

Chronology of Major Events

1992

The Centre was established in August 1992, following a process of consultation on this matter between Professor Peter Serracino Inglott, then University Rector, and the Hon. Anton Tabone, then Minister for Gozo. The Rector asked Professor Lino Briguglio to act as Director ad interim of the University Centre in Gozo.

1993

The Statute of the University Gozo Centre was formally approved by University Senate on 3 February, 1993. It was subsequently also approved by Council on 17 February of the same year.

The first Course leading to the BA degree was launched on 6 February, 1993. The course was offered on a part-time basis and was spread over five years. This was the first time that a degree course was offered in its entirety in Gozo. Between February 1993 and May 1996, lectures were held at Sir M A Refalo Secondary School Complex, Victoria.

The first meeting of the Board of the Gozo Centre was held at Tal-Qroqq, on 13 April, 1993.

On 6 October, 1993, Rector wrote a letter to the Minister for Gozo, requesting that the Government makes available the former isolation hospital at Xewkija to be used as premises for the University Gozo Centre. Following the processing of this request, the matter was referred to the Cabinet of Ministers, and the request was approved in April 1995.

1994

The first in a series of Lowenbrau seminars dealing with topics of major interest for Gozo was held on 28 January, 1994. Six such seminars were held dealing with the following themes: "Tourism in Gozo" (1994); "Gozo and its Culture" (1995); "Gozitan Famous Personalities" (1996); "Women in Gozo" (1997); "Education in Gozo (1998); and "Older Persons in Malta and Gozo" (1999).

The Gozo Centre undertook its first research project to assess the economic multiplier effects of tourism in Gozo. The Centre participated directly or indirectly on various research projects, including the University funded studies on "Regional Statistics", the EU funded project on the Special Needs of Gozo and the ETC funded study on the labour market in Gozo. In addition, the Atmospheric Research Unit carries out research on an ongoing basis.

The first book published by the University Gozo Centre, was issued in March 1994. The Centre published six books so far, namely Tourism in Gozo (1994), Gozo and its Culture (1995), A Focus on Gozo (1996), The Effects of EU Membership on the Island Region of Gozo (together with the Gozo Business Chamber), Let's Go to Wied il-Lunzjata (together with the International Tree Foundation) (2000), and Gozo Past and Present (2002).

1995

The first short course offered by the University Gozo Centre was launched on 28 April, 1995. It was entitled "An Introduction to Public Administration" and was coordinated by Dr. Godfrey Pirota. The centre organised a large number of short courses, covering a wide variety of

subjects, including "Professional Ethics", "Introduction to Law and Legal Studies", "The European Union", "Introduction to Company Law", "Financial Markets", "Social Care Work", "Systems of Knowledge", "Environmental Science", "Teaching English as a Foreign Language", "Basic Concepts of Medicine", "Prevention of Substance Abuse", "Conflict Resolution", "Food Hygiene", many computer-based courses including "Computer Aided Design", "Geographic Information Systems", "Sage Accounting Package" and "Website Design and Development".

On 27 October, 1995, the Legal Notice promulgating the statute of the University Gozo Centre was issued (LN152 of 1995).

The first series of public lectures were launched in November 1995. They were entitled "A Focus on Gozitan Personalities" and were coordinated by Rev. Dr. Joseph Farrugia. The Centre organised many public lectures touching on various aspects of Gozitan life.

1996

The first two-year part-time course leading to the Diploma in Commerce started in February 1996.

The Gozo Centre moved to new premises at Xewkija on 4 May, 1996. The Prime Minister of Malta officially inaugurated the premises.

The Atmospheric Research Unit of the Physics Department was set up within the University Gozo Centre in December 1996.

1997

The first course leading to the Diploma in Education (Administration and Management), commenced in February 1997.

The Lace-making Programme was established as part of the University Gozo Centre in June 1997. The Programme organised a number of courses, including a 3 year part-time course aimed at developing future teachers of lacemaking, covering historical, cultural and technical aspects of the craft.

The first Summer Social Evening was organised at the central courtyard of the Centre in August 1997.

The Centre organised its first international conference on “Water Resources Management” in collaboration with UNEP, in December 1997. A second international conference on Lacemaking was organised by the Lacemaking Programme in June 1999.

1998

The second course leading to the BA degree and the second course leading to the Diploma in Commerce commenced in October 1998.

On 14 November, 1998, the Diploma in Commerce was conferred on 17 students who had followed the course at the University Gozo Centre. On 21 November, 1998, the BA degree was conferred on 28 students who had followed the BA course at the University Gozo Centre. This was the first time that Graduates of the University of Malta obtained their degrees or diplomas after having followed a course in Gozo.

1999

In May 1999, the Centre issued the first edition of the magazine The Gozo Observer, edited by Professor Maurice Cauchi. Issue No. 26 was published in June 2012. The magazine is also available on the internet.

In October 1999, Part 2 of the course

leading to the Bachelor of Commerce degree was initiated. The course was offered on a part-time basis and spread over three years.

2000

In January 2000, the Centre organised two teleconferencing events, utilising equipment loaned by Maltacom. The experiment was successful. Teleconferencing equipment at the Centre is likely to be installed in 2003.

In June 2000, the Board of the Gozo Centre allocated an office space to the Malta Red Cross. A fully equipped emergency ambulance has been stationed at the Centre.

The second course leading to the Bachelor of Commerce and the third course leading to the Diploma in Commerce commenced in October 2000.

In November 2000, the Diploma in Commerce was conferred on 8 students who had followed the second course leading to the Diploma at the University Gozo Centre.

2001

In February 2001, the second course leading to the Diploma in Education (Administration and Management) commenced.

In October 2001, the course leading to the Master of Education commenced.

The Course in Pre-tertiary Certificate in Education for Learning Support Facilitators was also initiated in October 2001.

2002

The first course leading to the Bachelor of Commerce and the third course leading to

the Diploma in Commerce came to an end in June 2002. All students who sat for the final examination passed.

In August 2002, the Gozo Centre celebrated the 10th anniversary of its establishment.

2003

The BA (General) Course came to an end in June 2003. Twenty-two students completed the course successfully.

The Bachelor of Commerce Course also came to an end in June 2003. Five students completed the course successfully.

Two students following the Masters of Education Course completed the course successfully.

October 2003 saw the commencement of the following courses; a 5-year course leading to the degree in Bachelor of Commerce with 12 students and a 3-year course leading to a Masters Degree in Islands and Small States Studies with 14 students.

2004

Between the 1st and 3rd March 2004, the University Gozo Centre hosted an International Workshop organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the University of Malta. The focus of the workshop was economic vulnerability and resilience building of small states.

On 20th August 2004 the Centre held its annual summer activity entitled, ‘An Evening with Walter Micallef u l-Ħbieb’.

In October 2004 the University of Malta through a Sixth Framework Project called ‘Twister’ offered for the first time a Diploma

in IT course simultaneously in Malta and in Gozo using the 'virtual classroom concept' through video conferencing.

2005

Between the 7th and 9th March 2005, the University Gozo Centre hosted a workshop organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the University of Malta. It was attended by twenty-five experts from different countries and the focus was on the economic resilience of small states.

On 3rd September the Centre held its annual summer activity entitled, 'An Evening of Traditional Maltese Music ... and Beyond with NAFRA'.

Four new courses were inaugurated at the University Gozo Centre in December 2005 which form part of a project which was being carried out under the EU's Structural Funds for Malta 2004-2006. The courses included agricultural studies, business studies, e-commerce and IT.

Professor Lino Briguglio, director of the University Gozo Centre, was awarded the Ġieħ Ġħawdex award in recognition of his contribution to higher education in Gozo.

2006

In July the Centre held its summer activity. The Associazione Culturale Politecnico Teatro, an Italian theatrical group, performed 'The Arbitrants', a play by Menander, in the central courtyard.

The Masters in Islands and Small States Studies came to an end and fourteen students completed the course successfully.

The Diploma in Information Technology also came to an end and three students completed the course successfully.

2007

January saw the commencement of a course leading to a Diploma in Facilitating Inclusive Education. Seventy-four students attended the course.

In April the Italian Ambassador for Malta, H.E. Paolo Andrea Trabalza, paid a visit to the University Gozo Centre.

In April HRH Princess Benedikte of Denmark also paid a visit to the University Gozo Centre.

In August the annual summer activity was held at the University Gozo Centre entitled, 'Woodwinds for Summertime' with The Victoria Clarinet Quartet.

In October four new courses commenced including a course leading to the Diploma in Commerce, a course leading to the Bachelor of Commerce, a course leading to the Masters of Islands and Small States and a course leading to a European Masters Degree in Mediterranean Historical Studies.

In November a set of courses, offered by the Ministry of Gozo and co-financed by the European Social Fund under the Structural Funds Programme for Malta 2004-2006, commenced at the University Gozo Centre. These courses included Basic English, Basic Maltese, Basic Reading and Writing Skills, Basic Numeracy, Poultry Production, Good Agricultural Practices and Pesticide Application and Use.

Forty-two students completed courses at the University Gozo Centre. These included courses leading to Masters in Islands and Small States Studies, Bachelor of Commerce, Diploma and Commerce and Diploma in Lace Studies.

A Photo Exhibition was held at the Exhibition

Hall of the Ministry for Gozo to mark the 15th Anniversary of the establishment of the University Gozo Centre.

2008

In February, a second set of courses, offered by the Ministry of Gozo and co-financed by the European Social Fund under the Structural Funds Programme for Malta 2004-2006, commenced at the University Gozo Centre. These courses included Basic English, Basic Maltese, Basic Reading and Writing Skills, Organic Farming, Soil Conservation, Rabbit Production, Sheep and Goat Cheese Production, Animal Health and Welfare, New Standards and Product Quality, and Plant and Health Pathology.

In April, the Italian Ambassador H.E. Paolo Andrea Trabalza paid a second visit to the University Gozo Centre.

Ms Kate Gonzi visited the 12th edition of Lace Day at the University Gozo Centre.

In July Professor Juanito Camilleri, Rector of the University of Malta, accompanied by the Hon. Giovanna Debono, visited the University Gozo Centre.

In September the Centre held its summer activity entitled, 'An Evening with Island Brass'.

In October two new courses commenced, namely the Diploma in Commerce and the Masters in Islands and Small States Studies.

In November forty-two students successfully completed courses at the University Gozo Centre receiving their certificates for courses in Masters in Islands and Small States Studies, Post-graduate Diploma in Education, Administration and Management, Bachelor of Commerce and Diploma in Commerce.

2009

The Senate of the University of Malta approved that the University Gozo Centre be given the status of campus and be renamed 'The University of Malta - Gozo Campus'.

May saw the launch of the new webpage of the University Gozo Campus.

In May, the Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi paid a visit to the University Gozo Campus.

In June the Alliance Française de Malte Méditerranée officially opened its new branch at the University Gozo Campus.

The annual summer activity took place in August with a tribute to composer Charles Camilleri in an evening of music and song chosen from his wide repertoire.

In October the University Gozo Campus opened a record number of courses.

The courses included the Diploma in Commerce, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Criminology, Bachelor of Commerce, Master of Arts in Islands and Small States Studies, Masters of Arts in Hospitalier Studies (being held for the first time entirely through the video conference system), Master in Translation and Master in Business Administration (Executive).

Eighty-eight students successfully completed courses in Masters in Islands and Small States Studies, Diploma in Commerce and Diploma in Facilitating Inclusive Education.

Additional space was allocated to the Climate Change and Atmospheric Pollution Research Programme which is located at the University Gozo Campus.

2010

In June the International Ocean Institute – Malta Operational Centre of the University of Malta held a launching event to promote an initiative entitled 'IOI-KIDS Spot the Jellyfish' at the University Gozo Campus.

As part of the activities in connection with the generation of Green Energy, the University of Malta submitted a proposal for ERDF funding for the installation of a photovoltaic system on the roof of the University Gozo Campus.

The summer social activity of the University Gozo Campus consisted of an evening with the Versatile Brass ensemble under the direction of Mro. Paul Borg.

Three new courses commenced at the University Gozo Campus in October including the Diploma in Commerce, Bachelor of Commerce and the Masters of Arts in Islands and Small States.

Thirty-nine students successfully completed courses in Masters of Arts in Islands and Small State Studies, Masters in History, Bachelor of Commerce and Diploma in Commerce.

On 5th and 6th November the Malta University Holding Company in collaboration with the University Gozo Campus organised a seminar entitled 'The Maltese Economy – Structure, Performance and Future Prospects following the Global Financial Crisis'.

2011

In March two new lecture halls were inaugurated by Professor Juanito Camilleri, Rector of the University of Malta, and Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo. A photo exhibition was organised in order to mark this event.

On 1st and 2nd April, Professor David E. Cooper, Professor of Philosophy Emeritus at the University of Durham, gave two philosophy sessions at the University Gozo Campus under the title 'Meaning, Language and the Understanding of Cultures'.

This year's summer activity in August was entitled 'An Evening with Chasing Pandora'.

Two new courses commenced at the University Gozo Campus including the Diploma in Commerce and the Diploma in Facilitating Inclusive Education.

A course leading to the Higher Diploma in Public Accounting and Finance offered at the University of Malta is also being followed at the Gozo Campus through the video conferencing system.

As part of the preparatory works for the installation of photovoltaic panels, the main roof of the Gozo Campus was water-proofed. This project was financed by the Ministry for Gozo.

2012

On 29th April, Professor Joe Friggieri was appointed Pro-Rector for Gozo.

In May the project of the installation of a photovoltaic system on the roof of the University Gozo Campus was completed.

In June development works commenced for the embellishment of the backyard of the Gozo Campus. This project was financed by the University of Malta.

The University of Malta carried out a pilot project where Gozitan students following courses at the Msida Campus had the opportunity to sit for the end-of-semester exams in Gozo.