

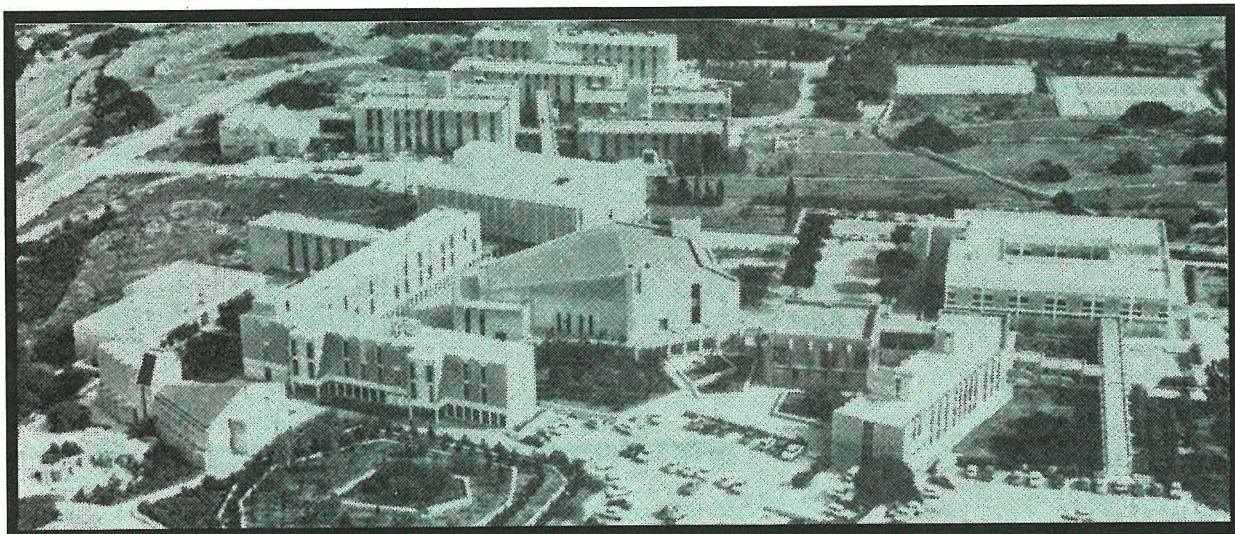
University of Malta



Gazette

Volume 20 No: 4

December 1988



Contents

- 74 Appointment of University Chancellor
- 74 Lists of Deans and Heads of Departments
- 75 Opening Day Ceremony
- 76 Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) on Dr. Chandrika Prasad Srivastava
- 77 Foundation Day Ceremony
- 77 Graduation Ceremony
- 80 European Workshop on Cultural Tourism in Mediterranean Islands
- 80 Education and Application of Computer Technology
- 80 Courses in Advanced Manufacturing Technology
- 80 Diploma Course in Applied Social Studies (Social Work)
- 80 Privately Sponsored Courses in Archaeology
- 81 Lectures
- 81 Course in Systems of Knowledge
- 81 Obituary

Supplements – Oration by Professor David J. Attard
– Oration by Professor Victor G. Griffiths
– Oration by Professor Renè Cremona

APPOINTMENT OF CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY

The Acting President of Malta, Mr. Paul Xuereb, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, in accordance with the provisions of Section 28 of Act XXIV of 1988, has appointed Judge Maurice Caruana Curran, B.A., LL.D., as Chancellor of the University for a term of seven years with effect from the 8th November, 1988.

LISTS OF DEANS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

The lists of Deans and Heads of Departments are published for information.

LIST OF DEANS

(In terms of the provisions of Section 28(14) of the Education Act, 1988)

Faculty	Dean
Architecture and Civil Engineering	Professor Richard England
Arts	Professor Godfrey Wettinger
Dental Surgery	Professor George E. Camilleri
Economics, Management and Accountancy	Professor Daniel Darmanin
Education	Professor Charles J. Farrugia
Law	Professor Joseph M. Ganado
Mechanical and Electrical Engineering	Professor Joseph Agius
Medicine and Surgery	Professor Frederick F. Fenech
Science	Mr. Edward Scerri
Theology	Mgr. Professor Vincent Borg

LIST OF HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

(In terms of the provisions of Section 31(h) of the Education Act, 1988)

Faculty of Theology

Sacred Sripture, Hebrew and Greek	Rev Dr Anthony Abela
Moral Theology	Rev Mgr Professor Carmelo Muscat
Fundamental and Dogmatic Theology including Ecumenism	Rev Dr Rene Camilleri
Church History, Patrology and Paleochristian Archaeology	Rev Mgr Professor Vincent Borg
Pastoral Theology, Liturgy and Canon Law	Rev Mgr Professor Annetto Depasquale

Faculty of Law

Civil Law	Professor Joseph M. Ganado
Commercial Law	Professor John Mamo
Criminal Law	Professor Guido DeMarco
Public Law	Professor Ian Refalo

Faculty of Medicine and Surgery

Bio-Medical Sciences	Professor William H. Bannister
Pathology	Professor Joseph Gatt
Pharmacy	Professor Anthony Serracino Inglott
Medicine	Professor Frederick F. Fenech
Surgery	Professor Victor G. Griffiths
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Dr Edgar A. Agius
Psychiatry	Professor Abraham Galea
Community Medicine	Vacant

LIST OF HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS contd.

Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering

Architecture and Urban Design	Professor Richard England
Building and Civil Engineering	Dr Alexander Torpiano

Faculty of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering

Electrical Engineering	Professor Joseph Agius
Mechanical Engineering	Professor Joseph Mifsud

Faculty of Education

Education Studies	Professor Charles J. Farrugia
Educational Psychology	Dr Alfred Darmanin
Pedagogy	Mr F. Ventura

Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy

Economics	Professor Edward Scicluna
Accountancy	Professor Daniel Darmanin
Public Policy	Professor Edward L. Zammit
Management	Professor Reno Sammut

Faculty of Arts

History	Professor Godfrey Wettinger
English	Professor Daniel Massa
Maltese	Professor Oliver Friggieri
Philosophy	Professor Peter Serracino Inglott
Classics	Professor Anthony Bonanno
Arabic	Professor Edward Fenech
Social Studies	Professor Mario Vassallo
Romance Languages	Professor Alphonse Sammut

Faculty of Dental Surgery

Dental Surgery	Professor George E. Camilleri
----------------	-------------------------------

Faculty of Science

Biology	Professor Victor Axiak
Physics	Dr Raymond Ellul
Chemistry	Mr Edward Scerri
Mathematics	Professor Charles Camilleri

OPENING DAY CEREMONY

The Opening Day Ceremony of the academic year 1988/89 was held at the Assembly Hall of the University on Monday, 3rd October, 1988.

After the celebration of Holy Mass by Fr. Paul Pace S.J., the University Chaplain, an address of welcome was delivered by the Rector, Professor Edwin J. Borg Costanzi.

The Rector spoke of the refoundation of the University and of development plans at the University involving a building programme to almost double existing teaching and research facilities within the next five years. He also referred to the achievements of Rev. Professor Peter Serracino Inglott, including the re-introduction of full-time courses in Arts and in Science, and the establishment of a number of institutes, such as the Centre for Distance Learning and the Institute of Health Care.

This address was followed by an address by the President of the Students University Council, Mr. Lucien Stafrace.

CONFERMENT OF THE DEGREE
OF
DOCTOR OF LAWS (HONORIS CAUSA)
on
DR CHANDRIKA PRASAD SRIVASTAVA

The Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) on Dr. Chandrika Prasad Srivastava, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organisation, was held at the Church of the University, Valletta on Saturday, 8th October, 1988.

The degree was conferred by the Rector, Professor Edwin J. Borg Costanzi.

Professor David J. Attard delivered an oration on Dr. Srivastava's distinguished career within the Indian Government and later through the United Nations.

Present for the ceremony were the Deputy Prime Minister, Professor Guido DeMarco, the Minister of Education, Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, and the Parliamentary Secretary for Maritime Affairs, Dr. Joe Fenech. Professor J.M. Ganado, Dean of the Faculty, acted as sponsor to Dr. Srivastava.

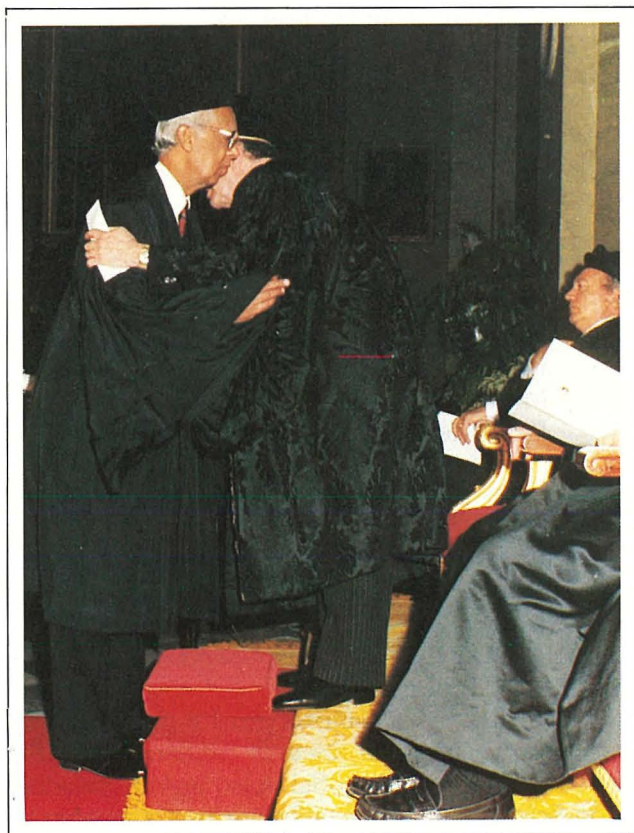
A resolution approved by the Council of the University recommended that this distinction be conferred on Dr. Srivastava:

“who serves the world maritime community with total commitment to enhancing the safety of international shipping and protecting the marine environment,

who provides a visionary leadership in ensuring that the International Maritime Organization functions with exemplary efficiency and enjoys the trust and confidence of all its member states, developing and developed,

who has generated the renowned “IMO Spirit” of co-operation and goodwill between north and south, east and west, and

whose dedication to global co-operation and maritime education are reflected in his unwavering efforts to establish the World Maritime University and IMO International Law Institute”.



The Rector, Professor Edwin J. Borg Costanzi conferring the Degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) on Dr Chandrika Prasad Srivastava



The Rector bidding farewell to Dr C. P. Srivastava after the Ceremony.

FOUNDATION DAY CEREMONY

On Tuesday, 22nd November, 1988, the University resumed the commemoration of Foundation Day. The Ceremony was last held in 1976.

The ceremony, marking the 396th anniversary, started with a defilé from the Old University Buildings in St. Paul's Street in which the Chancellor, Judge Maurice Caruana Curran, the Rector, Professor Edwin Borg Costanzi, the Deans of the various Faculties, members of the academic staff and students participated.

The defilé moved to Archbishop and Merchants Streets to the University Church, where Fr Paul Pace S.J., Chaplain of the University, led a concelebrated Mass with Rev Professor Peter Serracino Inglott, Pro-Rector and Mgr Professor Vincent Borg, Dean of the Faculty of Theology.

After Mass, Professor V.G. Griffiths, Head of the Department of Surgery, delivered an oration on "Foundations".

GRADUATION CEREMONY

On Wednesday, 21st December, 1988, the Rector, Professor Edwin J. Borg Costanzi conferred one hundred and one degrees and awarded five diplomas at the Graduation Ceremony held at the University Assembly Hall, Msida.

The ceremony was presided by the Chancellor of the University, Judge Maurice Caruana Curran. Among the distinguished persons present were the Hon. Prime Minister, Dr E. Fenech Adami, the Hon. Minister of Education Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, and His Grace the Archbishop Mgr Joseph Mercieca.

Professor Renè Cremona of the Department of Civil Law delivered an address on "Legal Education" while Mr Vanni Xuereb, a graduate in law and a former President of the University Student's Council, made a brief address.

The following Degrees were conferred:

BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

Sponsor: Professor George E. Camilleri

B.Ch.D.

Catherine SPITERI*

BACHELOR OF ARTS (RELIGIOUS STUDIES)

Sponsor: Rev Mgr Prof Vincent Borg

Angelo BEZZINA WETTINGER

Paul BILOCCA

Emmanuel BORG

Therese CAMILLERI

John CAMILLERI

Natalino CAMILLERI*

Angelo CARABOTT

Alfred CAUCHI

Joy FRENDO*

Alfred GATT

Maria Pia GAUCI

Margaret GONZI

Josephine MAGRO

Maria MUSCAT

Rosa MUSCAT

Albert PACE

Paul A. SAMMUT*

Emmanuel SCHEMBRI

Victor SCHEMBRI

Tessie SCIORTINO

Catherine SEYCHELL

Robert VELLA

Joseph B. XERRI

Adelaide ZERAFA

Frances ZERAFA

BACHELOR OF SACRED THEOLOGY

Sponsor: Rev Mgr Prof Vincent Borg

Henry BALZAN

Leonard CALLUS*

Antoine CAMILLERI

Joseph GALEA CURMI

Roy GALDES

Jesmond MANICARO

Jesmond MICALLEF

Vic George VASSALLO

Edgar VELLA

LICENTIATE IN SACRED THEOLOGY

Sponsor: Rev Mgr Prof Vincent Borg

Francis BIANCO

Nicholas CACHIA

Nicholas PACE

Paul SCIBERRAS

Paul TONNA

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

Sponsor: Professor Frederick F. Fenech

M.D.

Michael John BALZAN
Giacinto BARTOLO
Lucianne BUSUTTIL
Alexandra CAMILLERI
Maria Stella CARUANA
Karl CHIRCOP

Jude Taddeo DEBATTISTA
Alexander GATT
Anthony GATT
Kevin GRECH
John GRECH HARDIE

Analita PACE ASCIAK
Marco ROSSO
Philip SCIORTINO
Zaid Yasser TEEBI
Adrian VELLA

DOCTOR OF LAWS

Sponsor: Professor Joseph M. Ganado

LL.D.

Josette AGIUS
Kevin AQUILINA
Andrew AZZOPARDI
William AZZOPARDI
Miriam BARTOLO
Irene BONELLO
Joseph BONELLO
Rachael BONELLO
Maria BORG
George BRANCALEONE
Alexandra BUGEJA
Antoine CAMILLERI
Joanne CATANIA
Andrew CONSIGLIO
Louis DEGABRIELE

Mario DeMARCO
Norval DESIRA
Enzo DIMECH
Adrian DINGLI
Michel DINGLI
Martin FENECH
Pierre FENECH
Peter FLERI-SOLER
Arthur GALEA SALOMONE
Marielise GALEA SALOMONE
Loredana C. GATT
Maria Dolores GAUCI
Karl GRECH ORR
Giovanni GRISCTI
Gavin GULIA

Consuelo-Pilar HERRERA
Henri MIZZI
John V. MIZZI
Mary PACE
Rudolph RAGONESI
Paul J. SALIBA
Mario SCERRI
Marica SCIBERRAS
Patrick SPITERI
Sylvana SPITERI
Paul TABONE ADAMI
Carole VASSALLO
Joseph VASSALLO-AGIUS
Robert VELLA
Vanni XUEREB

The following diplomas were awarded:

DIPLOMA IN PASTORAL THEOLOGY

Martin BORG
Mario BORG

Raymond CASSAR
Carmelo DEBATTISTA

John VELLA



The Rector, Professor Edwin J. Borg Costanzi, conferring a Degree on one of the graduands. The Chancellor, Judge Maurice Caruana Curran, presided the Ceremony.



A group of Law graduands with members of the Faculty in a profound expression of joy.

EUROPEAN WORKSHOP ON CULTURAL TOURISM IN MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS

In the period 4th to 6th October, 1988, a Council of Europe Workshop on Cultural Tourism in Mediterranean Islands was organised by the University, in collaboration with the Mediterranean Institute of the Foundation for International Studies.

The aims of the workshop were to list existing training programmes in the field available at European Universities, to identify new needs arising from the development of cultural tourism in the Mediterranean islands, and to propose a training programme in this sector.

The workshop, held within the framework of Mediterranean university regional transfrontier cooperation and of the European Programme for the Development of Postgraduate training of the Council of Europe, consisted of four sessions, in which papers and short communications were read by local and foreign participants.

EDUCATION AND APPLICATION OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

In the period 17th to 21st October, 1988, the Community of Mediterranean Universities, in its endeavour to promote scientific discussion and diffusion of learning in various fields amongst the peoples of the Mediterranean region, organised, in collaboration with the University, an international gathering on "The Education and Application of Computer Technology".

During the various sessions, papers were read by well-known authorities in this field. Amongst the topics discussed, participants considered the exploration of new didactic methods and application of computer technology.

COURSES IN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY (AMT)

During the period October to December 1988, the Department of Mechanical Engineering in collaboration with the Malta Development Corporation held the following short evening courses in Advanced Manufacturing Technology (AMT):

- Numerical Control Part Programming
- Robotic Appreciation
- Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacture

A total of one hundred and two participants from Malta's leading industries attended these courses. Mr F.E. Farrugia, C.Eng., M.I. Prod. E., lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, acted as co-ordinator for these Courses.

DIPLOMA COURSE IN APPLIED SOCIAL STUDIES (SOCIAL WORK)

The University is at present running an evening course leading to the Diploma in Applied Social Studies (Social Work).

This course, which commenced on 3rd October, 1988, will provide students with professional training in the social work field; those who successfully complete their studies should be qualified to work as social workers in Malta.

PRIVATELY SPONSORED COURSES IN ARCHAEOLOGY

For the present academic year (1988-89), overseas lecturers will be helping the newly set up course programme in Archaeology within the Bachelor of Arts structure. In November, Professor Brian McConnell from Connecticut College, U.S.A. visited Malta from Sicily where he is regularly engaged in excavation and research. He gave a full course of lectures on *Aegean Archaeology* to the students following the Bachelor of Arts programme. In January 1989, Dr. Stephen J. Shennan from the University of Southampton will be giving a similar course on *Regional Approaches and Complex Societies*.

Both visiting lectureships have been made possible by means of a scheme sponsored by two associated companies, G. & S. Falzon Limited, local co-distributors for Berger Paints (Malta) Ltd., and the Grosvenor Hotel of Balzan.

LECTURES

On Friday, 7th October, 1988, Dr Peter Watkins, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician at King's College Hospital, London delivered a talk on "Diabetic Nephropathy" in the series of lectures on "Update in Medicine" organized by the Post-Graduate Medical Committee.

On Friday, 14th October, 1988, Dr Margaret Rule C.B.E., F.S.A. and Ms Alexandra Hildred B.A., M.I.F.A., delivered jointly a public lecture on "The Potential of Marine Archaeology illustrated by the *Maryrose*, a sixteenth century warship" at the Arts Auditorium.

On Thursday, 17th November, 1988, Dr Roger Vella Bonavita delivered a public lecture on "Geronimo Cassar and the Fortifications of Valletta" at the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura*, Valletta. The lecture was organized by the Malta Historical Society in collaboration with the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura*.

On Friday, 25th November, 1988, Professor David J. Attard delivered a public lecture on "Climatic Change: The Role of International Law and International Organizations". An introduction to this lecture was made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Vincent Tabone.

This lecture was organized by the International Environment Studies of the Foundation for International Studies and the Faculty of Law of the University.

On Monday, 19th December, 1988, Dr Douglas Lockhart, Lecturer in Geography at the University of Keele, gave a lecture on "Patterns of Tourism in Malta and Cyprus: A Geographical Perspective" at the Arts Lecture Theatre.

COURSE IN SYSTEMS OF KNOWLEDGE

The University of Malta is organising a course for students resident in Gozo on the Systems of Knowledge syllabus, to help participants to prepare for the first examination in the subject due to be held in June 1989.

The course commenced on 10th December, 1988 and will continue up to May 1989. Lectures are being held at the New Lyceum, Victoria, Gozo.

OBITUARY

We record with regret the death of the following students:

Mr Andrew Apap, a Second Year Student in the B.Sc. Course
Mr Charles Piccinino, a First Year Student in the B.Com. Course

*Expression of profound sympathy is conveyed to their families
and to the student body.*

UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

*All matters for publication in the next issue of the Gazette
should be sent to the Registrar not later than
the 21st February, 1989*

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA GAZETTE

DECEMBER 1988

SUPPLEMENT No: 4

Volume 20 No: 4

The following oration was delivered by Professor David J. Attard, LL.D., D.Phil. (Oxon.) at the Conferment Ceremony of the Degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) on Dr. Chandrika Prasad Srivastava:

The general theme for the World Maritime Day celebrated in Malta on the 22nd September, was entitled "Safer Shipping and Cleaner Oceans". It is appropriate to recall this theme at the very outset of this oration as it epitomizes Mr Srivastava's service to the Maritime Community over the past fifteen years in his capacity as Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organisation. There is little doubt that he has made the single biggest contribution to the success of IMO in promoting maritime navigational safety and prevention of pollution from ships.

The universal support and appreciation shown for IMO is in large measure due to the visionary leadership demonstrated by Mr Srivastava. Since his election in 1973, as the IMO Secretary-General, he has thrice been re-elected unanimously to this very important and influential post in the world of shipping. In effect, it has meant that Mr Srivastava has been at the helm of IMO for half of the 30 years that have elapsed since the Convention establishing the Organisation came into force in 1958.

During these years, he has obtained the support of all Member States and has attracted the admiration and respect of their representatives, as I have personally observed when participating in IMO meetings and its General Assembly.

The Secretary-General joined IMO after a career in his native India that had already been outstandingly successful, starting at University in Lucknow, where he gained first class honours degrees in English Literature and Law. At the age of 26, he appeared on the international scene for the first time when, in 1946, he represented India at a maritime session of the International Labour Organisation Conference held in the United States. The following year, Mr Srivastava entered the Indian Administrative Service and in 1953 he was charged with reorganising the Directorate-General of Shipping.

From 1954 to 1957, Mr Srivastava held the post of Deputy Director-General of Shipping and, after a short spell as private Secretary to the Minister of Transport, he was appointed Senior Deputy Director-General of Shipping.

His career thus far had been distinguished enough, but greater honours and achievements were to follow, for in 1961 Mr Srivastava was appointed Managing Director of the renowned Shipping Corporation of India and became its Chairman in 1966. His success in his post can be judged from the fact that the Corporation's fleet of just 200,000 tons of shipping when he joined had grown to one of 2.5 million tons in the year he left to join the IMO.

Mr Srivastava's career at the Corporation was in 1964 interrupted for two years when he was requested as joint private Secretary, to serve two of India's most distinguished Prime Ministers, Mr Lal Bahadur Shastri and his successor Mrs Indira Gandhi. In this position, Mr Srivastava was close to the important political developments which were occurring in India at the time.

The Government of India frequently assigned Mr Srivastava with the task of representing his country on many important occasions. Possibly the most significant achievement in this capacity was when he was elected in 1973 President of the UNCTAD diplomatic conference held in Geneva to consider for adoption the draft liner code convention. It is generally recognised that the successful adoption in 1974 of this convention, one of the most complex ever considered by a UN body, was due primarily to personality and diplomatic skills of Mr Srivastava.

Indeed, his continued attendance at this conference necessitated a change in the conference rules for Mr Srivastava's success, coupled with his other outstanding achievements in the commercial and diplomatic fora, had led to his election as Secretary-General of the IMO. Technically, therefore, he could not represent India nor remain President of the Conference. Despite these procedural obstacles, the Conference felt that his presidency was so vital to success that the rules were purposely changed to enable Mr Srivastava to preside in an independent capacity.

In 1973, the year Mr Srivastava was elected Secretary-General, IMO was still relatively unknown; still tagged as a 'rich man's club', and still basically an Organisation devoted to the formulation and adoption of international shipping regulations. Under Mr Srivastava's leadership this image rapidly changed.

IMO's role as a standards-setting organisation reached its peak during the next few years. In fact by the beginning of the 1980s, IMO's work in adopting conventions and other treaties had been largely accomplished. Nevertheless, Mr Srivastava insisted that it was equally important for these conventions to be effectively implemented by member States. In order to obtain this goal he devised a formidable strategy that has greatly impressed international lawyers and the international maritime community.

The nucleus of this strategy consisted of Mr Srivastava undertaking a personal crusade to ensure that IMO's conventions were accepted by as many States as possible. This formidable effort has been so successful that today all IMO's key technical conventions are applicable to the vast majority of the world's ships. For example, the most important of all the IMO conventions, the 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea has been ratified by Governments whose fleets make up some 96 per cent of world merchant tonnage.

A major feature of Mr Srivastava's impressive strategy has been the emphasis on IMO's technical co-operation activities. He has always insisted that there can be no compromise with safety and IMO's standards cannot be made lower just because they are difficult to attain. Instead IMO has been leading a global effort to ensure that member States can rise to those levels.

In the Secretary-General's view, technical standards can only be effectively raised by improving the technical competence of individual States through adequate maritime training. In effect, this means preparing national personnel to occupy key posts, rather than relying on expensive expatriates.

The culmination of this policy of self-help came with the establishment in 1983 of the World Maritime University at Malmo, Sweden. The setting up of this University – which now takes 100 new students every year – is due in very large measure to the vision of Mr Srivastava who is the Chancellor.

It is within this ambitious programme that the IMO International Maritime Law Institute at the University of Malta is to be established. This Institute, together with the IMO International Maritime Academy in Italy, will complement the work done by the World Maritime University.

It may be appropriate to conclude by recalling the origins of the initiative which led to the establishment of the Institute in Malta. Late last year, I had the privilege to introduce Secretary-General Srivastava to Dr J. Fenech, Malta's first Parliamentary Secretary for Maritime Affairs. At this meeting, Dr Fenech stressed Malta's commitment to contribute towards IMO's maritime training programme. The Secretary-General responded by indicating the need for a post-graduate institution which will help train maritime lawyers particularly those in Government service in the drafting of national legislation as it was vital for the implementation of IMO treaties. It is no exaggeration to state that without their unwavering efforts the Institute would not have become a reality.

Its presence in our beloved Island-State consolidates further Malta's role as a maritime State which has ensured that the study and practice of maritime law has flourished amongst our legal profession. Indeed, it is this legal tradition which contributed to the formulation of the Maltese initiative at the 1967 United Nations General Assembly which culminated in the adoption of the comprehensive 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA GAZETTE

DECEMBER 1988

SUPPLEMENT No: 5

Volume 20 No: 4

The following oration was delivered by Professor Victor G. Griffiths at the Foundation Day Ceremony held on Tuesday, 22nd November, 1988.

It is, of course, a great honour to be chosen as Foundation Day Orator. When one is advised of it at short notice, it can also be a slight and temporary embarrassment since this accentuates the orator's perpetual predicament of finding a suitable subject to orate upon, a situation of difficulty even for those addicted to speechifying, let alone for one who is parsimonious of speech and laconic to a fault.

It so happens that this is the second occasion on which I have been thus honoured, and imposed upon, because on the Twelfth of November 1964 I gave the Foundation Day Oration, taking as my theme "The Teaching of Anatomy in Malta". My subject practically chose itself as I then occupied the Chair of Anatomy, so that after a survey of the history of Anatomy in Malta I passed to a rendering of account for my ten years' stewardship to that date in the Chair which I vacated in 1969 to succeed the late lamented Alfred John Craig in the Chair of Surgery.

Furthermore, I started my 1964 Oration by alluding to a controversy over the true date of Foundation of our University of which more, much more, hereafter! In so doing, by tracing the origins of the Medical School to the Cotoner Foundation on December 19th, 1676 of the School of Anatomy and Surgery at the Sacra Infermeria, I laid confident claim of seniority for the Medical Faculty (and no less for its departments of Anatomy and Surgery!) as the second oldest after Theology.

Now I would have you note that Foundation Day then fell on the *Twelfth* of November and had thus been celebrated since 1953. Yet when the Foundation Day commemoration and oration were "founded" in 1947 and unchangeingly till 1952, the date was the *Twentysecond* of November. To confuse you a little further, it was the Twelfth till 1971 but we reverted to the *Twentysecond* in 1972! Your presence here today is sufficient evidence that you are fully aware, and presumably happily acquiescent, that we do now celebrate Foundation Day on the *Twentysecond* of November.

Let me explain. The Twelfth of November ties up with the year 1592 in the time of Grand Master Verdala and Bishop Gargallo and the Pontificate of Clement VIII when a Jesuit College was founded, later to occupy the premises we stand in today. On the other hand, it was on the *Twentysecond* of November 1769 that Grand Master Pinto, with the fourteenth Clement now on the papal throne, pronounced that "from this moment we erect in this College a Public University of General Studies" to make amends for his having expelled the Jesuits a year before.

I must now take you back to the 12th November 1965 because my immediate successor as Orator was the Professor of History, Father Andrew Vella, with a learned dissertation on "The origins and development of the Royal University of Malta". Professor Vella made a profound evaluation of the nature and the merits of the original and modest Jesuit college as it slowly evolved to the level of a Stadium Generale by 1727; indeed, some would add the 7th June 1727 as another runner in the Foundation Stakes! He came down heavily, however, on the side of the Pinto Foundation as the true, proper and legitimate possessor of the title to our University.

Thus it came about that 1969 was chosen as the correct date when to celebrate our Bicentenary, coupled with the inauguration of a new campus, which we duly did with pomp and circumstance, graced by the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Charles. The peak of the celebrations was reached on the *Twentysecond* of November when, after a splendidly eloquent and sonorous Latin Oration by our illustrious Professor Edward Coleiro, the Foundation Oration was given by none other than our Rector Magnificus and Vice Chancellor Professor Edwin Borg Costanzi.

As befitted the occasion, the University had commissioned from its Professor of History the appropriate monument "aere perennius" in the shape of its official History, which volume Professor Vella produced for the appointed day, it being for the most part a reproduction of his 1965 oration, of course with the addition of a full documentation. But this, together with the Press articles covering the festivities, excited an equal and opposite reaction. Doughty proponents appeared who were not minded to curtail one hundred and seventyseven years of existence from the University's life line. For them, THE DAY was, had always been and was forever to be the Twelfth of November 1592. Through the latter half of 1969 and well into 1970 the contest raged in the correspondence columns of "The Times of Malta", a feature of that splendid newspaper which I have always found fascinating. Professor Vella's worthy antagonist was the late lamented Judge William Harding, with the fruits of the Professor's scientific research pitted against the choice English prose and the close reasoning of the learned Judge. To tell the truth, and as is not unusual, they were probably both right and both wrong, in as much as Professor Vella insisted on the formal constitution of a fully-fledged State University, while Judge Harding went right back to roots and origins however modest. And there we had better let the case rest.

At this stage I must turn to Foundation Day Orators, of whom the first in 1947 was Professor Peter Paul Saydon who characteristically enlarged mostly on research and publications by University staff. Closing the tally in 1976 came our dear colleague Louis Vassallo expounding a multitude of ideas on "Medicine and the Community". In between these dates the roll of honour is so long and so distinguished that I must beg your indulgence to do some culling exonerated of any charge of invidious discrimination. Thus I must surely today single out our new Chancellor who as Dr Maurice Caruana Curran spoke cogently on "The scientific attitude towards Crime", and our recent Rector Professor Peter Serracino Inglott who in 1972 raised his audience to the empyrean with his "Panoramic approaches".

I shall now be even more selective. Though very obviously no Cicero I claim the privilege of speaking "pro domo mea" by mentioning some medical notables who have featured on this auspicious day. And I shall start rather curiously by reminding you that our late esteemed Professor Richard Beck, whose genial and light hearted style I would wish to emulate, in 1961 surprised us with the title of his oration "Balin and Balan", they being two Knights of Arthurian legend whom the orator saw in the persons of two devoted friends, both medical professors of our time, who could in a sense have been said to have slain each other!

I know I shall now earn your acclamation if I give pride of place to the inimitable Peter Paul Debono on whose remarkable attributes I have enthused elsewhere; it was in 1949 that he made his main theme the worthy history of our Medical School. Next to him in merit surely stands Alfred John Craig who in 1960 spoke with deep feeling and insight on "The Liberal Education". Let us also remember others of our dear departed: Philip Farrugia, orator of 1952; Joseph Mangion, 1959, and Francis Damato in 1962. I end my list on a happy note by acclaiming our former and now restored Dean, Frederick Fenech who in 1974 spoke on "Medicine and Society".

Universities, ours included, do not need Foundation Days to produce a plethora of perorations pronounced by a proliferation of professors. They also have a superabundance of Graduation Day addresses, Degree conferments 'Honoris Causa' (usually and very appropriately couched in Latin) and Inaugural speeches. When I embarked on a rather frenzied search for material, one that certainly does not qualify to be called research although, as has been cynically said, research differs from plagiary only in lifting from several sources rather than from a single one, I went through my own slender archive and then through the more abundant riches guarded by our zealous and erudite Librarian. Therein I found a large collection of addresses mostly given on the first day of the academic year. I would have dearly like to tell you of many of these, since they encompassed the cream of Academia over a century and a half; but this would have taken me somewhat off my proper track and, truth to tell, many are redolent of platitudinous moralising, whereas I prefer sermons to be explicatory rather than exhortatory. Moreover, I am under strict injunction not to try your endurance too sorely.

So I return to my theme of "Foundations". Should we not give some thought to the glaring paucity or rather total non-existence of foundations in the sense of Endowments which seems to characterise our own University in marked contrast to those abroad? As a totally State dependent University, does not ours labour under intolerable difficulties far surpassing any other however crippled through budgetary cuts through the exchequer?

I have not neglected from my brief some mention of solid stone foundations, or rather the laying of Foundation Stones themselves, to bring in the record of the birth of the Evans Laboratories in Valletta on the 12th April 1952, and most especially of our "new" Campus buildings on the fine though non-euphoniously named site of Tal-Qroqq, on the Twentyfirst of September 1964, surely a date with other most significant connotations.

Though wishful that this discourse of mine, now approaching its end, should not be stigmatised as "displaying as many I's as Argus", I must confess that on starting my mission I had thought of calling it "Foundations – and Demolitions". Of course, what I had in mind mostly, though not exclusively, was to dwell on such historical vicissitudes as the suppression of the Jesuit 'Studium Generale' by Pinto, the seven year long reduction to exiguous proportions under Ximenes, and Bonaparte's substitution of the University by a strictly utilitarian Ecole Centrale! You will need no telling that these aberrations were ultimately corrected, in the case of the French short-lived creation by one of the first acts of a more liberal Regime through the persons of Alexander Ball and Francesco Saverio Caruana.

Coming nearer to our own times, we have seen this worthy institution not only pointlessly shorn of a well deserved Regal title, but very recently shaken and riven to its Foundations with the genuine Old being supplanted by the spurious New, and even wilder gyrations.

Yet now we have a proper Re-Foundation, harking back to Pinto's and recalling his very title of a "Public University of General Studies". To see to its Foundations we happily have one well versed in mathematical exactitude and trained in architectural soundness.

I suggest to you we may well see this as an

**AUSPICUM MELIORIS Aevi
AD MULTOS ANNOS!!**

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA GAZETTE

DECEMBER 1988

SUPPLEMENT No: 6

Volume 20 No: 4

The following oration was delivered by Professor Renè Cremona at the Graduation Ceremony held on Wednesday, 21st December, 1988:

LEGAL EDUCATION

I was invited to speak on Legal Education at this Graduation Ceremony at rather short notice. The invitation came at an inconvenient time, as invitations of this sort have a nasty habit of doing. So I decided to decline the invitation as politely as possible. I did – too politely – and here I am speaking on Legal Education at this Graduation Ceremony. The Dean proposes, and the Dean also disposes, it seems.

Now, to speak today about the subject of Legal Education, I found I had two alternatives. One was to quote extensively from some scholarly books, plagiarise some others, add a soupçon of local flavour to the hotch-potch and, hey presto!, you have a speech. This has been done before. In fact, by increasing the first two ingredients substantially, you could produce, at a pinch, a full-blown, almost instant thesis which, with some luck and an inordinate amount of nerve, might even be rated acceptable! This too has been done before. Some of my fellow examiners, at least, will bear me out on this assertion. This is a legal education in itself – devoutly not to be wished, however. My other alternative was to produce something which is home-grown, good or bad – sage and onions, so to say. I would then be regaling you with my random thoughts, my ideas, baked, half-baked and raw. I opted for this second alternative. Firstly, because, for one reason or another, I have been so busy these last couple of weeks that I just could not find the material time to read the books to be quoted or plagiarised. Secondly, because, I must confess, I truly disapprove of that sort of thing, anyway. Thirdly, because in all probability hardly anyone will be listening to what I'm saying in any case – such is the fate of most speakers at Graduation Ceremonies, and they are expected to be grateful that it is not worse!

But let's come to grips with the subject without any further beating about the bush.

What do we mean exactly by legal education? Is it the education which the Faculty of Law imparts to its law students at the University? Or is it that life-long education which a man of law acquires steadily – and sometimes laboriously – throughout his lifetime? Surely it must be both, and sometimes I wonder which is the more important. Without a basic legal education capped with the appropriate Degree, one cannot – it is true – even come under starter's orders, but then, if that basic legal education is not assiduously improved upon throughout the race, one must inevitably be classified among the "also ran". In the final analysis, the law student who is not determined to study and learn regularly and unceasingly from the word "go" right up to the time when, hoary with age, he decides to retire definitively from the race, such a law student remains a "hybrid" who should not have qualified at all to be entered with the pure-breeds. He is misshapen, a legal monster who should have been "scratched" in the first place. This must be constantly borne in mind even if, because of constraints of time, I shall today be concentrating on the legal education which the Faculty of Law is imparting or intends to impart to its law students.

How has the Faculty of Law been fulfilling its task of giving a sound and all-round legal education to its law students? I will not say that the Faculty of Law is perfect because I have a feeling that no one, outside the Faculty of Law itself, would ever swallow such a claim to perfection. Indeed, not even the Faculty of Law itself would today lay such a claim, because the Faculty of Law, as a mature Faculty, has acquired a seemly and endearing modesty and an admirable capacity for self-criticism which very few would have suspected it had. But no apologies are due in any case to the ultra-critical for any shortcomings that might detect. A Faculty, depleted and debilitated as ours came to be, could hardly be expected to function too smoothly. It was not too popular, except with students, actual and prospective. The path of the Faculty of Law was not exactly strewn with roses, as those who had to walk warily along that path will confirm. Nevertheless, as a result of the enormous efforts made both by the academic staff and by the students, the Faculty has throughout continued to function fairly smoothly and efficiently

and the legal education which it imparted remained consistently good, and certainly much better than just adequate, even when the syllabus of an entire traditional academic year had to be crammed into a clipped semester. The Faculty of Law is slowly emerging from a long winter of discontent – not of its own making – and, even if it has not yet felt the full glow of a glorious summer, the Members of the Faculty – now mostly in the autumn of their days – are seeing the dawn of a new spring, forecast by the fresh blood, the new life-saving intake of supporting academic staff which is right now being introduced into the Faculty and by the well-planned and salutary changes made or to be made. The Faculty of Law must, as a result, improve markedly. It will be, I hope, a Faculty transformed.

It goes without saying, of course, that law should continue to be explained to law students. It is inevitably part of a legal education. Law students are there to learn law and, although all law should ideally be logical and consequently – in a sense – self-explanatory, this is not always so. To understand a law properly, one often needs to know the background to that law – its *raison d'être* – and this is not generally found clearly explained in the law itself. Moreover, since precedent still plays an important role in our legal system, the interpretation given to a law by the Courts must also be brought to the attention of students. Furthermore, a law, couched necessarily in general terms, has then to be applied to particular cases and actual situations, and doctrine at this point often finds “nuances” which are not easily culled from the text of the law itself. Doctrine has traditionally been with us a powerful source of interpretation and elaboration of law, but, since it has been said rather cynically that if you put two lawyers together you end up by having *three* different opinions, you can well imagine that doctrine is rarely in complete agreement on any particular matter and hence the student has to be trained to choose the better view. Besides, a law is only as clear as its drafters can make it and legal drafting has not always been all that perfect, especially in recent years.

Nevertheless, although lecturers are required to explain the law to law students and, above all, to inculcate in law students a genuine and enduring interest in law and legal theory which goes well beyond the merely mundane interest of earning a living, law students should never be spoon-fed. Rather than providing them with convenient notes which, studied by heart, guarantee immunity from failure at examinations, law students should be encouraged to make their own notes, the fruit of their own personal labours. A love for research should indeed be instilled in law students as early as possible. It is research which makes the good lawyer and the good academic. It is research which a lawyer needs continuously throughout his career. It is research which leads to legal reform, which is such a constant requirement of this rapidly changing society of ours. It is research which could produce masterly legal publications, which are such a rarity in Malta. The graduand, who leaves the University without having acquired a lasting appreciation and partiality for research, will never amount to much. He will be a lawyer *manqué* and, as time passes and the knowledge he acquired from the University recedes further into the background, he will be no lawyer at all. He will lose touch with the law and his lack of legal knowledge will make him a danger to society and especially to those clients who misguidedly place their trust in him. Such lawyers have always existed, much to the disappointment of a profession which is generally well-prepared. I have read somewhere that an American lawyer – an attorney – once invoked before Abraham Lincoln the old cliché that necessity knows no law. Lincoln, who had already sized him up, immediately retorted: “I see, sir, that you are in the same predicament”.

What are we doing to plant in the minds of our law students a growing interest in research, which is also such an important ingredient of a legal education intended to be life-long? Not quite enough, I would say, judging by some results. But, then, can one ever do enough? I anticipate that, with the new and sorely-needed influx of supporting academic staff into the Faculty of Law, the situation will improve appreciably, if not dramatically. Regular tutorials and seminars, which in the past were beyond the possibilities of a dwindling handful of part-time professors and lecturers making up the entire academic complement of the Faculty of Law, are now being held. They stimulate the interest of the students who are now willingly – and even enthusiastically – carrying out the necessary research which goes into the preparation of a well-executed paper to be produced at a tutorial or of a well-conducted discussion to be unfolded at a seminar. With this addition of supporting academic staff, proper tutoring and supervision of research theses required for the Doctorate will also become a more practicable proposition. To foster even more interest in research, it is also perhaps time to introduce a purely research degree. To this end, one could, without much extra effort or expense, create an M.A. in Socio-Legal Studies beyond the more basic B.A. already being established.

The voice of the Faculty of Law is being heeded at last and as a result improvements in legal education, hitherto mere pious wishes, become possible and attainable. There is now a healthier diversity of study. Various cultural subjects, not necessarily having an obvious law content, are being catered for, and

these help to enrich legal scholarship as well as to develop a much more questioning approach to the law. New subjects in the field of law itself, which a few decades ago were unheard of or undeveloped, have also been added or are intended to be added, and these help the students to keep up-to-date with the latest legal developments. Even the computer is being taken into account by the Faculty, since it is now clear that computers have a part to play in legal education, as we have abundantly seen during the very recent seminar held on the occasion of the inauguration of the official linking of our Law Courts – and incidentally of our Faculty – with the Centro Elettronico di Documentazione of the Italian Corte Suprema di Cassazione. The entire computerisation of our Law Courts is also already well under way and soon to be achieved. Enormous foreign data bases are already becoming available and computer terminals hence begin to offer immense possibilities for law students and for lawyers, especially when we consider how important comparative law is becoming in this shrinking world and in this Europe of ours which is coming closer and closer to the removal of its internal frontiers. But let us not allow computers to go to our heads, at least not literally in such a way as to take the place of our brains.

One subject in particular, intimately connected with legal education and vitally important for all practising lawyers, appears to have been somewhat neglected as far as formal instruction is concerned. I am referring to professional ethics. The lawyer's profession is an honourable one, traditionally exercised by honourable persons, and that is how it should be and how it should remain. It is a profession in which considerable trust is placed. It is a profession which imposes serious duties on its members both towards their clients and towards their colleagues, besides duties towards the cause of justice itself. These duties must be brought to the attention of the "cupida legum iuventus" as early as possible, while their aspirations are youthfully noble and generous and their minds untainted by too mundane considerations. The strict and scrupulous observance of these duties must be emphasised at every opportunity throughout the course. As the number of practising lawyers continues to increase and as the pace of life becomes faster and faster, there is a danger that these essential duties could be overlooked, at least by some, and that would be a tragedy which must not be allowed to happen at all costs. Not surprisingly, legislation on professional ethics for lawyers is in the offing. The legal profession must always tread carefully and correctly. It is respected, but it is not particularly liked by some. It is indeed amazing how many illiterates discover that they share common ground with Shakespeare when he proposes through one of his characters: "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers".

The Faculty of Law has done and is doing a lot to improve the standard of legal education. More has to be done and, hopefully, it will be done. To misquote Milton deliberately, tomorrow to fresh feats and postures new!

I congratulate all those graduating today and sincerely wish them every success. I rejoice with you all but, understandably, I rejoice especially with my former students in the Course of Laws.