



OSHER@Dartmouth

Discovering the new. The provocative. The timeless.

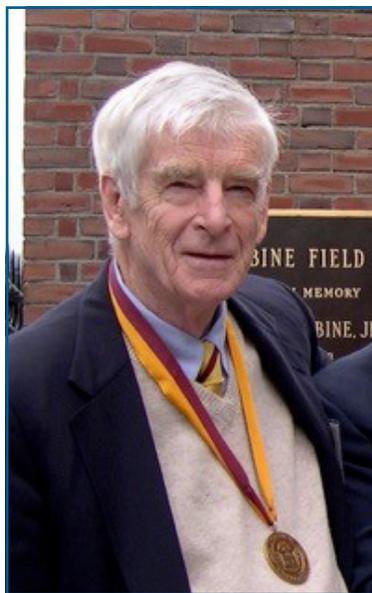


Photo by Anne Baird

Summer 2018 Newsletter

Study Leader Profile: Robert Christie

Consider this path through life: born in Mineola, N.Y. in one of the few hospitals on Long Island; enrolled at Norwich University, this country's oldest private military college, in Northfield, VT. When his studies are interrupted by WWII, he returned to finish college and went on to medical school and a career leading to the creation of anatomical and clinical pathology laboratory services in eight hospitals in northern Vermont



and New Hampshire; then finally retiring to Kendal at Hanover and joining ILEAD, now OSHER@Dartmouth, where he can be the author and poet that his muses always inspired him to become.

Now to fill in the details...

Bob was the first member of his family to go to college. His father, who Bob describes as "a street-smart businessman," was an Army pilot and officer in WWI and had heard good

things about Norwich University, a military college in Vermont where ROTC had been founded, and suggested that that was where his son should go to college. Bob hated Norwich, but he didn't have long to hate it because Pearl Harbor was bombed in the middle of his junior year. His entire class enlisted on December 8, 1941, and when called into service were shipped from post to post waiting for space in a class in Officer's Candidate School. Ultimately they ended up at Ft. Riley, Kansas where they were to be trained as horse cavalry officers. Perhaps it was the experience of the Polish cavalry fighting German

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President's Corner



This has been a busy, but very productive season. At the end of March, our new Bylaws were voted into place by a margin that would make Vladimir Putin envious. Led by Sylvia Paxton, the new Bylaws have a number of relatively minor tweaks, and two major changes. The Nominating Committee will become the Governance Committee, and will oversee the details of our organization's function, as well as suggesting new members for Leadership Council to be voted upon by you. The other major change is to allow future changes to Bylaws to be made by a 2/3 major-

ity vote of Leadership Council. This greatly streamlines our process. The current bylaws took over a year to bring to fruition!

We have decided NOT to pursue an interim location for office staff and classrooms. This is in part because the costs of doing so push us beyond our budgetary constraints. In addition, we have begun to work with the College to pursue working toward a "Permanent Home." We are in dialogue with the College and the Golf Course Committee to see whether we might work together on space that could become a new Golf Club House and office/classroom space for us.

We have begun to actively explore using digital technology to expand our classroom experience.

Using funds from Friends of Osher, we video-recorded Great Decisions, and then offered a second session in the afternoon. It also offers the capability of loaning the recording to those who miss a session. We purchased a new video camera to speed the turn around time for the recorded session. We also plan to extend the Summer Lecture Series to several locations at other OLLI's along the East Coast via live-stream. By simultaneously recording the live-stream, this could also allow those who miss a lecture the chance to watch it later at home.

The Summer Lecture Series is shaping up nicely! Led by John Ferris and Pete Bleyler, the topic will be: "Our Divided Country: How to

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Study Leader Profile (cont.)

panzers that convinced the Army to abandon horse cavalry and send Bob and his class to “tank school” OCS at Ft. Knox, KY.

After graduating, and now a 2nd lieutenant, Bob became an instructor at Ft. Riley while awaiting orders to go to the European Theater of Operations. He was ultimately assigned to the 3rd Armored Division of the 1st Army, and his first experience in combat was as a platoon leader in a tank company in the Battle of the Bulge. The 3rd Armored acted as the spearhead of the 1st Army, and were essentially in combat continually for five months. For those five months he received three campaign ribbons, promotion to the rank of captain, a Bronze Star for leadership under fire - he maintains he has no idea why it was awarded - and managed to survive the loss of five Sherman M4A3 tanks, all of which he named “Fate’s Finger.”

Once Germany surrendered, the 3rd Armored was converted to a constabulary unit and Bob, now a captain, was put in command of a troop (company) on the west bank of the Elbe River. As Bob explains it, “the war was essentially over and I ran a rather ‘loose command’.”

One day the private train of former German Army Field Marshal Goring pulled up unannounced and out stepped Major General Ernest Harmon, the newly formed Constabulary division commander. The general, who had attended had Norwich University and West Point, announced that he was there to inspect Bob’s troop – NOW! It didn’t go well. A sergeant, found sweeping out the mess hall’s steps while buck privates were standing around, was

busted to buck private on the spot and Bob says that he “was pretty well chewed out” by the general for running a sloppy company. Several years later, when Bob was receiving his B.A. degree at Norwich, there was a special commencement speaker – Major General Ernest Harmon! Bob was then 6’2” and General Harmon was 5’4”, the shortest general in the army. He looked up at Bob as he handed him his degree and said, “I remember you, you SOB.” Bob looked down and replied, “Well I remember you too, Sir.” General Harmon, a.k.a. “Old Gravel Voice,” looked up, smiled as he handed Bob his degree, and said, “Christie, get married and be productive,” instructions which Bob eventually followed.

After almost four years of military service, the G.I. Bill of Rights sent Bob through his senior year at Norwich, four years of medical school, a year’s internship, and then 18 months as a resident in internal medicine at Dartmouth Medical School, where a half year rotation in pathology was required. Pathology turned out to be his calling, and he began a residency in this specialty.

About halfway through the first year in pathology residency, the chairman of the Pathology Department, Dr. Ralph Miller, told Bob that the Snow Ice Permafrost Research Establishment (a unit of the Army Corps of Engineers) was organizing an expedition to the Greenland Ice Cap and, due to army regulations, needed to have a doctor on the expedition to explore the possibility of landing and refueling U.S. Air Force planes there during the Cold War with Russia.

Bob by then had a wife and

two children and was being paid \$150.00 a month as a resident. The expedition paid \$5,500, but as much as he wanted the money he told Miller that he couldn’t afford to lose the time needed to finish his residency. Dr. Miller assured him that if he did “credible research” he would be given credit toward his residency. The “credible research” led to three papers; one, titled “Arctic Anemia” (everyone on the expedition became anemic) became the lead article in the *New England Journal of Medicine*; another was also published in *NEJM*, and the third in *JAMA*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Needless to say, Bob completed his residency.

Looking back on his career, Bob remembers that he went into medicine to be a “family doctor” because that’s the type of physician he always admired. His pathology specialty track was taking him away from that, so Bob interrupted his residency training for three years to try his hand at general practice in a small town in Vermont without a hospital. He delivered babies, made house calls, set broken bones, took out appendices, immunized infants, performed school physicals, and consoled the incurable and dying, all a general practitioner’s activities that have long since disappeared from modern day medical practice.

Bob reluctantly gave up general practice because he found he couldn’t support his growing family on the \$5,500 a year he was making in practicing rural medicine. He returned to Hanover to complete his four years of training in pathology.

Good fortune seemed to fol-

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An Interview with Peter Travis

Editor's Note: This is one of a series of anticipated interviews with Osher's stunning stable of stellar study leaders and the extraordinary courses they teach. For this installment, Tom Blinkhorn interviewed Peter Travis, who taught "Icelandic Sagas" in the 2018 Winter term, and class representative Sylvia Paxton. Peter, a retired English professor, taught Dartmouth undergraduates for 46 years. His first Osher foray was in Winter of 2017 when he taught "Canterbury Tales," stemming from his many academic interests in Old English and Medieval Studies.

Tom Blinkhorn (TB): How difficult was the transition from teaching young people to Osher members?

Peter Travis (PT): I wondered about that when I got into this. But I was quickly blown away by how serious Osher folks were. They wanted to learn this stuff. And everyone did all the reading for seven weeks – 75 to 150 pages a week.

Sylvia Paxton (SP): Plus, 20 people registered for the course in the first 15 minutes. And Peter agreed to add another four.

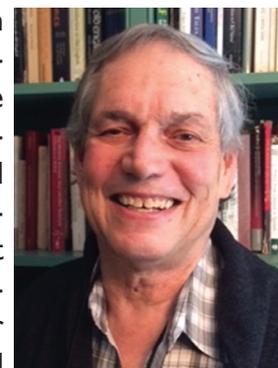
TB: Why so popular?

SP: I suppose word got around about how great the "Canterbury Tales" course was and what a fine teacher Peter is.

TB: True, Peter?

PT: Generally speaking, Osher students are better prepared than undergraduates. And they bring an amazing range of life experiences to the class. One couple had actually sailed the Atlantic to Newfoundland along the same route taken centuries earlier by Norsemen. Sarah Welsch knew all about the celebrated Vinland Sagas.

SP: The team spirit was wonderful as were the social aspects. We had a grand Icelandic dinner at the end – cocoa soup, skyr (pronounced "skeer," an Icelandic cultured dairy product), vodka of course. And those names...wow?



TB: Like what?

PT: Ozur Snout; Eyvind Braggart, Harald Tangle-Hair, Hallfred the Troublesome Poet.

TB: What's up next on your Osher schedule?

PT: *Beowulf* and Anglo Saxon poetry next winter.

Coming This Fall...

The upcoming Fall 2018 term will offer some significant firsts for OSHER@Dartmouth.

Thanks to the efforts of our Curriculum Committee members, OSHER@Dartmouth volunteers, and the generosity and enthusiasm of both new and seasoned Study Leaders, we plan to offer 100 courses this fall! This is a record-setting milestone for our program – our largest term prior to this was Fall 2014, which offered 89 courses.

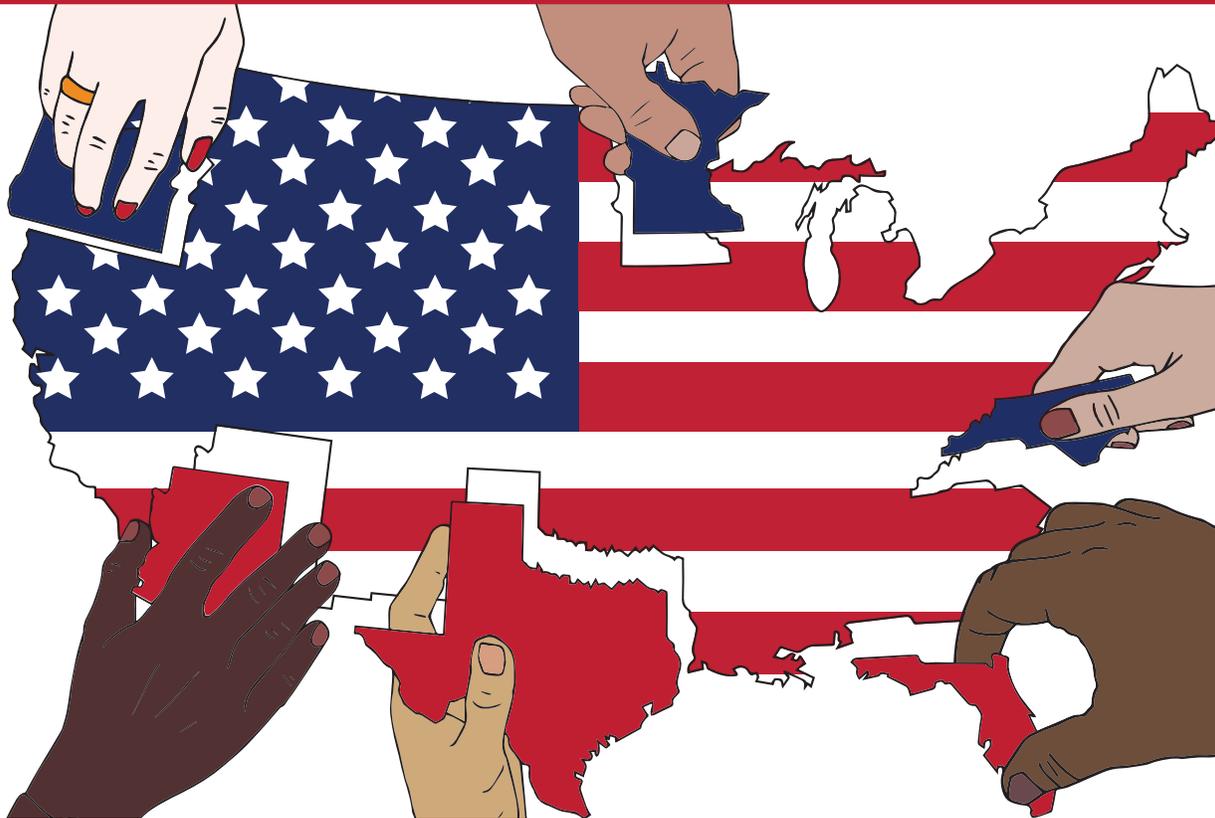
Another first, not only for our program, but for the venue involved, is partnering with the brand-new Hil-

ton Garden Inn in Lebanon, NH to offer a few of our fall courses at the hotel. Lisa King enjoyed taking part in a small group tour of the property, and was pleased at the enthusiasm the hotel manager shared at the idea of hosting our courses. Located on Labombard Road, we anticipate that this new venue will be easily accessible and comfortable for our members.

Not only are the number of classes this fall significant, the wide spectrum of courses that Study Leaders are offering is exciting! Harvey and Barbara Bazarian will provide an

introduction to beekeeping; Susan Brown will lead participants on an exploration of Latin, covering basics of the language and examining its historical significance; John Ferries will lead a fresh take on "Women Who Have Changed the Course of History" (he offered a prior installment in Fall 2016); Lisa Torres and Kyle Chandler will take class members on an exploration of the Shakers who established a small community in Enfield; Larry Crocker will invite members to examine the concept of time; and there are so many more courses offering fresh experiences for our members!

OSHER@Dartmouth SUMMER LECTURE SERIES 2018



Our Divided Country: How to Find Common Ground

SPEAKERS

July 12: Steve Levitsky

July 19: Dr. Damon Tweedy

July 26: Kathy Edin

August 2: Steve Yale-Loehr

August 9: Sen. George Mitchell

August 16: Susan Dentzer

Tickets

Cost: \$25 per lecture

Member series: \$95 per person

Non-member series: \$120 per person

To purchase online, visit osher.dartmouth.edu

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Hanover, NH 03755

Email questions to: osher@dartmouth.edu



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THURSDAYS • JULY 12 - AUGUST 16
9:00 AM TO 11:30 AM
SPAULDING AUDITORIUM

Study Leader Profile (cont.)

low him along his path. On a trip to Orient, New York, he passed a sign for the Brookhaven National Laboratory and, since he hadn't heard of its existence, he pulled off with his family to check it out. There, a group of doctors, recently retired from the Rockefeller Institute, were conducting research on the effects of common salt (NaCl) on hypertension. They needed someone who was trained to do autopsies and soon Bob's name was on several research papers. His career was really beginning to gain traction.

One of the scientists at Brookhaven had a friend at the National Institutes of Health and suggested Bob work there. At NIH he

met and later worked for the President of the American Society of Pathologists, who asked Bob to join him at his practice in Muncie, Indiana. Bob gained valuable insight into setting up and running pathology laboratories, but Indiana was geographically uninterestingly flat and Bob and his family longed to be back in New England. So he pulled up roots once again and found three small hospitals in northern New Hampshire and Vermont that needed pathology and laboratory services. These laboratories and services grew, and over the years he assembled a group of four pathologists to serve eight community hospitals in the North Country of

Vermont and New Hampshire.

This piece would not be complete without mention of Bob's post-medical career as an author and poet. His poem, *Hunter*, should be read by all (the OSHER@Dartmouth office can point you to a copy.) If you read none of his other work, read this one.

Thinking about his life, Bob says with a smile, "I can't imagine anyone having had a better and more interesting life."

- Steve Tofel,
Marketing & Communications
Committee

OSHER@Dartmouth Art Gallery

Stop by our 7 Lebanon Street offices to enjoy bi-monthly exhibits!

Our art gallery is free to view during regular office hours:

May/June
Jo Tate
paintings

July/August
Stephanie Reininger
paintings

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



Did You Know...?

Young Neanderthal girls had bigger biceps than an adult male human. (Source: qi.com)



President's Corner (cont.)

Find Common Ground." Speakers include Senator George Mitchell, who brokered the Irish Peace Accord. This promises to be a blockbuster once again!

My thanks to all who make this organization great: our wonderful Office Staff, our Committee Members, Volunteers, Study Leaders, and those who lead other activities. You make it all happen!

- John H. Sanders, Jr., M.D.
President

OSHER@Dartmouth At the Movies



The Lion King

Tuesday, July 10, 10:00 AM
Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH
No registration required; OSHER@Dartmouth receive free admission for themselves a guest.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Monday, August 20, 10:00 AM
Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH
No registration required; OSHER@Dartmouth receive free admission for themselves a guest.

M*A*S*H

Wednesday, September 26, 1:00 PM
Nugget Theaters, Hanover, NH
No registration required; OSHER@Dartmouth receive free admission for themselves a guest.



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2018 Summer Term June 4 - August 29

Tech Café Dates

Need help with your laptop or mobile device? Have a question about registration or downloading course materials? Stop by and get answers!

Tues., Jun. 26 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Mon., July 9..... 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Tues., July 17 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Wed., August 8.. 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Thur., August 23.... 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

No appointment necessary. All Tech Café sessions take place at OSHER@ Dartmouth's 7 Lebanon Street office.

Lisa's Corner by Lisa King, Program Manager



How would you like to earn a free course? OSHER@ Dartmouth is seeking members who are willing to volunteer to act as tech support for classes at the DOC House this fall. Members who volunteer for this role will attend a training session, and will receive a voucher for a free course at the end of the term.

OSHER@Dartmouth staff members will offer two training sessions at the DOC House this summer to teach interested members the basics of our classroom A/V equipment. The first session will take place on Thursday, June 28 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. The second session will be on Tuesday, July 31 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Participants will learn how to set up and operate our most commonly used classroom tech items, including LCD projectors, document cameras, and Blu-Ray players. They will also receive step-by-step instructions on connecting laptops and a variety of mobile devices to a projector.

After completing a training session, members will work with the office to schedule themselves for a support time slot this fall.

We hope that, by helping our members learn the ins and outs of our classroom equipment, Study Leaders will have more immediate assistance when leading courses at the DOC House.

- Lisa King,
Program Manager