



Your monthly update of news, views and interviews from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS).

Welcome to this month's **PodMag**.

In the February edition we focus on OU students, in particular, the Open University Students Association. We hear from Cath Brown, Stephanie Stubbins, and Cinnomen McGuigan, explaining the variety of ways students can be involved and the benefits of being part of the OU student community. To listen to the full edition (15 minutes) click [here](#).



## Cath Brown

Cath Brown talks about why she thinks societies are important and about her role as the Student Faculty Representative for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). If you are interested in

becoming a FASS student representative then listen to Cath explain what's involved, how much time is required and how to apply. You can also find out more information by visiting the OUSA web page ['Get Involved'](#)



## Stephanie Stubbins

Hear Stephanie, Vice President Community, talk about how being involved with OUSA can help reduce the feeling of isolation by making you

feel part of a community. She tells us about the variety of ways in which students can get involved, from attending 'meet ups', live Facebook events or even helping at a degree ceremony. You could even become a host on the new radio show 'Studio'. There's still time to apply – closing date is Monday 20 February 2017 – click [here](#) for details. To find out more about the Freshers programme click [here](#).

## Diary

### Coming soon!

#### 'Meet The Lords'

This OU/BBC programme takes viewers behind the scenes at the House of Lords capturing unique insights into what was a turbulent year for the peers. *Day and time to be confirmed.*

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 9am – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017 3pm  
A Social Sciences Careers Forum will be running on the Social Sciences Qualifications website. Join us in the [common room](#) area from 9am.



1<sup>st</sup> March 12.30pm – 1.30pm  
'Social Sciences: Skills and Career Opportunities' [webinar](#)





## Cinnomen McGuigan

Cinnomen McGuigan is the Deputy Chair of the Write Club, which is now 2 years old. She talks to Karen Foley about the Write Club, how it operates and offers its peer-to-peer support for OU students from all Faculties interested in writing ANY kind of material. Cinnomen

explains why it's valuable to have that support available, the benefits of having your writing critiqued and being able to provide feedback for others.

Connect with the 'Write Club' by visiting OUSA's ['Societies'](#) page or the 'Write Club' [Facebook](#) page.

### OUSA's online community:

'CTRL + Click' on the icons below to learn more about the OU Students Association.



### Faculty news:

If you haven't visited the OpenLearn website recently, then take a look at the fantastic redesign. It not only looks great, it's easier to use with a simplified structure, helping you find relevant content quickly.

Two new courses you might want to explore:

**[Exploring Virginia Woolf's \*Between the Acts\*](#)**. This course is 6 hours in length and uses extracts from her book to consider how she writes about time, memory and identity.

**['Land Grab': an environmental issue?](#)**. This is an 8 hour course. Land acquisition, or 'land grab' as it is often called, offers important lessons about the way that environmental problems are entangled with economic and political issues on an increasingly global scale.

**Award Winner!** *Exodus: Our Journey To Europe*, an OU/BBC production, broadcast in July 2016, won the Best Documentary Series category at the Broadcasting Awards held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017. Congratulations to our FASS colleagues involved in the programme: Academic Consultants: Prof. Marie Gillespie, Dr Victoria Canning and Dr Umut Erel, Media Fellow: Sue Hemmings. Please visit [OpenLearn](#) to access the great resources linked to the programme.

## FASS online community



### Facebook

Have you visited our student Faculty Facebook page yet? Nearly 29,000 people 'like' our page – why not 'like' and follow us too!

Click [here](#) to take a look. Feel free to like, comment on and share our posts.



### Instagram

You can also follow us on Instagram. Click [here](#) to view our latest posts.



### Twitter

Are you a FASS follower?

Catch up with the latest tweets from the Faculty [here](#).

## Students – have your say

If you have any suggestions for interviews or features you would like to see either via The PodMag or our student focused Facebook page please feel free to let us know, we'd love to hear from you.

Would you like to be interviewed yourself and tell your story? If so, please contact us on [connections@open.ac.uk](mailto:connections@open.ac.uk)