

Round-Up 2004

January

The Malta Centre for Restoration and the University's Institute for Masonry and Construction Research organized a Management Meeting of the European Programme COST Action G8 *Non-destructive analysis and testing of museum objects*. Within this framework, a one-day workshop was held, entitled: *Benefits of non-destructive analytical techniques for conservation* with presentations by well known European experts in the field.

Dr Karl Gwinnutt, Consultant Anaesthetist, Hope Hospital, Manchester, UK was visiting lecturer in the Department of Surgery. In the course of his visit he gave a public lecture on *Current Concepts in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation* as well as lecturing medical students on the *Management of the trauma patient* while the subject of a specialist lecture for anaesthetists was *Anaesthesia for total hip replacement surgery*.

The International Ocean Institute - Malta Operational Centre in collaboration with the Malta Council for Science and Technology, organised a half-day seminar at the Corinthia San Gorg, St. Julian's entitled: *Trends in Marine Research and related developments - a challenge for Malta and its role in the Mediterranean*. The seminar sought to give an overview of the key issues and trends in Malta concerning marine research and related developments in marine affairs while assessing the potential role of Malta in the Mediterranean.

The Faculty of Education held its annual seminar: *Our Educators Our Future* which looked at trends in education and discussed the Faculty's draft strategic plan and models for future pre-service teacher training.

The *Teatro Vivo* (Cotignola, Ravenna) gave two *Commedia dell'Arte* performances: *Comici e Capocomici nella Commedia dell'Arte* directed by

Carlo Boso. This was part of the *Europa in Maschera* project which was brought to Malta by Theatre Traffic (a group which operates under the umbrella of the Mediterranean Institute's Theatre Programme (MITP)), in collaboration with the Manoel Theatre.

Professor Robin Trew and Professor Eyvor Fogarty from the University of Westminster in London conducted a week-long in-service training course for language lecturers in the Faculty of Arts as part of the Diploma in Translation and Interpretation course. This focussed on *Bilingual Translation and Technical and Specialised Translation*. Their visit was sponsored by the British High Commission.

Professor Franco Lanza from *the Università degli Studi della Tuscia* at Viterbo and former Head of the Department of Italian at the University of Malta presented the University Library with a 17th century manuscript *Passionario* attributed to the Rev. Diego Grima, a Cathedral choir chaplain who lived between 1674 and 1723. The *Passionario*, which originally belonged to the late Dr. Victor Captur, gives a dramatic representation of the Gospel narrative of the passion and death of Christ and is basically a late rendering of a long-standing literary tradition going back to medieval times. From a philological point of view, the Grima text is particularly interesting in the contrasts between the polished Tuscan Italian as spoken by the leading characters of the narrative, and the dialectal rendering of lower class apostles, the crowd and the holy women.

Every year, the Junior College Biology, Philosophy and Physics Departments organise Weekend Seminars for students studying these subjects at Advanced Level. These are normally held at some hotel or other venue external to the College and students are accompanied by three members of staff. The Philosophy department chose the topical issue *Understanding the Refugee* for their weekend seminar held in January. The 2004 Biology Seminar held in March dealt with *Bioethics* while

at a value education weekend held in November by the Physics department *The Impact of Scientific Discoveries' on Society* was discussed.

February

Professor Luigi De Anna from the University of Turku, Finland, delivered a lecture on *Language and Identity in the Literature of Finland* when he visited the Department of Italian in early February. Having been subjected to domination by foreign powers, various parallels can be drawn between Finland and Malta.

Dr Jason Lamprianou, CFAS, School of Education, University of Manchester, was invited to conduct a workshop which served as a practical introduction to test/questionnaire development and analysis using Rasch models: Instrument development, Test equating and Disagreement of Markers. This was organised by the Institute for Physical Education and Sport in collaboration with the Faculty of Education.

4th year Accountancy students organised a seminar entitled: *Management Accounting Practices in the New Millennium: An overview of the scenario/s unfolding in our island home*. After having conducted a detailed analysis of the Management accounting practices within a number of local firms chosen from various sectors of the economy, the students presented their findings to the audience. The presentations focussed mainly on a description and evaluation of the traditional and contemporary Management Accounting techniques used by local concerns to gather the quantitative and qualitative information required to aid management in areas of decision-making, planning and control. The event was sponsored by KPMG, HSBC and APS Bank. The Association of Students of Commercial Studies (ASCS), the Faculty of Economics, Management & Accountancy's student organisation, also supported this event.

Angelo Dalli and Nicholas Sultana, two members of the Department of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, each received a T-shirt bearing the inscription "Microsoft Genius," free software and a letter inviting them to participate in Stage 2 of the *Microsoft Imagine Cup UK*. Out of all UK participants, 150 pass stage 1 into stage 2. Angelo Dalli is reading for a PhD at the University of Sheffield, whilst Nicholas Sultana, a third-year undergraduate reading for a BSc IT (Hons) degree was on a Socrates exchange at the University of Kent.

The Islands and Small States Institute, Foundation for International Studies, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the University's Economics Department organised a symposium on Economic Competitiveness on the occasion of the launching of a recently published book entitled: *Maximising Malta's Competitiveness Potential*. The book is the outcome of a collaborative project between the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Government of Malta and the University of Malta. It draws on very useful contributions by a number of business organisations, employee unions, public officials and individuals interested in economic competitiveness issues and can be considered as a case study in promoting constructive social dialogue on an issue of major importance for small states.

Professor Alain Blondy, professor of History at the *Université de Paris-Sorbonne* (Paris IV) gave a series of lectures under the general title *Histoire de la France*. The aim of these lectures was to provide background knowledge of the evolution of France in order to better situate its literature, philosophy and art in a historical context.

Madame Lise Sabourin, Professor of French Literature at the *Université Nancy II* and a specialist in 19th and 20th century French poetry in which field she has published a number of books and articles, gave a lecture which focussed on the period from Baudelaire to Lautréamont.

This was organised on the initiative of the *Conseillère de Coopération et d'Action Culturelle* and Director of the *Alliance Française de Malte*, Madame Anne Lewis-Loubignac in collaboration with the Department of French.

The History of Art Programme within the Faculty of Arts, in collaboration with the Embassy of the Italian Republic and the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura* welcomed Professor Pier Paolo Pancotto from the Università *La Sapienza*, Rome as visiting guest lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Italian Art. In addition to his academic association with several Italian Universities, he is advisor to the *Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna*, Rome and is a leading art critic and historian.

The Malta College of Pathologists in conjunction with the University's Department of Pathology organised a dinner at the Malta Hilton on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Foundation of the College. The guest speaker was Dr. Natasha Muscat Azzopardi and her presentation which was entitled *Malta: A member state of the European Union – Implications for Pathologists* engendered much discussion.

Malta born Professor David Plowman from the Graduate School of Management at the University of Western Australia gave a public lecture entitled: *Echoes of a Distant Policy: Child Migration from Malta* under the auspices of the Department of Public Policy, Faculty of Economics, Management & Accountancy. This is the story of hundreds of children who were migrated from Malta without their consent and sent to institutions in Australia during the 1950s. It was a policy that originated in Britain and which has been making the headlines in the past two years as these former child migrants make their voices heard. Professor Plowman was himself a child migrant from Malta and today chairs the association of Child Migrants of Malta in Australia. His latest publication, *Enduring Struggle*, deals with the history of the child migration institution in Western Australia which he attended. In addition, he is a

distinguished academic who has held a number of teaching positions at several universities in Australia. He has published extensively in the field of industrial relations which is his area of specialisation.

Under the auspices of the Department of Italian in conjunction with the Italian Cultural Institute, Professor Massimo Vedovelli from the *Università Per Stranieri di Siena* lectured on *La linguistica acquisizionale vs Glottodidattica*.

The 8th Annual Work in Progress Seminar Series was launched and had as its main theme *Understanding Cultural Diversity*.

On the occasion of her state visit to Malta, H.E. Professor Vaira Vike Freiberga, President of the Republic of Latvia, gave a lecture entitled: *The Role of Small Member States in an expanded E.U.* at the Aula Magna, Foundation for International Studies.

Launch of applications for students interested in participating in the Socrates-Erasmus Programme during the academic year 2004/5. Each year the number of beneficiaries has increased and this year some 400 placements were available for University of Malta students to choose from. The activity was addressed by the Hon. Dr. Louis Galea, Minister of Education who also gave information about Malta's participation in the *Tempus* and *Erasmus Mundus* Programmes.

H.E. Mr Neil Kinnock, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner Responsible for Administration Reform, lectured at the University on *Malta, the European Commission and Enlargement* when he visited Malta.

The Institute for Masonry and Construction Research welcomed Professor May Cassar, Director of the UCL Centre for Sustainable Heritage, and Dr Nigel Blades, Development Officer, as Visiting Lecturers within the programme

leading to the award of an M.Sc. in Conservation Technology for Masonry Buildings. This visit involved three days of intensive lectures, discussions and practicals for the postgraduate students attending the course. Practical sessions with Dr Blades included the monitoring of NO₂ inside and outside the Old University Building in Valletta, with the kind permission of *Heritage Malta*, whose headquarters are based there. During her visit, Professor Cassar also gave a Public Lecture at the headquarters of Heritage Malta on *Rethinking Conservation*. This well attended lecture discussed whether the interpretation of conservation needed to be more inclusive; that the barriers between the conservation of the built heritage and the natural environment are artificial and that conservation of the whole context - the cultural landscape is a far more appropriate interpretation of what we do.

The Institute also had the pleasure of welcoming Professor Lorenzo Lazzarini from the *Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia*, Italy (IUAV), who also lectured within the postgraduate programme run by the Institute. Professor Lazzarini is a specialist in Applied Petrography at the IUAV and Director of the *Laboratorio di Analisi dei Materiali Antichi* (L.A.M.A.) of the same Institute. During his visit, Professor Lazzarini gave lectures to the Institute's postgraduate students on processes of stone deterioration. He also gave a Public Lecture on *The most important coloured marbles used by the Romans*. A member of the Scientific Council of the Association for the Study of Marbles and other Stones in Antiquity (ASMOSIA), Professor Lazzarini is internationally known as one of the foremost experts in the study of Roman marble. His lecture, organised in collaboration with *Heritage Malta*, was extremely well attended. A magnificent journey, lasting almost two hours, took the audience to ancient monuments built by the Romans, to the numerous quarries of coloured marble situated all around the Mediterranean and which were used by the Romans and to the Classical Period when Roman marble was extensively reused.

H.E. Professor Guido de Marco, President of Malta delivered the Inaugural Lecture of the Institute for Maltese Studies which had as its title: *My Vision of Malta*. The Institute for Maltese Studies, set up as an interfaculty initiative, is one of the newer entities of the University of Malta. Its chief objective is to promote the pursuit of interdisciplinary academic studies and research on various aspects of Maltese culture and civilization in their widest manifestations. In this way, it hopes to serve as a focal centre for both local and foreign scholars involved in such research.

Dr John A. Schembri from the University's Geography Programme, Mediterranean Institute gave a talk on: *Historical Geography of Settlements in Malta* under the auspices of the *Malta Geographical Society*.

Professor Ivan Gutman from the University of Kragujevac, Serbia & Montenegro lectured to students and staff of the Departments of Mathematics and Chemistry on the History of the Interplay between Mathematics and Chemistry; Applications of Graph Spectral Theory in Chemistry and Chemical Applications of Graph Theory.

Professor François Moureau, professor of eighteenth-century French literature at the *Université de Paris-Sorbonne* (Paris IV) and Director of the *Centre de Recherche sur la littérature des voyages* (CRLV) gave a series of lectures in French under the general title *La Littérature française du Siècle des Lumières*.

A workshop for Theatre Studies students was held. This was conducted by Luca Silvestrini, choreographer of *Publife*, coordinated by *Koperattiva Kulturali Universitarja* in collaboration with Dr Giselle Miggiani and Dr Vicki Ann Cremona of the Theatre Studies Programme.

Dott. Giulio Selvaggi and Roberto Devoti, from the *Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia*

(INGV) Rome, delivered a presentation entitled: *GPS constraints on the present-day kinematics of the Tyrrhenian Sea and surrounding regions*. The seminar was held in connection with the installation of a fixed GPS station on Malta as part of a Central Mediterranean network designed to study plate motions in this region and also included a talk about larger scale application of GPS regarding global scale problems.

The Mediterranean Master's in Human Rights and Democratisation Programme organised an International Conference on Women's Human Rights: *Women in the Southern Mediterranean - Human Rights Issues in Islamic-Culture Countries*.

Once again the Department of Maths, Science & Technical Education, Faculty of Education, hosted the *DMSTE Dissertation Showcase 2004*. The annual event is an opportunity to share the research projects of B.Ed.(Hons) students with the local educational community. It also provides a bank of ideas for students who are either thinking about a dissertation proposal or who are already engaged in a research project. This year's research themes included: an agriculture education educational pack; nutritional knowledge and practices of secondary school students; a geography teacher's resource pack; the investigative component in home economics; a portfolio for science teachers; 6th form students' and teachers' views of mathematics; computer teacher certificate courses in Malta and the US; students' achievement and science curricula; an environmental education software package; and teaching physics through history.

Margaret E. Melun, Information Resource Officer, United States Department of State gave two talks *Being a Librarian in the 21st Century* and *The Library of Congress: how it can be useful to Maltese Librarians* under the auspices of the University of Malta Library and the University's Division of Library & Information Studies, CCT, in association with the American Centre.

A cooperation agreement between the University of Malta and the Anhalt University of Applied Sciences, Germany was signed by the Rector of the University of Malta, Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef and the vice-President of Anhalt University, Professor Leo Schwaiger. This covers cooperation in the fields of landscape architecture, geographic information systems (GIS) and their application in Environmental Planning and Architecture and also comprises the exchange of information regarding teaching and research, staff and student exchanges and mutual academic support in identified areas of planning and architecture. Present at the signing of the co-operation agreement were Professor Denis De Lucca, head of the Department of Architecture and Urban Design and Director of the International Institute for Baroque Studies, Professor Erich Buhmann, Director of the Masters course of Landscape Architecture at Anhalt University and Professor Andrea Haase, architect and city planner, who teaches Architecture in the Department of Architecture, Anhalt University.

A group of visitors from the *Japan-Malta Friendship Association* of Tokyo led by Mrs. Kazuko Sugimoto called at the University Library to present a number of books on Japanese life and culture, in an effort to promote a greater understanding of Japan in Malta. The twenty-four members of the group were on one of their biennial visits to Malta and were accompanied by the founder of the *Maltese Friends of Japan Association*, Mr. Edward Sammut.

Ms. M. A. Sacco Peterson, an Occupational Therapist from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm lectured on *Struggles for Autonomy in Self-care: The Impact of the Physical and Socio-Cultural Environment in a Long Term care Setting* when she visited the Institute of Health Care.

At the invitation of the Department of Economics at the Junior College, Professor Knut Hanson, Lecturer in Computing & I.T from Hogskolen I.

Buskerud in Norway, spent 6 weeks attached to the College lecturing in Computing.

March

The Institute for Masonry and Construction Research welcomed as visiting lecturer another international expert, Ms Sandra Davison, an authority on glass conservation and author of the definitive work *Conservation and Restoration of Glass*. During her visit, Ms Davison gave lectures to the Institute's postgraduate students on the use, deterioration and conservation of ceramics and glass in ancient and historic buildings. The teaching sessions were followed by discussions on particular case studies (e.g. The Cosmati Pavement of Westminster Abbey and the medieval floor in the Tower of London). Ms Davison also gave a Public Lecture organised by the Institute in collaboration with *Heritage Malta*. The lecture, *The Conservation and Restoration of Vessel Glass* illustrated in detail how glass objects, ranging from those recovered from archaeological excavations to historic items such as candlesticks, chandeliers and even a light bulb can be restored.

The 2004 Pharmacy Symposium, entitled: *A degree in Pharmacy - a key to improve lives* was held at the University. Forty-three final year students gave a presentation on the findings of their undergraduate project.

Under the auspices of *Din l-Art Helwa*, Professor Peter Vassallo, Head of the Department of English, delivered a public lecture entitled: *Confined to the Lazaretto: Byron and Newman in quarantine in early 19th century Malta*.

The Socrates-Erasmus Thematic Network organised a two-day *Mediterranean South East Dialogue Workshop* in collaboration with the Faculty of Laws.

To mark *2nd European University Day* the University Chaplaincy participated in a satellite

connection with University Chaplaincies of most of the countries joining the European Union. His Grace Archbishop Mgr. Joseph Mercieca presided over Malta's prayer.

Dr Amr Mabrouk, an Associate Professor of Plastic Surgery in *Ain Shams* University who has a special interest in Coptic and Islamic architecture, gave a series of lectures including one entitled: *The Glory of Cairo*. His interest in this field is closely linked to the profession he carries out on a daily basis. He sees the validity of combining aesthetic beauty and structure with human appearance. Dr Mabrouk lectures in Egyptian History and contributes regular articles to *Al-Ahram* Newspaper in Cairo. Dr. Mabrouk's visit was organised by the Ministry of Education.

At the invitation of Professor Joe Eynaud, course coordinator, Professor Claudia Monacelli from Rome's *San Pio V* University conducted a week's course on *Consecutive Interpretation* while Professor J.R. Gerard from Mulhouse University in France conducted practical lectures for students and staff of the Postgraduate Diploma in Translation and Interpreting.

To celebrate *International Women's Day*, *The Women's Study Group* organised a seminar on *Women in Decision-Making*. The Group works towards developing consciousness regarding women's social conditions and strives to achieve women's full participation in all aspects of economic, social and political life.

The Theology Students' Association organised the Annual *Conference* in honour of St Thomas Aquinas. The guest speaker for this year's academic evening was Professor Jos Jannsens sj, professor of Christian Archaeology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. He spoke on *Space in the Paleochristian Basilica: lights and colours*.

Professor Tim Lang, Professor of Food Policy at the Department of Health Management and Food

Policy, Institute of Health Sciences, City University, London, UK gave a public lecture on *Food Policy Challenges for Malta on entering the EU* under the auspices of the Institute of Health Care while Professor Peter Jarvis, Professor of Continuing Education at the University of Surrey and adjunct Professor of Adult Education at the University of Georgia, U.S.A. gave a public lecture on *Practitioner Research*. He also addressed the *Philosophy Society*, the title of his intervention being *Towards a Philosophy of Human Learning: an Existential Perspective*.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the EUROCENTRE at the University of Malta Junior College, an international meeting of students and teachers from seven European countries including Malta was held. The seminar had as its theme: *Youth for a New Europe – Making a Difference*. This initiative was supported by the European Union Programmes Unit within the Ministry of Education and the University's Socrates Office. The EUROCENTRE is to be responsible for the coordination of all E.U. programmes at the College.

Professor Bert De Vroom, Associate Professor in Sociology at the School of Business Public Administration and Technology University of Twente, The Netherlands gave a public lecture on *Ageing and Work: Concepts, Trends and Policies* under the auspices of the *European Centre for Gerontology*.

Professor Jean-Michel Delacomptée of the *Université Vincennes-Saint-Denis* (Paris 8), gave a series of lectures in French under the general title: *L'Art du portrait dans les lettres françaises au XVIIIe siècle* organised by the Department of French and the Embassy of France

Bank of Valletta once again sponsored the academic awards for the *Arts Dean's List 2004*. To feature in the Dean's List, students must achieve high grades and have completed 40

credits with straight "A's". Recipients of the award this year were Ms Jeannine Debattista, Ms Marija Grech, Mr Dennis Mizzi and Mr Justin Schembri who received book tokens whilst Ms Marija Grech, who was chosen by lot, was also presented with a study grant of Lm 200. Present at the ceremony were Mr Paul Gauci, Head of Training & Development at Bank of Valletta, Professor Dominic Fenech, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef, Rector of the University of Malta.

The Cleaner Technology Centre of Malta University Services Ltd. in collaboration with *WasteServ Malta Ltd.* organised a half-day seminar entitled: *Waste Separation: What's the Big Deal?!* Officials from WasteServ Malta and the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment highlighted practical information on Sustainable Waste Management and its legal and economic implications. A case study of a local industry practising waste separation was also presented.

Dr. Irene Sciriha organised the *IX Collection* workshop at which established and potential mathematicians shared their discoveries. At such meetings, new ideas and counter examples to published results are presented while new problems are posed. Proceedings and refereed articles of original work have been published.

The *9th European Conference on Epilepsy and Society* was held in Malta. This is a unique conference that allows direct interactions between lay organisations for people with epilepsy and the health care professionals and neurologists involved in the treatment of people with epilepsy. This coincided with the *2004 National Epilepsy Conference* which had as its theme, *Focusing on Change*, and was organised by *Caritas Malta Epilepsy Association* in conjunction with the University's Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics. Discussions were held as to how change could come about with regards to the management and treatment of epilepsy,

through the sharing of experiences of people with this condition and highlighting developments in care and how to work for change.

AEGEE - Valletta in collaboration with *AEGEE - Europe's Human Rights Working Group* organised an international conference on the Integration of Immigrants: *End of the Road? Now What?* which took place at the Villa Rosa Castle in St Julians. Several distinguished local speakers addressed participants. The closing ceremony was addressed by Dr. Vincent Tabone, President Emeritus and a former Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Department of Statistics and Operations Research, Faculty of Science, hosted two Visiting Lecturers who gave a number of talks in this field of specialisation. Professor Jaroslav Michalek from Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic and Professor Stein Wallace, Molde University College, Norway were guests of this department in the last week of March.

The Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science organised the *Second National Chemistry Symposium*. These National Chemistry Symposia provide local and international chemists (especially younger chemists) with a unique opportunity to publicly present their work. This year's programme included a keynote presentation, a number of brief oral presentations and a networking poster session. The Symposium was sponsored by *Pharmamed Ltd.* (main sponsor) as well as LEVO Laboratory Services, ORME Laboratory Services, Mireva Bookshop, Agenda Bookshop on campus, Macpherson Mediterranean Ltd., Engineers' Centre, Laboratory Solutions Ltd., Institute of Water Technology, Bank of Valletta on campus and Camray Contractors Ltd.

A seminar on the *Genetics of Mental Retardation* was held to mark the official launching of the project on Mental retardation in Malta organized by the University of Malta's Department of

Anatomy and the Department of Clinical Genetics at the *Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Roma* and sponsored by the 5th Italo-Maltese Protocol and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. The seminar aimed at promoting awareness on the recent genetic technologies being made available to individuals with mental retardation with the ultimate aim of developing strategies for the diagnosis and prevention of mental retardation. The seminar also encouraged a closer cooperation among health professionals, psychologists and teachers caring for individuals with mental retardation.

The Workers' Participation Development Centre and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) organised a series of tripartite seminars on *Ageing and the Labour Market* at The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tigne.

The Department of French and *La Petite Auberge de France* celebrated *La Journée de la Francophonie* under the distinguished patronage of the Ambassador of France, H.E. Patrick Chrismant. This coincided with a week of activities held worldwide marking the *9ème Semaine de la Langue française et de la Francophonie*. B.A. and B.Ed. students of French participated by reading various extracts. The event was very well attended by francophone students from different faculties, including French students on Erasmus/Socrates exchange programmes.

The Home Economics and Human Ecology Department at the Junior College participated in a Comenius Project with Wiesloch-Hockenheim School in Heidelberg, Germany. Some 20 Maltese and German students participated in this Project which involved reciprocal visits. In Malta, besides visiting places of interest, students also toured various "dolcerie" (confectioners) and Maltese "fran" (ovens) where they could witness chocolate Easter eggs, figolli (a decorated Easter biscuit), quaresimal (a Lenten sweet) and Maltese bread in the making. Other excursions took them to various Kindergartens and to Homes for the

Elderly where the students could observe the kind of diet followed by a cross-section of the Maltese population. The Maltese participants paid a return visit to Germany in June.

Exchange Visits to various countries have now become a standard feature on the Junior College Agenda. Sweden, France and Italy are destinations where the College has exchange agreements. The Exchange with students from Sweden provides a reciprocal opportunity for the study of Maltese and Swedish Flora and Fauna. In September, a group of College students travelled to Pisa in connection with their Aesthetics /Cultural Systems of Knowledge (SOK) Project.

April

As part of the celebrations to mark the bicentenary of Kant's death, Professor David Cooper from the University of Durham, addressed the *Philosophy Society* on *Immanuel Kant: the good European*. The German Ambassador, H.E. Georg Merten was guest of honour for the occasion.

Professor Marinella Galateria expert in Modern and Contemporary Italian Literature and Professor Paolo Balboni from the University Ca' Foscari, Venice gave a series of seminars organised by the Department of Italian in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute.

The European Documentation and Research Centre (EDRC), the Jean Monnet Chair and the Malta European Studies Association (MESA) organised a one-day conference on the theme *The Value(s) of a Constitution for Europe*. A number of distinguished overseas and Maltese speakers gave presentations. The proceedings have since been published.

The Department of Primary Education held a three day workshop for primary trainees and practising primary teachers of art which was both practical and relevant to their needs as teachers in this

field. This was conducted by Elaine Benbow, an experienced primary art teacher, university lecturer, teacher adviser, Ofsted inspector and senior specialist arts teacher and Steve Blundell, an experienced InSET provider, practising artist and writer. The workshop entitled: *Art in Primary Education*, guided students and teachers in developing their experience in two dimensional art processes: drawing, painting, printing, textiles and three dimensional art processes: ceramics, sculpture and construction.

In the Engineering seminar series, Dr Christian Degryny from the Diagnostic Science Laboratories, Malta Centre for Restoration gave a lecture entitled: *Understanding the corrosion of archaeological and historical metal artifacts: A need relevant to conservation professionals alone?*

Pierre Mallia, business development manager for *Microsoft* in Malta launched the *.Net Club* at the University, in the presence of the Rector of the University, Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef and Ms Isabelle Bonello from the Ministry of Information Technology & Investments. *.Net Club* provides students with more opportunities for practical learning and development of career-enhancing skills on *Microsoft* platforms.

In-nies tat-tiben and other stories is a bilingual play (Maltese and English), created by students of the University's Theatre Studies Programme and performed at MITP Theatre, St. Christopher Street, Valletta.

The Institute of Masonry and Construction Research hosted another Visiting Lecturer, Ing. Arch. Gennaro Tampone, a Civil Engineer and Architect who is currently President of the *Collegio degli Ingegneri della Toscana*. An established expert on the conservation of wooden structures, he is the author of three books on the restoration of wooden structures. During his visit to the University of Malta, Ing. Tampone gave a number of lectures to the Institute's postgraduate students

on various topics concerning wooden structures, including the degradation of wooden load bearing structures, as well as the repair of such structures. Ing. Arch. Tampone also gave a Public Lecture organised by the Institute in collaboration with *Heritage Malta*. The lecture, entitled *Conservation of the Archaeological Monuments in Rome at the Beginning of the XIX Century* threw light on the ethics, philosophy and techniques of the restoration of Roman archaeological monuments during the 19th century.

Under the auspices of the Faculty of Education, Dr Marianna Buultjens, University of Edinburgh, Director of the Scottish Sensory Centre, conducted a lecture-discussion on *The Education of Children with Sensory Impairment: The U.K. Experience* whilst Alison Harland, Specialist teacher of students with severe and multiple learning disability, led a seminar on *Creating Optimum Conditions for Learning: The Education of Children with Severe and Multiple Learning Difficulties*.

The Economics Department and the Islands and Small States Institute in collaboration with the *European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes* (EADI) organised a one-day Symposium on the Economic and Monetary Union and the New EU Member States at the Foundation for International Studies, Valletta.

Theatre Traffic on Malta, the EU and the Effects on Theatre was the subject of a discussion organised by The Theatre Studies Programme, in collaboration with the Manoel Theatre. The Hon. Evarist Bartolo, the Hon. Michael Axiak and Mario Mallia together with representatives from MIC and EUPU participated. The Minister for Tourism and the Culture, Dr. Francis Zammit Dimech attended.

The European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT), in collaboration with the Department of Computer Science and AI, held EAMT-04, the 9th Workshop in the series of annual workshops. This acts as a forum for the exchange of ideas concerning all aspects of machine translation

within the European and adjacent regions. This workshop discussed machine-translation-related issues concerning Semitic languages, and the languages of the newly accessioned states of the European Union.

The Literacy Unit hosted a meeting in Malta for all participants involved in the ODISEAME project. The aim of this meeting was to discuss the way forward and to give feedback on the project's online platform. It was also decided that the Malta team, based at the Literacy Unit, would host an on-line course for students wishing to improve their English for technical purposes.

Professor Rino Caputo, from the University of Tor Vergata Rome, lectured on Pirandello and Svevo as well as giving a public talk at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the birth of Francesco Petrarca (1304). He spoke on *Petrarca la poesia per i posteri*.

The Department of English with the collaboration and sponsorship of the American Embassy, organised a videoconference with American novelist, Annie Proulx who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for her novel *The Shipping News*. During the videoconference, Annie Proulx, speaking from the University of Wyoming in Laramie, read extracts from her works, spoke briefly about the importance of the spirit of place in her writings and answered questions on a number of issues related to her fiction and her very individual prose style. The event was organised as part of two undergraduate courses: a course in contemporary American narrative and another focused exclusively on her works and was coordinated by Mr Erik Holm-Olsen, US Embassy Public Affairs Officer and Director of the American Center and Dr Ivan Callus, from the Department of English.

Professor Paul Cooper, Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Education, University of Leicester paid a one-week visit to the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Education where he was involved in teaching the MPsy students on the Psychological

Assessment of Children. His visit was made possible through a reciprocal Erasmus exchange programme between the Faculties of Education of the two Universities.

Two groups of students from James Madison University were hosted in the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics. One group worked under the direction of Dr. C. A. Scerri on the molecular genetic risk of celiac disease while the other worked in co-operation with the Edible Oil Refining Company (EORC, Marsa) on the production of bio-diesel from biomass. They produced a documentary DVD for use in dissemination campaigns.

May

The *1921 Surgical Club of Great Britain* originally founded in Leeds in July 1921 by Lord Moynihan, and the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine & Surgery, held a Joint Meeting in Malta in early May. Over the course of the two-day meeting, several papers, discussing a wide variety of subjects, were delivered by both visiting and Maltese surgeons. The prime objective of the Society is the advancement of surgery and interaction with recognised centres outside the United Kingdom.

The Institute of Health Care welcomed several visitors in the course of the month. Mr John Duijsings from Fontys University of Professional Education, gave a Public Lecture entitled: *The Education of the Health professionals in the Netherlands*. Dr Reg Urbanoswki, Associate Professor, School of Occupational Therapy, Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia lectured on *The use of the virtual world as an educational and therapeutic tool* while Dr. P. P. Dendy, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge gave a public lecture on *The UK Health professionals council*. In May/June, a group of students from James Madison University, Virginia, USA who were on a Field Study Visit to Malta accompanied by two of

their tutors were attached to the Institute. The Summer School Programme was designed and coordinated by Dr Sandra Buttigieg, Director of the Institute of Health Care and included various site visits to both Government and Private Hospitals. Students were lectured to by Maltese experts in both the medical and paramedical fields and were also given two projects to undertake which involved conducting a survey related to Smoking Cessation and Diabetes and Obesity. While in Malta, their tutors also contributed their expertise. Professor Judith Townsend Rocchiccioli gave a public lecture entitled: *Payment across health care systems* while Associate Professor Cynthia R O'Donoghue addressed the issue of *Gerontology care: Team care in the rehabilitation setting*.

Teatru Oroqq, a theatre group made up of 4th year B.Ed.(Hons.) students, put on another educational production for schools and the general public which consisted of a performance in Maltese based on Oscar Wilde's *The Birthday of the Infanta*. directed by Isabelle Gatt, lecturer in the Expressive Arts. All performances took place at St. James Centre for Creativity.

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. Twelve 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 2002/2003. The students on the Dean's List were: Year I - Massimo Farrugia and Antoine Grech (Maths & Physics); Mark Anthony Caruana (Maths & Statistics and Operations Research); Year II - Andrew Duncan (CSAI & Maths); Marija Joan Sciberras (Maths & Physics); Rachel Theresa Decelis (Biology & Chemistry); Year III - Nathalie Attard; Sarah Buttigieg; Joel Azzopardi (Maths & Statistics and Operations Research); Year IV - Michael Caruana (Maths & Statistics and Operations Research); Pierre Sandre Farrugia (Maths & Physics); Fiona Farrugia (CSAI &

Physics). In congratulating the students on their achievement, the Rector mentioned the new improvements and extensions to the science buildings at the University and Professor Vella thanked HSBC Bank and Agenda Bookshop for sponsoring the event with book tokens for the students.

A meeting of the delegates from European Universities taking part in the project on *Cultural memory in European Countries: Difference and Identity in a United Europe* (ACUME) was held at the University in early May. The symposium constituted part of an original project funded by the European Commission and coordinated by the University of Bologna. One of the main aims of this project is to investigate cultural memory in the various European nations while exploring the notion of difference and identity in a United Europe. The symposium was addressed by speakers from various European Universities.

The University of Malta Library received a bequest by Mrs. E. Shaw of a collection of books formerly belonging to her late husband Dr. David Henry Shaw, covering aspects of English history, literature and linguistics. Another donation was generously presented by the Engineers' Centre bookshop representative Mr. J. Borg, and is exclusively limited to the rapidly expanding area of information technology.

Dr Roland Z Kozlowski, chief executive officer of Lectus Therapeutics Ltd and Reader with the Department of Pharmacology, University of Bristol delivered a talk entitled: *From the Bench to the Boardroom; biotechnology in action* at the Institute of Agriculture.

Dr. Akos Torok, a geologist who is Associate Professor in the Department of Construction Materials and Engineering Geology at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary, visited the Institute of Masonry and Construction Research in May. During his visit, Dr. Torok gave a number of

lectures as well as a practical session where the postgraduate students learnt how to recognise various stones through the examination of hand held specimens as well as thin sections. Dr. Torok also gave a Public Lecture organised by the Institute and *Heritage Malta*. This lecture, entitled *Environmental Thinking: Memory of Stones* dealt with what we can learn from the building stones of Budapest through a study of its monuments and their conservation problems, concentrating in particular on the case study of the Hungarian Houses of Parliament. The audience heard about this magnificent building, which comprises 691 rooms, immense halls and over 12.5 miles of corridors and which is currently undergoing restoration.

Madame Anne Martineau, professor of Medieval Literature at the Université Jean Monnet, Saint Etienne, visited the Department of French, Faculty of Arts where she lectured on *L'Inversion des genres et des rôles dans la chantefable d'Aucassin et Nicolette*. The department also welcomed Madame Jeannine Richard- Zappella, Professor of French Linguistics at the Université Jules Verne, Amiens, who gave a series of lectures on French Linguistics. Their visits were made possible through reciprocal exchange agreements within the framework of the Erasmus/Socrates Staff Mobility Exchange Programme.

Dr Reg Urbanoswki, Associate Professor at the School of Occupational Therapy at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia was a visiting lecturer in the Occupational Therapy Division, Institute of Health Care. He delivered a lecture entitled: *The use of the virtual world as an educational and therapeutic tool*.

In the series of Heritage Malta public lectures, Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef, Rector, gave a lecture on: *The Life and Times of Sir Temi Zammit* in which he outlined the achievements of this former Rector of the University of Malta in the fields of medicine, archaeology and education whilst situating him in the context of late 19th, early 20th century Malta.

May saw the presentation of Malta's First National Communication to *the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC). Malta had played a very important role in the setting up of the UNFCCC and became signatory to the Convention as non-Annex I country in 1994. As required by Article 12 of the Convention, Malta embarked on a project to prepare its First National Communication (FNC) in March 2001. The Project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through UNDP and is being conducted by the University's Department of Physics in collaboration with the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment. The project, directed by Dr. Godwin Cassar, Director General of MEPA (Malta Environment and Planning Authority) together with Dr. Charles V. Sammut (National Project Manager) and Dr. Alfred Micallef (National Expert) also involved about thirty consultants who contributed to the draft of the FNC. The document was initially presented to the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Environment who in June 2004 presented it to the Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC on behalf of the Maltese Government.

Professor Eugene F. Thuot, Professor of Political Science and Honours Programme Director, Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, North Carolina, U.S.A. gave a public lecture entitled: *Shakespeare and His Politics: Reminders About the Primacy of the Soul*. Professor Thuot was Visiting Fulbright Scholar in the Department of Public Policy, Faculty of Economics, Management & Accountancy where he was teaching Political Thought and Public Policy and American Constitutional Liberties.

Professor Wolfgang Zach, Head of Department of English, University of Innsbruck was visiting guest lecturer in the Department of English. He lectured to students on *Shakespeare and the 'Other': Othello & Henry V; Restoration Drama & Morality; The Jeremy Collier Controversy and Literature & Postcolonialism: Gordimer; Coetzee et al.*

The Institute for Physical Education and Sport organised an abseiling event on campus, the proceeds of which went to charity.

The Literacy Unit launched its publication entitled: *Literacy for School Improvement – Value Added for Malta*. The reviewer of this publication, Professor John Gray, University of Cambridge, described the study as "innovative" and "pioneering" as it employs "methods of sophisticated statistical analysis" and "applies the approach for the first time to Malta's primary schools."

The Literacy Unit also organised the second full consortium meeting of the Lingu@net Europa PLUS project, at the Coastline Hotel. This is an EU funded project, which aims to expand access to Lingu@net Europa - a virtual languages resource centre – so that it can be used by more people, accessed via more languages and provide access to more resources (in a wider range of languages). The Department of Economics in collaboration with the Faculty of Education organised a one-day seminar on *SMEs and EU Enlargement* as part of a Jean Monnet project on the issue. The project is coordinated by the University of Perugia, Italy with the University of Malta, the University of Sofia, Bulgaria and the University of Torino, Italy as partners. Each country is involved in carrying out research on the issue. The Malta seminar was the first of three seminars to be organised by partner Universities. The other two were held in June and July in Bulgaria and Perugia respectively.

First in the Field: An Exhibition to celebrate the early female graduates of the University of Malta was mounted in the University Library and remained open until the end of June. Various photos and memorabilia some dating back to the 1920s related to the first Arts graduates, medics, lawyer, pharmacists, dentist, architect, engineer and nurses were on display.

Dr Ing Jonathan C. Borg, Head of the Department of Manufacturing Engineering, presented the University Library with copies of the book *Knowledge Intensive Design Technology* which he edited together with Mr Philip Farrugia and Dr Ing Kenneth P. Camilleri. The book consists of refereed papers selected from those that were

presented at the Fifth IFIP WG5.2 Workshop on Knowledge Intensive CAD held in Malta during 2002. Published by Kluwer Academic Press, this book makes essential reading for practising engineers/scientists involved in R&D as well as for Masters and Ph.D. students.

The Scream celebrated its 10th birthday. This annual magazine is, as course tutor, Dr Gorg Mallia wrote in his editorial comment, "intended as a hands-on piece for those Communications students (some 100 this year) doing the *Printing Processes* unit who also want to hone their skills in desktop publishing and graphic design. In it students also get experience in selling advertising space and of course, in writing." Each year, the class is split into three main departments: Advertising, Editorial and Production, each coordinated by students and each working in its own way to see the publication realised. Dr Mallia goes on to write: "The magazine has always been a labour of blood, sweat and tears by the students who produced it... It has showcased topics too diverse to mention here ... but each was the personal 'scream' of individuals caught within a unique moment and space in time."

The Junior College Team representing Poland placed second in the NSTF Mini-European Assembly.

June

Linda Fursland from Bath Spa University College visited the Faculty of Education in early June. She delivered two talks on *Teacher Training in England* and on *The National Curriculum for England and Wales - Lessons Learned*.

The Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Studies again organised a summer school in Near Eastern studies. The three weeks of lectures covered such themes as the civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt, Syria-Palestine in antiquity, an introduction to the Semitic languages, the invention and development of the

alphabet, a history of the Hebrew and Arabic languages, ancient Hebrew literature, pre-Islamic literature, the rise of Islam, Islamic philosophy, and Arab Malta. Apart from the taught component, the summer school included a number of guided excursions of Malta and Gozo. Participants came from Finland, Holland, Italy, Kuwait and the USA.

The Department of Surgery in conjunction with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow organised the first ever *Basic Surgical Skills* course in Malta. This was held at Medical School and was attended by 14 participants. The 3 day course is the first step towards enabling doctors to qualify as surgeons and covered a range of skills and techniques required for open surgery, dealing with trauma and orthopaedics as well as minimal access surgery. The local coordinator is Professor Godfrey LaFerla, Head of Department and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. The visiting Faculty team included Mr Christopher Morran, Mr Andrew Ogden and Mr Paul Teenan as consultant surgeons and Mr Robert McAnnany as the technical officer. The course was sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Professional Export through their local representatives A. M. Mangion Ltd.

150 participants from 36 different countries participated in the *Fifth International Conference on Creative Thinking* organised by The Edward de Bono Institute for the Design and Development of Thinking. The conference theme was entitled: *Designing Future Possibilities* and was opened by Tourism and Culture Minister, Dr. Francis Zammit Dimech. Professor Kevin Warwick, a specialist in cybernetics from the University of Reading, gave a keynote lecture entitled: *Linking Human and Machine Brains – Why you should volunteer*. The conference was followed by the Edward de Bono Seminar which was conducted by Professor de Bono in person.

Publication of *Fora Melitensia*. This is a publication containing a collection of papers and articles written by members of the academic staff of the Maltese Department at Junior College and

presented at Fora/Seminars held in Malta or abroad.

July

The Department of Statistics & Operations Research, Faculty of Science, organised a seminar during which final year students presented research they had conducted for their dissertation.

Final year IT students mounted the annual projects exhibition. This gives a current picture of the projects and research carried out by the students in the B.Sc.I.T.(Hons.) course during the fourth and final year of the course. This year, there were a total of 42 projects covering a wide range of subjects. Each student spends at least six months studying the background, developing methods and designing the application. The aim of this exhibition is always that of showing local entrepreneurs and potential investors in the IT field, the quality of the human resources in this area coming out annually from the University.

The Faculty of Engineering organised the annual exhibition of final year B.Eng.(Hons.) students projects. The exhibition serves as a showcase for the skills they acquire during their years at University. The impressive display of projects represents months of hard work, perseverance and ingenuity. This year there were over fifty exhibits representing various fields of engineering.

Three seminars on Viticulture by various researchers from the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Italy were conducted under the auspices of the Institute of Agriculture. Issues looked at included: *Irrigation Management in the Vineyard, Equipment and Irrigation Systems used in the Vineyards* and *Vineyard Management in Organic Farming*. Participants included local growers and employees of the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment working in the Viticulture and Oenology section.

The Evenings on Campus Festival 2004 opened with a Chamber version of Charles Camilleri's and Peter Serracino Inglott's opera *The Maltese Cross* which was held at St. Elmo coordinated by Mario Frendo and Davinia Galea. This year, the Festival was presented through cooperation between the *Koperattiva Kulturali Universitarja* (KKU) and the Manoel Theatre as part of its outreach programme. Other events included a Greek play in Maltese *Shab (Clouds)* based on Aristophanes and directed by Lino Farrugia; solo ballet performances by Françoise Dupriez-Flamand, Prima Ballerina/Creator and Interpreter at spectacular settings such as Fort St Angelo and the Grand Master's Palace Courtyard while this year, *Evenings on Campus* was pleased to present Olga Mishula playing the Cimbaly in the Atriju Vassalli. As in past years, there was also a Film Festival which screened a varied selection of films.

The 4th Course in Clinical Pharmacy was organised by the Department of Pharmacy in association with the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy, SIG Education and Training and the University of Strathclyde, UK. The course held at the Medical School drew on practical experience with patients at St Luke's Hospital. An international team of experts presented care discussions of acute drug treatment strategies during hospitalization and chronic disease management during the long-term care of the patient discharged from hospital. There were 18 participants from six countries.

Book presentations to the University Library were made by the French Ambassador H.E. Patrick Chrismant, Professor Alain Blondy, and Dr Franco Pellegrini Petit. The French Embassy's donation covered texts in French literature and art, while Professor Blondy presented the Library with material bearing on French history as well as a 1926 copy of Jean Vignard's novel *La Maison du Maltais*. Dr Franco Pellegrini donated an interesting range of French literary texts belonging to his late father, novelist, poet and playwright Dr Vincenzo Maria Pellegrini.

The Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Studies signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Notre Dame University, Louaize, Lebanon. This is a preliminary step to developing a mutually beneficial relationship between the two institutions. Both sides will explore and promote areas of mutual interest in liberal and vocational education and will develop their relationship through a range of mutually beneficial and appropriate educational services. They also agreed to cooperate in teacher- and student-exchange programmes, the organization of exhibitions, conferences, seminars, workshops, study tours and other educational activities.

Junior College students forming the Company *Solutions* which produced waste separation bins won the HSBC *Young Enterprise Company of the Year Award*.

August

The Communication Therapy Division and the EU Unit hosted an intensive ten day programme under the auspices of *the European Thematic Network for Speech Sciences*. Participants included some 100 students and 35 members of the academic staff representing 13 different European University Speech-Language Therapy training programmes, hailing from 10 countries including: Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Spain, Sweden and The Netherlands. This intensive programme is hosted by a different University each year. The main issue discussed this year was that of Building Bridges between Research, Assessment and Therapy in European Speech-Language Therapy Educational Programmes.

September

The University's Communications Office with the assistance of the Conference Unit of the Foundation for International Studies, organised *the*

European Universities Public Relations and Information Officers Association annual conference in Malta in early September. The overall theme of the conference: *Communicating Across Cultures* was taken up by six speakers from Malta and abroad who are all experts in their field and was further discussed during a number of workshops. Issues such as: *The search for a common ground in European Higher Education; Anti-racism advertising; what does it take? and Communicating in two cultures: The Franco-German University* were among those considered. The group of 130 delegates from universities in 20 different European countries also enjoyed a social programme that took them to some of the most splendid venues in Malta.

The EDRC completed its final Jean Monnet two-year Project with a meeting of researchers from the Euro-Mediterranean region in Malta. The proceedings were published under the title *The European Union and the Mediterranean: The Mediterranean's European Challenge, Volume V*, this being the fifth volume of research papers published by the Transnational Regional Research Network coordinated by the EDRC since 1998.

Professor Rebecca Boden from the University of the West of England and Professor Debbie Epstein from Cardiff University led *The Academic Support Kit (ASK) Workshop*. This practical week-long workshop was designed to help academics in Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts to build their careers.

Due to the lack of physical space, the Library and Museum Sub-Committee of the Faculty of Medicine & Surgery set up a *Virtual Medical History Museum* cataloguing and illustrating various items of historical interest held by the Medical School. The virtual museum can be viewed at <http://home.um.edu.mt/med-surg/museum/>

The European Early Childhood Education Research Association (EECERA) organised its 14th

International Conference which focussed on Quality in Early Childhood Education. The principal theme was *Quality Curricula: the influence of research, policy and praxis* while a number of related aspects such as autonomy and agency; equity and access; working with parents; assessment for learning; and professional development and learning were also discussed. The conference which was convened by Dr Valerie Sollars from the Department of Primary Education and Mr. Mario Camilleri from the Department of Maths, Science and Technical Education attracted some 300 delegates from five continents. It was held under the auspices of the University of Malta with financial support from Maltacom, HSBC, APS, Air Malta, Playmobil and the Ministry for Youth & the Arts.

The 2nd International Conference *on Advances in Medical Signal and Information Processing - MEDSIP 2004* was organised and hosted in Malta by members of the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Science who are part of the interdisciplinary Biomedical Engineering Research Group (IBERG), together with ISVR, University of Southampton in association with the Institution of Electrical Engineers. This attracted over 75 researchers from all over the world and provided a forum for researchers, health-care personnel and industrialists to share the most recent advances and discuss future directions in the areas of biomedical imaging and signal analysis, magnetic resonance imaging, healthcare information technologies, decision support systems, visualisation techniques and PACS technologies.

Under the auspices of the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine & Surgery, Mr DCC Bartolo MS, FRCS, Consultant Surgeon, Western General Hospital & Honorary Senior Lecturer, University of Edinburgh, delivered a Public Lecture on *Surgery for Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's Disease* when he visited the Department in early September.

The Institute of Health Care in collaboration with the Faculty of Dental Surgery organised a public talk entitled: *Bridging the Knowledge Gap* by Mr Mark Gilbert from Manchester Metropolitan University. The lecture explored the complexity of influences and the interrelationships that exist within the implant team, since meeting the 'Aesthetic Challenge' requires everyone in the team to contribute to achieve the optimum result.

The Department of Biology organised an intensive training and practical course in marine biology for Bachelor of Science students taking biology as one of their main subject areas. The course was funded by UNESCO through a grant to Professor Patrick J. Schembri made available under its Participation Programme for 2002-2003, administered by the Malta National Commission for UNESCO. Some 35 students attended the course which was coordinated by Dr Joseph A Borg. The course was designed to familiarise participants with the major coastal and marine habitats of the islands and sessions included fieldwork on rocky and sandy shores, shallow sublittoral sandy and rocky bottoms, as well as a session during which deeper water marine life was sampled and plankton and water chemistry investigated. Fieldwork was complemented by a programme of lectures and laboratory sessions.

The Computer Science and AI Department organised its second two-day workshop, *CSAW'04*, at which members of staff and graduate students presented their ongoing research. The workshop was held at Villa Bighi, seat of the *Malta Council for Science and Technology* and was sponsored by *Go Mobile*. Eighteen presentations were delivered over two days comprising different research areas, including internet technologies, natural language processing, distributed computing and machine learning. At the end of the workshop, the *Best Student Paper* award was given to Andrew Calleja for his *paper Simulo Tempestas: A Simulation Tool for Hydrological Modelling*, in which a model to simulate the effect of storms over the Maltese terrain was presented.

Over 20 students participated in a one-day workshop on starting up an innovative IT business organised by the Department of Computer Science & AI. The event was sponsored and supported by the Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA), the Ministry for Industry, Investment and IT (MIIT) and the Malta Council for Science & Technology (MCST). The aim of the workshop was to make students aware of the opportunities available and set them thinking about how their knowledge can be transformed into a marketable, innovative product.

The Department of Arts and Languages in Education, Faculty of Education, through the International Office welcomed another group from China. The Department is providing advanced training of trainers courses in Teaching English as a Foreign Language to senior members of staff from two Chinese Institutes of Higher Education. Last year 15 lecturers from the Shanghai Teacher Training Institute of the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission received intensive training over four months at the University of Malta. Also, as from last year, the Department has been engaged in training senior lecturers from the Beijing Institute of Civil Engineering and Architecture.

At its September 2004 meeting, Senate approved an initiative of the *Gender Issues Committee* to start a Mentor Scheme for students at the University of Malta. Senate agreed that information concerning the Mentor Scheme should be sent to all faculties and centres and recommended that it should be implemented. Information regarding the Scheme is available on the GIC webpage at: <http://home.um.edu.mt/gender/>

On the eve of the inauguration of the academic year, the Junior College Staff and Students Welfare Committee organised its annual seminar for staff and students. The theme chosen this year was: *Who is the Junior College Student? How does he/she feature in today's society?*

Publication of *Symposia Melitensia*. This is the first volume of the University Junior College Academic Journal. It contains literary, educational, scientific and mathematical articles, by Junior College academic staff written in Maltese, English or French.

September saw the completion of major structural alterations at the Junior College. Between June and September, four flights of stairs were demolished and rebuilt, three times their original width for safer, quicker and easier access from one floor to another. This followed the demolition and reconstruction of the first staircase completed in Summer 2003.

October

The opening ceremony of the Academic Year 2004/2005 was held. Some 3000 new students started their University careers. They were addressed by the Rector and the President of the KSU. *Freshers Week* was held during the first few days of October.

The President of the *Malta University Sports Club* (MUSC) presented the Director Library Services with a number of books covering physical education, economics, and history.

The EDRC won the status of *Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence*, within the framework of the Jean Monnet Project. It embarked on its latest project, the *Civil Society Project* funded by the European Commission and a number of Maltese sponsoring organisations.

The *Karmen Mikalief Buhagar Foundation* in collaboration with the University of Malta organised the annual lecture on the National Poet, Dun Karm. Mr Roderick (Rigu) Bovingdon spoke on *Hsiebi bhal aghma: Tiegħ fuq Hsieb Dun Karm*.

The Faculty of Education and the *History Teachers' Association* presented the third *Michael A. Sant*

Memorial Lecture. Joke van der Leeuw-Roord, Executive Director, *Euroclio*, the European Standing Conference of History Teachers' Associations, gave a lecture entitled: *History Works, Concerns in History Education*.

A Diploma Course in Functional Arabic was launched as a result of a joint-initiative of the Ministry of Education and the Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Studies. This is a course in basic Modern Standard Arabic and Educated Spoken Arabic and focusses on such areas as diplomacy, commerce, industry, emigration and legal affairs. Aspects of Arab and Islamic culture will also be covered. This two-year diploma course is primarily intended for employees within the Civil Service and parastatal bodies, but registered students also come from the private sector.

The History of Art Programme, Faculty of Arts, welcomed Dr Marjorie Trusted FSA, Deputy Curator Sculpture Department, Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Dr. Trusted who is a leading authority on polychrome wood sculpture with a specialisation on the Spanish Counter Reformation gave several lectures on the subject. She is the author of scholarly books on Spanish art and its influence in Europe and its American colonies.

The International Institute on Ageing, United Nations-Malta (INIA) held a conference on *Medicines Management in Older Persons* in collaboration with the University's Department of Pharmacy, Zammit Clapp Hospital, the SIG-Geriatrics of the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy and the Ministry for Health, Elderly and Community Services. Over 70 different health professionals from some 15 developing and developed countries participated. Their multidisciplinary background provided an opportunity for different perspectives to be presented and discussed during the various workshops.

Professor Tim Pedley, University of Cambridge, addressed the first *Malta Mathematical Society* meeting of the new academic year. He screened a video entitled: *Giraffe Blood Flow and Pattern-Forming Bacteria*. He posed the questions: Why is a giraffe's heart so huge and why do swimming bacteria form patterns? And found the answers in Biological fluid dynamics.

Mr Michael Caruana, a graduate of the University of Malta in Statistics & Operations Research and Mathematics and currently a Doctoral student at the University of Oxford working with Professor T. Lyons of the Mathematical Institute, delivered a talk on *Rough Path Theory* under the auspices of the Department of Statistics & Operations Research.

The Faculty of Education was awarded funding for a 3-year Comenius 2.1 project coordinated by Dr Paul A. Bartolo from the Department of Education Studies, on the production of a *DTPp: Differentiated Teaching Module (Primary) for preparing trainee teachers to respond to pupil diversity*. The other partners in the project are the Universities of Leipzig (Germany), Manchester (UK), Inholland (Netherlands), and Dalarna (Sweden), Marijampole College (Lithuania), and the NGO Motivace-Zivotni Styl (Czech Republic). The project aims to produce a multicultural, multimedia, internet-based teacher-training module to enable trainee teachers to respond to the diversity of pupil needs in primary education. This module will be a tool for all teacher trainers and trainees for primary education.

The Foundation for Human Resources Development (FHRD), the Malta Employers' Association (MEA) and the University's Workers' Participation Development Centre (WPDC) jointly organised a breakfast seminar on the issue of *Work-Life Balance*. This looked at the balance workers have to find between their work and non-work domains and followed on from an empirical

study conducted by the WPDC in conjunction with MEA.

With a view to increasing local awareness and promoting research and action by various entities, the Malta National BioPlatform, organised a Biodiversity Conference with the theme: *Our Natural Capital: Research and Actions toward Conservation* in collaboration with the Malta Council for Science and Technology and the Delegation of the European Commission in Malta. This one-day conference examined measures utilized and required for effective long-term survival of species and habitats.

The University Library with the collaboration of the Lija Local Council, the Department of Maltese and the University Herbarium, launched an exhibition on Maltese medicinal herbs at a special evening which featured selections of Maltese folk music and a number of short papers by folklore scholars. The exhibition which was open to the public until the end of November, included pressed exemplars from the University's Argotti herbarium collection, a selection of publications which have a bearing on the subject as well as a range of specimens of medicinal herbs collected from the south of Malta.

The first meeting of the *Philosophy Society* for the academic year was addressed by Professor Timothy Bahti who spoke on *Literature and Philosophy: Problems of Interpretation*. The paper addressed the ostensible differences and conflicts between literature's and philosophy's projects of interpretation. Professor Bahti has taught extensively at Yale University, Cornell University, Northwestern University and more recently, the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Peter Preston, Director, Guardian Foundation lectured Communications Studies students on *The Current situation of the Press in Britain*. In collaboration with the Strickland Foundation, he

also gave the second George Sammut Memorial Lecture on the subject of *One Europe: 25 different public opinions*. George Sammut was Editor of The Times and Sunday Times of Malta. Mr Preston is former Editor of The Guardian, former Editor-in-chief, The Guardian & The Observer and former Chairperson, International Press Institute.

Professor Victor G. Griffiths, former head of Anatomy and Surgery, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery presented the University Library with a number of historically important classical texts in these subjects whilst Professor Charles J Camilleri formerly of the University's Department of Mathematics, presented the Library with a copy of his e-textbooks on CD-ROM. This brings together a second edition of his mathematical textbooks *Vector Analysis* and *Tensor Analysis* as well as his latest work on *Classical Mechanics* which introduces Newtonian and Lagrangean methods.

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

The Malta College of Pathologists and the Department of Pathology in conjunction with the Dental Association organised a well attended public lecture entitled *Diagnostic Problems in Head and Neck Pathology*, by Professor Paul Speight from the School of Clinical Dentistry, University of Sheffield.

November

The University Welfare Committee organised a Chess Tournament on campus during the month of November which was open to all University staff. (MORE)

The Institute of Health Care welcomed Dr Elke Jakubowski from WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen who addressed the topical issue of *Challenges and changes for Health in the 21st Century* while Dr Mary Hayter, Lecturer, Sexual Health Nursing, University of Sheffield spoke on *Sexual Health Research: Implications for practice and service delivery*.

The University Community Welfare Committee organised a 5-A-Side Football tournament between early November and December in which both academic and administrative & technical staff participated. Teams were made up of between five and eight players.

The University's European Unit together with the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Malta organised a Bologna to Bergen Conference called *The Implications of the Bologna Process and the Lisbon Statement for Higher Education Institutions*. The aim of the conference was to assess the new challenges set out by the Bologna-Berlin Communiqué of Ministers, which European Higher Education institutions are entrusted to undertake. The one-day event tackled issues pertaining to the Bologna Process and the Lisbon Strategy and its relevance to higher education institutions also providing participants with an overview of the progress that has been made and the new initiatives that must be undertaken following the September 2003 meeting of Education Ministers in Berlin.

The Faculty of Theology in conjunction with the Foundation for Theological Studies and the Augustinian Institute held the *8th Annual Saint Augustine Lecture* under the distinguished

patronage of the President Emeritus, Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici. This was addressed by Professor Pier Franco Beatrice from the University of Padova who discussed St Augustine's *De Doctrina Christiana*.

Professor Dr Ing. Lucienne Theresia Maria Blessing from Berlin University of Technology, Germany gave a public lecture on Environmental Design under the auspices of the Department of Manufacturing Engineering.. To be "green" has become an economic factor. Many methods and guidelines have been proposed to deal with this situation, but implementation is haphazard often based on the assumption that sustainability and economy cannot go hand in hand. Some of the warnings presented, underlined the increasingly serious nature of this issue and the changes that are required.

The Science Museum at the Physics Department of the Junior College held an exhibition of old scientific apparatus with the general theme *Restoring scientific artefacts helps in research*.

In observance of *International Education Week*, the U.S. Embassy in Malta in collaboration with the Foundation for International Studies and the Reference Section of the University Library, held a seminar on studying in the United States. The main speaker was Ms Kristen Cammarata, US Regional Education Advisor for European countries situated around the Mediterranean, Middle East and North Africa.

Professor Gong Wenxiang, Executive Dean, Peking University, Beijing gave a public lecture about *Food and the Chinese Culture*. This was organised jointly between the University's Institute of Health Care and the Chinese Cultural Centre.

The *X Collection* seminar was held in which established and potential mathematicians shared their discoveries, new ideas and counter examples to published results, particularly on games,

interesting numbers and optimization and included a brief session for spontaneous problem solving.

Under the auspices of The Malta Centre for Restoration, Dr Theresa Vann, Curator of the Malta Study Centre, Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, Minnesota, USA and visiting Fulbright professor attached to the Division of Library & Information Studies, Centre for Communication Technology gave a public lecture on The History and the Future of the Hill Manuscript Library's Project to Preserve Malta's Archives.

A Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by HG The Metropolitan Archbishop of Malta, Mgr. Joseph Mercieca, was held at St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta on the occasion of Graduation 2004. After Mass, 68 new medical graduates took the Hippocratic Oath in the Grand Hall at Palazzo Castellania, seat of the Ministry of Health, the Elderly and Community Care. A record 2710 students graduated in various disciplines.

Chinese students studying at the University of Malta organised a Chinese cultural celebration at the end of November entitled *Close to China*. This was held at various venues on campus. There was an introduction to major Chinese cities: Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing and Qingdao with activities focussing on Chinese calligraphy, drawing, arts and crafts, Chinese medicine and Chinese food among other interesting subjects. There was a Chinese zither show and the screening of the Chinese movie *The Hero* and also a Chinese Tea ceremony.

The Workers' Participation Development Centre (WPDC) in collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) organised a half-day seminar with the theme *The Future of Work: Trends in European Work Organisations*. The seminar offered a critical analysis of the occupation change, particularly with reference to the expansion of higher education and increasing participation of women

in the labour force, and the pursuit of employment flexibility. The main speaker at this seminar was Professor Kate Purcell who is the Director of Employment Studies Research Unit (ESRU) at Bristol Business School, University of the West of England.

The Laboratory of Molecular Genetics, Department of Physiology and Biochemistry, the Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics and the Department of Anatomy, in collaboration with the Curriculum Committee of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery organised a programme of life science related research seminars. Each seminar focussed on an individual topic among which neurosciences, cell biology, molecular genetics and protein biochemistry as well as immunology and clinical research and was presented by a researcher currently working in that field.

The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Laboratory at the University of Malta, supported by the HERODOT Network and Environment Systems Research Institute (ESRI), organised a two-day international workshop on introducing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Higher Education Institutions. Training sessions were conducted by Ms Ann Johnson who came from Redlands, California courtesy of ESRI which also supplied textbooks and software evaluation copies for the participants. HERODOT on the other hand provided financial support for the 21 participants who came from 12 different European countries. They were given specific training on how GIS works with practical exercises using Arcview GIS, its application and teaching methods as well as on the use of GPS technology. The workshop coincided with GIS Day, a world-wide event that formalises the practice of GIS users.

The United States Embassy in association with the University of Malta Library and the University's Division of Library & Information Studies together with the Malta Library & Information Association

organised a Public Lecture entitled: *Developing Library Collections in Times of Financial Stress* which was delivered by Professor William V. Jackson, Professor Emeritus, University of Texas, Austin, Senior Fellow at Dominican University and Visiting Lecturer, Pratt Institute.

A Public Lecture was organised by the Faculty of Laws within the credit on Refugee Law offered to LL.D. students and students reading for a MA Human Rights and Democratisation. The topic entitled *The UNHCR Mandate* was addressed by Mr Michele Manca di Nissa, Head of the Legal Unit at UNHCR Rome. In another lecture for students, he examined the 1951 Convention and Protocol.

The Research Ethics Committee organised a seminar on research ethics which was addressed by Professor Goran Hermeren, Chairman of the European Group on Ethics in Science and the new Technologies of the European Commission. Professor Hermeren, Chairman of the EGE since 2001, is a philosopher, and teaches Medical Ethics in the Faculty of Medicine, Lund University. The European Group on Ethics is an independent, pluralist and multidisciplinary body which advises the European Commission on ethical aspects of science and new technologies in connection with the preparation and implementation of Community legislation or policies.

Following the success achieved in Umbria, Italy in 2003, the Junior College organised Master Classes and Instrumental Concerts in Hamburg, Germany. The young musicians had a one-time opportunity to attend a week of Master Classes and to play musical instruments with renowned musicians. Preparations are in hand for further Master Classes to be held in Hamburg.

The EuroBiobank consortium which includes the group in the Laboratory of Molecular genetics, (Biomedical Sciences, University of Malta and Division of Pathology, Department of Health)

directed by Professor Alex E. Felice was awarded a prize by the NEWROPEANS organisation for research. Eurobiobank was established to implement high standards in tissue and DNA banking as a service and for research.

December

Professor Kenneth E.L. McColl, Professor of Gastroenterology at Western Infirmary, Glasgow, delivered the 9th Ralph Arrigo Lecture on *The role of Helicobacter pylori infection in upper gastrointestinal disease*. The *Ralph Arrigo Foundation* was established in memory of the late Ralph Arrigo, businessman and entrepreneur, specifically to promote medical education and the latest medical advances in Malta. Over the years, several eminent medical practitioners have been invited by the University's Faculty of Medicine and Surgery to deliver this lecture.

The B.Accountancy (Honours) First Year students held a one day seminar on *Budgetary Planning and Control* at the Coastline Hotel.

The *Collegium Musicum*, students of the Diploma in Sacred Music and the *University Vocal Ensemble* participated in the annual Christmas Concert held in St. John's Co-Cathedral under the auspices of The Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter, The Foundation of St. John's Co-Cathedral and The Mediterranean Institute. The combined choirs were under the baton of Dr. Mro Dion Buhagjar. Previously, the *University Vocal Ensemble* had participated in the Music Marathon entitled *Cori in Amicizi* organised by ERSU of the University of Palermo. Other participants included the *Coro dell'ERSU di Catania*; *Coro dell'Università di Palermo* and the *Collegium Musicum* of the University of Bologna. The *University Vocal Ensemble* under the direction of Dr Mro Dion Buhagjar was awarded trophies and medals for its fine performance.