

Winter 2020

Dear Seniors' College Members,

I want to begin by thanking you for providing your encouraging words and very positive feedback in regard to our fall term courses. I know it meant so much to our five wonderful Instructors: Patricia McMullen, David McNeil, Tony Schellinck, Angus Smith and Michael MacMillan. Your feedback was also deeply appreciated by our Tech Team so expertly steered and managed by Bill Li and Bob Russell, and by their assistants Mimi Little, John Stewart, Lauchie Meagher and Sue Hawkes.

The Board expresses their gratitude to all of these outstanding Seniors' College volunteers: our instructors and the tech team, and to our hardworking Curriculum Committee Chair, Anne Chisholm and her team. Because of their efforts in pulling together, we can say unequivocally that our fall term, our first time delivering virtual presentations, was a resounding success!

A special vote of thanks must also be extended to our office manager, Sue Hawkes, who so graciously provided support to the tech team and the curriculum committee, to members of the board and to our members at large as we worked our way through the challenges of virtual course delivery. Just to remind you, Sue is always happy to help out anyone who is having difficulty with Zoom.

Our prime concern continues to be the health and safety of our members. The second wave of the pandemic is now upon us, and so, of course, our winter term classes will be offered on Zoom. Our brochure is now available on our website. Once again, we give a big shout out to our Faculty Coordinators, namely Joan Hicks, Jocelyne Hellou and Fern Jordan, for organizing another stellar line up of instructors and courses. We are very pleased to welcome new instructors Stewart Cameron (The Empowered Senior Patient) and the "Weather Guy" Jim Abraham (Forecasting Weather and Climate). We are also so pleased to welcome back Norman Pereira and Mary Wilcox (Six Questions/ Controversies), Barnett Richling (Understanding Human Evolution) and Ian MacVicar (SpySchool 301).

The Publicity Committee, chaired by Carol MacAskill, is busy implementing a plan for getting the word out about the Seniors' College and our winter term classes. We will be placing posters and brochures wherever possible; however, we will be somewhat limited because of COVID restrictions, such as library closures, that are currently in place. We will be asking our chapter committees to put up posters and to place brochures wherever they can. We also wish to enlist your support in this regard. If you know of places where you could put posters and/or brochures, please email our office manager, Sue Hawkes, and she will be pleased to e-mail copies to you that you could then print and post.

We want to let you know that because of damage caused by a fallen ceiling in our storage space and leaking pipes in our office at the Maritime Conservatory of the Performing Arts, we have had to move out of those premises. We have moved to Hope

United Church on 3055 Connaught Ave., Halifax B3L 3A7. Our email address and phone number have not changed.

A volunteer-run organization like ours is always looking for members to get involved, either by serving on the board, or on our curriculum committee, or by becoming a class manager or technical support volunteer. The Nominating Committee will soon be calling for volunteers to serve on the Board. The Curriculum Committee welcomes members who would offer to volunteer, and would like to begin by sitting on the committee, and just observing, or perhaps shadowing someone in a position in which you think you might like to make a contribution. If you are interested, please contact our office, and Anne Chisholm, the Curriculum Committee Coordinator will follow up with you. All board and curriculum committee meetings are currently held on Zoom, so you don't even have to leave your home to become a volunteer!

We look forward to "seeing" everyone on Zoom at our Information Session on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, at 10:00 am. Renewal notices will be going out to members shortly. For those of you whose membership expired in the fall of 2020 but was extended to winter 2021, your fees are now due.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Seniors' College Board of Directors and myself, to extend best wishes for a happy holiday. We hope 2021 will be a healthy, happy and peaceful one for you all. We look forward to the availability of a vaccine and a return to more "normal" times when we can all meet together again, in person. What a swell party there will be!

Be well and stay safe.

Warm regards,

Lois Block, on behalf of the Board of Directors,
Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia