A Day of Media Scholarship in the Digital Age

Weekend University

Saturday, November 2, 2019, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Registration Opens October 1.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at William & Mary brings together three outstanding speakers for a one-day event. This event is open to the public. No Osher membership required.

Frenemies: How Social Media Polarizes America

Jaime Settle, The David and Carolyn Wakefield Term Distinguished Associate Professor of Government, William & Mary.
Social media have radically changed the way that people communicate with each other about politics. In particular, Facebook interlaces political content into a broader web of information about the lives and values of our social ties. This radical change to the way that people express their political identities, access information, and communicate with each other about politics fosters the development of increasingly negative feelings toward people who hold different political opinions. Facebook users judge other users with whom they disagree to be less politically knowledgeable and to use less reliable news sources.

The Glory and Romance of Our History: The Role of the National Archives in the Digital Age

David S. Ferriero was confirmed as the 10th Archivist of the United States on November 6, 2009.

Created in 1934, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is responsible for preserving and providing access to the records of the U.S. Government. NARA has 44 facilities across the country, including 14 Presidential Libraries. Previously, Mr. Ferriero served as the Andrew W. Mellon Director of the New York Public Libraries and held top library positions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Ferriero will discuss the challenges of capturing, preserving and researching digital information for the nation's history.

#Hashtag: Activism, Advertising, and Information Warfare

Elizabeth Losh, Associate Professor of English and American Studies, William & Mary.

Hashtags like #MeToo are often in the news. But where do hashtags come from, who created them, and why does one hashtag trend while another tanks? This talk provides background for understanding how today's Internet popularity operates and how both celebrities and people behind the scenes try to optimize social media platforms. Dr. Losh is an expert on digital politics, computer literacy, and fake news who brings a
traditional humanities perspective to the latest technologies.

Register at www.wm.edu/osher or call with questions 757-221-1506.

Event Sponsored by Bernard Osher Foundation.

Opportunities: Courses & Lectures Still Available

Some fall courses and one-time lectures are not fully subscribed. Here’s a sampling of a few still available. Be sure to register soon.

“What Can You Do with Your WRL Library Card?”

From e-books and downloadable music to genealogy and health research to direct assistance from librarians, you can find what you need through Williamsburg Regional Library's (WRL) digital collections and services. Instructor Barry Trott will talk about the variety of resources that can be accessed with your library card 24/7 from the WRL website, www.wrl.org. Whether you use a desktop computer, a laptop, or a mobile device, there is something for you at WRL. Held at WindsorMeade on October 16 at 9:30 a.m.

“Residential Contracting and Project Management 101 for Homeowners”

How to contract for and manage home repairs, alterations and additions to obtain your desired results--on time, on budget and to your satisfaction. Taught by Joe Cross in Morton Hall, October 21 to November 4 at 1:30 p.m.

“European Trade in Southeast Asia During the Era of Expansion”

Early European trade to Asia began with the Portuguese soon to be followed by other nations. What motivated the Dutch and the English to establish their East India trading companies? What is the difference between the two and how successful were they? The important products of their trade during the 17th and 18th century will be compared. Taught by Ruurdje Laarhoven at Williamsburg Landing, October 22 to November 5 at 9:30 a.m.

“Film Noir: The Most American Film Genre”

The greatest film noirs show us the world is not as it appears or as we wish it to be--peaceful, comforting, safe. These movies portray people whose lives changed in an instant by accident or sudden decision. Their world then becomes the stuff of nightmares. Roger Ebert says, “Because no society
could have created a world so filled with doom, fate, fear and betrayal, unless it were essentially naive and optimistic." Taught by Thomas Thompson in Small Hall, October 22 at 1:30 p.m.

Register Here

How Do You Stack Up?

Instructor Daniel Carlson (in photo below) took “Before” photos of students in his 3-session Spinal Injury Avoidance Concepts and Postural Improvement Tutorial held in September. At the end of the course he photographed each student and used the “After” and earlier photos to show whether their posture had improved.

Town and Gown Noontime Lectures this Month

Signup today to attend any of the of the remaining highly informative Town and Gown lectures. Bring a brown bag lunch and socialize with fellow regular and Associate members. Here are the four remaining lecture dates and topics:


Oct. 17: “Navigating the Dynamics of Trust, Betrayal, and Revenge.”

Oct. 24: “The Limits of a Special Status: Cuban Immigration and the Quest for American Belonging.”

Oct. 31: “Seasonal Sounds to Delight You.” Botetourt Chamber
Singers.
See page 8 of the catalog for more information.

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Ensure You Receive Your Catalog

Moved recently? Or moving soon? We will mail our spring 2020 catalog in late November. Now is the time to update your address online. Log on to our registration site using your username and password. In the left side bar, under the “menu” option, select “My Profile,” , from there you can make any updates. Be sure to click “Submit” to save your changes.

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Congress Shall Make No Law...: The First Amendment

By Mary Meagher, PR & Marketing Committee

“The past is a foreign country and they do things differently there” (from The Go Between by L. P. Hartley) is the inspiration for Karen McPherson’s course, “The First Amendment in Theory, History and Practice. Karen blends her background in political science and history to help students understand the historical framework and current discourse regarding the First Amendment, which outlines the right to freedom of religion, speech, press, association, and protest.

Her course conveys how dramatically different “they (the framers)” were from us. She tells me that the Founding Fathers “ wrote about a hypothetical political system. We need to study this from their perspective, but also to realize how much more we know now than they did.” She carefully designed the course to build from a “plausible narrative” of the amendment’s philosophical and historical origins, through the political evolution of the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the amendment, to the use of First Amendment language in our current politics.

Karen’s goal is to have students look at the First Amendment through a pragmatic versus an emotional lens. “I want them to understand what the First Amendment meant to the people who wrote it, and how generations of Americans have used the authority of First Amendment language to make political points. We can’t create our own definitions of the freedoms embodied in the First Amendment.”
New Instructor Profile: Dan Sherman

By Mary Meagher, PR and Marketing Committee

Dan Sherman may be new to Osher here 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 (Ph.D. 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 Osher lecture”, notes Dan.

I asked Dan what he finds most interesting about teaching at Osher, 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 Osher 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 Osher courses and audit math and music courses at William & Mary.

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

New Members Welcomed

Nearly 70 new members of our Osher Institute were welcomed by John Anderson, President of our Board of Directors; several members of the Board; Scherry Barra, Director and staff members at a welcome gathering in the Wightman Cup Room of Kaplan Arena on the W&M campus.

The new members met members of the Board and learned details about our
program, such as how to register for additional courses online, add yourself to a wait list, and ways to become involved in our activities. Hospitality chair, Cathy Flanagan, played a trivia game drawn from courses listed in our catalog.

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**Buy or Sell Ad in our Spring Catalog**

Advertising in our catalog helps offset the costs of producing the catalog. Have a business? Advertise with us. Or suggest to businesses and organizations that they consider advertising with us.

The ad deadline for our next catalog (Spring 2020) is October 16. If you or anyone has a question about advertising, please call us at (757) 221-1506.

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**Inclement Weather**

We will cancel courses/activities/events/training due to weather when W&M University Events and Activities are canceled. A notice will be posted on our Osher Institute office voice mail at (757) 221-1506. You will not be personally contacted.