ELLA NOON HOUR PROGRAM – WINTER SESSION 2027

Friday, January 15

Psychedelics: What They Are and How they May be Used
We hear an increasing amount about psychedelics, particularly the possibilities for the treatment of health conditions. The present talk will address some of the key issues most people ask about. These include what they do in the brain, why they hold such promise, the differences between psychedelic dosing and microdosing, and what conditions seem to have the greatest potential for benefits.

Instructor: Peter Silverstone
A professor at the University of Alberta, Peter is the author of *Wall Street Journal* best-seller *"The Promise of Psychedelics".*

Friday, January 22

Insights on Ecological Effects of Coal Development in the Eastern Slopes
The Eastern Slopes of Alberta's Rockies are not a frontier of unrealized possibilities—instead, they are a busy landscape where expectations already exceed the ability of the landscape to absorb these dreams. Coal mining operations in mountain and foothill settings are subject to repetitive slope, road and settling pond failures, despite the application of engineering solutions. Mitigation/compensation actions proposed and undertaken tend to be untested, unproven, unsuitable, theoretical and overly optimistic. Coal mines in the Eastern Slopes are shown to produce significant issues with selenium contamination of receiving waters. Current treatment methods are, at best, concepts, not proven technologies and have not been demonstrated to be workable at mine scales, over lengthy time periods, including beyond the mine life.

Instructor: Lorne Fitch
Lorne has been a biologist for over 50 years, working on many issues related to use of land and water, including coal and logging. Lorne is a professional biologist, a retired provincial Fish and Wildlife biologist, was one of the co-founders of the stewardship initiative Cows and Fish, and a former adjunct professor with the University of Calgary. Lethbridge is home, where he pens books, articles and essays on issues related to Alberta's landscape and critters. Books include *"Streams of Consequence"*, "*Travels Up the Creek"* and *"Conservation Confidential"*.

Friday, January 29

What's in the Package? The Politics of Food Labelling and the Eater's Right to Know where Food comes from
This lecture will outline the rules and regulations of both national and international organizations regarding food labels which indicate the country of origin (COOL). While it might seem obvious that food eaters should have a right to know its origins, the reality is that food labelling is very political and shaped by an array of actors. COOL has been the subject of trade disputes and, despite current Canadian governments encouraging us to choose Canadian, Canada has opposed COOL especially in relation to meat and the

US market. This lecture will explain Canadian regulations regarding COOL and why an integrated North American market makes buying Canadian all the more complicated.

Instructor: Elizabeth Smythe
Elizabeth Smythe is a professor emerita of political science. Her PhD is from Carleton University. She taught undergraduate courses in political science, including comparative, Canadian and International Politics and Canadian Foreign Policy at Concordia University of Edmonton until her retirement in July 2022. Her research and publications have focussed on the politics of trade and investment agreements and international food standards and the politics of food labelling.

Friday, February 5

Jasper's Recovery: A Community's Road Home
Following the 2024 Jasper wildfire, the community faced the enormous challenge of moving from emergency into recovery and rebuilding. This presentation will offer a firsthand perspective on that ongoing journey, including the work of the Jasper Recovery Coordination Centre, some of the projects helping enable Jasper's rebuild, and the challenges and lessons encountered along the way. More than a story about rebuilding homes and infrastructure, it is about rebuilding home: the services, places, connections and community that make Jasper what it is.

Instructor: Logan Ireland
Logan Ireland is a Jasper local with a background in engineering and project management. After receiving his P.Eng. designation, Logan branched out into the entrepreneurial and non-profit worlds, pursuing work rooted in creativity and community. Since September 2024, he has worked as a Recovery Project Manager with the Jasper Recovery Coordination Centre, supporting projects including interim housing and the rehabilitation of fire-damaged municipal infrastructure. Logan also leads the UpLift! Jasper Mural Festival, bringing together his interests in community-building, public spaces, and his passion for the place he calls home.

Friday, February 12

A Symphonic Journey: The Life of a Conductor
Shah Sadikov, Assistant Conductor and Community Ambassador for the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, is an internationally recognized director and musician. Shah will share insights into his life, practice routines, teaching schedules, and journey toward artistic excellence.

Instructor: Shah Sadikov
Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Assistant Conductor Shah Sadikov is deeply passionate about young musicians through the Youth Orchestra of Northern Alberta (to name only one of his spheres of influence). An accomplished conductor, violist, educator, and researcher, he completed a Doctor of Musical Arts residency in orchestral conducting at Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Institute, as well as a Master of Musicology. His research focuses on AI in the performing arts, history of Western music in Central Asia, and decolonization of Soviet music.

Friday, February 19

Wild Women of the West
We hear a lot - perhaps too much - about the so-called Famous Five. But they certainly weren't the only Alberta women who made their mark on our history. Join Senator Paula Simons to learn about five of her favourite "other" women who shaped Alberta's present and future.

Instructor: Paula Simons
Paula Simons is an independent Alberta senator, who was appointed to the Senate of Canada in 2018. Having had a long and distinguished career as a journalist, where she spent 23 years with the *Edmonton Journal* as a reporter and opinion writer, winning two National Newspaper Awards, she earned six National Newspaper Award citations of merit for her columns and editorials on Alberta politics. Previously a CBC radio producer and documentary maker, a playwright and a popular historian, Senator Simons now sits as deputy chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications, and is a member of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

Friday, February 26

DNA Testing for Genealogy: Risks and Rewards
It is estimated that more than 40 million people have taken an at-home DNA test, some for ethnicity estimates, some to find family members and many to further their genealogy research. But there is still confusion and misinformation regarding their safety and accuracy. This presentation will discuss how genealogy professionals use genetic genealogy to solve family tree mysteries, and also discuss topics such as privacy, data security and the use of DNA databases to solve crimes.

Instructor: Colleen Murray
Colleen Murray is a professional genealogist who has been accepting clients professionally since 2015. Raised in Edmonton, Western Canadian research is one of her focuses, including research for Métis applications. Recently relocated to Waterloo, Ontario, she researches other Canadian locations remotely, and also conducts French-Canadian research. Irish research is also an area of specialty, as is DNA analysis for clients trying to identify unknown ancestors or looking to verify their traditional research.

Friday, March 5

3D Bioprinting Human Tissue
The presenter will discuss the latest research in generating human tissue models using bioprinting.

Instructor: Stephanie Willerth
Dr. Stephanie Willerth, FCSSE, FBSE, FEIC is a full professor of biomedical engineering at the University of Victoria with an affiliate appointment in the School of Biomedical Engineering at the University of British Columbia. She is also an entrepreneur, and thought leader in 3D bioprinting and neural tissue engineering. She leads innovations in personalized medicine through bio-ink development and human

tissue models. Her work bridges academia and industry, bringing groundbreaking research into real-world healthcare applications.