

The Lifelong Learner

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President's Message

"Lifelong Learning"

What is the significance of this phrase within the ELLA name? Part of the definition in Wikipedia refers to learning throughout a career to "enhance competitiveness and employability". In our modern society, scientific advancements and the economy are changing with remarkable rapidity and most jobs require constant updating and adaptation through "lifelong learning". However, the philosophy of ELLA is embodied in the section of the definition stating: "the voluntary and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge that enhances social inclusion, active citizenship and personal development". At ELLA, we believe that with the freedom of retirement, we thrive and enjoy life to the fullest by pursuing knowledge and our understanding of the world.

ELLA members recognize that learning does not stop at graduation or retirement. We rejoice in developing new interests and continuously learning more. We no longer need to modify our knowledge to accommodate careers, but now we can update our understanding of the sciences, arts and the cultures around us to enrich our lives.

Through our annual Spring Session, ELLA is helping to foster the culture of learning. Our Board and Committees have been working hard to put together another great program. We hope you are planning to join us for our 10th Anniversary celebration in May 2011. Consider bringing along some friends so they too can participate in this wonderful journey of learning throughout life. You will all be glad you did!

Nancy Rae – President, 2010-2011

ELLA's 10th Anniversary!

The coming ELLA Spring Session will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of what many people call "Edmonton's Best Kept Secret" -- three weeks of intellectually stimulating daily courses taught by U of Alberta professors and other experts for an incredibly low cost.

In this Issue

President's Message

ELLA's 10th
Anniversary!

A Peek at the 2011
Spring Session...
Just Five Months
Away!!

The Spring Session
Social Whirl, 2011

Register For The
ELLA Spring
Session Early And
Win A Prize!

No Increase in Fees!

The ELLA Speakers
Bureau – Looking
For Audiences

Nga's Story

Volunteer Profile:
Meet John Chandler

Membership and
Registration
Confirmation

Bylaw Comments

Information Centre

- ELLA Board 2010-2011 and Bios
- How to Contact ELLA
- Important Dates

We hope MANY of our past members since 2001 will come back to join us in May 2011, or will pass the good word onto friends and neighbours.

Just look at some of the enthusiastic comments from members last year:

for ***An Irreverent History of Journalism:***

“This course was a treat – interesting guests interspersed with well-prepared lectures. A gifted teacher – Have her back!”

for ***Drawing Basics:***

“More than exceeded my expectations! Looking forward to the art show!”

for ***Real Forensic Anthropology:***

“Hands-on lab was great!”

for ***Aboriginal Art:***

“Uniquely inspiring, very insightful and stimulating. A wonderful and powerful orientation into aboriginal art.”

for ***Topics in Canadian History:***

“Tremendous achievement in terrain covered. Learned how little I know about the history of my own country!”

Jan McGregor - Communication Committee Chair

A Peek at the 2011 Spring Session... Just Five Months Away!!

A phone survey of current and past ELLA members done by a U of A Marketing 312 class for ELLA's Publicity Committee in 2009 revealed that many members would like to have more new course topics each year. The volunteers on the Program Committee have worked diligently to include many new instructors in the 2011 Spring Session program, as well as some of your favorite instructors from previous years. We hope we now have “something for everyone”

Courses to be taught by some of our 15 NEW instructors:

A History of Architectural Concepts and Designs through the Ages

The Anthropology of Health and Healing

What Makes the Funnies Funny

by the cartoonist who has been writing the “Betty” comic strip for 20 years

Alberta's Ecosystems

Jazz - History and Appreciation

The Impact of Globalization on Canadian Cities

The Archeology of Alberta

including hands-on access to two of the University's collections of artefacts

“A Journey Through Science”

presented by the people behind the impressive [Science in Seconds](#) website.

*Among the 12 instructors **BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:***

Michael Gravel will be picking up where his “*Information Technologies Demystified*” course left off last year, including a look at the future of the internet - the mobile web.

Shirley Serviss will guide and support members in writing different types of personal essays.

ELLA members *Dave Ferraro* and *Ron Bourassa* will again team up to offer their “*Beginner Computer*” and “*Introduction to Computer Applications*” courses.

Margaret Ann Armour will examine scientific, political and cultural factors that have contributed to famines throughout the ages.

Of course we will have a variety of fitness classes to get you going, and several painting classes for our artistic members.

We are certain that many of these classes will be “sold out” soon after registrations commence. We strongly recommend that you ensure your ELLA membership is up to date so you can have access to the complete calendar for two weeks before it is opened to the public, and register “before the rush”. The calendar will be available to members early in February... renew your membership and talk to your friends now!

Ted Snow - Program Committee Chair

The Spring Session Social Whirl, 2011

Anniversary Celebration

It is ELLA’s 10th anniversary this coming spring!! Plan to attend our Anniversary Celebration on the first day of classes – **Monday, May 2, 2011**. We are planning to borrow a few minutes of class time that day to allow for the noon-hour Celebration Event (featuring entertainment, speakers and birthday cake). It’s too early to tell you all the details, but now is a good time to note it on your calendar! It will be a fabulous kick-off for ELLA 2011.

Social Luncheon

This year we are planning a “social luncheon” for **Tuesday, May 11**, separated from the Annual General Meeting so it can be a more relaxed event with lots of time for chatting.

Wind-Up Party

In the last week, on **Thursday May 19**, our Wind-Up Party will be held at the Faculty Club following the last class of the day. By then you should have 300 new friends!!

Peter Wightman - Social Committee Chair

Register For The ELLA Spring Session Early And Win A Prize!

You are Never Too Old to Win a Prize

If you register for the inspiring ELLA Spring Session by March 31, 2011, your name will be entered in a draw. Two lucky winners will win an Early Bird prize that will make your adventure with ELLA even more rewarding and exciting.

First Prize: A ticket to ELLA's Wind-Up Party

Second Prize: A ticket to the ELLA Social Luncheon

So, watch for the calendar and register as soon as you can...not only will you be more likely to get into your favorite classes, but you might win one of our prizes, too!!

Enneke Lorberg - Publicity Committee Chair

No Increase in Fees!

For only a \$20.00 membership and a registration fee of \$220 (or \$245 with an art course), you can attend 5 excellent and varied courses taught by University professors or other leading experts in their field, with daily classes in each course for 3 weeks.

How Do We Do It??

With a team of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers! And wholehearted support of the University of Alberta that provides us with classroom space, audio-visual equipment, insurance coverage, office space in Enterprise Square, and Administrative support.

See You in the Spring

We hope you will be with us at our Spring Session in May, 2011, whether as a returning old friend, or as a new adventurer. If you have an ELLA membership or join before the end of January, you will have 2 weeks advanced access to our new Calendar of courses and be able to register "before the rush".

Jan McGregor - Communication Committee Chair

The ELLA Speakers Bureau – Looking For Audiences

A year ago ELLA's Publicity Committee formed a working group of speakers to go anywhere to talk to groups of people who might be interested in joining ELLA and coming to our Spring Session.

To all ELLA members:

You too can be an educational marketing agent promoting the potentially miraculous changes the ELLA program can bring to your life as a retired or semi-retired and never-really-tired person!

1. Let all the people you know how tremendously inspiring these ELLA spring courses have been for you! You can start by bragging a bit about your positive experiences as a member enrolled in the ELLA program and then **tell them how to find us** on our website or by phone.
2. Or, let the ELLA Speakers Bureau convince various target groups to join the ELLA lifelong learning movement. You could help us by listing the organizations, community groups and associations, clubs, churches or professional groups that you belong to and jot down contacts for each organization and **pass them by e-mail or phone to the ELLA Office** at exella@ualberta.ca or (780) 492-5055.

We will arrange to have a member of our bureau come to speak to any organization that welcomes us. We have a small army of eager beaver speakers ready any time to deliver sessions that are informative, stimulating, uplifting, inspiring, colourful and powerful, with or without PowerPoint.

These sessions can be tailored to the needs of various groups, small or big gatherings and can easily and smoothly be fitted into any agenda. We will come to any type of audience at any time as long as it is in or near Edmonton and not during the hours of the night when some of us may be sleeping or writing memoirs, or love letters or poetry.....

Enneke Lorberg - Publicity Committee Chair

Nga's Story

Nga de la Cruz joined the ELLA Spring Session last year and was so excited about the courses and wonderful people that she found that now she is an enthusiastic member of the ELLA Board. Here is her story:



Seeking Stimulus

Having retired just over two years ago, I was enjoying my "freedom"- no more getting up early in the morning, no more going to work in the dark and coming home in the dark! Yet, my grey cells needed stimulus. Would ELLA do?

ELLA! -- a beautiful name. ELLA - the Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association -- I should make an acquaintance with you! So I went downtown to Enterprise Square to become an ELLA member and register for courses. Enterprise Square is a maze, one can easily get lost in it. Nevertheless, I finally found my way and registered for 5 courses - the maximum allowable. There were so many interesting courses to choose from! Some were full by the time I registered, but they all sounded fascinating.

Being Made to Feel Special

Then the month of May came: I was going back to school! This time no homework, no exams. Not a bad way for any student.

On the first day I was given a name tag with course titles, classroom numbers (a clever and helpful idea) and a red dot. Then someone mentioned: "You are a first-time student at ELLA".

"Yes, how do you know?"

"You have a red dot" ... Ah, I was special!

Enjoying High Quality Courses

One week into the courses, I was already very impressed with ELLA. I found my brain thinking again. The course '***Book Publishing in Canada***' opened a door for me into a new world. Writing is hard, getting one's story published is altogether another "story". One needs to hear a publisher talk. The course '***Global Food Challenges***' was fascinating! I had no idea how little I knew about how our food is produced and how it is controlled and marketed, and I was so ignorant about how large multinational food corporations control our daily life. On a different note, '***Canadian Aboriginal Art***' was refreshing; I had been oblivious to a vibrant arts culture which resides right here in Canada!

My New Friends

I thrived on three weeks of intellectual stimulus and interesting conversations with my fellow students. Everyone was friendly. I have made new friends. I also have a new walking companion during the summer. I have come to know that ELLA is run by all volunteers and they are a group of dedicated and hard-working people. I hope ELLA will be my friend for a long time!

Nga de la Cruz, Board Member at Large

Volunteer Profile: Meet John Chandler

John joined in May 2010 and became such an enthusiastic supporter that he started volunteering immediately. Here is a profile of John:

Enterprise Architect

John recently retired from the Alberta Government after 28 years supporting, developing, planning and improving government business & computer systems. This culminated in the position of Enterprise Architect (hence his nickname: “John of Arch”) to lead work on the creation of the Government of Alberta Enterprise Architecture (GAEA) and subsequently the Canadian Governments Reference Model ([CGRM](#)).

Composer and Performer

Prior to that, John studied piano and was a member of the musical group “Lavender Hill Mob”. In 1977, their song “[Dream Away](#)” received widespread airplay and they opened for Electric Light Orchestra in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa.

Dog Lover

“My pride and joy is a little female beagle named Meme”, he says. Meme has recently earned ribbons in Agility (which is a dog sport where the dog must successfully negotiate an obstacle course). Also, this summer they were chosen to be in the [SuperDogs](#) show at the Capital EX and Calgary stampede. Plus they have been volunteering for the Pet Therapy Society, helping their mission to use visits with animals to brighten the lives of the sick or elderly.



Volunteer

Germaine Chau first recognized that John’s computer knowledge would be useful for ELLA. She immediately seconded him to assist with an in-depth review of ELLA’s website, newsletter, calendar, and most notably the database system. Their enthusiastic work started over the summer and is now delivering benefits to all ELLA members by making ELLA’s information systems more secure, usable and effective.

John highly recommends volunteering for ELLA. He says “The people are great fun. The work is very rewarding. And the cause is very worthwhile.”

Ed Posyniak, Communications Committee Member

Membership and Registration Confirmation

No More Membership Cards!

The Administration Committee has been very active over the summer and fall to completely redesign the ELLA database. As a result, we are very happy that membership confirmations are now easily generated by email and on paper. From now on, your membership will be confirmed by email (if we have an email address for you) or by a snail-mail letter. We will no longer issue membership cards.

Registration Confirmation

Starting this year, members will receive their registration confirmation by email or by Canada Post. The confirmation letter will include all your confirmed classes, and the time of each class. Members can also request a reprint if there are any course changes. The room number will NOT be included, as we do not allocate rooms until the week before classes begin, so we can be flexible to meet the needs according to enrollment, classroom size and availability, and instructors' needs for special audio-visual equipment. The room numbers of your classes will be printed on your name tag.

Ray Lieberman – Administration Committee Chair

Bylaw Comments

Open meetings

Those in ELLA who study our beautifully written Bylaws closely (as we are sure many of us do on a regular basis) may have noticed that Article 3.8 refers to an “open meeting”. I was recently asked to clarify this, and I am sure there are many ELLA members who have been eagerly awaiting my reply!

Most of our meetings are “open”, but some meetings, or portions of them can be “closed” (held *in camera*). This might occur, for example, if the Board wanted to discuss issues about an ELLA Director concerning possible removal (see Articles 4.11 and 4.12), or if the general membership wished to discuss reasons for expulsion of a Member (see Article 3.5). (This makes ELLA sound like a very exciting group, doesn't it? Actually, we are all very nice, but bylaws are to be written to deal with situations before they occur, not in a moment of panic...).

For More information

Please feel free to ask other questions about the ELLA Bylaws and Policies. They are now all listed on the [ELLA website](#).

Don Chadsey – Bylaws and Policies Committee Chair

Information Centre

ELLA Board 2010-2011 – Members & Bios

There are currently 13 members on the ELLA Board. We work together, with the support of many volunteers, to put the ELLA Spring Session together every year. The Board members come from many different backgrounds with different histories and experiences, and we thought that you might enjoy learning a bit about us. Some Board members will be retiring this spring...please consider joining the Board and getting to know us better!

Board Members	Committee Chairpersons
<i>President:</i> Nancy Rae	<i>Administration:</i> Ray Lieberman
<i>Vice President:</i> Don Chadsey	<i>Publicity:</i> Enneke Lorberg
<i>Secretary:</i> Faith Fernalld	<i>Program:</i> Ted Snow
<i>Past President:</i> Ray Lieberman	<i>Implementation:</i> Germaine Chau
<i>Treasurer:</i> Charles Toth	<i>Communication:</i> Jan McGregor
Members at Large:	<i>Bylaws & Policies:</i> Don Chadsey
Ruth Bertelsen, Chips Reid,	<i>Finance:</i> Charles Toth
Nga de la Cruz	<i>Social:</i> Peter Wightman
	<i>Nominations:</i> Ray Lieberman

Ruth Bertelsen

Ruth's first career was as an R.N., then she was a social worker, then a full-time mother. Many varied jobs followed: publicity agent, book editor, free-lance radio and TV broadcaster (mostly for CBC and ACCESS), co-head of the creative writing Section of the Banff School of Fine Arts, and radio and TV drama and film script developer. These jobs were followed by a position as Director of Film and Literary Art for the Alberta Department of Culture, then she was a Coordinator of Education for the Alberta Human Rights Commission. Ruth and her husband Jack are both proud members of ELLA.

Don Chadsey

Don practiced Obstetrics and Gynecology (infertility treatments) in Edmonton and Lethbridge for 18 years, and served as Deputy Registrar for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta for 16 years (Complaints and Discipline). Don has been an active volunteer for his seven years of retirement, at the University of Alberta where he has read course material onto tape for print-restricted students, the Telus World of Science, VoicePrint (reading news and information onto the internet for the print-restricted to access), in CKUA's classical music library and for ELLA.

Germaine Chau

Germaine graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in Business Administration. After immigrating to Canada, she worked for Alberta College, Grant MacEwan University, the University of Alberta and IBM. She recently retired from IBM as Business Analyst supporting University of Alberta Student Systems. Together with John Chandler, Germaine has redesigned the ELLA database and made many enhancements to the membership and registration process. Since retirement, Germaine has traveled to 20 countries.

Nga de la Cruz

Nga graduated from the University of Alberta with a post-graduate degree. She recently retired after 30 years of government service as a manager in groundwater management. Her interests include water, the environment, healthcare, friends and social trends.

Faith Fernald

Since retiring from NorQuest College in 2004, Faith has line-danced and note-jotted her way through five ELLA Spring Sessions where she has made lasting friendships. She has recently learned Portuguese and helped to organize a community garden in Oliver. Faith also enjoys watching foreign movies, going to poetry readings, working in the ELLA office, walking, travelling and having a glass of wine with friends.

Ray Lieberman

Ray is an original member of the ELLA Board and has served on it for 9 years, with one year off for good behavior. He has served as President, Vice-president, past-president and Chairs of Administration and Publicity. Ray is a chemical engineer and worked in petroleum refining for Imperial Oil Limited. He also serves on the Canadian Cancer Society Alberta/NWT Division Board.

Enneke Lorberg

Enneke tries to bring about socio-cultural and political changes by working for the common good. She belongs to quite a few community organizations, ranging from Public Interest Alberta, Council of Canadians, Parkland Institute, Friends of Medicare and ELLA. Enneke likes to combine coffee drinking with global and local issues and sharing a glass of dry red wine with in-depth discussions of hot political issues such as ground and surface water issues. She sometimes pretends to be somewhat reflective and introverted, but is always ready for mild outbursts of social activism when needed!

Jan McGregor

Jan graduated with a Master's degree in the population ecology and genetics of Jumping mice in the Kananaskis Valley, but after realizing there was "no money in mice", she switched to developing expertise in the environmental impacts of development on water quality and quantity and worked in the private sector and for the Alberta government. She has also been active in adult education in the natural sciences for many years, lecturing, giving courses, as a Park Naturalist in Banff and writing and editing science books. Her family and dog keep her active skiing and hiking in Edmonton and the mountains. She has been on the ELLA Board for 6 years.

Nancy Rae

Nancy has a health care background. Prior to her retirement, she was a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the U of A. Her teaching interest was in process education – providing students with a context to apply their professional knowledge through activities which developed skills in areas such as communication, evaluation, and problem solving. Over the years she has served on the executive of many organizations both professionally and in the community. During her free time she also plays golf, travels, enjoys music, putters in the kitchen, reads, and paints in watercolours. Nancy is currently the president of ELLA.

Chips Reid

Chips Reid is from Trinidad. He worked as Mechanical Design Engineer, primarily in the “oil patch”, and is now retired. Chips is an active volunteer for several non-profit organizations, including being on the Board of ELLA for 5 years.

Ted Snow

After working as a research economist for the Federal Government in Ottawa throughout the 1970s, Ted returned to Alberta and ran the Westlock and District Adult Learning Centre for 12 years. That is where he found his passion for lifelong learning and first organized courses for seniors.

Charles Toth

Charles (Karoly) Toth was born in Hungary and escaped at the time of the failed 1956 revolution. He was 13 at the time, and alone. He struggled in Austrian refugee camps, then in English mining towns until 1958. He studied at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, then worked for 15 years in the Commission of National Atomic Energy on feasibility studies on Atucha, Argentina’s first nuclear reactor for electricity generation. He met his wife before he immigrated to Canada in 1979. Here he obtained his BSc. Degree in 1988 and for several years did research on water quality at the University of Alberta environmental engineering department, and worked until 1995 as analytical chemist at EnviroTest Laboratories. Today he is semi-retired and splits his time between repairing computers and running the household, cooking, reading, writing, tennis and yoga.

Peter Wightman

Peter grew up in Toronto, completed a B.A.Sc. in Electrical Engineering, and then escaped. He went to Austria to teach skiing for a winter where he met Anne, the love of his life. Peter and Anne settled in Kimberley in 1976 to be in the mountains and raise their son Alex. With only \$700 in the bank, they opened North Star Natural Foods which later included a bakery and the Cuckoo Café on the Platzl. A dozen years and many dozen cinnamon buns later, Peter was ready for a career. He studied Audiology at the University of Montana, receiving his M.A. in Communications Sciences and Disorders in 1988. A position at the Glenrose Rehab. Hospital drew them to Edmonton, and in 1994 Peter founded Wild Rose Audiology Clinic. Retirement

drew Anne and Peter back to Kimberley and they now lead a “double life”, spending their time here and there. ELLA was one of the big attractions in their decision to keep two of their four feet firmly planted in Edmonton.

Jan McGregor - Communications Committee Chair

How to Contact ELLA

Phone:	(780) 492-5055. <i>If nobody answers, leave a message; calls will be answered year round. The office is open and staffed but not manned on a daily basis.</i>
Email:	exella@ualberta.ca
Visit or Write:	Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association (ELLA) U of A Faculty of Extension Suite 2-936B, 10230 Jasper Avenue Edmonton, AB T5J 4P6.
Office Hours:	Oct 1, 2010 – Dec 13, 2010: <i>Open every Monday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm</i> Dec 14, 2010 to Jan 2, 2011: <i>Closed for Christmas</i> Jan 3, 2011 – Jan 31, 2011: <i>Open every Monday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm</i> Feb 7, 2011 – Feb 11, 2011 – First Week of Registration: <i>Open every day from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm</i> Feb 14, 2011 – Apr 29, 2011: <i>Open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm</i>
Website:	www.extension.ualberta.ca/ella

Important Dates

Calendar Available

Members - first week in February

Non-members - third week in February

Registration

Feb 7, 2011 to April 26, 2011