

Issue 4





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Issue 4

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Fresher's Day

by Joe Camilleri

Alas, summer is over and both student and lecturer find themselves at the threshold of another scholastic year. For the lecturer, summer is the time to unwind after a packed year of lecture delivery. It is also a time to prepare for yet another packed year - a time to recharge the proverbial battery. For the second and third year students, it is a time of reflection (accompanied by much needed cocktails and sunbathing sessions) of what has been and what is to come. For the First Years - the Freshers - it is a new beginning, an adventure under the protective wing of an Institute which prides itself on a consistently high level of education.

Fresher's day was held on the 28th of September and began with Principal Charles Theuma embarking on his motivational speech. Many had yet to understand the seriousness with which he and the Heads of Department, Ms Alessandra Theuma and Mr Dylan Seychell, take in managing their respective faculties and the intensity of their jobs. Mr Charles Theuma was adamant that students need to 'Aspire'. He stressed that if a student did not aspire, achievement would slip through his/her fingers, regardless of all the teaching by the lecturers. Achievement is also a big word at Saint Martin's Institute. It is the most important cog in the machine, well-oiled by our dedicated lecturers. This works in tandem with the students, who every year are consecu-



tively carried away by the excitement of acquiring new knowledge. With students keeping these notions in mind, Saint Martin's Institute can promise the freshers future success built on cooperation and determination, always aiming towards going further.

Other short talks by our General Manager, Mr Marco Porsella Flores and the Heads of Departments concluded the sitting down time. All students were then divided into groups and embarked on creating a presentation using all available resources at Saint

Martin's. These presentations were remarkable in that cooperation could be seen from all students involved. This shows potential for another academic year. 2013/2014 shows another group of young people who now consider themselves pupils of the prestigious University of London, of which Saint Martin's Institute is an affiliate. This new scholastic year has yet again been underlined with an intake of young people whose cooperation and bright-eyed aspiration will definitely not be dulled by their stay at Saint Martin's Institute.



President George Abela visits Saint Martin's Institute

by Janelle Caruana

During a visit to Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education, His Excellency the President Dr. George Abela said in a speech, that he has made it his specific mission to visit all the different schools in the country. The President spoke fondly of this "one of a kind" institution and praised the teachers and staff for instilling in students "this outlook that knowledge is good for you. You have ... to share [knowledge] with others, especially those in need". This notion was undeniably the overriding theme of his visit, and was touched upon in other speeches by both students and Principal Charles Theuma.

The three students speaking were all in agreement, saying that they can now transmit the knowledge they gained by studying at Saint Martin's to others. Claire Mifsud also highlighted the importance of women in today's fast-paced IT industry, while Daryl Zammit and Michele Schembri explained how the teachers and op-



portunities at Saint Martin's Institute allowed them to dismiss their uncertainties, and in turn discover which career paths they really wanted to pursue.


Principal Theuma and the President both emphasised the need for

higher education in Malta, as a means of both combating poverty and allowing our country to move forward as a society. His Excellency called Saint Martin's "symptomatic of the change we are making in Malta these past years", and it is due to such efforts that we



have become a knowledge-based society - something that was just a dream 20 to 30 years ago.

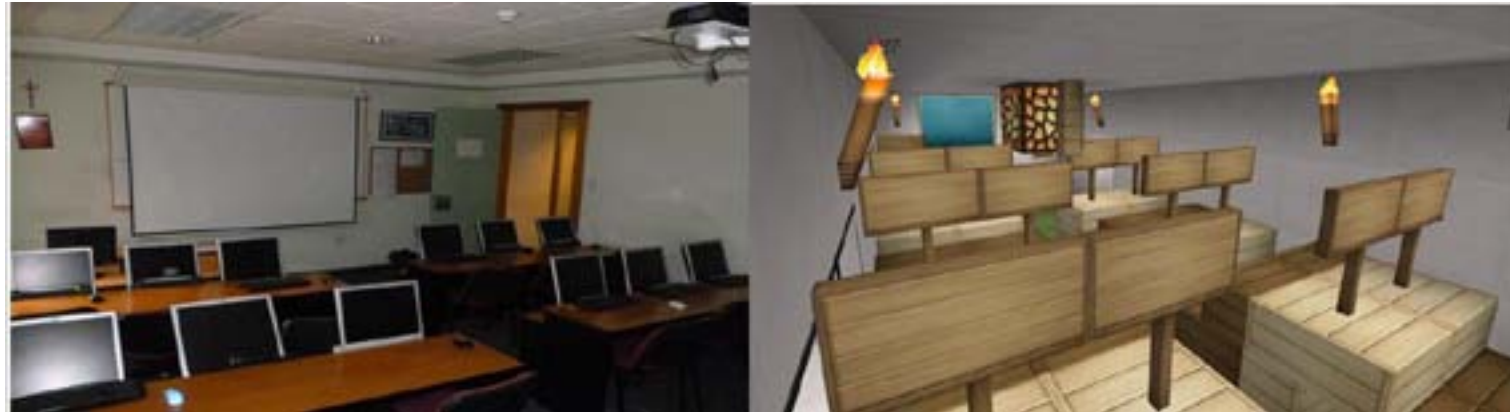
As an alumnus of the Institute, the President declared that he could vouch for the objectives Saint Martin's Institute holds, and who they really cater for. He encouraged students not to be afraid of their dreams or of challenging themselves, that everyone is capable of pushing beyond their limits. Principal Theuma's speech reflected this sentiment, by saying that those with the acumen to compete with the best, should be allowed to do just that, whatever their background or financial situation.

Dr. Abela closed with the heartfelt statement: "We can never be indifferent to these people, to the needs of the vulnerable people". This belief is one shared by Saint Martin's Institute, and with the President's positive influence, it may soon be instilled in the country as a whole. 

Saint Martin's Institute in Minecraft

by Josef Farrugia

Josef Farrugia is a third year student at Saint Martin's Institute. Despite a degree in Banking, Finance and Management, his greatest passion is video gaming. In fact, he has taken part and won the third edition of SMI's Game Development Challenge. Josef was inspired to build this version of the Foundation building of Saint Martin's Institute, after a Computing Art and Image lecture taught by Mr Jonathan Barbara.




As described in the official website: "Minecraft is a game about breaking and placing blocks". It is a game where one can build magnificent buildings and structures, or just wander around the world enjoying the landscapes, alone or with friends. One must be careful though, as monsters will spawn at night. You can try to escape, or if you are brave enough, you can battle them all night long.

This project was built on Minecraft 1.6.2 with no modifications installed. I used a different texture pack (Soartex Fanver) than the default one, making it look a bit better. To start off, I generated a new flat and peaceful world and I put the game in creative mode. This means that you cannot die and you have infinite supplies of every block available in the game. Building this in normal mode would have taken me days to

complete, rather than a few hours, as I would have had to mine all the blocks, chop all the wood, craft all the tools and furniture; all the while keeping an eye on the hunger system in the game and the angry monsters at night.

Since Minecraft is all about blocks and has a limited number of items, I had to use my imagination to create the objects found in a school. I tried my best to find items in the game to represent all the small details, while making it as accurate as possible. For example, the signposts in the each classroom and in the lab represent the computer monitors, and the glowing boxes hanging from the ceiling in each classroom are the projectors. The paintings on the wall represent the whiteboards and the

small grey rectangle on the ceiling represents the air-conditioning unit. The floors are all made of green wool and the walls are all in nether quartz, since it is one of the only blocks in Minecraft that is white. The chairs are made of wooden stairs and similarly, the desks are made of upside-down wooden stairs, in a lighter colour.

The most rewarding part was seeing the reactions of my fellow students, as well as the lecturers. When I showed them the pictures, they immediately recognised the school and the various classrooms I had built. Overall, this was a very fun experience and one which I thoroughly enjoyed. 

[Click here for more](#)

London Professors visit Saint Martin's Institute

by Janelle Caruana

Saint Martin's Institute was honoured to welcome three guests from the London School of Economics, and the University of London International Programmes to the Institute this last November.

Prof Martin Anthony held a public lecture on 'Motivating Students in Higher Education', and underlined the idea that real learning can only come about when there is real understanding. The only way for students to make the most out of their higher education, is to be proactive and self-guided - putting in the necessary effort will transform students into self-actualised adults, which is really what separates compulsory education from higher education.

Higher education is for more than getting a job, it is more than a bullet point on a CV. It educates students in a broader sense than this. The outcome of a positive university experience is more than good grades. Students should not only be guided through their studies by learning the syllabus, but instead by understanding the method behind it. That being said, becoming an active student requires motivation,



Professor Martin Anthony

from both the side of the student and the lecturer.

Prof Martin Anthony also spoke to us here at Aspire magazine about his true calling as a mathematics professor, which can be seen by clicking [here](#).

Dr Keith Sharp and Prof Rachel Gibson also visited and toured various Sixth Forms around Malta holding information seminars, in order to explain exactly what the University of London International Programmes are.

They explained that it was the first university in the UK to admit students regardless of race, religion or wealth. Instead students were recruited on the basis of merit, which at the time in the 19th century, was a rather radical position to take. The University of London eventually took this a step further by saying: anyone who can pass our examinations also deserves to graduate with the same degree. Not being physically on the London campus shouldn't make a difference to one's abilities or qualifications. This was the beginning of the University of London International Programmes.

There are 24,000 students following courses offered by the University of London, with only 9,000 of these studying on the London campus itself. Dr Sharp mentioned that one famous alumnus of

the University of London International Programmes is the late Nelson Mandela, who read for an LLB degree while imprisoned on Robben Island. The International Programmes can be followed individually, like Mandela, or through an affiliate centre outside of London, like Saint Martin's Institute in Malta.

As a sociologist by profession, Dr Sharp also took the time during his visit to deliver a public lecture at Saint Martin's Institute, called the Age of the Internet and the Transformation of Identity. He spoke about how personal identities are formed, how the internet can affect this process and



Dr. Keith Sharp

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the implications of these changes on social dynamics.

Dr Sharp began by saying that "human beings are distinguished by their capacity to be both subject and object of their own experience". By seeing ourselves as the object, we are able to interpret our own actions from another's point of view. We do not form our identities in a vacuum, our perceptions of ourselves come from numerous sources, but often we react in accordance to our social surroundings. How we see ourselves changes the way we act towards others, making the concept of identity an important one.

With the advent of the internet, one is able to meet all sorts of people with all sorts of interests. Dr Sharp took the example of being a jazz enthusiast. Being such a 'closet nerd' as he puts it, does not allow him to talk about his passion to very many people but thanks to the internet, this is no longer an issue. There are virtually thousands of cyber communities available, each with their own specific interests. Because of this, he can delve into being a jazz enthusiast as much as he likes, without social repercussions in the real world - as long as he is not found out.



If this is overdone, it can lead to one living a kind of double life and this blurs the lines of one's identity. The problems arising from such secrecy is evident if one's closet enthusiasm is something of a more deviant nature. By communicating with likeminded individuals, anything can become morally acceptable. Dr Sharp concluded by saying that there is more opportunity for people to discreetly engage in such activities than ever before. Legitimising such deviant identities has never been seen on such a large scale, but so far, we cannot truly know the implications such behaviour may have on the nature of social order.

This talk was particularly helpful to the sociology students at Saint Martin's Institute, as well as various lecturers and psychology practitioners that attended. Saint Martin's Institute is proud of these successful visits and looks forward to continuing to uphold its high standards of education.



Who is the Student Council?

Early on in 2013, Saint Martin's Institute saw the formation of an all new Student council, made up of seven members that were selected by a vote from the academic staff. Learn more about them below!

Michele - I'm 20 years old, I'm currently in my second year of a degree in Creative Computing. I have a passion for music and I play quite a few instruments, including guitar, drums and bass. In my spare time I enjoy catching up on TV series and playing video games or being out with friends.

Mark- I'm 19 years old, and currently in my second year of a Degree in Creative Computing. My hobbies are going out with friends, music and the occasional game playing.

Stefan - I'm 21 years old and from Serbia, in my second year of BBA, I enjoy motorsports and the car industry in general. I also enjoy going out with friends on the weekend.


Miguel - I'm 22 and in my second year as a BBA student. My interests include reading, PC gaming and music produc-

tion. I currently work with an I-gaming company and when I'm off I enjoy going out and socialising.

Malcolm - I am 20 and in my second year of the BSc Economics and Management course. I joined the council last year because I thought it would be an interesting experience and that our work would lay the foundation for an active student body. I have an interest in computers and cars, as well as spending my spare time out with my friends or playing video games.

Naomi - I'm 20 years old, currently studying Computing and Information Systems. Outside of school, I enjoy reading, beading and gaming. Currently, I also work in Systems Design.

The council is presently busy planning the Official SMI End of Term Party, which will take place on Friday 20th of December at So City club in Paceville.

In addition to this, the council's first ever elections plan to be held towards the end of January 2014, as well as numerous other social activities in the pipeline for the coming year. Watch out for more information after the Christmas break! 



st. martin's

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday 20th December
SO CITY club | paceville
Doors open | 22:00 till late

dj lineup

Fountain		22:00 - 23:00
Jaime		23:00 - 00:30
Guel		00:30 - 02:00
Khrys Hammer		02:00 - Close



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