

# PhD Pioneers: The Living Experiences of The Open University's First PhD Graduates

## Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Professor Oliver Boyd-Barrett**

Interviewed by: **Elizabeth Currie**

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Clip 2

[00:49:59-00:50:23]

I know that I worked at The Open University until, well I don't know with a degree of certitude, I'm thinking the early 1990s. So that was about a quarter of a century, approximately a quarter of a century I was actually working as a member of Faculty for The Open University.

[00:54:26-00:55:37]

I don't know whether Leicester still does this, but they were one of the first British institutions to get into, other than The Open University, to get into the potential of for profit MA courses. That was a hugely interesting experience. So I had the opportunity to set up an entire MA with assistance of course, but my position was the Head of Distance Learning for the Centre. And in particular to produce this MA which was a two-year, it was constructed as a two-year MA and we had to use all of the learning materials, without the infrastructure that The Open University had provided with its BBC television and radio programmes and all of that. And then, but there was the pressure also to make it pay. You had to bring in more money than you were spending. Quite an unusual challenge for academics in general.

[00:56:43-00:57:46]

And I moved then to the United States in 1998 where I started off in an administrative capacity working within the California State University system, but ultimately taking the decision to return to being a professor and after a couple of years of that at Cal Poly Pomona which is short for California State Polytechnic University in Pomona. And I was offered a position to direct a School of Communications at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, which I held for, I was fluctuating between administrative positions that could pay reasonably good money, but also never stopped being drawn back into the fray of academic work.