Upon arrival, I had been thoroughly briefed about the start of the new semester, the community came alive. Little did I know that I was actually going to be part of a great community dedicated to academic excellence and personal growth. Being a resident at Massey means you have to participate in the rituals that make this small but esteemed college a unique place.

The college reopened at the start of the fall semester, and I was immediately fascinated with the magnificence of the old 1960s-era building (the building of the college started in 1962, being opened in 1963), with the brown bricks and green garden on that summer night.

I was certainly jet-lagged and exhausted, but to Masseyites they lie at the heart of the fellowship. When I accepted the offer to do an eight-month journalism fellowship at Massey College, I thought I was conditioning to come for food when it rings, but Massey College is not just about reading and holding academic conversations the daily routine also involves wearing black robes, waiting for the sound of the “Pavlov bell” (so-called because students are conditioned to come for food when it rings), drinking from the same cup on Gaudy Night, routinely emptying food trays and returning them to the table by the kitchen in Ondaatje Hall, and reading the grace in Latin at dinner.

Tensiely marking test papers, preparing for comprehensive exams, holding talks in the Upper Library or just sitting in the common room procrastinating. These are the activities that occupy Junior Fellow graduate students at Massey College. But Massey College is not just about reading and holding academic conversations the daily routine also involves wearing black robes, waiting for the sound of the “Pavlov bell” (so-called because students are conditioned to come for food when it rings), drinking from the same cup on Gaudy Night, routinely emptying food trays and returning them to the table by the kitchen in Ondaatje Hall, and reading the grace in Latin at dinner.

Being a resident at Massey means you must participate in the rituals that make this small but esteemed college a unique place in the University of Toronto. These activities can be exhausting and seem weird to an outsider — but to Masseyites they lie at the heart of the fellowship. When I accepted the offer to do an eight-month journalism fellowship at Massey College, I thought I was coming to a place full of conservative people. Little did I know that I was actually going to be part of a great community dedicated to communal living. Upon arrival on the night of Sept. 3, 2015, I was greeted with the beautiful scenery of the college’s courtyard with its pond below the tower. Even though I was certainly jet-lagged and exhausted, I was immediately fascinated with the magnificence of the old 1960s-era building (the building of the college started in 1962, being opened in 1963), with the brown bricks and green garden on that summer night.

As the college reopened at the start of the new semester, the community came alive. Upon arrival, I had been thoroughly briefed by Anna Luengo, the college administrator, about Massey’s modus operandi. One of the instructions was “You should go to the porter’s office and sign up for a gown, because we wear gowns here for dinner.” I was shocked to hear that I would have to wear this garment (except for the few evenings when we dine cafeteria-style). Coming from Sierra Leone, my notion of wearing a robe is restricted to special academic occasions. I put on my first robe on the day of formal dinners with robes required, chill run down my spine. But on the first day of formal dinners with robes required, I decided to go through with it and that’s a decision I haven’t regretted. It gives me a special feeling, that feeling of belonging amongst other people from different racial and geopolitical backgrounds. The gown creates a common ground for everyone.

When I was permitted to sit at the table by the kitchen in Ondaatje Hall, and reading the grace in Latin at dinner. All Things, for your kindness, remembering also the great munificence of the House of Massey, and of the other benefactors who honoured this college and its fellowship with their own generosity.

There are other odd traditions — some of which have been discontinued, such as taking snuff (a kind of inhaleable tobacco). We still drink alcohol from the same cup on Gaudy Night, and that’s phenomenal. While these substances aren’t the healthiest things to consume, the shared ritual creates the sense of oneness within the fellowship. And one final bizarre tradition: I find the ducking of the new Don of Hall in the pond as an initiation ceremony both terrifying and fun. These rituals are less about profound transitions and more about daily practices. They are ways of seeing, behaving and gathering that have united a diverse community of students, Quadrangle members and Senior Fellows of different academic disciplines who, without such gatherings, wouldn’t have much in common.

The small daily routines organize our emotional lives, prompt us to count our blessings for the good food and fellowship we have. They are about caring — for ourselves and those we love, and even caring about the founding Fellows long dead who are a part of our larger story. These rituals help us to connect… making us part of this same old and honourable history.

“Tibi gratias agimus, O Creator omnium, pro tua benignitate, recordantes etiam magnam munificentiam Domus Massiensis et ceterorum benefactorum qui hoc collegium ac sodalitatem sua liberalitate ornaverunt.”

“Massey College: Why Traditions Matter

We give thanks to you, O Creator of All Things, for your kindness, remembering also the great munificence of the House of Massey, and of the other benefactors who honoured this college and its fellowship with their own generosity.”
Justice was served in the criminal case of Jian Ghomeshi, at least according to the strict requirements of Canada’s criminal code. That was the unanimous view of an expert panel gathered to discuss the multiple allegations of sexual violence against and the acquittal of the disgraced radio host – how victims of sexual violence are treated by society and the justice system, they agreed, is a much more complicated story.

“If you ask criminal defence folks ‘was justice served’, well, absolutely it was because the reasonable doubt standard simply wasn’t met,” said panelist Brenda Cossman, a professor of law with the University of Toronto, speaking at Massey College. “If we talk more broadly about what happens to victims of sexual violence then absolutely it wasn’t.”

The discussion, billed as Jian Ghomeshi: was justice done?, was moderated by Globe and Mail columnist and Kierans Janigan Fellow Jennifer Moroz and included Toronto Star investigative reporter Kevin Donovan and CBC News reporter Ioanna Roumeliotis, who both reported on the story. The group spoke with the media or the police, not both, when it comes to sexual assault complaints.


During the Ghomeshi panel, the group also discussed how Canada’s legal system stacks up against the court of public opinion when it comes to sexual assault complaints. While they agreed justice was served, based on the requirements of the criminal code, they also questioned or pointed to flaws in the way the complainants were prepped, with how the complainants were prepared, what allowed prosecutor Marie Henein to dismantle their testimony.

“Part of me thinks that they all should have stopped with Kevin’s story and (former police chief) Bill Blair ought not to have asked the women to come forward,” said Cossman. She believed complainants should speak with the media or the police, not both, to avoid inconsistencies that will be used to challenge their credibility in court.

Canada’s sexual assault laws are cutting edge, but “deeply gendered myths about sex and sexuality” negatively influence how those laws are applied and how women think they need to act after an assault or in court, she said. “They try to turn themselves into perfect complainants and then that backfires.”

Donovan, when asked how he reports on sexual violence, claimed he aims to be sensitive but pressed the women to share texts, emails and details about their relationship with Ghomeshi. He said that level of rigour is necessary and protects not only the reporter, but also the people being interviewed. “What we have all seen happen over the last few months, hopefully, will establish in people’s minds the importance of asking these questions,” said Donovan.

Roumeliotis said a lawyer told her “for every media interview these women gave it bought them two hours in cross examination.” Covering the case was the “worst assignment” of her career: it meant challenging her colleagues, off the record meetings in the CBC stairwell and no special access to management, as well as multiple interviews with the alleged victims. The reporter affirmed from day one “our matching orders were to treat this as any other story. At the end of the day the real bombs in the court were things that weren’t disclosed to anybody.” The case should make people think twice about our digital footprint, she said, and how police can better work with sexual assault complainants to ensure they disclose everything.

Donovan said most of the women and two men he spoke with – who also alleged Ghomeshi assaulted them – never contacted the police. Some, he suspects, made that decision on how their stories would be treated in court. “There are 12 better complainants out there… 12 people out there who have stronger allegations against Mr. Ghomeshi.”
Master Hugh Segal and Farley, his faithful dog: a questionnaire

Hugh Segal is the fifth Master of Massey College, a former Senator, and a member of the Order of Canada. Here he opens up a little bit more about himself.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Increased interest in both vegetables and details.

What is your most treasured possession?

My humans.

What is your greatest fear?

It's either them, or apple cores. Too close to the Fulton County animal pound in Atlanta. It's either them, or apple cores. Too close to call.

What is your most valued possession?

Genuine perspective and balance.

What is the greatest love of your life?

Shelter animals can make wonderful pets. Walt Whitman. Also, “Adopt, don’t shop”.

What historical figure would you identify with?

Benjamin Disraeli.

Who is your hero of fiction?

Horace Rumpole, of the Rumpole of the Bailey Series, created by the legendary John Mortimer – a defiant, slightly plump and deeply irreverent defense attorney to the downtrodden in London and region.

What is the quality you most like in a friend?

Patience and insight.

What do you most value in your friends?

Genuine compassion for his or her achievement.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Maintaining a sense of humour after 9 years in the Senate.

What is your greatest fear?

Being combed against my will.

What do you most value in your life?

Patience and insight.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

An early July morning, on Charleston Lake (Leeds county) in the writing cabin with – last but not least – your friendship.

What is your greatest fear?

Running out of strong espresso coffee.

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

My close family and close friends. They are the ones who sustain the will to keep on keeping on.

What is the quality you most like in a junior fellow?

Genuine compassion for his or her colleagues.

What is the quality you most like in a senior fellow?

Not taking themselves too seriously.

What is the most overrated virtue?

Piety: it often is a cover for small-mindedness and bigotry.

What is the most identified party with the glory and power of the British Empire?

Conservative Party, making the Conservatives the most identified party with the glory and power of the British Empire. Bismarck, the Bosche. It’s either them, or apple cores. Too close to call.

What is your greatest fear?

Being combed against my will.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Obedience. Also cleanliness.

What do you most value in your friends?

Genuineness (of tears).

What is your most treasured possession?

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What is your greatest extravagance?

Not taking themselves too seriously.

What is your greatest fear?

Running out of strong espresso coffee.

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

Belly rubs. Junior, senior, I don’t discriminate.

What historical figure do you most identify with?

Sprocket from Fraggle Rock. He’s both shaggy and misunderstood. There are humans I admire, as well. Richard Martin MP. William Wilberforce MP, and the Reverend Arthur Broome, founders of the (Royal) Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the oldest and largest animal welfare organization in the world.

What is your matter?

"Do anything, but let it produce joy". Walt Whitman. Also, “Adopt, don’t shop”. Shelter animals can make wonderful pets.

What do you most value in your friends?

Genuine perspective and balance.

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HAVANA. CUBA: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OPENS THEIR DOORS TO THE JOURNALISM FELLOWS IN CAMP AND THE LEIPZIG HISTORY MUSEUM; EXTRAORDINARY FOR MANY REASONS: THE TRIPS WE TOOK TO BERLIN AS GUESTS OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT; IN OCTOBER, THE JOURNALISM FELLOWS VISITED "THE CHANGES ARE HAPPENING IN SLOW MOTION, EVERYWHERE – QUESTIONS THE PACE OF PROGRESS. PERHAPS SHARING THE IMPATIENCE OF THE YOUNG". HAVANA, WHICH IS EXPERIENCING GREAT UPGRADE AS IT MOVES TOWARDS CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, WE MET DONGLE, WHO WORKED AT THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CUBAN LIBRARY FOR TWO YEARS AGO. IN MANY WAYS, HE IS THE NEW INTERNATIONAL FACE OF CUBA. "THESE ARE A TASTE OF WHAT MANUEL SORO'S WOULD BE LIKE ON HIS BAR, AND HE LEARNT TO SPEAK ENGLISH FROM PLAYING VIDEO GAMES. THE BOOKSHOP, WHERE A YOUNG BOY IN A PHOTO OF CUBAN COCKTAILS SET UP, PROVIDES A SPICE FROM CUBA AND TRAVEL, CAN SCHOOL A DREAM THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNTHINKABLE EVEN TEN YEARS AGO UNDER CUBA'S ISOLATIONIST REGIME. "WE WANTED TO HAVE A PLACE WHERE FOREIGNERS COULD MEET WITH CUBANS, AND EVERYONE WOULD BE TREAT ED EQUALLY." DUGLASH SAID, WHO ALSO, INCIDENTALLY, IS A PLACE WHERE HOMOSEXUAL CANADIANS CAN BUY A COPY OF "THE WAKING DEAD" (PATTY DE WITT BOOK)." WHILE HE'S HOPING TO SEE THE CHANGES THAT HAVE COME TO CUBA SUSTAINED FOR BOTH BUSINESS AND ENTERTAINMENT, DUGLASH – PERHAPS DURING THE INSPIRATION OF THE YOUNG, "QUESTIONS THE PACE OF PROGRESS. "THE CHANGES ARE HAPPENING IN SLOW MOTIONS, AND CUBA WANTS TO LEARN".

After our "bonding" trip to Cuba in October, the journalism fellows visited Berlin as guests of the German government. In December, the journalism fellows visited Helsinki. While he's happy to see the changes that have come to Cuba, he also, incidentally, sees a place for homosexual Canadians can buy a copy of "The Walking Dead" (Patty De Witt book)." While he's hoping to see the changes that have come to Cuba sustained for both business and entertainment, Duglash – perhaps during the inspiration of the young, "questions the pace of progress. "The changes are happening in slow motions, and Cuba wants to learn". After our "bonding" trip to Cuba in October, the journalism fellows visited Berlin as guests of the German government. In December, the journalism fellows visited Helsinki.
Oh, the things we've learned

BY JENNIFER MORICE

“Snooz… What have you learned this year?”

If you want to stop a journalism fellow in her tracks, that is the question to ask. I’ve faced variants of it countless times throughout this fellowship, and – every time – I’ve struggled with an answer. It’s not because there isn’t one. It’s because there are too many. Where to start?

I have learned to love waging wars through my playwriting courses, and to embrace reading fiction again, through my Canadian lit class. I learned to make time for activities that make me a more rounded person. Thanks to Senior Fellow Jonathan Rose and his course Creative Solutions for Mobile Devices, I learned to build an app. It was with a lot of help from two great computer programming partners, but still: a real app, that actually works!

After four decades on the planet, I taught myself “Aw di bosh!” (“How’s the bosh?” or “How’s it going?”) I also learned the coolest way to answer that question: “Di bosh fine.”

I’ve also learned to see the perfect selfie. (My profile pictures will never be the same.) I learned that there actually is a context in which I “eat between The Master and The Visitor” doesn’t sound weird. Talking to junior fellows, and hearing what they’ve accomplished, I learned that I was even more of an underachiever in university than I thought.

I’ve also learned that your best angle to help you.

5. Honour your moments of leisure (Take selfies when on a trip, at a party, walking or hanging out with friends, but don’t waste all your time doing that)

6. You shall not take thousands of selfies in public places! (There might be other people wanting to take selfies too. Take some and move along. This is NOT the case inside a movie theatre, by the way. Watch the movie. Some applies to wedding ceremonies. Selfies at The Louvre, in front of the Mona Lisa, are also forbidden!)

7. You shall not use selfie sticks (It’s not only ridiculous, but it’s also an extra gadget for you to carry around and a great way to hit people on the streets. By the way, the selfie stick has been forbidden in some places. And oh, yes: it’s only a selfie if YOU took it. If somebody shot it for you, or you used a two-foot-long gadget to get the picture, it’s not a selfie.)

8. You shall not overly produce the selfie (At least, not THAT much. A good selfie is usually that which has one with nature, though you can use lights, shadows and your best angle to help you.)

9. You shall post them (Okay, not all of your best angle to help you.)

10. You shall never stick to only one selfie! (Perfection takes time.)
BY LUZI HENALDO

It was one of the most daunting tasks of the fellowship, and we came to learn about it during our very first meeting in September. Every year, we were informed, the journalism fellows throw a party. And not just any party. We were to organize our version of a “Low Table” - the themed parties that Junior Fellows take turns throwing after each High Table dinner at Massey. We all momentarily panicked, throwing after each High Table dinner. They were talking, drinking beer. They seemed to be enjoying themselves. And then – the journalism fellows belted out “Don’t Stop Believin’...” and from there, the karaoke didn’t stop. Everyone sang – and danced - their hearts out. Unfortunately, the party had to shut down at midnight, but that didn’t prevent anybody from staying until the sound had to be turned off.

“Our first (and biggest) challenge was coming up with a theme. We brainstormed, based on our trip to Havana in October. Maybe we could rent a photo booth? Or a tarot reader! One thing was clear: our party had to be a night to remember.

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The Right Honourable Paul Martin was Canada’s Minister of Finance from 1993 to 2003 and Prime Minister from 2003 to 2006. He is founder of the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative, focused on improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal students, and the Capital for Aboriginal Prosperity and Entrepreneurship (CAPE) Fund, which invests in Aboriginal business. In December, he was a guest at one of the Journalism Fellows’ (off-the-record) Thursday lunches – and took some time afterward to answer some questions, on the record.

The Liberals are back with a majority. What was the first thing that came to your mind when you realized this?

The country needed it. As we said during the campaign, Canada needed a real change, not only an election slogan. Change in the way government is going to operate, to relate to the people, in the priorities that need to be set – all of this while looking ahead, not backwards. And that’s what is happening.

Do you think the huge Liberal victory was a reaction to the Conservatives or to Harper himself?

Harper became totally identified with the conservatives and the conservatives with Harper, so it was both things. But there’s also no doubt Harper was at the centre of the issue.

What about his opponent, Mr. Trudeau? What are the things that will make him succeed, his strengths?

He understands the need for change. He relates well to people. And he’s not afraid.

And his weaknesses?

I can’t tell you one. I think he’s pretty good.

What’s different today in the Liberal Party compared to the time you were active in it?

I think there is the same blend: importance of social policy supporting people, supporting research and development as the bases for the economy and openness. I believe it’s the same Liberal Party, different generation.

The Liberal Party has a big responsibility now, since people are expecting things to be back the way they were but evolving at the same time... I’m sure the Liberal Party will do that – different generation but also different issues and problems. Obviously, the party will distinguish itself by how it handles these problems. I believe they’ll continue the way I did (when Prime Minister), dealing fairly with Aboriginal Canada in terms of healthcare and education, making the Parliament work in a better way. I also believe the world has changed in the last ten years, the economy has changed, and they’ll handle it differently, but far better than the Conservatives would have.

Mr. Trudeau announced a public inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women. Historically these inquiries don’t go very far toward bringing about real change. Will it be different this time?

Yes, I think there will be real change. Of course, in the inquiries we’re not going to find out what happened – we know what happened. But the inquiry will focus on what to do about it, where the solutions are, bringing a real change. The Foundation has talked to them, and the Aboriginal people want an inquiry because they feel it will lead to solutions and not just empty talk. I think Canadians are fair, but they’re not aware of the problems that Aboriginal Canadians face. Especially in Eastern Canada, where reserves are up North, a long way away from the major cities – as opposed to Western Canada, where the reserves are very close by and there’s a greater awareness. The large majority just get on with their lives and don’t pay attention, something we hope the inquiry will change.

How difficult would it be to make Canadians realize how important Aboriginal issues are?

I think it’s changing. Canadians are far more aware today than they were. It also seems that Aboriginal history will be taught in schools. Kids will grow up knowing that this history is part of who they are, while giving indigenous kids a lot more confidence because then they’ll know the rest of the country knows about them. They are very optimistic about the possibilities brought by the new government. I took part on a major meeting with all of the chiefs from across the country and where the new Prime Minister spoke to them. It was a huge success.

What do Aboriginal communities think about journalists and media coverage?

They don’t think journalists are fair at all, in general too many journalists just reinforce the prejudices against them. All they expect is fairness and understanding – not about everything all the time, but at least a better comprehension of their issues. I think they feel one of the reasons Canadians don’t know a lot about them is due to the lack of fair reporting from the press.

What about the Indian Act? Should it be repealed?

I think the act should go – but not overnight, simply because you need to have an act that basically deals with the relationship. But a new act, a new understanding between indigenous and Canadian people has to be set out. And it should be done on a solid basis that is mutually acceptable, not an imposition. The Indian Act should have been gone a long time ago, but it can’t go until it’s replaced with something better: an agreement, a brand new “Royal Proclamation”, something along these lines.

As Prime Minister, you made every possible effort to erase deficits. Mr. Trudeau has already said he’s going to run deficits. Is that a wise move?

It is, because the times ... is different. When I was eliminated the deficit was very strong economic growth, something there is not today and government has to basically encourage – a thing you cannot do without investing. And if you’re investing, you’re going to have deficits. But another big difference is also that we got our debt ratio weighted out. When I sat, our debt ratio was one of the highest in the industrial world, when today it is very low. As long as that ratio is low you can run deficits.

What are the things you believe that Mr. Trudeau will bring to the table?

I believe it’s the same Liberal Party, different generation. Had his strengths?

He understands the need for change. He relates well to people. And he’s not afraid.

And his weaknesses?

I can’t tell you one. I think he’s pretty good.

Canadians realize how important social policy supporting research and development as the bases for the economy and openness. I believe it’s the same Liberal Party, different generation.

The country needed it. As we said during the campaign, Canada needed a real change, not only an election slogan. Change in the way government is going to operate, to relate to the people, in the priorities that need to be set – all of this while looking ahead, not backwards. And that’s what is happening.