Thank you so much for filling my last weeks on the job with so many special moments. In recent weeks I have been gifted with books from two of our longtime instructors and many emails/facebook posts from members with words of thanks and well wishes. This last week was met with daily surprises beginning with a lifetime membership to the Osher Institute at W&M. I was blown away by such a generous and surprising gift. The week continued with a beautiful and colorful bouquet of flowers and a crystal clock. On Wednesday I met with the new director Mariellynn to turn in my keys and ID card -- this would be my last time in the Discovery building as an employee. That bittersweet moment was met with a bag of my favorite things – chocolate candy bars and a DVD with a video recording from the two individuals who hired me 14 years ago – Ann and Don Berg. It brought me to tears, which for those who know me well would not be a surprise as crying in joy, sorrow or sentiment comes easily to me! On Friday at five the doorbell rang and revealed a basket of goodies as a staff member hopped back in her
car and honked the horn. As I waved and smiled I noticed the honking continued from a car behind her. A dozen cars decorated with signs and balloons followed as presents popped out of passenger windows -- what an amazing send off. So many wonderful gifts were received by that parade of cars but the gift that provided a hearty chuckle was an Oreo ornament! Every year when I hang that on my tree I will be reminded of my years with you all. Next in the basket were dozens of cards from Osher members which again brought tears to my eyes. I cannot express the heartfelt joy you brought me in all these special moments over the past few weeks. My time at Osher was full of challenge, joy and friendship and will be cherished in my memories forever.

Thank you, again.

Sincerely
Scherry Barra
Director, EMERITUS!

The special memories of thousands of William & Mary alumni, parents and friends are commemorated on engraved bricks in Clarke Plaza at the newly expanded Alumni House. The Osher Institute bought a brick to recognize the Christopher Wren Association, established in 1991. If you would like to see the brick next time you are on campus, click here for its location.

Spring Catalog and Registration Information

Believe it or not, Spring is right around the corner here at the Osher Institute. Courses are being scheduled and our catalog is being prepared to go to the printer. Once printed, catalogs will be mailed on
December 7. The spring course request period begins December 14 -18 but registration will continue beyond that date. Keep an eye out for emails with additional information, including links to step by step instructions and tips for online registration.

**Osher Course Zoom Recordings**

The office is receiving calls regarding requests for Zoom course recordings. The Osher program wished to record some of our fall courses for future use. As this is a new process for us we are working with W&M's legal office to determine policies and permissions pertaining to those recordings. We are recording when an instructor has agreed to being recorded and are setting them aside for the time being. Our focus now is to keep the fall semester running smoothly which requires more staff time in a fully-online semester. More information about recordings will be provided when available. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate this very new area for Osher and it's members and volunteers.

**Veterans Day**

Veterans Day is November 11. The Osher Institute would like to thank our members and instructors, who have served in our armed forces, for their service.

**An Osher Instructor Retires**

Doug Cummings, who has taught several subjects including the Battle of Yorktown and Hamilton vs. Burr, has retired from teaching at Osher. “I've taught 16 classes over the past 10 years and have enjoyed every minute. And the support from (Scherry), Ann, Phoebe, Carrie, Debby, Sarah and Marsha
has been terrific. Thanks so much.” Thanks Doug, we appreciate all you've contributed to Osher!

Class Assistants Still Needed

Online courses require more staff time so we appreciate the willingness of those who have already volunteered to help us manage our 106 online courses this fall. We are still looking for more class assistants to help with the remainder of fall courses, if anyone is willing to volunteer their time. If you are interested in being a class assistant, please email us at osher@wm.edu or leave us a message at (757) 221-1506. We're happy to train you on what you'll need to know for Zoom in order to assist!

Osher Institute Policies & Important Dates

Refund Policy

Please note that the Osher Institute at William & Mary fees are membership fees. They are used to cover overall expenses of operating our lifelong learning program in a given semester and are not directly related to the number of courses you may take (i.e., there are no “per course” fees, and therefore, no “per course” refunds). The deadline for submitting membership fee refund requests to osher@wm.edu is the first day of each semester. For Spring 2021, the refund deadline is February 1. Members are free to register for open courses (up to 8 course max) at any time, even after a semester begins.

Inclement Weather Policy

The Osher Institute at W&M will cancel courses, activities, events, and/or training for weather if William & Mary University Events and Activities are canceled. A notice will be on the Osher Institute at W&M office voice mail (757-221-1506).

Please note, you will not be personally contacted.

Important Dates

November 23-27 - Thanksgiving Break - No Osher Classes

December 7 - Spring Catalogs Mailed

December 11 - Last Day of Class

December 14-18 - Spring Course Request Period Begins