

Issue 5

The logo for 'aspire magazine' is centered on a teal rectangular background. It features a large, white, lowercase letter 'a' on the left. To its right, the word 'aspire' is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below 'aspire', the word 'magazine' is written in a smaller, white, lowercase, italicized sans-serif font.

a aspire
magazine

March 2014

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

WE COULD LIST 100 GOOD REASONS FOR YOU TO LAUNCH YOUR CAREER AT IXARIS ...

BUT HERE'S WHAT OUR TEAM THINKS!



MATTHEW CROKER

B.SC. (HONS.) ICT, MSPC (MELIT) (UAM) / SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

I heard about Ixaris when I was still an undergraduate - everyone said how exciting and motivating the work environment is. After my Masters' Degree I was given the opportunity to join, and I can only confirm what I was told in my undergraduate days. The payment market is interesting and exciting; people - no matter their job title - are ready to help you and make your induction as smooth as possible. No matter your level of experience, your ideas are deemed as important during discussions, and the company is not only keen on keeping up with its competition but also, and most especially, in the development of employees. It is now 8 months that I've been an Ixarian, and every day is a new adventure I face with my team.



ARMAND SCIBERRAS

M.SC. CSAI / SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

I joined Ixaris about 8 months ago as a Junior Programmer. In this short time I have been here, I have learned a lot from a great team of highly motivated people who love what they do! I immediately felt a part of this great community where everyone is willing to help each other. Developers are faced with interesting challenges on daily basis, that not only allow you to grow professionally, but are also very satisfying in knowing that what you do is used by clients all over the world. Work never gets boring and if you are enthusiastic, self-motivated and interested in working in a challenging environment, Ixaris is the place to be!



MATTHEW CACHIA

B.SC (HONS.) IT / ASSISTANT PRODUCT MANAGER

"I joined Ixaris in 2008 as a summer intern in the Quality team, then moved into Research and Development, where I spent most of the following years. Last year I was given the opportunity to move into the Product team, where I am now part-managing one of our flagship products - EntroPay. Ixaris' culture is what makes it stand out - we are trusted in our abilities to give our utmost - it's such a great environment to work in!"



JASMINE AGIUS

B.SC ICT CIS WITH CSAI / BUSINESS ANALYST

"Ixaris has given me a great start to my career - I joined the company as a Junior Business Analyst following the completion of my BSc. ICT degree. I chose Ixaris because we are continuously provided with new opportunities to learn and develop professionally. The team has been very welcoming and it is an honour to be part of such a great team. I joined the company at an exciting time of rapid growth and I believe it is a great career choice for anyone with enthusiasm and willingness to learn."

IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE THE PLACE YOU'D LIKE TO LAUNCH YOUR CAREER,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.IXARIS.COM/CAREERS, OR EMAIL JOBS@IXARIS.COM



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A Note from the Editor

Welcome to another edition of **Aspire magazine**! Inside you can find updates on what we've been up to, projects we've participated in and events we've been organizing. You can also take a look and find additional opportunities to further your career, and be featured in these pages yourself.

Aspire is Saint Martin's Institute's in-house magazine, so you too can

contribute! We aim to use this publication to keep in touch with our students, alumni and partners in a more familiar manner. We hope to encourage our Saint Martin's family to aspire for great things and achieve all of their goals.

So go ahead, flip through these pages, and enjoy!




Guiding our Students Forward

Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education (SMI) recently held the fifth edition of its annual Careers Symposium at the Phoenicia Hotel, Valletta.

The evening gave the Institute's students the opportunity to meet with representatives from a broad spectrum of organisations currently operating in Malta. This initiative aims to facilitate the connection between industry and the Institutes' students who are on the path to graduating in the fields of computing, finance, management and business.



The ethos at SMI is that a successful career will only follow on from a quality education where students are exposed to different situations and opportunities. SMI feels its responsibility towards its students is not limited to the academic facet of their journey in higher education, but extends beyond that and in particular focuses on the employability of its graduates.

SMI strives to challenge its students with hands-on experiences in preparation for their working lives. Presenting oneself in an interview is a skill learnt through experience; lacking this, the search for a job risks disappointment. Mindful that forming contacts within the industry can never begin too early, SMI provides this experience to students, thus allowing them to be more successful in their job search upon graduation. 






Joining Forces

Birmingham Ormiston Academy and Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education have joined forces to produce the MarBoa Malta Film School. BOA students studying Broadcasting, and SMI students reading for their Creative Computing degree, spent two weeks exploring the Maltese Islands. They have visited heritage sites, places of interest, and any other aspect that grasps their imagination – all with the specific aim of developing material to communicate what Malta is all about to the world.

The students involved are putting their classroom theory into practice. Armed with this theory, the project is providing them with the skill to produce a real sellable product. The students are dealing with real world situations, involving planning, meeting targets and working with new people - better preparing them for working life. The chance to explore a new country, or a new side to their own country, is an enriching bonus.

This school will be repeated with different groups of students in the Autumn of 2014 and the Spring of 2015, after which all the material will be donated to the Malta Tourism Authority, for its discretionary use in its communication plans. All the school activities, such as photos, blogs and project developments, may be followed on marboaproject.net

The MarBoa Malta Film School is funded by the European Union through its Mobility Programme. 

BOA (Birmingham Ormiston Academy) is a regional academy for Creative, Digital and Performing Arts. The academy, which opened in 2011, is a free, independent academy for talented & passionate young people located in the West Midlands. The curriculum is designed to develop the specific identified talents, gifts and potential of each student.



Links with London



The University of London International Programmes are constantly in touch with their registered and affiliate centres outside of London. This relationship recently allowed Saint Martin's Institute to host visits from a number of senior representatives from the University of London.

SMI was honoured to welcome to their campus Professor Sir Adrian Smith - recently appointed Vice Chancellor of the prestigious University of London. Speaking to students, Sir Adrian said that like Malta, Britain's natural resources were low, and our prosperity rested on the shoulders of our people. Investing in education and building our

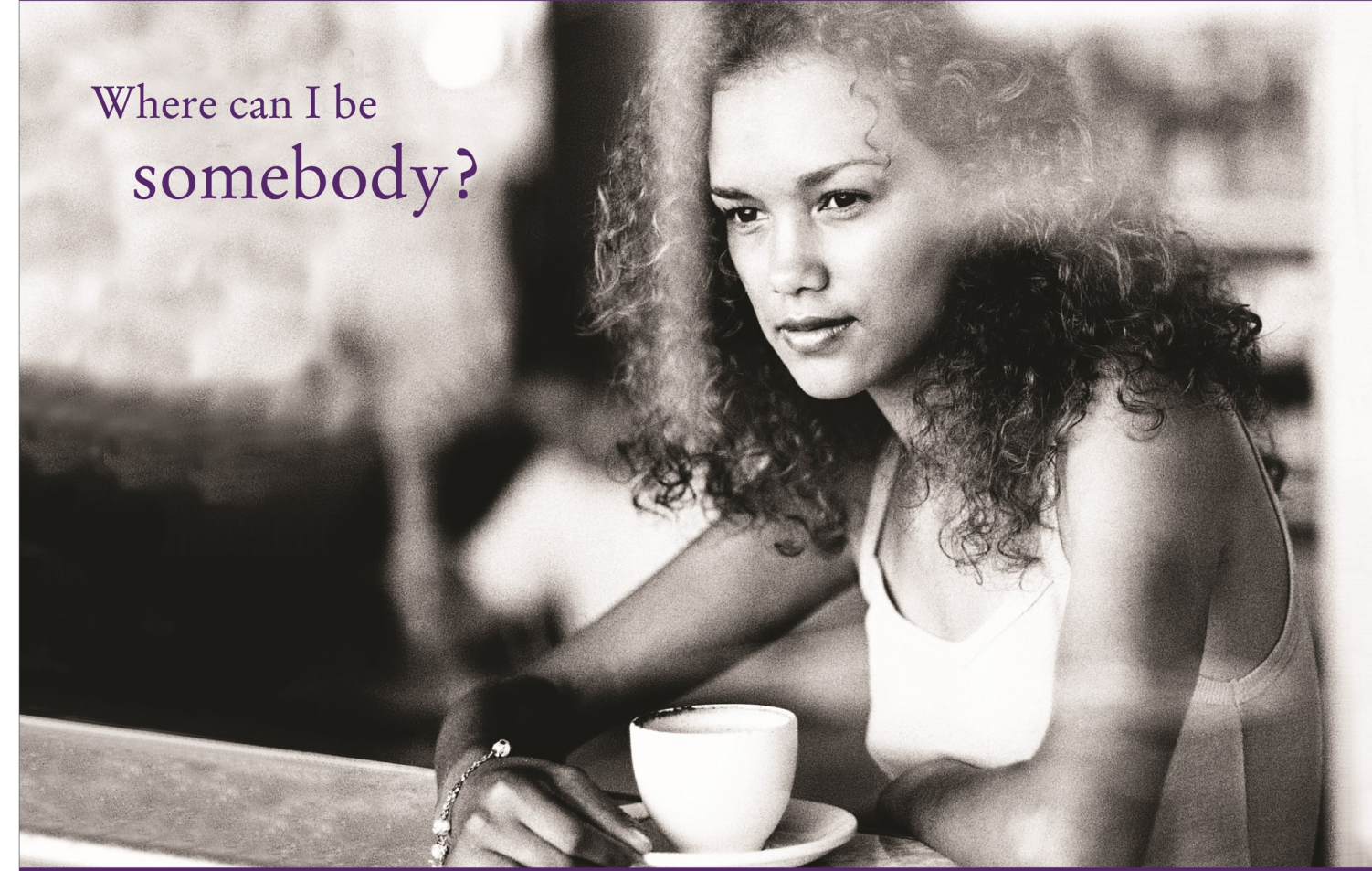
human capacity is the best way for both countries to move forward.

The importance of innovation was also a key point made by both Sir Adrian and Principal Charles Theuma: it isn't enough to simply gain knowledge in today's globalised world, one must be taught how to apply that knowledge – a challenge that SMI is well aware of and prepared to face.

Sir Adrian was able to see classes in progress as well as the library facilities and computer labs. He remarked that this visit, and ones like them, will allow the relationship between University of London and Saint Martin's Institute to flourish further.

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Lynne Roberts, Head of Learning and Teaching at the LSE Office for the University of London International Programmes, also visited Saint Martin's in January to hold workshops with students. The workshops focused on strategies for planning and preparing for examinations. She also lent her expertise to staff at Saint Martin's by joining their professional development weekend and discussing their plans for the upcoming year.

Dr Gita Subrahmanyam was also a guest at our staff's professional development weekend. Dr Subrahmanyam has been an external examiner for the University of London


International Programmes since 1999, making her a wonderful addition to the weekend, by offering powerful insight into the International Programmes.

Another visitor to SMI was Mark Hertlein, Senior Manager, Institutions and Global Development at the University of London International Programmes. Mark supports Saint Martin's marketing and business development needs and is responsible for ensuring that the relationship between Saint Martin's and the University is working effectively.

Our final visitor was Dr Steven Taylor from LSE. Dr Taylor held a public lecture entitled: 'Where does

aggression come from?' The event was very well attended, with many psychology professionals, social workers, as well as many of our own sociology students, attending this informative free session. Dr Taylor spoke at length about various famous psychology experiments and theories pertaining to this topic.

This was not Dr Taylor's first visit to Saint Martin's Institute. Last year members of the public also had the opportunity to benefit from Dr. Taylor's expertise in a different public lecture.

Visits like these strengthen the relationship between University of London and its Affiliate Centres, assuring students and employers of the quality of a University of London qualification, wherever it is received. 



Dr Steven Taylor



Vice Chancellor Sir Adrian Smith



Head of Learning Ms. Lynne Roberts

An Executive's Mind

This last month, Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education was proud to present the first edition of its Executive Meeting Series for 2014.

Saint Martin's Institute has been running the Executive Meeting Series since 2012, consistently aiming to provide students with a new perspective on business organisations and the challenges they face. Although in the classroom students are taught the theory behind business, hearing a business leader first hand and being exposed to an executive's experience, brings the subjects to life.


For this edition, Mr Matthias Fauser, Chief Executive Officer at Playmobil Malta, was welcomed to the Institute. Mr Fauser spoke to Ms. Roberta Fenech, a lecturer at Saint Martin's Institute,



about exploring the notion of culture in the context of a contemporary organization. In addition to being a CEO, as a German expatriate here in Malta, Mr Fauser was more than qualified to discuss this theme.

Mr Fauser spoke about the differences between work cultures and noted that the Maltese are fast learners, consistently willing to do a good job. He believes Malta has great potential to be a hub for innovation, while acknowledging that as a small country, achieving such a status is no mean feat.

Topics such as leadership, gender issues, and the relationship between governments and foreign-owned companies were also discussed.

At Saint Martin's Institute, we aim for our students to be armed with knowledge of the workplace in advance of their graduation. Learning about how the issues discussed relate to organisational structures, allows the students' transition - from hard working student to confident employee - to be a smooth one. 



BrightStart 2014

A recruitment event organised by Deloitte Malta - 5 April

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Graduation Day!



The month of March at Saint Martin's Institute has become synonymous with the annual trip to London for our latest students' graduation ceremony.

The excitement of graduating after years of hard work is an unparalleled experience, and travelling to the famed city of London, only serves to make the experience an even more unique one.


This year's ceremony was held on the 5th of March at the Barbican Centre, Europe's largest multi-arts and conference venue. The hall was packed with the awaiting graduates as well as friends and family. Principal Charles Theuma and the Heads of Department were also in attendance, representing Saint Martin's Institute and looking on proudly as another group of hard working students were rewarded with their certificates. This year was especially



rewarding for Saint Martin's Institute as ten of our students' computing theses placed in the top 15 globally, including first, second and third place.

The University of London team also made sure that no one was left out of the proceedings. As well as the precise organisation of the event itself, the ceremony was also broadcast in an online stream, allowing family members or graduands who could not attend the ceremony itself to watch as it unfolded.

The webcast was also recorded, and can still be viewed [here](#), allowing graduates to relive the experience. The webcast now also includes some behind-the-scenes footage, as well as interviews with graduates and more.

This year was yet another success story for Saint Martin's students – now graduates – and serves as a reminder of why we put in the effort that we do in order to provide the best education possible, under the constant support and guidance of the University of London International Programmes. 



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