



## Association of Open University Graduates Nation 12 – Ireland

EDITION 7

DECEMBER 2014

### Developing AOUG in Ireland

The Officers offer a big thank you to Mary Niblett, Sean O’Broin and John Ringland for all your sterling work at organising events for your local members. Ireland is vast area for one person to manage alone and so Executive Representatives in the past have often struggled to overcome the problem of organising events in areas a long way from their own homes, so it is really good news to know that we currently have three Local Contacts who for more than a year now, have remained keen to arrange events and revitalise their areas. Please give these volunteers your full support as Ireland needs lots of these little local groups. Are you in easy travelling distance to join one of these groups? Would you prefer for there to be another group that would be more convenient to you? Whatever your circumstances, please get in touch and make your suggestions and AOUG will do all it can to assist in developing extra contacts.

Although Ireland is still without an Executive Representative, members have a desire to be involved and to attend events but many do not want to travel far, so many other local groups could be formed. In some cases we just need a local willing volunteer to coordinate the ideas and to communicate arrangements for activities to other interested members. Could you be that willing volunteer? Could you fix a date to visit a place of local interest or who could find a local coffee shop, restaurant or pub for a chat? Could you e-mail other local members and in addition, let the AOUG Office know so we can advertise it for you? **Would you like to be a Local Contact?** Why not e-mail the AOUG Office to find out more?

### Preparations for the Annual General Meeting

As the festive season approaches, members naturally turn their focus to shopping and preparing for their Winter plans but before you get entangled in all the wrapping paper and trimmings, please think ahead to next year’s Annual General Meeting. Of course we want you all to complete your Booking Form to attend the weekend but even if you cannot manage that, we would like you to think about the future of your Association. Would you, or another member you know, make a suitable candidate for one of the vacant Executive Committee positions – Executive Representative for Ireland, or maybe an Officer’s post. If you know a suitable candidate, then offer your PI number, and your support, and ensure the nomination form is completed in time. Maybe there is something in the regulations that you feel should be changed? Do you have a wonderful new idea for recruitment? If you want to change something or suggest something new, then draft a Resolution or Motion and send it to the AOUG Office to arrive by post by 4pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

This is your Association and your involvement and opinions are important!

## Association News

### AOUG Research Awards and Foundation Lecture

The AOUG Research Award Ceremony was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October at Milton Keynes when our charity the AOUG Foundation for Education



presented four of the nine Research Awards. The recipients were research students who had been nominated by their Faculties and who were accompanied by their families and friends to see them receive their Awards. Research covered the varied topics of 'Crete and the Cretans of Euripedes', 'Low Frequency ARay (LOFAR) studies of the Galactic Plane', Attitudes towards teaching in the national language in Zimbabwe, and Structural analysis of

Java Identifiers names. Displays of their research work had been prepared by our Publicity Officer and their supervisors gave glowing reports on why these students had been nominated. Members from AOUG and dignitaries from the OU all enjoyed the Ceremony, which concluded with lunch and the opportunity to socialise. We were especially grateful for the fine October weather which allowed attendees the chance to enjoy their lunch on the patio. .

During the lunch period there was an informal presentation of flowers to Karen Bradbury by the Chairman, as a personal thank you from the Officers for her support of AOUG for many years. She is a senior member of staff who works for OU Estates and who has also acted as the Returning Officer for the AOUG election count but who is due to retire at the end of December. Following the Research Award Ceremony, AOUG members and their guests, including some Award winners and their supervisors, stayed to hear the Foundation Lecture entitled 'Personalisation in Early Years – Processes and Outcomes', which was given by Natalia Kucirkova, the winner of our 2013 Olga Camm Bursary. She described the research that had led to her Doctorate. The research had been inspired by the relationship that she had had with her grandfather when she was a child and looked at how the interactive creative process of producing their own books using photos, pictures and their own words could positively affect children's motivation to engage with the stories and to gain pleasure from communicating and reading together with adults.

### OUSA Conference

Several of the AOUG Officers attended the OUSA conference which was held in Milton Keynes during the Summer. Our stand was situated in the Jenny Lee Building, This gave the opportunity to meet and talk to many students, some already graduates but continuing their studies, and others who will hopefully be future graduates in a few years' time. All of these are our potential future members so specially designed information packs had been prepared and these were handed out along with copies of our OMEGAs to any that showed an interest.



AOUG stand at the OUSA Conference in the Jenny Lee Building

## Summary of Executive Committee Meeting at Milton Keynes

At the meeting on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October, the Executive Committee co-opted a new Executive Representative for the East Midlands, Ramsey Hertzog, who although having affiliated to Yorkshire for many years, actually lives in Derbyshire. The responsibilities of the different Executive Committee roles were again discussed and ways of mentoring and creating smoother handovers are being tried. Many of the Executive Committee positions will be up for election for Office after May 2015 so please consider getting involved and complete the nomination form in plenty of time to ensure your application is accepted.

Nominations for six different Awards for the Regions and Nations were approved, these being for 01, 02, 03, 05, 13 and Europe so whilst Executive Representatives in the respective areas are busy organising their presentation, the AOUG Publicity Officer is currently arranging the one for Region 13. It is hoped that reports of all these celebrations will feature in the Spring OMEGA.

Degree Ceremonies were discussed, and especially the success of having an AOUG stand at four of this year's venues which resulted in the raising of awareness in AOUG and the recruitment of some new members. A new system for selection of AOUG processors is being introduced for 2015. Gowns can be provided and if you haven't processed before, it's a very special experience. The Committee are also looking for volunteers to learn how to be part of our Meet and Greet team from our own stands, so why not consider that too. So if you would like to be part of the formal academic procession party representing the AOUG, or to work on our stand, please look for the application form in the 2014 Winter OMEGA.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2014/2015

### Munster area:

#### Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January. 11.30am

Meet at St John's Castle for a visit to the cultural attractions of Limerick City, including St. John's Castle, Treaty Stone, St. Mary's Cathedral and Hunt Museum. After visiting St. John's Castle and the Treaty Stone, lunch will be available in the Hunt Museum followed by a viewing of the artefacts on display in the museum. The Local Contact will be carrying a copy of OMEGA.

#### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April .11.30am

Meet for coffee at Dooley's Hotel Restaurant, The Quay, Waterford, (a copy of OMEGA will be on the table), followed by visit to Waterford Crystal. Hourly tours are available at a cost of 10 euros. We should also have time to visit Bishop's Palace which is only across the road. Again, hourly tours at a cost of 4 euros. Dooley's hotel is easily accessible. It is across the bridge from the train station and across the road from the bus station. Also all day parking is available for 5 euros. We can have lunch at either venue.

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### Local Newsletters

I would be willing to write Newsletter articles about .....

My e-mail address is .....

I enclose a donation of stamps ..... to receive my Newsletter by post

Name: ..... PI Number: .....

Please type or print your name clearly Please return to the AOUG Office [aoug@open.ac.uk](mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk) or AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. MK7 6AA

**Dublin area:**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. 12.30pm**

All members of the AOUG in Ireland and their friends are welcome to come along to meet in Cat and Cage pub, 74 Drumcondra Road Upper, Drumcondra, Dublin, (opposite St.Patrick's College) for a light lunch prior to following the 'Marino Walk'. The Cat and Cage is accessible by buses from the city centre 1, 11, 16, (the Abbey Street terminus serving 33, 41, 41A is within the vicinity of Connolly Railway Station). The pub is situated about a fifteen minute walk from Drumcondra Railway Station which serves the Maynooth, Longford and Sligo lines).

The walk will be led by the Dublin Local Contact, currently a student of Local History at Maynooth University and some anecdotes from the original 'Marino Walk', by the Irish historian Eamonn Mac Thomais in the 1970's, will be provided during the course of the walk. This walk will commence at 1.30pm and will be visiting Drumcondra churchyard, all Hallows College followed by Clonturk Park. It also passes the Jewish Cemetery in Fairview and the Crescent before concluding in the Casino designed by Sir William Chambers for the First Earl of Charlemont (1775).

**Belfast area:**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December. 12.30pm**

Meet at the Hilton Hotel, Belfast (within the vicinity of the Central Railway Station for a festive lunch. A copy of OMEGA will be on the table. The lunch will provide the opportunity for members and friends and family in Ireland to celebrate the Festive Season in style as well the opportunity to view the Belfast shops in their seasonal splendour.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 12.30pm**

Meet at the Hilton Hotel, Belfast (within the vicinity of the Central Railway Station for a festive lunch. A copy of OMEGA will be on the table. The lunch will provide a chance for Irish members, friends and family to meet socially to share a meal together with the opportunity to visit places of local interest in Belfast later.

**Executive Representative** - Vacant

**Development Officer** - Violet Rook 00 44 796227609 [viola.rook@btinternet.com](mailto:viola.rook@btinternet.com)

**LOCAL CONTACTS**

**Munster area** - Mary Niblett - 052 6185480 [maryniblett@btinternet.com](mailto:maryniblett@btinternet.com)

**Dublin area** – Sean O’Broin –Mobile: 0894294935 [ssob3012@gmail.com](mailto:ssob3012@gmail.com)

**Belfast area** – John Ringland – 02891 468294

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I would like to be involved in the Munster / Dublin / Belfast group .....

I would be interested in a group in ..... I am interested in ..... activities.

I am interested in organising a single event/ becoming a Local Contact for .....

Name: ..... PI Number: .....

Please type or print your name clearly Please return to the AOUG Office  
[aoug@open.ac.uk](mailto:aoug@open.ac.uk) or AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. MK7 6AA