

Round-Up 2001

January

The *Comparative Education Programme in Euro-Mediterranean Studies (CEPems)* of the Faculty of Education was awarded the prestigious UNESCO Chair in Mediterranean Education Studies. The Coordinator, Professor Ronald G. Sultana, was also entrusted with the role of directing the UNITWIN Network of Mediterranean Education Scholars. UNITWIN Networks also fall within the framework of activities led by UNESCO's Higher Education Division, where the goal is to create university networks focussed around specific areas of scholarly interest in order to enhance development in all its aspects. Achievements of CEPems include the biannual publication of the *Mediterranean Journal of Educational Studies*, of which the tenth issue has just been published.

Launch of the *Professional Development Portfolio* which was developed through a collaborative initiative by the Faculty of Education and the Education Division so as to encourage the professional development of student-teachers, enabling them to critically evaluate and reflect on the work carried out during their course of study.

At the first *Faculty of Education Research Seminar* for the year which was organised in conjunction with the Centre for

Communication Technology (C.C.T.), Professor Richard Raskin who lectures on screenwriting at the University of Aarhus, Denmark, spoke on *The art of storytelling in the short fiction film*.

Malta, through the Socrates Office, has been given the rights and the responsibility by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Education and Culture for the organisation of *Intensive Language Preparation Courses (ILPCs)* amongst European countries with lesser widely used and lesser widely spoken languages including Maltese, Italian and Slovenian. To this end, a *Centre for the teaching of European Languages for foreign students* in the framework of the Socrates Programme has been established. Courses are due to commence in Summer 2001.

During the first *Work-in-Progress Seminar* for 2001, Dr. Paul Clough, Coordinator of the Anthropology Programme, discussed *What's Morals Got to do with it? Exploring the concept of 'culture' in Anthropology*.

Nations Without Character was the subject of *The Philosophy Society* meeting which was addressed by Ranier Fsadni, Lecturer in Social Anthropology, Mediterranean Institute.

Professor Anthony Crocker, Editor-in-Chief of *Gifted and Talented*, the Journal of the National Association for Gifted Children in the U.K., gave a public lecture on *Teaching the gifted in the mainstream class* when he visited the Faculty of Education.

Launch of *Consolati di Mare and Chambers of Commerce*, edited by Carmel Vassallo - Proceedings of the Conference held at the Foundation for International Studies in May 1998, on the 300th anniversary of the establishment of the *Consolato di Mare*, Malta's first commercial court and the 150th anniversary of the founding of the *Malta Chamber of Commerce*.

The *European Access Network* which this year celebrates its 10th anniversary, held its 32nd Executive Committee Meeting on campus under the Chairmanship of the Rector. The E.A.N. is the only Europe-wide, non-governmental organisation for widening access to higher education. It promotes access for those currently under-represented, whether for reasons of gender, ethnic origin, nationality, age, disability, employment status, income level, family background, vocational training, geographic location or earlier educational disadvantage. Membership is open to all those with an interest in widening access.

February

Bachelor of Accountancy (Hons.) students of the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy, organised a seminar entitled: *Activity Based Budgeting: the extent of its local applicability in the hotel industry* which was held at the Coastline Suite of the Coastline Hotel, Salina.

The International Institute for Baroque Studies in conjunction with the *Circulo Cultural Hispano-Maltes* held a public lecture on *Baroque Architecture in Spain* by the distinguished lecturer Professor Mercedes Gomez-Ferrer Lozano from the Department of Art History, University of Valencia.

Dr. Pavel Popela, a Visiting Lecturer from the University of Technology, Brno, addressed the year's first meeting of the *Malta Mathematical Society*. His talk was entitled: *Wait-and-See or Here-and-Now? (How to Hedge against Uncertainty)*.

Professor Alain Blondy, Professor of History from the *Université de Paris-Sorbonne, Paris IV*, was in Malta at the invitation of the Department of French, Faculty of Arts, to give a three-credit course entitled *Histoire de la*

France to French students of the Faculties of Arts and Education

For the third year running, Professor Roberto Prandin, *Direttore artistico di Settimane Musicali di Lugano*, conducted a credit on Artistic Management for students of the Mediterranean Institute's Music Studies Programme. This year the credit focussed on seasonal programme planning and orchestral management, previous credits having dealt with artistic management in general and marketing the artistic enterprise.

Launch of the K.S.U. (Kunsill Studenti Universitarji, University Students' Council) 100th Anniversary Celebrations. The Council is one of the oldest Students' Unions in Europe and traces its origins back to the *Consiglio Permanente Universitario*. A programme of activities was mounted which included a documentary photographic exhibition of the history of the Council since its foundation, a get-together for former Presidents of the Council, a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Church of the University, a concert at the Mediterranean Conference Centre and a symposium on Higher Education.

The Rector and the Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor Anthony J. Frendo presented awards to students on the Dean's List. Fourteen students who completed Part I of their B.A. programme in 1999 and ten who finished the two-year component in 2000 received recognition for their academic achievement. The awards were sponsored by the Bank of Valletta which was represented at the ceremony by Mr. Anthony Darmanin, Deputy General Manager.

Last year, the University organised the *Graduate Potential Seminar* in collaboration with the *Chamber of Commerce*, the *Federation of Industry* and the *Employment & Training Corporation* which was attended

by well over a hundred businessmen, industrialists and academics. Many interesting and valid ideas were mooted. After the seminar, a follow-up group was established to identify future strategy. As a result, the end of February saw the launch of an electronic *Human Resources Needs Survey* as a first step towards a better understanding of the needs of industry, business and the public sector as regards full-time qualified staff.

Students and Lecturers from nine different Universities in Europe joined Maltese academic staff and students in the organisation of a one-week intensive programme of lectures and discussions focussing on the theme of social exclusion in Europe. The event, coordinated by the Erasmus University of Rotterdam in collaboration with the University of Malta's Workers' Participation Development Centre (W.P.D.C.), was co-financed by the European Commission under its Erasmus Programme.

March

The Theatre Studies Programme in collaboration with the *Koperattiva Kulturali Universitarja* (KKU) and the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura* hosted a group of Italian actors from *Stalker Teatro* who will be working on the project *Villaggio Globale* together with Theatre Studies students.

The *Workers Participation Development Centre* (W.P.D.C.) organised a week-end seminar for past and present students of the Diploma programme in Occupational Health and Safety. The theme of the seminar was *Risk Assessment at Work: A Practical Approach* and was supported by the Friedrich Ebert Association and the Commission for Occupational Health and Safety. The seminar sought to provide practical 'hands on' advice on the identification of hazards at the workplace, the estimation of associated

risk and the recording of such risk assessments. Dr David G. Wenham, Director of the postgraduate OHS programme at the University of Loughborough's Centre for Hazard and Risk Management addressed the seminar. The event also served to introduce the recently set up Foundation for Practitioners in Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety.

The University conferred the degree of Doctor of Literature *Honoris causa* on H.E. Professor Guido de Marco, President of Malta. The ceremony was held in the Church of the University, Valletta.

Dr Ruth Whitehouse, from the Institute of Archaeology, University College London who specializes mostly in Central Mediterranean Prehistory especially burials and religion gave a Public Lecture entitled *The Prehistoric mother goddess: ancient power or modern myth?* when she visited the Department of Classics and Archaeology, Faculty of Arts.

The Dean's Awards for excellence in the Sciences were presented to successful students by the Rector in the presence of the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor A. J. Vella. The top three students in each of the four years of the B.Sc.(Hons.) course during the academic year 1999/2000 received awards. The students on the Dean's List were: First Year - Thomas Cuschieri (Maths & Physics), Michael Caruana (Maths & Statistics and Operations Research), Jennifer Williams (Biology & Chemistry); Second Year - Kevin Mizzi (Maths & Physics), Peter Borg (Maths & Statistics and Operations Research), Adrian Vella (Physics & Chemistry); Third Year - Doreen Micallef, Arthur Burlò (Maths & Physics), Alexander Farrugia (Maths and Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence) while the final year students were: Stephen Gruppetta, Gail Anastasi (Maths & Physics) and Matthew Borg (Biology & Chemistry).

Dr. Dagmar Haumann from Erfurt University addressed the *Linguistics Circle on Measure for Measure: adverbs of quantity, degree and measure*.

The Department of Statistics & Operations Research welcomed two visiting lecturers during the last week of March. Dr. Michael Green Lecturer at the Centre for Applied Statistics, Lancaster University delivered a set of lectures on Statistical Modeling, Statistical Inference, Binomial Response Data and Multinomial and Poisson Regression while Mr. Brian Francis, Director of the Centre, lectured on Generalized Linear Models, Categorical Data Analysis, Log Linear and Bilinear Models and Case Control Models in Criminology.

The Theology Students Association (Gh.S.T.) organised the annual *Academic Evening in honour of St. Thomas Aquinas* under the patronage of H.G. the Archbishop, Mgr. Joseph Mercieca and the Rector of the University. Rev. Professor Frédéric Manns ofm, Rector of *Studium Biblicum Franciscanum*, Jerusalem lectured on Jewish-Christian Relations in the Holy Land.

The University's *Student Advisory Service* participated in the *Careers Convention* held in the Sports Pavilion in Victoria, Gozo.

April

The University Library was presented with archeological photographs and Malta War Relief Fund papers owned by the late Mr. Harris Dunscombe Colt Jr. An exhibition of salient items from this bequest was mounted and included material reflecting Sir Themistocles Zammit's multi-faceted contribution to the nation.

Some 140 students who obtained a distinction in their MATSEC Certificate in

1999 and 2000 had their excellent performance recognised during the Junior College Awards Night.

The European Documentation and Research Centre Annual Conference was held at the Radisson SAS Bay Point Resort in the last week of April on the theme *Malta and the E.U.: Together in Change?* Maltese and overseas experts explored this theme by reference to the Nice Treaty and to some key policy areas. The Proceedings have since been published.

The University conferred the degree of Doctor of Literature *Honoris causa* on Rev. Professor Peter Serracino Inglott, former Rector of the University of Malta while the degree of Master of Philosophy *Honoris causa* was conferred on Mgr John Azzopardi and Sister Aldegonda Farrugia in a ceremony which was held in the Church of the University, Valletta.

Under the auspices of the Department of Italian, Professor Giovanni Minardi from the University of Bari, delivered lectures entitled *Problemi di glottodidattica e lingue settoriali* and *Il viaggio in Italia di Hare: il punto di vista dello straniero*.

Dr. David Rafaja from the Department of Electron Structures, Charles University, Prague visited the Department of Physics in the last week of April and lectured to third

year students on *X-ray Diffraction in Solids* as part of the Solid State Physics Course. He also gave a general lecture on *Applied X-Ray Diffraction*.

Professor Piergiorgio Giacchè from the University of Perugia who is one of the founder members of the *International School of Theatre Anthropology*, gave a course in Theatre Anthropology for students of the Theatre Studies Programme.

Professor Sergio Ulgiati from the Department of Chemistry, University of Siena, lectured on *Energy and Matter Flows in Nature and the Economy* under the auspices of the Faculty of Science.

Dr. Greg Larkin, an expert in the teaching of English for special purposes and Director of the Northern Arizona Writing Project within the University of Northern Arizona, gave a public lecture entitled: *"I don't know what to write!" Teaching writing to children and students who 'can't.'* Dr. Larkin was in Malta to assist the Institute of Linguistics, the Ministry of Education and the Department of Primary Education in the Faculty of Education in investigating ways of improving the teaching of writing in primary, second and tertiary education, and writing for specific purposes such as for journalism. The public lecture was one in a series of specialised

lectures and workshops for University students and teachers.

May

Under the auspices of the Music Studies Programme, Professor Roberto Prandin lectured on Gioacchino Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*.

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

The *European Society of Clinical Pharmacy* held its 2nd Spring Conference on Clinical Pharmacy in Malta on the theme *Pharmacy Practice to meet Patients' Needs*. This was attended by some 600 delegates and was hosted by the University's Department of Pharmacy and held at the Westin Dragonara.

Dr Gerry Ryder, Manager, R.D.M. Centre, University of Strathclyde lectured on *Rapid Design & Manufacture* when he visited the Faculty of Engineering.

At a *Project Presentation Night*, third year Bachelor of Commerce students of the Faculty of Economics, Management & Accountancy presented some of their Operations Management Projects.

On behalf of The Bank of Valletta, Mr Joe Formosa presented Professor Marie-Thérèse Camilleri Podestà, Head, Department of Anatomy, with a donation for the department's Cancer Research Fund.

The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies organised the 10th Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminar. The four day conference focussed on recent developments in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Process, in

particular those developments since the November 2000 Marseilles meeting.

A group of third and fourth year Bachelor of Education (Hons.) art students mounted an exhibition of their work entitled *Polarities* in the Foyer of the Temi Zammit Hall.

Under the umbrella of the Faculty of Education, Professor Ann Lewis, Professor of Special Education and Educational Psychology at the University of Birmingham lectured on *Differentiated Teaching: The rationale and the means* and on *Differentiated Teaching: Matching children's learning opportunities with teaching strategies*.

On the occasion of the beatification of Fr. George Preca, founder of the Society of Christian Doctrine known as M.U.S.E.U.M. by H.H. Pope John Paul II, the University of Malta Library in collaboration with the Society, hosted an exhibition of his writings, including copies of original manuscripts found in the S.D.C.'s Archives.

Dr Bengt Nilsson, Vice-Rector for International Affairs at the International Office of Malmö University, Sweden gave a talk on *Internationalisation at Home* when he visited Malta as the guest of the University's International Office. This dealt with the development of an internationally-oriented curriculum in order to give those students who do not avail themselves of the opportunities offered by mobility programmes, an international dimension in their university education.

Microfiches of Consular Dispatches from Malta to Washington D.C. (1801-1896) as well as material relating to American studies and media studies, were presented to the University Library by the American Centre's Public Affairs Officer, Mr. Michael Macy.

Professor Dr. Bernhard Eberhardt, from the University of Applied Sciences, Stuttgart, School of Print and Media, gave a monographic course on Computer Graphics and Modelling when he visited the Department of Computer Information Systems, Faculty of Science. He also gave a public lecture entitled: *Computer Graphics' Quest for Realism: Real- Looking Scenes for Movies*.

French/Algerian Connections with Malta were highlighted when two members of the Algerianist *Cercle de Provence*, France were guests of the Department of French, Faculty of Arts. Mr. Marc Donato and Dr Pierre Dimech have both published books on the Maltese community of Algeria. Mr Donato gave a talk on the character of Dora in Laurent Ropa's *Le Chant de la Noria* while Dr Dimech spoke about Malta and the Maltese in Algerian literature in the French idiom.

The *Fondazzjoni Memorja Kulturali Nazzjonali*, a Maltacom plc initiative presided over by President Emeritus, Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici has compiled an important reference tool for scholarly research at the National Archives. An eight volume index catalogue and accompanying set of floppy discs have been created covering all the colonial dispatches between Malta and London between 1800 and 1851 which have been presented to the University Library. The work was carried out over a period of nine months by Mr. Joe Caruana, Mr. Guzé Cassar Pullicino and Architect Michael Ellul. The dispatches are of particular interest as they cover the initial period of Malta's colonial history and contain valuable social and political information not only about Malta but concerning Mediterranean issues of the time. They also have a direct bearing on constitutional development, the emergence of a Council of Government, early elections to representation on this body, freedom of the press, and Church-State relations.

The annual *Science Education Seminar* was held at the University Residence, Lija. This acts as a forum for the dissemination of research in science education both nationally as well as internationally where examples of excellence in research are shared within an educational community. The seminar is organised by the Faculty of Education in collaboration with the *Malta Council for Science & Technology*. This year the main focus was on assessment issues and Professor Patricia Murphy from the Open University, presented research which she carried out in formative assessment and effective pedagogies. Members of the Faculty of Education and graduates from the Faculty also presented interesting research on local examinations, problem-solving and portfolios. The seminar was attended by B.Ed.(Hons.) and P.G.C.E. students. Professor Mark Borg, Dean of the Faculty, Mr. Charles Mizzi, Director-General for Education and the Hon. Jesmond Mugliett, Parliamentary Secretary within the Education Ministry also addressed the seminar.

June

A Summer School in Archaeology was held between 11 June and 20 July directed by Professor Anthony Bonanno and Dr. Nicholas C. Vella. The Summer School provides a unique opportunity to discover, explore and study the life of our prehistoric ancestors introducing participants to the theory and practice of Archaeology in general and to Mediterranean and Maltese Archaeology in particular. A 2-week theoretical part explaining the general principles and methods of archaeological practice, including field archaeology was followed by excavation sessions on the University's dig at Tas-Silg.

A cooperation agreement was signed between the University's Board of Studies for Information Technology and M.I.T.T.S. Ltd., the Information Technology company which

provides IT services to Government. Primarily, this agreement allows all the students following the B.Sc. IT course to benefit from a summer training period spread over five or six weeks at the end of the first year which will expose them to different work operations and systems. It also provides for a sponsorship of A.C.M., the Periodicals of the *American Society of Computing Machinery* which is a set of monthly periodicals in the area of Informatics and Computing that will be of major help to IT students in the preparation of their projects.

At the end of a month's visit to Malta, James Madison University students presented their projects in the area of Integrated Science & Technology (ISAT) at the *Aula Magna*, Foundation for International Studies. The session was opened by Environment Minister, Dr. Francis Zammit Dimech. The projects were prepared in collaboration with the University of Malta's Institutes of Agriculture, Energy Technology and the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics as well as with Enemalta and the Gaia Foundation. The students' visit was coordinated by the International Office.

The Institute of Health Care's Communication Therapy Division in collaboration with the Department of Education, launched two programmes among primary school children - a phonological awareness programme and a programme to facilitate the development of social awareness skills, at the end of which, students evaluated the effectiveness of the programmes by comparing the children's skills before and on completion.

July

A ceremony for the presentation of awards to members of staff who successfully obtained higher degrees recently was held. This included some twenty-five Doctorates in various fields of expertise.

A varied *Evenings on Campus* programme got underway. This summer's events included a photographic exhibition, film garden, musical events as well as a literary evening.

The annual exhibitions of final year projects by both Engineering and Information Technology students was held. The variety of projects on display, some realised with the collaboration of industry, reflected the knowledge and range of skills acquired by the students in their years at University.

During the long summer holidays, the *University Summer School* again provided an interesting and varied programme for children aged three to twelve between mid-July and early September. Activities included sports and games; art, craft and computers; philosophy for children; drama; Edward de Bono's Thinking Skills and excursions to places of interest.

The *Edward de Bono Seminar 2001* was held on campus for the ninth consecutive year which was well attended and was conducted by Edward de Bono in person.

The *First International Let Me Learn Conference* was held outside the USA for the first time. Organisation was coordinated by the Faculty of Education's Department of Primary Education.

August

The British High Commission presented several *Trading Nation* games, a two-player card game, to the *University Summer School*.

The American Centre donated a number of books in the field of International Relations to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies.

The 10th *European Women in Mathematics* (EWM) conference was held in Malta and attracted over ninety participants from twenty one countries and four continents. The EWM Association was set up at the Berkeley International Congress of Mathematics in 1986, by the few women delegates at that meeting. Since then, EWM has set up its headquarters in Finland, has held biennial meetings and has given moral support to the many talented women who felt isolated in the mathematical circles in their country. Many eminent mathematicians mostly from European universities, look forward to EWM meetings to share and promote their latest research results. At this year's meeting, Mathematical Society (EMS) speaker of the year, Michele Vergne of Paris, gave a course of lectures on *Convex Polytopes*, one of the branches of mathematics in which she is universally accepted as an expert.

September

Several Summer Schools and *ad hoc* programmes were organised by the International Office this year. These included: Archaeology Summer School (11 June to 20 July 2001); European Contract and Banking Law (27 August to 1 September); four courses in English Language for forensic use, organised in collaboration with the *Consiglio Nazionale Forense*, Italy (August and

September); two courses running throughout the second semester on *The Religions of the Eastern Mediterranean* and *Malta and the Mediterranean* for Luther and Concordia College, USA; a one-month programme of lectures and field work on various environmental and energy issues for James Madison University, Virginia, USA; a four-week programme for South Texas College of Law and other affiliated law colleges and a Pre-Sessional English Language course held in September.

Other events included: University of Calabria group, joint MA in Educational & Career Guidance together with the *San Pio V* University (Rome); various visiting delegations notably from Kuwait, Oman, Botswana, China. On the occasion of *Malta Evening* organised by the Embassy of Malta in Washington, Professor Anthony Frendo lectured on the Megalithic Temples and the Phoenicians in Malta at the Ring Theatre of the Hirschhorn Museum of the Smithsonian Institute while the University of Malta welcomed Timothy Hawkins from Indiana State University and Dr. Bengt Nilsson, Vice-Rector for International Affairs from Malmö University.

October

Some 2600 new students joined various University courses while a further 1500 entered the Junior College.

The *Malta College of Family Doctors* in conjunction with the University's *Continuing Medical Education Committee*, *The Association of Maltese Psychiatrists* and the *National Commission for Mental Health* organised its *Autumn Continuing Professional Development Meeting* which focussed on Mental Health. This was held in early October and was sponsored by *V J Salomone (Trading) Ltd*.

One of the first visitors to the University of the new academic year was Professor Milan Ceska from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic who visited the Department of Statistics and Operations Research in the first week of October. Professor Ceska is actively involved in research on theory and practical applications of Petri Nets which was the subject of his lectures. He was also involved in design of software tools supporting creation and analysis on Petri and related nets.

An international conference on medical history entitled: *La Storia della Medicina come Ponte Culturale nel Bacino del Mediterraneo* was organised by the University's Foundation for International Studies, the *Università degli Studi S. Pio V*, Rome and the *Società Italiana di Storia delle Scienze Biomediche e delle Istituzioni Sanitarie* of Italy. The programme which was coordinated by Dr Charles Savona Ventura included papers by scholars from universities and health care institutions all over Italy and in Malta.

This year's *Annual Bioethics Conference* was held at the end of October. The conference was organised by The *Bioethics Consultative Committee*, (Ministry of Health) and dealt with

two topics on two separate days: *Ethics relating to beginning of life: Genetic Testing* and *Ethics relating to end of life: Terminal Care, Euthanasia, etc.*

October was an eventful month for the University Library which put on display a selection of recent acquisitions of books in Italian covering a wide variety of subjects, to coincide with the *Prima Settimana della Lingua Italiana nel Mondo* marked locally by the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura* through a number of lectures and an exhibition of 400 new publications in Italian.

The Library also commemorated the first centenary from the demise of Giuseppe Verdi with an exhibition of librettos of the composer's opera performances in 19th century Malta. The programme included choral selections and a short talk on the libretto collection.

A meeting of JEWELS, the *Joint European Website for Education in Language and Speech* was hosted by the Department of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence. Since its inception in 1998, the Network has sought to set up structures for improving the scope and quality of educational practice in different aspects of the Speech Communication Sciences by, among other things, creating an online catalogue of resources, tools, and institutions. The results of this project have been published in book form as well as on what was the Network's project site, which is now known as JEWELS. The aim of the meeting, which was attended by participants from all over Europe, was to discuss strategies for ensuring the continued survival and utility of the website including maintenance of up-to-date content.

November

The fourth seminar and workshop in the series *The Collection* was held. Past

graduates, students, staff and other mathematics enthusiasts meet to enjoy sharing original ideas and new elegant forms of older ones. This session discussed polynomials equations with more solutions than the degree of the equation, a type of network, applications of Zorn's Lemma and forms of primes and ended with problem posing. During the seminar, the authors of the best papers in the proceedings of the three previous workshops were presented with book prizes offered by the *European Women in Mathematics Association* and two book tokens presented by *Agenda Bookshop* on Campus.

Enemalta Corporation in collaboration with the Faculties of Science and Engineering organised a seminar on the removal of underground oil deposits at its Birzebbuga installation. Preliminary scientific studies undertaken provided the necessary data that led to the identification of the location of these oil deposits. The speakers at the seminar were three of the Italian consultants who worked on the project.

Professor Giovanni Maria Flick, a member of the Italian Constitutional Court who represented Italy in the drawing up of the European Union's Human Rights document, gave a public lecture entitled: *Le regole per la globalizzazione e l'esperienza europea, dopo l'11 settembre* when he visited Malta at the invitation of H.E. Professor Guido de Marco, President of Malta. The lecture was organised by the Italian Embassy in collaboration with the University of Malta.

A series of seminars on Baroque Architecture and its conservation led by local and foreign experts in the field, was launched at the New Lecture Hall, Faculty of Architecture organised by the International Institute for Baroque Studies in conjunction with the Works Division, Ministry for the Environment. The seminars traced the circumstances that led to the development of Baroque

Architecture throughout Europe as well as providing an insight into the construction techniques adopted. Contemporary conservation methods and techniques were also discussed.

To mark *International Education Week*, a U.S. Department of State sponsored initiative, the U.S. Embassy in Malta and the University's International Office in collaboration with the K.S.U., held a discussion about studying in the U.S.A. The discussion was opened by H.E. Anthony Gioia, U.S. Ambassador to Malta. Students from the University of Malta have been able to avail themselves of the opportunity to study in the U.S.A. for many years through the University's participation in exchange programmes such as I.S.E.P.

The European Documentation and Research Centre launched its activities under the European Commission's *Jean Monnet Project* and other activities for 2001/2002. In conjunction with the Faculty of Laws, four successful applications were submitted under the *Jean Monnet Project for European Integration Studies*. A successful fifth application related to support for an EU-Med Research Project coordinated by the E.D.R.C. involving some forty researchers across the Mediterranean region who will study the implications of the many new developments in the *Acquis* in the context of enlargement and the *Future of Europe Debate*. Professor Peter G. Xuereb, Professor of European and Comparative Law and Chairman of the E.D.R.C. has been conferred with the title of Holder of the *Jean Monnet Chair* in European Union Law and European Integration. Other initiatives include the launching of two new Jean Monnet European Modules at the Centre. The *Malta European Studies Association* under the patronage of its Honorary President, Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, President-Emeritus, will be acting as a forum for scholarly discussion through the holding

of public lectures, seminars and conferences. A conference on the *Future of Europe and European Governance* is planned for 2002. On the occasion of Graduation 2001 a Mass of Thanksgiving was held at St. John's Co-Cathedral celebrated by H.G. The Metropolitan Archbishop of Malta. Nearly 2000 students graduated in various disciplines in the course of a number of ceremonies.

The Mediterranean Master's in Human Rights and Democratisation is one of five regional human rights programmes funded by the European Commission. The course which provides an interdisciplinary training in human rights and democratisation in a Mediterranean context, is coordinated by the University of Malta in partnership with a number of other universities and human rights organisations. November saw the graduation of the first course and the inauguration of the second.

The 11th *Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminar* organised by the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies was held at the Westin Dragonara. The four day conference brought together diplomats from the majority of E.U. member states and the Mediterranean partner countries who were signatories to the Barcelona Declaration of November 1995. Deliberations focussed on recent developments in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Process, in particular the outcome of the Euro-Mediterranean foreign ministers' meeting held in Brussels earlier in the month.

Mr. Albert Mizzi, one of Malta's leading businessmen, gave a talk on *Entrepreneurship* which was open to the general public, under the auspices of the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy.

The first seminar of the academic year in the Fifth *Work-in-Progress Seminar Series* was

held. Dr. Carmelo Vassallo addressed the subject *What do Bin Laden, Rothschild and Onassis have in common? ...wealth, a sexual appetite and a diaspora network. We all know what the first two are but what is the third?*

As part of the programme to mark 2001 as the United Nations' year of Dialogue among Civilizations a week of activities focussing on *Malta: Crossroads of Civilisations* was held in Geneva. Various organisations were represented including the University of Malta. A lecture entitled: *The University, a Reflection of Civilization Past, Present and Future* was delivered by the Rector. Other activities included an exhibition of Contemporary Art from Malta; a musical programme at the *Palais de Nations* featuring the joint participation of the *Socjetà Filarmonika Nicolò Isouard* and the *Socjetà Filarmonika Santa Marija* from Mosta; and a concert at WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation) with soprano Lydia Caruana accompanied by Marco Rivoltini on the piano and a performance by pianist Brian Schembri.

The *Radju ta' L-Università* won the largest number of Radio Awards scooping five Broadcasting Authority Awards, including one for the overall winning radio station. The University Radio which will be re-launched early next year as CAMPUS FM also gained exclusive use of the frequency 103.7 FM after several years in partnership with Radio MAS.

The Malta Council for Science and Technology organised *S & T Week* at Bay Street in which University staff and students participated.

The KSU organised a *Careers' Convention* aimed at promoting career opportunities and graduate recruitment. To this end KSU partnered with C.S.B. (Commercial Services Bureau) with a view to launching an online employment agency. Several companies

participated. The Convention was launched by the Hon. Professor Josef Bonnici, and Dr. George Hyzler from the Ministry for Economic Services.

The Malta International Students Association (MISA) held their annual *Cultural Fiesta*, a manifestation of their motto: *Harmony through Diversity*. The two-day event focussed on the flavours of the six continents through the preparation of ethnic food and a cultural fiesta comprising dance and entertainment.

The University Library acquired a number of papers, photographs and other memorabilia belonging to the late Ms. Margaret F. Mortimer (1911-1998), Inspector of Schools, Assistant Director, and Director of Education between 1968 and 1971 which are of interest since they have a bearing on the history of education in Malta.

The Institute of Forensic Studies organised a workshop in Malta for the *Conférence Permanente Européenne de la Probation* (CEP) which was established to promote the social inclusion of offenders by the application of community sanctions and measures. Finland, Sweden, Portugal, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, England, Wales, Ireland and Malta are all represented on the CEP Board. The workshop also contributed to the discussion about the

introduction of the Community Service sanction in Malta. It also served to take stock of the development of Community Service in those European countries that have already adopted this measure.

The University website won the *Malta Web Awards* for the best educational and training website in its category. The jury praised the website for its wealth of information, easy access and user-friendliness, its uniformity reflecting the University's corporate image as well as its restrained use of technological features.

December

The Pro-Rector, Professor Joseph V. Bannister opened the *Annual Biology Symposium*. New information was presented regarding a number of topical environmental issues. Recent graduates in Biology gave brief presentations of the work they carried out in connection with their Final Year electives or dissertations. The Minister for the Environment, The Hon Dr. Francis Zammit Dimech, closed the symposium.

The Environment Protection Department, in conjunction with the Department of Physics organised a one-day symposium entitled: *First National Climate Change Symposium: Preparing Malta's First National*

Communication to the UNFCCC. The symposium brought together key individuals and organisations that are concerned with Malta's response to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Faculty of Education in collaboration with the Malta Council for Science & Technology organised a seminar in the field of Science Education on the aspect of *Formative Assessment in Science*. The guest speaker was Professor Patricia Murphy from the Open University.

Dr. Christopher J. James from Aston University, UK who visited the Faculty of Engineering in mid-December, lectured on *Biomedical Information Engineering: Unravelling the human brain*. Dr. James has worked in the field of analysing brain derived signals for the past eight years and the lecture formed an overview of techniques and methodologies available for the analysis of the human brain including contributions by the speaker and his group in the analysis of electromagnetic brain signals.

The Dean's Awards for excellence in the Sciences for the academic year 2000/2001 were presented to successful students. The students on the Dean's List were: First Year – Joel Azzopardi (Physics & Computer Science & AI), Sarah Buttigieg (Maths & Statistics & OR), Jonathan Henwood (Biology & Chemistry); Second Year – Michael Caruana (Maths & Statistics & OR), Pierre Sandre Farrugia and Vincent Mercieca (Maths & Physics); Third Year – Peter Borg (Maths & Statistics & OR), Kevin Mizzi (Maths & Physics), Mireille Treeby (Biology & Chemistry) while the final year students were: Alfred Aquilina (Chemistry & Physics), Claudette Mifsud and Danielle Zrinzo (Biology & Chemistry).

The *University Vocal Ensemble* and the *Collegium Musicum* under the baton of Dr Mro Dion Buhagiar held their annual Christmas

Concert in St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta courtesy of the Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter. A varied programme of seasonal music was performed with the participation of soloists Kenneth Scicluna (baritone), Francis Mangion (tenor) and sopranos Anita Saliba and Charmaine Cortis.

Junior College students held their annual Christmas Concert. The varied programme included song and dance, drama and music.