

aspire

MAGAZINE



Comments from the Editor (Joe Camilleri)

Graduation 2014/2015 - editorial

The New SMI Student Council - editorial

Fresher's Day - editorial

Revisiting Malta - MARBOA - Mark Bugeja

Games Development Competition - GDC 5 - editorial

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

BY MR. CHARLES THEUMA

It gives me great pleasure to greet you all through the Saint Martin's Aspire eZine. This Autumn Semester for academic year 2014-2015 has whizzed by. So many activities and events took place during these last ten weeks, and Aspire will stamp them in the evolving Saint Martin's Community Memory. We are a community oriented towards learning and knowledge. We've built our reputation throughout these past years since our inception based upon our determination to make a difference, to be known for our actions towards improving knowledge and competences with an eye on what is required by the industry. It has been a long and arduous struggle, and surely more is ahead, but throughout these years we have kept to our mission to strive towards quality education before anything else.

Many events are earmarked for next year which will help us mark this memorable anniversary. In March we will be audited by the University of London which will certify us as an Affiliate for the coming five years. We will also be audited by the National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE) later in the year. I treat these two audits as positive (yet scary) events because the Institute will have the opportunity to illustrate clearly its efforts towards raising the bar of further and higher education in Malta.

We are also hosting CAIP2015 in Malta - the first time such a high profile computer vision European Conference is coming to our shores. This will give the opportunity for the Maltese academic and student community to participate in a European Conference on home ground. It is difficult to envisage any further improvements in our results attained.



2015 will be a very special year for me personally as the founder of this Institute thirty years ago.

This year, yet again, ten of our computing students have had an honourable mention in their dissertation. This has been the trend ever since this award has been set up by Goldsmiths College. In addition we've received the news that Mr Ryan Sammut (graduate in Creative Computing of 2013) and Mr Edward Magrin (graduate in Computing & IS 2014) who both had papers emanating from their dissertations accepted for publishing in peer reviewed global journals. Can we hope for better results to make our thirtieth anniversary more poignant? All we can do is continue with our focus towards maximising our students' potential concurrently evolving ourselves through added experiences and new know-how. Congratulations to all for these exceptional achievements.

Please accept my heartfelt best wishes for Christmas to you and your loved ones, and I look forward for a busy yet fruitful 2015.



A Word from the Editor by JOE CAMILLERI

It is with a certain sense of achievement that I write these words today. After a long absence as editor, I am happily back behind the wheel of Aspire eZine - a St. Martin's publication which started barely 3 years ago and has gone through several developments, small and large - but always intended for the best. Thus I proudly present to you today another edition of Aspire, yet again delivered to you, my dearest readers, virtual for easier accessibility!

The last few months have been a whirlwind for all of us at St. Martin's Institute of Higher Education. Looking back, it is hard to believe that it has just been

3 months since the Institute opened its doors once again after the Summer holiday period. Soon to head off for another well-deserved break, it is with joy that I highlight in this eZine the achievements that once again St. Martin's has strived to gain, with always an eye out for excellence and self-development. There are other events that could have been mentioned in this publication, but then we would have needed a 100 more pages! I have chosen the most apparent of events in St. Martin's yearly timeline, some of which have become significant milestones. I will leave you to browse this newest edition and wish you a most joyful Christmas and a rewarding 2015.



The Principal, Heads of Departments and Staff of St. Martin's Institute of Higher Education proudly congratulates all its undergraduate students who completed their respective Diplomas and thus graduated under the tuition of the said Institute.

The graduation ceremony held in September 2014 in the Portomaso Suite at the Hilton and presided by Edel Cassar, CEO, Commission for Further and Higher Education, saw a great number of students flourishing their hard earned Diploma certificates. One could easily observe the smiles of relief from both students and parents at this ceremony. It was an evening of success, a threshold reached and overcome and also a new beginning for further studies and broadening of horizons.



List of Graduates

2013/2014 Diploma in Economics

Gatt Kimberly

2013/2014 Diploma in Social Sciences

Jessica Tabone
Marisa Caruana

2013/2014 Diploma in CIS

Cachia Alysa Ann
Cortis Christian
Baldacchino Jurgen
Psaila Antoine
Farrugia Steven
Amato Gauci Allan Philip

2013/2014 Diploma in Creative Computing

Tanti Malcolm
Vassallo Jeremy
Grech Jean Carl
Borg David

List of Graduates - Continued

2011/2012 Diploma Entrepreneurship Graduates

Borg Manche Tara
Laurenti Luke
Zammit Luke

2012/2013 Diploma Entrepreneurship Graduates

Grech Christina
Zhang Baihui
Bondin Norbert
Clark Diana
Florian Carla

2013/2014 Diploma Entrepreneurship Graduates

Bishtawi Daniel
Grech Bonett Corissa
Bonello Ghio Nicholas
Zammit Jeanmarc
Avdoshina L. Kristina
Chantelle Zarb
Gatt Mariah
Guo Qizheng
Bonnici Drago Dylan

Student speeches and presentation of certificates at the Hilton.
The graduating academics in a post-graduate certificate in education.

The new graduates from both faculties at St. Martin's Institute.
The reception, after the awarding of Diplomas.



**NO PAIN...
NO GAIN!**
Games Development Challenge 5
BEHIND THE SCENES

GDC stand for Games Developments Competition; a big name for an equally big event in the annual calendar of St. Martin's Institute of Higher Education. Initiated 5 years ago, this competition is a unique chance for coders, musicians and artists to hone their respective skills and learn different techniques in their field and even envelop new learnings from fellow competitors and the organising lecturers from the said Institute.

GDC is 4 months of balancing time and keeping to deadlines – a baptism by fire, one can say, for future game developers who intend to make it big in the games development industry. It is a harsh reality in the real world; but this event, set up annually by St. Martin's, aims to provide the enlisted competitors with the tools necessary to face and overcome this challenge, thus gathering important practice and substantial self-development with regards to this particular field of work.

This year a total of 6 teams made it to the final. The judging was not easy, as stated by many of the judges present on the night of the closing of GDC 5. These judges, representing some of the biggest names in the game development industry, both in Malta and the world had a tough time deciding the winners. But decisions had to be taken and yet again it was the closing chapter for another long adventure. Tired smiles and brilliant games were once again the result of months of commitment as the judges closed the evening with some striking words of wisdom, embraced by all and sundry. See you again next year! [Continued on page 8](#)

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THE NEW Student Council

Who are the People behind the Council?



Get to know more about St. Martin's Student Council on their Facebook Page >>> 

Bernard Hili

BSc Computing and Information Systems

Bernard is in his final year reading for a Computing and Information Systems degree. He is interested in motorsports, technology and current affairs. His dreams and goals for the future are a thing that he is determined to make happen. Bernard would like to become a programmer and one day manage his own company and live in Switzerland.

His intentions for the council are to help students in any school issues that they may have, and organise a number of social activities and to continue updating the recreational areas in the school premises, making the Institute a place of both work and leisure.



Mariah Gatt

BSc Business Administration

Mariah considers herself a very cheerful person who works well under pressure. She enjoys working hard and considers herself as a perfectionist which can be negative in some circumstances, according to her. She loves animals and enjoys spending her free time helping out in animal sanctuaries that need a helping hand, and trust me, she adds, there are a lot which need help! She also enjoys reading books and relaxing.

Mariah joined SMI Student Council as she felt that students deserve more. As a council member her aim is to organise activities which will help unifying students. She believes this is important as we are very fortunate to have students with different cultural and religious backgrounds. Everyone can learn from such students. Mariah looks forward to working with other council members and creating a better experience for all students.



Francesca Vella

BSc in Economics and Management

Francesca is in her third year at St. Martin's Institute reading for a BSc in Economics and Management. Her hobbies are traveling, skiing, and scuba diving and she is currently in training to become a PADI Dive Master.

Francesca is the Treasurer of the St Martin's Student Council, and together with the other council members, would like to help the institute create opportunities for the students, during their course studies, as well as, after the students have graduated.

Matthew Baluci

BSc IS & Management

Matthew is 17 years old and he is a first year student presently reading for a degree in IS & Management. He loves any kind of sports and is a keen waterpolo player. Matthew currently plays for the waterpolo team - Sirens. He considers himself to be a joyful person and loves to be around his friends!

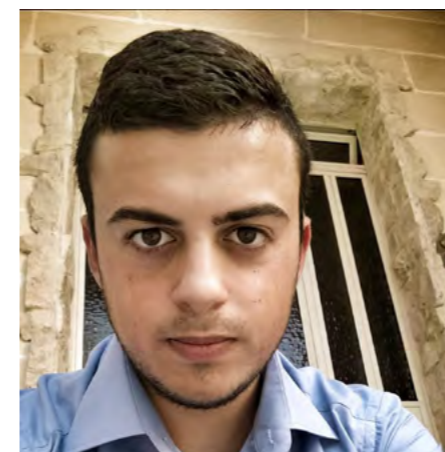
Matthew would like to take this opportunity to thank all those students who gave me their vote for the school council.



Brendan Cachia

BSc in Computing and Information Systems

Brendan is 20 years old and a 2nd year student at St. Martin's. His main interests in life are going out, music, making new friends, learning about new technologies, wearables, gadgets, computer hardware, IT news, PC gaming, cars and of course - Pizza! One thing he absolutely likes is that long awaited parcel from abroad containing the last piece of technology I ordered.



Brendan likes to get involved in stuff and has been participating in extracurricular activities since secondary school. This is his 4th year at St. Martin's and I am quite fond of it. His school mates persuaded him in signing up for the election and he feels proud to represent them on the student council.

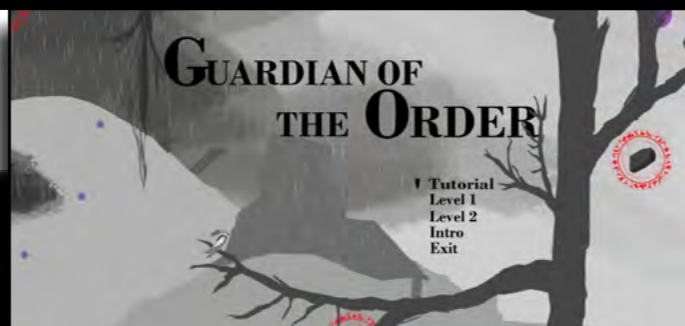
THE GAMES



... and who's behind them!



KS3 Games – Fort Siege
Stephen Abela
Stephen Robert Spiteri
Stefan Darmanin
Keith Vella



Time in Oven Games – Guardian of the Order
Josef Farrugia
Samuel Grech
Mauro Cordina



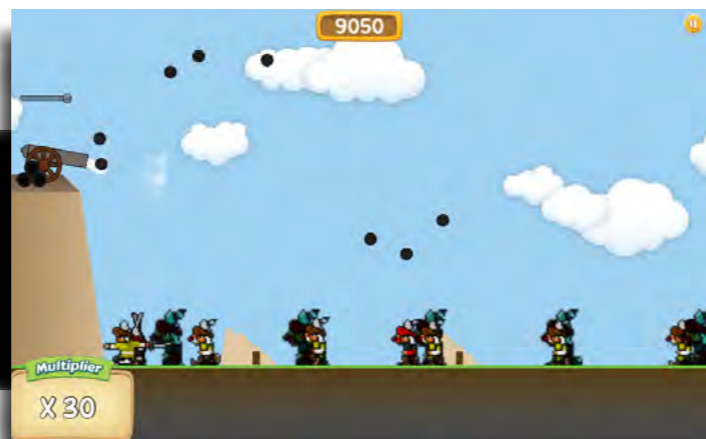
Elixir Games – The Siege of 1565
Wilbert Tabone
Brenden Grech
Matthew Von Brockdorff



Team Jump – Jump Knight
Daniel Cassar
Darren Camilleri
Isaac Boldarini
Neville Micallef



Silentium – Cannon Frontier
Massimo Saliba
Jeremy Lee Grech



Graveyard Runners – 1565 : Fort Invaders
Sean Busuttill
Dylan Busuttill
Manuel Scicluna
Clive Brincat





2014 MARBOA


The MarBoA project, initiated in 2013, was such a welcome success that this year the academic event was repeated with an alacrity and enthusiasm that was apparent throughout the 2 weeks of the programme in both the alumni and lecturers heading the project.

The MARBOA project has just completed its second phase where eleven Maltese students and ten English students created a video and trans-media project in a matter of fourteen days.

What was the MARBOA experience like? Well, to sum it up it was intensive, tiring and a lot of fun. The students and the lecturers involved in the project learned a lot both from learning about each other's respective fields as well as the different cultures.

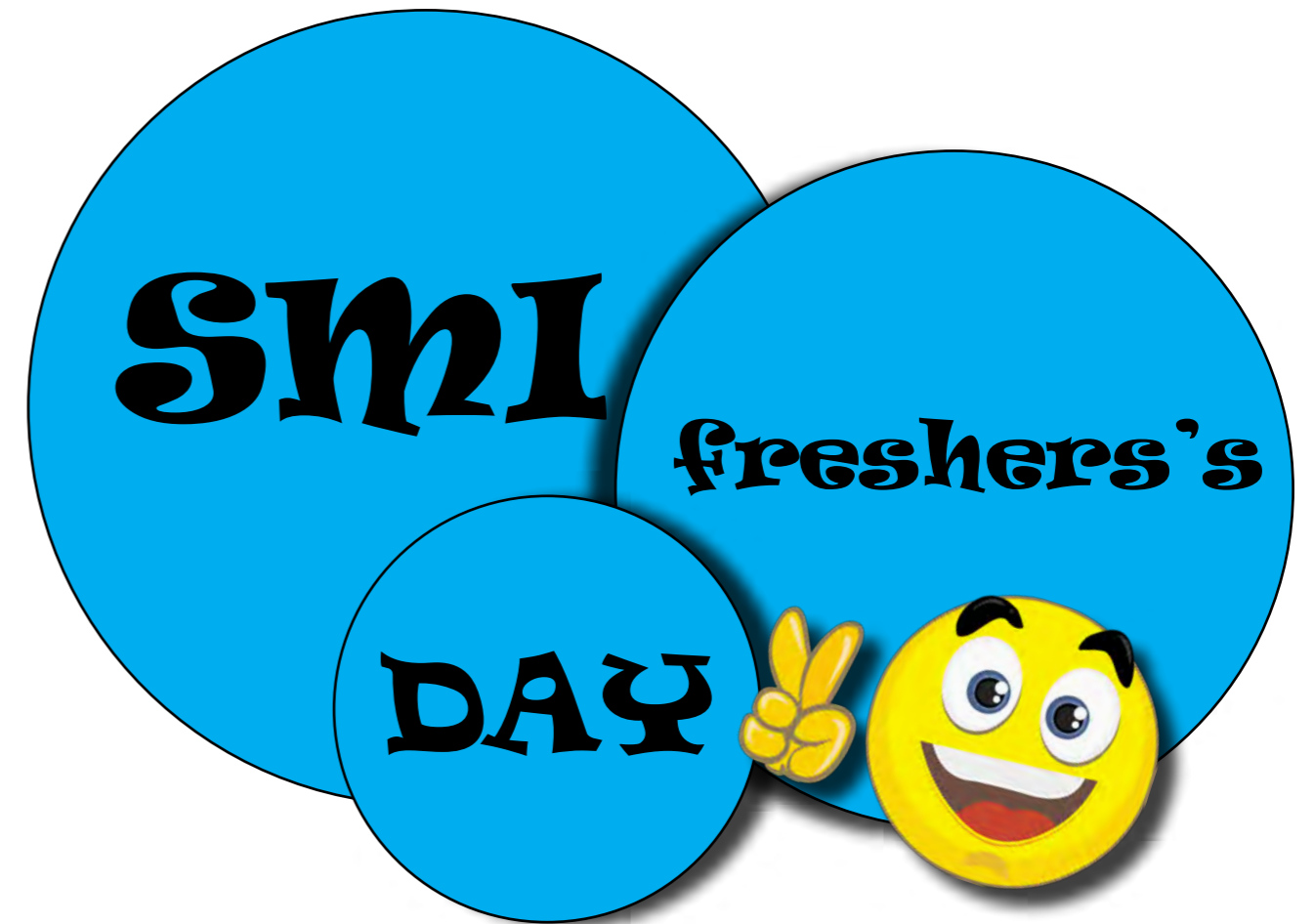
The best element of the project is seeing the student's get to know each other better; there was a sense of unity throughout the whole two weeks.

The final products that they submitted where really impressive and for the amount of time they had at their disposition it is to be considered quite an achievement.

I am sure that the skills they have attained during these two weeks will help them out in the coming months. 



MarBora Student Mobility Flow 2 has been successfully organised in Malta again. These photos were taken by British students during their visit in Malta.



Click to view



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Events @ ST. MARTIN'S

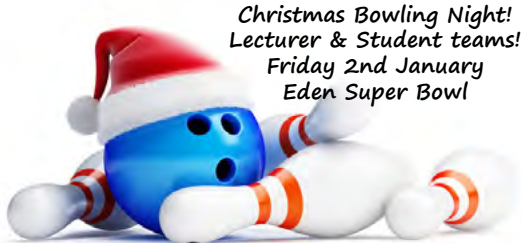


The BEF Head of Department, Ms. Alessandra Theuma, Student Council vice-president, Ms. Mariah Gatt, Student Council member, Brendan Cachia and Student Council advisor Ms. Sue Wallbank presented a cheque for 250 Euros to Puttinu Cares Foundation. This foundation was set up in 2002 and began from an idea and a desire to offer a holistic approach of care for families with children suffering from cancer.

St. Martin's Staff and student organised an initiative to raise funds for this foundation. Lecturers and students donated money and wore a Santa hat as a symbol of solidarity with the ones who will be suffering this Christmas period.

St. Martin's Student Council PRESENTS

in collaboration with St. Martin's Institute ...



Christmas Bowling Night!
Lecturer & Student teams!
Friday 2nd January
Eden Super Bowl



Forthcoming Attractions

st. martin's student council



christmas party

