

Recent Activities at the University of Malta - Gozo Campus

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Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the University Gozo Campus.

This year's annual summer activity also included the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the University Gozo Centre. This centre was established towards the end of summer 1992 with the first BA course commencing in February 1993.

During its initial years the centre operated from the Sir M.A. Refalo Centre for Further Studies in Victoria. Four years from its inception the Gozo Centre was allocated a historical building in Xewkija as its new premises. Notwithstanding its historical connotations as a lazaretto and also more recently, as a mental hospital, the premises lent themselves well for their new purpose. Today the centre has developed into an airy and attractive campus offering comfortable, updated and modern facilities. Throughout these years the campus also found the constant support of the Ministry for Gozo in its endeavours to improve educational and job opportunities on the island.

The special event was attended amongst others by the Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, the Rector of the University of Malta, Professor Juanito Camilleri, and former Minister for Gozo, Mr Anton Tabone who together with the then University Rector Professor Peter Serracino Inglott was instrumental in launching the idea and establishing the University Gozo Centre twenty years ago, which initiative also found the support of the then Minister for education Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici. Merit is also due to Professor Lino Briguglio who accepted the responsibilities as the first Director of this Centre and succeeded in establishing and administering the Campus during these twenty years. Professor Joe Friggieri has recently been appointed the first Pro-Rector for Gozo. The designation of this role positively reflects on the status of this campus whilst auguring well for the continued development of this important educational services provider on the island of Gozo.



Professor Joe Friggieri, Pro-Rector for Gozo, addressing guests during his introductory speech.



Professor Juanito Camilleri, Rector, University of Malta, delivering his speech.



Professor Juanito Camilleri presenting a memento to Professor Lino Briguglio.



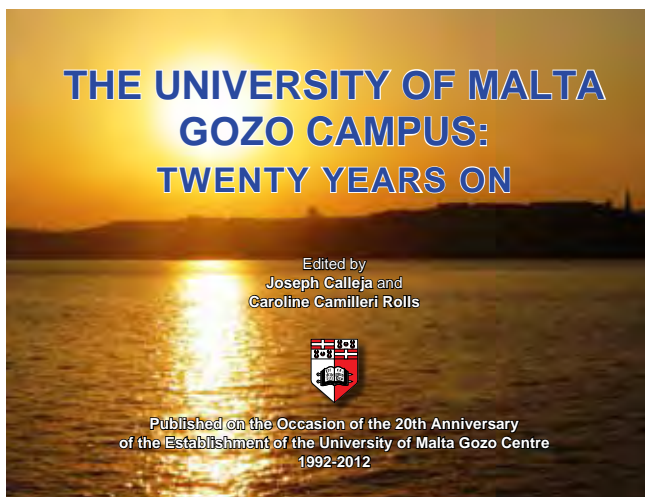
The Chorus Urbanus directed by Maestro John Galea



The inauguration of Ġnien il-hena.



A general view of Ġnien il-hena.



The front cover of the publication entitled 'The University of Malta Gozo Campus: Twenty Years On'.

Speeches for the occasion reflected the speakers' respective roles that all contributed towards the results achieved during the past twenty years. These results were described as being beneficial for Gozo and the Gozitan population whilst the primary goals achieved through the campus's performance included the improvement of competences and skills of many Gozitan workers amongst whom a number of women who wanted to improve their job prospects. This resulted in over 600 graduates, many of whom reaching Masters level with three managing to obtain Ph.D.'s whilst many others also attended other certificate courses. It was also highlighted that the Ministry for Gozo is committed towards its continuous support whilst also furthering its collaboration with the University of Malta in other initiatives that will prove beneficial for Gozo.

During the event Professor Raymond Ellul and Dr. Hans Güsten gave detailed explanations related to the research activities coordinated by the Atmospheric Research Unit from the Gozo Campus during the past sixteen years. The Gozo University Group's president Ryan Mercieca spoke about his group's main role as the main representative of Gozitan students who further their studies in Malta. Recently, the GUG has been allotted an office on the Gozo Campus, thus facilitating the coordination of the group's activities.

This year's programme was animated by the Chorus Urbanus under the able direction of Maestro John Galea. The rendering of *Pacem in Maribusco* composed by Charles Camilleri and Peter Serracino-Inglott was evocative of treasured memories of both these esteemed gentlemen.

The occasion was aptly concluded with the inauguration of Ġnien il-Hena by the Hon. Giovanna Debono Minister for Gozo and Professor Juanito Camilleri, University Rector. Recent renovation works have resulted in an eye-catching embellishment of the back garden within the precincts of the Gozo Campus. This also reflects the pro-active approach that has managed to make this historic building a high level educational hub.

The event was also marked with the publication of a booklet entitled 'The University of Malta Gozo Campus: Twenty Years On'.

A Series of Public Lectures

A series of public lectures were held between the 20th and the 23rd of August 2012, as part of the events organised to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the University Gozo Campus. Mr Godwin Vella delivered an interesting lecture entitled '*Carta e Veduta Dell'Isole Del Gozo e Comino*: portrait of an eighteenth century island reality', while Professor Horatio C.R. Vella discussed in depth the origins of the name of Gozo. In his lecture entitled 'Gozitan Dialects', Dr Michael Spagnol highlighted the various aspects of dialects present on the island. A final lecture entitled 'Gozo has its own story to tell' was delivered by Professor Stanley Fiorini.



One of the public lectures in progress.

Public Lecture by Professor David Cooper

On 19th September an interesting public lecture entitled 'The Pleasures and Perils of Food' was delivered by Professor David Cooper, a regular visitor to the Gozo Campus. The lecture was followed by a traditional meal featuring Maltese food and wine. The event was highly attended by locals as well as foreigners.



The guests during the traditional meal.



Prof David Cooper delivering his lecture

Courses Offered at the University Gozo Campus

This year the University of Malta, once again opened a Diploma in Commerce course which is being followed by eight students. This course is being organised on a part-time basis, and is spread over two academic years.

Another two courses, one leading to the Master of Science in Sustainable Energy and the other to a Certificate in Clinical Nursing Practice (Emergency Nursing), are being offered via video-conferencing. This facility enables Gozitan students to follow the course directly from Gozo without the need to cross over to the main island.

In February 2013 the University of Malta will be offering two further courses at the Gozo Campus. These are the Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership and a Certificate in Proof Reading: Maltese.

A certificate course in Lace Making also commenced in October. This course, which is being organised by the Lace Making Programme of the UGC, is spread over one academic year. During the course participants are learning the techniques of Maltese lace on a professional basis as well as the history of Maltese lace and the technical drawing of patterns required. Six participants are following the course.

Graduation of University Gozo Campus Students

Twenty four students who completed courses at the University of Malta – Gozo Campus received their certificates during the recent graduation ceremonies. The courses completed were those leading to the Master of Arts in Islands and Small States Studies (two students), Master of Arts in Hospitaller Studies (two students), Master in Translation (one student), Executive Master of Business Administration (five students), Bachelor of Commerce (seven students) and Diploma in Commerce (seven students).

The students who graduated in Master of Arts in Islands and Small States Studies are Mariella Ciantar and Lily Said. Romina Debrincat graduated in Master in Translation while those who graduated in Executive Master of Business Administration are Miriam Azzopardi, Audrey Ann Bugeja, Caroline Debono, Jeanette Margaret Zammit and Maria Zammit Micallef.

The students who graduated in Bachelor of Commerce are Jonathan Debono, Sylvana Muscat, John Pace, Josline Portelli, Nadine Portelli, Vincent Scicluna and Alison Zerafa. Those who graduated in Diploma in Commerce are Miriam Bugeja, David Debattista, Odette Demicoli, Kenny Grima, James Sciberras, Ann Maree Vella and Melissa Xuereb.



The graduates in Master of Arts in Islands and Small States Studies with Professor Lino Briguglio, former Director, University Gozo Campus. Also visible in the photo is Carmen Saliba (right) who graduated Doctor of Philosophy.



The MBA graduates with Dr Saviour Gauci former Dean of the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy.



Graduates in Bachelor of Commerce.

Installation of New Videoconferencing Facilities

Recently the IT Services of the University of Malta installed two new videoconferencing systems at the University Gozo Campus. With these new facilities a number of courses are being offered via videoconferencing.



A videoconference lecture in progress.

Joseph Calleja is Administrator of the University of Malta - Gozo Campus.