



FROM THE COUNCIL

Dear Fellow Members,

I hope you all have had a great summer and are set to enjoy our most diverse and exciting curriculum in the history of our program.

Before I get into what's new, let me personally thank Peggy Abbott, Bob Heifetz and Janice Hess for their dedication and efforts while serving on the Council. They helped grow the program. Allow me to welcome Art McLaughlin, Randy Ward and Madelyn Wright as new members to the Council. I am sure that they will do a great job in guiding us into our 6th year of existence and beyond.

A listing of members of the council, chairs and committee members for our various committees and University of Delaware staff members involved with our Osher program appears at the beginning of the Fall 2015 catalog. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have an idea, comment, complaint or even a compliment.

Speaking of the council, we have decided to open council meetings to everyone. The date, time and location of the council Meetings will be posted in the classroom area. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you attend a meeting, please be so kind as to hold your comments until the last 15 minutes of the meeting when we open the council meeting to comments from all. On rare occasions, we may have to hold an executive session to review a personnel issue and/or confidential matters at the end of our meetings. We will notify everyone in attendance at the "open meeting" of the executive session. Only council members may attend the executive sessions.

As I mentioned earlier, the fall curriculum will include 47 classes (24 of them brand new!) and we will have 11 new instructors. Thanks to the hard work of Art McLaughlin, the curriculum committee, the staff and all who helped, we all will have a difficult time deciding which classes to take in a given time period. In order to accommodate the increased number of classes, Wednesdays will be used as a normal day of class and we will utilize four new offsite venues. Would you believe that we had a total of 19 classes in September, 2010?

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TRAVEL COMMITTEE

Sculpture! Sounds stuffy, doesn't it? Treat yourself to a fascinating day at the Grounds for Sculpture near Princeton, NJ. Yes, you can join your Osher friends on October 9 in a bus trip to enjoy this 42 acre park. The former New Jersey State Fairgrounds have been totally transformed by J. Stewart Johnson, an artist, visionary and philanthropist who spearheaded the development of this "park" to make arts more approachable to people. Sculptures by many well-known artists are displayed among trees, shrubs and rocks to highlight their forms.

Mr. Johnson has used his talents as an artist to make life size reproductions of well-loved paintings and giant sized figures from popular culture. A glass structure also hosts temporary sculptural exhibits that cannot remain outside in the weather. An on-site restaurant has a varied menu to satisfy your tastes.

The fee of \$48 for members and \$53 for future members enables you to visit this mid-Jersey attraction without the hassle of driving. With works of art around every bend of the path you will be delighted when you visit the Grounds for Sculpture on October 9.

—Carol Neild

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Cheryl Moore and the member relations committee are preparing a great Open House which will be held in the classroom area of Modern Maturity on Tuesday, August 11, from 10 a.m. to noon. If you can, please attend and reconnect with friends. Also, if a relative, friend or neighbor wants to know more about the Osher Dover program, bring them along to the Open House.

Tim and Diana have again made it quite easy to register for classes. You can register online at our website, by mail, at the Open House, or in person at the Osher Dover office. When you register, think about the money saving option you receive when you register for both the fall and the spring semester now. Fortunately, we have not had to raise the membership fees in the past four years.

I hope that you all are as excited as I am about the new semester. We are fortunate to have new classes, new instructors and new members. We hope that it is difficult for you to choose between two or more different classes for a given time period. If you are waitlisted or unable to attend a class in the fall, it is quite possible for us to schedule it again in the spring or in the fall of 2016. Just let us know.

You members are what the program is all about. Be active, be involved and be committed. Thank you for your membership.

*Very truly yours,
Kevin J McGrath
Council Chair*



MEMBER RELATIONS

I plan to make sure that Osher members - old and new - know what member relations is all about and how they can use the committee to their advantage.

Member Relations committee members will be talking with new members. In addition we will make sure that the Open House is very informative to members as well as those considering membership. We'll work with Tim on content for his presentations to MMC members as well as other community groups.

The coffee corner will always be well staffed and a place to convey information and good will.

—Cheryl Moore

2015-2016 COUNCIL ROSTER

Council Chair – Kevin McGrath

Secretary – Caroline Baxter

Council Members:

Ila Beebe

Jim Brown

Betty Ipnar

Art McLaughlin

Liisa Trala

Randy Ward

Madelyn Wright

Committee and Chair:

Curriculum – Art McLaughlin

Member Relations – Cheryl Moore

Public Relations – *Vacant*

Special Events – Rosemary

Engle & Liisa Trala

Travel – Betsy Patterson &

Madelyn Wright

TIME TO TEACH

*“By learning you will teach;
by teaching you will learn.”*

-Latin proverb

We will soon be accepting course proposals for the spring semester!

- Do you have a passion you'd like to share with your peers?
- Do you have a unique idea to help enhance our program?
- Do you have a friend or family member with something to share?

We need your help to build our spring program of classes. Contact the curriculum committee or the office with your ideas.

Course proposal forms are available [online](#) and in the office.

This is our second release of "Now You Know," a profile of an Osher Dover member. This month, we invite you to get to know:

Sandra Parker



NOW YOU KNOW

Where are you originally from and what brought you to Dover?

I was born and raised right here in Delaware. Lived on a farm west of Camden-Wyoming between Willow Grove and Petersburg. Attended Caesar Rodney High School.

How did you first hear about Osher and how long have you been taking classes with us?

I first learned of Osher through a friend from Wilmington. After research and discovering there was a branch very close to my house and having retired with time to spare I started classes in the Fall Semester of 2014.

Have you taken classes in a specific area of interest (art, history, literature, language, etc.) or have you mixed your choices?

I have mixed my choices between art, language, the lecture series about unique qualities of Delaware and the Walk and Talk programs.

Tell us something we don't know about you.

I left Delaware when I was a junior in high school and lived in Miami, Florida for two years but was drawn back to Delaware only to get married and move to Houston, Texas in September 1967. Twenty-two years later, Delaware was still in my heart and thoughts so it pulled me back and this time I decided not to leave because I just feel it is a nice little civilized place to live and I like being one of the few rare native Delawareans.

SPECIAL SPEAKER THURSDAYS Noon – 12:50 p.m.

September 10

Yoga for Seniors,
Betsy Gustafson

September 17

U.S. Railroad System,
Paul Buckley

September 24

Fire Safety,
Paul Eichler

October 1

Dover, What's Happening?
Mayor Robin Christiansen

October 8

Simple Backyard Gardens,
Kent County Master Gardeners

October 15

Renewables are Ready,
Patricia Hynes

October 22

Duck Decoy Carving,
George Williams

October 29

Homelessness in Kent County,
Diane Cahill

November 5

Selections from Bizet's *Carmen*,
Carole Giarmo and Cecilia Angell

November 12

Humor in Traffic,
Larry Klepner

Join us for interesting special speakers on a wide array of topics. These programs are free for members. You are welcome to attend every program or select the ones that most interest you. Bring a lunch and enjoy! Schedule is subject to change.

MEMBER VOICES

Learning things without a test,
Makes Osher classes just the best.
Making friends, some old, some new,
Is just why Osher needs people like you.
We are all in this together,
Gaining knowledge in all kinds of weather.
We all seem anxious to come to learn,
At times, the weather can be a concern.
Tim and Diana have found their call,
While our instructors give it their all,
Taking their own time to get ready to teach,
So their knowledge gets within our reach.
Thanks to everyone who makes it happen,
It's lots of fun to be a student again!

-Ann Kemmerle

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

We are currently planning an end-of-semester luncheon at the Delaware Agricultural Museum on Friday November 13, 2015. Mark your calendars—we hope to see you there!

—Rosemary Engle



Diana, Tim, Ila and Peggy recruiting at the 55+ Expo, April 2015

ABOUT REGISTRATION

Why do I need to prioritize my courses?

This is the most popular question that Diana and I receive during registration.

Let me start by sharing that it is because we use a priority-based system that we do not need to limit the number of classes in which you may enroll. In an ideal world, everyone could take every class that they wish. There are however, legitimate reasons (like the fire code) to limit the number of seats available in a class.

Since we know that some of our classes will draw more interested individuals than we are able to accommodate, we have a system in place to manage this reality. (Interesting fact: this system has existed for many years in UD's lifelong learning programs—even before the days of computer-based registration. Our computer systems have enhanced the process in recent years, but it remains at its core the same.)

During the “priority period”—this year from July 6-August 20, all registrations are placed into a special pool, pending allocation. Date and time stamps are disregarded entirely, but each course you request is linked to a number—1,2,3 etc.—that is the priority you assigned.

On August 20, when the priority period closes, the computer collects all of the course requests in the pool and begins assigning people to classes. First, everyone is assigned to their #1 priority class, ignoring anything lower than #1. Each person is only allowed one #1 class—that is by design! Once that is finished, the system moves on to processing all #2 requests, and so forth.

Ties are broken by the computer's random lottery, so if you and your next door neighbor both listed the same course as your #3 choice, it's entirely possible that one of you will get a seat and the other won't.

We sincerely hope that you can appreciate the underlying philosophy of this system. It is a central part of our culture to promote a shared learning experience as a community, and not to compete with each other.

-Tim Plimpton, Program Coordinator

Photos – Larry Klepner
Editors – Rita Klepner, Caroline Baxter

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware in Dover offers opportunities for intellectual development, cultural stimulation, personal growth and social interaction for people age 50+ in an educational cooperative. Membership is open to all and is in compliance with the University's Equal Opportunity Policy.