



# St. Lawrence College

RETIREES  ASSOCIATION

Retiree Reflections, Ruminations, and Ramblings (R<sup>4</sup>)

Issue #14 (April 2021)

## April Fools' Joke

The month didn't start with the heavy snowfall that had been forecast, at least here in the Kingston area, but a different bad joke did arrive in the form of an **increased lockdown** for the month of April. This change was expected, given that COVID cases are climbing and the new variants are more contagious and more deadly. Pandemic fatigue is understandable but we must double down on our efforts to stay safe, which means continued hand-washing, mask-wearing, and distancing. Get your vaccine as soon as you can. The best one for you is the one that is available!



## The Comfort of Pets

During the prolonged period of isolation and stress, people turn increasingly to pets.



## **Technological Challenges**

I was interested to read about an Internet teaching adventure in a March issue of *This is SLC: Our College News*, (submitted by Kim Hawley, Professor and Coordinator, Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program in Kingston). This College newsletter is posted regularly at our Association website ([www.slcretirees.weebly.com](http://www.slcretirees.weebly.com)) for ease of access.

Professor Hawley was having problems with the Internet connection, advised the students of this problem, lost the connection for over half an hour, and then returned expecting to find that all the students had left. But, in Hawley's words:

What I found instead was that they had taken over the presentation themselves. One student had shared the PowerPoint and they took turns reading the slides and talking about the content. They recorded the lecture and provided me with a copy of it. The students did a wonderful job. You could hear their comfort level increasing as the lecture proceeded; they talked more and the conversations became more robust. I let them know how impressed I was with the level of maturity and professionalism demonstrated. The students let me know that they were proud of themselves and that it was a real confidence booster for them.

### **A Game Student**

This experience got me thinking about a much more low-tech challenge I faced during my first semester of teaching, in the fall of 1969. A student in the back row of my class had a transistor radio, was using earplugs to listen to a world series game, and kept jumping around in the seat and waving his arms when runs were scored. Using a reasoned approach surprising in one so new to teaching, I sternly gave the student two options – to leave the room at once or to have the decency to announce to the class when runs were scored and by whom. [I honestly forget what happened, but I think the student stayed but dispensed with the radio.]

### **Shedding a Little Light on the Subject**

Another challenge that I encountered early in my teaching career involved a classroom (one of many, as I recall) in which the screen for the overhead projector was cleverly hung right below one of the large ceiling lights. If the light was on, it was very difficult to see what was being projected on to the screen. If the light switch for the room was turned off, the room was plunged into almost total darkness, save for the light on the projector. Fortunately, I was saved from this predicament by the actions of the teacher who preceded me in the same classroom. As he explained to me, he climbed on a desk under the ceiling light in question, used a screw driver to dismantle/deactivate the offending light, replaced the cover, and was thus able to leave the light switch on without a problem over the projector screen. Discretion keeps me from naming this individual but his initials are P squared.

## Dealing with Aging



### You Know You're Old When...

Your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes and you're barefoot.

A sexy babe catches your fancy and your pacemaker opens the garage door.

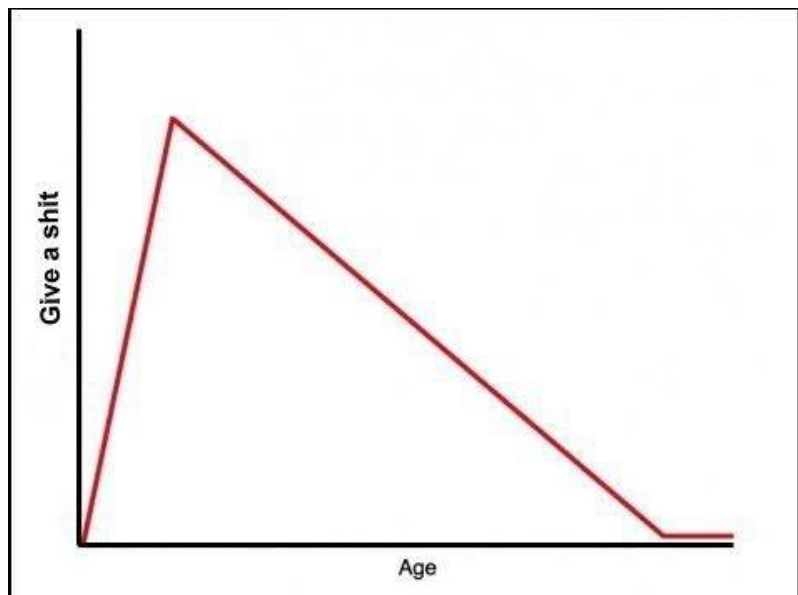
You are cautioned to slow down by the doctor instead of by the police.

Getting a little action' means you don't need to take any fiber today.

“Getting lucky” means you find your car in the parking lot.

An “all-nighter” means not getting up to use the bathroom.

### New Insights into Aging



## Escaping with Music and Movement

The first video link (<http://nottotallyrad.blogspot.com/2009/11/waking-up-is-hard-to-do.html>) has a medical twist as befitting the times. The second video needs no explanation and if doesn't make you smile, check your pulse! <https://1funny.com/heres-why-theres-nothing-better-than-coming-home-to-your-dog/>

## If You Can't Wait for Spring Flowers

Check out this link: <https://www.albertdros.com/post/the-most-beautiful-flower-garden-in-the-world-without-people>

**To Close with a Serious Note** (if we must)

