

# Recent Activities at the University Gozo Centre

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## Photo exhibition to mark the 15th Anniversary of the establishment of the University Gozo Centre

This photo-exhibition was held at the Exhibition Hall of the Ministry for Gozo, St Francis Square, Victoria. The exhibition contained captioned photos tracing the activities of the University Gozo Centre since its establishment in 1992. A commemorative booklet was also published on the occasion.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Hon. Minister Giovanna Debono who thanked the Hon. Anton Tabone, Revd. Peter Serracino Inglott and Professor Lino Briguglio for being instrumental in setting up the centre in 1992. She said that since then, the Centre has become a sustainable institution in Gozo.

Professor Alfred J. Vella, who also addressed the guests, said “many would have thought that the Centre would just offer a few evening lectures, with some possibly leading to a certificate or a diploma. In reality, the Centre has achieved much more than this. Many degree courses have been offered in Gozo, including post-graduate ones. The Centre, as its mission obliges it to do, has logistically assisted University departments in offering these courses in Gozo and has also offered its own short courses. The Centre has made a very important contribution to higher education in Gozo.”

The Hon. Anton Tabone and Professor Lino Briguglio, Director of the University Gozo Centre, spoke about the history of the Centre and its prospects in the future. Their main message was that the Centre was needed in Gozo and that it was a very successful venture.

Mr Tabone said that initially there were many doubting Thomases, but the success of the Centre has shown that where there is a will there is a way. He said that he was particularly pleased that the Centre has been permitted a large number of Gozitans to obtain higher education qualifications.



The audience present during the inauguration.

## The Summer Activity

The central courtyard of the University of Malta Gozo Centre was again the venue for its annual summer activity entitled “Woodwinds for Summertime” with The Victoria Clarinet Quartet. The event took place on Friday 31 August 2007. An audience of about two hundred persons attended an unusual clarinet virtuosity.

The Victoria Clarinet Quartet which was established in January 2004 is composed of its four founding members, namely Mario Galea (1st Clarinet), Marvin Grech (2nd Clarinet), Joseph Debrincat (3rd Clarinet), and George Larry Zammit (Bass Clarinet/4th Clarinet).

During the evening the ensemble performed music by Gershwin (Summertime); Rossini (William Tell); Monti (Czardas); Lennon & McCartney (Yesterday); Mancini (The Pink Panther), Pace (L-Imnarja), Elgar (Pomp and Circumstance), (My Way) among others.

The concert also included video features related to the musical pieces being performed. The well acclaimed soprano Georgina Gauci and Michael Camilleri on drumkit, also joined the quartet to perform classical and pop music. The event was very ably compered by Mr Rob Ricards.

Among the guests were the Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, Hon. Anton Tabone, Speaker

of the House of Representatives and Professor Lino Briguglio, Director of the Centre. The annual activity organised by the University Gozo Centre has become a popular event for many Gozitan and Maltese patrons as well as for tourists.



The event was attended by a large audience.

### **Courses**

In October four new courses commenced at the University Gozo Centre. These include a course leading to the Diploma in Commerce, a course leading to the Bachelor of Commerce, a course leading to the Masters of Arts in Island and Small States Studies and a course leading to a European Masters Degree in Mediterranean Historical Studies. All courses are being offered by various Faculties and Institutes of the University of Malta.

In November a set of courses commenced at the Centre. These were aimed at promoting literacy and numeracy. The subjects consisted of Basic English, Basic Maltese, Basic Reading and Writing Skills, and Basic Numeracy. Concurrently a set of courses dealing with Poultry Production, Good Agricultural Practices, Pesticide Application and Use also started. All courses are offered by the Ministry for Gozo, and are co-financed by the European Social Fund under the Structural Funds Programme for Malta 2004-2006.

Two short courses, one in 'Geographic Information Systems' and the other entitled 'Working with Children with Dyslexia', were also offered at the Centre.

### **Award of Certificates**

On 12 October the Hon. Giovanna Debono, distributed certificates to 31 candidates who had followed courses that were offered by the Ministry for Gozo at the University Gozo Centre between October 2006 and June 2007. The courses formed

part of a project part-financed by the European Union under the Structural Funds Programme for Malta 2004-2006 European Social Fund. The courses related to Agriculture, Business Studies, E-commerce and IT and Environmental Planning and Management.



The Hon. Giovanna Debono awards a certificate to a participant who attended a course in Agriculture.

### **Graduation of University Gozo Centre Students**

Forty two students who completed courses at the University Gozo Centre received their certificates during the recent graduation ceremonies. The courses completed were those leading to Masters in Islands and Small States Studies (7 students) Bachelor of Commerce (10 students), Diploma in Commerce (13 students) and Diploma in Lace Studies (12 students).

The students who graduated in Masters in Islands and Small Studies are Marvic Cassar, Mark Cini, Atanasio Degiorgio, Daren Fava, Jennifer Portelli, George Refalo, and Marie-Josette Vella Magro.



The Gozitan and Maltese graduates in MA in ISSS, with Professor Lino Briguglio, Director, Islands and Small States Institute.

The students who graduated in Bachelor of Commerce are Joseph Agius, Francis Borg, Violet

Camilleri, Felix Cefai, Liliana Curmi, Maria Grech Calafato, Cheryl Grech, Christine Grima, Diane Grima and Vicky Xuereb.



The graduates in Bachelor of Commerce with Professor Lino Briguglio.

The students who graduated in Diploma in Commerce are Karmenu Azzopardi, Marvic Bajada, Mary Bajada, Sue-Ellen Bugeja, Dennis Cini, Simone Cini, Lawrence Formosa, Joseph Mizzi, Michelle Mizzi, Georgianne Saliba Azzopardi, Diana Vella, John Vella and Maureen Zerafa.



The students who received the Diploma in Commerce.

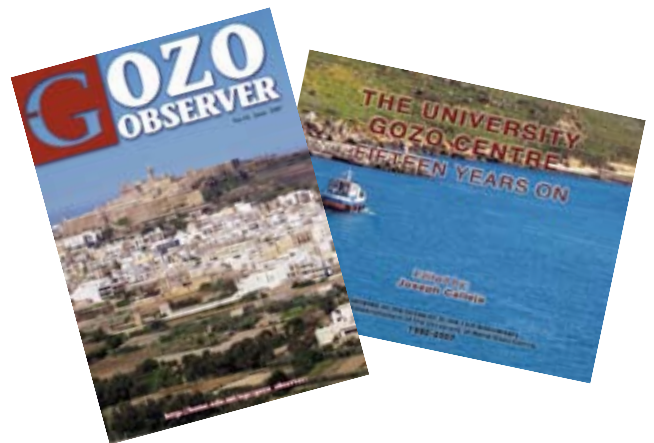
The graduates in Diploma in Lace Studies are Mary Abela, Mary Louise Bajada, Monica Bonnici, Spiridiona Camilleri, Serah Cini, Maryanne Cremona, Anna Maria Gatt, Fiorentina Giuliano, Alessandra Haber, Jacqueline Muliatt, Angela Scerri Cassar and Marguerite Tabone.



The students who received the Diploma in Lace Studies, with Professor Lino Briguglio and Ms Consiglia Azzopardi.

## Publications

June 2007 saw the publication of the 16th edition of the *Gozo Observer*. Once again it contained a diverse selection of articles relating to Gozitan affairs. Joseph Azzopardi and Pete Mann wrote about the socio-psychological process relating to the ability of Gozitan managers and business leaders to informally cope with pressing problems. In an article entitled 'A Glimpse into the Commercial and Domestic Life at It-Tokk', Godwin Vella discusses the archaeological occupation levels from the Bronze Age to the Medieval period, uncovered at it-Tokk. In her article, Catherine Vella provides the regional statistics relating to Gozo's economic and social realities, with a comparison with mainland Malta. Professor Lino Briguglio gives an account of the Consultation Conference on Career Prospects in Gozo, organized by the Ministry for Gozo and the Gozo Council for Education and Vocational Training in collaboration with the University Gozo Centre, held in January at the Grand Hotel. Included in this article is the speech delivered by the Hon Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, during the same conference. Maurice Cauchi gives an insight into Gozitan achievers living in Australia, while Consiglia Azzopardi presents a brief history of the lace production techniques, since the turn of the sixteenth century. Paul Curmi describes the ongoing valley restoration and management of storm water project of Wied il-Mielah.



In June, the University Gozo Centre also published a booklet entitled *The University Gozo Centre - Fifteen Years on*, to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the University Gozo Centre.

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