights is free flowing, often opening up sharp differences that are always respectfully explored. I have found these colloquia some of the most stimulating discussions I have had in over 60 years at the University. Martin Klein who, during the year, succeeded Peter Hajnal as chair of the Colloquia Committee, had the good sense to recognize that Senior College need not follow the teaching term schedule and extended the colloquia into June.

Once again, and for the eleventh time, the Annual Symposium Committee, co-chaired this year by Suzanne Hidi and Daphne Maurer, produced a smash hit. The theme this year was The New Technology: Good, Bad or Just Different? Many aspects of how technology is changing us and the world we live in were covered by an outstanding roster of speakers. A full house of 125, including a table of students from the University-in-the-Community Program, filled the Faculty Club dining room. Their appreciation of the event is evident in the very positive evaluations the attendees left with us. And once again, I want to record the College’s thanks to the Bank of Montreal for its generous support of the Symposium.

Other Academic Activities

Senior College’s creation of a digital history/encyclopaedia of the University of Toronto is now focusing on life-writing by university scholars who had much to do with building the scholarly disciplines and institutions that have made the U of T one of the world’s leading research universities. Ken Rea and Sandy Gregor who have led this project from the start intend to work with a committee of Fellows with the aim of increasing participation in the project.

Support for the Workers Educational Association’s University-in-the-Community is Senior College’s major outreach activity. UitC organizes courses for Torontonians who for various reasons have been unable to attend or finish university. The courses are humanities-based and aim at enabling students to learn more about the world they live in so that they are better able to address the challenges they face day to day. Senior College find speakers for the program and assists with its administration and fund-raising. Innis College provides classroom space.

This year the program, with a student enrollment of 34, focussed on how Toronto from its earliest days coped with issues such as public transport, policing, public health and immigration as it became a big city. The Program’s Administrator, Joanne Bennett-McKay, supported by a Senior College committee chaired by Donald Gillies, was able to recruit an outstanding roster of speakers, that included City of Toronto archivist Carol-Radford Grant, transportation guru, Steve Munro, and former city political leaders John Sewell and George Smitherman.

UitC, for the third year, also offered a course at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health called Thought for Food (CAMH), a course on all aspects of what we eat. This course has been so successful that CAMH plans to take it over as one of its internal programs.

During the year, Donald Gilles led efforts to make UitC a joint Ryerson University/University of Toronto program with a view to putting the program on a firmer, financial footing. In the end, Ryerson declined to become a partner with U of T. However, University of Toronto Provost Cheryl Regher has committed to providing \$25,000 to support the program for the next three years. That funding guarantees the program can operate until 2020 on a one term basis. Whether it can continue to be mounted in both terms, as UitC has done up to now, will depend on the fund-raising efforts of the

Workers Education Association and Senior College. This year UitC received two substantial grants from private donors that helped to keep the program going.

As a result of fund-raising over the last three years, this year the College was able to invite its Fellows to apply for small research grants.

Applications were assessed by a peer-review process designed by former Vice-Principal Cornelia Baines and now administered by Vice-Principal (academic) Daphne Maurer with the support of a small committee. This year, with a limited total budget of \$5000, the Research Committee was able to award partial funding to four Fellows: Judith Friedland for research on research assistants' understanding of the ethical guidelines governing research with humans, Peter Hajnal for his work on how change from the G8 to the G7 impacted the G20, David Kenny for a book on the dental school at the University of Western Ontario, and Kenneth Norwich for research applying quantum physics to perception.

Senior College Fellows' interest in obtaining grants to support their research demonstrates that for a significant number of retired faculty and librarians their professional and scholarly activities do not terminate with retirement. In retirement, senior scholars have more freedom to explore new fields within their discipline and sometimes pursue inquiries entirely outside their discipline. The Senior Scholars Annual listing of retirees' honours and awards, publications, guest lectures, conference presentations and community service shows how misleading the word "retirement" can be for those who collect a pension cheque rather than a salary cheque. The Annual for many years was assembled by Cornelia Baines. This year Daphne Maurer took charge of it, following Dr. Baines's format. While the Annual can only report the work of academic retirees who volunteer to provide information to the College, it is still an account of a scholarly community that is highly productive in so-called retirement.

The suite of rooms on the fourth floor at 256 McCaul that began as the Academic Retirement Centre (ARC) in 2009 was merged into Senior College two years ago on the recommendation of a Provostial review of the Centre. The Centre functions as the services branch of Senior College. It is under the direction of a Board of Management chaired by the Vice-Provost (Academic Programs). During this, its second year as part of Senior College, the Centre continued, with the help of volunteers, to be available five days a week to academic retirees as a phone-in and drop-in centre.

The Centre also continues to operate a Speakers Bureau which makes senior U of T scholars available for speaking to community groups. The Centre's lounge continues to serve as a show-case for retiree art. This year the University remodelled the very underused carrels room so that it can be a meeting place for the Board of Management, the College Council and its committees. The monthly colloquia now take place in this room rather than at the Faculty Club. RALUT's former office has been turned into an Executive room for the College's officers. Suite 412 at 256 McCaul has become very much Senior College headquarters.

With all academic retirees automatically becoming Members of Senior College, the Centre has the potential of being a much more active and used facility than it is at present. With that in mind, the Centre's Board of Management has asked me to chair a Strategic Plan Committee. The other members of the Committee are Derek Allen, Harold Atwood, Patricia Bellamy and Kent Weaver. Among the additional activities suggested for the Centre are instruction in the various kinds of social media, sharing hobbies or non-professional interests, and assisting Faculties, Centres and Departments in organizing retiree social events. The Committee aims to have a draft ready for consideration by the College by the end of 2017.

Members and Fellows

2016-17 was the first full year after the merger of ARC and Senior College, and Senior College's new Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Toronto. Under the new MOA, all retired faculty and librarians, past, present and future, are Members of Senior College with the option of paying a fee to become a Fellow. We had no idea how many of these "automatic" Members would choose to become Fellows of the College. As it turns out, not many did so in the first year. Our Registrar, Edna Hajnal, reported to the AGM in June that eight new Fellows had been added to the 99 continuing Fellows.

Under the leadership of Edna and the Registrar's Committee the College has tried its best to contact faculty and librarians who are considering retirement to tell them about the benefits if becoming a Fellow of Senior College. In April, Harold Atwood, Daphne Maurer and I made a presentation about Senior College to a retirement seminar at Simcoe Hall. Later in the month I spoke to a retirement seminar on the Mississauga campuses, and Harold Atwood and I addressed a combined Scarborough and main campus retiree meeting at Simcoe Hall. We have also arranged with Steve Dyce at Human Resources for the inclusion of information about the College in general mailings to pensioners. Nonetheless, many of us who are active in the College are constantly bumping into retired colleagues who say they have never heard of Senior College.

A change in the fee structure may help to recruit more Members to the Fellowship of the College. Thanks to Daphne Maurer's suggestion and Charles Chaffey's careful budgeting, the College has been able to abandon a differentiated schedule of Fellow's fees and have a uniform fee of \$190 that covers both Faculty Club membership and expenses incurred in mounting the College's academic program. This represents a significant reduction of the fee for new Fellows and a modest addition to the fee paid by the College's earliest Fellows.

With full houses at virtually all of our academic events, the College is not sweaty about expanding the number of Fellows. But we are concerned, and should be concerned, about the age distribution among the Fellows. A considerable majority of Fellows are over 75 years of age. It is important for the College to attract younger retirees to lead the College in the future.

Administration and Communication

The College has benefitted again this year from the skilful and friendly work of the College Administrator, Vennese Croasdaile. Her expertise in computer technology and the internet has, among other things, enabled the College to mount a new web-site and improve its handling of registrations for events. Vennese has worked effectively with the College's many committee chairs in helping them manage their programs and projects.

Harold Atwood, with a much better eye for efficient administration than I ever had, has helped Vennese with identifying priorities and managing her time. And there is just never enough time to discharge all of the responsibilities – short-term and longer-term – of the College Administrator, even though it has become a full-time position, and has the help of a number of trained volunteers. One of the Administrator's new responsibilities, and one for which Vennese is especially well-qualified, is organizing the College's archives. I have been working with her and Tye Klumpenhouwer, an archivist at the Robarts Library, to establish a Senior College archive that fits into the University's archival system.

During the year, Ken Rea who has served as the College's Co-ordinator of Communications since the College's founding, let us know that he was stepping down from that responsibility. Ken's work

as our Communications Co-ordinator has been an extraordinary benefit to the College. It is a measure of the breadth of his contributions that he will be replaced by a "Communications Consortium". Ed Barbeau has taken on the role of Editor of the online News Bulletin. Jonathan Dostrovsky is now the College's advisor on internet communications, and will serve as a technical editor for the Encyclopaedia/History project's website.

One cloud hangs over the operation of Senior College – funding for a full time Administrator is not secure. In recent years funding for a full time position has been provided by the University of Toronto paying 60% and the University of Toronto Faculty Association 40%. UTFA is committed to funding 40% of the Administrator's salary until September 2018. But UTFA has put the College on notice that 2017-18 will be the last year it will contribute to the Administrator's salary. We know for sure that the Administrator's responsibilities add up to much more than a full-time job, and it is a University staff position. The College has excellent relations with UTFA and the University Administration. We do not want to jeopardize those good relations by intervening in a disagreement between them. It is my fervent hope that good sense will prevail and full funding will be secured for our Administrator so that we do not have to roll back College activities. What a shame it would be for the College after achieving so much to be forced to retreat.

Relations with the Faculty Club, UTFA and the University Administration

Again this year, Senior College has enjoyed the Faculty Club as the venue for many of its events. Manager Leone Pepper and Assistant Manager Pierre Le Bouedec are most helpful in ensuring that we have excellent and congenial facilities for our meetings. The availability of good food and drink as part of our events enhances the social side of the College which is so essential to making our members truly a community of scholars. There was full support for a College donation to installing a new entrance door to the main lounge that will dampen noises from the hall during our seminars. I would like to thank John Youson, a Fellow of the College, who continues to serve on the Faculty Club Board and helps us maintain good, mutually beneficial, relations with the Club.

This year we strengthened the College's relations with the Faculty Association. Cynthia Messenger, UTFA's new President, organized several events to which Senior College members were invited, including a stimulating discussion of ending mandatory retirement in 2004. Senior College has also begun to communicate information about its events to the full membership of UTFA. Kent Weaver, who chairs UTFA's Retired Members Committee, and Vice-Principal Atwood have had much to do with enhancing these connections with UTFA.

It has been a pleasure to work with Professor Sioban Nelson, the senior University of Toronto officer whose jurisdiction as Vice-Provost Academic Programs includes Senior College. Busy as she is, Sioban is always available when needed to sort out issues in a friendly and helpful manner. Her participation at meetings of the College's Executive Committee and Council, and chairing of the Senior College Centre, enables the College to function effectively in the complex U of T environment. The other senior University officer who has been most attentive to the College's needs on a day-to-day basis is Andrea Russell, Director, and Academic Affairs, in the Provost's office. As Vennese's official supervisor she has met regularly with Vennese and, among other things, has guided her through the intricacies of financial reporting.

Over a number of years, through the wise and sensitive help it received from Jasvir Nijjar in the Division of Advancement, the College was able to carry out a successful fund-raising program. Jasvir has recently moved up to a more senior position in Advancement. Her replacement, Brady Tupper, has already met with us several times and we are looking forward to working with her in launching the College's next fund-raising effort. This will require rethinking the purposes and priorities of Senior College fund-raising.

They Will Be Missed

I have already mentioned the loss of Orest Rudzik who contributed so much to the College's academic program. Last summer we lost another Senior College giant, Joe Whitney. Joe was a dynamic force in the College from its very beginning. Ever the geographer, Joe took the lead in organizing "outings" of all kinds for the Fellows – some local, such as a visit to the University's ecology lab at Joker's Hill, and other expeditions to such far off places as Iceland and Haida Gwaii. Last summer Joe was organizing a group of Fellows to register for the 75th Anniversary of the crafting of the Atlantic Charter by Churchill and Roosevelt in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland – an event in which I was deeply involved. Joe's untimely death meant that he and Diana were not there last August. But his organizing energy meant that a number of Fellows did attend. The College will also very much miss Michael Bliss whose capacity for lively, but always friendly, debate animated many College meetings in our early days.

For me the biggest downside of being Principal of Senior College is losing so many of the new and good friends one gets to know in the College. But I guess that goes with the territory.

Saying Good-Bye

Let me close by thanking all who came to say good-bye to me as Principal at the Faculty Club luncheon and the Solstice Party in June. Special thanks to Vennese for her wonderful photographic momento of my years as Principal and to Suzanne Hidi for her generous hospitality in once again hosting the Solstice Party.

Good-bye to you all- as Principal. Its been a ball. God and the healthcare system willing, you will still see me around enjoying the life of Senior College.

Research Committee Report

Report of Research Committee
Daphne Maurer, Chair & Vice Principal (Academic)
Members: Cornelia Baines, Scott Rogers, Trevor Levere
May 28, 2017

This year the College introduced a program of small research grants to assist in the costs of Fellows' ongoing scholarship. There were five applications submitted for the December 31st deadline, with requests for funding totalling \$12,324. The available budget for this round was \$5000.

The Research Committee, comprised of Cornelia Baines, Scott Rogers, Trevor Levere and myself, solicited two external reviews for each proposal and read them carefully ourselves. Because of the number and quality of submissions and our limited total budget of \$5000, we were unable to provide funds to all the proposals and when we could, it is only a partial grant to aid with the research. The grants are for expenses in the year beginning April 1, 2017.

Grants were made to:

- Peter Hajnal for research on the impact of the change from the G8 to the G7 on the functioning of the G20
- David Kenny for a book on the history of the dental school at Western University
- Kenneth Norwich for research applying quantum physics to perception
- Judith Friedland for research on research assistants' understanding of the ethical principles and guidelines governing research with humans

After the experience of this first round of grants, the Research Committee recommended two changes to the guidelines:

- a. Specify a 30 day period for appeals.
- b. Change the timing of the grants to cover a calendar year beginning January 1, xxx, with proposals due by September 30 of the preceding year.

There were a lot of questions this year about the date when expenses would start to be covered. In fact, the Committee finished its work in March and started the grants one month earlier than specified in the current guidelines (on April 1 instead on May 1). To avoid ambiguity, we think it better to align the grants with the calendar year and suspect that anticipating needs in September will be no harder than anticipating them in December.

At the April Council meeting:

- (1) the change of timing was approved, with the next competition to have an application deadline of September 30, 2018 for grants beginning January 1, 2019.
- (2) it was recommended that the appeal process be eliminated, since it involves the same adjudicators as made the original decision and there would be no additional funds available to disperse.

Symposium Report

Symposium
Suzanne Hidi & Daphne Maurer, Committee
Members: John Kennedy, Peter Russell, Merrijoy Kellner, Scott Rogers, Harold Atwood, Co-Chairs,
Cornelia Baines, Larry Bourne, Ken Rae
May 28, 2017

The Symposium took place at the Faculty Club on 6 on the theme of The New Technology: Good, Bad or Just Different? There were 8 speakers and 125 attendees, including a table of students from the University-in-the-Community program, invited at no charge. A few students/unemployed were also admitted at no charge. A video of the event will be available for distribution.

We were pleased to once again receive a \$5000 donation from the Bank of Montreal. The 100 paid registrations comprised 85 at the early bird rate of \$45 and 15 at the regular rate of \$50, for a total of \$4,575 in registration income. The bill from the Faculty Club of \$6976.17 has been paid. After paying the other expenses (media services for video recording, honoraria for the musicians, books for the speakers), we estimate that there will be a surplus of about \$500.

The evaluations were quite positive: 9 ratings of 5 (the highest), 15 ratings of 4, and 2 ratings of 3. Every talk was mentioned at least twice in the section on which aspects were most interesting. People liked the variety of talks and the food!

There were a number of suggestions for improving future symposia: decrease the number of speakers (and keep them within their time allocation) so that there is time for more discussion, improve the sound quality, increase the size of type on slides and nametags, and eliminate AV glitches.

This year we rented the AV equipment from the Faculty Club and contracted with Media Services for the audio systems and the video recording .A suggestion for next year is to hire Media Services to handle all aspects of AV so that they are responsible for troubleshooting any problems.

The Symposium Committee met on May 30 to consider the topics for next year and decided on:

Inequality: Origins and Consequences

Alexander Gregor was invited to join the committee because he was instrumental in suggesting this topic.

Points of Prevention John David Stewart

Points of Prevention
By John David Stewart

Vaccination The Sharpest Arrows in Both Personal and Public Health Prevention

Immunization:

When you were born one of your first critical tasks that they probably did not tell you about was to inform and train your immune system to distinguish between the “good guys” and the “bad guys”. The good are the friendly helpful organisms that we now collectively call the “microbiome” and include your own tissues. The bad are the disease producing agents.

My Scottish grandfather a university professor used to lecture medical students saying that we you first get up in the morning you are to remind yourself because your eye can not see them, that the world is more or less covered by a thin film of little creatures, some of which are trying to kill you. Your job is to kill them first.

We are born with essentially two immune defense systems. A wonderfully useful so called “Innate System” that comes preprogrammed or prewired and a very sophisticated “Adaptive System” that can be informed and trained to defend you from relatively new or shall we say mutated agents, that you as part of the next generation could face.

So then how do we carry out the training of this adaptive immune system? As infants we put almost everything into our mouths and thus begin to inform our defense system about the nature, which is the molecular structure of the micro-organisms around us. Also we begin to make “decisions” as to what is me, self and what is “other”, not me and to somehow identify the friendly, microbiome organisms.

As we were engaged in this important task our nurturing parents had us “vaccinated”, a very sharply focused, no pun intended, further training ground for your adaptive immune system. That by presenting unique cellular and molecular identifiers, structures that belong to a specific disease causing agent, akin to fingerprinting, to your defence system so that it “learns” to construct efficient cellular and molecular defences against the specific agent.

Your defense system also operates a library, where it develops so called “memory” cells that will be rapidly and automatically accessed should the “real” disease causing agent turn up in the future resulting in a pre-emptive strike against the pathogen.

Now for most of us who have been fortunate enough to survive to be seniors, for which there is no clearly defined nor accepted definition, our adaptive immune systems require further training against some notable pathological agents.

So, more directly to the point, what are the vaccinations/immunizations that are important for seniors?

The short version can simply be stated, **Pneumovax, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Shingles, Influenza** and possibly **Polio**.

We often forget about the diseases these vaccine injections prevent as they are customarily not in the daily news and no one you know has had any of them also if they did probably would not mention it.

Pneumonia, the disease commonly called pneumonia, is a serious lung infection, as you already know can be caused by many different agents including the Influenza Virus, Pneumococcus Bacteria and many other agents including some moulds.

Pneumovax 13 and **Pneumovax 23** are the specific vaccines' for the bacterial edition, the numbers 13 and 23 represent the number of subtypes covered by the injection, the 13 variety as currently given to infants in Ontario, the 23 variety is provided primarily for older folk. It is important for each of us to know which, if any, we have had.

Tetanus, immunization must be repeated every 10 years as there is a tendency for our adaptive system to "forget" the prearranged attack/defense plans. The causative agent is found in soil, dirt so that people who have a 'dirty' wound from say gardening and are treated by a nurse practitioner, medical doctor or the like are often given the Tetanus booster as most people do not recall their Tetanus Shot. Diphtheria, Pertussis and Polio vaccines have been included in the single Tetanus shot from time to time with great variation over the years to the extent that most of us, including myself have no recollection of what has been included with the Tetanus Shots that I know I have had.

Pertussis, is the primary cause of what on the street is called "**Whooping Cough**". Most commonly affects infants and young children and is sometimes fatal for those under one year. There was a resurgence in 2015 as a result new vaccines were developed. The primary reason for seniors to be revaccinated every ten years is that babies often got pertussis from family members including visiting or care giving grandparents.

Diphtheria, a bacterial infection that before vaccination 50% of those infected died. As a reminder the agent produces a toxin that destroys healthy tissues, primarily of the respiratory system so rapidly the within three days the dead tissue accumulates to the extent that it significantly interferes with swallowing and breathing. The toxin can enter the blood causing heart, kidney and nerve damage. Even with antibiotic treatment **one in ten will die**.

Polio, most adults do not need to be revaccinated except under specific personal circumstances as they were well immunized as children. However, some Tetanus booster shots have also contained Polio vaccine over the years with no adverse effects.

Shingles, how this late manifestation of "Chicken Pox" got its name is shrouded in mystery and in fact is of little significance, the essential point is that there is an effective vaccine named after the causative virus, Varicella Zoster, "Zostavax". This is the virus that in our younger days caused what we all called "chicken pox" or as one of my sons said it should be called "chicken spots".

Zostavax, as many of you know is a single shot immunization that will for most prevent the disorder from becoming manifest, in others it will markedly reduce the acute severity and prevent the oft experienced chronic pain that many, who have had it call "debilitating".

Of critical importance is that Shingles often recurs, some people have experienced the discomfort three and four times, so vaccination after the first episode will go a long way to preventing, mitigating a second. As many know Shingles is a result of, for some still uncertain reason the genetic information for building the Chicken pox virus that has been shall we say, hiding out in spinal nerve

cells activates builds new virus particles that migrate down nerve tracts to the skin where their presence precipitates a very acute painful inflammatory reaction.

Now a **different danger**, folks who do not remember having chicken pox believe they are safe and do not need the vaccine. But they are at risk because in fact they experienced a very mild infection that was not explicitly diagnosed as chicken pox. **Thus it is highly advisable** to receive the Shingles Vaccine even if you have no record of nor can not recall being told you had it.

Influenza, known by most epidemic experts as the “King of Pathogens” for it’s record of worldwide pandemics, it’s persistence and rapid mutation. People will often tell you that “**they got the shot and still got the flu**”, studies of these events have shown that the agent or causative organism was most often not an influenza virus, sometimes the agent was in fact influenza but not the strain or variety that was included in that year’s vaccine.

There is work being done on developing a vaccine targeting part of the Virus who’s structure is relatively stable so that being immunized against this structure would most likely be a single injection lasting ten years.

Myself I am not prepared to **play roulette** with the wily Influenza Virus besides I want to increase my adaptive immunity system’s library whenever I can.

Finally a wise person has or will develop their own record of the Immunizations received, this is particularly important for international travel. The World Health Organization publishes the famous “Yellow Booklet” designed to keep all of your vaccination records in one place additionally it is internationally recognized. Your health care provider or travel clinic usually has supplies.

*Please feel comfortable in contacting me via d.stewart@utoronto.ca or jdstewartmd@gmail.com with any questions or comment.

Caution for Retirees! Contracts for Rental Retirement Residences in Ontario

Caution for Retirees! Contracts for Rental Retirement Residences in Ontario
By Anne-Marie Ambert, Ph.D.

Generally, seniors who are looking to move into a rental Retirement Residence, whether for Independent living or Assisted Living, tend to look at everything, from the location, food, staff, activities, and accommodations—but there is one key question they never ask: **Can I see the contract I would sign?** This mistake can have serious consequences because the contract assigns an apartment, a price, types of services received, issues of privacy or lack of, quality control, and so on.

Contracts are not necessarily standard and, with a few exceptions, are not subject to the scrutiny of any government body in Ontario.** Most rental Retirement Residences have a yearly contract that is renewed with a required one-month notice on either party for non-renewal. The good thing is that no one is locked in.

There are three parts to the fees retirees pay in these rented Residences: (a) a monthly rent which is largely based on the size and physical amenities of an apartment, studio, or room;

(b) a fee for meals and services, such as housekeeping, recreational and social activities, classes, nursing staff—which all residents can partake of.

and (c) an additional food fee for each additional occupant. For instance the second person in a couple has to pay an additional monthly \$ 500 to 1,000 for food and services where applicable.

SO WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR IN A CONTRACT?

1. The contract has to clearly give the prices for the rent, standard services, meals, and additional fee for each additional occupant of an apartment.

2. It should also include a detailed list for special non-standard services and facilities for which residents have to pay additional fees (examples: meals brought to the apartment, dispensing medicine).

3. Some Residences' standard service fees are the same for all apartments or units. In other Residences, the larger the apartment, the larger the "standard" service fees—which is a "what the market can bear" approach rather than an equitable one. In other words, a larger apartment can be charged three times the standard services fees assessed to a smaller unit, even though the residents in the larger unit may use far fewer of the services included. Ask the question: Are the services fees the same for every apartment size?

4. Be very concerned if your contract does not put the **exact size** (square footage) of your unit, along with its suite no and suite type (a one bedroom + den, for example), and a floor plan showing the **location**.

Potential residents at some of these institutions are given a floor plan with a square footage under which is written in very small print that one can barely read or may not notice “This plan is for illustrative purposes and actual dimensions may vary.” This is a warning sign. While a few square feet fewer is nothing to worry about, this italic can hide a 150 square feet difference—which will matter because the resident will be paying more for less. This constitutes pure misrepresentation of facts. This is akin to false advertising. **WHAT TO DO?**

. Ask for the real dimensions and have them inserted and signed in the appropriate area where the unit is described.

. Measure the unit yourself. If there is a difference, and it matters to you and your lifestyle, negotiate a lower price, especially if you have already visited and liked other Residences elsewhere (this gives you leverage);

. If this does not work, negotiate for a larger or small unit and, here as well, follow the above steps.

. You could even contact a Consumer Advocate at a television station, for instance, keeping in mind that you may need to look elsewhere for a pleasant place to live.

5. Another related problem is that a potential resident who is not satisfied with the above and wants either a smaller or a larger unit, may be offered a different unit temporarily from which he or she will move as soon as the unit the potential resident wants is free. One is often told: “You will be given precedence because you will already be a resident.”

Indeed, internal moves are frequent but the “given precedence” part often does not materialize: after all, it is not in the contract! Then the hapless resident may be forced to live in too small a place or too expensive a place for far longer than promised and may have to look elsewhere and move.

6. **Any promise** made by the “sales” person **should be put in writing** in the contract. Insist. (Even if the sales rep is “so nice” and becomes your “best friend.” They do not work for you but for the Retirement Residence.) For example: lower fees promised if you want to spend some months in Florida in the winter or go to the cottage in summer; or, if you have a special diet, make sure that they will have the gluten free bread or sugar free condiments for you.

WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO KNOW ABOUT CONTRACTS?

7. Most of these institutions refuse liability for anything that happens to residents. You slip on a wet floor and break your ankle? You trip on a loose carpet or on an irregular surface just outside the door and you break your hip, well, tough luck! They will sympathize with you and call an ambulance but they’re generally not legally responsible because the contract so states. If they have not done due diligence... it would take years in court to get results favorable to the resident or deceased resident. However, some residences, do lower or eliminate fees to show their good will after such incidents.

All residents are required to have a tenant’s home (and accidents) insurance, just as we normally do in our own homes.

8. If a resident requires more care and hires a caretaker from one of the many agencies he or she is referred to, the Residence generally does not check this caretaker’s credential nor the care received because this is a private transaction between you and that agency. Often, they don’t even check the care received by their own staff in the privacy of the residents’ apartments. (I assume that this is

different in long-term care facilities but I may be wrong.) Families have to be vigilant and, in some cases, there is no family.

9. Many Residences include a Privacy and Confidentiality Schedule. This generally occurs at the end of the contract and has to be signed. One of the vexatious clauses in effect declares that the signing resident allows for his or her photo or video to be used by the Residence or company for various promotional purposes without the resident's right to inspect or approve of the product or receive payment. I assume that a person can refuse to sign this clause, when it exists, and initial the refusal.

* Retirement residences can be either condo, life lease, or rental. The focus here is on rental. For life lease consult <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=10455>

**The two entities involved are the Landlord and Tenant Board (Residential Tenancies Act) and the Retirement Home Regulatory Authority (Retirement Home Act of 2010). But neither is very helpful in protecting residents legally, especially when it comes to contracts.

Anne-Marie Ambert, Ph.D.
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Feedback appreciated

Honours

Daphne Maurer received an honorary degree and delivered the convocation address at the Convocation of the Faculty of Science at McMaster University on June 16, 2017.

Daphne Maurer: Citation in the Convocation Program

Daphne Maurer is one of McMaster's Distinguished University Professors and has been an Emeritus Professor since 2013.

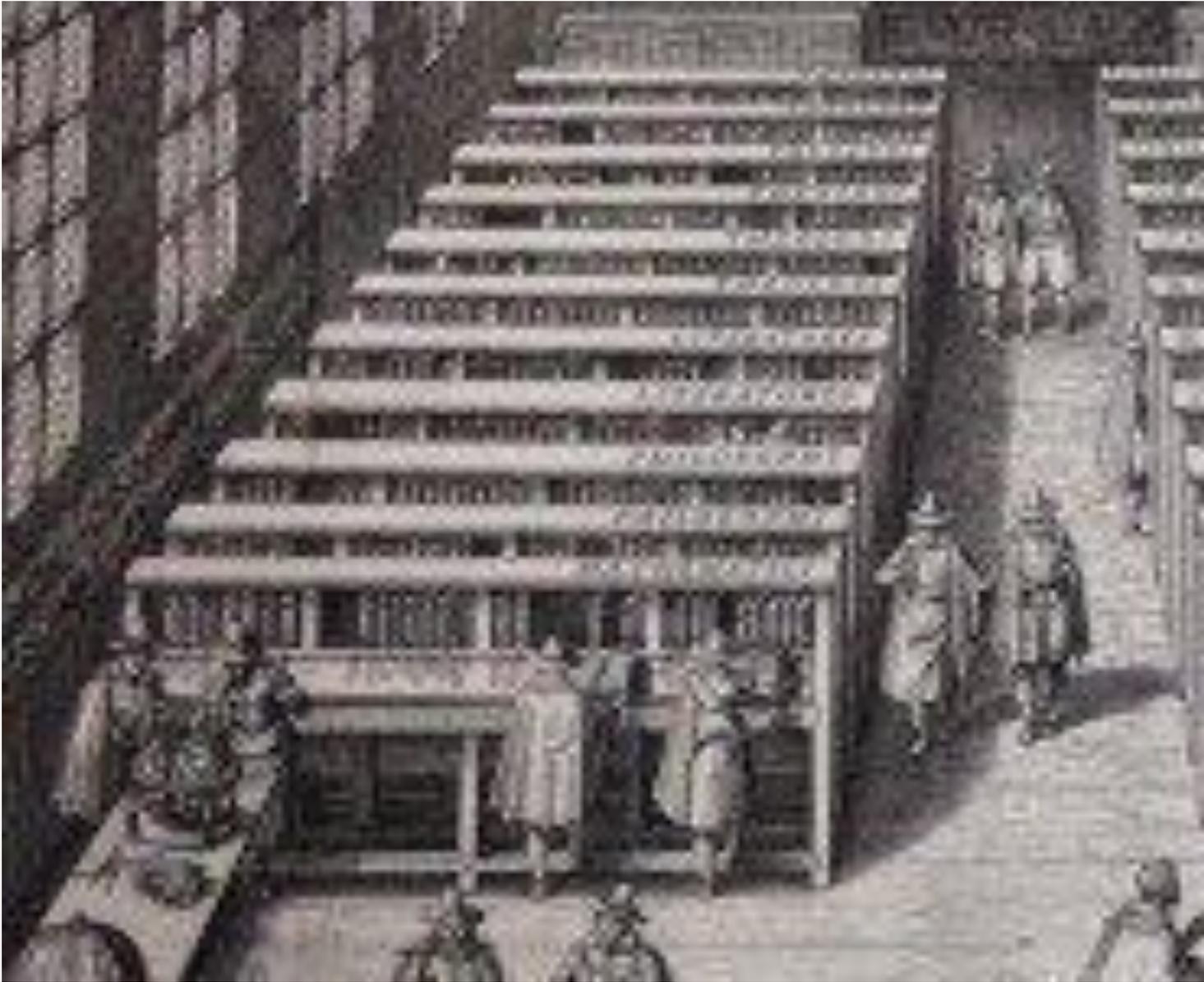
Throughout her career Maurer has studied how perception develops and matures, concentrating on the visual system and beginning at birth. Her work has reshaped our understanding of the infant's sensory world and of development, and has improved clinical care for children with eye problems. It has led to more than 200 scientific publications and a book, *The World of the Newborn*, co-authored with Charles Maurer, which won the Book Award of the American Psychological Association.

Maurer's research has been so unusual and significant that she has had continuous funding from Canadian granting agencies for more than 40 years, plus 14 years of funding in Canada from the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

Maurer is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of the Association for Psychological Science. In 2004, the Centre for Excellence for Early Childhood Development named her Researcher of the Year. She has received the McMaster University Faculty Association's Award for Outstanding Service and the David O. Hebb Distinguished Contribution Award from the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science.

This entry was posted in [Bulletin Fall 2017](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#).

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. A committee selects topics which participants, limited in number to about fifteen, are expected to become informed about prior to each meeting. A reading list, featuring readily-available sources, is circulated to participants ahead of time. Topics range over a wide variety of disciplines and much of the interest generated by this series arises from the opportunity it provides for Fellows from very different fields to interact with one another.

The Colloquiums are free for Fellows of Senior College, but RSVP is required.

Colloquium Schedule 2017-2018

All colloquia are scheduled for Thursday afternoon from 2 to 4 in the Senior College Conference Room on the 4th floor at 256 McCaul. We will try to set up optional lunches at a Baldwin Street restaurant before each colloquium. Registration is required in order to keep numbers down, but all members of Senior College are eligible to attend. Recommended readings will be distributed before every session.

September 28 – State Punishment and Private Prisons
Chairs: Charley and Daphne Maurer

October 26 – Modern Secular Challenges to Religious Traditions in India
Chairs: Peter Slater and Kathy O'Connell

This title is provisional. The exact title is still being discussed.
November 30 – What are the Roots of Discrimination against Women?
Chair: Margrit Eichler

January 18, 2018 – Alternatives to Reconciliation: Indigenous Peoples in Canada
Chairs: Peter Russell and Shiraz Dossa

February 15 – The Populist Challenge to the Universities
Chair: Harold Atwood

March 22 – Is the War on Drugs Over?
Chair: Daphne Maurer

We have not yet chosen subjects for April, May, and June.

It has also been decided to continue our summer program of more informal lunches in the Faculty. We had four such lunches last summer. No schedule will be arranged until the beginning of the summer.

Colloquium Reports for Winter 2017:

[Report on the Senior College Colloquium on Race – January 19, 2017](#)

[Report on the Senior College Colloquium on Post-Truth – February 23, 2017](#)

<http://seniorcollege.utoronto.ca/report-senior-college-colloquium-ageism-march-23-2017/>

Colloquium Reports for Fall 2016:

[Report on the Senior College Colloquium on the Military Use of Drones – October 13, 2016](#)

[Report on the Working Class Alienation and the Rise of Right-Wing Populism – November 10, 2016](#)

[Report on the Senior College Colloquium on the Modern Graphic Novel – December 1, 2016](#)

Upcoming Events

OCT

11

Wed

2017

[10:00 am SC Talks: Seeing, hearing, movin... @ The Faculty Club](#)

OCT

18

Wed

2017

[10:00 am SC Talks: Canada's Odyssey: A Co... @ The Faculty Club](#)

OCT

25

Wed

2017

[10:00 am SC Talks: Mathematical Stew — Wh... @ The Faculty Club](#)

[View Calendar](#)

Add

Counter-memory: Fictions of 150? by Shiraz Dossa

Counter-memory: Fictions of 150?
By Shiraz Dossa

It is a cliché that Canada is damn nice. In fact, its niceness is fabled in the Canadian mind. It seems to be a political principle for us. Indeed, Canadian identity presupposes “niceness”. Yet as the

Canadian novelist Richler noted, this sort of fame is “world famous” only in Canada. Its truth is not universally conceded. Richler, to the contrary, discerned “apathy” and “envy”. Canadians, he felt, were conformist and uncritical. (CBC Archives 1961) As the Canada 150 hype increases, there is little dissent. Since 1867, Canada has been ruled by settler tradition and culture. This cache of Euro memory justifies and sustains Canadian lives. Canada 150 celebrates this triumph and implicitly the subjugation of Indigenes.

Some “native” critics have reacted incisively. Kent Monkman (artist) and Pam Palmater (academic) intervened with candid ripostes. Rebuffing the 150 narrative as skewed, they articulated the Indigenes’ counter-memory. Comprising ancient truths, it confirms Indigenes’ sovereignty. It queries the founding of Canada story which authorises Indigenes’ dispossession. This canonical tale is narcissistic and amnesiac. It fully evinces the Canadian “faculty of oblivion” (Nietzsche). As Monkman argues, Canada’s “whole founding mythology is false, exclusive, one-sided”. In his *Shame and Prejudice* paintings, he slams Canada’s wars on the Indigenes and postulates “a counter-narrative to all the celebration”. As he says: “the polished image of the Canadian Mountie needed to be tarnished a little” (Whyte). Counter- memory exposes the fictions that sanction Indigenes’ debasement.

Settler rule over Indigenes was justified for the “natives” sake. But it elided the “founding fathers” hostility. Scott and Macdonald viewed “natives” with distaste. In fact, they considered Indigenes lesser races. Like fellow settlers they espoused the civilized-savage binary. Consequently, the Indian “savages” swiftly lost their authority and autonomy. Indeed, the “civilized” seized their land, wealth and children at will. The settlers enacted theft and dominance. Settler conduct was neither innocent nor selfless.

The intrinsic logic of a settler colony is erasure of “natives”. It is realized by destroying “native” sovereignty. *Apropos* “native” education, Macdonald enunciated this logic unashamedly. It was sanitized as the doctrine of assimilation: “When the school is on the Reserve, the child lives with his parents, who are savages, and though he may learn to read and write, his habits and training mode of thought are Indian, he is simply a savage who can read and write”. And as he asserted in Parliament “Indian children should be withdrawn as much as possible from parental influence, and the only way to do that would be to put them in central training industrial schools where they will acquire the habits and modes of thoughts of white men” (Paling). For “native” children, a grammar school education was excluded.

In the 1880s MacDonald fathered the Indian Acts, the Indian Reservations and the Indian Residential Schools that radically destabilized “native” lives, culture and values. Simultaneously, the Conservatives “were merciless in their use of food to control first nation populations”. As MacDonald said, “we cannot allow them to die for want of food ...We are doing all we can, by refusing food until the Indians are on the verge of starvation, to reduce expenses”. (Daschuk). The symbiotic link between the Indian Reservations and the Nazi camps is disturbing. Starvation was a tool of control and subjugation in both regimes. Was it coincidence that MacDonald was an aficionado of Aryanism? He “founded” Canada as an “Aryan” nation; he opposed “Asiatic and African” immigration. Such alien infusion, he said, will gut the “Aryan character of the future of North America”. (Stanley)

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reports (TRC) 2012 and 2015 fully dissected the terrible abuse, torture and deaths of “native” children in Indian Residential Schools over 150 years. After the shutting down of the last schools in the 1990’s, this abuse continued in the guise of Child Welfare Policies for “native” children in the 1970s and 1980s. Judge Edwin Kimelman, Chair of the Manitoba Inquiry Commission (1982), concluded that Child Welfare agencies just “seized” “native” children on false pretexts of abuse and neglect, transferred them to Quebec and the US and placed them with

“white families”. The “native” elders and parents were not consulted; nor were they notified about the location of their children.

In 1985 Judge Kimelman “unequivocally” stated that “cultural genocide has been taking place in a systematic, routine manner”. He stressed that the “seizure of native children escalated” as the Residential Schools were closed. The Judge saw a continuation of the Residential School model in the Child Welfare Policies for “native” children. Instead of “providing resources and services to Reserves”, Canada “removed the children from their homes ...[to] fill the market for them in the United States and Eastern Canada”. Judge Kimelman criticised the federal under-funding of “native” children on Indian Reserves (York). Canada rejected appeals by “native” leaders and Child Welfare scholars to equalize the funding for 30 – 40 years.

In 2007 the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (FNCFCS) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission, about the inequality in “child welfare services to First Nations children on-reserve” as discriminatory. The case did not begin until 2013 because the federal government “made multiple attempts to have the case thrown out”. It spent \$5.3 million to prevent Court hearings. In January 2016, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruled that Canada had “discriminated” against Indigene children on Reserves since 1867. It ordered the federal government to “cease the discriminatory practice and take measures to redress and prevent it”. The Justin Trudeau liberals accepted the Commission decision. Yet Trudeau has yet to fulfil the Commission order (August 2017).

On June 11, 2008, Mohawk female leader and past president of the Quebec Native Women’s Association, (QNWA) Ellen Gabriel, replied to Harper’s “apology” about Residential Schools. Gabriel criticised his elision of Indigenes’ dispossession; his failure to recall that “Canada has established itself as a rich and prosperous country at the expense and blood of Aboriginal peoples”. Since then she has condemned Canada’s “genocide” and pressed for reparations. Needless to say there has been no response by Canada. Fictions of 150?

Author

Shiraz Dossa (Phd – Tor) is a Fellow of Senior College U of T, and Research Professor in Political Science at St. Francis Xavier University, NS

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