

## Round-Up 2000

### January

Dr. Bruce Campbell, Senior Scientist in Nurture, University of Nottingham, gave the *Ralph Arrigo Lecture* entitled *Ovarian Explants in the Management of Premature Ovarian Failure*.

The *III Economic Diplomacy in the Mediterranean* Conference was held organised by the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies.

Mr. Adrian Grima, a Ph.D. student, gave the first presentation for 2000 in the *Work-in-Progress Seminar Series*. *An Island State between Home and a Train Station: The Economy of Travel in the Poetry of Dun Karm and Oliver Friggieri* was the title of his talk.

The first *Linguistics Circle* Meeting for the year was held. Dr. Carmel Cassar from the Junior College, spoke on *The role of the Maltese Language in Popular Culture from the 16th to the 18th century*.

Nietzsche's views on myth was the subject of *The Philosophy Society's* first meeting for the year which was addressed by Dr. Claude Mangion, lecturer in Philosophy.

Professor Arnold Enker, Professor of Law and Founding Dean of the Yaacov Herzog Faculty of Law at Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gat, Israel, was in Malta in late January as the guest of the Department of Criminal Law, Faculty of Laws. He delivered two lectures: *Fifty Years of Growth in Israeli Criminal Law* and *Necessity and Duress as Defences in Criminal Law*.

### February

The Malta Internet Foundation, also known as NIC(Malta), organised the annual General Assembly of the Council of European National Top level Domain Registries (CENTR) whose 26 member registries cover the Internet domains for practically all European countries. NIC(Malta), a founder member of CENTR, currently manages the Maltese ccTLD (.mt domain) registry.

To mark the first anniversary of the death of Gozitan poet, dramatist and novelist Gorg Pisani (1909-1999), the University Library in collaboration with the *Ghaqda tal-Malti (Università)*, mounted an exhibition on his life and works.

Professor Roberto Prandin, *Direttore Artistico of Settimane Musicali di Lugano*, gave a credit on *Artistic Management and Marketing* with a particular focus on this latter aspect. He also conducted two seminars on the subject.

A seminar was held on the occasion of the inauguration of the restored *Beheading of St. Paul* Roundel by Alessandro Algardi.

On the occasion of Professor Godfrey Wettinger's seventieth birthday a *Festschrift* consisting of a collection of scholarly essays by leading historians and other specialist in the field of Maltese studies entitled *Karissime Gotifride* was launched at the Aula Magna, Foundation for International Studies, Valletta. Professor Wettinger is former Head of the Department of History, Faculty of Arts

and a specialist on Malta's Middle Ages. A panel of speakers, chaired by the Rector commented briefly on the book as well as about the scholar it pays tribute to.

The Dean's Awards for excellence in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics were presented by the Rector to the top three students in each of the four years of the B.Sc.(Hons.) course during the academic year 1998/1999. The students on the Dean's List were: First Year - Pierre Sandre Farrugia and Graziella Bartolo (Maths & Physics), Peter Borg (Maths & Statistics and Operations Research); Second Year - Arthur Burlo and Doreen Micallef (Maths & Physics), Alexander Farrugia (Maths and Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence); Third Year - Emanuel Chetcuti and Stephen Gruppetta (Maths & Physics), Claudette Spiteri (Biology and Chemistry) while the final year students were: Janet Bezzina, John Aquilina and Nadia Vella (Maths & Physics).

Professor Christos Douligeris, Senior Fulbright Scholar, gave a talk entitled *Towards the Broadband Networks of the Future*, under the auspices of the Department of Communications and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering.

The Department of Statistics and Operations Research welcomed two visiting guest lecturers. Dr. Jaroslav Michálek from Masaryk University, Brno gave lectures on various statistics topics including: Multivariate Analysis, Regression Models, Linear Models, Spatial Statistics & Kriging and Non-parametric Regression while Dr. Alan G. Munford from Exeter University gave a course on Linear Programming including

presentation of computer solution to practical problems and Optimization.

## March

A *Commedia dell'Arte* Workshop was organised by the Theatre Studies Programme with the participation of the *Ensemble di Vicenza* actors.

The University conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws *Honoris Causa* on H.E. Professor Romano Prodi, President of the Commission of The European Communities. The ceremony was held in the recently refurbished Church of the University, Valletta.

On the occasion of the activities to mark National Youth Day, a seminar *1993 - Youth Work Cares - 2000* was organised by the Faculty of Education's Youth Studies Programme.

The University participated in the *Careers Convention* which was held at the Fair Grounds, Naxxar. Science, Engineering and Information Technology degree courses were again the main focus of the stand.

Dr Christopher J. James visited the Department of Microelectronics, Faculty of Engineering and delivered a series of lectures entitled *Biomedical Engineering: Engineering in Brain Research*.

To mark *International Anthropology Month*, the University's Anthropology Programme hosted international anthropologists to highlight the importance of anthropology to society. Visitors included Professor Robert Layton (Durham University) who lectured on *Continuity and Change in European Village Society*; Professor

Murray Last (University College London), one of the founders of the British Medical Anthropology Society, lectured on *New Developments in Medical Anthropology*; Dr. Gary Armstrong (University of Reading) lectured on *The Anthropology of Football*, an exposition of his research on the social importance of Maltese and global football while Dr. Rolf Husmann (Institute for Scientific Film, Gottingen, Germany) demonstrated how to Make Ethnographic Film, delving into the culture of boat clubs and regattas in Grand Harbour, as an example.

Malta International Students Association (MISA) organised *International Cultural Week*, a cross-cultural experience which has become an annual feature on the campus calendar.

## April

The *University Vocal Ensemble* together with the *Collegium Aureum* and the *Collegium Musicum* performed Allegri's *Miserere* and Schubert's *Stabat Mater* as well as other works by Albinoni, Palestrina, Victoria, Buhagiar and Camilleri in a *Concert of Sacred Music for Lent and Eastertide*. This was held at St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta with the participation of soloists Claire Massa (Mezzo-Soprano) and Jonathan Mohnani (Bass), Roberto Prandin (Flute) while Gino Mulè Stagno accompanied them on the organ. The combined choirs were under the baton of Dr. Mro. Dion Buhagiar.

Under the auspices of the *Ralph Arrigo Lectureship*, Professor The Lord Naren Patel, President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, gave

two lectures: *Specialist Training in Europe - the pros and cons of Harmonisation and Society and Science - the likely impact of DNA databases*.

Professor David E. Cooper, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Durham, conducted a seminar on *Authorial Intention and the Interpretation of the Literary Text*, he also addressed the *Philosophy Society* on *Biotechnology and Frankensteinism*.

*Challenges of Change* was the theme of the European Documentation and Research Centre Conference 2000 which was held at the Radisson SAS Bay Point Resort in mid-April. This was addressed by a number of speakers and included a strong input by foreign experts in the field.

Professor I. G. Simmons, Emeritus Professor at the University of Durham, gave a public lecture under the auspices of the University of Malta Geographical Society entitled *Environment at 2000*. A discussion of some of the major trends in environmental thinking in the last 30 years since the Stockholm Conference.

The annual *Academic Evening in honour of St. Thomas Aquinas* organised by the Theology Students Association was addressed by Rev. Dr. Klaus Baumann who spoke on *Freedom and the Unconscious in Thomas Aquinas*.

The University organised the *Graduate Potential Seminar* in collaboration with the *Chamber of Commerce*, the *Federation of Industry* and the *Employment & Training Corporation*. The aim of the seminar was to forge stronger links between the University and the world of work in general so as

to develop a mutually beneficial dialogue with potential employers whether in business, industry, the public sector or other institutions. Whilst acquainting them with the knowledge and skills acquired by students at university, the seminar sought to assess the needs of the various facets of the labour market.

## May

The Mediterranean Institute in collaboration with the British Council hosted a public lecture by Dr. Peter Reynolds, Director of the Butser Hill Celtic Ancient Farm Project, Hampshire, U.K. who spoke about the development of this open-air museum.

The Department of Mathematics, Science and Technical Education, Faculty of Education organised The *DMSTE Dissertations Showcase 2000* at which students presented their research work.

The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies hosted a public lecture by Dr. Alberto Bin, a former holder of the Italian Chair at the Academy. His lecture was entitled: *Overlap or gap? The role of International Organizations in the Mediterranean.*

Professor Somaya Hassan Mohammed, Professor at the Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management, Helwan University, Egypt lectured to Art History students on *Festival Paintings in Turkish Manuscripts and Surgery tools through Egypt with equal reference to Islamic Art.*

At the invitation of the Mediterranean Institute's Music Studies Programme, Dr. Tim Carter, University of London, gave

a presentation entitled *Singing Monteverdi's Orfeo* while Dr. Annegret Fauser, City University, London lectured on *Rheinsirenen: Lorelei and other Rhein Maidens* and *World Fair - World Music: Musical Politics in 1889 Paris.*

The Teaching Practice Committee in collaboration with R.I.C.T.E. held a public lecture by Professor Kate Le Maistre from McGill University, Montreal, Canada on *The Infusion of Technology into the Curriculum.*

The University Gozo Centre in collaboration with the Office of Fair Competition and the Gozo Business Chamber organised a Seminar at the Grand Hotel, Mgarr, Gozo, on the theme *Competition Legislation and Gozitan Business.* The Seminar was opened by the Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, and closed by the Hon. Josef Bonnici, Minister for Economic Services, while speakers from the various entities addressed the seminar.

The end of May saw the launch of the Socrates Programme for Malta by Dr. Irving Mitchell, Head of the Higher Education Unit at the Directorate-General Education & Culture. Speakers included the Minister of Education, The Hon. Dr. Louis Galea and H.E. Giorgio Boggio, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Commission in Malta. The launch also coincided with the holding of the Socrates National Agencies Meeting in Malta for which a number of foreign delegates attended. Both were the result of collaboration between the University of Malta's Socrates Office, the Ministry of Education, the Malta EU-Information Centre and the European Union Programmes Unit.

## June

For the third year running, students from James Madison University held their summer session in *Applying Renewable Energy Technologies in a Developing Island Nation* organised through the Foundation for International Studies. The Summer Session in Integrated Science and Technology includes a 4-week intensive field-study experience during which students participate in self-designed projects in collaboration with either the Institute for Energy Technology, or the Gaia Foundation for the Protection of the Environment, or in the biotechnology labs of the University of Malta.

Professor George Shield, an acknowledged expert in the field of Technology Education, was in Malta in the first week of June. His busy schedule included meetings with practitioners both at University and at the Department of Education.

At the invitation of the Department of Manufacturing Engineering, Dr. Franca Giannini, Institute for Applied Mathematics - National Council of Research (CNR), Genova, Italy, gave a public lecture entitled: *Exploiting Feature-based Design Technology* when she visited the Faculty of Engineering in mid-June.

A group of some forty lace makers from the Netherlands attended a one week course in Malta Lace organised by the University Gozo Centre's Lace Making Programme.

An International Seminar entitled *The Mediterranean and Europe: Contradictory or Complementary?* was organised and sponsored by the Italian

Chair of Mediterranean Diplomacy and Relations, Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies in cooperation with *Rivista Italiana di Geopolitica*, the Malta-EU Information Centre and with the support of Embassy of Italy in Malta.

Under the auspices of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies' Human Dimension Program in collaboration with the Political Division IV of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Academy students paid a familiarisation visit to international organisations in Geneva and Berne.

Professor Ian Parkin, an anatomist from the University of Cambridge Medical School, gave a lecture entitled: *Can the dead save the living?* for Medical Practitioners, medical and dental students. He also presented this year's *Anatomy Awards* for outstanding projects. The projects form part of the practical assessment of the Intermediate M.D. and B.Ch.D. courses.

Professor Briavel Holcomb from Rutgers University and Visiting Professor at the University of Exeter, UK gave a public lecture under the auspices of the *University of Malta Geographical Society*. The lecture was entitled: *Places to Play: Landscapes of Leisure in the 21st Century*.

Information Technology Students mounted an exhibition of their final year projects which was open to the public in order to demonstrate the expertise and skills acquired during their years at University.

The Theatre Studies Programme organised a conference as part of its annual series which discusses various aspects of theatre in Malta. This year's

conference was on the theme *A Cultural Policy for the Theatre (Politika Kulturali ghat-teatru)* which sought to determine the place of theatre within the cultural policy that is presently being drafted, by raising issues which could be incorporated into the final document.

A Private Graduation Ceremony for foreign students of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies as well as those who qualified in Gerontology was held.

The Institute of Health Care held the *Nursing and Midwifery Symposium 2000* at which the first cohort of students from the Masters in Health Sciences (Nursing & Midwifery) presented their research findings. The *Barbara P. Burkey Clinical Skills Laboratory* was also inaugurated for which Ms. Burkey was present. She was responsible for setting up the University's Nursing Programme.

## July

The First Malta International Conference on Autism with the theme *Autism: the Challenge of Inclusion* was organised in early July in collaboration with the Eden Foundation and sponsored by *Vodafone*.

A Classical Concert launched this year's *Evenings on Campus* programme which included a weekly film show; contemporary theatre; choral and classical concerts; an exhibition of traditional Maltese musical instruments by *Etnika* and a literary evening.

*Creativity is Fun* was the theme of this year's Summer School for children aged 3 to 12. The curriculum encompassed a wide variety of creative and fun activities.

*Projects 2000* an exhibition of Final Year Engineering students work was held. The mechanical and electrical engineering projects form part of the students' fourth year final assessment. The exhibition, which is held annually, provides an opportunity for the general public and in particular, those working in the field, to view the projects and become acquainted with tomorrow's engineers.

A Seminar entitled *Travel Guide to Inclusion* was organised by the Equal Partners Foundation, id-Dar tal-Providenza in collaboration with the Department of Psychology's Inclusive Education Programme. Workshops were led by Professor Michael F. Giangreco, a Research Associate Professor, Department of Education at the Centre for Disability and Community Inclusion, the University Affiliated Programme at the University of Vermont and by Professor Mary Beth Doyle, Associate Professor in the Department of Education at Trinity College, Vermont.

Edward de Bono conducted *The Edward de Bono Seminar 2000* which was followed by *The Fourth International Conference on Creative Thinking*. Both events were attended by some 200 participants from different backgrounds which included business management, marketing, IT, engineering, medicine as well as academics and others interested in learning more about Creative Thinking and Thinking Skills from various perspectives.

## September

The Institute of Anglo-Italian Studies hosted its Fourth International Conference on *England and Italy*:

### *Literary and Cultural Relations.*

Speakers, all experts in the field, came not only from Britain, Italy and Malta but also from other parts of Europe and Australia. The varied programme covered the multiple facets of the Anglo-Italian cultural rapport over the centuries. The Institute which was set up in 1988, also publishes the *Journal of Anglo-Italian Studies* which is listed in the Modern Languages Association *Directory of Learned Journals* and has established itself as one of the leading journals in this interdisciplinary field of studies.

In the course of the summer, the International Office organised a number of successful, well-attended Summer Schools and Short Courses. These included six English Language Courses as well as two one-week courses in business and forensic English Language for the *Consiglio Nazionale di Firenze* (more than 70 participants), a Summer School in Archaeology, Maltese Lace Course, The Mediterranean Environment: an Overview and a Summer School in European Contract and Banking Law organised in conjunction with *La Sapienza* University, Rome. In the course of the year, a number of programmes were also organised jointly with Luther College, Iowa; James Madison University, Virginia; Bradley University, Illinois and South Texas College of Law (in collaboration with California Western School of Law, New England School of Law and William Mitchell College of Law) in the USA and in Australia, Australians Studying Abroad, *The Sicilian Channel Programme*.

### October

Nearly 2400 undergraduate students joined various University courses while some 1500 students entered the Junior College.

The University of Malta, in partnership with a number of other universities and human rights organisations, was awarded a prestigious contract by the European Commission, under the EU - Meda programme, to organise a Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation for the Mediterranean region. The new Masters is regulated under the Faculty of Laws and commenced in October 2000.

Professor M. G. F. Stevens, Scientific Director, Cancer Research Laboratory Pharmaceutical Sciences Department, University of Nottingham delivered a lecture on *A Cure for Cancer? still a long campaign ahead* which was attended by medical students and practitioners.

Emmanuel Cardona gave the first talk of the new academic year to the *Malta Mathematical Society*. His presentation was entitled *Much Ado About Infinitesimals*.

Under the auspices of the Mediterranean Institutes's Music Studies Programme, Professor Salvatore Enrico Failla from the University of Catania, lectured on *L'avanguardia musicale negli anni cinquanta e sessanta: L'esperienza italiana*.

The Continuing Medical Education Programme and the Department of Anatomy organized two seminars which were conducted by Professor Giovanni Neri, *Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuor*, Rome where he is Head of Department

of Medical Genetics. The first was entitled *The genetic bases of mental retardation* while the second was on *Pharmacological reactivation of the FMR1 gene*.

## November

In collaboration with the philanthropic organisation, *International Charity Society*, established in 1998 by Dame Irina Malikova, the University's International Office hosted relatives of the *Kursk* tragedy. The families were welcomed on campus by the Director, Mr. Leslie Agius. The morning's programme included off-campus water sports activities - jetbike rides, windsurfing, dinghy sailing and scuba diving at Mellieha sponsored by *AcquaVenture*. Then back to campus for lunch at the *Campus Bistro* hosted by *Corinthia Caterers*. A campus tour with a visit to the Library in the afternoon organised by the University Students' Council (KSU) rounded up a very enjoyable day. Other sponsors included *Paramount Garage* and *P. Cutajar Co. Ltd.* The relatives arrived in Malta at the end of October for a two week stay hosted by Maltese families.

The International Institute for Baroque Studies in conjunction with the Museums Department organised a seminar on *The Baroque Heritage of Valletta* as part of the campaign: *Europe - A Common Heritage* promoted by the Council of Europe.

Mr. David Elyan M.A., B.Comm., FCIS, collector, scholar and art connoisseur presented the University of Malta Library with a prestigious collection of over a thousand Irish literary works. This embraces very rare, first and limited

editions by authors such as Yeats, Joyce, O'Connor, Stephens, Beckett, Corkerry, Strong, Robinson and many others as well as a number of precious holograph letters. To mark the occasion, a cross-section of the works was exhibited in the Library and an Honorary Fellowship was bestowed on Mr. Elyan by the Rector in recognition of his outstanding generosity.

The CME Committee in collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry organised a seminar entitled *Recent advances in the understanding and management of alcohol dependence and co-morbidity - the British Scene*. Speakers included Dr. Wilson Acuda, Consultant Psychiatrist and Senior Lecturer, Keele University, Staffordshire, UK; Dr. George Grech, Clinical Director, Treatment and Rehabilitation Drug and Alcohol Services, SEDQA Agency and Mr. Manwel Mangani, also from SEDQA.

On the occasion of Graduation 2000 a Mass of Thanksgiving was held at St. John's Co-Cathedral celebrated by H.G. The Metropolitan Archbishop of Malta. Just over 1700 students graduated in various disciplines in the course of a number of ceremonies. Between 1970 and 1979, 1895 students graduated; 1980-1985: 1050 graduates and 1986-1990: 1737 graduates. These figures are now graduating annually.

The *Bioethics Consultative Committee* organised a conference on *Inter-Professional Ethics in Health Care* which dealt with the inter-relationships between the various members of the health team, including nursing, and paramedical staff. Aspects relating to the interphase between the health and the legal profession were also treated.

AEGEE-Valletta, the Malta branch of the international student organisation *Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe*, organised a conference on *Removing Borders in Education - Facilitating Mobility* which is part of the *Borderless Europe project 2000*. Students from the University of Malta, the AEGEE Network and visiting Erasmus students discussed how students benefit from an Erasmus exchange.

The University's Mediterranean Institute in collaboration with the Strickland Foundation hosted a conference on classical heritage as a common feature of the entire Mediterranean world. The conference entitled: *War, Peace and Antiquity* was also organised in conjunction with the *Association Méditerranée and the Centre d'études internationales sur la Romanité* and was an inter-cultural, inter-denominational event.

*Makeezi Ltd.*, a subsidiary of the Vassallo Builders group of companies donated a software package called *Magic Enterprise Edition* on behalf of the multinational company, *Magic Software Enterprises*. The state-of-the-art software is to be used by 3rd and 4th year students in the Department of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence to develop and deploy business solutions across the enterprise and the world of e-business.

Dr. Arnold Cassola, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Maltese, launched his book *The Literature of Malta: An example of Unity in Diversity*. This develops his thesis that Maltese Literature has succeeded where many leading statesmen have failed during the course of history, in that it has managed

to bring about the peaceful and harmonious cohabitation on paper of different linguistic families: the Semitic, the Romance and the Anglo-Saxon, that are normally the expression of diverse - and very often, conflicting - cultures.

*Ways and Measures: Teaching and Assessing Young Learners of English as a Foreign Language* edited by Charles Mifsud and Gorg Mallia, most papers having been presented at an international conference on the subject held in Malta in March 1999, was launched under the patronage of the British High Commissioner, H.E. Mr. Howard Pearce.

A symposium on *Early Childhood Education* was held at the New Dolmen Hotel. The focus was on *Curricula, Policies and Practice in Early Childhood Education*. 23 guest speakers from 17 different countries were invited to deliver presentations about this topic as approached in their respective countries. Aspects considered included Quality in Early Childhood Education, Staff training issues and emerging findings of the OECD Thematic Review of Early Childhood Education and Care Policy, a cross-national study which has just been completed in 12 countries.

Professor Dany Sandron, Director of the Art Institute at the Sorbonne, gave a credit course for Art history students on the evolution of *The Gothic Cathedral*.

SACES, The Society of Architecture & Civil Engineering Students, organised its annual exhibition of student projects entitled *Designs 2000* which was held at the new St. James Cavalier Centre for Creativity, Valletta. This launched the society's 25th anniversary celebrations.

Presentation of annual awards to Accountancy students for outstanding performance. The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants' Award for the best dissertation in Management Accounting was awarded to Valerie Bartolo for her dissertation *Applying ABC at Maltacom Plc with a view to introducing a Divisionalised Profit Centre Structure*. The Deloitte & Touche prize in Taxation went to Suzanne Schranz for her dissertation on *Fiscal Incentives offered to high Net Worth Individuals*. The PricewaterhouseCoopers award for the best dissertation in Auditing was won by James Zammit who wrote on *Automating the Audit via Computer Audit Software*. Christopher Borg's dissertation on *Portents of Failure within Small Local Businesses - An Analysis of the Prevalence and Applicability of Foreign- Researched causes of Business Failure* won the KPMG award for the best dissertation in Financial Accounting. *The Euro and Selected Banks in Malta -The Financial Implications*, a dissertation by Audrey Anne Buttigieg received the Arthur Anderson (MSD & Co) award. The Grant Thornton award for achievement in the final examination in the area of Maltese Law as related to accounting was won by Giselle Cini while the best student of the year award offered by the Malta Institute of Accountants was presented to Josef Bonnici.

## December

The Department of Biology organised a one-day symposium at the John Borg Hall. The symposium had the support of the *Environment Protection Department* as planning, protection and management of our environmental resources were issues discussed. B.Sc.

and M.Sc. graduates gave brief presentations of work carried out in connection with their Final Year electives or dissertations reflecting the wide range of topics receiving particular attention by the Department, which this year include pollution studies, marine ecology, plant biochemistry and micropropagation, aquaculture and conservation biology.

The Faculty of Education and the *Paulo Freire Institute* (Zejtun) held a seminar entitled: *Edukazzjoni, Fidi u Gustizzja* (Education, Faith and Justice), *Paulo Freire, Lorenzo Milani, Gorg Preca*. Speakers included Dr Peter Mayo, Dr Ronald Sultana from the Faculty of Education and Professor Fausto Telleri from the University of Bologna) who spoke on the pedagogical approaches Freire, Preca and Milani respectively. The discussion was chaired by Fr. Edgar Busuttill SJ, Director of the *Paulo Freire Institute*. Connections were made with the present Maltese educational system while points in common and differences between the three figures were highlighted. In the course of his visit, Professor Telleri also delivered a talk on *Scuola dei Genitori* (Parents' School) which dwelt on the importance of genuine parental participation in schools for the process of democratisation in education.

The *University Vocal Ensemble* together with the *Collegium Musicum* and the *University Chamber Orchestra* gave its annual Christmas Concert in St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta, courtesy of the Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter. Soloists: Claire Massa, Albert Buttigieg, Jonathan Mohnani and Frans Mangion participated. They were accompanied on the organ by Gino Mulè Stagno and Caroline Calleja while Dr. Mro. Dion Buhagiar was the Musical Director.