

# MCAST LINK

WINTER ISSUE 43

➤ Mcast  
Graduation  
Ceremonies

➤ Freshers'  
Days



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# EDITOR'S MESSAGE



The College has once again registered an increase in the number of graduates this year with the figure rising to 741 students who successfully completed their Bachelor's Degree or Higher National Diploma (HND) programmes during the last academic year. This magazine includes other award ceremonies that were also held towards the end of this year, including the Diploma in Manufacturing Excellence and the ILM Diploma in Management award ceremonies. Congratulations to all the students!

This issue features the MCAST Expo as well as several other exhibitions, open days, students days that took place at College during the last six months. These include the Art and Design Infectious Exhibition held as part of the Notte Bianca activities, the Annual Art and Design Exhibition, the Agribusiness Open Weekend and Freshers' Days held during the beginning of the new academic year.

Adele Muscat, MCAST Sports Coordinator presents a motivating article about her experience at a conference at Chelsea FC for specialists dedicated to enhancing sports performance all over the world. Read it and learn what top managers in sport have to say about leadership styles and achieving top results in a highly pressurised environment.

Students' participation in College life is steadily increasing. This is evident from the good turnout at the Student Council Elections held in November and also the launch of the new student organisation, MESO.

We hope you find this magazine interesting. We encourage you to contribute by writing articles and sending photos to caroline.balzan@mcast.edu.mt.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR  
TO YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES!**



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Caroline Balzan'.

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BA (HONOURS) IN FINE ARTS STUDENTS  
at the Graduation Ceremony



# INFORMATION



## NEW AIR QUALITY MONITORING SYSTEM AT MCAST

Students following environmental science courses at the MCAST Institute of Applied Science are making use of 11 new highly-equipped laboratories, including one of the most advanced Air Quality Monitoring Systems in Malta.

Located at the heart of the new MCAST campus, the Air Quality Monitoring System is mostly used by students following environmental sciences courses, to acquire hands-on experience in air monitoring techniques. Students following other Institute of Applied Science courses, including individuals aspiring for careers in health sciences and laboratory sciences, also benefit from this equipment. Every year, over 270 students will be making use of this equipment, either directly, or indirectly through the use of the data it generates.

Through this system, the Institute is able to assess air quality at the MCAST Campus, where thousands of students and staff spend long hours every day. The Institute's students and lecturers regularly monitor the data generated by the system to identify any problems and propose measures to improve air quality on Campus. Students also are able to compile data about air quality levels in Malta, which they can then use for further research and analysis during their studies.

The Air Quality Monitoring System is one of the most advanced tools of its kind in the Maltese Islands. It measures in real time a range of particulate matter (tiny particles of solid or liquid matter dispersed in a gas or liquid, in this case, air), including harmful pollutants such as ozone (a major component of smog), nitrogen oxide (emissions from vehicles and industrial polluters), carbon monoxide (a poisonous gas produced by the incomplete burning of carbon in fuels), sulphur dioxide (released from burning fuels that contain sulphur) and volatile organic compounds (chemicals that produce negative health effects, emitted from various sources such as chemical manufacturing).

The equipment represents a €128,000 investment co-funded by the EU's European Regional Development Fund, as part of a multi-million project to build the first phase of the new MCAST Campus. The project includes the setting up of 11 specialised laboratories including two environmental laboratories, two chemistry laboratories, two biology laboratories, a physics laboratory, and two instrumentation laboratories. A total of €1.1 million in tools and advanced scientific equipment have been invested in these laboratories.



MCAST CURRENTLY PROVIDING COURSES TO

**OVER 6400  
STUDENTS**

A FURTHER RISE IN NUMBER OF APPLICANTS



*On Monday 21 October 2013, the Minister of Education and Employment Hon. Evarist Bartolo visited the MCAST Main Campus at Paola. During his visit he expressed his satisfaction at MCAST's continued growth following the new student intake. The College now provides courses to over 6400 full-time students, ranging from certificate courses to degree programmes (from Level 1 to Level 6). MCAST is now one of the main pillars of education in Malta serving a large cohort of students.*



During his visit, Hon. Bartolo explained that MCAST accepted 2685 new students. This represents an increase of almost 7%. The Institute of Community Services, the Institute of Business and Commerce and the Institute of Information and Communication Technology are the Institutes that registered the highest number of new applicants. These three Institutes are also the ones with the largest student populations and each one currently provides courses to more than a thousand students.

This year the College introduced nine new courses that were well received by the students. The MCAST Foundation Certificate in Sport, offered by the Institute of Community Services, was amongst the most popular new course boasting of 49 new applicants. The MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Children's Play, Learning and Development provided by the Gozo Centre for the first time, also attracted many students. This course was previously only offered at the Institute of Community Services, in Paola. As it enters its third year since its foundation, the Institute of Applied Science has also gained popularity amongst students, with many opting for the courses this Institute offers.

The number of students enrolled on the College's degree programmes is also increasing year on year. There are currently close to 300 students reading for a degree in one of the nine Institutes that offer degree programmes. The Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Software Development offered by the Institute of Information and Communication Technology currently boasts of the highest number of students followed by the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Enterprise provided by the Institute of Business and Commerce and the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Graphic Design and Interactive Media offered by the Institute of Art and Design.

The number of students currently following the Pathway to Independent Living course has also increased significantly. This two-year programme provides students with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities or learning difficulties with an opportunity to follow a structured programme of study in subjects that are closer to these individuals' needs. It is now also being offered in Gozo.

Dr Silvio de Bono, President of the Board of Governors, expressed his satisfaction at this increase in student figures and explained that it is very important for students to continue their studies at post-secondary and tertiary levels. Encouraging students to further their education at higher levels is one of our country's most important challenges. This does not only apply to young people who have just ended secondary school but also to adult learners who return to education to advance in their career or even start studying to embark on a new career path. MCAST offers hundreds of different educational opportunities to such learners aspiring for job mobility, ranging from full-time day courses to part-time evening courses.

Mr Stephen Cachia, Principal and CEO stated that the College's plans for its 10 Institutes focus on offering new opportunities and developing existing courses and services to students. He also stated that the building of the new Campus is progressing well as the Institute of Applied Science is now being utilized while the building to host the Institute of Business and Commerce is near completion. Mr Cachia also mentioned that the College is also reviewing many of its courses while creating new materials and resources.





# VOTE 16 DEBATE

## ➤ AT MCAST

On Thursday 14th November 2013 Aġenzija Żgħażaġh organized a discussion at MCAST regarding Vote 16. Parliamentary Secretariat for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sport, Hon. Dr. Stefan Buontempo MP attended the event while Dr. Andrew Azzopardi led the discussion.



# NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR MCAST

Dr Silvio De Bono has been appointed President of the Board of Governors, while Dr Vincent Cassar is Deputy Chairman. Mr David Degabriele is Board Secretary.

The other board members are Prof Mark G Borg, Dr Francis Fabri, Mr Brian J Farrugia, Ms Louisa Grech, Mr David Jones, Mr Victor Satariano and Dr Ing Saviour Zammit.

# FRESHERS' DAYS 2013



*The College held Freshers' Days between the 2 and 4 October 2013 at the MCAST Main Campus. Students had the opportunity to participate in several activities and meet fellow students, learn more about student organisations on Campus and also support the MCAST Student Council. The Care and Pastoral Team organised a variety of teambuilding activities and games to act as icebreakers for the new students. The College also hosted Maltese members of the European Parliament and candidates for the forthcoming elections of the European Parliament. A discussion between the MEP's, MCAST students and staff was held.*





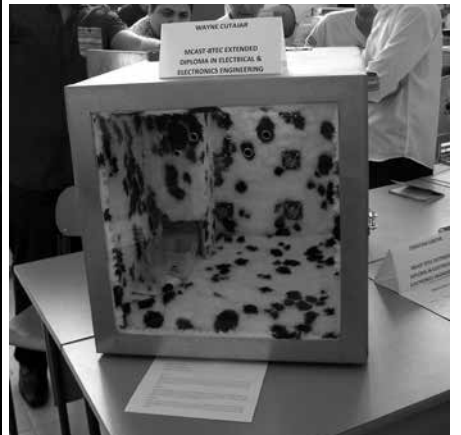
# MCAST EXPO

The second edition of the MCAST Expo was held between 25 and 29 June 2013 at the new MCAST Campus, in Paola. Students, lecturers, career advisers and other support staff were available under one roof to help visitors discover different aspects related to the College's 170 full-time and 300 part-time courses, as well as other student support services available at MCAST.

During the Expo, MCAST's 10 Institutes and the Gozo Centre encouraged visitors to engage in enjoyable hands-on activities to experience different career paths in several industrial sectors. The Institutes hosted representatives of major local employers to give details about current and upcoming employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. Visitors also met MCAST students and found out more about their projects and innovations. The College's student support staff provided advice to prospective students and answered any queries about MCAST's courses. Special guests who excelled in different industry sectors participated in the Expo and shared their career experiences.



# 2013



MCAST ENCOURAGING  
STUDENTS TO

# DEVELOP ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS





*Through a series of initiatives, MCAST is working to encourage more students to improve their entrepreneurial skills and to develop successful start-ups during and after their studies.*

MCAST has embarked on a process to develop and strengthen entrepreneurship as a key skill for our students. A number of initiatives developed through the years are now being strengthened through the introduction of exciting new developments in this area.

When MCAST launched its degree programmes a few years ago, it recognised the importance of equipping its graduates with the necessary entrepreneurial skills to be able to identify potential business opportunities and creatively develop them into successful start-ups. Through modules specifically focused on entrepreneurship and delivered by lecturers specialised in this field, degree students learn how to research and write a business plan, create a viable sales pitch, and grasp the tasks required in launching a business organisation.

To provide further start-up assistance and guidance to students interested in launching their own business, each MCAST institute has worked to appoint one of its staff members to act as an entrepreneurship champion. Students who express an interest in developing a business idea can approach the champion to identify a lecturer who has the necessary technical knowledge and experience in the sector in question to act as their mentor. The champion will also provide students with the necessary guidance about start-ups, and assist them in seeking further support from MCAST's Student Liaison Office and from Malta Enterprise.

An Entrepreneurship Committee has also been set up to manage these initiatives and identify new ways of encouraging more students to develop their entrepreneurial potential.

During the year, MCAST students are also encouraged to participate in particular activities to acquire further experience in business start-ups. Some months ago, for example, a group of MCAST students competed in the first Maltese edition of Start Up Weekend, an internationally-renowned competition in which they joined other young entrepreneurs from Malta in a challenge to launch a new company within 54 hours. The students did very well in this challenge, even winning one of the competition's awards. Some MCAST institutes are also officially recognising students who demonstrate strong entrepreneurial skills in their studies.

MCAST is now collaborating with Malta Enterprise so as to provide space within the Kordin Business Incubation Centre (KBIC) to students with projects which have the potential to become a viable business start-ups. MCAST has also embarked on a process to develop entrepreneurship as an important curricular element across all levels at MCAST. Dr Michelle Gialanze and Mr Ray Vella are actively collaborating with Institute Directors and MCAST staff to co-ordinate these important developments.

# PRESIDENT'S RUN 2013



On Sunday 1st December a number of students and members of staff participated in the President's Run for Charity. This was an enjoyable morning for all who participated whilst helping those in need.



## VOCATIONAL MODULES IN BASIC ENGINEERING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

On Monday 2 December 2013 the Hon. Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Education and Employment, launched a new pilot project between the MCAST Gozo Centre and the Boys Secondary School at the Gozo College.

Through this project Form 3 students will be given the opportunity to carry out vocational modules in basic engineering as part of the Core Curriculum Programme and complete Level 1 of the National Qualifications Framework by the end of their compulsory education.





# VINCE MAIONE

## NEW DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

CURRICULUM, QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr Vince Maione is the newly appointed Deputy Principal for Quality, Curriculum and Research. He has been working at MCAST for almost ten years having joined in February 2004. Mr. Maione graduated in Electrical Engineering from the University of Malta in 1980. He started his professional career in engineering with SGS (now ST Microelectronics). During his 23 years of industrial experience he had the opportunity to work on the design of hardware and software used for testing semiconductor products. His engineering experiences also included product engineering work on power semiconductors, various ranges of microcontrollers and the application of specific integrated circuits spanning many different technologies.

He furthered his engineering studies at postgraduate level in the US and eventually also acquired postgraduate qualifications in management. His management career progressed on to a senior management position with ST where managed very large manufacturing operations as well as R&D and managed fairly complicated projects. During his work in industry he was always directly involved

in upgrading programmes for technical staff and he was often part of committees with university staff and vocational schools working to improve the skills gap issue.

Mr. Maione joined the MCAST Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering in early 2004 as a lecturer in electronics, electrical engineering, microcontrollers and business management. During his lecturing days he taught a range of programmes ranging from local courses to C&G and BTEC and taught in levels from 4 to 6. His career progressed to Deputy Director in the same institute and eventually to Director of Quality Assurance before being appointed Deputy Principal. Mr Maione has acquired an experience at various levels within the MCAST structure and has worked both in an institute as well as in a corporate function.

Mr Maione has also been directly involved in many European funded projects and has also represented both MCAST and Malta in various international conferences and seminars dealing with vocational education advancements in Europe.

# INCREASED TURNOUT

## AT THE MCAST STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The College registered an increased turnout in the number of student votes cast at the Student Council Elections held yesterday, 26 November 2013, at MCAST. Close to 700 students from the various MCAST Institutes voted for their Institute representative on the Student Council.

The elected candidates were Matthew Zammit, (Agribusiness Institute), Andrew Grech Isles (Institute of Business and Commerce), Jade Gauci (Institute of Community Services), Martina Buttigieg (Institute of Information and Communication

Technology), Isaac Tanti (Maritime Institute), Karl Valletta (Institute of Mechanical Engineering), and Christy Gravina (Pathway to Independent Living Programme). Jacob Mifsud, Luca Attard and Terrance Agius will be representing the Institutes of Art and Design, Building and Construction Engineering and Electrical and Electronics Engineering Institutes respectively.

The College wishes the best of luck to the newly formed MCAST Student Council and augurs a year full of hard work, dedication and the achievement of goals.

# MCAST AND A COMENIUS PROJECT

The MCAST Agribusiness Institute hosted 60 participants from various European countries involved in a Comenius project entitled 'The Sea'.

The project aims to explore the mysteries and legends associated with the sea. It aims to pool together human experiences to assess the significance of the sea on the countries' evolution over the centuries. Due to its characteristics, the sea not only represents a source of tradition and culture but also an integral part of a country's economy.

During their visit the participants met the Hon. Leo Brincat, Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change where they discussed the project, its aims and goals and its relevance to Malta. They also visited places linked to the sea such as the National Aquarium, the Ghadira Bird Reserve and San Luċjan Hatchery amongst others.

The project proposes an exchange of information relating to the sea's resources which, analysed from a natural, cultural and environmental point of view, will lead to study the influence on each country's history. Upon examining these aspects one can also discover and compare differences and similarities which reflect the common roots of civilizations and the characteristics of the seas examined.



# THE SEA



# AGRIBUSINESS O

The Agribusiness Institute organised an Open Weekend and invited the public to discover different aspects related to agriculture and animal care. The event also introduced the public, especially young and adult prospective students, to the educational and career opportunities that the Institute offers.

During the three-day event, which was open to everyone and free of charge, visitors were able to participate in different activities. They had the opportunity to carry out gardening and farming skills, learn how to take better care of their pets, take tours of the Institute's animal husbandry units and fields, taste different dishes including Maltese food, experience the new agriculture multi-sensory area, participate in olive oil and wine tasting sessions, learn about different herbs, buy plants and food products produced by the Institute and observe various fish and exotic animals.

The event also included animal shows, as well as displays related to beekeeping, rabbit and poultry keeping, floriculture and veterinary services. Several NGOs, including the Slow Food Movement and Food Revolution Malta and the local representative of the campaign by renowned international chef Jamie Oliver also hosted activities during the Open Weekend.

The MCAST career advisors were available to meet prospective students and provided information about MCAST's full-time and part-time courses in agribusiness and other different sectors.



# PEN WEEKEND



# GOING FROM TWO-LEGGED TO FOUR-LEGGED PAMPERING



*By Raissa Bonnici,  
student following the  
Diploma in Animal Care*

Growing up in a family of animal lovers, I always loved being around cats and dogs no matter what size or breed. I have now decided to turn my passion for animals into my career. This was not so easy as I had spent the past four years working in the beauty industry. I was very young when I started out in this industry, which I found very intriguing and motivating in the beginning, even though it was quite demanding and challenging at times.

But during my last employment I went through some ups and downs and I just felt all that excitement fading away. I felt lost and I wondered if I should just start afresh. I started considering how I could turn my life around because I believe it is never too late to follow your dreams and try out something new. I realized the best way to do so was to turn the passion and love I had for animals into a career. Having a background

of beauty I found it intriguing to explore the expanding business of animal grooming. I like being challenged in life and I know that handling animals for grooming will be challenging at times but it is so rewarding at the end. I started doing my research on the subject and I discovered that the MCAST Institute of Agribusiness offered a great course on Animal Care covering all the basics needed to start out into animal grooming.

I am currently attending the course and it has been really interesting and there is more practical work to come which I am really looking forward to. It is so interesting that apart from the theory you also get hands on experience so one can start getting good work ethics from the beginning. I am looking forward for what is to come in the future and am determined to work hard to be able to open my own grooming business.



## ANNUAL TROPICAL FISH SHOW

Once again the Malta Aquarist Society organised the Annual Tropical Fish Show. Participants, including MCAST students, exhibited their best breeds as well as their carefully kept specimens. Visitors had the opportunity to get a glimpse of this hobby by viewing fresh water to marine fish, invertebrates to aquatic plants.

Over the years the show has evolved. It now boasts of a greater variety of exhibits. Visitors also had the opportunity to participate in competitions and activities throughout the fair.

# BTEC AWARD

## FOR MCAST STUDENT



Darren Mifsud, a student reading for a BEng (Hon) in Mechanical Engineering Plant at the Institute of Mechanical Engineering was recently presented with a Certificate of Commendation during this year's BTEC National Awards in London.

International awarding body Edexcel introduced the Outstanding Student of the Year category in its annual BTEC awards earlier this year to recognise

the achievements of international students who obtain BTEC qualifications.

The Institute of Mechanical Engineering nominated Darren who became the first Maltese student to receive a Highly Commendable Certificate, after he obtained exceptional results in his course leading to the MCAST–BTEC National Higher Diploma in Mechanical Engineering.



# DIPLOMA IN MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE

## AWARDS CEREMONY





Fourteen employees from a total of eight manufacturing companies have successfully completed the Diploma Course in Manufacturing Excellence (Level 4). The Awards Ceremony was held on Monday 11 November 2013 at the Malta Chamber of Commerce.

This eleven unit Diploma, accredited by City and Guilds, is a 360 hour guided learning programme spread out over a period of two years. It was created to equip candidates with the skills and knowledge required to better understand and critically analyze various aspects of manufacturing, ranging from strategy to systems and techniques.

The Diploma in Manufacturing Excellence aims at validating informal and non-formal learning. It is based on learning outcomes and is a hybrid of class work and hands-on mentored training, targeting employees within the industry. It provides benefits both for employers and the employees and as a result the successful students have been prepared to participate and contribute to the development process of manufacturing at their place of work in the knowledge that, with the right level of maturity, one could progress to higher levels of responsibility.

The module titles include Operations Management, Manufacturing Strategy, Internationalisation in Manufacturing, Manufacturing Management, Materials in Manufacturing, Quality Management, Energy and Water Management, Introduction to Lean Manufacturing, Financial Management, Product Development and Innovation, Supply Chain Management and Project Management.

Speaking at the Awards Ceremony for the third group of employees who benefited from this programme, Mr Stephen Cachia, MCAST Principal and CEO mentioned the importance of lifelong learning, the re-skilling of the workforce and increasing the employability of the worker. He stated that through this type of courses, industry in Malta stands a better chance to remain competitive through a relevant and skilled workforce.

The certificates were presented to the students by Mr Stephen Cachia, MCAST Principal and CEO, Mr Ronald Curmi, MCAST Registrar and Mr David Curmi, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry.



## NEW MCAST STUDENT ORGANISATION

# MESO LAUNCHED

*On Wednesday 20 November 2013 the new student organisation for Engineering students studying at MCAST, MCAST Engineering Student Organisation (MESO), was officially launched in the presence of Hon Joe Mizzi, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure.*

MESO is a new student organisation that aims to build a community of Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics Engineering students studying at MCAST. It was formed to represent the students and to act as their voice and link with industry. It also serves as a platform to update and inform them on any developments within the engineering fields and provides them with the opportunity to interact with one another as well as with foreign bodies.

Minister Joe Mizzi mentioned his satisfaction at the launch of this new student organisation. He stated that

the government highly values the personnel within organisations and thus is fully committed to support lifelong education and to providing support and assistance to the students both while at College and also once they graduate.

During the launch, which took place at the main hall at the MCAST Main Campus, the students presented a display of Electrical, Electronics and Mechanical engineering projects.

The event was complemented with a tool challenge and lottery, courtesy of Protrade Malta.



DR ING

# PATRICK ATTARD

NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR



Dr Ing. Patrick Attard has recently been appointed Deputy Director of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

Dr Ing Attard graduated as an electrical engineer from the University of Malta in 2001. He then furthered his studies and completed his Ph.D. on combustion sensing and control in 2005. The entire research work was carried out at the DaimlerChrysler Research Facility in Stuttgart, Germany. The work led to 11 international patents and also to a publication in the prestigious International Journal of Engine Research. Later on he worked at Mercedes-Benz High Performance Engines and developed new combustion control systems for Formula One engines. He also worked in the Czech Republic and Australia on robotics and control.

He was also employed with the Argentine Space Commission (CONAE) in Buenos Aires on satellite project management and was till recently employed as Research and Innovation Director focusing on Space Technology at the Malta Council for Science and Technology.

He has also volunteered in a number of organisations against discrimination and social exclusion in Malta, Germany and Argentina.

# MCAST PARTICIPATES IN PIXIECON 2013 EXPO

On Saturday 5th October 2013 the Institute of Information and Communication Technology participated in PixieCon 2013 EXPO, by exhibiting students' gaming projects . MCAST was represented by Silvio Nocilla and Gerard Said.

The PixieCon 2013 EXPO, for the first time in Malta, is a gaming developing EXPO which provides excellent opportunities to students who would like to expose their projects and introduce themselves to the gaming industry. Students had the opportunity to meet very important persons related to the gaming industry such as: Ms Kate Edwards, Executive Director of the International Game Developers Association and Mr Andy Touch Product Evangelist, Unity Technologies.

During PixieCon 2013 EXPO MCAST had the possibility to invite Ms. Kate Edwards and Mr. Andy Touch to express their feedback on MCAST students' projects which eventually turned to be a very positive evaluation of what the MCAST students managed to develop during their course. You may try out some games developed by ICT students on [www.ftiragaming.com](http://www.ftiragaming.com).



# “TO THE FIELDS OF JUSTICE!”

– GAREN, THE MIGHT OF DEMACIA

**MCAST IICT | VENUE: ROOMS L114, L115, L116 AND L117**  
**LEAGUE OF LEGENDS TOURNAMENT**



**THURSDAY 19TH AND FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER**



Ashe, Sona, Katarina, Zac, Talon, Jax, Amumu, Fizz, Lulu, Vayne, Ability Power Carry, Attack Damage Carry, Jungler, Bruiser, Support... all of these constitute one name of a game: League of Legends.

Many of you are familiar with the game, others not so much, while some of you do not know what I am talking about. But for some students (and lecturers) at Institute of Information and Communication Technology this means a challenge to be taken seriously.

In fact for the first time the Institute is organising a League of Legends Tournament during the Christmas Season. Students will team up in groups of five to challenge each other in what is one of the most played e-sports games in the world. To add more spice to the event, Riot Games, the owners of the game League of Legends, decided to support the Institute by giving prizes to the top 4 teams of the tournament. All money collected during the event will go to a Charity Institution on the island.

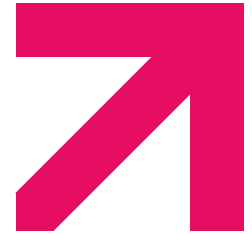
The tournament will be held at the Institute of Information and Communication Technology on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 December in rooms L114, L115, L116 and L117. You are invited to come and support your favourite team in rooms L114 and L115, while the teams compete in the adjacent rooms L116 and L117.

Needless to say, team spirit for winning such tournaments should prevail as otherwise a loss is certain! So, I would like to conclude with a saying by Ashe, the Frost Archer: “United, we are stronger!”... good luck to all and may the best team win!

# CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND EDUCATION SECTOR **WORK TOGETHER FOR GREENER BUILDINGS**



*Stakeholders from the construction and the renewable energy industries and the local vocational education sector discussed the opportunities and challenges involved in reducing the carbon footprint of buildings during a seminar organised as part of the Build Up Skills project. The seminar, which was held in July at the MCAST Main Campus in Paola, focused on the training needs of the building industry in relation to renewable energy sources and energy efficient buildings.*



The Build Up Skills project is a European initiative, spanning across 30 European countries and aimed at providing vocational education and training for the existing workforce within the built environment sector. It is supported and financed by the European Union's Intelligent Energy Europe framework. In Malta, the project is coordinated by the Building Industry Consultative Council (BICC), the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), the Malta Chamber Foundation (MCF) and the Malta Intelligent Energy Management Agency (MIEMA). Additionally, this project is supported by various local institutions and stakeholders within the construction and renewable energy sectors.

To achieve the EU's 2020 energy targets, the local industry requires a technically-qualified workforce equipped with the appropriate competencies and skills in energy efficient buildings and renewal energy sources. The Build Up Skills project aims to develop proposals for training, certification and other related matters in this regard.

The seminar's discussion was based on a National Status Quo Report prepared by the project partners, and which detailed the current situation in relation to vocational training on energy efficient buildings and on renewal energy sources. The report is open to public consultation and can be downloaded from [www.buildupskillsmalta.com](http://www.buildupskillsmalta.com). Individuals and organisations interested in this sector are invited to submit their feedback and related proposals on [info.bicc@gov.mt](mailto:info.bicc@gov.mt).

Perit Charles Buhagiar, the new Chairman and CEO of the BICC, set out the forthcoming work of the Council, which will, among others, place energy efficient buildings high on the industry's agenda.

"The economy, our social infrastructure and our environment are dependent on the success or otherwise of our buildings. The quality of life of people is dependent on the buildings they live and work in, and hence on the way they are built."

Stephen Cachia, the MCAST Principal and CEO expressed his satisfaction that once again MCAST is at the forefront of an initiative to strengthen collaborations between education and industry. "As a College, our mission statement is to provide universally accessible vocational and professional education and training responsive to the needs of the individual and the economy. Later this month, we will be opening applications for 170 full-time courses, including new programmes in environmental engineering and building services engineering, to continue fulfilling this mission by providing a high quality vocational education to thousands of young individuals. For vocational education to be truly universally accessible, we have also invested in different initiatives to make sure that older workers who have already contributed to the development of various industries do not face serious difficulties because of technological advancements or lack of qualifications. We encourage workers who require re-training or would like to acquire new skills to take up these initiatives. At the same time, it is important for employers to encourage their workers to engage in lifelong learning and re-training. Ultimately, the development of a flexible, highly-skilled workforce does not only reap benefits to workers and their families, but also contributes to increased competitiveness, profitability and economic growth."

More details on this project are available on [www.buildupskillsmalta.com](http://www.buildupskillsmalta.com)

# €10,000 CASH PRIZE

FOR THREE MCAST STUDENTS



Tim Fenech, Szabolcs Pocza and Patrick Darmanin are the winners of this year's Grimaldi Award, a prestigious prize presented to the Maritime Institute cadets who distinguish themselves with outstanding performance and results during their studies.

The award, including a total of €10,000 in cash prizes, is sponsored by Grimaldi Group and its local company Malta Motorways of the Sea Ltd, as part of a long-established collaboration with the MCAST Maritime Institute. Hon. Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Education and Employment, Ernest Sullivan, Managing Director of Malta Motorways of the Sea Ltd, Stephen Cachia, MCAST Principal and CEO, and Capt. Ghassan Abdullah, the Institute's Director presented the awards to the young officers on Monday 17 June 2013, at the Maritime Institute in Kalkara.

Tim, Szabolcs and Patrick received the award for obtaining the best results during their studies and sea training as part of the three-year Officer in Charge Navigational Watch course, which they successfully completed last year. Students who join this course spend two academic years studying at the Institute and 12 months training as cadets on board different ships, travelling across international sea routes and visiting many ports across the globe.

The Institute's collaboration with Malta Motorways of the Sea Ltd provides the Institute's cadets with several opportunities to undertake their sea time training on board Grimaldi Group's vessels. Malta Motorways of the Sea Ltd has also donated a Bridge and Communication Simulator, worth €130,000, to be used by the cadets during their studies. Simulation exercises are a crucial element of the cadets' training as they offer a safe learning opportunity to become proficient in bridge and communication control situations before moving on to consolidate their experience with actual navigation at sea. Training using these simulators is also an important International Maritime Organisation (IMO) requirement for the acquisition of international maritime certifications.

Commenting on this occasion, Minister Bartolo explained that the Maritime Institute is amongst MCAST's smallest institutes but has a strong potential for further growth and development. "Our country is intrinsically and historically linked to the maritime industry and the number of youths opting for a career in this sector is increasing. At the same time, there are many foreign students interested in coming to Malta to obtain the necessary qualifications to pursue maritime careers. The private sector's support of our educational institutions is very important, especially when it comes to offering our students opportunities for work placements and other real-work experiences." He also noted that the Shanghai Maritime University, a 20,000 student institution specialised in maritime studies, is interested in establishing new collaborations with the MCAST Maritime Institute.

Ernest Sullivan said that during the past seven years Grimaldi Group and Malta Motorways of the Sea Ltd have been guaranteeing maritime links between Malta and mainland Italy and Sicily to the Malta Trade. "We are proud to serve the Maltese economy without any interruption whatsoever whilst extending a vast range of attractive rates and concessions in support of Malta's competitiveness. Furthermore, we are committed to support maritime studies and the development of career students as Deck and Engine Officers. Our continued investment towards the MCAST Maritime Institute and the deployment of cadets on sea time is proof of our commitment towards Malta's educational programme."

Stephen Cachia congratulated the three officers on their exceptional achievements and encouraged all the Institute's cadets to continue working hard to achieve their potential. "Collaborations between MCAST and local employers present us with an opportunity to keep our courses updated with the latest industry developments so that our graduates are adequately prepared for the employment or entrepreneurial careers they are aiming for. At the same time, the industry's logistical, technological and material support helps us enhance our students' learning experiences. We encourage more employers to follow in Grimaldi Group's footsteps by investing in new collaborations with the educational sector."



# MCAST ART AND DESIGN

# STUDENTS' REVOLUTION



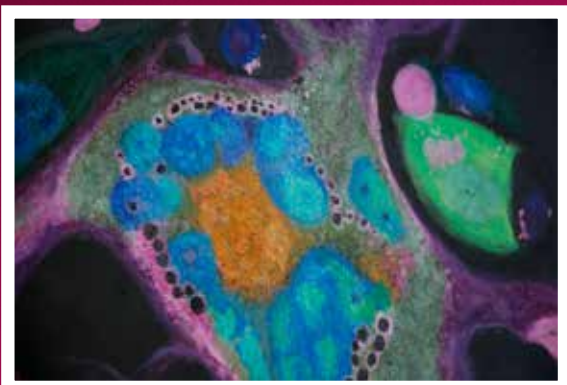
The Institute of Art and Design inaugurated the 12th edition of its end-of-year annual exhibition, 'Revolution – the final show' in July. Three hundred students from various art and design disciplines participated in this event. The exhibition, held at the Institute premises at Targa Gap, Mosta, once again provided a professional setting for the students' numerous exhibits.

Visitors enjoyed a wide range of exhibits from students following various diploma and degree courses, including Fine Arts, 3D Design, Graphic Design, Photography, Interactive Media and Media (Moving Image). The works on display included three-dimensional projects in various materials and finishes, professional graphic design and visual work, paintings and installations, photography and animations, video and sound experiences.

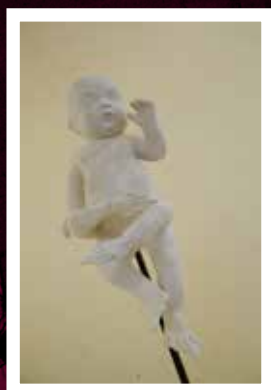
The exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon. Minister for Education and Employment Evarist Bartolo and the MCAST Principal and CEO Stephen Cachia. The inauguration ceremony included a fashion show featuring outfits designed by the Institute's students as well as an architectural mapping production projected on the walls of the Institute's clock tower.

Stephen Vella, Director of the Institute, explained that 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."





# INFECTIOUS EXHIBIT



# IOUS TION



In September a group of 13 Fine Art students reading for a Higher National Diploma at the Institute of Art and Design exhibited their artworks at the Auberge d'Italie in Merchants Street, Valletta as part of Science and the City.

Their works were inspired by the theme 'Infectious' and highlighted the spread of bacteria and infections through the Bubonic plague, frog disease, edible insects, worms and swarms.

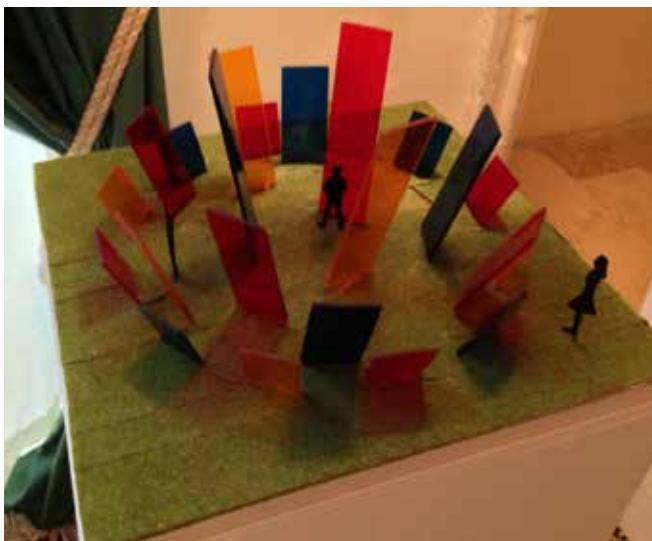
The product of the students' research and design is the result of months working on making edible flies, giant mosquitos, sculptures, paintings and other stunning art installations as part of their course assignment 'Project Design Implementation and Evaluation'.

They were inspired and led by Dr Edward Duca and Ms Ruth Ancilleri.

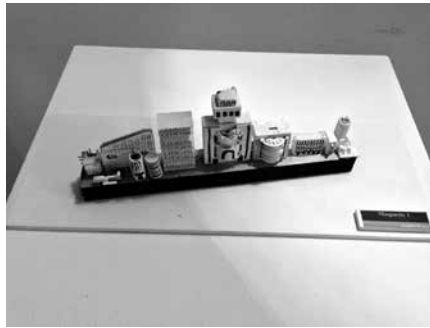


PRESIDENT GEORGE ABELA LAUNCHES

# MALTA'S FIRST SCULPTURE GARDEN



*Malta's first permanent Sculpture Garden will be created as 11 contemporary artists will install their works of art at Verdala Palace. The garden will also include installations by up and coming young artists, including MCAST students, and temporary exhibits by international artists.*



The Sculpture Garden will permanently exhibit works by Prof. Richard England, Gabriel Caruana, John Grima, Paul Haber, George Muscat, Angelo Agius, Mario Galea, Norbert Francis Attard, Joe Xuereb and Dolores Lungaro Mifsud and Neville Ferry.

MCAST Institute of Art and Design students will also be among the young artists who will contribute to the Sculpture Garden with a temporary exhibition of their works on a rotational basis for a period of three months.

An area has also been earmarked for children to serve as an inspirational area. This will consist of exhibits that will be whitewashed on which children will be free to express their creativity by painting or drawing on them. Every so often, the exhibits will be whitewashed to create a fresh canvas for visiting children.

The 11 artists have already presented scale models of their works for approval by the Sculpture Garden Committee. The full scale sculptures will be completed by the end of the year and installed in the Verdala Palace gardens. The works will be placed in areas specifically identified by MEPA since the area is a Natura 2000 site.

The Sculpture Garden project was proposed by the President of Malta, Dr George Abela, to MCAST Institute of Art and Design Director, Stephen Vella, who presented this opportunity to students reading for the MCAST Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in 3D Design and Interior. The students rose to the occasion and presented a holistic project detailing the layout and design of the Garden. They even produced a scale model of the land surrounding the Verdala Palace to display a 3D visualisation of their designs.

“MCAST students came up with a very interesting project with various ideas that could have been included in the Sculpture Garden. After presenting their assignment, one of the students urged me to turn their project into reality. We immediately started working on this initiative since Malta’s sculpture artists lack a suitable location to exhibit their work permanently. Moreover this will be another opportunity through which State Palaces are opened for public appreciation while also using the grounds for cultural and educational activities,” President George Abela said during the launch.

The committee formed to manage the Sculpture Garden will be led by Chairman Joe Church and the members are Richard Dimech, Marchese Nicholas de Piro, Anthony Pace, George Glanville, Sandro Debono, Davinia Galea, E.V. Borg and Stephen Vella.



The Government, MEPA and Bank of Valletta are also supporting the Sculpture Garden project.

When the project was proposed to MEPA, the authority immediately believed in the innovative idea and will be supporting the Sculpture Garden by setting up panels providing visitors with information regarding the ecological aspect specifically found in these gardens.

MCAST Institute of Art and Design Director Stephen Vella explained that the project started from an assignment presented by the students reading for a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in 3D Design and Interiors. “The students worked on the project for 16 weeks. They had no restrictions on what they could propose and the final project was very challenging and innovative. As is the practice, assignments are presented live in a corporate environment to enable students to get practical experience. In this case, the presentation was made to the President of Malta and the fact that the project will actually be executed is an added feather in the students’ caps.”

The Chairman of BOV, John Cassar White, said that “BOV is pleased to finance the launch of an innovative project which will see the grounds of Verdala Palace showcasing contemporary sculptures and installations by upcoming and established Maltese artists, as well as temporary exhibits by international artists. The Sculpture Garden is also set to increase public access to grounds that are seldom open to the public and will include an inspirational area for children.”

“Two years ago, BOV financed the restoration of the Palace’s historical ceilings and this project will continue to add to the artistic value of Verdala Palace, providing an unlikely but ideal backdrop for contemporary works of art. Drawing contemporary art to Verdala palace will add another dimension to this grand historical site,” added Mr Cassar White.

# MONITORING PLANT DIVERSITY AND SOIL CHARACTERISTICS IN GARRIGUE ENVIRONMENTS

*By Mario V. Balzan Ph.D., Senior Lecturer, Institute of Applied Science*

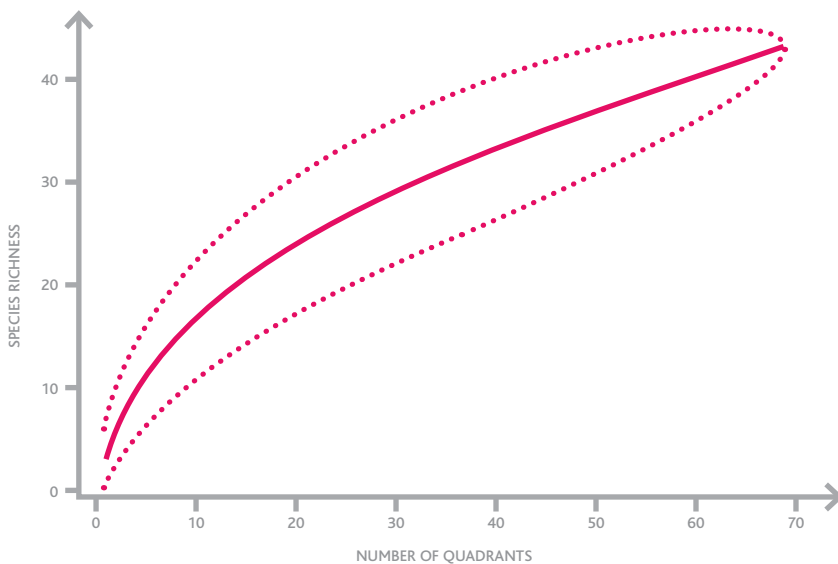




During the last academic year, students following the Diploma in Applied Science (DAS) and the MCAST-BTEC Extended Diploma in Environmental Sustainability (EDES) courses had the opportunity to carry out environmental monitoring in two study areas which were characterised mainly by garrigue habitats. The DAS students have carried out vegetation monitoring at the Mnajdra-Ħaġar Qim area in Qrendi, and the report below describes the vegetation recorded from this site. The EDES students collected soil samples and recorded vegetation diversity from garrigue habitats and abandoned agricultural land from the Majjistral Nature and History Park, and some of the results obtained from the students are briefly presented below.

#### RECORDING VEGETATION DIVERSITY IN GARRIGUE HABITATS

Students studying for a Diploma in Applied Science (DAS) carried out a vegetation survey of garrigue habitat in the Mnajdra-Ħaġar Qim area in Qrendi. Students were introduced to the concept of random sampling in ecology. A random sample is one where every sampling unit within the study area sample has an equal chance of selection. A quadrat was used for the sampling and the plant cover for different species within each quadrat was calculated. This was repeated at different random points within the habitat to yield many replicate sampling units.



A total of 43 species were recorded from the site. These included several species that were flowering at the time, including the Mediterranean Thyme (*Thymbra capitata*), Olive-leaved Germander (*Teucrium fruticans*), Maltese Yellow Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis hermanniae* subsp. *melitensis*), and the Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) and Maltese Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis urvilleana*). The latter species is endemic to Malta and is protected under Annex II of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora.

These results were then used to produce a species accumulation model, which provides information about the accumulation of species when the number of quadrats increases. This model may be used to investigate the adequacy of the sampling effort. Species accumulation models can be explained using the analogy of snacking from a jar of mixed jellybeans. Each jellybean represents a single individual, and the different colours represent the different species in the jellybean 'assemblage' – in a typical sample, some colours are common, but most are rare. The collection of a sample of biodiversity data is equivalent to taking a small handful of jellybeans from the jar and examining them one by one. As more individuals (jellybeans) are sampled, the total number of species (colours) recorded increases, and a species accumulation curve is generated (Gotelli and Colwell, 2011). The slope of the model declines as sample size increases, indicating a lower probability of finding a new species as the size of the sampled area increases. However the produced curve does not reach an asymptote, which shows that other species present within the study area were probably not recorded. These results demonstrate that vegetation communities in garrigue habitats are particularly diverse and make up an important part of our natural heritage.

# MCAST PARTICIPATES

# IN BIOMASS RESEARCH PROJECT



MCAST is a partner in an Italia-Malta Regional Development Fund project, named Crim-Safri, which aims to set up a biomass pilot plant and a biomass research centre (biomass is biological material derived from living or recently living organisms). The research project, worth €2,191,647.00, will focus on the sustainability of small Small/Medium Enterprises (SMEs) working predominantly within the building and construction sector.

The aim of the project is to create a research centre with the aim of supporting local authorities, clusters of SMEs and SMEs to implement sustainable consumption and production strategies which include environmental sustainability and renewable energy exploitation. The biomass pilot plant shall operate within one chosen SME firm, and will convert construction wood waste into energy. This energy will then be fed directly into the national energy grid, providing the SME firm with a revenue for the waste that has been utilized. This will make the firm's operational activities more sustainable and will also reduce the need for the firm to dispose of its waste materials. The pilot research on biomass conversion for small firms is expected to provide new learning into how these firms can become more sustainable by turning their waste into energy, as opposed to disposing of it.

There are eight partners in all, six of which are Italian partners from the south of Italy. The eight partners consist of: 1) the Regione Sicilia-Assessorato Regionale Territorio e

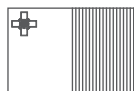


Ambientale-Urban Department; 2) the University of Palermo-Department of Energy; 3) the Institute of Biomedicine and Molecular Immunology-Alberto Monroy; 4) the Department for Cultural Heritage and Sicilian Identity; 5) the Agrigento Agricultural Chamber of Commerce; 6) the Med.O.R.O. Institute for Research, Work and Territorial Development of the Mediterranean; 7) the Malta Intelligent Energy Management Agency (MIEMA) and 8) MCAST.

The project is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the Italia-Malta Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013.

#### PHOTO

Dr. A Rizzo (MCAST), Mr. G Salemi (Italian Lead Partner) and Mr. A Falzon (MIEMA) addressing all 8 partners in the first Steering Committee meeting in Agrigento



Italia-Malta Programme – Cohesion Policy 2007-2013  
*A sea of opportunities for the future*

This project is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)  
Co-financing rate: 85% EU Funds; 15% National Funds

*Investing in your future*





# SOIL AND VEGETATION SAMPLING

AT THE MAJJISTRAL PARK  
BY ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY STUDENTS



## *MCAST-BTEC Extended Diploma in Environmental Sustainability Year 2 Students*



During a recent trip to the Majjistral Nature and History Park we have compared vegetation diversity in two adjacent sites which were characterised with different habitats: garrigue and abandoned agricultural land. A total of 23 plant species were recorded from the study area. The most abundant plant species were the Mediterranean Thyme (*Thymbra capitata*), Maltese Spurge (*Euphorbia melitensis*), Purple Milk Thistle (*Galactites tomentosa*) and the African Carline Thistle (*Carlina involucrata*). Another interesting plant species recorded from the Majjistral Park, is the Wild Artichoke (*Cynara cardunculus*) which is also commonly found in garrigue and steppe environments. Most of the species were recorded from both habitats, indicating natural regeneration of the abandoned agricultural site.

We also collected soil samples for subsequent analysis at the laboratory of the Institute of Applied Science. The soils were collected from several sites located within the park, marked accordingly and transported to the laboratory. During this experiment we have used the difference in densities of soil particles and in their settlement rates in water to calculate the approximate particle size distribution. Results from this analysis indicate that the collected soil samples were characterised with a relatively high percentage of sand and gravel. The collected soil also had an average pore space of  $66.64 \pm 8.25\%$  of the sample volume and relatively low water content (average of  $3.39 \pm 0.01\%$  of the total soil volume). These results are typical of coarser soil textures which have larger pore spaces and water can move and drain rapidly through these soils.

### REFERENCES

Gotelli N.J. & Colwell R.K., 2011, 'Estimating Species Richness' in A.E. Magurran & B.J. McGill (eds.) *Biological Diversity: frontiers in measurement and assessment*, pp.39-65, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

# TAKING MDINA BY STORM

*By Marthese Matusiak,  
Programme Coordinator*



was ably carried out by Mr Mario Ellul, Laboratory Technician. The aim of the event was to break the proverbial ice, as the students got to know each other better while bonding within their team. The range of tasks aimed at enhancing creativity, leadership and communication skills, team work, time management and also celebrating diversity.

The eight teams of students were purposely mixed from all the different levels of programmes currently offered at the Institute. The tasks consisted of diverse subjects ranging from general knowledge to Maltese traditional customs and, needless to say, scientific prowess. Each team of eight students appointed its leader. As they roamed through the narrow streets, the students had to interact with foreigners and locals alike. They took photos, recorded videos, searched for clues, recited poems and tongue-twisters, collected live specimen of invertebrates and racked their brains for correct answers.

After three hours, all the teams reconvened near the main gate. The scorching sun did not deter them. The answer sheets were swopped and the students themselves corrected the scripts under the guidance of the lecturers present. The members of the winning team were each presented with a memento of the occasion. All the students present expressed praise for the organisation and success of the event, thereby encouraging the Institute administration to organise similar activities in the future.



The MCAST Institute of Applied Science organised a fun day for its students as part of the activities related to Induction Week, that marks the beginning of the new academic year. Taking Mdina by storm, the former capital city was silent no longer as over sixty students congregated near the main gate to participate in a three-hour long treasure hunt. For the second year running, the compilation of the tasks

INSTITUTE OF **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

# **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY DAY**



Students following courses at the Institute of Community Services carried out voluntary work at St Patrick's Salesian Home. The event was coordinated by the Pastoral Care Team. The students carried out several cleaning and gardening works and also set up a jumping castle for the residents.

CLAYTON CINI

# THE STUDENT WHO LECTURED US ALL

*By John Muscat,  
lecturer Institute of Community Services*

It is well known that MCAST seeks to ensure a high standard of education through the recruitment of highly qualified lecturers who deliver its programmes. This is definitely one of the greatest assets of this institution in a setup whereby many of us, lecturers and students, simply think of MCAST as being a place whereby information, technical skills, and eventually certifications are given out to enable people to become employable; with the story ending there. But in reality this experience goes much beyond, and through the entire journey special people brighten up the everyday lives of others in many mysterious ways. Clayton Cini was one of these exceptional lights; a revolution to the traditional outlook of life at College.

Many of us came to know Clayton as a student or as a classmate at the Institute of Information and Communication Technology way back in 2009 when he started his National Diploma. He had always been a remarkably joyful guy. Almost all of his friends recall that he was rarely ever in a bad mood or sad, but always went around wearing a genuine smile and cheering up others. Being in his presence brought around a general sense of wellbeing and gladness to all those around him, winning over their stress and weary thoughts. His attitude was also accompanied by his acts of kindness and understanding particularly in moments when his peers were going through a rough patch. Some of them still cherish his lifts to get to school or go back home prior to getting their driving licence.

Returning to lectures after Easter 2012's holidays, we all felt something was not right through his long-term absence from class, and were eventually shocked to learn that during those same days he had been diagnosed with cancer and would soon be starting treatment. After coming back to College for just a few days following surgery, he was bound to stay away from crowded areas and rest at home. I remember and deeply treasure Clayton's first e-mail in which he told me about what was happening, ending up with these exact words: "All I need, if it is not a problem, is to pray for me. Thank you."

His battle in fighting his illness was definitely not an easy one, especially when considering that he was 'clear' after the first cycle of chemo-therapy but was re-diagnosed again towards the end of that same year. In the meantime, he had started again the first year of Higher National Diploma, but had to resign again in order to resume treatment in the UK. Through it all, though, he was always positive



and looked forward towards life with great enthusiasm which very few of us would ever dream of in similar circumstances.

Even when things were looking really bad, he still laughed and joked around, encouraging his family and friends not to give up at any moment. During our facebook chats, he would at times tell me about his friends at MCAST and his worries about them not doing so well in assignments; he had also decided to offer his sufferings for them to pay more attention and do better. But moreover, even when the treatment had tired him out, he was always at peace in knowing that he could trust in God who would never leave him alone, and truly appreciated the presence and affection of all those who were giving him support, and paid him visits even when abroad, during this turbulent time.

On the morning of September 7th we were all shaken at the much dreaded news. Clayton had passed away to eternal life. And yet, although this meant that we would no longer be able to physically see and talk with Clayton, a fact which extremely saddened our hearts, we were somehow sure that he had now actually achieved the 'victory' for which he had worked so hard.

His determination and courage in facing life's problems had been a true blessing for all the people whose path crossed his. He taught us a priceless lesson: that no matter how dark the situation may look or how heavy the burden of our problems may be, we should never give up and always be ourselves because there is always something positive, a bright light shining at the end of the tunnel.

So it is not an overstatement to say that Clayton was one of the most inspirational people we have had the fortune to meet; someone whom we shall admire and surely never forget.

And yes, I have the honour to say that in all this Clayton Cini has been my lecturer too!

**Thank you Clayton!**

# MCAST LIBRARIAN VISITS THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF GERMANY

**DEUTSCHE  
NATIONAL  
BIBLIOTHEK**

Mr Laurence Zerafa, MCAST Librarian, visited one of the largest libraries in the world, namely the National Library of Germany, better known as Deutsche Nationalbibliothek or DNB. This Library is located in the city of Leipzig which is 190 km distant from Berlin.

The task of the German National Library is to systematically and comprehensively collect at least two copies of all German and German-language publications from 1913, published in Germany or abroad. It also has a collection of translations of German works and publications of between 1933 and 1945 works of German emigrants. These collections are permanently archived, bibliographically recorded and available to the public to use on the premises only.

At the end of 2012, the total stock of the German National Library amounted to about 27.8 million units with an annual budget of 46 million Euros. By comparison the MCAST Library has a collection of 50,000 volumes, 556 times smaller! The DNB is one of the major libraries in the world along with the British Library in London (170 million), the Library of Congress in Washington DC, USA (150 million), the New York Public Library in NYC (53.1 million) and several others. The equivalent library in Malta is the National Library of Malta, the building next to the Palace in Pjazza Reġina Valletta, holding 390,000 units. In the national and international context, the German National Library maintains cooperative relationships with many similar institutions.

For historical reasons, since 1946, the DNB has a branch in Frankfurt in the western part of Germany. This office of the German National Library is responsible for the development of information and communication technology, including effective development and management of the central database. It oversees the production, marketing and distribution of national bibliographic services. Moreover in Frankfurt one finds the German Exile Archive 1933-1945.

“Visiting a library of such size and scope is truly an experience because nothing of this size exists in Malta, not even the University of Malta Library with 850,000 books comes close. Besides the vast extent of the collections and their range, one also appreciates the architecture and furnishing of the building, the engineering services, the equipment in use and the general organisation” stated Mr Zerafa, MCAST Librarian.

Mr Zerafa will be next visiting the National Library of Australia in Canberra.



# INTERNET LIBRARIAN CONFERENCE



*By Josephine Mifsud, Asst. Librarian*

In an ever-changing technological environment, libraries and librarians are facing challenging times. Technology is affecting the way they work, communicate and provide services to their users. In order to remain relevant they must transform themselves and their services and embrace new technologies. The 15th Internet Librarian International conference held in London, between 14th-16th October, provided me the forum in which to explore the changes currently occurring in the library environment. My attendance at this conference was made possible through funds provided under the Comenius In-service Training Programme.

Internet Librarian International is the innovation and technology conference for information professionals. It brings together some of the most distinguished practitioners and providers in today's global information environment to share their knowledge and expertise. They provide thought provoking sessions, keynote speakers, case studies, panels and a number of in-depth workshops, besides networking opportunities.

I attended one of the pre-conference workshops, namely the WebSearch Academy. This workshop covered topics such as changes in search engines; social search and research; multimedia searching, evaluation concerns and techniques; what to do with the information once it is found; and search tips and skills. Anyone can enter a few words into a search box, but what sets information professionals apart, is their ability to use multiple search engines (such as Google, Bing, Yahoo, Blekko, DuckDuckGo, and Yandex), advanced search techniques and specialized sources to hone in on relevant and reliable answers. Thus, this workshop provided me with information about the changing web and the vital elements of effective research over the internet. It helped me to rethink how I search the internet, whether for personal or work-related use.

The two-day conference entitled 'Smart Solutions to Real Challenges' on the other hand, covered various themes, ranging from transformative technologies; connecting with community and customers; new resources, new services; marketing and impact; search, discovery

and data; the skills and roles of the new professional; to teaching users. Currently, the MCAST library is exploring ways of enhancing its physical collection with e-resources to further improve its services to its users. Thus, what interested me most were the tracks that dealt with technology, marketing and impact, and teaching users.

Change seems to define today's information and technology landscapes. Libraries, in realizing their mission, and as facilitators to access and creation of information, should embrace and experiment with new technologies.

Examples of new technologies being adopted by some foreign university libraries are:

- Open source content management systems, like Omeka, for the publication of online digital collections;
- Augmented reality technology, such as Aurasma and Layar, for providing users with the opportunity to better explore and interact with resources, and expand the functionality of existing technology - Wi-Fi networks, tablets and mobile phones;
- OpenAthens and link resolvers to direct users to the library's subscribed material both onsite and offsite;
- Virtual technology, such as YouTube, and virtual conferencing to develop library staff skills and educate users about library services.

In an ever-busy world, and when users' expectations are ever changing, libraries must find new ways of engaging with and educating users and colleagues. Thus, some libraries are making use of social media tools (such as Pinterest, Facebook, Twitter, etc) to connect with and enhance users' experience, encourage interactivity, and promote their library holdings. Furthermore, they are engaging with and educating users and colleagues through improved enquiry services, support skills development through the holding of seminars for staff, students, and academics on say, the use of mobile technology and e-books), and the development and delivery of organisation-wide online digital and information literacy programmes.

This event, therefore, has provided me with the forum for meeting international peer professionals and learn from their experiences about their creative projects, innovative solutions and practical implementation strategies. It has helped me to update my skills and learn about new approaches and technology for finding, managing and disseminating information resources; practical tips and tools that I can apply at the MCAST library and with users. It has been an informative event and a fruitful experience; one that I recommend to every librarian.

# NEW ELECTRONIC LIBRARY RESOURCES



From the 1st September 2013 the MCAST community of students and staff has started benefitting from new electronic library resources namely EBSCO Academic Search complete and ebook Collection EBSCOhost. EBSCO Academic Search complete is the world's most valuable and comprehensive scholarly, multi-disciplinary full-text database, with more than 8,500 full-text periodicals, including more than 7,300 peer-reviewed journals. In addition to full text, this database offers indexing and abstracts for more than 12,500 journals and a total of more than 13,200 publications including monographs, reports, conference proceedings, etc. The database features PDF

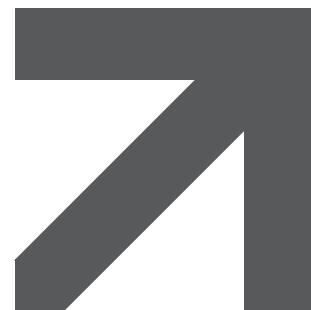
content going back as far as 1887, with the majority of full text titles in native (searchable) PDF format. Searchable cited references are provided for more than 1,400 journals.

The ebook Collection EBSCOhost includes around 3,300 e-books that could be read on-line.

To access these two powerful databases click on [search.ebscohost.com](http://search.ebscohost.com). One may automatically log in through the MCAST PCs. For further details contact the staff at the Library and Learning Resource Centre.

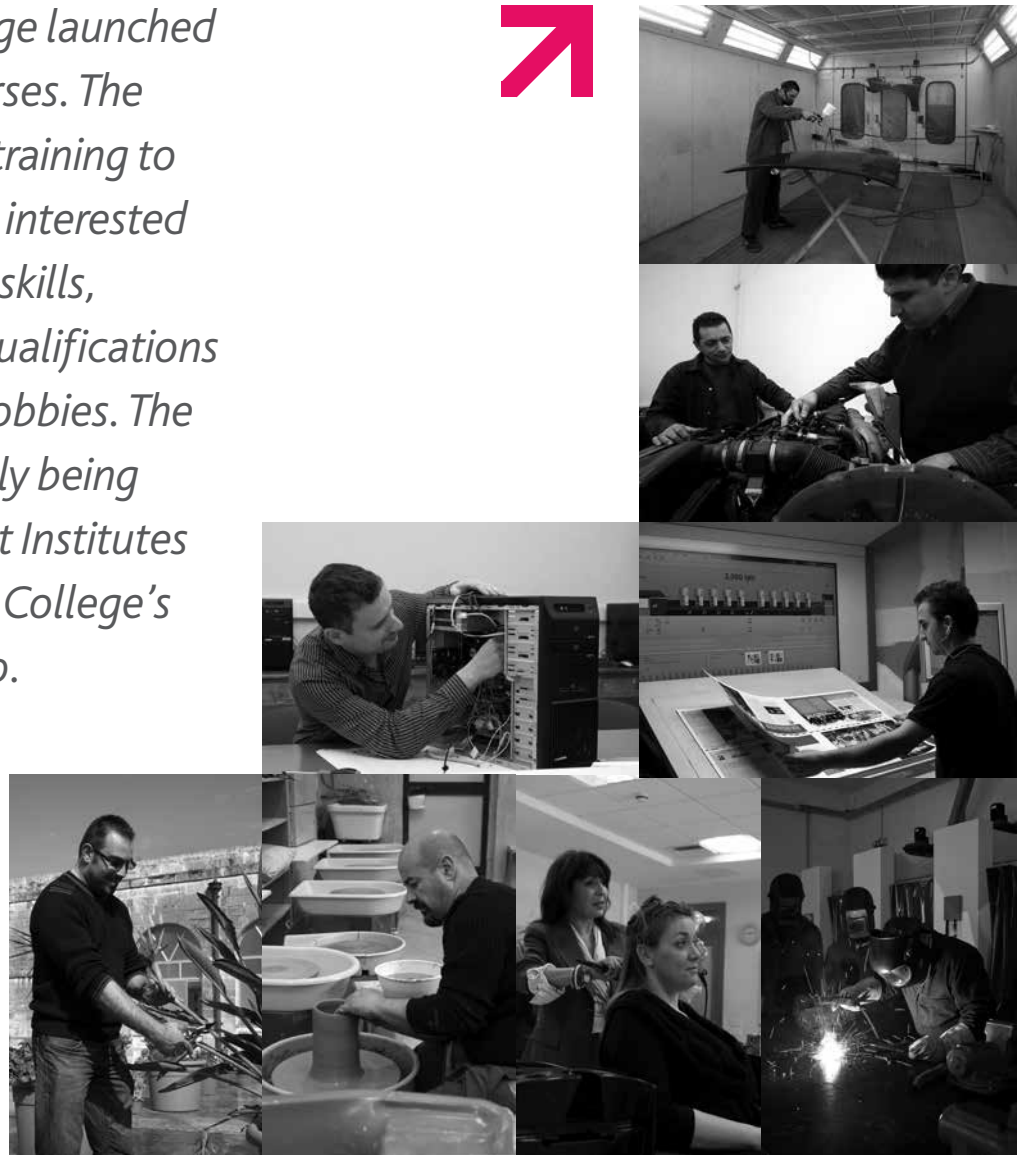
**PART-TIME** COURSES

ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR  
**260 MCAST  
PART-TIME  
COURSES**





*This term the College launched 260 part-time courses. The programmes offer training to individuals that are interested in developing their skills, obtaining further qualifications or acquiring new hobbies. The courses are currently being held at the different Institutes in Malta and at the College's two centres in Gozo.*



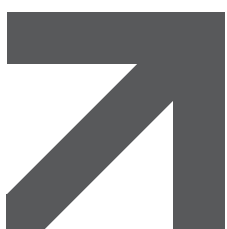
The list of courses starting in October includes 16 new programmes. These are Pharmacy Technology, Applied Laboratory Science, MCAST-BTEC Higher National Diploma in Applied Chemistry, Photography – Introduction, Filmmaking – Introduction, Interview and Presentation Techniques for TV, Studio Based Photography, Photoshop for Photographers, Stage Set Design, Dry Stone Wall Restoration (Restawr tal-Hitan tas-Sejjieħ) – Part 2, Plumbing Installations using Fusion Welded Pipes and Fittings, Emotional Intelligence in Relationships, The Internet – Introduction, Automotive Refrigerant Handling – Compliant with EC 842-2006 & Directive 2006/40/EC, and Light Vehicle Automatic Transmission Gearbox. The MCAST Gozo Centre is adding Advanced Make-Up Techniques to the list of part-time courses offered in Gozo.

There are also courses in astronomy, decontamination sciences, animal care, gardening, horticulture, wine making and tasting, art, interior design, fashion design, jewellery making, tailoring, video and photo editing, pottery and ceramics, stained glass, AutoCAD,

welding, DIY, stone masonry and construction qualifications, woodworking, LPG and refrigeration systems, lift installation and servicing, renewable energy technologies, business, management, marketing and banking skills, make-up techniques, beauty therapy and hair care, sports psychology, sign language, electrical and electronic technologies, web and software development and programming, PC repairs, car maintenance and engineering machine skills. The MCAST Maritime Institute also offers part-time courses leading to the acquisition of licences required to operate sea vessels or to work in the maritime sector.

For further details or advice about these courses, contact MCAST on 2398 7103 / 7116 or [shortcourses@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:shortcourses@mcast.edu.mt).

MCAST's part-time training programmes are managed by the College's commercial arm MCAST Gateway to Industry Ltd. It offers over 300 different part-time courses every year, through two intakes, in March and in September.



# POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL SPORT TOURNAMENTS

All those students interested in participating in the post-secondary school sports tournaments against other post-secondary institutions are asked to contact the Sports Co-ordinator by sending an email to [adele.muscat@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:adele.muscat@mcast.edu.mt).

The sports include football, basketball, volleyball and table-tennis with the possibility of other sports also being included. Preference will be given to those students who regularly train in the chosen sport, are national team athletes and who participate in the MCAST leagues.

GET FIT

# JOIN THE FITNESS CLASSES AT MCAST


The MCAST Sports Department is organising fitness classes for all staff members and students on a weekly basis. The classes include aerobics, legs, bums and thighs and Zumba. For further details on these classes kindly contact Roderick Schembri, the Gym Instructor on [roderick.schembri@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:roderick.schembri@mcast.edu.mt) or visit him at the fitness gym.

**Join The Fun**

 **Member's Packages** €3.00 per class **ONLY!!**

Every Wednesday

€4.00 per class **ONLY!!**



- Time of the class: 12.05 – 13.00
- Bookings are done at fitness gym

**MARIZA B**  
Pilates Zumba Dance Choreography

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

VENUE : MCAST FITNESS GYM , NEAR ICT BUILDING

A FUN UPLIFTING ENERGISING CLASS WITH FUNKY CHOREOS TO GREAT MUSIC. A WONDERFUL DANCE INSPIRED WORKOUT TO MAKE YOU SWEAT WITH A SMILE. *Kindly note that fees are to be collected by the instructor concerned.*

Are you Ready to Be the best version of **YOU**

Member's Packages €3.00 per class **ONLY!!**

€4.00 per class **ONLY!!**

- Time of the class: 12.05 – 13.00
- Bookings are done at fitness gym

**LEGS, BUMS & TUMS**



INSTRUCTED BY : DENISE MICALLEF

WHEN : THURSDAY  
TIME : 12.05 – 13.00  
LOCATION : MCAST FITNESS GYM (SITUATED NEAR ICT BUILDING)

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

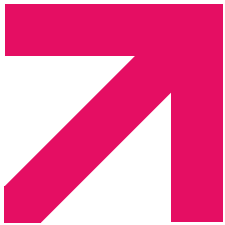
*Kindly note that fees are to be collected by the instructor concerned.*

# LESSONS TO BE LEARNT FROM THE TOP SPORT MANAGERS IN THE WORLD

*by Adele Muscat, Sports Co-ordinator*

*I was recently invited to attend an invite-only closed-doors conference at Chelsea FC for 350 performance specialists dedicated to enhancing sports performance all over the world. Through a series of keynote presentations, interviews and panel discussions featuring top performing individuals who have achieved great success in elite sport, attendees*

*learned about the concepts, innovations and practical insight that can be applied to take sporting performance to the next level. Here I will be presenting some thoughts that emerged from this conference. There is a lot we can learn from the sporting world and from the top managers in sport who day-in-day-out have to achieve results in a highly pressurized environment.*



In one of the first sessions of the conference 'Blueprints for Success: Building a Winning Team and Making it Last', the speakers were no other than Sam Allardyce, Manager West Ham United, and Danny Ferry, Manager Atlanta Hawks. Allardyce spoke about our actions speaking louder than words and how we can influence our team through the way we act, through the passion we show. He spoke about wearing your heart on your sleeve and there being only one way to play, playing to win. He referred to being able to play according to the opposition you have in front of you rather than how you would like to play.

*"As a leader, you need the courage and belief to think ahead, decide where you want to go, how you are going to get there and with what philosophy," says Sam Allardyce. "Then you have to sell that vision and philosophy to your staff."*

While this need for long-term planning is required in any business, the high amount of sackings in football means managers often do not have the luxury of looking too far ahead. "As a result, your vision might be broken down into shorter periods of six or twelve months, maybe two years maximum," says the West Ham manager.

A manager needs to make a difference in a short time and most would be tempted to make quick changes hoping to achieve results quickly. However, Allardyce has learnt that in football

things need time to evolve if they are to be accepted and bring on results.

"Radical changes can upset the equilibrium," he says, citing his time at Newcastle United as an example. "I tried to bring success to the club as quickly as I possibly could, but on reflection I think I tried to change things too radically, too quickly." Allardyce came to the club armed with knowledge, new ideas and a firm belief in how he should do things, but the dramatic changes he had planned were too much for some, particularly the existing players. "They weren't used to sitting in meetings analysing performance and attending one-on-one appraisals," says Allardyce. "Perhaps if I had integrated the changes a little more slowly they might have been better received."

"I instigated the evolution of the club by first bringing on board a number of highly qualified staff," he says. "I then let them work with their staff to raise standards and move things forward at a departmental level." Allardyce's job was to get all of this together, linking the departments and establishing open communication between them. "It is so important to sit down, share information and almost take minutes of what you have been doing, just as any well-managed business would do," he says. "After all, if each member of staff is expert in what they do and passes their knowledge on to the players, those players will have greater self-belief and be stronger physically and mentally. As a result, the whole culture will grow, as it did at Bolton during my time there."

Important though it is for a manager to continuously evolve over time, it isn't necessarily something you can consciously work at. There are courses you can take and skills that can be actively honed, but much of it is a natural progression, says Allardyce. "It consists of an inner belief and a drive to keep improving, moving forward and conceptualising ideas and beliefs," he says, adding that while you may have your own ideas about how to do things, listening to other people's perspectives is crucial. "Many of the new methods and ideas that I have taken on board over the years have come from observing not only other people in football but other sports and philosophies," he says.

Allardyce even used Nike as an example of one of the largest and most successful sports goods sellers in the world to see what the club could learn. "One of the most important things we saw at Nike was how they planned what each member of staff would be doing and where they would be in the coming years," he says.

The way that Allardyce has changed his style of management and the methods he has employed over the years have not been driven solely by his own personal goals, but by significant changes in the role of the football manager. "When I was a player, the leadership was more rigid and disciplined," recalls Allardyce. "It was based on the manager's experiences as a player, what he'd learned from his managers and very little else. There was no real database to fall back on. The way that managers deal with players has also changed." In those days, there was a one-size-fits-all approach, whereas now we realise that it's important to treat everyone as individuals."

The increasingly multinational nature of the game has made understanding individual players even more important. "Where someone comes from, how they've been raised and in what culture, their religion and the strength of that faith are all key elements of their identity," says Allardyce.

Ferry spoke about culture, value based leadership and putting yourself into the best possible place. He discussed how to ensure that new players fit into the team. At times they conduct psychometric testing to see what the person is really like and even use a private investigator as it is vital to get it right to achieve success.

In 'How to make the most out of talent: Creating the structures and environment for peak performance' Simon Timson, Director of Performance UK Sport and Bernard Petiot, Casting and Performance Cirque Du Soleil spoke about the no compromise principle – investing totally in those people who have a chance to achieve. However without leadership they will fail so there needs to be the appropriate leadership roles and goals. Timson too also spoke about the importance of knowledge sharing and taking what some of our personnel have to offer. Petiot spoke about Cirque Du Soleil's motto being 'Invoke, provoke and evoke' - if you don't keep pushing how can you be the best you can be?

'When the Heat is on: Getting the most from your athletes in high temperature environments' was

conducted by Dr Paul Dijkstra, Aspetar's Sports Medicine Physician, Toni Minichiello, Coach to Olympic gold medallist 2012 Jessica Ennis-Hill, Dr Juan-Manuel Alonso, Chairman, IAAF Medical and Anti-Doping Commission and Aspetar Sports Medicine Physician, and Barry Fudge, UKA Physiologist, English Institute of Sport. What was emphasized here was to expect things to go wrong so that you are prepared for it, because they will go wrong most often.

Sam Presti, Manager Oklahoma City Thunder in his discussion on building a high performance organisation spoke about creating a culture and identity, learning from others and maximising your best players/employees. He spoke about it as being vital for a company/team to support people holistically outside of their work. But what are we doing to help this? Be demanding, have questions answered but let people do their job, tolerate some mistakes as long as these are eventually worked upon.

Carlo Ancelotti, Manager Real Madrid was also in attendance. Ancelotti is one of six men who won the Champions League as a player and a manager. He believes in a democratic, people oriented kind of leadership and emphasized on the need to work with players and staff. He believes in involving the player in what you are doing if you want success. He has used the same kind of leadership in all countries however what changes is the culture. In England players need to be pushed more, in France they need support to do their best, the Italians are very focused tactically, they learn quickly. He spoke about the characteristics of the staff – the importance of working for the team, working with others and being unselfish. He likes delegating responsibilities because he does not know everything but supervises his staff. He believes in the importance of loving what you are doing, having the passion, not just being in a job. It is vital to build your team, know the personality and characteristics of players, than adapt your style. The training he did in France was different from that done in Spain because the characteristics of the players were different. He admitted to being quiet and calm and seeing this as being important for the success of the team especially since if players are unhappy they are not motivated. He said "If we really want we will find a solution, it is possible to always do the best if you really want to". There is a lot of pressure in this work so it is important not to lose focus as your job is evaluated only by the result at the end of the day.

*“If we really want we will find a solution, it is possible to always do the best if you really want to ”*

Day two started off with a most interesting perspective by one of the world's top surgeons, former UK Health Minister Professor the Lord Ara Darzi of Denham, Chairman of the Institute for Global Health Innovation. He emphasized on the importance of mental practice before conducting surgery to enhance surgical techniques and the human element of care as a very important skill in the competence of surgeons and the performance of the team.

In 'The Perfect Storm: Innovation, Technology and Performance' Troy Flanagan, High Performance Director, US Ski and Snowboard Association and Berthold Krabbe, Head of Innovation and Sports Research at Adidas, speak about the competencies needed including the importance of sport research as we do need academic development, market research to help us move forward and innovation management.

In 'Free your mind and the rest will follow. Coaching and the mental game' Paddy Upton Performance Director Cricket South Africa and Ric Charlesworth, Head Coach Australia's Men's Hockey speak about players wanting better man management, influential management and leadership coaching – creating a good environment so less and less mental conditioning is needed. Working in top sports means working in a stressful environment, our work being constantly critiqued. Paddy Upton stated that 80% of people in a business setting all stated that they will leave if they are not treated right, if they are not being given opportunities to improve and prove themselves. If you provide a caring environment then people are going to go that extra mile for you. People need to feel that they can say what they think and they feel safe about it. Charlesworth spoke about not having a leader in his team but having a leadership group. Cultural leaders who create the

values and ethics within the team are crucial. He refers to speaking about his thoughts and emotions before a game so that players understand that he feels like them and can discuss how to handle these thoughts and feelings. It's about having a relationship with your athletes, with your employees on the same level, not a hierarchy.

Upton said that those who say they are mentally strong are only hiding what they are feeling so it's important to look at who we are being and to note that we usually land where we aim. You cannot stay in the zone all the time but how do you manage your mind when not in the zone? Self-awareness is important. Getting to know yourself apart from knowing your athletes and what they do. Look at what people do well and focus on that, leave the things they do not do well for a while.

In 'Pushing the Envelope - Where now for the next 1% in performance?' Professor Vincent Walsh, Professor of Human Brain Research, University College London, Tony Strudwick, Head of Fitness and Conditioning, Manchester Utd FC and Scott Drawer, Deputy Director of Performance Solutions, English Institute of Sport ended the seminar by discussing the need to understand gender differences and to have the courage to take risks. When you shoot not to lose then your shot is weak. Rest is also of vital importance for performance success.

Adele Muscat is the Sports Co-ordinator at MCAST and Sport Psychologist for the MFA and other sporting bodies. She is currently reading for a PhD in Football Psychology thanks to a Sports Scholarship financed by the Government of Malta. She can be reached at [adele.muscat@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:adele.muscat@mcast.edu.mt).

# MCAST STUDENTS AND STAFF

# AT THE NETBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Adele Muscat,  
Sports Co-ordinator



Last August four MCAST students and one staff member participated in the U21 Netball World Championships which took place in Glasgow. Lucretia Hili, Tamara Vella, Corinne Laganà all attend the Institute of Community Services and were selected to form part of Team Malta. Ron Kerr, an Art and Design Student who was doing a Photography Research Programme in Glasgow at the time, was asked to photograph the team in action throughout the tournament whilst I was asked to be the Sport Psychologist of the team at this very important event.

The team was to live together for two weeks at the University of Strathclyde student accommodation. It was to be two weeks of emotions, incredible hard work and great team work.

From my part as a psychologist I needed to prepare the young team beforehand for what they were going to find and all the pressure they were to experience. Once we were there my job was liaising with the

coach, the team manager and the physiotherapist on all issues affecting and relating to the team. On a daily basis I participated and helped in all training sessions and was on the bench with the team during the matches. We had daily team sessions where we discussed team performance. We also held individual sessions relating to performance and other areas of the athlete's life. There were also sessions with the coach, team manager and President of the Netball Federation on how to get the players to give their best. Part of the team work also included fun team building activities such as trust games, leadership games etc. I believe the fun games were very effective and could be one of the reasons why the team performed so well.

Such experiences teach not only student-athletes about handling pressure, working in a team, learning to be a leader etc. but they also teach us staff members to be more aware of the issues young people face and to understand better that no two people are the same.







all



# LOVE OF TREKKING

by Justin Spiteri



My name is Mr Justin (Lampard) Spiteri and I am 24 years old. I am a student at the Institute of Community Services studying for an Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care. I am a person with autism. I am also a trekker and an open water swimmer with Birkirkara St Joseph Club. In my free time I join my other family, 'the family of Youth Reach'. Youth Reach is a lovely youth centre where I feel very included and which in turn gives me a lot of courage.



I started trekking last year with the 'Experience: Adventures and More Group' which is led by Mr Mario Scerri and Ms Kim Agius. Thanks to an email sent out by the MCAST Sports Department MCAST students and staff have the opportunity to participate in these trekking activities. We train every Sunday. This training does not only improve my physique but helps me believe more in myself. Trekking is a loving sport, where I can meet with new friends and gives me the chance to show my abilities. My experience of trekking is a positive one; a loving group who help me believe more in myself, help me become more independent and a place where I can help more people in need. This year I had the opportunity to participate in the last 120km of the Camino de Santiago in Spain. The Camino is a walk from France to Spain. People from all over the world participate in this walk.

If you are an MCAST student or staff member and would like to join this trekking group please check out the Facebook group 'Experience: Adventures and More' at: <http://tinyurl.com/pv2btoq> or contact Sports co-ordinator MCAST at [adele.muscat@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:adele.muscat@mcast.edu.mt).

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

## THE MALTA FA WILL BE HOSTING THE UEFA UNDER 17 FINALS NEXT MAY



These Finals will bring to Malta seven National Under 17 teams from around Europe as well as other renowned guests with a total of over three thousand bed nights in a period of three weeks, not to mentioning media and TV coverage through Eurosport. These will leave a positive mark on the Maltese economy through use of hotels, local transportation services and ancillary services within the organisation of a football tournament.

As you surely are aware the hosting of such a high European Football event in Malta requires intensive work in particular in the final run up to the event and the actual event itself. Throughout the years the Malta FA has always banked on assistance through volunteers and will do so again for the forthcoming event. In this regard the Malta FA has appointed Mr. Joe Micallef (Youth FA General Secretary and a member of the Malta FA Executive Committee) to coordinate the volunteering sector for these International Finals on behalf of the Malta FA. Mr. Micallef has contacted us at MCAST to inform us about the request for volunteers and our support.

A number of players from our U17 squad are students at MCAST and it would be good to support them. Any person interested in volunteering to help in this prestigious event in May is to contact the MCAST Sports Co-ordinator and U17 National Team Sport Psychologist Adele Muscat on [adele.muscat@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:adele.muscat@mcast.edu.mt) or Joe Micallef at the Malta Football Association.

# MCAST CELEBRATES GRADUATION OF 741 DEGREE AND HND STUDENTS



*MCAST celebrated the graduation of 741 students who successfully completed their Bachelor's Degree or Higher National Diploma (HND) programmes last year. During the three ceremonies being held on the 9, 10 and 11 December 2013, 258 students were conferred with degrees while another 483 received their Higher National Diploma or other MQF Level 5 certificates. This represents a 18.5% increase over the number of graduates at these levels last year.*

The first graduates, students from the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering and the Institute of Business and Commerce, were conferred with Bachelor of Arts or Science (B.A or B.Sc) degrees during the first ceremony held on Monday 9 December 2013, at the Grandmaster's Suite of the Hilton Malta, in St. Julian's. Other students received their certificates during the second and third ceremonies held on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 December 2013. They included students from the Institutes of Agribusiness, Art and Design, Mechanical Engineering, Applied Science, Community Services, Information and Communication Technology and Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

This year's graduations include the first MCAST graduates in six programmes introduced last year. These include the MCAST-BTEC Higher National Diploma in Photography, the MCAST-BTEC Higher National Diploma in Health and Social Care (Practice), the MCAST-BTEC Higher National Diploma in Advanced Studies in Early Years, the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Health and Social Care (Practice), the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Mechanical Engineering (Manufacturing) and the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Mechanical Engineering (Plant).

During Monday's ceremony, Justin John Caruana, who read for a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Construction Engineering, addressed the guests on behalf of all graduates. He spoke of his journey at MCAST where he started his studies following the National Diploma in Construction programme and has now successfully completed his degree in Construction Engineering. He spoke of the journey that led to this special day, the importance of the dissertation and the great team of staff at the Institute.

In his speech Dr Silvio DeBono, MCAST President of the Board of Governors stated 'Graduation day is not your destination but part of the walk towards your career. Today is your celebration of an

important milestone in this journey.' Mr Stephen Cachia, MCAST Principal and CEO stated that MCAST is now one of the main pillars of higher education in Malta offering an alternative route that provides opportunities for all students that wish to further their studies. He mentioned that the College provides students with both the academic and practical/applied side of education preparing them for the world of work and at the same time focussing on their holistic development. Mr Cachia mentioned the future plans of the College which are currently being realised. These include the building of a new Campus, the projects to renew the College's programmes' curricula at all levels, the consolidation of the student support services, the increase of students' participation in College life through the Student Council and other student organizations and the strengthening of stakeholder relationships. He ended by congratulating the graduates on their achievements and thanked all MCAST staff members for continuously supporting the College's students.

Hon Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Education and Employment, Dr Silvio De Bono, MCAST President, Mr Stephen Cachia, MCAST Principal and CEO, Mr Anthony Saliba, MCAST Deputy Principal, Mr Vince Maione, Deputy Principal and Mr Ronald Curmi, MCAST Registrar, presented the certificates to students who completed courses within the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering and Business and Commerce.

The College also presented Awards for Outstanding Performance to students who excelled during their studies at the College.

The vocational degrees were part-financed by MCAST's European Social Fund project ESF1.36 Professional Development Programmes for MCAST Staff and Students' Top-Up Degrees. Early in 2014, MCAST will be holding other certificate presentation ceremonies for students who completed introductory, foundation, diploma and extended diploma courses.



# GRADUATION LIST

## INSTITUTE OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

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

Abdilla Kristina, Agius Thomas, Attard Rachel, Axiaq Matthew, Bezzina Karl, Borg Roberta, Bugeja Matthew, Chircop David, Cilia Yanika, Duca Christabel, Formosa Adrian, Lofreda Oriana, Pace Kevin, Portelli Ryan, Schembri Maurizio, Sciberras Matthew, Seychell Rodianne, Tabone Joseph, Tanti Christine, Vella Bernice, Zammit Aleandro, Zammit Jerome

### MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING)

Attard Karl, Camilleri Casey, Gatt Joseph

### MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (CIVIL ENGINEERING)

Galea Charlene, Portelli William, Vella Annabel

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) IN CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

Debono Christopher, Azzopardi Stephen, Buttigieg Christopher, Calleja Clive, Caruana Justin John, Cassar James, Debattista Daniele Martino, Mercieca Sarah, Schembri Glen, Vella Marianne

## INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

### MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS

Azzopardi Kimberly, Azzopardi Mark Andrew, Bianco Matthew, Bonnici Isabelle, Bonnici Larkin, Borg Bernice, Buhagiar Kristina, Busuttil Robert, Calleja Idonia, Camilleri Andrea, Camilleri Marilyn, Camilleri Michelle, Caruana Chantelle Marie, Caruana Wayne, Cauchi Christian, Cauchi Evicka, Cortis Keith, Cumbo Laura, Cuschieri Cynthia, Darmanin Marilisa, Dimech Samantha, Dimova Aleksandra, Falzon Philippa, Farrugia Claire, Farrugia Matthew, Gallo Leahires, Gatt Christian, Giglio Andrea, Grech Maria Victoria, Grech Olga, Hollington Lyndsey, Micallef Janice, Mifsud Chantelle, Mifsud Cynthia, Montebello Yasmine, Muscat Veronica, Pace Nicola, Parfitt Lauren, Polidano Angie, Portelli Claire, Sant Sefora, Schembri Emmanuel, Sciberras Jan Andre, Scicluna Martha, Spiteri Adrian, Spiteri Antoine, Spiteri Carl, Spiteri Gheiti Melicent, Vella Kimberly, Zammit Justina, Zammit Kathy, Micallef Elaine

### AAT DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTING

Attard Daniela, Azzopardi David, Bajada Savio, Borg Analise, Borg Charlon, Borg Desiree, Brincat Christian, Bugeja Maria, Bugeja Sarah, Buttigieg Michelle Marie, Cachia Karl, Camilleri

Karl, Camilleri Nathan, Camilleri Shaun, Camilleri Vanessa, Caruana Cynthia, Cassar Matthew, Catania Amanda Sue, Chetcuti Kimberly, Coleiro Kelly Anne, Conti Karl, Cortis Raisa, Darmanin Taryn Jade, Debono Maria, Farrugia Eleanor Jane, Fenech Analise, Fenech Farrugia Matthew, Fiteni Kelly, Galea Natalia, Grech Anabelle, Grixti Shakira, Micallef Leon, Mifsud Jessica, Pavia Raissa, Portelli Michela, Portelli Sarah, Pullicino Casey, Sammut Marylise, Sant Erica, Spiteri Nadesch, Vella Christian, Vella Stephanie, Zammit Lynn, Zammit Maria

#### **DIPLOMA IN BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Abela Rebecca, Abela Stephanie, Agius Darren, Agius Jurgen, Agius Stephanie, Attard Cassar Ruth, Azzopardi Nadine, Azzopardi Ferriggi Neil, Baldacchino Meli Karl, Balzan Sharlene Anne, Bartolo Vincent, Bezzina Ian, Borg Jason, Borg Matthew Carmel, Borg Patrick, Borg Sarah, Briffa Glenn, Bugeja Jessica, Bugeja Maria Chiara, Cachia Elizabeth, Cachia Nadia, Calleja Jeanette, Callus Leanne, Camilleri Zvedlana, Cassar Aries, Chetcuti Jessica, Cortis Kevin, Cuschieri Gabrielle, Cutajar Ilona, Cutajar Matthew, Delia Abigail, Desira Gary, Ellul Svetlana, Farrugia Christabel, Farrugia Daniel, Galea McKay Naomi, Gatt Aaron, Gauci Elysia Ann, Graham Kersten, Grasso Marilyn, Grech Abigail, Grech Kersten, Grech Luella Kim, Grech Rosalie, Grech Tiziana, Grima Courtney, Khutri Selsybele, Lupi Spencer Graziella, Mallia Melanie, Mamo Amira Rose, Mangion Gianluca, Mercieca Irving, Mizzi Lorna, Montesin Justin, Portelli Miguella, Relton Rowan, Sammut Peter Paul, Sammut Ruth, Santoro Milena, Schembri Tamara, Scicluna Claire, Spagnol Elaine, Spiteri Gilbert, Sultana Claire, Tabone Justin, Tabone Marija, Vella Jerome, Vella Kimberly, Vella Maria, Xuereb Christopher, Zahra Mandy Marie, Zammit Annmarie, Zammit Christabel, Zerafa Leanne

#### **BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE**

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

## **INSTITUTE OF AGRIBUSINESS**

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

Bonavia Gilbert, Gauci John, Gauci Kevin, Gauci Stephen, Grech Robert, Micallef Maria

#### **MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN ANIMAL MANAGEMENT**

Buttigieg Jessamine, Camilleri Lorelle, Debono Robert, Dimech Cheryl, Falzon Jolene Marie, Gellel Christine, Portelli Elena

## **INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN**

#### **MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN 3D DESIGN**

Abdilla Mariella, Abela Brandon, Abela Shannen, Aquilina Paul, Attard Kurt, Bugeja Clifford, Buttigieg Patricia, Buttigieg Stefan, Calleja Miguel, Casha Shanice, Cassar Denise, Cefai Maurizio, Cutajar Annabel, Cutajar Petra Marie, Degabriele Enrica, Ellul Wayne, Galea Maria, Gerada Krystie, Grima Annemarie, Said Conti Chiara, Schembri Lara, Shah Yousaf Umar

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

Mario Abela, Jessica Aguis, Daniel Bonanno, Melvin Bonello, Peter Bugeja, Mark Paul Busuttill, 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

#### **MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN PHOTOGRAPHY**

Bugeja Gary, Buttigieg Andria, Calleja Carmel, Cassar Angela, Cutajar Daniela, Grech Marija Grazzja, Mercieca Jessica, Pace Damien, Sciberras Stephanie

#### **MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN INTERACTIVE MEDIA**

Agius Rachelle, Bonavia Graziella, Borg Christine, Borg Simon Peter, Caruana Redeemer, Cuschieri Luke, Cutajar Estevan, Cutajar Jeanette, Dalli Matthew, Delceppo Charlene, Formosa Lara, Galea Luana, Galea Yanica, Gialanze Tony, Grima Andre, Micallef Kimberly, Muscat Jacqueline, Saliba Luke, Sciberras Steve, Vella Lorraine

**MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA  
IN GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Aquilina Lindsay, Attard Portughes Chiara, Axiag Denise, Baldacchino Julian, Barry Rebecca, Borg Claire Marie, Borg Cardona Rebecca, Bullock Kurt, Carter Andrew, Cassar Nicholas, Curmi Michela Pia, Dimech Desiree, Mallia Shirley, Meli Fabian, Micallef Silvio, Mifsud Michela, Portelli Christopher, Saliba Maximilian, Scerri Roberta, Sciortino Fleur, Spiteri Clayton, Spiteri George, Stellini Jurgen, Vassallo Michelle, Vassallo Stefan

**MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA  
IN FINE ARTS**

Axiag Raymond, Bezzina Aaron, Bezzina Pamela, Borg Maria, Debono Nathalie, Doublet Sarah, Formosa Lisa, Gerada Christa, Grech Maria Isabella, Micallef Christian, Portelli Andrew, Vassallo Ezekiel Zagami Alberto

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

Aquilina Ritienne, Belli Brenda, Camilleri Jonathan, Camilleri Haber Michael Maximilian, Ciantar Miriam, Grech Simon Junior, Mercieca Jenny, Muscat Yanika, Rizzo Anthea, Scerri Mia, Schembri Francesca, Vella Vanessa

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

Fenech Shaun, Agius Naomi, Bezzina Maria, Cachia Richard, Callus Maris, Camilleri Kirsten, Cassar Daniel, Cauchi Jessica, Cini Rachel, Cocker Ishmael, Darmanin Chiara, Ellul Christine, Grech Tracy, Hickey Emma, Mallia Maria, Maniscalco Nadia, Montanaro Antonella, Scudamore Sarah, Vassallo Eminyan Martina

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN FINE ARTS**

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

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

Meli Andrea, Abela Noeleen, Aquilina Krista, Azzopardi Angele, Bonello Sheryl, Camilleri Francelle, Camilleri Matthew, Carter Julian, Caruana Rowena, Cauchi Luca, Chetcuti Brian, Chetcuti Samuel, Cortis Kevin,

Curmi Christopher, Degiorgio Audrienne, Delceppo Graziella, Ellul Glenn, Ellul Greta, Farrugia Georgette, Farrugia Shaun, Fenech Rachel, Galea Charlene, Gatt Sean, Grech Kyle, Grech Roberta, Grima Shawn, Jones Darren, Lia Roberta, Massa Kurt, Mifsud Marietta, Muscat Sean, O'Neill Kimberly, Pace Decesare Yana, Psaila Justin, Sant Sarah, Schembri Charlene, Scicluna Eric, Scicluna Luke, Spiteri Jurgen, Testa Roxanne, Vassallo Vanessa

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

Aquilina Nicky, Buttigieg Christopher, D'Amato Mauro, De Lucca Marco, Sciberras Victoria, Zammit Cordina Keith

**INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERING**

**MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA  
IN MARINE ENGINEERING**

Agius Nicholas, Buhagiar Julian, Cassar Mark Philip, Grech Andrei, Grech Noel Paul, Mifsud Daniel, Portelli Timothy, Vassallo James

**MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA  
IN MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING**

Azzopardi Gabriel, Azzopardi Karl, Bugeja Malcolm, Mifsud Erik, Sultana Luke

**MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

Bartolo Jake, Borg Ryan, Busutil Gabriel, Busutil Sean, Camilleri Paul, Farrugia Marlo, Fenech Luka, Gauci Amanda, Gauci Steve, Livori Mark, Muscat Christopher, Parascandolo Emmanuel, Spagnol Christopher, Zahra Paul

**MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN  
OPERATIONS ENGINEERING**

Azzopardi Mark Anthony, Cutajar Aaron, Ellul John Paul, Fenech Matthew, Galea Roderick

**BACHELOR OF ENGINEERING (HONOURS)  
IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING  
(MANUFACTURING)**

Rodenas Aquilina Mark, Buttigieg Daniel, Carabott Karl, Caruana Justin, Gauci Daniel, Mamo Sefton, Pace Mark, Rotin Pierre, Sacco Jonathan, Sacco Matthew, Saliba Matthew, Xerri Joseph, Zammit Simon, Zammit Mckean Andrew



**BACHELOR OF ENGINEERING (HONOURS)  
IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (PLANT)**  
Zammit Leonard, Aquilina Justin, Axiaq Andrew,  
Azzopardi Jonathan, Cutajar Bernard, Farrugia  
Andrew, Farrugia Deborah, Muscat James, Overend  
Danilo, Polidano Marco, Schembri Ryan

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS)  
IN MARINE ENGINEERING**  
Vella Michael, Abela Charlie Christ, Camilleri  
Matthew, Galea Zac, Vassallo Michael

## **INSTITUTE OF APPLIED SCIENCE**

**MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA  
IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (PRACTICE)**  
Spiteri Linzy, Vassallo Josette Manuela, Vella Terrence

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS)  
IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (PRACTICE)**  
Attard Larissa, Schembri Joanna

## **INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA  
IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (MANAGEMENT)**  
Attard Yasmin, Attard Flores Eliza Jane, Cassar

Kylie, Cockram Alexia, Craus Diane, Debattista  
Anthony, Debono Thea Paula, Galea Jessica, Gatt  
Naomi, Gauci Jessica, Libreri Leanne, Meli Erica,  
Mizzi Claudia, Nappa Rebecca, Portelli Krista, Spiteri  
Shelley, Vella Fondacaro Rachele, Zammit Angie

**MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA  
IN ADVANCED STUDIES IN EARLY YEARS**  
Attard Cherise, Camilleri Erica, Carabott  
Francianne, Dalmas Christina Marie, Gauci Anna  
Maria, Vassallo Vella Clarissa, Vella Donna

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS)  
IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (MANAGEMENT)**  
Nocilla Yanes, Ancilleri Tiziana, Azzopardi Solita,  
Borg Maria, Buhagiar Kellie-Ann, D'Amato Kylie,  
Duca Amie, Farrugia Larissa, Magro Silvan

## **INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

**MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA  
IN COMPUTING (SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT)**  
Abela Dylan, Abela Lousie, Agius Clayton, Agius  
Samuel, Apap Samuel, Attard Jean Pierre, Attard Ryan,  
Azzopardi Josmar, Bartolo Eric, Bonnici Matthew, Borg  
Andrew, Borg Ramona, Briffa Kyle, Bugeja Stephen,  
Buhagiar Matthew, Buttigieg Jonathan, Buttigieg Keith,



Calleja Christian, Camilleri Ben, Caruana Adrian, Caruana Karl, Cassar Michael, Catania Joshua, Chircop Joseph, Cutajar Mark Patrick, Desira Kurt, Farrugia David, Fenech Mark, Formosa Andre, Frendo Pawlu, Galea Nicholas, Galea Tonio, Gauci Neville, Grech George, Grech Rodney, Grima Jeffrey, Herd Albert Eric, Mercieca Joseph, Micallef Nicholas, Mifsud Keith, Muscat Benjamin, Polidano Dillon, Portelli Christine, Portelli Nathaniel, Pulev Zahari, Rizzo Gary, Sant Ruth, Schembri Antoine, Spiteri Elizabell, Spiteri Mark, Sultana Michael, Tabone Luca, Vassallo Chris, Vella Brandon, Xuereb Leanne, Zammit David

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

Anastasi Niki, Ancilleri William, Avallone Desiree Marie, Barbara Peter, Bianco Matthew, Borg Neil, Briffa Mark, Buhagiar Nigel, Buttigieg Glenn, Cacciattolo Saviour, Catania Justin, Debono Karl, Debono Shawn, Delia Raisa, Gauci Joshua, Gauci Keith, McLean Andrew, Mercieca Darren, Mizzi Matthew, Mizzi Maxine, Montebello Bernard, Muscat Carl, Muscat Jonathan, Naudi Adam, Portelli Charlot, Pullicino Luke, Said Donovan, Sawyer Maveric, Vassallo Sirach, Vella Nigel

#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) IN SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT**

Zerafa Eman, Abdilla Jean Paul, Abela Emmanuel, Agius Christian, Attard Robert, Bonello Daniel, Bonello David, Bonnici Adrian, Briffa Calvin, Cachia Brian, Caffari Jonathan, Camilleri Annalisa, Camilleri Charles, Cassar Conrad, Cauchi Clive, Cauchi Jonathan, Chircop Kersten James, Cumbo Matthew, Curmi Christian, Curmi Vania, Debono Christian, Debono Claude, Decesare Ian, Degiorgio Raphael, Deguara Royston, Fenech Janice, Formosa Duncan, Formosa Marquita, Gatt Brandon, Gatt Thomas, Gauci Ilaria Deandra, Gauci Luke, Gauci Miguel, Grech Kyle, Grech Simon, Grima Daniel, James Clayton, Magri Christopher, Mallett Jonathan, Mallia Anarita, Mallia Clayton, Mifsud Kimberly, Muscat Christopher, Muscat Ryan, Pace Andrew, Pintley Clizman, Piscopo Clayton, Saydon Sarah, Scerri Nathanael, Scicluna Daniel, Tanti Sarah, Vassallo James, Vella Christian John, Vella Dennis, Vella Kevin, Vella Philip, Vidal Ryan, Xuereb Ivan, Zammit James, Zammit Xuereb Jacob

#### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) IN COMPUTER NETWORKS**

Ciantar Kirsten, Axiaq Luke, Bajada Darren, Barbara Kurt, Bonello Etienne, Borg Antoinette, Bugeja Alvin, Camenzuli Jean Pierre, Camilleri Charlene, Ciantar Christian, Dalli Enrico, Farrugia Daniel, Farrugia Darryl,

Farrugia Tonio, Frendo Kenny, Gauci Jurgen, Leone Christian, Mizzi Luke, Muscat Ian, Pace Anthony Neil, Refalo James, Van Avendonk Jan Willem, Vella Melchior, Vidolich Ivan Karl

## **INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING**

#### **MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING**

Agius Noel, Azzopardi John Paul, Bartolo David, Caruana James, Cassar Bernard, Cassar Keith, Cassar Maverick, Cini George, Farrugia Jethro, Galea Kevin, Galea Rebecca, Gauci Saviour, Grima James, Hili Johann, Micallef Benjamin, Mizzi Sebastien, Monreal Matthew, Rafferty Joseph, Schembri Clint, Xuereb Stefan, Zammit Matthew

#### **MCAST-BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

Azzopardi Stefan, Cassar Eric, Cefai Joseph Lee, Cuschieri Mark

#### **BACHELOR OF ENGINEERING (HONOURS) IN ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING**

Grima David Emanuel, Bezzina George, Chircop Christmark, Martin Joseph



A festive Christmas-themed graphic with a red background, gold ornaments, and wrapped gifts. The background features a repeating damask pattern. A large gold ornament with a circuit board design and the year '2013' is prominent. Below it, a smaller gold ornament depicts a fox's face. In the foreground, there are wrapped gifts with red ribbons and holly leaves. The text 'Christmas MADNESS' is overlaid on the scene.

*Christmas*  
**MADNESS**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December**  
**MCAST Main Hall**  
**12:15pm**