Welcome to your Students Association magazine

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YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR VOICE.

www.open.ac.uk/ousa  SPECIAL EDITION 2016

CONFERENCES 2016 SPECIAL!

7 PAGES OF CONFERENCE GOODNESS!

ELECTIONS RESULTS
MEET THE NEW STUDENT TEAM

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION
SEE THE WINNING SNAPS

CONFERENCE CATCH UP
WHAT WENT ON...
Welcome...

to a very special edition of your OU Students Association magazine, looking back at Conference 2016!

Well another successful OU Students Association Conference has come and gone. Catching up with old friends and meeting new ones! This special Conference edition will bring back memories for those who attended and hopefully encourage.inspire new students to attend the next one in 2018.

This Conference was ground-breaking in the history of the Association as every member had the right to vote and 4,368 students chose the new team of Central Executive members and Trustees to lead the Association from 2016 -2018. See who they are on page 2! I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2014 -2016 team for all the hard work they have done, and as I was part of that team, my personal thanks to the other members and also to the brilliant staff in the office.

I have really enjoyed my term as VP Communications and I’m handing it over to Rachel Hughes, who I’m sure will be an excellent successor to all the previous VP Comms. I am now looking forward to my new role as VP Education. So grab a cuppa, put your feet up and browse through this very special edition of the OU Students magazine.

Lorraine Adams
Vice President Communications
Meet the new team!

As pictured, left to right. Reps not pictured are listed in bold.

President: Chris Pane
Deputy President: Nicci Simpson
VP Administration: Peter Cowan
VP Communications: Rachel Hughes
VP Community: Stephanie Stubbins
VP Education: Lorraine Adams
VP Equal Opportunities: Cherry Day
VP Representation & Research: Caroline Poppenga
VP Student Support: Alison Kingan
Student Council Member: Barbara Tarling

Student Trustees:
Andrew Cooke, Mary Ngozi Oparaoha, Melanie Philpott, Anna Jenkins Peter Charles Bell

Faculty Association Representatives:

- Arts & Social Sciences: Alisa Amin
- Business & Law: Jamie Slater
- Open Programme: Norman Kay
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics: Cath Brown
- Wellbeing, Education & Language Studies: Jan Thompson

Area Association Representatives:

- England: Sarah Couling, Anca Seaton, Victoria Crawford
- Northern Ireland: Cinnomen McGuigan
- Wales: Claire Smith
Conference catch-up
Some of the highlights from the weekend!

FRIDAY

On Friday 17th June students began to arrive at Conference, both on campus in Milton Keynes and online. The excitement and enthusiasm in the air was palpable!

Campus tours
Observatory tours
Societies Showcase
Disabled Students Group
Film
OU Expo
Delegate Reception

Today’s the day! We’re looking forward to seeing all the lovely #OUstudents arriving on campus and online soon... #OUstudents16 :)

Ridiculously excited to be at #OUstudents16
Hoping for a lovely buzz

The atmosphere here is electric! #OUstudents16

#OUstudents16 is trending!! Keep up the good work #OUstudents!!

@SmellyFlipFlop, @BurrellWendy and 25 more are Tweeting about this

Simon Hughes
SATURDAY

Liza
@Yarearaneal

Great points presented on both sides of the debate about the payment of president and deputy president. #OUstudents16

Lucy Parry
@LucyLucyParry

#oustudents16 Congratulations to new @OUstudents CEC! And thanks to the 14-16 group for all the positive changes they made for students

Fergal McFerran
@FergalMcFerran

Congratulations to all those elected at #OUstudents16 & well done to everyone who put themselves forward @OUstudents

Leanne
@DipityMe

Really interesting Periscope live from #OUstudents16 right now!

Question Time

Monica Grady

Debates

University Challenge

Timandra Harkness

Peter Horrocks

Election results

Gail Emms

Solar Panel Workshop

Zumba

How sexual desire works

Hula Hooping

Harvard referencing

Digital skills
SUNDAY

Debates
Listening to the student voice

Pledge drive

The Power of Philanthropy

Creative Writing workshop

Kevin McConway

Societies workshop

Final address

You said, we did

Important debate ongoing in the Hub theatre: 'Do pets make better study buddies than people?' #OUStudents16

Nicola Simpson @NH_Nico

Last session of #oustudents16 conference - the pledge drive! I pledge to support students to get more active in their student community!

Pipa Riggs @Pipa_Riggs

That is the fun, games and prizes finished. Now time for the final addresses. #OUstudents16

Gordie Stirling @gordiestirling

Thanks to all involved in #oustudents16 for making my first conference experience a good one, See you all again in 2018

Tamara Turner @StanwogaTamara · Jun 19

An Outstanding Unique Student Adventure. Looking forward to doing it again in 2018 #OUstudents16 @OUstudents
Photography competition!
The winners, and some other amazing entries...

We asked students attending Conference (on campus or online) to share a photo with us that summed up their experience of the weekend. The Conference Steering Committee chose the winners!

1st

First prize went to this brilliant photo, taken by Jane Leigh!

She’s won a voucher to spend at our brand new OU students Shop!

Keep a look out for the next issue of OU Students magazine as this winning pic will be on the front cover.

Congrats Jane!

2nd

Second prize went to this brilliant photo, taken by Michelle Brown!

She’s also won a voucher to spend at our brand new OU students Shop!

You can find the video from this moment here.

Congrats Michelle!

Honourable mentions...

Pauline Roberts
Malika Steed
Danielle Brown
It was a wonderful weekend and it was fantastic to see students coming together from all over the country and beyond both on campus and online. Hopefully for some students it was just the beginning of a rewarding relationship with your Students Association which can open doors to future fun and opportunities to take part in wonderful things you never expected. I’ve attended Conference a fair number of times and I always go away wishing I could bottle the sheer excitement and enthusiasm of OU students.

Speaking on behalf of the OU Students Association, we hope that you thoroughly enjoyed your weekend, made new friends and found support for your studies. As you’ll know, it’s not always easy studying at a distance - it takes serious grit and determination. There are moments when no-one understands – not friends, family or even the cat really get it! That’s why coming together to encourage one another can be so valuable.

Thank you again to everyone who made the weekend possible – from students who are long-term friends of the Students Association, to Societies and staff members – not to forget our newly elected team of student representatives! But let’s not let the party end there – let’s start planning our next exciting encounters across the country and beyond.

Ruth Tudor
President of the OU Students Association