



## Welcome

'Welcome to the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Connect Newsletter issued from the Office of the Dean. This is only a sample of the endless work we are doing as a Faculty with our students, in our communities and together with our stakeholders. The academic year that has just ended has been challenging but also full of hard work. The Deputy Deans, Faculty Manager and Heads with the continuous support of the admin team, RSOs and all the academic members of staff have been crucial in steering the 'ship' in the right direction and through the contribution of every single member of this Faculty's community we have managed to keep providing the best possible service to our students.'

**Prof. Andrew Azzopardi | Dean**

## Would you like to link up with the Faculty 'socials'?

Faculty for Social Wellbeing	<a href="#">f /um.socialwellbeing</a>   <a href="#">t /FacultyforSW</a>   <a href="#">i /facultyforsw</a>
Department of Child & Family Studies	<a href="#">f /um.familystudies</a>
Department of Counselling	<a href="#">f /UMCounselling</a>
Department of Criminology	<a href="#">f /um.criminologydepartment</a>
Department of Disability Studies	<a href="#">f /um.disabilitystudies</a>
Department of Gender & Sexualities	<a href="#">f /um.genderstudies</a>
Department of Gerontology & Dementia Studies	<a href="#">f /um.gerontology</a>
Department of Psychology	<a href="#">f /um.psychologydepartment</a>
Department of Social Policy & Social Work	<a href="#">f /um.spsw</a>
Department of Youth & Community Studies	<a href="#">f /um.youthdepartment</a>



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## Faculty research projects recently presented:

- ⌚ March 2022 - Mapping the Iklin Community
- ⌚ March 2022 - Professionals' Knowledge of Eating Disorders
- ⌚ April 2022 - Understanding parental alienation in Malta
- ⌚ May 2022 - Intersectionality and Disability Report
- ⌚ June 2022 - AFM Training on Migration Issues

## Courtesy meetings:

- ⌚ 22 March 2022 - Ms Antoinette Vassallo, Commissioner for Children
- ⌚ 24 March 2022 - Chief of Mission - International Organization for Migration
- ⌚ 24 May 2022 - Hon Graziella Galea MP, Spokesperson for Inclusion and Voluntary Sector
- ⌚ 26 May 2022 - Hon Dr Keith Azzopardi Tanti MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Research and Innovation
- ⌚ 31 May 2022 - Hon Rebecca Buttigieg MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms and Equality
- ⌚ 1 June 2022 - Nancy Caruana Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Inclusion, Voluntary Organisations and Consumer Rights
- ⌚ 13 June 2022 - Hon David Agius MP Deputy Speaker, Spokesperson for Social Policy
- ⌚ 14 June 2022 - Hon Graziella Attard Previ MP, Spokesperson for Equality and Children's Rights
- ⌚ 15 June 2022 - Hon Julia Farrugia Portelli MP, Minister for Inclusion, Voluntary Organisations and Consumer Rights

## Main Faculty activities:

- ⌚ Dr Gottfried Catania appointed as Deputy Dean to replace Dr Kristina Bettanzana who is out on maternity leave.
- ⌚ More RSOs recruited for Faculty, Departmental and Lecturer run research projects.
- ⌚ Constant update of Faculty website.
- ⌚ We are almost in our 300 edition of the Digest weekly on-line newsletter.
- ⌚ Work in progress to set up a Podcast.
- ⌚ Work in progress to set up a research and services App.
- ⌚ Marketing was in full force with Bus Skins, streamers, ads on social media, electronic boards and TV to name just a few.
- ⌚ Book edited by Dr Natalie Kenely - *Vjaġġ - towards social connectedness* was launched and distributed.
- ⌚ A new line of merchandise has been launched for 2022/23.
- ⌚ More Ph.D. scholarships on the way.
- ⌚ More research collaborations on the way.

- ⊗ Publication on the setting up of the Faculty edited by Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Prof. Maureen Cole and Jamie Bonnici will be launched soon.
- ⊗ We got the Service Dogs during study sessions to help students deal with the exam anxiety, a joint activity with KSU.
- ⊗ 100 Proposals for Improved Mental Health Services launched by the Dean Prof. Andrew Azzopardi.
- ⊗ A number of research projects have been published in soft and hard copy versions.
- ⊗ *Digital Wellbeing – A route towards connectedness 2022* - Faculty for Social Wellbeing Seminar was held with a very good turn out.
- ⊗ Student Satisfaction Survey, Academic Satisfaction Survey, Administrative Satisfaction Survey completed and published.
- ⊗ Social Policy paper mentioned by Betapsi during the Faculty Seminar on Digital Wellbeing.
- ⊗ *The Commodification of Family and Surrogacy* - A brown-bag seminar presented by Prof. JosAnn Cutajar - Department of Gender & Sexualities Friday, 27 May 2022.
- ⊗ *Diversity, Social Justice and Inclusion Why are we not there yet?* A professorial lecture presented by Prof. Paul Bartolo.
- ⊗ A number of press releases, articles and media reporting with a list too long to mention, estimated at close to 200 mentions during this academic year.
- ⊗ Article on the Times of Malta, *Living with an invisible disease* – Prof. Mary Anne Lauri & Christina Lauri.
- ⊗ Prof. Gordon Sammut appointed Director of the University's Centre for the Study and Practice of Conflict Resolution.
- ⊗ Article on the Malta Today, *Revisiting our rituals* – Prof. Andrew Azzopardi
- ⊗ Counselling Online Information Session.
- ⊗ The Dean Prof. Andrew Azzopardi Chairs and Dr Katy DeGiovanni is Director of CRC.
- ⊗ The Dean Prof. Andrew Azzopardi Chairs the Platform For Migration.
- ⊗ The Human Rights Platform organised a conference on Surrogacy and Human Rights.
- ⊗ Ale's Project | UM Seminar - in collaboration with the Faculty for Social Wellbeing and The Malta Trust Foundation.
- ⊗ The Dean Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri, Prof. Maureen Cole and Prof. Anne Marie Callus contributed as full members to CROM.
- ⊗ Second International Bioethics Conference - Bioethics and the paradox of appearances: Fragility, dependence, disability in the various stages of life. / La bioetica ed il paradosso delle apparenze: Fragilità, dipendenza, disabilità nelle varie stagioni della vita.
- ⊗ Stakeholders Meeting was held by the Service Providers - Theme: Hear to Engage - Searching for the common good.
- ⊗ A number of academics and administrators were promoted.
- ⊗ The number of M.Phil./Ph.D. candidates keeps growing.
- ⊗ The 2022/23 edition of *Unity* is in print.
- ⊗ The Dean, Deputy Dean and a delegation from the Faculty made of academics, Ph.D. candidates, students and stakeholders participated in this years Pride March for the fourth time.

- ④ IPA Workshop - The Research, Publications and Scholarships Committee within the Faculty for Social Wellbeing organised the IPA Workshop hosted by Dr Rachel Shaw and Dr Michael Larkin from Aston University Birmingham.
- ④ The Human Rights Platform of the University of Malta held an online roundtable discussion titled COVID-19 and Inequality: Everyone in the same boat?
- ④ The Department of Counselling organised a Research Forum entitled *The Many Faces of Crisis Migration: An Integral Initiative*.
- ④ *Unity Gazzetta* was launched for the first time.
- ④ Dr Patricia Bonello (Department of Social Policy and Social Work) retired and Ms Maria Mangion has replaced her.
- ④ Reflexive Writing Skills in Research seminar delivered by Prof. Jeannie Wright.
- ④ Stakeholders' Seminar delivered by Prof. Jean Kathleen Wright.
- ④ *Thirst Trap - young people's bodies on the internet* - The Department of Youth and Community Studies organised the event Thirst Trap at the Msida campus.
- ④ The Dean had a meeting with the newly installed Commissioner for Children, Ms Antoinette Vassallo.
- ④ Event at the Policy Academy's Ta' Kandja Complex was organised by the Department of Criminology in conjunction with the Malta Police Force.
- ④ Faculty for Social Wellbeing's Pre-Election document was launched.
- ④ *The Story of an Autoethnography on Chronic Autoimmune Invisible Illnesses* - Brown-bag seminar delivered by Ms Sharon Martinelli - Department of Counselling.
- ④ 'Somebody Like You' - Faculty Cover Version song together with Ivan Grech, anchor of Winter Moods launched.
- ④ Faculty for Social Wellbeing Dean's Award Ceremony - Academic year 2020/2021 launched.
- ④ Campus collection for Ukraine organised by the Department of Social Policy and Social Work was launched.
- ④ *General opinion survey 2022* - Survey of the Maltese population data was launched.
- ④ Students' contribution to Faculty research - *An analysis of students' dissertations was launched*. Dr Pat Bonello and Dorianne Cortis worked on this project.

**Prof. Ruth Falzon** chairs the FREC. She is involved in SIS and VOPS projects in relation to professional associations. This year she published the following:

- ④ Bezzina, A. & Falzon, R. (2022) "Teachers teach me, you help me grow!" - Maltese PSD methodology toward Emotional Literacy. In R. Falzon, M. Clark & A. Azzopardi (Eds), *Perspectives on Wellbeing - A Reader*. Brill Sense.
- ④ Falzon, R. (2022) The meaning of literary in the 21st century: Implications for learning and assessment. In H. Goodsall & S Flohr (Eds) *The Dyslexia Handbook 2022*. The British Dyslexia Association. pp.110-123.

**Prof. Marvin Formosa** attended the Nordic Gerontological Congress and UNECE Inter-Ministerial Committee on Ageing.

**Prof. Anne Marie Callus** was appointed on the UM Fitness to Practice Board. She is a Founding Member of the IASSIDD Inclusive Research Group. She organised the Human Rights Platform Webinar on 'Covid-19 and Inequality: Everyone in the Same Boat?'. She attended the Hybrid Learning at the University of Malta and Beyond and gave a presentation as part of the Hybrid Learning for Disadvantaged Adults Erasmus+ Project. She also attended the Persons with Intellectual Disability, Fragility and Resilience, 2nd International Bioethics Conference 'Bioethics and the paradox of appearances: Fragility, dependence, disability in the various stages of life' University of Malta (online). This year she published the following:

- ④ Bonello, I., Borg, S., Callus, A.M. and Grech, C. (2022). Reflections on the implementation of an ongoing inclusive research project. *Social Sciences* 11(6), 234; <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11060234>
- ④ Garbutt, R. and Callus, A.M. (2022) Self-advocacy and advocacy. In H. Atherton and D. Crickmore, eds. *Learning Disabilities: Towards inclusion* (113-128). Elsevier.
- ④ Callus, A.M., Bonello, I. and Micallef, B. (2022) Advocacy and Self-Advocacy in Malta: Reflections on the lives of Maltese people with intellectual disability from the 1950s to the present day. *British Journal of Learning Disabilities*.

**Dr Pamela Portelli** received an award through the Academic Research Seed Fund. She published a paper with Dr Olga Bogolyubova; Belen Tristan Lopez & Andrea Sainz-Maza (2022) A Quality Review of Smart-Phone Applications for Smoking Cessation, *Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet*, 26:1, 64-81, DOI: 10.1080/15398285.2021.2021372

**Dr Dione Mifsud** has become the Chair of the IAC Regional Development Committee and a Member of the IAC Education Committee. He is going to be a keynote speaker and workshop facilitator at International Counselling Conference, Kuching, Malaysia in November 2022. He attended the BACP annual Conference in Aberdeen UK.

**Dr Patricia Bonello** attended the European Social Work Research Conference 2022.

**Dr Damian Spiteri** is currently an observer on FREC and will be appointed as a Member on the same Committee in September 2022. He participated in Social Europe Days in Berlin with Undergraduate Students. He published the following publication:

- ④ Camilleri, M. and Spiteri, D. (2021) "Work-Life Balance, Upward Career Mobility and Further Education: The Case for Working Mothers" *International Journal of Management, Knowledge and Learning* 10, 305-321

**Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane** was confirmed as Head of the Department of Gender and Sexualities and Deputy Dean. She is collaborating on a chapter with academics from Canada and presented at an international conference. She followed an Online conference on disability and parenting. Together with the Members of the Department of Gender and Sexualities she organised a round table on sexual and reproductive rights.

**Prof. Paul A Bartolo** is currently acting as Head of the ACCESS - Disability Support Unit (ADSU) and coordinates the Master of Psychology course. He is participating in a research project: 'Access to Tertiary Education for Persons with Disability' (ACTED) (2022-24) which is funded by the Ministry for Inclusion Voluntary Organisations and Consumer Rights. He attended the International School of Psychology Association Conference in Leuven, Belgium, in July 2022.

**Ms Roberta Farrugia Debono** was involved in a Faculty research project related to Parental Alienation commissioned by the Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights.

**Dr Gianmarco Alberti** is involved in an international funded project; Development Counts: Data Skills for International Development Careers, funded by the ERASMUS+ programmes of the European Union, a collaboration between Gazi Üniversitesi (Turkey), the University of Gloucestershire (UK), L-Università ta' Malta (Malta) and Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED, Spain). He developed a free and open-source software for streamlining the application of geostatistical methods in different research contexts. The software has been showcased on the UM Newspoint and on the THINK magazine article. He published the following publications:

- ⊕ Bennett, R., Alberti, G., Çibik, A., Eremenko, T., Formosa, S., Formosa Pace, J., ...Ubeda, P. (2022). Bringing about the data revolution in development: what data skills do aspiring development professionals need? *Journal of International Development*. DOI: 10.1002/jid.3642

**Ms Roberta Sultana** attended a conference on Palliative Care.

**Ms Maud Muscat** attended a conference about emotional literacy titled *Feel and Achieve*. She was awarded the MACP fellowship.

**Dr Katya Degiovanni** became a Member of Parliament. She is also the Head of Delegation for Maltese Parliament on the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean + Social Affairs + Family, a Member of the Petitions Parliamentary Committees and a representative of Government on Welfare Committee. She attended the Women's Parliamentary Forum in Lisbon. She became a Fellow of the British Psychological Society.

**Prof Carmel Cefai** in participating in an EU funded project with the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society on the mental health of young people in Gozo. He was appointed as an international expert by UNESCO on the revision of the 1974 Recommendation on Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. He is a Member of an expert group to the European Commission on the promotion of wellbeing and mental health in school. He organised a seminar "Post COVID-19: A more caring education" which was held at the Valletta Campus, May 2022, as part of the EU Project, Promoting Mental Health in Schools. He organised a one-day workshop for Ukrainian teachers on how to promote resilience in schools, 29 June 2022, Suceava University. He was a keynote speaker on Psychosocial Support for Refugee Learners, 8<sup>th</sup> ENSEC Conference, 30 June-2 July 2022 at Suceava University, Romania. He addressed the European Commission online conference on Supporting Refugee learners, 19-20 May 2022. He was awarded the Centre of Excellence by Stefan Cel Mare University, Suceava, Romania, in recognition for his contribution to the promotion of social and emotional learning and mental health in schools in Europe, 2 July 2022. He published the following:

- ⊕ Cefai, C., Spiteri, R. & Galea, N. (2022) Healthy Spaces: Co-creating Child Friendly Towns and Villages. Malta: Commissioner for Children.
- ⊕ Cefai, C. et al (2020) Evaluating the impact of a school-based, universal mental health programme in six European countries. *Frontiers in Psychology*.
- ⊕ Gabrielli, S., Roviš, D., Cefai, C., eds. (2022). Promoting Resilience Interventions for Mental Well-Being in Youth. Lausanne: Frontiers Media SA. doi: 10.3389/978-2-88974-657-6
- ⊕ Anthony, C, Elliot, S, Yost, M., Lei, P., DiPerna, J., Cefai, C., et al (2022) Multi-Informant Validity Evidence for the SSIS SEL Brief Scales across Six European Countries. *Frontiers in Psychology*.
- ⊕ Cefai, C., Cavioni, V., Bartolo, P. & Simoes, C. (2022) RESCUR Surfing the Waves: A resilience program for social inclusion and social justice. In Pranee Liamputtong (Editor) Handbook of Social Inclusion. Research and Practices in Health and Social Sciences. Springer Nature.

- ④ Cefai, C., Keresztes, N., Galea, N., Spiteri, R. (2022) The wellbeing and inclusion of children from Africa and the Middle East living in Malta. In G.Rees (editor) Handbook of Children's Risk, Vulnerability and Quality of Life: Global Perspectives. USA: Springer
- ④ Cefai, C (2022) Promoting resilience and wellbeing in children and young people. In Andrew Azzopardi, Marilyn Clark & Ruth Falzon (editors) Perspectives on Wellbeing: Applications from the field. Netherlands: Brill/Sense Publishing.
- ④ Cefai, C.& Pizzuto, S. (2022) The voices of young children experiencing difficulties at school. In Christine Hunner-Kreisel, Tobia Fattore, Susann Fegter (editors) Understanding Children's Concepts of Well-being – Challenges in International Comparative Qualitative Research. Springer.

**Dr Anna Grech** is a Member of the National Addictions Advisory Board and the Parole Board.

**Dr Olga Bogolyubova** is participating in Erasmus+ Higher Education Strategic Partnership Project (KA203); Serious Games -- Developing Emotional Competences for Nursing Students (SG4NS) coordinated by the University of Minho (Portugal). She is also involved in the "Have joined ""Collective Narcissism and a Concept of a "Just War": Cross-Cultural Perspective"" project led by Dr. Magdalena Zemojtel-Piotrowska, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland; Cross-cultural Psychology Centre". She attended the EMDR Europe Workshop Online Conference 2022, June 2022. She published the following:

- ④ Pamela Portelli, Olga Bogolyubova, Belen Tristan Lopez & Andrea Sainz-Maza (2022) A Quality Review of Smart-Phone Applications for Smoking Cessation, Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet, 26:1, 64-81, DOI: 10.1080/15398285.2021.2021372
- ④ Olga Bogolyubova, Andrey Lovakov (2022). What Do We Know About EMDR Therapy Research? A Bibliometric Analysis, Journal of EMDR Practice and Research, 16 (2), p. 76-91, DOI: 10.1891/EMDR-2021-0008"

**Dr Roberta Attard** participated in a Faculty research project "Protecting our Children: Exploring and Preventing Child Abuse" which was commissioned by the Bank of Valletta in collaboration with the Safeguarding Commission. As Head of the Department of Counselling she is collaborating with Prof. Fredric Bemak, Fulbright Scholar and Academic Program Coordinator of the Counselling and Development Program in the College of Education and Human Development and founder and Director of the Diversity Research and Action Center, besides the Founder of Counsellors without Borders. He will be visiting the Department of Counselling in March 2023 to further research in the area of crisis migration and counselling crisis migrants. He is Affiliate with the Department of Counselling. She organised a seminar for Counsellors and Guidance Teachers working with state schools on forced migration and trauma. She delivered a Masterclass for AFM Officers on Forced Migration. She organised a Research Forum: The Many Faces of Crisis Migration held at the UM and a seminar for professionals working with Victim Support Services on trauma and Forced migration. She attended the RMHC conference on Trauma-Informed Practice in Adolescent Care.

**Prof. JosAnn Cutajar** has been appointed on the Experts Board, Il-Kantuniera, The Malta Trust Foundation. She is involved in an external funded project: GEPARD Erasmus+. She organised the "GESDC Women's Day Seminar - Women and Peace on 4 March; Human Rights Platform - COVID and inequality webinar on 27 April. Together with the other Members of the Department of Gender and Sexualities she organised a Film Forum in May 2022 and Symposium on Reproduction with Prof. Joanna Mishtal. She gave a presentation on surrogacy during one of the Brown Bag Seminars. She attended the GESDC 8 July seminar meeting with Parliamentary Secretary for Equality at UM. She presented a paper on Socio-demographic characteristics of migrant women ▶

in Malta - employment during the “European Migration Network, May 2022 and attended the Intersectionality and discrimination, NCPE Conference in June 2022. She published *The commodification of family making – the case of surrogacy*. The Palgrave Handbook of Global Social Problems.

**Dr Chantal Avellino** was appointed Member on the RPSC and involved in the setting up a new committee: Europsy NAC. Currently working on a joint paper with the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI). She attended a conference organised by the Victim Support Agency - Underneath the serenity in Gozo, what are the social issues?

**Dr Maria Pisani** was appointed Member on the Platform for Multicultural Organizations which Platform was appointed by Senate and hosted by FEMA. She was reappointed on the Youth Work Profession Board. She is collaborating with the Inclusive Community Development in Research Network (ICDRN), University of Cape Town. She attended the “Children in Limbo: Youth Transitions Among Young Asylum Seekers in Malta Conference during which she launched and presented her Research Findings.

**Dr Andreana Dibben** was appointed on the Department of Social Policy and Social Work 20-year Anniversary Conference Scientific Committee. She is also a Member of Women’s Rights Foundation Board. She is collaborating with Social Europe Days Network of 10 Universities. In June 2022 she organised a seminar; Majority / Minority - Seminar with Prof. Justin Gest including a Panel Discussion. She attended the Praxis in Social Wellbeing, Online Faculty Conference during which she presented on book chapter. She was a keynote speaker at the NCPE Conference - Women and Intersecting Identity. She was part of a panel during the CGBVDV Conference - Engaging Men in Violence Prevention. She co-organised a conference in Berlin, Germany; Social Europe Days: We and the SDGs. She will be attending and presenting a Paper during the 14<sup>th</sup> FIAPAC Conference: Fertility control into the hands of women. Riga, Latvia. She published the following publications:

- ④ “Dibben, A. (2022). Reproductive politics: Policy responses to teenage pregnancy and motherhood. In M. Briguglio and M. Brown (Eds.). Social welfare issues in southern Europe. Europa Regional Perspective Series. Oxfordshire: Taylor & Francis Group.
- ④ Dibben, A. (2022). Rewriting Motherhood: Insights on wellbeing from a feminist ethnography with teenage mothers in Malta. In A. Azzopardi & R. Falzon (Eds.) Perspectives on Wellbeing: Applications from the field. Netherlands: Brill Publishers.”

**Dr Amanda Bezzina** organised a conference about Emotional Literacy: Feel and Achieve. She also attended a training programme about Quality Assurance and Teaching and Learning. She is awaiting the publication of the following:

- ④ “I feel what you are feeling”: Neural processes for empathy and its impact on academic and holistic achievement
- ④ Adopting the circle pedagogy – relatedness, autonomy and competence

**Prof. Marceline Naudi** is a Member on the Institute of European Studies Board, GESDC, the Library Committee, and the Faculty RPSC at UM. She is a Member of GREVIO Council of Europe. She is involved in various NGO boards local and European (Women’s Rights Foundation, Fondazzjoni Sebh, Malta Observatory on Femicide, Women Against Violence Europe, European Observatory on Femicide, etc.). She is involved in an externally funded project: Fem-United (EU funded). She is planning a Research Symposium with University of Zaragoza, Spain; Meeting with Prof. Emma Rees, University of Chester (UK); Visiting Fulbright Scholar, Prof. Joanna Mishtal. She organised a “Forum on Sexual Violence, in collaboration with WRF; a Public lecture



with Prof. Joanna Mishtal; a Symposium in Reproductive rights with Prof. Joanna Mishta, various workshops for professionals (police, legal, social workers, health, media professionals) on VAW/DV/Femicide, some as part of the Fem-United Project and a stakeholders meeting on femicide as part of Fem-United project. As part of Department she organised webinars where graduates presented their research and a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event - film forum on DV. She was invited to deliver Keynote at International Conference on Prevention of GBV in Europe, organised by the University of Porto (Portugal) (March 2022). She facilitated in EIGE Seminar on Improving legal responses to counter femicide, (March 2022) and participated in Fem-united project international meeting in Cyprus (April 2022). She was also invited as main panel speaker at Gender5+ Conference June 2022.

The management team of the Faculty, who are incredibly supportive, namely; the Deputy Deans, Dr Claire Azzopardi Lane (Head, Department of Gender and Sexualities) and Dr Gottfried Catania (Department of Psychology), Ms. Alison Darmanin (Faculty Manager), Dr Christian Borg Xuereb (Head, Department of Gerontology and Dementia Studies), Dr Sandra Scicluna (Head, Department of Criminology), Dr Sue Vella (Head, Department of Social Policy and Social Work), Dr Roberta Attard (Head, Department of Counselling), Prof. Joanne Cassar (Head, Department of Youth and Community Studies), Dr Maria Victoria Gauci (Head, Department of Disability Studies) and Dr Ingrid Grech Lanfranco (Head, Department of Child and Family Studies). I would also like to thank the Faculty Board, RPSC, FDC and FREC members for their important role in running this Faculty. The Faculty community depends on everyone's contribution; academic members of staff; whether resident, casual or visiting, dissertation and placement supervisors, RSOs, M.Phil./Ph.D. candidates, administrative members of staff, students, housekeepers, beadles and stakeholders all of which make this a cohesive Faculty keen to respond to the challenges of society. A particular appreciation is directed towards 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 [socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt](mailto:socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt)