

## THE SENIOR COLLEGE MESSENGER

Issue 9: July, 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. In particular, it would be interesting to record reactions to the talks, collquium topics and books discussed.*

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

### ACTIONS OF THE SENIOR COLLEGE SENATE

The Senior College Senate met on June 22 and ratified the proposals described in the last issue of the *Messenger*. The fee structure has been revised; an email was sent to Fellows from Senior College on Monday, June 27. The new governing structure was approved. A scholarship fund in honour of Peter Russell to support the study of retirement, lifestyle and aging will be established; the initial goal is to raise \$25000 towards an endowment fund.

### AN EXCERCISE IN GRADING

The recent decision of the US Supreme Court on abortion is a momentous one so I thought I would go to the Court's website to get my own firsthand take on the ruling. The Court has a readily accessible Opinions page where one can read the judgments in their entirety. The judgment on the abortion case, *Dodds v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, was rendered on June 24. The bulk of the document is due to Justice Alito, writing for the majority, with concurring and dissenting opinions from Justices Thomas (page 117), Kavanaugh (page 124), Roberts (page 136), and Breyer, Kagan & Sotomayor (page 148). Alito devotes a great deal of space to history and precedent.

As I waded through Alito's text, I got more the impression that I was working through a student assignment, and thought that it might be interesting to see how readers of this *Messenger* might evaluate it through this lens. Legal scholars will have their own critical approaches, but I thought that historians, political scientists, sociologist, English literature professors and perhaps even engineers and natural scientists, might be willing to weigh in as well. I invite any reader to grade the essay, stating the criteria they use, commenting on the use of evidence, argumentation and pertinence, and finally assigning a letter grade. Any comments I receive will be reported anonymously and only the research field of the respondent will be revealed.

I have two questions. If you favour not regarding access to an abortion as a right, are the arguments in favour of the judgment ones that you would have selected, or could the case be better argued? If you favour a women's right to seek an abortion,

are your considerations fairly presented in the judgment and provided with a cogent rebuttal?

Please send response to Ed Barbeau at [barbeau@math.utoronto.ca](mailto:barbeau@math.utoronto.ca).

### 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: Wednesday at noon **F***

Join Fellows for an informal lunch at the Faculty Club. 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.

July 13 (Host: Daphne Maurer)

July 27 (Host: Daphne Maurer)

#### *Meet your colleagues: Thursdays, 2 pm*

Guiliana Katz will present the speakers; Linda Hutcheon will host the question and answer period.

July 7: Maggie Redekop

July 14: Martin Klein

July 21: Margaret Procter

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

September 15: Why are people so angry?

October 20: Should we censor hate speech and if so, where should we draw the line? (Chair: Phil Sullivan)

November 17: Is democracy the best for governance? If so, how can we strengthen its positive features and minimize its weaknesses?

December 8: How can we better protect our environment? (Chair: Guiliana Katz *et al*)

#### *Book Club: Monday: 2-4 pm (**F**)*

Monday, July 4 (Chair: Linda Hutcheon & David Milne)  
Lampedusa (by Steve Price)