

Summer 2019 NEWS



Martin Smith - Study Leader



Under the terms of the Treaty of Sharon, Martin Smith teaches only one Osher class each year. This tells us much about both his sense of fairness and his sense of humor. Martin and his wife, Terri, live in Sharon, VT and the “treaty” refers to their agreement that he will only immerse himself in one class each year. That immersion means weeks of intense preparation where he disappears within his own home. Hence the once-a-year agreement.

Although born in Wisconsin, Martin was raised in New Orleans, and from the first time he addressed the what-do-I-want-

to-be question he knew that the answer was a scientist, later refined to geophysicist. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Caltech. While working at the Caltech Seismology Laboratory, he got to know the famed seismologist Charles “Charlie” Richter, whose scale for measuring the magnitude of earthquakes is still the gold standard for earthquake measurement.

The year that Martin received his master’s degree was 1968 and the Vietnam War was raging. For personal reasons he needed to remain for another year in California and although he had been admitted to a PhD program at Princeton University, his New Orleans draft board made it clear that the army was in his immediate future. Admission to Officers

Candidate School was the route to a commission as a Second Lieutenant and a posting at the Army Corps of Engineers’ Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) in Hanover, NH. This was his first exposure to the Upper Valley which he shared with his first German Shepherd Natasha.

By 1972 he had finished his military service and returned to Princeton to pursue his PhD, which he received in 1974. It was then off to Boulder where he taught and did research at the University of Colorado. In 1980 he moved into the private sector at Amoco Research, in Tulsa, OK. He says that he was surprised at how often his opinion was solicited and how readily money was spent. He needed a piece of equipment that cost \$50,000

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President’s Corner



As I sit to write this farewell letter, it seems like yesterday that I was wondering how on earth I was going to keep up with the many facets of our organization. And yet the past two years have flown by, and been one of the most rewarding parts of my life. The most exciting part of my presidency has without doubt been the opportunity to meet and work with our wonderful Staff, Study Leaders, and the dozens of Special Event speakers. Our Committees work extremely well to bring new and stim-

ulating subjects to us. So much goes on behind the scenes to make membership experience fresh and varied!

Perhaps the most satisfying aspect of the past two years has been the extent to which we have been able to refresh our relationship with the College at multiple levels. Rick Mills, the Executive VP, has been readily accessible to help us find appropriate short and long term classroom and office space. Joe Helble, the Provost, was our speaker for last year’s Annual Meeting. Mary-Ella Zietz attended the Osher Foundation National Meeting last year, and returned with a number of

good ideas for us. We have worked with Hopkins Center to craft a course built around the Telluride at Dartmouth Film Festival. We have worked with DHMC to find new auditorium space for our Special Lectures and events. We were able to bring the Livestream of The Camden Conference to campus this February: “Is This China’s Century”. We look forward to doing it again this year, as the Conference presents, “The Media in Global Politics”. Our Summer Lecture Series Committee this year has worked closely with Dartmouth’s 250th Anniversary Commit-

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Study Leader Profile (cont.)

and his boss signed the purchase order in the hall without even looking at it. From an oil company's point of view, research was cheap. It was the drilling that cost the most and anything that could lower drilling costs was worth the investment. (At that time an offshore oil rig rented for \$3,000 per hour!)

Although Amoco wasn't a perfect match, he did meet two people each of whom had a profound effect on him. One was his wife-to-be, Terri, who, when they met, was working as a research intern at Amoco and is now the co-signatory to the Treaty of Sharon.

The other was Sven Treitel, the chief scientist at Amoco. In his youth he had escaped the Holocaust in his native Germany and went on to become an outstanding geophysicist at MIT. Martin describes him as "one of the smartest, kindest, most decent persons I ever knew. There was a major downturn in the oil business in the early '80s and the oil companies were laying off staff left and right. Sven went to bat for everyone who worked for him – even those that really didn't deserve it. He was simply the best." Martin still visits him today when he needs what he calls his "Sven fix".

From Tulsa Terri and Martin headed to Hartford, VT where he accepted a position at New England Research, a company founded by a friend, Randy Martin, which does research for the energy industry. He and Randy are friends to this day and co-lead Osher classes together.

Martin's career in the oil business was the cause of much reflection. "The trouble with petroleum is that we're utterly dependent on it – and it's bad for us", he came to realize. "It's really corporate welfare and we need to unlock ourselves from oil". Sustainability has become Martin's new passion.

His Osher offerings include "Complexity in Natural and Man-Made Systems" and "Plate Tectonics." In the fall of 2017, he

co-led a course in "Climate Science and its Implications." His latest offering was "Sustainability," co-led with Greg DeFrancis, a Montshire staff member, and Randy Martin.

Students in his last class on sustainability were treated to a guest lecturer, Rosie Kerr, Dartmouth's Director of Sustainability and a recent contributor to the TEDx Talk series. He met her while standing next to her in line at King Arthur Flour and overheard her talking about the subject. He introduced himself and asked if she would give a lecture at his upcoming class and she agreed. One of the class members described it as one of the most interesting and engaging talks he's ever heard.

Martin now spends much of his time volunteering at the Montshire Museum and teaching classes at OSHER@Dartmouth. "Osher is something we do for each other. The museum is for future generations. It's a way of returning the knowledge that was given to me and paid for by others". We at Osher are fortunate that this is the way he's chosen to give back, as are future generations who receive his wisdom at the Montshire.

- Steve Tofel,

Marketing & Communications Committee



President's Letter (cont.)

tee to present "Critical Thinking for the Preservation of Our Democracy".

Some have asked what I will do with all of the time that will be available. I will continue to teach at the Medical School and Undergraduate levels, and continue to volunteer at the Good Neighbor Health Clinic and ACTS-Honduras. I also hope to be able to resume some of my creative efforts with wood and metal.

I will miss the close touch with many of the "working parts" of our organization, but will of course continue to help on Leadership Council for another two years. I would be remiss if I did not thank Lisa, Laura, Sarah, and Diane, who really make our programs flourish, as well as all of our Committee Chairs and Members, and our spectacular Study Leaders. Most of all, I cannot thank my wife, Karen, enough for all of her patience and assistance in every aspect of our lives these busy two years.

- John Sanders, President

EVENTS

Summer Lecture Series 2019

Critical Thinking for the Preservation of Our Democracy
Thursdays, July 11 - August 15
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Spaulding Auditorium,
Hanover, NH

Lunch & Learn

Wednesday, August 28, 2019
12:00 PM
R.W. Black Community Center
Hanover, NH

Fall Kick-Off Party

Thursday, September 12, 2019
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
DOC House,
Hanover, NH

For more information on these and other events, check our website: osher.dartmouth.edu

Treasurer's Report

As your newly elected Treasurer, I am honored to be chosen to fill some very "big shoes" as Iain Sim finishes six years of stellar service to our Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Dartmouth. (Iain, that's an American expression for taking up a task that was extremely well done by the incumbent!)

Given that Iain is leaving our Osher in such good financial condition, the challenge will be to provide the financial guidance needed to grow membership and remain flexible as to classroom spaces. The Finance Committee will have a very busy 2019-2020, so the continued understanding and support of our volunteer instructors and committee members in the budgeting process will be most appreciated.

I retired from a 47-year career in commercial banking in 2018. My wife, Kathy retired from duty as a cardiac care nurse practitioner at DHMC at the same time. We love to travel (South Africa in 2018) and make frequent trips to New Jersey and North Carolina chasing the antics of our two children and 4 grandchildren. I love choral singing with Bel Canto, and church choirs, fishing when I get a chance, and winter sports. We love our Upper Valley, made vastly richer by Osher and all the opportunities it provides.

- Terry Martin,
Treasurer and Chairman,
Finance Committee

**We are ready for your
Winter 2020
course proposals!**

Proposals are due
September 9, 2019.

Visit osher.dartmouth.edu
to submit yours today!

**Winter Term 2020 dates:
January 13 - March 13**

OSHER@Dartmouth Art Gallery

QUIZ:

Where is the Osher art gallery?

- A. The Nugget
- B. Collis
- C. 7 Lebanon St., Suite 107

The answer is 7 Lebanon St., Suite 107! The gallery is in the middle of the OSHER@Dartmouth office space, and visitors are welcome to stop in to view the current exhibit at any point during regular office hours.

Our latest exhibit features photographs by Osher member Skip Sturman, who captured breathtaking images while traveling on safari in Tanzania.

"Tanzanian Sky" by Skip Sturman



Admission to the gallery at OSHER@Dartmouth is free. The gallery is open to the public during regular office hours:

Mon-Thurs 8:30am to 4:30pm
Fri 8:30am to 1:00pm



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Lisa's Corner

As we get closer to the start of our 2019 Fall Term, the office is preparing to work with the more than 100 Study Leaders who are offering courses this term. Course subjects this fall include studies of American humor, music from Disney films, the American Revolution, the Romanov Dynasty, stock market investing for women, acrylic painting, and more! The diversity of topics and expertise of our Study Leaders make for a truly exciting season.

To celebrate the start of term, members are invited to take part in our Fall Kick-off Party on Thursday, September 12, starting at 3:00 pm at the DOC House. Be sure to register soon!

In addition to our regular courses, don't forget our Hot Plates, Hot Topics lecture series, and the Osher@the Movies series at the Nugget. Check our weekly emails and our website for info on each series, including the Lunch & Learn lectures offered in partnership with the R.W. Black Community Center.

If you enjoy being a part of the OSHER@Dartmouth program, consider becoming involved by volunteering on an Osher committee, whether it's Curriculum, Finance, Marketing & Communications, Membership Services, Planning, or Summer Lecture Series. Every committee can only benefit from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. If you have the desire to make our program better, this is the perfect way to help make that happen!

Enjoy your fall term!

- Lisa King, Program Manager