



**L-Università
ta' Malta**

**Faculty for
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From the Office of the Dean
Newsletter: 'Connect' | No 11

20/12/2019

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to commend all the staff contributing to the Faculty, its Departments and naturally the students who work tirelessly, ably led by the respective Heads of Departments. The number of events and activities we've had so far are once again evidence of a dynamic Faculty that is committed to students and scholarship and to the cause of 'social justice'. The slogan I chose for this year is '*not another face in the crowd*'. We just cannot see through people. Every single narrative remains important and valuable.

Would you like to link up with the Faculty FB Pages?

- **Faculty for Social Wellbeing:** <https://www.facebook.com/uom.socialwellbeing>
- **Department of Counselling:** <https://www.facebook.com/Department-of-Counselling>
- **Department of Criminology:** <https://www.facebook.com/uom.criminology/>
- **Department of Disability Studies:** <https://www.facebook.com/uom.disabilitystudies>
- **Department of Family Studies:** <https://www.facebook.com/uom.familystudies>
- **Department of Gender Studies:** <https://www.facebook.com/uom.genderstudies>
- **Department of Gerontology and Dementia Studies:**
<https://www.facebook.com/uom.gerontology/>
- **Department of Psychology:** <https://www.facebook.com/uom.psychology>
- **Psychology Lab:** <https://www.facebook.com/uom.psychologylab/>
- **Department of Social Policy and Social Work:**
<https://www.facebook.com/uom.spsw>
- **Department of Youth and Community Studies:**
<https://www.facebook.com/uom.youth>
- **Twitter Account:** <https://twitter.com/FacultyforSW>
- **Instagram Account:** [facultyforsw](https://www.instagram.com/facultyforsw)

You are invited to retrieve **previous editions** of the **Connect** Newsletter here:
<http://www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing/notices/connectnewsletter>.

Faculty activities in brief:

- Once again, I would like to start by making a special mention and voice my appreciation for all the **visiting and casual academic members of staff**, who support the work of the Faculty through the respective Departments, whether it is through dissertation supervision, placement supervision and mentoring, lecturing, sitting on committees, scholarship and research. Their commitment and loyalty to the Faculty is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed.
- Two **new administrative members of staff** have joined the Faculty; Ms Jolin Mifsud (Department of Counselling) and Mr Manuel Camilleri (Department of Youth and Community Studies). Mr Elton Zammit is now serving the Faculty within the Faculty Office. Ms Anna Curmi (Department of Counselling) has retired and Ms Josianne Falzon (Department of Disability Studies), Ms Lara Ellul (Faculty Office) and Ms Daniela Galea (Faculty Office) have moved to new pastures.
- Faculty participated in the UM **Periodic Programme Review** which went very well. We are now at the stage of preparing documentation to discuss with FB and Senate.
- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi **publishes** an article on the Malta Independent every week analysing a number of social issues. He has also participated in a number of programmes and interviews on the radio and television.
- Prof. Gordon Sammut has now **moved** to the Department of Criminology.
- **Appreciation** is extended to Dr Trevor Calafato (Department of Criminology) who leads the FREC team, Dr Anne Marie Callus (Department of Disability Studies) who leads RSPC, Dr Ruth Falzon (Department of Counselling) who coordinates the BA (Hons.) Social Wellbeing Studies and Dr Patricia Bonello (Department of Social Policy and Social Work) who leads the Community Engagement Committee.
- Congratulations to Prof. JosAnn Cutajar (Department of Gender Studies) who has been **promoted** to Associate Professor.
- The Department of Gerontology has **changed its name** and is now the Department of Gerontology and Dementia Studies.
- The **Digest Electronic Newsletter** is still going strong. Kudos to Ms Dorianne Cortis (Faculty Office) who sets out and circulates the Digest every Wednesday.
- Dr Greta Darmanin Kissaun (Head, Department of Psychology and Deputy Dean) is leading a review of the **Strategic Plan** of the Faculty.
- Dr Natalie Kenely (Head, Department of Social Policy and Social Work) was once again appointed as member on the **Junior College Board**.
- The Department of Social Policy and Social Work held their Annual Away Day for the Department's **Freshers'**. The Dean was present for part of the event.
- A number of new **MoUs** have been signed with various entities; namely *Dar Kenn ghal Sahhitek*, MCVS, newsbook.com.mt, Agenzija Zghazagh, CRPD and Identity Malta amongst other.
- Dr Sue Vella (Department of Social Policy and Social Work) together with the Dean are working in collaboration with the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector to start a **Diploma in Volunteering Studies** for administrators working within the voluntary sector. The work on this course is progressing well.
- Our Faculty **website** is being regularly adjourned and more Departments are migrating to the new website. Kudos to Mr Stuart Bugeja (Department of Youth and Community Studies).
- The number of **MPhil/PhD candidates** is growing at a fast rate and has now reached over 40 candidates.
- There is a growing team of **Research Support Officers** engaged with the Faculty; Ms Jamie Bonnici, Dr Kurt Borg, Dr Andrew Camilleri, Ms Annabelle Cuff, Ms Olga Formosa and Ms Samantha Pace Gasan are all involved in a growing number of Faculty projects. A number of other RSOs are working on specific projects with other members of the academic body.
- The Faculty mainly through the Department of Social Policy and Social Work are working on a new **Masters of Arts in the Management of Social Care Standards** in collaboration with FEMA and FSWS.
- The Department of Social Policy and Social Work is also working on a new **Certificate in Safeguarding of Children and Young People** in collaboration with the Faculty of Theology.
- The Faculty has developed and now passed on the **Inclusive Language Policy** to Pro-Rector Prof. Carmen Sammut and will be present to Senate for adoption by the rest of the Alma mater.

- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, is currently setting up **individual appointments** with all the students of the Faculty. He is also meeting all the **cohorts** of students reading a course with our Faculty. He also retains an open door policy.
- The Faculty has completed a **Faculty Gender Audit** an initiative that we are encouraging other faculties to take on.
- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi sits on the **Campus FM radio** board.
- **Police Transformation Strategy** has been launched. Prof. Saviour Formosa is Chair of this Strategy.
- **ERDF project** entitled SFES (Space-Forensics) for which €5million were committed for an idea that the Department of Criminology led by Prof. Saviour Formosa came up with in conjunction with the DVI Task Force (Disaster victim identification Task force) is at an advanced technology procurement phase.
- **ERDF SIntegraM** (for which €7million were committed) data capture to take a 3D snapshot of the Maltese way of living, has been initiated and Prof. Saviour Formosa (Head, Department of Criminology) said that it will be published over the next months.
- **ESF SpatialTRAIN** (for which €0.9million were committed) training for spatial experts and enforcers is ongoing. Prof. Saviour Formosa (Head, Department of Criminology) has a leading role in this initiative.
- **ERDF pLotteR** (for which €5million were committed), aimed at restructure land information and in turn target money laundering has been launched and programming is starting – another initiative by Prof. Saviour Formosa (Head, Department of Criminology).
- The **CAVE Immersion lab**, part of the SIntegraM project, has been installed and is undergoing extension this month to enable researchers to visualise interactive scenarios, crime scene reconstruction, foresight and other research. This is an initiative of Prof. Saviour Formosa (Head, Department of Criminology).
- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi sits on the **Senate committees**; Fitness for Practice, the Review of Post-Graduate Regulations and Student Organisations.
- Dr Natalie Kenely (Head, Department of Social Policy and Social Work) delivered a **speech** on Leadership Skills to the MIA SME forum.
- **Training Day** for Practice Teachers of the Department of Social Policy and Social Work delivered by Prof. Paula Slavin and Prof Eline Wilson from the University College Dublin.
- Dr Maureen Cole (Department of Social Policy and Social Work) together with Dr Marceline Naudi (Head, Department of Gender Studies) organised a **roundtable** on Human Trafficking - Moving beyond words and text in eliminating modern slavery, forced labour and human trafficking in supply chains in and around Malta. This was presented by Anita Sheth, BA (Malta), MA (Canada), PhD ABT (Canada) and Dr Catherine Janula, LL.B, Dip. Not. Pub., LL.D (Malta).
- Dr Natalie Kenely (Head, Department of Social Policy and Social Work) carried out **on-site supervision sessions** of 4 students carrying out their social work placement in Dublin.
- Dr Natalie Kenely (Head, Department of Social Policy and Social Work) delivered a **keynote speech** on Emotional Resilience at a Conference for Disciplined Forces, organised by the People and Standards Division (OPM).
- The Faculty has retained the same **number of freshers'** and thus has a population of c. 1,000 students. There is a notable growing number of MPhil/PhD candidates.
- For the first time the Faculty has produced a number of **freebies** that were given to Freshers' and distributed amongst our stakeholders and social partners.
- The Faculty has for the first time organised an **Away Day** at the Valletta Campus for all its freshers'. This was complimented by a **Welcome Meeting** as well on another day.
- The Faculty has launched the first ever **video biography** which was well received hitting over 20k views and has been broadcasted on TVM, NET TV and social media.
- The Heads of Departments had their regular **HoD College meetings**.
- The **Faculty Doctoral Committee** met regularly.
- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi and Dr Dione Mifsud (HoD, Department of Counselling and Senate Representative) attended **Senate meetings**.
- **Faculty Board** meetings were held regularly.
- The Department of Social Policy and Social Work and the Faculty Office are once again organising a **Food Bank**.

- Dr Trevor Calafato (Department of Criminology) delivered a lecture during the **Dr Jacqueline Memorial Lecture**, three years from her passing.
- The MPhil/PhD **sub-committee** have organised a number of sessions for the MPhil/PhD candidates.
- Dr Joseph Dimech was awarded his **PhD** during this year's graduation.
- Circa 250 students **graduated** this year.
- **Going green for Graduands** is a new initiative that saw the planting of trees by this year's graduates and staff.
- The 2018 graduands were once again welcomed by the Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, during their **buscades**. They were given a souvenir. *We are proud of every single alumnus!*
- For the second time running the Faculty **organised drinks** for families and the graduands before their ceremony.
- Dr Maria Pisani (Department of Youth and Community Studies) **presented** findings of a publication to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly committee on Refugee and Migrant children and young people.
- A report on '**Loneliness**' has been published which includes the main findings of a nation-wide survey.
- The Faculty for Social Wellbeing has started a **Vlog**. So far we have had Vlogs by Prof. Andrew Azzopardi (Dean), Dr Albert Bell (Department of Youth and Community Studies), Mr Aleksandar Dimitrijevic (MPhil/PhD student with the Department of Gender Studies), Dr Andreana Dibben (Department of Social Policy and Social Work), Dr Daniella Zerafa (Department of Social Policy and Social Work) and Ms. Amy Camilleri Zahra (Department of Disability Studies).
- The **Brown Bag seminars** by the RSPC are still going strong. Kudos to Ms Lucienne Brincat (Department of Social Policy and Social Work) for providing the administrative support. The lecture by Dr Patricia Bonello (Department of Social Policy and Social Work) was well-attended and received.
- A seminar from the **Professorial Lecture Series** was delivered by Prof. Gordon Sammut (Department of Psychology).
- The **Platform for Migration** will soon be launched.
- Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri (Head, Department of Family Studies) presented a paper on 'Support services for children witnessing violence and children orphaned by domestic crimes'. A **presentation** given at the "Joint Workshop on Family as a Hub for Social Policies" organized by the Department for Family Policies of the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the European Social Cohesion Platform of the Council of Europe, on the 9- 11th October 2019 in Rome, Italy.
- Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri (Head, Department of Family Studies) presented on 'Parenting in the context of Domestic violence. A Systemic and Intergenerational perspective'. A **keynote presentation** was delivered as part of a Symposium "Parenting on the margins", part of the International Parenting Programme organised by the Faculty of Education, Department of Arts, Open Communities and Adult Education, University of Malta, in collaboration with the Malta Review of Education Research on the 28th of March 2019.
- Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri (Head, Department of Family Studies) presented on "The impact on children of growing up in a domestic violence context. Spotting the signs in school children", on the 13th of May, 2019 as part of **COPE sessions** (in service training to Sociology Teachers).
- Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri (Head, Department of Family Studies) was appointed a Member of the **Editorial Board** of the Journal "Contemporary Family Therapy – An International Journal" published by Springer.
- Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri (Head, Department of Family Studies) has been appointed **member** of the Scientific Committee for the 8th **conference** on Qualitative research in mental health to be held in Malta on the 17th to 19th September 2020.
- "Multi Family Therapy" by Neil Dawson and Brenda McHugh, from the Anna Freud, National Centre for Children and Families, UK – a **one-day training** designed to support practitioners in setting up and successfully running a multi-family work in health, social care and educational settings, was organised by the Department of Family Studies.
- "Working systemically with LGBTIQ clients" by Dr Maeve Malley, a one-day **training workshop**, was organised by the Department of Family Studies, and held on the 25th March, 2019.

- Dr Natalie Kenely (Head, Department of Social Work and Social Policy) will be giving an **Oration during the post-graduate graduations**. Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Dean gave an **Oration during the Honoris Causa**. Amongst the awardees was the Faculty's nominee, Mons Philip Grech.
- The Faculty has supported **Higher Secondary School** in their in-service training.
- The Dean's Office has issued a number of **Press Releases**.
- The Administrative Team of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing organised a number of **team-building** activities.
- **Unity**, the third edition of the Faculty magazine, has been circulated widely both in soft and hard copies versions.
- Work is underway, coordinated by Ms Samantha Pace Gasan (RSO) and Ms Jolin Mifsud (Department of Counselling), on the third edition of the **Dean's Forum**.
- **New posters** have been designed and are being distributed in schools, Local Councils, Government entities, Stakeholders amongst other.
- A number of initiatives are being put in place so that the Faculty starts **promoting its courses for the coming academic year** - some very original and innovative.
- Dr Marceline Naudi (Head, Department of Gender Studies) was **invited** as GREVIO rapporteur for the evaluation of Montenegro's compliance with the Istanbul Convention, to speak at the Ninth Women's Parliament Session held on the 26th of November in Podgorica.
- On the 23rd November a **conference** was held of the '*Full Cooperation: Zero violence*' EU funded project, of which the Department of Gender Studies and Prof. Marilyn Clark (Department of Psychology) was part.
- A first of its kind **Faculty Research Magazine** in collaboration with Corporate Dispatch will be launched during the forthcoming academic year.
- Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri, (Head, Department of Family Studies) has been invited as an **expert speaker** at the Hearing on 'Children victims or witnesses of gender-based violence within families', organised by the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, at the European Parliament.
- Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri (Head, Department of Family Studies) also delivered a **presentation** on "Children's experiences of domestic violence in families" to the Chamber of Advocates on the 10th of December. She presented as a member of the Commission on Domestic Violence as part of the 16 days of activism against gender based violence and domestic violence.
- Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Dean, **sits** on the Ministry appointed *Kumitat Tishih tal-Familja*.
- Dr Vicky Gauci (Department of Disability Studies) has been **awarded her Doctorate** from the University of Leeds following a successful viva.
- Dr Vickie Gauci, (Department of Disability Studies) has been **awarded** the Premju Soċjetà Ġusta (Fair Society Award) by the Parliamentary Secretariat for Disabled Persons and Active Ageing.
- The Faculty of Health Sciences, the Faculty for Social Well-Being and YMCA Valletta are organising a **symposium** entitled, '*Homelessness: The Hidden Scandal*'.
- Prof. Angela Abela (Department of Family Studies) **presented** on "The evidence of the impact of parenting programmes on family sustainability at a Seminar entitled Family Policies and Sustainable Development" organised by the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI) at UNESCO Paris 27th September, 2019.
- Prof. Angela Abela (Department of Family Studies) after having led the Translation of a family therapy evaluation instrument entitled SCORE into Maltese together with a multidisciplinary team. The Adult and the Children's version have now been uploaded on the Score Website www.aft.org.uk/view/score.html
- Prof. Angela Abela (Department of Family Studies) is involved in a Cost Programme entitled "The European Family Support Network. A bottom-up evidence based and multidisciplinary approach". Prof. Abela was appointed as co-leader on the Working Group: "Developing a theoretical Framework around Family Support with Carmel Devaney and Harriett Churchill".
- Prof. Angela Abela (Department of Family Studies) delivered, "Parenting in Adverse Circumstances" a keynote Presentation at the International **Conference** entitled "Parenting on the Margins" organised by the International Parenting Consortium at the Valletta Campus University of Malta.
- Prof. Angela Abela (Department of Family Studies) was appointed by Senate on the University Assessment Appellate Board, was **appointed** on the Board of Governors of the Malta Foundation for the

Wellbeing of Society, was appointed chair of the National Centre for Family Research within the President's Foundation was appointed as International Editor on the Godishen zbornik na Filozofskiot fakultet (Skopje), the Annuaire of the Faculty of Philosophy at the St Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje Macedonia, was appointed as associate editor on Familles et Societe, on the Algerian Scientific Journal Platform.

- Prof. Angela Abela (Department of Family Studies) was **invited** to deliver a keynote presentation at a seminar entitled "In Namur Ghadu Moda?" organised by the Kunitat ghat Tishih tal Familja, an advisory committee within the Ministry for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity at De Paule Hall San Anton's Palace Attard.
- The Department of Gender Studies in collaboration with The French Embassy hosted a **Seminar**: "Women in the Mediterranean". Key note Speaker: Ms Emilie Vidal, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), Headquarters and the Secretariat of the Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation (FFEM)
- Prof Saviour Formosa gave a lecture called, *CRIME, Colours and Patterns* as part of the **Professorial Lecture Series**.
- Eliciting Resilience in ICT Teaching and Learning: Evidence from the STAR KIDS Reaching Out project
- The **Faculty social drama** 'Bahh tad-Dar' (Emptiness at home) will be presented to a number of other schools this year.
- An **Open Dialogue** on the current political situation was organised by the Faculty.
- Dr Ruth Falzon is spearheading the organisation of the ECQI 2020 - Qualitative Inquiry towards **Sustainability International Conference**.
- Surrogacy Debate in Malta: a **brown-bag seminar** presented by Dr Gisella Orsini & Dr Marceline Naudi Department of Gender Studies.
- The Faculty participated for the first time in the **Pride March**.
- **Protect and Let Go** - organized by Commission for-the Rights of Persons with Disability - CRPD and Faculty for Social Wellbeing.
- A number of academics have been involved in **activism** in a number of community issues.
- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi has **moderated** a number of seminars.

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to:

- The team of **HoDs** who are incredibly supportive, namely; the Deputy Dean, Dr Greta Darmanin Kissaun (Head, Department of Psychology), Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane (Head, Department of Disability Studies), Ms. Alison Darmanin (Faculty Officer), Prof. Marvin Formosa (Head, Department of Gerontology and Dementia Studies), Prof. Saviour Formosa (Head, Department of Criminology), Dr Natalie Kenely (Head, Department of Social Policy and Social Work), Dr Dione Mifsud (Faculty Senate Representative and Head Department of Counselling), Dr Marceline Naudi (Head, Department of Gender Studies) and Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri (Head, Department of Family Studies).
- The **Faculty Board** members for their important role in running this Faculty.
- The Academic members of **staff**, whether resident full-time or part-time, casual or visiting, dissertation and placement supervisors and the **students** who make this a cohesive Faculty keen to respond to the challenges of society;
- I would like to thank all the **administrative staff** and **Research Support Officers**, both those serving the Faculty in the Departments as well as in the Faculty Office, for their unwavering support and commitment. In my eyes they are equal members of staff but having a different role. A Faculty depends on the collaboration and sharing of the different responsibilities.
- Finally, my appreciation is extended to **Ms Charlene Fabri** (PA to the Dean) for her dedication and constant support.

This is most certainly not all that has happened in the Faculty during these last months. If there is anything you would like to include in the future editions of Connect please send an email to charlene.fabri@um.edu.mt

Prof. Andrew Azzopardi
Dean