

Some Extra-curricular Activities at the University Gozo Centre (July - December 2006)

JOSEPH CALLEJA

The Summer Activity

In July the Associazione Culturale Politecnico Teatro, an Italian theatrical group, performed 'The Arbitrants' by Menander in the central courtyard of the University Gozo Centre.

Menander wrote over a hundred plays and is thought to have imitated Euripides. Unlike the classical writers who wrote mythical plots or political commentary, Menander chose daily life as topics for his plays. The play deals with a conflict between a married couple who mistrusted each other and who consulted an arbitrator in this regard. The play ended with a reconciliation of the couple realising that their mistrust was unfounded.

The play written about 300 BC, was attended by a large audience and there was overall appreciation of the professional performance by the actors. Mr Mario Prospero who directed the play was impressed by the University Gozo Centre's internal courtyard and said that it is an ideal venue for performances of this nature. The event was held on Friday 11 August and was organised by the Culture Organising Committee (Ministry for Gozo) in collaboration with the University of Malta - Gozo Centre and the Sicilian Regional Government.



A scene from the comedy 'The Arbitrants'.

Graduation of University Gozo Centre Students

Fourteen students who completed the course leading to the Masters in Islands and Small States Studies were conferred with their degrees at the Old University Building in Valletta on 28 November.

Among the students were ten who completed the course at the University Gozo Centre. The students are Angelo Camilleri, Caroline Camilleri Rolls, Joseph Cutajar, Adriana Gatt Terribile, Maria Gauci, Marlene Grima, Carmen Saliba, Maryrose Vella, and Carmen Vella. Mario Borg received the award in absentia.

The course consisted of a major area of study and a minor area of study plus the writing of a dissertation and is spread over two years. The areas of studies included Environmental Studies, Economics and International Relations, all with special reference to small states.



The graduates together with Professor Lino Briguglio, Director of the Islands and Small States Institute.

Three other students were awarded a Diploma in Information Technology after they have completed a two year course at the University Gozo Centre. The course was offered by the Board of Studies of IT of the University of Malta through the video-conferencing system.

Award of Certificates

On 1 December the Hon. Giovanna Debono, distributed certificates to 39 candidates who had followed courses that were offered by the Ministry for Gozo at the University Gozo Centre between December 2005 and June 2006. The courses formed part of a project part-financed by the European Union under the Structural Funds Program for Malta 2004-2006 European Social Fund. The courses related to Agriculture, Business Studies, E-commerce and IT and Environmental Planning and Management.



The panel and the students who were eligible for the certificates

In her speech Minister Debono stated that she was very satisfied to see this first group of students completing such courses.



The Hon. Giovanna Debono awards a certificate to a participant who successfully completed a course in E-commerce and IT.

Publications

The 14th edition of the Gozo Observer was published in June. It contained a number of interesting articles, including an article by Godwin Vella analysing the man-land relations in Gozo during the Temple Period. Caroline Camilleri Rolls wrote about the economic aspect of Ramla Bay while Nadia Farrugia and Stephanie Vella, discussed 'The Gozo Workshop on Economic Resilience in Small States' held at the University Gozo Centre between 10 and 12 April. The history of broadcasting in Gozo was analysed by Dr Kevin Aquilina. The extra-curricular activities held at the Gozo Centre between January and June 2006 were described by the present author, while a short feature highlighted the work of the young Gozitan artist Nicolene Sagona.



Free copies of the Gozo Observer and more information can be obtained from the University Gozo Centre, Mgarr Road, Xewkija, Gozo Tel: 21564559; Fax 21564550 email: ugc@um.edu.mt.

Joseph Calleja is Administrative Officer at the University Gozo Centre.