A Letter From CWA President Harry Haynsworth

July 19, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of the Christopher Wren Association,

In March of 2018 we announced the Christopher Wren Association (CWA) Board’s decision to fully integrate with William & Mary (W&M); this transition has now occurred and CWA is reporting as an independent business unit under Auxiliary Services.

Uniting with W&M has offered us an opportunity to apply for affiliation and funding through the Bernard Osher Foundation. We are pleased to announce that we have been selected as an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. In cooperation with this partnership which includes an initial $100,000 grant, the CWA will change our name to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at William & Mary over the next twelve months.

We know you will be pleased to learn that a sizeable portion of the initial grant is being used to upgrade the audiovisual equipment in the Wightman Cup Room in Kaplan Arena. Improvements will include a new sound system, acoustic tiling and the installation of an interactive board, which will all be compatible with the existing Hearing Loop system. Other projects funded by this grant will be used to increase the number of offerings in the Town & Gown Noon Lecture Series, provide a larger distribution of our catalogs to reach new members, and provide scholarships for some who may not be able to take advantage of our programming.

In addition to the initial grant support, the Osher Foundation will continue to assess the “long-term sustainability and success” of our program and will decide whether to award an additional $1 million as an endowment, restricted
for the use of the Osher Institute at W&M. A final decision will be made in approximately 18 months.

CWA (soon to be Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at William & Mary) will continue to manage an independent budget, staff and programming. William & Mary will continue to provide office space for staff members as well as classrooms. Due to the renovation of Phi Beta Kappa Hall, the W&M Theatre Department has reclaimed the Little Theatre. We will be immersing into campus life with some of our fall courses taking place in academic campus locations such as: Andrews Hall, Small Hall, Morton Hall, Tucker Hall and the Sadler Commonwealth Auditorium.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes are found on 121 college campuses and universities nationwide, providing “a distinctive array of non-credit courses and activities specifically developed for seasoned adults aged 50 or older who are interested in learning for the joy of learning.” Courses in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at William & Mary will be limited to members ages 50 and older, beginning spring 2019.

Sincerely,

Harry Haynsworth
President