



# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 32

JUL - SEPT MALTA UNIVERSITY HOLDING COMPANY LIMITED  
2017

CEO'S Corner | Murphy's Marathon for Hospice Malta | Residential & Day Care  
Worker's Course|Focus on Personnel | Battle of the Brains - Take 3 | Bridging the Skills  
Gap in the STEM Sector | New Team Building Activities | Upcoming Courses

TOGETHER  
WE STAND...  
DIVIDED WE FALL  
—  
andulla, Berna, Guzi,  
DANU u Mary.

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Active Cooking Challenges are one of our latest team building activities that we can offer.  
FIND OUT MORE:

<https://www.universitysportsandleisure.com/team-building/>

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# CEO'S CORNER



Summer is gone and the academic year has just restarted. Looking back, I realise what an intensive few months Summer has been for MUHC. The Residence and Hotel Kappara were once again brimming with guests and activities.

This is positive from a business perspective. Moreover, the Company was also actively working towards the introduction of a number of new services in the coming year. So there never was a dull moment. Yet, the intense heat we experienced at times during this Summer was a shock even to us who are used to being cooked at this time of the year let alone our guests coming from cooler climates. This has a negative effect on business as first, one really needs to make that extra effort to be effective and, more importantly, some foreign Universities might decide, in the face of complaints regarding extreme climate conditions, to try other avenues next Summer.

So if there is any way of negotiating climate conditions with the boss upstairs for the coming Summer I will definitely give it a shot.

## **Battle of the Brains 3**

This edition of our customary Quiz Night was held on the 14th July in a quaint open air environment near the Attard Church at Saracino's Restaurant. It was a very well attended event (record attendance in fact) and this time we had the honour of having Bjorn Formosa from the ALS Malta Foundation as our guest. Over €600 were raised from the event and donated to RIDT in aid of research on ALS.

This time on my team I had both my kids (who by coincidence had just undergone their O Level and School exams in the various Chemistry, Biology, Geography, History, Religion etc. etc..) together with the wise head of RIDT CEO Wilfred Kennely. We were the Guardians of the Galaxy. No awards for guessing who came up with that name!

Once again I must congratulate the organising team (Johanna, Hannah and Paul) from our Sports and Leisure Unit who ensured a very pleasant evening for all participants. A special thanks also to the management of Saracino's who kindly sponsored this event, as well as a number of other generous sponsors. Next Quiz Night will be held some time in Spring 2018. See you there.

## New Initiatives

During the past months MUHC has been preparing to delve into two new activities on Campus – the hiring of Masters graduation gowns to new graduands for the November/December ceremonies and the introduction of billboards in select spots along the University Ring Road and the main motorway leading to the University. We are continuously on the look out to see how we can offer more relevant services to students. We do have a few other ideas up our sleeves that we are exploring in this regard.

## Murphy goes International

This coming October we are sending our BRND WGN & University Ring Road Races mascot Murphy to Hungary to participate in the 42km Spar Budapest Marathon – once again in his pink morph suit. Look out for our crowdfunding campaign in aid of Hospice Malta on [www.zaar.com.mt/murphy](http://www.zaar.com.mt/murphy).

## Go & Learn Project

MUHC and MBB successfully hosted the half-day Conference on “Bridging the Skills Gap in the STEM Sector” on the 12th September at the Malta Chamber of Commerce in Valletta. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and maths. This conference was part of the partnership between the two entities under the EU-funded Go & Learn Network. The project promotes a better understanding of the business environment and the potential of networking by providing access to an international catalogue of training seminars and company visits for students and educators.

My thanks go to the hard working bunch at our Consultancy and Training Unit. It is through their dedication and professionalism that the Group manages to research on, apply for and eventually participate in such projects.

## Personally

The stress and anxiety of waiting for the O Level results is finally over and Martina has now just started 6th Form in Sciences at St Aloysius College. It definitely is a new exciting phase in her life and whilst I tried to influence her choice of school, she being her father’s daughter, had her way in the end.

Finally made it to a 10-day family holiday in September including a week-long cruise on the Adriatic Sea. I also managed to source and ‘take over’ a couple of table soccer tables on board. So, basically I kept in shape in that regard.

Cheers

Joe

# MURPHY'S MARATHON

## FOR HOSPICE MALTA



  
BRND WGN + UNIVERSITY

RACE. WALK. RELAY.

# RING ROAD RACES

MARCH 2018

 hospicemalta  
care | compassion | dignity

 L-Università ta' Malta

 BRND WGN

 MALTA UNIVERSITY SPORTS AND LEISURE

BRND WGN  UNIVERSITY

**5KM** | **12KM** RACE / WALK

RELAY **5KM** PRIZES FOR FIRST 3 CORPORATE RELAY TEAMS

CHILDREN'S FUN RUN **800M**

  MEDAL AND GOODY BAG FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

**SUPPORT MURPHY**

RUNNING THE BUDAPEST MARATHON | HAPPENING ON THE 15TH OF OCTOBER

**DONATE TO HOSPICE MALTA.**

ENTER [ZAAR.COM.MT/MURPHY](http://ZAAR.COM.MT/MURPHY) TO CONTRIBUTE

**DONATE:**  
[www.zaar.com.mt/murphy](http://www.zaar.com.mt/murphy)

Murphy put on his running shoes for the first time ever in 2016 and took on the Vodafone Malta Half Marathon to raise funds for Hospice Malta. A year later Murphy managed to smash his Personal Best on the same course by over 13 minutes. This October Murphy is going international where he plans to run the Spar Budapest Marathon. Running 42km is already quite the challenge – imagine doing it in a Morph Suit!

Your donation will make Murphy's challenging run a little bit easier and fully worthwhile!

# Residential & Day Care Worker's Course

The graduation ceremony for the Residential & Day Care Workers Course was held on Monday 17th July 2017 at the University Residence, Lija. Twenty-three students successfully completed this one year intensive course and were granted an award in Residential & Day Care Work. This course is organized by Malta University Consulting Ltd. in collaboration with the Department of Social Policy & Social Work, Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta.



**Above:** Group photo of the graduates together with Prof Andrew Azzopardi, Dean Faculty for Social Wellbeing, University of Malta, Mr Joe Azzopardi, Group CEO, MUHC, Ms Frances Mallia, Course Co-ordinator, Ms Maria Bugeja, Administrative Co-ordinator and Ms Natalie Kenely, Academic Advisor.

**Left:** Graduate Bruce Xuereb receiving the certificate from Prof Andrew Azzopardi.



## FOCUS ON PERSONNEL

### - MARY LOU FAVA

Mary Lou Fava has been working with Malta University Broadcasting for the last 16 years, first as secretary and later as Administrative Coordinator on a part-time basis. Her main responsibility is taking care of the day-to-day administration of the Station including all purchasing and sales invoicing and the archiving of programmes aired on Campus FM.

She holds a B.A. (Hons) degree in Theology, a Certificate in Supervisory Management (with Credit) and a Certificate in Middle Management from the University of Malta.

Before getting married to George Fava, she worked as Personal Assistant to the PRO and Head of Secretariat for Social Communication of the Archdiocese of Malta. The work included the coordination of the preparatory work for the opening and subsequent running of the Media Center and its bookshops and later the setting up and running of the preprint department responsible for the publication of IL-GENS. She was also involved in the marketing campaign to present for the first time the Audited Accounts of the Archdiocese to the public.

She has two daughters and three cats!

**BATTLE OF  
THE BRAINS  
TAKE 3**

**BATTLE OF THE BRAINS  
ROUND 3**

**€610  
FOR RESEARCH  
IN ALS**

THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF THIS!



July 14 marked the third Battle of the Brains, a series of quiz nights set up by Malta University Holding Company in collaboration with the University of Malta Research, Innovation and Development Trust, to help raise funds for research in ALS.

Since its first edition last year, the quiz night has built quite a reputation for itself attracting a wide range of people, from families and friends looking for a night out with a bit of a difference, to groups of employees eyeing the event as an ideal team builder.

For the first time ever, this year's event was held at Saracino's Restaurant in Attard and doubled as a pizza night. It also marked MUHC's biggest quiz night yet with a record number of participants joining to help support research in ALS.



# Bridging the Skills Gap in the STEM Sector

Half Day Conference



On 12th September 2017, Malta University Consulting (MUC) and Malta Business Bureau (MBB), being the local partners in the Go&Learn+ Project, organised a half-day conference to promote the achievements of this project and provide a medium for a thorough discussion on 'Bridging the Skills Gap in the STEM Sector' to take place. The event was held at the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry in Valletta. The conference was attended by a number of high-profile experts, industry professionals and entrepreneurs who contributed to the two panel discussions.

Mr. Frank V. Farrugia, the Malta Chamber President delivered his welcome speech commending the collaboration between MBB and MUC to promote employability in the STEM sector. Reference was also made to the importance of innovation for local companies to remain relevant and competitive, the importance of industry to keep up with developments in technology and therefore the need for Malta's education system to develop people with STEM skills set.

MBB CEO Mr. Joe Tanti, Dr Ing. Alexia Pace Kiomall, MUC Manager and Ms. Marija Elena Borg, MBB Executive explained the local contribution to the Go&Learn+ Project where the focus was mainly on start-ups and University students. This included bringing together University of Malta students and a number of local start-ups in three study visits. Moreover, two sector specific circuits each offering six industry visits were set up (ICT for Business, Leisure & Commodity and Diversification in Gastronomy) to facilitate student visits and B2B cooperation on the international level.

Two panel discussions were held with the participation of the Rector of the University of Malta, MCAST Vice-Principal, Education Ministry Consultant, Chairperson of the Malta Chamber HR Committee, Chairperson National Skills Council, Malta Life Sciences Park Director, TAKEOFF Business Incubator Manager, one of the co-founders of Altaro Software and Founder of ELTY Food.

Discussions focused on the skills gap in the STEM sector being faced in Europe and in Malta in particular, resulting from near full employment and the lack of the proper exposure of the innovative and creative aspects of STEM subjects to excite students at the primary and secondary levels of education. The latter should translate into more students furthering their careers in STEM subjects at MCAST and at the University. The Esplora Interactive Science Centre especially if considered as an extension of the classroom is a good example of how to achieve this aim. Having adequately equipped labs will also contribute towards the solution. Parents need to be convinced of the importance for students to take up science subjects though the poor performance in examinations in these subjects is not helping. Choice of subjects at an early age is also hindering students from taking STEM subjects.

Furthermore, the local education system needs to prepare more people to take up high-end jobs. Industry and the education system need to collaborate and have the drive and discipline to do what it takes to keep up with technology. Teachers need to continuously be made aware of technological developments and understand what is happening in the industry as together with parents they are the main influencers of students. The Rector added that this October the University will be introducing a new bachelor's degree in Science and Education. This course should train students in better communicating science subjects. Employers should nurture the culture of inquiring on the place of work. Personal development at the workplace helps to reduce the shortage of STEM expertise and increase job incentive. Industry should invest more in people by employing less qualified people and provide on the job training. Story telling of success stories should be encouraged. Companies need to invest more in knowledge transfer as an incentive to staff. Closer collaboration is required between University and industry. One way of achieving this collaboration is through internships and work-based learning. Entrepreneurs can be made if training is given in the required skills.

In his closing address, MBB President Dr. David Zahra stated that by 2025, the demand for STEM professionals is expected to grow by around 8%. Meeting this increase in demand requires all main stakeholders in particular government, educators, employers and students to give priority to this sector. The formation of strategic partnerships between all stakeholders is one way of achieving this.



# New Team Building Activities

**BOOK YOUR AUTUMN TEAM BUILDING EVENT TODAY**

[info@universitiesportsandleisure.com](mailto:info@universitiesportsandleisure.com)

## NEW TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES

**NAME IT! WE CAN OFFER IT!**



FROM HEATED SURVIVAL GAMES SUCH AS LASER TAG AND ARROW TAG TO A RELAXED DAY OF TREKKING IN BEAUTIFUL SETTINGS AROUND MALTA TO SOME MIND-BOGGLING FUN IN ESCAPE ROOMS FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE MENTALLY STIMULATING. WE HAVE IT ALL!

WANT TO MAKE A DAY OUT OF IT? WE CAN EVEN CATER FOR LUNCH (PRE-PACKED OR SIT-DOWN) AND DRINKS AS WELL AS SPEECHES AND PRESENTATIONS. LET'S TALK!

# Upcoming Courses

<http://muhc.com.mt/category/consulting/current-courses/>

**Training course on SME internationalisation and export management**

TRADEMALTA  
SUPPORTED BY  
HSBC Commercial Banking



**Starting Wednesday 24th January 2018, every Wednesday until 28th March 2018.**

TradeMalta is organising a 10-week training course (3 hours a week) for early-stage exporters, in collaboration with Malta University Consulting Ltd. The purpose of the course is:

- To provide structured insight on the key strategic issues of internationalisation
- To provide practical training on the most essential skills in managing an international operation

The SME Internationalisation and Export Management course covers such topics as:

- Readiness and key strategic issues
- Value proposition and marketing strategy
- Financing and risk management
- Trade Finance
- Managing an international enterprise

- Key accounting and forecasting issues
- Channel partner management
- Market research
- Presentation and collateral

The course will include two interactive panel discussions with experienced exporters. Apart from the course, the **Go Global** programme includes a diagnostic report of the export readiness of the participating companies as well as incentives for SMEs to attend fairs and one to one meetings with potential leads. This training course is accredited as part of the University of Malta's Programme in the Liberal Arts and Sciences (PLAS). HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. is the supporting partner in this initiative.

TradeMalta will provide details of the course fee and other conditions. Interested companies should submit expressions of interest to [info@trademalta.org](mailto:info@trademalta.org). Places for this course are limited. For more information, please call us on 2247 2400 or visit [www.trademalta.org](http://www.trademalta.org).

MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING  
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
L-Università ta' Malta

MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

**The Art of Public Speaking**

Friday 6th October — Friday 24th November 2017  
17:30-20:00 hrs (20 hours)



**Venue:** The University Residence, R Mifsud Bonnici Street, Lija

**Lecturer:** Dr. Joseph G. Agius

**Course fee:** €200 (Cheques payable to Malta University Consulting Ltd)

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email: [maria.bugeja@muhc.com.mt](mailto:maria.bugeja@muhc.com.mt) | website: [www.muhc.com.mt](http://www.muhc.com.mt)

MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

**Get QUALIFIED**

**Pharmacognosy and Herbal Products**

25th June—27th July 2018  
(28 hours)



This course has been approved by the National Commission for Further & Higher Education as equivalent to Level 6

**Venue:** The University Residence, R Mifsud Bonnici Street, Lija

**Lecturer:** Prof. Everaldo Attard

**Course fee:** €350 (Cheques payable to Malta University Consulting Ltd)


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MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
L-Università ta' Malta

**A course for dementia caregiving in the community**

16th October—20th November 2017  
18:00-19:30 hrs



**Venue:** The University Residence, R Mifsud Bonnici Street, Lija (ample parking space available)

**Co-ordinator:** Dr. Charles Scerri

**Course fee:** €93

**Note:** Sessions will be delivered in English

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