Our first ever fully online semester is well underway. We truly miss seeing everyone and sharing some conversation with an Oreo cookie! But many of our members are embracing the opportunity to engage intellectually while they are staying closer to home. If you haven’t registered yet, there is still time. Tell your friends, even those who live out of state can join us!

If you have any questions about registering, leave us a message at 757-221-1506 or email us at osher@wm.edu.

Thoughts from our Members

"There have certainly been silver linings to the COVID situation, and the Osher Institute offering courses online has been one of those silver linings for my family.

My parents live in upstate New York but love to visit us in the Williamsburg area and had always hoped to join the Wren Association. Unfortunately, my Dad is now battling terminal cancer and my Mom is an amazing caregiver but has little opportunity to engage in the world around her. So, when I saw
Instructor: Ed McMahon, Intro to Excel

“Absolutely love Zoom. Most user friendly format ever… hope it continues as option in the future.” **Scott Orr**

“When our in-person world changed in March, I was hesitant at first to feel the same excitement for the Osher Learning Institute classes that would now exist only via Zoom. Surprise! Not only was the class content as excellent as usual with great visual information as well as narrative, but also I could ask questions using the Chat feature and grab a snack (Oreos, anyone?) whenever I wanted. I am looking forward to what the fall has to offer! Thank you, Scherry, and the rest of the Osher staff, for making it possible to continue our learning adventures.” **Deeno O’Connell**

“I enjoy Zoom courses and find them to be an effective way of continuing Osher instruction during the pandemic. While I miss the opportunity for in person socialization, this is somewhat counterbalanced by the convenience of attending from my own home, without having to drive, park, or at times walk long distances through unpleasant weather on campus.” **Bob Lund**

My Mom called me this morning ... on break from her first class this morning about Presidential Illnesses with Dr. Stoltz and she was SO excited to be learning again. I have not heard her this happy in a very long time and honestly, I hung up the phone in tears ... well, she actually hung up on me because Dr. Stoltz had resumed class :)

I do not know Dr. Stoltz personally, but if you could please share my sincere thanks with him, I would truly appreciate it.

I am so grateful to all of you as I know the herculean effort required to transition from traditional classes to online classes. I truly hope moving forward that you will be able to offer a mix of traditional and online classes, so individuals like Mom can continue to participate.

And should you need additional instructors teach online in the future, I would be glad to volunteer to teach a session on digital marketing.

Once again, please know what a positive impact you have on our community ... and especially my family :))” **Dr. Dawn Edmiston, Clinical Professor of Marketing, Raymond A. Mason School of Business, William & Mary**

Intro to Basics of Drawing with Richard Corwin
Osher Program Receives $1 mil Support from the Bernard Osher Foundation

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at William & Mary receives $1 million in new support from the Bernard Osher Foundation. Learn More about how the organization plans to use the funds to support its members and the community it serves.

The Bernard Osher Foundation

Osher Member Volunteers in Training

Osher staff member, Carrie Lehman, conducted training using Zoom for some of our members willing to serve as Zoom Class Assistants this fall. Online courses require more staff time so we appreciate the willingness of some who will help the staff manage the load of 106 online courses this fall. Sound interesting? There is still time to sign up if you would like to get involved in this volunteer effort.

Email Us!

Osher New Director News

Dear W&M Osher Members:

I am writing today to share two announcements. First, Scherry Barra will be retiring on October 24th from her position as the Director of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at William & Mary after 14 years of service. I am grateful for her leadership and dedication over the years and wish her only the best as she starts this new chapter!

Mariellynn Maurer will assume the directing duties of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at William & Mary upon Scherry’s retirement. Mariellynn is a graduate of William & Mary and brings years of experience managing conferences and events and is well qualified to provide leadership to Osher at W&M into the future.
Please join me in thanking Scherry for her dedicated service and welcoming Mariellynn to her new role.

Cindy Glavas | Director of Auxiliary Services
www.wm.edu/auxiliary

Farewell Friends,

As the saying goes, “Time flies when you’re having fun”, and I have definitely had fun for the last 14 years working for the Osher Institute at W&M. I will forever be grateful to Don and Ann Berg, former volunteer co-directors, for originally giving me the opportunity to become the full-time director of the Christopher Wren Association. It has been an honor to work with so many wonderful volunteers and staff and see our organization transition to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at William & Mary. I have appreciated the willingness of so many who have served on the board, committees, as class assistants, hosts and office helpers. My staff and I understand how critical our volunteers are to ensure success of our program!

Many changes have occurred over the last decade and now we are a fully integrated program of W&M. I have full confidence I leave you in good hands with the new director, Mariellynn Maurer. She and I have been meeting weekly for months now in preparation for my departure near the end of this month. The Osher staff works well as a team and have already demonstrated their ability to keep our program running.

Though I am leaving, I am not going far. I have purchased my first Osher membership and have registered for some courses later in the semester. I look forward to being on the participant side of the Osher Institute and seeing many of you in class. Best wishes to you all.

Stay well,
Scherry Barra
Director

TrebleMakers Quartet; Williamsburg A Cappella Singers

Greetings!

It is both my pleasure and honor to step into the role of Director of Osher
Lifelong Learning Institute at William & Mary at the end of October. In many ways, this role has brought me back to my roots as an alumna of W&M with a degree focused on education. As Scherry mentioned, she’s been so kind to spend countless hours this spring and summer preparing and orienting me to the many facets of the program, its rich history, its robust volunteer base, and its dedicated membership. I am excited about the opportunity to continue to build upon the firm foundation that Scherry has laid so well during her tenure as Director and contribute to a successful Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at W&M.

Most sincerely,
Mariellynn Maurer

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 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 will be provided when available.

Shared Lecture from Another Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Host: OLLI at ASU

Title: Mediactive How to Participate in Our Digital World

Instructors: Dan Gillmor, Kristy Roschke, Ph.D.

Starts: October 5 - 25, 2020 (Self-Paced)

Cost: Free

This course is self-paced with a live instructor experience on October 5. Learn how media literacy principles can help you make sense of your digital media environment. The News Co/Lab is offering the course in partnership with America Amplified, a public media initiative focused on community engagement reporting around the 2020.
An Osher Instructor Retires

We are saddened to hear that one of our longtime instructors will no longer offer Osher courses. Mr. Clement is permitting to share his note.

“The time has come for me to end my teaching career with Osher so I will not be offering any courses in the future. I started in 2005 after the Indonesian earthquake and have offered my earthquake class almost yearly since. I know it has been popular but I will be 86 shortly so the time has come to step down. Thanks for all your support, both as CWA and as Osher!” Steve Clement

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). 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

While the temperature is still hovering around 90 and summer showers have been a daily occurrence, Fall is just around the corner! We’re excited to kick off our semester soon with great new courses, as well as our returning favorites!

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