

## Round-Up 1999

### January

Ms Linda Eneix, President of the OTS Foundation based in Florida U.S.A., gave a donation towards the setting up of an Archaeological Laboratory at the University's Department of Classics and Archaeology, Faculty of Arts. This served to complete the first stage of equipping the Laboratory and will be a major contribution to current research on material retrieved from the Department's excavations at the Tas-Silg site.

*The Mathematical Society* was officially launched. The aims of the society include delivering popular lectures on different mathematical topics, organising activities to increase the popularity of maths among secondary and post-secondary students and holding seminars attended by mathematics graduates to keep up to date with current research.

The Institute of Health Care in conjunction with Leeds University organised a Joint Educational Programme which focussed on Pre and Post Registration Levels at IHC in which members of the Nursing and Radiography staff participated.

A half-day seminar was held at the Radisson SAS Bay Point Resort to mark the official launching of *The Malta Internet Foundation*. Several presentations from various organizations involved in the provision of Internet services to the public in Malta as well as by experts in the field were delivered. The new Foundation is responsible for the registration of

Internet domains in top-level Internet domain .mt, as well as for other activities related to promotion of the Internet in Malta. In addition, it takes over the duties of the *Domain Name Registration Committee* delegated by InterNIC, the Internet top body, for domain registration business in the country.

Under the auspices of the Department of Psychology, Dr. Glyn Goodall from the Cognitive Sciences Department, University Victor Segalen, Bordeaux II, gave a public lecture entitled *The Recovery of Cognitive Functions after General Anaesthesia*.

Two series in the *Work-in-Progress Seminar Series: Untangling Knots in Social Research* were successfully held and well attended. This series encourages informal, regular, intellectual exchange among staff and students in any branch of social studies. It is for people at every level of research - from B.A through post-doctoral and is held every fortnight of the academic year.

### February

Professor Paolo Balboni from the University of Venice visited the Department of Italian to conduct two seminars. *La multimedialità nella didattica dell'italiano come L2* while the second lecture was entitled *Per una didattica funzionale e comunicativa dell'italiano come L2*.

Junior College students who excelled in the 1997 and 1998 MATSEC sessions obtaining their Matriculation Certificate with Distinction received due credit at an

*Awards Night* held in mid-February. Furthermore, students who, during their two years at the College, distinguished themselves in other fields, whether academic or non-academic, or whose achievements contributed towards evolving an ethos for the College, also received awards. The evening's programme included a display of musical and ballet talent by College students.

Linguistics Professors Paolo Ramat and Anna Giacalone Ramat from the *Dipartimento di Linguistica, Università di Pavia*, visited the Department of Italian. Professor Ramat presented the MEDTYP project to members of the Institute of Linguistics since due to the central position of the Maltese Language as a meeting point between Romance and Semitic languages, Malta can contribute greatly to this project which involves the universities of Pavia, Pisa, Napoli, Perugia, Roma III, Trieste and Viterbo as well as others from Europe and North Africa. He also lectured to students of languages and linguistics on *Standard Average European*. Professor Anna Ramat, president of the prestigious *Societas Linguistica Europaea*, lectured on Italian as a second language.

Dott. Sante Guido who trained at the *Istituto Centrale di Restauro*, Rome, gave a credit course to Art History students on the *Restoration of Bronzes and Pietre Dure*.

Dr. Hanneke Teekens, Senior Advisor with the Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC), gave a talk on *University Internationalisation Issues* under the auspices of the University's International Office.

Presentation of awards by the Rector to Department of Accountancy students for outstanding performance. This year's CIMA Prize was awarded to Susan Domancich for her dissertation on *Theory of Constraints*; the award in the field of Taxation presented by Deloitte & Touche went to Donald Schembri whose dissertation was entitled *Tax Implications of Global Electronic Commerce from a Maltese Perspective* while Sharon Finn who wrote on *The Internal-External Audit Relationship in Selected Companies* won the PricewaterhouseCoopers Prize in the field of Auditing. Awards by K.P.M.G. for the best student in Financial Accounting and Grant Thornton for research in the law area relating to accounting went to Lauren Galea and Christine Sciberras respectively. Ryan Sciberras won *The Student of the Year* prize awarded by the Malta Institute of Accountants and also received the Arthur Anderson Award in Finance for his dissertation on *Treasury Bills and their Corporate use in Malta*.

The University conferred the degree of Doctor of Literature *Honoris Causa* on Chiara Lubich, founder of the *Focolare* Movement.

To commemorate the tercentenary of the demise of Mattia Preti, the University Library held an exhibition on the artist's life and works. Exhibits included publications covering Preti's career ranging from De Dominicis's *Notizia della vita di Mattia Preti* (1864) to J. Spike's recent corpus of documentary transcripts, photographs of selections from Preti's artistic *oeuvre* as well as miscellany of documents illustrating salient events in his life. One of the greatest south Italian artists of all time, Mattia Preti spent the best part of his working life in the service of the Order

of St. John. His artistic style strongly influenced the subsequent development of painting in Malta.

Dr. Robin Lickley from the Department of Linguistics and the Human Communication Research Centre, University of Edinburgh, whose particular interest is in the perception and production of spontaneous speech, especially disfluent speech, delivered a talk entitled: *Disfluency: Why Why you should care* under the auspices of the Institute of Linguistics.

Visit by the Vice President of the Higher Education Council of Turkey in line with the University's internationalisation policy aimed at strengthening links with neighbouring Mediterranean countries.

### March

Junior College *Students' Night* was held in which some 150 students took part in a spectacle of music, dance and plays. The three bands that won the *Only the fittest survive! Rock Concert*, knockout competition held at the College in February also participated.

Ass.Professor Niels Henrik Mortensen from the Technical University of Denmark, Copenhagen gave a public lecture on *Design For Manufacture* which is particularly relevant in the light of the recent EU update report on Malta's need for industrial restructuring.

The Department for Women's Rights and the University's Gender Issues Committee held a book launch and seminar on campus. The publications both edited by sociologist Dr. A. M. Abela are: *Women and Men in the Maltese*

*Islands: Statistics from the Census of Population and Housing and Gender Issues and Statistics Proceedings of a Workshop* organised by the Central Office of Statistics in collaboration with the Department for Women's Rights.

Professor Barry Smith from the State University of New York at Buffalo visited the Department of History to give a series of interdisciplinary lectures on Philosophy, Politics and History which provided an historical introduction to political philosophy with special reference to economic, geographic, legal and military factors determining the evolution of the modern nation state concept.

The University participated in the *Careers Convention* held in Gozo. This year, the stand focussed on Science, Engineering and Information Technology degree courses.

Inauguration of a short course on *The European Union with special emphasis on its Social Policy, Employment and Trade Unions* conducted by the Workers' Participation Development Centre.

The Medical School organised the *IV Medical School Conference* in the course of which, Professor Sir Alfred Cuschieri gave the *Ralph Arrigo Lecture* on the theme: *Hospital Care in the Next Millennium*.

Michel Montanaro, a French ethnomusicologist discussed various European wind instruments he has come across in the course of research he has conducted. Montanaro is a composer-musician rich in the provençal tradition of the gaboulet-tambourine whose style

has been affected over the years by diverse cultural influences exerted on him through contacts he has had with several indigenous musical groups.

*The University Vocal Ensemble* and members of the St. Martin's College Choir under the baton of Mro. Dion Buhagiar, gave a *Concert of Sacred Music for Eastertide* in St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta. The evening's programme featured polyphonic motets by Palestrina, Vittoria, Lassus, Lotti and Stainer among others as well as Schubert's *Stabat Mater* and Franz Liszt's *Via Crucis*. Soloists included sopranos: Claire Debono and Sonia Agius, mezzo-soprano: Claire Massa, tenor: Mark Camilleri and bass: Jonathan Mohnani. Richard Caruana and Gino Mulè Stagno accompanied the joint choirs on the organ.

Professor Elinor Gadon, a cultural historian and founder/academic director of the Women's Spirituality Ph.D. programme at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco, spoke on *The Women's Spirituality Movement in the United States - Feminism and Integralism* under the auspices of the Workers' Participation Development Centre's Women and Development Programme.

The Teaching of English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) Programme of the Faculty of Education organised an international conference: *Teaching and Assessing Young Learners* in Malta. The conference aimed to create a forum for the discussion and review of the latest developments in the Teaching and Assessment of English as a Foreign Language to Young Learners.

## April

A seminar on *Atmospheric Pollution* was organised in conjunction with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry for Gozo. The aim of the seminar was to bring together all those researchers involved both locally and internationally in such work; to promote an awareness of the research work and its applications being carried out locally and to enable participants to plan further research programmes for the Mediterranean. The keynote address was given by Professor Paul Crutzen, Nobel Laureate for Atmospheric Chemistry, from the Max Planck Institute, Karlsruhe.

The theme of this year's Annual Lowenbrau Seminar was *Older Persons in the Maltese Islands* coinciding with the United Nations Year of Older Persons. The full day seminar organised by the University of Malta Gozo Centre in collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo, the UN National Focal Point for Older Persons and Lowenbrau (*Malta*) was held at the Mgarr Hotel, Gozo.

Professor Roberto Prandin, *Direttore Artistico of Settimane Musicali di Lugano*, conducted a credit on *Artistic Management and the role of the Artistic Director*. The course outlined the know-how required for the successful running of any kind of medium-sized artistic organisation be it musical, acting, a ballet company, even museums and exhibition centres. Apart from discussing the methodology involved, such contemporary problems as funding were also dealt with.

*Paul Eluard et le surréalisme* and *La Femme dans le mouvement surréaliste*

were the themes developed by guest lecturer Colette Guedj, Professor of French Literature, University of Nice, Sophia-Antipolis, France who visited the Department of French in mid-April.

The Geneva based European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI), and the Department of Economics organised a seminar on *Euro-Mediterranean Linkages: Flows of People, Goods and Services*. EADI also held its bi-annual Executive Committee meeting in Malta.

The Department of Biology in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment Protection Division held a seminar, *SOS for the Maltese Flora*, which sounded an alarm for our endangered natural heritage.

A ceremony for the presentation of awards to members of staff who successfully obtained higher degrees in the course of 1998 was held. These included some twenty Doctorates and twelve Masters *cum laude*.

## May

Professor Georges Molinié, President of the Université Paris IV - Sorbonne, paid a visit to the University.

Professor Michael Talbot, Head of Music Programme, University of Liverpool, visited the Mediterranean Institute's Music Studies Programme. He lectured to Music students on *Italian Sacred Music in the Age of Bach and Handel* whilst *Music at the Ospedale della Pietà in Vivaldi's Venice* was the subject of his second lecture.

An international conference entitled: *Human Rights and our responsibilities towards future generations: An inter-religious perspective* organised by the Foundation for International Studies in collaboration with the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies and UNESCO was held.

*Getting Down to Gearing Up for Europe* was the theme of the annual conference organised by the European Documentation and Research Centre. Conference themes included: Industry and the EU, Tax Policy for Growth and Employment, Banking and the EU, European Union and Maltese Employment Policy Developments.

Delegations from James Madison University, Virginia; Bradley University, Illinois; South Texas College of Law and Tulane visited the University.

## June

The first Certificate Course in *Multimedia Authoring* came to an end. The course was composed of two main components. The first consisted of three teaching modules including a number of practical sessions which focussed on various multimedia tools, techniques and environments. The second component was made up of three video-conferencing sessions (the link being sponsored by *Maltacom plc*) which applied the techniques covered in the first part of the course to design, aesthetics and the management of multimedia projects. The venture was jointly managed by the Department of Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence and the Institute of Computer Based Learning at Queen's

University, Belfast in collaboration with Malta University Services.

The *Academy of Marketing Science* held its world congress in Malta. This was hosted by the University's Department of Marketing.

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

### July

The *European Access Network* held its eighth Annual Meeting in Malta. The theme of the conference was *Changing The Culture of The Campus: Towards an Inclusive Higher Education*.

A photographic exhibition launched the seventh edition of *Evenings on Campus*.

*Projects '99* an exhibition of Final Year Engineering students work was held. The mechanical and electrical engineering projects form part of the students' fourth year final assessment. The exhibition, which is held annually, provides an opportunity for the general public and in particular, those working in the field, to view the projects and become acquainted with tomorrow's engineers.

### September

As part of the millennium celebrations, a summer school entitled *Malta and The Arts* was organised by the Foundation for International Studies and the Richard Demarco European Arts Foundation

and sponsored by the Ministry of Education.

A course in *Banking Law and Financial Markets* of particular interest to bankers, insurance brokers, financial consultants and chartered auditors and accountants as well as to graduates and senior undergraduates in Law, Economics and Political Sciences was organised by the University of Malta in collaboration with the *Università degli Studi di Roma 'La Sapienza'* and with other Italian universities.

Establishment of the *Malta Internet Exchange* (MIX). MIX acts as a local backbone for Internet traffic, linking together major ISPs in Malta and the University. The Malta Internet Exchange facility was set up in partnership with the University through its Computing Services Centre, which provides technical operations and support.

### October

More than 2000 new students joined various University courses while more than 1300 students entered the Junior College.

The second Mediterranean Meeting on Morphology (MMM2) was held in Malta this month. This was organised by the University's Institute of Linguistics together with the Mediterranean Meeting on Morphology Committee. A number of papers by experts in the field of morphological research were presented.

Professor Len Barton, University of Sheffield, gave a public lecture on *Disability and social justice: comparative insights and disabled persons'*

*perspectives*. This was organised in collaboration with *Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Persuni b'Dizabilità*.

The Institute of Linguistics initiated its 1999/2000 series of Linguistic Circle Meetings with a talk by Sandro Caruana from the Junior College, who lectured on *The Media as means of Linguistic Input: the acquisition of Italian L2 in Malta*.

Professor Mike Oliver, University of Greenwich, gave a public lecture entitled *Disability into the Millennium* which was organised by the Social Work and Social Administration Programme of the Department of Public Policy in collaboration with *Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Persuni b'Dizabilità*.

On the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, H.E. Professor Guido de Marco, President of Malta, gave a public lecture on *Diplomacy in the Post-Cold War Era*.

The third annual series of *Work-in-Progress Seminar Series* got underway with a talk by Nathaniel Cutajar from the Museum of Archaeology entitled *New Light on the Maltese Middle Ages: Recent Discoveries in Archaeology*.

The 1999/2000 round of *Philosophy Society* Meetings got underway with a discussion entitled *Time Matters* chaired by Rev. Professor Peter Serracino Inglott and a panel made up of Professor Joe Friggieri, Professor Frank Ventura, Dr. Mario Tabone and Dr. Richard Muscat.

Two meetings of the Santander Group were held in Malta between October and November. The first brought Liaison Officers together while the second

involved discussions at Rectorial level which focussed on the launch of projects aimed at fostering cooperation between European and non-EU Mediterranean countries.

## November

On the occasion of Graduation 1999 a Mass of Thanksgiving was held at St. John's Co-Cathedral celebrated by H.G. The Metropolitan Archbishop of Malta. Nearly 2,000 students graduated in various disciplines in the course of a number of ceremonies.

How may the prickly pear help us to control diabetes?

What may be so fascinating to make two females students spend a number of sleepless nights studying bat behaviour? What impact is the Maghtab landfill having on our environment?

How do lizards make love and how do they fight for their partner?

These and other intriguing questions were answered during the *Annual Biology Symposium* which was organised by the Department of Biology and was well attended.

The Department of Communications and Computer Engineering organised a four-day seminar in conjunction with *Tetramed*, to discuss methods for Technology Transfer and participation in EUMEDIS programmes. The department is the IT node for the technology domain of High Performance Computing and Networking (HPCN).

SACES, *The Society of Architecture & Civil Engineering Students*, organised its annual exhibition of student projects entitled *Designs '99*.

An International Conference on *The Governance of Small Jurisdictions* was organised by the Foundation for International Studies' Islands and Small States Institute in conjunction with the Management and Personnel Office at the Office of the Prime Minister, Malta and the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration, Brussels.

On the occasion of the bicentenary of the birth of the Russian poet Alexander Sergeyevitch Pushkin (1799-1837) founder of Russian literature and the modern Russian language, an exhibition was held in the University of Malta Library organised in collaboration with the Russian Centre for Science and Culture.

Under the auspices of the Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, Dr. Kieran Breen from the Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, University of Dundee, lectured on *The Biochemical Aspects of Alzheimer's Disease*. Dr. Breen is the Director of the Alzheimer Research Centre at his University.

Dott.ssa Maria Giulia Barberini gave a monographic course on the *Concept & Practice of Restoration in the Baroque Period* to students of Art History. Her visit was made possible through collaboration with the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura*.

## December

The Department of Psychology, Faculty of Education, organised *The 1999 Psychology Seminar* in the Dolmen

Room of the New Dolmen Hotel at which Psychology Graduates of the 1995-1999 course presented their research findings.

The annual Christmas Concert was organised under the auspices of the University's Music Studies Programme. This was held in St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta. *The University Vocal Ensemble* together with the *Collegium Aureum* and the *Collegium Musicum* presented works by Praetorius, Yon, Rutter, Bach and Vivaldi among others. The combined choirs were under the baton of Mro. Dion Buhagiar while soloists included Mezzo-Soprano Claire Massa, Jonathan Mohnani (Bass), Roberto Prandin (Flute), Simon Abdilla Joslin (Cello) and Gino Mule Stagno (Organist).

Junior College students in collaboration with the Precincts Office and BOV Club put on a variety show entitled *Christmas Fantasia*.