



**L-Università
ta' Malta**

**Faculty for
Social Wellbeing**

University of Malta
Msida MSD 2080, Malta

Tel: +356 2340 2672
socialwellbeing@um.edu.mt

www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing

From the Office of the Dean
Newsletter: 'Connect' | No 7

5/4/2018

Dear Colleagues,

Once again this version of **Connect** will attempt to provide you; students, academics, administrators and collaborators with a snapshot of where our academic, scholarship, lecturing and social engagement efforts have been directed in these last months. As you can see the Faculty has been involved in innumerable events. The Faculty and all its 9 Departments are working on over-drive to ensure that students and our communities get the best possible service, whether it is teaching, research, dissertation supervision, placement/practicum supervision, talks, fora, seminars, conferences, symposia and mentoring. We are also in the process of preparing a number of new initiatives for the forthcoming academic year (*more on this at a later stage*).

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)

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

Condolences:

- **Condolences** to the family of Sarah Lee Borg who passed away last December. Sarah was a former student with the Department of Social Policy and Social Work.
- **Condolences** to Christa Formosa who passed away in March. Christa is an alumnus of this Faculty and read a BA (Hons.) in Social Work.

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to:

- the team of **HoDs** that are incredibly supportive, namely; the Deputy Dean, Dr Greta Darmanin Kissaun (Head, Department of Psychology), Dr Dione Mifsud (Faculty Senate Representative and Head, Department of Counselling), Prof. Saviour Formosa (Head, Department of Criminology), Dr Clarissa Sammut Scerri (Head, Department of Family Studies), Dr Anne Marie Callus (Head, Department of Disability Studies), Dr JosAnn Cutajar (Head, Department of Gender Studies), Prof. Marvin Formosa (Head, Department of Gerontology), Dr Natalie Kenely (Head, Department of Social Policy and Social Work) and Ms. Alison Darmanin (Faculty Officer),
- the **Faculty Board** members for the important role they have in running this Faculty.
- the numerous sub-committees that are involved in running a variety of activities within the 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;
- finally, I would like to thank all **the administrative staff**, both those serving the Faculty within 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 all having a different role. A Faculty depends on this mix of competencies.
- My appreciation is extended in particular to **Ms Lara Ellul** (PA to the Dean) for her dedication and constant support to my Office.

Faculty activities in brief:

- A number of academics, research officers and administrators have **joined** the Faculty Team; Dr Gianmarco Alberti (Department of Criminology), Dr Olga Bogolyubova (Department of Psychology), Dr Maria Brown (Research Officer, *Star Kids*), Ms Anne Marie Ciantar (Research Officer, *Star Kids*), Dr Jessica Bertolani (Research Officer, Department of Counselling), Ms Jamie Bonnici (Research Officer, Cluster for Migration and Belonging/FSWB), Ms Shirley Gilson, Executive Officer (Faculty Office) and Ms Angelica Fenech, Clerk (Faculty Office).
- I would like to **congratulate** Dr JosAnn Cutajar for being appointed Head, Department of Gender Studies. Congratulations are due also to Mr Elton Zammit (Department of Youth and Community Studies) for being promoted to Graduate Trainee.
- Our current **staff compliment** is made up of 50 Resident Academics, 36 Visiting Academics, 23 Administrative Staff and 312 Casual Academics.

- Following a request by the Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi, Prof Saviour Formosa (Head, Department of Criminology) has been appointed to sit on **UREC**. This appointment will guarantee that the social sciences are adequately represented.
- Dr Dione Mifsud (Senate Representative and Head, Department of Counselling) is in the process of preparing a draft nomination on behalf of Faculty Board for an **Honoris Causa**.
- Negotiations are in place to set up the **Dr Jacqueline Azzopardi Foundation** which will offer an MPhil/PhD Scholarship in collaboration with RIDT and the UM.
- The Faculty is about to embark on the publication of the **Faculty Research Journal**. This initiative will be led by Dr Maureen Cole (Department of Social Policy and Social Work).
- The Office of the Dean issued **Press Releases** on *The Psychotherapy Profession Bill* and on *The Debate on 'Sex Work'*.
- Kudos to Ms Jeanessa Bezzina (Faculty Office) who **supports** the Departments who will be hosting numerous Visiting Examiners and Lecturers in the coming months.
- The **Dean's Award Ceremony** is an event that is growing from strength to strength. This year it was held in the UM Valetta Campus. An estimated 250 people attended this event; students, academics, University colleagues, parents, stakeholders and sponsors. Apart from the high achieving students who are now on the Dean's List the Faculty also awarded Mons. Victor Grech (Dr Jacqueline Azzopardi Social Engagement Award) and Ms Marchita Mangiafico (Social Engagement Award). A number of tributes, music contributions and speeches made this a memorable event.
- The **Dr Jacqueline Azzopardi Foundation** will be set up soon (*more on this shortly*).
- The first ever **Dean's Forum** was held on Thursday 15th March 2018 at Lecture Theatre 2. During the debate each of the 4 debating groups were made up of BA, MA, MPhil/PhD students and academics, representing the 9 Departments. The groups debated the following themes: Is paedophilia a crime? Is abortion a right? Is paid sex for disabled people a form of prostitution? Is marijuana a gateway drug? Are there only two genders? 24 participants split in four groups were involved and over 150 students attended the event which included a performance by the band, 'The Busker'. The event was facilitated by the renowned actress and journalist Jo Caruana. The Dean of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi presided over the event. Dr Greta Darmanin Kissau, Deputy Dean, Pro-Rectors, Prof. Godfrey Baldacchino and Prof. Joseph Cacciottolo were present for the event. Kudos first and foremost to Ms. Marija Grech (Department of Social Policy and Social Work), Ms. Lucienne Brincat (Department of Social Policy and Social Work) and Ms. Lara Ellul (Faculty Office) who coordinated the event. The organising committee also included Mr Gottfried Catania (Department of Psychology) and Mr Paul Caruana (Department of Criminology).
- Ms Alison Darmanin (Faculty Officer) is participating in regular **meetings** with the rest of the Faculty Officers and Registrar.
- The work on the Masters in **Mental Health Studies** is progressing well.
- Members of the Departments are **promoting** their research on National Television during TVAM anchored by Ms Antonella Vassallo. It is estimated that we will have managed to participate in circa 15 slots by June. Academics have participated regularly on other programmes either as experts on the particular topics or else to promote their Departments courses and scholarship.
- A regular Faculty **promo** is being aired during the current affairs programme *Ghandi xi Nghid* on Radju Malta every Saturday.
- Each Head of Department will be invited to a **full-page interview** on the Malta Independent to promote the Department and its cause.

- The Faculty is in the process of starting to promote its courses on **Facebook**. The campaign will be launched shortly.
- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi is meeting people regularly who are interested in pursuing their **MPhil/PhD** with our Faculty. The interest is impressive and growing by the minute.
- Ms **Elaine Grech** (Department of Family Studies) has completed her PhD studies successfully. She will be graduating this coming academic year.
- Dr Marceline Naudi (Department of Gender Studies) was crucial in attracting the '**European Observatory on Femicide**', a great achievement indeed.
- The Faculty is co-organising a **National Conference** called; *Immigration and Education: A Need for a Policy*. The conference is being organised by the Office of the Pro-Rector for Student and Staff Affairs & Outreach, the Faculty for Social Wellbeing, the Faculty of Education and the Ministry for Education and Employment. Karl Azzopardi is preparing two video clips for this event.
- Kudos to Prof. Saviour Formosa (Head, Department of Criminology) for another *SIntegraM* high level UoM and PA **collaboration**.
- Kudos to Ms Charmaine Agius (Department of Gerontology) and Ms Marica Galea (Department of Gender Studies) for the excellent administrative work that they are doing in guiding our students and supervisors on the new **FREC and UREC** procedures. The team is being led by Dr Katya DeGiovanni (Department of Psychology) and the excellent committee that supports them.
- The new '**Landing Page**' for the courses being offered in 2018/19 has been updated. Kudos to Ms Dorianne Cortis (Faculty Office) for the work she has put into this initiative. (<https://www.um.edu.mt/socialwellbeing/notices/newcourses>)
- The **Administration** team being led by Ms Alison Darmanin have organised a Team Building treasure hunt in Valletta and Cottonera. The activity was very successful. Apart from that each Department is hosting a monthly **breakfast networking meeting** for all the administrative staff.
- The Faculty has just presented a 164-page **Annual Report** to the Rector and the Pro-Rectors outlining the main events and scholarship that the Faculty and its Departments are involved in.
- Ms Dorianne Cortis (Faculty Office) under the direction of the Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi has recently prepared a 30-page document on the **Faculty procedures**. This document was presented to Prof. Godfrey Baldacchino, Pro-Rector, International Development & Quality Assurance.
- The Faculty has just concluded its first comprehensive **Strategy**. After writing it up and following a process of consultation with the members of the Departments, Faculty Board and Pro-Rectors, the Faculty is now finalising it and will present to Rector in the coming weeks. Kudos to the Deputy Dean, Dr Greta Darmanin Kissaun for leading this initiative. The administrative support of Ms Charlene Fabri (Department of Disability Studies) was crucial.
- The Faculty for Social Wellbeing signed an **MoU** with the Msida Educational Hub.
- The Faculty is in the process of signing an **MoU** with Agency Support and the Tumas Fenech Foundation for Education in Journalism.
- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi is organising a meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs to explore how the Faculty can encourage more **international students** to read our programmes.
- The **TV Monitor** is proving to be another important communication resource. We are collaborating with FEMA to share and exchange information on our respective monitors to ensure more visibility of our reciprocal events.
- A number of innovative **publicity material** and activities are being organised as we start preparing to register new students for academic year 2018-19.

- A **Government intranet invitation** has been sent to inform civil servants of the circa 35 course programmes we are offering this coming academic year (2018-19).
- We are in our 45th Edition of the **Digest** organised and run by Ms Dorianne Cortis (Faculty Office). The Digest is circulated amongst all our students, academics, stakeholders and collaborators.
- A **public talk** was held in November called, *It's my right to play too!: Freeing play for disabled children* organised by the Department of Disability Studies.
- The Department of Disability Studies is working on an **International Conference** that is attracting a lot of interest both locally and internationally: *Emerging Disability Issues: Varieties of Disability Activism and Disability Studies*
- The Department of Social Policy and Social Work organised a **Public Lecture** called, *Beyond Destinies of Tradition: The state of welfare and the welfare state.*
- A **Faculty Seminar** was organised on the theme of 'migration' as part of the Social Engagement Award commitment that the Faculty took on board.
- The Faculty, in collaboration with Caritas will be working on a **Documentary** as part of this year's Social Engagement Award (won by Mons Victor Grech). It also happens to be the 50th Year of Caritas Malta.
- The draft Terms of Reference for the **Cluster for Migration and Belonging** are almost concluded. Kudos to Ms Lara Camilleri (Faculty Office) for her support in this endeavour.
- The **Community Engagement Committee** will be launching a number of events shortly (*more on this soon*).
- A one-day training **workshop** on Qualitative Data Analysis and the Use of NVivo by Dr Andreana Dibben (Department of Social Policy and Social Work), Dr Daniella Zerafa (Department of Social Policy and Social Work) and Dr Maria Brown (Visiting Lecturer) was organised by the Research, Publication and Scholarship Committee.
- The Research, Publication and Scholarship Committee organised the following **Brown-Bag seminars**; one was delivered by Dr Andreana Dibben (Department of Social Policy and Social Work), another brown-bag seminar was presented by Prof. Angela Abela (Department of Family Studies) and another by Ms Vicky Gauci (Department of Disability Studies). Kudos to Dr Anne Marie Callus (Department of Disability Studies) for Chairing this committee, the Committee itself and the immense administrative support given by Ms Lucienne Brincat (Department of Social Policy and Social Work).
- A one-day **workshop** on Supervision of Dissertations in the *Social Sciences and Humanities - A training workshop for supervisors* was delivered by Prof. Debbie Epstein and Dr Maureen Cole (Department of Social Policy and Social Work).
- A **Faculty Symposium** was held earlier on during the academic year; *The Assault on Journalism: Taking stock of pressures on journalists in the aftermath of the killing of Daphne Caruana Galizia.*
- A **seminar** was organised by the Department of Psychology; *An alternative approach to understanding anorexia nervosa in females*
- *Everyday bordering, Autochthonic Politics and The Double Crisis of Governability and Governmentality* was a **talk** organised by the Department of Gender Studies.
- *Women against Fundamentalism* was a **seminar** organised by the Department of Gender Studies.
- *The invisible generation: Older gay men and lesbians in Malta* was a **seminar** co-organised by the Department of Gender Studies & the Department of Gerontology

- *The Significance of the Couple Relationship in the 21st Century* was a **seminar** organised by the Department of Family Studies.
- *Gender quotas - A catalyst for change in Irish politics?* was a **seminar** organised by the Department of Gender Studies.
- *Being and Becoming, Identity and Identification, Politics and Power* was a **talk** organised by the Department of Gender Studies).
- *The 'other' side of the kitchen: The political liveliness of the domestic* was a **seminar** organised by the Department of Gender Studies.
- The Department of Disability Studies organised the **seminar**, *Technology and Employment of Disabled People in Malta - A complex entanglement of multiple assemblages*.
- A **Film Screening**, "The Help" was organised by the Department of Gender Studies in collaboration with the Cottonera Resource Center.
- A **research projects** is being led by Dr Janice Formosa Pace (Department of Youth and Community Studies) on Human Trafficking and is being conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice.
- Dr Albert Bell (Department of Youth and Community Studies) is conducting a **research** as part of the Department's/Agenzija Zghazagh MoU on 'gaps in the youth sector'.
- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi is working on an **initiative** in collaboration with Architect Antoine Gatt from the Faculty of the Built Environment, an event focusing on the converging of environmental, economic and social wellbeing.
- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi is working on an **initiative** with the Local Councils Association (*more on this soon*).
- The **project** *Star Kids* is progressing well. Dr Maria Brown and Ms Anne Marie Cutajar are the research officers working on this project in collaboration with MCA. Prof. Azzopardi is leading this endeavour.
- The Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi gave a **talk** to over 30 students at the Higher Secondary School to students interested in our courses.
- Dr Greta Darmanin Kissaun, Deputy Dean, gave a talk to BPW (Valletta) Malta at **Careers Day**.
- Dr Greta Darminin, Deputy Dean, gave a talk to a large number of students at the JC. She spoke to them about the varied **courses** the Faculty offers.
- The Faculty participated in an **expo** at JC. A number of admin staff were involved in running the **Stand**.
- Dr Janice Formosa Pace (Department of Youth and Community Studies) was involved in the De La Salle **Expo**.
- A number of Departments gave a contribution during the SAC Students visit to UM and we talked about our Faculty undergraduate **courses**.
- Dr Greta Darmanin Kissaun, Deputy Dean and Head, Department of Psychology and the Dean, Prof. Andrew Azzopardi gave a talk to **Gozitan Students** who visited our Faculty.
- The first **text** published by the Faculty on Social Wellbeing edited by Dr Sue Vella (Department of Social Policy and Social Work), Dr Ruth Falzon (Department of Counselling) and Prof. Andrew Azzopardi (Department of Youth and Community Studies) is progressing well and due to be sent to Sense Publishers in June.
- A **Public Debate**, *Women in Politics and Women in Media* was held at the UM. The event on gender equality in the political and media spheres was organised by the European Parliament Liaison Office in Malta and took place at the University of Malta on Friday 2nd March 2018 and featured Maltese MEPs Roberta Metsola (EPP), Miriam Dalli (S&D) Francis Zammit Dimech (EPP), Marlene Mizzi (S&D), Sylvana Debono, Editor-in-Chief RTK Radio and Prof. Brenda

Murphy, Head of the Department of Gender Studies at the University of Malta. The event was moderated by Rachel Attard, Editor-in-Chief at Standard Publications.

- Kudos to Dr Ruth Falzon (Department of Counselling) and Ms Michela Scalpello (Department of Youth and Community Studies/Department of Counselling) for the work they do to run the **BA (Hons.) in Social Wellbeing Studies**.
- Work has started on the new edition of *Unity*, the Faculty **magazine Unity** which is once again being edited by Ms Lara Ellul (Faculty Office).
- Work has started on the preparations leading to the **Round Table Stakeholders Meeting** (Theme: *Committed to pursuing and promoting scholarship that responds to social trends.*) and the **Faculty Seminar** (Theme: *Talking about the silence: should academics position themselves on controversial issues?*).
- Prof. Marilyn Clark (Department of Psychology) will be **proposing** a new MSc in Addiction Studies to Faculty Board, a degree that will be delivered in conjunction with the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery.
- Dr Dione Mifsud (Senate Representative and Head, Department of Counselling) will be **proposing** a PG Certificate in Adlerian Counselling.
- New promotional **cartoon** clips have been produced and will be aired on TV.
- Kudos to Karl Azzopardi who voluntarily does most of the **filming and editing** for Faculty events.
- The next edition of Connect will be a **special edition** that will focus on the research being conducted by the academics in the Faculty.

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