



# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 33

OCT - DEC 2017 MALTA UNIVERSITY HOLDING COMPANY LIMITED

CEO'S Corner | Murphy's Marathon for Hospice Malta | An MUHC Christmas Initiative | Focus on Personnel | The BRND WGN & University Ring Road Races | Malta University Language School | Consultancy Projects | Team Building Events | Upcoming Courses |



# CONTENTS

## Inside this issue:

02

### CEO'S CORNER

what the company got up to recently as told by Group CEO, Joe Azzopardi.

05

### MURPHY'S MARATHON FOR HOSPICE MALTA

all about how Murphy (the mysterious guy dressed from head to toe in pink) has helped raise over €1400 for Hospice Malta.

06

### AN MUHC CHRISTMAS INITIATIVE

an overview of our recent collection for the Valletta Food Bank in light of our yearly Christmas Drinks.

07

### FOCUS ON PERSONNEL

meet Perit Dr. Joseph Spiteri, our academic consultant, who is the first Head of the Construction and Property Management Department in the Faculty for the Built Environment at the University of Malta.

08

### THE BRND WGN & UNIVERSITY RING ROAD RACES

Malta University Sports and Leisure will be holding the 7th edition of their road running event supporting Hospice Malta on the 11th of March.

09

### MALTA UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE SCHOOL

an overview of their start to the new year.

10

### MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING LTD.

ongoing consultancy projects.

11

### TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES

some of the latest team building activities organised by Malta University Sports & Leisure.

12

### UPCOMING COURSES

some of the latest training courses being organised.



---

Check out our wide range of Merchandise online:

<https://www.universitysportsandleisure.com/shop/>

---

# CEO'S CORNER



## Looking Back at 2017

2017 was a good year for MUHC Group in more ways than one. Apart from the positive operational and financial performances, the year was characterised by major inroads on the regulatory front. Towards the end of the year, the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) finally issued the much awaited Hostel Licence for a major part of the Residence Complex. At about the same period of the year we also received the MTA Licence for the Snack Bar at the 5-a-side Pitches Complex on Campus. We hope to open the Snack Bar for business soon.

During the year we successfully laid the groundwork for the extension of the current lease agreement of the Residence for an added period of two to four years beyond 31st December, 2018. We envisage the extension agreement to be signed and dusted by the end of January.

I am particularly pleased with the Group's efforts to diversify. The successful management of the hiring of Masters Graduation Gowns for the first time merits particular mention. A lot of preparatory work has also been made for the eventual installation of a number of billboards on University Grounds. We expect to see the first billboards in place sometime during February.

## Looking Forward to 2018

The first quarter results for the financial year 2017/18 indicate that we are on the right track towards achieving our goals.

I am anxious to see the result of our efforts at the Language School to penetrate new markets particularly the Spanish, Chinese and Indian markets. I wish to congratulate the School's administration for their continuous endeavour to consolidate and expand the business. This they do without ever taking their eye off quality and regulatory obligations.

2018 also promises to be interesting in the Consultancy area with MUHC already involved in a number of local and international projects. Dr Ing Alexia Pace Kiomall's participation last month in the kick off meeting in Madrid of an Erasmus funded project on Gastronomy is just one out of such opportunities. Projects are coming in thick and fast in the various areas of botanical research, engineering, cost optimisation, transport and energy conservation, amongst others.

## **New Newsletter Format – A Year After**

This edition of the Newsletter marks the first anniversary of the new format. The change to a quarterly publication and the renewed look and feel have attracted positive comments from the readers. We will continue to make the Newsletter as interesting as possible. Its main aim is for the audience to get to know what is going on at MUHC and the people involved.

## **BRND WGN & University Ring Road Races**

With every new year the attention of the Sports and Leisure Unit turns towards the next Ring Road Races.

This year, the Races will be held on the 11th March and registrations are already open at <https://www.universitysportsandleisure.com/university-races/>. The customary crowdfunding campaign in aid of Hospice Malta is also ongoing. Check it out on [www.zaar.com.mt/murphy](http://www.zaar.com.mt/murphy). Last year the Races registered a number of records. I am positive that the upcoming event will prove equally exciting. Throughout the years sponsorship backing has grown steadily similarly to the participation levels and media coverage.

See you there.

## **Who's Who – Coming and Going**

The personality in this edition is Architect Dr Joseph Spiteri. Dr Spiteri, a consultant academic, has been collaborating for years (since the 90's) with MUHC in the field of property valuation, accessibility audits and Environmental Impact Assessments. We hope to have many more years of collaboration with him.

Unfortunately, Hannah Pace has decided to further her career in other areas. She will be leaving full-time employment with MUHC just after the Ring Road Races in March with our thanks and best wishes. She has kindly accepted to keep helping out occasionally in MUHC events. So it is not a complete goodbye either.

We welcome on board Ms Michela Checchi who will be joining the Sports and Leisure Unit in May as an Executive Officer – Entertainment & Merchandising. Ms Checchi, who is Italian, already has a number of years' related experience working in Malta and knows the local scene well.

Finally, our heartfelt best wishes go to Johanna Galea – Manager Entertainment & Merchandising – for a successful conclusion of the adoption process from India. We will be missing the services of Ms Galea for a number of months once she receives the go ahead to travel to India and bring home Gigi.

## **Christmas Cheer and.....Karaoke**

MUHC's Christmas drinks for staff and guests were held on the 18th December. The event was quite well attended and this year we chipped in individually to the Valletta Food Bank initiative. We managed to knock up quite a bounty.

As usual we organised the Christmas collection of funds in favour of Hospice Malta. This will now go to bolster further the funds collected from the Ring Road Races, later on this year, for the same cause.

Finally, the annual dinner/karaoke was held at Da Luigi Restaurant Rabat on the 9th January. The place was exclusively reserved for MUHC for the night and besides enjoying a good meal we delivered varied individual renditions in rock, blues and pop, amongst others. The cherry on the cake must have been the whole group singing as one Queen's timeless Bohemian Rhapsody. Eventually we had to leave since the neighbours were complaining - not sure if the reason was the loud noise or the quality of the singing though!

## **Personally**

It was definitely a more pleasant and normal Christmas/New Year period for me when compared to the year before. At the time of writing this piece I am still waiting to collect my belated Christmas present - my new Audi A4.

Strange, once my old (12-year old) Picasso Xsara got wind of a new rival in the offing, she started playing up. In a matter of weeks, I suffered a slow puncture, a broken self-starter, a flat battery and lately the CD player has gone haywire. She is obviously broken hearted - so I have decided to keep her for the time being.

Cheers

Joe

# MURPHY'S MARATHON

## FOR HOSPICE MALTA

Running 42km at the Budapest Marathon in a Pink Morph Suit to Raise Funds for Hospice Malta.

Malta University Sports & Leisure Philanthropic Cause October 2, 2017 at 7:24 am



€1,456.53  
pledged of €1,200.00 goal

26  
backers

88  
Days Left

[SUPPORT NOW](#)

Project Ends on March/31/2018

**TARGET REACHED!**  
[www.zaar.com.mt/murphy](http://www.zaar.com.mt/murphy)

For three editions now, Murphy 'our mysterious guy dressed from head to toe in pink' has donned his running shoes to help raise funds for Hospice Malta. Over time Murphy has built quite a reputation for himself (running in a bright pink morph suit who wouldn't...?) and in previous years has managed to raise a substantial amount for Hospice Malta through his efforts.

Having already run the Malta Half Marathon two years in a row, during our 2017 post-mortem meeting which we hold yearly after the races, we started thinking of new challenges for Murphy but opted to put things on hold since we had plenty of time to look into things.

Come summer though a great opportunity literally knocked on our door and before we knew it we were planning things out with BRND WGN to figure out how best to market Murphy's latest campaign. As always though, we had stepped things up; this time Murphy would be jet setting off to Budapest and would be taking on a full marathon. The cherry on the cake is that his race would be taking place in October so we would be able to put our entire focus on this rather than having to juggle it with the preparation for the races as in previous years.

Murphy did in fact complete his marathon and his efforts didn't go unnoticed. Apart from the general public we were extremely appreciative of the numerous companies who reached out to help us reach our target. I guess you could say that our year started off with a bang since by January we had exceeded our target by almost €300. The campaign is being left open until Mid March as part of our build up to the BRND WGN & University Ring Road Races.

# AN MUHC CHRISTMAS INITIATIVE

In 2016, our company took on the Lovin Malta's Miled Challenge and it was a huge success. This Christmas we decided to organise something similar and this time we collected food to be donated to the Valletta Food Bank. The team even took things one step further by organising a collection which was donated to Hospice Malta in lieu of a Christmas gift for the CEO

Christmas is a time of giving and it's always great to see our team from Malta University Holding Company do their part each year!



**Above:** Group photo of some of the members of our team with their collections for the Valletta Food Bank.

**Left:** Some of the items donated towards this initiative

The collection took place during the company's annual Christmas Drinks held at the University Residence in Lija.



## FOCUS ON PERSONNEL

### - PERIT DR. JOSEPH SPITERI

Perit Dr Joseph Spiteri is the first Head of the Construction and Property Management Department in the Faculty for the Built Environment at the University of Malta.

His career at the University of Malta started in 1990 in the Department of Architecture and during this period has been responsible for introducing several construction cost and management study units at undergraduate and postgraduate level. He has run construction management courses at middle management level in conjunction with government departments and more recently co-ordinates the post graduate evening Master's degree course in Project Management.

Since 1994 he has been collaborating with MUHC and its fore-runner MUS Ltd, providing consultancy to the University Projects Office and the co-ordination of pioneering Environmental Impact Assessments in Malta. More recently he has provided expertise in property valuation and accessibility audits for studies commissioned to MUHC.

He has a special interest in accessibility for all design. In 2012 he compiled the Access for All Design Guidelines used by the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability as a benchmark for accessible design and has created and worked with teams to deliver EU funded research projects in the field. He also has a wide experience in property valuation and has carried out several commissions involving a wide range of properties.

As part of voluntary work he has contributed, within the NGO Foundation for Active Aging, to the establishment of a national standard for Old People's Homes.

THE BRND WGN &  
UNIVERSITY  
RING ROAD RACES



BRND WGN +  
UNIVERSITY

RACE. WALK. RELAY.

11TH **RING ROAD**  
**RACES** MARCH

UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS TRACK

FOLLOW ON: [FACEBOOK.COM/RINGROADRACES](https://www.facebook.com/ringroadraces)

HALF THE PROCEEDS  
WILL GO TO



**hospicemalta**  
care | compassion | dignity



**BRND  
WGN**



# Malta University Language School

**A NEW YEAR**

The year has started on a positive note. Once again we were back in January after our Christmas recess and opened our doors to welcome a lovely group of university students from Konkuk University, South Korea. These are having lessons at Malta University Language School in Lija but are staying at the Kappara Hotel.

We are also proud to say that we are experiencing interest from countries such as Colombia, India and China. So much so we have already welcomed two long term students together who will be staying with us for several months together with a number of interested applicants.

The ocean is so vast and we are casting our nets to try to catch as many fish as we can.....  
metaphorically speaking!!

Let's hope that 2018 will be a bright and prosperous year for all of us.

Yours,  
Jean





# Malta University Consulting Ltd.

## Recent Projects

On 31st October, Alexia Pace Kiomall and Mario Cachia participated in the Research & Innovation (R&I) Café, 2017. The R&I Café is an annual event organised by Malta Enterprise, with the support of the Malta Council of Science and Technology. This year's event was held at the Esplora Interactive Science Centre, Kalkara.

R&I Café centres on promoting research and development activities in industry and forms part of the SME Week 2017 programme of activities co-ordinated by the Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Business and supported by the Enterprise Europe Network. The event focused on the various national and EU R&D funding initiatives. A panel debate on challenges for research in industry followed. MUC's participation included the delivery of a presentation on the services offered by MUHC with emphasis on consultancy, training and laboratory testing and the manning of an info desk facilitating one-to-one meetings with entities interested in MUHC's services.



Following the acceptance of a project proposal funded via Erasmus+ in the area of Gastronomy, Dr Ing. Alexia Pace Kiomall, on behalf of Malta University Consulting Ltd attended the kick-off meeting in Madrid held between 4th-5th December 2017. The project is led by the Spanish partner - CECE - and includes participants from ENAIP & UNINDUSTRIA SERVIZI E FORMAZIONE (Italy), ACADÉMIE NATIONALE DE CUISINE (France), FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE HOSTELERÍA (Spain), and Internationaler-bund (Germany). The objective of the project is to identify the good practices that have emerged at local and / or European level in the use of gastronomy and understand how they can be transferred into new professional skills to be included in initial or continuing professional training programs.



# Team Building Activities

**BOOK YOUR SPRING TEAM BUILDING EVENT TODAY**

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

SOME SNAPSHOTS OF OUR LATEST TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES HELD OVER THE AUTUMN AND WINTER MONTHS.



WE ALSO HELD OUR VERY OWN TEAM BUILDING DAY WHERE THE TEAM GOT TO TEST THEIR SKILLS AT LASER TAG AT BUSKETT GARDENS. THEY THEN HEADED DOWN TO ATTARD FOR A TREASURE HUNT AROUND THE AREAS AND ENDED THE DAY WITH A TEAM BUILDING LUNCH. EVERYONE SEEMED TO HAVE A BLAST AND ARE ALREADY ASKING WHEN WE ARE PLANNING ON HOLDING THE NEXT ONE..

# 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 expression of interest to [Info@trademalta.org](mailto:Info@trademalta.org). Places for this course are limited. For more information, please call us on 2247 241 [www.trademalta.org](http://www.trademalta.org).

MALTA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING  
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
UNIVERSITY OF 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)

address: R. Mifsud Bonnici Str, Lija tel: +356 21240746/99829244  
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)

address: R. Mifsud Bonnici Str, Lija | tel: +356 21240746/99829244  
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

**MATLAB® TRAINING COURSE**



Malta University Consulting Ltd is organising a 24-hour **MATLAB® Training Course**

The course is designed to provide training in MATLAB® with special reference to programming, data analysis and visualisation to participants from a variety of academic backgrounds working or studying in various sectors including engineering, finance, social sciences, health services and higher education.

**Date:** 5th February, 2018 (8 sessions)

**Time:** 5.00pm — 8.00pm

**Venue:** Training Room 108, Level 1, IT Services Building, University of Malta

**Course Tutor:** Prof Cristiana Sebu

**Registration Fee:** €250/UoM Students €230

For further information please contact Malta University Consulting Ltd  
Tel: 21240746/99829244 email: [maria.bugeja@muhc.com.mt](mailto:maria.bugeja@muhc.com.mt)  
Website: [www.muhc.com.mt](http://www.muhc.com.mt)

© 2015 The MathWorks, Inc. MATLAB and Simulink are registered trademarks of The MathWorks, Inc. See [www.mathworks.com/trademarks](http://www.mathworks.com/trademarks) for a list of additional trademarks. Other product or brand names may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders.