Welcome to your Students Association magazine

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR VOICE.

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WINTER 2015

SHARE YOUR STORIES • CONNECT WITH OTHER STUDENTS • JOIN IN

2015 HIGHLIGHTS
A LOOK BACK AT OUR YEAR

OU STUDENTS SHOP
COMPETITION WINNER
OUR NEW MUG DESIGN REVEALED

OFFICER TEAM REPORTS
We find out what they’ve been up to in their summaries from the last Central Executive Committee

STUDENT CELEBRATIONS
OU Students share their stories of success worthy of a big celebration!

SOCIETIES
New societies for the new year - we bring you stories from emerging and current societies
Welcome... to your OU Students Association magazine, a place to share your stories, connect with others and find out more about your Association.

Well it’s that time of year again. Looking back and taking stock of how the year has gone and looking forward to the New Year and all its possibilities. For me in my role, the highlights were the new look for the OU Students Association, the updated website (which now has a pause button on the carousel at the top) and the thriving communities of OU students on social media.

Recently I attended two conferences held by the OU, the annual Communications Conference and the first Student Engagement Conference. The latter being particularly encouraging as it showed that the OU is now seriously taking students’ opinions into account. The Association will keep on top of the new developments and ensure that students’ views are heard at every level of the university.

We all know OU students are talented in many ways, and the cartoon above by Sarah Boyt Robinson proves it. There are many articles about students and ways to become involved in life at the university in this edition and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Merry Christmas to those who celebrate and Happy Holidays to everyone. My very best wishes for the New Year.

Lorraine Adams
Vice President Communications

The OU Study Series: Christmas

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Michail Kasoutas
Alison Kingan
Sarah Boyt Robinson
Sally-Ann Winter
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Holiday closure dates
The OU Students Association Office will be closed from 12pm on December 24th until January 4th 2016.

COMING UP...

9 December
OU Students Radio
6-7.30pm
Join us for some festive fun as things get Dickensian for our team of student presenters as they’re visited by important figures from the Association’s past, chat about the present, and predict the future! Meet hundreds of other OU students in a special chatroom during the live broadcast, or talking about #OUstudentsRADIO on social media! You might even win yourself an extra Christmas present…

You can listen live at: http://mixlr.com/oustudents

17-19 June 2016
OU Students Association Conference
Please register your interest here and will keep you up to date with details: oustudents.com/conference-interested-list
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What is the CEC?
The Central Executive Committee explained

It was a wet and windy November weekend in Milton Keynes. 20 OU students, just like you, came together to talk about all things Open University and OU Students Association at the latest Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting. These meetings happen up to four times a year and they are always important moments in the work of the Association.

Students gathered on Friday evening from across the UK and Europe. All have a keen interest and passion for the OU and representing the student voice. It’s always a busy weekend with a packed agenda and lots to digest, discuss and debate. You can see the full agenda and find the reports here.

Some of the hot topics up for discussion at this Central Executive Committee meeting were:
• The University’s analysis of the locations of its English regional centres, and how it might affect students.
• Several pieces of interesting research, including: how students feel about the way their modules are delivered, how new students hear about the Students Association and the recent publication of the NSS (National Student Survey) results.
• The new and exciting plans for the Students Association to introduce a “One Member One Vote” policy ahead of next year’s Conference (17 – 19 June 2016)

We have a winner!

We asked students, staff and alumni to design a mug to sell on the OU Students Shop, and the Central Executive Committee picked a winner...

Congratulations to Sas Amoah, who produced an elegant, beautiful and creative design that we think will fit our deco mug perfectly! Sas has won 10 mugs for himself, as well as an OU hoodie or zoodie of his choice!

Congratulations also to our runner up, Sarah Boyt Robinson. You can see some of her fab artwork on page 1.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to enter—we received some amazing designs that really represent the diverse and wonderful talents of our OU community!

If you can’t wait until this mug is printed and on the shelves, don’t forget you can always head over to the OU Students Shop and top up on all kinds of OU goodies in the meanwhile!

OU Students Shop team
January
We started the year off on a high note with an amazing Freshers fortnight!

February
We introduced our new branding to you! Bright, colourful and vibrant, we felt like the new look for the Students Association better reflected the amazing OU Student community.

March
OU students Magazine relaunched with a bright new look to match our new branding!

April
The first episode of the OU Students Association podcast was released! It followed Mark, a Student Association Representative for Scotland, as he gained confidence from OU study and involvement with the Students Association.

May
Bye-elections were held for the Assemblies and Assembly Executives.

June
The OU Students Association Senate Reference Group (SRG) met to discuss the business that would be taken to Senate later that day. The SRG meet four times a year. Find out more about the SRG here.

July
Student representatives from our affiliated societies joined us on campus for a jam-packed day of training, networking and a campus tour with Open University Historian, Dan Weinbren.

Student representatives also met for a Central Reps seminar.

August
Students joined us on campus to take over our social media channels and chat to other OU students.

September
We reached 1000 followers on Instagram, and continued to grow the OU student community on Facebook, Twitter and the forums.

October
A team four fab OU students hosted our fourth #OUstudentsRADIO event! The show was Freshers themed, and the team gave great advice to new students, and reminisced about their first year of OU study.

November
Elections took place to select the new Assembly and Assembly Executives. The results were posted on our website.

December
We’ll be broadcasting live from campus on December 9th with a festive edition of #OUstudentsRADIO!

If we listed all the OU Students Association activity that we’re proud of, this magazine would have far too many pages!

We’re proud of the hundreds of OU students that volunteer their time, energy and passion to the Students Association, all trying to improve the OU student experience and represent the OU student voice to the University.

We’re proud of the 22 thousand students that have liked our Facebook page, and the 15 thousand students that have followed us on Twitter - all coming together in those spaces to find other OU students, solve problems and make friends.

We’re proud of you. Here’s to another great year!
The not so secret life of the Officer Team

The President, Deputy President, six Vice Presidents and Student Member of the University Council are the highest positions in the Students Association. Collectively they are known as the Officer Team. Find out what they’ve been up to in the mini-summaries below...

5 Best overheard #OUstudent comment: ‘Still studying. Still drinking coffee.’

Ruth Tudor
President

• Ruth and a group of students were invited to offer their input into the next stage of Dashboard. One comment made was that it would be helpful if Dashboard could ‘talk’ to StudentHome so this has been taken on board and the OU staff said they will go back to see if this is possible.

• She was involved in the recruitment and selection processes for three key University roles: University Secretary, PVC Research and Academic Strategy and Director, OU in Scotland.

Nik Morris
Deputy President

• Nik oversaw and participated in Freshers Fortnight including two weeks of events and activities, as well as a special radio broadcast.

• She attended the Postgraduate Induction day and hosted an hour long session to help strengthen ties between the Association and its postgraduate community.

Lorraine Adams
Vice President Communications

• Lorraine continued to support and promote our student communities on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

• As editor-in-chief of this very magazine, Lorraine helped to generate interest in the magazine as well as put in place improvements for future editions.

Peter Cowan
Vice President Educational Support and Research

• Peter has been involved with work on curriculum and module development and is also a member of the joint OU/Students Association Student Engagement Project. Alongside this he is sponsoring Association research into student views of the delivery of tuition material. A pilot project was undertaken and from its results a larger survey is being planned for the New Year.

• He and Alison met with the new Director of the Student Support Hub to discuss the late allocation of tutors in Regions 1 and 13.
Josh Brumpton
Vice President Education Policy

- Josh oversaw the annual Central Reps seminar where 16 continuing and 12 new reps were appointed.
- He led on the student submission to the QAA review, as well as help organise student groups for the reviewers to meet.
- He was involved in working on a proposal for a framework in which students could claim degrees with two subjects recognised in the title. This has now been approved! Initially this will be for a limited selection of combinations and each subject will have a fixed 180 credits, but it is hoped that if this proves successful it could be expanded to allow a greater amount of choice and flexibility.
- Josh has also helped get an agreement that all Postgraduate qualifications will use a standardised classification system (fail, pass, merit, distinction) as well as an initial proposal to explore the possibility of an ‘Open Masters’.

Sue Goodyear
Vice President Representation

- Sue has been busy supporting Residential Schools in Nottingham, Warwick and Bath with a team of student volunteers. Sue and the team were on hand to welcome students, answer their questions and arrange social activities.
- She helped plan and deliver training for Degree Ceremony coordinators.
- She has been working on a project to review how the Association’s presence in the regions and nations are working, and what could be improved.
- Sue, Patricia Gray and Mark Cameron ran a stall at the Freshers’ Festival at SECC in Glasgow, to promote the Association and meet with new OU students.

Carey Shaw
OU Student Council Member

- Carey attended the July meeting of Council. One of the items discussed was the Vice Chancellor’s paper on “Students First”. Key issues were seen to be the devolution of decision making (where appropriate), closer involvement of academics with students, increased inclusiveness and networking, both within the organisation and externally including Global students, innovation and improvement in collaboration and in employability for OU graduates.
- Carey also attended a meeting of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education on the topic of student engagement, entitled ‘Quality Matters 2015’. This offered presentations and discussions (break-out sessions) on Enhancement through Partnership, How to Use the Quality Code for Partnership, Involvement of Students in Curriculum Design.

Alison Kingan
Vice President Student Support

- Alison has met with various OU staff to emphasise the importance of alternative formats arriving before a module starts.
- Alison was involved in the Association’s submission to the Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) Consultation. One change already implemented is that students from now on have to contribute £200 if they are awarded, and agree to receive, a computer or laptop as a result of their DSA Assessment. The OU has agreed to fund this £200 for students on low incomes.
- Alison continues to raise the issue of making Eduroam available for students.

David Humble, Vice President Administration was unable to attend this CEC due to illness, but his report from the July CEC can be found here.

Best overheard #OUstudent comment: ‘Don’t be afraid to ask for help if needed.’
My year

Three of our student volunteers tell us about their experience this year...

My role as Student Association Representative for Scotland can be challenging, but it is varied, rewarding and enjoyable!

This year a few events really stood out for me and have been the best bits of my role during the course of 2015. They encouraged our students to be involved with us, have their say on the issues that affect them, raised awareness of the OU Students Association in Scotland, our work and what we can do for our students, and in the case of the second event that I’m about to mention, helped to create a community of students in Scotland in a social atmosphere!

The first event was Scottish Committee, the OU’s main consultative meeting for Scotland, which was held at the OU in Scotland’s Edinburgh centre. This meeting allows for up to 20 students to attend and put their views, and represent the views of, their fellow students in Scotland. I was pleased with the interest students showed in attending and those who did attend on the day. We were afforded the chance to put forward a topic for consultation (group tuition) and this was something we hadn’t done before! Staff I spoke to after the meeting were pleased with the turnout and the variety of student views – described to me as “refreshing”! So really is your student voice!

In September, we had a presence at the ScoCampus’ Freshers Festival in Glasgow, which saw in the region of 5,000 students visiting the two day event. We were pleased to have a number of students and varied groups of students coming to visit us, to chat to them about us and what we do! The atmosphere was simply amazing and we seemed to feed off that buzz around the venue! From students with study issues, to students that hadn’t studied with us but were considering it, and college students was also inspired and intrigued to do the same. My engagement with the Students Association helped my OU experience to become complete; it gave me amazing new friends all over the world. Overall, it was an incredible experience and I am so blessed to have been a part of it. Thank you for everything!

At the previous elections for OU Student Association Representatives (SARs) I was elected SAR for Southern Europe. It is a pretty good deal – the OU gives us a lot of support to get student voices heard and represented.

All Open University students living in Southern Europe are welcome to join us at the OU’s Virtual Learning Environment (OU VLE forums), Facebook groups and twitter account. Organizing face to face meetings is lots of fun and it pays off with meeting new OU students. However, most of the communication - due to Southern Europe being a vast region which includes 13 countries – is online. There are paperwork and university regulations to be followed; nevertheless making the student voice heard (including your own) recompenses your struggle with the papers.

My experience with the OU Students Association and the Central Executive Committee (CEC) meetings was one of a kind and I am so grateful for the opportunity I had to be there. It was truly amazing to see ambitious fellow students making something of their vision and I was pleased with the turnout and the variety of student views – described to me as “refreshing”! So really is your student voice!

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Michail Kasoutas
Student Association Representative for Southern Europe

As Vice President Student Support my role involves ensuring students who have additional barriers to overcome, get the information and support they need.

We have wonderful Peer Support volunteers who offer support to students and answer one off queries. The Disabled Students Group has a vibrant Facebook Group and is currently selecting its new Committee. Students in financial hardship have been helped by OUSET, the Students Association’s charity, of which I am a Trustee.

I was delighted to provide a substantial contribution to the Student Association’s response to the BIS review of the DSA proposed changes. Most recently I have been talking to the OU about getting alternative formats to students sufficiently early, especially for new modules. I attended the OU Disability Conference in May and the OU’s first online Consultation meeting for students with Disabilities.

I have blogged most of the fun and achievements during 2015 which is on the Students Association’s website and my Facebook page. The Blog’s aim is to signpost and spread news such as the OU’s offer to fund some students’ £200 contribution needed for Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) awarded computers or laptops. Signposting has included where to find OU Study Skills and the online forms if students need to send to report special circumstances, especially around and during exams. My Blog readers might know my New Year’s Resolutions were to read War and Peace and not write Blogs after 2am. As I am writing this at 5am, I’ll let you work out which of the two resolutions was more successful.

Unfortunately I’ve not had the chance to visit any of the OU’s events this year due to course commitments. However, I’m looking forward to the upcoming conference and the OU’s first social event this year – a gathering of Scotland, which was held at the OU’s main consultative meeting for Scotland, which was held at the OU’s Virtual Learning Environment (OU VLE forums), Facebook groups and twitter account. Organizing face to face meetings is lots of fun and it pays off with meeting new OU students. However, most of the communication - due to Scotland, which was held at the OU’s main consultative meeting for Scotland, which was held at the OU’s Virtual Learning Environment (OU VLE forums), Facebook groups and twitter account. Organizing face to face meetings is lots of fun and it pays off with meeting new OU students. However, most of the communication - due to Scotland being a vast region which includes 13 countries – is online. There are paperwork and university regulations to be followed; nevertheless making the student voice heard (including your own) recompenses your struggle with the papers.

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I reluctantly said goodbye to the lovely Wendy Burrell whose promotion took her away from my little team but congratulated Jess Smith who stepped into Wendy’s shoes.

Alison Kingan
Vice President Student Support
Celebrations!

Double degree day

September 4th, 2015 has to be one of the proudest days of my life when I walked across the stage at Exeter Cathedral to collect my BSc in Criminology and Psychological Studies, but I was even prouder of the man who had gone up a short time ahead of me – my 72 year old father.

I came to my degree by accident after being signed off work. Back in 2004 I had a breakdown and was subsequently diagnosed with Bipolar II and an Anankastic Personality Disorder. I was afraid that my brain was literally turning to mush, so in 2010 I enrolled with OU and started a level 1 Introduction to Counselling as something to kill some time and to keep my mind active, 5 years on and I am now the proud recipient of a BSc (hons) in criminology and psychological studies.

Dad's story is of similar vein, he was approaching 70, living alone and needing something to keep his brain ticking over. Seeing how much I was getting from my studies, he tentatively embarked upon an open degree with OU, and now has his BA Open.

Tackling something like a degree when you have mental health issues is never easy, but my studies have changed my life, literally. I was subsequently offered a place to study a Masters degree, which I initially accepted but since then have decided that following my heart is paramount at this juncture in my life and I have withdrawn from the course, but not from studying. I’m now training as a specialist Yoga and meditation teacher, and my time with OU is proving invaluable in structuring my theoretical knowledge studies and my practical skills. Dad, meanwhile is taking a further module to gain his ‘hons’ on top of his degree. We’d both like to say a very big ‘thank you’ to OU for all we’ve learnt, not only on our chosen subjects but also about ourselves.

Sally-Ann Winter

My Story

After reading the latest version of the Students Association magazine I wanted to write a few words myself about my experience studying with the OU.

I left school in 1992 at 16 with three C grade GCSE’s in maths, English & PE with not a clue what I wanted to do with the rest of my life, all I knew was liked football & cars, so for the next 10 years I earned my trade as a motor mechanic. It came to the point though where a decision was to be made, with a wife, house and two children the route I was on was not going to able me to provide the things I wanted for my family. Then, fate intervened - the local medical factory was having a recruitment drive for maintenance Technicians. With nothing to lose I applied and after three interviews and a skills test I got one of the jobs.

After a year I decided to ask my boss for sponsorship to help me gain my HNC in mechanical engineering, unfortunately without an A-level in sight I had to start from NC level. After four years I achieved my HNC with distinctions across the board. By now I had a taste for learning and a desire to push myself so I enrolled on the HND and again finished with distinctions. But again I wanted more.

I made another plea to my boss and received sponsorship to get my BSC open degree and chose the OU as I could not afford to give up work.

The day the module material turned up for my first module (MT365) I could not wait to get stuck in. My worries of being on my own soon wore off, as the module website and course material far exceeded my expectations. Then came T357 and again it was a joy. After two years locked away in a converted cupboard in my bedroom, I achieved a 2:1 grade… I was still hungry for more, so I decided to reject my degree offer and top it up to a BEng(hons).

With my final EMA now posted it is just a case of waiting. All being well, if I receive a pass grade of any sort I will have a 2:1. Seven years and one hell of a journey that has finally come to an end. I am proud of my achievements, and hope that showing my children that you are never too old to learn and better yourself will stay with them as they progress from school to college and hopefully university. Most importantly I want them to realise that it is always possible to change your goals and set new dreams.

Throughout this journey one thing has been constant and that has been the support and backing I have received from my wife Nadine. She has been my rock, my pillar of support and my proof reader. Without her by my side I would have not achieved my goal.

Finally I must say that every time I see the OU advert on TV I get a lump in my throat, I can relate so much to most of the scenes - the studying by night light, the frustrations and the elation of opening results. It has been a pleasure studying with the OU and I wish to extend my gratitude to all my tutors and fellow students both OU and not over the last seven years.

Robert Crump

Editors note: Robert has gotten in touch with us again to say that he passed his final EMA after all. Congratulations Robert!

Best overheard #OUstudent comment: ‘Happiness is jaffa cakes at 2am on submission day.’
I don’t rap but I am OU Students Association Vice President Representation. I somehow feel that Representing Vice would not have been a good name to have. Anyway. How it all began: Email! Don’t you just love them? I was invited to be part of #OUstudentsRADIO. How long and how loud can you laugh to yourself in the privacy of your home? (Let me tell you long and loud.) But then after you hit the reply button fear oozes and creeps in to every fibre. “What on earth have I let myself in for?”

Thankfully I alternated between laughter and fear as the emails and face to face discussions took place. Could I talk for two hours? Well I don’t know, but I can jabber on forever.

Behind the scenes

Interviews take place for pre-recorded segments. It’s then you find out that both the interviewer and the interviewee are just as nervous. Those of you who know me know that technology is not my best subject, but thankfully our radio crew have top notch support from some technical geniuses from the Knowledge Media Institute.

The Students Association Communications and Engagement and Support staff teams are working on scripts timings, subjects for discussions, running orders, guest hospitality, techy departments, and support for the phone lines, email and other online support and also feeding us. Yes, we may be volunteering our time and efforts but we also get fed.

The OU Student Radio studio

A chair and a mic, papers, clocks, water, tissues, sweets with rustling wrapper to taunt us as we can’t eat them when on air, nervous staff and students and guests.

The show must go on

Now how does an ordinary student get into the role of the radio presenter for the first ever show? Well, to be honest by feeling nauseated all day interspersed with excitement that needs containing. Final running order meeting and then it’s “places please!” Suddenly all is calm. Except it dawns on me that I will be the first voice that the radio show will have. “What’s the show called?” I scribble it down.

“Welcome to OU Students Radio”. And so this was the start of something new. The first 20 minutes of the first show flew past in a nervous gut churning, bile inducing nano-second. A pre-record played in the background, I looked at the clock and declared we had done 20 minutes. We could breathe. The studio was still standing, we had all spoken, and the world was still turning. Although we couldn’t relax yet, we could at least begin to enjoy what we were being part of.

Steep learning curve. First lesson: Don’t blow your nose really hard a few inches from your microphone. A sound man looking like a professor whose science lab has just exploded is not a good sight. Turns out that his headphones and gadgetry was plugged to listen to me, (how sweet is that?). I think a thousand apologies won’t ever be enough.

And in the blink of an eye. We were saying goodbye. Off-air we were applauded by those in the Office. We had been part of something new and exciting. Thank you, Students Association, for allowing me to be part of that new and exciting thing.

I am part of a fantastic team doing something that is thoroughly enjoyable that I never dreamed I would be a part of. My personal learning journey has been both academic and personal. So, could I pull off ‘Representing Vice’? Er no. Could I be a ‘Rapping Rep’? Well Christmas is coming soon and those who get gifts from me will be certain that I can’t wrap either.

All the best with your studies and the rest of your learning journey.

Sue Goodyear
Vice President Representation

Sue’s playlist

- Happy - Pharell
- We don’t need no education - Pink Floyd
- Running through the forest - Robin Hood and Little John

But there’s more

The Students Association asked me back to host the next show, then the one after that. Have the nerves dropped? Well, less sleepless nights and no nausea. Has an ego developed? Oh yeah… In all seriousness, no, but I do now smile a lot.

We are improving with every show we do, and as we interview the OU staff we find out many of them have never been part of something like this and they too are nervous. The shows have covered student issues and offered support and coping methods using mindfulness. (Something I had never heard of so had to research - well every good presenter has to know what they are on about!)
First time presenter
Jack tells us about his ‘pizza’ the action!

The Students Association can do vast amounts of help to you pursue a passion, meet other OU students and help you get the most out of being an Open University student. If you’d asked me in 2013, when I started studying, that I would be co-hosting the OU Students Radio I’d have told you to jog on.

The media and presenting is something I’ve always been interested in and so the opportunity to be a part of the latest programme was a great honour. There was lots of fun, great advice and the all-important pizza.

It was the first time I’d been to the OU campus in Milton Keynes; it’s surprising how vast the site is. For many, perhaps even you reading this, the campus seems almost non-existent; it was to me. I thought I’d never see it during my time as a student. A tour round of the university and an introduction to all the people who make student association things work, it was very much an eye-opener in to the importance of the OU to individuals and society.

I hope we conveyed this in the radio show, alongside my more experienced co-hosts, Sue, Nik and Cherry. So did we just turn up at 6 and start chatting to our student community? Well it may have sounded like it but actually three hours of preparation came first. It was the kind of stuff you’d imagine happens on Radio 2 – lots of scribbling notes, crossing out lines and making key words to jog the mind.

Inside the Students Association office, surprisingly small and homely with its half-stocked fridge and kitchenette, pizza, chips and chicken dippers allowed the team of staff and volunteers to chat, laugh, share experiences and enjoy a great night of ‘radioness’.

Perhaps more heart-warming than learning a new skill and presenting a live show was the response from you – the listeners. On the social media desk, all networks were buzzing with excitement. One of the most memorable things I have heard in my time as an OU student was a student who put: ‘When I am down, all I need to do is put a tweet out, and I know I’ll have someone respond’. The course of the show emphasised how great and compassionate the OU community is.

The response to the student problem, difficulty in time managing and wondering whether the OU was right for them, was outstanding. After all, that student could be any one of us; sometimes, even if it’s through the radio show, it is good to let off the steam and ask or give some motivational tips. Helping somebody, perhaps someone of a different age, gender or social background to you could make their day.

The radio show wasn’t something you’d hear every day; no DJ, no music. Just a solid two hours of chat, interviews, study tips and guidance. Perhaps not the most entertaining two hours but certainly two of the most useful and thought provoking.

Presenting the radio show, for me, was part of developing my passion and interest for radio, television and media. Where the show can allow you to help others, it’s also a prime example of how you can help yourself. There are tonnes of students who tell me that they can’t be bothered to get involved or they simply have no time. Perhaps, opportunities like radio presenting will help encourage you to be more active.

I suppose the message is one about being involved in the OU community. As the radio show proves, you don’t have to be actively involved in the Students Association to speak to other students and offer your advice or opinions. However, what the opportunity proved to me is that if you have a passion or interest, the Students Association can help you reach those goals.

Jack Jevons

You can find more from Jack over at the Open University Students Association Young Students group, which you can find on Twitter, Facebook and Wordpress.

Studying getting you down? Don’t know where to turn? Please contact Peer Support

Peer Support is manned by OU students and former students who understand the difficulties of studying alone. We understand how lonely and overwhelming it can be, trying to balance study with a busy life and or coping with other problems such as disability.

Anything you discuss with us is confidential and we may occasionally have to ask one of our team for advice, but nothing ever goes outside this small group. We can answer a simple question or be there for one to one support for as long as you need us. We can’t help with academic issues - these should always be taken up with your tutors or Study Support Team - but anything that makes study difficult for you, is within our scope.

Don’t struggle on alone. Send us a message on the Peer Support Forum here, and one of us will contact you within a few hours.

Peer Support will be open throughout the holiday season although on occasions, with restricted staff cover, as a result some replies may take a little longer than usual to answer.

Best overheard #OUstudent comment: ‘Physics =equations + maths x boring. That’s why I like biology’
Stepping out of her comfort zone led to new opportunities for Leanne

Recently my OU ‘story’ was aired on the OU Students podcast but why exactly did I do that? In this article we take a look from ‘behind the scenes’ and delve a little bit deeper to see why, as an average OU Student with no prior knowledge about recording podcasts, I got involved.

The OU has changed my life. I don’t mean to say that I now own a huge house and have an amazing job: not yet anyway. What I mean is that my understanding of the world has been enhanced and has enabled me to grow as a person, especially in confidence. I am able to think before I speak, to analyse, think critically and read between the lines. I am confident that my judgements are well considered and I now have the confidence to speak up. The impact on my life has been huge and I am so grateful for what I have achieved so far. I haven’t written this to brag about what I can do but to show why my achievements made me want to share my story on the podcast.

I’ve realised that I’m a teacher at heart. My natural instinct is to help people and teach them so that they can achieve their goals, however big or small. With hindsight I realise that I was always the one who nurtured the children, who taught everyone dance routines or who came alive when placed in front of a group and asked to teach, train or present something. Helping others comes naturally to me and that’s why I chose to share my story. Before I began my studies I knew that getting a degree would give me a qualification and that it might lead to better jobs. I realised that it would be an academically difficult process but I had no idea of all of the other benefits it would have. I didn’t realise that it was possible to feel so enhanced by the experience or that I was capable of understanding so much more about the world. If I can help others to begin a similar journey or keep going when things are tough then I feel a sense of achievement. If I can make others realise that I too thought I couldn’t do this but that I actually can, then maybe I can show them how they can do it too.

The OU Students Association found me through my study blog and approached me with the idea of the podcast. I was nervous but this was an opportunity to do what I love – so I jumped at the chance. After saying ‘yes’ I quickly wondered how on earth I was going to do this – I barely knew what a podcast was let alone how to record one! Heather was fantastic and helped me through the whole process which ended up being a lot simpler than anticipated. She called me via Skype and we recorded as we talked. She had sent me a little microphone cover (I have no idea what this was called) which I slotted over my phone and recorded our conversation as a voice memo – simple enough! Heather put me at ease before we began recording and assured me that mistakes didn’t matter because we could always re-record! Despite this I did get hit by nerves once recording began but I just started talking, narrating my story. A short while later we were done but I couldn’t really remember what I had said. We had recorded the whole thing from start to finish in just one ‘take’ which Heather reassured me was pretty impressive. I saved the voice memo on my phone and shared it with Heather via DropBox - she did everything else. After getting over the amazement that I had just recorded a podcast all that was left to do was wait to hear the result (I’ll let you be the judge of that).

Since recording my story I’ve been lucky enough to do more recordings for another podcast and be invited on to the OU Students radio show. I’ve received messages from students who say that I’ve helped them and that is just the best feeling. By stepping out of my comfort zone to share my story I have managed to help inspire others to begin their journey or to continue when things are tough. I’ve also added new skills to my CV and achieved something else that I never thought I’d be doing. I shared my story to help others see how they can grow and actually I’ve grown a little more myself.

Leanne Goodall

growingmyknowing.com

Get involved!

You can find the OU Students Association podcast here. You can also subscribe to it on iTunes!

Want to share your story? Have a great idea for a podcast episode?

Get in touch at by emailing

ousa-comms@open.ac.uk

Student Hub Live

Picture the scene: Lights, camera, action!

I was asked to be part of a live screening and question and answer session on campus. This was my second time in front of the camera, but it was no less daunting. I do so love my OU journey – it’s taking me to places I haven’t visited before and allowing me to experience and participate in things I never dreamed of.

Anyway, the studio with its sofa and many bright lights isn’t that big, but there are a few cameras to catch your best and worst sides at any given moment. I know the camera can add a few pounds, but I think that was an understatement, (seriously don’t adjust your sets). Ha ha.

So why was I there? To answer student questions during Freshers Week. Some of the questions were a bit daunting to answer from a factual basis, but similar to that moment on exam, I ended up really trying to remember what I’d actually said! I haven’t heard anything to the contrary though, thank goodness. Students both new and continuing were taking part which is brilliant.

I would so recommend getting involved with your Student Association. It’s not always about the study.

Sue Goodyear

Vice President Representation
At the end of August I was delighted to be able to accept an invitation from the Open University Students Association to visit the Open University campus in Milton Keynes.

Having worked in university campuses before I was intrigued to see exactly what was inside and how everything fitted together. Straight off I must say that my overall experience of the visit was extremely positive, as I expected it would be. I met some interesting people, toured the library, looked in on the space research, had a lovely dinner in the cafe, visited the gardens and much more. By writing this piece I can hopefully give you a little bit more insight into the workings of not just the OU campus but the Students Association in particular.

My invitation had arrived courtesy of Heather and Jessica - a focused and passionate double act, working tirelessly for the Association. I was joined for the day by fellow invitees Leanne, a current student and talented blogger among many other things, and her husband Steve and they were great company. One of our collective tasks was to take over the social media accounts, which proved to be an interesting experience as it allowed us to communicate directly with students and followers across the different platforms. I’m sure many of you will have seen the Best Overheard feature that the Students Association tech team runs, where snippets of wisdom, inspiration and madness are collated and distributed to the masses.

What struck me here was how tech savvy and ‘with it’ the team have to be when it comes to operating the social media accounts. They are required to find the right balance between establishing a presence on various platforms while not spreading the message too thinly across anything and everything. Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Periscope, Instagram - the list could really be endless but they remain composed and retain control. Which is more than can be said for me as I fumbled with the Wifi connection, trying desperately to log in to Facebook! Occasionally I struggled to get to grips with what to write and when to write it but once I chilled out it was a fun experience.

Tracking back a little, I arrived on campus mid-morning (thankfully not too early as I was driving from the Midlands after flying in from Belfast) and negotiated my way to the room they had specially set up. I was offered tea, coffee and homemade cake by Heather and Jess. Bonus! After meeting the pair, and various people throughout the day, I was struck not only by a generally infectious enthusiasm within the OU in general but especially within the Students Association. Their attention to detail and desire to reach out and serve the students they represent is an instant plus point. As I wrote in a previous piece on my own blog, current and future students are definitely in safe hands.

There was certainly a warmth around the campus. Not that they had the heating blasting everywhere but a genuine warmth among most of the people we met throughout the day and an enthusiasm surrounding what they did. When we went into the library, for example, Selena the Library Services Manager came out to meet us and we quickly discovered she was a natural for prime time TV as she expertly led our group around the building while interacting with viewers on Periscope. We later visited the Digilab, searched for book requests given live by our Periscope audience and perused the glass cabinet collection of vintage Open University materials. It was great!

At the end of the day before we packed up our bits and pieces and headed home, Leanne, Steve and myself sat down in the office (following extra tea and biscuits) and discussed more serious matters, like the Associations’ plans moving forward and how best they can serve students like you and me in the future. It’s fair to say they are not getting everything completely right and wanted to hear honest feedback on some of their projects and how they can communicate more effectively with students, to enable each of us to get the best out of the Open University experience. There were some honest and open discussions and many points were noted. We talked about how the Association could use different language help better communicate some of their projects that might help them appeal to a wider audience and encourage greater participation.

After looking at the Students Association objectively for the entire day, I now view them as a vital connection point between students and the Open University itself. They bring students together both online and off to help solve problems and stave off any feelings of isolation that could potentially arise from studying with a distance learning establishment. If you have a problem and they can’t help you directly then they will usually find someone who can. Also there are always opportunities to get involved through volunteering, meeting up at the conference or helping your peers.

These are just some of the issues we discussed at the end of what was a fantastic day out on OU campus.

David Wells
survivingtheou.com
Making study fun!

New Year resolutions broken and long since forgotten by the end of January, a group of A363 Creative Writing students looked gloomily into their future to a time when they would no longer have fellow students to share in the triumphs and torments of writing life.

But, Betty Ramsay had an idea to ‘hopefully give us all a means to stay in touch and keep writing after the course is finished’. After much talk of a mutual love of stationery, we got down to business to form Write Club. The name pulled out of the hat, literally, we launched precariously into the unknown with the hopes that we would have 50 members by Christmas.

Write Club Society affiliated with the OU Students Association and our first forum opened its doors on OULive at the end of March. Since that time it has been buzzing with short stories, writing inspired by Daily Prompts, Cluster Club and Character Lab. As one member mentioned, we’re ‘friendly folk’ and that is something I can testify to, being a moderator of the forum whose moderating skills have as yet gone untested.

Milton Keynes became a road often travelled as we joined OUSA then Students Association Societies for their annual conferences and met with the Creative Writing Faculty to share plans of our respective futures.

Demand from budding novelists saw our main forum growing a branch and by mid-September we opened Write Club Novel Support. Uploading drafts of new chapters there each Sunday, provides a deadline and that all important support and feedback from one another, so often missing in the solitary writer’s life.

But we weren’t finished yet.

This time however, we weren’t being asked for another branch but to plant a whole new tree – a Poet Tree in fact. Naturally we obliged, much to the delight of the enthusiastic poets amongst us, and our third forum was born.

Write Club now has social networks across Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest providing members contact via their preferred media, while our Students Association Society Forums and Facebook provide the main hubs of activity.

It’s a place where writers understand writers and the place our members come to share that triumph, that exciting news, explore ways to murder someone, commiserate and celebrate.

To date we have 638 members, students and tutors from every area of the OU, and it isn’t even Christmas yet.

But, best of all, we have inspired people to write, provided a place for them to share their news, their first attempts at poetry, the novel they have always wanted to write or written and never shared, amidst a great community spirit of writers helping writers.

Bev Fish
You can contact the Write Club on Facebook or by emailing them at WriteClub@gmx.co.uk

Join a society!

Joining or starting a society is a great way to meet other OU students, have fun and enrich your OU study. We have so many diverse societies that you’ll want to join a few...

http://www.open.ac.uk/ousa/societies

Need to talk?

OU student life can be tough and if it all gets a bit too much, don’t forget Nightline is there for all OU students wherever they are. Student volunteers are on the hotlines from 6pm each evening waiting to take calls. No topic is off bounds and they’ll listen as long as you need.

It could really help to talk your problems through, whatever they’re about and however difficult they feel right now.

Hundreds of OU students have already made that call so you’ll be in good company.

Call: 020 7631 0101
Instant message (Skype): chat.nightline
Skype Phone: londonnightline
Text: 07717 989 900

You can email the team at any time on: listening@nightline.org.uk

Nightline will be closed from Friday 18th December - Monday 4th January. Find out more information here.
The OU Psychological Society is more than just ‘Big School’

A moment ago, when I opened my laptop, I smiled. I was looking at my screen saver: a photo of Fred and my class standing together, on what was my first ever OUPS experience, about two and a half years ago. Up until then I had never left my youngest child, aged four and a half, in the sole care of my husband, nor gone off to do anything for myself, because she is disabled and I was the main carer. Obviously I was the only one who could ‘do it right’ for her, or so I thought! My departure was filled with anxiety about leaving her and my other children; it was so hard to step out of my mother-and-wife role at home.

I had already started my Open University journey but I didn’t have to face fears when reading at home or indulging in the local University library, where all the real live students were. In contrast, to start my first OUPS journey was a task in itself, because in addition to all my home-related anxieties I was unfamiliar with London travel. Nonetheless I made it and it’s no exaggeration to say, ‘it’ made me. Before the trip I had effectively reached the stage of not knowing who I was anymore, outside the home context. I felt ‘top of my game’ and how nice the Rootes dining hall looks through the wonderful sparkle to even more wonderful things below.

OUPS showed me the people amongst and a part of itself, the style, the organisation and how nice the Rootes dining hall looks with all the shiny buffed glasses waiting to be the vessel for my Sauvignon Blanc! More importantly, OUPS revealed the stories of the people who were there. Stories of lacking confidence and being shy but going anyway. It takes courage to face your fears. Stories of lives full of resilience and back bone, and people enjoying themselves and knocking down no matter what. For me, this OUPS event has put me ‘back in the game’, back in my happy-go-lucky self, because I have seen other members and heard their stories and reflected on them and I have indulged in the quality of lectures that OUPS has to offer. Moreover, I saw passion, passion from students and passion from the lecturers and organisers who were among the first to ‘cut shapes’ on the dance floor on Saturday and thank ME for my feedback. You people don’t realise that OUPS events give people ‘a life’ within their lone studying. We as students get a quality society for life, whereby we can attend events and put aside life’s adversity. We get to rub shoulders with Professors and Doctors and lecturers who are experts in their field and yet … so normal! Apart from the occasional dodgy t-shirt of course!

Thank you OUPS for giving us the confidence to go home and return to ‘lone’ status, armed with knowledge and independence, not to mention bellies full of grub! Finally, thank you for our future in Psychology which means I don’t have to wake up to the ‘pang’ of ‘empty nest’ syndrome, because I will be too busy looking forward to my next OUPS event; just as with many others whom I know, I don’t want the OU journey to end.

Thank you so very much you hard working beautiful people.

Clare Smith

www.oups.org.uk/
If like me you find yourself curious about all aspects of science and the natural world but can’t find the right society that encompasses all the fascinating areas of study then it’s time to join, The Natural Philosophers.

This will be a society that aims to place curiosity about the natural world at the heart of every activity. No matter what your field of study we will strive to organise events that explore the study of as many aspects of the world as possible, from Biology to Psychology, from Maths to Philosophy and everything in between.

I plan to arrange a monthly newsletter (with interesting news from a wide range of disciplines), a book club, outings to lectures or talks, informal meetings where people can just chat about whatever interests them with people who are equally as interested but might have a completely different background. To me the most important driving force for ideas should be the society’s members leaving the groups focus at any moment open to change. Through this kind of constructive conversation we can help to form a multidisciplinary approach to how we view the world and become educated in ways that can only aid us in whatever path we’re venturing down.

All the events will be organised based its members interests and as a result I believe this will lead to a wide variety of activities to be chosen from and will require as much participation as you are able to give. Given the nature of The Open University it will allow people form a different locations to interact and organise events with like minded people who they may never have had the chance to meet.

So, if this sounds like the type of environment you’d like to surround yourself with then don’t hesitate to contact me to become a member or help to shape this idea with your input.

I’m new to this, but I’m very enthusiastic and I think as a group we can build a society where we can all learn and better ourselves.

David Rose

You can contact David by email.

Shane Touhey

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**Engineering for Humanity**

Not yet affiliated to the OU Students Association, this recently established society aims to bring students together to help tackle global issues using engineering solutions. The society however, is not just open to engineering students but to all OU students who are interested in making a difference, we need people from all disciplines and all skills to do the work we plan to do.

There are two main ways that the society plans to achieve its aims; the first is to bring students together to discuss global issues and how to tackle them, in the process sharing information and improving understanding. The second way is more direct, over the academic year we will be building up to a summer project which addresses one of the key global issues below:

- Climate change
- Access to education
- Access to clean water
- Access to health care
- Access to safe housing
- Access to electricity
- Alleviation of poverty

The society members will decide exactly what this project aims to achieve and how this will be done.

We are working closely with Engineers Without Borders and the OU Students Association to ensure the society meets its aims, but we need people like you to get involved, there are many ways in which you could do this, from spreading the word, joining our discussions or direct involvement in our project which will take place in the summer.

It’s a great opportunity to get in touch with like-minded people, to take positive action and add to your CV.

To find our more or to join the society take a look at our website: [https://engineeringforhumanity.wordpress.com/](https://engineeringforhumanity.wordpress.com/)

Or email engforhumanity@qmail.com

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**Sign-up to our Engaged Students mailing list**

To receive information about the Students Association, be the first to hear about up and coming events and to get your opinions heard, just click here:


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**Reach for the stars**

The Mars Society is the largest space exploration advocacy organisation in the world, originally created by Dr Robert Zubrin to promote the Mars Direct mission to Mars. The Mars Underground film can be found [here](https://engineeringforhumanity.wordpress.com/) which illustrates the society’s history and plans.

Today there are thousands of members worldwide, and chapters all around the world. The UK chapter of the Mars Society is based in Manchester, but organises events and activity all over the UK - you can find the website [here](https://engineeringforhumanity.wordpress.com/).

Joining an OU Mars Society will affiliate you with the Mars Society UK, entitle you to discounts of events and other memberships, and give you the opportunity to be part of an OU team to enter the UK Rover Challenge robotics competition, or to attend the Mars Desert Research Station, or Artic station, both of which are unique assets for Mars Society members to carry out analogue Mars missions.

Contact Rob Adlard [raadlard@marssoc.uk](mailto:raadlard@marssoc.uk) for further details and visit the Facebook page - [OU Mars Soc](https://engineeringforhumanity.wordpress.com/).
Welcome to the new OU Philosophy Society!

Philosophy is one of the oldest disciplines and covers just about all the Big Questions - from morality, reasoning, politics to (classically!) the meaning of life – so whatever your subject or interests, there is bound to be a discussion to interest you.

The proposed aims of the Philosophy Society are to:

- get together on forums or even in person to discuss monthly topics
- organise University-wide events, such as conferences with guest speakers
- support each other during Philosophy modules
- try our hand at writing in an O.U. Philosophy magazine
- support each other during Philosophy modules
- try our hand at writing in an O.U. Philosophy magazine

As we come to the end of yet another year and look back on what we’ve achieved – and start looking forward to what we can still achieve - I can only say ‘Well Done’ and ‘Thanks’ to all the wonderful people who are involved with the DSG on a daily basis.

Unfortunately, there’s not enough space here to individually itemise everything we’ve achieved in the past 12 months nor the many individuals who have been involved in helping us be as successful as we are - that would need a whole publication of its own – but the folks in the OU Students Association Office should stand up and take a bow, now.

However, I know that most people would agree with me when I say that the DSG is now at the heart of the Association and is regarded as a centre of excellence in its daily work of ‘Students Supporting Students’; which is the DSG’s unofficial motto. And a motto we try to live up to every day.

With that word ‘support’ in mind; the Group have also continued to build on its excellent relationship with the Open University.

Over the past year; greater communication and involvement with OU people at a senior level has meant we’ve been able to highlight issues with them that the (now) over 22,000 OU students with disabilities might encounter in their study journey. Therefore, through our connection to the Central Executive Committee (CEC) via VP Student Support and our growing excellent relationship with the OU themselves, we can (and do) keep highlighting problems that OU students with health issues are having, in the hope that solutions can be found more quickly.

Please get in touch if you have any questions, would like to help out or contribute your philosophical musings to the upcoming O.U. Philosophy magazine. We are also looking for website-savvy people to get our page up and running. Whether you’re a philosophy veteran or just curious to see what it’s all about, we’d love to hear from you!

Angie O’Sullivan

You can find the OU Philosophy Society on their forum and Facebook group.

Disabled Students Group (DSG)

Celebrating the past year and looking to the future

As we come to the end of yet another year and look back on what we’ve achieved – and start looking forward to what we can still achieve - I can only say ‘Well Done’ and ‘Thanks’ to all the wonderful people who are involved with the DSG on a daily basis.

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Promoting greater awareness of what it can be like trying to study when you’re combating one or more health issues, is something the DSG are very keen on. All of us in the DSG have some sort of health problem so know what it’s like and can often help other OU students (DSG members or not) with guidance on who to contact and/or coping strategies because we’ve been there; done that and got the T-shirt.

Promoting this greater awareness is something I – as ‘Chair’ – have been able to do as well: in person. I’ve been backwards and forwards to Milton Keynes quite a few times in the past year and a lot of you will have seen my face (and ‘Gertie’ the wheelchair) in front of camera at three Student Hub Live Events in February, June and September.

I’ve also had the privilege to be able to interview Peter Horrocks – our new Vice Chancellor – and talk to him about disabled student issues. This interview was included in the 2-hour OU Student Radio broadcast during Freshers’ Week in September and is well worth a listen; as is the whole programme because it’s full of fun; great info and wonderful contributions from other OU students.

Also, in this past year, the Group has broadened its communication across all social media platforms. This means that we are now talking to more and more OU students who are overcoming health obstacles to studying successfully. Daily, we are able to point them in the direction of the help they need: e.g. by contacting their SST (Student Support Team) or applying for DSA (Disabled Student Allowance). This is done mainly through our thriving and daily busy (closed) Facebook group which now has close to 1,000 members. However, DSG people are also active across all the social media platforms and the VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) and are offering the same support there too.

Numbers are also increasing in the DSG membership too – now around 500 people. Membership gives access to our private forums on the VLE where our meetings take place and is ‘user friendly’ for those folks who don’t like or can’t access Facebook.

Therefore, in conclusion I can only say it’s been a very busy but successful year. We’re getting there, but our work goes on: so here’s to 2016!

You can read more about us and join us (it’s free!) if you visit our website: www.ousadsg.org.uk

Finally, from all of us in the DSG, we hope everyone has a peaceful and happy festive season. And good luck with your studies.

Cherry Day
Chair of the Disabled Students Group
For a Friday, finish this phrase...

We asked, you answered!

Twitter Poll

In November we asked you if it was too early to be talking about Christmas. Clearly we got a bit too excited!

Now it's December, hopefully you've changed your minds...

Twitter Poll

66% Yool Bah humbug.

44% No! Deck the halls!

108 votes • Final results

Best overheard #OUstudent comment: ‘So much to read, so little time.’
Best overheard student comments
OU students say the funniest things...

We ❤️ Instagram!
Here’s just a few of our favourite images taken from our Instagram account. Remember to share your pics with us by using #OUstudents in the caption!

Best overheard #OUstudent comment: ‘One line written, four lines deleted!’
OU Student Awards Excellence
Elayne to receive award as part of the OU Teaching Awards Scheme

Step forward and take a bow, OU associate lecturer Elayne Chaplin who was recently selected to receive the Open University Student Association Student Award for Excellence, as part of the OU Teaching Awards scheme. This award, presented for the first time this year, wins Elayne a cash sum to put towards her own personal or professional development. She was nominated for this prize by OU student, Lyn Pickles.

Lyn gave a compelling account of how the support she received made a difference to her experience as an OU student. She told the panel of judges that, during a particularly difficult year in her personal life, Elayne not only supported her through numerous extensions but always made herself available when needed, and gave excellent and comprehensive feedback on her work which helped her to improve. Lyn commented that tutorials were always well-planned and that she enjoyed the group activities which encouraged debate in a supportive and guided way – she says, “This was, in my opinion, one of the most effective learning methods I have taken part in”.

Lyn summed up her nomination by saying, “Despite all I went through personally, with Elayne’s support and tutelage I excelled to achieve the highest grade of my 5 years so far. At a time that ‘real life’ made me want to quit, she wouldn’t give up on me. She went above and beyond and truly deserves recognition.”

The panel agreed that this made Elayne’s teaching worthy of recognition and she will be presented with a certificate for teaching excellence by the Vice Chancellor at an awards ceremony in April.

Want to write for OUstudents Magazine?

If you would like to share your story, we’d love to hear from you!
Get in touch by emailing:
ousa-comms@open.ac.uk

Hi Everyone and welcome to your latest copy of OU Students, which is talking about celebration so I thought that it would be useful to talk about some of the successes your Student Association has had.

Our most recent success has to be the change to Post Graduate Loans. The initial intention had been to restrict loans for post graduate qualifications to the under thirties which would have excluded the majority of OU students, I myself was 44 when I completed my post grad study with the OU. The OU Students Association prepared a response to the original paper and the OU took part in many conversations with the Government which we believe were all responsible for the welcome shift announced in the Spending Review at the end of November.

One of our other big successes has been our Freshers events. It is always our aim to connect with as many students as possible through out Freshers fortnight. Our most recent event included our radio broadcast and a live chat on Facebook which was so busy some of us more experienced students had to help answer the questions! That said we really enjoy being in touch with so many students.

The autumn will have brought many end of module results and it was heartening to see so many students pass their modules and move on to the next stage – all causes for celebration.

My Facebook is now showing students celebrating the success of their first TMA, new and old students alike!

The student association continues to engage wherever possible with the University. Recently the OU hosted the Student Engagement Conference for which the Students Association had been part of the organising of the event. The event was opened by the Vice Chancellor and myself and we spent the morning listening to presentations from other Universities. There was much to be learned and plenty of ideas for the Association and the OU to try and adapt to improve the engagement that we have with the OU. It was a great day and good for us to be so involved.

I will take this opportunity to wish everyone all the best for their festive celebrations, whatever form they may take! Good luck for 2016!

Ruth Tudor
President of the OU Students Association

Best overheard #OUstudent comment: ‘This is my day today. TMA time.’