
Friends of Life-Long Learning at Carleton: Newsletter #4

A fair bit has been happening over the last couple of weeks, so this is just to bring you up to date.

- 1) Three of us (Karen Cohen, Andrew Brook and Peter Watson) met with Pauline Rankin (Provost and VP Academic) on Sept 9. She was receptive and forthcoming and liked our business plan. However, she let us know that the university is currently undergoing a provincially mandated efficiency and accountability review. Carleton is one of many Ontario universities currently under review. The report from that review is making its way through its various stages, likely to be concluded in December. Dr. Rankin is not able to make a decision about our proposal until that process is completed. We offered our assistance or input at any stage.
- 2) An essential part of the business case for what we hope will become the new lifelong learning program is to understand learners' experiences and expectations of life long learning. The survey was released Monday morning and by Thursday we had received 600 replies, a most impressive response, and we are very grateful to all of you. A short summary of the results:

- You are 97% happy with the courses you took, although you have many suggestions for improvement. Obviously, because of the nature of the survey, we may have missed people who were less happy with the program.
- The reason why you have not taken courses lately are clear – the selection of courses was not liked and the parking facilities are poor.
- There is serious interest in a wide variety of courses, with history, art appreciation and political science topping the list, but 30 others were mentioned.
- 50% of you want in-person courses, 21% want online, 29% don't care, and there is no interest in summer courses.
- Your reasons for wanting to be on campus are varied, but transit and parking are high on the list. If other venues are preferred, that is again because of transit and parking.
- The fee structure is seen to be reasonable for what is on offer
- 2/3 want social activities to be associated with LLEAP



The way to success is not straightforward !

- Almost everyone (97%!) prefer email for communication
- We are delighted that 165 people expressed an interest in volunteering: it strongly suggests that an all (or mainly) volunteer organization is possible. Assuming a positive response is received from the university, we will reach out to you in the future.

If you have not already done so, we would greatly appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete the survey. We want to reach as many prospective participants as possible, so please feel free to forward this message and the survey link to your friends and colleagues: you can access it via [this link](#). The survey closes on October 1, 2025.

- 3) The Ottawa Society for the Arts and Sciences (OSFAS) was started by Gail Larose and Josh Beer, who are also members of FLLLC. It provides an alternative form of life-long learning, in a rather more informal way.

The 13th OSFAS season begins with a talk on the influence of futurist narratives on Artificial Intelligence given by Maryna Nekrasove, Carleton graduate and McGill doctoral candidate, with comments by Dr. Andrew Brook, Carleton University Chancellor's Professor of Philosophy and Cognitive Science. The talk will be given via Zoom on Thursday, October 23 at 7 pm EST. If you would like a link to the talk, send a note to Gail Larose (glarose0@gmail.com). and she will send the link to those who request it the day before the talk.

Coming up on Wednesday, November 19, also via Zoom at 7 pm EST, will be a talk by Larry Kardish, former curator of film at the Museum of Modern Art about "Ottawood" and the role his native city has played in the development of cinema. More details are available on the OSFAS website at <https://osfas.ca/>.

- 4) On 15th Sept, Karen and Peter met with David O'Neill, (Manager, Community Programs for the Glebe Centre). He has considerable interest in developing new programs for mature learners in the area, and so there is a clear opportunity for collaboration. We have agreed we will stay in touch to explore possibilities.
- 5) Through the many emails that you have sent to us at the llcarleton1@gmail.com address we have learned that there is not only a strong demand for LLL lectures but a lot of people have skills and special interests they would like to pass on. We would very much like to build up a database of possible speakers. We will invite you to take part in a survey: the link will be available soon. At the moment we will keep your information confidential and we will ask your permission before making it available to anyone else.