

THE SENIOR COLLEGE MESSENGER

Issue 31: May, 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, books discussed and items appearing in the Messenger.

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

INTRODUCTION OF NEW FELLOWS

We are pleased to welcome as independent Fellows a husband and wife team. **Andrew David Miall** is professor of geology in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Toronto. **Charlene E. Miall** is professor of sociology at McMaster University. Her interests are the social construction of knowledge and social psychology.

Another recent Fellow to be welcomed is **Ants Toi**. He just retired from Radiology and Obstetrics and Gynecology at UHN, Mount Sinai and Women's College Hospitals. His special interests included radiology and ultrasound in two unrelated areas: prenatal diagnosis of anatomical birth defects, and diagnosis of prostate disease, especially prostate cancer.

CURAC ANNUAL MEETING

The Colleges and Universities Retiree Associations of Canada holds its Annual Meeting from Wednesday, May 22 to Friday, May 24 at the University of Waterloo. There will be sessions on the theme *Thriving in retirement* dealing with health, housing, services, finance, recreation and safety. Those wishing to join in can register at <https://curac.ca/en/library/join-us-for-curac-s-2024-conference-in-waterloo>.

Members of Senior College are reminded to check in occasionally at CURAC about its events as well as insurance, travel and other deals.

JONATHAN KAY AND SELF-CENSORSHIP

One of the talks given at the annual symposium on April 17 was delivered by Jonathan Kay. I am grateful to Patricia Brubaker for drawing my attention to a transcript of his talk published in the *Quillette*. I found it a cogent account of the failure of university officials to stand up for academic values of dispassionate analysis and fairness and of the press to investigate and report on certain types of

abuses. It can be found here: <https://quillette.com/2024/04/19/investigating-the-academy-in-an-age-of-self-censorship>.

ACADEMIC FOR LIFE

CURAC has asked Senior College to share with you an article that was published in its *Academic For Life* column in the April 15 issue of *University Affairs*. In due course, it will appear on CURAC's website.

Tristram Chivers, a chemistry professor at the University of Calgary, having reached the age of retirement, still wanted to remain active. The University of Calgary had a "faculty professor" position that allowed him to remain with access to all his research facilities. In this article, he reflects on his decision taken over a decade ago.

THE PERSON MATTERS AT MOSAIC

A discussion with Jane Teasdale with Beverley Gerolymatos

Senior College's annual Symposium has been supported for two years by Mosaic Home Care. Fellows may be interested in Mosaic's leader, Jane Teasdale, and her aims. From her attendance at Symposium 2023, Fellows will know that Jane is a warm, lively and very approachable entrepreneur. Beverley Gerolymatos, a Member of Senior College, interviewed her recently and provides the following account.

A crucial part of aging well is naturally based upon our health. There may come a time when we need the professional support of others to allow us to live our best life possible. Knowing the philosophy behind a home care service provider is beneficial to anyone considering care for themselves or their loved ones. *The Meaning of Me*[®] Philosophy was created by Mosaic and has garnered them an International Award for their model of Home Care Services.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with Jane Teasdale on how Mosaic provides services to those under her care. Jane is a Principal and Director of Business Development and Community Relations at Mosaic Home Care Services & Community Resource Centres in Toronto. She is dedicated to developing awareness of home and health care issues in the community and relations among healthcare professionals, home care providers, not-for-profit agencies and other important service providers that are needed to supply the wide levels of supporter often required by those in need.

During our chat Teasdale described how Mosaic was created and outlined principles it would develop into a model for aging seniors that need assistance of many kinds. Jane stated, "Mosaic Home Care was created in 2010 by the two principals, myself and Nathalie Anderson. I have worked over 23 years in the health care and home care industry. We first looked at the gaps within the private home care organizations and the not-for-profit sector. We found that these organizations did not really focus on person-centred care models at that time. Professionals who work in

this field of care must understand how to create models and processes to integrate a culture of person-centred care within their organization.”

Mosaic is recognized as a best-practice leader in home-care services, and notably for the way it addresses humanist values, and encouraged social interaction. Mosaic received the Award of the Gold Medal from the European Society for Person Centred Healthcare in London in October, 2017.

Mosaic’s model of care-giving includes identifying social and emotional needs of the older adults who ask for its aid. Jane explains: “*The Meaning of Me*[®] program is the basis for conversations and interactions between seniors and Mosaic caregivers. Care givers should be aware of the answers to important questions such as: who are you; what have you done; what would you like to do; what are your hobbies, experiences, values, friends, family and key moments in your life?”

Another valuable practice is “a discovery and initial assessment process that can help bring in other community resources at an earlier stage and identify issues and circumstances that would need to be addressed to accommodate social and emotional needs.”

In Jane’s presentations around the community, she focuses on a model of care more extensive than simply dealing with food and health that looks to, as she stresses, “maintain the journey of discovery that is life, and to allow an individual’s character, vitality, and life contributions to continue to shine through the care-giving relationship.”

To learn more about Mosaic, visit <https://www.mosaichomecare.com>.

IN MEMORIAM

Ann H. Schabas (May 14, 1926 – November 8, 2023)
Faculty of Library and Information Science

Harry Schacter (February 25, 1933 – April 17, 2024)
Professor of Biochemistry

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 or the Faculty Club to its members that describes the events or through the Senior College website.

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

These will resume in the fall.

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

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

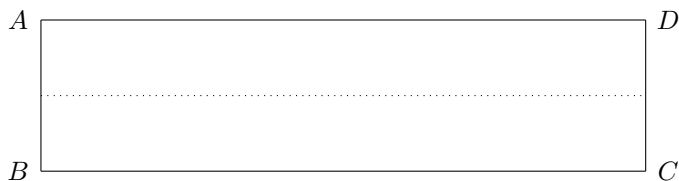
June 3: Helen Macdonald, *H is for Hawk* (2014) (Leader: Peter Alberti)

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

Aftermath

*A mathematician once confided
That a Möbius band is one-sided,
And you'll get quite a laugh
If you cut one in half,
For it stays in one piece when divided.*

To make a Möbius band, take a long strip of paper and join the ends after twisting the strip through an angle of 180° .



If the strip is as diagrammed, join the ends so that A falls on C and B on D and Scotch-tape them. To understand the limerick, cut down the middle of the strip as indicated by the dotted line.

For a little extra mystification, you can now make an additional cut down the middle of the resulting configuration from the first cut.

In the December 22, 1945 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*, there is a short story by William Hazlett Upson entitled “A. Botts and the Moebius strip”. It is a World War II tale that recounts the ruse of creating a drive belt that cannot be painted only on one side in order to delay the departure of the owner of a bulldozer needed to prepare a landing strip. This story appears in the anthology *Fantasia Mathematica*, edited by Clifton Fadiman (whom some of you may recall as the host of the NBC radio panel show *Information Please* that ran from 1938 to 1948) and published in 1958 by Simon & Schuster. Möbius figures in another story, “A subway named Moebius” by A.J. Deutsch, “in which a Harvard professor of mathematics is called upon to resolve a mysterious disaster in Boston’s underground transportation system”.