
Friends of Life-Long Learning at Ottawa-Carleton: Newsletter #7

This is a February update on our activities. It is basically a good-news letter, so we feel a happy dance is in order

- 1) Karen Cohen, Andy Brook and Peter Watson finally had a long-delayed meeting with the Provost, Pauline Rankin, on Feb. 19. The bottom line is that Carleton will not be renewing its direct involvement in LLL, since they have decided it is unlikely to make an appreciable contribution to the financial health of the university. However, Pauline gave us a strong message of support: the university is prepared to give us administrative and logistical support to set up a renewed program for one year, and this has the support of the President (Wisdom Tettey).



It is hardly necessary to point out the hard work starts now! We have a meeting with David Hornsby (VP, Academic and Global Learning) later this month to try to formulate a detailed way forward. The plan will be to have Carleton take care of the essential services of registration, finances and course support. For this first year, our existing group will liaise with Carleton and organize and oversee course offerings (See number two below).

We would like to aim for a late spring/early summer start with a limited list of courses, moving over to a full roster in the fall. In response to the surveys that many of you completed, we want to maintain the Carleton campus as the centre of operation. Once we have more details confirmed in our meeting with David Hornsby, we will consider options to include Dominion Chalmers and other community venues. As you know, in 2025/26 we have successfully run a monthly speaker's series and one 6-week course at Abbotsford. The Perley has also expressed interest in hosting courses.

The survey also told us we should be looking at a broad selection of course offerings. In that past, the program has relied largely on retired faculty from Carleton, but there is a vast repertoire of expertise in the wider Ottawa community. Making use of this wide community of knowledgeable speakers, there could be a mixture of one-off lectures, workshops and six-week courses to enable subjects to be explored in various ways

- 2) Given timelines, we have decided on a streamlined structure that can hit the ground running. A four-person executive committee will handle the negotiations: this consists of
 - Karen Cohen (Interim Chair of FLLLOC, LLeap participant, former CEO of the Canadian Psychological Association)

- Gail Larose (former chair of the Carleton University Board of Governors Community Relations Committee, co-chair OSFAS)
- Andrew Brook (Past-President CURA, Chancellor's Professor of Philosophy and Cognitive Science)
- Peter Watson (Prof emeritus, Dept. of Physics, former Dean of Science, LLeaP lecturer)

We have also formed a program committee which will oversee recruitment and management of speakers. It will include David Holmes, Barry Schneider, Rebecca Robb, and Josh Beer.

Following what we hope will be a successful one-year trial of the program, its management structure will be revisited and elections to positions can follow. We know that many of you have offered to help – once details are confirmed with Carleton and we have a better sense of who is needed to do what, we can be back in touch with a call for volunteers. In the interim, if you have any suggestions, particularly for speakers, do let us know.

- 3) Ottawa Association for Arts and Sciences will have their second talk in their 2026 expanded program. On Wednesday, March 18 at 7pm EST, Dr. Michael Allen, retired professor of medicine at Dalhousie University will present via Zoom the unique story of Nobel Prize winner Katalin Karikó's pioneering work to develop a COVID vaccine. Details can be found at <https://osfas.ca/>. Those who would like to attend, should request the Zoom link from glarose0@gmail.com. The actual link will be sent **only to those who request it** the day before the talk.
- 4) The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) has two talks coming up: Wednesday, March 25, 8:00 p.m. - a virtual lecture by Helen Green (University of Melbourne): "Dating Australia's Oldest Rock Art." Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/7017628119818/WN_CNuEDGbxRliKX_OxfSgcSg#/registration
 Sunday, March 29, 2:00 p.m. - Sharon DeWitte (University of Colorado, Boulder): "Stress, Sex and Death: Health and Survival in the Context of Medieval Famine and the Plague." (Ann Santen Endowed Lecture) 303 Paterson Hall, Carleton University. For more information: <https://aiaottawa.wordpress.com/2024-25-program/>)

KC, GL, AB and PW