



photo by Jeff Bendis

President's Corner



25th Anniversary

As we celebrate this, our 25th Year of Lifelong Learning at OSHER@Dartmouth, formerly ILEAD, we will look back on what we have accomplished and look ahead to what we would like to become.

We are always striving to enhance the experience of each OSHER@Dartmouth member. This winter, as one of our 25th anniversary activities, we will offer aspiring actors among us the opportunity to become part of the OSHER@Dartmouth Pluperfect Players. In early March, they will perform material chosen specifically for them by our own professional theater director, Faith Catlin. Another 25th anniversary project is a pilot program of courses and activities next summer. These might include outdoor events with visiting family, local hikes, kayaking, etc. If you have courses or activities that you are interested in, please contact your Curriculum Committee Chair Charlie Buell at ccbuell@valley.net. Please watch our e-newsletters and other communications for 25th anniversary communications and activities.

Summer Lecture Series

Thanks to the Summer Lecture Series committee for planning and organizing a stimulating lecture series. The committee was headed by Tom Blinkhorn and included Ginia Allison, Pete Bleyler,

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The Future of American Power and Influence

2015 Osher Summer Lecture Series

Once again, Osher created and presented an exceptional Summer Lecture Series. This year's series drew an average of 500 people to each of the six sessions that started on Wednesday morning, July 15 in Dartmouth's Spaulding Auditorium and concluded on August 19th.

Here are just some of the highlights:

- Perhaps the most "theatrical" session was the opener on July 15. Pulitzer-prize winning journalist and best-selling author, Ron Suskind, interspersed his enlightening remarks with amazing impersonations of Presidents Reagan, Clinton, and Johnson, among others.
- In the session on July 22, Matthew Slaughter gave us a thought-provoking presentation on the economic and financial challenges and opportunities facing the nation.
- Our July 29 speaker, Michael Kofman, graciously provided us with a copy of the slides he used in his eye-opening presentation, "American Military Power: What is it for?" The slides are available on the OSHER@Dartmouth website.
- The August 5 session on media perspectives was presented by two



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Notes From the Finance Committee

Welcome to the second in the series of "Notes from the Finance Committee." In the previous newsletter we introduced you to the various funds that OSHER@ Dartmouth operates, including our General Operating fund, and we described the sources of revenue that finance our operations. In this edition we'll look at our expenses. We will also try to dispel some more of the common misunderstandings about the finances of OSHER@ Dartmouth.

Once again we'll use results from our 2013-14 fiscal year (FY2014) so that we can compare revenues and expenses from the same time period.

Myth - The annual \$60.00 membership dues cover all of our administrative costs.

In FY2014 our total expenses were \$381,574 and total revenue was \$403,819. The breakdown of our expenses by activity is shown in the pie chart. In FY2014 two thirds of our expenses (\$257,852) were incurred in administration, substantially more than the membership dues of \$107,080. The largest component of our administration costs are staff salary and benefits which amount to 65% of all administration costs and 44% of total expenses. True, Lisa King and her team who run our office are all Dartmouth employees. And we do not overlook the fact that we benefit greatly from the human resources and other administrative services the College provides at no cost to us for managing staff. But, staff salaries and benefits (\$167,925) are paid in full by OSHER@Dartmouth and only two thirds of these costs are covered by membership dues.



The second largest area of expense in administration is for communicating with you, our members. Taken together, the cost of stationery, copying, mailing, and other marketing and communication initiatives, came to \$30,544 in FY2014.

OSHER@Dartmouth purchases other administrative services from Dartmouth at discounted rates, notably the use of the DOC House (\$14,152), and the management of all our financial transactions and Information Technology (IT) support (\$9,000).

As the pie chart shows, the expenses incurred in producing and promoting the Summer Lecture Series (\$63,148) and our fall, winter and spring classes (\$37,367) were the next biggest areas of expense. The rest of our expenses are for member activities such as workshops, receptions, socials and the annual meeting (\$16,431), and activities such as the Special Lectures

and Events (\$6,776).

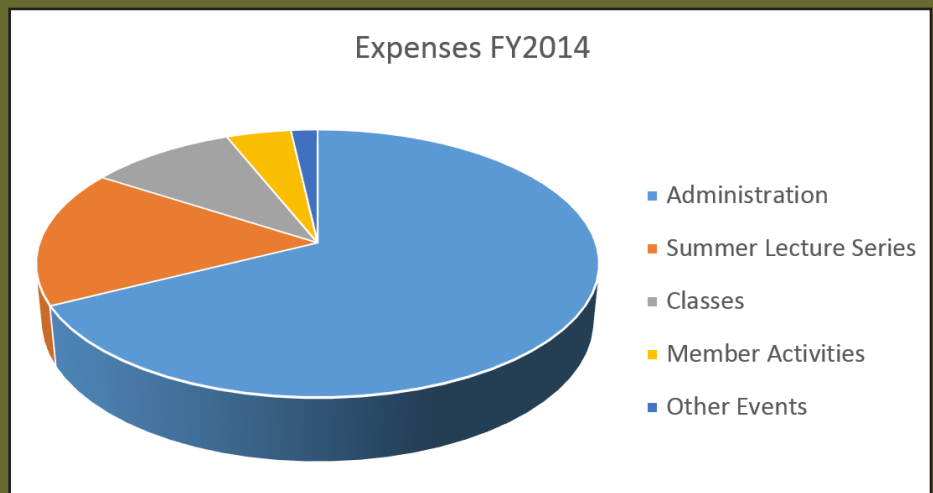
Myth - There is nothing we can do to reduce costs

Each summer your Finance Committee studies our expenses with the goal of finding ways to make our operations more efficient and less costly. We also monitor revenues, asking whether we have the right balance of membership dues and class fees that you pay. You may have noticed that some of your communications through the mail now come at the US Postal Service non-profit rate. While this rate does result in slightly longer delivery times in some Upper Valley towns, the savings that we have achieved have been substantial. We estimate we have saved over \$4,500 in postage in FY2015 through this initiative.

As members we can help reduce our communications costs. The information packets that the office sends out to each member registered for a class could be delivered electronically to you at significant savings in both staff time (collating copies and stuffing envelopes) and printing and mailing costs. In FY2015 an estimated 30% of class participants asked to receive their course packets by regular U.S. mail. With

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Expenses FY2014



over 2800 participants in classes, that is a lot of packets to prepare and mail out. Whenever the office offers you the option of receiving information electronically, please consider whether this is possible for you and let's aim to reduce the snail mail by one half.

Last, we want to share with you an initiative, which began two years ago. As we noted above, staff costs are our single biggest area of expense. We have a three-year program in place to capture information on how our staff divides their time among the various programs (Summer Lecture Series, classes, etc.) and other member-oriented activities. As we begin year three of this initiative, the chairs of the various programs and standing committees have been asked to estimate in their budgets how much staff time they will need. We will track staff time and "charge" the programs and committees for staff usage. In this way we hope to increase awareness of the value of our staff time, and to seek ways to operate more efficiently with the resources that we have.

We hope you find this information helpful. Please send any questions or comments to the OSHER@Dartmouth office. Someone from the Finance Committee will get back to you.

- Iain Sim

2016
WINTER TERM
January 11 - March 4
Look for your catalog in
November!

Newsletters

Don't Just Happen: Thank You, Jeff Bendis

Every few months you receive a copy of the OSHER@Dartmouth Newsletter. In recent years it has kept you informed about major events, new courses and the people who teach them, and the inner workings of our organization. Regular contributors include Program Manager Lisa King (Lisa's Corner), Sylvia Paxton (President's Letter), Iain Sim (Financial Corner), and Tom Blinkhorn (Summer Lecture Series). There are, however, two key players who rarely, if ever, get recognized. One is Sarah Chamberlin who performs all the mechanics required to turn a variety of articles, columns and announcements into a readable Newsletter. The other is the editor.

For the last several years that editor has been Jeff Bendis and with the publication of this issue Jeff takes a well-deserved retirement from this role. Unless you've

witnessed firsthand how much time and effort goes into editing each issue you cannot possibly imagine the debt we owe Jeff. Besides the time devoted to editing content, the editor's job is to make sure deadlines are met and themes throughout the Newsletter are consistent – a role often more akin to herding cats than to that of managing a literary effort. Throughout his tenure Jeff has turned out issue after issue of literate, informative Newsletters. The challenge for the next editor will be to live up to the high standards that Jeff has set. Our sincere thanks for a job masterfully done.



- Steve Tofel

Celebrate Our 25th Anniversary

Let everyone know you've never stopped learning! In honor of our silver anniversary, we are offering our members free OSHER@Dartmouth decals. Contact the office to pick one up today!

Never Stop Learning



OSHER@Dartmouth

Discovering the new. The provocative. The timeless.

Above: The decal design.
Right: Artist rendering of
decal in car window.

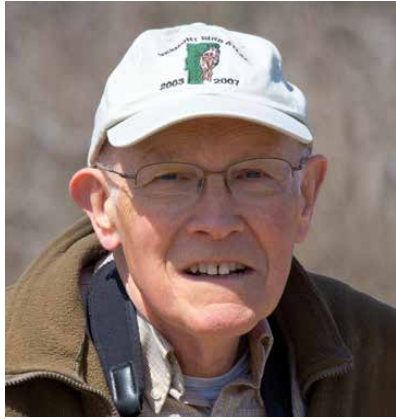


Study Leader Profile: George Clark

This is a very special Study Leader profile. It turns out that our much sought after Study Leader, George Clark, is also an exceptional volunteer for the Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) and they just did an article about him for their newsletter. When that article was brought to our attention, we asked if we could borrow it. Both the VCE and George said yes and also gave us permission to do some editing to include George's activities on behalf of OSHER@Dartmouth. So, here is the combined story on an amazing Upper Valley volunteer.

George Clark's quiet, soft-spoken demeanor belies a boundless enthusiasm, not only for birds and their habits, but also for communicating their wonders to others. While his contributions as a professional ornithologist and teacher are innumerable, George has embodied the spirit of volunteerism since retiring and moving to Vermont in 1997.

George's interest in birds developed as a youth in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. "My maternal grandfather was an all-around naturalist," said George, "and I went on little trips with him. Then I discovered in college that it was possible to study birds professionally." After earning a bachelor's degree from Amherst College in 1957 and a Ph.D. from Yale in 1964, George spent two years at the University of Washington in Seattle before moving to the



University of Connecticut, where he retired after 32 years as a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology. He also taught more courses on ornithology than he can remember.

Over the course of his distinguished career, George contributed more than 200 articles on birds to professional publications. A past president of the Association of Field Ornithologists, he served as coeditor of the book *Perspectives in Ornithology: Essays Presented for the Centennial of the American Ornithologists' Union*, and he recently authored a chapter on avian form and function for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's *Handbook of Bird Biology*.

George's contributions during the Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas offer a prime example of his dedication to the VCE. During this 5-year project, George served as coordinator for northern Windsor County, organizing scores of

amateur birders to beat the bushes for nesting birds, logging 450 hours in the field himself, and writing 22 species accounts for the Atlas book published in 2013.

More recently, George has thrown his energies into the Vermont County Birding Quest, an annual effort to identify as many species as possible within Vermont's 14 counties. During 2014, George recorded 194 species in Windsor County, narrowly missing his goal to join the elite "200 Club." His submission of 584 eBird checklists far eclipsed everyone else in the county.

In addition, George recently joined the Vermont Bird Records Committee, a group of expert birders and ornithologists whose primary purpose is to annually review and validate state-wide bird records, and to maintain the Vermont State Bird List.

If all of that weren't enough to keep a retiree busy, George was talked into teaching an ILEAD course several years by the late Peter Stettenheim. Staying within his comfort zone, all of George's Osher courses have been in the field of ornithology including *Introduction to Birding*, which he will be teaching again this fall.

Osher, VCE, and the entire birding community are fortunate that this unassuming, but energetic and civic-minded man retired in Vermont.

- Steve Faccio and Jeff Bendis

RECENT EVENTS

Left: Members mingle during the intermission at our August 5th Summer Lecture Series session. Center: Attendees at our September New Member reception gather in front of the DOC House. Right: OSHER@Dartmouth President Sylvia Paxton addresses the crown at the September New Member reception.

Thanks to Iain Sim for these images!



John Ferries, Michael Galbraith, Corlan Johnson, Deborah Luquer, John Mathews, Joe Medlicott, Rosemary Scibetta, Iain Sim, Townsend Swayze, and Steve Tofel. Our staff also devotes many hours to making this special event run smoothly. We want to recognize Lisa, Sarah, and Diane and the volunteers who helped in so many ways. We are excited that John Ferries and Pete Bleyler will co-chair our 2016 Summer Lecture Series.

Office and Classroom Space Planning

Your Leadership Council is working to secure a facility where OSHER@Dartmouth will have adequate space for our staff and classrooms by 2019 when our leases at the DOC House and at 7 Lebanon Street expire. The goal of this initiative is to find the best and most financially attractive location for our administrative staff and classrooms. No Upper Valley stone will remain unturned in this site search. We will consider renting, buying, or building.

We have met with the Provost's office at Dartmouth to explain our needs, discuss fund raising options should they be necessary, and the extent to which Dartmouth will be able to assist us in the quest for new space.

We were advised that Dartmouth is experiencing a space crunch of its own and that while Osher's space needs are recognized, the number one priority for the college is to acquire adequate space for college faculty. As a result, we should not look to Dartmouth for space on the campus in the near future.

We will begin exploring opportunities with the Dartmouth Advancement/Development Office about possible fund raising should it be necessary. We are constrained, however, by our Charter with Dartmouth, which limits fund-raising that has the potential to significantly impact any of Dartmouth's fund-raising efforts. In order to assess this impact, we have been asked to survey our members since a large number of them are believed to have no alumni relationship with Dartmouth. We would also like to learn about our member's expertise to assist us in our efforts to secure a new facility and also to pursue additional programming. Backgrounds in architecture, interior decoration, real estate, fund-raising, etc. will be needed. We will be working on the survey and asking each of you to share your skills with us to make this vision become a reality.

OSHER's Finances

Transparency is very important to us. Our Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, Iain Sim, has written an article for this and the prior newsletter about our finances. These articles will continue until all facets of our finances are covered. Iain and I are prepared to give presentations to members who have questions about how we are organized and what our fees and membership dues cover. We also want you to understand the Osher Endowment, how it works, how we may use the income from it, and how we relate to Osher. Our Charter with Dartmouth provides, "The Institute (OSHER@Dartmouth) shall be largely self-sufficient financially." We want you to understand what assistance we receive from Dartmouth and what we pay for ourselves. Let us know if you are interested in a visit from us to talk about anything OSHER@Dartmouth. If we don't know an answer, we will find it and get it to you. OSHER@Dartmouth is your organization. You make it what it is. If you aren't already involved as a volunteer, join us. We'll all be better for it.

- Sylvia Paxton

journalism luminaries: Marty Baron, executive editor of The Washington Post, and Elisabeth Bumiller, Washington bureau editor of the New York Times. The session was recorded by CSPAN and broadcast in mid-August. In a separate promotional blog, The Washington Post provided a transcript of Baron's speech. You can find it at wapo.st/IPMTghy.

- Dartmouth alumnus Scott Sandell, who serves on the Thayer Board of Overseers, challenged us with his topic "America's Innovation Power in the World" on August 12.
- The final lecture on August 19

5 by Canadian political leader Bob Rae, provided an interesting

"non-American" perspective on the program's overarching theme. This was widely regarded as perhaps the best lecture of the series.

- The 2015 series had a record number of corporate sponsors: Ledyard Bank, Kendal at Hanover, and Caldwell Law each contributed \$5,000; Wells Fargo gave \$3,500; Hypertherm, \$500 and King Arthur Flour provided cookies at the final session. A hearty thank you to these invaluable program backers.
- Among several "firsts": There was a picnic instead of a dinner for Scott Sandell and his family at Hanover's Storrs Pond; invitations to lectures and follow-up lunches went to the

dean of faculty at Rivendell High and a Richmond Middle School social studies teacher; and three Osher members introduced speakers (in addition to the program chair).

To have 3,000 people attend lectures on consecutive Wednesday mornings in the middle of summer speaks volumes about the quality of the topics and the speakers at these very special programs. Thanks to all of those who served on the committee and especially to all of those who attended the lectures.

- Tom Blinkhorn



OSHER@Dartmouth

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Photo courtesy Lie Shew

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 20, 2015

Cuba: Exploring Our Neighbor

7:00 PM

Moore Hall - Filene Auditorium

November 7, 2015

OSHER@Dartmouth Book Fair

10:00 AM

D.O.C. House

November 18, 2015

Convocation Event

Phil Hanlon

Anemona Hartocollis

Time to come

Spaulding Auditorium

Lisa's Corner



Dear Members and
Friends,

Osher at Dartmouth is celebrating its 25th year! We started off the celebration with the Fearsome Foursome Art Exhibit at AVA Art Gallery in June. This fall, we are giving each member a lanyard and brand-new laminated name tag to keep and wear in all their Osher classes. On November 7th we are holding a Book Fair at the DOC House, featuring our own authors and their published writings. To celebrate our 25th anniversary we will host a free event to wrap-up our fall term and to kick-off our winter and spring season. This event will feature an address by Dartmouth College President Phil Hanlon on November 18th followed by a lecture from *New York Times* reporter Anemona Hartocollis, who will share the story of her travels with a refugee family.

Please join us for these wonderful events. We look forward to seeing you!