

## University of Malta Gozo Centre

*Professor P L Briguglio, Director of the Centre writes:*

THE GOZO CENTRE is housed in a converted, refurbished 19<sup>th</sup> century building at Xewkija in Gozo on the way from the harbour at Mgarr to the capital Victoria. It was established in 1992 to offer part-time courses in Gozo and to deal administratively with the needs of Gozitan students studying on the main campus at Msida. The Centre offers a number of Degree and Diploma courses, some at postgraduate level. This necessitates staff who lecture on the main campus travelling to Gozo though there is now also a video conferencing link. The Centre has also become a venue for conferences, seminars and workshops many of which have participants from overseas.



### ROUND-UP 2004

The Centre has become a bee-hive of activity with the following events occurring in 2004:

#### March

The University of Malta Gozo Centre hosted an International Workshop organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the Islands and Small States Institute and the Economics Department. The workshop, which focussed on economic vulnerability and resilience building of small states, was inaugurated by H.E. Jagdish Koonjul, the Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) which represents forty states in the United Nations. Twenty-six experts from all Commonwealth regions participated. This included academics, practitioners, policy makers, and representatives of international and regional organisations from the Caribbean, Pacific, Indian Ocean and Mediterranean region as well as from UNDP, UNCTAD, UNDESA, the Commonwealth Secretariat and other international organisations.



#### April

The 8th annual *Gozo Lace Day* was organised at the Gozo Centre in Xewkija. The Hon. Anton Tabone was guest of honour. The event included exhibitions of various aspects of Maltese Lace produced by students as Lace Programme projects; demonstrations of pillow covering, card weaving, cord making, Tulle Lace and a number of talks on matters related to lace making.

## July

An Expert's Workshop on *Competitiveness Strategies of Small States* was held at the Gozo Centre in mid-July. It was inaugurated by Minister Censu Galea whose portfolio includes competitiveness. The workshop was attended by senior officials and experts from different Commonwealth countries.

## August

In August, the Gozo Centre organised its annual summer activity in the Central Courtyard, entitled: *An Evening with Walter Micallef u l-hbieb*. The programme included songs by Walter Micallef accompanied by his friends Renzo Spiteri, Pawlu Camilleri, Jesmond Psaila, Albert Garzia and Eric Wadge. Walter Micallef is considered by many as Malta's leading singer songwriter. Performing in Maltese, he has over eighty original songs. He was also shortlisted as *Best Male Artist* at the 2004 *Malta Music Awards* and has won the *Ghanja Tal-Poplu* on several occasions.

## September

A two-day well attended seminar entitled: *Working with Children with Dyslexia* was organised at the Gozo Centre coordinated by Ms Ruth Falzon from the University's Department of Psychology and Ms Carmen Muscat.

## October

The Board of Studies for IT, in particular through the Department of Communications and Computer Engineering, launched its evening Diploma in IT using a virtual classroom concept. This means that lectures are being taught simultaneously at the University of Malta main campus as well as at the University Gozo Centre in Xewkija. The initiative has been made possible through an EU 6<sup>th</sup> Framework project named TWISTER in which various applications of satellite communication are being investigated. The video-conferencing through satellite system enables two-way communications in virtual real-time enabling interaction by all participants, with the lecturer being sited either in Malta or Gozo.

## November



At the annual Graduation Ceremony, nine students were awarded the Diploma in Commerce after having successfully completed the course offered at the University Gozo Centre between October 2002 and July 2004.

## December

An *Award of Certificates* ceremony was held at the University Gozo Centre. The Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, distributed certificates to 150 candidates who had followed courses at the University Gozo Centre during 2004.



## COURSES

During 2004, the following courses were conducted at the Gozo Centre:

Diploma and Certificate Courses which were completed:

- The Certificate in Lace Studies Course came to an end in June 2004. 9 students completed the course successfully and in December they were awarded their certificate.
- The Diploma in Commerce Course came to an end in June 2004. 9 students completed the course successfully and were conferred with their diploma at the Graduation Ceremony in November held on the main campus.

## New Degree and Diploma Courses

- In October, a 2-year course leading to an MA in Islands and Small States Studies and a 3-year course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Commerce commenced. The Centre also offers 2-year courses leading either to a Diploma in Information Technology or a Diploma in Commerce.

## Short Courses and Publications

A varied range of short courses was offered at the University Gozo Centre during 2004. The Centre also publishes *The Gozo Observer*. This journal carries a variety of articles related to various aspects involving Gozo. The Centre has also published the proceedings of several conferences which it has hosted.



For further information and *The Gozo Observer* online visit the website at:  
<http://home.um.edu.mt/ugc/>