

MCAST LINK

SPRING ISSUE 42

- Lecturer wins International City and Guilds Award
- Students obtain World's Best Results
- Collaboration with Local Industrial Partners



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MARIA BEZZINA
following BA (Hons) in 3D Design and Interiors, with her winning design 'IE'



EDITOR'S MESSAGE



I would like to start off by thanking Mr Ray Farrugia, ex-College Registrar, for his years of excellent service and dedication to the College. He has now been replaced by Mr Ronald Curmi whom I would like to congratulate and wish the best of luck to.

This issue features two students and a lecturer that received awards for their outstanding work at College. The students, Daphne Ann Mintoff and Janet Muscat, were presented international awards for obtaining the best results in three London Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise International Qualifications. Lecturer Alfred Mizzi was presented with the prestigious City and Guilds Medal for Excellence in recognition of his efforts and commitments to his students.

Over two thousand five hundred students received certificates during the various graduation ceremonies held in December 2012 and January 2013. During these events students were awarded certificates ranging from MQF Level 1 to 6.

The middle pages feature eco-friendly products designed and created by Art and Design students and made out of waste from Domestica's Ltd woodwork factory. Students unleashed their creativity and developed innovative and unusual designs and products ranging from picnic ware to children's furniture. Well done to all the students that participated and the winner, Maria Bezzina, who appears on the front cover of the magazine.

This issue introduces the new student organisation called 'SpeakOut!'. Find out about its objectives, its vision and what you can do to become a member. They join another student organisation, PULSE, which has now been recognised by MCAST.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Balzan', with a long horizontal line underneath.



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MCASTlink is produced by the Communications and PR Office

Produced & Edited: Caroline Balzan, Communications & PR Manager

Design: Roderick Peresso

Printing: Progress Press

Proofreading: Joyce Hili

Advertising enquiries: caroline.balzan@mcast.edu.mt

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INFORMATION



LECTURER WINS INTERNATIONAL CITY & GUILDS AWARD

Mr Alfred Mizzi, a lecturer at MCAST, was presented with the City & Guilds Medal for Excellence, in recognition of his efforts and commitments to his students at the College's Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

The award was presented by City & Guilds and MCAST officials at the MCAST Main Campus, in Paola, on Wednesday 17 April 2013. Mr Mizzi is the first Maltese lecturer ever to receive this prestigious award from City & Guilds.

Through a network of 8,500 Approved Centres in 80 different countries, over two million learners register with City & Guilds to work towards one of its qualifications every year. These include Maltese students who complete City & Guilds courses through MCAST. The Medals for Excellence are awarded every year to recognise the dedication of learners and lecturers who achieve the best results or who go above and beyond what is expected of them. This year, 106 Medals were awarded

in the UK and Ireland and in other countries where City & Guilds courses are offered. Mr Mizzi is one of only fifteen individuals outside the UK and Ireland who received this award. He has also been shortlisted for the City & Guilds Lion Awards, the most prestigious accolade of this awarding body, which acknowledges the best performers among the Medal for Excellence awardees. The awards will be announced during a ceremony in June, at the Roundhouse in London's Camden.

With over 30 years experience in his field, Mr Mizzi has been teaching electrical installation at MCAST since 2003. Previously, he lectured at the Technical Institute.

In his modules, Mr Mizzi developed an innovative form of assessment which combines practical experience in real work scenarios with community work. Every year, he collaborates with different charity organisations that may need different electrical installation services, and includes their requirements as part of the students' City & Guilds



studies. Each project is first planned and discussed with the students at Mr Mizzi's workshop at MCAST. Every student is then assigned to a specific task to collaborate with their colleagues in implementing the project under the lecturer's supervision. The students' work is finally evaluated and included as part of their City & Guilds final assignment. Through this method, Mr Mizzi's students worked on the electrical installation of several community homes for disabled persons, crèches and other charitable institutions such as Dar il-Wens and Inspire.

"In this way," Mr Mizzi explains, "my students acquire invaluable hands-on experience in their area of study, while learning how to be active, responsible and caring citizens. The same level of technical training can be achieved by practising on a training model. However, by applying their newly-acquired skills to a real project for a good cause, they are gaining full satisfaction out of their work – the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts and their skills can go a long way to helping people in need."

The Medal for Excellence Award was presented to Mr Mizzi by Ms Brid Healy, City & Guilds Regional Manager (Europe), Mr Rónán Haughey, City & Guilds Development Manager (Europe), Mr Stephen Cachia, MCAST Principal and CEO, Mr Anthony Saliba, Deputy Principal and Mr John Sciberras, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Director.

Ms Healy said that City & Guilds is delighted to have supported an educational institution as prestigious as MCAST over the past decade. "We very much value our partnership with MCAST and want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the valuable contribution this College has made to vocational education in Malta since its foundation," she explained. "City & Guilds is very pleased to be awarding a Medal for Excellence to a member of MCAST's lecturing team. This award has been won as a result of Alfred's dedication, commitment and inspirational work. It is also a testament to the positive culture which Mr Cachia and the MCAST team have fostered to facilitate learning and encourage potential for excellence."

Mr Cachia congratulated Mr Mizzi and praised this lecturer as an inspiring example of an experienced educator who combines high academic standards in the vocational area with a strong interest in the holistic development of his students. "Alfred's hard work, dedication and commitment to his students is respected by all staff and students at MCAST. This award is a fitting recognition of his work. It also highlights the dedication and commitment found in our country's teaching profession."

Since 2004, the City & Guilds Medal for Excellence has also been awarded to 25 MCAST students. City & Guilds' connection with Malta goes as far back as September 1942, when the country already offered the organisation's syllabi to its students. Since its establishment in 2001, MCAST continued this collaboration as a City & Guilds Approved Centre, with four of its Institutes currently offering courses leading to the awarding body's qualifications.



"Being the first Maltese lecturer ever to be awarded the City & Guilds Medal for Excellence is a great honour not only for me, but also for MCAST and our country. I am pleased that City & Guilds, such a prestigious international institution, recognized the high standards we are achieving at MCAST.

I am delighted and look forward to representing MCAST and my country at the Roundhouse in London's Camden on the 5th June 2013. I have also been shortlisted for the City & Guilds Lion Awards, amongst the final three out of the fifteen individuals outside the UK who have received this award.

I would like to thank Mr. John Sciberras, Director of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, who nominated me for this award, MCAST staff and administration, the students and everyone for their cooperation and respect that I continuously receive, and mostly for the appreciation of my efforts and commitment for our future generation."



RONALD CURMI

NEW COLLEGE REGISTRAR

Mr Ronald Curmi joined MCAST in September 2001. He was appointed Deputy Director of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and also delivered lectures on various subjects within the same field.

Mr Curmi started his professional career as an electronics technician after obtaining his Fellenberg Diploma in Industrial Electronics in 1993. He started out working in the manufacturing sector in several areas including power electronics, control systems and electrical plant maintenance. As his career progressed from managerial levels to directorship level, his interests shifted towards the home electronics sector and the then emerging Information Technology and Networking sectors.

His interest in vocational education was fuelled when lecturing power electronics on a part-time basis at the Fellenberg Training Centre for Industrial Electronics between 1995 and 2001. This was an experience he cherished that eventually led him to take up the challenge and make vocational education his main focus. It was then when he joined MCAST on a full-time basis in September 2001.

Mr Curmi obtained his Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Leicester in 2011. During his time as Deputy Director he coordinated and contributed to several projects linked to vocational education. He also served as a member and chairperson of ETC trade-testing boards related to the field of Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

In his new role as Registrar, Mr Curmi looks forward to work closely with the MCAST management team and staff as well as other stakeholders in order to help MCAST provide universally accessible vocational and professional education while placing the student at the heart of all its processes.



NEW COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

FOR MCAST ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

In January 2013 a new MCAST-UHM collective agreement introduced improved working conditions and increased salaries for the College's administrative and technical staff while providing for improved educational services to its students. The agreement expires in 2016.

Among the changes presented through this agreement, there are increased salaries for the College's administrative, clerical, technical and support employees and improved family-friendly measures, including more flexible working hours. The agreement also introduces an upskilling resources fund through which staff members can obtain funds for professional development courses, to update their skills and improve the quality of their services to the College.

This agreement, together with the one concluded with the MUT for the College's academic employees,

demonstrates a clear commitment to invest in vocational education, added Mr Farrugia. "Through these agreements, combined with the investment in the new MCAST Campus which will provide state of the art learning and training facilities, the College will continue to pursue its mission to become a centre of excellence in the development of Malta's human resources."

Mr Cachia said that "our administrative, clerical, technical and support staff fulfil an important and crucial role in ensuring that the College gives a positive educational experience to its students. This collective agreement provides improved working conditions which will enable our members of staff to continue providing the dedicated and committed service which has been such an important factor in MCAST's success over the years."

OVER A THOUSAND APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR PART-TIME COURSES

Over a thousand applications were received for the part-time courses launched by the College in February/March 2013. The most popular courses were Interior Design and Decoration (Level 1) and Make Up Techniques.

Two hundred and eleven courses were offered including new courses in jewellery making, landscape and seascape painting, alternative ceramics firing techniques, 3D digital design, barbering techniques, basic computer techniques for parents and guardians and welding and motor vehicle basic maintenance. For the first time in Malta, the MCAST Aircraft Maintenance Training Centre offered one of its popular courses leading to the EASA Cat B1.1 aircraft maintenance license examinations as a part-time course.

Further information on the part-time courses maybe obtained by calling MCAST on 23987103 or by sending an email to shortcourses@mcast.edu.mt.

LEVEL 1 TO LEVEL 4 GRADUATION CEREMONIES



1,863 received certificates upon the successful completion of their diploma and extended diploma programmes during the last academic year.

Through a number of ceremonies at the MCAST Main Campus, in Paola, 698 students received certificates for successfully completing one of MCAST's 40 different MQF Level 4 courses, including diploma and extended diploma programmes. Another 1,046 students were awarded certificates for one of 47 different MQF Level 1 to 3 courses, including the Introductory Certificate and the Foundation Programme. The students completed courses in agribusiness, applied science, art and design, building and construction engineering, business and commerce, community services, electrical and electronics engineering, information and communication technology (ICT), mechanical engineering and maritime studies.

Mr Stephen Cachia, MCAST Principal and CEO, explained that these ceremonies celebrate the achievements of young individuals who opted to continue studying rather than seeking employment soon after finishing compulsory education. "This is not the easiest option - students deserve all the support and encouragement they can

get to overcome the challenges that this career path brings along. In this regard, our dedicated team of staff is always ready to support the students at all stages of their academic progress and personal development. This month's ceremonies are the culmination of this collaboration between our students, their families and our lecturers, support and administrative members of staff."

The Principal also noted that the vast majority of students who completed Level 1 to 3 courses opted to continue their studies at a higher level. Most of the students who obtained Level 4 qualifications, which are considered to be high level awards that lead to rewarding jobs in the industry, chose to continue their studies at MCAST as well. "The commitment of these students to continue their studies even after they have achieved qualifications that present them with employment opportunities is highly commendable. At the same time, we hope that students who have now started their employment career will use the skills and values acquired at MCAST to achieve their aspirations. We encourage you not to close the door to further education, and to remain committed to updating and developing your skills and qualifications throughout your careers."



INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN

END-OF-YEAR EXHIBITION

2013



REVOLUTION

the final show

2013

The Institute of Art and Design is organising its twelfth edition of the End-of-Year Students' Exhibition. The Exhibition, which forms an integral part of the MCAST Expo, shall take place at the Institute's campus, whereby the premises will again provide a professional setting for the students' numerous exhibits. Three hundred students hailing from various Art and Design disciplines will be participating.

This year's edition, entitled "Revolution", will be inaugurated on 28 June 2013 by Hon. Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Education and Employment. The Exhibition will be open to the general public from 29 June till 4 July 2013 whereby visitors could enjoy the wide range of exhibits from various Diplomas and Degrees including Fine Arts, 3D Design, Graphic Design, Photography, Interactive Media and Media (Moving Image). The exhibits will include three-dimensional projects in various materials and finishes, professional graphic design and visual work, paintings and installations, photography and animations, video and sound experiences.

In addition to a live fashion event, a spectacular architectural projection will combine moving imagery, animation, lighting and sound, all guaranteed to provide a unique experience which will intrigue and stimulate the senses.

The preparation for the event is already well underway. Mr. Stephen Vella, Director of the Institute, remarks "After months of planning, students work hard to convert workshops and lecture rooms into their own personalised exhibition spaces. Working within the constraint of a "zero" budget they obtain sponsorships and make creative use of recycled materials to construct artistic stands that will exhibit their best works. This year's exhibition promises to be another celebration of quality Art and Design work that exposes our students' talent and creativity to society at large."

MCAST CHAPLAINCY RAISES FUNDS FOR STUDENTS IN NEED



The MCAST Chaplaincy raised over €1,200 to help students in need by selling fresh orange juice and cakes at the College's canteen.

The Chaplaincy's team, led by the Chaplain Fr John Curmi, set up a stand to meet the students and staff and to sell cakes and fresh orange juice in aid of a number of students who are currently going through hard times. Over 900 cakes and hundreds of orange juice cups were sold within a few hours.

The MCAST Chaplaincy helps students and staff through spiritual guidance and pastoral counselling. The service forms part of the College's support network, which includes the services of professional counsellors, career advisers as well as the organisation of Student2Student events, through which students are trained and guided to voluntarily help fellow students in need.



INTERVIEW

WHEN DREAM JOBS COME TRUE

LUANA'S APPRENTICESHIP EXPERIENCE



A few years ago, Luana Vella started her studies in construction engineering at MCAST. Today she's a construction design technician at a renowned local firm, working on international design projects across the world. David Vella meets Luana, and her employer, Architect Prof. Lino Bianco, to find out how an apprenticeship paved the way for her dream job.

Luana Vella joined the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering in 2007, to follow a Level 3 Diploma in Construction. A year later, she progressed to an Extended Diploma in Construction, a three-year course that includes an apprenticeship. "At first, I was not so sure about the apprenticeship experience," Luana explains, "I was afraid I wouldn't manage to find a company that would accept to employ me, or that I would not meet the employer's expectations. However, the Institute's staff, and the Employment and Training Corporation's Apprenticeship Section helped me throughout the application process and provided me with a list of companies looking for apprentices. Soon, I had an appointment for an interview with an architect's firm."

The interview itself is the first important lesson of an apprenticeship experience. Luana presented herself at the firm's office, and answered questions about her skills and knowledge in construction design, as well as on her career ambitions. Employment and Training Corporation (ETC) statistics show that most apprentices find a job as soon as they end their studies, often with the same employer who would have offered them the apprenticeship. This means that when interviewing potential apprentices, employers are usually also considering the students as future employees. In this regard, the apprenticeship interview becomes the student's first job interview.

Students following an apprenticeship programme at MCAST spend a few days a week attending lectures at their respective Institute, and the remaining days working as apprentices. This means that they would be immediately applying what they learn at MCAST to practice, from one day to another. At the same time, during lectures, they would be able to discuss any workplace challenges or particular experiences with their lecturers and colleagues. Apprenticeships are one of several ways through which MCAST ensures that its students acquire the necessary hands-on experience in real workplace environments, to be adequately prepared for a successful employment or entrepreneurial career.

Prof. Lino Bianco, of Lino Bianco and Associates, who sponsored Luana's apprenticeship and subsequently offered her a job with the same company, agrees that apprenticeships can be very effective in providing students with practical training, but insists they have to be committed and resilient in order to succeed. "I don't mind helping an apprentice learn, but at the same time, if students show they're not dedicated to their work, I'm not ready to waste my time and the office money on them – in fact, before Luana came along, I had another two apprentices, whom I had to let go. An apprenticeship is like a job – you can't turn up late for work or fail to fully commit yourself to the tasks assigned to you."

Luana worked hard and soon became an important player in the company's team. She collaborated with Prof. Bianco and other Maltese and foreign architects on a wide variety of projects, ranging from the design of an Interpretation Centre for a natural park in Gozo, to the regeneration of a historic area in Fez, Morocco's second largest city, into an artisan hub. "Working on international projects was an experience I was never expecting as part of my apprenticeship," Luana admits, "when preparing plans and drawings for international clients, you're working and competing with architects, engineers and technicians from around the world – every little bit of a design needs to be perfect, to the nearest millimetre."

"I enjoyed the work I was doing so much, that I often spent many more hours at work than I was supposed to. The more I stayed at the design office, the more I learnt – I acquired hands-on experience in different aspects related to construction design – understanding clients' needs, conducting site visits, meeting very strict deadlines, and creating solutions that meet site-specific requirements and pre-defined budgets," Luana adds.

Her efforts paid off. Last year, soon after completing her MCAST Extended Diploma course, she was offered full-time employment with the company that had sponsored her, where she is continuing her work on several construction design projects. "Eventually, after I gain more on-the-job experience, I plan to continue my studies in construction design, but for now, I just want to continue working here and enjoy the challenges that each task brings along and the feeling of satisfaction every time we complete another project."

Luana is one of 174 MCAST students who received the Journeyman's Certificate for successfully completing the apprenticeship included as part of their studies, earlier this year. The ETC is currently offering apprenticeships to over 650 students from MCAST and the Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS). These are being sponsored by over 300 different employers. Apprenticeship programmes at MCAST are offered by the Institute of Applied Science, the Institute of Art and Design, the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering, the Institute of Community Services, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, the Institute of Mechanical Engineering and the Gozo Centre.

For more information about MCAST's apprenticeship courses, contact the College's Career Advisers on 2398 7135/6 or career.guidance@mcast.edu.mt, or the ETC Apprenticeship Section on 2220 1302 or apprentice.etc@gov.mt.

LUANA'S FAVOURITE

"My most memorable experience since I started my apprenticeship is our firm's participation in an international competition for the design of an upgrading and restoration project of the Boutillière area at Cogne, in the Valle d'Aosta region, in Italy. This job involved the conversion of a neglected site, including an old mining village, into an eco-friendly industrial archaeology park. In itself, the project is already a very interesting opportunity for a construction designer – the office even had the opportunity to visit this unique location. At the same time, during this project, I challenged myself to start using new 3D design software I had never used before. We managed to complete the designs in time, and in the process, I learnt how to use new 3D design tools and acquired more experience in the use of different spaces for alternative purposes."



INSTITUTE OF **APPLIED SCIENCE**

NEW CAMPUS STARTS

TAKING SHAPE



The first block of the new €120m MCAST new Campus, that includes the Institute of Applied Science, started being used in March 2013. The block consists of lecture rooms, fully equipped laboratories for training and research in microbiology, chemistry, physics, environmental sciences and other specialised fields.

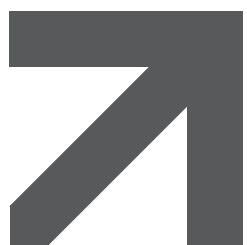
The Institute of Applied Science prepares students for careers within the health, pharmaceutical, environment, food and beverage and general engineering sectors. The three main focus areas of the Institute include Health Sciences, Laboratory Sciences and Environmental Sciences. The Institute started off by offering three programmes in 2011. It will now be offering 10 courses in September 2013.

Work on the new campus started in 2011. The first phase of the campus will consist of another two blocks housing the Students House and the new Institute of Business and Commerce. The project will eventually include 17 blocks bringing all MCAST Institutes in one campus. There will also be a 630-car car-park. This project is partly funded by the EU.





INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION
AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY



NEW IFTAC FIBRE OPTIC LABORATORY

MCAST inaugurated a fibre optic laboratory at its Institute of Information and Communication Technology, as part of an ongoing collaboration between the College and Sweden's Institute for Fibre Optic Training and Certification (IFTAC).

The new laboratory provides MCAST ICT networking students with advanced tools and equipment for

hands-on training in the latest fibre optic technologies, supported by expertise from Sweden's Fibre Optic Valley, one of Europe's largest innovation clusters in this sector. IFTAC invested over €120,000 to equip this new facility and to provide specialised training to the MCAST lecturers who will be guiding the students in this subject. This training started in 2012 and will continue in the coming months.



Through the MCAST-IFTAC collaboration, MCAST students will be able to obtain internationally-recognised IFTAC certification in fibre-optic applications. The College and IFTAC also aim to continue working with other Fibre Optic Valley organisations to develop MCAST's laboratory into a specialised research and development centre. The use of fibre optic applications is expected to increase in the coming years, with some local companies already investing in fibre-to-home technologies. These developments in Malta and in nearby countries will increase the demand for ICT practitioners qualified in fibre optic technologies.

IFTAC has been offering training and certification in fibre optic applications since 1996, providing support to over 300 organisations in 50 different countries. Its assistance to MCAST is coordinated through its partner organisation ICT Networks, which opened a Malta office in 2010. Both IFTAC and ICT Networks are based at Fibre Optic Valley, an ICT research and development region bringing together over 100 specialised companies and organisations, with a population of over 500,000 individuals. This cluster is projected to become a European centre of excellence in fibre optic technologies by 2015.

The new laboratory at MCAST was inaugurated during a visit by a Fibre Optic Valley delegation, led by Mr Jonas Dahlstrom, Fibre Optic Valley CEO, Mr Stefan Westberg, IFTAC Principal, and Mr Morgan Hallgren, CEO at ICT Networks (Sweden). They toured the new laboratory and discussed the latest opportunities in fibre optic technologies with MCAST's ICT students. Mr Joseph Farrugia,

MCAST President, Mr Stephen Cachia, the College's Principal and CEO and Mr Eric Flask and Mr Mario Pace, Director and Deputy Director of the Institute of Information and Communication Technology, accompanied the delegation during this visit. After careful consideration of alternative educational institutions, IFTAC chose MCAST as its partner in this region. "Together, we can now look forward to making Malta a platform for fibre optic application development in the Mediterranean region, including North Africa and the Middle East," explained Mr Westberg. Mr Dahlstrom praised the enthusiasm of MCAST students and staff, who offered their full support in this collaboration. "Fibre Optic Valley's vision is to develop Malta as this region's leading centre in fibre optic technologies."

Mr Cachia thanked IFTAC, ICT Networks and Fibre Optic Valley for choosing MCAST as their training partner in Malta. He praised the MCAST Institute of Information and Communication Technology, which worked hard to provide yet another advanced training opportunity for MCAST students. "These collaborations with industry ensure that our vocational education programmes are constantly supported by the latest technologies and resources. At the same time, as in this case, we are also investing in the continued professional development of our staff."

Mr Farrugia added that MCAST is engaged in similar partnerships with other sectors. "These collaborations contribute to economic growth through the creation of a flexible and highly skilled workforce. Ultimately, they make it easier for students to acquire the necessary skills, experience and support to succeed in their careers."

INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

STUDENTS DISCOVER PAINLESS DENT REMOVAL TECHNOLOGY



MCAST Institute of Mechanical Engineering students visited Burmarrad Commercial's automobile workshops to find out more about the recently-launched Paintless Dent Removal technology. The students met the company directors as well as other members of staff at the workshops where different automotive services are offered. The highlight of the visit was a meeting with a group of technicians who were brought to Malta from the UK company Smart Cover UK a few weeks ago, to provide Paintless Dent Removal services to vehicles hit by the recent hail storm that hit parts of our Island.

In collaboration with Atlas Insurance Ltd, Burmarrad Commercials was one of the first companies to introduce an efficient solution to repair vehicles damaged by last month's hail storms. Hundreds of vehicles were severely dented by these storms. The two companies chose an internationally-recognised partner from the UK to support their clients through this service.

Mr Charles Micallef, Managing Director at Smart Cover UK, explained that through this technology hundreds of small surface dents caused by the hail are accessed from behind and worked into shape keeping the car's original paintwork intact. This technology can also be used to repair small car park dents which normally happen when a car door opens onto another car door in tight car park spaces.

The MCAST students met Mr Micallef and his team of technicians in the workshop set up specifically for this work. They had an opportunity to observe and appreciate the diligence, patience and attention to detail required mastering the techniques of Paintless Dent Removal, a technology that is not normally seen in the local automotive sector. Since Burmarrad Commercials offers all automotive after sales service under one roof, the MCAST students were also introduced to the company's professional team of staff working in different workshops - spray painting, panel beating,

auto electricians, refrigeration repairs, mechanical repairs, body building and modifications, and tyre repairs.

Mr Mario Gauci, Jnr, Burmarrad Commercial's director, explained that the company is committed to continue collaborating with the ETC and MCAST in the best interest of its current and future employees. In fact, the company keeps ETC updated with its latest job vacancies within the group. Burmarrad Commercials also employs several MCAST students as apprentices, through the support of the Employment and Training Corporation (ETC)'s apprenticeship programme. Some of the company's managerial staff had joined the company as apprentice mechanics while still studying at MCAST and eventually progressed through the ranks. The company also encourages its staff members to continue developing their skills and qualifications through MCAST's evening courses. "We are now looking into the possibility of collaborating with MCAST and ETC to establish a Burmarrad Commercials academy to provide hands-on training to students who wish to acquire the manual skills required in the automotive industry. These skills are becoming very uncommon in Malta - we find it very difficult to find professional workers with these skills. By setting up an academy, we aim to ensure that these important skills and trades do not perish," Mr Gauci concluded.

Ing Aurelio Micallef Grimaud, the Director of the Institute of Mechanical Engineering, thanked Burmarrad Commercials for giving MCAST students this invaluable opportunity to learn about new skills related to their studies. "Such collaborations help us provide our students with a wide range of experiences in different industrial settings. Through them, we make sure that our students are being adequately prepared to succeed in their engineering careers as soon as they complete their studies at MCAST. At the same time, these initiatives give employers an opportunity to provide us with feedback about the skills, qualifications and values required from future workers for the successful development of their current and future investment plans."





GERMAN WORK EXPERIENCE

STUDENTS CARRY OUT WORK PLACEMENTS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS AND PRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS

By Sophie De Ketelaere, Wayne Cutajar, Alexia Falzon, Cedric Zammit and Michelle Abela, students at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering

A group of five students studying at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering were given the opportunity to work and study in Germany for a period of three weeks. This was made possible by the Leonardo Da Vinci programme which is funded by the European Union. The students worked at two separate companies namely RWE which focuses on renewable energy systems and Hella which produces electronic components for the automotive industry.

Two of the students working at RWE were involved in several interesting activities mainly soldering and testing PCBs used for the control of garage door systems. Besides this, they also had the opportunity to attend the famous Max Born Institute together with other German students who are also aspiring to become technicians or engineers. The rest of the students working at Hella were involved in several interesting tasks such as soldering electrical circuits, maintenance of equipment and production-line observations.

The students were based in Recklinghausen which is an industrial area. During their stay they also found the time to visit and explore different German cities such as Essen, Dortmund, Dusseldorf and Oberhausen.

The students are grateful for this opportunity to experience a work placement abroad. They believe that this stay in Germany helped them to become more independent, more appreciative of different cultures and also more familiar with the electrical and electronics industry. They encourage other students to apply for similar work placement activities as they believe these help the student on both a personal and a professional level.



TATJANA CHIRCOP

NEW DIRECTOR



Ms Tatjana Chircop was appointed Director of the Institute of Community Services in the beginning of January 2013. Ms Chircop joined MCAST in 2007, lecturing English, Health and Social Care over various levels within the Institute of Community Services and contributing to the training of lecturers in courses offered by the Vocational Teacher Training Unit in 2012-2013.

Ms Chircop's expertise in various fields of education, management, young people and arts, has made it possible for her to experience not only different industries, but also to take on a holistic approach to young people's education, believing strongly in the formal, informal and non-formal aspects of education as essential parts of young people's learning processes throughout life.

In 1988, Ms Chircop's career focused on music performance and teaching. She was appointed full-time violinist with the Manoel Theatre Orchestra and the National Orchestra for 14 years where she occupied the posts of principal 2nd violinist and sub-leader of the orchestra. She has also been an educator since 1989. She taught violin and piano at the Johann Strauss School of Music for many years and was both a music teacher and a learning support assistant at St Albert the Great College.

Her specialisation in the Youth and Community sector led to her working for a number of years as a community development worker with Aġenzija Appoġġ and the Valletta Local Council where she co-founded the

Valletta Community Network, a network of organisations with the aim of working towards the common goal of providing a better lifestyle for those who wished for it. Taking on the leadership of this network enabled Ms Chircop to start disseminating the idea of development community work within a community, then still an unfamiliar and innovative idea to many. It also enabled her to develop the foundations of several annual activities within the community as well as manage and develop such activities over the years. One such initiative was Sajf Flimkien, an annual summer school organised with the aim of creating learning opportunities and new experiences for children. As a youth worker, she has also worked within several youth centres including ZAK as well as with young asylum seekers.

Ms Chircop is currently in the final stages of reading for a PhD in Youth and Community Studies at Brunel University. She obtained her BA Hons in Youth and Community Studies from the University of Malta and her MA in Youth and Community Studies from Brunel University. She is also in possession of a BA Hons in English from the University of London and a Masters in Intercultural and Environmental Management of Schools from Università Ca Foscari. In 2010 she completed the PGC in VET. Her research areas include childlessness, young people in communities, performing arts in a vocational setting and music subcultures as part of a process of identity formation of young people.

In her new role as Director of the Institute of Community Services, Ms Chircop looks forward to work closely with the team of academic and administrative staff at the Institute, as well as with stakeholders in the industry, to ensure a holistic education for students which will lead to future employment and job mobility.

NEW COURSE IN SPORTS OPENING SOON

The Institute of Community Services will be offering the MCAST Foundation Certificate in Sports for the very first time in the coming academic year 2013-2014.

The sports courses at the Institute of Community Services have become very popular. To date, applicants could only apply for Sports courses at Diploma level and Extended Diploma Level. Those applicants who were not in possession of the requirements to enter the Diploma Level 3 in Sports had to register on a different programme of study, a Foundation Course that had no Sports components, whereas now, as from September 2013, those interested in pursuing a career in Sports can start their specialised studies in sport from the very early stages, at Level 2.

The Foundation Certificate in Sports is a one year full-time course covering both vocational modules which focus on sports and the key skills. At this level, students will cover various aspects of sports. These include learning about a healthy and active lifestyle

as well as planning basic physical activity for children. Students will have the opportunity to participate in and organise a wide range of minor sports and become familiar with various associations and organisations which offer them. They will also learn how to operate fitness equipment, as well as carry out a basic fitness programme.

The expansion of programmes of study such as the Sports programme, offers more and more opportunities to prospective students to pursue the career they aspire for. Anyone interested in the above course can contact the Institute of Community Services on ics@mcast.edu.mt or 23987550.



CAR WASH IN AID OF PUTTINU CARES

On 3 May 2013, a group of students following the Extended Diploma in Sport (Development, Coaching and Fitness) at the Institute of Community Services organised a car wash on Campus in aid of Puttinu Cares.

The students were responsible for the organisation of the event. This included obtaining the sponsors for the soap, sponges and buckets, designing and disseminating the flyers, obtaining the sound system and the setting up of the facebook page for the event.

Karl Sciortino, Andy Pace, Andre Ciancio, Maria Theuma and Bryan Falzon were the main organisers of the event. Besides organising the car wash the students also grouped up with other students and played a football game at the official Puttinu Cares Marathon that was held at Marsa. The students presented €250 that they collected from the car wash event.

Hairdressing and Beauty Services

at the **Institute of Community Services**

Services include cuts, colours, lights, perms, straightening, blow-dries, manicures, pedicures, facials, massages and waxing amongst others.

Open on Thursdays and Fridays
09:00hrs - 14:00hrs

Call on
23 987 550
for an appointment



STUDENTS VISIT THE SUSTAINABLE LIVING CENTRE



Second year students following the Higher National Diploma in Building Services at the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering visited the Sustainable Living Centre at Xrobb L-Għajin.

Prof. Spiteri Staines outlined the main features of this building that not only is a Zero Energy Building but also one that exports energy. He gave details about the appropriate building fabric, including the outer walls that are the double cavity type, and the insulated roofs, that result in low U values. All south facing apertures have

a concrete overhang for shading purposes and all windows have outer louvers which stop the sun's rays in summer whilst letting them in during the winter. The louvers will also be used for ventilation. The internal corridors are lit up by sun pipes, which allow enough natural light during the day whilst stopping the infra red heating sun's rays. The main building is so well insulated that it practically does not need heating on a typical December day, whilst in summer there is no need for cooling by air-conditioning but simple natural ventilation and assistance from fans.

The students were also shown around the four stage water recycling plant which purifies drainage and converts it into second class water with 20mg/l BOD i.e. water that can be used for W.C. flushings and irrigation.

The building can generate up to 25kW from renewable energy, coming mainly from three different types of PV panels and two types of wind turbines. The PV panels are 5kWp mono crystalline, 5kWp poly-crystalline and 5kWp thin film. The wind turbines are one 5kWp vertical axis and one 5kWp horizontal axis. The combined electricity generation from these renewable energy sources is more than the requirements of the building, resulting in a building that can export energy. The idea behind the different renewable energy sources is to gather data from every source, compare the data and find out the suitability of every system during the whole year. The building also houses a control room which includes inverters, data logging equipment and a dedicated computer for monitoring purposes. The visit ended with an invitation by Prof. Spiteri Staines to visit again in order to gather further data and participate in the research being carried out.

The Institute would like to thank Mr Vince Attard of Nature Trust for accepting its request to visit and Prof Ing Spiteri Staines for finding the time and explaining all the features of this interesting and innovative site.

BUSINESS AND COMMERCE STUDENTS OBTAIN **WORLD'S BEST RESULTS**



Daphne Ann Mintoff and Janet Muscat were awarded with Gold and Silver Medallions for achieving the best results in the world in the exams for three London Chamber of Commerce and Industry qualifications.

The two former students, who completed courses at the MCAST Institute of Business and Commerce last year, received the Medallions on 29 April 2013 at the College's Main Campus in Paola. Students who complete MCAST business and commerce courses are encouraged to sit for international exams leading to the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry International Qualifications (LCCI IQs). Over 250,000 students from all over the world sit for these exams every year. Daphne Ann Mintoff, who completed a Diploma in Banking and Financial Services at MCAST, obtained the highest mark in the English for Business qualification exam, securing an LCCI Gold Medallion. Janet Muscat, who followed a course leading to the MCAST Certificate in Marketing Studies – Level 4, was awarded two Silver Medallions for scoring the second best results in Advertising and in Public Relations.

The LCCI IQs are considered to be among

the most recognised vocational qualifications in business, covering different areas including financial and quantitative, marketing, customer service, business administration, English language and IT. They are administered by the awarding body Educational Development International (EDI), which forms part of the educational services provider Pearson Group. This organisation also includes in its portfolio popular brands such as The Financial Times Group and Penguin Group.

Daphne Ann and Janet, who are now employed at a local bank and at the National Statistics Office respectively, expressed their appreciation to MCAST for helping them attain this achievement. "I wasn't expecting this Medallion, but it is definitely a welcome reward for the years of study and hard work that preceded it," explained Daphne Ann. "This recognition will help us advance in our careers," Janet added, "it also encourages us to continue our studies at a higher level in the near future."

Stephen Cachia, MCAST Principal and CEO, presented the awards and thanked the Institute of Business and Commerce, its team of staff, and the two former students' families for their contribution to this success. "These medals are acknowledging the commitment and determination of Daphne Ann and Janet to excel in their studies. I encourage you to use this recognition as an incentive to maintain these values throughout your careers."

Anthony Saliba, MCAST Deputy Principal, Ronald Curmi, Registrar, Emanuel Attard, Chief Officer External Affairs, Yvonne Pulis, Director of the Institute of Business and Commerce and Josef Buttigieg and Jacqueline Micallef Grimaud, Deputy Directors of the same Institute, along with representatives of the Examinations Department, accompanied the Principal during the presentation.

103 STUDENTS

COMPLETE MCAST GOZO CENTRE COURSES



In March 2013 the College presented certificates to 103 students who successfully completed courses at the MCAST Gozo Centre last year.

Mr Stephen Cachia, MCAST Principal and CEO, Mr Ray Farrugia, Registrar, and Mr Godwin Grech, Director of the Gozo Centre, presented the certificates during a number of ceremonies at the MCAST Gozo Centre in Xaghra. The students completed foundation, diploma or extended diploma courses (MQF Level 1-4) in community services, electrical and electronics engineering, and ICT. The overwhelming majority of these students are continuing their studies at the Gozo Centre or at other MCAST Institutes in Malta.

The MCAST Gozo Centre offers a selection of the courses available at the College's ten Institutes on the island of Malta to help students living in Gozo follow vocational education programmes without having to travel far from home. The choice of training options offered also aims to meet the skills demands of the Gozitan economy.

MCAST RECEIVES THE BOOK COLLECTIONS OF DENNIS VELLA & NEVILLE FERRY



The private book collections of the late Dennis Vella and Neville Ferry, including over 1,050 volumes, were donated to the Institute of Art and Design's Library, to be used by the College's art students.



Relatives of Dennis Vella and Neville Ferry visited the Institute of Art and Design on Thursday 18 April 2013, to meet the students and to hand over the two collections to the Institute's Library. Vella's collection includes approximately 1,000 books and periodicals, while Ferry's selection includes another 59 volumes. All of them will be available at the Institute's library, which is visited by an average of 420 students a day.

Dennis Vella (1953 – 2009) was actively involved in the local art scene, through his academic studies of Maltese art, the promotion of Maltese artists and his administrative roles within the sector, including Curator of Modern and Contemporary Section of the National Museum of Fine Arts.

Neville Ferry (1945 – 2011) was a prolific sculptor and ceramist in Malta and in England, where he exhibited his works and worked as a ceramics lecturer. He also contributed to various prestigious art organisations, including the Milton Keynes Crafts Guild.

The Neville Ferry collection is mostly about ceramic art and pottery, covering both technique aspects as well as examples of works of art from different museums and countries. The Dennis Vella collection is a more varied collection. The 155 titles catalogued so far and exhibited here, cover topics such as the social aspect of art, the Arts in general, especially the historical and person aspect, Greek Etruscan and Roman Sculpture, drawing and decorative arts, painting and paintings especially the historical and person aspect, the graphic arts and geography and history of several countries.

The Vella and Ferry families explained that the knowledge and resources which had helped their late relatives throughout their careers are now available to many other artists. They encouraged the MCAST students to use these books as a source of inspiration in their artistic endeavours.

Joseph Farrugia, the MCAST President, expressed the College's gratitude at the important contributions of Dennis Vella and Neville Ferry to the local art scene, particularly in the promotion of new talent. These achievements have now been extended through the donation of their private book collections to the library. "These collections are a treasure

which must not be left to gather dust. Every young artist should read and learn as much as possible about art. These books will take them on a journey to many countries and cultures and back in time to different ages to taste a world of art forms, styles and techniques; a voyage that will ultimately help them uncover their own artistic identity."

Laurence Zerafa, the College Librarian, said that personal book collections are a reflection of the tastes of the persons who compiled and owned them. "While cataloguing these two collections, we found out that Vella and Ferry had personalised most of them with related material, such as cuttings from other publications, exhibition catalogues and even personal notes. All these removable items found in the books have been listed in our electronic catalogue. They will be available for viewing through separate files, each referenced with details of the exact page within the volume in which they were placed by their original owners. Our students and researchers looking into the lives and achievements of these two important personalities will certainly find these collections very useful in their studies."

Stephen Vella, Director of the Institute of Art and Design said that this donation will ensure that Dennis Vella and Neville Ferry will not only be remembered by those who knew them within the Maltese and international art community, but also by individuals who will be reading their books at the Institute's library. "We are thankful to their families for this generous donation. The MCAST Institute of Art and Design Library is becoming one of the best-resourced art libraries in Malta with a wide range of priceless and interesting books; a specialised library for both students and researchers."

The MCAST Institute of Art and Design is the main local provider for higher education in the creative arts, giving learners the opportunity to choose among a variety of disciplines. The Institute's library forms part of MCAST's Library and Learning Resource Centre, which includes six libraries at the MCAST Main Campus, in Paola, and at the College's institutes in other locations. They offer over 55,000 volumes, including books and periodicals, as well as other resources such as films and educational software.

SUPPORT SERVICES

MICHAEL CONTI

NEW COUNSELLOR



Michael Conti is MCAST's new Counsellor. Before joining MCAST he was employed in supporting and counselling roles for a number of years both in Malta and abroad. He has varied experience in counselling with diverse groups of people including couples, homeless people, asylum seekers, youth in schools, ex-drug users as well as persons who do not identify themselves as heterosexual. He has dealt with several issues including identity, sexuality, relationships, family issues, anxiety, depression, self-esteem as well as self-harming behaviour.

'I learn from every client I encounter because every individual is a different person. In fact, working with clients has increased my awareness of the different struggles individuals experience and of the inner strength persons can have when giving meaning to their lives. But something I always aim at in my work is establishing a friendly and professional relationship with my clients where confidentiality and the client's benefit are of utmost importance. My belief is that we are not meant to go through life alone and that we need other people's support at some time or other. At times the going may be harder. At times it might be more difficult to trust. But when we need a hand it is important to reach out to someone who can understand, be they family, friends, or professionals. Although at times we cannot change our surroundings, we can learn to deal with life in a way that helps us grow as persons,' Michael stated.

Michael's contact details are as follows:
michael.conti@mcast.edu or **2398 7129**.

YOUTH HUB AT STUDENTS' HOUSE

A new Youth Hub is now opened twice a week at the MCAST Student House. The aim of this Youth Hub is to provide you with the space to relax and unwind and also to be the space where you can develop ideas, organise activities and work on projects. This place is a branch of Aġenzija Żgħażaġġ established in 2011 to ensure that the National Youth Policy revised in 2010 is put in practice. Recently Aġenzija Żgħażaġġ launched a number of youth

cafes to provide you with a safe place where to hang out. Youth workers man the places and encourage your participation in various opportunities provided both by the agency as well as other national and international organisations.

The Youth Officer in charge of the place will assist young people to develop any ideas and initiatives. In a nutshell the Youth Hub is the place where you can

feel empowered to realise your dream projects. More importantly it is the place where youth come together in a friendly atmosphere to encourage each other and energise one another. The MCAST Youth Hub is equipped with games such as Table Soccer, Air Hockey, Table Tennis and also X-Box.

The success of the Youth Hub depends on your participation!

MARITIME STUDENTS REFLECT AND HAVE FUN



The Counselling Team organised a seminar for Maritime students that will be embarking on a year ocean experience as part of their training. The two-day seminar was held, for the fifth consecutive year, at Fort Madalena in Madliena by courtesy of St John Rescue Corps.

The programme was designed to equip the Maritime Phase I student cadets with better psychological adjustment before taking the plunge and embarking on a year at sea as part of their Maritime studies. The highlight of the seminar was the sharing of experiences by two MCAST Phase III graduates and Officers-in-Charge Anthony Agius and Szabolcs Pocza. They spoke of their experience and covered all areas that may influence the psychological and emotional needs of the cadets at sea including the loneliness experienced, the differences in culture and religion on board, the effects on current relationships, the lack of / exposure to sexual experiences and the possible abundant availability of alcohol and cigarettes. They also mentioned the many positive parts of the experience including the different countries they visited, the maturity and independence acquired and the satisfaction gained upon reaching their goal of becoming officers, a career that also brings with it high financial remuneration.

The seminar then progressed to help the students reflect on who they truly are. This included a session on discovering characteristics about

themselves, how they react to difficult people and who and what they are leaving behind. The last part of the programme focused on recapitulating the knowledge and awareness delved into in the beginning of the seminar in order to connect one's strengths and improve and build better, positive coping strategies. Below are some comments that the cadets passed at the end of the seminar:

'Very informative and helpful seminar for our 1 year experience at sea!'

'Opened our eyes to things that we could have overseen.'

A note of thanks goes to the St John Rescue Corps for providing the use of Fort Madalena, to Anthony Agius and Szabolcs Pocza and to all the student cadets who made this event a success through their active participation.

Finally we wish the best of luck to all Officer Cadets who will be embarking on seagoing vessels in the coming months and to others who are already there. In the event that one would need to get in touch with the counsellors, their email addresses are the following:

marthese.vassallo@mcast.edu.mt

michael.conti@mcast.edu.mt

counsellors@mcast.edu.mt



AMY ZAHRA

INSPIRES STUDENTS

By Jacqueline Micallef

Walking into the boardroom we were welcomed by a winning smile and a warm hello from Amy Zahra, a colleague of mine from a previous job and a person who I am now fortunate enough to call a friend.



Many of you have heard about the courageous young lady who faced meningitis and not only survived but also managed to use her inspiring life story to empower others. She visited MCAST as the ambassador of KNPD (National Commission Persons with Disability) where she is now working to educate and bring awareness to the general public about the latest developments in the field related to persons with disabilities.

Amy used the iceberg metaphor to illustrate the fact that we sometimes judge a person only by what we can see – the tip of the iceberg – in this case the disability. Amy states that there is so much more that we are ignoring when we do this. Like EJ Smith (Captain of the Titanic) we are headed straight for disaster if we believe that the tip of the iceberg is all there is to be reckoned with. One of Amy's doctors told her she would never write again, which is humorous in its own right as most doctors' handwriting is illegible. Throughout her presentation the message was loud and clear: do not judge a book by its cover. As she said, very often people are quick to tell you what you cannot do and very few are insightful enough to show that there is a way. The ultimate aim would be them actually encouraging and supporting you to reach that goal. If this was the case most people would reach it or surpass it. I believe this is actually being reflected in MCAST's Pathway to Independent Living programme where these young adults are being supported to go beyond their comfort zone and their perceived limitations whilst being provided with a safety net that this unique course offers.



Amy Zahra

Amy highlighted the medical and social models of disability. She explained how in the medical model the focus is on the individual who is 'disabled' and needs to

be fixed in order to conform to their new surroundings. Very often her ordinary needs are put on hold while an endless battery of tests, assessments, therapy programmes are conducted. The possible resulting segregation is inflicted on the 'non-conforming' individual. Amy was quick to point out that it is not only normal but necessary for some of these tests to be carried out but not to the extent that the individual becomes subservient to the impairment s/he has.

Amy then moved on to illustrate the social model which was born as a reaction to the traditional medical approach. In this model diversity is welcomed and the person is both included and valued. Barriers to growth and personal development are identified and solutions tailored. It is a refreshing approach whereby outcome-based programmes are crafted. This approach was developed in the 1960s in the UK. Amy gave us a historical perspective and then moved on to engaging the MCAST lecturers in a discussion about what difficulties they encounter when working with disabled students. The lack of LSAs was discussed as well as the difficulties these students encounter as they progress through the levels.

This was a very thought provoking presentation. Amy concluded by recounting how a person she recently met presented her with the perfect metaphor for what she had lived. He said it was as if Amy was swallowed up whole by a whale that then threw her back out in a world that seemed so familiar but was so different. Things that before seemed 'normal' were now a struggle and sometimes inaccessible. Amy made me think. How often do we place ourselves in a disabled person's shoes or rather, prosthesis? What Amy has lived through could happen to you and me. This presentation had the same 'whale' effect on me. I left the room more sensitive to the challenges experienced by persons with disabilities.

This talk was held by the KNPD Training Sessions for Staff as part of ESF Project 3.102 – Inclusion for Employment.



INCLUSION

AT MCAST

The Pathway to Independent Living Programme is intended to support students acquire skills for independent living. The course entails a lot of hands-on activities that aid in the acquisition of the much needed skills in order to become more independent and find and maintain employment. Students are given ample opportunities to experience hands-on learning in all subject areas. Such a pedagogical approach also celebrates the notion of inclusion due to the available opportunity for students attending the Pathway to Independent Living Programme to positively interact with other college students coming from different institutes.



Pathway students attending an Experiments Activity organised by the Applied Science students and staff



Pathway and Applied Science students join forces to decorate the premises for the Christmas season



Pathway staff and students while Christmas Caroling at the Zejtun Elderly Home



Pathway staff and students at a Bowling Activity in St. Julians

COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL INDUSTRIAL PARTNERS



Over the past few years, the Institute of Art and Design has been actively collaborating with various local and foreign industrial partners, in the process giving students the opportunity to work on live projects while gaining experience within their relevant fields.

Domestica Ltd., one of Malta's leading furniture makers and retailers, is one such collaborator who has shown belief in Maltese students' creative abilities. This academic year, students following the BA (Hons) in 3D Design and Interiors were involved in a project initiated by Domestica Ltd. This project was linked with a module focusing on sustainable design. Their brief consisted of designing a product for use within the home environment that is made from waste material, which is normally discarded by the Domestica wood factory.

Students identified a number of interesting design solutions using a wide variety of unorthodox materials. Product solutions were also wide-ranging: from disposable picnic-ware to chairs, wine racks, children's furniture and modular furnishings. Materials used in the product manufacturing ranged from

sawdust, aluminium, rubber strips and various off-cuts derivative of the Domestica workshops.

Domestica supported the students throughout the project lifetime, offering professional advice as well as the raw material. The prototypes produced by the students were exhibited at the Domestica retail outlet in Msida. A panel of experts, that included professionals from the design industry, were engaged by Domestica to judge the final outcomes of this project. Designs by Maria Bezzina, Shaun Fenech and Emma Hickey were awarded the best solutions to the project's design brief.

Domestica have also generously donated a number of door cross sections to be used as a reference by the students following the 3D Design programme at the Institute of Art and Design.

During the inauguration Mr Stephen Vella, Director of the Institute of Art and Design thanked Domestica for believing in the students' creative abilities, adding that MCAST is looking forward to further collaborations with the company.

Waste Not Want Not

Sustainable Design

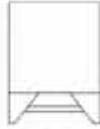
This composter was designed for a module about Sustainability. We were asked to design a household object with the motto found at Domestica's second workshop. Before starting off designing it was important to understand the true meaning of sustainability: "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs." Therefore I thought it best to design a household object that would teach the user how to live a more sustainable life. Through this composter design, one can not only learn how to compost, but also ones herbs that grow throughout the 4 seasons as well as plant them on the working space provided. A stool comes along with this garden set so one can feel comfortable to do these chores. The style I chose to utilize was a retro one of course, seeing as the type of lifestyle I was promoting to one that was normal to past days.



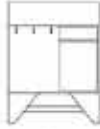
Front Elevation
Composter



Rear Elevation
Composter



Left Elevation
Composter



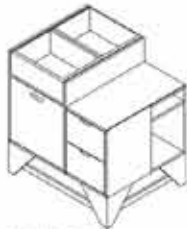
Right Elevation
Composter



Front & End Elevation
Stool



Plan View
Composter



Isometric View
Composter

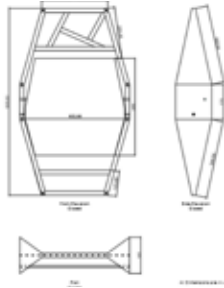
Scale 1:20



Module 8 | Sustainable Design

Kirsten Camilleri B.A. (Hons) 3D Design and Interiors

ORTHOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS



MODEL



PLYWOOD



VISUAL



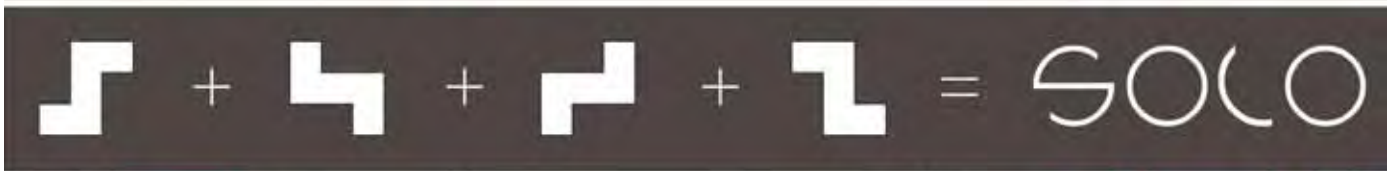
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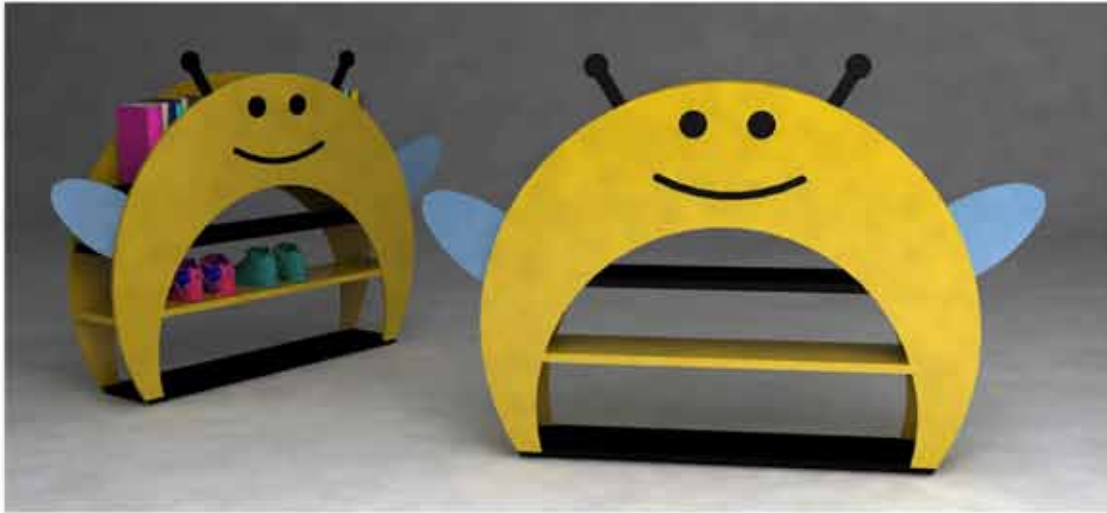
NAOMI AGIUS

ECO CHIC

armchair



MODULE 8 | SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

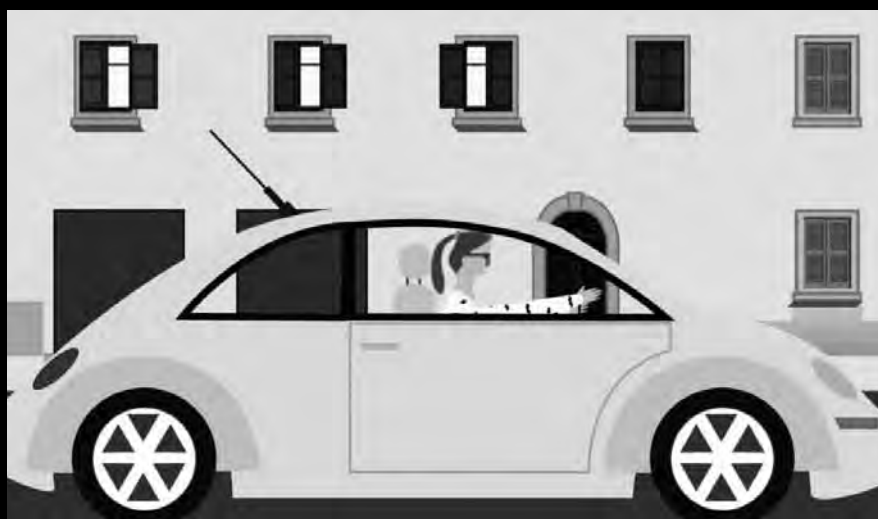


ANTONELA MONTANARO



STUDENTS PRESENT MATERIAL

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN



The Office of the Commissioner for Children has once again worked closely with the Institute for Art and Design. Mr. Stephen Vella, Director of the Institute, presented the Commissioner for Children, Mrs. Helen D'Amato, with resources on Road Safety and Positive Parenting which were produced by the students who are currently following various courses at the Institute for Art and Design. The students produced the following resources:

Road Safety: An activity book aimed at 5 to 7 year olds; A comic book aimed at 8 to 11 year olds; An animated cartoon aimed at 11 to 15 year olds.

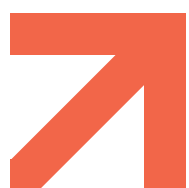
Even though we often hear about road safety campaigns, there is still the need for such awareness to be created among children. Children should be made aware of road safety in order to keep themselves safe as well as to ensure that they adhere to the rules on the road.

Transport Malta, carries out various sessions with children in schools and therefore these child-friendly resources will enhance the message that is being portrayed. The students also produced a set of video clips on Positive Parenting which shall be used during the Blue Ribbon Campaign which is carried out by Aġenzija Apogġ during the month of May with the aim of preventing child abuse. The Office of the Commissioner for Children feels that parents should be equipped with necessary skills for parenting in order for positive methods of discipline to be used. To this end the need for these resources was felt and they will therefore be used during the parental skills courses.

Mrs D'Amato said that the resources produced by the students are invaluable as they are giving us the opportunity to use locally produced resources as seen through the eyes of the young persons themselves. The Commissioner for Children also thanked Transport Malta and Aġenzija Apogġ for their technical support as well as the Institute of Art and Design for their commitment in producing these resources.

CHARITY

BEGINS AT HOME



Students following the Extended Diploma in Art and Design programme are given the opportunity to carry out the Community Art Unit as part of their studies. The aim of this unit is to develop students' skills and knowledge of producing artworks for the benefit of the community. The final artworks will be permanently exhibited in public spaces such as schools, hospitals or other governmental or non-profit organisations.

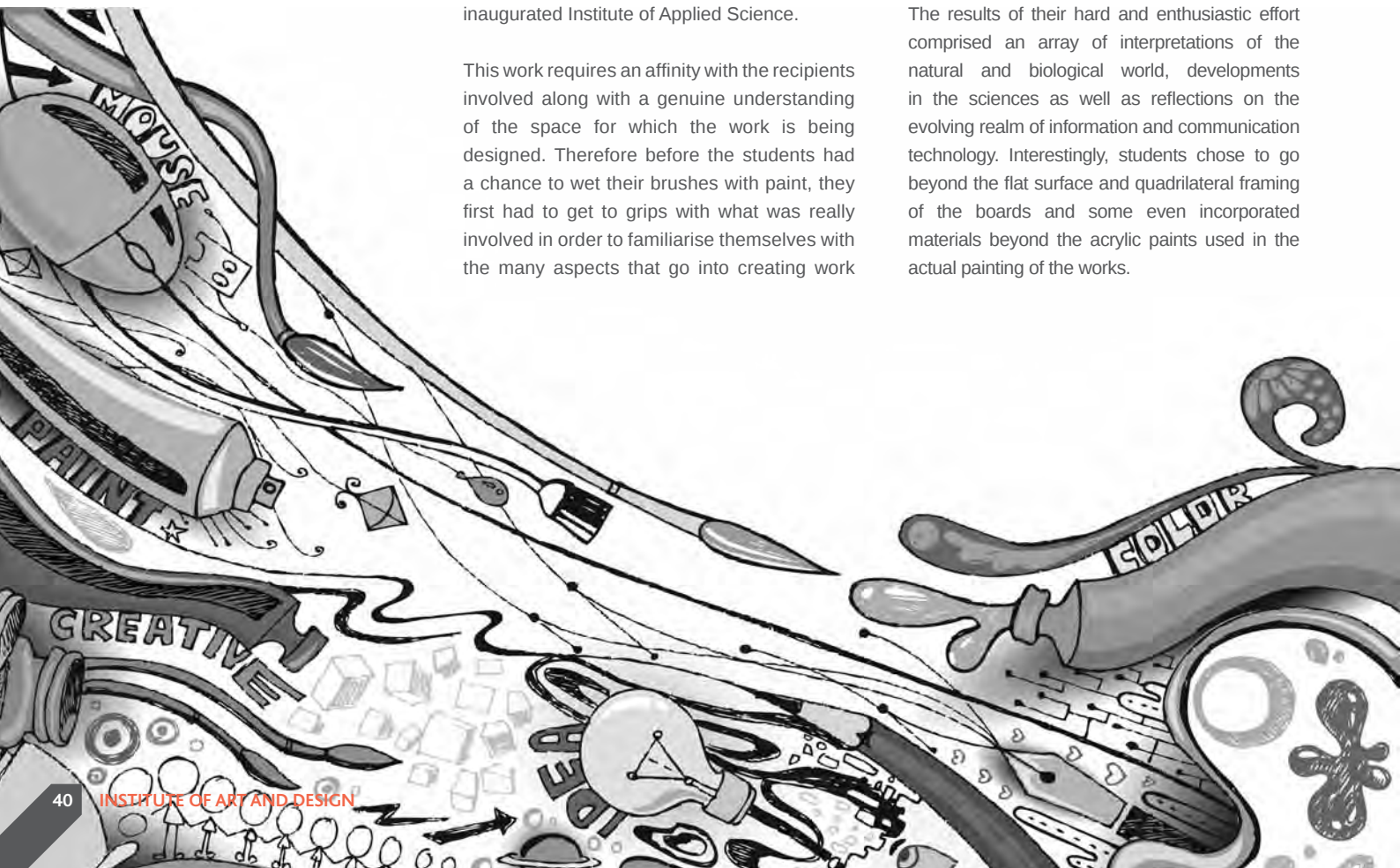
This year thirty students following the Community Art programme worked towards the production of wall-hanging artworks designed to embellish the hallways of two MCAST Institutes – the Institute of Information and Communication Technology and the newly inaugurated Institute of Applied Science.

This work requires an affinity with the recipients involved along with a genuine understanding of the space for which the work is being designed. Therefore before the students had a chance to wet their brushes with paint, they first had to get to grips with what was really involved in order to familiarise themselves with the many aspects that go into creating work

of this magnitude. A site visit was arranged where the commissioned artists documented the surroundings for their art works. This documentation process took the form of photography, drawings, measuring of the spaces and speaking to fellow students at the Institutes of Information and Communication Technology and of Applied Science.

This site visit was followed by secondary research that was meant to give students a deeper understanding of what was being taught at the two Institutes in order to incorporate appropriate topics for depiction. It was only then that these young artists could go back to the studio at the Institute of Art and Design where they spent weeks generating ideas manifesting themselves in multiple designs.

The results of their hard and enthusiastic effort comprised an array of interpretations of the natural and biological world, developments in the sciences as well as reflections on the evolving realm of information and communication technology. Interestingly, students chose to go beyond the flat surface and quadrilateral framing of the boards and some even incorporated materials beyond the acrylic paints used in the actual painting of the works.



DULUX PAINTS



Dulux Paints' worldwide initiative, the 'Let's Colour Project', was initiated in Malta this year as MCAST's Art and Design Institute students embarked on a mission to "add colour to people's lives". Second-year Interior Design students were tasked with livening up three main school corridors which have always been painted bland white as their annual assignment. College authorities thanked Dulux local representatives Vee Gee Bee for choosing MCAST for this assignment.

'LET'S COLOUR PROJECT' AT MCAST

media cast

MediaCast Youtube channel is the Institute of Art and Design own Media production student society that operates to offer students a contained service to gain the much required work experience. The channel aims to be a showcase for students and their work

MediaCast is already producing a local TV programme, 'Int min Int?', that includes profiles of local, foreign artists and media practitioners, features of weekly young artists, interviews and discussions about current events as well as a showcase gallery of MCAST creative productions.

MediaCast is a creative catalyst that brings together education in the search of media professionalism using broadcast technology in order to give HND Media (Moving Image), ND Media Production and ED Media Production students the opportunity of professional broadcast work experience.

"This new channel has opened up a plethora of opportunities for our students," said Mr Vella.



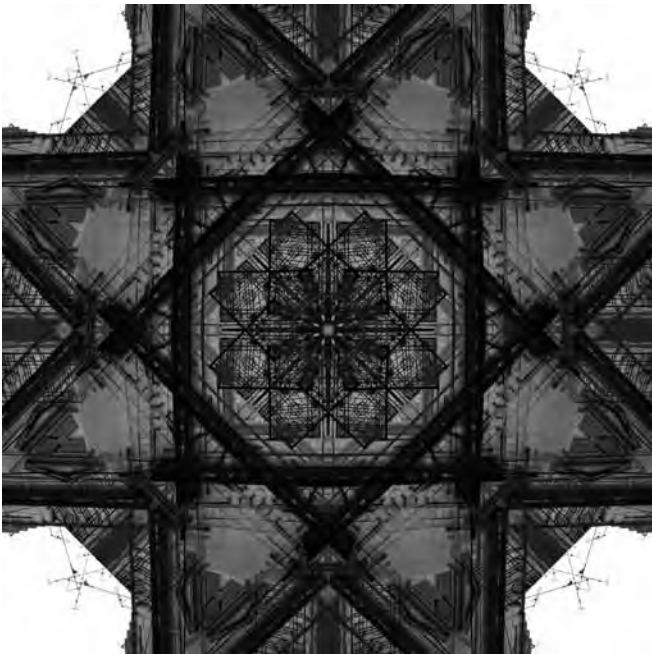
PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

The first group of nine students to complete the Higher National Diploma in Photography this July held a joint exhibition, entitled F9, at the Institute's premises in Mosta. The idea behind the exhibition was to showcase and promote the students work and act as a stepping stone for their career. The themes ranged from death, mental illnesses, photographic 3D structures amongst others.

'I felt that leaving the students free to choose their themes was important as they could investigate matters which were relevant and stimulating to them. It was also vital that the students were responsible for all the logistics and organisation of this exhibition. In this way, all necessary work involving the setting up of a professional event were covered in a practical hands-on manner. Viewing their progress throughout these two years, I am sure that visitors will be as intrigued and stimulated when viewing their final exhibits', commented Lecturer Kevin Casha.



STEPHANIE SCIBERRAS



ANDRIA BUTTIGIEG



JESSICA MERCECA AMBROSIA



EXPERIENCE HANDS-ON LEARNING AT THE MCAST EXPO

MCAST is inviting young and adult prospective students, to the second edition of the MCAST Expo, a five-day event aimed at offering visitors a taste of the MCAST learning experience.

The MCAST Expo will be held between Tuesday 25 and Saturday 29 June 2013 at the MCAST Main Campus in Paola. Visitors, particularly young students who have just completed secondary (Form 5) or post-secondary (sixth form) education, will be able to collect their free copy of the new 2013/2014 Full-Time Courses Prospectus, with detailed information about MCAST's 170 full-time training opportunities beginning in October, ranging from introductory certificate courses to higher national diploma and degree programmes.

MCAST's 10 institutes will encourage visitors to engage in enjoyable hands-on activities to experience different career paths in several industrial sectors. The Institutes will also be hosting representatives of major local employers who will be giving details about current and

upcoming career opportunities. Visitors can also meet MCAST students and find out more about their projects and innovations. The College's student support staff will be at hand to provide advice to prospective students and answer any queries about MCAST's courses. Each Institute will be also holding specific information talks for individuals aspiring to follow any of the full-time courses on offer. Special guests who excelled in different industry sectors will participate in the Expo to give details about their career path. The event also presents activities demonstrating other MCAST services, including international training opportunities and the College's sports activities. Visitors will be invited to participate in a number of competitions, with a chance to win several prizes. Food and drinks stalls will be available as well.

The MCAST Expo opening times on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are between 0900hrs and 2000hrs. On Friday, the Expo will be open between 0900hrs and 1900hrs, while on Saturday, a public holiday, opening times are between 1000hrs and 2200hrs.



MCAST APPLICATIONS FOR FULL-TIME COURSES

YOUR COMMON Q&A

Where may I obtain the MCAST Prospectus from?

By mid June the MCAST Prospectus would be available at all Maltese and Gozitan local councils. You may also pick a copy from any MCAST campus or view it online www.mcast.edu.mt.

How and when can I apply?

MCAST will be receiving applications between 22 July and 2 August 2013. The Information Talks and MCAST Expo will be held at MCAST Main Campus at Paola between 25 and 29 June 2013.

Where do I apply?

The applications are received in each Institute according to your choice of course. For example, if you wish to apply for a Mechanical Engineering course, you will apply at the Institute of Mechanical Engineering in Paola. Gozitans or Maltese residing in Gozo may apply for their choice of course, even if held in Malta, at the Gozo Centre.

Can I apply for two courses?

You may only apply for one course at each application period. If you wish to revise the decision, you may apply at the second period of application during the last week of September.

Can I change my mind later on?

Level 3, 4, 5 or 6 courses may be changed during the first four weeks after day of course commencement. Level 1 and 2 courses may be changed until 15 November 2013.

What is the maturity clause?

Students without the full entry requirements may apply to join a study programme as mature students. The application process will involve an interview during the month of August.

What else do I need to submit with my application?

The application process will require copies of both sides of your ID card as well as the original version and copies of your certificates. Some courses may require an interview process, a fitness test or a colour blindness test. These requirements, if any, are specified in the Prospectus and will be explained to you upon the submission of your application.

Can I apply online?

To date, the application process is not available online. You or your representative has to physically apply at the Institute where the course of your choice is offered.

What is the Initial Assessment?

When a student applies for a Level 1 or Level 2 Course, an assessment test in three subjects (Mathematics, Maltese and English) is carried out in August. This allows MCAST to understand your academic needs or strengths and indicate whether any further assistance and support in a specific area is required.

When will I know if I got accepted?

You will be notified during the fourth week of August or first week of September.

May I still apply for a course if I have missing qualifications and opt for the re-sit exams in September?

You must carefully look at each course requirement. This will help you identify what subjects are required and whether they are preferable or compulsory. You may apply if the missing subject is preferred. However the application will not be valid if the subject you lack is compulsory.

Can I apply later on?

Applications are not accepted after the official closing date.

The courses I am interested in are offered on apprenticeship basis. What does it mean?

The apprenticeship aspect of the course involves participation in a work experience for a certain period of time. The number of hours and learning involved are part and parcel of the course. It is an excellent way for you to obtain work experience whilst studying.

How can I obtain more information?

You may attend the various Information Talks and Open Days at the end of the academic year Expo.

I am still in doubt about my choice. How can I get help?

You may contact the Career Guidance Unit on 2398 7135 or 2398 7136 or send an email to career.guidance@mcast.edu.mt. As from 8 July 2013 you may come to our offices at the Student House during normal office hours with no appointment.

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

DAYS AT THE BEACH



During April 2013 the MCAST Sports Department in conjunction with the Extended Diploma in Sports second year students from the Institute of Community Services organised a number of Beach Days for all MCAST students and staff. These Beach Days were held over four days at Golden Bay. The first three days were for the various MCAST Institutes whilst the last Beach Day was for MCAST Administration Staff. Participants could participate in beach volley, beach soccer, trekking, fun games and dodge ball. The different sports were heavily contested by both students and staff alike and the atmosphere was very competitive! In all over a 1000 students and staff participated and thoroughly enjoyed this day out away from the daily stress on campus. The sports students under the supervision of their lecturer Mr Dermot Galea and MCAST Sports Co-ordinator Adele Muscat did a great job to set up the courts, organise the fixtures and run the various tournaments. This was part of their unit entitled 'Organising Sports Events'.



SNOW, ICE



IN SLOVAKIA AND AUSTRIA

Fourteen students currently following the MCAST-BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport (Development, Coaching and Fitness) within the Institute of Community Services travelled to Austria and Slovakia to experience various winter sport activities which are not commonly practised in the Maltese Islands.

The students were given the opportunity to try out snowshoeing, ice-skating, snowboarding, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing and trekking. Prior to these activities, they received training from the College's lecturers as well as from instructors specialised in each discipline. They also participated in an avalanche course, where they learnt how to assist individuals trapped under layers of snow, and other safety training. The students also had time to taste the two countries'

cultures, with visits to different places of interest and other activities, such as igloo building, horse-drawn carriage rides and a barbecue in the snow.

This international opportunity is organised every year to help sports students develop their skills in this sector through exposure to sports activities that are uncommon in Malta and organisational practices adopted in different countries.

Following this experience, the students are encouraged to apply international best practices to local situations. This year's trip was organised by Ms Adele Muscat, MCAST Sports Coordinator and Ms Dorianne Bonnici, the Institute's Sports Courses Coordinator.

& SPORTS





In January 2013 MCAST students participated in the annual College Sport Tournaments with Junior College, St. Aloysius 6th Form, De La Salle 6th Form, Higher Secondary and Gozo 6th Form.

MCAST placed first in the male football tournament, second in the basketball tournament and third in the volleyball tournament.



SPORT TOURNAMENTS



AGRIBUSINESS INSTITUTE

OPEN WEEKEND

31 MAY 1 & 2 JUNE 2013

free entrance

- Bring your pets for grooming
- Free animal care tips and advice
- Hands-on farming and gardening
- Traditional Maltese food
- Multi-sensory area
- Olive oil and wine tasting
- Activities for children
- Exotic animals
- Fish aquaria
- Sale of food products made by the Institute
- Tours of animal husbandry units and fields
- Animal displays
- Beekeeping
- Sale of plants and herbs
- Veterinary sciences

Three days of fun for all the family!

MCAST career advisers will be available to provide advice about MCAST courses

Opening times

Friday 1000hrs to 1400hrs
 Saturday 1000hrs to 2000hrs
 Sunday 0900hrs to 1830hrs

Venue

Institute of Agribusiness,
 Luqa Road, Qormi

T: 2125 7006/9

E: agribusiness@mcast.edu.mt



More info on the MCAST Facebook Page
www.mcast.edu.mt



NEW STUDENT ORGANISATION

Speak out



SpeakOut! is a student organization that represents the interests of all students studying at MCAST by working towards safeguarding students' rights. The organisation aims to act as a bridge between students and the administration by voicing students' concerns and helping in the resolution of students' affairs should they arise. It also seeks to promote extra-curricular activities and multicultural interactions at MCAST.

SpeakOut! also aims to work with MCAST central administration in order to improve students' access to information services and also to attract new students to MCAST. With an ever-growing amount of students studying at MCAST SpeakOut!'s role will undoubtedly continue to become even more important.

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR TEAM?

SpeakOut! is currently recruiting new executive members who are willing to help fellow students. Interested persons are to contact:

info@speakoutmcast.edu.mt

In picture from left: Bernard Pollacco (Executive Member), Christopher Muscat (Treasurer), Rebecca Borg (Public Relations Officer), Jurgen Gauci (General Secretary), Jean Pierre Camenzuli (President), Kevin Vella (Information Systems Officer) and Ian Muscat (Projects' Coordinator Officer).



THE NUMBER PART 3

By Alexander Farrugia

In the previous two parts, we have looked at methods that attempted to find the value of π using polygons. Recall that we had finished part 2 by stating that the Chinese mathematician Zu Chongzhi managed to determine the value of π to 7 decimal places. In this third and final part, we shall look at how the value of π was calculated a few centuries ago, using an infinite summation to evaluate it to hundreds of decimal places. Nowadays, this same process can be vastly sped up using computers, thus finding millions of digits for the decimal representation of π .

The Gregory-Leibnitz Series and Machin-like formulæ

In the 1660s, calculus was discovered independently by Sir Isaac Newton and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, and this proved to be a powerful technique in the quest to obtain even better approximations to π . The Scottish mathematician James Gregory and Leibniz himself obtained the first explicit formula for π in the 1670s. This formula is in the form of an infinite summation, or series, of numbers; the more numbers you add from this series, the closer you get to the real value of π . Nowadays, this series is called the Gregory-Leibnitz series and is the following:

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = \frac{1}{1} - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \dots \quad \text{1}$$

which was, in turn, discovered from the formula for the inverse tangent function below, valid for when x is an angle in radians (remember that if $y = \arctan x$ then $x = \tan y$):

$$\arctan x = x - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{5} - \frac{x^7}{7} + \dots \quad \text{2}$$

Notice that if we put $x = 1$ in Equation (2), we obtain Equation (1). Using Equation (1), the value of π was determined to 71 decimal places in 1699 by Abraham Sharp.

Seven years later, a similar formula was determined by John Machin:

$$\frac{\pi}{4} = 4 \arctan \frac{1}{5} - \arctan \frac{1}{239} \quad \text{3}$$

By replacing $\arctan \frac{1}{5}$ and $\arctan \frac{1}{239}$ in Equation (3) with their corresponding series determined from Equation (2), Machin obtained another series that gets closer (technically converges) to the value of π much more quickly than the Gregory-Leibnitz series. He thus managed to calculate the value of π to 100 decimal places. Similar formulæ to that obtained by Machin, nowadays called Machin-like formulæ, were successively used over the next 250 years, ending with a staggering 620 digit approximation of the value of π in 1946 by Daniel Ferguson.

Rapidly-convergent formulæ and the computer era

All the approximations mentioned till now were determined without the use of calculators or computers. In the mid-1900s, computers revolutionised our world and made it possible to obtain the value of π to ridiculously large numbers of decimal places.

However, in order for a computer programme to be efficient, it requires a series that gets closer to the value of π as quickly as possible, so today, mathematicians are still obtaining better series than that obtain by Machin.

A few of these rapidly-convergent formulæ were determined by Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan in 1914, but since computers were not yet invented at that time, they could not be applied efficiently. This changed in 1985 when Bill Gosper used one of Ramanujan's formulæ to obtain the value of π to 17 million digits of accuracy using a computer. In 1989, the brothers David Chudnovsky and Gregory Chudnovsky used a slight variant of one of Ramanujan's formulæ to obtain the value of π to over 1 billion decimal places on a supercomputer.

Supercomputers continued to be used to obtain even better approximations for the value of π . In August 2009, a Japanese supercomputer calculated π to 2.6 trillion digits, which was a record at that time. Incredibly, however, Alexander Yee and Shigeru Kondo obtained π to 5 trillion decimal places using a home computer built by Kondo himself in August 2010. Then in October 2011, they applied the same algorithm on much better hardware to obtain the value of π correct to 10 trillion decimal places... that's 10,000,000,000,000 decimal places! This is currently the world record for the largest number of correct decimal places obtained for the approximation of the value of π .

GRADUATION CEREMONY²⁰¹²



In December 2012 MCAST celebrated the graduation of 625 students who completed Higher National Diploma or Bachelor's Degree courses. One hundred and ninety students were conferred with Bachelor of Arts (Honours) or Bachelor of Science (Honours) degrees while another 435 received their Higher National Diploma or other MQF Level 5 certificates. This represented a 22% increase over the number of graduates at these levels.

The graduations included the first MCAST graduates in eight programmes introduced last year: BSc (Hons) in Animal Management, BA (Hons) in Media (Moving Image), BSc (Hons) in Construction Engineering, BA (Hons) in Health and Social Care (Management), BSc (Hons) in Electronic Communications, BSc (Hons) in Power Generation and Renewables, BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Engineering, and BSc (Hons) in Marine Engineering. The College also presented Awards for Outstanding Performance to students who excelled during their studies at the College.

During the first graduation ceremony, Mr Matthew Vassallo, who read for a BSc (Hons) in Computer Networks within the Institute of Information and Communication Technology, addressed the guests on behalf of his colleagues.

Mr Joseph Farrugia, MCAST President, Mr Stephen Cachia, MCAST Principal and CEO, Mr Anthony Saliba, MCAST Deputy Principal and Mr Ray Farrugia, MCAST Registrar, presented the certificates to students who completed courses within the Institute of Information and Communication Technology and to MCAST lecturers who completed Masters or Postgraduate Diploma courses as part of MCAST's continued professional development programme.

Soon after they complete their studies, most MCAST students are swiftly securing employment in their chosen area of study, explained the MCAST President. This is very encouraging, especially when

considering that the number of graduates is increasing year after year. "The country's multi-million investment in a new campus for MCAST clearly confirms the important role of vocational education in the current and future development of Malta's human resources. In this regard, it is important that MCAST's courses and support services are geared to increase the number of graduates aiming for science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers, which are crucial to our country's continued economic development."

"At the same time, while considering education's role in preparing students for employment, as educators, we must not be distracted from the other fundamental role of education - to support students as they develop into responsible and caring citizens," Mr Farrugia concluded.

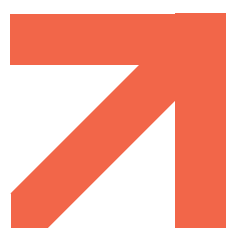
Mr Cachia congratulated the graduates on their achievements and thanked all MCAST staff members for continuously supporting the College's students. "Since it was established in 2001, our College has managed to put vocational education on Malta's higher education map. Today, over 6,000 full-time students are choosing MCAST's vocational courses every year."

"We cannot let these students down," Mr Cachia continued to explain, "we will continue offering new opportunities and developing existing courses and services to students. This effort includes the building of a new Campus, projects to renew our programmes' curricula at all levels, and the consolidation of our student support services."





PRINCIPAL'S SPEECH



Onorevoli Ministru, Sur Farrugia President tal-Bord tal-Gvernaturi, Gvernaturi, kollegi, studenti u mistednin.

Darba waħda lill-futboller Franciz Eric Cantona staqsewh liema kienet l-isbaħ esperjenza li kellu waqt logħba futbol matul il-karriera tiegħu. “Žgur kien dak il-gowl li skurjajt fl-aħħar minuta f’dak il-Cup final jew dak il-gowl spetakolari li skurjajt f’dik il-logħba importanti?” staqsewh. “Le” wieġeb Cantona. “l-isbaħ mument tiegħi fil-futbol ma kienx gowl imma kien pass... meta qassamt ballun tajjeb u għent lil siehbi jiskurja gowl mill-isbaħ”.

Ftakart f’din l-istorja sabiħa mhux għax jien xi supporter tal-Manchester United, altru minn hekk, imma għaliex f’gurnata bħal-lum nemmen li kull edukatur iħossu bħal Eric Cantona: illi bl-għajnuna tiegħu jew tagħha, l-istudenti tagħna skurjaw gowl mill-isbaħ: laħqu il-milja tal-isforzi tagħhom u qed jieħdu kwalifika tant mistħoqqa.

Ovjament, il-mertu ta' dawn il-gowls kollha li qed niċcelebraw illum huwa fuq kollox tagħkom l-istudenti. Minn jaf kemm stinkajtu biex ġibtu dawk il-passes, merits u distinctions li kellkom bżonn sabiex wasaltu fejn qegħdin illum. Minn jaf kemm ghamiltu sagriffiċji biex komplejtu tistudjaw anki meta hassejtu li t-triq li tkompli tistudjaw kient telgħa wieqfa ħafna u i-tmiem tat-triq kien 'il bogħod wisq. Illum qed niċcelebraw is-suċċess tagħkom.



Fl-istess hin, naħseb li taqblu miegħi illi illum xieraq li nesprimu apprezzament lill-educaturi u l-istaff kollu tal-MCAST li tawkom is-sapport li kellkom bżonn sabiex wasaltu fejn wasaltu illum. B'mod dirett jew indirett, kien bil-hidma tagħhom illi intom wasaltu sal-ġurnata tal-lum. Għalhekk nieħu din l-okkażjoni sabiex insellem lill-Principal ta' qabli il-Professor Maurice Grech, li mexxa l-MCAST tul ħafna mis-snin tal-istudji tagħkom l-istudenti. Insellem lid-Deputy Principal, ir-Regjistratur u l-membri kollha tas-Senior Management tal-MCAST, id-Diretturi u d-Deputy Directors tal-Instituti, lill-lecturers kollha, il-membri tal-istaff ta' servizzi għall-istudenti, il-ħaddiema amministrattivi kollha u l-ħaddiema l-oħra tal-MCAST. F'dawn l-aħħar xhur li bdejt naħdem fl-MCAST stajt nara b'għajnejja l-impenn u d-dedikazzjoni tal-istaff tal-MCAST. Eżempju tajjeb huwa l-organizzazzjoni u l-hidma biex ittellgħet Jum il-Gradwazzjoni l-lejla, li ttellgħet bil-hidma kbira u l-impenn sħiħ ta' l-Uffiċċju tar-Regjistratur u tal-Precinct Manager. Illum xieraq li nuru l-apprezzament tagħna lejn il-ħaddiema kollha tal-MCAST.

Fl-ewwel 10 snin tiegħu, l-MCAST irnexxielu jagħmel kisbiet kbar. Minn ftit aktar minn 1,000 student fl-2001, illum qed nilqgħu aktar minn 6,100 student full-time fis-sena u eluf oħra li jsegwu korsijiet part-time. L-MCAST għen aktar minn 15,700 student biex jiksbu l-kwalifiċi meħtieġa għal karrieri aħjar.

Iżda lil hinn minn dawn il-kisbiet, forsi l-aktar waħda importanti hija l-fatt li l-MCAST irnexxielu jpoġġi l-educazzjoni vokazzjonali fuq il-mappa tal-educazzjoni oġġra f'Malta. L-MCAST kienet kapaċi tohloq rotta ġdida edukattiva li tagħti valur lil modi differenti ta' kif student jista' jitgħallem, li jivvalorizza r-rabta konkreta u reali bejn l-istudji u l-applikazzjoni prattika fid-dinja reali u li jipprova jsib bilanċ xieraq bejn li jigu ppreparati l-istudenti għad-dinja tax-xogħol filwaqt li inkatru l-iżvilupp sħiħ ta' kull student. Dan huwa l-messaġġ sabiħ u qawwi li joħroġ minn okkażjoni bħal-lum.

Hekk kif l-MCAST jikber, jikbru ukoll ir-responsabilitajiet tagħna bħala istituzzjoni edukattiva. Kull sena, in-numru ta' studenti li jagħzlu l-MCAST għall-educazzjoni tagħhom qed jiżdied. Dan ikompli jiffa' fuqna il-piż li noffru servizz sħiħ halli nagħmlu differenza pożittiva fil-ħajja tal-istudenti tagħna.

L-educazzjoni vokazzjonali m'hijjex proċess faċli. Teħtieġ ħafna riżorsi:

- għalliema mħarrġa fit-tagħlim vokazzjonali, u b'esperjenza fil-qasam li għalih iridu jippreparaw l-istudenti,
- għodda u apparat tal-ogħla kwalità li jirriflettu l-aħħar żviluppi teknoloġiċi,
- facilitajiet tat-tagħlim li jilqgħu għall-ħtiġijiet ta' studenti b'ħiliet differenti,
- kuntatt dirett mas-setturi kollha tal-ekonomija, biex kull kors jibqa' jirrifletti l-ħtiġijiet tad-dinja tax-xogħol,
- servizzi ta' appoġġ għall-għalliema u għall-istudenti,
- u staff akkademiku u amministrattiv kreattiv u dedikat biex jgħaqqad flimkien dawn ir-rekwiżiti kollha flimkien fl-aħħar interess tal-istudenti.

Hemm bżonn iktar minn qatt qabel li l-MCAST ikompli jingħata s-sapport finanzjarju li għandhu bżonn halli nkunu nistgħu nagħtu.

Illum qed naħdmu biex l-MCAST jkompli jiżviluppa fuq diversi livelli:

- bil-bini ta' campus ġdid, proġett li se joffri ambjent isbaħ, u attrezzat b'dak kollu li l-istudenti jkollhom bżonn biex javvanzaw fl-istudji, u fl-iżvilupp personali u soċjali tagħhom;

- bi proġetti importanti sabiex ingeddu l-kurrikulu ta' dak li ngħallmu fil-livelli kollha tal-MCAST;
- bid-direzzjoni li nsaħħu s-servizzi ta' support illi nagħtu lill-istudenti tagħna kif ukoll nsaħħu iktar il-partecipazzjoni tal-istudenti fil-hajja tal-kulleġġ;
- Bit-tishih tar-relazzjonijiet tagħna fuq livelli differenti ma' stakeholders kemm fil-kamp edukattiv kif ukoll fid-dinja tax-xogħol, tal-industrija u tal-intrapriża.
- Bl-involvement kemm jista' jkun tal-istaff tal-MCAST it-tfassil ta' pjan ta' żvilupp għas-snin li ġejjin.

Biex l-MCAST wasal fejn wasal illum kien hemm ħafna hidma, impenn u dedikazzjoni. Biex inkomplu niżviluppaw żgur li dan l-impenn irid ikompli jissahħaħ. Għandi fiduċja sħiħa li l-MCAST u l-istaff tiegħu se jkomplu jaħdmu bl-istess impenn u dedikazzjoni sabiex nwaslu iktar student lejn ġurnata bħal-lum. Fl-aħħar mill-aħħar, għal kull edukatur, il-vokazzjoni tagħna hija li nagħmlu din it-tip ta' differenza fil-hajja tal-istudenti tagħna.

Din hija hidma li ma tispicċa qatt, iżda fortunatament, hija hidma li tħalli l-frott kontinwament – billi tkompli tgħin eluf ta' persuni jilhqqu l-aspirazzjonijiet tagħhom,

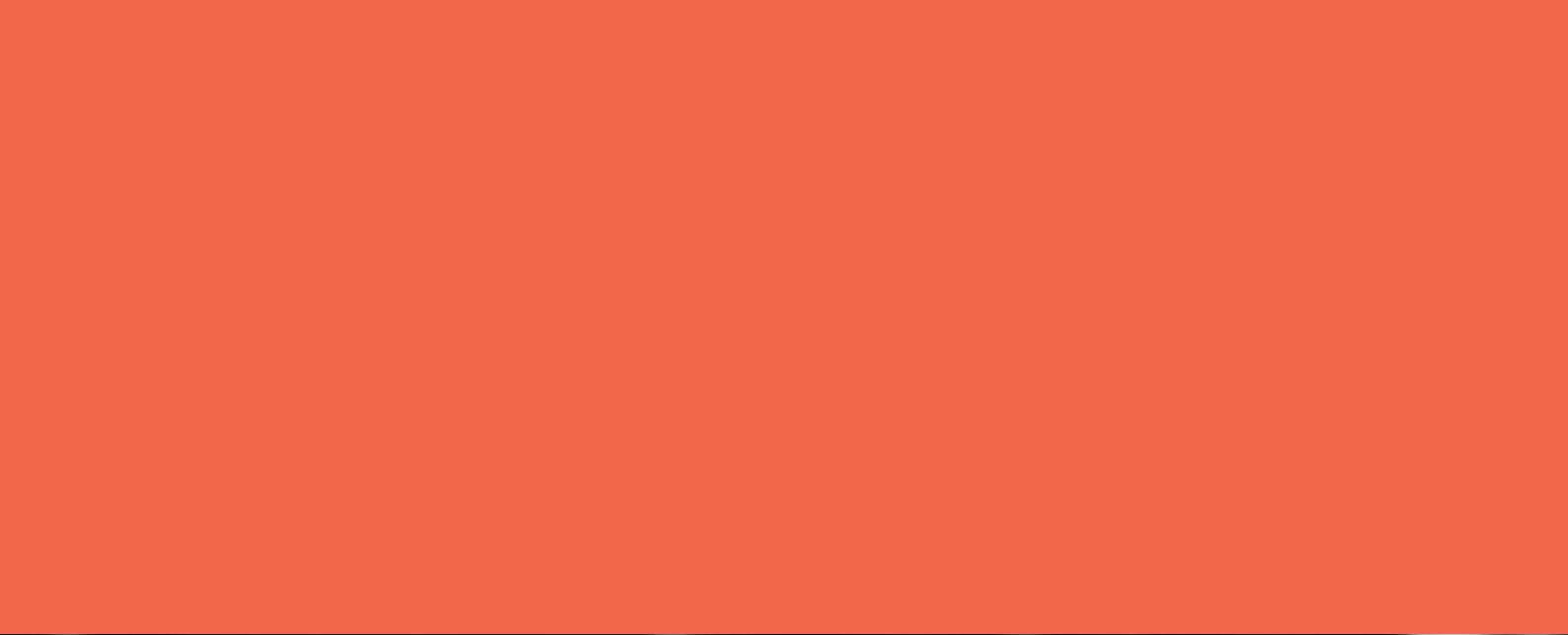
jiżviluppaw il-hiliet tagħhom, u jiksbu s-suċċess li jixtiequ fil-karriera u fil-hajja tagħhom. Is-sodisfazzjon ta' dawn l-istudenti tal-passat, it-tbissima fuq wiċċkom ilkoll li l-Hejla qed tiċċelebraw is-suċċess edukattiv tagħkom, hija l-isbaħ u l-aqwa premju għal kull edukatur, u speċjalment għalina fl-MCAST.

Wara kollox, iċ-ċentru tal-missjoni tagħna huwa l-istudent u ġurnata bħal tal-lum tfakkarna f'din il-missjoni. Illum hija l-festa tagħkom l-istudenti. L-awgurji tiegħi hija li din il-festa tkun okkażjoni ukoll fejn tirriflettu ukoll fuq ir-rwol tagħkom fis-soċjetà. Tkun okkażjoni fejn tagħrfu illi tagħmlu x'tagħmlu minn issa 'il quddiem, kemm jekk tkomplu tistudjaw jew tibdew taħdmu, tkunu persuni b'valuri soda ta' onestà, altrwiżmu, dedikazzjoni u impenn fix-xogħol li nittama li hadtu matul is-snin li għamiltu fl-MCAST.

Prosit u awguri mill-qalb lilkom l-istudent. Prosit u awguri lill-ġenituri u l-qraba tagħkom li, m'għandix dubju, kienu ta' support u inkoraġġiment kbir għalikom matul is-snin tal-istudju tagħkom. Grazzi li emmintu fina u fdajtuna bil-futur tagħkom.







STUDENT SPEECHES



Wednesday 5 December 2012

SUE MICALLEF

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS)
IN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE



INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

Ftit tal-ġimgħat ilu, irċevejt korrispondenza partikulari ħafna u qatt mistennija... ġejt infurmata li ntgħażilt sabiex nagħmel id-diskors f'isem l-istudenti f'dan il-jum tant sabiħ u memorabbli għalina lkoll... jum il-gradwazzjoni. Il-jum li fih naħsdu l-frott li nkunu żrajna u ħadna ħsiebu għal tant żmien tul l-istudji differenti tagħna fl-MCAST. Nistqarr magħkom li dak il-ħin tlajt fis-seba sema, però malajr erġajt instabatt mal-art kif sirt naf li fi speeches bħal dawn, in-nies fl-udjenza jkollhom attention span ta' goldfish... tliet sekondi kollox. B'hekk inhegġigkom tagħmlu sforz u tqajmu lil ta' maġenbkhom, u toqorsuhom tnejn jekk hemm bżonn, forsi ma tiftakrunix bħala dik 'l-imsejtna' li għamlet hames minuti tparla mal-ħajt.

Issa li ġbidtilkom l-attenzjoni nista' ngħid li llum qed inħossni verament onorata li qegħda hawn nirrappreżenta lill-istudenti kollha li ħa jiggradwaw minn diversi istituti ta' dan il-Kulleġġ. Biex nibdew... ippermettuli nintroduċi lili nnifsi... jien Sue Micallef, u ġejja mill-Istitut tan-Negozju u l-Kummerċ ġewwa l-MCAST.

Bħala studenti li qed niggradwaw bil-BA (Hons) Business Enterprise, kellna tliet snin mimlija daqs bajda b'ħafna tagħlim differenti u b'esperjenzi mill-aktar ikkuluriti. F'aspett varjat imma ħolistiku, tgħallimna kif tippjana, tħejji, twaqqaf u tmexxi negozju b'suċċess, kemm fuq livell lokali kif ukoll internazzjonali – sa minn fejn għandek tgħaddi biex tevadi t-taxxa b'mod legali, Oops din qabziti!! Esperjenzajna kif taħdem ma' ħaddieħor sabiex jintlaħaq għan komuni u għexna kif għandek tirrispetta l-opinjoni totalment differenti ta' ħaddieħor flok tibagħtu jsaqqi.

Tgħallimna wkoll kif tibni torri reżistenti u twil bil-gazzetti. Hawn però rrid nammetti li kif jafu sħabi tal-klassi iktar qarribna lejn it-torri ta' Pisa milli bini robust bħalma hu Bieb il-Bombi. Ġejna wkoll imħarrġin kif nagħzlu kliem li jkun irid jisma' l-konsumatur biex jagħżel li jixtri prodott li qatt m'hu ħa juża f'ħajtu. Wara dan id-diskors żgur li ser ikun hemm min jistgħaġeb u jikkummenta 'ajma ħej mill-MCAST ħa joħorġu iktar negozjanti imbruljuni'.

Imma, ċajt appart... hawn sejrin żbaljati... fl-istess sala, hawn magħkom il-lejla il-'business leaders' u l-'management executives' ta' għada... l-iprem inginjera fl-elettronika, fil-kostruzzjoni u fis-settur marittimu li pajjiżna ser ikollu fis-snin li ġejjin.

U għalkemm nimmaġina li jista' jkun li qed tgħidu li jien qed nohrom, nixtieq naqsam magħkom il-koll espressjoni li jien tant nemmen fiha u li ntqalet mill-entrepreneur Malcolm Forbes... 'When you cease to dream you cease to live'.

Konvinta li kull student li qed jiggradwa llejla, jekk jieqaf u jħares lura lejn iż-żmien li għaddejna flimkien fl-MCAST, jirrealizza li hemm bosta u bosta esperjenzi b'taġħlim dejjem imħallat mar-realtajiet, skont il-qasam vokazzjonali li għażel l-istudent. Bħalma djament huwa daqstant ta' valur prezzjuż filwaqt li miżgħud b'faċċati diversi, hekk ukoll l-esperjenza ta' studju tagħna fl-MCAST laqqgħatna u għallmitna minn kollox, waqt li pprovdietna bil-ħiliet u bl-għodda li llum qed insibuhom tant utli. Konvinta li dan l-istess taġħlim se nsibuh utli tul ħajjtna kollha.

Għalkemm sfortunatament hawn min iħares lejn l-MCAST bħala 2nd choice jew 2nd chance, jien nassigurakom li l-MCAST għandu dak kollu li jagħmlu 1st choice u l-aqwa għażla. Li lna koll miġbura hawn il-lejla, il-Kulleġġ offriela korsijiet li ma ssibx bħalhom fi kwalunkwe istituzzjoni edukattiva oħra, korsijiet mirquma kemm bit-teorija u bil-prattika, filwaqt li jarmawna sa snienna għad-dinja tax-xogħol kif ukoll għall-isfidi ekonomiċi li koll irridu naffrontaw. Personalment, minn feedback li kelli s'issa, numru sabiħ u dejjem jikber ta' kumpaniji ħassew li għamlu għażla ħafna aħjar meta impjegaw gradwati mill-MCAST.

Issa nixtieq naqsam magħkom esperjenza personali, li nemmen li hija esperjenza ta' numru sabiħ ta' studenti li qegħdin hawn il-lejla. Ġewwa l-MCAST, sib famlija oħra fejn l-għalliema u sħabi tal-klassi dejjem offrewli appoġġ kontinwu u ħolqu ambjent fejn jien stajt nikber u niżviluppa kemm akkademikament kif ukoll fil-personalità u l-karattru tiegħi. Il-kors tagħna kien challenging u verament impenjattiv, fejn kultant kien jaqbdok il-biki għax tant ikollok assignments li trid tagħmilhom gas down... allaħares l-MCAST kien mgħammar bi speed cameras, għax kieku qlajna elf ticket.

Iżda dawn il-mument iebes u mimlija tensjoni kienu mżewqa b'ħafna mument sbieħ, ferrieħa u kkuluriti. Anke għaliex l-għalliema li kellna l-pjaci u l-unur li jgħallmuna, jużaw metodi impekkabbli u varji biex jagħmlu t-taġħlim b'mod li jista' jinftiehem sew u għaliex le... divertenti! Inħoss li dejjem bnejna relazzjoni tajba mal-għalliema u l-benefiċċju ta' dan għadna ngawduh u nħossuh sal-lum.

Avolja m'hawnx ċertu personalità televiżiva li thobb tgħid 'ikkonkludi ikkonkludi!', wasalt fit-tmien tad-diskors li hejjejt...

Naħseb li lkoll taqblu miegħi li ma nistax nagħlaq qabel ma niringrazzja lill-persuni li għenuna naslu sa hawn. F'isimkom ilkoll li qed tiggradwaw miegħi llejla, nixtieq niringrazzja u nuri l-apprezzament tant xieraq lill-amministrazzjoni tal-MCAST kollha: lid-diretturi u t-tmexxija tal-Istituti, kif ukoll lill-għalliema kollha tal-MCAST għad-dedikazzjoni u s-sapport kontinwu tagħhom.

Minn qalbna nixtiequ wkoll niringrazzjaw lill-ġenituri tagħna ta' kemm-ildarba għamlulna l-kafè biex nibqgħu għaddejjin, tas-sapport, u talli dejjem emmnu fina u għamlu minn kollox biex jgħinuna jkollna ġejjieni mimli suċċess u ferħ.

Fl-aħħar, nixtieq ngħid proposit kbir lill-istudenti kollha t'hawn ġew li bis-saħħa tal-persistenza, l-ambizzjoni u s-sagrifici nrexxielna naslu s'hawn. Dan l-ispeech hafna jirreferu għalih bħala commencement speech u jien veru nemmen li hi hekk għax għalkemm kulhadd ha jmur their separate ways b'din id-degree li ksibna, għandna f'idejna ċ-ċavetta li tifhilna hafna bibien għal futur prosperuż u promettenti. Nixtieq nagħlaq bi hsieb li nixtieq li nagħtih bħala rigal lil kull wiehed u waħda minna li ser niggradwaw illejla... nemmen li dan ir-rigal ċkejken, għandna dejjem inġorruh magħna:

'All our dreams can come true – if we have the courage to pursue them.'

WALT DISNEY

 **MCAST**
MALTA COLLEGE of ARTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY





Thursday 6 December 2012

MATTHEW VASSALLO

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONS)
IN COMPUTER NETWORKS



INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Hon Minister, President of the Board of Governors, Governors, Principal, Deputy Principal, Directors, Deputy Directors, Lecturers, distinguished guests, parents and colleagues: on behalf of the graduation class of 2012, I would like to welcome you to this event.

I find it hard to believe that the number of hours spent attending lectures, attending tutorials, studying to pass assignments, banging our heads against the wall trying to make sense out of our thesis, and in between going “ghand tal-Hibs għal borża chips” have passed so fast.

All this effort and stress blended with occasional moments of joy has brought us here today. Indeed, this evening we are all here because of our hard work and determination and all of us surely feel proud that we have made it this far. Whether we used ‘ultrasurf’ or not. Now it is time to step boldly into the next phase of our lives. I believe that some of us will continue studying while others will seek to start a new career. Whatever that next step is, I am positive we will reach our goals.

Throughout the six years which we have spent at MCAST, there were some things that have changed and improved while others remained the same. The first obvious example is the note written on the staff room door, “kindly do not knock but send an email to talk to a lecturer” which all of us followed. I am pleased to note that this has now been changed to “It is advisable to contact lecturers by e-mail to set an appointment, thanks for your cooperation”, followed by a list of emails of lecturers in the staff room. On a more serious note, the progress which we have seen throughout the years cannot not include the advancement in the syllabus that helped us students be more up-to-date with the current advancements in ICT. Regretfully, however, I must also point out that during our years we focused more on theory rather than on practical hands-on work. Introducing more practical hands on-work will surely help us students be much more successful in our future career as we will be more prepared. As I was browsing through the MCAST website, I found it very unfortunate to see that the network project of National Diploma and Higher National Diploma has been removed by BTEC. In

my opinion having such projects helps students be more knowledgeable in their studies, especially since students will be able to think outside the box.

On a positive note, one of the biggest steps forward made at MCAST is the introduction of the degree courses in ICT. This has helped us students to continue our studies even further. Having a degree in ICT enables MCAST students to be more competitive and successful in their future career. It is therefore important that MCAST continues increasing its courses and exploring other areas of specialisation in ICT such as computer security or artificial intelligence. This will surely enable students to be more employable in the ICT field.

On the other hand one must note that one of the biggest hurdles that we degree students faced was the thesis as, in my opinion, we did not have enough time to select a topic, research about it and finalise the thesis by the end of the year. A suggestion which I would like to put forward is to encourage students to start their thesis during summer before the top-up degree year, where they can discuss the topic with their dissertation tutor and therefore allow for more time to write their thesis. This is already being done at University and also in some MCAST Institutes: this has proved to work. One way of doing this is to inform Higher National Diploma students about the thesis as early as possible to enable them to at least start researching their topic during their summer holidays.

All good things must come to an end, and our time together here has literally flown. I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to our families and friends as well as to the entire staff here at MCAST because without their love, support and guidance throughout the years none of us would be here today, so thank you. I sincerely wish everyone here today the best of luck in all you do. Whatever you choose to do in life, remember Winston Churchill and his saying, “Success is never final. Failure is never fatal. It is courage that counts.”

I would like to again thank everyone for coming here today and congratulations to the MCAST class of 2012!

Friday 7 December 2012

DAVID AQUILINA

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONS)
IN MARINE ENGINEERING



INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Insellmilkom, illum hi ġurnata importanti u memorabbli għalina lkoll. Din il-ġurnata timmarka l-bidu tal-ħajja tagħna bħala professjonisti fuq il-post tax-xogħol.

Illum qed niċċelebraw is-suċċess li ksbna f'settur vokazzjonali li għażilna għal dawn l-aħħar snin fil-Kulleġġ Malti tal-Arti, ix-Xjenza u t-Teknoloġija. Dan kollu qed isefh fl-ewwel snin minn meta l-Kulleġġ tagħna beda joffri programmi f'livell sitta, fl-2009.

Naħseb li lkoll taqblu li ma kinitx mixja faċli, iżda dan kien vjaġġ mimli bi sfidi u kisbiet li kienu jirrikjedu impenn sħiħ biex wasalna għall-gradwazzjoni tagħna llum. Jekk irridu nkunu onesti magħna nfusna, meta nħarsu lura lejn is-snin li qattajna nistudjaw u nikbru flimkien bħala grupp ta' żgħażaġh, inħossu sodisfazzjon kbir b'riżultat ta' dak li għamilna: il-vjaġġ tagħna beda meta dħalna fl-MCAST bħala studenti, u ser noħorgu mill-Kulleġġ bħala gradwati li ġejna mħejjijin sabiex niffaċċjaw id-dinja tax-xogħol b'mod professjonali. Aħna għandna r-responsabilità li mmexxu lil pajjiżna 'l quddiem, li nokkupaw postijiet fejn żgur se niġu bżonn it-tagħlim li ksbna fl-MCAST.

Ilkoll kemm aħna nħossuna kburin li llum wasalna biex niggradwaw, għalkemm nafu wkoll li baqgħalna ħafna x'nitgħallmu u li t-tagħlim ma jispiċċax għalina f'dan il-jum ta' festa u ferħ, imma rridu nkomplu din il-mixja ta' għerf, ħiliet u kompetenzi fil-qasam vokazzjonali tagħna għas-snin li ġejjin, anzi, tul ħajjitna kollha.

Huwa fatt li aktar ma wieħed jitgħallem, aktar jirrealizza kemm baqagħlu x'jitgħallem. Illum aħna tlajna tarġa oħra fil-proċess kontinwu tat-tagħlim u tat-taħriġ tagħna, għalkemm fadlilna ħafna sa ma nilhqu l-quċċata. Meta naslu biex nilhquha, nindunaw illi hemm muntanja akbar ma' xiex nitilgħu, u dawn l-isfidi jkomplu jimlewna b'kuraġġ sabiex dejjem intejbu u nsahħu t-tagħlim fil-ħajja tagħna. Bl-umiltà u bir-rieda li ntejbju l-għerf tagħna, nistgħu naslu biex nimmaturaw u nikbru fil-professjoni tagħna.

Kif tistgħu tobsru, jien minie student żgħir, infatti ħafna minn sħabi l-istudenti kienu jarawni bħala x-xiħ tal-klassi. Mela filli fuq il-post tax-xogħol dejjem kont iż-żgħir, u f'daqqa waħda sirt l-ixjeħ wieħed fl-Istitut. Ippermettuli neħodkom f'it lura fiż-żmien u nispegalkom x'wassal lili għall-ġurnata tal-lum, fejn se niggradwa llejla magħkom ilkoll.

Minn mindu kont żgħir, dejjem kelli x-xewqa li nidhol f'korp dixxiplinat bħala fizza. Meta kelli sittax-il sena bdejt nistudja għall-A levels biex nidhol fil-Forzi Armati ta' Malta.

Fl-2001, ħarġu l-applikazzjonijiet għal Officer Cadets, applikajt u ntgħażilt. Bdejt bit-taħriġ tal-Cadetship fejn minn bniedem pajżan jittrasformaw fi bniedem militari. Jien dejjem kont urejt ix-xewqa li nservi fuq il-baħar fl-Iskwadra Marittima. L-avventura dejjem ħabbejtha u l-Iskwadra Marittima qatt ma kienet nieqsa minnha. Il-Forzi Armati bagħtuni nistudja l-Akkademja Navali Taljana ta' Livorno, fejn hemmhekk studjajt biex inkun inġinier fuq il-baħar. Jekk tgħaqqad iż-żmien kollu li għamilt barra minn Malta, javvicina l-perjodu ta' sentejn, fejn apparti li tgħallim fl-akkademja, mort għal sitt xhur fuq il-baħar fejn ħadt esperjenza siewja immens minn nies li kien ilhom ibahħru minn qabel ma twelidt jien.

Wara dan it-taħriġ kollu, fl-2005, ergajt mort l-Italja ma' grupp ta' kollegi mill-Armata, fejn kellna Patrol Boat qiegħda tinbena. Kienet esperjeza unika fejn teknikament timmatura ħafna. Minn dak iz-żmien 'il hawn bdejt inservi fuq il-Patrol Boat bħala Chief Engineer. Illum il-ġurnata, għaddew seba' snin.

Minn meta dħalt fil-qasam marittimu, dejjem kelli x-xewqa li nkompli l-istudji tiegħi, biss ma kinux jeżistu korsijiet illi bihom stajt inżid l-għarfien tiegħi f'dan il-qasam. Kont ngħid, imma kif ġewwa gżira bħal tagħna, li kull fejn tħares tara l-baħar, ħadd mhu qed joffri korsijiet f'din il-linja? Kienet xi haġa li ma stajtx nifhem u li bdiet tinkwetani illi xtaqt nitgħallem u ma stajtx. Fl-aħħar, fl-2009 l-MCAST kienu l-pijunieri li bdew joffru d-Diploma fil-Marine Engineering, u ta' dan nixtieq niringrazzja lil din l-istituzzjoni li tatna din l-opportunità.

Malli ħareġ il-kors, għamilt talba lill-Forzi Armati biex nattendi għalih, liema talba ġiet milqugħa. Minn hawn ma nistax ma nfaħħarx lill-Forzi Armati li jagħtuna l-opportunitajiet meħtieġa, kemm lokali kif ukoll barra minn Malta, biex inkunu professjonisti f'xogħolna.

Diġà aċċennajt għall-fatt li meta bdejna l-kors tal-Higher National Diploma fil-Marine Engineering, jien kont l-ixjeħ wieħed fejn fil-bidu nistħajjel lill-istudenti sħabi jistaqsu lilhom infushom: "Dan minn fejn inqala', kemm għandu żmien?" Wara f'it żmien, flimkien mal-

istudenti shabi, bdejna naħdmu bħala tim u nissahħu fit-teamwork skills tagħna. Dan kien apparti t-tagħlim tekniku li konna qegħdin nirċievu.

Il-lekċerers tagħna huma nies mimlijin bl-esperjenza. Konna nieħdu gost nisimghuhom jirrakuntaw l-esperjenzi tagħhom b'relazzjoni mat-tagħlim li jkunu qegħdin jagħtuna. Kont nibda ngħid, ara daqsxejn kif it-tagħlim japplikawh dawn in-nies, kif dak li titgħallim l-MCAST tużah, u mhux kemm tgħid ħadt iċ-ċertifikat għax tgħallimt. Kellna lekċerers li kellhom esperjenza vasta fis-settur marittimu, u mhux l-ewwel darba li ddiskutejt magħhom diffikultajiet tekniċi li ltqajt magħhom. Mill-esperjenzi tagħhom kien jirnexxielna nsolvu problemi li għalija jkunu ġodda. Bis-saħħa t'hekk, stajt nimmatura f'xogħli. Ippermettuli ngħid li t-tagħlim akkademiku huwa importanti immens, iżda l-esperjenza tiswa mitqllu deheb. Fl-MCAST qegħdin nieħdu mit-tnejn, u nemmen illi noħorġu ppreparati tajjeb għad-dinja tax-xogħol permezz ta' din is-sistema bilanċjata bejn it-teorija u l-prattika fid-dawl tal-esiġenza tas-settur vokazzjonali. Hawnhekk ma nistax ma niringrazzjax lill-lekċerers ta' dak kollu li għamlu magħna, talli ggwidawna u tawna l-ġhodda biex inkunu nistgħu naħdmu fid-dinja tax-xogħol, u niringrazzjawhom tal-paċenzja li ħadu bina għax kif tafu mhux dejjem faċli taħdem mal-istudenti.

Għaddew sentejn, u ħadna l-kwalifika tal-Higher National Diploma. Fit-tieni sena ġejna mgħarrfa li l-MCAST se jniedi l-BSc (Honours) in Marine Engineering.

Għal darb'ohra l-MCAST kienu pijunieri f'dan il-qasam. Ergajt tlabt lill-Forzi Armati għall-permess, u

dawn aċċettaw u tawni s-sapport biex nattendu għal dan il-kors. M'huwiex faċli illi taħdem u tistudja, imma meta tara li l-organizzazzjoni li qiegħed fiha, fil-każ tiegħi l-Forzi Armati ta' Malta, jagħtuk l-opportunità, aktar tagħmel kuraġġ biex timxi 'l quddiem.

Din id-darba, fid-degree kellna għalliema barranin li kienu assistiti minn lekċerers Maltin. L-MCAST flimkien mal-lekċerers ipprovduti b'kollaborazzjoni ma' Fraunhofer iffinanzjati mill-fondi tal-Unjoni Ewropea, tawna exposure għal lekċerers illi jaħdmu fuq il-linja marittima barra minn xtutna, u b'hekk stajna naraw pajjiżi ohra kif jaħdmu. Din kienet esperjenza siewja fejn il-bagoll ta' esperjenzi tagħna kompli jstaghna.

Dak it-tagħlim li sa f'it żmien ilu ma setax jinkiseb ġo Malta, illum il-ġurnata sar possibbli grazzi għal din l-istituzzjoni. Hawnhekk ma nistax ma niringrazzjax lid-Direttur u d-Deputy Directors, kif ukoll lit-tutor tiegħi talli ggwidawni waqt l-istudji tiegħi fl-MCAST. Apparti t-tagħlim, bħala studenti aħna nħarsu lejn it-tmexxija tal-Istitut tagħna, u minn hemm nitgħallmu ħiliet ta' tmexxija u ta' kif problema ssolviha. Nassigurakom li l-problemi fl-uffiċċju tad-Direttur u tad-Deputy Directors ifaqqsu ma' kull siegħa minflok jonqsu, biss nassigurakom ukoll li l-prijorità tagħhom dejjem kienet l-aħjar interess tal-istudent.

Nista' nagħtikom garanzija li mill-2009 sal-lum il-ġurnata ħassejt tiddil sostanzjali fuq livell professjonali. Jekk qabel kont nidħol ġo machine workshop u kien ikolli idea żgħira ta' dak li jkun għaddej, illum permezz tal-hands-on experience li tani l-MCAST ikolli idea tajba ta' dak li jkun qed jiġri.



Meta tibda titkellem fuq xogħol ma' professionisti oħra, tara li tkun fuq l-istess livell, jasal ikun hemm rispett reċiproku fuq il-post tax-xogħol. Tibda tilhaq qbil tekniku mal-kollegi u x-xogħol isir tajjeb u fil-hin.

Meta tkun involut fi proġetti, tkun tista' tagħti kontribut sostanzjali u biż-żmien tara illi ta' fuqek jafdawlek proġetti f'idejk minħabba l-esperjenza, it-tagħlim u l-kwalifiki li jkollok.

Insemmi aneddodu żgħir fejn, darba fost l-oħrajn, waqt li konna fuq ix-xogħol fuq il-baħar, inqalghet problema fuq valv partikulari. B'kombinazzjoni, f'it zmien qabel kellna għalliem fejn għamilna lezzjoni fuq dawn il-valvi, u konna xbajna nagħmlu eżerċizzji prattiċi ta' x'jista' jiġri u ma jiġrix. Hafna drabi tasal tgħid, fejn ha nużaha din jekk għadni qatt ma ltqajt magħha? Malajr użajtu t-tagħlim li kellna u hemmhekk apprezzajt x'kont hadt mill-MCAST. Dak li tgħallimt użajtu u hassejt sodisfazzjon fuq il-post tax-xogħol, permezz tat-tagħlim solvejna l-problema u komplejna b'xogħolna fuq il-baħar.

Illum qegħdin hawn biex niċċelebraw is-suċċess tagħna li kien possibbli bis-safha tal-għalliema u ta' hafna nies li għenuna, u bħalissa huwa impossibbli li nsemmuhom ilkoll. Biss irridu niftakru li s-suċċess tagħna wasal ukoll permezz tal-familji tagħna, li jagħtuna support bla ebda kundizzjoni f'dak li nagħmlu. Dawn ibatu magħna meta jarawna inkwetati jew taħt pressjoni waqt l-istudju. Mhux l-ewwel darba li jehel magħna xi qarib għax ma nkunux nistgħu naħdmu xi somma, u tal-familja jieħdu paċenzja kbira. Hu importanti li kultant nieqfu u nringrazzjaw lill-familji tagħna ta' dak kollu li għamlu magħna matul is-snin. Minn hawn nixtieq nringrazzja lill-familja tiegħi li dejjem għenuni u tawni s-support waqt iż-żminijiet ta' studju.

Nixtieq nagħlaq billi ngħidilkom li aħna parti sostanzjali mill-futur ta' dan il-pajjiż, u bit-tagħlim li ksibna irridu nagħmlu l-almu tagħna fuq il-post tax-xogħol hali nkunu l-ingranaġġ li jdawwar l-ekonomija.

Nawguralkom kollha li tiksbu dak li tixtieq qalbkom għall-futur.





LIST OF GRADUATES

Wednesday 5 December 2012

INSTITUTE OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Jesmond Agius, Stephen Azzopardi, Frank Bonello, Christopher Buttigieg, Clive Calleja, Gianluca Callus, Justin John Caruana, Matthew Cremona, Daniele Martino Debattista, Christopher Debono, Chantelle Fenech, Glenn Gauci, Michael Gauci, Sarah Mercieca, Daniel Privitera, Glen Schembri, Neal Sciberras, Edward Vella, Marianne Vella

MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN CONSTRUCTION

James Cassar

MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING

Ruben Caruana, Christopher Darmanin, Roderick Mifsud

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) IN CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

Tiziana Gatt, Mark Attard, Dimitri Calleja, Wayne

Ciantar, Sarah Crockford, Andrea Fava, Clinton Gatt, George Grima, Christopher Magro, Kurt Micallef, Aaron Mifsud, Rodney Schembri, Glenn Owen Spiteri, Bradley Vella, Matthew Zammit

INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

DIPLOMA IN BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Anais Agius, David Agius, Suzanne Agius, Janice Aquilina, Justin Paul Attard, Kirsten Azzopardi, Emilio Barbara, Tyrone Barbara, Daniela Bartolo, Jessica Bartolo, Hina Bezzina, Mary Anna Bianchi, Sandro Bonanno, Bernadette Borg, Danica Borg, Kelly Borg, Luana Briffa, Carlos Caruana, Andre Cauchi, Cynthia Chetcuti, Gilbert Chircop, Larissa Ciantar, Gabrielle Curmi, Alexia Cutajar, Nathalie Debono, Matthew Ellul, Caroline Falzon, Matthew Fenech, Andre Gove, Christian Joseph Grech, Elena Grech, Sherona Grima, Rachel Micallef, Gabriella Mifsud, Stephen Portelli, Daphne Psaila, Janice Sant, Christine Schembri, Christabel Spiteri, Chanelle Tabone, Jessica Tabone, Amber Van Der Weele, Luke Vella, Magdalen West, Jennifer Xuereb





AAT DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTING

Katya Abela, Graziella Aidi, Jestabel Aquilina, Keith Bartolo, Clayton Bellia, Jeremy Bonnici, Luana Bonnici, Chantelle Borg, Jean Claude Briffa, Carla Buttigieg, Evelyn Camilleri, Kirsten Camilleri, Lara Camilleri, Leanne Camilleri, Karen Caruana, Kristov Cassar, Jeanelle Cortis, Daniela Cumbo, Kirsten Dalmas, Cressida Darmanin, Simon Debattista, Annemarie Debono, Vincent Difesa, Adrian Farrugia, Katia Farrugia, Pierre Farrugia, Clint Formosa, Melanie Ghigo, Stephanie Micallef, Alison Muscat, Darren Pace, Nathalie Saliba, Nathalie Sapiano, Naomi Ann Scicluna, Luke Scicluna, Graziella Seychell, Kathleen Spiteri, Jeanette Tanti Gregoraci, Ian Vella, Brittany Elvira Xuereb, Leanne Zahra, Robert Zammit

MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS

Luca Bartolo, Alan Borg Cole, Omar Borg, Sarah Borg, Kimberly Brown, Svetlana Martine Calleja, Jean Luca Caruana, Lorna Cassar, Natasha Cassar, Michael Debono, Stephanie Debono, Ryan Demanuele, Jeffrey Farrugia, Olivienne Felice, Raffael Fiedler, Sean Fleri Soler, Edwina Galea, Daniel Gatt Baldacchino, Carl Gauci, Yanica Grech, Keith Grima, Dalton Hili, Roberta Mercieca, Jeanette Mifsud, Jurgen Mifsud, Nadine Mifsud, Gian Paul Mizzi, Daniela Marie Portelli, Charlene Said, Stephanie Said, Jelena Simie, Sarah Zammit, Maria Lisa Zerafa

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

Sue Micallef, Christabelle Attard, Maria Cristina Borg, Maxine Camilleri, Simon Peter Camilleri, Daphne Caruana, Mark Cassar, Melanie Cauchi, Ryan Delia, Annalise Gatt, Jean Paul Gauci, Rachel Muscat, Svetlana Saffrett, Maxine Scerri, Christina Theuma

INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING

MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN ELECTRICAL / ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

Michael Apap, Frederick Attard, Robert Grech, Marieclaire Polidano, Gilmore Sacco, Christian Zammit

MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN ELECTRICAL / ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING (ELECTRONIC)

Mario Abela, Jessica Aguis, Daniel Bonanno, Melvin Bonello, Peter Bugeja, Mark Paul Busuttil, Mark Camilleri, Philip Cardona, Mark Desira, Matthew Galea, Nicolai Gatt, Godfrey Giordmaina, Ivan Fabri, Jonathan Mallia, Clyde Mercieca, Norbert Mifsud, David Muscat, Daniel Pace, Leigh Pisani, Mario Saliba, Dario Schembri, Malcolm Schembri, Adrian Scicluna, Predrag Spasojevic, Brandon Spiteri

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) IN ELECTRONICS AND CONTROL ENGINEERING

Sean Farrugia, Charlon Attard, Charlon Buttigieg, Antoine Camilleri

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) IN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Jesmond Gatt, Amadeo Vella

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) IN POWER GENERATION AND RENEWABLES

Joseph Ciantar, Matthew Agius Delicata, George Lord Bugeja, Godwin Busuttil, Josef Grima Duca, Mark Matthew Rapa, Scott Andrew Saliba, Stefan Scerri, Nigel Vella, Rebecca Victoria Zammit

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) IN BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Vincent Micallef, Matthew Agius, Maria Victoria Bezzina, Sarah Marie Borg

MARITIME INSTITUTE

CHIEF MATE

Christian Grima, Govann Xerri

Thursday 6 December 2012

INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN COMPUTING (SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT)

Jean Paul Abdilla, Emmanuel Abela, Christian Agius, Robert Attard, Daniel Bonello, David Bonello, Adrian Bonnici, Daniel Briffa, Brian Cachia, Jonathan Caffari, Charles Camilleri, Pierre Caruana, Franco Cassar Manghi, Conrad Cassar, Clive Cauchi, Jonathan Cauchi, Kersten James Chircop, Alan Ciantar, James Cilia, Matthew Abraham Cumbo, Julian Cutajar, Vania Curmi, Michelle Dalli, Christian Debono, Claude Debono, Ian Decesare, Raphael Degiorgio, Royston Deguara, Jonathan Falzon, Simon Farrugia, Janice Fenech, Fabron Frendo, Thomas Gatt, Ilaria Deandra Gauci, Miguel Gauci, Francesco Grech, Kyle Grech, Luke Griffiths, Daniel Grima, Keith Grima, Clayton James, Christopher Magri, Jonathan Mallett, Anarita Mallia, Clayton Mallia, Kurt Mallia, Kimberly Mifsud, Christopher Muscat, Ryan Muscat, Andrew Pace, Yanica Rachelle Pace, Clizman Pintley, Clayton Piscopo, Christopher Portelli, Edward Sammut Alessi, Isaac Sant, Sarah Saydon, Nathanael Scerri, Deon Schembri, Daniel Scicluna, Ariana Spiteri, Owen Joseph Tabone, Sarah Tanti, Dario Vella Catalano, Christian John Vella, Kevin Vella, Philip Vella, Renzo Vella, Ivan Xuereb, Jacob Zammit Xuereb, James Zammit, Shawn Zammit, Eman Zerafa

MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN COMPUTING (ICT SYSTEMS SUPPORT)

Chiara Anastasi, Charlot Attard, Kurt Attard, Luke Axiaq, Darren Bajada, Kurt Barbara, Etienne Bonello, Antoinette Borg, Jean Claude Borg, Sammy Borg, Bjorn Briffa, Kevin Busuttil, Gianluca Calleja, Jean Pierre Camenzuli, Kurt Camilleri, Luke Camilleri, Liam James Caruana, Nicholas Caruana, Johann Casha, Alexei Cauchi, Christian Ciantar, Kirsten Ciantar, Kyle Cutajar, Melvin Cutajar, Enrico Dalli, Joseph Darmanin, Daniel Farrugia, Daryl Farrugia, Glen Farrugia, Tonio Farrugia, Kenny Frendo, Olaf Gatt, Jurgen Gauci, Keith Genovese, Christian Leone, Darren Mallia, Nadine Mamo, Luke Mizzi, Brian Muscat, Ian Muscat, Ian Muscat, Justin Muscat, Anthony Neil Pace, Matthew Swain, Dunstan Tabone, Karl Tufigno, Jan Willem Van Avendonk, Joseph Ryan Vella, Joshua Vella, Melchior Vella, Ivan Vidolich, Dulsimo Zahra

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) IN SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

James Cilia, Daria Abela, Joshua Andrew Anastasi,

Benjamin Axiaq, Salvatore Battaglia, Mark Bonnici, Justin Borg, Edward John Cachia, Justin Cachia, Jonathan Camilleri, Mark Cassar, Rochelle Cassar, Alexander Chetcuti, Michael Ciantar, Kylie Costa, Ayrton Debattista, Paul Debono, Sandro Dimech, Gilbert Faenza, Matthew Farrugia, Kimberly Jo Fenech, John Formosa, Adriana Galea, Andrew Gambin, Mario Gatt, Christopher Grech, Roderick Grech, Philip Grima, Anton Micallef, David Mifsud, Lawrence Mifsud, Jason Muscat, Dhiraj Narwani, Michael Kurt Psaila, Mike Scerri, Andre Schembri, Lara Marie Schembri, Andrew Sciberras, Curt Spiteri, Claire Sultana, Roderick Vella, Josef Xuereb, James Zammit

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) IN COMPUTER NETWORKS

Kirsten Cremona, Johann Abdilla, Paul Apap, Bernard Aquilina, David Attard, Davide Attard, Jessica Baldacchino, Wayne Bonello, Neil Borg, Philip Cachia, Gregory Calleja, Darren Camilleri, Mark Joseph Cilia, Adrian Paul Debono, David Ellul, Warren Galea, Jean Pierre Gauci, Mark Joseph Grech, Stefan Francis Grech, Carl Grima, Tennille Hales, Chris Mallia, Rick Mckeon, Anthony Mercieca, Andre Micallef Grimaud, Manuel Polidano, Adrian Scerri, Clayton Schembri, Maria Scicluna, Matthew Vassallo, Hannah Visanich, Claudine Zahra, Dwayne Zahra, Georvin Zammit

AWARDS TO MCAST STAFF

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PRACTICE

Angelica Ciantar

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN BUILDING SERVICES

Christian Brincat

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BUILDING SERVICES

Godwin Caruana, Kenneth Psaila

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MANUFACTURING

Angelo Borg, Franklin Charles Farrugia, Mariella Fenech, Carmel Mangani, David Mifsud

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PLANT

Judas Thaddeus Darmanin, Martin Mifsud

MASTER OF ART IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE MANAGEMENT

Josephine Pace Caruana, Desiree Cordina, Delicia Farrugia, Andrew Luke Vella, Philip Vella

Thursday 6 December 2012

INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN

MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN FINE ARTS

Rita Agius, Jeremy Nicolai Amaira, Rebecca Bonaci, Alixandra Noel Bosios, Rene Brincat, Lara Camilleri, Claudia Anne Chircop, Matthew Farrugia, Matthew Galea, Leanne Lewis, Jennifer Mallia, Lara Manara, Sarah Mifsud, Audrey Pace, Lara Pace, Michela Said, Thea Marie Vella

MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN INTERACTIVE MEDIA

Noeleen Abela, Eric Attard, Andrew Azzopardi, Duncan Bray, Duncan Buttigieg, Matthew Camilleri, Rowena Caruana, Brian Chetcuti, Samuel Chetcuti, Kevin Cortis, Francesco Darmanin, Graziella Delceppo, Glenn Ellul, Greta Ellul, Omar Falzon, Rachel Fenech, Charlene Galea, Sean Gatt, Jeremy Gerada, Darren Jones, Neville Mallia, Kurt Massa, Marietta Mifsud, Sean Muscat, Justin Psaila, Sarah Sant, Luke Scicluna, Eric Scicluna, Jurgen Spiteri, Vanessa Vassallo

MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN MEDIA (MOVING IMAGE)

Nicky Aquilina, Kurt Attard, Christopher Buttigieg, Daniela Cremona, Mauro D'Amato, Marco De Lucca, Melissa Degiorgio, Rick Dimech, Chris Farrugia, John Nicholas Galea, Nathalie Galea, Tessa Pisani, Luca Portelli, Victoria Sciberras, Keith Zammit Cordina

MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN 3D DESIGN

Naomi Marie Agius, Maria Bezzina, Mariella Bonello, Sandrina Cachia, Maris Callus, Kirsten Camilleri, Daniel Cassar, Jessica Cauchi, Rachel Cini, Malcolm Cremona, Chiara Darmanin, Christine Ellul, Shaun Fenech, Tracy Grech, Emma Hickey, Maria Mallia, Nadia Maniscalco, Antonella Montanaro, Matthew Rostkowski, Sarah Scudamore, Rebecca Tanti, Christ Vassallo, Kirsty Vella

MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN GRAPHIC DESIGN

Angele Azzopardi, Sheryl Bonello, Keith Matthew Brincat, Francelle Camilleri, Luca Cauchi, Audrienne Degiorgio, Shaun Farrugia, Georganette Farrugia, Roberta Grech, Kyle Grech, Wayne Grech, Shawn Grima, Roberta Lia, Andrea Meli, Kimberly O'Neill, Yana Pace Decesare, Elaine Saliba, Charlene Sammut, Charlene Schembri, Roxanne Testa

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN 3D DESIGN AND INTERIORS

Stephanie Cassar, Gabriel Bezzina, Sirach Borg, Nicole Saliba, Elisa Savona Ventura, Mark Vincent Schembri, Sarah Jane Vella, Steve Vella, Tamara Webb

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN FINE ARTS

Sarah Maria Scicluna, Kathleen Calleja, Mariam De Giorgio



BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN GRAPHIC DESIGN AND INTERACTIVE MEDIA

Adrian Gauci, Michael Agius, Rosanne Altarhouni Borg, Paula Anastasi, Mark Axiag, Jeremy Azzopardi, Julian Bonello, Francesca Borg, Mark Julian Borg, Rebecca Bullock, Maurizio Cortis, Alexia Curmi, Francesco Dimech, Rosanna Farrugia, Clinton Galea, Rachel Galea, Roderick Galea, Andre Gialanze, Melanie Grech, Claudio Micallef, Kurt Micallef, Amanda Muscat, Berthrand Pisani, Marie Jo Scicluna, Keith Spiteri, Matthew Vella, Roberta Vella, Stefan Von Brockdorff, Matthew Zammit, Jean Marc Zerafa

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN MEDIA (MOVING IMAGE)

Matthew Muscat Drago, Jean Pierre Briffa, Claudia Cachia, Gian Luca Mercieca, Kathleen Pearson, Darryl Schembri

INSTITUTE OF AGRIBUSINESS

MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN HORTICULTURE (GARDEN DESIGN)

Mario Micallef

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) IN ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Jessica Fenech, Gian Carlo Borg, Jessica Caruana, Ian Falzon, Nolan Galea, Nicholas Luke Scerri

INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Tiziana Ancilleri, Larissa Attard, Solita Azzopardi, Maria Borg, Kellie Ann Buhagiar, Kylie D'Amato, Amie Duca, Larissa Farrugia, Silvan Magro, Yanes Nocilla, Denise Vella

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (MANAGEMENT)

Elaine Vassallo, Giorgette Farrugia, Maria Gatt, Geraldine Grech, Elaine Pavia

INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

MCAST BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Alain Agius, Raymond Anthony Azzopardi, Lee Barun, Hector Bonnici, Christian Borg, David Buttigieg, Julian Ceci, Steve Decelis, Zac Galea, Laura Marie Haber, Giuseppe Loreto, Darren Mifsud, Michael Joseph Mifsud, Darren Portelli, George Vella, Michael Vella, Neville Zammit

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) IN MARINE ENGINEERING

David Aquilina, Keith Bugeja



HOW CAN I JOIN MCAST?

THE MALTA COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (MCAST) WILL BE RECEIVING **NEW APPLICATIONS FOR 2013/14 FULL-TIME COURSES** AS FOLLOWS:

DATES		APPLICANTS WITH SURNAME	TIME
Monday	22 July 2013	A	8:30am – 12:30pm
Tuesday	23 July 2013	B	8:30am – 12:30pm
Wednesday	24 July 2013	C	8:30am – 12:30pm
Thursday	25 July 2013	D, E, F	8:30am – 12:30pm
Friday	26 July 2013	G, H, I, J, K, L	8:30am – 12:30pm
Monday	29 July 2013	M	8:30am – 12:30pm
Tuesday	30 July 2013	N, O, P, Q, R, S	8:30am – 12:30pm
Wednesday	31 July 2013	T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z	8:30am – 12:30pm

- Applicants who cannot present their application on the above dates may apply on Thursday 1 August or Friday 2 August between 8:30am and 12:30pm
- Applicants who will be abroad on application dates have to submit their application before these dates at the Registrar's Office, Administration Block, MCAST Main Campus, Paola. The airline ticket must be shown as a proof that the Applicant will be abroad
- Applicants who wish to apply for courses held in Malta, and who during the days of Receipt of Applications are residing in Gozo, may submit their application at the MCAST Gozo Centre, Xaghra
- Applicants may ask another person to present their application as long as the application is signed by the applicant and all the necessary documents are attached to the application. The person presenting an application in the name of another person must also present his/her ID card
- Applications without all the necessary documents and entry requirements will not be accepted
- Foreign Applicants have to submit their Application at the Registrar's Office, Room 112, Administration Block, MCAST Main Campus, Paola
- Application Form A is to be filled in by those applicants who were not students at MCAST in 2012/13 and by those who wish to restart a course

Agribusiness courses	Institute of Agribusiness, Triq Hal Luqa, Qormi
Applied Science courses	Institute of Applied Science, MCAST Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola
Art & Design courses	Institute of Art and Design, Targa Gap, Mosta
Building & Construction Engineering courses	Institute of Building & Construction Engineering, Triq il-Kbira, Naxxar
Business & Commerce courses	Institute of Business & Commerce, MCAST Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola
Community Services courses	Institute of Community Services, MCAST Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola
Electrical & Electronics Engineering courses	Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, MCAST Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola
Gozo Centre courses	Gozo Centre – Xaghra, 132, Triq it-Tigrija, Xaghra
ICT courses	Institute of Information & Communication Technology, MCAST Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola
Maritime courses	Maritime Institute, Villa Portelli, Marina Street, Kalkara
Mechanical Engineering courses	Institute of Mechanical Engineering, MCAST Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola
Pathway to Independent Living	Student House, MCAST Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola

METHOD OF APPLICATION

All applicants must fill in the official Application Form A (in triplicate) and submit it together with the following documents:

- Original ID Card + photocopy from both sides.
- Original Certificates (or result slips) + photocopy of each certificate

Join us at the

MCAST EXPO 2013

25 – 29 June

MCAST Main Campus, Paola

Discover the MCAST experience and find out which of our 170 courses is made for you!

- Collect your free copy of the new 2013/14 MCAST Full-Time Courses Prospectus
- Try out different skills and hands-on activities
- Meet our students and find out more about the MCAST campus life
- Discover MCAST students' latest projects
- Talk to employers about different career opportunities
- Discuss your career prospects with our career advisers
- Find out how our Part-Time Courses can help you advance in your career
- Participate in competitions and win different prizes

Tuesday 25, Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 June – 09:00 to 20:00

Friday 28 June – 09:00 to 19:00

Saturday 29 June (Public Holiday) – 10:00 to 22:00

INFORMATION TALKS

(at the MCAST Main Campus)

Tuesday 25 June

10:00 Institute of Community Services
16:00 Institute of Art and Design
18:00 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering

Wednesday 26 June

10:00 Institute of Applied Science
16:00 Institute of Agribusiness
18:00 Institute of Mechanical Engineering

Thursday 27 June

10:00 Institute of Business and Commerce
10:00 Pathway to Independent Living
16:00 Institute of Information and Communication Technology
18:00 Maritime Institute

Friday 28 June

10:00 MCAST Gozo Centre (at the MCAST Gozo Centre, Xaghra)
16:30 Institute of Building and Construction Engineering

KIDS' AREA

SPORTS AND GAMES

DISPLAYS

ENTERTAINMENT

FOOD & DRINK STALLS

For more information

2398 7135/6

career.guidance@mcast.edu.mt



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