

The Lifelong Learner

April 2014 Newsletter

Volume 13, Number 2

President's Message



John Elliot, President

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi, in this quote, captures the essence of ELLA's Spring Session, which is both a time for living and learning. It is an opportunity to meet old friends, make new friends and debate new ideas. Spring Session 2014 begins soon!

The number of members and registrants for Spring Session continues to grow. ELLA now has 800 members with 500 attending Spring Session. Demographics over the next few years indicate that the number of older adults in the age range of 55 to 70 will continue to increase. This means that the demand for activities like Spring Session will continue to expand. The challenge for ELLA will be accommodating the needs of this growing audience.

This year the Board undertook two major projects – online registration and exploring future scenarios for ELLA.

Germaine Chau and her volunteer team spent hours ensuring the smooth implementation of online registration (Eventbrite). Just over half of our members (54%) successfully registered online. The remaining 46% who registered in-person, by phone or mail had their registrations entered into Eventbrite by our office volunteers.

The report from the *ad hoc* Futures Working Group, chaired by Carol Vaage, contained 59 recommendations. The recommendations focused on ‘change’ and ‘governance.’ The Board considered the recommendations and determined our priorities in March.

In this Issue

- President's Message
- ELLA Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- The Latest for Spring Session 2014
- What's Next for ELLA?
- Volunteer Recognition: John Chandler
- The ELLA Board - A Shared Passion for Learning
- Wanted ELLA Web Designer
- Instructor Profile: Meet Lidio Valdez Cárdenas
- Call for Volunteers for the ELLA Board
- ELLA Interest Circles - A Year-Round Gift
- Instructor Profile: Meet Tiina Hohn
- ELLA's Amazing Online Registration Team
- Information Centre
ELLA Board
How to Contact ELLA
- Notice and Agenda
ELLA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This is an exciting and challenging time to become a Board member. As ELLA continues to grow because of the large number of ‘baby boomers’, the Board will continue to look for ways to meet the needs of this growing population of older adults. If you have leadership skills and like new challenges then consider joining the Board of Directors of ELLA.

ELLA also needs many volunteers. The [Futures Working Group February 2014 Report](#) states, “*Volunteers are ELLA’s best assets: inventive, engaged, active, invested and creative. The calibre and commitment of volunteers has made ELLA what it is today.*” Come and join this dynamic team of ELLA volunteers. We need volunteers with skills in many different areas. Check and see if your skills match some of skill sets needed by ELLA.

Enjoy yourself at Spring Session 2014!

John Elliot – President, 2013-14

ELLA Annual General Meeting

Please attend the ELLA Annual General Meeting (AGM) on:

Tuesday, May 13th at 12:00 noon
Room N2-115, Education North

The notice and Agenda for the AGM is included at the end of this newsletter.

Check the ELLA website or call the ELLA office **after April 21st** for the AGM reports http://web.extension.ualberta.ca/extcms/index.php/ella/annual_general_meetings.

A limited number of copies will be available for review during Spring Session at the information table, and at the AGM.

Other important dates are:

Wednesday, May 7th, 11:30 am	Deadline for Board of Directors nominations
Wednesday, May 7th, noon	All-Candidates Forum in room N2-115
Friday, May 9th, noon	Deadline for member motions for AGM

Nomination forms for the Board can be picked up and left at the information table during Spring Session. If you are not attending Spring Session, contact the ELLA office for a nomination form.

Learn more about the Board in this newsletter’s articles: [The ELLA Board – A Shared Passion for Learning](#) and [Call for Volunteers for the ELLA Board](#).

Member motions must be in writing and should be emailed, mailed or left at the information table in an envelope addressed to **Secretary ELLA Board, AGM Motion**.

The Latest on Spring Session 2014

Registration closes on **Wednesday, April 23rd at 4:00 pm**. After this deadline, there will be no access to online registration and no new registrations, course changes or withdrawals will be accepted.

What's New!

- **ELLA Interest Circles** - ELLA members with a common interest have an opportunity during noon-hours to self-organize Interest Circles. Details on proposed Interest Circles will be posted at the ELLA information table notice board and announced by course facilitators during Spring Session. Writers may choose to create interest circles, as this noon-hour option replaces the Literary Café held during previous Spring Sessions.
- **Student Art Show Timing and Location** - Are you interested in coordinating an art show? Volunteers are requested from Spring Session art courses to organize a display of student art in the Education Centre during the last two days of Spring Session.
- **Lower Price for Wind-Up Party** - The costs of the Wind-up Party will be subsidized by ELLA. Join fellow students and instructors at **4:30 pm on Wednesday, May 14th** at the Faculty Club for hors d'oeuvres, fruit punch and cash bar. Buy your \$15 ticket from the ELLA information table before they're sold out!
- **Bring a Buddy Cancelled for 2014** - Due to classroom capacity constraints and record registration numbers, *Bring a Buddy* will not be offered this Spring Session.
- **Course Changes during Spring Session** - Students that want to switch to another course must first check with the course facilitator to determine whether there is room. Course changes will **not** be handled at the ELLA information table. There will be no transferring into courses that are full.

Please Note:

Check-in at 8:00 am Monday, April 28th

It all starts at the ELLA information table just down the hall from the main-floor cafeteria of the Education Centre.

Please arrive early enough before your first class to pick up your name tag and handouts, find out where your classes are, and receive a coupon for a complimentary coffee or tea. The coupon is redeemable at the cafeteria on the first two days of Spring Session for a coffee or tea of any size.



Room N2-115 Capacity

We have 500 ELLA members registered! To ensure as much access and comfort as possible, more courses were added and some were moved to larger rooms. We have the use of the largest lecture theatre in the Education Centre (room N2-115). However, this room has a maximum capacity of 240 participants. This means that N2-115 cannot accommodate all the registrants at Spring Session. If you want to attend a noon-hour event, make sure that you arrive early. Because of fire regulations, the University does not allow people to stand.

Spring Session Newbie?

Don't worry. ELLA volunteer ambassadors will be in the Education Centre to answer questions about where to find your classrooms etc.

Fragrance Free

As many members have sensitivities to fragrances, please remember to refrain from wearing perfumes or using other scented products.

Camera Shy?

Volunteer photographers will be taking photographs during Spring Session for use in our newsletters and course guides. If you do not want your photograph taken, please step aside and/or inform the photographer.

Welcome Event on Monday, April 28th at 12:00 Noon

The Welcome Event will feature ELLA President John Elliot, an acknowledgment of our long-term members and volunteers, and Dr. Fern Snart, Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Education, University of Alberta.

Luncheon

The luncheon is **11:45 am** on **Tuesday, May 6th** in the 4th floor student lounge, Education North. Luncheon tickets will be sold at the ELLA information table for \$10. Buy your ticket early as last year tickets sold out quickly. This price is subsidized by ELLA for sandwiches, fruit and vegetable trays, dessert, coffee and tea.

As a thank you, all volunteers will receive a free ticket for the luncheon when they pick up their name tag at the information table. Committee Chairs have provided the names of all ELLA volunteers.

New Noon-hour Presentation - Wednesday, May 14th

Discovering the God Particle has been added to the schedule of presentations in N2-115 at noon, on Wednesday May 14th. James Pinfold, PhD, Professor of Physics at the University of Alberta and Visiting Professor, King's College London will be presenting.

What's Next for ELLA?



Carol Vaage

Last September, the ELLA Board of Directors created an *ad hoc* committee, with me as Chair, to investigate possibilities for the future. Our committee had a broad spectrum of experience and skills and was well represented with our President, John Elliot; our Treasurer, Shirley Zylstra; and three ELLA members: Kurt Paterson, Ed Posyniak, and Lorne Pendleton. Together we contributed over 700 hours of volunteer time to apply rigor and integrity to this question through SWOT analysis, interviews, key processes, critical decision factoring and research of demographics and other learning models for students 50+.

The ELLA Board of Directors had been taking initial steps over the past three years to address the escalating growth of members and popularity for our Spring Session. The 'Futures' Report gave the Board the information it needed to address the process of change and growth to make decisions for the future.

The purpose of this committee was to study three alternative futures:

- **Maintain the current Spring Session format and enrolment size.** For 2014, we increased the number of courses and some class sizes, and added Interest Circles. This has allowed us to increase enrolment to 500, up from 445 last year.
- **Double enrolment at Spring Session.** The Committee looked at volunteer capacity, instructor availability, space allocations, and financial considerations. The University can accommodate double the registrations, but our questions were based on how it would impact our members and the ELLA experience. Several options were recommended that could be utilized should we continue to grow, and it may result in some changes. One exciting test is to broadcast one of our noon-hour speakers to another location during this Spring Session.
- **ELLA learning opportunities ('ripples') throughout the year.** We investigated several learning options or 'ripple' events such as lectures, classes, peer-led study groups. We met with a member of Kelowna's Society for Learning in Retirement, as they have a vibrant community that self-organizes around topics of interest. For example, the Canadian history group had each member select a specific topic to research and then present to the group.

In March the Board prioritized the committee's 59 recommendations. As a result of this meeting and decisions reached, ELLA will be implementing some changes over the next few years.

The Board of Directors has created a 'Ripple' Standing Committee to investigate, facilitate and test different 'ripple' events during this upcoming year. Our 'splash' will always be Spring Session. But it is possible that offering 'ripples' for our members will prove a successful endeavor as well. The Board will conduct a membership survey within the next few months to determine the interests of our members. Please watch for the survey.

What we see is change while maintaining the essence of ELLA.

Essence of ELLA

- ELLA is passionate about the opportunity to create the learning we want in a community of lifelong learners.
- ELLA is best at providing quality well-rounded learning in a welcoming, warm and fun environment.
- ELLA's resource engine is our dedicated, committed volunteers and leadership working in partnership with the university to deliver a unique ELLA form of learning.

The Board has struck a Steering Committee to focus on governance (decision-making and accountability). We are hoping that two or three interested non-Board ELLA members would consider working on this Committee. The 'Governance' Steering Committee will strike the right balance between the energies devoted to operating Spring Session and governing the overall organization.

We also realized that we needed to create a system for knowledge transfer and document management. A Documents and Records Committee has been established to manage working and archival materials, so that they can be easily accessed by current and future Board members. We invite ELLA members to join this committee.

Other priorities include enhancing our partnership with the University of Alberta, and the need to keep pace with technological changes. Enhanced use of technology is our new reality and we are hoping that ELLA members with this expertise will assist us.

What we see is change while maintaining the essence of ELLA. We have to change. The demographics, the data, the financials all say the same thing. Change involves risk, but it also brings exhilaration and new life. Remember, change is necessary for a healthy organization. The Futures Working Group report and the March 2014 Board decisions are on the [ELLA website](#) on the Administration page.

Carol Vaage - Chair, Ad Hoc Futures Working Group and President-Elect

Volunteer Recognition: John Chandler

The ELLA Board of Directors extends their heartfelt appreciation to ELLA volunteer IT expert, John Chandler.

Over the last five years, John developed and maintained ELLA's website and developed innovative IT solutions for ELLA. You can read more about John and his contributions to ELLA in the article [ELLA's Amazing Online Registration Team](#).

After countless hours of volunteer service, John is retiring from ELLA to pursue other interests. Thank you, John. Your contributions have significantly benefitted and will continue to benefit ELLA in the future.



John Chandler

The ELLA Board – A Shared Passion for Learning

Why should a member consider serving on the ELLA Board of Directors?

Nancy Rae (who served as Publicity Committee Chair, two years as President, and then Past President) responded that *“serving on the ELLA Board provides an opportunity to work with like-minded individuals who share the value of education in an organization where your input does make a difference – outcomes would not be achieved unless individuals take on roles”*.



Nancy Rae



Faith Fernald

Former six-year Board member Faith Fernald (Chair Social Committee, Secretary, and Chair Administration Committee) agreed with the sense of accomplishment. *“Some Boards seem to click and work especially efficiently together. The years when the synergy among us was strong, I felt most fulfilled from working with like-minded people. Like other ELLA friendships, these have lasted beyond my term on the Board.”*

Faith also identified the benefits to her personal development. *“It was inspiring to meet people with lots of Board familiarity who mentored me and gave me an insight into Board governance. What I also gained from the experience were the perks provided to board members; I attended conferences on working with volunteer Boards, went to training sessions on new computer software, got practice in grant writing. These were all new learning experiences for me, ones I would have had to pay for if I hadn’t been on the ELLA Board.”*

What is ELLA’s Board of Directors?

Like all not-for-profit and registered charities, ELLA is governed by a Board of Directors. Because ELLA does not have paid staff, it has a “working” board, where all directors collectively determine policies and make decisions on the legal and financial requirements. Everyone also takes on specific jobs to make Spring Session happen each year, such as running the ELLA office, developing the Spring Session program, implementing Spring Session, and coordinating publicity and communications.

ELLA’s Board of Directors is composed of 12 to 20 full members (50 years of age or older), committed to the mission of ELLA with specific competencies to contribute. See this newsletter’s article [Call for Volunteers for the ELLA Board](#) for some of the skills required. Directors serve a 3-year term, and can serve up to two consecutive terms. The Bylaws and other documents available on the ELLA website (<http://web.extension.ualberta.ca/extcms/index.php/ella/administration/>) provide details on the selection, composition and responsibilities of the Board.

How is ELLA's Board selected?

Full members can be nominated by another ELLA member. Nominations must be received before the All-Candidates Forum (this year on May 7th) where members meet nominees. According to our Bylaws, nominations cannot be accepted at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). At the AGM on May 13th, members elect the Directors. At the first Board meeting after the AGM, Board members appoint Executive Officer positions and Committee Chairs.

If someone is passionate about lifelong learning, they should bring their knowledge and talents to the Board. ELLA needs Board members with skills in many different fields.

John Elliot, President

What did you enjoy most as a Board member?

Both Nancy and Faith agreed that through serving on the ELLA Board they gained some wonderful new friends and expanded their interests. *“Working closely with individuals gives you that shared common experience that binds you together.”* Faith added that *“in addition to the sense of accomplishment one feels when another Spring Session rolls around, there are the friendships that can grow out of working with others on a common task. You feel a kind of ownership of the event each May.”*

Current President, John Elliot, concurred with the opportunity to work and learn from others, *“The most enjoyable aspect of being a Board member is the people you get to work with. Other Board members and volunteers have many experiences and skills that they have gained over a lifetime of working and volunteering.”*

Please take the time during the first week of Spring Session to speak to current and former Board members, and think about whether you or another member can contribute and benefit from being on the ELLA Board.

Barbara Leung, Chair- Communications Committee

Wanted ELLA Web Designer

ELLA requires a volunteer web designer/developer for the ELLA website which is hosted by the University of Alberta.

The volunteer web designer is responsible for maintenance and updating of the existing website with content provided by the ELLA Board of Directors through the Chair of the Communications Committee, and when required, for interacting with the Faculty of Extension IT staff. The ELLA website currently uses Concrete5, but the Faculty of Extension will be moving all of its websites to a new Content Management System beginning at the end of the calendar year.

If you are interested, please contact the ELLA office and leave a message for the Chair of the Communications Committee, or speak to Barbara Leung during Spring Session.

Instructor Profile: Meet Lidio Valdez Cárdenas



Dr. Valdez Cárdenas returns to teach **Colonialism and Indigenous Peoples of Latin America: Past & Present**.

Lidio Valdez Cárdenas was born and raised in a small rural community in the central highlands of Peru, where the locals farm the land to cultivate maize. As for many of the Quechua (descendants of the Incas and considered indigenous to the country), there was little encouragement for him to attend school – what was the point if you couldn’t get a job anyway?

But his family were supportive and he had a role model – his cousin was a lawyer in Lima. In his last year of high school, when a number of speakers (many of whom were Quechua) were brought to the local church (it had the largest room) to describe their lives as engineers, doctors and teachers, he became interested in going to university. In the university calendar he found Anthropology listed first, but had no idea what it was all about. He had to look it up in the

dictionary – “The Study of Man”. He was hooked.

Lidio attended a colonial university in Ayacucho, an hour’s drive from his hometown, Huanta. He suffered his first culture shock – he was homesick. But he persevered and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities presented to learn about his ancestors at the many digs on which he worked. He met his wife, from Edmonton, on one of his digs and kept running into a fellow anthropologist who finally convinced him to come to the University of Calgary to take his PhD. The University of Calgary recognized his “Licenciatura” as equivalent to a Master’s degree (although it was “original” research – more equivalent to a PhD). But the bigger struggle was to learn English and pass the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) in order to be admitted.

Moving to Canada was an opportunity to explore. Once he graduated with a PhD in Archaeology, Lidio was awarded a Post-doctoral fellowship at Trent University. He then returned to Alberta to teach at the University of Alberta, then moved to Victoria for a three-year teaching contract there. He returned to Edmonton to teach at MacEwan University and the University of Lethbridge.

Lidio’s passion for studying ancient civilizations is matched only by his passion for his family, playing soccer (every Sunday morning – as soon as the weather allows) and bird photography. No, he says he doesn’t miss the mountains of Peru - “Life is hard at that altitude” – but enjoys the Rockies with his family and the opportunity to extend his bird photography.

Lidio has taught several times for ELLA. He loves the students' "interest in learning", not always apparent in the undergraduate world. It was during his course last year –**The Inca Empire** – that several students requested he talk more about the impact of colonization on Indigenous people. Thus he returns this year to present **Colonialism and Indigenous Peoples of Latin America: Past & Present**. Be prepared to be shocked, provoked, uncomfortable at the impact of globalization and how multi-national corporations are, even today, causing the death of native peoples to further our privileged lifestyle.

Julie Milne – Volunteer, Communications Committee

Call for Volunteers for the ELLA Board

ELLA is now recruiting seven members to join the Board of Directors to help build for the future! Potential board members should possess the following general qualifications:

- Be a full ELLA member (50 years of age or older).
- Be passionate about lifelong learning and the mission of ELLA.
- Have participated in at least one of ELLA's Spring Sessions.
- Have a demonstrated ability to work collaboratively on a team to achieve a common goal (through experience on a working board or other committee work).
- Be able to provide leadership to volunteers and to chair a committee.
- Be comfortable using a computer to write and share reports electronically.
- Commit time for monthly board meetings (September to May) for a 3-year term.

As well as these general qualifications, ELLA is looking for Board members with specific skills and interests to fill the following roles:

Chair, Administration Committee - You would be responsible for managing volunteers to run the ELLA office; the ELLA database; distribution of correspondence; newsletters and course guides to members; and the processing of membership applications/renewals and Spring Session registrations. This position could be divided into two:

- Chair, Office Management would ensure the smooth running of the ELLA office from October to April through volunteer recruitment, training and scheduling for the ELLA office.
- Chair of IT would be responsible for looking after the database, Eventbrite, website, or any new IT initiatives. High level computer skills are required to work with technical volunteers and contractors.

Chair, Communication Committee - You would be responsible for communication to members; maintenance of ELLA's website (with the IT Chair noted above); production of two newsletters and the Spring Session course guide each year; and to chair your committee of volunteers. Experience with desktop publishing, website maintenance and HTML would be an asset.

Secretary to the Board - You would be a member of the Executive of the Board of Directors, assisting the President with organizational files and reports; taking and circulating Board minutes; attending all meetings of the Board and its Executive Committee; and filing required reports under the Alberta Societies Act.

You can read the background on the following two new committees in this newsletter's article [What's Next for ELLA?](#)

- **'Governance' Steering Committee** - Volunteers are needed for this newly established committee which will be responsible for implementing the recommendations of the recent Futures Report. You should be interested in governance issues, and willing to assist with the implementation of changes approved by the Board. This Committee will be chaired by President-Elect, Carol Vaage.
- **Chair, 'Ripple' Standing Committee** - This committee is another outcome of the Futures report, with responsibility for reviewing suggestions for non-Spring Session or 'Ripple' learning opportunities, and planning a pilot project.



Judith Hibberd

Members at Large - Join one or more of the Board standing committees, for example, the Program Development, Publicity or the new 'Ripple' committee.

New board members will receive an orientation and will be mentored. If you are interested in being part of the Board at this exciting time, please review ELLA's Bylaws and other documents on the website, pick up a Board Recruitment folder from the information table during Spring Session, speak to a current Board member, and find an ELLA member to nominate you. If you are not attending Spring Session, and are interested in joining the Board, please contact the ELLA office.

Judith Hibberd - Chair, Recruitment Committee

ELLA Interest Circles - A Year-Round Gift

Regina Price, ELLA volunteer, shares her thoughts on hearing about ELLA Interest Circles.

I remember when I went to ELLA's Spring Session for the first time four years ago. I was very impressed and overwhelmed. It felt very overpowering to me, learning new things and meeting new students. But, after Spring Session ended I was very dejected and missed my contact with others and the talking about new ideas and thoughts. I vowed to myself that I would attend again because I missed it desperately for a whole year.

I found out that I wasn't alone in wanting more of the ELLA experience. Several members suggested the creation of ELLA Interest Circles. Beginning at Spring Session 2014, I could join with others to form an Interest Circle during Spring Session—and, if the interest is there, we could



Regina Price

continue during the year until Spring Session 2015. This would be a gift to me and others who would be interested and enthusiastic to keep ELLA going until the next year sessions.

But I have lots of interests, and it might be difficult to choose which circle I could join. Perhaps I could join a writing circle and share my writings with the group. Or, I could join a group talking about Canadian writers and what influenced them to write. Or else, I could join a circle talking about environmental issues, or growing organic produce, or interesting places that others have seen. At Spring Session 2014, join an Interest Circle, or propose an Interest Circle that would be stimulating for you and others!

Regina Price - Volunteer, Communications Committee

Instructor Profile: Meet Tiina Hohn



Tiina Hohn will share her math passion in **Key Moments in the History of Mathematics**.

human development not only historically, but also personally, for everyone. Our communication, now more than ever, depends on logic and reasoning which are the building blocks of mathematics. Our environment and knowledge of it is expanding exponentially today...see, there is already a purely mathematical concept!

Tiina is a Math Professor at MacEwan University. She graduated in Finland with a Masters of Philosophy in 1981, the same year she married a Canadian and moved to Edmonton. Originally a term instructor at the University of Alberta when her children were small, she later accepted a fulltime position with MacEwan University.

She is very familiar with math anxiety among her pupils, especially when students in their first calculus class find out there will be no calculators!

All learning is individual and, in a large classroom of young pupils, it is sometimes hard to accommodate all the different learning styles. Increased maturity can help because older students are aware of what steps they can take to help themselves. That said, Tiina will adapt this course to the ELLA audience – no prerequisites and no homework, right!? She knows the reputation of ELLA students for enthusiasm, plus we have a lot less stress without a final exam!

Tiina is a keen continuing math learner herself. Especially fascinating for her is the way the different disciplines of science are coming together to explain phenomena. Mathematics studies things like string theory that attempts to explain our origins. Are we on the cusp of the TOE (Theory of Everything)? If we are, then that theory will be written in mathematics.

When asked to comment on the current controversy over the math curriculum in public schools today, she responded: *“Many of the problems of the current math curriculum are very frustrating. I think the curriculum is good, but the expectations of its implementation are not realistic. Ask any language teacher if they expect their pupils to memorize spelling and words and they will say, ‘Of course’. Yet we expect our students to speak mathematics and at the same time use their calculators for even the simplest arithmetic. The biggest problems are not in the curriculum but in the way our society views math in general.”*

This course could be a great first step in making mathematical thinking a more accustomed and natural element in ELLA course offerings.

Campbell Ross - Volunteer, Program Development Committee

ELLA’s Amazing Online Registration Team

ELLA runs on our awesome volunteers! This was exemplified over the last few months by Germaine Chau’s team that ensured that online registration through Eventbrite ran as smoothly as possible for our members.

Online registration was a success thanks to the following ingredients:

1. **Strong leadership** from four-year Board member and Administration Committee Chair, Germaine Chau. Pre-ELLA, Germaine worked with IBM as an IT Specialist supporting University of Alberta Student Systems. Together with John Chandler, Germaine redesigned the ELLA database.



Germaine Chau and Jean Posyniak.

2. **Skilled team members** included long-time ELLA volunteers John Chandler and Jean Posyniak. John was an Enterprise Architect who supported, developed, planned and improved government business and computer systems. Over the last five years he designed the ELLA database, website, newsletters and course guides. Jean was a Systems Analyst, whose volunteer responsibilities included maintaining the ELLA database, writing procedural manuals and checklists, and preparing and delivering the training sessions for office volunteers handling registration. Barbara Leung, as Chair of the Communications Committee contributed her writing skills to the team.

3. **Support from the Faculty of Extension** Michael Lewcio configured the initial ELLA spring session event, and provided constant support to ELLA in terms of security and the resolution of problems.
4. **Detailed workplan** began in August 2013 when Extension informed ELLA that they would be proceeding with Eventbrite. Some of the key tasks undertaken were:
 - Many hours of analysis, testing, and learning Eventbrite.
 - Creating two Eventbrite “sandboxes” and running two tests: the first for tech-savvy members, and the second for non-tech-savvy members.
 - A demo for the Board and volunteers.
 - Development of training manuals and checklists.
 - Group training of volunteers on how to process registrations.
 - Information for members.
5. **Dedicated office volunteers** (18 ELLA members) gave up several half days to attend the demo and two training sessions, participated in the testing and spent time studying the training manuals and checklist.

In order to continue to make use of our excellent ELLA database and the ELLA-specific tools available, John Chandler developed a new method of ‘screen scraping’ to extract data from Eventbrite.

When Spring Session 2014 registration opened on February 10th, 14 volunteers worked in the ELLA office to enter in-person, phone and mail registrations into Eventbrite. Registration was fast and furious – 111 were completed in ten minutes! A total of 252 in the first two hours! **Core Stability** was full in eight minutes, and in another ten minutes, **Yoga** and **Freefall Writing** were full! In five days, 433 members registered which is 86% of the current total.

Despite the hours and months of analysis and testing, in the first few hours of live registration there were some unanticipated problems. Germaine is currently working with Extension to request some changes from Eventbrite.

Our members said it best:

“The registration was absolutely seamless. I am sitting here in Maui minutes after ELLA registration opened at 9:30 am Edmonton time and I am all registered and feel like I'd like to hug you. I know that putting the registration online was incredibly difficult and time-consuming and I know it was all done by volunteers. My hat is off to all those volunteers and all the hours they spent getting things up and running. It is working without a hitch and I know you know how unbelievably rare that is. All of you who worked on this project should be very, very proud of yourselves. Thank you for making ELLA even better.”

“Took me less than one minute to register! And I got all the classes I wanted. You and the other volunteers who have helped get this up and running have done a wonderful job. THANK YOU for making this happen and roll out so smoothly.”

Barbara Leung, Chair- Communications Committee

Information Centre

ELLA Board 2013 – 2014

<i>President:</i>	John Elliot	<i>Program Development:</i>	
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Anna Luk	<i>Lead:</i>	Liz McCord
<i>President-Elect</i>	Carol Vaage	<i>Fine Arts:</i>	Dawna Dey-Harrish
<i>Secretary:</i>	Mildred Thill	<i>Humanities:</i>	Jill Swann-Lussier
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Shirley Zylstra	<i>Sciences:</i>	Karen Mills
	Committee Chairs	<i>Evaluation:</i>	Betty Grudnizki
<i>Administration:</i>	Germaine Chau	<i>Program Implementation:</i>	Colleen Burton-Ochocki & Roger Delbaere
<i>By-laws & Policies:</i>	Jim Macdonald		
<i>Communications:</i>	Barbara Leung	<i>Publicity:</i>	Jeanna Baty
<i>Finance:</i>	Shirley Zylstra	<i>Recruitment:</i>	Judith Hibberd
<i>Ad Hoc Futures:</i>	Carol Vaage		

How to Contact ELLA

Phone:	(780) 492-5055. <i>Please leave a message.*</i>
Email:	exella@ualberta.ca
Visit or Write:	Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association (ELLA) University of Alberta, Faculty of Extension Suite 2-936B, 10230 Jasper Avenue Edmonton, AB T5J 4P6.
Office Hours:	February 19 to April 25, 2014 Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Closed April 18 (Good Friday) & April 21 (Easter Monday)* April 28 to September 30, 2014 Office closed during Spring Session and over the summer* <i>* Our office is run entirely by volunteers. When the office is closed, volunteers check regularly for voice mails, emails and Canada Post letters. Efforts will be made to respond promptly to all messages.</i>
Website:	www.extension.ualberta.ca/ella

NOTICE
THE ELLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 12:00 pm
N2-115, Education North
Education Centre, University of Alberta

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Welcome to the AGM:** John Elliot, President
- 3. Adoption of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes:** Previous AGM, Tuesday, May 14, 2013
- 5. Introduction of the Board of Directors:** John Elliot
 - a. Bylaws and Policy - Jim Macdonald
 - b. Communications - Barbara Leung
 - c. Program Development - Liz McCord, Karen Mills, Jill Swann-Lussier, Dawna Dey-Harrish, Betty Grudnizki
 - d. Program Implementation- Colleen Burton-Ochocki, Roger Delbaere
 - e. Publicity -Jeanna Baty
 - f. Recruitment - Judith Hibberd
 - g. Secretary - Mildred Thill
 - h. Vice-President - Anna Luk
- 6. Reports of Officers**
 - a. President: John Elliot
 - b. Treasurer: Shirley Zylstra -Audited Financial Statements Oct 1 2012 - Sept 30, 2013
- 7. Auditors for Oct 1 2013 - Sept 30 2014 Fiscal Year:** Shirley Zylstra
- 8. On-line Registration Report:** Germaine Chau, Chair of Administration Committee
- 9. Futures Working Group February 2014 Report:** Carol Vaage, Chair of *ad hoc* Committee - Futures Working Group
- 10. Introduction of Candidates for the Board of Directors:** Judith Hibberd, Chair of Recruitment Committee
- 11. Election of Directors:** Judith Hibberd
- 12. Closing Remarks** John Elliot, President

After April 21st, the AGM Reports can be viewed and downloaded from the ELLA website or requested from the ELLA office (780-492-5055). A limited number of copies will be available at the meeting and at the ELLA information table during Spring Session.
http://web.extension.ualberta.ca/extcms/index.php/ella/annual_general_meetings