The new extension of the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences building was inaugurated in a ceremony attended by the Minister for Education and Employment, the Hon. Evarist Bartolo, University of Malta Rector, Professor Juanito Camilleri, the Dean of the Faculty, Dr Noellie Brockdorff and Heads of Department.

The Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences (MaKS) is one of the newest of the fourteen faculties of the University of Malta having been established in 2011 to offer study programmes and carry out research that are relevant in a knowledge society and that reflect the importance of the knowledge-based economy. Close to EUR 1,840,000 was invested in the extension and refurbishment project, which includes a new fully-equipped Cognitive Science Lab, a new Digital Arts Lab, new lecture halls, seminar rooms, meeting areas, new offices, staff room, the upgrading of the Audio-Visual Library, large storage spaces and the installation of 2 new lifts, as well as facilities for people with limited mobility.

The Faculty offers a number of taught programmes at Diploma, Undergraduate and Postgraduate levels. These include M.A. Integrated Marketing Communications,
MFA Digital Arts, B.Communications Honours, B.Communications General, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Digital Arts and Diploma in Journalism which build on the media and communication related programmes first introduced by the Centre for Communication Technology in the 1990s. Other programmes focus on the management of information: M.A. Documentary Heritage and Melitensia Studies, Bachelor of Knowledge and Information Management, Diploma in Archive and Records Management and Diploma in Library and Information Studies, and a M.Sc. in Cognitive Science was launched in October this year.

The Faculty’s diverse research streams, which have attracted over EUR 1.5 million of European Union research funding under the FP7 and H2020 funding programmes, continue to pursue the investigation of knowledge creation, its accumulation and transfer and its multiple use in society. MaKS embraces cognitive neuroscience and social science research as theoretical frameworks for communication as well as different forms of digital media expressions and social structures that make the dissemination of knowledge possible.

MaKS is made up of six departments: Department of Media and Communications, Department of Library Information and Archive Sciences, Department of Digital Arts, Department of Corporate Communication, Department of Cognitive Science and Department of Information Policy and Governance.

Rector, Professor Juanito Camilleri commented that the University always strove to be at the forefront in Malta’s development and the new state-of-the-art facilities at MaKS were crucial in taking Media and Knowledge Sciences to the next level.

MOU signed with the Public Service

A Memorandum of Understanding for the enhancement of collaboration between the University of Malta and the Public Service of Malta has been signed between the University and the Government of Malta. The MoU represents a framework governing the relationship between the Government and the University regarding training and research relating to the Public Service.

The University is willing to continue contributing to Public Service renewal in the national interest. This requires a better qualified workforce through the provision of tertiary-level courses that are tailored to the needs of the Public Service.

The Government will identify training needs at tertiary level in the Public Service and will consider, jointly with the University, whether these needs can be met through existing courses, adaptations of them, or the development of new courses.
Traditional music from Salamanca University

Earlier this month, the Salamanca University Tuna - a musical group of performers - played some of their best traditional songs at the Msida Campus, University of Malta.

The birth of the University of Salamanca, the oldest university in Spain, brought with it the birth of different artistic manifestations both popular and academic. One of these was La Tuna.

The social disparities present at the University’s inception, spurred the students with less resources to organise themselves in order to get, with their ingenuity, everything they needed to survive and pursue their studies. In this way, the University students created musical groups of troubadours who would go from bar to bar, at weddings, festivals and the like to get the food and money they needed. And so was born La Tuna, a tradition which has stood the test of time and today preserves the popular musical tradition not only of Spain but also of Latin America.

La Tuna is a great way of getting an inside look at the living history of Spanish popular and musical culture, thereby getting to know the traditions, while enjoying the music.

Exhibition of Botanical Drawings at the Library

An Exhibition of Botanical Drawings of Maltese Native & Ornamental Flora by Guido Lanfranco is on display at the University of Malta Library. The exhibition was jointly inaugurated by the Pro-Rector Professor Alfred J. Vella and by HE the Australian High Commissioner to Malta Ms Jane Lambert.

The botanical drawings on display form part of an extensive collection of nearly 600 botanical drawings, rendered in water-colour, which have recently been donated to the Archives & Special Collections Department of the University of Malta Library by the author of the works, the well-known natural history expert, author and folklorist, Mr Guido Lanfranco. The inauguration of the exhibition coincided with the formal presentation of this prestigious collection to the University Library. During the event Mr Lanfranco, who was surrounded by family and friends, was thanked for a ‘remarkable lifetime of work’.

The exhibition can be viewed in the exhibition area of the Library located on the ground floor and is open to the public during Library opening hours until 11 December 2015.