



## ***OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE*** ***Prospective Faculty Information***

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute was established at the University of Richmond in the Office of Community and Professional Education, School of Continuing Studies, through a grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation of San Francisco. The Osher Foundation has funded, to date, 61 lifelong learning institutes in 23 states and expects to fund a total of 100 Osher Institutes. The University of Richmond is one of two Osher Institutes in Virginia, with the other being at George Mason University. Other Osher Institutes in private institutions include Duke University and Brandeis University. The University of Richmond received \$100,000 in March of 2004 for the first year of a three-year renewable grant. At the end of three years, the Osher Institute will be eligible to receive a \$1 million endowment from the Osher Foundation.

A membership organization, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute serves adults age 50 and over who are seeking opportunities for intellectual stimulation in a community of lifelong learners. Osher Institute members are invited to become involved in program planning, faculty selection and in the operation of the Institute. While the primary focus of the Osher Institute at the University of Richmond is academic, there is also an evolving social component to the program, as Osher Institute members share the experience of being part of a learning community.

### ***Members of the Osher Institute may choose from an extensive array of offerings:***

- A variety of ungraded courses per session, taught by instructors who are themselves lifelong learners, including University of Richmond emeriti faculty. Fall, Spring and Summer sessions are offered each year
- Access to traditional undergraduate courses through a space available, course audit process
- Lunch discussions, field trips, special gallery lectures, backstage tours, and opportunities to meet visiting lecturers or other special guests
- On-site access to the Boatwright Library's collections and services, as well as borrowing privileges and use of the 120+ online library databases
- Discounts for campus events and performances
- Full access to University dining facilities
- Classes held on the University campus
- Free campus parking privileges and accessibility for adults with disabilities
- Free annual series of international films
- Opportunities for study trips around the US and abroad

### ***A University Setting***

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute offers programs that are anchored in the existing undergraduate core humanities course "Exploring Human Experience," as well as the Richmond Quest, (a program in which Richmond students, faculty and staff focus on a broad and pervasive question that confronts the academic world and contemporary society); the nationally syndicated radio program "A Moment in Time"; and the Modlin Center's visual and performing arts. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute member benefits also include an annual lecture series, special events, and a service learning component where adult learners work alongside undergraduate students on such projects as the annual Community Service Week and individual volunteer projects in the community.

### ***Osher Faculty***

Faculty for the Osher Institute are UR current and emeriti faculty, business and civic leaders in the Richmond area, and Osher Institute members with expertise in a subject area. Osher Institute class schedules are somewhat flexible. Our faculty teach mini-courses that are two to six sessions of one and one-half hours each. Classes may be scheduled during the day or evening. Classes are held on the UR campus, and AV equipment is available. Faculty are provided use of the photocopier in the School of Continuing studies to reproduce course materials. Osher faculty are volunteers, and customarily are provided a small honorarium.

### ***For more information please contact:***

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