Annual Presentation of Accountancy Awards

The Department of Accountancy, Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy recently held this year’s presentation of awards to the Master in Accountancy 2012/2014 graduate group. The Head of Department, Mr Peter J Baldacchino gave an introductory speech on the various developments in the Department during the past year and on recent developments in research trends. The visiting lecturer, Professor Eva Eberhartinger from the Vienna University of Economics and Business gave a short speech on subject matter of recent student research in the Department.

Sixteen different awards and two appreciation awards were then announced by the Dean of FEMA, Professor Joseph Falzon. Award winners were congratulated by the Pro-Rector Professor Richard Muscat and then presented awards by the following sponsors: the Malta Institute of Accountants, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, the National Audit Office, the Central Co-operative Fund, and seven international accountancy firms. Each award winner is presented a copy of their study to the sponsor.

The Malta Institute of Accountants Best Student of the Year Prize was awarded by Professor Richard Muscat on behalf of the Malta Institute of Accountants to Ms Justine Agius, who spoke about her experience in the professional accountancy course.

Sponsors included Deloitte prize for best dissertation in Taxation and the best dissertation in the Professional Issues in Accountancy; EY again awarded two prizes, one on Financial Reporting Standards and one on Information Technology; Grant Thornton prize for Risk Management; KPMG Financial Accounting prize and prize in Internal Auditing and Control; The RSM Malta prize in Finance; PricewaterhouseCoopers prize in External Auditing and prize in Corporate Governance; The Co-operative Societies prize sponsored by the Central Co-operative Fund; Nexia BT prize and the National Audit Office Public Sector Accounting and Auditing prize.

Two staff appreciation awards were then announced to retiring members of staff; Mr Frederick Mifsud Bonnici and Mr John Zarb.
Over 200 delegates, hailing from 29 countries including Malta, attended the International Home Economics conference with the theme Action for Family and Consumer Wellbeing: Home Economics Literacy Bringing Skills to Life held at the University of Malta’s Valletta Campus recently. The conference was opened by H.E. The President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca and closed by The Hon Chris Agius – Parliamentary Secretary for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sports. Children from Valletta Primary School welcomed the delegates in their own languages and took part in a colourful parade with the flags of the countries represented.

The conference brought together Home Economics educators, practitioners and researchers who had the opportunity to hear presentations by a slate of renowned speakers including Professor Isobel Contento, Professor of Nutrition and Education, Teachers College, Columbia University - New York, Professor Victoria Thoresen, UNESCO Chair Education for Sustainable Lifestyles, Hamar College - Norway, Professor Donna Pendergast, Dean School of Education and Professional Studies, Griffith University - Australia, Professor Kaija Turkki, Professor in Home Economics, University of Helsinki – Finland, and Dr Joao Breda, Programme Manager for Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity, Division of NCD & Life-course, WHO Regional Office Europe.

The University of Malta was also well represented with local keynote speakers and workshop and fora presenters including Professor Angela Abela - Head, Department of Family Studies, Dr Karen Mugliett - Nutrition, Family & Consumer Studies (NFCS), Dr Margaret Mangion and Shirley Pulis Xerxen -The Edward de Bono Institute for the Design and Development of Thinking and Dr Vince Caruana and Cynthia Caruana - Centre for Environmental Education and Research.

This International Conference was a joint event of the NFCS Office, Faculty of Education, University of Malta, the International Federation of Home Economics and the European Association of Home Economics. It was supported by the Ministry of Finance, the MCCAA, the MTA, the University of Malta and WasteServ Malta Ltd.
ARVI COST action launched in Malta

Twenty-six participants from eighteen countries have taken part in the first meeting of IC1402 Runtime Verification beyond Monitoring (ARVI) which was recently concluded with success at the University of Malta Valletta Campus. The meeting was organised by the Maltese representatives for this COST action: Dr Christian Colombo and Professor Gordon Pace from the Faculty of ICT, with the indispensable help of the University of Malta Conference Unit. COST is an EU initiative to facilitate networking amongst researchers, engineers and scholars from different member states, encouraging regular meetings and collaboration. The ARVI COST action is dedicated to the area of runtime verification - a set of techniques aimed at monitoring software to ensure that observed software actions conform to the expected behaviour. Such checks are highly useful in security critical systems such as financial systems where a small error might result in huge losses. The action is organised into four working groups: The first focuses on the core aspects of runtime verification, particularly by identifying open challenges in the area. The second focuses on the tool support for runtime verification, particularly by consolidating existing tools and striving towards their interoperability. The third group aims at exploring the interactions of runtime verification with other cross-cutting research areas such as distributed computing, static and dynamic verification, software testing, etc. The fourth group is tasked with exporting runtime verification techniques to industry while at the same time drawing inspiration from industrial case studies to evaluate and improve the available tools and techniques.

‘Spot the Jellyfish’ Campaign Running in its 6th summer

The popular jellyfish citizen science campaign – Spot the Jellyfish – launched in June 2010 – is being renewed again this summer through a number of initiatives, which include the installation of the trademark seaside boards along the most popular bays of the Maltese Islands, as well as the dissemination of informative material with all local SCUBA diving clubs and coastal local councils. A number of educational talks on jellyfish will also be delivered at local beaches in collaboration with the Malta Tourism Authority. Throughout the winter, non-bathing season, the Spot the Jellyfish team still received numerous reports of gelatinous species from divers and boat owners, with such reports mainly referring to non-stinging comb jellyfish and salp colonies.

Photo courtesy of Pete Bullen