

L-UNIVERSITÀ TA' MALTA
Msida - Malta
FAKULTÀ GHAT-TISHIH TAS-SOĊJETÀ



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
Msida - Malta
FACULTY FOR SOCIAL WELLBEING

From the Office of the Dean
Newsletter: 'Connect' | No 5

'Yours is one of the most collegial Faculties we have'.
Rector's message to the Dean

25/7/2017

Dear Colleagues,

The 2016-17 academic year is at the final straight. It has been indeed an eventful, packed and exciting academic year, my first as Dean. My appreciation extends to Dr Greta Darmanin Kissaun, Deputy Dean, the Heads of Department, the Faculty Officer, the Administrative Staff, the Resident, Visiting and Casual Academic Staff both part and full-timers and the students for making this an exceptional experience. This was a concerted and collective effort and the slogan for this year, *Connect*, has indeed been a fundamental ingredient in the operations of this Faculty. I extend my appreciation to Prof. Alfred Vella, Rector for his on-going support, the Pro-Rectors, the Deans of the other Faculties and Directors for their steadfast support.

At this early stage, it is good to mention that our [Faculty Facebook Page](#) has kept going from strength to strength, now reaching almost 2,500 likes. This is one of the ways how we are keeping in touch with our collaborators, social partners, students and the general public. Added to this we have a very active **Twitter Account** and have recently launched our **Instagram Account** as well as our own **You Tube Channel**. Keeping in touch through social media is fundamental. The [Faculty Website](#) is continuously being updated as well.

If you would like to link up with the Faculty FB Pages these are the URLs:

- **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:** <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)

Faculty activities in brief:

Once again the volume of work this Faculty is involved in is nothing short of impressive and the 5th and final edition of *Connect* for this academic year (you can retrieve previous editions here: <http://www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing/notices/connectnewsletter>) are evidence of this hard work.

Whilst I tried to mention all the events we were involved in I am pretty sure that there are many more that have been missed. The objective of *Connect* is to give a taster of what we have been involved in since the previous edition of *Connect*;

- Condolences to Ms. Charmaine Agius, Secretary to FREC and the Department of Gerontology whose mother **passed away**.
- Dr Andrew Azzopardi, Dean and Head, Department of Youth and Community Studies and Dr Marvin Formosa, Head, Department of Gerontology have been appointed **Associate Professors**.
- **Interviews** will soon take place for an academic post in the Department of Counselling (to replace Prof. Jeannie Wright) and in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work (to replace Dr Marceline Naudi who had moved to develop the DGS). The interviewing process for the Department of Youth and Community Studies post has been completed and the academic who will be filling in this post will be Dr Janice Formosa Pace. A new post has been approved for the Department of Criminology – *more details shortly*.
- We would like to welcome Dr Gissella Orsini who will be the new **Resident Academic** with the Department of Gender Studies.
- The following members of the academic staff will be on **Sabbatical** during the forthcoming academic year (2017-18): Dr Maureen Cole (Department of Social Policy and Social Work), Dr Brenda Murphy (Department of Gender Studies), Dr JosAnn Cutajar (Department of Gender Studies), Dr Gordon Sammut (Department of Psychology), Prof. Mary Anne Lauri (Department of Psychology), Prof. Marilyn Clark (Department of Psychology) and Dr Joanne Cassar (Department of Youth and Community Studies).
- Prof. Jeannie Wright (Department of Counselling) will be **moving back** to the UK. I would like to thank Prof. Wright for her commitment to the cause and to the Faculty.
- Ms. Claire Casha (Department of Family Studies) has had her appointment upgraded to **TR6**.
- Ms. Rowena Leontijevic (Faculty Officer) will be **moving** to another Faculty. A heartfelt thanks for the immeasurable service and commitment she has given to the Faculty. We wish her the very best in her new challenges. A new Faculty Officer will be appointed shortly - *more on this soon*.
- Ms. Michela Scalpello (administrative part-timer) has been **appointed** secretary with the Department of Youth and Community Studies (and will also be supporting the Department of Counselling) whilst Ms. Rita Micallef is now on reduced hours and will remain with the same Department. Ms. Lara Camilleri is the new secretary with the Faculty Office.
- Dr Anne Marie Callus has been appointed **Acting Head** of the Department of Disability Studies. Many thanks for the sterling work that Ms Vickie Gauci gave to the Department and the Faculty.
- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, has met with Inspector Charlot Casha from the **Police Forensic Unit** on possible collaborations.
- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi together with Prof. Saviour Formosa, (Head, Department of Criminology) have met with Mr Angelo Gafa', CEO of the Police Force, to explore potential **collaborations** in the area of CPD and research.

- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Prof. Saviour Formosa (Head, Department of Criminology) and Dr Greta Darmanin Kissaun, Deputy Dean (and Head, Department of Psychology) met with Ms. Mariella Camilleri and Mr. Saviour Darmanin at the CCF as a follow-up meeting to further explore student placements, research and CPD in collaboration with CCF.
- It is estimated that during these last 9 months the Faculty has delivered circa **14,000 hours of lectures** - impressive. Over 239 students have submitted their **dissertations** at undergraduate and post-graduate levels.
- A number of initiatives are currently underway to **promote** the courses of our Faculty namely, a full-page article on *The Malta Independent*, a radio campaign on *Campus FM radio*, *Bay Radio* and *Radju Malta*, an article on the *Times of Malta*, circulated a Public Service Intranet advert and an ongoing 'Like' campaign on *Facebook*.
- The Dean attended the **Dean Award Ceremonies** of the Faculty for ICT and FEMA.
- This is the link to all the **courses** being offered by the Faculty (over 30 courses) <https://www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing/notices/courses>
- **PhD candidates** who are at a different stage of their studies at the Faculty now number circa 30. An estimated 10 PhD potential candidates have made initial enquiries with the Faculty since the last edition of *Connect*.
- The first **Faculty Magazine (UNItY)** preparations are underway. We are working on content, design and funding. Work is progressing well. Many thanks to the Editorial Board for the time they are putting into this. It is planned that the magazine will be launched at the beginning of the forthcoming academic year.
- 239 students (under-grad and post-grad) are expected to **graduate** this coming November/December. One PhD candidate from the Department of Gerontology will be graduating as well.
- Work is progressing on the review process of **UREC**. The Dean is part of the Senate sub-committee working on this review process. New procedures should be in place as from academic year 2017-18.
- I would like to flag the incredible work that **FREC** is doing. I would appreciate if you could let your academic colleagues know that in terms of administrative support and coordination we run this massive operation with 'part of the time' of an admin member of staff who is also responsible for her department and an academic, Dr Katya Degiovanni, Chair, who has to juggle this task with her other responsibilities. It is important that we communicate with our students and our academic colleagues on the importance of being courteous, timely, organised and a bit patient as well. Just a case in point, Ms Agius, the administrative support worker, came in early from her bereavement leave to keep things going so that students will not be short-changed. I am sure you agree that this was an incredible show of generosity on Ms Agius' part. In the meantime, I would like to inform you that **FREC** has processed over 454 proposals this last year – impressive work by Ms Charmaine Agius, Dr Katya Degiovanni (Department of Psychology) and the FREC committee. FREC have just drafted a draft policy and procedural document to facilitate the dissertation proposal process.
- I would like to thank Dr Natalie Kenely (Head, Department of Social Policy and Social Work) for services rendered to **UREC** over and above her responsibilities.
- Work on the **Cluster on Migration Studies** is progressing well. Two meetings have taken place and an initial plan of action has been laid out.
- **Prof. Carmel Cefai** (Department of Psychology and Head, Centre for Resilience and Socio-Emotional Health) has been involved in a number of academic initiatives, namely, sitting as an International Editor of the Journal of Pastoral Care in Education. On behalf of the Centre for

Resilience and Socio-Emotional Health, Prof. Cefai presented a lifetime achievement award for the wellbeing of children and young people to Emeritus Professor Dan Olweus. Prof. Cefai was also involved in the publication of an edited book: 'Mental Health Promotion in Schools: Cross cultural Narratives and Perspectives'. Prof. Cefai attended the Uganda National Conference and also published an edited book on Mental Health in Schools.

- The Faculty will be submitting a potential candidate for the **Honoris Causa**, an initiative of Dr Marceline Naudi (Department of Gender Studies) and Dr Maureen Cole (Department of Social Policy and Social Work).
- I am pleased to inform you that work is underway for the Faculty, in collaboration with RIDT, to set up the **Jacqueline Azzopardi post-graduate scholarship in Criminology**. The scope of this scholarship is to offer a PhD on a yearly/bi-annual basis, depending on the availability of funds. The administrative component of this scholarship will be carried out jointly by the Faculty and RIDT whilst the academic aspect will be the responsibility of the Department of Criminology - *will keep you posted on developments*.
- For the first time the Faculty will be having an **Annual Calendar** published before the start of the academic year that will include all the Faculty and a number of Departmental events.
- Dr Claudia Psaila and Dr Natalie Kenely (Department of Social Policy and Social Work) visited the Department of Social Work at the University of Worcester UK, where they delivered a lecture to students on social work in Malta, and negotiated social work placement arrangements for Maltese students through the **Erasmus+** programme. They visited the social work agencies where their students will be placed this summer. The course leader and lecturers from the Department of Social Work at the University of Worcester UK reciprocated the visit. They delivered lectures to social work students as well as offered training for social work Practice Teachers. This training was attended by around 50 social workers. They were also accompanied by Dr Kenely and Dr Psaila to social work agencies in Malta where UK students could carry out their social work placements.
- Dr Andrea Dibben (Department of Social Policy and Social Work) accompanied a group of 14 students to Leuven, Belgium for the **annual gathering of social work, social policy and HR students** from nine European Universities. This was a great opportunity for students to network with fellow Europeans, discuss contemporary issues related to the theme of a 'Social Europe' and attend interesting lectures by academics and professionals working in the EU. Students also had the chance to visit a social enterprise organisation in Maelbeek, the European Parliament and Leuven University.
- Dr Natalie Kenely and Dr Claudia Psaila (Department of Social Policy and Social Work) met Dr Thomas Hulshoff and a group of 13 Students of Social Work from the Catholic University of Applied Sciences, Department of Social Work, Muenster, Germany. They delivered a **lecture on social work and social work education** in Malta and discussed and compared social work education in both Universities.
- Work is progressing well on the **MA in Mental Health**. A number of Departments from our Faculty, the Department of Mental Health (Faculty for Health Sciences) and the Department of Psychiatry (Faculty of Medicine & Surgery) are involved in this initiative.
- Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Dean, was invited by the Deputy Dean, Prof. Stephen Montefort (Faculty of Medicine and Surgery) to attend as observer for the **MD finals**.
- Dr Janice Formosa Pace (Department of Criminology) had a leading role in the launching of the **Crime Prevention Strategy**.

- The Faculty represented by the Department of Criminology and the Department of Psychology will be offering **CPD** to the Police Forensic section on *Identikit*.
- Dr Trevor Calafato (Department of Criminology) was involved in the **publication** on safety: 'Rescue Techniques for Emergency response'.
- The **Weekly Events Digest** that is being compiled by Ms. Dorianne Cortis (Faculty Office) will as from this month be sent to all our Stakeholders (apart from students and lecturers).
- Ms. Michela Scalpello (Department of Youth and Community Studies) is administering the **BA Hons. in Social Wellbeing Studies** with the support of the Faculty Officer. Kudos to Dr Ruth Falzon (Department of Counselling) who is providing the academic support. A recruitment campaign is on the way.
- Prof. Marilyn Clark (Department of Psychology) has been involved in an **international study** on 'Intimidation of journalists and self-censorship in Europe' commissioned by the Council of Europe. You can find more details by [clicking here](#). Prof. Clark is also a member of the **PVC**.
- You can find all **Press Releases** issued by the Faculty by [clicking here](#).
- There was Presidential confirmation of the new **Chapter 164 (Police Act)** which Prof. Saviour Formosa (Head, Department of Criminology) was closely involved in.
- The Department of Criminology was also involved in these **projects**; SIntegraM (Prof. Saviour Formosa in collaboration with - ERDF), CAPTIVE (Prof. Saviour Formosa, Dr Trevor Calafato Dr Sandra Scicluna, Dr Janice Formosa Pace and Ms. Isotta Rossini), SERA (Dr Trevor Calafato Dr Sandra Scicluna and Ms. Isotta Rossini), SIMWESTMED (Prof. Saviour Formosa in collaboration with the Planning Authority) and GEODE (Prof. Saviour Formosa in collaboration with the NSO).
- A new **wellbeing initiative** will soon be launched for all academic and administrative staff; innovative, fun and enjoyable – *more on this soon*.
- Ms. Amy Camilleri Zahra (Department of Disability Studies) participated in the OHS Tripartite **Conference** held in Malta during the EU Presidency. Title of paper: 'Supporting workers with disability: What does the legislation say?'
- Prof. David Abbott, University of Bristol, delivered a public lecture on 'Sex, life, death and everything in between: the intersection of male gender and disability'. Prof. Abbott was in Malta to deliver lectures to students on the **MA Disability Studies** course.
- As part of the **inclusive research project** on overprotection in the lives of persons with intellectual disability in Malta, Ms. Isabel Bonello, Ms. Charmaine Mifsud and Dr Anne-Marie Callus (Head, Department of Disability Studies) participated in the 14th Nordic Network Disability Research conference in Orebro, Sweden.
- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi had a courtesy meeting with the **Minister for the Family and Social Solidarity** Dr Michael Falzon.
- The **Research Publications and Scholarship Committee** continued meeting regularly and also hosted the last Brown Bag Seminar delivered by Dr Brenda Murphy (Head, Department of Gender Studies).
- The Department of Gender Studies is in the process of drafting a position paper that will audit and recommend strategies to ensure **gender equality**.
- Dr Andrea Dibben (Department of Social Policy and Social Work) together with the **Community Engagement Sub-Committee** is in the process of drafting a position document on Faculty community engagement.
- **Senate** kept meeting regularly. Dr Dione Mifsud (Department of Counselling), Faculty Senate representative and Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Dean, attended all the meetings.

- A very successful **Recognition Ceremony** was organised by the Department of Counselling for the TCouns. Students.
- We are working on the current **insurance policy procedures** for our Mentors/ Supervisors/ Students in collaboration with Dr Carmen Sammut (Pro-Rector) and Mr. Joseph Bugeja, Deputy Director Finance. Kudos to Dr Natalie Kenely (Head, Department of Social Policy and Social Work) for her advice.
- ‘Moral Agents and Moral Structures: a new ontological perspective on the study of people & societies’. Prof Luk van Langenhove, Institute of European Studies, VUB; United Nations University was invited to deliver this session at the **Psychology Lab**. ‘Birth order as protective or risk factor to substance use disorder is addiction – a disease or choice?’ Disease model on trial given by Petar Valkov, PhD from the University of Tarkia was also delivered at the **Psychology Lab**. A **presentation** by Prof. Jerry Kroth (Santa Clara, University of California) at the Psychology Lab was held on the unique and unconventional approach to peace psychology and nonviolence
- The **Faculty Satisfaction Survey** (for Administrators, Academics and Students) has been presented to the Rector and is now on-line:
<http://www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing/notices/satisfactionsurveys>
- The Faculty website is now hosting the main **speeches** of the Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi:
<http://www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing/notices/deansspeeches>
- The **Schedule of Graduation Ceremonies** - November/December 2017 has now been published. All the academic staff are being encouraged to attend.
- The Department of Family Studies held a **seminar** on ‘Domestic Violence Interventions. Intimate partner violence as a challenge for social and health care professionals’, led by Prof. Juha Holma from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. The Department of Family Studies also held a two-hour seminar on ‘Capturing daily life: The use of the Mobile Diary in Research’ by Prof. Anna Rönkä from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. The Department of Family Studies in collaboration with the Maltese Association of Family Therapy and Systemic Practice (MAFT-SP) also held a one-hour **lecture** on ‘Domestic Violence Interventions for Couples’, led by Prof. Juha Holma from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. This Department also organised a **training workshop** on “Randomised Controlled Trials” (RCTs) led by Professor Paul Montgomery and assisted by Ms. Ingrid Grech Lanfranco (Department of Family Studies).
- Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri, (Head, Department of Family Studies) delivered a **presentation** on ‘Adult women’s recall of their childhood experiences of domestic violence-barriers to seeking help’ at the ACAMH conference on Maternal Mental Health at San Anton Palace on the 25th May.
- A **lecture and a public conference** were organised by the Department of Youth and Community Studies (in collaboration with Agenzija Zghazagh and the Parliamentary Secretary for Sports, Youth and Innovation). The guest speaker was Prof. Howard Sercombe from the University of Strathclyde.
- ‘Crossing the Mediterranean Sea by Boat: Mapping and Documenting Migratory Journeys and Experiences’- **Final Project Report** covering data from 7 countries coordinated amongst other by Dr Maria Pisani (Department of Youth and Community Studies).
- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, has written a number of **articles** on his weekly column on TMI related to the social sector.
- Interesting Erasmus+ contacts between UM and University of Tübingen! Dr Joanne Cassar from the Department of Youth and Community Studies has conducted lectures on gender and

sexualities with MA students at the Institute of Education, University of Tübingen in Germany as part of **Erasmus+ staff mobility** for teaching.

- A presentation by Prof. Dr. Monika Bullinger at the Psychology Lab on ‘Assessing Quality of Life Across Cultures: Implications for Health Care’
- The **Strategy Team**, led by Dr Greta Darmanin Kissaun, Deputy Dean, is working hard to present an updated version of the strategy that will be presented to Faculty for wider consultation - *more on this soon*.
- A highly successful **Faculty Seminar**, ‘The Politics of Wellbeing’, was held at the Verdala Palace under the patronage of HE the President of Malta Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, the Dean, welcomed the over 60 members of staff, academics, administrators, research officers and student representatives for attending.
- The Department of Gender Studies was involved in; ‘Appearance Matter’s – Final COST’ Conference Ljubljana Slovenia; Dr Marceline Naudi (Department of Gender Studies) and Dr Brenda Murphy (Head, Department of Gender Studies) presented remotely in ‘Expressions of self in/and the media; private bodies, public bodies, mediated bodies’; Dr Marceline Naudi was involved in WAVE, Vienna, and attended and spoke at European Network on Gender and Violence Research Conference in Milan – paper entitled ‘Plus Ca change...’. Two lectures were given to the MA students by Dr Niall Richardson during an Erasmus visit. Dr Brenda Murphy presented ‘Media landscapes and expressions of self: striptease cultures and portrayal of bodies’. Dr Elona Prroj hosted by the Department of Gender Studies hosted a Public Lecture. Dr JosAnn Cutajar was involved in an Erasmus CRC NORWAY WORKSHOP. Dr Brenda Murphy opened the Mainstreaming Gender Exhibition. Dr Murphy also attended and presented a paper at WomenOnIreland Network Conference -Waterford Institute of Technology and presented a paper, ‘Patriarchy, portrayal and bodies; media landscapes and striptease cultures’. The Department of Gender Studies had a meeting with RRI Heather Rae Edinburgh/ GIC, and Edward Duca on Mainstreaming Gender. Dr Brenda Murphy was interviewed on Think Magazine on Mainstreaming Gender.
- Dr Marceline Naudi (Department of Gender Studies) also **presented** at the ‘Justice Inequality and Gender Based Violence Conference’ Bristol University, attended an Editorial Board meeting for the new Gender Based Violence Journal and also attended a GREVIO meeting in Strasbourg. The Department of Gender Studies also organised a seminar on domestic violence given by Prof. Ravi Thiara and another talk was hosted by the Department which featured, Prof. Ravi Thiara and Prof. Jeannie Wright. Dr Marceline Naudi and Aleks Dimitrijevic attended the Daphne Project Bystanders Approach to Sexual Harassment in Porto. Dr Marceline Naudi is involved in 3 projects; Bystanders Approach to Sexual Harassment (with partners from Porto (lead), Met Uni London, Slovakia); Zero Violence, Full Cooperation (with partners Ministry for Civil Liberties (lead), Uni of Worcester); Stronger Together (with partners JRS (lead), WRF). Continued work with FACE and POW of PFWS.
- Dr JosAnn Cutajar (Department of Gender Studies) sits on the President's Trust focusing on **supported housing** for young mothers.
- The Gender Issues Committee organised a Women's Day Symposium Mainstreaming Gender. Dr Marceline Naudi (Department of Gender Studies) and the Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi both sit on this **committee**.
- The **Faculty Office** led by Ms Rowena Leontijevic continued working incessantly especially during this period of the year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Leontijevic and her team at the Faculty Office for their commitment and dedication.

- The Department of Counselling have moved **offices**. Their new offices are situated close to the Matsec offices.
- The Department of Psychology had **new furniture** installed.
- Dr Trevor Calafato (Department of Criminology) was involved in the development of the **publication**, 'Rescue Techniques for Emergency Response – An Introductory Manual for European Volunteer Rescuers', which provides a set of rescue-related guidelines to volunteer teams that are members of EVOLSAR (European Association of Civil Protection Volunteer Teams).
- All Departments are currently hosting **External Examiners** to advise on the Departmental operations.
- '**Connect**' on **Campus FM Radio** [103.7fm], anchored by Dr Albert Bell will be resuming this Autumn.
- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi and Dr Natalie Kenely (Head, Department of Social Policy and Social Work) were invited to **present the certificates** for the 'Residential & Day Care Workers course' that has been organised by the Department of Social Policy and Social Work for many years.

I would like extend my appreciation to:

- the team of **HoDs** that are incredibly supportive; the Deputy Dean, Dr Greta Darmanin Kissaun (Head, Department of Psychology), Prof. Marvin Formosa (Head, Department of Gerontology), Prof. Saviour Formosa (Head, Department of Criminology), Dr Anne Marie Callus (Head, Department of Disability Studies), Ms. Rowena Leontijevic (Faculty Officer), Dr Dione Mifsud (Faculty Senate Representative and Head Department of Counselling), Dr Brenda Murphy (Head, Department of Gender Studies), Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri (Head, Department of Family Studies) and Dr Natalie Kenely (Head, Department of Social Policy and Social Work).
- 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, the Administrators and the **students** who make this a cohesive Faculty keen to respond to the challenges of society;
- finally, I would like to thank all **the administrative staff**, 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 with a different role. A Faculty depends on the collaboration and sharing of the different responsibilities. My appreciation is extended to **Ms Lara Ellul** (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 lara.ellul@um.edu.mt*



Prof. Andrew Azzopardi
Dean