ODYSSEY TO OXFORD
AUGUST 21-SEPTEMBER 3, 2016
Two Weeks of Lifelong Education Abroad
University of Oxford, England
Dear Friends,

From August 21-September 3, 2016, we will celebrate the 33rd anniversary of our Michigan State University Alumni Association’s Odyssey to Oxford, our annual lifelong education abroad program held at the University of Oxford, England.

Imagine immersing yourself in educational exploration, in a world where the whispers of great thinkers envelop you. Imagine living and studying in your own private quadrangle where classrooms are encased in 19th century architecture and small classes are taught by Oxford tutors. Imagine being part of an exclusive group who experience the magic of a historic English university first hand, with course field trips and group excursions that let you delve into the sights, sounds, aromas and auras of the things you study.

I’m an Odyssey to Oxford alumnus and I can tell you that immersing yourself in the magic and majesty of Great Britain while expanding your mind is something that should be on every Spartan’s bucket list. This year we have developed some amazing programming that will explore the 19th century novel in context, examine the reign and impacts of the Tudors in film and fiction, consider the philosophy and politics of the 18th century garden and review the life of Sir Winston Churchill.

The Odyssey to Oxford is among our most popular programs and it sells out almost immediately after people receive their brochure. This year I want to give you a head start.

I hope you will consider joining us in Oxford this year but don’t wait too long to decide. We will be opening a broader registration within a couple of weeks and it’s sure to fill quickly. The quickest way to register is to call Brenda Haynes at 517-355-4562 and register over the phone. She will be able to provide you with the personalized service you can expect from the MSU Alumni Association, including information on course and room availability.

Warmest Green & White regards,

Scott Westerman
Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations and Executive Director, MSU Alumni Association
Celebrating its 33rd anniversary in 2016, this two-week lifelong education program takes you on a rare adventure to Oxford—“city of dreaming spires”—and to the University of Oxford, famous as a great center of learning since the 12th century. Once England’s capital, Oxford is located in the heart of the country just 50 miles northwest of London.

The Michigan State University Alumni Association and the University of Oxford’s Department for Continuing Education offer you an opportunity to enroll in one personal enrichment course taught by an Oxford tutor. Participants enjoy the relaxed but intellectually stimulating atmosphere of small classes and course-related field trips carefully planned by tutors to enhance the course curriculum.

In addition to the individual course field trips (see Courses of Study section), group excursions are planned for all participants, including a visit to Lacock Abbey (1232), one of the few abbeys left intact in England. Today it houses the Fox Talbot Museum where you will learn about William Henry Fox Talbot, the pioneer of photography. During the Middle Ages, Lacock Village had a thriving wool industry. The village outwardly remains the same as it did centuries ago — the picturesque streets and historic buildings have been used as film and TV locations. All participants will also visit Stratford-upon-Avon where you can enjoy some free time in one of the most famous towns in England. You will then enjoy dinner and a theater performance of King Lear, with Sir Antony Sher taking the lead role, at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

An optional weekend day excursion to Sudeley Castle and Gardens located in the Cotswolds is planned for your mid-program weekend enjoyment. With royal connections stretching back more than 1,000 years, the castle has played an important role in England’s history. You’ll be able to walk in the footsteps of kings and queens including Richard III, Elizabeth I and Lady Jane Grey. The last of Henry VIII’s six wives, Katherine Parr, lived and died in the castle. She is now entombed in a beautiful 15th century church found within the gardens. On exhibit is a collection of unique artifacts such as rare copies of original books written by Katherine Parr and textile treasures displaying techniques spanning 400 years which include a 17th century stumpwork casket, delicate lace and a Sheldon tapestry. Of the nine magnificent gardens the centerpiece is the Queens Garden, so named because four of England’s queens — Anne Boleyn, Katherine Parr, Lady Jane Grey and Elizabeth I — once admired the hundreds of varieties of roses found in the garden.

Free time during the program offers opportunities to enjoy the breathtaking architecture, art and gardens of many of the university’s 38 colleges, home to gifted men and women such as Walter Raleigh, Christopher Wren, William Penn, Edmund Halley, Cecil Rhodes, T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia), Oscar Wilde, Dorothy Sayers, Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll), Jonathan Swift, C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Aldous Huxley, William Morris, Edward Burne-Jones, John Ruskin, William Fulbright, Richard Burton, Dudley Moore, Hugh Grant, Indira Gandhi, Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair. Oxford has been the setting for many novels but notably gained fame through Colin Dexter’s Inspector Morse novels and television adaptations.

The city of Oxford is rich with opportunities for culture and leisure activities, offering a diversity of museums, bookshops, theaters, restaurants, pubs, shops and natural settings to explore.
COURSES OF STUDY

Select one course from the four listed for your two-week program, but please indicate a second choice on the reservation form as well. A typical day’s schedule includes classes in the morning and some days include course-related field trips or general group excursions. You will receive a suggested reading list prior to the program. Early registration is recommended as courses are limited to 10-14 participants each and fill quickly.
Study and discuss exciting and intellectually stimulating works by important and popular novelists of the Victorian Age, including Charles Dickens, Elizabeth Gaskell, the Brontës, Wilkie Collins and George Eliot. Focusing on themes such as class, gender, empire, religion and art, you understand how writers used the novel to address the day’s chief issues: the individual in society, the “woman question,” industrialism, the public versus the private sphere, the crisis of faith, aestheticism and decadence.

**Course Excursions**

*additional fee: $145*

- The Museum of London is a series of chronological galleries, with those on the Suffragettes, World Wars I and II and everyday life being the most course relevant. While in London you will also visit the Dickens Museum, the only surviving London residence of Charles Dickens, where he and his family lived from 1837-1839. The museum houses thousands of items relating to the life of Charles Dickens.

- Participants will also visit Christ Church for an exclusive “behind the scenes” tour, including insights into the college’s history, its architecture, student life, and scenes associated with the worlds of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Harry Potter*. Guests will also have an opportunity to visit the Alice Shop located across the street.

**Tutor Emma Plaskitt** is a graduate of McGill University and Merton College, Oxford, where she wrote her doctoral thesis on female sexual reputation in the novels of Eliza Haywood, Samuel Richardson and Frances Burney. While completing her doctorate, Plaskitt worked as an editor on the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, where she was responsible for writing many articles on 18th-century female writers, in addition to teaching for a variety of Oxford colleges. In 2010, she received Stanford University’s Annual Bing Overseas Studies Program Teaching Award for excellence in teaching.
The Tudors in Fiction and Film

The reign of the Tudor monarchs have generated audience fascination for the last 400-500 years. Historians, writers and filmmakers have constantly turned to 16th century England and its people as a subject for study and imaginative reinterpretation. Sometimes the historical narrative has gone astray in the search for novelty and entertaining fictions have clouded our understanding of the events that took place during this time. This will form part of our discussions as we focus on a selection of films, books and novels set in the Tudor century.
But this course is about more than simply pointing out historical inaccuracies. There are often profound and important reasons behind the choices of the Tudors. Modern portrayals of figures such as Thomas More, for example, from the liberal paragon of Robert Bolt’s *A Man for All Seasons* to the brutal extremist of Hilary Mantel’s *Wolf Hall*, tell us as much about contemporary values and concerns as they do about More himself. Similarly, Henry VIII’s character oscillates between comedy and tyranny, between lover and murderer in film and fictional accounts of his reign, a split identity that has been reflected in historical depictions of the king and goes to the heart of any assessment of his reign and character.

We will also consider architectural representations of the past, visiting some of the recent locations used for the filming of the BBC’s adaptation of *Wolf Hall*. This course combines historical assessment with a range of reinterpretations of the past aimed at building a deeper understanding both of the reigns of the Tudors and of subsequent audiences’ responses to them, including our own.

**Tutor Janet Dickinson** teaches for the University of Oxford’s Department for Continuing Education and the Universities of Warwick and Southampton. She researches and writes on 16th century English political and cultural history.

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**Course Excursions**

(Additional fee: $155)

- The Tower of London has an incredible history, having served as a prison, a menagerie, an arsenal, the Royal Mint, Royal residence and home of the crown jewels. The Tower’s primary function was as a fortress-stronghold, started under the reign of William the Conqueror after the Battle of Hastings (1066).

- A rare gem of a Jacobean country house in Oxfordshire, Chastleton House was built between 1607 and 1612 by a prosperous wool merchant. Owned by the same increasingly impoverished family until 1991, the house remained essentially unchanged for nearly 400 years. Chastleton House was used as a film location in the recent BBC TV series *Wolf Hall*.  

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*Chastleton House, Oxfordshire*  

*The Tower of London*
Politics, Poetry and Planting in the English Landscape Garden

For most people in the 21st century gardening is a mundane, literally down-to-earth activity, a relaxing pastime or a tedious chore. Throughout history though, the making of gardens has been a serious matter, an expression of political allegiances and an attempt to re-create Paradise. This was especially true in the 18th century when politics, philosophy, poetry, painting and planting combined to produce the English landscape garden.

In this course we will look at the philosophy and politics which shaped the 18th century garden and the poetry and painting which it inspired and reflected.
Course Excursions
(additional fee: $165)

Rousham Park House (1635) is famous for its Palladian decoration “in miniature.” William Kent is said to have “leaped the fence and found that all Nature was a garden.” Kent’s work on the garden was to create and transform the natural landscape into an Augustan landscape to recall the glories and atmosphere of ancient Rome. In the late 18th century, the Temple family owned Stowe and extended the garden to further their political career.

Nuneham, the site of Oliver Goldsmith’s “lost village” and Mapledurham, where Alexander Pope dallied with Martha Blunt.

Tutor Richard Bisgrove served on the National Trust’s Gardens Panel for nearly 20 years and has held several posts in the Garden History Society. He was awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal in 2004 by the Royal Horticultural Society for “outstanding contribution to horticultural education, garden design and plant research” and the Landscape Institute’s Peter Youngman Award for “outstanding contribution to landscape” in 2010. He lectures internationally and has written several books on garden design and history.
The Life of Sir Winston Churchill

Sir Winston Churchill died in 1965 yet his image as a great statesman is strong as ever. Why did this politician and writer have such a distinctive impact on the course of 20th century history? In his early years, Churchill had a lonely childhood, seeing little of his parents and having to endure the harsh regime of boarding school. From there he went into the army where he showed an enthusiastic taste for adventure and danger. It was on his many travels with the army that he started to establish his reputation as a journalist and writer before making the decision to enter politics.
As a politician Churchill was soon renowned for his radical policies and ideas, but his career was always marked by a degree of unconventionality.

Churchill was in his element as a wartime leader. He inspired his fellow countrymen to resist and fight the dangers of fascism and gave the people of occupied Europe hope. However, by the latter years of the war, his brave and sometimes controversial leadership was overshadowed by the emerging superpowers, the USA and USSR.

In the period after 1945, Churchill encountered both success and failure as a peacetime politician. In many respects his domestic power had waned, but in world affairs he still made an impact.

Tutor Annette Mayer is a senior associate tutor in History at the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education. She specialises in teaching courses in modern British History and is the author of two books, The Growth of Democracy in Britain, and Women in Britain 1900–2000.

Course Excursions

(Additional fee: $165)

- Chartwell House in Kent was the residence of Winston Churchill’s family from 1924 until the end of his life. The rooms and gardens remain much as they were when he lived there, with pictures, books, maps and personal mementoes strongly evoking the career and wide-ranging interests of this great statesman.

- Blenheim Palace is a stunning, grand baroque palace built by Vanburgh for the 1st Duke of Marlborough in the early 1700s. Sir Winston Churchill, cousin of the 9th Duke, was born at Blenheim in 1874.
ABOUT YOUR TRIP

WHAT’S INCLUDED?

- Accommodations in Oxford for 13 nights in bedrooms with private baths attached
- Baggage handling in Oxford
- All but two meals during the two weeks
- Common room coffee/tea breaks
- Welcome reception and dinner
- Tutors from the University of Oxford and university program leaders
- Tuition for study courses (see course descriptions for course field trip fees)
- Guided walking tour of Oxford
- Group excursion to Lacock Abbey, Wiltshire
- Group excursion to Stratford-upon-Avon for dinner and a performance of King Lear at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.
- Opportunity to register for optional weekend day excursion to Sudeley Castle, Cotswolds (see registration form)
- Graduation reception and dinner
- Professional group photograph

ACCOMMODATIONS

Participants will stay in the University of Oxford’s Department for Continuing Education residential center located in the heart of historic Oxford. The residential center buildings offer bedrooms with private bathrooms attached, telephone, coffee/tea maker, hair dryer, Wi-Fi and television. The residential center also has its own dining rooms, reading/library rooms, lecture rooms, common rooms, computer room, laundry facilities and bar.

WHO CAN ATTEND

This lifelong education travel/study program is open to adults. You do not have to be a graduate of Michigan State University to participate.

FEES AND TRAVEL

- From $5,595 per person, based on double occupancy (airfare excluded)
- Study course field trip fee (see course descriptions)
- Optional add-on excursion to Sudeley Castle and Gardens: $95
- Single room supplement: $495

SINGLE TRAVELERS

Those requesting a single room are charged a single supplement of $495.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is strongly recommended that you purchase trip cancellation, baggage, accident/medical insurance.
AIR ARRANGEMENTS
Participants are responsible for making their own air arrangements for this program. You will also make your way to Oxford from the airports on arrival. Specific instructions regarding bus and train schedules will be included in your trip information. Transportation from Oxford to Heathrow Airport for your return flight will be available on the last day of the program. Please note: The bus to Heathrow will be for flights departing no earlier than noon on September 3, 2016. Participants will be responsible for transportation to the airport for flights departing earlier than noon.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Michigan State University must receive your completed registration form and a $500 deposit prior to May 2, 2016. All enrollments are processed on a first-come, first-served basis and are subject to availability, including those received after May 2. The balance of the fee is due June 3, 2016. Early registration is recommended since courses are limited to 10 to 14 participants each and fill quickly.

Cancellations and requests for refunds must be received in writing at the MSU Alumni Association office at Michigan State University prior to June 3, 2016. Cancellations for any reason will be subject to a $500 per person cancellation fee. Cancellations made after June 3, 2016 (the final payment due date) will result in forfeiture of the entire program cost per person. For your protection, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation, baggage, accident/medical insurance.

Michigan State University Alumni Association and the University of Oxford's Department for Continuing Education reserve the right to cancel the program prior to departure, in which case the registration fees will be refunded without further obligation on the part of the universities. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any part of the program.

ITINERARY/PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS
Itineraries and programs, as contained in this brochure, are subject to modification and change by the Michigan State University Alumni Association and the

Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford

Lacock Abbey, Wiltshire
University of Oxford’s Department for Continuing Education. We reserve the right to substitute accommodations of similar quality. Every effort will be made to carry out the program as planned. Applicants who register for participation in this program accept in full all of the conditions set forth.

FIELD TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS
Individual course field trips, group and optional excursions involve a moderate amount of walking that may range from less than half an hour to a couple of hours and may involve walking on uneven ground, steep or hilly ground, unpaved surfaces, or climbing many stairs. Oxford’s historic city center has many cobblestone streets and walkways and ancient buildings.

RESPONSIBILITY
Michigan State University, the Michigan State University Alumni Association, the University of Oxford and the University of Oxford’s Department for Continuing Education, their respective employees, officers, agents, servants and representatives (henceforth referred to as MSUAA/OX) are acting only as agents for the Odyssey to Oxford travel/study program participants with respect to travel services and shall not be responsible or liable for changes of flight times, missed carrier connections, fare changes, dishonor of airline, housing or other reservations, cessation of operations, airline or travel agency bankruptcy or insolvency, mechanical or construction defects or failures, failure or negligence of any nature caused in connection with any accommodations, restaurants, meals, transportation or other services, acts or defaults of any person or entity engaged in conveying participants or in carrying out other arrangements of the program. MSUAA/OX shall not be responsible or liable for losses or additional expenses incurred by any participant due to sickness, disease, quarantine, local laws, strike, civil/social/labor unrest, acts of terrorism, war, weather, acts of God or any other event, action or omission. By embarking upon his/her travel, the traveler voluntarily assumes all risk involved in such travel, whether expected or unexpected. Traveler is hereby warned of the above risks as well as possible travel industry bankruptcies and medical and climatic disruptions, and the possibility traveler may be unable to travel as scheduled because of personal emergency. Traveler is advised to obtain appropriate insurance coverage against these risks; information is available through the Michigan State University Alumni Association regarding travel insurance. Traveler’s retention of tickets, reservations, or booking after issuance shall constitute consent to the above and an agreement on his/her part to convey the contents hereto to his/her travel companions or group members.

HEALTH
We reserve the right to decline or dismiss any person as a registrant of the program should such person’s health, mental condition, physical infirmity, action or attitude impede the operation of the program or the rights, welfare or enjoyment of other participants. Any physical or mental condition that may require special assistance or medical attention (such as the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing at the time of registration. A helper who is capable of and totally responsible for providing required assistance must accompany participants who require assistance. This will ensure the smooth and efficient operation of the program for all participants.

For additional program information:

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**
Alumni Association

alumni.msu.edu
Brenda Haynes
Phone: (517)-355-4562
Email: haynesb@msu.edu

Image Credits:
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Cover Image: Winston Churchill painting at Chartwell, Green, Harry (b.1920) / Private Collection
Page 6: Portrait of Henry VIII, c.1540 (oil on panel), Holbein the Younger, Hans (1497/8-1543) (circle of) / Private Collection

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ODYSSEY TO OXFORD
AUGUST 21-SEPTEMBER 3, 2016

REGISTRATION FORM
Complete this reservation form, detach from brochure and mail with a $500 deposit per person. Please make checks payable to MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY and mail to: Odyssey to Oxford, MSUAA, Michigan State University, 535 Chestnut Road, Room 300, East Lansing, Michigan 48824. You are encouraged to register over the phone with a credit card by calling (517) 355-4562. Register early as spaces are limited and fill very quickly.

Name #1_________________________________________ Class Year_________
(Print name as it appears on your passport)

Name #2_________________________________________ Class Year_________
(Print name as it appears on your passport)

Address____________________________________________________________
City_____________________________ State___________ Zip___________

Home Phone (______)_______________ Work Phone (______)_______________
Cell Phone (______)_________________ Email______________________________

Have you previously attended? □ Yes □ No Year(s)__________________________

Accommodations
□ We will be sharing a room with twin beds.
□ I am planning to room with ________________________________ who will also register.
□ I would like a single room and will pay the single supplement of $495.
□ Nonsmoker □ Smoker

University Affiliation
□ Michigan State University □ Other _______________________________________

Indicate 1st and 2nd choices of courses

Name of participant (1) Name of participant (2)
__________________________________        __________________________________
1st choice __________________________ 1st choice _________________________
2nd choice __________________________ 2nd choice _________________________

Optional Excursion to Sudeley Castle and Gardens ($95): □ Yes □ No

Please reserve ____ space(s). Enclosed is my deposit of _______ ($500 per person).
□ Accept my check made payable to MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY.
Charge my: □ Visa □ MasterCard

Card #________________________________ Exp. Date_____________________
Signature as it appears on card: ________________________________

OXF16
MSU Alumni Association
Michigan State University
Spartan Way
535 Chestnut Road, Room 300
East Lansing, MI 48824

Time Dated Material