

Becoming an
Entrepreneur

A Time for
Everything

Graduation
2013



Photoshop Toons!
BUILDING ARTISTIC WORKS FROM SCRATCH



GameJam!
THE FULL STORY BEHIND THE 40HR CHALLENGE

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From the Editors



When our Principal, Mr. Charles Theuma told me a few months back that the 2nd issue was going to be a Bumper issue, I couldn't agree more ... Today I choose to go back on that and present to you the 3rd issue of Aspire e-Magazine – Bigger, Better and Broader in all aspects. Indeed it is only due to Mr. Theuma and the academics at St. Martin's that all this was possible.

We have dedicated this issue in part to the achievements of so many people due to the diligence and sterling work offered at the Institute to all its students. Through our affiliation with the University of London we have made it easier for students to acquire First Class Degrees in different areas of study. You will be enthralled by the amount of interviews and lectures given by foreign lecturers at the Institute and the effusive testimonials by current and past students who have moved on to continue progressing in life to rich green pastures - where the heart can indeed roam.

It is currently a time of exams and studying, to be soon followed by a well-deserved break for students and lecturers alike; a break which will serve to relax the brain and get the mind thinking about what the next academic year will offer.

The yearly Open-Day will be held as usual at the premises of St. Martin's Institute of I.T. in Hamrun, so mull it over and follow the trend, follow your mind, follow your instinct and apply for a UOL Degree under the tuition of our academic staff.

Till then I wish you a great Summer and many a day on the beach sipping cold drinks and savouring your achievements!


Joseph Camilleri,
Editor in Chief

Summer is here... again. One month away to be precise and the majority of our readers are wrapping up their studies and getting ready for their summer recess. Yet, we know that there are some true bookworms out there; so yet again we are publishing our 3rd issue of Aspire e-Magazine.

With the huge success of implementing videos with-in issue 2 being so obvious, we have decided to finally launch our [YouTube channel](#). Feel free to subscribe, comment and like any videos you might fancy.

Once more, we have increased the interaction within the contents page by giving you the possibility to click on any image within the contents' image collage and automatically it will direct you to its respective article's page. Last but not least, don't forget to 'Like' our [Facebook page](#), and do invite your friends to do so too ... we will definitely be filling the void between one issue and the next. Until then, I wish you all the best.


Keith Pace, Co-Editor,
Art & Creative Director.



Editor In Chief

Joseph Camilleri, jcamilleri@stmartins.edu

Art/Creative Director

Keith Pace, kpace@stmartins.edu

Graphic Artist & Photography

Keith Pace, kpace@stmartins.edu

Contributing Writers

Joseph Camilleri, jcamilleri@stmartins.edu
Charles Theuma, ctheuma@stmartins.edu.mt
Jonathan Barbara, jbarbara@stmartins.edu.mt
Roberta Fenech, fenechrob@gmail.com
Raissa Borg, raissa_4996@hotmail.com
Emily Demajo, Emily_demajo@hotmail.com
Jonathan Grumley, jonathangrumley@gmail.com
Dylan Busuttill, dylan9b@gmail.com

Sales Officer

Ying Yujun (Joyce), yyujun@stmartins.edu.mt



email: infodesk@stmartins.edu

Tel: (356) 21 235451 - 21 239450

Website: www.stmartins.edu



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Principal Matters



We are in the twilight of this academic year. Most of our students will be reading this latest edition of the Magazine in the comforting holiday period, whilst academics are still in the process of closing the year looking forward to a period of rest during their vacation leave. This is the cycle of an academic institution, each year offering new experiences, new people and new challenges.

I wish to take this occasion to congratulate the two individuals who have painstakingly taken substantially from their time to chronicle the salient occurrences in this compilation. Joe's editorial capability twinned with Keith's creative acumen and toil to produce such a neat production from its very in-

ception is highly commendable and appreciated. This project wouldn't have materialised so successfully if these two gentlemen hadn't given their full commitment whilst at the same time seeing to their duties as lecturers.

This edition is a bumper edition focusing mostly on people - students, alumni and academics who have taken seriously to their aspirations and worked hard to achieve their goals. These people are a beacon to all of us who strive hard to reach the finish line, difficult as the road may be.

I conclude by wishing all readers, near and far, happy and relaxing holidays.

Be an Ambassador

St Martin's Institute of I.T. student Mr. Muhtadi Mehdawi receiving his reward from Marketing Director Alessandra Theuma for successfully recommending the Institute's portfolio of programmes to his friends in a very positive manner and with success.

Why not take this opportunity and become a St Martin's Ambassador?

Encourage your friends to register as students at St Martin's and receive a reward for your efforts.

For more details write to yyujun@stmartins.edu.mt



Graduation 2013 – A Day to Remember!

London, home to splendour originated from hundreds of years of intricate history, an inspiring amalgamation of old and new, where an intermingling of Royalty and High Society have paced the streets and avenues for centuries. This is the home of the University of London; born more than 150 years ago, when Queen Victoria signed the University of London's 4th Charter, making the University of London's International Programmes the first to offer degrees to students worldwide. With over 50,000 students found all over the world, the University of London has one of the largest international programmes and St. Martin's Institute of Information Technology is proud to be an affiliate of this highly esteemed institution and thus collaborating with the University of London in its goal to continue its reputation for high academic standards deep into the 21st century.

On the 19th of March 2013, a delegation from St. Martin's Institute of I.T. proudly entered the Barbican Centre, set in the Senate House, home to the University of London, considered an iconic addition to the London skyline, veritably London's 'first sky scraper'.

Amongst this delegation were graduates from both faculties within the Institute of St. Martin's. Technology students and Business students were eagerly anticipating the long-awaited ceremony presided by HRH the Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University of London.

On this bleak, typical British day, nothing would dampen the spirits of these fresh graduates who had worked hard for years to be present on this much awaited day. A day which would be remembered long after the photos have faded, a day which commemorated for another year the success story of St. Martin's Institute's hard endeavours to help its students towards an excellence mirrored in its over forty percent First Class Honours and Second Class Upper achievements by its hard-working and continually monitored students ... now graduates.

This success story is repeated every year at St. Martin's Institute, but every year is seen as a '... fresh reminder to why we are here as educators of our society endeavouring to bring the excellence of the University of London to the Maltese students', says Mr. Charles Theuma, Principal and Founder of St. Martin's Institute. His exuberant smile betrays his excitement as he once again passes the threshold of the Senate House, accompanied by an equally enthusiastic throng of graduates who have been under his keen eye for the past three years, a symbol of his success and an extension of his vision – the continued delivery, by highly qualified educators of an enriching and unrivalled tertiary education under the auspice of the famed University of London International Programmes.



Some general information about the University of London -

The London School of Economics and Political Science

Founded in 1895, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is regarded as an international centre of academic excellence and innovation in the social sciences. The 2008 HEFCE Research Assessment Exercise confirmed LSE as a world leading research university.

The School had the highest percentage of world leading research of any UK university, topping or coming close to the top of a number of rankings of research excellence.

LSE academics act as advisers to governments, serve on commissions and are seconded to national and international organisations. The School regularly attracts leading public figures to give lectures, attend seminars and consult staff – recent high profile visitors have included Peter Mandelson, Professor Noam Chomsky and Professor Paul Krugman. LSE's central location offers easy access to the vast cultural and social life that London has to offer.

Goldsmiths, University of London

Goldsmiths is internationally known for innovation in subject areas covering the arts, humanities, social sciences, computing and teacher training. We look at subjects in creative and unconventional ways, but everything we do is based on the highest academic standards of teaching and research.

Why study with us?

Goldsmiths offers a distinct and highly creative environment in which to study. As a student here you'll be taught



innovative subjects by world-leading academics. You'll learn in the heart of London, benefiting from our global links and international reach. You'll develop the skills, experience and connections that will help you make sense of the world and explore your passions. And you'll become a valued part of a welcoming and broad-minded community.

Many of our lecturers and academics are active in the creative and cultural industries, so your learning will be informed by current practice. You'll also benefit from our interdisciplinary approach to learning and research: our departments and smaller centres and units often interact to develop new perspectives and insights into each other's subjects.

We're based in New Cross, South East London, an eclectic and creative area with lots to see and do locally. New Cross also has excellent transport connections to the heart of the capital – central London is just 15 minutes away by train. Our single campus means that you don't have to travel far to access our great facilities and halls of residence.



Royal Holloway, University of London
Royal Holloway was founded in 1886. It received its charter from the University of London in 1900 and later merged with Bedford College (est. 1849). The College today has over 9,000 students studying for degrees in the arts, sciences, humanities and social sciences. Students at Royal Holloway benefit from studying at a spacious, largely residential campus, whilst the attractions of London are only a 35 minute train journey away.

Why study with us?

We are ranked among the top research-led universities in the UK and a University of London degree will lead to top career opportunities. Royal Holloway is a vibrant community with students from over 130 countries. We are an innovative and forward-looking institution, acknowledged worldwide for cutting edge research and excellent teaching.

Becoming an Entrepreneur



Mr. Charles Theuma, Principal of St Martin's Institute had the opportunity to interview Mr. Winston Zahra, CEO of Island Hotel Group Holding plc. Mr. Zahra shared his business experience and ideas with St Martin's students and guests. This interview entitled - "The Relationship of Entrepreneurs and Their Business" took place at St Martin's Institute on Wednesday, 27th March.

With his uncle and Father before him both starting successful businesses in the 70s, Mr. Zahra continued the family tradition by successfully managing five separate hotels which are today renowned for excellence and perfection in service. These hotels ranging from the Bugibba Holiday Complex to the Radisson Golden Sands in Mellieha, cater to different tastes yet are in their own way a symbol of success from the business aspect.

From the teaching profession Mr. Zahra's father decided to dive into

entirely unknown waters in the shape of what is today called Alpine Holdings. From Alpine rent-a-car to an Insurance agency to a tourist agency to a factory – Castille Leathers as known at the times, Mr. Zahra senior and his brother grew from one taxi to the enterprise we can see today in a matter of 40 years of entrepreneurship.

After retiring and realising that such was not his lot, Mr. Zahra Senior decided to continue increasing on the already existent hotel in Bugibba from 200 rooms to just under 500 rooms, thus initiating the birth of Island Hotels Group.

After successfully reading for a Degree in Hotel Management, Winston Zahra Jr. decided not to fulfil his dream to live abroad in the Unit-

ed Kingdom working at the Ritz, but take on a challenge put forward by his father. A challenge which was undertaken with such a great success that 22 odd years later Mr. Zahra has stepped in his father's shoes effectively creating Island Caterers in the process.

Having taken such a huge step at the age of 21, Winston Zahra never lets age be of any issue. Whatever the age he says the relevance stands in the performance. Age is not an important factor, one can never know what the person can offer if the age factor is given too much prominence.

Mr. Zahra was thankful for the banking sector and investments community for his success. He could not have done it without the

right resources at the opportune moment. This shows the acute interest in his company - company which though not perfect, strives to be excellent. He readily accepted that he himself and his company were prone to mistakes as any individual or group is, stating also that 'if a mistake is genuine, people appreciate it and forgive you and move on'.

'At home we don't talk business, and at work we don't talk family'. Separation of the two according to Mr. Zahra is very important. Today he does not consider the company as a family company. 75% of the shareholding is family, but the operation is very corporate in nature. So much so, Mr. Winston Zahra is the only executive involved in the company from the whole family. He believes that there should be a separation when it comes to business and family. As soon as the 'family cash till' becomes the 'business cash till', the whole proceeding would be at loggerheads. He also states that nepotism is a factor which can erode efficiency in a business. Family should not reserve a 'Divine right' to employment in the company. This would pass a wrong message to the employees. In fact Mr. Zahra describes the company as 'A corporate entity with family values at the core'. Treating his team of employees with respect and equality would create sufferance and thus a better workplace which will in turn create respect throughout the or-

ganisation, including obviously the all-important customer. Mr. Zahra is adamant about employing people who are more approachable rather than more technical. He believes in creating relationships and being approachable is infinitely important for such a company ethos and culture.

Winston Zahra continued to reiterate the fact that opportunity comes from chance and how eager you are to take it upon yourself to master the ability for recognising the said opportunity and how fully engaged one is in their process of self-development and constantly yearns to learn and improve.



Scenic view of Radisson Golden Sands, Flagship of Mr. Zahra's company.



The Flagship of Hotel Island Holdings Group, the Radisson Blu Resort & Spa.

Non-Family Executives in Family Businesses

Roberta Fenech

The author is an Occupational Psychologist. She is an Associate Consultant for EMCS group and a lecturer at St Martin's Institute of Technology



Family businesses reach out to professionals outside the family circle to add value to the business and to ensure the growth and endurance of the business in competitive market spaces. This may also occur by necessity such as circumstances when the family members do not possess the required business skills and expertise, there are only a limited number of family members willing and able to help manage the business, the next generation is not yet prepared to run the family business or there may be no future heirs to the business.

In the minority of circumstances, integrating someone with different DNA may trigger the immune system of some family business leaders, resulting only too often in the rejection of non-family executives. Some family business leaders still prefer that family members hold executive positions; they maintain that executives who are not owners will not watch over the affairs of a business as diligently as the owners managing the business themselves. This tends to occur mostly in founder-managed small family businesses as fast growing future-looking businesses encourage the involvement of non-family executives.

Non-family executives are 'invited' into something dear to the family and are trusted with a key part of its activities, but remain guests. The best non-family executives are likely

to have the personalities and social skills to be successful in such settings, apart from the noticeable business skills. Cultural competence is also an important requirement. The ability to understand and be sensitive to the family-influenced cultural and social processes is the core of cultural competence. Cultural competence may be acquired by understanding the specific values and norms of the family business and what goals and meanings key family members give to the business. The various competencies of non-family executives are dynamic and need to be nourished through interactions and communication between individuals.

This does not mean that all family business cultures are aversive to change and that non-family executives are marionettes steered by the cultural frame of the family business. Family business cultures can be open and encourage new ideas. There exists a large variation in the way families interact with non-family executives. This interaction is very much dependent on the orientation of the family members towards the business and each other.

Families improve the likelihood of non-family executives' success if they have an outlet for voicing their opinions, wants and needs that does not directly involve the non-family executive. Such family meetings and/or

councils act as an insulator between the potentially messy processes that families engage in to distil individual preferences into coherent sets of common and communicable objectives, and the non-family executive. Non-family executive performance improves when the family speaks with a unified voice. Family meetings and councils help such a purpose. Successful non-family executives are capable of working with and navigating the interpersonal aspects of the family environment that helps define the family business. They know the issues that are important to family members and how best to deliver on their objectives. They know what is expected of them and the underlying influences on what is important to the owners. Successful non-family executives develop a heartfelt affinity for the family for which they work and have the personality that fits the family business. In many cases the emotional bond between non-family employees and the families with and for which they work become so tight that they feel like part of the family. Non-family executives may play a critical role in succession as they are often asked to help develop the next generation. Successful non-family executives in this role will require a very clear sense of their place in the family business' history and willingness to be subservient in some ways, to the longer-term processes of which they are a part.

Problems occur in those families that do not have a deep respect for the skill of managing. Such family businesses tend to be too casual about family members taking positions in the company and being promoted. When a family does not set high enough standards for family members entering the business and being promoted, the management strength is diluted because the non-family executives become discouraged and leave, or they simply are not attracted to the business in the first place.

Successful family businesses attract and retain valuable non-family executives by emphasising merit, giving opportunities to accumulate personal wealth and assuring career opportunities for the best among them. They structure their business and design their employment policies to ensure accommodation of both family and non-family executives. In conclusion, successful family businesses find that bringing in seasoned non-family executives or grooming them from within is an excellent way for a family business to gain wisdom and outside perspective.

Parenting Next Generation Leaders in Family Businesses

Roberta Fenech

The author is an Occupational Psychologist. She is an Associate Consultant for EMCS group and a lecturer at St Martin's Institute of Technology

One of the things that can never be underestimated is how much good parenting effects the future of a family business. Leadership development starts much earlier than in other businesses as a result of the overlap between the business and the family system.

The nature-nurture debate also embraces this subject with a school of researchers attributing variation in leadership style to genetic factors, whilst others to environmental influences such as the individual's exposure to different role models and early opportunities for leadership development. A combination of the two approaches is many a time sustained. Attachment theorists attribute individual differences in leadership to the early close emotional bond between parents (or the primary caregivers) and children arguing that next generation leaders will in the future apply previously learnt patterns of interaction within the family to leadership. Consistent parent responsiveness in childhood is associated with secure adults who have relatively high self-esteem and who approach their leadership role positively and express certainty of their ability to perform well. On the other hand inconsistent parent responsiveness in childhood is associated with the anxious-ambivalent adults who are preoccupied with attachment and have a low self-esteem. They may express reservations

about their abilities to perform well in leadership roles. Consistent parent unavailability and non-responsiveness in childhood is associated with the avoidant adult who harbours negative expectations about their ability to perform well in the leadership role. Attachment styles may be transmitted across multiple generations within families.

Parenting effects the future of family businesses as it teaches the capacity to communicate, to think outside one's own interest, to make decisions, to seek consensus and to want fairness and justice for others. Family business is the ultimate leadership challenge because whilst the current leaders build or run the business, they also bring up their children, who are in turn, intimately involved in the future success of the business. A fundamental recommendation for current leaders in family businesses is not to neglect parenting. One may get caught up in working very hard to fulfil their own and their parents' expectations as well as build a legacy for their children, compromising time at home and time as parents.

Work habits, attitudes towards the business, values and relationships all take root in the childhood of the next generation. Parents convey values and attitudes particularly by example. Healthy attitudes towards the business spring from the enthusiasm

and joy parents display in accomplishment, hard work, responsibility and sacrifice.

Talking about the business and exposing young children to the business does not mean imposing the business onto the next generation, even if the children will never work in the business they will still become owners. What current leaders want is that their children become proud and interested owners who understand the value of their heritage. Exposing young children to the business will give them the real freedom to choose by making sure they have enough information on the business to make an informed decision whether to embrace it or pursue a different goal.

A source of competitive advantage and a factor for success in efficiency, innovation and quality is the tacit or implicit knowledge that is transferred across generations from an early age such as are traditions, values and social networks. As the members of the next generation are introduced to the business from an early age, even if only volunteering in the summer holidays, they learn in practice what the business is about, as well as the context within which it operates. During the period when the next generation is formally part of the family business tacit knowledge of a holistic nature like strategy is learned. Tacit knowledge is also about managerial

skills, social skills and negotiation skills. The expected commitment, values and perceptions of the current generation are to be shared with the next generation which should be given challenging, real life problems to solve.

Risks to the transfer of knowledge across generations are related to dynamics in family relationships, a lack of valuation of each other's opinions and also competence. Emotional factors also come into play. The difficulty to relate with the next generation as adults and no longer as children jeopardises the whole process.

Family meetings give family members a reason to be together, to support one another and to share common interests. Apart from being very valuable in enhancing family relationships and communication, they are an excellent opportunity to articulate the meaning and mission of the family, to educate younger members and to plan for the future. The role of family members who do not work in the family business, such as in-laws, in shaping next generation leaders cannot be underrated. Family meetings focus on the interests of the family. Such meetings should encompass as many family members as possible including in-laws and the younger generation.



The Teams... The Caffeine... The Game

GameJam 2013



By Jeremy Grech

The Organisation

Malta's first, 40hr non-stop, game jam competition was the brain child of Mr. Dylan Seychell, and being a great enthusiast of game development challenges, I was asked to help him organise this event alongside Jonathan Barbara. This is not to say that this event was solely our creation. In fact I can say, with a certain degree of confidence that it was a team effort spanning most of the St. Martin's staff. For example Keith Pace created the poster of the event and Yujun Ying (Joyce) replied to enquiries that applicants had regarding the event. Creating such an event would inevitably place St. Martin's at the forefront of game development on the island since it was the first of its kind.

Being a pioneer event, we didn't really have a template to work upon; therefore it was imperative that we, as organisers, brainstorm together so that we could cover as many possible eventualities as possible. Issues that needed to be tackled included:

- The venue, date and time - When? Where? At what time shall we start

- The software - What software would be needed in order to create a game in 40 hours?

- The hardware - What were the minimum requirements needed to run the software?

- PR - How were we going to market the event? Would there be anybody willing to sponsor such an event?

- Food and drink - Would we be providing such basic needs?

As one could imagine, these issues were not trivial and therefore we needed lots of brain storming meetings and emails were necessary in order to get the ball rolling. Eventually specific roles emerged. Mr Seychell became more and more involved in the logistics of the event, Mr. Jonathan Barbara and myself worked on defining the themes and mechanics of the event, whilst I took care of the technical aspect of the event. My job was to find out what software might

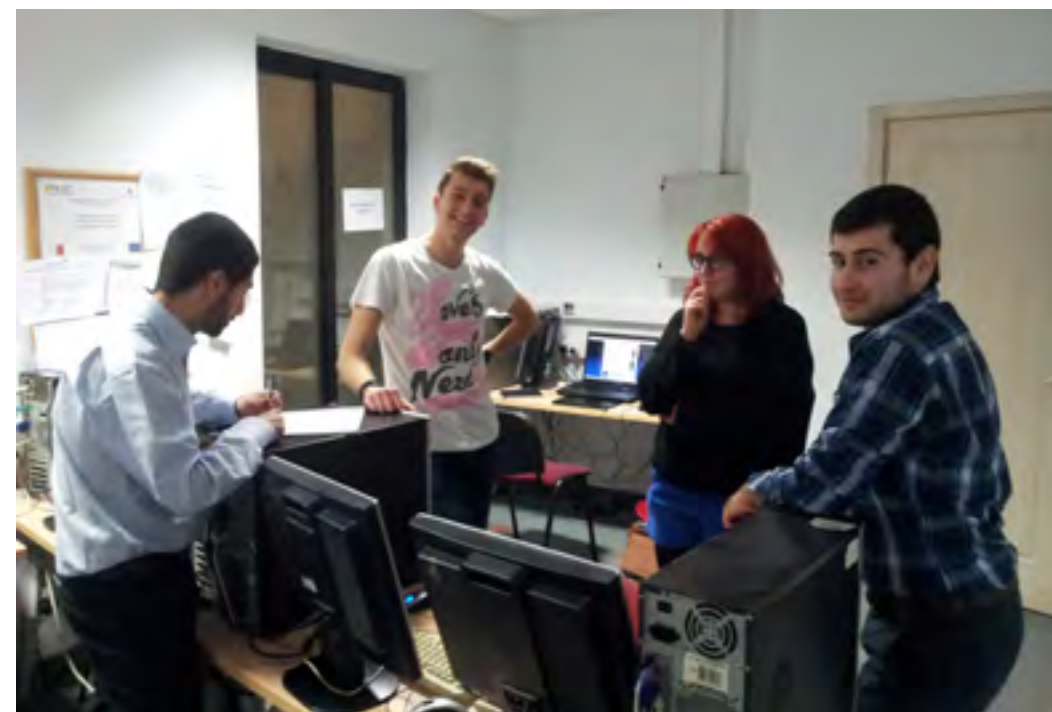
be needed, for one who is a first time game developer, to be able to develop one's game. This meant that a list of free online resources (for art, sound effects and music) needed to be compiled. This was done through the creation of an internal website sites.google.com/a/stmartins.edu/game-jam-2013. This also meant that I would need to figure out what minimum hardware requirements were needed in order to run the said software comfortably without slowing down the progress of the competitors. With the help of our resident IT administrator, we managed to also create a network system powerful enough to provide Internet access to all the potential applicants.

Once all that was done, we then started promoting the event through Facebook, posters as well as by word of mouth. We encouraged students to sign up as teams and to encourage their friends from outside of the Institute to also take part in the event. During promotions, Mr. Joe Camilleri was then contacted by an ex-St. Martin's student, Mark Bugeja, who was so interested in the event, that he was willing to create a website pro bono so that it would further promote the event. Working together and with the aid of Reuben Debatista, we managed to come up with the final website design and shortly afterwards <http://gamejam.stmartins.edu> was up and running. Slowly but surely 6 teams of between 3 or 4 members were convinced to participate in this event.



Mr. Charles Theuma managed to find a technical sponsor (Smart Technologies Ltd.) who were willing to provide 3 computer systems for each team that were going to participate. We therefore managed to obtain 21 brand new systems which were at the disposal of the teams participating. Mr. Dylan Seychell, in turn, contacted Farsons group of companies and

they were willing to sponsor beverages to be consumed throughout the 40 hr event. In order to tackle the issue of what participants would eat throughout the event, I had contacted Porky's take away and they provided a generous offer which allowed us to buy food from their establishment at a reduced price.





With regards to the event per-se, it was decided that the teams were to be given a theme (3...2...1...) which was common to all teams however each team were to be given a list of game mechanics where each team needed to implement at least one of said mechanics. With that the organisational aspect of the event was done. It was to be held at St. Martin's Institute of IT, starting on Friday the 22nd of February at 6pm through to Sunday the 24th of February at noon.

The Event

40 hours of designing, programming and creating art for games is no laughing matter. The first few hours are full of enthusiasm and energy but, as the hours rolled by, it became apparent how demanding the task actually was. Fuelled by nothing more than caffeine and copious amounts of pizza and burgers and sheer determination to succeed, 5 of the original 6 teams eventually managed to put together some very good game play demos which, to be honest, really surpassed expectations.



July 2013



GameDev Challenge 4

For more info contact us on: gamedev@stmartins.edu

The Aftermath

After the 40 hours, the bloodshot eyes and spent energy reserves, it was time for judging. The judges for this event were Calvin Morrow (from TRC media group), Nielson Flic (CEO of Puzzl ltd), and Jonathan Barbara, Joe Camilleri, Keith Pace, Dylan Seychell and I, all of whom are lecturers at St. Martin's Institute of IT. After a brief description of what their creations were all about, the judges wandered freely to witness the games and play them themselves one by one and afterwards evaluate them. The judging criteria included:

- Wow! Factor
- Game design
- Artwork
- Programming
- Audio
- Game feel
- Polish

After a very short deliberation, all the judges had come to a unanimous decision on which teams came first, second and third. Making their way up to the canteen for the final presentation, the teams looked absolutely shattered. I remarked that all of them "looked terrible", by which I meant that they really had put a really great effort into their final products. After a short, presentation by Dylan Seychell and Jonathan Barbara, the winners were announced and were given their prize. Overall I felt that most participants learnt a lot from this experience, everything from team work, work delegation as well as what it really means to be a game developer. Even though this event took a lot out of them, I am sure that the vast majority would consider participating again. If that holds true, then the future of Game Development in Malta is a bright one indeed.



Games Video Demos

- D-FIB
- CookieRush
- Harlem Zombies

40 HOURS NON-STOP GAME DESIGN! ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?



“IL-FESTA TA’ LAPSI”

FOR THE 3RD CONSECUTIVE YEAR – AN ANNUAL NATIONAL FOLKLORE EVENT WHICH WAS SO POPULAR IN THE PAST AT ST. JULIANS

Following the tremendous success of the past two years, this national folklore event at St. Julian’s, so called “Il-Festa ta’ Lapsi”, is going to be held again on Thursday 6th June (Eve of a public holiday),

In the past, this St. Julian’s folklore event was so popular with Maltese and Gozitans on the same lines as its still popular the Imnarja event, held annually at Buskett gardens. Those who still remember these years, say that thousands used to come over to Spinola Bay for “Il-Festa ta’ Lapsi”.

From documents which were revealed, we learnt also that this particular event was already popular

around 500 years ago. In fact, documents reveal that the Grandmaster of the Order of the Knights of St. John used to attend this annual national event and stay at his own palace overlooking Spinola Bay, the palace which is still known to us, as Spinola Palace.

The St. Julian’s Local Council decided to go for another edition of this annual event and even create once again the re-enactment of the Grandmaster’s annual visit.

St. Julian’s Bay and promenade will be transformed once again in a folkloristic village. This year, a record of around 60 exhibitors will set up their stands and demonstrate their skills in local artisan

trades and even local agricultural products. These stands will be distributed along Spinola Bay and will remain open till midnight on the day. There will be stands of filigree, art, clay statues, wood sculpture, stone sculpture, egg art, glass painting, lace, jewels and accessories, ceramics, the Maltese clock, embroidery, wooden frames, soaps from natural ingredients..... and also others with agricultural products such as Maltese cheeslets, sundried tomatoes, olive oil, capers, honey, etc

There will be also food stalls selling Maltese traditional food, pizza, fresh fruit, nougat, traditional sweets and local wines. Apart from that, a local traditional farm with decorated carts and even animals will be set up near the sea-front. The whole venue will be fully decorated with large flags and banners with the Grandmasters coat of arms. Upon sunset the sea-front will be lit up with hundreds of “fjakkoli” to create a magical atmosphere.

Along Spinola Bay there will be musicians with traditional instruments and folk dancers interacting with the general public. Everyone can even enjoy free of charge, a ride on a Maltese traditional cab around the venue.



Activities kick off at 18.30 hrs when all stands will be opened and there will be the town crier re-enactment, announcing the visit of Grandmaster for the festivities.

At 19 hrs, there will be the arrival of all folk groups and musicians. These will arrive on traditional cabs and will be accompanied by traditional decorated carts. Be-

tween 19.30 hrs and 21.30 hrs, folk shows will be held on two different stages by Tal-Fuklar Folk Group and Mnarja Folk Group.

The highlight of the event will be for sure the grand historical re-enactment which will be presented by the Malta Tourism Authority, with the participation of around 90 actors wearing epic costumes. Special effects will enhance this

re-enactment especially with the use of horses and other animals, firing of muskets and cannons, etc. This historical re-enactment will recall the annual visit of the Grandmaster for this event in the past. The re-enactment will start from Spinola Palace at 20.15 hrs where there will be a soldiers’ parade up to Spinola Bay. Over there, the Grandmaster which will arrive by a boat, will be given a warm welcome with folk dancing, etc. From there, the Grandmaster will march triumphally to his Palace. This re-enactment will have a live commentary by George Peresso.

Street theatre will be also continuous during this event, there will be small re-enactments showing the Maltese life during the Knight’s period, In Guardia parades, falconers, etc. The St. Julian’s Band and the Spinola Band will march around the venue playing popular festa tunes.

Spectacular folklore shows will continue till midnight with the participation of local entertainers such as Joe & Veronica Farrugia, Greenfields, Enzo Gusman, Ivan Spiteri Lucas, Neville Refalo, Miriam Christine, Debbie Scerri, J Anvil and the Spiteri Lucas Live Band.



"Il-Festa ta' Lapsi 2013" is being organised by the St. Julians Local Council and co-ordinated by Leon Promotions in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, the Parliamentary Secretary for Culture and Local Government and the Malta Tourism Authority.



Il-Festa ta' Lapsi 2013

the annual Maltese folklore event at St. Julian's



*Spectacular Re-enactment of the visit of the Grandmaster -
Band Marches - Maltese Artisan stands and local produce -
Traditional Maltese Food - Maltese folklore parade - Folk shows -
Live concert of Maltese songs with the participation
of the best local performers*

6th June

19:00 onwards



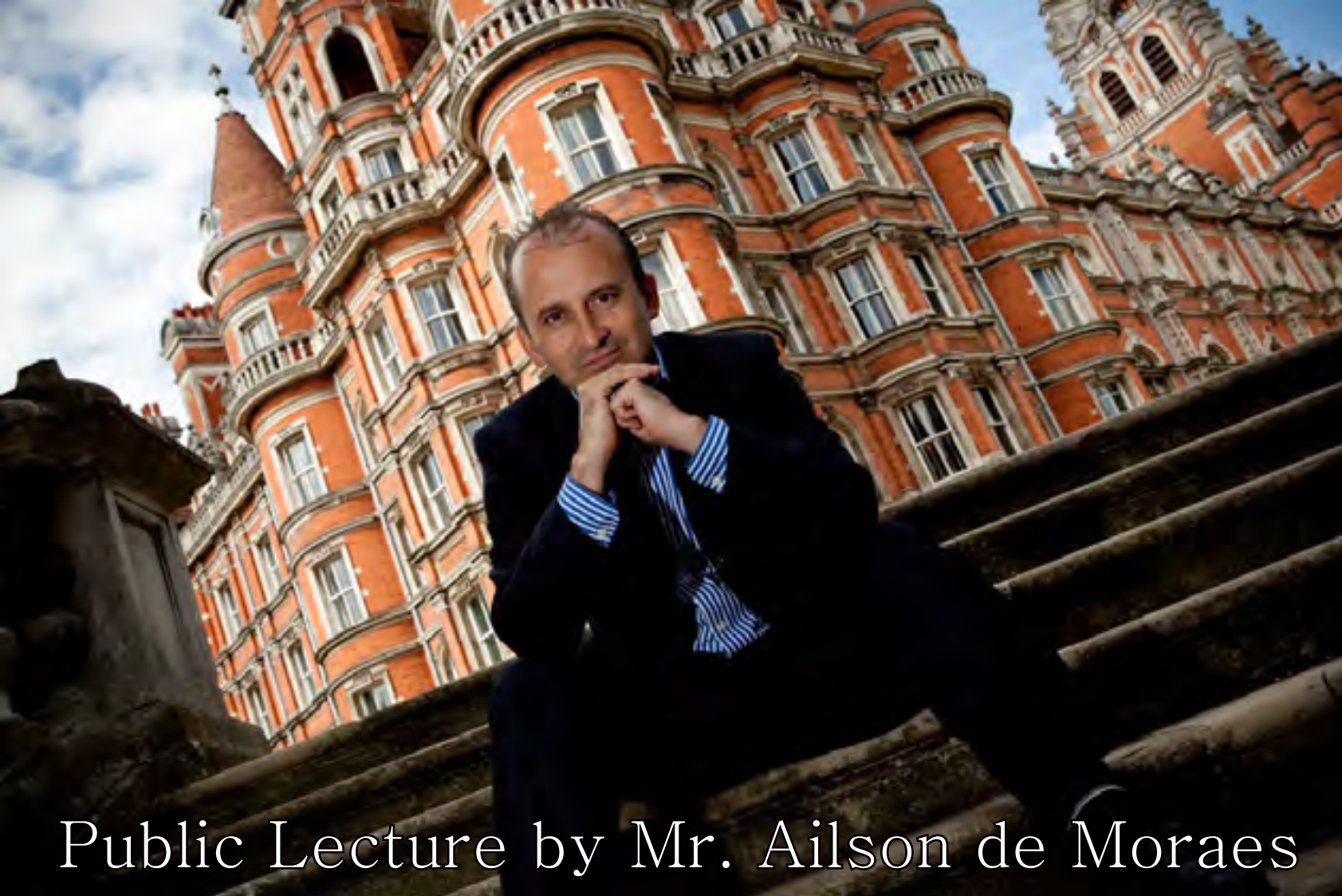
St. Julians Local Council



Ministry for Tourism
Parliamentary Secretariat for Culture and Local Government



www.visitMALTA.com



Public Lecture by Mr. Ailson de Moraes

St. Martin's Institute of Information Technology was yet again the proud host to a celebrated international academic Mr. Ailson De Moraes. Mr. De Moraes held workshops to St Martin's students on the 8th & 9th of April and delivered a public lecture about 'Maltese International Economic Development Strategy' on Monday the 8th of April 2013. This was one of a series of public lectures held by St. Martin's Institute throughout the year.

Hailing from Brazil Ailson de Moraes holds a Full time academic position at Royal Holloway School of Management, University of London. He has a Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Andrews University, Michigan, USA

and an MA in Business and Culture Studies from City University, London; a Postgraduate Certificate from Fundacao Getulio Vargas, Brazil, and University of California, Irvine. De Moraes also has a Postgraduate Certificate in Skills of Teaching to Inspire Learning from the Royal Holloway Educational Department.

De Moraes has attended a number of executive and non-executive programs along his career as an academic and professional in management and business. He has extensive management and business experience, having worked in a variety of industrial and commercial sectors in international organisations in Brazil, Portugal, Switzerland and the UK. With

a profound interest in globalisation and cultures, De Moraes travels extensively around the world, and fluently speaks three main international languages – Portuguese, English and Spanish.

Married to a Portuguese woman and having studied in the USA and the UK whilst currently living in the latter country and intermittently travelling to a myriad of countries delivering lectures, for Prof. De Moraes, Globalisation is a way of life.

Ailson's research interests lie in the areas of strategy and leadership. His publications appear in some leading academic journals such as the British Journal of Management, and others. He teaches Strategic Management,

International Strategic Management, International Business and Global Leadership.

Proving to be a very informal character at heart, Ailson de Moraes flashed a constant relaxed smile to his audience as he analysed the intricacies of economic, business and management aspects of Globalisation. He was adamant about understanding the Past of a country before being able to get to grips with the present and future of its economic possibilities. Ailson referred back and forth between Brazil his original country of origin to the UK and to Malta, finding common tendencies and opposite flairs which could extend or slow possibilities of business between countries.

Mr. De Moraes referred to the great crisis of 2008 and said that this 'has forced us to reexamine our beliefs about markets and globalisation'. He referred to contemporary times as 'challenging times', describing the financial situation of the world as to be in turmoil. He underlined the fact that prosperity and power is shifting to new places and peoples, mentioning China and Brazil as the contenders for this 'new power and prosperity'. He remonstrated about the fact that Malta is not keeping this in mind as time passes. Brazil, wherein 40 million people have risen to Middle Class status in the last 5 years and who will be the host of the World Cup in 2014 and the Olympic Games in 2016, is definitely the country to export to. This does not mean that Malta has nothing to offer to Brazil. It must be that the Maltese are not aware or not working on the potential of closer ties to Brazil. Mr. Ailson De Moraes sees today's challenge as

looking at the world in a new way and teasing new ties with the growing economies of the world.

Mr. De Moraes also mentioned the importance of trust. Every country trusts in other particular countries, noticing that Malta trusts the British blindly, adding also that Malta, similar to other countries, trusts foreign products more than local produce. Once you trust yourself others will trust you and invest more in you. He mentioned China's investment in Brazil as a positive outcome of this trend of thought while US Walmart's introduction to Germany as a complete failure due to a non-accepting ideology in German mentality. Ailson De Moraes quotes Anthony Gibbons from London School of Economics as saying that 'We are living in a new age of Globalisation'. We do not need frontiers and closing within oneself as he quotes the European Union is doing, thus the current 'divorce' between the UK and the EU. Frontiers create stagnation in countries, bringing to mind the situation of North Korean as opposed to the success of South Korea with its global mentality.

Mr. De Moraes continued to propose the rethinking of the position of Malta in the International Community and offering various possibilities to the improvement of this current dilemma. Keeping in mind that Malta is small, De Moraes stated that 'small is beautiful' and underlined the value of risk, a mentality that has to be introduced with vigour for a country to be successful.





Memories – Footprints in the Snow

An interview & a lecture by Dr. Steven Taylor. University of London, LSE

Dr. Steven Taylor, Lecturer at University of London was invited to deliver a speech entitled "Memories: Footprints in the snow" at St Martin's Institute on Friday, 19th April 2013. During the lecture, Dr. Taylor answered questions on the implications of implanted memories in people's brains from the legal and criminal aspects and furthermore from the business, commercial, marketing and advertising aspects.

Dr. Steven Taylor was interviewed prior to the lecture wherein he spoke about the roles of people when accounting about past occurrences. 'Different historians interpret it (history) in very different ways. History is about the historian as what happened...' Dr. Taylor remarked that to understand anything in life one has to observe what the people looking at it are seeing as there is no such thing as 'innocent interpretation', thus in

short 'seeing the same reality differently'. Sociology is about learning the interpretations and not the facts as observed by the various viewers. The interest in History drew Dr. Taylor closer to Sociology and his consequent interest in this social science.

Dr. Steven Taylor's original interests were Biology and History. His observations through the study of History ensued in him graduating in Sociology at Leicester University. His main areas of Research were Crime and Law. He then read for a Law degree in the evenings to improve his knowledge on law and crime and how these work. With this background in Sociology and Law, Dr. Taylor came up with various insights about crime and its effects on society. He spoke about the fact that society through law creates boundaries which state what is acceptable and what is not acceptable within society, thus regaling

that crime can indeed be helpful to society in that it can create boundaries which regulate society at large.

When asked 'What is Sociology?' Dr. Taylor had a very clear and concise answer. He termed Sociology as a thinking subject not a learning subject. Society is born into cultures. Thus learning about culture is learning the rules linked with that culture. Sociology is learning about these rules and how they affect society and in turn how society creates rules to instill culture.

In his lecture 'Memory – Footprints in the snow' Dr. Taylor further enunciates on the title by saying that memory is like footprints; the further forward you move the more these 'footprints' vanish into nothingness. As one gets older, memories like a machine begins to deteriorate. Thus through time these memories

which are being forgotten can even be changed by different perceptions and mixing up various memories. Dr. Taylor underlined this study as Cognitive Sociology – the Sociology of how the Human Being thinks. During the seminar Dr. Taylor went through the depths of how the brain works and the intricacies of memory and recognition. Dr. Steven Taylor asked the question, 'Can we have completely false memories?' His soft voice enthralled the audience with the complex and intricate processes which passes through the brain in the attempt to retain memories and use such for recognition purposes.

Dr. Steven Taylor's visit was a much awaited event especially amongst the Sociology students. It is always a much expected occurrence; that of having senior University of London lecturers coming all the way from London to analyse the way St. Martin's is performing, while sharing their newfound knowledge with their overseas students. It is also a smile-bringing occasion, when the realisation is that St. Martin's Institute is at the forefront of all overseas affiliate centres of the University of London. Dr. Taylor, similar to other LSE lecturers was impressed by the level of teaching at the Institute and complimented the lecturers involved while reiterating that the students have to continue adhering to strict time-management procedures, because only with self-discipline can an individual be able to pass the test of time and make it through the Degree with a high level institution such as the London School of Economics.





Cultural visits to Valletta.

For the 3rd year running, visits to St. John's Co-Cathedral and to the National Museum of Fine Arts; both in Valletta, were organised with the main thought of keeping St. Martin's students in alignment with our country's cultural splendour and development.

Students from BTEC Foundation and students from University of London BSc Creative Computing 1st Year had the occasion to view the priceless monuments and the collections therein, in relation to Personal Development and 'The Educational Function of Museums', respectively.

The visits organised by St. Martin's Institute of I.T. were aimed at not only increasing awareness of Maltese culture and heritage, but also were at pinpointing subjects of interests which involved the topics and subjects areas studied by the different groups of students in relation to what they were experiencing visually. All students participated in a gener-

al research involving the filling in of questionnaire booklets which were gathered and will be analysed at a later date for further studies by the museums involved.

These visits were facilitated by the timely cooperation of St. John's Co-Cathedral Museum's management and Heritage Malta. Both Institutes offered free entrance to St. Martin's Students and ensured superb communication, thus facilitating the visits and the well-being of all students involved.

The visits were spread over a span of 5 hours, with 2 hours dedicated to each museum and another hour dedicated to a relaxed lunch in one of the myriad of cafeterias around Valletta. Other visits are being organised for the coming months, this time for BTEC 1st Diploma students to the former capital city of Malta - Mdi-na. The locations of interest are the Cathedral Museum and the Natural History Museum.



Field-Trip to Buskett Gardens.



On the 22nd of May, two groups of First Diploma students left St. Martin's Institute on the way to Buskett Gardens. This field-trip was being organised to cover 3 particular aims. The first was to enhance awareness through the expertise of KOPIN; the organisation behind this exhibition demonstrating nature's current decline due to misuse of resources. The second aim was to liaise this trip with the new subject introduced by BTEC for the First Diploma students – Science and – Civic Competencies, currently taught in the second term. The third and final aim was to incorporate these two themes with a final main theme. This being the creation of a small web-site, through the use of the photos and videos taken on-site, programming and editing skills learnt during the year and obviously the collective effort of all students in both groups.

The trip started with an animated talk by internees working for **KOPIN**, to the students, explaining the indecent situation that the world's forests are in at this precise moment. KOPIN, a non-governmental and a non-profit making organisation is currently organising this exhibition and walk-through in Buskett Forest in tandem with other NGOs worldwide to continually raise awareness about the world's dire situation. This exhibition titled – 'Forests of the World', was available for Public and School viewing from the 20th till the 16th of May, 2013. This is the second time that St. Martin's is benefitting from the services of KOPIN, the first time being in the form of seminars organised for both Foundation and First Diploma students held at the Institute itself and aimed towards a similar topic.

After the talk and the viewing of a photography exhibition by a renowned Italian photographer, accompanied by two videos on the situation in South America and Central Africa, the students were taken on an exploration of Buskett Gardens on a pre-planned route. This Science walk was aimed to show the students that the domestic situation is to be protected as much as the international situation. The students benefitted from the know-how and expertise of a local forest warden who explained much about local fauna and how easy it can be to extend a forest's life while living in harmony with it. The event was organised by Mr. Joe Camilleri and Mr. Dunstan Briffa, together with the priceless cooperation of Mr. Silvio Mcgurk and Ms. Mariella Stivala. Other lecturers from the Institute will be roped into the event to continue the second part of the project in the form of a site-building project involving both student groups.

OPEN DAY

6th July, at 9:00am



Day at PricewaterhouseCoopers for Students

Studying AC 3093

by Stephanie Bonnici (Second Year in
BSc Accounting and Finance)



Three staff members of different positions were then brought in to describe their roles and their experiences in working at the firm. This included a manager, a junior audit associate and a newcomer. All were very friendly and their testimonials gave us a very insightful idea of what their roles are like and what the firm has to offer for different people; such as students, new-joiners and those with a penchant for travelling.

Richard Galea, our lecturer, had kindly arranged for us to visit the number one audit firm in Malta and internationally. This was done in order to provide us with a more vocational idea of what actually goes on in practice, and to link that to the theory we have studied.

We met at 9am outside the PwC premises, and were greeted by Stefania Curmi, the firm's Human Resource manager. She then led us to one of the training rooms and ran through the schedule for the day.

Stefania proceeded to give us an overview of PwC, both nationally and internationally, and explained the services it offers and how the firm is structured to accommodate the people carrying out these services (audit, tax and advisory, mainly). She was very eager to answer any queries we had, both on audit and the firm.



Afterwards, an audit associate was brought in to give us an overview of the auditing process and answer any questions we had about the practice. We then went over a case study with her; where together we discussed what we would do in practice when faced with a particular situation.

A lunch break was then given and we were presented with a nice selection of food and drinks.

After that, Stefania gave us a tour of the office and showed us how they were structured to accommodate the different functions and levels of employees. Her associate then arrived and introduced us to three different employees (a manager, a supervisor and an audit associate) who explained their roles and described a typical day in their working life. All were very interesting and open to questions.

We concluded the day with a presentation from Stefania on interview skills and tips, with particular reference to firms dealing in finance. This proved to be very useful for us students, as we were provided with a very good knowledge of dos and don'ts from an experienced professional in the area.

Overall the day proved to be a very enriching experience for students studying audit. It was an honour to be given the chance to visit one of the most well-known and relevant firms in the history of auditing and we thank Richard Galea for presenting us with such an opportunity.



Being Different...

by Raissa Borg

Mandy was not the 'typical girl' that all the boys searched for. She was a wallflower, a tomboy and sometimes, quite shy. She was always chosen last when groups were made and wasn't very confident. Mandy's only friend was Gabriel, who knew all her secrets. He was like a brother to her and made her feel like she could be herself.

Mandy had a secret crush on a guy one year older than her at school, but she never had the courage to talk to him because she thought that he was way out of her league as he was very handsome and she always thought of herself as ugly. Gabriel always told her not to judge herself in that way, as he really liked her (even though she did not know it).

Mandy was always bullied at school because she got the highest grades in her assignments and when Gabriel was absent from school she would sit in the same corner all alone.

One day, when Gabriel was absent from school, Susy (one of her classmates) asked Mandy to join her group and have a chat with them. They were discussing boys and asked Mandy her preference when it came to boys. When she told them they all laughed at her and told her that in order for her to get that type of boy she would need to change herself.

That evening Mandy went home to

try and find something different to wear. She usually wore jeans or track-suit trousers, but the next day she wore a short black skirt, a white shirt and heels. When Gabriel picked her up for school he was surprised to see what she was wearing but was also disappointed because he preferred the old Mandy with her messy hair and tracksuit trousers.

When Gabriel asked Mandy why she had changed so much she admitted that it was because she wanted boys to notice her, even though she knew she did not feel comfortable to be dressed that way. When Susy saw her she was impressed by the new Mandy and asked her to join her gang and leave Gabriel behind her, which is what she did.

Gabriel was really sad and disappointed to have lost his best friend. At break time he was left to play football alone, when he was always used to playing football with his friend Mandy. As the weeks went by Mandy continued to change and eventually she completely forgot about Gabriel.

Finally, Mandy started to go out with the boy she had always had a crush on, Nick. However, even though she tried to hide it, Gabriel noticed that she seemed scared when she was with Nick. He tried to talk to her about it but even though she kept on avoiding him, he was determined to find out what was wrong.

Gabriel was worried about Mandy and so kept on checking on her. Eventually, he noticed that she had bruises on her legs. He was so worried that he followed her when she was on a date with her new boyfriend Nick. He followed them to the beach where they were going to spend sometime alone under the stars. Gabriel waited in his car, watching them.

After a while Gabriel heard screaming. He recognised the voice it was Mandy. He left his car and ran to her rescue and found Nick abusing her violently. Gabriel was furious and pulled Nick off Mandy and punched him in the face. They began to fight with Mandy trying to stop them but Nick was a tough guy. He punched Gabriel so hard that he fell to the ground with blood coming out of his mouth.

Mandy ran to Gabriel but found him unconscious, she began to panic and called an ambulance. Till the ambulance arrived she continued to argue with Nick who finally admitted that he only noticed her because she had changed her appearance and the only thing he wanted was to sleep with her and would have broken up with her after that. He was using her. Mandy was heartbroken.

The ambulance arrived and took Gabriel to the hospital. Mandy did not want to leave Gabriel's side and went with him to the hospital. Gabriel was

in really bad shape and Mandy realised what a bad choice she had made when she left him to make other friends. She felt so guilty.

The nurses took Gabriel into intensive care. Mandy was really worried about him but tried her best to stay calm. When the doctor went to see him he told Mandy that Gabriel's injuries were not serious and she could go and see him.

Gabriel was awake and so happy to see her. They joked a lot and Mandy apologised for what she had done and Gabriel forgave her. He told her that he had really missed her. He told her never to change for a stupid guy because she deserves to be liked for the way she is. He never told her how much he really liked her!

"Everyone deserves to feel good about themselves, and if you don't then start because everyone is beautiful."

The Finish Line

Steve Camilleri's interview (Degree in Business & Entrepreneurship)



1. The first time I saw you, was as a first year student at St. Martin's Institute of I.T., and I never would have imagined that what I was seeing was just the pinnacle of an iceberg – There is a lot more than meets the eye to Steve Camilleri ... Can you just mention a few of the current activities you are engaged in?

Well, apart from being a full time student at St Martins, reading a degree in business administration, I also work part time as an accounts clerk and I am a track and field athlete.

2. Could you describe your current course and the ups and downs of reading for a Degree with the University of London through St. Martin's Institute? I always wanted to study business administration so I like my course, the very good thing about it is that since at St Martins we are a small class, we get a lot of attention from lecturers and it is easier to understand quicker, also whenever I have a problem I can contact the lecturers at any time and they are always ready to help.

3. Besides University, you also work part-time. Is this difficult to manage and would you see it as something which helps you in the course you're currently undergoing or do you see it just as a source of income?

Personally I think working and studying helps me put into practice what I study and sometimes it's easier to understand some concepts/theories. Since I work flexible hours, I can work more/less depending on how busy I am with my course. As long as my degree comes first I always managed to do both, and training.

4. Working and studying is definitely not easy ... but you are also an athlete! And correct me if I am wrong – you have also represented Malta in several occasions abroad ... would you care to elaborate on this?

Yes, I have been training since I was 5, I am into long distance and football, but I prefer individual sports for the simple reason that I don't depend on anyone and whatever I achieve I know I have work for it myself. I competed many times for the National Team, first time was when I was 15 at the European U16 Championships, finishing 4th in the 60m. This year will probably be the biggest year up till now for me as I will be aiming to compete at the European U23 Championships and University Games, where there will be most of the world's top class athletes as well as many other International and local competitions.

5. Steve, you also train in a gym – so basically you are currently reading for a Degree, you work, you train as an athlete and you go to a gym! Can you



please tell me how you manage your time? – it cannot be that easy for sure!

Yes, gym is part of my athletics training. I train four times a week on the track and twice a week at the gym. Sometimes even morning and evening sessions (up to 10 sessions a week) Sunday is my only rest day. During lectures I try to take short notes and before I sleep and during the weekend I study them to remember what we did before. I just got used to this lifestyle and wouldn't manage to change it, not even during exams. Training helps me relax and look at things in a positive way.

6. Any other hobbies or hidden talents that we do not know of yet?

Not that I know of. I love playing

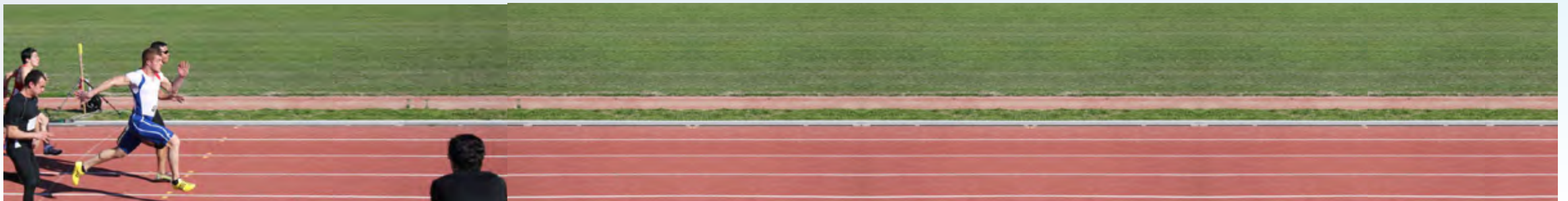
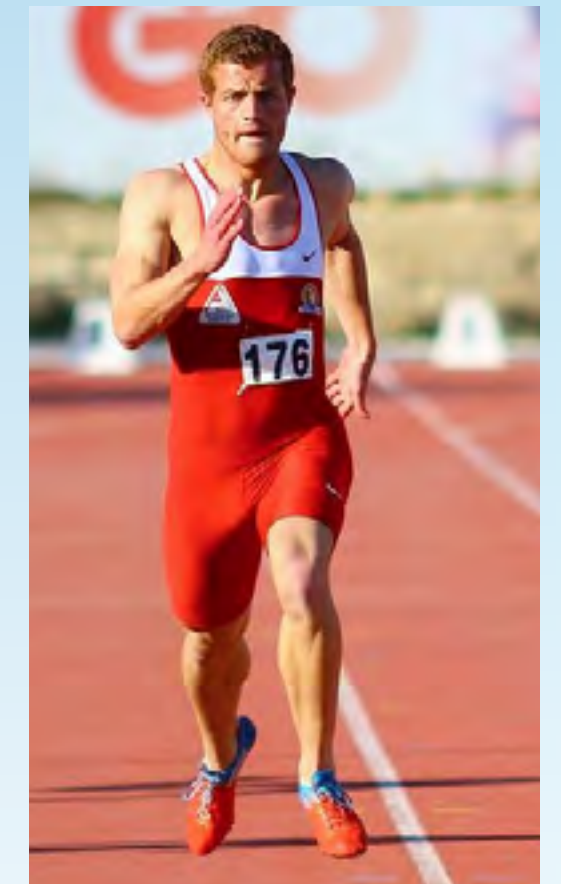
8. Thank you for sharing your experiences with us Steve ... one last question any final thoughts or suggestions for students who find it difficult to cope with studying and their daily life in general?

I'd say when there is a will there is a way, I know sometimes it's hard to be committed to other things than university but there are loads of benefits when a person does sports and it will certainly open a lot of opportunities in life. Apart from the other benefits it has.

and watching football and snorkelling. I am also interested in watching any Olympic sport. I try to dedicate some time, usually on the weekend, to meet my friends, as I believe social life is very important to balance things in life.

7. I can imagine that besides all the activities that you are involved in, you must also have some free time. How do you spend this free-time? Or are your life activities part and parcel with your free-time?

My life is practically planned every week. I have my usual St Martin's lectures, work and training. Whenever I'm free I either watch some TV series, football or meet up with friends.



Photoshop Toons!



Dylan Busuttill is a current student at St. Martin's Institute of I.T. His hobbies include using Photoshop, not simply to edit, but to start building artistic works from scratch. He is totally self-learned and an example to other students who are daunted with the idea of starting something new. Dylan shares his experiences with us. Reading on it is very interesting to see that he is an example that many might consider following. His dreams are vast and many, yet his stamina is strong and he has persuaded himself that life is not worth living, if there is nothing to look forward to every single day.

1. What course are you currently studying in?

I am currently studying Software B-TEC National Diploma at MCAST. This is the last year and I be concluding the course.

2. Since when have you been interested in I.T.?

Well I don't recall having said "Wow, I am interested in IT" ... since I was born in the computer era, I guess it just came naturally for me to be interested in technology. Nonetheless,

I may recall two particular episodes from my childhood which incurs my keen urge in IT. Well the first one is that my father always worked on the computer and that encouraged me. The other episode is in conjunction with gaming. My father had just recently bought us the first play station, and an explosive interest was aroused as to see how the graphics and all 'the behind the work' scenes were made.

3. Since when have you been interested in drawing and/or painting?

To be honest I was very bad at drawing, I could not even draw a simple circle or any other basic shape. I was always interested in art, that is, fascinated by other people's abilities and interpretive ideas of their art, but lacked the ability and patience to perform. This often led me to horrendous frustrations. Well, to be honest, I was interested and not interested at the same time to learn drawing.

When I was younger, about 7 years old, I had the mentality that I had achieved the ultimate goal in my life – playing football. I now realise what a huge mistake that was. I was like, "I don't need to draw. That's a waste of time!" (And I used to pick at my brother for being able to draw, unlike me) I used to dedicate more time training rather than drawing.

4. Have you ever studied drawing as a subject?

If 2 weeks of forced private lessons are considered as studying, than yes I have studied drawing! Since my brother and I are nearly of the same age, my mother decided to enrol us for drawing private lessons. It was the teacher itself who stopped me. If my memory serves well, her exact words to my mother were "I am sorry, but you are wasting your time on your child. It's better if he performs other activities". She always used to praise all the other students, whereas in my case, well ... I was always fooling around and not showing any interest at all. It was as if to get revenge on my parents for enrolling me in private lessons against my will.

"It was a difficult task indeed. The feel from paper to tablet is very different. No same techniques can be applied, especially when blending colours."

At a later stage in my life, I had art at secondary school. I attended De La Salle College and in the secondary years of my life I had Art as a compulsory subject. This was one of the subjects I hated most of all! Everyone used to compare me with my brother.

5. Have you taught yourself how to use Photoshop as a drawing medium?

As a matter of fact I did. I just started experimenting with my brother's tablet and watching tutorials on the internet on how to apply several techniques. Before I began drawing on Photoshop, I began practicing really hard on paper. It is only recently that I was interested in Photoshop. Well, since I managed to reach a satisfactorily level in hand drawing with pencil colours, I wanted something more. I guess this is a good thing, because that is the sole ability which helps us achieve something better than we already posses.

It was a difficult task indeed. The feel from paper to tablet is very different. No same techniques can be applied, especially when blending colours.

6. What are the subjects you like drawing and why?

Hmmm, I mainly like to draw characters from Japanese anime. Well I guess there's a valid reason to that. As a young child I used to spend countless hours watching these cartoons such as Dragon ball, Pokémon and Digimon. As one can imagine, they make a huge impact on any child. And when asked to draw something, characters from these anime flew through my mind.

7. What are the main difficulties in using Photoshop?

Well first of all it is very difficult to draw on Photoshop using only a mouse. Even if I have the latest mouse, with a High dpi and super accuracy, it still would feel difficult for me to draw. I use a graphics tablet in order to draw; this helps me maintain a natural feel whilst drawing and be more accurate.

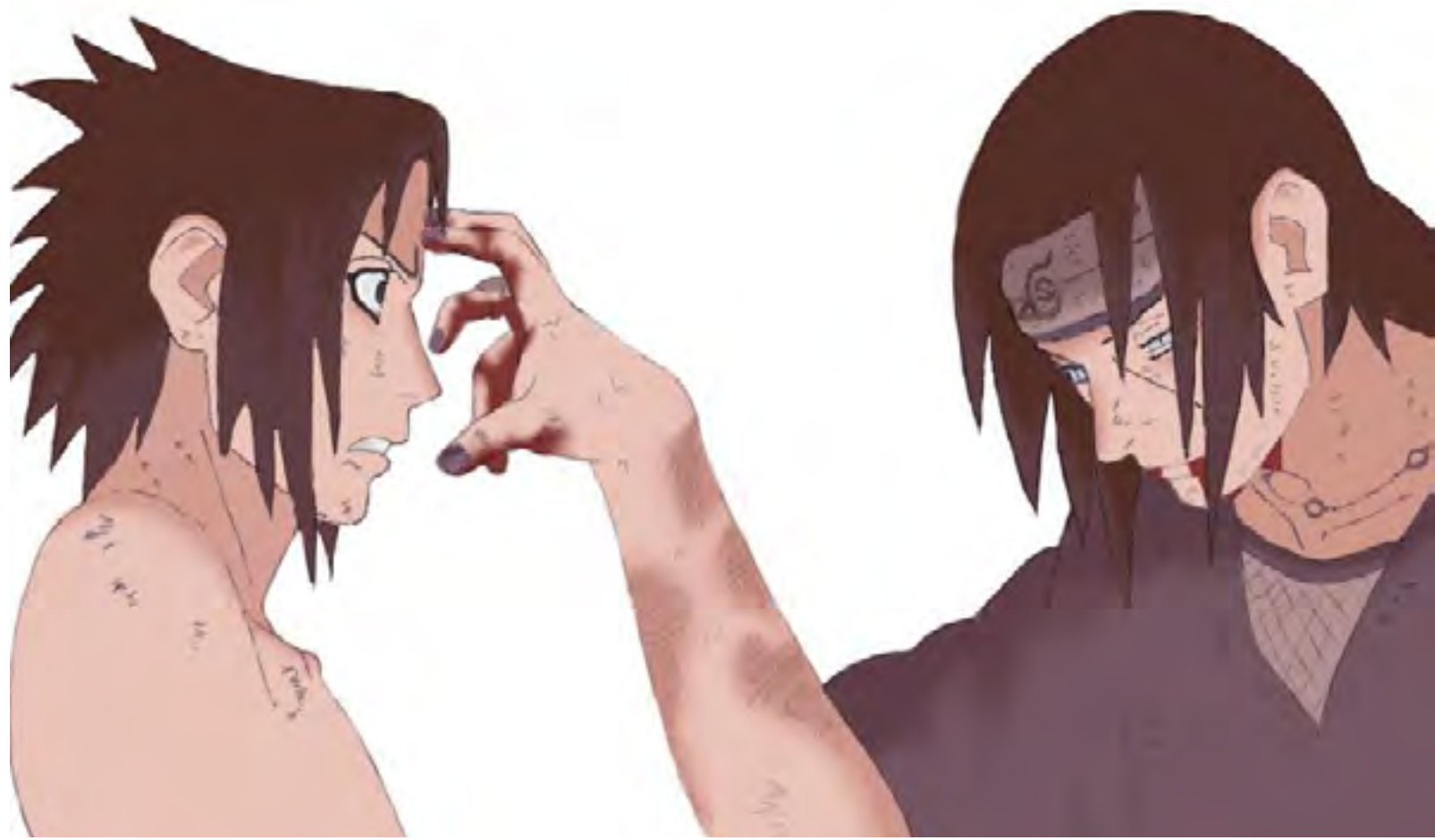
One other main difficulty in Photoshop is the blending of colours. It has nothing to do with the normal blending done via paper. I had the mentality that I should not press the styles as to have a smooth light colour and then begin blending. This was not the case, as blending is done with several different techniques, and unfortunately, paper-style blending is not one of them.

8. Why Photoshop?

Since I managed to achieve a good result with hand drawn objects, I decided to enhance my ability by using Photoshop. Most of the drawings found on internet using Photoshop are mind blowing. Infact it wasn't until very recent that I began using Photoshop, mainly for a school assignment that I had and then continued drawing as a pastime. One of the main reasons for using Photoshop is that I can erase small parts of the framework without worrying about smudging the whole paper. I can zoom into a lot of detail and edit/re-edit over my work until I reach the designated level.

9. Would you be interested at some point in time to start a course in Computer Gaming and go beyond drawing on Photoshop?

Well this would definitely be a huge leap of faith in my studies. Without a doubt, I would gladly consider the fact to enter such a course. I think that Computer gaming and drawings in Photoshop go hand in hand together. Say, character design, sceneries, logos and other visual art concepts are an important factor in the gaming industries nowadays. I am hoping to begin such a course as early as next year.



10. Do you think that this medium is something which appeals to young people? Why?

Definitely! Work done on Photoshop never dies. This means that the drawings made can be altered once too many. The young people in this and future generation are all mostly into gaming. Whether it is console based or on a computer, there is often an art gallery involved directly or indirectly. The opening videos of games consist of long working hours, and Photoshop, as well as other various software programs play an important role to bring these fictitious characters to life. Some games also have the inbuilt 'Art gallery' where art fanatics, like me, appreciate the value of some professional artists and their work on Photoshop. Despite the fact, that most people say that young people are becoming more and more lazy, gaming still remains one of their first priorities. Gaming in its own

original way, is a form of art which is appreciated by everyone, regardless of their age.

11. Have you tried any other programme to practice your artistic talents?

To be honest, no not really. I haven't had the time to explore other programs. I am still experimenting on Photoshop. Rest assured I will definitely lurk onto something else, once I gain the desired level on Photoshop.

12. How do you spend your free time besides drawing on Photoshop?

Well I can't imagine myself doing nothing for more than 5 minutes. It drives me crazy, I need to do something in order to keep on going normally. I consider myself an active person and at age 6 to 18 I used to play football but had to stop due some gruesome injuries. Well after I realised I could not play anymore, with

the persistence of my classmates, I was encouraged to enrol myself into a gym, where I was still training till recently. I do have a lot of hobbies and one of them is playing a string instrument, the guitar. I have been playing the guitar for almost 2 years now, and am sitting for my very first exam at the end of this month. This hobby came out of nowhere. I never knew that I could do such a thing. The fact that I was out of sports, I started fishing for some activity to do, and playing an instrument came to my mind. This is one of the very proud hobbies I have, as music is a living thing. It helps me express my moods without talking.

"Always strive for something new and be acquainted with your limits. Life is a journey, and yes it is a very nasty one indeed! But never give up ..."

I also like films and television series. I have a whole collection at home, nearly 700 films (various genres) collected over the span of 5 years. Films are a great way of forgetting about the current problems and allowing yourself to be immersed into the story. Along with that I also enjoy watching Japanese anime like Naruto, One Piece and Bleach. I also enjoy watching all types of series.

Some other minor hobbies I have are building 'Burago' model kit cars from scratch and collecting sticker albums. Well those are my hobbies apart from drawing. Well, I still do consider introducing other hobbies to my list, as long as it gives me satisfaction.

13. Any tips or hints that you would like to share with our readers?

Yeah there is something I would want to share. Don't ever stick with things/activities or objects which you know



how to perform, as your abilities would be restricted and in a confined space. Always strive for something new and be acquainted with your limits. Life is a journey, and yes it is a very nasty one indeed! But never give up, there is always a beam of light at the end of the tunnel. I hope that each and every one of you would be able to see the fill possibilities within due time, and expand on your new abilities which would give you the immense satisfaction of performing it over and over again.

14. Where do you see yourself in let's say 5 to 10 years time?

Well that is a tricky question. I do hope that I would have achieved my degree by then and read for Masters and hopefully a PHD. I am considering the fact to emigrate and live in a European country such as Germany, or on the extreme sides - Japan. Well the reason being that the job I am looking for is gaming related.

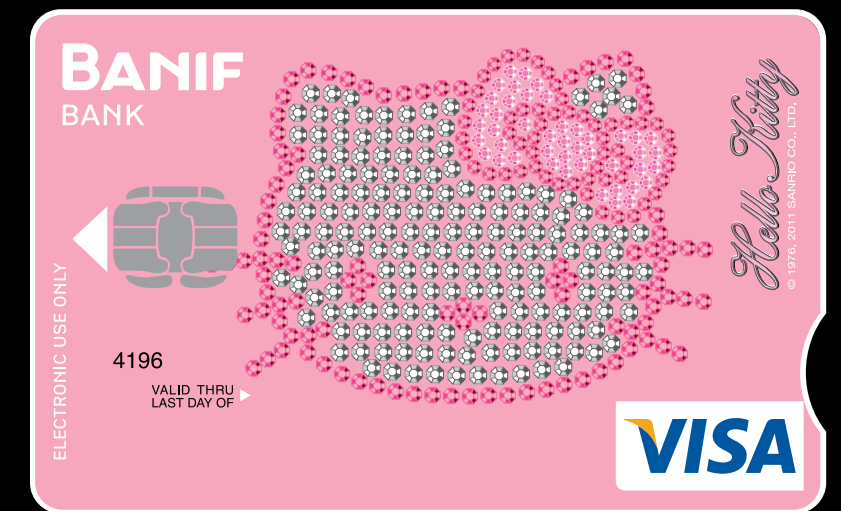
Gaming in Malta is still a very small business, and most people still have the mentality that gaming is a waste of time. Japan would be the most fascinating and life changing experience in my life and I would gladly sacrifice anything to work within a company such as 'Hideo Kijima Productions; from the 'Metal Gear Series' to work as a graphics designer or concept artist. Nonetheless, I am not narrowing my line of work; as I also like 3D modelling design and am willing to work in that sector too. That would literally make me the happiest man on Earth!



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Who Am I?

PART 3

by Jonathan Barbara

A continuation of one man's travels in history to discover his ancestors ...

What things have been hard?

Records of great-great-grandpa born in Algeria to Maltese parents

My dad had photos of his grandfather Leonard (right), whose father, Carmelo, had been given the nickname "La Karm".

The only information (from my paternal grandpa) I had about Carmelo's father (my 3rd Great grandpa), Antonio, was that he was born in Bona, but his parents were Maltese.

Some geographical research located Bona (Bone) in Algeria, North Africa.



His birth there was estimated to be in the 1830s and he would've been part of the European Colonization of Algeria.

Attempts to contact Algerians proved futile and when successful, a reply came a month later with no help given.

I was put off this research with my visits to the Attard parish and put it on the back burner. (At the far back).

Then on the Malta Genealogy Forums I came across a guy who was born in Bone, Algeria. I asked him through the forums if he could help me find anything about my ancestors there but he replied that he'd been away for 10 years now and he could not offer any help. Another let down.

But a couple of days later an Australian replied to my querying post that the French government had an online site where one could research these records (since Algeria was a French colony at the time).

I did find details of one who could be my long-lost ancestor Antonio but the site only gave the year, the event, where, and

the name. One had to communicate with the centre via postal mail as at the time they had regulations not to communicate via internet. I sent them my postal address by email asking for the act or at least for instructions on how to go about getting the act. In the meantime, an elderly french lady in her 60s saw my post and on her next visit she acquired the act for me. She sent me an email telling me what she had done and waived the usual two stamp payment since she had not warned me beforehand. She gladly waived it when she learnt that I was Maltese and she promised she would send it by post.

A couple of days later I received from CAOM, telling me that they do not do research on your behalf but you, or your representative, can visit the centre in Aix-en-Provence to do the research. But for once, they also sent the act I had requested! It was quite detailed, giving the date of birth, the parents' names, their home in Bone, and the father's occupation. Alas, they only mentioned that the parents were Maltese, without specifying which town they hailed from. A couple of days later I received the same record from the french lady.

Now the newborn son Antonio would marry and have a son 19 years later in Malta - and I wanted to learn why and when the son had come back to Malta. One source of information was the Customs Records in Santo Spirito Hospital in Rabat. But with 20 years span of searching, with 3 to 4 volumes per year, and each volume being a giant tome of about two inches thick, I gave up. (You would need about two hours per volume). So I returned to the CAOM website to look for more possible reasons - and I discovered that a Giuseppe Barbara died a year later. Now, Antonio's father was named Giuseppe, and, a widow with a one year old son would possibly not be willing to stay in a foreign country where she was an outcast - a valid reason to return back to Malta. So I asked the french lady if she could, on her next visit to CAOM, check out his death record (without incurring her any copying costs). This she duly did, but on the record there was no mention of his wife and kid, but of his Maltese parents. She also discovered that Antonio had an older brother, Tony, being born a year earlier.

This would give a further valid reason for the widow Rosa to return to Malta with her kids. (Unless Antonio wasn't named after his dead(?) brother Tony).

Antonio's marriage in Zurrieq would lead one to think that his family is from Zurrieq - and that

is where I tried to find the wedding of his parents Giuseppe and Rosa - but to no avail. Then it dawned on me that the widow would have returned to her family - so probably Rosa is from Zurrieq, with no guarantee that Giuseppe was from there.

Interesting Facts

Noble ancestry (Count Roger, William the Conqueror, Charlemagne)

My research in the parish records of Attard came to an end when I reached the oldest registries available, bearing records of events that happened in the 1580s. Moreover, in the first twenty years after the Council of Trent, which decreed the necessity of the marriage banns before the wedding and thus the keeping of such records, it was not required to mention the father of the person involved and thus not very easy to continue the search further.

A couple of years later I was considering transcribing the research that I had made so far when I came across the MaltaGenealogy site which has listings of descendants of Maltese nobles, going even further back than the 1580s and even linking to european royalties in some cases. I thus decided to see if any of my oldest findings would link to any of these descendants. The only possible link at that time was a certain Gusmano Debono who

had a son called Angelo Debono. On the site, under the De Vacca-ro descendants, I found a Gusmano Debono, son of an Angelo Debono. Since it was customary to name the son after his grandfather, I had high hopes that it was the same Gusmano. Looking at my research I realised that I had not managed to find my Gusmano Debono's wedding (within which his parents would have been mentioned, thus confirming that his father WAS Angelo Debono).

So, on the next occasion, which was a Friday, I went to Attard to make another attempt at finding Gusmano's marriage to Isabella Azzopardi. Since last time I had not succeeded in finding him, I based my search on his wife, whose name Isabella was quite unpopular at the time. This search proved fruitful, with one dilemma: Gusmano was listed as Azzopardi not Debono. I looked at the details of the event, and he was listed as "Gusmano fil. qdam Angelo et Caterina Azzopardi" - meaning "Gusmano son of the late Angelo and Caterina Azzopardi". Now, I had come across this phenomenon before: sometimes, when the father is dead, the mother is listed with her MAIDEN name. Moreover, the record I was looking at was a transcription of the original, making a second mistake in transcription possible. So, my theory was this: Gusmano was listed as Azzopardi based on his mother's maiden name, not on his father's surname. But this was just my

theory, an optimistic theory wanting to link to the noble De Vaccaro.

There was only one way to prove my theory: find Gusmano's birth record, so I set to the task. I was afraid his birth would have been too early to be recorded (he was married in 1601) but I was lucky: I found his birth record on the 5th page of the first volume of births! PHEW!

Was I correct?

Cosma Debono son of Angelo Debono and Caterina born on 27th September 1582....

I was of course very happy that my research had led to some interesting findings. I began filling in ancestry charts with the new ancestors - only to discover that along the way, there were marriages into other noble families - amongst them the Vassallos (my mother is a Vassallo). Following that link I discovered more ancestors, and more links, and more ancestors, until I reached 1175 when the Vassallo family married into the House of Savoy. There were no links here but I was sure I could find the Savoy family tree on the Internet. There followed a weekend of exhilarating research filling in over 60 ancestral charts full of royal ancestors, amongst whom Count Roger of Sicily, William the Conqueror and Charlemagne.

Some words of encouragement for budding genealogists that are out there.

- **Start Early.** There is lots of information waiting to be found, but you have to run around to get it. You might be too old to travel around if you leave it for later!
- **Involve Your Family.** Get your cousins abroad to contribute to the research and get another member of the family to work with you. It gets lonely!
- **Organise Your Research.** Make sure you document all your findings and keep track of what to do next.
- **Print your Findings.** Don't let your research become lost - make sure you end up with a tangible proof of your work: maybe a big wall chart maybe a book, maybe a scrapbook - whatever. It'll be something to treasure for generations to come.
- **Don't Give Up.** Not everyone will encourage you, some will even laugh at you. But it's your personal history and heritage, yours and yours alone. You are who you are because they were. Join online forums and help wherever you can - you will receive help in return and not feel alone anymore.

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Excellence is a Requisite

Jonathan Grumley



"Importantly, I learnt that St Martin's had a good record for its students gaining first class honours degrees, and it's nice to study for a London-based degree whilst living on a Mediterranean island."

"I am motivated by the very essence of a challenge. This is the reason I chose University of London over other possible universities to read for my degree," explains Jonathan Grumley, who was studying for his A levels in Dubai when he attended a seminar about the University of London International Programmes.

When Jonathan found out that he could study for a BSc Economics and Management at St Martin's Institute of Information Technology in Malta, he took up the opportunity. Jonathan was familiar with Malta as his mother is from the island. "Importantly, I learnt that St Martin's had a good record for its students gaining first class honours degrees, and it's nice to study for a London-based degree whilst living on a Mediterranean island."

The benefits of combining studying with work.

During the second year of his studies Jonathan applied for a graduate programme with Vodafone as he was interested in getting practical and hands-on experience in applying the knowledge learnt on the degree. "I was one of 20 out of 386 applicants who were invited to undertake seven hours of testing as part of the selection process. I was successful and offered a position in the Marketing Department at Vodafone. My role was to analyse which handheld devices (phones and tablets) were in demand and which devices cost the company the least to offer to the market. Vodafone offered me flexible working hours in order that I could combine studying with my job."

"I have already recommended this degree to my younger brother who is in his first year of the same degree. I recommended it to him due

to its depth of material, analytical approach and prestige. The reputation of the degree alone is enough for one to want to follow the degree. This reputation is clearly built on its quality, which I have a first-hand experience of."

His advice for other students

"My advice for other students is that the degree is demanding and you should put in many hours studying. In order to be successful you need to get to grips with the content of the modules and not simply memorise it. Hard work pays off, and my experience proves this. You may be able to sail through other degrees and get a qualification, but whichever degree you are reading from the University of London you know its substance will help you in your career in the future. You will be proud that you have such a prestigious degree when it's all over."

A Time for Everything

by Emily Demajo

What is it exactly that you do with SPCA?

I volunteer to organize and participate in events and work at these events for the SPCA to help raise money.

How long have you been involved with SPCA?

Since last September

How did you get involved originally?

The SPCA put an advert on Facebook asking for volunteers to help in event planning and I volunteered. I'm doing my diploma in Wedding and Event planning and thought this would add to my experience along with doing my part for the animals.

Anyone else in your family who is involved in a similar venture?

My mother is the manageress at the Paws 4 A Cause animal charity shop in Sliema.

Do you find time between studies and what you do at SPCA?

If the SPCA calls me to help in an event I'll go whenever I can (especially now after my Degree is finished). There will many summer events that need to be planned. I am amongst a small group of people who together try and come up with great ways to raise money for the SPCA, and I volunteer to man stands at the fairs, sell items and do anything else that is needed.

What affects your commitment to SPCA?

School work. I'm very busy and so can only find a little time to help at the moment.

Do you consider this as a hobby? Do you have other hobbies besides?

I love planning and I love animals so this is a hobby for me and I get to familiarise myself with large events, and meet new people. Other hobbies include wedding planning, basketball, travelling (a lot!!), archery, shooting (I'm getting my license this summer ;).... Don't worry).

Did you commit yourself voluntarily or otherwise?

I volunteered.

Is it something you do regularly or randomly?

Randomly at the moment as there hasn't been a fair since the one at Christmas. After May, I will dedicate more time to prepare events to earn money to build the new SPCA Centre/Shelter.

Do you have a general love for animals or is there a special type of pet which you prefer?

I love most animals (not keen on snakes and spiders!). My favourite animals are bunnies, but I Love dogs too.

Do you have any personal pets?

I have three rabbits, and two dogs at the moment. At one point we had 22 pets in the house – 10 cats, 4 dogs, 2 birds, 6 rabbits.

What would be your epic holiday – EuroTrip or African Safari?

African Safari! I've been to a lot of places in Europe now I'm ready for a change. Perhaps India, Peru and somewhere in Africa like Botswana!

Can you tell us about any past and future events you helped in or intend to help in?

I've helped in The Christmas Fair which was held at the Ta Qali Petting Farm. I intend to help at the Yearly SPCA fair at Palazzo Parisio, and any other future events that crop up!

How can our readers help with SPCA?

Every little helps!! Donations are always accepted! There's the Paws 4 A Cause shop in Sliema which sells second hand items ranging from clothes, to books, to furniture, to electronic

equipment and even house ware such a Crystal! Everything is sold at amazingly low prices and are in good condition. People can sponsor a Dog or a Cat in case they can't keep an animal at home but still want to help out! (see the pamphlet I sent) They can also adopt an animal from the shelter in Floriana. Volunteers are always welcome to help out at the shop (if needed) and at the shelters.



Location:

Shelter and Bookstore: St. Francis Ravelin Street , FRN 1231 Floriana, Malta

Paws 4 a Cause Shop: 25 Gorg Borg Olivier Street (Near St James Hospital), Sliema, Malta

Facebook Pages:

[MALTA SPCA](#) - [Paws 4 A Cause Charity Shop](#) - [GOZO SPCA](#)

Opening Hours:

SPCA HOME - Mon to Fri: 10.30 - 14.00, Sat 10.30 - 12.00

SPCA FLORIANA BOOK SHOP - Mon to Fri: 10.00 - 13.00,
Sat 10.00 - 12.00

PAWS 4 A CAUSE SLIEMA CHARITY SHOP -

Mon to Fri 9.30 - 17.30, Sat 9.30 - 13.00

Contact Information:

Phone: 21230468

Email: secretary@spcamalta.org & paws4acause@spcamalta.org

Website: <http://www.spcamalta.org>

Up and Away

“St. Martin’s provided me a unique opportunity to be where I am today. The tutors of St. Martin’s are interested, experienced, knowledgeable and dedicated. I believe this is the secret behind the success of St. Martin’s”

Mr. George Azzopardi is an ex-student of St. Martin’s of I.T. He finished his Degree at the Institute a while ago but he made sure that his academic part of life did not stop there. Armed with a strong International Degree and a solid foundation in Education his adventure continued. Aspire e-Magazine had the opportunity to interview Mr. Azzopardi. Reading his comments is an insight into the life of a young man who aspired and achieved and is definitely not going to stop anytime soon.

1. Could you tell us something about your present job and current position?

I am currently employed with two entities. Four days per week I work for TNO (www.tno.nl), known as Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research, and on the other day I have a research position at the Intelligent Systems group (Computer Science) of University of Groningen (www.rug.nl).

At TNO, I am a Research Innovator and currently I am involved in four projects. Two of which are related and they are concerned with the automatic detection of anomalies in the signals generated by sensors installed in physical infrastructures. We use sensors to monitor the stability of a given system. For example, consider the installation of sensors in a bridge that measures the pressure and vibration at given intervals. The anomaly detection system must be able to de-

tect, for instance, any cracks as early as possible. Another example is water dikes. Given that large areas in the Netherlands are below sea level, the stability of dikes is critical. We are also investigating signal-processing algorithms to monitor the stability of, for instance, water height measurements as a function of time. Similarly here, we are doing research and development of algorithms to detect anomalies as early as possible. The third project is concerned with the

optimisation of sensor placement in a given system. The aim is to identify the best locations where to install sensors such that they guarantee high monitoring abilities while keep the costs to a minimum. The fourth project concerns machine-vision, in particular we are doing research and development of video retrieval in real-time surveillance video cameras.

“Definitely the best experience was the graduation day in London and the celebrations that followed. All the hard work paid off!”

At the University of Groningen, I am a Researcher for one day per week. I collaborate with four other PhD students about fundamental and applied research in the field of computer vision, supervising the projects of one intern student and a Masters student, and collaborating with a post-doctorate from a different international university. The projects that I am involved in concern computational modelling of the visual system of the brain, image segmentation, and object recognition based on the combination of shape and colour features. We are using these methods for tracking of objects of interest in video clips (e.g. tracking the trajectory of cars in busy roads, tracking pedestrians, etc ...), retinal image analysis for the identification of features that may indicate eyesight, neurological as well as cardiovascular diseases, and for the automatic detection of vehicle license plates. The latter project is in collaboration with a leading company in traffic control.

2. Any personal hobbies that you would like to share with us?

My passion is football. I play 5-A-side football regularly and try to keep fit by regular fitness training in a gym. When the weather permits I enjoy bicycle rides along with friends around the charming villages of Groningen.

3. Can you go back in your memory and describe the experience you had studying under the tutors of St. Martin’s Institute of I.T.?

St. Martin’s provided me a unique opportunity to be where I am today. The tutors of St. Martin’s are interested, experienced, knowledgeable and dedicated. I believe this is the secret behind the success of St. Martin’s. I can recall several times when lecturers stayed late after lectures discussing certain concepts and exchanging emails also during weekends. In particular, during the examination period the lecturers were always available. I take the opportunity here to thank them again for their invaluable commitment.

“I chose St. Martin’s because, to the best of my knowledge, it was the only institute that was providing tuition in the evenings for a distance-learning program with a top ranked university.”

4. Is there anything that you would have changed in your experience with St. Martin’s?

Something that I observed from my experience in two international universities is that it is very fruitful to train students to extend their BSc

projects to conference papers. While this is not a requirement for the completion of the degree, it is very important to prepare those students that would like to build an academic career.

5. Would you remember any particular moment in your studying experience with St. Martin’s which stands out as memorable and never to be forgotten?

At St. Martins I made many friends and we shared several experiences together. In particular, I remember studying in groups for exams and the post-exams parties. Definitely the best experience was the graduation day in London and the celebrations that followed. All the hard work paid off!

6. What made you decide to choose St. Martin’s in the first place?

I chose St. Martin’s because, to the best of my knowledge, it was the only institute that was providing tuition in the evenings for a distance-learning program with a top ranked university. Considering that I was a full-time employee in a Bank, this was the perfect opportunity for me to obtain a BSc degree in Computer Science in parallel to my full-time job.

7. Reading for a PhD is definitely not a light task ... how did you come by this decision?

In short, it was due to my curiosity and due to the sincere encouragement of some people that I trust, especially my wife Charmaine Borg. The idea developed gradually. When I was busy with my BSc project I discovered my deep interest to work in

the field of visual pattern recognition. This was also thanks to my then motivated supervisor, Prof. Kenneth P. Camilleri. I became very curious about certain scientific concepts and wanted to extend further my studies by reading for an MSc program at Queen Mary University of London. Also, in London I found many helpful lecturers especially Dr. Fabrizio Smeraldi who was the supervisor for my thesis. He encouraged me to extend further my studies by applying for PhD positions. Charles Theuma was also an accomplice. I want to mention a memorable experience here. In March 2008 Charles Theuma flew to London with a group of new BSc graduates. At that time I was living in London reading for my MSc degree. Having kept good contact, I met Charles Theuma in Russell Square for lunch where he was very persuasive in encouraging me to go for PhD studies.

“In March 2008 Charles Theuma flew to London with a group of new BSc graduates ... I met Charles Theuma in Russell Square for lunch where he was very persuasive in encouraging me to go for PhD studies.”

8. Did studying at St. Martin's prepare you for your PhD saga?

Yes definitely! I believe it was a combination of two things. First, the experience and broad academic knowledge of the lecturing staff and second the fact that I read for the BSc program in the evenings along



with a full-time job. The experience I gained as a software developer at the Bank coupled with the high quality lectures at St. Martins provided me a solid basis to move forward.

9. Was your Degree with St. Martin's an important factor in finding a suitable job?

In my case I did not use the BSc degree to find a suitable job. It provided me an advantage to be accepted for the MSc degree in London and later to be awarded a PhD scholarship by University of Groningen.

10. Anything you would like to suggest or hint at for forthcoming and current students of St. Martin's Institute of I.T.?

When I started my MSc degree in London I was in a dilemma whether I should specialise in a field that per-

“The experience I gained as a software developer at the Bank coupled with the high quality lectures at St. Martins provided me a solid basis to move forward.”

haps is more marketable in the job industry instead of a direction that I like most but perhaps less marketable. I remember I discussed this matter with a Professor and he advised me that in such cases I should follow my heart before my mind. This is what I did and this is what I advise to current and prospective students.

When a person does what s/he likes to do most s/he can be much more creative, effective and efficient. These ingredients coupled with perseverance, hard work and being respectful open the doors for many opportunities.



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