The University of Malta Pharmacy Department’s Annual Symposium 2014 was held over five days at the Aula Magna, Valletta Campus. The students at the Department of Pharmacy celebrate their research achievements in this Annual Symposium. During the Opening, the Hon. Ministers Evarist Bartolo and Dr Godfrey Farrugia and Members of Parliament the Hon. Dr Joseph Cassar and Hon Claudio Grech addressed the participants. During the Opening Session the launch of the programme leading to a professional doctorate Level 8 degree in pharmacy, the PharmD in Clinical Pharmacy by the University of Malta was announced. The programme is being offered in collaboration with the College of Pharmacy of the University of Illinois in Chicago, USA. The course is expected to start in October 2014.

This year’s Annual Pharmacy Symposium was dedicated to the memory of Prof. Rombaut, Dean of the School of Pharmacy of the Vrije University in Brussels and President of the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy. Professor Rombaut had established collaboration with the Department including joint research projects and student exchange. This edition witnessed the final year project presentations from students who shall be the first B.Sc. (Hons) in Pharmaceutical Technology graduates. During the Symposium 38 students completing their Masters studies and 44 students completing studies at the Bachelor degrees level presented their work as an oral presentation. Sixty students in their second year of the B.Sc. (Hons) in Pharmaceutical Science degree presented a poster on their work-in-progress project. Research projects were presented in a number of areas of Pharmacy including clinical pharmacy and pharmaceutical care, pharmaceutical technology and industrial pharmacy, pharmaceutical regulatory affairs and medicinal chemistry.

Inauguration of TAKEOFF

University’s own Business Incubator

Thursday, 3 April sees the inauguration of TAKEOFF the Business Incubator and the TAKEOFF Seed Fund Award of the University of Malta.

TAKEOFF which is situated at DarGUżeppi Zahra, in the heart of campus, is a start-up development space that helps innovators and aspiring entrepreneurs create thriving technology and knowledge-based ventures.

The TAKEOFF Seed Fund Award is Malta’s first funding programme designed to support early-stage technology and start-up company development.

The setting up of the TAKEOFF business incubator was part financed by European Social Funds (ESF) Project 1.125 ‘Creating a Knowledge Transfer Framework and Technology Entrepreneurship Training Programme’.

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The candidates who participated in The European Studies Graduate MEP Candidates Debate Europe were Dr Kevin Cutajar, Dr Miriam Dalli and Mr Cyrus Engerer, all former students of the Institute for European Studies. They debated topics related to Europe, and also answered questions from the audience present.

Professor Roderick Pace, Director of the Institute and Jean Monnet Professor, opened the event with some remarks on the importance of bringing Europe back to the Maltese EP election campaign. The debate started with a discussion on the politically proportional representation in the EP committees and how to overcome the disadvantage that this causes to a Malta whose delegation of six MEPs cannot participate in all the EP committees; the candidates discussed the limitations of this system which, coupled by the material limitations on the MEPs’ agenda, translates to the fact that Maltese MEPs sit on roughly half of the 22 committees.

The panel then discussed the phenomenon of the rise in popularity of the Eurosceptics and its effect on the coalition of Europhiles. The number of ‘pro-Europe’ MEPs could fall in the next EP legislature and the budding MEPs debated about the possible causes of anti-European integration sentiment as well as whether a reasonable amount of Eurosceptics within the European Parliament could be beneficial for a better functioning Parliament.

The debate ended with an assessment of the next Commission President. The candidates discussed the qualities that such a president should have, whether he should be a ‘realist’ or a president in the ‘older mould’ who would take new initiatives in furthering European integration.

Participants from the floor posed questions on an array of issues including the core areas of interest of the candidates, whether politicians should shoulder some of the responsibility for the rise of anti-EU sentiment, and perceptions of the high MEP salaries in the context of the period of austerity we are currently facing.

The debate was chaired by Dr Peter Agius, Head of the European Parliament Office in Malta. This activity was jointly organised with the European Parliament Office in Malta.

The University of Malta’s Faculty of Arts is inviting the public to a lecture by the eminent archaeologist Professor Cyprian Broodbank. The lecture will take place at the Aula Magna, University of Malta, Valletta Campus, St Paul’s Street, Valletta, on Friday, 4 April at 1830hrs. The title of the lecture is: The Making of the Middle Sea: The Emergence of the Mediterranean World.

The Mediterranean has been for millennia one of the cockpits of world history. Yet while several well-known interpretations of its Classical and subsequent history exist, there has been remarkably little holistic exploration of how its societies, culture and economies first came into being, despite the fact that almost all of the fundamental developments originated earlier, during the region’s immensely richly documented (so-called) ‘prehistory’.

This lecture, based upon the speaker’s recent book, draws together ideas and information from the European, western Asian and African flanks of the Mediterranean, as well as the islands at its heart, to present a new interpretation of the trajectories and interactions that gradually created this maritime world.

Cyprian Broodbank is Professor of Mediterranean Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. His book The Making of the Middle Sea: A History of the Mediterranean from the Beginning to the Emergence of the Classical World was published by Thames and Hudson late last year. It has been welcomed as a ‘landmark publication’ and ‘an extraordinary work, a thalassography of the Mediterranean written on a time scale that would humble Braudel himself’. His previous book, An Island Archaeology of the Early Cyclades (Cambridge University Press, 2002), won the James R. Wiseman award of the Archaeological Institute of America (for all fields of archaeology), and the Runciman Prize (for all fields of Hellenic Studies). Professor Broodbank will take up the John Disney Chair of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge this autumn and will also be directing the University’s McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.
‘The East and The West: Reflections on China and Europe’

Professor Alan Macfarlane FBA, Kings College Cambridge will be giving a Public Lecture on ‘The East and the West: Reflections on China and Europe’ in the Sir Jack Goody Public Lecture Series in History, Society and Culture on Wednesday, 9 April 2014 at 1800 hrs in the Goody Library, University of Malta Valletta Campus. Phone 2340 2202 or email comms@um.edu.mt to reserve a place.

Junior College Students participate in Comenius Project Meeting in Kassel, Germany

A group of University Junior College students has just returned from Kassel, Germany. The group participated in a Comenius project meeting “The Art of Living”, together with students from partner countries Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. Discussions on three different topics, Energy, Money and Green Travel, were held during workshops. The outcome of their discussions as well as an online green travel brochure promoting each country were presented at the end of the meeting.

The German hosts organised a guided tour of the city which included the world famous Grimm Brothers museum and the Bergpark Wilhemshöhe, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The project is co-ordinated by the Junior College Eurocentre and the students were accompanied by lecturers Ms Liliana Maric and Mr Riccardo Flask.

alumni UNIVERSITY OF MALTA VIRTUAL MUSEUM

The University of Malta has started work on a virtual museum that will exhibit artefacts, large and small, as well as documents and photos that are relevant to the past life of the University of Malta and its predecessor the Collegium Melitense.

If you have an object, document or image, which you would like us to use in this virtual exhibition, we would love to hear from you.

For information about how to scan your material, please contact us. If you would prefer us to scan your items, we shall be happy to do so and would return them to you within a few days.

Contact us on 2340 3080 or on alumni@um.edu.mt

Do pass on this message to other graduates. We look forward to creating an engaging and varied virtual museum.

Keep updated, connected and informed
www.um.edu.mt/alumni

This initiative is coordinated by the Communications & Alumni Relations Office