

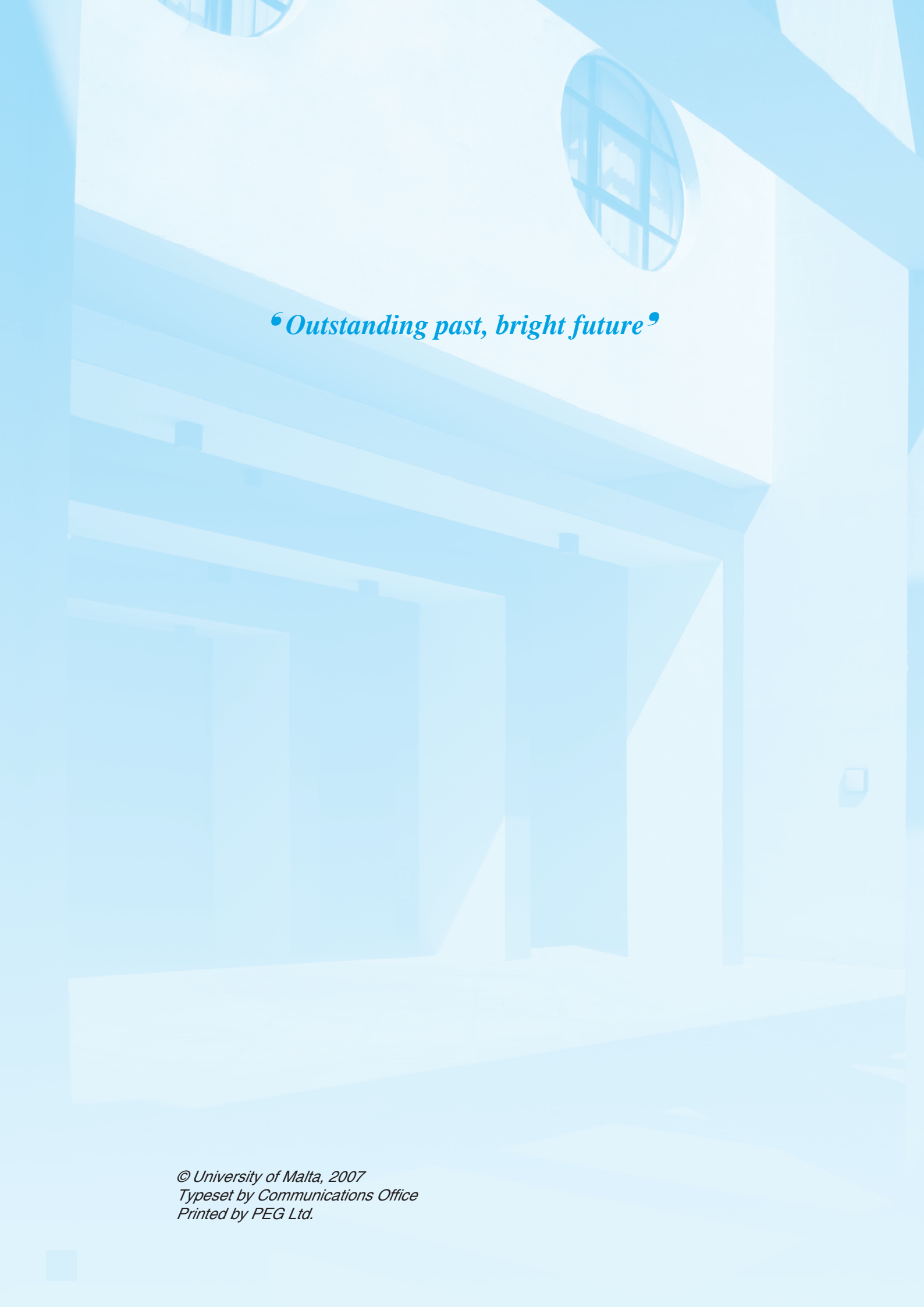


UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
ANNUAL REPORT 2006



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

ANNUAL REPORT 2006



‘Outstanding past, bright future’

*© University of Malta, 2007
Typeset by Communications Office
Printed by PEG Ltd.*

Contents

Round-Up 2006	4
The Making of a Multimedia Pole of Mediterranean Seascapes and the Use of the Internet for the Building of a Database of Historic Cities <i>Dr Simon Mercieca</i>	34
The Rise and Rise of the Female Graduate: Some milestones in tertiary education for women in Malta <i>Ms Patricia Camilleri</i>	42
DMSTE: The Department of Mathematics, Science and Technical Education, Faculty of Education <i>Dr Leonard Bezzina</i>	50
Groundbreaking Work by University of Malta academics making International Headlines: <i>Adjustable Thermal Shrinkage</i>	58
Income & Expenditure Account	60
Student Statistics	62
University at a glance	63

Round-Up 2006

January

Dr Ivan Callus from the Department of English addressed the *first Literature and Comparison Seminar Series* of the year which is organised under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts. His paper was entitled: *Literature and the Writing of the Dead*. The paper looked at some of the ways in which literature, through the work of writers as different as Wordsworth, Machado de Assis and Maurice Blanchot, has addressed the question of a phenomenology of death and went on to review some of the ways in which the same topic has been explored within recent literary criticism.

Students following the *Gender and the Law* credit which is offered annually within the Faculty of Laws presented their findings on various topics relating to gender issues. Amongst others, research focussed on topics such as gender stereotypes, white slave trafficking, discrimination and harassment, same sex unions and women in decision-making positions.

Professor R J Nicholls, Professor of Colorectal Surgery at Imperial College, University of London, delivered the 10th *Ralph Arrigo Lecture* which was entitled: *The History of the Surgery for Ulcerative Colitis*. This lecture is funded by the *Ralph Arrigo Foundation* which was set up several years ago in memory of the late Ralph Arrigo, businessman and entrepreneur, specifically to promote education and the latest medical advances in Malta.

The Quality Assurance Committee in collaboration with the Matsec Unit organised an academic staff seminar entitled: *Promoting Excellence in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*. Professor Roger Murphy, Director of the Institute for Research into Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (IRLTHE) at the University of Nottingham, led a discussion on institutional strategies for promoting excellence in teaching and learning in higher education.

The International Ocean Institute (IOI) - Malta Operational Centre organised a half-day seminar at the Westin Dragonara. This was organised in conjunction with WERMED (Weatherrouting in the Mediterranean project) and dealt with the application of new technologies for safety, surveillance and enforcement at sea and the challenge for Malta and the Mediterranean.

Professor Gabriella Klein from the Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Perugia was in Malta to lecture students on aspects related to her field of specialisation in Sociolinguistics. This included language policy, urban language studies, interpretative Sociolinguistics and conversation analysis and interpersonal and intercultural communication. She is also the Coordinator of SPICES (Social Promotion of Intercultural Communication Expertise and Skills), a Grundtvig Project in which the University of Malta is a partner.

Within the framework of the Erasmus/Socrates Staff Mobility Exchange programme between the University of Malta and the Université d'Angers, Professor Sylvie Camet visited the Department of French at the end of January and lectured on *La Dissertation française*.

IAESTE, the *International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience*, held its annual conference in Malta. This was attended by some 250 participants from 75 different countries. The association's mission is to bring together students and employers to discuss and share technical experiences and facilitate traineeships abroad. IAESTE *Malta* has been established for the past 23 years and runs on a voluntary basis. It caters for science, engineering, architecture and civil engineering, pharmacy and IT students. The association liaises with local companies and institutions and on average generates 35 jobs locally.

February

Early February saw the official launch of the Socrates-Erasmus Applications for the academic year 2006/7. The University of Malta has several Erasmus Bilateral Agreements with universities overseas. The number of home students applying to go on an exchange has risen gradually from 150 in 2000/2001, the first year that the University of Malta participated in Erasmus, to 550 for the academic year 2005/6. Furthermore, Over the past year, more than 200 bilateral agreements for teaching staff mobility have been signed in a wide range of subject areas with universities in 26 different countries.

An information session was organised about the EUMEDGRID project. This is an initiative funded through the European Commission's 6th Framework programme, which aims to bring together motivated experts in a collaborative bid to build the first high performance computing grid, extending across southern European states and northern Africa. This cutting edge technology will provide researchers in the Mediterranean region with access to large scale computing and storage facilities, specialised equipment and experimental data and the capacity to collaborate with researchers in Europe and other regions in ways hitherto impossible. Maltese researchers, both from academia and private industry and representatives from countries all over Europe and the Mediterranean participated. Malta was chosen as the venue for this initial meeting being both symbolically and geographically at the crossroads of the Mediterranean. EUMEDGRID is coordinated by INFN (the Italian National Institute for Nuclear Physics) and project partners besides University of Malta include GRNET (the Greek Research and Technology Network), CERN (The European Particle Physics Laboratory), DANTE (Delivery of Advanced Network Technology to Europe, UK), and partners and third parties from Spain, Cyprus, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Jordan, the Palestinian Territories, Algeria and Israel. UoM's participation in this project is being coordinated by its Computing Services Centre (CSC).

As part of the ongoing series of lectures presented by foreign tutors for this academic year, the Mediterranean

Institute's Geography Division organised a one-day seminar in collaboration with the *University of Malta Geographical Society*. The seminar was made possible through the Socrates-Erasmus Mobility Programme for staff/student exchange with the Geography Department, University of Portsmouth. Dr Paul Farres, Dr Rob Inkpen and Dr Malcolm Bray gave presentations on Physical Geography that dealt with modelling, experimental and hardware approaches together with selected case studies as well as the Philosophy of Physical Geography and the Theory and Practice of Shoreline Management in the UK.

AIESEC Malta proudly hosted the WENA Newie Conference 2006 at the Coastline Hotel, Salina. The WENA Newie Conference is a motivational seminar targetting recent members of AIESEC, chiefly from the Western European and North American (WENA) region, who are willing to take a more active role within the organisation. Delegates had the opportunity to learn more about AIESEC's strategies on its internship programme, exchange-based projects and other aspects of the AIESEC Experience, and how they can implement them at local level, as well as how to develop certain personal skills. Over 150 delegates from Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Morocco, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and UK, together with an international facilitator team, attended this conference which was a celebration of cultural diversity, in true AIESEC spirit. Highlights of the conference included Global Village, held under the patronage of the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Environment, The Hon. George Pullicino, where delegates had the opportunity to give guests a taste of their country's culture, food and national costumes, and the International Party held at TGIF where entertainment was provided courtesy of RUG featuring Gianni and DJ Jeff. The majority of the delegates also participated in a two-day study-tour around the island held directly after the conference, visiting some of the best historical sites and natural spots Malta has to offer.

An open day / seminar was held at the University Gozo Centre on the theme *E-Learning for Small Island States* since E-Learning technologies offer a number of

advantages for islands such as Malta and Gozo. The University is participating in *The Mediterranean Virtual University* project which brings together 11 partner Universities to offer high quality degree courses online.

The Institute for Energy Technology initiated a technical study on the performance of a vertical south-facing solar photovoltaic system at its centre in Marsaxlokk. The system was successfully installed by two final-year engineering students, Juan Pablo Juarez Martin and Maria Fernandez Prieto, of Valladolid University, Spain, as part of their Socrates-Erasmus student exchange programme at the Institute. The system will be monitored for at least two years in accordance with the established European standards, with the aim of evaluating the performance under local climatic conditions.

Some 36 students who successfully completed the 2004/05 Masters degree course in Human Rights and Democratisation graduated in a ceremony held at the *Aula Magna* of the Foundation for International Studies, Valletta. The oration was given by the Chief Justice Emeritus, Professor J. J. Cremona on *Human Rights Documentation in Malta* while Ms Nisrine Bou Karam from Lebanon spoke on behalf of the graduands. On this occasion, the 15 institutions, partnering the University of Malta in the organization of this course met in Malta. The academic programme is managed by the Faculty of Laws while the administrative and logistical aspects are handled by the Foundation for International Studies. The aim of this Masters Programme is to train a number of young persons from southern Mediterranean countries who will have an influence in their home countries in the building up of a human rights culture. The Mediterranean Masters was introduced in the academic year 2000/01 and this year's students are the sixth intake. So far, more than 150 students have graduated in this discipline.

Dr L. Camilleri addressed a Department of Statistics & Operations Research seminar on the subject of *Statistical Models for Market Segmentation*.

The Department of Italian embarked on an EU e-learning project in partnership

with the Universities of Barcellona, Warsaw, Pecs and Perugia. The coordinating body is ICON (Italian Culture on the Net) based at the University of Pisa. The Department has been entrusted to produce modules on-line on Italo-Maltese comparative literature and the teaching of Italian through literature. The project is conducted by Professor Joseph Eynaud, together with Dr Sandro Caruana, Dr Sergio Portelli, Dr Mario Pace, Dr Adrian Stivala and Mr Karl Chircop. The project ELLEU (*E-learning per le Lingue e le Letterature Europee*) aims at spreading e-learning culture and addresses both teachers and students.

Dr Stefan Herbrechter, Senior Lecturer at Trinity and All Saints, College, University of Leeds, where he teaches courses in Cultural Studies, Critical and Cultural Theory and Literature spoke on *Posthumanism and Gender* in the Literature and Comparison Seminar Series. Dr Herbrechter was the guest of the Department of English.

Professor Alain Blondy, Professor of History at the *Université de Paris-Sorbonne* (Paris IV) gave a series of lectures under the general title *Histoire de la France*. The aim of these lectures was to provide background knowledge of the evolution of France in order to better situate its literature, philosophy and art in a historical context.

The Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Studies in collaboration with the Libyan People's Bureau (Cultural Affairs Section) organized an evening of *Readings in Modern Arabic and Maltese Poetry* presented by Dr Saadun Suayah, former visiting lecturer at the University.

The Inclusive Education Programme which falls under the Faculty of Education's Department of Psychology organized a three day seminar in mid-February in conjunction with the Equal Partners Foundation. This was conducted by Dott.ssa Anna Contardi, National Coordinator of the Italian Association of Persons with Downs Syndrome. The seminar: *Facilitating the stepping-out into adulthood of youngsters with mental disability* examined the issue from the perspective of creating friendships and intimate relationships and participating in the world of work.

The *University Welfare Committee* in collaboration with the *Malta Chess Federation* launched the second edition of the University Chess Tournament (2006). This was open to all staff and students. At a brief ceremony, the winner, Clarence Psaila, runners-up and participants in the 2005 tournament were presented with mementos by Professor C. J. Farrugia, Pro-Rector and Chairman of the Committee.

Six interpreting booths that can accommodate 12 interpreters were installed at the Faculty of Arts, financed by projects that qualified under the EU Transition Facility Funds. These will greatly help in the training of professional interpreters following the new evening full-time Postgraduate Diploma in Interpreting course.

Launch of the second semester *Free Gifts Campaign* - a campaign organized by the KPS-Chaplaincy Voluntary Sub-Committee. This campaign encourages all University students to give of their free time, energy and talents to others who need attention and care. In the first semester, more than 120 students chose to take part in this initiative. Most spent time with children at various homes. Another group went regularly to Holy Family Home in Naxxar to befriend senior citizens, helping them out at meal times. Others chose to help persons with special needs in their craft sessions. Most went to *Razzett tal-Hbiberija* and others helped S.T.A.N.D. A group of about 30 students reached out to asylum seekers who are living in the open centres at Balzan and at Hal Far. A smaller group chose to work in the environment, teaming up with *Nature Trust* to work on their projects.

A short course on *EU Institutions* commenced at the University of Malta Gozo Centre. The aim of the course was to introduce students to the decision-making institutions of the European Union as well as law making in the Union. A one-day seminar on *Managing Time more Profitably* was also held. This was intended to aid participants in prioritizing their time and getting maximum benefit from it.

March

The University's European Unit together with the Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology, the Institute of Tourism Studies and the KSU organised a *Bologna Promoters Conference 2006* in early March that was held at the Dolmen Resort Hotel, Bugibba. The culture change that Accession has engendered as well as the Bologna Process initiated in 2000, compels Higher and Vocational Education institutions to undergo a soul-searching exercise in order to ensure that the challenges set by the Commission are met effectively. The conference, in bringing together leaders of Higher and Vocational education institutions in Malta to consider important and newly emerging changes in vocational and professional education in the context of the Bologna Process, sought to address these and other challenges in a comprehensive way at the national and European level.

The March meeting of the *Malta Mathematical Society* was addressed by Dr Anthony Licari, lecturer in Psycholinguistics, Sociolinguistics and Geolinguistics in the Department of French at the University's Junior College. His presentation on *A Mathematical Analysis of Literature* suggested that the application of Mathematics to literary analysis can help to produce a clearer picture of the author's conscious and subconscious state.

The Foundation for Human Resources Development (FHRD), the Malta Employers' Association (MEA) and the University's Centre for Labour Studies (CLS) jointly organised a breakfast seminar on *Social Economy – Potential for Job Creation* at the St George's Suite, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sliema sponsored by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. (FES).

Dr Jennifer Montagu from the Warburg Institute, UCL, lectured History of Art students on Alessandro Algardi (1598-1654) in the context of the credit ART 2010 *Roman Baroque Sculpture* in which field she is a leading authority. Starting with the early years in Bologna. Mantua and Rome she moved on to an examination of his works and discussion of patronage.

Within the framework of the Erasmus-Socrates Staff Mobility Exchange

programme, the Department of French welcomed two guest lecturers in March. Professor Michèle Bigot from the Université Jean Monnet, Saint-Etienne lectured on the fable as a literary genre and Charles Sorel's *Histoire comique de Francion* within the context of 17th century French Literature. Professor Denis Hüe, from the Université Rennes 2, a specialist in Mediaeval and Renaissance Language and Literature lectured to students on various topics within the ambit of his field of specialisation.

The Department of Chemistry hosted the *Third National Chemistry Symposium*. Two keynote speakers, Professor Andrew Alderson, University of Bolton, UK and Professor Michael Chetcuti, Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France, were invited to address the symposium. The programme also included a number of brief oral presentations and a networking poster session and was sponsored by the University and the Malta Chamber of Scientists. This biennial event provides a unique opportunity for all chemists (especially younger local chemists) to publicly present their work and serves as a forum which brings together all those working within this discipline in Malta. The proceedings are to be published in a special issue of *Xjenza*, The Journal of the Malta Chamber of Scientists. The symposium was also sponsored by *Actavis Ltd.*, *Arrow Pharm (Malta) Ltd.*, *Medichem Manufacturing (Malta) Ltd.* and *Starpharma Ltd.*

In order to create a 'criminology-awareness' among the general public, the Institute of Forensic Studies offered a series of short courses to acquaint people with the various aspects of criminology. These were conducted by invited lecturers from abroad: Mr Andrew Willis, Senior Lecturer/Criminologist at Leicester University, gave an introduction to the subject of *Crime and Criminology*; Dr Josanne Holloway, a Forensic Psychiatrist and Senior Lecturer at Manchester University spoke on *Mental Health and Crime* while in May, Professor Peter Ruzsonyi, Head of the Department of Correctional Studies at the Hungarian Police College dealt with the issue of *Juvenile Delinquency*.

The University Community Welfare Committee organised a *5-A-Side Football tournament* which was held between March and June 2006.

The Degree of Doctor of Science *Honoris causa* was conferred on Dr Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in recognition of his commitment to safeguarding the environment.

The President of the University of Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV), Professor Jean-Robert Pitte, paid an official three-day visit to the University of Malta during which academic cooperation between the two universities was discussed. Following a meeting with the Rector, Professor Pitte was taken on a tour of campus and visited the University Library where he was shown around by Mr Anthony Mangion, Director of Library Services.

During the Annual Pharmacy Symposium, fifth year students presented their projects. This year, the fourth year students also presented progress on their projects during poster discussion forum sessions in addition to a poster presentation. Third year and second year students exhibited posters on their project. Project areas vary and include pharmacy information and information technology, pharmacy administration and pharmacoeconomics, industrial pharmacy, pharmaceutical analysis, forensic studies and regulatory affairs, pharmaceutical care and pharmacotherapy.

The Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Studies invited Dr Christopher Melchert to give a series of lectures on select themes in Islamic Law. Dr Melchert is lecturer in Arabic and Islam at the Oriental Institute, University of Oxford and Fellow of Pembroke College at Oxford.

The Rector, Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef, signed a cooperation agreement with Akita International University (AIU), Japan to promote the exchange of students between the two universities, besides others forms of cooperation such as the exchange of staff, collaborative research and the development and conducting of training programmes, workshops and conferences. AIU President, Dr Mineo Nakajima, visited Malta purposely for the signing ceremony. The agreement was facilitated through the intervention of Malta's Hon. Consul General in Japan, Professor Rei Shiratori, Select Professor at AIU. AIU is the only Japanese

university to offer its entire curriculum in English. As part of their four-year undergraduate studies, all AIU students must spend at least one year abroad as part of a study abroad programme. This agreement provides a unique opportunity for AIU students to study side-by-side with University of Malta students and vice-versa.

Once again, Bank of Valletta supported the Arts Dean's List. In recognition of their outstanding academic performance, Dorianne Decesare (B.A.(Hons.) course in Italian), Derek Muscat, (B.A. course in French & German Studies) and Carine Van Oevelen, (B.A.(Hons.) course in French) were presented with a study grant by Mr Carmel Borg, Manager of Bank of Valletta's University Branch. Students who obtain top grades in at least 80 credits during the first two years of their course make it to the Dean's List. Professor Dominic Fenech, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef, Rector, were present at the awards ceremony.

The *Ghaqda tal-Malti – Università* organised a series of informal debates on campus that had *Malti Attwali* as its principal theme. The series, *Il-Kotra u Jien* conducted by Dr Marco Galea from the Maltese Department at Junior College, looked at various aspects of the experience of writing in Maltese. Participants included: Maria Grech Ganado (poet), Rev. Professor Peter Serracino Inglott (writer, philosopher and critic) Guze Stagno (novelist), singer Doreen Galea and musician Dominic Galea. The series was the initiative of SAMM, a sub-committee within the *Ghaqda tal-Malti*.

The Quality Assurance Committee organised several staff seminars on various topics in the course of the year. In the last week of March, two were organised. One dealt with *Assessment Issues in Higher Education* and was addressed by Dr Grace Grima and Dr Deborah Chetcuti from the Faculty of Education whilst the other on *EU Funding & Project Management* was organised in collaboration with the European Unit. Speakers delivered presentations focussing on a variety of issues concerning, organisation and funding, MCST RTDI funding, INTERREG projects and auditing aspects.

The Mediterranean Institute in conjunction with The Very Rev. Archpriest and Chapter of the Collegiate Church of Bormla organized a Concert of Early Music at Bormla Parish Church. Part of the music played on this occasion was found in the parish archives and dates from the late 18th and early 19th century. It was edited by students from the Mediterranean Institute's Music Studies Programme who had an opportunity to display their skills in musicology and was conducted by their tutor, Mro John Galea. The *Magnificat* by Simon Brixì was also performed under the direction of Dr Mro Dion Buhagiar.

During the business meeting of the biennial conference of the *Association of Commonwealth Examination Boards and Accreditation Bodies* (ACEAB) held in Jamaica, Dr Grace Grima was elected President of the Executive Committee of this Association. The other committee members are from the Caribbean (Vice-President), South Africa (Secretary) from QCA, UK (Treasurer) and Australasia (Information Officer). In this role, Dr Grima is responsible for networking bodies engaged in and concerned with the development and conducting of examinations and other forms of assessment, with a focus on the need of small states. Dr Grima, Principal Research and Development Officer at MATSEC and a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Education, has also chaired the MATSEC Review, an exercise aimed at strengthening the local examinations system. Malta had hosted the 2002 meeting of ACEAB.

The Grundtvig I *Let Me Learn* Final Meeting was held at the Corinthia Jerma Palace Hotel, Marsascala. This project focussed on developing a training model, which provided educators and human resource developers with a curriculum to help adult learners develop strategies to succeed in their learning. This course highlighted the interactivity of each learner's mental processes explained by the Interactive Learning Model and identified through the administration of the Learning Connections Inventory, an internationally validated instrument used to capture the degree to which each learner uses or avoids the four mental processes of Sequence, Precision, Technical Reasoning and

Confluence. Each Partner Institution participated in the project by training adult trainers in the use of this process to better understand the adult learners and thus create environments more conducive to learning. The participating countries are: Czech Republic, Slovenia, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom and Malta.

The Department of Public Policy held its *Annual Presentation and Public Lecture* to celebrate the success of its graduates. Final year students gave a synthesis of the research that went into the writing of their dissertations whilst this year's lecture was delivered by Mr Alfred Camilleri and had as its theme *The use of Statistics in Policy-making*. The Annual Presentation serves to bring together graduates in Public Policy and their tutors and to celebrate the extraordinary success of the former in Maltese public life, both in industry, the public service and politics.

The Department of French and the *Petite Auberge de France* celebrated *La Journée de la Francophonie* under the distinguished patronage of their Excellencies the Ambassadors of France, Belgium and Tunisia. The programme included the reading of the letter from Mr Abdou Diouf, Secretary General of the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* and the reading of extracts of prose and poetry by Francophone authors from across the world. Homage was also paid to three French authors of Maltese origin, namely Laurent Ropa, Marius Scalési and Fernand Gregh. The latter was elected member of the *Académie française* in 1953.

Professor Paolo Orvieto, Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Firenze, addressed the Literature and Comparison Seminar Series. He presented a paper entitled *L'Italia tra mito e realtà nell'Ottocento e nel primo Novecento*. His visit was sponsored by the Italian *Ministero degli Affari Esteri* through the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura*.

In the series of seminars organised by the Department of Statistics & Operations Research, Faculty of Science, Dr Jaroslav Sklenar addressed the subject of *Dynamic Programming*.

April

Within the framework of the Erasmus/ Socrates Staff Mobility Exchange programme between the University of Malta and the *Université Nancy 2*, Professor Alain Génétiot was a guest of the Department of French. He gave lectures under the general title: *Renaissance et humanisme*. Also in April, *Campus FM* organised a *French Week* on Radio. A variety of programmes on French culture, economy, literature, classical music and cinema were broadcast. Special features included the literature of Camus, the opera of Charles Guinot *Mors et Vita*, aspects of French economy, the origin of words with a French etymology, the films of Truffaut, the French period in Malta and a review of the new publications *Histoire de l'Ordre de Malte* and *Les Maltais de Bab el Kadhra*.

Professor Frieda Steurs, Head of the Department of Translation and Interpretation, Lessius Hoge-school, Antwerp and President of COTERM, the commission for terminology of the Dutch Language Union, gave a series of three lectures on Terminology and Translation under the auspices of the Department of Maltese.

Professor Jukka Jokilehto, an architect by profession and a prominent figure in the international field of conservation, presented a public lecture on *The UNESCO World Heritage Sites*, which was organised by the Department of Architecture and Urban Design in collaboration with Heritage Malta.

Within the context of the 10th anniversary celebrations of the *Work in Progress in the Social Studies* seminar series, Dr. Maya Unithaan, Reader in Anthropology at the University of Sussex delivered a paper on *Reproductive Rights and the Female Body in Northwest India*.

First year Bachelor of Accountancy (Hons) students organised a one-day seminar which had as its theme *The treatment of overheads in Maltese businesses: relevance, problems and solutions*. Within this context several industries were analysed ranging from food companies to pharmaceutical companies, retirement homes to the financial services sector, airline industry

and the tourism sector to high tech companies. The seminar was attended by the Dean of FEMA, Professor D Darmanin, the President of the Malta Institute of Accountants, Mr Mario P Galea, lecturers and partners from audit firms.

Rev Dr Louis Caruana, sj, Lecturer in Philosophy at Heythrop College, University of London, addressed the April meeting of *The Philosophy Society*. He gave a paper entitled *Managing Radical Disagreement: a philosophical approach*. The session was chaired by Rev Dr Mark Sultana.

World-renowned academics, Professors Lawrence Lessig and Jon Bing were keynote speakers at the BILETA2006 (British and Irish Law, Education and Technology Association) Annual Conference organised by the Centre for Communication Technology's (CCT) Law & IT Research Unit (LITRU). Over 100 delegates from around the globe attended. Some 70 papers examining various aspects of ICT Law and education were presented.

Between April and May, the Department of Psychology welcomed three visiting lecturers who contributed to the department's teaching programme. Professor B Woods, Professor of Clinical Psychology with older adults at the University of Bangor, Wales lectured on *Dementia in Late Adulthood*. Professor C. Brannigan, Professor in Cognitive Behavioural Psychotherapy, University of Derby and Chester University College, England lectured on *Cognitive Behavioural Therapy: The Therapy of Choice* whilst Professor W Gianotten, Senior Lecturer in Medical Sexology and consultant in rehabilitation sexology at the university Medical Centre, Utrecht addressed the subject of *Sexology in the 21st Century*.

The University Life Science Seminars (SCISEM) organising committee, in collaboration with the Malta Dementia Society, the Malta College of Physicians, the Malta College of Pathologists and the Malta College of Pharmacy Practice organised a seminar on *Clinicopathological Correlates in Dementia*. The presentation was delivered by invited guest speaker, Dr John Henry Xuereb, Neuropathologist at

Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust and Fellow, St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, UK.

The Social Policy Commission within the University Student Council and *Agenzija Sedqa* organised a Basic Course in Dealing with Substance Abuse. This was held in the KSU-Vodafone common room in Students' House and included sessions on group dynamics, adolescent development, social and ethical issues, physical and psychological aspects of alcohol, legal aspects and others.

The Collegium Musicum under the baton of the Mediterranean Institute's Dr Mro Dion Buhagiar, performed two of the most popular choral/orchestral works, that is, Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* and Franz Schubert's *Stabat Mater*. The concert was held in the Robert Samut Hall, Floriana. The programme also included some choral excerpts from Mozart's *Requiem*. The proceeds went towards *Dar tal-Providenza*, Siggiewi.

The Very Rev. Archpriest and Chapter of the Collegiate Church of Bormla and the Director of the Mediterranean Institute collaborated in the organisation of a concert of early music from the Parish Archives of Bormla entitled *The Passion of Christ according to Matthew*. This was held in Bormla Parish Church. Professor Hans Jurgen Nagel was the conductor.

An International Workshop on Reconstructing an Index of Economic Resilience with Special Reference to Small States was organised at the University of Malta's Gozo Centre in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat. Participants included high profile experts from the World Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the United Nations. Dr Daniel Kaufmann from the World Bank in his presentation which dealt with governance issues explained that the World Bank's index of governance shows that Malta ranks the highest in terms of improvements in the rule of law worldwide.

The Islands and Small States Institute, Foundation for International Studies and the Department of Banking & Finance, Faculty of Economics, Management & Accountancy organised the Malta-Commonwealth Third Country Training Programme on the theme *Banking and*

Finance in Small States: Issues and Policies. This was sponsored by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation of the Commonwealth Secretariat, London and the Malta Cooperation Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The workshop sought to disseminate knowledge and provide training on banking and finance, covering a variety of themes with a focus on small states at the same time enabling participants to benefit from the sharing of ideas and experiences during discussions.

The Centre for Labour Studies (CLS) in collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) organised a half day tripartite seminar with the theme *The European Company – SE*. This discussed the regulation on the statute for a European Company (known by the abbreviation of its Latin name *Societas Europaea* as SE) which was incorporated into Maltese Law on 22nd October 2004. The aim of this seminar was to provide information about the setting up of an SE. The main speaker was Mr Norbert Kluge, a social scientist specialising in the field of industrial relations and on whose initiative the project SEEUROPE was set up.

Within the framework of the Erasmus/Socrates Staff Mobility Exchange programme between the University of Malta and the Université de Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV), Professor François Moureau was the guest of the Department of French. He lectured on Montesquieu's *Lettres persanes* as well as *Le théâtre de Beaumarchais*.

Malta University Services in collaboration with the Department of Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, organised a short course on *Technologies for Competitive Manufacturing*. This introduced participants, drawn principally from the manufacturing industry, to modern concepts technologies and equipment that have become indispensable in today's competitive manufacturing environment. Each lecture focused on a theoretical introduction to a particular technology, followed by practical demonstrations using the high-technology, state-of-the-art equipment available in the DME laboratories.

The University Life Science Seminars (SCISEM) hosted a seminar by

international leading scientist Professor Frank Madeo from the Institute for Molecular Biosciences, Karl-Franzens University, Graz, Austria. He spoke on *Pathophysiological Relevant Regulators of Apoptosis in Yeast* in which field of research he has given a sterling contribution. Professor Madeo was in Malta at the invitation of the Department of Physiology and Biochemistry.

Third year students of French organised an Afternoon of Folklore and Maltese Gastronomy at the Archaeology Farmhouse under the patronage of HE The Ambassador of France.

L-Ghaqda tal-Malti – Università organised the third in a series of meetings entitled *Malti: Laqgħat fuq il-kampus* (Maltese: Meetings on Campus). This dealt with the Maltese Language and the experience of writing in Maltese and was conducted by Professor Joseph M. Brincat, Head of the Department of Italian with the participation of Professor Joe Friggieri, Frans Sammut and Vincent Vella, all well known Maltese writers, poets and playwrights.

Professor Hans Ausloos, from the Department of Biblical Studies (Old Testament) University of Louvain, gave a series of lectures on the interpretation of Scripture under the auspices of the Faculty of Theology.

Dr. L. Sant, Head of Department of Statistics & Operations Research, conducted a seminar entitled *From Brown to Black (Scholes) or Stochastic Analysis as Generalized Real Analysis*.

The 19th Course in Medical Genetics organised by the European School of Genetic Medicine (ESGM), University of Bologna was web cast from the Main Training Centre in Bertinoro di Romagna, Italy from 26th April to 2nd May 2006. Participants in Malta attended the course through the Remote Training Centre based at the Gateway Building, University of Malta.

The Malta University Sports Club organised a two-day Students Sports Festival on campus. An impressive line up of sporting events coupled with demos, sport exhibitions, live entertainment and leisure events was put together. All Sports Federations were invited on campus to

show off their best at this festival so as to promote their discipline on campus.

Publication of the second issue of *Symposia Melitensia*. This is the University Junior College Academic Journal. Contributions, which may be of a literary, historical, educational, scientific and mathematical nature, are by Junior College academic staff and may be written in Maltese, English or French.

The Department of Maths, Science and Technical Education (DMSTE), Faculty of Education, held its annual *Dissertation Showcase* at the National Curriculum Centre, Hamrun.

At the end of April, the University of Malta hosted the second Transnational Meeting of SPICES (Social Promotion of Intercultural Communication Expertise and Skills), a Socrates/Grundtvig project training course. A training course such as SPICES aims at complete intercultural communication competence and focusses on both expertise and skills. While the theoretical expertise is relatively easy to acquire, the intercultural communication skills require personal experience and tough training. What makes this training course special is its focus on the social promotion aspect rather than any specific economic purpose. Its overall aim is to make such skills as widespread as possible and to offer competence in a very concrete and practical way. This will be achieved through the training of intercultural communication facilitators, mediators and educators as well as L2 language teachers. Partners in this project include the Università degli Studi di Perugia, Italy; Universität Würzburg, Germany; Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Spain; Key & Key Communications, Italy; the Univerza v Ljubljani, Slovenia; ACEK: Association for Specialist Communication, Bulgaria as well as the University of Malta.

The Department of Physics, Faculty of Science organized a workshop on *Seismicity and Earthquake Engineering in the Extended Mediterranean Region*. This was the 25th meeting of the RELEMR programme (Reduction of Earthquake Losses in the Extended Mediterranean Region) which was launched in 1993 by UNESCO and the US Geological Survey (USGS). The main purpose of the

programme is to assess, evaluate and reduce expected earthquake losses in the targeted region, which includes all North African countries from Morocco through Egypt, and Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East countries up to Iran. The meeting was attended by seismologists and earthquake and civil engineers.

Nature Trust, Argotti Botanic Gardens and ADZ once again came together to mark *International Forest Week* of which the aim is to increase awareness about indigenous trees and the protection of natural habitats. Activities included guided tours of the Argotti as well as the Wied Ghollieqa Nature Reserve.

May

Under the auspices of the Faculty of Education, Professor James Elkins, Professor of Art History, Theory and Criticism at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Head of the History of Art at University College, Cork, Ireland, gave a public lecture entitled: *On the Strange Place of Religion in Contemporary Art* at St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity, Valletta. A photographic display of works by Maltese contemporary artists was mounted on this occasion.

The Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery organised two lectures by Dr Anton Mayer, Consultant Paediatric Intensivist & Honorary Senior Lecturer Sheffield Children's Hospital. The titles of his lectures were: *Recognising the seriously ill child* and *Management of Sepsis in the PICU*. In the meantime, Professor Bernard Moxham, Professor of Anatomy, Head of Teaching in Biosciences and Deputy Director of the Cardiff School of Biosciences visited the Department of Anatomy. Apart from lecturing to medical and dental students, he also discussed recent views concerning assessment strategies in Medicine and Anatomy.

Dott.ssa Roberta Lapucci from SACI Studio Art Centres International, Florence lectured on *The Technique of Caravaggio: Materials and Methods* with particular reference to the Maltese Period. The lecture was held under the auspices of the Department of History of Art, Faculty of Arts in collaboration with The Caravaggio Foundation.

The Dean's Awards for excellence in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics were presented by the Rector, Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef and the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor Alfred Vella to students who placed first, second and third in each of the four years of the B.Sc.(Hons) course during the academic year 2004/'05. In congratulating the students on their achievement, the Dean mentioned the importance of increasing the number of graduates in science and technology and thanked HSBC Bank and Agenda Bookshop for sponsoring the event. The award winners were: *Year I*: Elizabeth Aquilina and Victoria Gatt (Maths and Physics), Ingrid Dimech (Maths and Statistics & Operations Research); *Year II*: Jean Pierre Brincat and Julian Evans (Chemistry & Biology), André Xuereb (Maths and Physics); *Year III*: Massimo Farrugia and Michael Portelli (Maths and Physics), Mark Anthony Caruana (Maths and Statistics & Operations Research); *Year IV*: Rachel Decelis (Chemistry and Biology), Andrew Duncan (Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence and Maths) and Roderick Gusman (Maths and Statistics & Operations Research).

The Malta Anthropology Society organised the annual *Ethnic Meal Night* on campus in early May. This was a truly ethnic festival, a celebration of the rich diversity that can be found in Malta, with delicious food and music and dance from Asia, Africa and Europe.

Professor Peter Rowlinson from the University of Stirling, Scotland was a guest of the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science. He lectured students on Graphs and Matrices and the Mathematics of Digital Communication

The British Council and the Department of English, Faculty of Arts hosted internationally acclaimed author and scholar, Professor Marina Warner. She lectured in the Literature and Comparison Seminar Series, the title of her lecture being *'This is the very coinage of your brain': Phantoms and Illusions in Hamlet and other plays*. She also gave a second lecture, entitled *Voices and Footfalls: Traces of the Feminine in Fiction*.

A group of 25 young volunteers, in collaboration with the University Chaplaincy organized a Cake Sale in the

Atriju Vassalli in aid of poor Egyptian Children.

In the series of Department of Statistics & Operations Research Summer Semester '06 seminars, Ms Tania Scerri gave a *Comparison of the Jackknife and Bootstrap Techniques for Sample Surveys with particular Application to Household Surveys* whilst Mr David Suda spoke on *Quasi Maximum Likelihood Estimation of Stochastic Differential Equations*. A third seminar was addressed by Mr Tony Farrugia. He spoke on *Optimal Inventory Parameters Using Special Cases of Time Series Forecasting Techniques*.

Launch of METIC - *Mediterranean Trading and Innovation Centre*. METIC, a project linking University with Industry was launched at the University of Malta. The Malta Federation of Industry and the University of Malta, the two local partners of a EU-funded project under the Interreg IIIA programme, jointly organised this event. Counterparts from Sicily were also present at the launch. These included a team from the University of Palermo, led by Pro-Rector, Professor Vincenzo Liguori, and representatives of Confindustria Sicilia. During a preliminary visit to Palermo, FOI Director General Wilfred Kenely, together with Dr Joe Mifsud from the University of Malta, met the Sicilian partners and discussed the project plan and its management. This meeting focussed on how the links between industry and universities can be created with special reference to five particular areas: Urban Regeneration, Alternative energies, Disposal and recycling of solid and liquid waste, Tele-medicine, The Sea.

The project envisages exchange of knowledge between the two regions, with the option of the development of pilot projects. The pilot projects will focus on Innovation Management Techniques, while they will also include best practice analysis, staff exchanges and the compilation of information systems and databases. The University regards this project as a golden opportunity for projects developed within the confines of the University to find the commercial interests to develop into viable applications.

The Rector, Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef, welcomed the guests and spoke of the excellent relations the University of Malta has with its sister

institutions in Sicily, particularly those of Palermo and Messina. The Rector also spoke about the existing partnership between the University and the Federation of Industry and how the international standing which the University enjoys should help to bring more similar joint projects to Malta.

During the launch of the project, FOI President, Adrian Bajada, spoke about the importance of building knowledge into our products as a strategy for survival. "This survival," he continued, "will depend on our capability to transform our traditional manufacturing sectors into knowledge-based operations which will be less dependent on physical resources and which will feed on the research and development outputs." This project is yet another tangible example of University-Industry links that go beyond the Maltese shores and are exportable in the region. This is in line with the Lisbon Agenda, which all member states are setting as their priority.

In the 10th anniversary series of the *Work in Progress in the Social Studies* Seminars, Professor George Connell, Department of Philosophy, Concordia College, U.S.A. spoke on *Humour and Pluralism – Kierkegaard on Religious Diversity* using the Danish philosopher's theory of moods to approach the issue of religious pluralism.

The Department of Manufacturing Engineering hosted a public lecture by Dr Elias Chatzitheodoridis from the Technical University of Athens, entitled: *From Macro to Micro to Nano ... and back again!* Increasing levels of miniaturisation have enabled the development of new techniques and applications based on micro and nano devices. The lecture presented an overview of this emerging technological field.

The Islands and Small States Institute, Foundation for International Studies, in collaboration with the Malta Tourism Authority and the World Tourism Organisation held an international conference at the FIS on *Sustainable Tourism with Special Reference to Islands and Small States*. The conference was inaugurated by the Hon Dr Francis Zammit Dimech, Minister for Tourism and Culture. The main objectives of the conference were to develop and discuss orientations in tourism that promote the

attainment of lasting economic and social development, giving due attention to environmental concerns. Some 50 participants, all experts or scholars of repute in the field of tourism studies attended. They came from different parts of the world namely: The Azores, Mauritius, Thailand, Malaysia, Israel, Ireland, Australia, UK, USA, Canada, Cyprus, Greece, France, Netherlands, Spain (Balearic Islands) and other European countries.

The Institute of Health Care hosted the third James Madison University Summer School. Twenty students from JMU, Virginia, USA accompanied by their three tutors Professor Judith Townsend Rocchiocoli, Professor Ann E. Horigan and Professor Eric Blumensen spent just over three weeks in Malta attached to the IHC. The Summer School focussed mainly on Diabetes, Stroke Care and Heart Disease. The students who came from various healthcare disciplines, attended a number of lectures and went on site visits to various hospitals. They had to prepare projects which they subsequently gave as presentations on issues related to the conditions being focussed upon. Professor Ingallil Rahm-Hallberg, Professor in Nursing and Deputy Dean of the Medical Faculty, University of Lund, Sweden whose clinical speciality is Psychiatric Nursing and Geriatric Care, also visited the Institute of Health Care in May. In the course of her visit, she lectured on *Research in care of the elderly* and *Developing research capacity and capabilities*.

The Department of Biology hosted the first *Mediterranean Seagrass Workshop* (MSW 2006) at the end of May at the Corinthia Jerma Palace Hotel in Marsascala. The Workshop brought together over 110 seagrass biologists from the Mediterranean region and beyond (including North African countries, Turkey and Israel) to discuss current knowledge and to present aspects of their latest research. MSW 2006 focussed on three main themes: Seagrass Biology and Ecology; Ecosystem Services of Seagrass Beds and Monitoring, Management and Restoration of Seagrass Habitat.

A new association called *EdukArti*, formed by final year B.Ed.(Hons) Art students mounted an exhibition in the University

Library entitled: *Turn the Page*. This exhibition consisted of various 'installations' created specifically for various sites within the Library. Working on this relatively new art form was a challenge for Charlene Aquilina, Alexia Baldacchino, Lindsey Chetcuti, Joanne Ellul Genovese, Mark Anthony Lughermo and Louis Spiteri, as 'installations' do not only involve creating works of art but also linking these works to different spaces in a specific area. Consequently, these young artists needed to explore architectural space, light and other factors that affect the general environment of their work. The installed works also reflect the various personalities and viewpoints of the students. Various media were used like photography, computer software, drapery, resin and other innovative media such as video. Sketches and other processes leading to the final result were also exhibited in a portfolio section as was a selection of other works produced throughout the course. *Turn the Page* would not have been possible without its sponsors, especially BoV (main sponsor), SB Auto Centre, Joseph Portelli Projects and Galea's Art Studio.

An ICT application being jointly developed by the *Concurrent Engineering Research Unit* (CERU) of the Department of Manufacturing Engineering and the Department of Electronic Systems Engineering was awarded the best project in the R&D category in the second edition of the *National ICT Achievement Awards* (NICTAA) organized by the Computer Society of Malta (CSM). Dr. Ing. Jonathan Borg and Ing. Philip Farrugia from the Department of Manufacturing Engineering received the award on behalf of the research team from IT Minister Dr. Austin Gatt. The project is funded by the University's Research Grant *Innovative Early Stage Design Product Prototyping* (InPro).

The European Documentation and Research Centre organised an academic forum at the Radisson SAS Baypoint Resort which discussed *The Euro-Med Partnership and the Role of Civil Society in Intercultural Dialogue*. This brought together participants in the Jean Monnet Civil Society Project and the Jean Monnet Padova Project.

The Department of Italian, Faculty of Arts, welcomed Professor Tullio De Mauro who teaches general linguistics at the University of Rome *La Sapienza* and is acclaimed as the foremost linguist in Italy. He spoke to students on *Come si fa un Grande Dizionario*. Following this, Professor Silvana Ferreri who teaches at the University of Viterbo and is one of the founders of the GISCEL (*Gruppo di Intervento e Studio nel Campo dell'Educazione Linguistica*), spoke on *Strumenti lessicografici, dizionari e didattica dell'italiano*. Both Professors were lecturing in the context of a seminar organised by the Department which had as its theme *Lessico, dizionari e apprendimento dell'italiano* and was made possible through the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the help of the Director of the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura*.

With exams fast approaching, the University Counselling Services organized de-stressing sessions for students. They were taught anxiety reducing techniques as a means of coping with stress.

The Centre for Labour Studies through sponsorship by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), published the findings of a survey it conducted to ascertain the subjective views of married couples in dual worker households about their work-life balance and their perceptions and attitudes that may shape and influence the relationships in the two-earner-family of which they form part.

May saw the opening of the *Active Zone Gym* at the University Junior College. The first activity to be held was *A Step for Charity*, a fund-raising marathon weekend organised together with the Step-by-Step Foundation. This is a philanthropic, therapy-based organisation that helps brain injured children reach their full potential by improving their quality of life and the activity was held to help sustain the Foundation's various needs.

June

Professor Guido de Marco, President Emeritus, gave an address on *Diplomatic Academies and the role of MEDAC Alumni*. This was organised by the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic

Studies Alumni Association with the support of the Strickland Foundation.

Launch of Professor Denis De Lucca's book on *Francesco Buonamici: Painter, Architect and Military Engineer in Seventeenth Century Malta and Italy*, published by the International Institute for Baroque Studies and produced and printed by the University Printing Unit. This was discussed by a panel consisting of Rev. Professor Peter Serracino Inglott, Professor Mario Buhagiar, Professor De Lucca and chaired by Dott.ssa Annamaria di Marco, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute which was the venue for the launch.

The Edward de Bono Institute for the Design and Development of Thinking organised *The Edward de Bono Seminar 2006* which was conducted by Professor de Bono himself. This was the fourteenth consecutive year that the seminar was held, the first one having been held in July 1993. Around seventy people from ten different countries participated in this year's seminar. Mr. Josef Camilleri, Chairman, Young Enterprise Malta, delivered the opening address.

The University's Special Needs Unit launched the *Dyslexia Assessment Research Project* (D.A.R.P.). The specific objectives of the project are to establish what an assessment procedure for dyslexia should be like, to develop standardized tests for dyslexia for different age groups of the Maltese population and to develop a system which will allow the certification of difficulties in respect of Maltese and English when assessing bi-lingual persons in different age groups.

Between the end of June and early August, the Institute of Agriculture conducted two separate short courses on *Feline and Canine Care and Welfare*. The courses sought to increase knowledge about the health and welfare requirements of pet cats and dogs and to improve responsible pet ownership.

The Image of European Higher Education in the Mediterranean was the theme of the III University Mediterranean Forum which was held in Malta organised by the International Office with the collaboration of the British Council, the Universitat

Rovira i Virgili, Spain and the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures, based in Alexandria, Egypt. The meeting brought together some 330 representatives of universities, national and international institutions and organisations from 38 countries who discussed possibilities and problems of direct cooperation and exchange between universities in Europe and the whole Mediterranean region as well as the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean space of Higher Education and Research as of 2007. The III Mediterranean University Forum received co-financing from the Jean Monnet Action of the European Union.

A full programme of Jean Monnet Roundtables, information activities and parallel sessions took place during the 3-day event. The *Souk*, organised in an area parallel to the Main Forum brought together 12 different exhibitors who focussed on providing information on project, research, funding and other development opportunities which are crucial for the implementation of the policy measures discussed during the Jean Monnet Roundtables whilst allowing institutions, organisations and entities involved in Euro-Med cooperation to inform participants of their role in building bridges in the Euro-Med arena.

The *University Community Welfare Committee* organised a reception for outgoing Rector, Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef. This was held in the Atriju Vassalli and all members of staff, academic, administrative, technical and ancillary were invited. In the ten years of his Rectorship, Professor Ellul-Micallef oversaw the internationalisation of the University of Malta. In an age of massification of higher education and life-long learning, he also sought to strengthen links with business and industry so as to make the University more responsive to the needs of the world of work thereby providing, through training and re-training, expertise in crucial fields

July

Professor Juanito Camilleri, Rector designate, took over the running of the University of Malta for the period 2006-2011. Professor Camilleri is an IT

specialist who has also worked in the private sector in the field of mobile telephony and cable television. On assuming office, he appointed three Pro-Rectors to deal with various aspects of university affairs. Professor Alfred Vella, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Head of the Department of Chemistry is responsible for Academic Affairs at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Dr Mary Anne Lauri, the first female Pro-Rector and a psychologist by training, is responsible for Student and Institutional Affairs, whilst Professor Richard Muscat, a scientist from the Department of Physiology and Bio-Chemistry, is Pro-Rector for Research and Innovation.

The Gozo Centre organised a short course on the use of the Internet. This was intended for PC users who have little or no background in handling the Internet but would like to become proficient users. It also held a Foundation Course in Economics and Accounting aimed at those who intend to apply for admission to the Diploma in Commerce course as mature students whilst also targeting those who want to increase their knowledge of Accounting and Economics. Two one-day seminars were also organised. The first was entitled: *Systemic Family Constellation*. The objective of this experiential workshop was to make visible hidden dynamics that play a role in one's entanglement within the family system, allowing for new movements to take place, resulting in an openness of the system. The seminar was intended for both professionals in search of new ways to assist clients and for individuals who have experienced trauma and/or have a feeling of being unable to move forward. The seminar was conducted by Ms Josephine Galea, Director and Founder of The Art of Self Healing Centre. The second seminar was on *How to Manage Time more profitably*.

The Hon. Dr Austin Gatt, Minister of Investment, Industry & Information Technology opened the annual Engineering and IT students final year exhibitions organised by the Faculty of Engineering and the Board of Studies for IT. The aim of the exhibitions is to bring to the attention of industry and the public, the high calibre projects presented by the students in fulfilment of the requisites for their degree as well as showcasing the research areas being studied. Charmaine

Demanuele was chosen as the Engineering student with the best academic performance. The student award was given by RS Components, a division of The Catalogue Company Ltd. Presentations from Industry were made to the Department of Electrical Power and Control Engineering by Abertax Quality Ltd and to the Department of Manufacturing Engineering by Methode Electronics Malta Ltd and Toly Products Ltd.

The International Environment Institute, Foundation for International Studies organised a short intensive course on *The Mediterranean Environment: An Overview*. Whilst giving a general overview of the Mediterranean environment, both natural and human, it also discussed the geophysical and biological characteristics of the region as well as its idiosyncratic problems. The programme included a number of site visits to areas of particular interest in both Malta and Gozo.

At the 7th European Congress on Epileptology held in Helsinki, Finland, Dr Janet Mifsud, Senior Lecturer, Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics was re-elected General Secretary of the European Epilepsy Academy, EUREPA. The European Epilepsy Academy is the educational arm of European Advisory Council (EAC) and the Commission on European Affairs of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE). It takes responsibility for improving epileptological knowledge and consequently the quality of care throughout Europe. Later in the year, Dr Mifsud was invited to form part of the Advisory Board for the FP6 project: *EPICURE: Functional genomics and neurobiology of epilepsy: a basis for new therapeutic strategies*. The project is being coordinated by Professor Giuliano Avanzini, at the *Istituto Nazionale Neurologico Carlo Besta* Milan and there are over 20 partners in this project. The Advisory Board will be assisting the project management board in the implementation of the dissemination plan (including Science and Society issues) and in the monitoring of the ethical and gender issues of the project.

Final year students in the Department of Statistics & Operations Research, Faculty of Science, presented their dissertations at a research seminar.

Final year Urban Design stream students from the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering, exhibited their projects at Palazzo Capua in Sliema. Students present their projects in part-fulfilment of the requisites for the conferment of the degree of Bachelor of Engineering and Architecture (Honours).

The Faculty of Education, organised the Second Summer Institute for local educators and education administrators. This consisted of two seminars, the first dealing with the induction and continuing professional development of teachers while the second focussed on leadership, ethics and social justice.

The 8th Biennial Meeting of the International Quantum Structure Association (IQSA) was held in Malta. There were 89 participants from 20 countries including 2 from Malta. The objective of the IQSA conferences is to encourage communication between mathematicians, physicists and computer scientists throughout the world whose research is related to quantum structures and their applications in mathematics, quantum mechanics, quantum measurements, quantum computation, philosophy of quantum mechanics, quantum probability and so on.

The conference was organised by IQSA, the Mathematical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the University's Department of Mathematics. Opening speeches were given by the local organiser, Dr. David Buhagiar, Professor Richard Muscat, University Pro-Rector for Research and Innovation and the former President of IQSA, Professor Anatolij Dvurecenskij from Slovakia.

During the meeting, the *IQSA Young Scholar Awards* for scientific achievement were presented by Professor Anton Buhagiar, Head of the Department of Mathematics. This year there were three awards which went to: Dr. Emmanuel Chetcuti from the University's Junior College, Dr. Teiko Heinonen from Finland and Dr. Gejza Jenca from Slovakia. Professor Mirko Navara from the Czech Republic was elected President of IQSA for the period 2006-08 at an election held in the course of the meeting.

Within the ambit of *I Mediterranei* programme, a Summer School was

organised reflecting the ideals and principles embraced by the late European thinker and writer, Professor Antonio José Jauregui, anthropologist, philosopher, sociologist and one time holder of a Jean Monnet Chair in European Culture. *South/East dialogue, European Integration, Development and Democracy* was the theme chosen for the Summer School. Distinguished professors, officials of the European Union and experts in law, economics, community policy and cooperation lectured participants, imparting a thorough knowledge of European integration with the Mediterranean region and the Central-Eastern European countries. They highlighted the challenges faced by the European Union in its endeavour to ensure peace, encourage development and guarantee human rights.

The fourteenth edition of *Evenings on Campus* organised by the *Koperattiva Kulturali Universitarja* and the University of Malta, in collaboration with the Malta Council for Culture and the Arts, KSU and KPMG, presented an intense 2-week Summer Festival of cultural events held open-air on the University Campus. The programme included five think-and-smile films; a traditional Maltese culinary night; three one-act plays by Italian, Greek and Egyptian authors among other performances, highlighting the tragic-comic part of human reality; a dramatised literary evening based on the works of P P Saydon; an innovative Saxophone and Brass concert and a Sicilian evening with composer and singer song-writer, Luigi di Pino – *Raccontastorie*.

About 400 delegates from universities and research institutes around the world converged on the university for the 10th world congress of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas (ISSEI). The conference was convened on behalf of ISSEI by Professor Henry Frendo from the Department of History, Faculty of Arts and co-chaired by ISSEI President, Professor Ezra Talmor of Haifa University and organised in cooperation with the Foundation for International Studies. Having the theme *The European Mind: Narrative and Identity*, "Europeanness" was discussed from various perspective ranging from History and Geography to Economics, Politics, Literature, Language, Philosophy and

Religion. The Society and its journal *The European Legacy* seek to promote the study of Europe's cultural past and present.

The Institute for Physical Education and Sport in collaboration with the *Kunsill Malti għall-iSport* held a Foundation Course in Exercise and Fitness. The course was aimed at those working or wishing to work in the field of exercise and fitness and at anyone interested in increasing their knowledge about exercise and fitness.

A group of UoM Criminology students, led by Dr Martin G. Spillane, a former Senior Officer of the UK Customs & Excise National Investigation Service, and Sue Micallef, President of the *Għaqda Studenti tal-Kriminologija* (Criminology Students Group), went on a seven day study tour to the UK. The students visited HM Prison Liverpool where they were hosted by Kevin Rogers, Principal Psychologist who lectured about the work of the forensic psychologist and the concept of life imprisonment. In preparation for the tour, the students had visited the Malta Prison at the invitation of Superintendent Sandro Gatt, and they presented the Liverpool Prison with a framed Corradino Corrections Facility patch and history of the Malta Prison, provided by Inspector Zarb. The students also had a meeting with Kevin McMahon, a retired Police Officer and chairman of *Merseyside Against Injustice*. He spoke of MAI's recent successes in overturning unfair convictions, including one where the person had served 23 years before being released. The students were guests of the Merseyside Police and were given presentations on specialised aspects of their work. The packed programme included various other interesting activities.

August

The Department of Education Studies, Faculty of Education hosted the 10th biennial conference of the International Network of Philosophers of Education (INPE) in early August. The conference theme was *Philosophical Perspectives on Educational Practice in the 21st Century* and attracted philosophers from all corners of the world. The following sub-themes were also discussed: Educational Practice beyond Critique; Identity and

Justice in Teaching and Learning; Educational Experience and the Claims of the Knowledge Economy; Truth and Truthfulness in Practices of Learning; Educational Theory and Practice and the Politics of Lifelong Learning. Keynote papers were given by Professor David Cooper from the University of Durham, Dr Marianna Papastephanou from the University of Cyprus, and Professor Kenneth Wain, University of Malta.

Dental Students held a Jumble Sale in order to raise funds to buy dental materials and medicines to treat school-children in Korce, Albania. Every year, staff and fourth year dental students from the Faculty of Dental Surgery carry out voluntary dental work among the children of this town.

September

The Cleaner Technology Centre and the Institute for Energy Technology organised a discussion seminar on *The National Energy Policy Proposal*. Presentations were delivered by members of staff from the Faculties of Science and Engineering as well as from the Institute for Energy Technology.

The European Documentation and Research Centre organised a conference on *Family Values in the European Union and Malta* within the ambit of its FP6 Civil Society project. As a springboard for discussion, the conference took a publication entitled: *The Family, Law, Religion and Society in the European Union and Malta* published by the EDRC in July '06 which comprises some 22 reports covering the family in a changing scenario both locally and internationally. The workshops provided a unique opportunity to juxtapose the vision of the expert speakers as to trends in the European Union and in other Member States and Maltese Law, practice and culture, enabling the country to chart its own way forward.

This summer, in order to foster respect for books and a love of reading, *Kids on Campus* in collaboration with Miller Distributors, came up with the idea of integrating books with sports. The Sports and Games teacher managed to organise a Sports Festival with a difference. Books were used in different games throughout

the Festival and the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Each child was given a book co-sponsored by Miller Distributors as a token for participating.

Another highlight of the summer was when *Xummiemu* visited *Kids on Campus*. Through story-telling and rap songs, *Xummiemu* gave the children hints as to how to take care of the environment in general and our trees in particular. To further instil an environment-friendly attitude in the children, they planted a number of olive trees, an activity that was organised in collaboration with the Precincts Office and the Tree4U campaign.

Kids on Campus is a University-based summer programme open to the general public that runs for a total of eight weeks, five days a week.

Between mid-September and mid-October, *Kuntatt - Art by Scientists*, an exhibition of paintings, ceramics, installations, music by graduates of the Faculty of Science was mounted at St James Cavalier, Centre for Creativity. This was sponsored by the Ministry of Education Youth and Employment and Emirates. This initiative by graduates of the Faculty of Science sought to give past and present science students and graduates an opportunity to show their artistic talent to the general public in an effort to remove the classical divide between the Arts and the Sciences. In fact, both Science and Art deal with the same theme: the interpretation of reality from the point of view of a unique individual.□

The *Centre de Recherche sur la Littérature des Voyages* (CRLV) of the *Université de Paris-Sorbonne, Paris IV* and UoM's Department of French convened a bilingual (French and English) international conference entitled *Captifs en Méditerranée (XVIème – XVIIIème siècles): Histoires, récits, legends*. This conference brought together historians, literary experts and specialists in the field of travel literature with the aim of exploring the literary, cultural and historic importance of texts dealing with slavery in the Mediterranean. Papers examined the cultural ties existing between the Arab world and the different European states at a time when the Mediterranean was the theatre in which piracy *il corso*, was rife. How did these stories differ when told by Berber and by

Christian slaves? What was Malta's particular role in the circulation of these stories? Documentary evidence in Maltese and other archives will bring to light the effects of the *corso* on the life of those directly and indirectly involved in it. The *corso* gave birth to a "mythology" of the Berber states in the West. The maritime adventures in the Mediterranean Sea have in turn been the source of literary works which have enriched European Literature.

At the Annual General Meeting of the *European Access Network* (EAN) hosted by the Aristotile University of Thessaloniki, Greece, Professor Roger Ellul-Micallef was elected as chairman for an unprecedented fourth term. The EAN was launched in 1991 with EU support. It is the only independent, non-profit European organisation - but with an active international membership - which promotes equity and access to higher education and training for disadvantaged and under-represented groups. This year's annual conference had as its main theme *The social role of universities: reaching out to the community* which has been the main theme of UoM's Annual Report for a number of years.

Throughout September and October 2006, the Museums & Library Subcommittee of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery with the collaboration of the Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem mounted an exhibition entitled *Ancient Medicine: Concepts of Disease Management*.

The first *Training courses on Analytical Quality Control and method validation as support to the Water Framework Directive - TAQC-WFD* was hosted by the University's Department of Chemistry and coordinated by Dr George Peplow together with the project coordinator, Dr Ildi Ipolyi of *QualityConsult*, Rome. Invited trainees from Algeria, France, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia participated. The whole TAQC-WFD project comprises five training events of a similar format at five different locations in Europe, namely Rome, Budapest, Warsaw, Bergen as well as Malta. The TAQC-WFD project has been financed by the European Community under the Marie Curie Actions - Human Resources and Mobility Programme. The project

aims at the development of a 'correct culture' of analytical quality in the young generation of professionals. It addresses the training of 'Early Stage Researchers' from 42 countries of Europe and the non-European Mediterranean region. The training supports the successful implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the global EU Water Initiative that have a strategic importance in the context of sustainable development. Moreover, it contributes to the improvement of measurement quality and the enhancement of measurement capabilities.

October

The University of Malta commenced the 2006/'07 academic year with the traditional opening ceremony held in the Atriju Vassalli on Campus. There were nearly 3000 Freshers, 1757 females and 1222 males. The theme chosen for this year's ceremony was *Fostering Excellence and Entrepreneurship*. The KSU organised a packed programme for *Freshers' Week*. Several distinguished guests were invited to campus to visit the stands and participate in discussion sessions with students. This included: HE Dr Edward Fenech Adami, President of Malta; The Hon Dr L Gonzi, Prime Minister of Malta; The Hon Dr Louis Galea, Minister of Education, Youth and Employment; The Hon Dr Alfred Sant, Leader of the Opposition; The Hon Carmelo Abela, Shadow Minister for Education; Dr H Vassallo, Chairperson, *Alternattiva Demokratika* and Dr Simon Busuttil, Member of the European Parliament. As in previous years, an orientation programme for Erasmus/ Exchange/ Transfer/ Full-time International Students was also organised.

The University's Board of Studies for Information Technology participated in the annual IT Fair. This provided an opportunity to showcase the various courses offered by UoM in this ever-expanding field of specialisation.

The Department of Arabic and Near Eastern Studies launched an evening course on the Arabic Language and Culture.

On the occasion of the state visit to Malta by the President of Ireland, a music workshop together with a demonstration of Irish music was held at the Mediterranean Institute's music room. A trio of Irish Musicians presented *Discovering the Roots of Irish Folk Music* under the auspices of The Mediterranean Institute. Peter Browne played the Irish (uilleann) pipes and wooden flute, Brenda McCann the fiddle/violin and Tristan Rosenstock the Irish drum (bodhrán). All three are acclaimed musicians in their field.

The Faculty of Education and the History Teachers' Association organised the fifth *Michael A. Sant Memorial Lecture*. Professor Oscar E. Lansen from the Faculty of History, University of North Carolina gave a paper entitled: *Clio under fire: teaching controversial or controversialized history*.

The Faculty of Engineering in association with the Chamber of Scientists launched its seminar series. Professor Peter Schmueser of the University of Hamburg, Germany, spoke about Free-Electron Lasers in the Ultraviolet and X Ray Regime while Dr. Luca Bottura of CERN, Switzerland spoke about Magnetic Field Measurement Techniques. Two other visitors to the Faculty this month were Professor Jindrich Petruska of Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic who gave a series of lectures on *Finite Element Analysis and Applications to Solid Body Mechanics* and Professor Saba Mylvaganam from Telemark University College, Faculty of Technology, Porsgrunn, Norway who gave a public talk on *Parameter Estimation using Artificial Neural Network - Assisted Electrical Capacitance Tomography (ECT)*.

Professor Francesco Sabatini, President *Accademia della Crusca*, lectured to students of the Department of Italian on *Stabilità e movimento nella lingua italiana*. Professor Sabatini's visit was sponsored by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Italian Cultural Institute.

Professor Peter Vassallo, Professor of English and Director of the Institute of Anglo-Italian Studies, gave a public lecture on *The Burning of Lord Byron's Memoirs* under the auspices of the British Culture Association.

A workshop organised by Total Trust Solutions Ltd and Identity Solutions Ltd in collaboration with the University of Malta was held at the University to discuss the creation of a biometrics industry association and a knowledge-transfer network bringing together industry, academia and research institutions working in this sector. Biometrics, or Human Identity Technologies, concerns technologies that make use of human characteristics to assist in the process of human identification. The workshop was attended by representatives from the government civil service, private biometric system vendors and consultants, international e-payment application software companies, the police force, EuroMed Institute of Technology and Innovation (EuroMedITI), Malta Enterprise and the University of Malta.

The Mediterranean Institute's Geography Division hosted *Oktober Geofest*. This comprised a number of activities for Geography students involving visiting foreign academics. The international faculty came from European universities in the UK, Switzerland, and Italy. The lectures, talks and field and practical sessions focussed on both physical and human geography. An excursion to see the overall geology and geomorphology of the northwest coast of Malta was guided by visiting Italian experts and Ms. Odette Magri from the Geography Division. Professor Brian Roberts from the University of Durham was also in Malta for the occasion. He gave a public lecture about *Rural settlement in England*.

Best-selling author and mathematician, Ian Stewart, Professor of Mathematics at Warwick University gave a series of lectures under the auspices of the Department of Mathematics. He is the author of several books popularizing mathematical and scientific topics. While in Malta, he conducted a colloquium at the Mathematics Department on *Network Dynamics*, he addressed the Malta Mathematical Society as well as giving talks to fifth and sixth form students.

A new publication *Melchiorre Cafà: Maltese Genius of the Roman Baroque* edited by Dr Keith Sciberras and published by Midsea Books Ltd. was

launched under the distinguished patronage of HE Dr Edward Fenech Adami, President of Malta.

The Foundation for International Studies launched its autumn/winter schedule of short courses. These included *Economics for Broadcasters*; a *Wine Appreciation Course on Special Wines and Wine Faults*; *Lejn Kitba bil-Malti Ahjar* - a course designed to enhance participants' written Maltese; *Risk Management for Bankers*; *Aspects of the Maltese Law for Business Executives* and *The Bible and Archaeology: An Introduction*.

The accurate prediction of adverse weather events and the timely dissemination of warnings to the relevant authorities and to the public is a very important but also demanding task. RISKMED is an Interreg III Archimed project that is endeavouring to address this problem through the setting up of a prototype atmospheric early warning system that will provide accurate and detailed weather forecasts for the Central and Eastern Mediterranean and will disseminate the corresponding warnings. The project is partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Interreg III Community Initiative, which forms part of the Structural Funds Programme for Malta (2004-2006).

The project is led by the Greek agency NOA (National Observatory of Athens, Institute for Environmental Research and Sustainable Development) and brings together a consortium of eight partners from Greece, Cyprus, Italy and Malta with clear interests and expertise in the subject. The Physical Oceanography Unit of the IOI-Malta Operational Centre (IOI-MOC) at the University of Malta is the Maltese partner. The implementation of the Maltese tasks in RISKMED will be coordinated by Dr Aldo Drago, Director of the IOI-MOC.

The Maltese Islands will benefit from RISKMED in various ways. The project will provide a new tool to improve Malta's capacity to anticipate such adverse natural phenomena, which can be crucial to mitigate hazards and reduce impacts. Furthermore, in the project implementation, IOI-MOC will bring together local expertise, through consultations with key local entities/agencies (including the Meteorological

Office in Luqa, the Civil Protection Department, the Armed Forces of Malta and the Malta Maritime Authority), to support a framework for contingency planning in emergency conditions and will ensure the optimal use of project outputs for applications by such entities/agencies.

The KSU organised the *Annual Careers Week* which highlighted various work opportunities available. The programme looked at aspects of the issue and through discussions, informative talks and presentations gave practical information relating to future prospects.

The Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics of the Foundation for International Studies organised the *Second International Conference on the Management of Coastal Recreational Resources: Beaches, Yacht Marinas and Coastal Ecotourism* at the Hotel Ta' Cenc in Gozo. The conference was the second in ICoD's biennial series on Management of Coastal Recreational Resources, the first one having been held in Malta in 2004. Presentations focussed on aspects of coastal management related to the recreational amenities represented by beaches, yacht marinas and ecotourism. The conference brought together researchers as well as practitioners and policy makers who discussed issues of concern while also showcasing appropriate solutions through the exchange of experiences, best-practice scenarios and innovative management concepts. In this manner, the conference provided an opportunity to consider issues of concern to both tourism and the environmental sector and to address sustainable management practice in these fields by exploring the dependency of tourism on a well-managed environment and conversely, the negative impact of insensitive tourism on environmental quality.

In parallel with the conference, the Islands and Small States Institute of the FIS, organised a *Forum on Sustainable Tourism in the Maltese Islands*. The Forum constituted part of the EU Project on Mediterranean Standard for Sustainable Tourism (MESST) which is co-funded by INTERREG III B ARCHIMED 2000-2006 Programme. Speakers focussed on environmental, social, cultural, and economic aspects of sustainable tourism with special reference to the Maltese Islands.

The Computing Services Centre hosted the GÉANT2 Project Consortium and the TERENA General Assembly Meetings. The GÉANT2 Project Consortium is the top governing body of GÉANT2 which is a project co-funded by the European Commission and which is the largest IP network ever built for Europe's research and education community. It connects a potential 30 million users, including over 3 million researchers in more than 3,500 research and education institutes across Europe. Similarly, the TERENA General Assembly is the highest authority within TERENA, an association of organisations that are involved with the provision and use of computer network infrastructure and services for research and education in Europe.

The Department of Physiology and Biochemistry and the French Antioxidant Society jointly hosted the 3rd *International Conference on Polyphenols Applications in Nutrition and Health*. Polyphenols are natural substances that are ubiquitously found in fruits and vegetables as well as in olive oil, tea and red wine. Polyphenols have recently captured major public interest because they have been linked to a reduced risk of several age-related diseases, including cardiovascular disease, cancer, neurodegenerative disorders, diabetes and osteoporosis. More than 150 participants from 21 countries attended. Around half were university academics, medical doctors and students, while the remainder came from the R&D sections of companies working in the fields of nutraceuticals and pharmaceuticals. Thus, people working in industry and world specialists came together to discuss and exchange ideas about the latest advances in the use of polyphenols in the prevention of the main chronic human diseases.

The European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) selected the LIFE WATCH plan as one of the most promising next generation large-scale Research Infrastructures in the area of biodiversity research. The plan aims at constructing an e-Science and Technology Infrastructure for biodiversity data and observatories. This initiative developed by eight major EU scientific networks is the first step towards the realisation of the infrastructure.

Through UoM's Department of Biology, Malta has participated in a

number of European initiatives in the areas of compilation of biodiversity data and setting up of biodiversity observatories. One such project was *Fauna Europaea*, funded by the European Commission under the Fifth Framework Programme. A research group led by Professor Patrick J Schembri was the focal point for Malta.

Another initiative of this group was to have the *Rdum Majjiesa* area on the west coast of Malta accepted as a BIOMARE European Marine Biodiversity Research Site under the BIOMARE project. This project, sponsored by the European Commission, sought to establish a network of marine coastal sites for comparative studies of marine biodiversity throughout Europe. The Department of Biology is also an Associate Member of the MarBEF (Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning) Network of Excellence, funded under the EU's Sixth Research Framework Programme. MarBEF brings together some 60 marine research institutes in 17 countries.

LIFE WATCH will provide new enabling techniques for faster and more standardised data capture from field sites and collections. This is in the interest of every country and Maltese participation in this initiative will contribute to the international effort to safeguard European biodiversity. At the same time, it will ensure that Malta would benefit from new techniques and the associated research and support infrastructures.

November

Pursuant to the cooperation agreement signed in February 2005 between the University and the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Institute of Agriculture hosted an in-service training course for Ministry personnel. The course aimed to familiarise the 50 officials who participated with certain details regarding European issues, focussing on the Common Agricultural Policy, its reform and the Maltese perspective, EU Structures and Legislation and the roles of key structures in the Government set up.

The Proceedings of the *First Ritual Year International Conference* on ethnology and folklore which was held in Malta in March 2005 was launched at the

University Library. Published by PEG Ltd. and edited by George Mifsud-Chircop, this publication is the fruit of the joint work by the SIEF Working Group on the Ritual Year, a project under the presidency of the inspiring Dr Emily Lyle. Speakers included: Ms Anna Borg-Cardona, Dr Carmel Cassar, Dr Joseph F Grima, Giovanna Iacovazzi, Dr Gorg Mifsud-Chircop and Professor Jeremy Boissevain. The papers included in these Proceedings reveal the wide spectrum of multiple dimensions of the phenomenon of ritual.

Rev Dr Louis Caruana, sj from the Philosophy Department, Heythrop College, University of London was the main speaker at a seminar on *Science, Faith & Culture* which was held at the Junior College. He posed the question "Does the scientific mentality oppose Christian culture?" and went on to discuss *Scientism*, the term used to describe an exaggerated confidence in the power of scientific methods and explanation. According to the speaker, it constitutes a major feature of today's mentality all over the world. He went on to examine the main features of such a mentality asking how can the disturbing tension that often arises between scientific and religious attitudes be explored and what lessons can be learnt?

Twenty-three Socrates/Erasmus students successfully completed an Erasmus Intensive Language Course (EILC) in Maltese. The course was conducted by Malta University Services Ltd, in coordination with the University's International Office and was organised with the support of the Commission of the European Communities within the framework of the Socrates-Erasmus Programme. The course was open to Erasmus students following a period of exchange at the University of Malta during the academic year 2006/7. The EILC aims to provide an opportunity for foreign students to acquire knowledge of the Maltese language, history and culture. Pro-Rector, Professor Alfred Vella, presented the certificates whilst Jorge Mattias Determann, one of the students, gave a short speech in Maltese.

Second year B.Ed. students were treated to a two-hour entertaining session about scientific concepts by Brad Gross at the University of Malta. Brad is one of the

three actors who make up *Punk Science*, the resident troupe of stand-up comedians at the Science Museum's Dana Centre in South Kensington, UK. Brad, a drummer and educator by profession, ingeniously used music and some exciting experimentation to explain scientific concepts in a way all could understand and enjoy. This activity formed part of the students' teacher-training credit in Drama and Art Primary Education coordinated by Dr Isabelle Gatt. The session was one of a series of collaborative ventures between the Faculty of Education, the British Council and St. James Cavalier. Following this event, all University students were invited to a Punk Science theatre production entitled *Aliens* coordinated by the KSU.

The first meeting of the *Philosophy Society* for this academic year was addressed by Professor John Rist who spoke about *Augustine, Aristotelianism and Aquinas*. He discussed the relationship between Augustine and Aquinas and the use (or misuse) by Aquinas of some basic Augustinian proposals. Professor Rist is Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto, and since 1998 he has been part-time visiting professor at the Augustinian Patristic Institute, the *Augustinianum* in Rome.

The Euro-Mediterranean Programme on Intercultural Dialogue, Human Rights and Future Generations of the Foundation for International Studies in collaboration with the Faculty of Theology organised an International Conference on *Religious Routes and Pilgrimages in Europe and the Mediterranean: Jewish, Christian and Islamic Perspectives*. The erection of sacred shrines and places of worship in Europe, North Africa and Asia is a historically complex phenomenon. It goes back to the very early beginnings of humanity. These concrete manifestations despite substantial differences due to time and place share common elements. Evidently, as an object of research it cannot be isolated from its cultural and political context, especially in medieval times when the revival or erection and installation of a place of worship and devotion have always been a product of various factors: intellectual activity, topographic and administrative organisation as well as pastoral, theological and often political

endeavours. This can also be applied to the sacred places of all three monotheistic religions addressed in this conference.

The European branch of CASTME – the *Commonwealth Association for Science, Technology and Mathematics Educators* organised a one-day conference entitled *Promoting Science, Technology and Mathematics Careers: Attracting more students through social, moral and ethical issues*. The conference was held as part of the activities of the *Expo Science Med 2006*. The CASTME conference dealt with national and European issues in order to go some way towards meeting the challenges of the Lisbon declaration. The 2010 deadline requires that there is a continual provision of science graduates to ensure the constant contribution to innovation and development essential within a knowledge society.

ESM 2006 was organised on Campus in mid-November by the National Students Travel Foundation in collaboration with MILSET and sought to raise awareness about the importance of scientific research and development in modern economies, including Information Technology whilst emphasising the idea of science as being fun and practical.

The Faculty of Arts' Department of History of Art marked the 400th anniversary of the birth of the great Dutch artist Rembrandt Harmenz van Rijn (1606–1669). With the kind cooperation of Heritage Malta in collaboration with the Embassy of the Netherlands, leading Rembrandt authority, Dr Gary Schwartz was invited to give a commemorative lecture.

As part of the Faculty of Arts' *Literature and Comparison Seminar Series*, Professor Peter Vassallo addressed the first session of the academic year with a paper entitled *Anxieties of Influence: The (Mis)Appropriation of Dante by Some Major British Writers*. In collaboration with the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura*, Professor Margherita Ganeri, Professor of Contemporary Italian Literature at the University of Calabria, addressed the second seminar with a paper called *Dai Viceré di Federico De Roberto ai Viceré di Roberto Faenza sulla traccia del Gattopardo di Visconti*.

KSU in collaboration with the Chinese students, organised a Chinese Cultural Festival in the Atriju Vassalli. Various stands were set up in order to give Maltese students a taste of Chinese culture and traditions.

Dr Henry Smith, Vice-Provost at the University of the Virgin Islands visited the University of Malta to discuss the drawing up of a catalogue of study units for the Masters degree in Islands and Small States Studies. The two universities form part of a university consortium of small island states, the other partners being the University of the South Pacific, the University of the West Indies and the University of Mauritius. The establishment of a Masters degree in Islands and Small States Studies is one of the objectives of the consortium. The University of Malta already offers such a degree and when the consortium degree is officially launched, the five member universities will be able to award the degree individually by drawing on each others catalogue of study units on islands and small states issues.

Within the context of the Faculty of Education Staff Development Seminars, Professor Gerald Grace who is currently Director of the Centre of Research and Development in Catholic Education at the Institute of Education, University of London, delivered a paper entitled: *First and Foremost the Church offers its educational service to the poor: class, inequality and Catholic schooling in contemporary contexts*. A second Staff Development Seminar held at the end of November was addressed by Professor Kaz Mazurek and Professor Margaret Winzer from the University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada who spoke on *Comparative Education and Disability Issues*. The session was chaired by Professor Peter Mayo whilst Professor Mary Darmanin chaired the first seminar.

The University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) held an information meeting for all those who lecture on research methods in different courses campus-wide. In the two years since its constitution in its present form, UREC has helped raise awareness about research ethics among staff and students.

The Gender Issues Committee held a discussion session which had as its topic

Gender Parity on Campus: fact or fiction?

Professor Marie-Thérèse Camilleri Podestà, Chair of the GIC and Dr Janet Mifsud, Commissioner for the Promotion of Equality and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics gave brief addresses. The discussion was then open to the floor.

Palazzo Castellania, Merchants Street, Valletta, seat of the Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care was the venue for the launch of *Health, Bioethics and the Law* written by Professor Maurice N. Cauchi, Dr Kevin Aquilina and Dr Bridget Ellul. This publication is a joint research venture between the Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and the Department of Public Law, Faculty of Laws. Its timely publication coincided with the drafting of a law on bioethics by the Government. It sets out the pertinent provisions of Maltese Law regulating health and bioethical issues in the light of relevant international and European, including EU, Law. It deals with various medical, social and public health issues as well as the medical and bioethical issues pertinent to certain sector specific categories such as children, people with disability, mental health patients, and senior citizens.

The 6th Malta Medical School Conference was held at the Radisson SAS Baypoint Resort. The conference is the largest medical multi-disciplinary academic event in the country and previous conferences have been held triennially attracting participants from all over the world.

To coincide with the staging of the conference, the second book of multiple choice questions in pharmacy practice edited by Professor Lilian M. Azzopardi, Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacy was launched at Palazzo Castellania. Published by the Pharmaceutical Press, the publications division of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, *Further MCQs in Pharmacy Practice* consists of contributions from Professor Anthony Serracino-Inglott, Dr Maurice Zarb-Adami, Professor Steve Hudson from the University of Strathclyde, Professor Sam Salek from the University of Cardiff and Professor Vincenzo Tortorella from the University of Bari in addition to the contribution by the editor herself. The book contains practice-oriented questions

with brief explanations and was published following the very favourable reception of the publication on the same topic three years ago. The book has a Foreword by Peter H Vlasses, executive director of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), USA and a Preface by Professor Benito del Castillo Garcia, Dean Faculty of Pharmacy at the University Complutense of Madrid and President of the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy. The launch was sponsored by A.M. Mangion, Agenda Bookshop, Cherubino, Malta Enterprise, Poligas, Schering-Plough, Servier, the University of Malta and the Ministry of Health, Elderly and Community Care.

The Department of Biology in collaboration with the Environment Protection Directorate of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority organised the Annual Biology Symposium. New information was presented about a number of topical environmental and other issues.

Themes discussed included: bathing water quality and good beach management; the genetic viability of local populations of bats, hermit crabs and other species; new data on local sites of ecological importance such as the Salini saline marshlands, the sand dunes at Ramla tat-Torri, Wied _oxt and Wied iz-Zurrieq; village feasts and the environment; ecology of sandy and other beaches; new information on tuna penning; risks to local potato crops; first results on the quality of Maltese Honey. The annual symposium provides Biology graduates with an opportunity to give brief presentations on the work they carried out in connection with their final year electives or dissertations.

Nearly 2700 students graduated in various disciplines in a number of ceremonies that were spread over the last week of November and the first two weeks of December. HG The Metropolitan Archbishop of Malta, Mgr. Joseph Mercieca celebrated two Masses of Thanksgiving at St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta in order to accommodate the ever increasing number of graduands. Subsequently, four ceremonies were held for postgraduate students concurrently at the Church of the University and the *Aula Magna* of the old university building, seat of the Foundation for International Studies. Thirteen further

ceremonies for undergraduate students were held in the Temi Zammit Hall on campus. This year, there were 1533 female graduates and 1129 male graduates which translates into 2036 at undergraduate level and 626 postgraduate.

The IOI-Malta Operational Centre conducted a second intensive 5-week Training Course on *Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean and Eastern European Countries*. This was held in Malta between mid-November and mid-December. Seventeen scientists, researchers and experts currently active in the fields of oceanography and coastal management and representing 10 countries, including Malta, participated. Discussions focussed on the laws, policy and science of ocean governance of the Mediterranean, the Black, the Baltic and the Caspian Seas with a view to creating a network of practitioners in marine-related science, management and policy.

A full-day seminar was devoted to scrutinising the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy. Some 100 people from various marine and legal related sectors, including academia, participated in the debate. The EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Dr Joe Borg addressed the seminar. The course and a number of participants were sponsored by the International Ocean Institute, the Lighthouse Foundation and the United Nations University, EHS and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation UNDP.

December

The Faculty of Medicine & Surgery organised a seminar on *Hypoxia Inducible Factors in Health and Disease* which was chaired by Professor Alex E Felice from UoM's Department of Physiology & Biochemistry. Guest speakers were Professor Thomas Kietzman from the Department of Chemistry /Biochemistry, University of Kaiserslautern, Germany who spoke on *Hypoxia-induced plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 expression in liver: Role for tissue repair and regeneration*. Professor Agnes Goerlach from the German Heart Centre in Munich whose field of expertise is in experimental paediatric cardiology, lectured on *HIFs: More than just hypoxia-inducible transcription factors. HIF-3: A*

new player in the cellular response to hypoxia was the title of Mr Steve Bonello's intervention. Mr Bonello is a UoM doctoral candidate.

Dr Ray Fabri from the Institute of Linguistics addressed the December meeting of the *Linguistics Circle*. He gave an overview of *Lexical Functional Grammar* discussing its main components and features with examples. LFG is a theory of grammar that was developed in the 1970s within the framework of Generative Grammar by Ronald M. Kaplan and Joan Bresnan. It has since been further developed mainly by Bresnan herself, as well as by several other grammarians.

Ms Valerie Cutajar spoke on *Portfolio Optimization with Special Focus on Two-Stage Multiperiod Stochastic Programs* in the schedule of seminars organised by the Department of Statistics & Operations Research, Faculty of Science.

The Faculty of Education's Programme for Education in Prisons organised a seminar on *Skills validation for persons under penitentiary measures*. The seminar constituted part of a Grundtvig project funded by the Education and Culture Commission of the EU and coordinated by the *Academie de Bordeaux Groupement d'Interêt Public*, with partners from Belgium (UNESCO), Malta, France, Poland, and Portugal. The project aims to assist prison inmates by providing them with a Skills Validation tool and appropriate guidance adapted to their special situation. It seeks to collect instances of the various national practices of Skills Validation, address any problems associated with their implementation and identify best practices likely to be transferable to other countries.

The Theology Students' Association organised its 6th Annual Christmas Charity Campaign, *Make my house a home* in the Atriju Vassalli on campus. Cakes, doughnuts, fresh orange juice and all sorts of sweet stuff were on sale at surprisingly cheap prices. Proceeds went in aid of the Preventive Care Programme organised by the Diocesan Commission for Children's homes. The aim of this programme is to help families with financial and social problems to keep their children within the family home instead of institutionalising them.

Professor Michael Herzfeld, Professor of Anthropology at Harvard visited the Anthropology Division of the Mediterranean Institute in early December. His busy schedule included an address on *The Misrepresentation of Culture – Demagoguery in High Places* in the context of a Symposium on *The Clash of Civilizations* hosted by US Ambassador, HE Mrs. Molly Bordonaro. The Imam of the Paola Mosque, Mr Mohammed El Sadi and Professor Paul Clough replied. He chaired a *Work in Progress in the Social Studies* seminar which was addressed by Dr David Zammit from the Department of Civil Law and Professor David Nelken (Universities of Macerata and Wales). Their papers focussed on *What Causes Court Delays in Malta and Italy – Inefficiency, Lack of Resources, or Legal Culture?* He also gave a session on Ethnographic Film as well as a public lecture on *The Multiple Meanings of Security - The Cultural Aftershocks of Colonialism in the Mediterranean World* at the Aula Magna, Foundation for International Studies. A lecture on *The Temporalities of Power in Italy and Greece* was one of his final commitments in Malta.

The 4th Computer Science Annual Research Workshop (CSAW) was held at the Malta Council for Science and Technology, Bighi. This is the main annual Computer Science research workshop in Malta aimed at presenting current research being carried out locally. The first day was devoted to Research & Development presentations and reports, while the second day had a special Industry R&D Track where companies could present problems for discussion by the floor. Organisation was in the hands of the Department of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence, Faculty of Science.

A Seminar on *Gender Violence* was held, organised by LLD students studying Gender and the Law in the fifth year of their law studies and supported by Amnesty Malta and the Law Students' Association. A round table discussion, chaired by Dr Ruth Farrugia, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Laws, encouraged an exchange of views and recommendations on this topic. It was open to all university students as well as NGOs and professionals working in related fields.

The Department of Manufacturing Engineering together with Malta Enterprise, the Malta Federation of Industry and the Malta Council for Science and Technology held a national conference on *The Future of Manufacturing in European Malta* at the Westin Dragonara Resort, St. Julians. A concerted effort needs to be made in order to ensure a future for the local manufacturing industry in Malta. The conference served as a forum to raise the appropriate awareness required for the implementation of a sustainable and competitive strategy in this field. The conference was opened by the Hon Dr L Gonzi, Prime Minister. Besides presentations of local manufacturing success stories, speakers from the EU Commission highlighted how Europe is facing the challenges in the manufacturing sector and what opportunities Maltese industry could benefit from, through its EU membership.

Under the auspices of Heritage Malta, Professor George E Camilleri, a dental surgeon and former Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery, delivered a lecture on *19th Century Dental Personalities*, in which he considered the role of Maltese, British and continental dentists who worked in Malta situating them within the socio-political climate of the period.

The Department of Maltese at the University of Malta Junior College, in collaboration with the *Enzyklopädie des Märchens* at the Academy of Sciences, Göttingen, Germany, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Austrian Embassy, the Italian Embassy and the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura*, and the European Commission Representation in Malta organised the *First International Folk Narrative Conference on The Wise Fool in Narrative Cultures* and the *First International Malta Storytelling Festival* with the participation of international storytellers.

Twenty-five international scholars from sixteen different countries participated. Papers were presented on the wise fool in Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Israel, Lausanne, Lithuania, the Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Turkey and Wales. The trickster is one of the most complex figures in international folk narrative culture and the conference focussed on the phenomenon

of the trickster in the Mediterranean area and elsewhere. Eight international storytellers from Austria, France, Greece, Israel and Italy and a number of Maltese storytellers took part in the Festival of Storytelling

Dr Mario Micallef from Warwick University gave a presentation at the December meeting of the *Malta Mathematical Society* entitled *From Poincaré and Einstein to Perelman: discovering the geometry of the universe*.

Students hailing from a variety of nationalities and cultures following the Mediterranean Masters in Human Rights and Democratisation which is regulated under the Faculty of Laws, mounted an exhibition and held a seminar to disseminate information and to raise awareness about issues related to *Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, Women, Children and Refugees*.

Moviment Graffiti organised an African Night in the University Canteen. This event was part of the *Harmony in Diversity Project* funded by the EU Youth Programme for the integration of immigrants in Europe. The evening featured musicians from Sudan, Uganda, Eritrea and Malta and visitors were offered African sweets.

The newly constituted Department of Youth and Community Studies, Faculty of Education organised a seminar *Beyond the Formal: an Educational Experience made real*. The seminar was coordinated by Dr Andrew Azzopardi. The seminar dealt with various aspects of Formal and Non-formal Learning, the impact on our youth and the lessons that can be learnt from this target group. Students, professionals in this area of research, academics and members of the general public were invited to attend.

The Department of Public Policy held its Annual Public Policy Lecture and get-together for staff, students, former graduates and friends of the Department. The highlight of the event was a talk by Mr Gene Gretchen, Vice-President and Managing Director (Malta) of ST Microelectronics who spoke on *Corporate Social Responsibility: It's not what you think it is*. During the activity two students received book prizes for their

performance in their course. Mr Matthew Dimech was awarded the *Agenda Book Prize* for overall performance. He obtained a First Class Honours in the B.Com. Public Policy course while Stephanie Scicluna was awarded the *Agenda Book Prize* for best dissertation in Public Policy.

The European Documentation and Research Centre (EDRC) in conjunction with the Malta European Studies Association (MESA), with the support of the European Commission launched a new Lecture Series, which was open to the general public to discuss the question: *The Citizen Asks: Do We Need a Constitution for Europe?* The first lecture was given by Professor Jo Shaw, Salvesen Chair of European Institutions, University of Edinburgh, Senior Research Fellow at the Federal Trust for Education and Research, London.

The final 2006 session of the Faculty of Arts' Literature and Comparison Seminar Series was addressed by Dr Maria Frendo who delivered a paper entitled *Word Unheard: The Music of Silences in Mallarmé and Eliot*. Dr Frendo explored the Mallarméan concept of the *Néant* and its place in the wider literary perspective of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with particular reference to T. S. Eliot.

Microsoft has engaged the Department of Computer Information Systems in its Microsoft Dynamics Academic Alliance (MSDYNAA) Program. The goal of this program is to provide a practical complement to academic business course curriculum and prepare students for their careers through hands-on learning that will reinforce business theory. The software package has helped the department to set up a Business Solutions Lab which will be used by students reading IT and Business-related degrees. In addition, several members of staff from the department as well as from the Faculty of Economics, Management & Accountancy have been provided with in-depth training on the software.

The Microsoft Dynamics Academic Alliance also provides members with a shared repository of information that is used by academics to exchange and share information such as curricula, best practices, strategies and perspectives with other members. This is

designed to connect educators who are leaders in their field, passionate about technology and dedicated to the success of their students. Participating universities in this program include Carnegie-Mellon University and George Mason University. This is but one of a series of sponsorships provided by Microsoft to the University of Malta. Amongst other initiatives, Microsoft also sponsored the participation of three students in the *Microsoft Imagine Cup Worldwide Competition 2006* in India after the Maltese team won the regional competition between universities in Malta, Cyprus, Lebanon and Jordan.

Professor Charles L. Mifsud, Head of the Department of Arts and Languages in Education (DALE), Faculty of Education presented Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certificates to Haiyan Liang and Hongbing Zhang who are lecturers of English at the Beijing Institute of Civil Engineering and Architecture (BICEA). The Chinese lecturers followed an intensive three-month TEFL course at the University of Malta. So far sixteen lecturers from the Shanghai Institute for Education and six lecturers from the Beijing Institute have followed such courses run by DALE. The department won the contract to run these TEFL courses despite stiff competition from universities in the UK, the USA, Canada and Australia.

The European Joint Master's Programme EMA-PS held a pre-launch test run. Being the coordinating university, the steering group decided that the University of Malta would host the pilot run for this unique interdisciplinary European Joint Master's Degree programme in the science of performative creativity. The nascent M.A. programme has been designed jointly by the five partner universities which make up the network that will eventually run it: the University of Malta, Paris 13, Roma *La Sapienza*, De Montfort (Leicester, England) and Adam Mickiewicz (Poznan, Poland).

When launched, in October 2007, the two-year Master's programme will inquire into the genesis of creativity by focussing on what seems to take place in memory systems and learning processes as a result of certain sophisticated training regimens. The approach taken by the Master's programme involves a number of disciplines which bridge the sciences and

the arts, the five core disciplines being Cognitive Neuroscience, Cognitive Psychology, Philosophy, Sports Sciences and Performer Studies.

The intensive twenty-four day trial run, with its ninety hours of lecturing, involved the running of the core element of one of the six study-modules - the one seen to be at the foundations of the programme of studies. In all, twelve academics and thirty students hailing from universities in England, Italy, France, Poland, Switzerland, Turkey, China and Malta participated.

A Festival of Christmas Carols by the *Collegium Musicum* and *The University Vocal Ensemble* was presented by the

Music Studies Programme of the Mediterranean Institute and The Malta Council for Culture in collaboration with the St. John's Co-Cathedral Foundation and The Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter. The concert which was held at St. John's Co-Cathedral and conducted by Dr Mro Dion Buhagiar, featured works by Bach, Yon and Handel amongst many others. Romina Morrow and Douglas Haas (organists), Joseph Chircop (trumpet), Daniel Cauchi (percussion), James Vella Bondin (bass), Frans Mangion (tenor), Claudia Tabone (soprano), Connie Frances Zerafa, Joan Said, Charles Vella Zarb and Joseph Lia (SATB Quartet) participated.



The Making of a Multimedia Pole of Mediterranean Seascapes and the Use of the Internet for the Building of a Database of Historic Cities

Dr Simon Mercieca

The objective of this paper is to provide some ideas regarding the use of IT tools for the study of urban structures, that is, to discuss how one can relate Urban History to Information Technology. There is no doubt that the use of computers has become an indispensable tool in the study of Urban History. Geographic Information System (GIS), in particular, is an invaluable aid for architects, geographers and urban researchers in their studies. In fact, Artificial Intelligence offers a spectrum of opportunities for the exploration and contextualisation of past historical realities, which cannot otherwise be identified or explored through the conventional tools applied until now to the study of History. I also propose to show how the Internet can help to open a new window on the history of Mediterranean towns and cities. Yet, despite these new modalities, the conventional tools are still needed and should form the backbone of any multimedia pole project. I intend to combine the use of Information Technology with references to those documents which in the past helped to raise the profile of the Maltese harbour cities both in the eyes of Maltese and foreigners alike. However, I do not intend to give only a historical overview of the role that printed matter and artists had in the past in creating that profile but I would like to go a step further and analyse the role that modern technology can play in enhancing awareness of the Mediterranean historic towns in general and Malta's historic cities in particular.

I shall accordingly be highlighting the need for the creation of closer networking between the historic cities of the Mediterranean. The series of meetings under the title of *Conférence Permanente des Villes Historiques de la Méditerranée* has, as one of its major priorities, the bringing of Mediterranean cities closer to each other. In this paper, I postulate the use of the Internet as an additional medium for the promotion of this enhanced networking between historic cities. Here, I am not proposing exchanges and fora where delegates would be expected to physically meet: this is not the aim of this project. Instead, I shall be discussing the creation of a virtual meeting space across cyberspace.

What I am proposing has been inspired by the participation of the University of Malta's Mediterranean Institute in an EU funded project, also falling under the MEDA Heritage II, and called *Navigation du Savoir*. As this latter project seeks to foster appreciation of the Mediterranean's maritime heritage, with particular emphasis on the historic docks and arsenals, a close link exists with this proposed project which also focuses on the study of Mediterranean towns and cities, some of which host or have hosted important arsenals and drydocks.

I consider that the proposal for the building of a multimedia pole should be treated with urgency and importance. Information Technology mitigates worries about the longevity of monuments, ruins and remains. It can help in the identification of hidden ailments or through detailed graphics brings out new information on historic monuments. I intend to use the computer for another purpose and that is why I am insisting that the gathering and the storing of information of images from the past has to be treated with great urgency. Today, more than before, digital technology is allowing the storage and retrieval of information with relative ease from the privacy of one's home. This message has been understood very well in the United States and at least two major companies, one of them being Microsoft, are now seeking to amass a mega database, hosting all the historic images available worldwide.

In addition, private individuals can provide their own images which they could share with researchers. The internet is proving to be a fabulous tool towards achieving this aim. The storage and making of websites has ceased to be a job of highly-paid

specialists. Amateurs can do this job relatively easily and straightforwardly. The required technology can be bought at an affordable price. Thanks to the advances in information technology, one can create projects which were once inconceivable and at the same time work towards the preservation of both our tangible and intangible heritage, for posterity.

In the early nineteen nineties, a colleague of mine at the University of Malta, Giovanni Caselli remarked that images of urban relics, monuments, artefacts and buildings can be systematically gathered and stored in digital format in a way that was unthinkable just a few years before, at the same time permitting an easy and quick access to anyone anywhere in the world. He stressed the urgency of undertaking that task, which he wished to extend to a worldwide project. His aim was to build a Maltese National Memory, a copy of which was to be stored on CDs, which would collect all that might be broadly described as 'national heritage'. His aims were prompted by the pressing need for a national awareness in Malta resulting from the ever increasing threat posed by demographic and economic pressures upon the survival of past artefacts and buildings.

Unfortunately, Caselli's project, entitled 'The National Memory Project', never got off the ground properly. What I am proposing here is an initiative which follows in his footsteps even if it is perhaps much more focused and operates within a wider Mediterranean dimension. It is an initiative which can be undertaken within the restricted area of study of urban history but at the same time can be extended to all the inhabitants of the Mediterranean who possess a computer and have access to the Internet, as well as individuals who possess a basic knowledge of one of the simplest languages for the creation of websites: Hypertext Markup Language <html>.

The reason why I am focussing on historic cities is very simple. Most of the Mediterranean towns and cities have passed, or are still, for better or worse, undergoing rapid changes. The Mediterranean cityscape environment is being put under pressure. Some cities are being allowed to deteriorate, others are suffering from intense demographic pressures with the result that the historic cores are suffering from what is known, in urban history, as infills. This means that these cities are still experiencing construction projects within the old core either by having their open spaces built up or by having old structures demolished to make space for new buildings. Some more fortunate cities are passing through a period of urban revival linked to restoration or rehabilitation projects.

The need to recall the past identity of the urban fabric is more pressing for those cities which are either experiencing savage development (sometimes disguised by the word "restoration"), which has led or is leading to the demolition of old buildings, and those whose old core is being left derelict or dilapidated. Frenetic economic activities put pressure on the urban structures which can be fatal to our Mediterranean cities. They can lead to the total change or destruction of monuments, in particular those that date back to pre-industrial times. In this context, a phrase from Italo Calvino's book, *Le Città Invisibili*, acquires greater relevance in this discussion on preservation of historic images as cities contain and at the same time hide a lot of features. (Calvino, 14) These features sometimes risk being lost forever.

Caselli has rightly observed that 'the pressure of individualistic economic interests, continually threatens anything that cannot be financially assessed or, to put it bluntly, turned into money there and then. Most things that are difficult or impossible to turn into merchandise seem to be of little concern to present-day society.' I consider that Caselli's words are still of great relevance to the historic cities of the Mediterranean and as the imaginary city of Zora, each and every Mediterranean historic city 'ha la proprietà di restare nella memoria punto per punto, nella successione delle vie, e delle case lungo le vie, e delle porte e delle finestre nelle case, pur non mostrando in esse bellezze o vista scorre su figure che si succedono come in una partitura musicale nella quale non si può cambiare o spostare nessuna nota. (Calvino, 15)

This statement by Calvino is in synch with Caselli's words, as both are saying that the slight change in the urban fabric of historic towns can damage the cityscape for ever. Caselli warns about the need for Mediterranean inhabitants in general and the Maltese people in particular to take the preservation of our Mediterranean towns very seriously when he asserts that 'if one is not aware, all that our ancestors have left behind, will be voluntarily or involuntarily destroyed by a society whose economic performance rules all morals... Scholars, politicians and socially responsible individuals are today confronted with masses of people whose sole interest seems to be the accumulation of personal wealth, prestige and superfluous consumer goods. They are confronted by an over privileged society that is continuously concerned with its own individual rights and is not in the least interested in the right of the underprivileged or in its own individual and social duties'.

I think that the time has arrived to react to this situation by devising means to make the people of the Mediterranean conscious of the richness of their urban heritage. Valid attempts have been made in the past and are still being made, but I feel that more needs to be done so that all Mediterranean citizens are conscious or convinced of the beauty of their old cities. Moreover, urgent measures need to be taken to make governments or people in authority cognisant of the appropriate restoration projects for their city centres. I strongly consider that the use of the Internet is an ideal instrument for achieving this aim. It does not require excessive financial support or teamwork structures. An individual can start the ball rolling – and in fact many are already doing so - but there seems to be no coordination, and that coordination could well be available through the Internet. It only needs a dedicated body to commit itself to the job and the Association of Mediterranean Historians or SIH Med can be an ideal agency for such an enterprise. The organisation and networking of such a project falls within its portfolio. The study of a city's past is, in fact, one of the ways by which historic cities are being brought closer together.

The study of urban areas falls within the domain of cultural management studies, and any attempt to relate them to the Internet needs to follow a theoretical framework that is inspired by the former. In America, new innovative concepts are being introduced to help planners specialising in cultural programmes build up management strategies. To make these programmes more effective, activities are also being introduced where the stakeholders involved are asked to sit round a table or in a conference room, and through a series of coordinated workshops, a collegial atmosphere is created where the stakeholders process strategic planning so that at the end, and after each one has shared his or her views, what is termed as a 'whole system' approach becomes more feasible. In other words, the knowledge that already exists, but which at a point in time can be compared to sparse pieces of a puzzle, are gathered, structured and brought into the system. This can lead to the exploration of new alliances. Thus a general picture is being created which will eventually lead to the establishment of new foundations for more specific and focused work. This model of research can be pursued further and the Internet exploited, especially through chat fora on the net, wherein concepts related to the strategies on how a website of Mediterranean cities can be built, can be openly discussed. These discussions should take in the most diverse ideas that such a project can stir up.

Therefore, what would follow is a framework which later on can be elaborated to comprehend as far as possible the existing differences in outlook on how a database on Mediterranean Cities should look. For such a database to be a success, it would be necessary to follow certain prescribed criteria. Each historic town or city should have a website, hosting information and, most importantly, old and new images of the urban centre concerned. This database should serve as a small reference library which needs to be accessible to both scholars and lay people alike. In other words, anyone wanting to study or have a quick glance at how any particular area looked in the past could easily find the required information. Yet, this database should not end up as a source of cheap tourist information. There are many sites on the internet aiming at this niche. On the contrary, what I am proposing is a form of GIS, which can

be compiled by amateurs and at the same time can help the viewer or any browser to better understand the history of a particular Mediterranean city. This is why a sort of 'manager' is needed for the coordination and connection of all the relevant sites together, perhaps by the creation of a new site which would act as a sort of index for all the relevant sites having information on any one of the Mediterranean historic cities.

One can even go a step further and seek the creation of databases which can also be built on a prepared template. In this latter case, I do not advocate a specific, strict ownership of these databases. Another method is for private individuals and local councils to set up their respective site, following certain stipulated criteria. Many already try to include historical knowledge but more often than not, the data does not follow a well-structured pattern. I suggest that the information content of these sites should have some form of coordination and finally, with the approval of each owner of the sites, and following collegial principles, the respective owners would accept links between the different sites, so that browsers can move with ease from one site to another, already knowing what type of content they would encounter.

I strongly believe that the dissemination of knowledge about historic Mediterranean towns and cities merits special attention, and European projects, whose aim concerns the preservation of the memory of activities associated with tangible and intangible culture of the Mediterranean, should be given special attention.

Obviously, I do not want to give the false impression that I am excluding the involvement of professional technicians in the design of sites. The use of research teams by non governmental organisations, in particular those specialising in the areas of cultural and physical heritage, terrestrial and urban history, as this association can help towards the production of sophisticated websites with a three-dimensional presentation, and a highly professional academic content. Yet, I do not want to create situations where an inexperienced user of the internet would be discouraged from attempting the experiment as he or she would be influenced by the high contents and excellent presentation of professional websites. Finally, what I am proposing is a work that does not involve excessive financial resources – the production of a professional website or system that should be accessible to internet users. It should be pointed out that many websites are the result of private initiative often resulting from altruistic principles to show to the outside world the beauty of their native home town or city.

Most importantly, the gathering of information on these towns should serve as a form of "compulsory ecumenism" so to speak, the dissemination of knowledge on different architectural idioms, some of which have been influenced by a particular religious creed or the philosophy of a particular political grouping. Incidentally, architects have proved to be one of the few individuals in history – they fared better than painters – to have succeeded in developing their artistic metaphors more easily with dictators (religious, aristocratic or political) and some scholars would even be tempted to say that their works were more respected, in terms of artistic content, in the latter milieu than in democratic environments. Different religions have tried to borrow architectural metaphors and incorporate them in their respective religious heritage. In other words, this database, or the creation of multiple databases should eventually become instruments of dialogue among Mediterranean civilisations and possibly of peace through exposing the cultural heritage common to both coasts. The creation of such a database can possibly play an important role in the framework of a policy, which most of the MEDA projects under the Heritage II and Heritage III programmes are trying to achieve. It goes without saying that these projects are trying to foster openness, tolerance, peace and stability in the region, through supporting awareness of a common heritage which is both natural and architectural. As most of the Mediterranean Cities were also harbour cities, they can further help in bringing awareness to the people of this region who in fact share a tangible common heritage.



Collaboration between the Mediterranean Historic Cities in practice. Thanks to an Interreg Project promoted by the University of Malta, the *Opificio di Pietre Dure* will be helping in the restoration of an old painting situated in one of Malta's harbour cities.

I suggest the following principal activities: ongoing exchanges among different town councils but also individuals towards the creation of a network of multimedia centres on historic towns. This can lead to the creation of simulated or virtual cultural itineraries featuring both the cultural and physical heritage of the Mediterranean historic towns and cities.

Today, many of the Mediterranean historic cities share a common predicament. Their urgent problems relate to problems of underdevelopment. In other words, some of these areas are in need of redevelopment, a factor that can be achieved through tourism, environmental awareness, rehabilitation and restoration programmes. As some of the cities are located on the coast, their redevelopment has to take into consideration all existing structures, besides a plethora of interests which can arise from real estate promoters, hotel chains, tourist firms with little awareness of the pre-eminent historical interest and cultural value of these “places of memory” of our heritage. The access to this database by agents and individuals working in tourism can help to better the understanding of the historic values of these historic towns, which eventually, will lead to the creation of optimal conditions and the elevation of the heritage in question in the eyes of all the citizens. One seriously wishes that these Mediterranean cities would exploit the idea of sustainable development, in particular by having training courses in urban history, good cultural tourism, and cultural managers. These databases can help towards the attainment of such an ideal. Even if the work (or some of it) would be of an amateurish nature, it can still directly help towards achieving these aims.



A concert of ethnic music held at the city of Bejaia in Algeria as part of an international conference that brought together representatives from different Mediterranean cities

The study of the different Mediterranean towns and cityscapes is revealing a marked distinction between urban areas of the northern part of the Mediterranean and those on the southern flank of the same sea. The northern European towns understood much earlier the need for restoration of their historic centres. Some of the historic centres were threatened, until a decade ago, by abandonment and eventual demolition to make place for modern concrete blocks of building. The historical consciousness of the importance of these urban centres is now gaining ground and reaching the southern cities, and despite the existing financial difficulties that many countries, in the south are facing due to their structural deficit, countries such as Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia are more prepared than before to implement restoration projects to enhance their historic town centres. Agencies in these countries have been formed to look after restoration projects. The city of Algiers, for example, is currently undergoing restoration, and the colonial section of the town, is being restored to its past grandeur, where white dominates all over the place. The title of Algiers as the ‘white city’ is, rightly so, being given back to this city. Much more difficult is the

restoration of the Algerian ‘qasba’. Due to political and religious factors, the restoration of this area is proving to be much more difficult.

The Maltese historic towns are much more likely to be associated with the southern flank of the Mediterranean. For decades, they were considered as derelict places of little or no artistic value. The only ascribed value was historic but housing units were for a long period of time associated with social problems and lower class inhabitants. As a consequence, the restoration of these places was not given any priority by the different governments of the day. An objective of the *Conférence Permanente des Villes Historiques de la Méditerranée* is to set the criteria on how these cities are to be approached. As a way of study, I propose a new criterion, that is, the preservation and guardianship of historic cities past images through the creation of a virtual historic library. The documentation of historic images should be given priority in this study. Visual representation can be more effective and leads to a better understanding of the place’s historical value as well as showing the right direction for the restoration of this place.

Before proceeding to list the main divisions or sections of the database that I am proposing, one has to keep in mind the diverse meanings that the term 'record' has been given. The historians, or better still archivists, do not agree on the type of 'record', and here by the word 'record', I signify anything that comes from the past and is to be preserved for posterity as opposed to all other material that for the sake of space, an archivist thinks should not be preserved and therefore is destroyed. In this specific exercise, by a record, I mean, first and foremost, any image of the city besides any description that may have been left of the city concerned, either resulting from literature, private diaries or travellers' accounts, journalistic evidence etc. In my case, I can now turn to the taxonomical classification of the database. What I am suggesting here is a four-phase database, focusing mostly on the preservation and enhanced visibility of historic images of the Mediterranean historic towns.

The first part of the project is the cataloguing of the oldest pictorial representations of the town. The most important images dating from this period are either paintings usually using the oil medium or pastel. Yet these were very expensive and were only executed on commission by prosperous individuals. The second are hand drawings which were a very popular medium with Grand Tour travellers. Linked to this medium, one can also include the lithographs, more often than not, the work of craftsmen who copied in their studios designs executed by others – often pencil drawings, which they chiselled on an iron plate. This form of media was predominant from the seventeenth until the early nineteenth century. Obviously, the medium of painting continued after the nineteenth century, but they were not the exclusive medium to record pictorial views.

By the late nineteenth century, a new medium of pictorial documentation came into being - photography. Photographs and related images, such as postcards, published photo albums and cards constitute the third category of documentation to be included in the database. At first, the photographers were few and they were also called on commission. Malta was fortunate enough, due to its links with the British Empire, to have had photographers working for the Services taking photos of Malta as early as the 1880s. The result is a pictorial album which included the harbour cities. Moreover, the introduction of photography helped in the diffusion abroad of knowledge about the existence of the Maltese harbour cities. The purpose of these images prior to the Second World War was, to a certain extent, to show the actual life of the cities whilst at the same time, still propagating an image of grandeur for the Maltese historic towns.

Photography paved the way for a new medium, that of the postcard. Malta already had its postcards by the early twentieth century. Views of Malta began to be distributed all over Europe and beyond. As was the case with photography, the postcard images often represented idyllic images of the harbour towns. Photography helped to place the images of Malta also in publicity formats. For example, in the 1930s, the images of the Three Cities, that is the harbour towns of Bormla, Birgu and L-Isla, were also printed on match boxes.

The 1930s witnessed a new form of publicity which needs to be documented. The album books began to be published. Malta was very lucky to have, despite its small size, publications which collected photographs of Malta. Historical sites were given preference. *Camera Pictures of Malta* by F. and W. Weston was the book to launch Malta in this new sphere offering a vision of the historic cities but also a documentary medium of various architectural aspects which would be largely lost, eventually, in the heavy bombardment that occurred in the Second World War and the demolition of various edifices to make place for the reconstruction afterwards.

Despite the extensive destruction inflicted by the war, the Maltese harbour cities still remained an attractive focal point for artists to immortalise in their work. Photographers, lithographers and painters began to take a different view of the port cities, beginning to depict them in a more factual way and their interest was more in the cities decadence rather than in their past grandeur.

The post-war period was a boom for Malta. Photography ceased to be an exclusivity. The camera began slowly to become a household item. The role of the photographer began to lose its past importance. His role became more ceremonial, capturing for posterity unforgettable events such as marriages or the arrival of a newborn in the family. Photos of day to day images and landscape views began slowly to be captured by amateurs who had in the meantime come into possession of a camera. Yet, Maltese Cities still remained important in the eyes of professional photographers. They were immortalised by Tony Armstrong Jones, who published his experiences in a book entitled *Malta*. The book was divided into two, the historical and descriptive part written by Sacheverell Sitwell and the photographic part, taken by Tony Armstrong Jones, who achieved tabloid immortality when he became the husband of the Queen of England's sister. Yet, the image was now different. The photographer was more interested in capturing the derelict environment existing in the area rather than having pictures of grandeur.

This brings me to the fourth and last category of images to be stored in this database; these images are derived from modern and contemporary art. While images of towns, thanks to photography, have become numerous, there is a section which due to its nature still makes the produced image a rarity. These are modern artistic representations of Mediterranean towns. Modern art tends to capture this aspect of suffocation and the idea of a bygone age, of a past grandeur that is no more. These are also important features which need to be recorded and preserved. They are very useful in the study of urban complexes and in my opinion need to be preserved separately from the above described, more traditional images.

This paper has sought to propose methods for the preservation of past images of the Mediterranean historic towns which can be used in turn by scholars for the analysis of the different phases of a town's history. It is the turn of the modern reader to find ways of translating these records for a better future. The creation of a database of pictorial images can provide a visual analysis of a town's past grandeur, which can be easily understood by any lay reader. The use of modern technology, in particular digital data and internet, can speed up the propagation of information and in the process help towards the building of a new consciousness which would eventually give rise, wherever it is absent, to a renaissance of appreciation of some of our Mediterranean cities.

Wolfgang Iser has shown that the success of a story depends on three factors. It has to please the model reader, the implied reader and the actual reader. Translating this concept into digital language, the website should follow this model to be successful. It has to please the model internet user, the implied user and the actual user. To achieve such an aim, the proposed database has to be an inclusive project and should facilitate, as I said before, private initiative. It should be accessible to any individual who voluntarily decides to join or contribute to this set up. The most important factor is that this database and website should have a pedagogical aspect. One would hope that one day the site which I am proposing would serve as a pilot project for the harmonisation of the different websites on the historic towns of the Mediterranean. I cannot close this short reflection without soliciting public organisations, both at governmental and local level to support materially and psychologically all the initiatives that individuals might take out of civic pride to the advantage of their native towns, cities or villages.

Bibliography

- Calvino, I., *Le Città Invisibili*, (Mondadori-Milano, 2002).
- Caselli, G., 'The National Memory Project and Mediterranean Multimedia', an unpublished paper read at the international conference held in Malta on "Multimedia Technologies, Infrastructure and Expertise towards a Euro-Mediterranean Multimedia Industry", on 29-31 May 1998.
- Freund, G., *Photography and Society*, (David R. Godine Pub, 1979).
- Hall, P., *Cities in Civilisation Culture, Innovation and Urban Order*, (Great Britain, 1999).

- Harvey, C., and Press, J., *Databases in Historical Research, Theory, Methods and Applications*, (Macmillan Press, 1996).
- Holden, P., and Purcell, N., *The Corrupting Sea. A Study of Mediterranean History*, (Blackwell, 2002).
- Lackerbauer, I., *In No Time Internet Basics*, (Germany, 1999).
- Mercieca, S., 'Les Ports Maltais et Leur Héritage Maritime', *Acteurs Locaux et Patrimoine Immatériel: Le Rôle des Villes Historiques de la Méditerranée*, (Published, 2004).
- Mercieca, S., 'An Historically Unaccounted for Maritime Heritage? Towards another Interpretation of the Maltese Place-name L-Isla', *De Triremibus Festschrift in honour of Joseph Muscat*, Cortis, T. and Gambin, T. (eds.), (Malta, 2005), 721-746.
- Nicolet, C., Ilbert, R., and Depaule, J-P., *Mégapoles Méditerranéennes, Géographie Urbaine Rétrospective*, (Paris, 2000).
- Sitwell, S., and Armstrong Jones, T., *Malta*, (London, 1958).
- Weston, F. and M., *Camera Pictures of Malta*, (England, ca. 1925).

DR SIMON MERECIECA occupies the post of Director of the Mediterranean Institute at the University of Malta. He is a researcher on Historical Demography within the History Department and lectures historical demographic subjects. He is the coordinator of the Contemporary Mediterranean Studies course in the University's Faculty of Arts and was also President of the *Kooperattiva Kulturali Universitarja* (KKU) (University Cultural Cooperative Association). Dr Mercieca has participated in a number of international seminars and conferences and also published numerous academic papers both in local and international journals besides being the editor of several academic books.



The Rise and Rise of the Female Graduate: Some milestones in tertiary education for women in Malta

Ms Patricia Camilleri

In October 1991 the number of female students at the University of Malta surpassed the number of male students¹. We have become so used to the idea of equal educational opportunities that this statistic hardly created a ripple in the University of Malta's corridors and merited only brief mention in the media. The fact that a sizable female presence on campus had been a reality for less than thirty years was largely unappreciated.

An historical background

The events leading up to the creation of a university in Malta make an interesting story, full of intrigue, jealousy and blatant self-interest on the part of some of the protagonists, many of whom were also driven by a genuine desire to see Malta on the European educational map. While this is not the place for a history of the University of Malta² it is worth giving a brief outline of events.

On November 12, 1592, the deed for the building of a Jesuit College in Valletta was signed in the Magisterial Palace. The College was erected within two years and provided schooling in grammar and the humanities while mathematics was added to the curriculum in 1656. The College had to double as grammar school and seminary and, when endowments increased, teachers in different branches of Theology were employed. In parallel with the College, the Holy Infirmary provided courses in the study of anatomy and surgery. Following the great plague of 1675, the Grandmaster Nicolò Cotoner appointed Fr. Joseph Zammit as 'reader' in surgery and anatomy. In 1679, Zammit oversaw the setting up of Malta's first Medical Academy, later incorporated into the University.³ During the eighteenth century, this tradition of quality medical teaching continued with the appointment in 1723 of Gabriele Henin as head of the Medical School.⁴ Giorgio Locano was the first professor of medicine and Michelangelo Grima was appointed as the first professor of surgery.

The power to confer degrees had been obtained from the General of the Jesuit Order in 1727 and, while the Collegium Melitense lacked the title 'university', it was an institution of tertiary education, as were many similar institutions in Europe at that time. In 1769, following the expulsion of the Jesuits from Malta, Grandmaster Manoel Pinto de Fonseca, obtained a decree from Pope Clement VIII to erect a Public University of General Studies. Except for a brief period, during the French *Interregnum*, the University has functioned continuously down to the present day.

While none of the University's several statutes prior to 1915 (among them the Constitutions, promulgated by Pinto in 1771, including that written by Costaguti,⁵ and the *Statuto Fondamentale* written by Sir Ignatius Bonavita⁶ in 1838) specifically denied access to females, one can presume that it simply was inconceivable that a woman should desire to enter or be accepted.

The admission of women into universities in the United Kingdom began in 1869 with the setting up of Cambridge University's first women's college, Girton. Newnham College followed in 1871. The University of St. Andrews in Scotland opened its doors to female students in 1892; Queen's College, Belfast in 1882; Queen's College, Galway (now UCG) in 1888. The conferring body for the Irish colleges was the Royal University of Ireland and it conferred its first degrees on women in 1884. Trinity College, Dublin did not admit women students until 1904 and University College, Dublin was the last to do so in 1908.⁷

19th century

The second half of the 19th century was a time of great political and social upheaval all over Europe and Malta shared in the atmosphere of the time. This was reflected in the development of the University of Malta. This fascinating period is really a story of the desire to reform the University along Anglo-saxon lines on the part of the British and a determination to retain the status quo on the part of many professors and General Council members. This was further enlivened by the anglophilia of certain members of Council and the italophilia of others.

In 1838, when the General Council of the University was experiencing a period of discontent, Sir Ignatius Bonavita was asked to compile, on the recommendation of the Commissioners of Inquiry, a 'Statuto Fondamentale' which Professor Andrew Vella recounts 'was for nearly seventy years to exercise a deadening effect (on the University)'.⁸ However, Vella also admits that, given the contentions of the time, it is unlikely that anyone could have done better.

Women first got the chance to enter the University of Malta when Rev. Thaddeus O'Malley replaced Rev. Emmanuele Rossignaud as Rector in 1841. O'Malley, by all accounts a maverick priest with a deep interest in educational and clerical reform, wrote his '*Progetto*' which encompassed some of his radical ideas. Article X allowed for the admission to the University of females wishing to follow a course in midwifery. The course for midwives was, at that time, held at the Lyceum.⁹ Unfortunately for the female midwives, O'Malley seems to have had a knack of putting everybody's back up both here and in the U.K.¹⁰ The first enthusiastic letters of introduction from Governor Sir H.F. Bouverie, K.C.B. soon changed tone and by 1842 O'Malley was forced to resign. Needless to say, his '*Progetto*' was unceremoniously scrapped and with it, until the following century, any idea of women following courses at the University of Malta.

The first woman student

The School of Midwifery was founded in 1869 but the course in midwifery did not come under the auspices of the University until 1915. This diploma course lasted two years but candidates could not enter without having already attended a preliminary period of training at the Central Hospital. The programme of studies was sanctioned by the Special Council of the Faculty of Medicine.¹¹ Professor Vella states that Ms Lucia Levanzin Inglott was the first Maltese woman to attend a course at the University of Malta where she gained her diploma in midwifery.¹²

In the first years of the twentieth century, under the rectorship of Professor E. Magro (1904-1920), there were significant reforms in the structure of the University as well as improvements to its physical environment.¹³ It was inevitable that Magro should wish to introduce a new statute that would include these reforms. The Statute of 1915, however, was destined never to gain the full support of the University's students who, by this time were gathered in a group called the *Comitato Permanente Universitario*, founded by Dr Arturo Mercieca (knighted in 1925 and elevated to the post of Chief Justice). The Statute attempted to regroup the C.P.U. into the Student Representative Council and also to change the regulations appertaining to the degrees of Laws, Medicine and Divinity.

Chapter One, Article 8 of the Statute of 1915 stated:
"Sex shall not be a ground of disqualification".

This article, so significant for the women of Malta, was lost amid the arguments concerning the loss of the doctoral status of the LL.D., M.D. and D.D. degree courses which were to change to LL.B., M.B. and D.B. The C.P.U. was incensed and spoke out and wrote in loud complaint. The issue went beyond the academic and developed into a political one. June 7, though no one could have known it at the time, was looming. In fact, after the events of June 7¹⁴, the General Council of the University

voted to ignore the 1915 Statute regulations concerning the changes and to continue to award LL.D., M.D., and D.D. degrees to the 1919 graduates. Article 8, which was seen by the University authorities as one which simply brought it in line with U.K. academic practice, was probably not taken very seriously by any of the stakeholders involved.

In the new Statute of February 26, 1921, signed under the new rector, Themistocles Zammit (later Sir), the General Council was given autonomy concerning the Regulations in connection with the Examinations for degrees and the three doctoral courses reverted to their previous form. However, one aspect of the 1915 Statute remained in force albeit with a change in format. Article 4, Chapter I, stated:

“The University examinations, degrees, diplomas and certificates shall be open to all without distinction of sex.”

The first female graduate

In June 1919, two women who are important to the story of females in tertiary education, matriculated. Tessie Camilleri and Blanche Huber entered the University together in October 1919.¹⁵ The first choosing the Arts and the other Medicine. As her course was the shorter one, Miss Tessie M. Camilleri, was destined to become the University of Malta's first female graduate. Miss Camilleri followed courses in English Literature, Philosophy and Latin Literature which culminated in her graduation, B.Litt., on May 2, 1922.¹⁶ At this private ceremony, Professor Temi Zammit dedicated his graduation speech to the importance of female participation in tertiary education.



Ms. Tessie Camilleri

He congratulated Miss Camilleri and her ‘fellow lady-students who have joined this University’ and echoed the idea prevalent in England in the 19th century, that the study of English Literature was conducive to the development of a ‘homogeneous society with healthy aims and aspirations’.

Miss Camilleri was born on 6 January, 1901 into an educated Sliema family. Her aunt, Giulia Camilleri, was an inspector of schools while three other aunts ran a well-respected private school in Valletta. The fact that she had these female role models must surely have influenced her decision to take this unusual step. Shortly after her graduation, she married Mr Edgar Staines, who worked in the Administration of the University, and had four children in quick succession. Sadly, she died aged only 29 on 2 October, 1930.

This excerpt from an article in *The Daily Malta Chronicle*, 2 May 1922, records her graduation:

“Miss Camilleri has greatly distinguished herself in the Course of Literature, revealing intellectual endowments and attainments of no mean order, and we heartily congratulate her on her well-deserved success which has gained for her the distinction of being the first lady graduate of the University of Malta.”

Malta's first female medical student started her five- year course in October 1919 and on 1 October 1925, Miss Blanche Huber became the first female to graduate in Medicine at the University of Malta. Born in Birkirkara, the daughter of Hon. Joseph Huber, Treasurer to Government, Dr Huber subsequently married a medical colleague, Dr Joseph Caruana, and worked throughout her life as a pharmacist in Zejtun. She died on 19 July 1942 aged 40.¹⁷



Ms. Blanche Huber

Although Miss Camilleri and Miss Huber were among the first female students at the University of Malta,¹⁸ there were other women who, around the same time or slightly before, gained university qualifications from institutions overseas. One of these, Miss Blanche Tonna Barthet, held an L.L.A. (Lady Literate in Arts) from St



Ms. Tonna Barthet (centre)

Andrew's University in Scotland and was Headmistress of Sliema Primary School. She is mentioned in a letter of March 1919 from the Rector of the University to the Governor in which she is said to have offered to give a lecture at the Aula Magna entitled 'Women's Action Through the Century'. There is no record of this lecture ever actually taking place and, with the events of June of that year, it is likely to have been postponed. We do know, however, that during the academic year 1920-1921, Miss Tonna Barthet delivered a lecture, the first woman to do so, in the Aula Magna entitled 'Maltese Ideals' - an interesting title given the events of 1919. This was followed, on 25 May 1922, by a talk entitled 'Man and His Work'.

This fascinating lady took a correspondence course between 1915 and 1918 through an establishment in London called the Normal Correspondence College. She studied various subjects gaining honours in Italian and passes in the other necessary subject areas and was awarded her diploma by St Andrews University in Scotland in 1918.¹⁹ Later, Miss Tonna Barthet further distinguished herself when she gave a talk in St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta (probably the first woman to do so). As first president of the female section of Catholic Action Movement in Malta, she spoke to the First Maltese Diocesan Eucharistic Congress on the subject: *L'Azione Cattolica nel Pensiero del Pontefice*.²⁰

Miss Tonna Barthet was probably not the only Maltese woman at the time to have a diploma or a degree from a foreign university. In fact, Vella mentions four ladies who were seriously considered for the Chair of English Literature and General History in 1923.²¹ One cannot be sure just how 'seriously' these applications were taken as the minutes of the General Council state:

"Sixteen applications had been received four of which from ladies. Although sex did not debar persons from applying, for obvious reasons these ladies were considered to be 'hors concours'."²²

As the report with the names and qualifications of the applicants is not available, it is not possible to ascertain whether the ladies were not qualified enough and therefore not eligible for the Chair or whether the 'obvious reasons' were that it was inconceivable that a woman should obtain a Chair. The Chair was actually given to Owen J. Fogarty.

Among those who started the medical course but continued their studies abroad, is Irene Condachi. Born in Malta on 7 June, 1899, daughter of Costantino, referred to in the University roll as 'merchant', Ms Condachi was to make her mark on the medical profession. Her family had recently emigrated from Greece and formed part of a thriving Greek community on the island. Her uncle, an engineer, was responsible for the placing of the Greek inscription above the 'classical' entrance to the University in Valletta (Learning is the gateway to distinction). Dr Condachi commenced her studies in 1916²³ at the University of Malta but decided to abandon them after only a year.²⁴ Some time later, she determined to take them up again and travelled to Naples where she graduated M.D. in 1926. Two years after her graduation, she obtained a Special Degree in Paediatrics from the University of Pavia. She became Assistant to the Professor of Obstetrics and between 1938 and 1959 was the Government School Medical Officer. As such, she was the highest paid woman, at the time, in government employ.²⁵ She was also a member of the Professional Branch of the local Catholic Action Movement. Dr Condachi died in 1970 but is still remembered today for her tireless medical work.

In the early years of the 20th century, up until the 1960's, University of Malta graduations took place every three years. In 1931, there were two more female graduates, one a B.Sc., Cettina Bajona, who went on to graduate M.D. in 1935, and the other a B.A., Mary Christine Tufigno.

It is difficult today to imagine just what it was like to be one of the very few female students amongst a group of over a hundred males. One might suspect that it was not such an unpleasant experience for either group. Dr Mary Grech Marguerat, Malta's fourth female doctor (1943)²⁶, whom the author interviewed, said that she did not recall feeling 'different' or looked down upon during the course. One suspects that, on the contrary, they probably commanded respect and admiration. Each young woman probably had her own reason for daring to push the boundaries of convention. Mary Christine Tufigno, has, however, left us a short account of her personal reasons for wanting to follow what was an unusual life path for a 19 year old in 1928. In an essay, written right at the start of her course, she recounts her intellectual development, her joy at the discovery of literature, her plans for the future. Her idealism is touching, her warmth and intelligence transparent in this delightful piece of writing.

*"Intanto, io studierò e cercherò di raffinare il mio gusto estetico in modo ch'io possa comprendere i grandi uomini ed elevare la mia mente al bello ed al puro perché fra di me e loro vi sia una tacita corrispondenza d'affetti."*²⁷

After gaining her degree in 1931, Miss Tufigno taught Italian at the government's Higher Central School before her marriage and after that at the Convent of Sacred Heart.

There was a fairly regular intake of small numbers of female graduates over the next twenty five years and the male:female ratio remained virtually the same. The first females to obtain the Pharmaceutical Chemist (Ph.C.) diploma were Maria Caruana and Ondina Tayar in 1933 and these were followed by five others in 1945 and ten in 1948.

The Ph.C. diploma course was followed by those wishing to work as pharmacists. In the late Forties, however, the trend was to upgrade those courses that lead to professional qualifications and the Ph.C. diploma was upgraded to a three year Bachelor in Pharmacy (B.Pharm.) course. The first such degree was conferred on eight lady graduates in 1952: Carmen Borg, Joan Antida Borg, Mary Agnes Borg, Antoinette Caruana Montaldo, Joan Farrugia, Cettina Mifsud Bonnici, Elsa Vella,²⁸ Maria Rosa Vassallo.²⁹ The profession of pharmacist has always been perceived as 'appropriate' for women. Most of the early professionals would have worked in a pharmacy and could choose hours that fitted in with family commitments. As the job of medical representative for pharmaceutical firms became established it was also recognised as a convenient occupation for females. The course remains popular with women to this day.

A similar attempt at upgrading the teaching profession came about in 1943 when plans were made to entrust the training of women teachers to the Sisters of the Sacred Heart while the men's training college was to be run the La Salle Brothers. In 1950 there was one attempt at introducing a Bachelor in Education degree course at the University which produced the first graduates in 1953, among whom were Mary Caruana, Josephine Mangion, Mary C. Mangion and Juliana Zammit. However, this change was short lived and the degree was not reintroduced until 1980.

The one year course was increased to two years in 1954 and the St Michael's Training College opened in 1956. The Malta College of Education was set up in 1973 and this moved from Ta' Giorni to the Malta College of Science and Technology in 1975. With the setting up of the Faculty of Education in 1978 the first B.Ed. (Hons) course commenced in 1980.³⁰ An area of growth for women professionals has undoubtedly been in the paramedical area. The Institute of Health Care of the

University of Malta has upgraded the field of nursing studies. The vision behind its setting up in 1987 was to give academic standing to the courses initially run by the Department of Health and to build upon existing disciplines. The focus is now firmly on teamwork amongst health care professionals and the new ethos has proved extremely popular among female students.

The first graduates in B.Sc. Nursing were in 1992 when 10 women and 10 men graduated B.Sc. (Hons) Nursing Studies and 2 women and 2 men graduated B.Sc. Nursing Studies.³¹ At the start of the academic year 2000 - 2001 the I.H.C. student body stood at 715 (475 females and 240 males) making the overall percentage of women students at the Institute a respectable 66.44%.

If pharmacy and nursing were always considered an area of female professionalism there were other professions that were solidly male. The first female to graduate LL.D. was Joanna Degiorgio in 1949. Dr Degiorgio became a practising lawyer and spent all her working life in the Chambers of leading commercial lawyer, Professor Felic Cremona. However, the female lawyer remained a *rara avis* for many years, with only three women graduating LL.D. between 1949 and 1976. Ena Vella³² in 1958 and Jeanette Saliba (later Laferla Saliba) in 1975. Dr Saliba was actually the first female to obtain the warrant of Notary Public on 28 January 1976. The Law had not categorically denied women the right to hold a warrant of Notary Public. However, up until the changes in the Law of 1963, women were debarred from acting as witnesses on public deeds.³³ Act XXX of 1973 removed the minimum age of 25 years. The first LL.D. course after the coming into effect of these Acts, that included women, was that of Jeanette Saliba.³⁴ The first female Legal Procurators were Vera Muscat Azzopardi Mary Victoria Galea and Ena Vella who graduated in 1954. Other male domains, such as Dentistry and Architecture, were breached in 1960, by Carmen Attard, and in 1961, by Isabel Delia, respectively. Engineering, perhaps the final male stronghold, got its first female graduate, Catherine Zerafa, in 1973.

From the early years, right up until the Sixties, the degree courses (B.Sc., M.D., B.A.) had an average of one or two females per course. The General Council minutes during the early years do not contain many references to the female undergraduates but their presence did begin to be felt as this extract from the University's Annual Report of 1932 – 1933 indicates:

“As a number of young ladies have for some time joined the University and as it is likely that the number will be increased in the near future, a private sitting room has been provided for such lady-students.”³⁵

After the introduction of the ‘Compulsory Education Act’ in January, 1925, the average number of children in Elementary Education did increase. However, the number of females in primary and secondary education, as a percentage of the total number of students, remained stable in the period 1919 – 1938. In 1938, females at the University of Malta were 12.03% of the total student body (21 females and 149 males).³⁶ By 1972 the number of female graduates reached 30 (21.13% of the total number of graduates for that year). By 1980 the percentage of female graduates was still under 33% (45 females, 137 males) and the number remained the same into the late Eighties. By 1991, however, the percentage increased beyond the 50% mark. Today it stands at 55.02%. The number of females graduating in 2000 was 889.

Clearly, there are many different elements that have contributed to the increase in female student numbers. Among them social mores which now allow much greater freedom of choice for women; acceptance that women have a right to a career; greater confidence on the part of girls in their ability to perform well in the Sciences as well as in the Humanities. The introduction of Physics, in the Eighties, as a compulsory O-Level probably contributed much to this awareness.³⁷ The enormous increase in the number and in the diversity of degree, diploma and certificate courses, has obviously widened the educational horizons of women in Malta. The growth has not, however, been equal in all the faculties. Engineering remains a male stronghold with female

numbers standing at less than 20%. The Faculty of Laws, on the other hand, is now dominated by female students who make up almost two-thirds of every six year course (three years Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) + three years Doctor of Laws (LL.D.).

Many of these students now go on to further studies with the number of female Master's students on the rise. So far, Malta does not have a graduate unemployment problem but, to be sustainable, the synergy between University, Industry and Business must be enhanced. These graduate numbers must also be monitored closely as tracer studies will tell us what is happening to them in the long term. This is particularly important with regard to women graduates who may not take up and sustain permanent employment immediately after graduation. There are also areas in which women have yet to make their mark – the B.Sc. (Hons) Information Technology³⁸ course has yet to be 'discovered' by female students. Maximising the work force is an economic necessity and the contribution of women will be key to the islands' future. Much has been done since the first female stepped over the University of Malta's threshold and the University has, without doubt, contributed enormously to the enhancement of the perception of women in the workplace by providing opportunities for professional qualification.

References

- ¹ 680 males - 684 females.
- ² For a history of the University of Malta, see Andrew Vella, *The University of Malta*, (Malta, 1969). References to the early history of the University in this article, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from this volume.
- ³ Roger Ellul-Micallef, "The Maltese Medical Tradition: overseas contacts that have influenced its development", in *Malta A Case Study in International Cross-Currents*, S. Fiorini and V. Mallia Milanese (eds.), (Malta 1991), 187-198, 190.
- ⁴ *Ibid*, 191.
- ⁵ Roberto Ranieri Costaguti O.S.M. was the first Rector to be appointed after the setting up of the *Università degli Studi Generali* (1771–1773).
- ⁶ Ignatius Bonavita (1792–1865) became the first President of the Court of Appeal in 1839. The papers of the Bonavita family were given to the University Library by Capt. John Bonavita in the 1970's.
- ⁷ In the meantime there had been two government commissions on university education - the Robertson Commission of 1901-3 and the Fry Commission of 1906-7. Among the matters investigated by these commissions was the admission of women to universities. They resulted in the Irish Universities Bill of 1908 which stipulated that, if a college wanted government funding, it must admit women students. In many ways what U.C.D. enacted at the eleventh hour was something that they would have been compelled to do anyway.
- ⁸ Vella, 80.
- ⁹ The University of Malta and the Lyceum occupied the same building and, at that time, the Rector was also head of the Lyceum.
- ¹⁰ David Murphy, "Thaddeus O'Malley" in *Dictionary of Irish Biography* (5 volumes, CUP, 2005).
- ¹¹ Paul Cassar, *Medical History of Malta*, (London 1965), 416.
- ¹² Vella, 97.
- ¹³ *Ibid.*, 87.
- ¹⁴ On June 7, 1919 there were disturbances in Valletta, ostensibly connected with an increase in the price of bread, during which some rioters were killed by British soldiers.
- ¹⁵ Blanche Huber appears in the University's Roll of Students 1918-1921 under *List of students attending the Academical Course of Science and the Preparatory Course for Medicine and Surgery*. Strangely, Tessie Camilleri is included in the same list but her name appears to be crossed out. She also appears under the list of students attending the Academical Course of Literature in the same volume.
- ¹⁶ *The Acts of the University, 1883 – 1924*, University of Malta archives no. 78. Miss Camilleri's progress can be followed throughout her years at UoM through the attendance sheets and the Acts clearly state that this graduation ceremony took place. The dated and signed speech made by Professor T. Zammit is glued into the volume. Also, Miss Camilleri's original diploma still hangs on the wall in the house of one of her sons, Dr Robert Staines. There is, however, no record of

this graduation ceremony in the *Liber Aureus* of the University. This may be because it was a private ceremony.

- ¹⁷ A.E. Abela, *Grace and Glory: Malta: People, Places and Events*, (Progress Press. Valletta, 1997), 94-95.
- ¹⁸ There was one other woman who started University at the same time but did not complete her studies.
- ¹⁹ The L.L.A. scheme was a pre-cursor in higher education for women, that is, before they were admitted as graduates to the University of St Andrews in 1892. The prime author of the whole scheme was William Knight, Professor of Moral Philosophy 1879-1903 at St Andrews University. The scheme continued until 1932, by which time over 11,000 candidates from all parts of the world had presented themselves for examination, over 5,000 being awarded the complete certificate. Other graduates from Malta, between 1909 and 1931, were: Ellen T. MacCarthy (1909); Olivia Patten (1921); Carmela Imbroll (1926); Concetta Sammut (1928); Concetta Borg-Calleja (1931); Carmela Galea (1931). I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the Department of Rare Books and Muniments of St Andrews University in obtaining information about Ms Tonna Barthet's graduation and about the L.L.A. course. I thank also the various members of her family who kindly provided information about their relative.
- ²⁰ *Primo Congresso Eucaristico Diocesano Maltese*, (Aprile 1939, Malta), 90.
- ²¹ *General Council Minutes*, November 12, 1923.
- ²² *General Council Minutes*, sitting no. 6 of 12 November, 1923.
- ²³ Miss Condachi appears in the University's Roll of Students 1916-1917 under *List of students attending the Course of Science and Preparatory Course of Medicine*.
- ²⁴ Grateful thanks go to Mr John Agius Condachi for his help in providing valuable information about Dr Condachi.
- ²⁵ Personal communication from Mr J. Agius Condachi.
- ²⁶ The third female M.D. was Marcelle Galanopoulo (1940).
- ²⁷ Grateful thanks go to Mrs Cecilia Xuereb for providing me with information about her mother, Marie Christine Tufigno and for allowing me to include a quote from her essay.
- ²⁸ Elsa Vella went on to graduate M.D. in 1955 when she was placed 2nd in a course that included some of Malta's best known medical practitioners.
- ²⁹ The Ph.C. was briefly reintroduced (14 female graduates in 1970). However, there was a change of heart and the B.Pharm. course was soon reinstated (12 female graduates in 1971).
- ³⁰ Raymond Camilleri, *Teacher Training and Teacher Education in Malta: an historical perspective*, unpublished M.Ed. thesis, (October 1994).
- ³¹ B.Sc. (Hons) Nursing Studies, lady graduates in 1992: Margaret Abela, Doreen Agius Cutajar, Isabelle Avallone, Donia Baldacchino, Salvina Maria Bonanno, Therese Bugeja, Norma Josephine Buttigieg, Catherine Dalmas, Odette Gixti, Catherine Sharples. B.Sc. Nursing Studies lady graduates in 1992: Mary Rose Grima, Helen Zammit.
- ³² Ena Vella, later Cremona, was placed first in her course. She became a well known figure at the courts and is still a practising lawyer.
- ³³ *The Revised Edition of the Laws of Malta 1942* Vol. V. Chapter 92 Notarial Profession and Notarial Archives Part II of Notaries, art. 27, Qualifications of witnesses and attestors.
(1) No person shall be competent as witness unless such person is of the male sex ... (later amended by Act XXIX.1963).
- ³⁴ My thanks to Notary Jeanette Laferla Saliba, Notary Philip Saliba and to Notary Joseph Sciriha for discussing this issue with me.
- ³⁵ Reports of the University, 1920-1933, *Annual Report 1932-1933*, UoM.
- ³⁶ Anthony Cremona, *Aspects of Maltese Society between the two World Wars*, Unpublished dissertation for B.A. (Hons) History, (May 2001).
- ³⁷ Comment made by Dr Mary Darmanin, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Education, University of Malta, during an interview with the author in 2000.
- ³⁸ Now B.Sc. (Hons) Information & Communication Technology.

MS PATRICIA CAMILLERI is Director of the Communications and Alumni Relations Office at the University of Malta. She holds a BA and a MA.

DMSTE: The Department of Mathematics, Science and Technical Education, Faculty of Education*

Dr Leonard Bezzina



In this article, Dr Leonard Bezzina, Head of Department, profiles the Department of Mathematics, Science and Technical Education (DMSTE), Faculty of Education, being one of the most populous at the University in terms of the number of staff accredited to it as well as having a very varied and interesting portfolio.

Mission Statement



DMSTE staff

Since its setting up in 1991, the Department of Mathematics, Science and Technical Education (DMSTE) has striven to serve Maltese society by: preparing effective professional teachers in a variety of curriculum subjects which are taught in the secondary and post-secondary sectors; generating research about broad educational issues and in specific curriculum areas with the aim of informing educators and policy makers; anticipating and responding to the educational needs of the community and pursuing academic and professional excellence.

More specifically DMSTE seeks to achieve these aims by: promoting the academic and professional development of Departmental staff in the various fields catered for in the

Department; evaluating the quality of undergraduate courses offered by the Department and adapting to changing needs; coordinating with other faculties and professionals for the provision of subject content in undergraduate programmes; providing in-service education and training to upgrade current practice; providing opportunities to obtain postgraduate qualifications; disseminating research results to as wide a population as possible through various media and engaging in community directed projects with other educational partners (governmental and non-governmental organisations and industry). The Department has established a number of cooperation links with foreign universities and academic institutions.

Centres and Programmes

Centre for Environmental Education and Research (CEER): Officially established in 2004, CEER aims to coordinate environmental education initiatives, increase the opportunity for environmental education research, make scientific and technological research results more accessible and facilitate resource transfer and capacity building in Malta and the Euro-Mediterranean region. CEER seeks to catalyse change towards a sustainable society by providing opportunities for environmental education that empower citizens, irrespective of age, gender and socio-economic status, to actively participate in environmental decision-making fora and in initiatives that promote a good quality of life.

As part of its remit CEER offers the following courses to entities outside the University:

- Construction and the Environment (Institute of Building and Construction Engineering, MCAST);
- Decision Making Skills for the Coastal Zone Manager (International Ocean Institute);
- Green Leaders Course on Sustainable Management (Ministries & Government Departments).

* The DMSTE is one of six departments making up the Faculty of Education. The other five are: Arts & Languages in Education; Education Studies; Primary Education; Psychology; Youth & Community Studies.

Resources and ICT in Education (RICTE) Programme: The RICTE Programme was set-up in 2000 to cater for the general resources and ICT in education courses of the Faculty. It is currently responsible for the design, development, evaluation and coordination of the general RICTE compulsory study-units that are offered in the B.Ed. (Hons.) and P.G.C.E. courses and the design, development, evaluation and coordination of the Educational Multimedia Design, Development and Evaluation optional study-units that are offered in the B.Ed. (Hons.) course.

Teaching Areas & Courses Offered

DMSTE offers programmes of study in the following teaching areas:

- Computing; Geography; Mathematics; Nutrition, Family & Consumer Studies (NFCS); Physical Education (PE); Science with specialisation in Biology or Chemistry or Physics; and Technical Design & Technology (TD&T) as part of a four-year full-time B.Ed. (Hons.) course;
- Business Education, Computing, Geography, Mathematics and Science as part of a one-year full-time P.G.C.E. course;
- ICT in Education, Mathematics Education and Science Education as part of a three-year part-time M.Ed. course.

DMSTE is currently developing programmes of study in the following teaching areas: Nutrition, Family & Consumer Studies and Physical Education as part of a three-year part-time M.Ed. course.

DMSTE offers study-units in the following teaching areas:

- Environmental Education as part of a four-year full-time B.Ed. (Hons.) course and as part of a one-year full-time P.G.C.E. course;
- Resources & ICT in Education as part of a four-year full-time B.Ed. (Hons.) course and as part of a one-year full-time P.G.C.E. course;
- Health Issues and Health Education in the Primary School as part of a four-year full-time B.Ed. (Hons.) course.

List of courses for which DMSTE is responsible

Teaching Area	B.Ed.(Hons.)	P.G.C.E.	Certificate	Diploma	M.Ed.
<i>Business Education</i>	X	teaching area	X	X	X
<i>Computing Education</i>	teaching area	teaching area	Cert.Comp. Stud. Ed. ¹	Dip.Comp. Stud. Ed. ¹	X
<i>Environmental Education</i>	general area & option	option	X	√	X
<i>Geography Education</i>	teaching area	teaching area	X	X	X
<i>Mathematics Education</i>	teaching area	teaching area	X	X	being developed
<i>Nutrition, Family & Consumer Studies</i>	teaching area	X	X	X	being developed
<i>Physical Education</i>	teaching area	X	X	X	being developed
<i>Resources & ICT in Education</i>	general area	general area	Cert. IT Ed. ¹	Dip. IT Ed. ¹	√
<i>Science Education</i>	teaching area	teaching area	X	X	√
<i>Technical Design & Technology Education</i>	teaching area	X	X	X	X

¹ Currently not being offered

DMSTE is fully responsible for the following courses:

- Certificate/Diploma in Computer Studies Education – a one-year/two year part-time evening course.
- Diploma in Education for Sustainable Development – a two-year part-time evening course.

Areas of Research

DMSTE is interested in conducting research in the following areas:

Business Education

Relationship between education and the economy

Sociology of work and education

Computing Education

Computer graphics and image processing

Creative computing - in particular procedural art and the use of ICT in promoting culture and heritage

E-learning 2.0 pedagogy

E-learning 2.0 technologies, standards and protocols

Pedagogy and curricula for computing in primary & secondary schools

Social web technologies - design & implementation of web 2.0 platforms

Environmental Education

Addressing environmental issues through nutrition, family & consumer studies

Application of thinking skills in change management as a process in education for sustainable development

Application of thinking skills to environmental education programmes

Development education

Employee empowerment in environmental education training

Employee training in education for sustainable development

Environmental education and school development

Environmental education in adult, youth & community studies

Environmental education in the non-formal education sector

Environmental education policies

Ethical consumption

Exploration of attitudes towards environmental education and concept development

Formal environmental education

Participation of stakeholders in the design of environmental education programmes to meet their specific needs

Production of curriculum material intended to incorporate environmental education across curriculum subjects

Role of householders in safeguarding the environment

Geography Education

Coastal zone management

Population geography especially of walled towns and coastal areas

Mathematics Education

Assessment in mathematics

Learning mathematics: cognitive & non-cognitive aspects

The teaching & learning of algebra

The teaching & learning of fractions

The teaching & learning of geometry – in relation to the Van Hiele Model

Use of calculators in mathematics education

Use of computers in mathematics education

Use of e-learning in mathematics education

Use of history in mathematics education

Use of virtual learning environments in mathematics education



Nutrition, Family & Consumer Studies

Childcare
 Community/adult health and nutrition education
 Consumer behaviour
 Consumer education
 Food and culture
 Food and nutrition education
 Food and nutrition policies
 Health education
 Health promotion
 Historical development of food in Malta with a particular interest in reviving traditional Mediterranean food
 Influences on food choices
 Home Economics curricula and resources evaluation and development
 Innovative pedagogies in nutrition, family & consumer studies (in particular the use of ICT, TV and Radio as pedagogic tools)
 Investigating eating habits
 Mass media and health
 Mass media as an educational tool
 Nutrition studies
 Parental involvement Home Economics and Nutrition Education
 School nutrition
 Socio-ecological approaches to understanding lifestyle choices
 Sociology of food consumption



B.Ed.(Hons.) PE 4th year students participating in a helicopter rescue demonstration in Gozo in connection with the study-unit *MSY4230 Outdoor Pursuits*

Physical Education

Assessment of obesity in children and youths
 Assessments, examination and vocational qualifications in physical education & sport, leisure, fitness and coaching
 Athletics (curriculum, pedagogy & assessments)
 Behaviour management in physical education & physical activity settings
 Child protection and good practice in physical education & sports
 Children & youth in sports
 Coaching pedagogy for school aged children (4-18yrs of age)
 Continuous professional development for teachers and coaches
 Curriculum development in physical education & sport
 Drop-outs in physical activity & sport: children & youth sports

Educational gymnastics & dance (curriculum, pedagogy & assessments)
 Equal opportunities in physical education & sports
 Experimental teaching and systematic observation techniques in physical education, sport, leisure, fitness and coaching
 Extracurricular activities, elite sport and leisure activities for school aged children (4-18yrs of age)
 Gender issues in physical education and sport (4-18yrs of age)
 Health related fitness
 Local schools of sport & youth nurseries
 Outdoor adventure education
 Parental roles & involvement in youth sports
 Physical education, physical activity and sport (4-18yrs of age): curriculum, policy and pedagogy
 Physical education for children with special needs
 Physical education, sports & leisure management
 Physical literacy, movement and sports skills
 Safe practices in physical education & sports
 Sociological aspects of sports
 Sport medicine
 Sport psychology



B.Ed.(Hons.) PE 4th year students during a jeep navigation activity in Gozo in connection with the study-unit *MSY4230 Outdoor Pursuits*

- Sports & leisure in the community
- Swimming & lifesaving
- Teaching and coaching education programmes
- Teaching and coaching youth soccer
- Teaching field events in athletics
- Teaching games
- Teaching games (Badminton, Basketball, Handball, Hockey, Netball, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Volleyball)

Resources & ICT in Education

- Basic ICT skills for teachers
- Cognitive neuroscience
- Developmental research
- Educational technology
- Factors that influence the use of technology by teachers
- Flexible learning
- Game studies
- Mobile learning
- Strategies on how to introduce e-learning in universities
- Technology-based creativity support systems
- Use of e-learning in initial and in-service teacher education
- Use of productivity software to produce educational resources



B.Ed.(Hons.) 3rd year science students produced a play, *George's Marvellous Medicine* in connection with the study-unit MSS3144 *Learning Science through storytelling and drama*. The play included a number of science activities in order to teach science through drama. This play was produced by Mr. Anthony Bezzina in collaboration with *Masquerade Theatre Arts School*.

Use of virtual learning environments in initial and in-service teacher education

Science Education

- Assessment and evaluation in science education
- Curriculum development in science
- Gender & science
- Language & science
- Research aimed at developing curriculum material for use in science education
- Science choice and achievement at secondary & post-secondary levels
- Storytelling & drama in science education
- The teaching of science particularly biology, chemistry & physics

Technical Design & Technology Education

- Assessment issues associated with technical design & technology
- Development of hardware, resources & packs related to technical design & technology
- Gender issues associated with technical design & technology
- Health and safety issues in technical design & technology
- Industrial design process
- Pedagogy of technology education
- Research aimed at developing curriculum material for use in technical design & technology education especially in topics from the areas of resistant materials, mechanics, electrics & structures
- Use of computers in technical design & technology

General

- Educational assessment issues
- Evaluation of MATSEC examinations

Below: A water monitoring system. The system detects the flow of water and informs the user about the number of litres used together with the cost of consumption. Project submitted by Technical Design and Technology students in connection with the study-unit MST3234 *Programmable Systems*.



Gender issues in education
NMC implementation
Qualitative research methods
Quantitative research methods
Vocational education & training.

Research Projects

Members of DMSTE are involved in the following projects:

FP6 project - Biology, health and environmental education for better citizenship: The aim of this 3 year project is to improve understanding of how different aspects of citizenship, including affective and social dimensions, are promoted through Biology, Health and Environmental Education. The aim is to develop a critical analysis of syllabus and schoolbooks as well as of teachers' and teachers-to-be' conceptions. The project will be largely comparative across the 20 countries involved, through two approaches: Critical analysis of the selected syllabus topics and the analysis of teachers' and teachers-to-be' conceptions from questionnaires and interviews regarding implicit values related to each topic. Such comparative work will be complemented by some case studies. This project started in 2004 and is expected to end in 2007.

FP6 project – INCLUD-ED: The project addresses the question of how education contributes to social cohesion in a knowledge based society. It is divided into three main components. The first part involves a study of educational systems in Europe focussing in particular on the relation between educational and social exclusion. This leads, at the next stage, to the question of identifying educational strategies to overcome social inequalities. The third phase involves a study of a number of educational interventions around Europe targeted to reduce inequalities amongst educationally and socially disadvantaged groups. The project is expected to be completed in 5 years from the start of the project in November 2006.

Socrates Project - Aligning a European Higher Educational Structure in Sport Science (AEHESIS): The objective of the AEHESIS Thematic Network Project is 'Aligning a European Higher Educational Structure In Sport Science' by focussing on two major aspects: Firstly to integrate programmes and time frames of educational structures – and, secondly, to ensure that the identified structures relate to the needs of the labour market in the four main areas of Sport Management, Physical Education, Health & Fitness and Sport Coaching. The main activities of the AEHESIS project are to map all sport science programmes in the four designated sport science areas (Sport Management, Physical Education, Health & Fitness and Sport Coaching) provided by Higher Education Institutes in Europe, to draw up a general overview of the implementation of the Bologna process within those programmes and to compile a report on all research findings. Some of the projected outcomes of the project include: (a) a common European database containing all sport science institutes accessible for all stakeholders; (b) A model curriculum structure for each identified area. This project started in 2003 and is expected to end in 2007.

European Commission Project - Sport in the European Union: This project was developed by the Association of European Sport Studies (German Sport University Cologne) and primarily focusses on improving the information on the sport development within the European Union. Besides the European Union's Sport policy, the project deals with the common areas between the field of sport and the European Union, the different forms and characteristics of sport and the specific sport structures of the member states. The project is ongoing.

Council of Europe (ECML) project - D1-BLOGS: This project focusses on the design of Web 2.0 technologies for constructivist pedagogies with particular application to language education. This 3-year project (2004-2007) involves over 600 participants from 23 countries.

Integrating environmental and social issues in the teaching of Business Education:

The idea behind this project emerged as a result of the need to incorporate social and environmental issues within a corporate mentality which very often gives priority to profit-driven initiatives to the exclusion of social and environmental concerns. Local research findings have indicated that very often entrepreneurship is currently being taught in isolation from concerns of an environmental, social and ethical nature. This has a detrimental effect on the type of educational messages being imparted in schools. It is of no use teaching environmental education in one sphere of the curriculum and imparting conflicting messages in other aspects. This project is concentrating on different fronts:

- (a) The education of future Business Education teachers in a manner which challenges traditional economic approaches which give priority to issues of productivity, competition and profit maximization over issues of sustainability, social solidarity and justice in the distribution of wealth and income;
- (b) The inclusion of such issues within the SEC syllabus in Business Studies;
- (c) The involvement of past P.G.C.E. students currently teaching in schools who are disseminating this mentality both through the formal and hidden curriculum and through 'Scoops' projects;
- (d) Ongoing research in this area. The project has been underway for the past five years.

EU Consumer Citizenship Network 2: The Consumer Citizenship Network (CCN) is an Erasmus 3 thematic network project for 2003-2006 and for 2006-2009, lead by Hedmark University College, Norway. It is an interdisciplinary network of educators from 123 institutions in 37 countries and includes UNESCO, UNEP and international citizenship and consumer organizations who all recognize the pressing need for constructive action by individuals in order to achieve sustainable consumption and global solidarity.

The participants of CCN develop interdisciplinary approaches to central issues dealing with:

- the balance between material and non-material well-being;
- how one can translate ethical values into everyday practice through conscientious participation in the market.

The Network:

- describes and analyses consumer citizenship in higher education;
- stimulates and coordinates research about consumer citizenship;
- surveys curriculum provision of consumer citizenship education;
- identifies common competences;
- develops good practice for teaching and accessing consumer citizenship education.

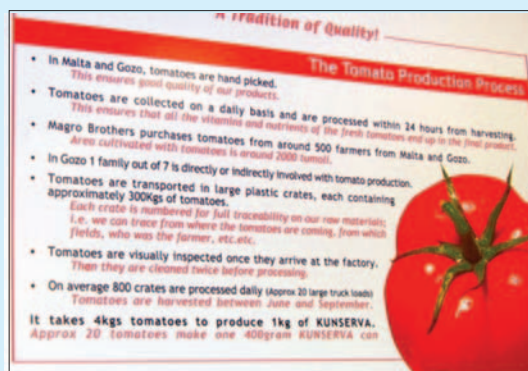


An exciting toy for children. It includes automatic control of street lights, doors and windows of a house. Project submitted by 4th year Technical Design and Technology students in connection with the study-unit *MST4447 Design V*.

Currently members of the DMSTE Home Economics team are working in Task Group 3 of the Network with the goal of producing Consumer Citizenship Education Guidelines for Elementary and for Secondary Schools. In order to be relevant to teachers in schools throughout Europe and in other countries, the guidelines aim to present a wide variety of

approaches, including methodology which stimulate active, participatory learning in real life situations and increased, reflective use of ICT in gathering and handling information on consumer citizenship topics.

DR LEONARD BEZZINA heads the Department of Mathematics, Science & Technical Education in the Faculty of Education. This paper has been prepared in collaboration with its members of staff. Dr Bezzina, who obtained his Doctorate from the University of London, is also coordinator of the Resources and ICT in Education (RICTE) Programme.



Presentation by Magro Bros Ltd. on tomato production

In June, the 2004-2008 B.Ed.(Hons.) Nutrition, Family and Consumer Studies students visited Casa Funghi Ltd. and Magro Bros. Ltd. in Gozo as part of the study-unit *Principles of Food Science and Food Technology*.



Mushroom caps pushing out of the substrate



Groundbreaking Work by University of Malta academics makes International Headlines



Adjustable Thermal Shrinkage

Groundbreaking work published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society A* by an academic from the Faculty of Science of the University of Malta and his research team made headlines in the international scientific press. So much so, that it was reported as breaking news by newscientist.com, the website of *New Scientist*, which is cited as the World's No.1 Science & Technology News Service. On this website, a global network of specialist correspondents promote important scientific discoveries which are likely to have a significant impact on society.

The team of University of Malta scientists led by Professor Joseph N. Grima and colleagues Pierre-Sandre Farrugia, Ruben Gatt and Victor Zammit has developed a way of designing structures, of any size, that shrink when heated (negative thermal expansion). Their work, funded by the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST) and CHISMACOMB (an EU FP6 project), can be extremely useful in reducing the impact of thermal expansion on anything from bridges to microscopic systems.

"The University of Malta is gradually building an infrastructure to conduct world-class research in niche areas of engineering, science and medicine despite the very modest funds to sustain such endeavours, our up and coming researchers have shown, time and again, through their publications, that they can put us on the international map of scientific and technological innovation. Indeed, I am thrilled to see some of the work of the University of Malta being given such prominence in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* and by *New Scientist*. I am sure that with the right investment and nurturing we will see Malta grow in profile in research which is an indispensable cornerstone of our emerging knowledge-based economy," said Professor Camilleri, Rector of the University of Malta.

"This is a notable achievement in Research and Innovation in Malta," stated Mr. David Spiteri Gingell, Chairman, MCST, "that proves that Maltese researchers have the potential to compete with the best on a European and Global level. The RTDI Programme is one of the thrusts to unlock such hidden potential." The Project was partly funded by the National Research Technological Development and Innovation (RTDI) Programme launched in 2004 by the MCST. The National RTDI Programme aimed at stimulating and building a culture for sustained scientific research and innovation activity by providing financial support for scientific research, ranging from basic and applied research to near-to-market innovation.

The University of Malta team studied triangles with at least one side made from a different material to the others, connected by rotating joints. If the diverse materials change volume in response to temperature in a different way, the triangles may actually shrink in one direction when heated. They derived equations which describe the behaviour of their triangle-framework system and these are essential to predict the response to temperature of their structure, which can be constructed at any scale. In other words, their mathematical model makes it possible to choose exactly how such a structure behaves. For example, they show that if one side of a triangle is more responsive to heating, it will stretch the other two wider, drawing the point opposite closer, thus resulting in a shrinkage in the height of the triangle.

See <http://home.um.edu.mt/auxetic/nte.gif> where an animation shows how a part of the framework behaves as temperature changes - the red struts respond to temperature more than the others.

Professor Grima and his colleagues think lattices of such triangles could have all kinds of applications. "We have shown that it is possible to easily design systems which exhibit a tailor-made response to temperature" says Professor Grima, "These systems can be constructed very cheaply and can be as big as a bridge or on a microscopic scale." "By virtue of its construction, this structure should be able to bear

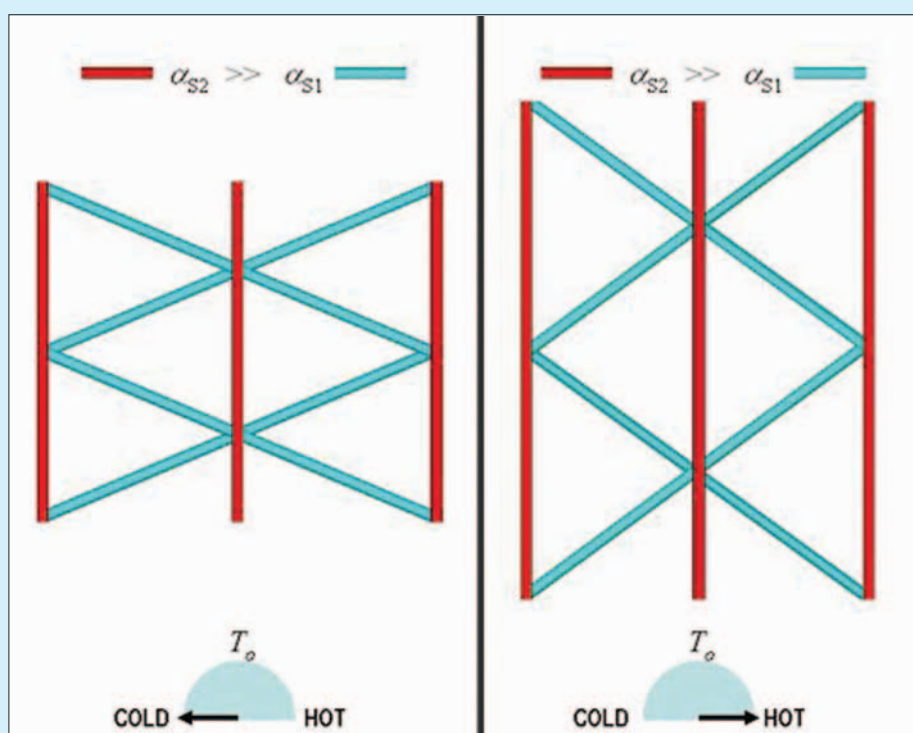
loads without problems,” he adds. The team is starting to experiment with real frameworks to see how they perform. Grima’s team of scientists is also interested in more complex materials. “By incorporating such a rigid framework into another softer material – like rubber – you could create a ‘solid’ with these anomalous thermal properties,” he says.

Professor Grima also works on auxetic materials (negative Poisson’s ratio), which thanks to their geometric frameworks can expand when stretched, instead of getting thinner. “One of our aims is to combine the two concepts together to produce systems that have both properties simultaneously negative. This could have some very interesting consequences, such as in the manufacture of high-performance tunable filters where the pore sizes could be made bigger by stretching or smaller by heating.”

This is not the first time that academics from the Faculty of Science have reported such groundbreaking news in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*. In fact, just over a century ago, Professor Sir Temi Zammit, the first Dean of the Faculty of Science and later, Rector of the University, had published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society* his famous note ‘A Preliminary Note on the Susceptibility of Goats to Malta Fever.’

Further information: <http://home.um.edu.mt/auxetic/nte.html>

Email joseph.grima@um.edu.mt



Income and Expenditure Account

	Year ended 31 December	
	2006	2005
	Lm	Lm
INCOME	16,088,491	15,448,997
EXPENDITURE		
Staff costs	11,574,492	11,191,777
Other operating expenses	4,354,741	3,672,899
Net allocation to funds	54,619	245,500
	15,983,852	15,110,176
Surplus for the year	104,639	338,821
STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		
Movement in specific endowment funds	-	28,297
Surplus for the year	104,639	338,821
Total recognised gains for the year	104,639	367,118
Reconciliation		
Opening funds and equity	(561,996)	(929,114)
Total recognised gains for the year	104,639	367,118
Closing funds and equity	(457,357)	(561,996)

	Year ended 31 December	
	2006 Lm	2005 Lm
BALANCE SHEET		
Non-current assets		
Financial assets		
- Investments held-to-maturity	192,400	192,400
- Investments in University companies	326,450	326,450
- Loans to University companies	134,800	134,800
Total non-current assets	653,650	653,650
Current assets		
Debtors	426,927	286,716
Prepayments	307,316	275,090
Short term deposits	750,000	751,784
Cash at bank and in hand	2,073,436	1,522,272
Total current assets	3,557,679	2,835,862
Current Liabilities		
Funds designated for specific purposes:		
Academic	1,171,081	1,031,844
Operational resources	936,111	901,596
Other	1,603,314	1,498,047
Capital Projects funding	1,111	56,950
Creditors	957,069	563,071
Total current liabilities	4,668,686	4,051,508
Net current liabilities	(1,111,007)	(1,215,646)
Total assets less current liabilities	(457,357)	(561,996)
Represented by:		
Specific endowment funds	124,741	124,741
Other funds		
Capital fund	59,500	59,500
Accumulated net deficit	(641,598)	(746,237)
Total funds and equity	(457,357)	(561,996)

Student Statistics

Student Intake 2005/2006

<i>Undergraduate</i>	f	m	Total
Humanities	983	610	1593
Sciences	170	292	462
Other disciplines	235	84	319
<i>Postgraduate</i>	f	m	Total
Humanities	425	265	690
Sciences	33	78	111
Other disciplines	71	64	135

Student Population 2006

<i>Undergraduate</i>	f	m	Total
Humanities	3019	1810	4829
Sciences	683	1014	1697
Other disciplines	673	324	997
<i>Postgraduate</i>	f	m	Total
Humanities	780	639	1419
Sciences	71	154	225
Other disciplines	139	105	244

New Graduates 2006

<i>Undergraduate</i>	f	m	Total
Humanities	750	408	1158
Sciences	116	189	305
Other disciplines	98	40	138
<i>Postgraduate</i>	f	m	Total
Humanities	146	152	298
Sciences	13	22	35
Other disciplines	38	33	71

also awarded:

2006: 483 diplomas; 91 diplomas (postgraduate); 83 certificates (postgraduate)

Degrees conferred, Diplomas awarded 2001-2005:

	f	m	Total
2001	1029	943	1972
2002	1096	937	2033
2003	1248	965	2213
2004	1643	1067	2710
2005	1496	1098	2594

University at a glance

The University of Malta traces its origins to the founding of the *Collegium Melitense* by the Jesuits in 1592. The College was raised to University status by Grandmaster Manoel Pinto de Fonseca in 1769.

The University has eleven Faculties:

- **Architecture & Civil Engineering**
Architecture & Urban Design
Building & Civil Engineering
- **Arts***
Arabic & Near Eastern Studies
Classics & Archaeology
English
French
History
History of Art
International Relations
Italian
Maltese
Philosophy
Sociology
Translation & Interpreting Studies
* The Faculty of Arts has twelve departments but offers over thirty different areas of study
- **Dental Surgery**
- **Economics, Management & Accountancy**
Accountancy
Banking & Finance
Economics
Management
Marketing
Public Policy
Social Policy & Social Work
Tourism Studies Unit
- **Education**
Arts & Languages in Education
Education Studies
Mathematics, Science & Technical Education
Primary Education
Psychology
Youth & Community Studies
Programmes:
Adult Education Programme
Comparative Education Programme
Education in Corrective Facilities Programme
Critical & Creative Thinking in Education
Teaching English as a Foreign Language
Teaching for Diversity
Inclusive Education Programme
Physical Education Programme
Resources, Information & Computer Technology in Education (RICTE)
Culturally Responsive Education
- **Engineering**
Electronic Systems Engineering
Industrial Electrical Power Conversion
Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Metallurgy & Materials Engineering
Systems & Control Engineering
- **Information & Communication Technology (ICT)**
Artificial Intelligence
Communications & Computer Engineering
Computer Information Systems
Computer Science
Microelectronics & Nanoelectronics
- **Laws**
Civil Law
Commercial Law
Criminal Law
European & Comparative Law
International Law
Public Law
- **Medicine & Surgery**
Anatomy
Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics
Family Medicine
Medicine
Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Paediatrics
Pathology
Pharmacy
Physiology & Biochemistry
Psychiatry
Public Health
Surgery

- **Science**
Biology
Chemistry
Mathematics
Physics
Statistics & Operations Research
- **Theology**
Church History, Patrology & Palaeochristian Archaeology
Fundamental & Dogmatic Theology, Ecumenism
Moral Theology
Pastoral Theology, Liturgy & Canon Law
Philosophy
Sacred Scripture, Hebrew & Greek

There are also a number of interdisciplinary Institutes:

- **Agriculture**
- **Anglo-Italian Studies**
- **Baroque Studies**
- **Edward deBono Institute for the Design and Development of Thinking**
- **Energy Technology**
- **Forensic Studies**
- **Health Care**
Nursing & Midwifery
Communication Therapy
Dental Technology
Environmental Health
Medical Laboratory Science
Occupational Therapy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Radiography
Health Services Management
- **Linguistics**
- **Maltese Studies**
- **Masonry & Construction Research**
- **Mediterranean Institute**
Anthropology
Geography
Hispanic Studies
Contemporary Mediterranean Studies
Music Studies
Theatre Studies
- **Physical Education & Sport**
- **Public Administration & Management**
- **Islands and Small States Institute**

and Centres:

- **Centre for Communication Technology**
Communications & Instructional Design
Library & Information Studies
Law and Information Technology Research Unit
- **Centre for Environmental Education and Research**
- **European Centre for Gerontology**
- **Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Educational Research**
- **European Documentation & Research Centre**
- **Centre for Labour Studies**
- **Centre for Literacy**
- **Gozo Centre**

The campus is also home to:

- **The Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies**
- **The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI)**
- **The IOI International Ocean Institute - Malta Operational Centre**

The Foundation for International Studies is housed in the Old University Building, Valletta

- **Conference Unit**

- **The University is also responsible for a pre-tertiary Junior College which prepares students for university entry**

For further information visit our website at:
www.um.edu.mt

or address any queries to
comms@um.edu.mt



WWW.UM.EDU.MT