

Issue 6

A large, white, stylized letter 'Q' is centered within a solid blue square. The 'Q' has a thick, rounded stroke and a small tail at the bottom right.The logo for 'aspire magazine' is displayed in white on a blue background. The word 'aspire' is in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below it, the word 'magazine' is written in a smaller, lowercase, italicized sans-serif font.

July 2014



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Contents

3 Principal Matters

A note from Principal Charles Theuma

4 Gaming with SMI

A look at the gaming related activities at the Institute

5 International Achievements

Student Frank talks about his articles being published in a Chinese magazine

7 London Collaborations

Our various collaborations with the University of London this quarter

9 Living Heritage

SMI's presentations at Heritage Malta

10 Open Day


The Annual SMI Open Day was held this July

Principal Matters

Another academic year is gone, and Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education is preparing for its twenty ninth academic year since it was founded. A review of the contents list of this edition of *Aspire* already is significant, illustrating the wider spectrum of education that the Institute is involved. In human years, twenty nine is treated as emerging adulthood, but in academic organisation circles where top Universities have been in existence for hundreds of years, we are still in childhood.



Yet apart from moving on towards our thirtieth anniversary in October 2015, we will also be celebrating the fifteenth year since we were accepted to join the University of London International Programmes as a teaching institution, and later managed to prove ourselves such that we were promoted to the highest rank in the network – an Affiliate. This status has portrayed our dedication towards the Institute and the University's quality assurance requirements which are bearing fruit since only now, the Maltese National Commission for Further & Higher Education has initiated a process of quality assurance for all licensed further and higher education institutions in Malta.

Dealing with this subject, I cannot but share with you, the readers of *Aspire* the sadness at the untimely passing on of Mr Paul Attard who has throughout this past decade lent his ear to the needs of the Institute – even when in the early years of our association with the University of London, the Institute was treated as rebellious against the established only State University in the Country. I had the opportunity of meeting Paul during the seminar launching MUZA, and I took the opportunity to introduce to him academics who accompanied me. He was all praise and satisfaction to experience the Institute's work both with Heritage Malta and the St John's Co Cathedral foundation, of which he was chairman. Alas, Mr Attard has been lost to the Maltese cultural and educational community and we will cherish the memory of a true gentleman. 

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The gaming industry is a massive, billion-dollar industry that is progressively becoming more lucrative. Employing thousands of people worldwide, gaming is an industry that involves people with all sorts of skills: audio engineers, artists, designers and programmers.

Interest in game development is growing rapidly. The dedicated lecturers at Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education recognised this growing sector and have since introduced the Game Development Challenge (GDC). Now in its fifth instalment, this initiative was developed with the scope of giving people a chance to gain experience in developing a game with others in a comprehensive and challenging way.

Participants can learn how to build a complete video game and are taught by our academics who are specialists in their fields. From July, our organisers are providing boot camps teaching participants the concepts that go into the development of a game. Review sessions will also be held along the way, where participants are given the chance to discuss any issues or concerns. A final judging session will take place in November, where established professionals in the field form the judging panel.

With the Maltese gaming industry still in fledgling form, it can often be difficult to know where to start from. It might be tempting to dive straight in and start coding or sketching, but real games take real planning.

Saint Martin's Institute explains the principles that go into industry-standard game development. Participants will learn how to build up a portfolio, create prototypes and develop the skills that professional game studios look for. Saint Martin's has the experience and expertise to guide participants and allow them to build a game they can be proud of.

In addition to this, our lecturers also organised a Mini Game Jam for our students which allowed them to build a game over a three day period. Teams were formed, concepts were brainstormed and coding began. Our lecturers guided students through the main issues that go into game building to push them in the right direction. A few days later, each team of participants held a presentation explaining their game concepts and what went into the development of the game.

A game jam is meant to encourage creativity, as only a short amount of time is given to create a game. The gaming industry is a demanding one where deadlines must be met. The pressure of a game jam simulates a real-life environment in order to challenge participants, along with SMI's aim to prepare students for their working lives.

Click on our logo below to check out games created by past participants, and keep up to date with the current GDC! [G](#)



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International Achievements

Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education prides itself on being an international institution and highlighting Malta as a hub for educational achievement. Many international students are drawn to Malta, not only because of our sun and sea environment, but also due to our rich heritage.

One of our international students Frank took the opportunity to mix some of his interests and publish articles on Maltese military history in a Chinese magazine.

Aspire sat down with Frank Guo Qizheng to talk about his publications and how they came about.

So what inspired you to write these articles and what are they about?

I wrote these 4 articles that are all about the military history of Malta, amounting to approximately 7,000 words in total. My writing materials came from several museums from Malta. Two of these articles introduced some stories that occurred in Malta during the Second World War, such as: the Second Siege and the air battle of Malta in 1942, and the military command (Lascaris War Rooms) of Operation Husky, the Invasion of Sicily in 1943. I wrote about Malta during the time of the Knights as well as mentioned a small part about Malta's rich maritime history. I also wrote about the Malta Air Shows 2013 and some warships docked in Malta's harbour, in order to show the modern style of Malta.

What is the publication? How did you get involved with them?

The name of this magazine is "Global Military Magazine". The magazine belongs to the PLA newspaper office (Chinese Military Media). It is a very popular military magazine in China, and it can be found in every city of China.

Last year when I was in Malta, I took a lot of photos of the air shows, and Grand Harbour. All these photos featured aerobatic and military ships in Malta. I uploaded these photos to social networking sites, and the magazine editor found these photos there. She was very interested, especially as there were some photos about 3 Chinese ships visited Malta last year on March. That was the first time Chinese warships visited Malta.

In addition to this, the editor was already aware of some historical facts about Malta, such as the Great Siege of 1565 and the second siege during WW2. She contacted me, and asked me to write some articles to introduce Maltese history to Chinese readers. I decided to take up this task and tried my best.

What inspired you to write the articles and get them published?

I am very interested in history. I have been in Malta for nearly two years, and I learnt about the history of Malta. I have a Maltese friend, Stephen, who is also very interested in history and he knows Maltese history very well. We have often gone to visit a number of museums in Malta, such as the Lascaris War Rooms, Palace Armory, Maritime museum, Fort Rinella, and the Aviation Museum. By visiting these museums I continue to learn more detail about the history of Malta. These were the inspiration for my writing and my source material.

How did you go about writing these articles? What was the process?

Before I wrote each article, I visited the museum which related to the writing subject. I always took a lot of photos when I was in the museum. When I would arrive home, I would read over some information in the photos, and I also did some research on the internet or from some books that I had bought.

I would have to check some of the information, to make sure that everything was correct and reliable. After that, I tried to create a clear structure for my article, and make sense of these materials.

Are you interested in writing in general? Have you been writing for long?

I'm interested in writing, and I often write in a diary to record something. However, this was my first time writing articles for a magazine. The editor was very satisfied with my work and I feel that I have done my best. My articles were published between February and April this year.

Our readers can take a look at Frank's publications in the photos on these pages!



London Collaborations



Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education is an Affiliate centre of the University of London International Programmes – a title it is exceptionally proud to bear. As an Affiliate Centre, SMI has had the privilege of assisting in a variety of campaigns and events in Malta in collaboration with a number of the University of London Colleges.

These include the London School of Economics and Political Science, Royal Holloway - University of London, Queen Mary College, and University College London (UCL).



LSE Seminar

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), in collaboration with affiliate centre Saint Martin's Institute (SMI), organised a public seminar on June 23rd with speaker Prof Arne Westad - Professor of International history and Director of LSE Ideas. The lecture was chaired by Dr Jill Stuart, LSE Fellow in Global Politics.

Attendees included University of London alumni, leading figures in the business and finance industries and Chinese expatriates. This seminar allowed business professionals an insight into the world of Chinese business relations and gave a clear picture of China in context.

Professor Westad explored the relationship between Europe and China in a lecture entitled 'How can Europe handle China? The politics of global power shifts and their consequences'

This was of special interest to Malta as a relatively recent member of the EU, and also as recent investment opportunities with China have occurred in Malta.

Some of the topics discussed included: China's international investment trends and their possible projections for the future, the widening poverty gap between the different regions in China itself, and the challenges faced by EU companies operating in China.



LLM Information Sessions

The Master of Laws (LLM) is a programme unique to Malta, in that it offers law students the opportunity to take their degree even further. This course is offered by the University of London International Programmes as a distance-learning course, with Saint Martin's Institute offering local support, by organising revision sessions, allowing students to make use of the on-campus library and administrative support.



SMI was lucky to have received a visit by Dr James J Busuttil last May. Dr Busuttil is a professor of international law, and the University of London's director of the postgraduate laws distance learning programme.

During his visit from London, he took the opportunity to meet with students and explain the benefit of reading for an LLM, over and above an undergraduate law degree. An information session was held on the premises and open to any interested party.

In collaboration with ELSA Malta – the European Law Student Association – an information session was also held at the University of Malta for undergraduate law students.

The LLM allows students to study certain specialisations of law, according to their interests and needs. In this way, the course will be perfectly suited to the individual's requirements. Academic direction for this course is provided jointly by the Departments of Law of Queen Mary and University College London (UCL).

Business Workshop

In late June, Saint Martin's held a one – day business workshop at the Hilton Malta, led by Ailson De Moraes - lecturer and researcher at Royal Holloway School of



Management, University of London. The workshop aimed to discuss and explain the qualities that go into leadership. The format of the workshop was varied as lectures, debates, case studies, videos and group exercises were all involved.

The workshop was entitled *Demystifying Leadership for the 21st Century* with the objective of engaging the audience in understanding the values that go into being a firm leader. The workshop was well attended by managerial staff and white collar employees,




aiming to learn more on the subject and new ways to become effective leaders.

A number of SMI staff members were also in

attendance and very positive feedback was received. The workshop saw participants interacting in group activities as well as learning the theory and principles that go into good leadership. Mr De Moraes emphasised that everyone can be a good leader, if only they learn the foundations and practices of leadership. The aspects of asserting oneself, motivating your team and building a team with purpose were just a few of the aspects that were touched upon throughout the day.

Professor Ailson De Moraes is an international speaker and teacher having taught and delivery classes in several countries around the world. At present, Ailson has contract teachings in the UK with Royal Holloway, University of London, the University of Hong Kong, Kaplan Singapore and Saint Martin's Institute, Malta. Ailson specialises in motivation and leadership.




See his work on his official website [here](#). 



Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education (SMI) visited the National Museum of Archaeology and spoke to employees of Heritage Malta about ways in which technology and innovation can enhance Malta's cultural heritage.

Principal Charles Theuma introduced the morning by speaking about how Malta has been endowed with a culture that we have every reason to be proud of. Mr Dylan Seychell also presented a piece on how our curiosity allows us to strive for more advanced technologies, and find new unprecedented uses for them. He also displayed a computer programme that aids in the process of painting restoration.

Mr Johnathan Barbara gave a presentation on Transmedial Heritage, where he explained how transmedia can be used to garner interest in historical events. Transmedia involves telling stories across various media platforms, and in this manner, allows those whom are not usually inclined towards history and culture, to see this in a new light and become more involved.

Another highlight of the morning was demonstrating the Oculus Virtual Reality Headset. Heritage Malta staff had the chance to try out the headset and experience a virtual simulation of flying a plane. SMI lecturers explained that immersion technology like this can be used to enhance a participant's knowledge of any time and place, thereby allowing them to 'live' through history. 

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Throughout the day, visitors could try out some of the video games built by our students or have a go on SMI's Oculus Rift - a virtual reality headset that allows players step inside a game. Visitors could also check out the collection of computing dissertations and projects on display.

General information meetings were also led by Mr John Ferra and SMI Principal Charles Theuma, in order to give visitors an overview about the collaboration between the University of London and SMI, as well as the mission and values held by the institutions.

Mr Theuma emphasised that students do not always come to SMI with excellent grades, but through their own motivation and the guidance provided by lecturers and staff, SMI graduates have consistently come out on top.

Registrations are still open. Call us on 21235451 or email infodesk@stmartins.edu for more information. 



Saint Martin's Institute of Higher Education held its annual Open Day this July, where students were invited to visit the premises and discover what the Institute has to offer. The event was held throughout the day and visitors were given the opportunity to meet with the lectures of each department to discuss the variety of courses offered at the Institute and their individual options for the future.

Saint Martin's Institute (SMI) is an Affiliate Centre of the University of London International Programmes, which allows students from all over the world to study with the prestigious University of London - wherever they may be. This permits students who may not be able to travel, due to work or family commitments or financial constraints, to graduate with a University of London degree or diploma regardless.

The Directors from leading University of London Colleges were also in attendance. These included: Dr Sameer Hosany from Royal Holloway, Dr Maggie Cooper from Goldsmiths and Dr Jan Stockdale from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Visitors also had the chance to speak with them about their options for courses, and the value of their degree.



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