



# UBC Emeritus College

## Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday 13 May 2020 at 1 pm  
by Zoom Invitation\***

For the agenda and draft minutes, see pp. 24–27.

\* You will receive an invitation by e-mail that contains a link and instructions for joining the meeting and using Zoom.

## Postponed

The tenure of our first Visiting Professor and the accompanying Symposium scheduled for April 23–24 have been postponed until 2021.

The CURAC (College and University Retirees Association of Canada) conference scheduled for May 13–15 has been cancelled. The UBC Emeritus College, Simon Fraser University, and the University of Victoria have been given the go-ahead by the CURAC Board to host the conference at UBC in May 2022. The 2021 annual conference will be hosted by McGill University as part of its bicentennial celebrations. The local organizing committee will do its best to present the program planned for this year.

### Contents

### page

#### College News

Principal's Report 3  
From the College 4–5

#### Reflections & Suggestions

6–17

#### Philosophers' Café Interest Groups

17–18

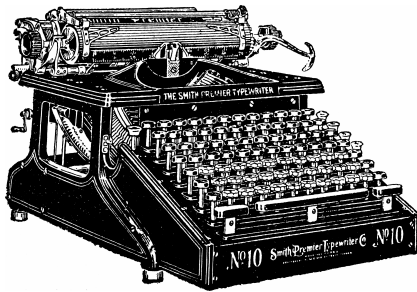
#### Emeritus News

In Memoriam 19  
Nursing's New Building 20  
Hand-made Masks 21  
Volunteer Opportunity 22

#### For the AGM

22–25





## UBC Emeritus College Office

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## Contributions to the Newsletter

Please send the editor complete information about your recent publications in the citation format of your choice. Include your affiliation(s) (departmental and/or faculty). In future we will not list complete entries in the newsletter. However, we definitely want to acknowledge your work, add it to the College archive, and use it in the College’s annual report. We will list your name and the journal or book title in the newsletter. News of keynotes and community work is also welcome. For awards, a description of the award, award citation, or link to the announcement is helpful. We may edit submissions for brevity or clarity.

**Thanks** to Don Blake for designing the front page and much more, and Carolyn Gilbert and Herbert Rosengarten for their advice and keen eyes for typos, errors and font size changes. All errors and bizarre layout features are the editor’s responsibility.

## College Council 2019-20

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The Emeritus College (formerly UBCAPE) could not function without the contribution of many past Presidents/Principals and Members-at-Large who continue to provide their services.

## Principal's Report

Like you, I am 'so over' being part of a major historical event. At the same time, one can say with confidence that none of us have in our lifetimes experienced such an unprecedented series of events.

The oldest amongst us may have childhood memories of the Great Depression and we, through our parents and grandparents, have a clear sense of the pain that the vast majority of families went through during the 1930s. What is absolutely certain is that none of us have direct memories of the Spanish flu pandemic that devastated the world's population from January 1918 through to December 1920. This was one of the deadliest pandemics in human history, infecting a quarter of the world's population (500 million), with an estimated death toll of between 17 million and 50 million.



A hundred years later, over the week of March 9 2020, stock markets around the world recorded their steepest decline since the Great Depression and the World Health Organization declared the spread of the COVID-19 virus to be a pandemic.

Of course we live in very different times and do not expect to have a repeat of the Spanish flu, not least because of the tremendous reach of medical science through the development of vaccines. Similarly, while it is less clear whether we can avoid an economic depression, the impact will be ameliorated by the willingness of state governments to pour money into the economy to prevent the collapse of capitalism in all its forms. In the short term, we are left watching from the confines of our homes the battle to contain the pandemic and the struggle to re-start the economy.

As you are aware, the College cancelled or postponed all our in-person large gatherings, starting with the General Meeting on March 25. The tenure of our first Visiting Professor and the accompanying Symposium that was to take place here on campus April 23–24 has also been postponed until 2021. The CURAC conference that we were to co-host with Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria retiree associations has been cancelled, but the CURAC Board has given us the approval to host the conference in May 2022. The local organizing committee will do its best to present the program planned for this year. While we have cancelled the speaker and an in-person AGM, we do plan to host the meeting on line on May 13. By then we will have completed the election on line for the office holders and the new members of the College Council.

On the bright side, we do live in one of the most beautiful parts of the world that has never looked so splendid as it has over the last week or so. We are presented with unpolluted blue skies, sunshine and a silence that makes it possible to clearly hear the birds singing.

Do stay safe and well, Donald Fisher, Principal, Professor Emeritus, Educational Studies



## From the College

### New Initiative: COVID-19 Monitoring Groups

At the Emeritus College Council Meeting in April, we had a discussion about the role the Emeritus College might play in contributing to the wider public discussion. To further that objective, the Executive is proposing to launch four interdisciplinary monitoring groups to share knowledge about the virus and develop new conceptual approaches and recommendations related to COVID-19. We propose four groups in the areas of public health; the economy; social and cultural impact; and university education.

First, we are asking for expressions of interest from members who would like to join one or more of these groups. After this first step, we envisage asking two members of each group to take on the role of coordination. The work of the groups will be facilitated through the EC office using Zoom or some other on-line application. The objective is to collect and publish curated resource materials (seminal articles, documentaries, films/TV series, novels, poems, etc.) and position papers in future issues of the Newsletter. During this time, when we are prevented from coming together physically, we anticipate that the newsletter will serve a broader function by maintaining a sense of community and promoting intellectual involvement.

Send expressions of interest in this new initiative to [principal@emerituscollege.ubc.ca](mailto:principal@emerituscollege.ubc.ca).

#### Subsidies

The College program for subsidizing the costs of scholarly activities will be available again for 2019–2020. The deadline has been moved to **June 15, 2020**, as the office will be closed in July. Applications can be submitted online at: <https://emerituscollege.ubc.ca/subsidy2020>.

#### Grants

Researchers interested in applying for grants should look at the Emeritus College website for notices about grants and awards from the office of the Vice-President Research.

#### Amplify your research impact with the UBC Knowledge Exchange Unit

The new Knowledge Exchange Unit within the VP Research & Innovation Office aims to mobilize research into policy, practice, public dialogue, and culture for the benefit of society. To learn more about our activities: <https://innovation.ubc.ca/how-engage/knowledge-exchange/>.

**Lost and Found:** did you lose this earring at one of our events?  
If it's yours, contact the office.



## Access to IT for Members of the Emeritus College

In December 2019, the College Council created an Ad Hoc Committee to Examine the Access to IT for the Emeritus College and its Members. The establishment of this committee came as a result of the concerns raised by some members who had been cut off from UBC email, the Internet and/or particular licensed programs like Adobe-Acrobat. The aim of the committee with regard to members has been to guarantee the same level of access to IT services and resources as continuing members of faculty.

As a result of consultations with the Provost's Office and in particular with Jennifer Burns, Associate Vice President, Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, UBC, we are now in a position to achieve the stated aim of the committee.

To operationalize the new arrangements, the College needs information from the members concerned in order to submit two lists to the Information Technology Office.

**By 20 May 2020 Please respond separately to the requests below as they apply specifically to you.**

1. Any member of the College who does not have access to their UBC email, the internet and related reasonable IT support is asked to supply the following information to the EC Office ([assist@emerituscollege.ubc.ca](mailto:assist@emerituscollege.ubc.ca)) with the subject line **Internet and Email Access**.

- CWL ID
- former UBC email address

2. Any 'Active' member (those members who are continuing as active scholars and/or those members who are conducting work on behalf of the Emeritus College) who is working on UBC owned computers and needs access to any UBC licensed programs, eg., Adobe-Acrobat, is asked to supply the following information to the EC Office ([assist@emerituscollege.ubc.ca](mailto:assist@emerituscollege.ubc.ca)) with the subject line **Licensed Programs**.

- CWL ID
- UBC email address
- A list of those programs to which you need access

### **\$1,000 Post-Secondary Scholarships Available: Announcement from Johnson**

Johnson, Inc. is once again offering 50 scholarships valued at \$1,000 each to eligible students completing high school in 2020 and starting post-secondary education in the fall of 2020. The Johnson Scholarship Program is open to children and grandchildren of all UBC Emeritus College members (even if they are not Johnson policyholders). To learn more, visit [Johnson.ca/scholarship](http://Johnson.ca/scholarship).



## Reflections and Suggestions for the Current Times

### Old Dogs, New Tricks

How the world has changed. Not so long ago, retirees were zooming across the globe on planes and cruise ships and getting up to any number of adventures. Now “silver surfers” all, we cruise the web, Zoom from home, and hope that we don’t pick up “the virus”—or stumble on the stairs. The news is almost incessantly sobering, even dispiriting. Then, in the midst of crisis, the New Zealand Prime Minister charms the world at a press conference by reassuring young Kiwis that Easter bunnies and the tooth fairy are to be excused from the Covid-19 lockdown. With this simple act, Jacinda Ardern, a relatively new mother herself, offered more than hope. She affirmed the value of empathy and creativity in difficult times, and reminded us all that “we rise again in the faces of our children.” Rise again we will. But the path will not be easy. The current crisis reveals that more than a virulent virus ails humankind. The very course of the pandemic reflects this: global integration, gross economic inequalities, incompetent or self-interested leadership, and the misallocation of resources have shaped its course. And this is to say nothing of the larger crisis of global climate change that has been nudged aside by current events. With time on our hands, and experience on our side, we (mature scholars) might – arguably should – turn the wisdom and knowledge we have accumulated to shaping a different future. We will do so in different ways. Having spent an academic lifetime looking backward, assembling fragments of the past into stories about where we have come from, in hope that they might help people to better understand who and where they are, I now think that we need fresh tales to illuminate the virtues of new ways of being in the world. We should no more accept that a “return to normal” entails rebuilding fossil-fuel-dependent, economically inequitable, socially destructive, needlessly wasteful patterns of existence than we would welcome a return to the Stone Age.

Graeme Wynn, Professor Emeritus, Geography



Woman before an Aquarium, Henri Matisse, 1921-23; Art Institute of Chicago, CC0



## *Macbeth* and Contagion

A Shakespearean image of hand washing appropriate for our time: Lady Macbeth walking in her sleep, compulsively scouring her hands. In vain, she seeks to rid herself of blood, the imaginary blood of the king whom she and her husband have murdered. But the contagion cannot be cleansed. Earlier, she had scoffed at Macbeth's fears—"A little water clears us of this deed." But things turn out to be more complicated.

Shakespeare wrote *Macbeth* in the aftermath of a terrible visitation of the plague in 1606 London, and, though he never wrote directly about plague, this and other plays show a rich imaginative engagement with the spread of infection—a metaphysical, but also a political, sickness. I propose that we think along with Shakespeare as he confronts the plague. His witch-haunted play dramatizes how evil, like Covid 19, is abroad in the world, infiltrating every corner of the polity and the soul.

As Lady Macbeth scrubs ("Will these hands ne'er be clean . . . Here's the smell of the blood still"), a kindly doctor watches. But there is little he can do—"This disease is beyond my practice," he says, although he recognizes that "infected minds / To their deaf pillows will discharge their secrets." Later, he is confronted by a desperate Macbeth, who wants his kingdom, the very land he poisoned his mind to win, restored to health—to be great again, one might say. The doctor, however, can do nothing: Scotland, like Lady Macbeth, is sick, but the doctor cannot heal it, just as he cannot heal her.

There is mitigation possible. In England, there is another front-line physician, and another king, one who, as this doctor reports, can cure illnesses with a miraculous touch. "Strangely visited people, / All swoll'n and ulcerous" are brought back to health. Scotland, by contrast, is not a "mother" but a "grave" where "good men's lives / Expire before the flowers in their caps, / Dying before they sicken." Like bodies felled by plague, the people suffer under the cruel yoke of Macbeth's reign. The spread of evil infects, but the miraculous touch, together with the empathetic doctors, signals a possible return of the polity to health. And so, the virtuous Malcolm, the rightful heir, is restored to the throne and Scotland, sobered by its losses but still there, renews itself.

What I am suggesting is that we can enrich our understanding of the present if we think with Shakespeare. The spreading contagion depicted in *Macbeth* is able to steal into the lives of all kinds of people and communities. I think of recent political developments and the rise of autocracy around the globe—in India, Russia, Hungary, Burma, etc. Nor are we Canadians automatically exempt, though most salient for us at present is what goes on politically just across our own border. What was once a nurturing country is suffering under the rule of a narcissistic sociopath, perhaps even worse than Macbeth, who at least has a rich imagination, a crushing sense of guilt, and a rich command of language, all of which Trump lacks. Of course the play is not an allegory, but it does point us to a way of thinking in this, our time of pestilence. Tony Dawson, Emeritus Professor of English



## UBC's First Pandemic: The Spanish Influenza Outbreak in 1918–19

The impact of Covid-19 is not dissimilar to the effects of the Spanish flu that killed millions of people around the world between 1918 and 1920. More locally, there are parallels between the experience of the UBC community then and the effects that are being felt now.

In a well-documented and comprehensive study of the course of the outbreak in Vancouver, Margaret W. Andrews summarizes the relevant numbers with chilling clarity:

The bare facts concerning Vancouver's epidemic are these: Influenza reached Vancouver on 5 October 1918. The disease spread rapidly, the number of reported cases reaching a peak of 522 on 22 October. The deaths peaked five days later, with twenty-four reported on 27 October. A second, more virulent but less extensive, wave crested on 14 January, when 156 cases and fourteen deaths were reported. The last wave culminated with nineteen deaths in the week ending 8 March. By the end of March it was over. . . . At a conservative estimate, the epidemic sickened 30,000 and killed 900 of a population of about 100,000. ("Epidemic and Public Health: Influenza in Vancouver, 1918-1919," *BC Studies* 34 [Summer 1977], 27).

The illness was brought to British Columbia by soldiers being dispatched across the country to serve in the Allied intervention in Siberia as part of a war against Bolshevik forces. The effects were felt quickly in every aspect of the city's social and economic life. Attendance at theatres and movie-houses fell off. Many parents kept their children home from school, and in mid-October all Vancouver schools were temporarily closed. Construction of steamers in shipyards on the North Shore came to a halt as workers fell victim to the flu. The pulp and paper mill operation at Port Mellon in Howe Sound was forced to isolate some of its workers. Boats arrived in the city carrying flu-ridden loggers from camps up the coast. People resisted measures brought in by the health authorities, such as the banning of large crowds, especially at a time of celebration—the Great War ended in November 1918 and patriotic Vancouverites came out in force to enjoy the Allied victory—but as the number of dead began to rise, the public started to pay more attention.

On October 13, increasing pressure on hospital space led the Vancouver General Hospital Board to ask UBC for the loan of its then-new auditorium, along with some neighbouring classrooms, all conveniently located beside the hospital in Fairview. Classes continued for a few more days, but the difficulties of teaching in increasingly cramped quarters, along with fears of spreading the flu among the student body, led to closure of the University on October 20, and classes were suspended for the next five weeks. To help meet a growing shortage of medical staff, some students and faculty members volunteered as nurses and orderlies. Members of the University Red Cross Society made over 300 flu masks, as well as 65 pairs of pyjamas for hospital patients. Christmas examinations were postponed until the following February, and the second term was extended by two weeks to make up for lost time. The planned student Christmas play was cancelled, but the Players' Club production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* went ahead in January 1919, even though the Club's director and Honorary President, the redoubtable Frederic Wood, was ill with the flu.

*(continued on next page)*





## UBC's First Pandemic (cont'd)

The war took a heavy toll on UBC: 78 UBC students were killed in action. But there were causes of grief closer to home. Three UBC students died of influenza, and on October 19, 1918, the University's first President, Frank Wesbrook, died of renal failure. These events were acknowledged in the *Annual* for 1918–1919, which was dedicated to the memory of the late President, and which mourned the loss of “three of our brightest students.” The Foreword noted that “The work of all classes was much disorganized, and everyone felt a little out of poise,” but found consolation in “the mutual feeling between the Faculty and student body in attempting to regain that which was lost, and to make the present count for the most.”

The return to normalcy came quickly. The student newspaper *Ubysey*, which made its first appearance in October 1918, devoted several pages of its second issue (November 28, 1918) to memorialize Dr. Wesbrook, and offered an editorial on the importance of the return of peace. The first issue of the new term (January 9, 1919) paid tribute to a student who had died of the flu. For the most part, however, the *Ubysey* reflected its readers' interests in sporting events, dramatic and musical performances, and varsity matters such as examinations and vacation times. The influenza pandemic would continue into March, but as the number of fatalities declined, so did public apprehension, and life on and off the UBC campus returned to more-or-less familiar patterns.

Herbert Rosengarten, Emeritus Professor, English

For another recent account of the Spanish flu, see the article by Erwin Wodarczak, Acting University Archivist, at <https://archives.library.ubc.ca/2020/04/06/ubc-and-the-last-great-pandemic-1918-19/>



Photo from: Daniel Marshall, “British Columbia and the pandemic of 1918,” *The Orca*, 2 March 2020 <https://theorca.ca/resident-pod/british-columbia-and-the-pandemic-of-1918/>

Thanks to Linda Leonard for forwarding this article, which includes this photo.

## Pandemic Poem

What if this is some kind of mad wake-up call  
Forcing us to re-think issues large and small?  
What might the universe be trying to tell  
Those of us who are mercifully safe and well?  
With distractions and gatherings all placed on hold  
What's bubbling within us that we ought to behold?  
Why is it so awful to spend time alone?  
What gnaws at our subconscious, like a dog with a bone?  
If, in Wuhan, fume-filled skies have become clear,  
And birdsong can once again reach the human ear  
Is the universe saying that it needs a rest  
And that for now, we must stop doing our best.  
So much of "our best" means that the planet we strip bare  
Maybe we must do more than re-cycle with care.  
"Give us jobs!" people cry. "We want to earn our daily bread."  
Yet how much is spent of the Joneses keeping ahead?  
It's a vicious cycle, but in our material world, when do we have enough?  
Is there a way to live well without acquiring still more stuff?  
And will peace ever come unless we learn to share  
In some global way of which we're now unaware?  
I picture a Wuhan seamstress bent over her sewing machine  
I picture her man scrubbing hands that refuse to come clean  
I picture their children, learning about lands near and far  
Dreaming of the day when they too will own a car.  
I picture Italy without tourists disgorged from some huge ship,  
An Italy where families on balconies their Prosecco do sip,  
An Italy where amateur Carusos from their windows now sing  
Seeking notes of cheer to their neighbours to bring.  
I find it inspiring, this desire to reach out,  
"Bravo, bravissimo," I deeply long to shout.  
And here at home, a neighbour I barely know  
Has ever so kindly let me know  
If there's ought that I need, I should just pick up the phone  
She's worried about me, a senior who's living alone.  
Gratitude is over-used, yet what can I say?

A day of blue sky, though in the east, snow softly falls  
 And from Somewhere Beyond, a voice gently calls  
 “Helen, Everyone, do what you can, however small  
 Then be proud of what you’ve done; stand tall.”  
 Even though no banners they may have unfurled,  
 Not sinners but saints I perceive among those in my immediate world  
 So to hold up your head,  
 Be glad you’re not dead  
 Let’s turn this scare  
 Into a time to dare  
 Dare to re-assess, dare to go within, dare to take stock  
 Dare then to go forth, solid and sure as a rock.  
 The times are shifting, the future unknown  
 But our humanity will at least have grown.

Helen Wilkes, Elected Member of the College

I was driving and stopped at a viewpoint on the road back from Whistler and saw a disturbing scene. A trash scene which triggered in me a violent existential series of questions . . . Who am I? who is the person who threw away those two objects, obviously in the middle of a Sartrean crisis. To drink or to breathe? That is the existential question the artistic photo puts . . . . To protect the world or to enjoy myself? How does one get “engagé”?

Serge Guilbaut, Emeritus, Art History, Visual Art and Theory



## The Pageant of the Angels

Below is a photograph of a work completed during this time of plague. It is a scale model at 1 to 8 (or 1.5 inches equals one foot). For the past forty years I have periodically made works that deal with the theme of parades and pageants. I had read about the Miracle and Mystery plays performed in English towns in Medieval and early Renaissance times and after much mulling over things finally fixed on images that I could make. The whole conception was driven by a statement by my wife on the day of my 95-year-old mother’s death in 2015: “An angel knocked on your Mother’s door.”

It took a while to sort it all out but the three carts are titled “The Pageant of the Angels.” Cart 1 is “The Device for Locating the Angels,” Cart 2 is “Detecting the Sounds of the Angel Wings,” and Cart 3 is “The Method of Conversing with the Angels in the Trees.” The materials are wood, paper, plexiglass, metal and paint.

I have also had a work, “Landscape with Literature,” that I made in 1992 included in an exhibition at the Remail Modern Gallery in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, “Next Year’s Country,” curated by Sandra Fraser (Feb. 1–Oct. 12, 2020).

Richard E. Prince, Professor Emeritus, Art History, Visual Art and Theory



## FLEX (Flexible Enhanced Learning)

Like any large university, UBC is a very complex system. And, UBC's major outputs, like those of her peers, include knowledge and knowledgeable graduates. The impact of the current novel coronavirus pandemic has been to compromise the methods that we use to achieve these outputs and, over time, even to potentially damage the system and its goals. Methods of knowledge transfer vary from discipline to discipline, so the challenges in the age of pandemic also vary. In this setting we, as emeriti, may be able to contribute. Remote teaching and mentoring actually suit those emeriti whose physical presence on campus may have reduced.

My faculty (Medicine) depends on small-group teaching to add dimensions to the lecture base. Much of this teaching involves either patient contact in a clinical setting or guided enquiry grounded in a clinical environment. In normal times this involves hospital resources and, frequently, patient interaction. Much of this activity is compromised in the present environment.

***FLEX (Flexible Enhanced Learning)** is a series of courses that offer medical undergraduate students unique opportunities to pursue a variety of scholarly activities in Year 1, 2 and 4 of the renewed Faculty of Medicine curriculum. In FLEX, students develop and pursue activities that allow them to explore individual learning interests in greater depth.*

*FLEX activities can take place in academic settings or communities anywhere in British Columbia, Canada or the world.*

During normal times, students can work on real-life projects, but right now they have to stay at home and so are limited to literature reviews. Dr Alice Mui from the Departments of Surgery, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology coordinates the **FLEX** program, and through her I have been able to be part of the education of one of the students via remote video conferencing in a project focusing on applied ethics in surgical decision-making. Any emeriti who may wish to contribute time to the FLEX program would be welcomed by Dr. Mui, who can be reached at this link: <https://mednet.med.ubc.ca/Teaching/FLEX/Pages/default.aspx>.

Stephen Tredwell, MD MA FRCSC, Professor Emeritus Orthopaedics

The Earth Is Telling Us We Must Rethink Our Growth Society

<https://thetyee.ca/Analysis/2020/04/06/The-Earth-Is-Telling-Us-We-Must-Rethink-Our-Growth-Society/>

William Rees, Professor Emeritus, School of Community and Regional Planning

Our Principal believes the poem at the link below is by **Pam Eyres**, a famous British comic poet, who is well worth looking up! Whoever wrote it, it is a little slice of fun in a gloomy time.

<https://healthunlocked.com/mpnvoice/posts/143163564/something-to-make-you-smile>

### Mere and Pure Déjà Vu: A COVID-19 Reflection

A long time ago now, around the middle of March 2020, a persisting thought emerged. In both the U.S. and Canada, every single person would soon encounter severe psychic shock. And for many American males born 1944–1950, that same plunge into endless uncertainty would amount to mere and pure déjà vu.

On 1 December 1969, the first draft lottery of the Vietnam War era propelled a large cohort of youth into unprecedented turmoil. Shortly afterward, in the spring of 1970, the U.S. military amplified the effect by invading Cambodia. Widespread student protest erupted. Within days the U.S. National Guard directed deliberate lethal rifle fire against students at Kent State University. Twenty-eight soldiers, 67 shots, 13 seconds. Four dead, nine wounded.

An historic wave of disruptions swept over higher education in the United States. The understated official statistics show 1970 Vietnam War resister immigration to Canada surging to a peak that stood 30% above the two adjacent years.

Since 2000 I have sought out and studied works that portray the Vietnam War resister experience in Canada. As I conjure perspectives on around 300 items (novels, short stories, plays, poem collections, feature films, TV series episodes), I gravitate in two conscious directions. The first has to do with formulation of results: how close reading can interact with distant reading to deal with a magnitude that approaches ten million words. The second direction seems utterly bottomless: how expressions of trauma—in forms that range from scarcely articulate to superlatively artful—simultaneously manifest and conceal psychic wounding. When set alongside the imaginings, the expositions that present as explicit memoir number so few.

Joseph Jones, General Librarian Emeritus



photo: John Hill, Vancouver, anti-war protest, 1968, Wikimedia Commons CC 4.0

## The Neurologist and Covid19

Early in my training at the Montreal Neurological Institute, one of my more towering teachers frequently proclaimed “Medicine is a branch of Neurology” (not the other way around). When the Covid19 pandemic started it appeared this respiratory virus was devoid of neurological issues and the Neurologist had no role to play. Later there were increasing reports of loss of taste and smell as early features, often characteristic of orbital-frontal dysfunction. Some of these patients also had severe headache and nausea.

It further became apparent that at 7–10 days after an apparent road to recovery a significant number of patients deteriorated requiring care in the ICU and many needed ventilation. At first this was thought to reflect viral pneumonia. However, it is now appreciated that the virus can gain access to the brain and in particular interfere with the medullary-respiratory centre causing acute respiratory failure and death. There is much to be learned about Covid19 and the nervous system, especially how many deaths and acute deteriorations reflect brain stem infection.

So my message is that the Neurologist turns out to have a role even in this primarily respiratory disease.

Andrew Eisen, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Medicine, Division of Neurology

## A Few Readings with the COVID-19 Crisis in Perspective

**The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine** in the USA from the standing committee on critical science and policy issues related to COVID-19.

**Publications** (early April 2020) on viral shedding, laboratory testing, effectiveness of fabric masks, potential for seasonality, and bioaerosol spread.

Available at: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/standing-committee-on-emerging-infectious-diseases-and-21st-century-health-threats#sectionWebFriendly>

**Center for Disease Control and Prevention (USA):** How to make, wear and clean a **face mask**. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html?referringSource=articleShare>

**New York Times:** Who Knew Grocery Shopping Could Be So Stressful?

Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/26/well/eat/coronavirus-shopping-food-groceries-infection.html?referringSource=articleShare>

### **Economic Outlooks:**

PIMCO's Cyclical Update for April 2020: From Hurting to Healing.

Available at: <https://www.pimco.ca/en-ca/insights/economic-and-market-commentary/cyclical-outlook/economic-outlook-from-hurting-to-healing/>

New York Times: Your Money and the Coronavirus: You Asked, Experts

Answered Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-money-advice.html>

Submitted by Michael MacEntee



## *The Lucky Generation*

We called ourselves the lucky generation,  
in many ways we were,  
spared the wars, the dole,  
the diseases, the back-breaking toil,  
that has been our predecessors' lot  
and that of the myriads who had come before them.  
There was comfort in knowing we could choose  
which college to enrol in,  
which profession we might enter,  
what city or country to put roots down in,  
where we might holiday winter or summer  
or retire to when our working lives were over.  
There were passing clouds in the sky,  
Islamic disruptions here and there,  
the occasional economic downturn,  
hints of glaciers melting or sea levels rising,  
but for the large part problems  
the millennials and their offspring would have to bear.  
And suddenly we learned how quickly the script could be rewritten,  
carefully constructed stage sets taken down,  
the myths of exponential growth,  
globalization as some kind of magic key,  
affluence as a guarantee of personal immunity,  
reduced to tatters.  
The old Greek precept which Solon had first uttered  
had stood the test of time:  
"Do not count yourself fortunate until your final day."

Philip Resnick



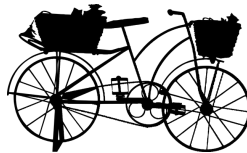


Dennis V. Cokkinos et al., eds. (2020). *The Capital of Knowledge*. Proceedings of the First International Congress, European Association of Professors Emeriti, May 30 – June 1, 2019. Athens: Society for the Propagation of Useful Books. 316pp.

We have just received an electronic copy of this rich collection of stimulating papers by European emeritus professors plus a few of us special invitees to the meeting. Both the international meeting and the book itself were a major undertaking of the EAPE, founded in 2016. This substantial document captures the excitement and intellectual diversity of the first International Congress of that group. Its publication by one of the Hellenic societies, and its dedication “to those who are suffering [the deadly pandemic of Coronavirus Covid-19], those that have sadly perished, but also to the common strife against the invisible enemy,” makes the collection all the more special and sets a high standard for European emeritus projects in the years ahead.

The conference was an ambitious endeavour full of pomp and symbolism. The stage was set by the welcome address given by the President of the Hellenic Republic in the presence of the Archbishop of Athens in the oldest lecture hall within the University of Athens. The papers were heavily weighted toward medicine (health challenges) and science (achievements through the ages), but also included sections on culture and the environment as well as reviews of the activities of national academies and emeriti associations. Of note is the fact that the UBC Emeritus College was the only institution present holding the college title. We are proud to have witnessed and participated in this great event.

--Donald Fisher and Dianne Newell



## Philosophers' Café

The Philosophers' Café cancelled its remaining meetings when Tapestry closed to protect residents from COVID-19.

## Interest Groups

The Interest Groups—Film, Photography, Poetry, Travel—have postponed meetings due to the pandemic. However, the Travel group may hold a virtual meeting.

Contacts for the groups: Film, John LeBlanc ([john.leblanc@ubc.ca](mailto:john.leblanc@ubc.ca)); Photography, Derek Applegarth ([derek.jenny@shaw.ca](mailto:derek.jenny@shaw.ca)) and Mike Whitfield ([brunnhil@telus.net](mailto:brunnhil@telus.net)); Poetic Odysseys, Phil Resnick ([philip.resnick@ubc.ca](mailto:philip.resnick@ubc.ca)) and Travel, Richard Spencer ([richard.spencer@ubc.ca](mailto:richard.spencer@ubc.ca)).



**The Poetic Odysseys group** of the Emeritus College has gone into hibernation because of the pandemic. But the muse has sometimes been known to find inspiration in periods of crisis.

*The Muse*

My favourite muse, Erato,  
has instructed me in no uncertain terms,  
to lay off the virus for a while.  
“Enough gloom and doom,” she says,  
“find some more cheerful themes,  
the cherry blossoms in full bloom,  
the magnolia buds,  
the daffodils piercing through the ground.  
Or try the rites of spring,  
the mating geese and ducks,  
the herons in their nests by Stanley Park,  
the young couples hiving off from the beaten track.”  
And then she adds with faltering voice,  
“Our oldest sister, Melpomene,  
has come down with the dreaded bug.”

Philip Resnick



Roman Sarcophagus of the Muses, 2nd century AD; Louvre; Wikimedia; photo Jastrow, 2006.

## In Memoriam

Terry Brown  
Associate Professor Emeritus of Pharmaceutical Sciences  
1921–2019  
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences  
University Service 1953-1987

Robert H. Lee  
Chancellor Emeritus  
1933–2020  
Chancellor 1993-1996 Chair, UBC Properties Trust 1988-2011



Chicago, 1950, Harry Callahan  
Art Institute of Chicago, CC0

## **Emeriti Contribute to Planning for Nursing’s New Building**

Dr. Elizabeth Saewyc, Director of UBC School of Nursing, hosted 10 Nursing Emeriti at a tea on 27 February to talk about the new building planning for the School of Nursing. The location was superb in Cecil Green Park House, and the tea was delightful. Dr. Saewyc provided a detailed overview of the history of the building planning, proposed site, and preliminary guidelines. Drawing on extensive institutional memory, the Emeriti enthusiastically provided advice about features of the building to support teaching and research, as well as welcoming public space. The Emeriti emphasized the importance of welcoming and central space for Emeriti to increase their profile and promote continued engagement with the School of Nursing. Their creativity was evident in their descriptions of a healing environment and outreach associated with a community interdisciplinary clinic. The new building will be located at the corner of University and Wesbrook.

Wendy Hall, Emeritus College Representative for the School of Nursing



Dr. Elizabeth Saewyc  
Director, School of Nursing

Congratulations to **Bonita Nath**, who has just completed her MA thesis at Simon Fraser University on the impact of the loss of a spouse on older adults. In it, she acknowledges the help of the UBC Emeritus College in recruiting participants for her study on mental health and loneliness among widowed older adults.

## FLATTEN THE CURVE HANDMADE MASKS

### A Volunteer Opportunity to Help Flatten the Curve

**Flatten the Curve Handmade Masks** is a non-profit group of volunteer healthcare workers and industry experts who have come together to sew and distribute handmade masks in Vancouver. Masks will go to at-risk individuals, and to staff working in medical clinics, hospices, and home support agencies, where access to approved personal protection equipment (PPE) is limited.

The project is currently in phase one of its pilot, which has the goal of making and distributing **2,000 masks by May 15**. When the results of this phase have been evaluated, the team will determine whether to expand the project to metro Vancouver and other communities across British Columbia. Information about the project can be found at <https://ftcmasks.org>.

We have an opportunity to help this non-profit project reach its goal of making, packing, and distributing masks. The project is aiming to have 50 volunteers who will sew a minimum of 40 masks each per week. If you sew and have access to a sewing machine and tools (scissors, pins, etc.), consider volunteering for this excellent cause. The team has done an extensive literature search to determine the best mask design, and made and tested 100 masks with local healthcare professionals.

Based on global research (including studies from Cambridge, San Francisco, and Stirling universities), best practices, and the preferred mask of local health care professionals, the project team selected a simple pleated, three-layered mask that hooks behind both ears. Sewing would involve using the specified pattern to construct masks of high-thread-count 100% cotton or 100% cotton tee-shirt fabric with an inner layer for added protection, pleats for easy fit, elastic ear wings, and a wire-nose-bridge for added comfort. You may have some of these materials at home, but thanks to generous industry donations, the team is able to supply some or all of the materials. If you would like to volunteer, please contact:

**Sewing Volunteers: Myrna Leslie:** email: [contact@ftcmasks.org](mailto:contact@ftcmasks.org) or cell phone: 604-240-0089.

**General Inquiries: Susan Scott Gabe:** email: [contact@ftcmasks.org](mailto:contact@ftcmasks.org) or cell phone: 604 313-3244



## Volunteer Opportunity with the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

Michelle Martin, an associate professor in Medical Sciences at the University of Victoria, is also a councillor with the College of Veterinarians of BC (CVBC). She is looking for volunteers from the Emeritus College to participate in committees of the CVBC, which is the licensing body for all veterinarians in British Columbia. She writes:

Contributions to the College by public members are invaluable to the College's mandate to protect the public, and I am reaching out to you to gather interest in reaching out to UBC Emeriti with an opportunity to participate. UBC's Emeriti will be uniquely qualified because of their extensive careers in the critical review of data, and their capacity for peer review.

All committees are described on the College's website, here: [http://cvbc.ca/CVBC1/About/Committees/CVBC1/About\\_Contents/Committees.aspx?hkey=8c756065-0254-467a-80fc-215e64ca1965](http://cvbc.ca/CVBC1/About/Committees/CVBC1/About_Contents/Committees.aspx?hkey=8c756065-0254-467a-80fc-215e64ca1965)

In particular, the Investigations Committee, the Discipline Committee, and the Practice Facility Accreditation Committee are looking for new members; however, the public's participation on ALL committees is sought.

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## **AGM: Agenda for 2020; Slate of Nominees for Election to Emeritus College Council; Draft Minutes from 2019 AGM**

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### **UBC Emeritus College Annual General Meeting 2020 Agenda**

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 1pm  
Zoom invitation

- 1. Moment of Silence to honour those members who have died**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
- 3. Approval of the minutes of the April 17, 2019 AGM**
- 4. Report from the Principal (Don Fisher)**
- 5. Financial Report (Michael MacEntee)**
- 6. Results of Election of new members of the Council**
- 7. Other Business**
- 8. Adjournment**



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## Slate of Nominees for Election as Members of Council 2020-21

Information on how the vote will be conducted will follow.

**Principal:** Graeme Wynn  
**Vice-Principal:** Joost Blom  
**Members-at-Large:** Richard (Dick) Unger (*two-year term*)  
 Anne Junker (*three-year term*)  
 Gail Bellward (*three-year term*)  
 Marv Westwood (*three-year term*)

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## Draft Minutes of 2019 AGM for Approval at the April 2020 AGM

**UBC Emeritus College**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2019**  
**Wednesday, April 17, 2019**  
**1:30 pm at St. John's College**

1. The President, Dianne Newell, opened the meeting with a welcome to the members.
2. **Moment of Silence to honour members who have passed away in the past year– we remember them.**  
 Names to be transferred from the power point slides.
3. **Agenda Approval**  
 The agenda was approved.
4. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, April 18, 2018**  
 The minutes were approved.
5. **Report from the President** (Dianne Newell)

A year ago, the Emeritus College was just a proposal to Senate. How to create a College was a mystery. The administrators were all on board. The motion to Senate to create the College was passed. What followed were many meetings and collaborations, with many unforeseen hurdles along the way. Thanks to the time and generosity of our Council members, and their participation in two retreats last summer in preparation for the creation of the College, to work out policy and programming. Special thanks to Steve Tredwell, Don Fisher, Carolyn Gilbert and Richard Spencer, for leading retreat #one during my first medical emergency, and to Don Fisher, Steve Tredwell, and Richard Spencer, for negotiations on our 2019-2020 UBC budget

At our General Meeting in February, 2019, we voted to constitute a General Meeting of UBC-APE for the purpose of dissolving APE and transfer APE’s accumulated assets and income to the UBC Emeritus College. The Senate and Board of Governors approved our Terms of Reference (governance) document in March and April, respectively. With our 2-day Symposium to celebrate the founding of the College in April, 2019, on “Scholarship and the Future University,” we turned a corner as a College. At that event, President Ono presented the College with its official Charter. And we presented Professor Ono with a framed Honorary Membership to the College.

At the upcoming Annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2019, Herbert Rosengarten will chair a panel discussion June 4 with College members on ‘Extending the Academic Lifespan: Staying Connected after Retirement.’

The College is planning and will host the CURAC [and spell it out] 2020 national conference, chaired by Don Fisher.

Thanks are due to so many others: special thanks to Paul Marantz, for his extensive work “behind the scenes,” Carolyn Gilbert, for her love of and skill with language, and who brings so much to the College, and Steve Tredwell, Judy Hall and Don Blake, and the College staff We would like to thank one of our members, Jack Rootman, for his generous \$50,000 donation. His donation allowed us to create a UBC Emeritus College Priorities Endowment fund, which was then matched by President Ono.

We have five members leaving this year: Donald Blake (Secretary) and Steve Tredwell (Immediate Past Principal, who stays on as an Ex Officio, non-voting member), and Members-at-Large Elaine Carty, Nicola Hall, Kjell Rubenson, and Graeme Wynn (stays on as elected Vice-Principal). Under our new Terms of Reference, the College will in future see one third of members-at-large, with three-year terms, turn over each year.

**5. Election of new members of the Executive** (Stephen Tredwell, Chair of the Nominating Committee)

Steve thanked the outgoing Council members, and Dianne, for her heroic effort in establishing the College. This could have not been possible without the Past-Presidents and past Council members.

The following were nominated by the Nominations Committee, on an elected slate, under the new Terms of Reference for the College.

**Election of new members of the Council**

- |                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Principal       | Don Fisher                    |
| Vice Principal  | Graeme Wynn                   |
| Member at Large | George Bluman (one year term) |
| Member at Large | Anne Junker (one year term)   |
| Member at Large | John McNeill (one year term)  |



Member at Large	Sandra Bressler (two year term)\
Member at Large	Linda Leonard (two year term)
Member at Large	Herbert Rosengarten (two year term)
Member at Large	Joost Blom (three year term)
Member at Large	Margery Fee (three year term)
Member at Large	Michael MacEntee (three year term)

The motion to approve the slate was seconded by Victor Gomel and approved by acclamation.

Dianne Newell will continue as Principal until July 1, when she will be appointed Immediate Past President and Don Fisher takes over as Principal.

**6. Presentation by Dianne Newell and Don Fisher to Don Blake**

A framed memento and a gift certificate for the UBC Bookstore as presented as a token of appreciation for his years as Editor of the UBC-APE/Emeritus College Newsletter. Don retires as Secretary, as does the position. Don brought gifts of personality, caring and scheduling in his contribution as editor and publisher of our newsletter.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm

