

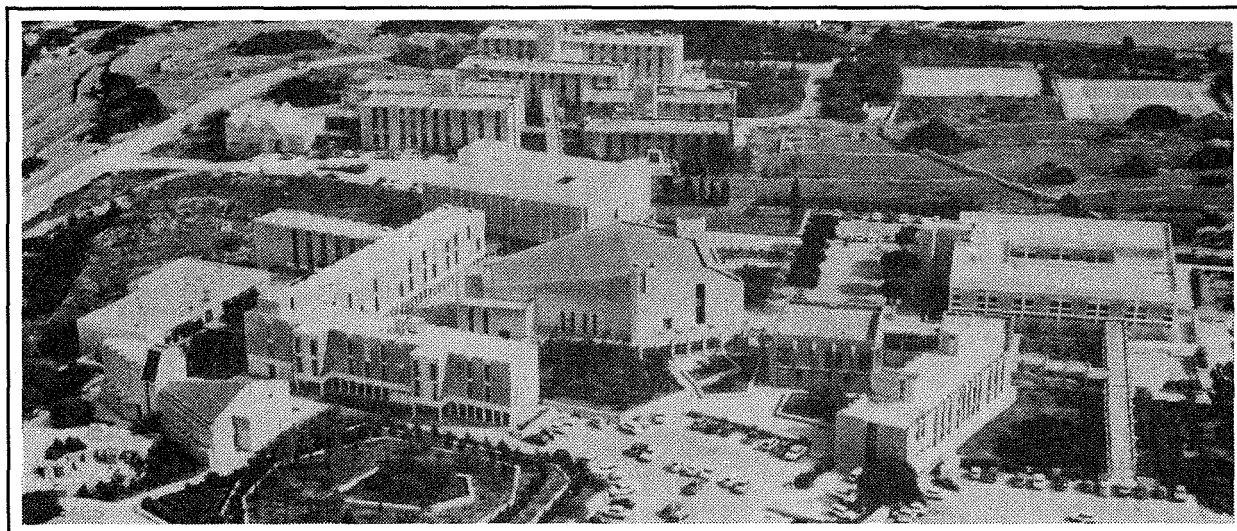


# University of Malta

# Gazette

Volume 24 No: 2

June 1992



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## GRADUATION CEREMONY

On Friday, 8th May, 1992, the Rector, Rev. Professor Peter Serracino Inglott conferred seventy-seven degrees at a Graduation Ceremony held at the Temi Zammit Hall of the University.

The Ceremony was presided by the Chancellor of the University, Judge Maurice Caruana Curran. Among the distinguished persons present were the Hon Prime Minister Dr Eddie Fenech Adami and the Hon Minister of Education and Human Resources, Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici. Fr Robert Wirth, University Chaplain, celebrated Holy Mass.

An oration was delivered by Dr Maurice Grech, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, on "The Engineer and the Scientist in Society."

The following degrees were conferred:

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

*Sponsor:* Dr R. Ellul

#### B.Sc.

Rita ATTARD  
Alexander BARTOLO  
Charles BONELLO

John GALEA  
Anthony GRECH  
Victor HILI

Martin MUSUMECI\*  
Doreen S. PSAILA  
Raymond SCERRI

Victor CAMILLERI  
Edwin EBEJER\*  
Ian FSADNI

Sarah MAGRO  
Anton MANGION  
Denis MICALLEF

John SCIBERRAS\*  
Mario VALENTINO  
John VELLA

### BACHELOR OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (HONOURS) BACHELOR OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (HONOURS)

*Sponsor:* Professor J. A. Agius

#### B. Elec. Eng. (Hons.)

Christopher ABELA  
Joseph ATTARD  
Mark ATTARD

Etienne DEPASQUALE  
Christian FALZON  
John FARRUGIA

Mark SCIBERRAS  
Richard SOLER  
Matthew SULTANA

Christopher ATTARD MONTALTO  
Daniel AZZOPARDI  
Dolores BARTOLO

Michael FARRUGIA  
Robert GALEA\*  
Albert M. GATT

Alexander VASSALLO  
John VASSALLO  
David WHITE

Paul CARUANA  
Conrad CASHA  
Anthony COLEIRO

John GRIMA  
Christopher JAMES  
Joseph MICALLEF

Norman ZAMMIT

Lawrence CURMI  
Ronald CUSCHIERI  
Neville CUTAJAR

Peter MIFSUD  
George PACE  
Simon SALAFIA

#### B. Elec. Eng.

Gordon ZAMMIT

#### B. Mech. Eng. (Hons.)

Mario AGIUS  
Alexander AQUILINA  
Philip BALZAN

Gordon DIMECH  
Kenneth FALZON  
Michael FARRUGIA

Konrad MAISTRE  
Mark MANGION\*  
Herbert MUSCAT

Robert BORG  
Nazzeno CACHIA  
Brian CAMILLERI

Robert N. FARRUGIA  
Vincent FARRUGIA  
Stephen FERRITO

Jonathan PACE  
Mark PACE BONELLO  
Simon SCICLUNA

Marco CREMONA\*  
Francis X. DALLI  
Kevin DEBONO\*

Konrad GALEA  
Ronald GALEA  
Emanuel GRECH\*

Peter Paul VELLA

#### B. Mech. Eng.

John MANGION

### DOCTOR OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

*Sponsor:* Professor F.F. Fenech

#### M.D.

Martin MALLIA

\* *in absentia*

## MEDITERRANEAN ACADEMY OF DIPLOMATIC STUDIES GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Rector, Rev Professor Peter Serracino Inglott conferred thirteen degrees, presented two certificates and awarded sixteen diplomas at a Graduation Ceremony held at the Conference Room of the University on Tuesday, 30th June, 1992.

The Ceremony was presided by the Chancellor of the University, Judge Maurice Caruana Curran.

The Ceremony was introduced by the Director of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, Professor Dietrich Kappeler while the Hon Minister of Education and Human Resources, Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici delivered an oration.

The *Degree of Master in Diplomacy* was conferred on:

|                |                             |                    |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Kais BEN AISSA | Goran GVOZDENOVIC           | Jesmond SCHEMBRI   |
| Savo DJURICA   | Marwan JILANI               | Usama Saeed KHALIL |
| Petru DUMITRIU | Jovan KURBALIJA             | Petar VICO         |
| Ilir GJONI     | Maher Abdel Rahman DOKHAN   |                    |
| John P. GRECH  | Alaa Mounir Sabry EL SHEIKH |                    |

The recipients of the *Diploma in Diplomatic Studies* were:

|                   |                      |                   |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Paul J. BORG      | Mohammed HAZZOURI    | Mary Sarah SAMMUT |
| Mario BUTTIGIEG   | Damian IWUEKE        | Annette SCERRI    |
| Anna Maria DEBONO | Pierre MALLIA        | Raymond XERRI     |
| Lawrence GALEA    | Mark MICELI-FARRUGIA | Angele ZAMMIT     |
| Joseph GAUCI      | Paul MIFSUD          |                   |
| Bernard HAMILTON  | Nives SALIBA         |                   |

The *Certificate in Diplomatic Studies* was presented to:

George BRANCALEONE  
Anton BUHAGIAR

## INSTITUTE OF GERONTOLOGY AWARD OF POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRICS

Eleven students from nine countries received their postgraduate Diploma in Gerontology and Geriatrics on Wednesday 24th June 1992 at a presentation ceremony held at University House. The ceremony was presided over by the Chancellor of the University, Judge Maurice Caruana Curran and the Diplomas were presented by the Pro-Rector, Professor R. Ellul Micallef. The ceremony was also attended by Professor J. Rizzo Naudi, Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Chairman of the Board of the Institute of Gerontology, by Dr A. Mifsud Bonnici, Parliamentary Secretary for the Care of the Elderly and other distinguished guests. The Director of the Institute of Gerontology addressed the audience.

The following Postgraduate Diplomas were awarded to:

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Josè Trop              | Argentina |
| Anita Elaine Turnquest | Bahamas   |
| Jacqueline Da Silva    | Brazil    |
| Yuan Ye                | China     |
| Anatol Clark Allwood   | Jamaica   |
| Josianne Conti         | Malta     |
| Victor Scerri          | Malta     |
| Vincent Tonna          | Malta     |
| Ruth Sanchez           | Peru      |
| Iuliana Carstoiu       | Romania   |
| Nimala Pathirana       | Srilanka  |

## ROYAL VISITORS

On Friday, 29th May, 1992, representatives of twenty-six organisations, which have special links with the British Royal family, met the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the Mediterranean Conference Centre.

The University was represented by the Chancellor, Judge Maurice Caruana Curran, the Pro-Chancellor Dr Paul Heywood, the Pro-Rector Professor Roger Ellul Micallef, the Registrar Mr L. Ellul, the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor R. Cremona, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, Professor F.F. Fenech and the President of the *Kunsill ta' l-Istudanti Universitarji*, Mr John Grech.

The main connection that the University had with the Royal Family was the royal patronage which was accorded to it in 1937 by His Majesty King George VI.

The University had conferred on His Royal Highness, Prince Philip the Degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) on 21st September, 1964, Malta's Independence Day. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Philip paid an official visit to the University on 17th November, 1967.

His Royal Highness Prince Charles inaugurated the campus of the University on the 23rd November, 1969.

## PRO-RECTOR AT BRUSSELS MEETING

In April, Professor Roger Ellul Micallef, the Pro-Rector of the University and President of the CC-PU, the Council of Europe's Committee on University problems, visited Brussels at the invitation of the Commission of the European Communities on Human Resources, Education, Training and Youth.

The meeting discussed the various ways in which quality assurance in higher education is carried out in the different member states and how this could contribute to the further encouragement of staff and student mobility between the various universities.

## SYMPOSIA AND EXHIBITION

In June, the following three Symposia were held: Pharmacy Students' Symposium, B.Sc. Nursing (Hons.) Symposium, and Symposium on Natural Products.

The preparation of a project is one of the requirements of the pharmacy curriculum. The final year Pharmacy students presented their projects from Monday 8th June till Sunday 14th June at the Temi Zammit Hall. International participation included a lecture on "Improvements in Nasal Drug Delivery" by Professor A Li Wan Po from Queen's University, Belfast.

The B.Sc. Nursing (Hons.) Symposium, which was organised by the Institute of Health Care, was the culmination of four years hard work for the students following the first B.Sc. Nursing (Hons.) Course.

Moreover, the Department of Pharmacy, in collaboration with the Foundation for International Studies and the Malta Council for Science and Technology organized the Symposium on Natural Products, which was held at the Aula Magna of the Foundation for International Studies, Valletta.

The opening of these Symposia took place on Saturday, 6th June. Professor John Rizzo Naudi, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, addressed the audience while H.E. the President of the Republic, Dr Vincent Tabone carried out the official opening.

The Pharmaceutical Exhibition, which was held on 12th, 13th and 14th June at the University House was opened by Professor J. Rizzo Naudi.

## RESUMPTION OF RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS

At a press conference held on Monday, 25th May, 1992, the Rector, Rev. Professor Peter Serracino Inglott announced that the award of Rhodes Scholarships to Maltese candidates was to be resumed and a local committee was to be appointed by the Trustees of the Rhodes Fund. The Rector had been offered appointment as Secretary of this Committee and he had accepted.

Attending the press conference were the British High Commissioner, Mr Peter Wallis and the Pro-Rector, Professor Roger Ellul Micallef.

The first Rhodes Scholar from Malta was Mr. H Cassar who went up to Oxford in 1921 (Exeter College) and since then some 40 Maltese have been beneficiaries of the scheme. Among them are some well-known names such as the Hon. Dom Mintoff (1933 Hertford), Dr Edward DeBono (1953 Christchurch) and Dr Alex Sciberras Trigona (1973 Oriol).

The present Rector, Rev Professor Peter Serracino Inglott went to Campion Hall in 1955 and his two predecessors, Professor Edwin J Borg Costanzi in 1945 (Balliol) and Professor George P Xuereb in 1944 (New College), were also Rhodes Scholars. The last Maltese to be awarded a Rhodes scholarship was Dr Charles Debattista in 1977.

## ENGINEERING STUDENTS' PROJECTS EXHIBITION – 1992

An Exhibition of the Final Year Projects submitted by Engineering Students was held between 25th and 27th June, 1992 at the Temi Zammit Hall.

In order to partially fulfil the requirements for the award of the B. Eng. (Hons.) Degree, all students in the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Courses are required to undertake an engineering project during their year and submit a dissertation.

### *Department of Mechanical Engineering*

| Name of Student                      | Title of Project  |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| AZZOPARDI Carlo                      | Failure of Glass Reinforced Plastic   |
| BONNICI J.C. and SPITERI R.          | Cutting, Stripping, Rotary Transfer Machine   |
| BRINCAT Romuald and MICALLEF Kenneth | An Intensifier Pump for Water Jet Cutting   |
| BUHAGIAR Ruben                       | The Cyclical Vertical Axis Wind Turbine   |
| BUSUTTIL Emmanuel and GRECH Noel     | Solar Distiller Incorporating Heat Pipes  |
| BUTTIGIEG Noel and SCHEMBRI Anna     | Casting by The Lost Wax Process   |
| CARUANA Leslie                       | Sensor-Controlled Robotic Loading/Unloading Cell                                    |
| FARRUGIA Mario                       | Variable Camshaft – VCAM –  |
| LEONE GANADO Timothy                 | Computer Controlled Cake Decorating Machine Prototype                               |
| MIFSUD Martin                        | Stacker Crane for Material Handling   |
| SPITERI Charles                      | Thermal Performance of Air Cavities in Flat Roofs and Walls, and Retro-Fit Methods. |
| VELLA HABER Mario                    | Power Extraction from a Propellor's Wake  |

### **Supervisors and Assessors**

Professor J. Mifsud, B.Sc. (Eng.) Hons. (Surrey), CEng., MIMech.E., MInst.MC.  
(Head of Department)

Associate Professor P.P. Farrugia, M.Sc., DCAe., MR Ae.S., C.Eng.Eur.Ing.

Associate Professor R Ghirlando, B.Sc.(Eng.), M.Eng., Ph.D., FIMechE., Eur.Ing.

Mr J Borg, B. Mech.Eng. (Hons.)

Mr A N Debono, B.Sc. (Hons.)

Mr F E Farrugia, M.Sc. C.Eng., MIEE, MIQA, Eur.Ing.

Mr P E Gatt, B.Sc. (Hons.) M.Sc., C.Eng. MIMech.E., C.Phys., MInst.P.

Dr M Grech, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., C. Eng., MIM MIBF

Mr E R Mallia, B.Sc. (Hons.)(Strath), C.Eng., FRINA

Mr A J Pullicino, B.Sc. (Eng.)(Hons.)

Mr A L Sacco, B.Sc. (Eng.)(Hons.), C. Eng., MIMech.E.

Mr A R Scicluna, M.Sc., C.Eng., MCIBSE.

### **External Examiner**

Professor Keith Foster, M.A., Ph.D., C.Eng., FIMech.E.,

Director Engineering Profession – Engineering Council – UK

### *Department of Electrical Engineering*

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| AZZOPARDI Ruben  | Speech Synthesis System   |
| BEZZINA Vincent  | Development of Software Routines and Investigation of Data Structures for GIS |
| BOFFA Claudio    | An Analysis of a Computer-Controlled Teletext Decoder                         |
| BONANNO David    | Design and Simulation of Scrambled System                                     |
| BONANNO Nicholas | Indoor Unit for Satellite TV Reception  |
| BONELLO Ian      | Telemetry System  |

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| BORG Phyllis                       | A Supply for Induction Heating  |
| BORG Reuben                        | Design and Construction of a Thyristor Chopper Controller               |
| BORG Saviour                       | Computerised Automotive Instrumentation System                          |
| BUHAGIAR Joanna                    | Pulse Oximeter  |
| BUTTIGIEG Giovanni                 | Computer Memory Simulation: A Model for a Science and Technology Centre |
| CAMILLERI Charles                  | Computer Control and Monitoring of 2/34 Mb/s Multiplexers               |
| VELLA HABER Mario                  | Power Extraction from a Propellor's Wake                                |
| CIANTAR Alexandra and VELLA Pierre | Turtle Robotics   |
| CUSCHIERI Ruben                    | Speed Measurement by the Doppler Effect                                 |
| CUTAJAR Gerard                     | Self-Balancing System   |
| DIMECH Marthese                    | Compression Schemes for Two-Tone Images—Part B: Decoding                |
| DIMECH Silvana                     | Compression Schemes for Two-Tone Images—Part A: Coding                  |
| FALZON S Karl                      | A Numerically Controlled Machine for Electronic Production              |
| FARRUGIA Patrick                   | Anti-Lock Braking Technique   |
| GALEA Mario                        | Design of a 24-Bit Video Frame Buffer                                   |
| GALEA Roger                        | Variable Speed AC Drive   |
| LAURI Alexander                    | Digital Audio Frequency Spectrum Analyser                               |
| MICALLEF Mario                     | Static Voltage Control Using a Static Voltage Compensator               |
| MICALLEF Noel                      | The A.C. Thyristor Voltage Controller                                   |
| PISANI Stephen                     | Simulation of a Thyristor Controlled Three Phase Bridge Rectifier       |
| PSAILA Noel                        | Velocity and Depth Portable Data Logger                                 |
| SANT Godwin J                      | Transient Analysis and Performance Optimization of a Bridge Inverter.   |
| SCHEMBRI David                     | Design of a Logic Analyser with Output Control Capability               |
| SCHEMBRI Robert                    | Protection Schemes for Different Types of Transformers                  |
| VASSALLO Emanuel                   | Theory and Applications of Stepping Motors                              |
| VELLA Josephine                    | Phase-Angle Trigger Module  |
| VELLA Mark                         | Subacqua Transciever  |
| ZAMMIT Silvio                      | System Block Diagram Change Resolving Mechanism                         |

### Supervisors and Assessors

- Professor J A Agius Ph.D., M.Sc., (Tech.) C.Eng., FIEE  
(Head of Department)
- Professor L Kupka, Ing., C.Sc., Doc. Habil.
- Professor C. Pulè, Ph.D., B.Sc. (Hons.), C.Eng., MIEE
- Mr P Debono, B.Sc., (Eng.)(Hons.), M.Sc.
- Mr F Mallia, Part III IEE, M.Sc.
- Mr P Micallef, B.Sc. (Eng.)(Hons.), MASC (Tor.), MIEE
- Mr C Muscat, Dip.Elec.Eng., C. Eng., MIEE
- Mr H Spiteri, Di.Elec.Eng., C. Eng., MIEE

### External Examiner

- Professor A Rosie, Ph.D., M.Sc., C. Eng. MIEE  
(University of Strathclyde, Glasgow)

### HILARY ZAMMIT McKEON TRUST FUND

Mr Hilary Zammit joined the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy in September 1990. He passed away on 29th April, 1991, a few weeks before the end of his first year of studies; a victim of Muscular Dystrophy.

As a direct result of Hilary's experience, members of staff and the student body decided to establish the Hilary Zammit McKeon Memorial Trust Fund with the specific aim of helping disabled University students. The Fund will provide scholarships to disabled students to help them and their families offset some of the financial burdens of providing special facilities such as: equipment, transport, extra tutoring and so on.

Professor Edward Scicluna is Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee, with Ms Carmen Zammit as Secretary and Mr Joseph M Camilleri as Treasurer. Members are Mr Philip J Zammit, Miss Cathy Xuereb and Mr Karmenu Vella.

## GENERAL

**Visits by Overseas Professors**

In April, Professor Wolfgang Strasser, Director of the Computer Graphics Laboratory at the University of Tübingen, Germany gave a series of lectures on advanced computer graphics to students in the Department of Computer Studies. On Wednesday, 8th April, he delivered a public lecture on "Computer Graphics" at the Temi Zammit Hall.

Professor Strasser's visit was sponsored by Mid-Med Bank Ltd.

On Tuesday 28th April 1992, Professor Sergio Rossi of the University of Milan, an authority on Anglo-Italian relations in the Renaissance, gave a public lecture on "*Viaggiatori inglesi e l'Italia nel Rinascimento*". He also lectured on Italian Mode in Renaissance England. These activities were organized by the Institute of Anglo-Italian Studies of the University of Malta.

In May, Professor F. Cruciani, who lectures at the University of Bologna, was invited to Malta through the Mediterranean Institute Theatre Programme to participate in the Theatre Studies Course at the Faculty of Arts by giving a series of lectures in theatre pedagogy.

Professor Cruciani is a prominent theatrologist who has worked closely with most of today's major innovators in theatre—Grotowski, Barba and Brooke among others. He has published many important works on theatre and is also one of the analysts of theatre processes within the International School of Theatre Anthropology (ISTA).

Professor Cruciani gave a public lecture on "*Pedagogia Teatrale del Ventesimo Secolo*" at the Mediterranean Institute Theatre Programme Centre in Valletta on Thursday, 7th May, 1992.

**Visit by Dr Romiopolou**

In May, Dr Katerina Romiopolou, newly appointed Director of Antiquities for the Athens region, visited Malta under the Malta-Greece Cultural Agreement. She lectured to B.A. students as part of the History of Mediterranean Civilization Course and held a seminar for Archaeology students.

On Tuesday, 12th May, Dr Rompioulou delivered a public lecture on "Treasures of Macedonian Hellenistic Art: an illustrated lecture on the Royal Tombs of the Macedonian Rulers".

**Visiting Professor**

Following an invitation by the Senate of Augsburg University, Germany, Professor Henry Frendo served as Visiting Professor at this University for the Trinity Term 1992 (May-July).

In addition to co-chairing a course on Malta's transition from colonialism to statehood together with two German professors from the Faculties of Sociology and Communications and of Philosophy, Professor Frendo directed two other courses on European identity from Mazzini to Gorbachev and on Culture and Politics in the British Mediterranean.

**Philosophy Society**

On Thursday, 7th May, 1992, the Philosophy Society organized a public video-forum entitled "Gadflies in Schools—Doing Philosophy with Children" at the Resource Centre of the University.

The main speaker was Dr John P Portelli, Associate Professor at Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Canada.

**Staff Seminar**

The Faculty of Education organized a Staff Seminar on Thursday, 25th and Friday, 26th June, 1992 at the New Dolmen Hotel. The topics discussed included: "The Faculty of Education: A Service to Students"; "The Theory—Practice Link in the B.Ed. (Hons.) Programme"; and "The Postgraduate Certificate in Education Course".

**Public Lectures**

On Tuesday, 5th May, 1992, Mr David Michael Lloyd-Williams, Lecturer in Banking and Finance at the University College of North Wales, delivered a public lecture on "The Impact of Deregulation in European Financial Services Sector—the British Experience and some lessons for Malta."

This lecture was organised by the Bank of Valletta in collaboration with the University.

Dr Ron Adams, Head of the Department of Social and Cultural Studies at the Victoria University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia, gave a public lecture on Language, Cultural Identity and Education in Melbourne's Maltese Community on Tuesday, 21st April, 1992 at the Conference Room.

**Presentation of Portrait**

On Friday, 22nd May, 1992, a portrait of the late Professor Oscar Zammit (1911 – 1963) was presented by members of his family to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, Professor F F Fenech, in the presence of the Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Professor John Rizzo Naudi.

Professor Zammit graduated in 1933 and practised as a chemist until about 1937 when he left for Liverpool to get his Master of Science degree. He graduated as a Medical Doctor in 1940 and specialised in obstetrics. He received his Diploma at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 1948 and three years later was made a member of the same college. Professor Zammit was lecturer at the University.

**Book Donation by Spanish Embassy**

In June, Ms Lourdes Jerez Amador del los Rios, the Spanish Embassy's Linguistic Advisor,

presented a number of books to the University Library. It included books on Spanish Literature and history, Spanish Culture as well as annotated editions of the Spanish classics.

The Rector, Professor Peter Serracino Inglott and the University Librarian, Dr Paul Xuereb were amongst those present at the presentation ceremony.

**Vocal Concert**

Haydn's *Missa Brevis No. 5 in B flat major* was performed at the Temi Zammit Hall on Thursday, 14th May, 1992 under the baton of Mrs. Dion Buhagiar, who conducted the University Vocal Ensemble.

The University Vocal Ensemble, made up mainly of students taking Music Studies at degree level, also sang choral works by Purcell, Gastoldi, Brahms, Lotti, Buhagiar and Camilleri.

**UNIVERSITY GAZETTE**

*All matters for publication in the next issue of the Gazette  
should be sent to the Registrar not later than  
the 31st August, 1992*



*Taħdita mogħtija minn Dr Maurice Grech, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., C.Eng., Lettur Anzjan fid-Dipartiment ta' l-Inginerija Mekkanika, fl-okkazjoni tal-Gradwazzjoni li saret fl-Università ta' Malta, l-Imsida fit-8 ta' Mejju, 1992:*

## L-INGINIER U X-XJENZJAT FIS-SOĊJETÀ

Eċċellenza, Onorevoli Ministru, Kancellier, Viċi-Kancellier, Rettur u Sinjuri.

Huwa unur għaliġa li talbuni ngħid kelmtajn f'din l-okkazjoni hekk sabiha. Hsibt fuq hafna sugġetti iżda fl-aħħar iddeċidejt li nitkellem fuq "L-Inginer u x-Xjenzjat fis-Soċjetà". Għazilt dan is-sugġett għax deherli li għandu jolqot mill-qrib lil hafna minna u wkoll għaliex jinhtieg li nisimghu hafna aktar dwaru.

Kieku kellkom tistaqsu lil xi habib meta kienet l-aħħar darba li mar għand tabib inkella għand avukat, dan mingħajr dubju ta' xejn iwieġeb bl-aktar korrettezza. Iżda jekk tistaqsuh kemm-il darba għamel użu mis-servizz u mill-esperjenza ta' inginer, x'aktarx li ma jagħrafx kif se jaqbad iwieġeb. Sa ċertu punt dan nistgħu nifhmuh. Il-konsumatur tista' tghid qatt ma jiġi f'kuntatt dirett ma' l-inginer. Mill-banda l-oħra hija stramba u dan għaliex kull prodott li jidher fis-suq ikun hemm warajh hsieb u hidma sfiqa ta' grupp ta' inginiera u xjenzjati.

Jekk niehdu, bħala eżempju, l-oġġetti li nużaw matul il-ġurnata nsibu hafna bħal *toothbrush*, il-vit ta' l-ilma, kitla, *cooker*, u hafna oħrajn. Meta jiġu f'idejna oġġetti bħal dawn kif ukoll xi buttuna jew xi biċċa drapp sabiha nkunu hfief, u bir-raġun, biex infahhru lil dik il-persuna li tkun iddisinjathom. Iżda fula f'qamar naħsbu fl-inginer u fin-nies tekniċi oħra, li min jaf kemm-il siegħa jkunu qattgħu jaħsbu kif dak il-prodott jista' jiġi mmanifatturat. Ftit li xejn naħsbu f'dak l-inginer li ddisinja l-magna li tipproduċi dak il-prodott. Jekk oġġett ikun komplikat u diffiċli biex timmanifatturah, iżda fl-istess hin wiehed li titpaxxa tarah, tistgħu timmaginaw l-impjant li jipproduċih xi jkun? Ftit li xejn naħsbu f'dak li jiddisinja l-forma biex jagħmel il-prodott, f'dak li jagħti t-trattament termiku, f'dak li jiżviluppa l-materjal, f'dak l-inginer li jinstalla u f'dak li hu responsabbli mill-manutenzjoni u mill-iżvilupp ta' l-impjant.

Forsi hawn min jaħseb li dan hu kliem fieragħ. Iżda bis-sinċerità kollha nemmen li hadd ma għandu l-hila li jibdel il-mod ta' hajja kif ngħixu daqs l-inginer u x-xjenzjat. Tistgħu timmaginaw il-hajja mingħajr elettriku, jew inkella mingħajr mezz ta' transport kif nafuhom illum. Forsi meta deħru fit-toroq l-ewwel karozzi kienet xi haġa tal-fantaxjenza li kull familja jkollha karozza, imma illum din hija realtà. Sa ftit taż-żmien ilu kont ngħid lill-istudenti li qieghda ssir ricerka, l-aktar fil-Ġappun, fuq magna ta' karozza magħmula miċ-ċeramika. Illum diġà teżisti prototip ta' din il-magna li la għandha bżonn pompa ta' l-ilma u lanqas radjatur u ilma biex titkessah il-magna. Esperimenti bħal dawn ilhom sejrjn snin twal f'oqsma oħrajn, bħal, per eżempju, fuq magni ta' ajruplani li jistgħu jwasslu għal rivoluzzjoni shiħa fil-mezzi tat-transport kif nafuhom illum.

Tistgħu timmaginaw materjal li jekk jitgħaffeg wara li tiffurmàh tista' ssahhnu u jerga' lura għall-forma li kien. Tidher qisha maġija, hux hekk! Fil-fatt il-metallurgisti diġà żviluppaw materjali bħal dan. Sa issa għadhom għoljin fil-prezz iżda min jaf x'hemm merfugħ għalina fil-gejjieni? Forsi anki fil-gejjieni qarib. Timmagina taħbat bil-karozza, thalliha fix-xemx u bis-shana solari din terġa' tiehu l-forma li kellha qabel?

Fl-imghoddi x-xjenzjat u l-inginer kienu persuni mfittxin u mhux darba jew tnejn iddeterminaw ta' min kienet ir-rebħa f'każ ta' gwerra. Illum il-ġurnata l-inginiera u x-xjenzjati għandhom kompiti importanti oħrajn, fosthom li jiżviluppaw materjali, makkinarju, impjant u proċessi li bihom jistgħu jiġu mmanifatturati prodotti b'mod iżjed ekonomiku u kompetittiv. Ta' min isemmi l-htieġa ta' ricerka li tista' tagħtik il-vantaġġ tant siewi biex tirbah is-suq.

Malta riesqa lejn is-Suq Komuni. Kif wiehed jista' jobsor, din hi ghadma iebna. Il-kompetituri taghna certament huma mgħammrin b'makkinarju l-aktar sofistikat u b'inginiera kapaci. Ahna jehtigilna nkunu mhejjija wkoll. Huma l-inginiera taghna li fost ohrajn iridu johorguna rebbieha f'din is-sitwazzjoni.

Nixtieq naqsam magħkom esperjenza personali ta' meta kont il-Gappun nistudja. Fost ohrajn kont għaddejt xi ġimghat bhala esperjenza tax-xogħol f'funderija tan-Nissan. Id-disinn ta' l-impjant ta' din il-funderija kienu xtrawh mingħand kumpanija Amerikana magħrufa. Il-prezz kien ta' kwart ta' miljun dollaru. In-Nissan kellhom 140 inginier jahdmu f'din il-funderija, kollha speċjalizzati f'oqsma diversi. Fi żmien ħames snin in-Nissan bieghet lura d-disinn, immodifikat mill-inginiera tagħha, lill-istess kumpanija Amerikana mingħand min kienet xtratu. Il-prezz kien ta' għaxar miljun dollaru. Dan hu eżempju klassiku ta' x'kapaci jagħmlu l-inginier u x-xjenzjat.

Flimkien irridu nahdmu iżjed biex l-inginier jingħata mertu u għarfien aktar għal xogħlu, u hawn l-awtoritajiet jistgħu jgħinu hafna. Hemm bżonn li aktar nies ikunu jafu japprezzaw min huma l-inginier u x-xjenzjat, x'servizzi joffru u kif jistgħu jgħinu fl-industrija tal-manifattura kif ukoll fit-tmexxija ta' pajjiżna. Hemm bżonn ta' inginiera speċjalizzati f'izjed oqsma. Fiż-żminijiet ta' illum mhux biżżejjed tkun taf ftit fuq hafna sugġetti. Irridu nispeċjalizzaw. Dan kollu nistgħu naslu għalih. Hafna drabi kulma hemm bżonn hija rieda tajba u konsultazzjoni ma' nies kwalifikati u li jifhmu u jagħrfu x'huma jgħidu. Nies bħal dawn insibuhom madwarna, iżda mhux dejjem nagħmlu użu tajjed u biżżejjed minnhom. Dan kollu hemm bżonn li nagħmluh bla telf ta' żmien jekk irridu li nsiru u nibqgħu kompetittivi.

Din hi l-isfida li lkoll, flimkien ma' dawn il-gradwati żgħażaġh taghna, irridu niffaċċjaw. Ahna għandna fiduċja kbira f'dawn il-gradwati.

Mad-daqqa t'għajn hafifa li tajna lejn l-iżvilupp xjentifiku li għaddej madwarna wiehed iħares 'il quddiem u jittama li bl-għajnuna ta' l-industrija u l-Gvern, l-inginier u x-xjenzjat Malti jkunu f'qagħda li fis-snin li ġejjin jagħtu sehem aktar siewi fl-iżvilupp imghaġġel ta' l-industrija Maltija. Dan jista' jgħibilna għarfien akbar tax-xjenza ta' l-inginierija kif ukoll ikattar il-ġid tal-poplu.

## INTRODUCTORY SPEECH BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACADEMY OF DIPLOMATIC STUDIES AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACADEMY OF DIPLOMATIC STUDIES

The University has graciously accepted to hold this private ceremony for the presentation of Certificates, the award of Diplomas and the conferment of Degrees to successful students of our Academy. This gives me the honour and pleasure to welcome you today to the first ever event of this kind since the creation of the Academy in July 1990.

Born as the fruit of a joint endeavour of the Governments of Malta and Switzerland, the University of Malta and the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies has been set up as a centre of teaching, reflection and encounters for the Mediterranean region, in the very heart of which we are situated. Today, it is the results of our teaching that are at the forefront. Following the order set by the programme, I would therefore like to introduce the various courses whose successful completion we are happy to celebrate today.

The Certificate in Diplomatic Studies is presented to those who successfully completed the evening course taught during the 1990/1 academic year. They attended altogether 90 two-hour sessions in subjects of International Economics, International Law and International Relations. They also wrote a research paper in one of these fields. Of some 40 initial students, about 20 persevered to the end of the course and 18 sat the final examinations. All of the latter were found eligible for the Certificate on account of their coursework, examinations and research paper.

The Diploma in Diplomatic Studies is awarded to those who, after having successfully completed the Certificate course, attended a second year of studies, going over the same subject areas again but in more depth during seminar discussions concerned with specific issues. They too attended some 90 two-hour sessions and wrote a research paper. Of the 18 holders of the Certificate, 16 registered for the Diploma course. All completed it and all were found eligible for the Diploma on account of their coursework, examinations and research paper.

The course for the Master in Diplomacy is specially designed for junior diplomats from Mediterranean countries who are holders of a university degree and have at least one year of professional experience. During 9 months they attend lectures and seminars in Diplomatic History, International Economics, International Law and International Relations. They also attend special classes concerned with the practical aspects of their profession, and they follow language lessons. Among the latter are exercises in public speaking during which the students can evaluate their own performance. Ordinary courses are complemented by lectures from visiting professors and diplomats, Maltese high officials, and diplomats resident in Malta. In addition to their coursework, the students must also write a major research essay. In 1990/91, seven diplomats from Egypt, Malta and Yugoslavia attended the course. All were successful. During our second academic year, 13 diplomats from Albania, Egypt, Malta, Palestine, Rumania, Tunisia and Yugoslavia attended the course. They too were all successful and will now be conferred with their degrees. Regrettably, most of the diplomats who graduated last year are unable to attend our ceremony of today. In particular the Yugoslavs who had planned to come fell victim to the international air embargo against their country.

At the end of two academic years, we are proud to announce 100% success as far as students are concerned, who completed their courses. This is not due to any undue leniency when evaluating coursework, research and examination papers. On the contrary, our standards are quite strict. The success is entirely the result of the hard work of the students themselves, for which they merit to be heartily congratulated. In no instance had my colleagues and I to make an effort to justify giving a pass mark to a poor student. Always there were more than enough elements to fully satisfy us that the student well deserved a pass for competent and sometimes excellent work.

Let me end this brief introduction with a short glimpse into the future. In October we shall begin with the second Certificate-Diploma cycle and already there are applications for the Certificate course, although it has not even been advertised. The third course for the Master in Diplomacy will have some 15 – 17 students from Albania, Egypt, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Slovenia, Syria, Tunisia and possibly what remains of Yugoslavia. Thus the two sides of the Mediterranean will be evenly represented. We shall also start a new course for a Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies, open to students with a first degree who satisfy admission criteria, without any geographical restriction. The course was advertised in January in *The Economist* newspaper, as a result of which we received over 80 requests for information. The University currently considers some 25 applications from Europe, North America, Africa and Asia.

As you can see, Honourable Minister, by putting your signature on the Agreement between Malta and Switzerland, you have helped setting in motion a process which so far plainly fulfils the expectations of its originators. You may be assured that my colleagues and I, with the generous help of the University, will do everything possible to maintain this so far unblemished record.

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE HON. DR UGO MIFSUD BONNICI  
MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES, AT THE  
GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE  
MEDITERRANEAN ACADEMY OF DIPLOMATIC STUDIES

Never perhaps in the world's history has there been such a proliferation of diplomacy. Corresponding to the ever increasing number of nation states there is a whole new legion of diplomats, trained, half-trained, improvised, loaned from Universities or from the other Departments of the State machine, sometimes called in from active politics or other occupations. International relations, bilateral and multilateral have also increased considerably, and the international organizations have multiplied the need in geometrical progression.

Consider the political map of 1900, of 1950, before looking at that information for the year 2000. The last century saw triumphant throughout the globe, the imperialist reaction to resurgent nationalism. The powers annexed territories and subjugated peoples. This brought about an increase in governors and administrators and made of the Foreign Offices the preserve of a select breed of refined and sophisticated careerists.

In the rarefied air of foreign relations, the subject matter was momentous, more political than candidly commercial, with a twist of intrigue, espionage, or at best interested observation of the host nation's arms build up and estimation of aggressive intentions. Diplomacy was conducted very pompously by means of traditionally moulded and phrased notes verbales, or informally within a genteel atmosphere of cocktail parties, dinner parties or garden parties.

In this aristocratic service, upbringing and academic background counted far more than technical expertise. Given the right preliminary character formation and acquisition of intellectual endowment, the craft was then acquired through apprenticeship and practice.

Myths and liturgies, once created die hard. The mystique of a Foreign Service in which Ambassadors wore specially ornamented hats and uniforms or formal dress and wrote stylized notes couched in exaggeratedly respectful language, still continues, even though present day reality is very different.

Paradoxically, even whilst it appears necessary to confederate nation states and lessen the number of international personae, we are still observing the opposite phenomena; federations, especially in Eastern Europe, are spawning new separate states. The burthens that the smaller entities thus newly created have to shoulder include those of building another diplomatic service and bureaucracy.

The demand for diplomats has therefore increased, both in the old established states as well as in the newly recognized ones. The scope of diplomacy has likewise widened. The representation of a particular state in another has to take care of a whole gamut of interests. The political interest might still be deemed paramount, but trade and cultural relations have come to the fore. There are areas such as international cooperation in the battle against drug traffic or organized crime or again in combating pollution or other environmental threats, which are growing in their importance by leaps and bounds. The diplomacy of regional groupings or that of international organizations taxes a nation's human resources in the field of foreign affairs quite heavily.

Most diplomacy is today being actually conducted by gifted or less gifted amateurs. Trained diplomats have become a minority within the army of those attached to foreign affairs. In Rio the cohorts added up to tens of thousands, which included some quite exceptional diplomats, but all kinds of international meetings, periodical or occasional, calling experts or calling ministers, involve thousands of people, drafting documents or planning strategies and then dealing directly with others and negotiating compromise solutions and alternative phrases.

Again, paradoxically, whilst this great mass of specialist diplomacy is being performed, the supply of professional diplomats is short. Those dragooned into service because of their specialist technical knowledge are oftentimes ill adapted to practise the art of presentation, compromise and negotiation. The world is seeing the dawn of an era of international cooperation in most matters, because the world is coming to realize international interdependence, but this beneficent trend is still hampered by the inadequate preparation of some of the people who come together to solve the problems which arise and which cannot now be seen in a perspective which is very narrowly national.

An area of diplomacy which requires considerable skill together with expert knowledge is that which deals with matters of international finance. Diplomats involved in negotiation should not only be familiar with the trust and parry of the art of fencing but be chess players by nature, and this in addition to the mastery of the theory, substance, and minutiae of the contentieux themselves.

In the smaller nations of the world especially, and perhaps even in larger ones, the perfect diplomat must be a man of many parts, knowledgeable and yet prepared to tap the available specialist knowledge. If university courses alone cannot produce the perfect diplomat, they can and should, perhaps do, produce men who mediate not only by presenting well the position with which they are charged but also by being able to assemble into this position the varied documented strains which went into the formulation of that position.

It is primarily because of this ingrained aspect of an interdisciplinary approach that a diplomat should always benefit from immersion into the university milieu. In Great Britain it was thought that reading the classics provided the best possible foundation for a foreign service career, because that kind of discipline made for a precise mind and pen wielded as a precision instrument. Latin and Greek do not admit of unintended nebulous ambiguities, though they give ample scope to calculated Sibylline ambivalences. The Vatican aspirant begins as a minutante writing with full cognizance of the import of every single word and phrase as well as its place in a particular paragraph. All this continues to be important as ever, but in addition the modern diplomat is in dire need of copious knowledge and flexibility of mind; in this wider sense of university man. Moreover, there is a very commendable trend of encouraging a disengagement from the former jealous conservation of one's nation particular charisma by studying in the national university or staff college. International understanding and friendship is today being grounded in the experience of studying with others from other nations.

And yet for all his mental acuity as well as verbal virtuosity, for all his abundance of cultural acquisition from many sources, the diplomat who is too cynical in his wisdom, is not a good diplomat. A motive force of belief in one's work is an essential component in the personality of any diplomat. Experience and wide knowledge may tend to diminish any earlier trait of naivete of empty ambition but if the spark of purpose is extinguished, there is no further use for this salt.

Let us continue in the conviction that exposure to more knowledge and training is the best way of bringing about improvement in human affairs. Let us continue in the conviction that the application of human tact to the resolution of contrast, conflicts and excess of the competitive spirit, is an eternal requirement in human society. Let us therefore hope that this diploma course is worthwhile pursuing in trying to produce a finer specimen of the genus homo discretus.

It seems that resort to arms as a means of resolving differences is now becoming mostly limited to ethnic and cultural disputes as the ideological bipolar cleavage has broken down. Understanding and appreciation of different cultures has therefore become a more than essential ingredient in the peace process. Within this scenario *cedant armae togae* would be transferred from the subjunctive to the indicative mood. Let us hope that an optimum trained and gowned diplomacy will hasten an era of collaboration and cooperation in international affairs, in which *verbo non ferro* will be the motto.

Above all, patience is of the essence of diplomacy. Resistance or lack of interest must be overcome with resource and determination without giving in to discouragement.

This Academy of Diplomatic Studies is symptomatically International, Maltese and Swiss. We acknowledge the contributions made and look forward to further collaboration in this field.

ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF GERONTOLOGY  
DURING THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE  
POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS IN GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRICS

It is my pleasure to participate for a second time in a brief ceremony for the award of the Postgraduate Diplomas in Gerontology and Geriatrics and to extend my heartiest congratulations to the candidates who will be receiving them.

As populations age and people expect to live longer there is an increasing awareness of elderly people, their particular needs and their place in society. We live in a world of rapid change, technological advances and innovations. So rapid are the changes that many elderly persons cannot catch up and familiarise themselves with the applications of the new technologies which seem to be literally child's play in the hands of the young generations. The hallmark of Man is his ability to adapt himself and modify his environment to suit his particular needs and to improve the quality of life in general for the individual and for society. Technological innovations are relatively easy to introduce, but time-honoured attitudes and customs are more difficult to eradicate and replace by new concepts. This applies in particular to the elderly who, by the force of custom retire from their work to give way to individuals from younger generations. Retirement frequently means a withdrawal from work while people are still capable of and willing to work, a detachment from the complex network of social exchanges, and a gradual retirement to a life of passivity lacking in opportunities for creativity. This is coupled with increasing frailty consequent on the biological process of ageing and the ravages of chronic disease which further encourage the elderly person to a life of passivity and apathy lacking in enthusiasm and ambitions and becoming increasingly dependant on others. However, this is a very negative picture of ageing which had been adopted in the past is now being discarded because it is realised that elderly persons are by no means happy to lead a life of dependency which would "present a major challenge to their continued sense of worth and identity although they were still able to find an edge to life". It is also realised that several potentialities and talents in the elderly are often left unused and undervalued, forgotten or undiscovered because of the restricted recipient role that is by custom imposed on the elderly.

A new and positive image of the elderly is now being projected, that ageing is not a condition to be treated by doctors or social workers but a process that brings with it possibilities of new experiences and achievements. It is recognized that the needs of the elderly are not for patronising and paternalistic services but for acknowledgement of their right to as much self-determination as possible and for rehabilitation to continue to function independently. They need the opportunity to acquire sufficient culture to enable them to enjoy life to the full and to become too "happy to be old".

On its part the Institute of Gerontology has undertaken to make its contribution by adopting the educational role regarding the elderly. It recognises the necessity for education at all levels from the Master's degree in Gerontology which the University will be introducing as from the current year to the continued education of the Elderly in the so called University of the Third age.

Time honoured attitudes and customs can and do change but they require the instruments to promote change. Some of these instruments are here today to receive the Postgraduate Diploma in Gerontology and Geriatrics after nine months of dedicated study. The candidates come from nine different countries across the globe and will be returning to their own countries enriched in knowledge and experience to act as instruments for promoting change, to train other individuals, and hopefully to influence the formulation of public policy concerning the elderly in their respective countries.

The candidates also come from different professions and include doctors, nurses and social workers and have undertaken a course of studies in gerontology which looks not so much at the depth of individual topics but rather at the breadth of the science of Gerontology and the necessity of correlating and coordinating its several aspects for the benefit of the elderly. Not only do such different professionals work together in the same course, but they also need to work together in practice as multidisciplinary teams intended to provide unified services aimed at meeting the multiplicity of interrelated problems which affect the elderly and rehabilitate them to lead an independent and satisfying life in the community.

We congratulate the candidates for their success in the course and for being awarded the Postgraduate Diploma which they have rightly earned through hard work and dedication. We admire the dedication and sacrifice involved in leaving their countries and their families for such a long period. We appreciate the efforts required for individuals coming from different countries with diverse customs, languages and beliefs to live and work together in a foreign country and to communicate in a language which is not their own. We recognize their academic achievements in meeting the high standards which the University of Malta wants to maintain. We also thank them for their contribution to the Institute and to one another by sharing highly enriching experiences.