The Faculty of Dental Surgery will be setting up a mobile dental clinic to reach out to the Maltese in their respective community and provide oral health advice and dental care.

A first in Malta, the project forms part of University’s health outreach programme and is supported by the University’s Research Innovation and Development Trust (RIDT). The Good Causes Fund, Cherubino Ltd, Suratek Equipment and Barthet Enterprises are the initial sponsors however the University is also discussing with other potential sponsors to complete the project.

The mobile dental clinic will be visiting localities across Malta and Gozo. The aim is to reach out to all sectors of society, including the underprivileged communities, the institutionalised, all schools including special needs schools, orphanages, the homebound elderly and all those who would otherwise depend on a third party to be able to access dental care.

The clinic will be equipped with modern facilities and it will be manned by staff members of the Faculty of Dental Surgery together with final year dental students.

The University Rector Prof. Juanito Camilleri praised the Faculty of Dental Surgery for its commitment to the community and its oral health needs. He said: ‘This project will allow the University of Malta to be more active in our society. While providing dental students with the opportunity to gain experience, the project will also serve to collect information, and data for field-studies intended to identify specific needs in the community and provide more appropriate care and service.’

‘Many University researchers are working on projects intended to improve our quality of life. Research projects need funds to develop and to yield beneficial results. Through RIDT, the University is now encouraging both public and private corporations as well as individuals to help and support our research projects.’

Nikolai Attard said: ‘The Faculty of Dental Surgery, being one of the main stakeholders in the area of oral health, is embarking on this project for various reasons. We want to bring change in our nation by educating our children and by instituting preventive programs that will ultimately result in improved oral health in our future generations. The team will also use the Mobile Unit to identify and research the oral health gap that exists among people coming different social backgrounds.’

‘Our aim is to reduce barriers to dental care that exist within the Maltese community and reach out to those people who need care most. Patients requiring further dental treatment shall be referred to the appropriate clinics within the University Teaching Clinic. This initiative is also a valuable educational resource for dental students who will be exposed to the different fabric of our society.’

The University’s RIDT was set up to bolster investment in research and innovation on a national level. For the University of Malta to fulfil its commitment to future research, a much greater support is needed from many stakeholders. One can donate and get to know more about RIDT by visiting its website.
Environmental management takes centre stage through a protocol which has been signed by the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) and the University of Malta. This establishes a regional Mediterranean office for CEDARE within the University’s Institute of Earth Systems (IES).

The new CEDARE Mediterranean Regional Office will provide a platform for joint research and training activities and will promote synergies between institutions with relevant areas of expertise and CEDARE, primarily in the Mediterranean, in the various fields of environmental management, within areas of competence of the IES. It will also facilitate the promotion of IES interdisciplinary courses in earth systems, environmental management and planning, and rural sciences and food systems courses within the CEDARE region.

Established in 1992, CEDARE is an international intergovernmental organisation, with a mission to advance ‘environment for development’ by developing an empowered human resource base capable of addressing the complexities, challenges, and opportunities of a diverse global system. Based in Cairo, Egypt, with a regional office in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, CEDARE is governed by a high-level Board of Trustees comprising the environment ministers of several Arab and European countries, regional and international organisations such as the European Environment Agency (EEA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the League of Arab States, as well as other policy and decision leaders.

Annual Presentation of Accountancy Awards

Fourteen different awards and one journal sponsorship were announced by the Dean of FEMA, Professor Joseph Falzon. The Malta Institute of Accountants Best Student of the Year Prize was awarded by the President of the Malta Institute of Accountants Mr Anthony Doublet to Ms Amy Vella, who spoke about her experience in the accountancy course.

This year’s CIMA prize was awarded to Ms Jaclyn Cini for her dissertation “Customer Profitability Analysis within the Banking Sector”.

Mr Dario Bezzina won the Deloitte prize for best dissertation in Taxation “The Vat Status of Holding Companies in Malta”. The other Deloitte prize, that for best dissertation in the Accountancy Profession, was won by Ms Emanuela Buttigieg for her dissertation “The Perception of Maltese Professional Accountants on Whistle-blowing: An Investigation”.

This year Ernst & Young again awarded two prizes, one on Accounting Standards and one on Corporate Governance. The former was won by Ms Maria Muscat for her dissertation “IFRS 4 Insurance Contracts (Phase II) An Analysis of the Business Issues on the Local Insurance Market”; the Corporate Governance Award was won by Ms Annemarie Grech for her dissertation “The Maltese Co-operative General Meeting: A Display of Corporate Governance?”

The Grant Thornton prize for Law related to Accounting was awarded to Mr Kyle Galea for his dissertation “The Financial Impact of MiFID in the Maltese Financial Services Sector”. 

CONT>
Mark Cardona, a Master of Pharmacy student, was presented with the Actavis Award for the Best Presentation during the closing ceremony of the 2013 Annual Pharmacy Symposium. Mark Cardona presented his dissertation on ‘Cardiovascular Medicines: Comparative Costs and Benefits’ which he is undertaking under the supervision of Dr Maurice Zarb Adami.

The other PWC prize was in Risk Management and was won by Mr Armand Busuttil for his dissertation “The Distinctive Role of Risk Management and Internal Audit in A Maltese Life Assurance Company – A Case Study.”

The Co-operative Societies prize sponsored by the Central Co-operative Fund, was awarded to Ms Noeleen Gauci for her dissertation “The Financing of Maltese Co-operatives: An Evaluation”.

Finally, the National Audit Office Public Sector Accounting and Auditing prize was won by Ms Bernardette Zammit for her study on “The Maltese Perspectives on the Conceptual framework for the Public Sector Proposed by the IPSASB”.

Events

**Coming Up**

**Francesco Vella, An unsung Protagonist of Maltese Language Development**, a talk by Prof. Arnold Cassola (12/4). 19:00. CRC.

**Seminars on Family Policy Evaluation and Auditing of Family Services (12 & 13/4)**

The next seminar will focus on Effective Pre-school and Primary Education (EPPE) and the National Evaluation of Sure Start projects. It will be led by Professor Edward Melhuish, Professor of Human Development at Birkbeck, University of London.

The KPMG Financial Accounting prize was won by Ms Jessica Camilleri for her dissertation “The setting up of Protected Cell Companies in Malta: An Accounting and Financial Reporting Perspective”.

The other KPMG prize was in Internal Auditing and Control; this was jointly awarded to both Ms Ritienne Debrincat for her dissertation “Selected Internal Controls in a Large Maltese Retail Complex: A Case Study” and Ms Sasha Gauci for her dissertation “Internal Audit Reporting in Maltese Organisations. An Analysis”.

The RSM Malta prize in Finance was awarded to Ms Rachel Vella for her dissertation “The Variability of Stock Returns around Earnings Announcements: Empirical Evidence from Malta.”

The External Auditing prize sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers was awarded to Mr Neil Maniscalco whose dissertation was “The Applicability of the Financial Health Concept and its Audit in Maltese listed Companies.”

The University announces the death of Gordon Blake B.Sc.(Liv.), M.D. (Melit.), D.F.C.

Dr Blake lived in East Africa before WWII and lied about his age to join the RAF. He served as a navigator with the famous Pathfinders (bombing Germany) and his was the only crew in his squadron that survived the war. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the war he took a B.Sc. in Maths and Physics and then returned to East Africa where he joined the colonial service. He retired when the British colonies there became independent and decided to study medicine in Malta.

Dr Blake taught physics at the then Royal University of Malta while studying medicine. He then moved to South Africa where he taught at Natal University. His research interest was medical statistics. Later he moved to St Kitts in the West Indies where he taught medicine. He finally retired to Dumfries in Scotland where he died aged 88 on 7 February this year (2013). Dr Blake is survived by his wife Margaret and his daughter Lesley who also took up a career in medicine.

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Mr Brian Tonna, Managing Partner of Nexia BT presented the Department of Accountancy a journal sponsorship in Financial Accountability and Management for use in public sector accounting studies.

**Actavis Best Pharmacy Award**

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Mauro Abdilla and Ms Claire Farrugia awarded Mark Cardona with a copy of the Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference on behalf of the pharmaceutical company Actavis which has a collaborative agreement with the Department of Pharmacy of the University of Malta aimed to support teaching and research.