

## THE SENIOR COLLEGE MESSENGER

Issue 7: May, 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.*

*Please submit contributions to the editor, Ed Barbeau at [barbeau@math.utoronto.ca](mailto:barbeau@math.utoronto.ca)*

## THE SENIOR COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM

**William Logan and Margaret Procter**, who chaired this year's symposium, provide a few highlights from the various sessions. (The full program is available at <https://seniorcollege.utoronto.ca/home/annual-symposium/17th-annual-symposium/> Recordings will be posted soon to the Senior College YouTube site.) Other attendees are invited to comment on their interpretations and tell us what else they learned from the talks and the question periods. How has the pandemic affected your teaching, research and other activities within the university? It is planned to post the symposium talks on the website.

The Senior College Symposium on "What have we learned from the pandemic?" was held on April 20, 2022 at the Faculty Club for about 60 registrants and virtually for a number of others. The online offering had some technical audio issues but did allow several registrants to attend the symposium who otherwise would not have been able to participate. There were four experts who spoke about what we have learned about medical and hospital care, scientific advice, trust, inequities affecting Covid vulnerability, vaccination uptake and family economics, and finally the science of Covid immunity. There was a unique panel on the effects of Covid on the arts with leaders from theatre, opera and the ballet. A final talk discussed the need for improved world governance to deal not only with pandemics but other problems affecting everyone such as climate, nuclear weaponry and migration. Initial feedback about the symposium was very favourable.

In the following, we have picked an example from each session to illustrate one of several points made in that session.

**Health Care.** As Covid becomes endemic, most will become infected at some time, much as with influenza. It will be a manageable health problem as long as more lethal variants not responsive to vaccination do not arise and the health system is not overwhelmed.

**Science.** The science round table in Ontario was a volunteer group of scientists organized to provide the latest scientific information and science advice to the

government. A more permanent advisory group should be considered along with efforts to improve the communication with the public.

**Immunology.** It was found that, although initial recommendations, based on drug company studies, were for the second vaccination to be given three weeks after the first dose, later administration produces a stronger and more lasting immune response.

**Inequity.** Postal code distribution maps in Toronto showed a high correlation with vaccination uptake, Covid infection rate and income. Low vaccination rate and high Covid infection were linked with low family income.

**Arts.** The cultural institutions in Ontario developed different successful strategies to adapt to Covid such as virtual performances. They protected their performers economically and healthwise in different ways.

**Governance.** An effective global organization with the resources to deal with pandemics as well as other problems affecting all countries is important to prevent and mitigate disasters properly and equitably.

## IN MEMORIAM

John Alexander Fleming (d. April 3, 2022; age 86)  
Professor of French (University College)

## 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 to its members that describes the events or by going on line at [www.seniorcollege.utoronto.ca](http://www.seniorcollege.utoronto.ca) .

### *Informal Biweekly Lunches at the Faculty Club* **F**

Join Fellows for an informal lunch at the Faculty Club, with the first one scheduled for noon on Friday, May 13. Food and drink will be ordered from the menu (outside dining if weather permits). To be included in the reservation, email Daphne Maurer ([daphne@maurier.ca](mailto:daphne@maurier.ca)) before noon the day before.

Friday, May 13 at noon

Thursday, May 26 at noon

*Weekly Talks: Wednesdays, 2-4 pm*

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

May 11: **Tom Tiekku**, 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.

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

May 19: Are there threats to academic freedom from within the University?

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

May 2 (Chair: Sara Shettleworth)  
Fundamentals - Ten Keys 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*

Thursday, May 5; Tuesday, May 17

A man walked into a 7-11 store and bought four items, costing \$1.20, \$1.25, \$1.50, and \$3.16. The clerk pulled out his pocket calculator, punched in the numbers and announced, "That will be \$7.11, please."

"Hold on," objected the customer, "I was watching what you did, and you multiplied those numbers together. You should have added them."

"You are right," apologized the clerk, who then redid the calculation, adding this time. "That will be \$7.11 please."