



Photo by Roni Skerker

## Summer 2016 Newsletter

### Study Leader Profile: Peter Saccio

Peter Saccio didn't intend to be one of the world's leading Shakespearean scholars. He wanted to be an actor, and so chose Yale University to pursue a career in drama. By the time he arrived at Yale he already had a deep love of Shakespeare, and after a few years was finally able to persuade the department's Yale Dramat to produce Henry VI. It was then that he received the not slightly disappointing news that his classmate, Sam Waterston, had been cast to play

the king. It was at about this point in his young life that he realized that his success would lie in scholarship, not the stage. So it was off to Princeton for his PhD and then, in the autumn of 1966, he began a teaching career at Dartmouth College that would span four decades.

More has been written about Shakespeare than perhaps any other literary figure. Consider the challenge of writing a definitive work about him. In 1976 Oxford University Press published Peter's renowned book Shakespeare's English Kings, a work that brings historical perspective to Shakespeare's royal histories. It is now in its second edition and for 40 years has never been out of print. The

New York Times Book Review wrote, "So well written is this book that one does not need a purpose to pursue it." Yet despite the scholarly and critical accolades, Peter takes the greatest pleasure in the fact that it is widely used today by actors and directors striving to understand their characters.

In 1990, the Teaching Company (now Great Courses) had the idea of recording and marketing great lectures. Peter's lectures on Shakespeare were among the original eight in this remarkably successful ongoing enterprise.

What is surprising is that his  
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### President's Corner

A few of you have shared your thoughts about OSHER@Dartmouth course registration so I'd like to discuss it with you. We instituted online registration in 2013 after repeated requests of many members who wanted to sign up for classes on the computer using their credit cards, knowing immediately whether space were available for the program they desired the same way they buy tickets for a show. We soon discovered other benefits because it freed our staff from having to process each request by mail, entering them individually into the computer and handling the checks for payment. One possible downside was that the lottery system was eliminated. When you register online you know immediately if you have gotten into a class or are wait-listed. This is great for those who know which classes they will attend in the next term and can put it on their calendars. It can be frustrating for those who are wait-listed. Please remember, even with the lottery system, members could wait for several terms before they could get into a particular class.

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**Summer Term  
Classes  
June 6 - August 5**

## Notes From the Finance Committee

Our 2016 fiscal year (FY) draws to an end on June 30. We will report our complete year financial performance once Dartmouth closes its books for the year. Meanwhile, the thoughts of members of your finance committee are turning towards FY2017. With the agreement of the Bernard Osher Foundation, we will no longer keep revenue that we receive from the Osher Endowment, and corresponding expense, separate from our General Operating fund. Income from the endowment will be pooled with our other sources of income – dues, fees, corporate sponsorship of the summer lectures series. While we will not tie specific items of expense to Osher money in our budget and financial results statements, we will remain mindful of the purpose of the endowment – to provide a flow of income that will



enhance the member experience.

The budget for FY2017 was developed in December 2015 in order to be integrated into the College budget process, but becomes effective seven months later in July. In collaboration with the chairs of the various programs that drive both revenue and expense, your finance committee is undertaking a review that will yield a updated forecast reflecting current plans and prospects for 2017.

The OSHER@Dartmouth annual meeting in May marks the mo-

ment when there is a change in committee membership. This year Linda Spencer-Green is stepping down from the Finance Committee. We are also losing Ann Hargraves. Ann has provided outstanding service to OSHER@Dartmouth/ILEAD as president, treasurer, and member of the finance committee. Her wise counsel will be truly missed. But I am pleased to announce that three OSHER@Dartmouth members have put their names forward as prospective new members of the committee. The new committee membership will be announced after the annual meeting.

- Iain Sim,  
Treasurer and Chairman,  
Finance Committee

### Study Leader Profile (cont.)

climb to the top of the academic world began with comic books - or rather, the lack of them. When Peter and his sister were youngsters their mother made a deal with them; if they would completely abstain from comic books she would take them to a bookstore each month and buy them a “proper book,” meaning one with hard covers. One of these books was about Katherine Swynford, mistress and later third wife of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and an important character in Richard II. Later, while a student at the St. Mark’s School, his class was assigned this play and much to his joy and the chagrin of his classmates he realized that he already knew the players and the history. So began a lifelong love affair with The Bard.

Peter’s mastery of the history of the Middle Ages makes this spring’s course on “Shakespeare’s English Kings” remarkably engaging. These plays are largely about historical figures and, by intertwining Shakespeare’s English Kings with the plays, one comes to see them not simply as actors in a play, but as human beings with abilities and failings that result in great drama.

Even a short biography of Peter is not complete without mention of his role in the gay rights movement at Dartmouth. In 1984, as the newly elected Chair of the Department of English Literature, he felt that someone had to stand up for gay rights at the College. Among the Ivy League it was not then a progressive campus and, at a time when the President of the United States refused to mention

the AIDS crisis that was rocking the county, Peter spoke out for the need for compassion, fairness, and basic human decency. What took courage then is a deep source of pride today.

In 1997 Leon Black, a former student of his, endowed a chair at Dartmouth and Peter became the first Leon D. Black Professor of Shakespearean Studies. Anyone having had the experience of studying with Peter would fully understand why he was the natural choice for that position. Discovering Shakespeare with him is an opportunity to gain a rare appreciation of perhaps the greatest writer ever.

Should Peter be gracious enough to offer a course next year – brevity being the soul of wit - take it!

- Steve Tofel

*President's Corner (cont.)*

Some OSHER@Dartmouth members prefer not to use the online registration system and mail in their course requests with checks. What happens to these? If registration begins at 9:00 a.m. on April 20th, members using their computers can get on the system at 9:00 a.m., designate their class choices, pay by credit card and find out immediately if they are in the class. This takes a very short time. The computer system is able to process many requests at the same time. Volunteers and staff start opening the mail at 9:00 a.m. on the day of registration in the order in which they are received at the office. **If you send your registration in two weeks prior to the April 20th registration, it will be held aside with other paper applications, which the staff will enter one by one starting at 9:00 am on the 20th.** A person opens your envelope, reads your requests, goes onto the computer and enters your information as if you were doing it on your own computer. They then have to process your check. The staff estimates processing each mail entry takes approximately five minutes per letter.

During that time the staff member or volunteer is processing your mailed-in entry, many OSHER@Dartmouth members have been on their computers, entering their information and are immediately entered into class openings. If there is a very popular class, it may be completely filled within the first five minutes. Of course, we ask study leaders of these classes if they would be willing to increase the size

of the class or teach a second session. Some, very graciously are willing to do so: sometimes that is not possible. And although we indicate where a class will be held in the catalog (a must for many members where the location of the class is a determining factor in whether they can attend or not) we will change venues when there is a great demand and the study leader is willing to engage with a larger group.

What do we recommend if you want to get into a particular class? **Frankly, there is no way mailed-in registrations can be on a level playing field with those entered by computer.** By the time your mail registration is processed, the class may be full. If you really want to get into a particular class, the best thing to do is ask someone to help you en-

ter the information on the computer or come to the 7 Lebanon Street office when registration begins to have a staff member or volunteer do the computer entry for you.

Everyone at OSHER@Dartmouth, whether staff or volunteer, wants to make your experience with us satisfying and positive. We are willing to give you personalized instruction on how to use the registration system prior to sign up. All you need to do is contact the office and schedule a time convenient for you and the staff. If you have additional suggestions which you feel will help us accommodate you and others, please share them with us. We're here to help.

- Sylvia Sands Paxton, President



## Summer Lecture Series 2016

### The New Medical Frontier

Wednesdays

July 13 - August 17

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Spaulding Auditorium • Hopkins Center • Hanover, NH

Visit [osher.dartmouth.edu](http://osher.dartmouth.edu) for registration information!



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### Osher Office Art Gallery

Stop by our 7 Lebanon Street offices to enjoy a new exhibit every two months. Here's what's coming up:

#### June/July

#### *Kathy Swift - Japanese Ink Drawings*

Life forms, landscapes, and still life.  
Reception: June 1, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

#### August/September

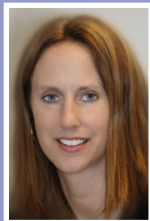
#### *Barbara Newton - Paper Art*

Japanese-type papers torn, layered, and shredded to produce variations of color, line, and texture.

The gallery is free to view during regular office hours:

**Mon-Thurs 8:30a to 4:30p**  
**Fri 8:30a to 1:00p**

### *Lisa's Corner*



I hope everyone has enjoyed the wonderful selection of spring courses our Study Leaders offered! While those who volunteer to lead a course enjoy what they do, they can never be thanked enough. Please remember to express your gratitude to your study leaders for all they do. Your thanks go further than you know!

To enable our members and visitors to share their ideas with us, we will be offering suggestion boxes at the DOC House and 7 Lebanon Street. We would love to hear from you! If you don't wish to wait for the suggestion box, email me at [lisa.l.king@dartmouth.edu](mailto:lisa.l.king@dartmouth.edu).

Sarah, Diane, and Laura have heard a recurring question from our members this winter and spring: "Where is Lisa?" Don't worry, I'm still here, working from our offices at 7 Lebanon Street. Since several members have expressed that they would like to chat or pass comments along to me and find it troublesome to visit the office, I'm going to start visiting the DOC House in the fall for informal sessions that we're tentatively calling, "Chat with Lisa." I'm hoping this will offer a chance for members to stop by, have a cup of coffee, and ask questions or share their thoughts with me. The schedule will be set once the fall catalog is published, and be sure to check the calendar on our website (<http://osher.dartmouth.edu>). Our calendar is visible on the left of the homepage if you're using a laptop, or scroll down the page if you're using a mobile device. We'll also feature "Chat with Lisa" on the Events page of the site ([http://osher.dartmouth.edu/events\\_lectures/lectures.html](http://osher.dartmouth.edu/events_lectures/lectures.html)).