THE SENIOR COLLEGE MESSENGER

Issue 27: January, 2024

This is an organ for members of Senior College to submit short articles that share news, letters to the editor, reactions to the program and anything that they feel will be of general interest. Its regular appearance will allow for an exchange of opinion of topics of interest to the members. In particular, it would be interesting to record reactions to the talks, colloquium topics and books discussed.

Please submit contributions to the editor, Ed Barbeau at barbeau@math.utoronto.ca
.

THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL SENIOR COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM

The 19th annual Senior College Symposium will take place on April 17, 2024 from 9 am to 2 pm at the University of Toronto Faculty Club and on Zoom. There was strong support in the Symposium Committee for a topic that involves the arts and has a positive focus. A large majority felt that a topic such as *Moving forward: the future of Canadian literature and print media* would be timely and of great interest.

If you have ideas about aspects of the topic are of special interest or about speakers that you would recomment or help recruit, please send that information to either margaret.procter@utoronto.ca or williamlogan@rogers.com.

NOVEMBER COLLOQUIUM ON RENAMING

The topic of the November colloquium on commemoration of historical figures by erecting statues and naming public venues was motivated by recent events, not least of which, the proposal to rename Dundas Street. While there seems to be a human need to glorify significant individuals, it reflects a tendency to see matters in black and white terms; some discussants felt that a more mature view would be not to idealize anyone and have a more integrated view of reality. A final point was that more history needs to be taught in high school.

The status of Dundas Street highlights a number of questions. What was the original motivation for the naming? Was it specifically to honour an individual for his part in bringing about a situation now deemed unsatisfactory? If so, did the intent have merit in terms of the standards, sensibilities and political realities of the time? Is the present proposal to make the change controversial? Is the desire to change a result of widespread public revulsion or is it the result of pressure from a particular group with an agenda? If the latter, will the change discredit the body that urged or effected the change? Will it make any significant difference to policy or practice? If not, will the "optics" matter to the public? Finally, in terms of expense and inconvenience, is it a matter of the cure being worse than the disease? It is conceivable that the renaming of Dundas is seen to be foolish when these questions are considered. (EJB)

CHANDLER DAVIS, ACADEMIC FREEDOM & FREEDOM OF SPEECH

In 1962, the Mathematics Department at the University of Toronto hired Chandler Davis, who had been fired from the University of Michigan for his political stance and jailed for six months at the behest of the House Un-American Activities Committee for his appeal to freedom of speech in not disclosing his political affiliatios.

Chandler and his wife, Natalie, both of whom died recently, throughout their lives courageously and effectively supported social justice and academic freedom causes. Some of the issues that came to the fore in the 1950s and 1960s resonate today, and it is useful to have a new book by Steve Batterson, *The prosecution of Professor Chandler Davis: Mccarthyism, Communism, and the Myth of Academic Freedom* appear on the scene. This has been reviewed for the American Association of University Professors:

https://www.aaup.org/article/professors-fight-against-mccarthyism-resonates-today?

Reminders

1. Fellows, please check your listing at

https://www.seniorcollege.utoronto.ca/about-us/fellows-list-2.

Contact the Registrar, Jonathan Dostrovsky (j.dostrovksky@utoronto.ca) if any changes are necessary.

2. Those wishing to participate in the reseach project *Testing a New Approach to Monitoring Mild Cognitive Impairment and Mental Health in Older Adults in a Community Setting* conducted by the Sheridan College Centre for Elder Research, in collaboration with the Ontario Brain Institute, Winterton Labs and Soul Machines should get in touch with Isabel Paniak at isabel.paniak@sheridancollege.ca (416-894-7027).

Visit CER Website and CER Facebook page for more information.

IN MEMORIAM

Stephen Waddam (September 30, 1942 – May 27, 2023)
University Professor of Law

Donald Mackay (October 30, 1936 – October 20, 2023)
Professor, Department of Chemical Englineering and Applied Chemistry)

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 through the Senior College website.

Annual Symposium: Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Location: The Faculty Club and on Zoom

Topic: *Moving forward: the future of Canadian literature and print media.*

Talks: Wednesdays 2-4 pm (Zoom and in person at the Faculty Club)

January 10: Max Friesen, *Climate change threats to the Arctic heritage record*

January 17: Kristin Andrews, *All animals are conscious: a new premise*

January 24: Kevin Edmunds, *Haiti, popular democracy and colonial interventions*

January 31: Jane Rylett, *Impacts of Canada's changing population dynamics*

February 7: James Hunter, *White collar crime: an investigator's perspective*

February 14: John Gardner, *Camino de Santiago: a pilgrim's journey*

February 21: Dan Drucker, *Changing health outcomes for diabetes or obesity* (**Starts at 1:30**)

February 28: Celia Smith, *Arts, culture and creativity in a time of change*

March 6: Morgan Barense, *Smartphone intervention to enhance memory*

March 13: Caryl Clark, *Labours of love: resurrecting Haydn's Orfeo*

March 20: Matti Siemiaticki, *Cost overruns and delays in mega-project delivery*

March 27: Jesse Billett, *The lost chants of Anglo-Saxon England*

April 3: Raphael Newman, *The work of art in the age of neural machine translation* (**Zoom only**)

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

January 18: The rise of authoritarian governments (Organizer: Phil Sullivan)

February 15: Freedom of speech in academia (Organizer Pat Brubaker)

March 14: What can be done about the escalating Canadian youth mental health crisis (Organizer: Cynthia Smith)

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

January 8, 2024: Kevin Rudd, *The avoidable war: the dangers of a catastrophic conflict between US and Xi Jinping's China* (2022) (Leaders: Max Nemni, David Milne)

February 5: Alistair MacLeod, *No great mischief* (1999) (Leader: Meg Fox)

March 4: Ed Yong, *An immense world: how animal senses reveal the hidden realms around us* (2022) (Leader: Sara Shettleworth)

April 1: Willaim Carlsen, *Jungle of stone: the extraordinary journey of John L. Stephens and Frederick Catherwood and the discovery of the lost civilization of the Maya* (2017) (Leader: Jim Gurd)

May 6: Siddhartha Mukherjee, *The song of the cell: an exploration of medicine and the new human* (2022) (Leader: William Logan)

June 3: Helen Macdonald, *H is for Hawk* (2014) (Leader:Peter Alberti)

July 8: Alex Ross, *The rest is noise: listening to the twentieth century* (2007) (Leaders: Linda Hutcheon, Michael Hutcheon)

Aftermath

Sometime during their journey through secondary mathematics, some students will encounter and be bemused by the surprising fact that the sum of the cubes of any number of consecutive integers beginning with 1 is equal to the square of the sum of the same numbers.

For example, $1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + 4^3 = 1 + 8 + 27 + 64 = 100 = (1 + 2 + 3 + 4)^2$ and $1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + 4^3 + 5^3 = 100 + 125 = 225 = 15^2 = (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5)^2$. But while there are sound technical arguments to justify this phenomenon, the logic is not always able to deliver understanding of why the result *has* to be true, rather than just *happening* to be true.

A prototypical case, taking sums up to 5, will help us see what is going on. Begin with the upper left corner of the multiplication table:

1	*2*	**3**	*4*	**5**
2	*4*	**6**	*8*	**10**
3	**6**	**9**	*12*	**15**
4	*8*	*12*	*16*	**20**
5	**10**	**15**	**20**	**25**

The sum of the numbers in the first row is 15. The numbers in the second row are double those in the first, so their sum is 2×15. Likewise, the sum of the numbers in the third row are 3×15, in the fourth row, 4×15, and in the fifth row, 5×15. So all the numbers in the table add up to $(1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5) \times 15 = 15 \times 15 = 15^2$.

We can look at the sum of the numbers in another way. I have partitioned the table into *gnomons* or carpenter's squares. The first gnomon consists of 1; the second of all the multiples of 2 up to 4; the third all the multiples of 3 up to 9; the fourth multiples of 4 up to 16; the fifth all the multiples of 5 up to 25.

Now add the numbers in each gnomon:

$$1; \qquad 2+4+2=8; \qquad 3+6+9+6+3=9+9+9=3\times 9=3^3;$$

$$\begin{aligned} 4+8+12+16+12+8+4 &= (4+12)+(8+8)+(12+4)+16 \\ &= 16+16+16+16=4\times 16=4^3; \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &5+10+15+20+25+20+15+10+5 \\ &\qquad = (5+20)+(10+15)+(15+10)+(20+5)+25 \\ &\qquad = 5\times 25=5^3. \end{aligned}$$

The sum of all the number in the table is thus

$$1^3+2^3+3^3+4^3+5^3,$$

which we have already seen to be equal to $(1+2+3+4+5)^2$.