Summer Semester: June 3-28, 2019
Registration Begins May 6

By Scherry Barra, Director

Like broccoli, you either loved or hated summer school. But the Institute’s “Summer Learnin’ Daze” semester is not the traditional summer school experience.

For the second consecutive year, our summer semester is expressly intended to attract people who have not taken any of our courses before, and allow them do so at a deeply discounted fee. Equally, the course line-up offers former students opportunities to take a course or two they couldn’t attend in the
The semester consists of 16 three-week courses and 5 two-hour lectures beginning June 3 and ending June 28. The course titles and instructor names are under “Summer 2019 Course Offerings” - the next item below. The location of each course is still being finalized, but most will be at the Thomas Nelson Community College campus.

**Registration begins May 6 and is a first-come, first-served.**

The summer membership fee is $5. The fee for each of the 16 courses is $25 and $15 for each of the five lectures. Although intended for people age 50 or more, anyone can take our courses and, better yet, become a full-fledged member of our Institute each semester. Introduce a friend to us and ask one or more to become a member!

Additional information, including “How to Register,” will be emailed to you in a few days, and the summer catalog will be posted on our website.
Annual Member Survey

Coming!
Our Annual Member Survey will arrive in your inbox May 2. Your responses help us identify the learning experiences you seek. The survey can be completed and returned online. Please take a few minutes to offer your comments about our learning and social programs. And, please return the survey no later than May 10. Thank you.

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**New Instructor Profile: Dan Sherman**

*By Mary Meagher, PR and Marketing Committee*

Dan Sherman may be new to Osher at William & Mary, but he is far from being a novice instructor. He has taught some 25 courses at OLLI in Northern Virginia and D.C. since 2011! It is, therefore, not surprising that Dan started with not one, but two lectures during his first semester here in Williamsburg.

Given his interest in the Revolutionary War, Dan says, “teaching about the musical *Hamilton* was an easy assignment”. That interest has led to his popular multimedia presentation, “Hamilton: Man and Musical.” Further, Dan says that “I feel that students leave the classroom happy as they learn more about the music they love.”

For his second lecture, “The Rockefellers: An American Dynasty”, Dan was inspired by his background as an economist (PhD from Cornell) and interest in economic history. “With my particular interest in the generations of Rockefellers and their philanthropy, including rebuilding Colonial Williamsburg, I developed my second OLLI lecture”, notes Dan.

I asked Dan what he finds most interesting about teaching at OLLI, he responded that “I learn a lot developing courses. I enjoy the challenge of pulling material together in an entertaining and informative way as a way to share my passion for these topics. I get lots of comments and questions from OLLI students that I use to refine and develop the course.”

Dan is currently a Williamsburg part-timer, but now that he is retired he expects to move here full-time by next year. So his major occupation now is getting himself and his mountain of books moved. He hopes to continue to teach OLLI courses and audit math and music courses at William & Mary.

Thanks to Dan, we have a richer appreciation of arts and history.

We appreciate having Dan Sherman join our
instructor ranks this semester. He taught a course entitled, “Hamilton: Man and Musical.” He’s shown here with Ron Chernow (right), author of Alexander Hamilton, the book that inspired the broadway hit, “Hamilton: An American Musical.” Photo by Meagher

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Osher students didn’t get “antsy” at this Spring’s course, “What Bugs You: An Introduction to Insects & Other Anthropods,” taught by Timothy Christensen.

Photo by Dave Scherer
It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as your Program Chair these past two years. I am continually impressed with the variety, quality, and educational integrity of our Osher instructors. They are truly our most valuable resource within the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at William & Mary organization. The fact that all of them are “volunteers” and freely give of their time and expertise is especially meaningful --- talented instructors willing to share and engage with other lifelong learners in our community. I congratulate each and every Osher instructor on their contributions to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and hope that you will keep up the wonderful tradition of quality teaching and lifelong learning at William & Mary. Thank you!

Scott A. Langhorst
Outgoing Program Chair

Impressions of a First-time Instructor

By Gordon Bratz, PR & Marketing Chair

We asked Suzanne Munson, first-time instructor here--although a veteran instructor at other Osher programs--to give us her impressions of
teaching an Osher course at William and Mary.

“I was delighted by the number of students who enrolled this semester for my course, *George Wythe: Jefferson’s Godfather, The Man Behind the Man*. I had 130 students. The class was the largest Osher class I’ve taught so far, including those at the University of Virginia and the University of Richmond. At UVA, space was limited to only 30 students, and there was a waiting list. Also, I was very impressed with the excellent support provided to me by the Osher staff and volunteers here, both before the class began and during the semester. I thank everyone.”

“What about the interest of your students,” we asked. Suzanne said, “Interest in Thomas Jefferson is high everywhere in Virginia, but George Wythe’s legacy is kept alive mostly in Williamsburg today, where he made some of his greatest contributions to America. Students here are eager for more information about this outstanding early leader, sometimes called the Forgotten Founding Father.” I try to draw students into the subject and I employ some humor here and there, but will have to drop my Virginia jokes when I teach the class at the Chautauqua Institution in upstate New York this summer. I do have a good one about George Washington that works anywhere, though.”

“My classes are based on research that I did for my George Wythe biography, *Jefferson’s Godfather: The Man Behind the Man*. While the book has been very well received, I wanted its messages to go to a larger audience than just those who might read the biography. Teaching at Osher programs broadens the reach. I always end by asking: “What would our Founding Fathers say about the government that they organized for us?” They would encourage us to become more involved, to get off the sidelines watching the circus go by. George Wythe would remind us: ‘Democracy is not a spectator sport’.”

Dr. Joel Levine, Ph.D., makes a point about earth and space during his class, “The Exploration of the Solar Systems by Humans.”

Photo by Dave Scherer

Thank You Volunteers
The work of many hands is what keeps our wheels rolling. We appreciate the assistance of all those named below who helped this semester!

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Newly Elected Board Members

Joann Gora
Dr. Jo Ann Gore has nearly 45 years experience in higher education. Before starting her own consulting firm, she was president of Ball State University (Indiana), 2004-14, chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Boston, 2001-04; provost and vice president academic affairs at Old Dominion University here in Virginia, 1992-2001; and, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Fairleigh Dickinson University (New Jersey), 1985-92. She is widely published in higher education leadership and organizational behavior. She has a M.A. from Vassar College and an M.S. and a Ph.D. from Rutgers University.

John McLaughlin

Now retired, John McLaughlin has been a faculty member and administrator at several universities. He has served as an independent consultant in strategic planning, performance measurement, and program evaluation. During the past 40 years, he has assisted in the design, delivery, and evaluation of programs at major university-based research and training centers and federal/state/local government levels, and has designed and implemented training and technical assistance for federal/state/local managers as they moved their organizations to becoming performance-based. The centerpiece to Dr. McLaughlin’s work has been the creation of a performance management framework with three interdependent functions: logic modeling, developing performance measures grounded in the logic models, and subsequently program evaluation strategies aimed at increasing understanding of performance as measured through performance indices referenced to the logic models.

New Instructor Profile: Annie Rhodes

By: Mary Meagher, PR & Marketing Committee

We probably remember our first job, which for most of us didn’t spark a career interest. Not so with first-time instructor Annie Rhodes who
explained “my first job was in an Assisted Living Community. I was 16, and my job was to cut fruit, bake cookies and serve dinner- I LOVED it. I thought I was so lucky at 16 to have so an amazing job. I have never looked back.”

That first job has led her to her current roles as Director of Outreach at Richmond Greater Age Wave and Research Assistant at the VCU Department of Gerontology. Prior to these jobs, she was an “Age Wave Scholar” and worked with the Richmond City Council on helping elders in the East End.

In her course, “Aging into Elderhood”, Annie conveys that elderhood is a distinct stage of life that consists of growth maintenance and decline, similar to any other time of our lives. There are good and bad aspects but focusing on the positives is most healthy. She also talks about the complex science of gerontology. It involves the biological, psychological, social and spiritual components of our aging bodies. She stresses that it is important to get information about aging from trustworthy sources. Another key point in her lecture is about ageism as an embedded and pervasive stigma that exists at all levels of society and across cultures. It is linked to an increased risk for chronic illness, and shortened lifespan.

One of the things Annie enjoys about the Osher experience is what she can learn from the students. One student identified a gap in a research concept, which she explains, “has changed the way I research and talk about the theory. I had so many ‘aha’ moments in the classroom, all of which I take back to the department to inform our research.”

Originally from Colorado, Annie came to this area to be close to family and attend VCU where she received a Master of Science in Gerontology. When she is not travelling the world, she is preparing to pursue her PhD.

*Photo by Mary Meagher*
Originating from Missouri, Carrie Lehman found her way to Williamsburg, Virginia after completing an internship in New York City. With experience in program development, Carrie pursued our program with the Osher Institute at W&M to continue her passion of working with adults and providing an enriching experience for learners as one of our Administrative Coordinators. She looks forward to meeting all of the members and working with the Williamsburg community!

Phoebe Williams has worked in the education field for almost 15 years, from student services in 2 year and 4 year colleges, working with Capital One's University and most recently at Thomas Nelson Community College in their Workforce Credentials and Continuing Education department. As a supporter of lifelong learning, who has taught creative spirituality classes at various churches, she is excited to be a part of the Osher Institute as one of our Administrative Coordinators to provide quality programming to the community.

Judy Evans is a native of Suffolk, Virginia. She is currently working at William & Mary in Accounts Payable. She has experience in tax and accounting as an Enrolled Agent, Treasurer and Controller. She served on the board of a federal credit union in Alexandria, Virginia. As a resident of New Town for the last five years, she has enjoyed getting acquainted with the Williamsburg community. Her hobbies are interior decorating and ballroom dance. Judy is looking forward to joining our ream on May 10!

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