AUGUST 18- AUGUST 31, 2019

ODYSSEY TO OXFORD

PRESENTED BY THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
TWO WEEKS OF LIFELONG EDUCATION ABROAD
Dear Alumni and Friends:

Imagine yourself in a world where whispers of great thinkers envelop you. Imagine learning from tutors in an intimate classroom setting. Imagine being a part of an exclusive group who experience the magic of a storied English university firsthand.

This is the Michigan State University Alumni Association’s Odyssey to Oxford experience.

From August 18-31, 2019, we’ll celebrate the 36th anniversary of our most popular lifelong education program, and I invite you to be a part of it.

Immerse yourself in the majesty of England and experience the University of Oxford as a student. This year, we have some outstanding programming—we’ll disentangle the reality of the Crusades from the myth, delve into the Victorian ghost story and what it tells us about the people who wrote and read them, explore how daily life was experienced by the ordinary woman, man, and child in the 16th and 17th centuries, and examine the vital role of the BBC during World War II.

I hope you’ll consider joining us in Oxford for what promises to be another incredible year. Don’t wait too long to decide, though, as this program fills quickly. Registration opens January 29, 2019, and you’ll find details in this brochure.

With regards,

Elizabeth Wheeler
Director, Alumni Engagement Operations and Odyssey to Oxford Program
AN ODYSSEY TO OXFORD

Odyssey to Oxford is a two-week lifelong education program that takes you on a rare adventure to Oxford—“City of Dreaming Spires”—and to the University of Oxford, renowned as a great center of learning since the 12th century.

The Michigan State University Alumni Association and the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education offer you an opportunity to enroll in one noncredit, personal enrichment course of study taught by a University of Oxford tutor. Participants enjoy the relaxed but intellectually stimulating atmosphere of small classes and course-related excursions, plus several group excursions.

The city of Oxford is rich with cultural and leisure activities, offering a variety of museums, bookstores, theaters, restaurants, pubs, shops, and natural settings to visit. Free time during the two-week program offers participants many opportunities to explore the university’s 38 colleges, home to such 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. Immerse yourself in the history and traditions of this storied learning center that lends itself to a truly unique educational opportunity.

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 29

Don’t delay in registering as course sizes are limited and the program fills quickly.
alumni.msu.edu/oxford
Program History

“The sign greeting us at Gatwick Airport outside of London read, ‘Welcome MSU Aluminium!’ The marker on the long dinner table in the baronial dining hall at Keble College at Oxford University said, ‘Michigan State Alumi.’ And the directors of the program kept calling us ‘Odysseans’,” wrote Pam Rohman in the winter 1984 issue of the MSU alumni magazine, recalling the first Odyssey to Oxford program. Odyssey to Oxford was the first noncredit alumni residential program at Oxford and a forerunner of alumni travel-study programs throughout the nation. In 1982, Dr. Charles McKee, then director of alumni lifelong education for the MSU Alumni Association, traveled to Oxford and met with Dr. Richard Smethurst, a professorial fellow at Oxford's Worcester College. Over tea one afternoon, the two of them worked out the program details, which took place in September 1983.

Why Oxford?

In 1951, Michigan State University became the site of the first Kellogg Center for Continuing Education with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Under the leadership of its CEO, Dr. Russell Mawby, the foundation became a supporter of lifelong learning in various parts of the world. Mawby was also an MSU alumnus and former MSU Trustee. In the 1980’s, Rewley House was renovated with a grant from the foundation, thereby creating a base for a new society of Oxford, which was later to become Kellogg College. 36 years later, almost 400 MSU alumni and friends have journeyed to Oxford to study at the oldest university in the English-speaking world and arguably the most prestigious worldwide. Nathaniel Hawthorne noted that, “the world surely has not another place like Oxford; it is a despair to see such a place and ever to leave it, for it would take a lifetime and more than one to comprehend and enjoy it satisfactorily.” Today, Odyssey to Oxford is MSU's most noteworthy lifelong education program. The MSU Alumni Association invites you to join us for a memorable experience in 2019 and take your place in history.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Crusades are one of the most well-known features of the medieval world, and the idea of “crusade” continues to be invoked in the 21st century. The crusading movement has been a source of fascination and controversy since the First Crusade was launched by Pope Urban II in 1095, aiming to capture the Holy City of Jerusalem from its Islamic rulers. The unexpected and very bloody seizure of Jerusalem by the crusaders in the summer of 1099 was followed in the succeeding centuries by a whole series of Crusades which were fought across the Mediterranean world. These Crusades involved Christians from all over western Europe, from all walks of life, and had many consequences—some of which are still with us today.

Were the Crusades a heroic effort to defend Christian values from the infidel, or a bloody, barbaric, and unprovoked attack on a civilized Middle Eastern society? Can the Crusades be seen as a contest of a Christian West and a Muslim East, or was the reality more complex? Was, in fact, the main outcome of the Crusades the destruction of the Orthodox Christian Empire of Byzantium?

In this course, we will try to disentangle reality from myth, which will include looking at the Crusades through the eyes of those who lived at the time, as well as of later generations. We will focus on crusading in the eastern Mediterranean from 1095-1204—especially the First, Third, and Fourth Crusades—crusading in Spain, and the Albigensian Crusade in southern France launched by the papacy against Cathar heretics in 1209. Participants will receive a suggested reading list for this course prior to the program.

EXCURSIONS

COURSE EXCURSIONS AND TUTOR

Full-Day
Winchester Cathedral

Half-Day
Iffley Church and Dorchester Abbey

Dr. Michael Sibly is a member of the University of Oxford history faculty and an Emeritus Fellow of St. Anne’s College. He read history at the University of Cambridge, and worked in the senior administration at Oxford for many years. From 2006 – 2015, he was the university’s Academic Registrar, then Deputy Registrar. He has taught widely for Oxford University’s Department for Continuing Education since the 1980s, and is the co-author of two books, both of which are translations of original accounts of the Albigensian Crusade.
The Victorian era has been said to be haunted. In spite, or perhaps as a result, of the trappings of modernity, the general public eagerly and indefatigably sought ghosts and phantoms in fiction, on the stage, in photographs, and at séances. Comic or tragic, good-natured or deeply malevolent, spirits abounded and the appetite for them seemed unfailing. But why? Was it a response to the Crisis of Faith? A reaction to scientific discovery? A consequence of increasing urbanization? Or does the answer lie in the rise in literacy in mid-Victorian Britain and the accompanying surge of circulating libraries needing to stock fiction for the lower and middle-class reader? Like fairytales, ghost stories were originally part of an oral tradition. In the mid-Victorian period, however, the plethora of newly established monthly and even weekly literary magazines needed a constant supply of content, and ghost stories fit the bill. Charles Dickens wrote ghost stories himself as well as commissioning ghostly tales by established novelists Wilkie Collins and Elizabeth Gaskell. By the end of the century, the vogue for all things ghostly had by no means abated with writers like Oscar Wilde, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Bram Stoker contributing to the genre. In this course, we will read and discuss a range of blood-curdling tales from the period, discovering what they can tell us about the people who wrote and read them, and what they can tell us about ourselves and our continued interest. Why did the Victorians enjoy being scared? What is the difference between terror and horror? And what do modern ghost writers have to learn from their Victorian forebears?

Participants will receive a suggested reading list for this course prior to the program.

EXCURSIONS

Full-Day
Highgate Cemetery in London

Half-Day
To be determined

TUTOR

Dr. Emma Plaskitt has taught English literature 1640–1901 for many Oxford colleges since 1994. She has also taught for a variety of American study abroad programs and for Oxford University’s Continuing Education Summer Programs. Though a specialist in the literature of the Restoration and 18th century, her research interests include the Victorian novel, particularly the gothic novel and novel of sensation, as well as fantasy fiction and children’s literature. In 2010, she was awarded Stanford University’s BOSP Award for Teaching Excellence and is currently preparing a scholarly edition of George MacDonald’s late Victorian gothic fantasy, Lilith.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our view of the past frequently consists of prominent events and elite personalities, but how was life experienced by the ordinary woman, man, and child in England? At a time when home and work were closely related, how was the household formed and organized? What attitudes prevailed towards relationships between men and women? What was the nature of the relationship between husband and wife, their children, and servants? What were the significant events in their lives, celebrations, and misfortunes? What ethical values governed conduct and relationships in day-to-day life?

Looking to the evidence of buildings and furnishings of the period, paintings and diaries, and, in particular, a close reading of the documents from an Oxfordshire market town, this course will delve into daily life in the 16th and 17th centuries, a period of gradual, but significant, change in living conditions and social relationships within and beyond the home. We will explore in detail the different occupations which sustained life and filled the day—farming, artisan trades, and commerce—providing an important sense of identity. We will also explore the ‘feel’ of everyday life—the clothes worn, the living conditions, the preparation of food and drink, and its consumption. Finally, we will consider how a small brave band took this way of life to a new continent—the Plymouth Colony—the problems they faced and adaptations they had to make to survive.

Participants will receive a suggested reading list for this course prior to the program.

TUTOR

Dr. Antony Buxton teaches courses in design history and material culture for Oxford University’s Department for Continuing Education as well as other craft and design institutions. He conducted his doctoral research on the relationship between people and their household furnishings, and his continuing research is focused on the interpretation of historic design. For many years, he has also been a furniture designer and maker in the Arts and Crafts tradition and a conservator of historic furnishings.

EXCURSIONS AND TUTOR

EXCURSIONS

Full-Day
Weald and Downland Museum, plus a visit to an historic town

Half-Day
A tour of early modern village settlements in Oxfordshire

TUTOR

Dr. Antony Buxton teaches courses in design history and material culture for Oxford University’s Department for Continuing Education as well as other craft and design institutions. He conducted his doctoral research on the relationship between people and their household furnishings, and his continuing research is focused on the interpretation of historic design. For many years, he has also been a furniture designer and maker in the Arts and Crafts tradition and a conservator of historic furnishings.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) played a vital role during World War II, offering truth and hope to Britain, its Empire, and the millions suffering under Nazi rule. Germany and its allies had long exploited the medium of radio and, in 1939, the BBC had some catching-up to do. But catch-up it did, leaving Joseph Goebbels to lament the BBC’s ‘intellectual invasion’ of Europe. The BBC’s declared responsibility was to the British public, and its primary goal was to keep the public informed. But government often stood in the way of this task, and the BBC had to balance the demand for morale-boosting propaganda with the pursuit and maintenance of truth. In this course, we will use extensive archival material to examine the BBC’s unprecedented wartime relationship with government, the armed forces, and ordinary people. Topics include Winston Churchill and the BBC, war journalism, technological innovation, the BBC and European resistance movements, and Berlin’s English-language propaganda war. We will hear many fascinating, startling, and moving examples of the wartime BBC at its best. We will also learn how the BBC entertained troops and civilians throughout those dark days, and discover how, in the immediate post-war period, the BBC World Service set the standard for international peacetime broadcasting. Participants will receive a suggested reading list for this course prior to the program.

TUTOR

Dr. Tim Barrett lectures on political history and the history of science and has been a tutor for Oxford University’s Department for Continuing Education for ten years. He is also an Honorary Research Fellow at Keele University, Staffordshire.

EXCURSIONS AND TUTOR

EXCURSIONS

Full-Day
Wood Norton

Half-Day
Churchill War Rooms and
Imperial War Museum

TUTOR

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### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE WEEK 1

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A typical day's schedule includes classes in the morning and free time to explore Oxford in the afternoon.

Several days entail course-related excursions or general group excursions. The course-related excursions are planned by the tutor to enhance the course curriculum and are available only to those enrolled in the course it is associated with. Tour participants cannot attend another course's study excursion. General group excursions are for the entire group of participants.

On Saturday, August 31, the bus from Oxford to Heathrow Airport will depart at approximately 9:00 a.m.
Tintern Abbey, Tintern, Wales

OPTIONAL GROUP EXCURSION TO WALES
An optional excursion to the Wye Valley in Wales is scheduled for participants’ weekend enjoyment. The Wye Valley is one of the most dramatic and scenic landscapes in Britain, and witnessed the birth of British tourism in the 18th century when it became fashionable to visit “wilder” parts of the country. Some of the most famous poets, writers and artists of the day made the pilgrimage to the sights on the “Wye Tour,” among them Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Makepeace Thackeray, J.M.W. Turner, and William Wordsworth. The appeal of this area remains as enduring as ever, and participants will visit several sights frequented by historic tourists, including Chepstow Castle and Tintern Abbey.

GROUP EXCURSION TO OXFORDSHIRE
Participants will begin the day eschewing a coach bus for a river boat trip aboard an historic passenger vessel operated by Salter’s Steamers, which was founded in Oxford in 1858. Starting at the Folly Bridge in Oxford, the group will cruise the River Thames through some of the most beautiful scenery in England. The cruise concludes in the picturesque market town of Abingdon.

After lunch, the group will head to Stonor Park, set in a sweeping valley in the Chiltern Hills. Stonor Park has been the Stonor family’s residence for 850 years, making it one of the oldest family homes still lived in today. Behind the red brick façade, Stonor is a collection of much older buildings, and each room contains art and treasures collected from across the globe. A stroll through this house is a vivid walk through history.

Stonor Park, Henley-on-Thames, England

Tintern Abbey, Tintern, Wales
**TUITION, ACCOMMODATIONS, MEALS**

$5,800 per person, based on double occupancy

**SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT**

$525

**COURSE EXCURSION FEES**

$200 for The Crusades  
$250 for The Delights of Fear  
$200 for Family, Sex, and Marriage  
$170 for Their Finest Hour

**OPTIONAL GROUP EXCURSION TO WALES**

$125

**WHAT'S INCLUDED?**

- Tuition for selected course of study  
- Accommodations at the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education residential center for 13 nights  
- All but two meals (lunch and dinner on August 24)  
- Common room coffee/tea breaks  
- Welcome reception and dinner  
- Reception and dinner at the Oxford Union  
- Graduation reception and dinner  
- Guided walking tour of Oxford  
- Group excursion to Oxfordshire  
- Professional group photograph  
- Bus transportation to Heathrow Airport on August 31, 2019

**REGISTRATION**

Registration opens at 10:00 a.m. EST on January 29, 2019 and will be conducted both online and by mail, although online registration is preferred.

To register online, go to alumni.msu.edu/oxford.

To register by mail, send the completed form at the back of this brochure with a personal check. This is an extremely popular program that frequently sells out. Courses of study are limited to 10-14 participants each and fill quickly. When registering, please be sure to select both a first choice and a second choice for your course of study. Registrations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. The MSU Alumni Association will review registrations as they are received, and we will contact you within three business days of your submission to let you know which of your two selected courses are available.

Once we confirm your course of study with you, we will provide you with information to pay your deposit—for registrations done online, we will send you instructions to pay with a credit card, and if you registered by mail, we will cash your check.

At the time you register, we will only be collecting a $500 per person deposit. The balance of the fee will be due May 17, 2019 and we will send you a statement in regards to this.

All online transactions are handled through the university's secure PCI-compliant server. Due to increased measures by MSU to ensure a secure credit card transaction, we can no longer accept credit card information over the phone for this program.

**QUESTIONS?**

Please contact Elizabeth Wheeler at szufnar@uadv.msu.edu or 517-884-2106.
ELIGIBILITY
The program is open to adults, both alumni and friends, of Michigan State University.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS
To enjoy this program experience, participants must be in good physical and mental health and be able to keep pace with the group. Our aim is to treat all participants fairly and equally.

This program includes a significant amount of walking. Oxford’s historic city center has uneven, steep, or hilly ground, unpaved surfaces, or climbing steep and narrow stairs. England has many cobblestone streets and walkways. Excursions involve walking that may range from less than half an hour to a couple of hours and may necessitate walking on uneven, or hilly ground, climbing steps, or climbing steep and narrow stairs. England has many cobblestone streets and walkways. This is not a hotel, and is not accessible to the extent that the United States is. Ramps and elevators are not common.

The MSU Alumni Association reserves the right to decline to accept, or dismiss, any person from the program should such person’s health, mental condition, physical infirmity, actions, 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 assistance. This will ensure the smooth and efficient operation of the program for all participants.

Prospective participants are strongly encouraged to contact the MSU Alumni Association prior to registering for the program if they have any questions or concerns.

ACCOMMODATIONS
Participants will stay in the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education residential center, located in the heart of historic Oxford. The residential center offers twin rooms with private bathrooms, telephone, coffee/tea kettle, hair dryer, and television. The residential center also has its own dining rooms, reading/library room, lecture rooms, common room and laundry facility, and television. Accommodations are similar to those of a college or university. This is not a hotel, so the amenities associated with a hotel are not always available, and rooms are small and a bit sparse. Most rooms are on higher floors—as many as four—and are accessible by stairs, or a combination of stairs and elevator. The location and fellowship among participants more than compensate for any lack of luxuries.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS
Participants are responsible for making their own flight arrangements as well as transportation from Heathrow Airport or Gatwick Airport to Oxford University Department for Continuing Education residential center to Heathrow Airport for return flights will be available on Saturday, August 31, 2019 for flights departing no earlier than noon. Participants will be responsible for making their own transportation arrangements to Heathrow Airport for flights departing earlier than this, or for any flights departing from Gatwick Airport.

REGISTRATION/CANCELLATION/REFUNDS
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When you register, please be sure to select both a first choice and a second choice for your course of study. The MSU Alumni Association will review registrations as they are received and we will contact you within three business days of your submission to let you know which of your two selected courses are available. Once we confirm your course of study with you, we will provide you with information to pay your deposit— for registrations done online, we will send you instructions to pay with a credit card, and if you registered by mail, we will cash your check. Due to increased measures by MSU to ensure a secure credit card transaction, we no longer accept credit card information over the phone or by mail for this program.

Cancellations made after May 17, 2019 will result in forfeiture of the entire program cost. For your protection, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation, baggage, and accident/medical insurance.

The MSU Alumni Association and the Oxford University 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.

WAIT LIST
If your course of study is full, we will be able to accommodate you on the part of a cancellation. If space becomes available you will be notified. No deposit is required.

Participants are responsible for making their own flight arrangements as well as transportation from Heathrow Airport or Gatwick Airport to Oxford upon arrival. Information on bus and train transportation and schedules will be provided in advance. Bus transportation from the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education residential center to Heathrow Airport for return flights will be available on Saturday, August 31, 2019 for flights departing no earlier than noon. Participants will be responsible for making their own transportation arrangements to Heathrow Airport for flights departing earlier than this, or for any flights departing from Gatwick Airport.

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TRAVEL INSURANCE
It is strongly recommended that participants purchase travel insurance that will cover trip cancellation/interruption, and/or baggage loss or damage, emergency evacuation, and accidents incurred while traveling. The MSU Alumni Association is affiliated with USI Affinity Travel and information on their services will be sent as a part of your initial confirmation packet.

ITINERARY/PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS
Itineraries and programs, as contained in this brochure, are subject to modification and change by the MSU Alumni Association and the Oxford University 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. Participants who register for this program accept in full all of the conditions set forth.

RESPONSIBILITY
MSU, the MSU Alumni Association, the University of Oxford and the Oxford University 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 and study program participants with respect to travel services and shall not be responsible or liable for changes of flight times, missed carrier connections, bankruptcy or insolvency, mechanical or construction defects or failures, failure or negligence of any nature caused in connection with any accommodations, 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 damages, injuries, deaths, loss or damage of baggage, damage or injury to person or property, accidents, delays, inconveniences, cessation of operations, acts of God, acts or omissions by any person or entity engaged in conveying participants or carrying out any other arrangements in connection with the travel and study program, or any other event or occurrence beyond the control of MSUAA/OX. 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. By embarking upon their travel, the participant voluntarily assumes all risk involved in such travel, whether expected or unexpected.

Participant is hereby warned of the above risks as well as possible travel industry bankruptcies and medical and climatic disruptions, and the possibility participant may be unable to travel as scheduled because of personal emergency. Participant is advised to obtain appropriate insurance coverage against these risks; information is available through the MSU Alumni Association regarding travel insurance.

Participant’s retention of tickets, reservations or booking after issuance shall constitute consent to the above and an agreement on their part to convey the contents hereto to their travel companions or group members.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION
MSU Alumni Association
alumni.msu.edu/oxford
Elizabeth Wheeler
szufnar@uadv.msu.edu
517-884-2106

REGISTRATION FORM
Complete and return this form only if you are registering by mail

AUGUST 18– AUGUST 31, 2019

Review the Accommodations section in this brochure and note that there is no guarantee that these requests can be honored.
Participant #1:
Full name as it appears on participant's passport
1st Choice: ☐ The Crusades ☐ The Delights of Fear ☐ Family, Sex, and Marriage ☐ Their Finest Hour
2nd Choice: ☐ The Crusades ☐ The Delights of Fear ☐ Family, Sex, and Marriage ☐ Their Finest Hour
Optional Excursion to Wales ☐ Yes ☐ No
Participant #2:
Full name as it appears on participant’s passport
1st Choice: ☐ The Crusades ☐ The Delights of Fear ☐ Family, Sex, and Marriage ☐ Their Finest Hour
2nd Choice: ☐ The Crusades ☐ The Delights of Fear ☐ Family, Sex, and Marriage ☐ Their Finest Hour
Optional Excursion to Wales ☐ Yes ☐ No

Any physical conditions that may require special assistance or medical attention?

At the time you register, we will only be collecting a $500 per person deposit. The balance of the fee will be due May 17, 2019 and we will send you a statement in regards to this.

Space(s) at $500 per person. Enclosed is a check for

Mail to: Elizabeth Wheeler
MSU Alumni Association
535 Chestnut Road, Room 300
East Lansing, MI 48824

Please make checks payable to: MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

IMAGE CREDITS
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REGISTRATION OPENS
JANUARY 29

Don’t delay in registering as course sizes are limited and the program fills quickly

alumni.msu.edu/oxford