

Round-Up 2003

January

Professor Luzius Wildhaber, President of the European Court of Human Rights delivered a public lecture entitled *The role of the ECHR in the protection and promotion of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms with reference to recent judgments* when he visited Malta in mid-January.

Mark W. Smith, Ed.D. was in Malta through the Fulbright programme and was attached to the Department of Computer Information Systems. He hails from Trident Technical College, Charleston, USA, where he is instructor in Information Systems in the areas of Object Oriented and Structured Programming, Visual BASIC, Java Applets, Microcomputer Tools and Techniques.

Under the auspices of the *Alliance Française* and the Embassy of France, Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef gave a lecture entitled: *Men of Montpellier* which dealt with Franco-Maltese medical connections at the time of the Knights while Professor Joe Friggieri lectured on Voltaire within the framework of lectures organised by the *Alliance Française* on French philosophers.

H.E. the Ambassador of the Libyan Arab Jamahariya, Dr. Ali Muhammed Saleh Najem presented the University Library with a selection of books covering aspects of Libyan social life and culture including literature, language, politics and history. This donation, in a series sponsored by the Libyan Cultural Centre, was handed over to University Rector Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef in the presence of Dr. Abdul Adel El Mahjub Director of the Libyan Cultural Centre, University Pro-Rector Professor C. J. Farrugia, Library Director, Mr. A. Mangion, Libyan Embassy officials and academic members of staff from the University's Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Studies.

Mr. Giovanni Buttigieg on behalf of the Malta Council of Science and Technology presented the Junior College Science Museum with items of historical and anecdotal interest directly connected with Science Education. The Science Museum now displays a total of nearly 290 scientific exhibits. Senior college administrators, subject coordinators, technical and teaching staff of the various departments were present.

Professor Christopher New who has taught at universities in England, America and Asia and was Head of the Department of Philosophy at Hong Kong University addressed the first 2003 meeting of the *Philosophy Society* with a talk entitled: *The Phantom at the Opera*.

February

Professor Anthony Frendo, Head of Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Studies, spoke to *The Malta Archaeological Society* on *Khirbet Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls*, the excavation of the Qumran settlement and the chance find of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 being amongst the finest archaeological finds of the twentieth century.

Under the auspices of the University's Department of Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine & Surgery, the Malta College of Family Doctors organised its Winter Continuing Professional Development Meeting on *The Future of Family Medicine in Malta and the Role of the Malta College of Family Doctors*. This was addressed by speakers from both the MCFD, the Medical Association of Malta (MAM) as well as by the Director-General (Health). The meeting was sponsored by *Delta Ltd*.

Professor Kenneth Falconer from the University of St. Andrews, addressed the first 2003 Meeting of the *Malta Mathematical Society* on *Fractals, the new Geometry* in which field much of his research and many of his publications are concentrated.

The interdisciplinary *7th Annual Work in Progress Seminar Series: Untangling Knots in the Social Sciences* got underway with a topical debate between politicians Michael Frendo and Evarist Bartolo entitled *To EU or not to EU? Is that the question?* Most seminars this year were organized around the timely and relevant theme of Europe, Malta and the Mediterranean. The principal aims of the WIPSS have always been three-fold: to give researchers a friendly platform to present their work, to encourage a regular free-flowing exchange of ideas among academics and students and to act as an interface between the community and the University.

In 2002, a decision was taken to open the University section of the Argotti Gardens for school visits following extensive rehabilitation works. The exercise was quite a success and attracted over 800 school children. The University has had possession of these gardens since 1855 and its history is intricately linked to them. This year, the tours were again offered between the third week of February and the end of May. Tours comprised a short talk, tour of the gardens and some hands-on practical exercises for students, particularly those studying biology, geography and ecology.

Sir Michael Jay, Permanent Undersecretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Head of the British Diplomatic Service visited Malta in mid-February. In the course of his visit he gave a talk at the University entitled *UK/Malta: Friends developing links for a New Generation* which dealt with issues such as education, culture and research.

Dott.ssa Rosanna Cravenna, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute, gave a lecture on *Italia - non solo arte* at the University which was attended by the cultural attaché, Dott.ssa Patricia Pattarino, and the Italian Ambassador, H.E. Alvise Memmo, among others.

Heart to Heart: Looking after your and your loved ones' heart. On Valentine's Day a group of 4th year Home Economics students, members of HEiA (Home Economists in Action) organised a half-day event to promote heart health amongst university students. Emphasis was laid on the foods that one should consume for a healthy diet in order to maintain a healthy heart. An information display booth was set up where educational brochures were made available.

Theatre Traffic, the monthly youth discussion forum organised as a collaborative initiative between the Mediterranean Institute's Theatre Studies Programme and The Manoel Theatre, discussed *Theatre, Culture and the European Union*. A conference entitled *Maltese Theatre in 2020: possible scenarios* was also held at the Theatre's Sala Isouard.

Professor Alain Blondy, professor of History at the *Université de Paris-Sorbonne* (Paris IV) was visiting guest lecturer in the Department of French, Faculty of Arts between February and mid-March. He gave a series of lectures under the general title *Histoire de la France*. The aim of these lectures was to provide the means of understanding the evolution of France in order to better situate its literature, philosophy and art in a historical context.

Students and staff from the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science presented ideas from various fields of Mathematics at *The Collection VII Workshop*. Topics included Random Numbers, Hilbert Spaces, Interlacing and Carbon Balls, Lambda Calculus and Perfect Numbers. A brief session for spontaneous problem posing closed the workshop.

Professor Ed Galea, a Maltese-Australian currently Professor of Computer Modeling at Greenwich University who is the leading world authority on Evacuation, Modeling and Software Design in Fire Safety Engineering gave a public lecture on

Burning Questions - Model Answers: use of computer simulation in fire engineering.

March

Jean Paul Baldacchino, a 3rd year BA (Honours) Anthropology student was the recipient of the *Dean's Award* of the Faculty of Arts for this year, having obtained 40 straight A grades over a period of two years. The Rector, Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef, and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor Dominic Fenech, presented him with his award. The annual awards are sponsored by the Bank of Valletta, which was represented at the ceremony by the branch manager of BoV on Campus, Ms Emily Grech.

A very interesting Folklore Exhibition covering miniature models of Maltese tools, agricultural implements and musical folklore instruments as well as a cross-section of literature on the subject was mounted at the University of Malta Library and inaugurated by the Rector. The exhibition was organized by the Department of Maltese on the initiative of folklore scholar Dr. Gorg Mifsud Chircop, with the collaboration of Mr. Frans Farrugia who produced the painstakingly accurate miniature models. Interactive sessions for secondary school students were organized.

Graduates of the University's Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy presented research they had conducted for their dissertations at a well attended symposium entitled: *Strengthening Links with Maltese Business* which included students and guests from all areas of Business and Industry. Professor Lino Briguglio, Head of FEMA's Department of Economics, chaired the meeting. The seven dissertations presented were a very small sample of the 200 or so submitted for examination in June 2002. The Dean of the Faculty, Professor Daniel Darmanin stressed the importance of giving exposure to the research work done by the

students since this can help to strengthen the links between Business, Industry and the University. The Hon. Josef Bonnici, Minister for Economic Affairs was guest of honour at the Symposium.

Professor Johannes Lelieveld, Director of the Airchemistry Division of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Mainz, Germany gave a public lecture entitled: *Global Air Pollution Crossroads Over the Mediterranean* organised by the Atmospheric Pollution Facility of the Physics Department in collaboration with the Malta Chamber of Scientists when he visited Malta in early March.

Professor Daniel Schugurensky, an Argentinian scholar with a considerable international reputation in social and educational research from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto (OISE/UT), visited the University in early March. He taught a course on *Adult Education and the Community* to participants in the M.Ed. Adult Education specialisation. He also spoke on *The Porto Alegre Experience in Participatory Democracy* in the *Work in Progress Seminar Series*.

Dr Laurent Romary from Nancy, France gave a series of lectures on *Language Resources and Standardisation* under the auspices of the Department of Computer Science and AI, Faculty of Science.

The *Theology Students' Association* organised the annual *Academic Evening in Honour of St. Thomas Aquinas* under the distinguished patronage of H.G. Mgr. Joseph Mercieca, Archbishop of Malta. This was held in the *Aula Magna*, Foundation for International Studies. Guest speaker was Professor Santiago Sia, Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Ethics Programme at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles USA who delivered a lecture on *Faith and Reason: a process view*.

The KSU once again organised its Charity Campaign which is an annual event on its calendar of activities. This year, the campaign was held in aid of the *Puttinu Cares - Children's Cancer Support Group* which is also supported by the *HSBC Cares for Children Fund*. The group works to raise money for the Oncology Ward at St. Luke's Hospital.

Dr Sandro Caruana, lecturer in the Department of Arts and Languages in Education, gave a public lecture under the auspices of the Italian Cultural Institute. *Biro e pitazz: 52 voci per l'italiano* dealt with the different roles of school and television in the promotion of the Italian language.

The Rector, Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef and Professor Alfred J. Vella, Dean, presented the *Science Dean's Awards* for excellence in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Fifteen awards were presented to students placing first, second and third in each of the four years of the B.Sc. (Honours) course during the academic year 2001/2002. The students on the Dean's List were: *Year I* - Mary Rose Bonello and Andrew Duncan (Computer Science & AI and Maths); Matthew John Vella (Biology and Chemistry); *Year II* - Sarah Buttigieg (Maths & Statistics and Operations Research); Joel Azzopardi (Physics & Computer Science & AI); Pamela Cohen (Maths & Physics); Renato Camilleri and Jonathan Henwood (Biology and Chemistry); *Year III* - Pierre-Sandre Farrugia (Maths & Physics); Michael Caruana and Karen Caruana (Maths & Statistics and Operations Research); *Year IV* - Adrian Vella (Chemistry and Physics); Andrew Briffa, David Paul Suda and Silvan Zammit (Maths & Statistics and Operations Research). The Faculty of Science comprises seven departments including the traditional sciences as well as the newer disciplines in Information Technology. Research is carried out in several fields but particular areas of interest include marine biology, environmental chemistry, microwave applications, atmospheric physics, alternative energy devices, algebraic graph theory

and combinatorics, systems analysis and design, multimedia authoring environments and stochastic processes.

The Department of French, Faculty of Arts welcomed Professor Gérard Gros of the *Université de Picardie, Jules Verne*, Amiens as visiting guest lecturer. He gave two lectures on French Medieval Drama entitled: *Le théâtre au Moyen Age* and *La Farce de Maître Pathelin*.

Dr Jeremy Black from the Oriental Institute, University of Oxford, delivered a series of lectures on Akkadian and Sumerian literature under the auspices of the Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Studies, Faculty of Arts.

Professor Dr. Ing. Sandor Vajna, Chair of Information Technology in Mechanical Engineering, Otto-von-Guericke University, Magdeburg, Germany, gave a public lecture on *Product Lifecycle Management (PLM)* under the auspices of the Department of Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering which dealt with the challenge of mass customisation. The lecture also gave an insight into the various aspects of PLM together with its associated benefits for the technical industry.

Ways in which firms can effectively compete in the current business climate was the focus of a public lecture entitled: *Winning Marketing Strategies*, organised by the Departments of Management and Marketing, Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy and delivered by Professor John Fahy from the University of Limerick, Ireland.

The Department of Statistics & Operations Research welcomed Dr. Jiri Dvorak and Dr. Jan Roupec from the Department of Automation and Computer Science, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Brno University of Technology. Dr Dvorak delivered a talk on *Lot Sizing problems - Modeling and Solution Techniques* while Dr.

Roupec lectured on *Advances in Genetic Algorithms*.

Ms Emily Grech, Manager of Bank of Valletta on Campus, on behalf of the Bank presented a donation of Lm500 to the University's Department of History which will go towards the purchase of video recording equipment to further the study and development of Oral History, a project under the charge of Dr John Chircop. History undergraduates are constantly required to take recorded interviews in connection with both their coursework and their dissertation. Recorded tapes are then deposited in the department's archive for use by other researchers.

The University of Malta Gozo Centre, in collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo again organised a series of lectures entitled: *Gozo Past and Present*. A one-day seminar was also held entitled: *Understanding Dyslexia and Maximising a Dyslexic Student's Potential* which sought to explore the nature of dyslexia as a Language Difficulty and give practical suggestions on how to help dyslexic children both at home and at school.

Final year Pharmacy students presented their projects at the annual Pharmacy Symposium which was held at the end of March and was entitled: *Tomorrow's pharmacist – a true practice-oriented professional*. The main emphasis was on pharmaceutical care as the standard of practice, putting patient care first and foremost. The Hon. Dr. Louis Deguara, Minister of Health, inaugurated the Symposium.

Fifteen Maltese students who obtained the B.Sc.(Honours) in Financial Services and Associateship attended the sixth annual graduation ceremony which was held at the London Guildhall. This is the result of a unique partnership between the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) and the Institute of Financial Services which offers a dual award of the degree from an internationally

recognised university as well as associateship of the premier UK professional body for the financial services industry. IFS (Malta) together with the University of Malta is the only academic overseas centre recognised by UMIST to offer tuition leading to the B.Sc. degree.

Architecture students mounted *Designs 2003*, an exhibition of projects presented by final year students. The exhibition has become an annual event and is organised by the *Society of Architecture and Civil Engineering Students* (SACES).

April

Dr. Vince Hooper from the School of Banking and Finance, University of New South Wales, Australia, addressed a seminar in the *Work in Progress Seminar Series* on the theme: *The Pricing of Political Risk in Emerging Stock Markets*. He also gave a public lecture on *A Tour of the World's Capital Markets and International Asset Pricing*. He was visiting the Department of Banking and Finance, Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy.

Professor Rodney Turner, a director of PSO Projects, a UK based firm of Management Consultants and Director of the Project Management Programme at Henley College, conducted a course on *Effective Project Management* organised by *Malta University Services Ltd.* (MUS) in collaboration with the Department of Management which sought to impart an integrated approach to project management.

The *Koperattiva Kulturali Universitarja* (KKU) in collaboration with the University's Precincts Office and with the support of BoV Club organised a seminar entitled: *The Art of Mime* which consisted of practical workshops on mime techniques and introductory short lectures on creativity as an essential dynamism of the human spirit. This was

conducted by Krzysztof Najdowski as part of Art, Culture and Spirituality programme. Mr. Najdowski from Poland, runs an *International Summer School of Theatrical Arts* in Krakow and an *Effective Communication Skills Course* in England. He is also developing and directing theatre productions based on the concept of movement theatre. Both the training programmes and the theatre performances have been presented so far in twelve European countries, in the USA and Asia.

Professor Lars Hein from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Technical University of Denmark, lectured on *Integrated Product Development in Scandinavian Industries* when he visited the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Professor P. Fowler from the Department of Theoretical Chemistry, University of Exeter lectured on *the Interaction of Linear Algebra and Graph Theory with Fullerene Chemistry* at a seminar organised jointly by the Mathematics and Chemistry Departments.

Elgar-Paul Magro, a postgraduate student at the Sorbonne University gave a talk to the *Linguistics Circle* on *Some Intonational Features of Spontaneous Oral French and Maltese: first steps towards a comparison*.

The *Collegium Musicum* Choir, the resident choir of St. John's Co-Cathedral under the baton of Dr Mro Dion Buhagiar presented a concert of *Music for Lent and Easter* under the auspices of the Mediterranean Institute's Music Studies Programme. This was held at St. John's Co-Cathedral courtesy of the Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter. Sharon Gauci and Romina Morrow were the organists.

Dr John Fisher, Head of the Education Department of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) UK, was guest lecturer in the Faculty of Education where he taught the half unit on *Adult Education and Work*, that is offered as part of the

coursework for the Master's in Education degree with specialization in Adult Education. Dr Fisher, whose visit was sponsored by the General Workers' Union, focussed on the area of workers' education with specific reference to trade union education.

This year the *History of Administration Working Group* of the *International Institute of Administrative Sciences* held its session in Malta. The research theme which the group set itself was that relating to the History of Water Management in a number of individual states and North Africa. Twelve leading academics from four continents presented their research. Professor Godfrey A Pirota, Head of the Department of Public Policy, and a longstanding member of the Working Group, presented his research findings on the Malta case.

The Department of Maths, Science and Technical Education in collaboration with the Malta Council for Science and Technology organized the *Third Science Education Seminar* at Villa Bighi, Kalkara. This was organized by Dr Deborah Chetcuti from the Faculty of Education and hosted by Mr Wilfred Kenely, Chief Executive, Malta Council for Science and Technology. Students from the Faculty of Education specializing in science subjects attended the seminar. Presentations were made by Mr Jesmond Xuereb from MCST who explained current research projects which the Council is involved in; Ms Doreen Mizzi, Chairperson of the *Coordinated Science Focus Group* who explained current developments regarding the introduction and implementation of coordinated science in schools and Dr Anna Rumin from Bishop's University, Canada who gave an interactive writing workshop during which students were encouraged to write and discuss the importance of writing both as a means of communicating information as well as a means for expressing thoughts and ideas in a poetic manner.

Professor Francesco Marroni from the University of Pescara met students of the Italian Department during a seminar *Incontro con l'autore* in which he discussed various themes developed in his novels, *Brughiere* and *Il silenzio dell'Escorial*. Professor Marroni also participated in a poetry/prose recital organised by the Departments of Italian and English in collaboration with the British Council at the Centre for Creative Arts, St. James Cavalier.

Professor Pasquino Crupi, Pro-Rector of the *Università per Stranieri*, Reggio Calabria and Professor Domenica Marra, School Director of Locri delivered a lecture on *Corrado Alvaro nel contesto della letteratura europea*.

Professor H.I. Gassmann from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada delivered two lectures entitled: *Computing multivariate normal probabilities - some new results* and *Models and algorithms in stochastic programming* when he visited the Department of Statistics & Operations Research.

The Department of Public Policy organised a public lecture by Dave Baldrige and Mario Garrett on the status of American Indians. The lecture entitled: *The Other America - American Indians: The 550 Sovereign Nations in America* traced and explored the history of this Nation-to-Nation relationship and the current status of American Indians as well as giving Demographic and health information. Dave Baldrige is a member of the Cherokee Nation and Executive Director of the *National Indian Council on Aging* in New Mexico. He also helps interpret Indian issues for U.S. Congressional sub-committees. Dr. Mario Garrett is Director of the *Data Analysis Service*, Albuquerque, New Mexico and Associate Professor, University of New Mexico.

Students from the Theatre Studies Programme gave a short performance of a play called *Yours Truly* as part of their studies. This was put on at

the theatre of the Mediterranean Institute's Theatre Programme (MITP) in St. Christopher Street, Valletta.

The 33rd annual commemoration of *Earth Day* was celebrated at the University of Malta Library with the launching of a poster exhibition on *Biodiversity: nature's vast diminishing abundance*. The posters which were loaned by the American Centre, drew attention to the fact that by the end of this century a quarter to half of the species still living on Earth could become extinct and that for the first time in the history of planet Earth, mass extinction is being precipitated by human action. The exhibition also highlighted the reasons why humans should care and what could be done to reverse this deterioration while at the same time illustrating the wealth of habitats such as rain forests, wetlands, coral reefs and oceans. The U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer, Dr. Erik Holm Olsen, inaugurated the poster exhibition.

May

The Department of Manufacturing Engineering organised a public lecture by Professor Ian Barclay from Liverpool John Moores University. The aim of the lecture was to help raise awareness about the design and manufacture of environmentally-friendly products in Maltese industry while also focussing on Sustainable Development (SD) and Design for Environment (DfE) and how these two inter-related approaches may be used for business growth and development through the application of *green design* principles.

The Lace Making Programme based at the University's Gozo Centre organised the annual *Gozo Lace Day* for the seventh consecutive year. The event consisted of talks and a number of exhibitions and demonstrations of Maltese Lace. In her introduction, the Minister for Gozo, The Hon. Giovanna Debono, praised the initiative taken by the Lace Making Programme in organising this

important event as well as conducting a number of courses on the subject. Other speeches were made by Professor Maurice Cauchi, member on the Gozo Centre Board, Ms Consiglia Azzopardi, Coordinator of the Lace Programme and Rev. J. Manicaro who delivered a talk on religious symbolism in Lace Making.

Professional Journalism & Politics: Cooperation and Boundaries was the subject of a talk delivered by Senator Paul Simon through collaboration between the Centre for Communication Technology (CCT) and the Embassy of the United States of America. Senator Simon is a former member of the US Senate and Director of the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

The Department of Italian welcomed several visitors in May: Professor Remo Ceserani from the University of Bologna delivered a seminar on *Il sogno nelle opere di Italo Calvino*; Professor Claudio Meldolesi also from DAMS, University of Bologna and Professor Laura Mariani from the University of Cassino lectured on *La storia degli attori e delle attrici: metodi ed esemplificazioni* while Professor Romano Luperini from the University of Siena delivered a lecture on *La letteratura italiana ed europea tra '800 e '900*. Finally, Professor Marie-Hélène Caspar from Paris X Nanterre gave a two-day seminar on *Dino Buzzati: Vita ed Opere*.

The Malta College of Family Doctors in collaboration with the University's Department of Family Medicine and the Department of Rheumatology, St Luke's Hospital organised its Spring 2003 Continuing Professional Development Meeting which focussed on Rheumatology. This was sponsored by *Vivian Health Care*, a Division of *Vivian Corporation*. The meeting was addressed by Professor Carmel Mallia, Dr. Bernard Coleiro, Dr. Paul Cassar, Dr. Ray Sacco, Dr. Daniel Sammut and Dr. Franco Camilleri who lectured on various Rheumatic complaints and their treatment.

The *Bioethics Consultative Committee* in conjunction with the Malta Council for Science and Technology organised a conference on *Ethics, Science & Society* at Villa Bighi, Kalkara, with the participation of leading scientists in Malta. This consisted of talks, workshops and a panel discussion and had as its invited guest speaker, Professor Judith Sandor from the Central European University (CEU), Budapest, who spoke on *Society and Genetic Information: Contemporary Challenges in Biomedical Law*.

The Manoel Theatre, the University's International Institute of Baroque Studies and the *Koperattiva Kulturali Universitarja* (KKU) organised the *Manoel Baroque Festival*. This included concerts, drama and a seminar: *Triumph over Death: a Baroque Celebration* which dealt with Baroque death themes. Talks covered a variety of topics concerning the opulent and dramatic celebration of death in the Baroque period.

Professor Estela Pereira from the *Universidade de Aveiro*, Portugal and Professor Dr. Arne Van der Gen from the *Universiteit Leiden*, The Netherlands, two ECTS/DS Counsellors, visited Malta to monitor the University's implementation of the European Credit Transfer System and to discuss issues arising out of this exercise. The visiting counsellors held meetings with senior University officials as well as with academic representatives from the University's faculties and institutes and with the European Unit.

A *Get Together* was held for some 40 members of staff who had obtained their Doctorate in various disciplines from Universities overseas as well as from the University of Malta.

The University of Malta Library was presented with a collection of manuscript Commercial Court decisions (1907-1917) belonging to the late Judge Alfredo Parnis (1860-1925). Judge Parnis, who is still considered as an authority on Commercial Law, was a member of the Bench

for the period 1907-1925 and one time professor of Commercial Law at this University. His beautifully bound 24-volume set of decisions which for many years had been in the custody of Judge Antoine Montanaro Gauci were presented to the University Library by Colonel Eric Parnis, a grandson of Judge Alfredo. The presentation ceremony also included a donation by Notary Dr. Paul Pisani of CD voice recordings of interviews carried out with his late father the Gozitan poet Gorg Pisani during television programmes. The Pisani recordings come as a valuable addition to the University Library's growing collection of voice recordings of Maltese men-of-letters which, through collaboration with the *Ghaqda tal-Malti (Universita)*, has come to include recordings of Dun Karm, Aquilina, Saydon and others.

Students of the Mediterranean Institute's Music Studies Programme coached by Professor Mro. Michael Laus gave a Recital in the Music Room, St. James Cavalier, Valletta. The Recital is a requisite in part-fulfilment of the B.A.(Honours) in Music Studies.

The Department of Statistics and Operations Research and the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, organised a lecture entitled: *An Alternative Digital Topology* which was delivered by Professor Josef Slapal from the Department of Mathematics, Brno University of Technology.

Professor Dr. Ing. Jan Vrbka, Rector, Brno University of Technology, delivered a lecture on his institution and its facilities and research programmes. He also spoke about the opportunities for student and staff exchanges with BUT.

Social Housing: A Comparative Perspective was the title of a public lecture by Professor Cyrus Vakili-Zad from the Centre for Health Promotion of the University of Toronto and organised by the Department of Public Policy. In his lecture

Professor Vakili-Zad discussed the issue of social housing in North America, Europe and Malta. In addition to his academic post, he works closely with the Toronto Community Housing Corporation, Canada's largest social housing provider. He has published extensively on the subject in international journals and has been consultant to governments in the Middle East and Director of Community Services of the Boston Housing Authority.

As part of its continuing professional development programme, the Institute of Health Care in collaboration with University College Dublin (UCD), organised a 4-day Intensive Workshop for academic staff. This Teaching and Learning Workshop, which was attended by some of the academic members of staff of both the Institute of Health Care as well as of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, sought to support academic staff in their teaching and learning role within the University. Dr Tim McMahon, Teaching Development Officer at UCD, conducted the course.

June

Established in 1978, the Faculty of Education this year celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Several events were organised to mark the occasion. Fourth year B.Ed.(Honours) students from the Department of Primary Education presented four musicals and a theatrical collective creation. These performances provided student teachers with a unique experience related to their teaching career whilst treating primary school children to an extravaganza of children's theatre. Productions included: *Il-Ggant I-Egoist*, *Viva I-Lotterija!* *The Secret Garden*, *The Pied Piper* and *L-Avventura fil-Foresta*. The students were in charge of all that a performance involves such as adapting scripts, writing lyrics to the music of popular songs, creating props to be used and directing the play. In the collective creation which was based on a

combination of fairy tales, the students were also responsible for writing an original script. Each performance was put up under the guidance of well-known children's theatre practitioners Carmel Aquilina, Mario Azzopardi and Josette Ciappara, Isabelle Gatt and Lorraine Vella. Ms Moira Azzopardi Barbieri helped out with the music.

Other activities held included a philanthropic activity in a senior citizen's home, a blood donation drive, the airing of a series of 17 radio programmes *Passi Edukattivi* on Campus FM, the launching of the Faculty's online refereed research journal, *Journal of Maltese Education Research* and a number of publications by Faculty members and two *M.Ed. Dissertation Showcase Seminars* at which postgraduate students presented their research. The Minister of Education, The Hon. Dr. Louis Galea, the University Rector, various representatives of the Maltese educational policy community and Faculty of Education staff attended these seminars.

The Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics in conjunction with the Institute of Physical Education and Sport and the Medical Commission of the Games of the Small States of Europe, organised a public lecture by Professor Joe Cumiskey from the Olympic Council of Ireland and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Medical Commission. He spoke on *Drug Doping and Sports*. He was in Malta as advisor to the Medical Commission of the GSSE which were held in Malta in the first week of June.

As the work of the Convention for Europe presided over by former French President, M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, drew to a close, a seminar entitled: *The Future of the European Union? an appraisal of the Convention for Europe* was organised by the Foundation for International Studies in conjunction with the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Belgium. This took a close look at the progress the Convention had registered as well

as the structures and *modus operandi* that would be proposed for the Europe of tomorrow. Dr. Kirsty Hughes (CEPS) spoke on *Democracy within the Convention*. The seminar formed part of the EPIN-PRINCE project and was partially funded by the European Commission.

Ernst & Young in conjunction with the *Malta Chamber of Commerce*, the *University's European Unit* and the *Malta Federation of Industry*, organised a one-day conference on the challenges and opportunities that await Malta as it prepares itself for full accession to the European Union.

For the eleventh year running, the *Edward de Bono Seminar* was held at the University in the last week of June and was conducted by Lateral Thinker, Professor Edward de Bono himself. Some one hundred participants from eight different countries attended.

The Gozo Centre organised short courses in *Sage – the Accounting Package*, *Principles of Industrial Hydraulics and Fire Engineering*, *Applied business statistics for management*, *The challenges of today's families* and *Power electronics and electric drives* as well as courses on *Coping with negative emotions* and the *Basis of Medicine*. Through covering various issues including cancer, diabetes, heart disease, hereditary disease, AIDS, cloning and DNA, the aim of this latter course was to provide a basic understanding of the fundamental aspects of modern medicine. A one-day seminar on *Childhood and Adult Immunisation - An Update* was also held.

The Economics Department organized the final meeting of *the Euro Module Dissemination Project*. This is financed by the European Commission and there are eight participating universities from France, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, Romania, Hungary, Latvia and Malta. The aim of the project is to draw up a course module of relevance to different countries

including those already within the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), EU member states which are still outside the Eurozone and applicant countries that will be joining EMU some time after accession.

During exam time, the University Counselling Services in collaboration with the Department of Social Policy and Social Work conducted a pilot project within the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy (FEMA) designed to help students overcome exam stress and so function better during exams. Half-hour group relaxation sessions were held and it is hoped that similar sessions will be offered next year to students in other faculties.

Cartwheel: An art exhibition organised by *Koperattiva Kulturali Universitarja (KKU)* in collaboration with BoV Club & Kinnie was mounted in the Foyer of the Temi Zammit Hall.

A three-week Summer School introducing the Near East furnished participants with an overview of various cultural aspects – such as archaeology, history, religion and literature - of Semitic and other Near Eastern societies. The language lectures provided a good introduction to the structure of the major Semitic languages used in the region while the civilisations of Ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Syria-Palestine and the Phoenicians demonstrated how major feats in the history of civilisation originated in the Near East.

The Department of Statistics & Operations Research, Faculty of Science, held a seminar during which final year students presented research contained in their dissertations.

Visiting External Examiners from overseas universities were in Malta to examine in various disciplines. The University of Malta has had this system in place for over forty years as part of its quality audit structure.

Final year B.Sc.I.T.(Honours) students mounted the annual IT exhibition of projects which they present as a requisite for the degree. The Hon. Dr Austin Gatt, Minister for Information Technology and Investment, opened the exhibition.

Professor S. Standing, Professor of Experimental Neurobiology, GKT School of Medicine, presented the annual *Anatomy Projects Awards* to medical and dental students of the II year Intermediate course. Prizes were awarded to Samuel Aquilina, Kevin Borg and Charlene Farrugia for a project on *The lumbar plexus* and to Alison Fava and Kristian Micallef who submitted a project entitled: *Deep dissection of the palmar aspect of the hand and wrist and The radiological appearance of the hand and wrist with age*. Professor Standing was in Malta as visiting External Examiner.

HE the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Mr. Valentin S. Vlasov presented the University Library with a set of works by the Russian writer Maxim Gorky, pen name of Aleksey Maximovich Peshkov (1868-1936). The presentation comes as a valuable addition to the Library's growing collection of Russian studies texts.

An International Summer School in Heat Treatment and Surface Engineering was organised for local technicians by the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering which is one of the partners in a Pilot Project aimed to prototype an integrated modular system of self-instruction and teaching in the multidisciplinary and industrially critical field of surface engineering. An important feature of the project is the emphasis on providing access to learning at the undergraduate, postgraduate and technological / technician level, Europe-wide accreditation and certification of material and programme. The project has as partners various universities, SMEs, multinationals and institutions such as the Institute of Materials, Mining and Minerals and the International Federation of Heat Treatment and Surface Engineering.

In the introductory stage of the project and as part of the department's commitment to support industry, a group of twenty technicians from ST Microelectronics were given 40 hours of lectures as a background on Materials and more specifically heat treatment and surface engineering. This was followed by a five day full time summer school hosted by the Department of Metallurgy and Materials. Speakers of international repute were invited to give lectures on the various processes. Emphasis was made on how surface engineering could reduce tooling cost and improve productivity and quality of the final product. Lectures were supplemented by practical sessions held in the department's state of the art workshops.

July

Final year B.Eng.(Honours) students mounted the annual engineering projects exhibition which they present as a pre-requisite for the conferment of the degree. HE Professor Guido de Marco, President of Malta, inaugurated the exhibition.

The *European Society of Clinical Pharmacy* in collaboration with the Department of Pharmacy held the 3rd Course in Clinical Pharmacy for clinical pharmacists and clinical teachers which focussed on patient-centred teaching. The aim of the course was to provide participants with an opportunity to develop patient-centred teaching and/or practice skills in a clinical environment through feedback from experienced tutors and clinical practitioners. Over thirty participants from some seven countries attended the course which had an international teaching faculty.

Ruin or Restore? was the title of a seminar on conservation problems which discussed different approaches to conservation and conservation education. The evening seminar was organised by the Institute for Conservation and Restoration Studies at the Malta Centre for Restoration whose

degree courses are regulated by the University of Malta.

The Cleaner Technology Centre in conjunction with the Malta Environment and Planning Authority organised a seminar entitled: *Surviving Ozone Depleting Substance Phase Out*. Participants were explained the implications of Directive EC 2037/2000 and how it affects users of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs).

The opening of a Cartoon Exhibition by the Hon. Jesmond Mugliett, Minister for Youth and the Arts, launched the eleventh edition of *Evenings on Campus* which is organised by the *Koperattiva Kulturali Universitarja* and the University's Precincts Office. The annual festival also included a film garden as well as musical performances and a literary evening.

During the long summer holidays, the *University Summer School* again provided an interesting and varied *Kids on Campus Programme* between mid-July and early September for children aged three to ten.

August

The Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, presented certificates to over 170 participants who had followed various courses at the University Gozo Centre between December 2002 and July 2003. This month, the Centre also organised its annual summer activity which took place in the Central Courtyard. This was entitled: *An Evening with Four Eurovision Singers* and included the participation of Lynn Chircop, Ira Losco, Miriam Christine and Claudette Pace.

The *Association for Teachers Education in Europe* (ATEE) held its 28th international conference at the University of Malta. The conference which was opened by the Hon. Dr. Louis Galea, Minister for Education, discussed the theme *Becoming*

teachers in a learning organisation – meeting the challenges of the learning society. Some 300 experts in the field of teacher training from 55 different countries mainly in Europe, attended.

September

Between the end of August and mid-September, a dental team made up of members of staff and students from the Faculty of Dental Surgery together with general dental practitioners made *Smile for Albania's* ninth visit to Korçe since 1994. The society provides humanitarian dental care to school children in Korçe, Albania.

Analyzing Microarray Data: An opportunity for fruitful collaboration between Biology, Cognitive Psychology, Computer Science, Statistics and Computational Linguistics was the title of a seminar conducted by George S. Davidson from the Computation, Computers, Information & Mathematics Department, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. He looked at the ways in which new technologies have created a problem-solving environment and facilitated the analysis of data. In particular, he examined the Genome Literature Exploration Environment (GLEE), which was built in collaboration with Natural Language Processing (NLP) researchers at New Mexico State University.

The Department of Economics and the Islands and Small States Institute organised a training workshop on *Competitiveness Strategies for Small States* sponsored by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation of the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Malta Cooperation Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Thirty adult educators from different parts of the Mediterranean attended the second in the series of meetings on lifelong learning in the Mediterranean organized by the Institute for International Cooperation (IIZ) of the German Adult

Education Association (DVV) with support from the University of Malta's Faculty of Education. Countries represented included Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Serbia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. The conference focussed on three main themes: notably those of motivation in adult learning with respect to the Mediterranean; adult education and multi-ethnicity and North-South/South-North relations in adult education.

The new academic year started for the student body with over 3000 students who had registered for undergraduate and postgraduate courses in various disciplines also embarking on or continuing their university careers. The new intake brought the total student population to just under 10,000. The pre-tertiary Junior College also registered a substantial intake this year.

October

The Languages Departments of the Faculty of Arts and the Institute of Linguistics launched a 2 year part-time Postgraduate Diploma course in Translation and Interpreting. The need for such specialisation is fast emerging not only in Malta but also in the EU countries. Mr Joris Goetschalckx, Head of the Translation Field Office of the European Commission was present for the occasion. Over 80 students applied and qualified for the course.

Gordon Mair from the Department of Design, Manufacturing and Engineering Management, University of Strathclyde gave a lecture entitled: *Towards Transparent Telepresence.*

Professor Jerker Blomqvist, Professor of Greek Language and Literature at Lund University gave a series of lectures related to his field of specialisation when he visited the Department of Classics and Archaeology.

The Mediterranean Sea: How it works and lives was the subject of a one-day seminar organised by the University of Malta Gozo Centre.

Dr Frauke Zipp from the Institute of Neuroimmunology, Neuroscience Research Centre, Charité University, Berlin, Germany, visited the Department of Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics. During her stay she lectured on *New aspects in pathology and therapy of Multiple Sclerosis*.

The first *Philosophy Society Meeting* of the new academic year was addressed by Professor Alfred Cuschieri, a geneticist, who spoke on *Cloning and the evolution of asexual propagation*. Professor Emmanuel Agius, an ethicist, opened the discussion.

Professor Godfrey Wettinger gave the eleventh in the series of public lectures established by the late Professor Joseph Galea. His talk was entitled: *Kliem Malti qadim u t-tifsir tieghu mill-Arkivji ta' Malta u Sqallija fiz-zmien Nofsani*.

Dr Penelope Harnett, Senior Principal Lecturer, University of West England, Bristol, gave the second annual *Michael A. Sant Memorial Lecture* under the auspices of the Faculty of Education. She spoke on *Issues in History Education: Curriculum Planning and Developing Children's Historical Understanding*.

The Faculty of Economics, Management & Accountancy organised a public lecture by Dr Mario Vella under the distinguished patronage of the Ambassador of the United States of America, H.E. Anthony H. Gioia. Dr Vella spoke on *Walt Whitman Rostow (1916-2003): beyond the 'stages of development' debate*.

The Foundation for Human Resources Development, the Malta Employers' Association and the University's Workers' Participation Development Centre with the support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation organized a breakfast

seminar on *Persons with Disability in the Workplace*.

The Valletta Rehabilitation Project, the University of Malta, Heritage Malta and other partners sponsored an international seminar on the brilliant Maltese sculptor Melchiorre Cafà (Gafa) (1636-1667). The most renowned international scholars on Italian Baroque Sculpture participated in the seminar: *Melchiorre Cafà: Maltese Genius of the Roman Baroque* which was convened by Dr Keith Sciberras from the University's Art Programme.

H.E. the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Mr. Valentin S. Vlasov presented the University Library with back numbers of the prestigious journal *Science in Russia* published by the Russian Academy of Sciences.

November

The November meeting of the *Malta Mathematical Society* featured an entertaining mathematical magic show by well known conjurer Karl Spiteri who combined mathematical principles with magic, to shed some light on the various conjuring tricks performed.

The Institute of Health Care in collaboration with the Health Division, organised a one-day symposium entitled *Working Together to Attain Excellence in the Health Care Professions*. The guest speakers were Dr Carol Borrill from Aston University and Professor Clive Mulholland from the University of Ulster. IHC graduates presented their research findings which are of relevance to the Maltese health sector.

Caretranslate, an international network among service providers and universities in ten countries of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, of which the University's Department of Social Policy and Social Work is one of its two coordinators in Malta, together with the *Mental Health Commission, Richmond Foundation* and *Sedqa*

organised a seminar entitled: *Working together for early intervention in psychosis* which sought to show how better understanding and support from the community can soften the impact of a first encounter with psychosis.

Professor Dr Mathijs Lamberigts, Dean, Faculty of Theology, Catholic University of Leuven, was in Malta as visiting guest lecturer for the *7th Annual Saint Augustine Lecture Series* organised by the Faculty of Theology, the Maltese Augustinian Province and the Foundation for Theological Studies. His theme was *St Augustine of Hippo: Preaching Conversion in daily life*. He also addressed *The Philosophy Society*.

Students and staff from the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, presented ideas from various fields of mathematics at the *Collection VIII* workshop.

The Geography Programme welcomed Dr Derek R. Hall, Professor of Regional Development, SAC, Auchincruive, Scotland, UK who was visiting lecturer in Geography during November. He lectured on rural change, leisure and tourism while Dr. Klaus Frantz from the University of Innsbruck gave a lecture entitled: *The Privatisation of the City: Gated Communities*.

Mohamed Sid-Ahmed, veteran Egyptian commentator for *Al-Ahram* and *Le Monde Diplomatique* on the Arab-Israeli conflict, lectured on the Media and the Arab World under the auspices of the Anthropology Programme.

For the third year running, the University's *Campus FM* was the radio station that won the largest number of *Broadcasting Authority Awards* for the best programmes broadcast over the previous year. *Campus FM* which broadcasts on the frequency 103.7 FM again won the educational category with its *Banking in the EU* series presented by John Consiglio. *Sportsfile* produced by Celaine Buhagiar and Daphne Cassar received special mention for its excellence and high

standard which no other programme in this section was considered to attain. For the second consecutive year, the Station also won the prize for Gender Awareness and was praised for the manner in which it promotes equality not only through the programmes broadcast but also by its internal policies.

The University's *European Unit* organised a one-day seminar which discussed the role of Education and Training in the harmonisation of an enlarged Europe.

Chinese students on campus organised *China Days*. This included the screening of the film *In the Mood for Love* directed by Wong Karwai and a display of Chinese culture comprising acupuncture demonstrations, a fashion show, talks about travelling in China as well as singing and instrumental pieces played on traditional Chinese instruments.

On the occasion of Graduation 2003 a Mass of Thanksgiving was held at St. John's Co-Cathedral celebrated by H.G. The Metropolitan Archbishop of Malta. Over 2000 students graduated in various disciplines in the course of a number of ceremonies.

The Faculty of Laws' Masters in Human Rights and Democratisation Programme organised an international conference on *Human Rights and the Treatment of Asylum Seekers* at the *Aula Magna* of the Foundation for International Studies. The University has been entrusted to coordinate this course by the European Commission as part of a network in conjunction with universities and Human Rights Institutes from around the Mediterranean Basin as well as in Sweden, Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland and Australia.

The Devious Tranquillity of the Text - Other Perspectives on Maltese Literature was the title of a public seminar on literature organised by the Department of Maltese, Junior College with the

participation of Sinead Morrissey, the Northern Irish poet. Her participation was made possible by the British Council and *Inizjamed* in collaboration with St. James Cavalier Centre for Creativity. She discussed the theme *Why Teach Literature*. Dr. Gorg Mifsud-Chircop, Mr. Immanuel Mifsud, Mr. Mario Cassar, Dr. Marco Galea and Dr. Adrian Grima also addressed the seminar.

The Islands and Small States Institute organised an international conference on sustainability indicators.

December

The *Fifth Maltese Medical School Conference* was held at the Intercontinental Hotel, St Julian's organised by the Continuing Medical Education Committee of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. Invited guest speakers from overseas gave keynote addresses while local participants discussed their research findings. Recent advances in most disciplines and original and scientific contributions in both basic science and clinical research were presented, the conference themes having been set deliberately broad so as to attract multiple interests, ranging from internal medicine and the major disciplines, to maintaining quality of care. An exhibition of pharmaceuticals and medically related items was also mounted.

To coincide with the conference, *MCOs in Pharmacy Practice* edited by Dr Lilian M. Azzopardi and published by The Pharmaceutical Press was launched by the Rector and the Minister of Health, The Hon. Dr. Louis Deguara, in the presence of Dr Gillian Hawksworth, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

Professor Carol Black, President of The Royal College of Physicians, London delivered *The Ralph Arrigo Lecture*. She spoke on *The impact of the European Union on British Medicine*.

Dr Theresa Vann, Visiting Guest Lecturer of the Library and Information Studies Programme, gave an introductory course on Archival Research in Malta. Dr Vann is Curator of the Malta Study Center, Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, St John's University, Collegeville Minnesota, USA.

The Malta Council for Science & Technology (MCST) in collaboration with the University's European Unit organised an Information meeting with the theme: *Opportunities for Research & Training with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre*. This aimed at briefing the local scientific and technical communities on the role of the JRC in supporting the development and implementation of community policy in areas of JRC competence.

The Theology Students' Association (TSA) organised its annual Charity Fund Raising Campaign on Campus to raise funds for a Preventive Care programme to help families that are in a poor financial situation to raise their children.

The Hon. Mr George Pullicino, Minister for Rural Affairs and The Environment, opened the *Annual Biology Symposium* which was organized by the Department of Biology in collaboration with the Environment Protection Directorate of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority.

The *University Vocal Ensemble* and the *Collegium Musicum* under the direction of Dr Mro Dion Buhagiar, held their annual Christmas Concert in St. John's Co-Cathedral.

The MKSU (University Students Catholic Movement) hosted an Organ Donation and Blood Marathon campaign in collaboration with the University Chaplaincy and the Malta Medical Students Association.

The second part of the M.Ed. Dissertation Showcase was held as part of the activities marking the Faculty of Education's 25th

Anniversary. A selection of M.Ed. graduates who submitted their M.Ed. thesis since 2000 gave presentations.

On the 55th Anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the Mediterranean Masters in Human Rights and Democratisation Programme organised a public awareness campaign on campus and a public seminar at which selected articles were presented. The seminar which was chaired by The Hon. Mr. Justice Tonio Mallia and Professor Ian Refalo, Dean of the Faculty of Laws, laid particular emphasis on Article 5 – *Prohibition from Torture*.

The Cassar Pullicino family presented the University Library with a portrait in oils of former Librarian and folklore scholar Guze' Cassar Pullicino. The presentation took place during an evening in honour of Mr. Cassar Pullicino which included folk music, readings from his works, the launching of a new edition of the author's *Haga mohgaga u tahbil il-mohh iehor* and the opening of an exhibition covering his career. The ceremony, was organized in conjunction with the *Ghaqda tal-Malti (Università)*.

The Ambassador of the United States of America, H.E. Mr. Anthony Gioia, presented the University Library with a second instalment of the prestigious *Library of America* series, covering the best in American literature, politics, history, and journalism, from George Washington to the Vietnam War. The University Library has been one of a 100 institutions nominated for this award by American embassies worldwide.