

ISSUE 22 | SUMMER 2007

mcastlink

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MALTA COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



CONTENTS

- 3 Editorial
- 4 Information
- 8 Institute of Agribusiness
- 11 Institute of Art and Design
- 16 Institute of Building and Construction Engineering
- 20 Institute of Business and Commerce
- 26 Institute of Community Services
- 28 Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- 32 Maritime Institute
- 36 Institute of Mechanical Engineering
- 38 Gozo Centre
- 42 Health Promotion Unit
- 46 Mater Dei Hospital
- 48 Graduation Ceremony
- 56 Student Council
- 66 Guidance and Counselling
- 70 Basic Skills Unit
- 72 Library and Learning Resource Centre
- 74 Fair Trade
- 75 Professional Development Centre
- 78 Sports
- 82 Meet the Artist



MCASTlink is produced by the Communications Office

Produced and edited by Caroline Balzan, Communications Officer

Proofread by: Joyce Hili

Designed by: MAS Communications

Printed by: Gutenberg Press

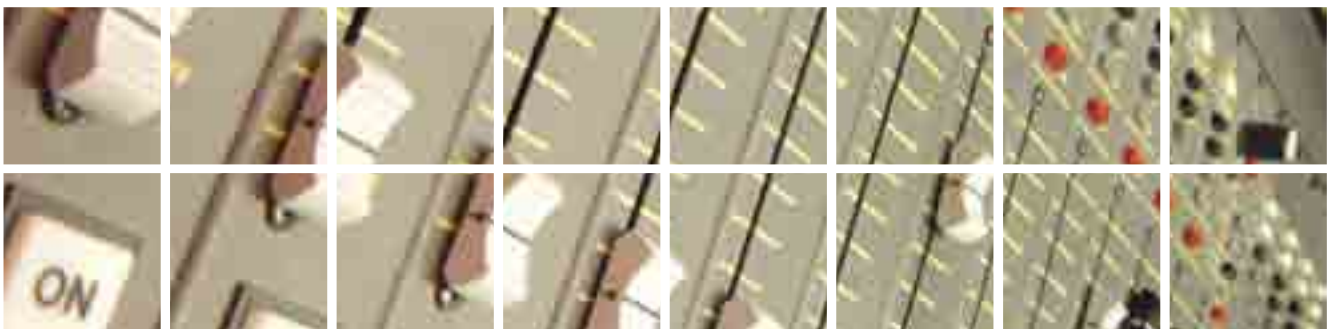
Advertising Enquiries:

caroline.balzan@mcast.edu.mt

All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is strictly prohibited without written permission. All reasonable care is taken to ensure truth and accuracy, but the editor cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions in articles, advertising, photographs or illustrations.

MCASTLINK

MCAST radio programme
discussing the Institutes and vocational education and
training courses offered to students of all ages



Every Monday at 1.30pm on CAMPUS FM 103.7
with a repeat on Thursday at 7.30pm

produced and presented by
CAROLINE BALZAN





Welcome to the Summer issue of MCASTlink!

A total of 674 students graduated and were presented with National (level 3) and Higher National Diplomas (level 4) during the College's Annual Graduation Ceremony. Held at the Dolmen Hotel and Resort Centre on the 1 and 2 of March 2007. The College wishes all graduates the very best for their career and encourages them to view their experience at MCAST not as the end of a voyage but as the beginning of a lifetime of education, training and continuous development. Well done to all!

Another important event was the signing of the agreement between the Foundation for Medical Services and MCAST. FMS in collaboration with the Mater Dei Hospital Healing Arts Committee commissioned MCAST to produce 500 artistic

works which will be permanently displayed, with the specific aim to embellish the place and support the healing environment in the wards of the new hospital. What a resounding endorsement of the caliber of MCAST Students.

This term the College was honored by the visit of several distinguished persons namely HE Ms Molly Bordonaro, American Ambassador in Malta, Members of European Parliament Dr Simon Busuttill and Joseph Muscat, Hon. Clyde Puli, Chairman of the Social Affairs Committee and Prof Karen Evans from the Institute of Education of London University. Further information on the purpose and outcome of their visits can be found inside the magazine. One thing all visitors have in common is the praise for the work of MCAST and the importance of MCAST to the Maltese economy.

The MCAST Student Council, the National Youth Information Centre and Sedqa joined forces and organised National Youth Day, which was celebrated on Campus on the 21 March 2007. Various activities were organised including a debate, a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, a street soccer tournament, break-dancing displays and presentations by St John Ambulance and Logos II. Through this event students from different Institutes had the opportunity to work together as a College, demonstrate their potential and contribute to the creation of a positive ethos and perception of MCAST. College management encourages and supports the Student Council (the student's voice) in all its endeavours.

Unfortunately, we have lost a very dear colleague and friend - Lecturer Ferdinand Demicoli. Ferdinand was a dedicated and passionate lecturer who used to enlighten others with his vast knowledge and his understanding of the environment. He also used to contribute very interesting and informative articles to the Green Page of this magazine. He will be dearly missed but not forgotten. At this time of loss our sympathies and our prayers are with his family.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a well deserved summer break and I look forward to the new academic year and more exciting contributions to MCASTlink. A big thank you to all my contributors, without your support MCASTlink would not be possible.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caroline".

**Caroline Balzan
Communications Officer**

The bus designed by the MCAST Art and Design Students



EU CITIZENSHIP ON WHEELS

Four NGOs, OASI Foundation, Richmond Foundation, Integra Foundation and the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Malta, have teamed up in a project aimed at bringing Europe closer to its citizens by promoting better understanding of EU citizenship values among Maltese people. The project, entitled 'Tal-Linja għal Cittadinanza Ewropea' (EU Citizenship on Wheels) is co-financed by the European Union within the programme "Active European Citizenship" 2004 – 2006.

The project aims to provide an opportunity for EU citizenship values to be addressed locally and promoted via a combination of education, youth involvement, cultural elements, and open dialogue. It focuses on four of the EU citizenship values: human dignity, equality, solidarity and pluralism.

The project, which kicked off in April 2006, held a series of video forums introducing these values to a broad spectrum of young people from different backgrounds. A group of students attending the MCAST Institute of Art and Design produced images mirroring these values – some of which were reproduced to wrap up a Maltese bus. The Maltese bus ('tal-Linja'), a traditional feature of Maltese social life, was used to convey the message that the core values of the EU do not undermine the values on which our society is built, but rather enhance and complement them. People could see this bus on the road since it was used as a normal route bus until the end of May.

During the final phase of the project, a series of open square debates were organised throughout Malta, namely in MCAST (Paola), Victoria (Gozo), Playmobil Factory

(Hal Far), Birgu and Pjazza Assedju l-Kbir (Valletta). Each open square debate hosted guest speakers. Members of the general public were invited to participate in these events by sharing their views about the values: human dignity, equality, solidarity and pluralism. They were also invited to observe the youth paintings and the EU citizenship bus which was present on site.

Mr. Joseph Muscat MEP was the guest speaker during the public debate held at the MCAST on Friday 27 April 2007 between 12:30hrs and 14:00hrs. Mr. Muscat expressed his view on the new identity and open vision that the EU citizenship can offer to the Maltese people. The debate turned out to be very informative and interesting. Other speakers participated, amongst them Fr. Emmanuel Cordina, Director of OASI Foundation (Gozo) who is coordinating the project,

This project is co-financed by the European Union within the programme "Active European Citizenship" 2004-2006.

This article reflects the views of the partners only and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for the content produced herein.



From left: Mr Attard, Mr Edwards, Fr Cordina and MEP Joseph Muscat

James Borg representing the youths involved in the project, and also students from MCAST who explained the meaning behind the artwork used for the backdrop and also as a wrap to the bus. The MCAST was also represented on the panel by the Principal/CEO, Mr. Franks Edwards and Mr. Emanuel Attard, Chief Administration Officer.



During the debate



EU MAKES A DIFFERENCE FOR MCAST STUDENTS

During a visit to MCAST, MEP Simon Busuttil praised the manner in which the MCAST was making the most out of the opportunities of EU membership.

“MCAST is being extremely successful in absorbing a large amount of EU funding, thereby giving a future for thousands of youths who chose not to go to university. I congratulate and thank MCAST for all it is doing”, Dr Busuttil said.

During a meeting with the MCAST led by Mr Paul A. Attard, President of the Board of Governors, Mr Frank Edwards, Principal/CEO, and Mr Emanuel Attard, Chief Administration Officer, Dr Busuttil was informed about how the College managed to absorb almost 4 million euro in EU structural funds in the first three years of Malta’s EU membership.

PROF KAREN EVANS VISITS MCAST

Professor Karen Evans from the Institute of Education of London University visited MCAST on 30 March 2007.

Over many years Professor Evans participated in a number of research projects concerned with Adult and Continuing Education. She has been a major contributor in a Teaching and Learning Research Programme titled “Improving Incentives to Learning in the Workplace and Enhancing Skills for Life”. The aim of this Research Programme was to assess both the short term and the long term outcomes and effects

of workplace linked teaching and learning programmes.

Her introduction to the College started by an organised visit to the Institute of Mechanical Engineering where the majority of students participate in an Apprenticeship Scheme and attend a place of work on a regular schedule. Mr. Emmanuel Zahra, the Director of the Institute, welcomed Profs. Evans and gave her an overview of the courses offered and the way the Institute was organized within the College framework. She visited some of the workshops and saw the

students at work. She was pleased to understand how the College works and the way the system of Vocational Education in Malta provides knowledge and work experience to students.

After the visit to this particular Institute all the Directors of the other Institutes and their Deputies were invited to a presentation prepared by Profs Evans. She spoke on putting knowledge to work, the modes of knowledge production, concepts of knowledge and the most important features connected with work-based learning.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE VISITS MCAST

The Chairman and members of the Parliamentary Social Affairs Committee visited MCAST on the 8 May 2007. The Social Affairs Committee deals with all matters related to social policy, including the enhancement of employment opportunities and the generation of more local wealth. Mr Paul A Attard, Mr Frank Edwards and Mr Emanuel Attard showed the

committee round the Library and Learning Resource Centre, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and the Institute of Mechanical Engineering.

The visit also focused on MCAST's strategic role in the local economic scenario.



UHM DELEGATION VISITS MCAST

The Union Haddiema Maghqudin (UHM) visited the College on the 30 April to commemorate Workers' Day. The delegation met with MCAST administrative staff and with students. They also visited the Library and Learning Resource Centre.



LEARNING BY DOING AT THE INSTITUTE OF AGRIBUSINESS



A number of lectures at the Institute of Agribusiness are delivered at production sites such as livestock farms, hatcheries, slaughtering plants, parks and animal sanctuaries. Such visits help the students put into practice what they learn in class. Students get the 'feel' of reality in the agricultural and animal care industries. When on site, students get a better understanding of the difficulties and satisfactions they may encounter once they finish their studies and start facing realities at their place of work. On these visits the students do not only get hands-on experience but they get the opportunity to discuss a variety of topics with animal carers, farmers,

managers, veterinarians and other professionals in the industry. Various courses have benefited from such visits and the students' feedback has always been very positive.

The 1st Diploma Animal Care students visited various holdings. During a visit to a layer farm students had the opportunity to handle the birds, discuss the management of layers at different ages and discuss lighting and moulting programmes. These were later discussed in greater detail during lecture sessions in class.

The same students visited a private bird reserve.

This was a great opportunity for the students to get a better insight on the needs of these animals; they discussed their care, various feeding methods and types of feeds. This visit was also an opportunity for the students to realize the diversity of opportunities in the animal care industry from which they can benefit once they finish their studies.

Another interesting visit was to a poultry hatchery. Here students observed and participated in the hatching process. Tasks carried out included proper handling of a chick prior to vaccination, actual vaccination of chicks, sexing (removing the males and keeping the



Day old chicks in a broiler farm



females), counting and packaging of the chicks for dispatch. Further training was carried out in class.

First year and second year National Diploma in Agriculture students visited a number of farms including a broiler farm. Students could compare different heating systems, litter used, chick quality, and monitor temperatures and discuss record keeping with the farm manager. Again this visit was followed up by a discussion and problem solving sessions in class during subsequent lectures.

First year National Diploma students visited a modern layer farm.

Here students could compare different systems of housing, and observe egg grading, candling and packing equipment in use.

The visit also served as a hands-on demonstration and lecture relevant to the Housing and Construction Design Unit. The visit also served as an opportunity for students to see for themselves the advances being made in animal welfare through the introduction of new legislation. Legislation is also one of the modules studied by these students.



Further training in class



BEEKEEPING COURSE



Due to the interest of a number of students in beekeeping, the Institute organised a Beekeeping Course during the break. Lectures were delivered twice a week. The topics covered during this course included some general information about the anatomy of the honey bee, the life cycle and metamorphosis of the honey bee, beekeeping in Malta, functions in the hive, equipment needed to start beekeeping, swarming and honey harvesting. A number of practical sessions were also organised whereby students had hands-on experience how to inspect the hive. Practical sessions were carried out on the hives which the Institute owns. During these practical sessions, students experienced the feel of the beekeeper being surrounded by honey bees while inspecting their hive. They also had the opportunity to watch the different stages of the honey bee as well as the production of honey.

MCAST ART AND DESIGN STUDENTS AT NSTF SCIENCE WEEK 2007

BY MARK THEUMA

Victoria Pisani & Nadya Coppini supervising construction techniques.



Victoria Pisani explaining concepts of aerodynamics.



Mr Mark Theuma with a few of the participating Art and Design students.



Stefania Mercieca clarifying flight procedures.

The annual NSTF Science Week has become a tradition for MCAST Art and Design students, and this year was no exception. Held between the 23 and 29 April, at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta, a number of Access Course and Higher National Diploma students were responsible for workshops, especially aimed towards primary school children.

Under the guidance of Mr Mark Theuma, AutoCAD lecturer, Art and Design students taught children, who attended in their hundreds, how to build a variety of paper aeroplanes, make Origami models and build two-dimensional and three-dimensional geometrical structures out of straws and pipe-cleaners.

All workshops proved the point that science is not exclusive to professors with lab-coats and white, untidy hair, but can also be enjoyed by young, aspiring scientists using simple and recycled objects. Through paper aeroplane building (and flying!), children, unwittingly, learnt concepts of aerodynamics, balance, velocity, drag, stalling and glide ratio.

The structures workshop gave children an insight into geometry and structural stability. With the aim of erecting higher structures, children used additional straws to strengthen the base of their structures and some even added diagonal straws to act as crossbeams! All activities focussed on coordination, precision, problem-solving, team-building and communication skills. Making science fun at an early age is key for making science and technology more appealing as a subject-choice later on during secondary schooling.

One could not help but notice the proud look on our students' faces seeing children enjoying themselves, with their constructions, following every workshop. Learning can be made fun, and MCAST Art and Design students managed to promote this concept with great enthusiasm!

ANOTHER FEATHER IN OUR CAP



www.touurg.com



The promotion of various European regions was the focal point for a three year project that has recently been concluded. The project, entitled COMPARISON OF TOURISM CONCEPTS IN EUROPEAN REGIONS, aimed at the enhancement of young persons' tourism in the promotion of various regions in Europe.

The project coordinator, BBS Donnersbergkreis (Rockenhausen, DE) together with all the project partners included The Private School of Business, Hospitality and Hotel Operations, (Jindich v Hradec, CZ); Lycée Polyvalent Jean Jacques Henner (Altkirch, FR); Zespół Szkół Nr 1 w Kozienicach (Kozienice, PL); BAKIP 7 Mater Salvatoris (Wien, AT); Istituto d'Istruzione Superiore Vincenzo Manzini (San Daniele del Friuli, IT) and the MCAST Institute of Art and Design (Malta).

This was done through various local and transnational activities. Students were involved in research work on topics about both local and international tourism context, produced and maintained a project website, created video presentation assignments in all HND classes about tourism activities, produced a European travel guide booklet in English and German and also set up exhibitions using posters and postcards about traditional foods and tourism.

Activities which were carried out during the various project meetings included video presentations by all participating countries, exhibitions of art works, exchanges of traditional food and drinks, plays, choir-singing and dancing. During every project meeting, a journalistic team was set up among the students and their responsibilities included the preparation of a press report, writing of a project diary, taking pictures, and interviews with local students.

Throughout the lifetime of the project various self-evaluation exercises were carried out both during the transnational meetings as well as during the locally-based activities.

The success of this project would not have been possible without the continuous support of the Director of the Institute of Art and Design, Mr Donald Friggieri, the administration of the same Institute, as well as the MCAST International Programmes Office.

For further details about the project, go to www.toureureg.com

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This article reflects the views of the author only, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained herein.



STUDENT WINS CERAMIC COMPETITION

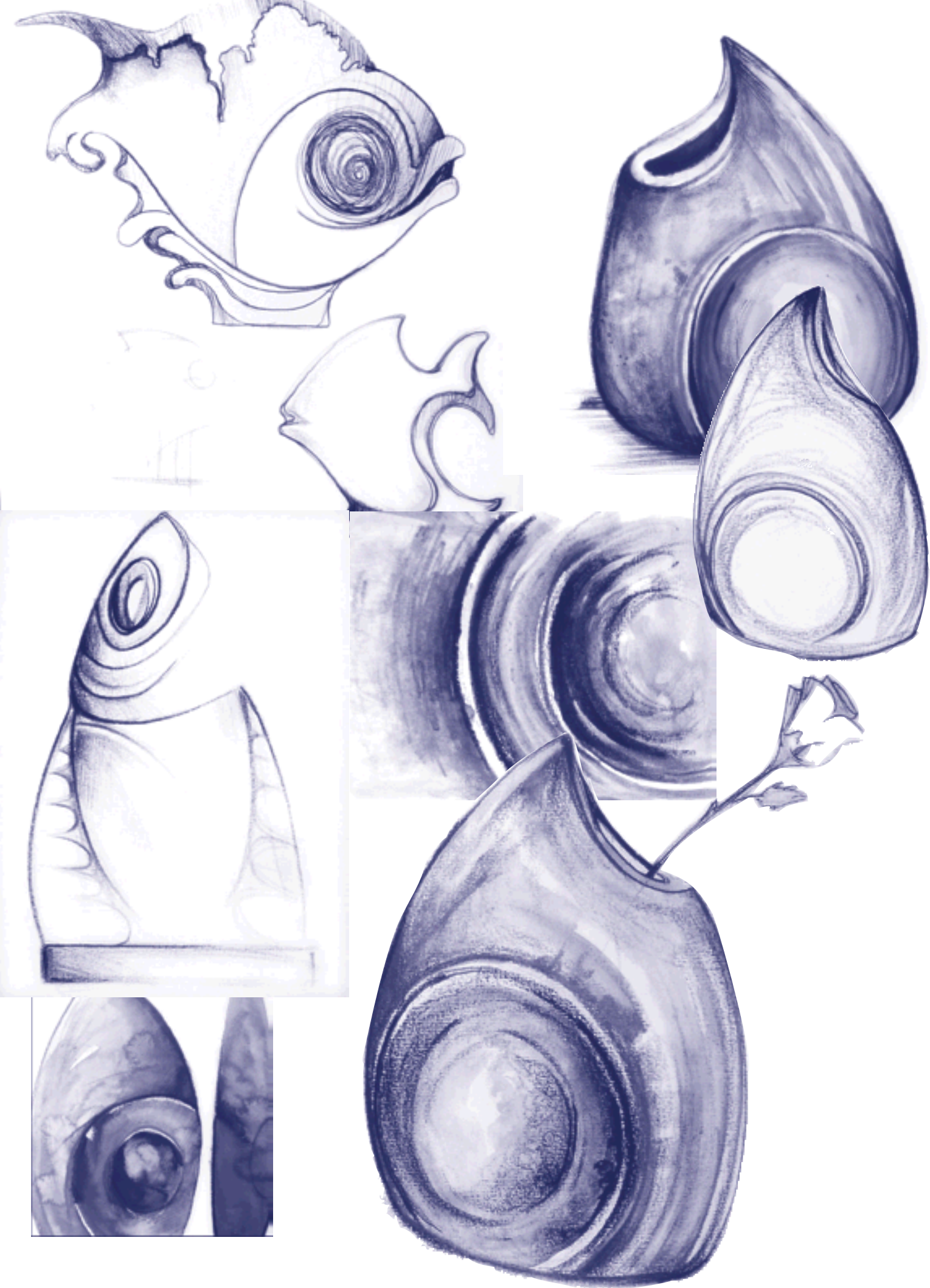


MCAST Art and Design student Stefan De Battista has won a ceramics competition launched as part of the Medpot project promoted by the Comune of Sciacca in Sicily and the Secretariat for Small Businesses and the Self Employed.

Stefan was chosen by a Maltese-Italian commission presided by the Sciacca Comune's official for trades and commerce, Giuseppe Caruana and including among its members master ceramist Gaspare Cascio and maestro Cosimo Barna.

Stefan has won a one-month study scholarship at Sciacca.





A EUROPEAN LEARNING PERSPECTIVE

BY MARTIN BORG, LECTURER

The Institute of Building and Construction Engineering is actively involved in European educational programmes such as Comenius and Leonardo da Vinci.

One of these projects, entitled The Sustainable Buildings (SUB) is funded through the Comenius programme. It is based around two mobilities and the partner for this project is Alfa College. This college is a major centre for vocational education and training in the north of the Netherlands, more specifically in Groningen. Thirty students and five lecturers form the learning group for this project. The group from Malta is composed of learners who are currently in the second year of the BTEC National Diploma in Building Construction. Martin Borg, Lecturer in Applied Sciences, Godwin Caruana, Lecturer

in Building Services and Reginald Galea, Lecturer in Architectural Drawing are coordinating the project.

The first project meeting for the SUB project was held in Malta from the 6 till the 20 February 2007. The details of the project meeting were planned during an initial preparatory visit made by a delegation from Alfa College at MCAST in November 2006. A number of project activities were organised by the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering with the collaboration of the Housing Authority, Bank of Valletta and Heritage Malta. The central learning theme for the project revolves around the issue of sustainability with direct focus on buildings. Dr. Vincent Buhagiar and Mr. Charles Yousif

delivered a number of lectures on sustainability, BiPV (Building integrated photovoltaics) and solar heating at the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering. The whole group also visited the housing project in Birkirkara (Energy Saving Buildings).

The learning group visited the Bank of Valletta building during the project meeting in Malta. Mr. Henry Portelli and Prof. Alex Torpiano explained the design features, ensuring energy saving aspects, of the new building in St. Venera. With the help of Heritage Malta, a number of cultural activities were organised during the project including visits to heritage sites such as Ġgantija, Ghar Dalam and Tarxien temples.



A number of end-products were also produced for the project. The learning group developed a number of multimedia presentations in international groups. The presentations focused on specific features of sustainability including energy, building regulations, construction, materials, building services and water usage in Malta. A glossary of key technical terms in construction (Maltese – English – Dutch) was also formed.

The project equips the learners following respective diplomas in Building and Construction Engineering with further skills in their area and helps the lecturers at the Institutes to keep in contact with new developments in the area of construction, most notably in the area of sustainability.

The Dutch students were hosted by Maltese families and the Maltese learning group will be travelling to the Netherlands in June 2007 for the second part of the project. The visit to Holland will serve as a continuation of the work started in Malta. Apart from investigating concepts of sustainability, specific content lectures will be held during the project. The learners involved in the project are currently working with their respective employers within the ETC apprenticeship scheme. The Institute takes the opportunity to thank the respective employers and the ETC for their support in this matter.

This project is another initiative being undertaken between MCAST and the Association of Colleges in Northern Netherlands, namely Alfa College (Groningen), Landstede

(Zwolle) and ROC FriesePoort (Leeuwarden).

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This article reflects the views of the author only, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained herein.





ROOFS OF EUROPE – THE IRISH EXPERIENCE

ECOLOGICAL AND SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

BY MARTIN BORG



The Institute of Building and Construction Engineering is currently the project coordinating educational institution of a Comenius school project titled "Roofs of Europe". The project is in its second year and as part of the mobility activities, a learning group composed of building construction students from Malta, Germany and Spain met in Letterkenny, Ireland together with Irish students in the third week of April 2007. The Maltese group consisted of students who are currently following a BTEC National Diploma in Building Construction and myself as project coordinator.

The central theme of the project meeting conducted in Ireland focussed on ecological and sustainability issues in building construction with specific emphasis on roof construction. To reach this aim the respective national groups focussed on a specific research task as tabulated below.

In preparation for the project meeting in Ireland, the Maltese learning group performed research on BiPV and as part of the research activities the group attended a one day seminar at the Institute of Energy and Technology in Marsaxlokk. During the seminar, Mr. Mario Fsadni explained in detail concepts related to energy efficiency in buildings. Mr. Charles Yousif highlighted the importance of integrating photovoltaics in the local context and also explained the principle of solar heating.

During the project meeting in Ireland, each participating institution presented the researched material by means of a powerpoint presentation. In the presentation, apart from highlighting the physical concepts related to the technology of photovoltaics, the students presented an artistic impression of how the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering would look like if PV

PARTICIPATING COUNTRY	INSTITUTE	TASK
Malta	MCAST – Institute of Building and Construction Engineering	Building Integrated Photovoltaics (BiPV)
Germany	Max Born Berufskolleg	Green Roofs
Spain	IES Geneto	Solar Heating
Ireland	Gairmscoil Chu Uladh	Rainwater Harvesting Systems



panels were integrated in the facade of the building and mounted on roof tops. An analysis session was also conducted whereby students were subdivided into international groups with the objective of determining the advantages, disadvantages and suitability of each system for each respective country. The results of this analysis session were presented by forming posters and charts. A glossary of key technical terms related to ecology and sustainability was also prepared by the group in Ireland.

A number of lectures were organized at Letterkenny with the help of the Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) including a discussion on Careers in Construction by the Head of Construction Department, Ms. Anne Boner and on Green Architecture by architect Tarlach Mac Gabhann. Sports activities such as canoeing and rafting were organized at Gartan Outdoor Educational Centre for the entire learning group involved in this project. Cultural activities included a visit to the Neolithic temples in Knowth and sight visits in Dublin, Ramelton and Portsalon.

Next academic year marks the third and final year of the project. In October 2007, a learning group from the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering will be involved in a project meeting in Recklinghausen, Germany. The central theme for this meeting relates to the concept of statics for structural elements with direct focus on roofs. The planned end-product for this project meeting includes an audio-visual DVD explaining the forces present on structural elements, their effects and the behaviour of construction materials such as steel, concrete and timber.

The learning group would like to thank the Director and the Deputy Director of the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering, Mr. James Pearsall and Mr. John Vella, and MCAST's International Programmes Coordinator, Ms. Edel Cassar, for their support in this project. The Institute of Building and Construction Engineering is also highly grateful to lecturer Mark Theuma, Mario Fsadni and Charles Yousif for their technical assistance.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This article reflects the views of the author only, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained herein.



Every academic year, the Institute of Business of Commerce organises a number of Annual Thematic Conferences for students following the different programmes of study offered at the Institute.

The main aim underlying such conferences is to offer students an experience through which they feel the benefits which may be reaped from formal one-day conferences as a means of enhancing their knowledge content. Moreover, during such conferences students would have the opportunity to meet key players in their area of studies. Each conference schedule focuses on presentations and talks by specialist people in the particular area of study.

Each conference is facilitated by one of the students forming part of the group of participants, who besides introducing each speaker, and thanking him/her at the end of the presentation, also sees to the smooth running from one item on the agenda to the next. This in itself is an integral part of the empowerment process given through such initiatives.

It is not possible to give a thorough overview of the conference proceedings which have taken place to date. However an outline of the conferences' schedule will help readers get an idea of the various experiences which students who attended the conferences have had the opportunity to digest.



Annual Financial Services Conference held on the 15 February 2007

- **Ms Rita Schembri** Senior Economist Central Bank of Malta - "A vision for our Economy - Towards the adoption of the Euro"
- **Mr Kenneth Farrugia** General Manager Valletta Fund Services Ltd - "Challenges and Opportunities for Investment Service Operations"
- **Mr Anthony Busuttill** Head of Trade Services & Receivables HSBC Bank (Malta) plc - "Invoice Finance Facility"
- **Mr Christian Farrugia** Manager [Sales] Valletta Fund Management - "The How and Why of listed equity or bond"
- **Ms Marisa Said** Manager Business Banking Bank of Valletta B'Kara Branch - "Sharing the Branch Floor experience"
- **Mr Simon Micallef** Senior Manager [Human Resources] APS Bank Ltd - "The Financial Services Employee --- An agent of Business Excellence"

Annual Insurance Studies Conference held on the 22nd February 2007

- **Mr Ray Schembri** Deputy Head Insurance HSBC Life Assurance (Malta) Ltd - "Behind the scenes of Personal Loan Credit Insurance"
- **Dr Michelle Mizzi** Buontempo Deputy Director Company Compliance Unit Malta Financial Services Authority - "Corporate Governance - Guidelines on Corporate Governance for Public Interest Companies"
- **Dr Marisa Attard** Director Insurance Business Unit Malta Financial Services Authority - "Internal Control Guidelines for Insurance Companies"
- **Mr Robert Agius** Manager Group Information Systems Atlas Insurance PCC Ltd - "IT - a significant player within the Insurance Industry"
- **Mr Evander M Borg** Company Secretary Middlesea Insurance - "Adapting to change in the Insurance Market"
- **Mr Albert Debono** Youth Worker / HR Skills Trainer University of Malta - "The Value of Managing Self within the Insurance environment" Building

Annual Management Studies Conference held on the 28 February 2007

- **Mr John Saliba** Group Director HR and Administration Maltacom plc - "Maltacom - Sustaining its leading position in the Communications Market"
- **Dr Anton Bartolo** Company Registrar Malta Financial Services Authority - "Role and Functions of the Company Registrar"
- **Mr Peter Calleya** Head Corporate Strategy and Research HSBC Bank (Malta) plc - "An Outlook for World Economies"
- **Mr Edwin Ward** Institute of Directors (Malta) - "Addressing Critical Business Needs Profitably"
- **Ms Claire Xuereb** General Manager The Victoria Hotel - "Project Management - not just building"
- **Mr John Muscat** Drago Group Director of Human Resource Island Hotels Group - "Human Resources Malta's greatest asset"

Annual Administrative and Secretarial Studies Conference held on the 20 March 2007

- **Dr Vanessa Borg** General Manager Research & Development Unit Corinthia Hotels International - "The Role of a PA in a modern dynamic office"
- **Mr Charles Mifsud** Director Corporate Services and **Ms Helga Mizzi** Counsellor Ministry of Foreign Affairs - "The Secretary's Role within a Diplomatic Mission"
- **Mr Franco Mizzi** Managing Director and **Mr Ray Azzopardi** Sales Representative Strand Electronics Ltd - "Office Equipment - a valuable second pair of hands to the Secretary". Includes a Demonstration of Office Equipment.
- **Mr Joe Meilak** Managing Director CSQM International Ltd - "Optimum Customer Service within an Office Environment"
- **Ms Beverly Cutajar** Human Resources & Administration Manager Malta Tourism Authority - "The Office Look and Groom"

Annual Marketing Studies Conference held on the 22 March 2007

- **Mr Gordon Grima** Baldacchino Sales Manager VJ Salamone Marketing - "Marketing within the fast moving consumer goods business"
- **Mr Martin Agius** Sales and Marketing Manager The General Soft Drinks Co Ltd - "Occasion Based Marketing as a necessary ingredient in an FMCG business operation"
- **Mr George Mifsud** MPS Marketing Communications - "Optimizing the media to market the message"
- **Mr Reuben Sciberras** PR & Communications Executive Malta Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise - "The Role of the PR & Communications Executive"
- **Ms Beverly Cutajar** Human Resources & Administration Manager Malta Tourism Authority - "Team Building - a key aspect in Marketing"

Annual Accountancy Conference held on the 13 April 2007

- **Mr Jeffrey Cusens** Assistant Manager Advisory Services PricewaterhouseCoopers - "Changes envisaged in the Accounting Systems in view of Euro Compatibility"
- **Mr Jonathan Dingli** Technical Officer The Malta Institute of Accountants - "Effective Accounting Audit Quality Systems... necessity or burden?"
- **Mr Michael Warrington** Financial Controller AX Holdings - "The Finance office - not just numbers"
- **Mr Alex Buttigieg** VAT Inspector VAT Department Ministry of Finance - "Accounting for VAT - some practical case studies"
- **Mr Hadrian Sammut** Managing Partner KPMG - "Enhancing IT services in Accountancy"
- **Ms AnneMarie Thake** Board Director Foundation for Human Resources Development - "Employment Law - an overview of rights and obligations"

The Institute conveys heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the many speakers who generously offer their time and availability to share with our students.



TOGETHER®

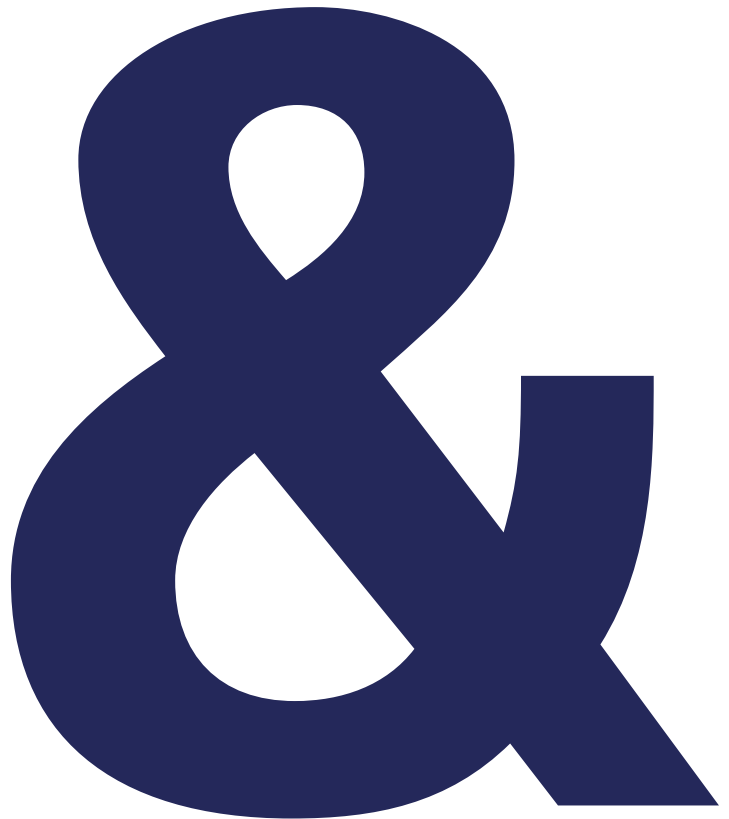
SINCE 1957

25 March 2007 marked the 50th anniversary from the signature of the Treaty of Rome which created our European family. To this effect a number of activities and initiatives were embarked upon all around Europe.

A number of students following the Intermediate Certificate in Business delivered presentations to other peers from various courses of studies. These presentations focussed on profiles of EU member countries.

Another successful initiative was a "Know EU Quiz" amongst students studying European Business Operations. The final session was held on Thursday 22 March 2007 under the esteemed patronage of Dr Julian Vassallo who is the Head of the European Parliament Office in Malta. The EP Office was very generous in donating book tokens to the two finalist teams as well as a number of interesting freebies to all students who attended the final quiz session.

The session started off in the presence of Mr Edwards, the College's Principal/CEO, as well as Mr Emmanuel Attard, the College's Chief Administration Officer. In his introduction, Dr Vassallo spoke about the role of the EP office in Malta as well as about the relevance and meaning of the 50th Anniversary being commemorated around Europe. This against a background of enhanced freedom and democracy, economic prosperity, peace and stability as well as jobs and growth



Facilitated by the European Business tutor, the quiz offered a number of tasking questions focussing on practical day-to-day issues related to the EU legislation and structures. Both teams were very well prepared and the session ended up in a tie, even after the supplementary questions were exhausted, bringing about the direct participation of Dr Vassallo who contributed to some questions in order to untie the situation.

Surely the success of this event is a guarantee for similar events and initiatives in the future.

IFS GRADUATION CEREMONY



Twenty nine students following the Diploma in Financial Services were presented with certificates during a Graduation Ceremony held on 8 March 2007 at Robert Sammut Hall.

THEMATIC TALKS



Throughout March, students from different programmes of study had the opportunity to participate in a number of technical talks regarding the Euro Changeover. Representatives from the NECC – who are striving hard towards a smooth currency changeover come 1st January 2008 - carried out presentations to students on the technical implications as related to their students. Certificate in Retailing students were exposed to the technicalities and outcomes of the FAIR initiative, this being in line with their studies within the retailing environment. On the other hand, students following the Diploma in Financial Services were exposed to other technical implications related to the monetary aspect of such a changeover.

Higher National Diploma and National Certificate in Business students have had the opportunity to participate in a number of thematic seminars related to different aspects of their studies. Mr Aris Cefai from The Westin Dragonara Resort carried out a very interesting seminar focusing on The Six Sigma Process. Ing Farrugia from the National Standards Authority facilitated a seminar on Quality mechanisms such as in ISOs. Students have also had the opportunity to enhance their knowledge further in as far as Intellectual Property and Copyright. This interesting subject, which triggered a number of informative aspects amongst students, was ably presented by Ms Michelle Bonello from the relevant authority within the Ministry for Competitiveness. Another informative session which was also attended by students following the Intermediate Certificate in Business, was the one facilitated by Mr John Mallia of Apex. In his very practical and captivating style, Mr Mallia passed on to students a lot of interesting information on the subject.

In direct relation to their BTEC assignments in one of the modules of study they follow, second year National Certificate in Business students had the opportunity to expose themselves to further knowledge regarding Human Resources procedures and Industrial Relations environment at HSBC (Malta) as well as through the eyes of the Malta Union of Bank Employees (MUBE)

On Woman's Day, students had the opportunity to participate in the sharing of experiences by one of the local female entrepreneurs who is also an active member within the National Council of Woman. Mrs Gaerty shared a very interesting and motivating experience which left a positive impact on those present for this encounter.

National Diploma in Applied Science students together with Diploma for Pharmacy Technicians students had the opportunity to participate in a thematic seminar on Health and Safety Procedures within the laboratory, with a special focus on the St Luke's Hospital Labs. This was diligently addressed by Mr Neville Debattista who is Principal Medical Laboratory Scientist.

This year happens to be the 200th anniversary of Garibaldi's birth. Garibaldi is considered as a hero of the Italian Risorgimento and one of the fathers of democracy in Italy. To this effect, students who study Italian at the Institute both at MATSEC level as well as Italian for Business, had the opportunity to follow a very interesting presentation about Garibaldi given by Dottressa Anna Porcheddu on behalf of the Istituto Culturale Italiano.

ON-SITE VISITS

Once again, this term has been a very busy period whereby students from different programmes of study had the opportunity to go to on-site visits related to their study content. Diploma in Financial Services students had the opportunity to visit the Central Bank of Malta and review closely the IT operations as taken up by this financial services institution. This visit was organised with special relation to the Managing Information module which is part of the students' studies. On a different occasion, the same group of students had the opportunity to visit the Malta Stock Exchange and to have a closer look at the financial transactions and operations which take place at this institution housed in the Garrison Chapel at Castille Square, Valletta.

In mid-March, Diploma in Insurance Studies students, had the opportunity to go for a very specific on-site visit. Thanks to Simonds Farsons Cisk plc, students had the opportunity to have a first hand opportunity to understand the practical elements regarding the implementation of right insurance policies within business organisations as well as to have an idea of how risk assessment is carried out in view of such insurance covers.

Diploma for Pharmacy Technicians students had the opportunity to go on-site their potential future place of work. The group visited St Luke's Labs and on a different occasion had the opportunity to visit Mater Dei Hospital – with a special interest being the pharmacy facilities which have been built at this new hospital.

Gutenberg Press hosted the Certificate in Marketing students for a very interesting and close look at the whole printing process from pre printing to post print. This provided students with a very practical dimension of their studies in the various subjects forming the Certificate programme.

The National Diploma in Applied Science students had the opportunity to go on-site various organisations related to their studies. These visits included Actavis, Heritage Malta Conservation Labs and Arrow Pharm. The outcome of each of these visits are clearly positive in that students have been able to widen their knowledge horizons with regards to Industrial Laboratories.

SEMINARS BY BANK OF VALLETTA

In enhancing the very fruitful collaboration with the Institute, Bank of Valletta offered students two opportunities for thematic seminars. The first was addressed to the Certificate in Administrative and Secretarial Studies students and dealt in detail with Banking Services to Business.

The second seminar facilitated by Bank of Valletta took place at the Bank's head office in Santa Venera, and dealt primarily with the Bank's IT operations. Besides being addressed by key BOV personnel in the area, Diploma in Financial Services students had the opportunity to have a close look at the actual IT services structures and call centre operations at the Bank's head office. The Bank's Multichannel Banking facilities were placed under focus as were IT based products and services offered by Bank of Valletta. Internet banking and related security maintenance issues were also dealt with during one of the seminar's presentations.

STRUMENTI



Comunio is currently busy finalising the work on their second CD Album of Christian Contemporary Music. This time round the CD album is themed "Strumenti" and focuses on the fact that we are all Instruments in the hands of our Creator. "Strumenti" was launched to the local Media at The Victoria Hotel on Wednesday 16 May 2007 with a Concert Launch being held on Saturday 19 May 2007.



LENTEN ACTIVITIES

In line with Comunio's mission statement, a period such as lent is a very hectic and busy one. In fact a number of events and initiatives were kicked off by "Katarsi": a prayer service held on Ash Wednesday whereby those present had the opportunity to participate directly through a number of symbolic gestures highlighting aspects of spiritual cleansing and a new beginning – which characterises Ash Wednesday.

A number of other initiatives were held all throughout Lent, including amongst others "Moments" – a prayer meeting in small groups, and "Monthly Top Up" – an Adoration of the Holy Eucharist as well as the opportunity for some personal private prayer and recollection in the presence of the Eucharist.

ReCharge has once again been the overall theme chosen for this year's Lenten Talks. These were held with the participation of various key speakers. Each session projected the message of spiritual recharge through different modes and media. A key element during this year's Lenten talks has been the availability of priests for confessions and spiritual counselling. Our Lady of Sorrows was commemorated through an active Celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Finally, Lenten activities were wound up with a special Day of Recollection held in one of Malta's most beautiful countryside wayside chapels dedicated to the Redeemer in Hal Ghaxaq. This event focused on the message of Holy Week and in fact took place at the beginning of this important week in the Catholic Church's calendar.

Through various initiatives, the day of recollection focused on the importance of the Eucharist and the meaning of Maundy Thursday's liturgy, an Adoration of the Cross, and the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. All present shared a lot of spiritual and communal vibe with each other. Before leaving, all were given a token as a tangible reminder of the event. Picking up on the task assigned by Fr Lino to everyone present – whereby he invited all present to dedicate a few minutes every day in silent staring at the Cross – the token took the form of a small wooden cross wrapped by a small banner on which the World Youth Day theme was printed.

In fact this was a miniature replica of a display set up in the Institute's Foyer in order to enhance the Lenten and Holy Week environment.



LIFE BLOCKS – WEEKEND LIVE IN

Organised for the first time by Comunio, the Life Blocks weekend held at the Paradise Bay Hotel between the 22 and the 24 March 2007, can be described as a very positive success especially when one considers its outcomes and the way the weekend's schedule unfolded. Besides different opportunities for those present to get together and socialise, the weekend included a DVD Forum, a number of practical exercises highlighting inter and intra personal skills, as well as moments of spiritual discovery. In fact, the weekend was one of the events Comunio organised as part of this year's World Youth Day for which Pope Benedict XVI chose the following theme:

**“Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another”
(Jn 13:34)**

Linked to World Youth Day 2007, Comunio published and distributed a set of five bookmarks. Besides the WYD 07 theme, the reverse of the bookmarks carried excerpts from Pope Benedict XVI's message to young people on this occasion.

SOIRÉE 2007

Students following courses at the Institute of Community Services organised an entertaining and creative Soirée on the 16 May 2007 at the Catholic Institute, Floriana. Below are some snippets of a memorable night:



Certificate in Hairdressing Group 1



Foundation Hairdressing Group 3



Foundation Care



Walter Anthony Farrugia and Darlene Marshall



Diploma in Hairdressing Group 1

Bernadette Riolo and Kevin Scicluna



'Festa' time

STUDENT AND PROFESSIONAL DANCER



Community Services student and professional dancer, Mandy Ghio has now ventured in a new dance discipline - wheelchair dancing.

About three years ago, Mandy was introduced to a totally new dancing discipline - wheelchair dancing, which was quite unknown in Malta. Her partner, who is a wheelchair user, uses a

special wheelchair to manoeuvre special dance routine. This kind of dance requires Mandy to dance along with her partner without getting in the way of the wheelchair. Mandy and her partner have been to several countries such as Slovakia, Germany and Holland to participate in international competitions and they always manage do very well.

ONGOING INSTITUTE DEVELOPMENT



The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering actively participates in the ongoing Leonardo da Vinci programmes. These programmes, specifically designed for vocational education and training, promote the mobility of students and helps lecturers in VET to further enhance their skills.

Donald Stevens participated in a course entitled 'Effective Professional Development' held in Lisbon, Portugal and Ronald Curmi participated in an In-Service Training course entitled 'E-Learning for Interactive Training: Methodologies, Tools and Best Practices' in Bari. The above-mentioned courses were

funded by the European Union under the Comenius programme. A substantial number of students were later involved in an exchange programme in Lyon and Dublin. In return, this year a large number of students from various countries under similar European Union programmes visited Malta to carry out the work placements in different companies.

All students were assigned work according to their specialisation. At that time a particular company was installing new machinery. Under the guidance of the company's management students participated in the installation work and

gained valuable experience. The company's management was so pleased with the work carried out that they asked for an extension. The excellent results obtained by the students' work placements enriched the company's link with the Institute.

The students and their lecturers were more than pleased with the work experience gained. This gave MCAST another opportunity to sell its high international standards to well-developed EU countries such as Belgium, Finland and France.

INDUSTRIAL LINKS

There are a large number of local companies which explicitly support the Institute in obtaining better results and taking full advantage of the apprenticeship schemes.

One company is Carlo Gavazzi Ltd. Following its recent expansion, this company worked closely with the Institute especially through its HR Manager, Elaine Bonello and Technical Manager, Roger Galea.

The students themselves respond well as through the practice at Carlo Gavazzi Ltd. they apply their knowledge through work in different areas – production, process, quality, technical support, testing, research and development. Through this internal mobility students have the possibility to gain experience and identify their abilities in different areas. Thus later this assists them to make the right choice for a career. Both parties gain from the

apprenticeship scheme. The combination of three days at the Institute and two days at the place of work fit well into the structure of the organization. The company sponsors on a regular basis several final year projects in which the students' success rate is very high. Students show their abilities by applying what they have learnt to a practical project. Most of the projects finish up in the production and laboratory areas. The Diploma itself is considered to be well geared for employment. The Institute has also been discussing other areas of studies. In fact, in the next apprenticeship intake the company is to consider other students coming from the BTEC National Diploma in Electrical and Electronics Engineering. This is to obtain a better mix of abilities that suit the company's needs. Carlo Gavazzi Ltd. is a growing company whose policy is to employ individuals in the area where they fit best.



UNIQUE RESULTS – TWO GOLD MEDALS

Trustin Cann Farrugia, a student following the City and Guilds 8030 Advanced Diploma in Electrical/Electronics Engineering, has for the second consecutive year been awarded the Gold Medal.

Obtaining Gold Medals for both the Diploma and Advanced Diploma is something that does not happen frequently. This clearly shows the quality and dedication of the staff involved and the commitment of the students.

Well done and keep up the good work.



NSTF – SCIENCE WEEK - 23 TO 29 APRIL 2007



The National Student Travel Foundation (NSTF) once again successfully organized the Science Week for students at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta. Recognising the importance of technical and scientific development on the economy, the Science Week was designed to cater for various levels of the curriculum and serves to boost interest in science.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering

was represented in the NSTF Science Week Competition by four students following the final year BTEC National Diploma in Electrical/Electronics Engineering. Considering the pressure students experience during such a critical academic period, one should appreciate the effort made to participate. Mr Brain Azzopardi, a lecturer at the same Institute, coordinated and gave full support to all students.

It seems that BTEC courses are making their mark as

well. Students displayed their IVA (Integrated Vocational Assignment) project. In a closing ceremony held on Sunday 29 April 2007 the winners of the competition were announced. Two of our students, namely Paul Chircop and Daniela Formosa, placed second and third respectively. Both students will be competing in an International Arena in Brussels between Wednesday 2 May and Sunday 6 May 2007. This is another opportunity to promote MCAST.



VISIT TO MATER DEI HOSPITAL

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering organized two visits to Mater Dei Hospital, on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 April 2007 respectively. This project, which is one of the largest construction sites in Europe, and by far the largest construction site in Malta, is surely of great interest to the public in general. Hence, the Institute ensured that such an opportunity should not be missed by staff and moreover by the students.

All those who attended these visits were welcomed at the entrance by the Engineers who are presently working at the hospital. The main objective was to expose students to high technological equipment, complex electrical installations, automation and other services employed.

The students had the opportunity to visit areas of interest that are directly related to their studies. They had time to ask questions and discuss the matters on the site itself.



GRIMALDI GROUP DONATES EUR 133,000 TO MCAST MARITIME INSTITUTE FOR SIMULATOR UPGRADE

Dott.E.Grimaldi presenting Dr.Louis Galea with the cheque for the simulator upgrade during the presentation ceremony held at Villa Portelli.



On Tuesday 27 March 2007, the MCAST Maritime Institute received a cheque of Eur 133,000 from Dott. Emanuele Grimaldi, Managing Director, Grimaldi Group Naples, for the upgrade of the Institute's Communications (GMDSS) simulator and Bridge simulator.

Over a year ago the MCAST Maritime Institute entered into a co-operation agreement with Malta Motorways of the Sea (a Grimaldi Group subsidiary) and through this agreement, Malta Motorways of the Sea has committed itself to support the training of Maritime Institute Officer Cadets in their process of becoming merchant marine officers.

Maltese Officer Cadets have also been offered opportunities to undertake their sea-time training on board vessels sailing under the flag of Malta

Motorways of the Sea and other companies of the Grimaldi Group. To date ten Maritime Institute Officer Cadets are undergoing or have completed training on board Grimaldi vessels.

It was through this close and positive relationship developed with the MCAST Maritime Institute that Malta Motorways of the Sea decided to sponsor the upgrading of a modern simulator to support the training of Malta's maritime human resources. The donation of Eur 133,000 was presented to the Acting Prime Minister and Education Minister Louis Galea on behalf of MCAST by Grimaldi Group Naples Managing Director, Dott. Emanuele Grimaldi who is also Chairman of the Malta Motorways of the Sea.

Simulation training is an essential part of Maritime Training especially as MCAST is to create training



Dott. E. Grimaldi and the Hon. Dr. Louis Galea, accompanied by Capt. R. Lanfranco, inspecting some of the Officer Cadets present on the "Upper Deck" at Villa Portelli. Looking on in the background are Mr. Frank Edwards, MCAST Principal, and Mr. Emanuel Attard, MCAST CAO, amongst other guests.



opportunities that will lead to employment within a European and international context. Simulation training is also an International Maritime Organisation (IMO) requirement for STCW (Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers) courses run by the Maritime Institute.

Education Minister Louis Galea thanked Dott. Grimaldi for his personal commitment towards the shipping sector in Malta and particularly for the interest shown in the MCAST Maritime Institute. Minister Galea said that the Maritime Institute has grown considerably and constantly over the past years with full-time students increasing from 9 in 2001 to over 60 this academic year. Part-time courses have also seen steady growth with student numbers growing from 600 in 2001 to over 1000 this scholastic year.





Maritime Institute full-time Staff and Officer Cadets pose for a group photo at the entrance of the Maritime Institute at Villa Portelli on 27th April 2007.

VARIOUS PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR MARITIME INSTITUTE OFFICER CADETS DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2007

Officer Cadets at the Maritime Institute had a very busy programme of events mainly centring on presentations, visits and other activities during the first quarter of 2007. On the 30 January 2007, Officer Cadets had a very interesting presentation on Waste Management by Medecology Ltd and a static display was set up at the Maritime Institute for around a week explaining the benefits of recycling material. This event coincided with the introduction of recycle bins at the Maritime Institute in the form of an awareness campaign.

On the 8 February 2007, Officer Cadets were given a very interesting talk by Dr. T. Gambin on the topic, "Protecting Malta's Underwater Cultural Heritage". This presentation was attended by a large number of Officer Cadets who were given information on the ways they could contribute to the protection of underwater cultural heritage especially whilst serving at sea.

Between the 10 and 11 February 2007, Maritime Institute Staff and Officer Cadets together with members of St. John Rescue Corps, supported the MCAST Marathon at Razzett tal-Hbiberija by providing rides for children (and adults alike) on the MCAST Fire Engine, in an effort to raise funds for charity.

The Officer Cadets were once again present during the MCAST Graduation on the 20 and 21 February 2007, where they assisted as ushers throughout the entire ceremony, ensuring that the event ran smoothly and according to schedule.

On the 9 March 2007, Officer Cadets from the first year (Phase I) presented the MCAST Principal, Mr. Frank Edwards with a printed compilation of Meteorology projects which they undertook during the first few months of the academic year under the supervision of their Meteorology tutor, Capt. Francis Gauci. The presentation ceremony took place at Villa Portelli.

On the 20 March 2007, Officer Cadets paid a visit to the MV Logos II berthed in Grand Harbour, where they also had the opportunity to purchase books on various interesting topics connected with their studies. The following day, Maritime Institute Officer Cadets actively took part during National Youth Day, where they put up their own display stand and participated in a multitude of sport events.

On the 29 March 2007, Officer Cadets were given a presentation on the benefits of membership in

OFFICER CADETS AT SEA

The following Officer Cadets were at sea on the following vessels during the period this article was written:

MSC Boston	Officer Cadet Emanuel Gatt
MV Grande Amburgo	Officer Cadet David Calleja
Maersk Dampar	Officer Cadet Matthew Vella
MSC Sarah	Officer Cadet Elenio Sciberras
MV Grande Bretagna	Cadet Steve Azzopardi
CMA CGM Sambhar	Officer Cadet Steve Gauci
MV Eurocargo Valencia	Officer Cadets Roderick Borg and Francesca Galea
MV Maersk Itaqui	Officer Cadet David Mercieca
CMA CGM Bellini	Officer Cadet Pauline Bonnici
HS Challenger	Officer Cadet Mark Mercieca
MV Grande Anversa	Officer Cadet Remy Van Rooy
MV Grande Ellade	Officer Cadet Gabriel Agius
MV Grande Scandinavia	Officer Cadet Jonathan Zahra
MV Norasia Freiburg	Officer Cadet Carmen Darmanin
MV Grande Detroit	Officer Cadet James Spiteri
MT Ramla Bay	Officer Cadet Julio Caruana

the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST). The presentation was given by Ms. Abi Virgee who came to Malta from London specifically for this presentation. The IMarEST is an international membership body and learned society for marine professionals, having 47 branches and 15,000 members in over 100 countries around the world. The role of the Institute is to promote the scientific development and interdisciplinary understanding of marine engineering, marine science and marine technology and to uphold and advance the knowledge and status of professionals across the international marine community.

Maritime Institute Officer Cadets were also represented at the ANZAC Day Remembrance Service on the 25 April 2007, where a number of Officer Cadets attended in full ceremonial dress to recall the supreme sacrifice given by members of the Armed Services and especially by members of the Merchant Navy. It was only fitting that the young Officer Cadets were present to show their respects for the multitude of seafarers who lost their lives during the two world wars.

On 26 April 2007, Officer Cadets from Phase I and Probationary Officer Cadets were given a very interesting tour of the Malta Freeport and the way in which Terminal Operations are carried out. The visit lasted a whole morning and students got their first glimpse of what container operations look like from the shore side.

Officer Cadets were once again invited to visit HMS Echo, the Royal Navy Hydrographic Vessel, on the 28 April 2007, whilst it was undergoing repairs at Malta Shipyards. The invitation was extended by the British High Commission in Malta and despite being a weekend, a good number of Officer Cadets were present for the visit.

BALSTA

(BRIDGING ACADEMICALLY LANGUAGE & SKILLS TRAINING AGENDAS)



Balista Group in Slovenia

A Comenius Project Meeting at Srednja Gostinska in Turisticna šola in Radovljica, Slovenia

BALSTA, an EU funded Comenius project, was officially launched in Malta in 2005. The aims of this project are to bring together the teaching of technical subjects and the promotion of the English language within various vocational areas; to develop new pedagogical tools that encourage content and language integrated learning, and to increase the employability of the students who will benefit from the result of this project.

The participating countries are Malta, Finland, France, Slovenia and Italy. The fourth meeting was held at Srednja Gostinska in Turisti na šola (Vocational College for Tourism and Catering) in Radovljica, Slovenia on the 26 March, 2007.

During this week-long meeting, the following topics were discussed:

- the methodology behind co-tutoring and co-planning lessons,
- guidelines on applying this methodology,
- the choice of the logo and layout of the manual to be produced.

The group also set the milestones that are to be reached by the group by the next project meeting in Italy. These included the dissemination of the methodology to teachers who are not directly participating in the project.

New teachers' exchanges are to take place at predetermined dates, where teachers from Slovenia will be going to Finland, Finnish teachers to Malta and Maltese teachers to France. The aim of these teachers' exchanges is for teachers to carry out mainly teaching duties in relation to the methodology being developed through this project.

A national evening at the school restaurant was organised. It was attended by the Maltese honorary consul Smilka Ksenija Klešnik, teachers from the Vocational School for Design, the Vocational School for Electronics, the Classical Gymnasium and Majster Janez from the traditional printing press respectively, complemented by some typical culinary delicacies and animation by the host country.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This article reflects the views of the author only, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained herein.

LENT EXPERIENCE 2007

For the third consecutive year students from the Institute of Mechanical Engineering participated in the 'Lent Experience'. Around 330 students did voluntary work at Id-Dar tal-Providenza, Ir-Razzett tal-Ħbiberija and St. Joseph Home in St. Venera. Students undertook general maintenance work at these three institutions as well as spent time with residents.

Below are some of the experiences of students who went to Ir-Razzett tal- Ħbiberija:

"My first impression of our job wasn't that good because we had to clean the horses' stables and I had never done anything like this. We took the horses out of their stables and while my friend Bjorn Delia groomed the horses one by one, Luke Borg and I started cleaning the stables. After we finished our jobs we were treated to a horse ride. For me this experience was great because I helped other people while having fun with my friends."

Alan Caruana

"My job was to remove glue from the gym floor. Although it wasn't a very enjoyable job to do, I felt good doing it because I knew that I was doing something to help others."

Jean Victor Cutajar

"Our experience was very good as we worked together as a group. We swept the pathways and open areas of Ir-Razzett tal-Ħbiberija. We had fun and with our little help we know we did something useful for the persons who make use of this place."

Bjorn Borg, Christian Schembri, and Christian Falzon

"My experience at Ir-Razzett tal-Ħbiberija was amazing. I was with one of my school mates, Matthew Cachia, and together we removed grass from the railway track. One of the helpers gave us some information about the facilities available and about the animals that one can find at the park. It felt good to be able to help others by doing something useful."

Jean Paul Zammit

WORK PLACEMENT AT GOLDEN HARVEST



"This has been a great opportunity for me I'm enjoying myself and learning new things in a work environment. Its great applying what we've learnt in the classroom at the place of work."

Vanessa Pisani

MCAST – BTEC National Diploma
in Mechatronics



"This work experience at Golden Harvest has been very beneficial and fruitful. I look forward to continue this apprenticeship. I would like to thank the staff at the Institute of Mechanical Engineering for this opportunity."

Christian Schembri

MCAST – BTEC National Diploma
in Mechatronics

LENTEN TALKS



The Lenten season was celebrated in both Gozo centres during the last week of March. It was celebrated with a difference. Instead of the usual traditional Lenten sermons delivered by the same speaker, different speakers were invited. On Monday Fr Frankie Cini MSSP spoke about the importance of trust in God in our life while on Tuesday Fr Martin Cilia MSSP spoke on the issue of letting God be in control of our life especially during the phase of adolescence.

On Wednesday, we had the honour of having his Lordship Mgr. Mario Grech, Bishop of Gozo, who had the time to debate with and answer questions which were asked by staff and students. This meeting was held at the Xaghra Centre, and a similar encounter was also held at the Xewkija Centre later in May. Thursday was reconciliation day and on Friday, feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, Mass was celebrated in both centres by the school chaplain, Fr Alfred Farrugia MSSP.

From the positive feedback that was registered, it was concluded that this programme was a very fruitful spiritual experience for the students as well as the staff.

TOUCHING THE REALITY OF MOUNT CARMEL HOSPITAL

A visit for the BTEC National Diploma in Care students to Mount Carmel Hospital was organized by Ms Victoria Said, Care lecturer at the Gozo Centre. At the beginning, the students felt a bit anxious and tense – they were uncertain as to what they would see. However, the two hours spent in this hospital completely changed the students' attitudes towards people with mental health problems. The group was welcomed by Ms. Miriam Agius, one of the social workers who work in this hospital. Ms. Miriam Agius gave a lecture about the different mental health conditions that exist, the treatment patients are given, the staff who works at this hospital, including careworkers, the mental health officers who also deal with suicidal cases, the different wards and sections in the hospital, and finally the need for society to accept these people. "One person from four can end up with a mental health problem - so it could be you or me anytime", Ms Agius said. Stress, pressure, crisis situations, family problems – all can lead to the development of mental health illness. Some people are able to tackle it by taking some medication, others need admission in hospital. The patients at Mount Carmel Hospital have mainly two types of needs – medical and social. Medical needs are catered for by psychiatrists who prescribe appropriate drugs. Social workers, psychologists and care workers help the patients to deal with their social problems such as those related to housing, employment, finance, family and friends. The students had the opportunity to visit the various wards where they met patients and talked to some of them. The group also visited the occupational therapy unit, the admissions ward, the male ward, the female ward and the chapel. An interesting section was the Mount Carmel Museum where the group could see the various equipment that was used in the past to cure people with mental health problems. The students were also informed that Mount Carmel Hospital has a ward which caters for young persons - children and adolescents.

The students realised that Mount Carmel Hospital represents a community. There are patients who have been living there for more than 30 years. Each year, a feast is organised and many other activities are held all year round. Above all, the students realised that residents at Mount Carmel Hospital are normal patients who often have to bear a stigma that society unjustly attributes to them.



A LIVE-IN EXPERIENCE FOR NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN CARE STUDENTS. THEME: SELF-AWARENESS AND TEAM BUILDING

A three-day live-in experience was organised for students following the BTEC National Diploma in Care at Dar Stella Maris (Retreat House run by the MSSP) in Zebbug, currently managed by Father Alfred, the Gozo Centre Chaplain.

This was a new experience for the students. All they were asked to bring were pens, markers, magazines, scissors, papers and obviously clothes for the three days. They were three very full days, which focused on issues of self-awareness and team building. The facilitator, Ms Victoria Said, did her best to provide the students with the best experience possible. The first few sessions focused on the students themselves – each individual's journey from childhood up till the present days. The atmosphere was one of mutual trust and respect and everyone felt they could speak openly. The mood turned quite emotional when some of the participants shared some sad and difficult experiences

they had been through. There were different emotions but all participants were empathic towards each other and this helped the group to feel more secure.

The sessions on team building were also very useful. Ms Said prepared and conducted exercises which helped to strengthen the group. These exercises focused on risk-taking, on giving appropriate feedback and on communication. The environment again was excellent – very tranquil, peaceful and relaxing. The students were divided in groups to prepare meals and this gave them the opportunity to talk with mates whom they never had the chance to speak in depth during class.

At first the participants thought that three days were too long and they risked getting bored. But time flew and the students enjoyed every minute of the live-in.

LIVE-IN WEEKEND FOR THE FOUNDATION AND FIRST DIPLOMA CARE STUDENTS IN COLLABORATION WITH OASI FOUNDATION

Between the 16 and the 18 March 2007, the OASI Foundation in collaboration with the MCAST Gozo Centre held a Live-In Weekend at San Antonio Mercure Hotel in Qawra for the First Diploma and Foundation in Care students. The person who took the initiative for this activity was Ms Maureen Buttigieg, a Care lecturer at the Gozo Centre. The main theme chosen for this Live-In was 'Alcohol in our Lives' and its aim was to educate students about the harmful effects of alcohol abuse on the person. The OASI staff conducted a number of

sessions on alcohol abuse as well as organized various entertainment activities for the students. On the last day of the Live-In, the sixteen students who participated in this activity also assisted to the testimony of an ex-alcoholic who shared his experience of alcohol abuse and the impact it left on his life. At the end of the Live-In, all students felt tired yet all felt very satisfied that they had attended. All claimed that it had been a very positive experience that they will remember for a long time.



PARTICIPATION IN A HEALTH AND SAFETY EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE GOZO COLLEGE

The MCAST Gozo Centre was invited to participate in a two-day Health and Safety exhibition organised by the Gozo College at the Gozo Sports Complex in Victoria. The exhibition involved all educational institutions in Gozo, from the primary to the post-secondary sector. MCAST exhibited an excellent stand highlighting important health and safety aspects at work, with special reference to electrical and mechanical work. The stand was set up by Mr Sammy Mifsud, Electrical Installation lecturer at the Gozo Centre. The Centre's contribution was highly praised.

LEVEL 1 AND 2 AWARD GIVING CEREMONY

An award giving ceremony was held at the MCAST Centre in Xaghra on 27 February 2007 for students who completed successfully level 1 and 2 courses at the two Gozo Centres. Seventy students were presented with awards in recognition of their efforts and success. These included 11 Foundation in Care students, 6 Certificate in Retailing Students, 13 Foundation Certificate course students, 16 BTEC First Diploma in Care Students, 20 BTEC First Diploma for ICT Practitioner students, 3 BTEC First Diploma in Construction students and 1 Certificate in Engineering Skills (CG 1155) student.

Present for the ceremony were the MCAST Principal and CEO, Mr Frank Edwards, MCAST Governor, Mr Frederick Fearn, the MCAST Chief Administration Officer, Mr Emanuel Attard, the Registrar, Mr Ray Farrugia, the Gozo Centre Manager, Mr Godwin Grech, and a number of

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN

Following the successful blood donation initiative undertaken during the Christmas period, in which 40 persons donated blood at the Gozo Blood Unit, another MCAST blood drive was held right before the Easter Holidays. This time a total of 21 persons participated.

This initiative was once again highly praised by the staff of the unit and the centre is determined to keep up these noble initiatives.

The blood donation campaign was organised by Mr Paul Camilleri and Mr Joseph Attard.

Institute Directors/Deputy Directors. In his speech, Mr Edwards congratulated the students on their success. Most of these students are still undertaking higher level programmes at MCAST. Mr Edwards urged them to keep up the effort for further success. The Principal also praised the students' parents, who often have a determining, though not so visible part, in their sons'/daughters' successes. He also thanked the lecturing staff and the Gozo Centre Management for their dedication and commitment.

It is to be noted that like last year, Gozitan students who successfully completed level 3 and level 4 courses at the Gozo Centre graduated with the rest of the MCAST students in the Graduation ceremony held on 1 and 2 March 2007.



VISIT TO MATER DEI HOSPITAL

On the 2 March 2007, a group of Electrical Installation students from the Gozo Centre visited the new Mater Dei Hospital. The students were first led to the main reception area and were greeted by Ing. Noel Psaila from the Foundation of Medical Services. The students were given a brief overview of the whole project and of the various sections and departments of the new hospital. Being electrical students, the visit mainly focused on the electrical aspect of the project. Thorough explanations were given to the students about the various types of circuits involved including power circuits, lighting circuits, emergency and security systems. After this technical introduction, the students, wearing their safety helmets, were led to a typical ward where they viewed the facilities for patients and the electrical distribution supplying a typical ward. Ing. Psaila explained the need for essential and non-essential circuits and the various safety measures in the event of a fire. The students were then led to view the air conditioning system where they observed the operation of chillers and the methods how air quality and temperature is controlled. This also included the use of the BMS system where from one central point the current consumption and air temperatures are controlled. Later on, the group visited the hospital's sub-station and the main distribution. The visit concluded with a walk round the whole hospital.

The students were accompanied by Mr. Sammy Mifsud and Mr. Joseph Gatt.



GOOD GIRLS TALK ABOUT SEX

Hi everyone,

My name is Elaine and I work at the Health Promotion Department mainly co-ordinating the area of sexual health. My article in this feature focuses on young women and sexual health and is based on examples of women I meet everyday during my job.

Anita* is a young woman of 25 with a history of 3 previous sexual relationships. She happened to go and do a smear-test only because her friend dragged her to the gynaecologist with her. The pap-smear result came back abnormal. Following further tests the gynaecologist confirmed it was HPV (Human Papilloma Virus), a virus which is often transmitted through close intimate contact. She later learnt that HPV is the leading cause of cervical cancer for many women, and that in Malta this cancer leads to a number of deaths each year.

Other women of various ages have had their opinions on sex etched in my memory: 'It's not something I can bring myself to ask – I know we both had partners before, but asking my boyfriend to wear a condom... that's something you can't feel proud of – you brag only if you've been laid, and not the other way around...' (female, 15). 'I have often thought of carrying a condom in my handbag, especially after I ended up having sex with my last boyfriend in such an unexpected manner - but carrying them (condoms) around with you, that's like saying you're looking for sex, when in reality I wouldn't be' (female, 21). 'I'm in no hurry to have sex, I haven't met that special someone yet. Some close friends understand my views but others just pass silly comments...' (female, 18). 'I always thought that as long as I don't get pregnant – then that's all that matters. Then I got Chlamydia, and it was like someone slapped me in the face!' (female, 20).

As these examples would suggest, many young women have very honest experiences surrounding sex and who we are as individuals; our beliefs, values, and wishes, all influence how we explore our sexuality. What is probably surprising is that even after generations of women fighting for our fundamental human rights, society still makes it difficult for women to stand for their values and not have sex or to carry a condom in one's handbag and demand its use from a male partner. Young women of the 21st century are in fact one of the groups most at risk of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. And if you thought this fact would spare our little island, think again.

'So what should we do?', I hear you say. Well, we can start by passing on the message that it is up to us women to reduce the risk in which we're living and it's up to us to recognise what is 'ok' for us to demand. Sex is neither a favour nor an obligation. We all have the right to initiate, refuse or stop sex, demand condom use, seek information and medical advice and get regular check-ups... unlike many women before us we now have options on how healthy we'd like our sexual life to be.

Women tend to talk to each other about sex and relationships. In cafeterias, via sms, or at each other's house... **we talk about sex but maybe not enough about every other issue that surrounds it.** Let's face the hard facts and recognise that risks are not only for the promiscuous but that they accompany every move in the dating/sexual game. **Don't smile to your friend if she said she had sex with a complete stranger because she was totally passed out from alcohol. Don't approve of a friend who says she had sex anyway even though they didn't have condoms with them. Support a friend who'd like to wait for someone who is truly worthy of herself before she engages in intercourse.**

Good girls talk about sex... about every aspect of it.

* Names have been changed to protect identities.

Do you have any comments about this article or need more information?
Contact: Elaine Dutton (Health Promotion Officer)
Tel. 2326 6121 or email sexualhealth@gov.mt

Start your Business



Have you thought of being your own boss?



Entrepreneurship

To find out what it takes to start and develop a business, kindly contact The Small Enterprise Directorate on the following:

Mr. Daniel Debono - Manager - Small Enterprise Directorate
Malta Enterprise, Industrial Estate,
San Gwann SGN 09 - Malta
Tel: 2542 0000, 2542 3439
Fax: 2542 3401
email: daniel.debono@maltaenterprise.com



Parliamentary Secretariat for
Small Business and the Self-Employed
Ministry for Competitiveness and Communications


MaltaEnterprise
Small Enterprise Directorate

SHOPPING & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE IN FGURA

Galleria

For reservations &
enquiries call 21808000
www.tal-lira.com

Come and watch

TAL LIRA

cinema

&

COFFEESHOP

on level 2



film for LM1 only!

Open
All Day!

other shops at the Galleria...

TAL LIRA
SUPERSTORE

jeje's
accessories

FOODSTORE
AND
COFFEESHOP

KIDS-UP
KIDS WEAR

CAPT. A. CARUANA
WINES, SPIRITS & TOBACCO

Monkey Mischief

JB
STORES

PUMA

BOOKENDS
Book Shop & Stationery

Flashblack

THE GALLERY
Handbag Footwear & Perfumery

Planet Fun



**A dull
experience,
or the most
exciting years
in your life?**

YES 4 Students

Whichever way you look at student life, we can help you achieve your goals with our YES 4 Students package. This specialised HSBC student account offers higher interest rates on your savings, an unsecured computer loan, free standing orders and other exclusive benefits aimed to give you as a student or graduate a head start and help you manage your money better.



Call 2380 2380
Click hsbc.com/mt
Come in to your local branch

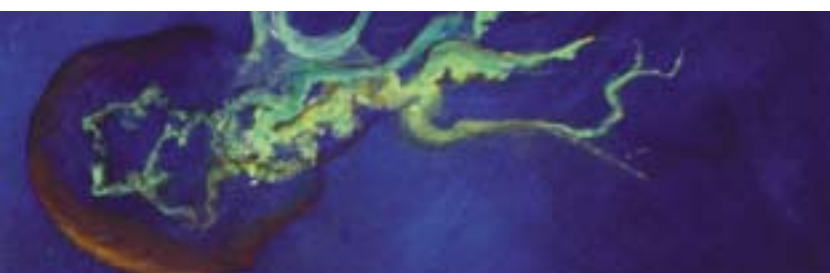
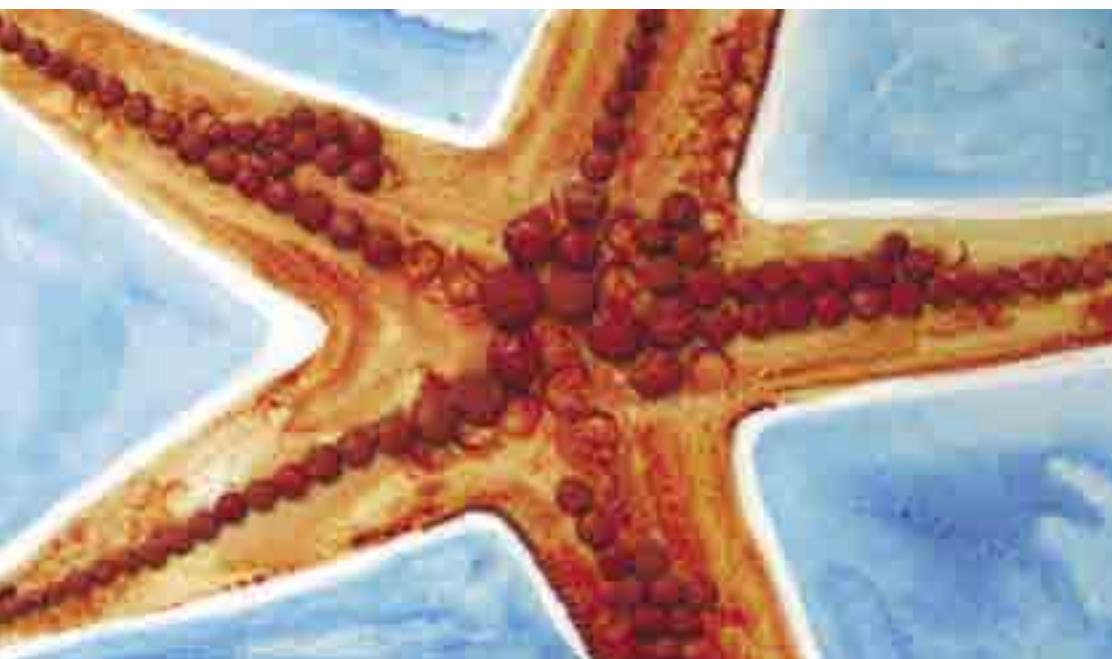


HSBC 
The world's local bank



On Wednesday 9 May 2007, MCAST and the Foundation for Medical Services signed the agreement pertaining to the Provision of Artworks for Mater Dei Hospital. The MCAST Institute of Art and Design was commissioned to produce 500 artistic works which will be permanently displayed in the wards of the new hospital in order to support the healing environment as well as brighten up and decorate the wards.

The artistic works will be placed in the wards of Block D of the new hospital. Themes have been set according to the various colour coding in place around the wards. The themes set are: Trees and plants to be placed in the Green Block, The Sea to be placed in the Blue Block, The Sky to be placed in the Yellow Block and Earth and Buildings to be placed in the Brown Block.



GRADUATION CEREMONY







LIVE LIFE THE BAY WAY

GRADUATION CEREMONY !!

During these last seven years MCAST has established a reputation for the variety and quality of its programmes. This success has had a direct consequence on the number of student applications received each year and has shown the College grow to over 4000 students. It is now envisaged that the number of students will continue to increase to over 6000 students in the next two years. One of the contributing factors to this success has been the foresight of the Board of Governors to increase the portfolio of programmes which it offers every year, but also to establish different levels to cater for the abilities of both low and high ability students.

This separation of programmes into levels has provided the student with a clear perspective of his level of attainment as well as a progression route to higher levels of study. Having been in existence for seven years means that we have had a number of students who have made it all the way from the Level 1 Foundation Stage programmes to the Level 4 Higher National Diplomas. MCAST has proved to them to be a College of opportunity and, like them, a beacon for those students who have finished their secondary education and are starting out on the first steps of a rewarding career.

The growth of the College and the considerable number of students who have successfully completed their studies this

year meant that MCAST had to hold five separate presentation ceremonies as no suitable venue could cater for the increase in numbers.

On 1st December 2006 the Level 1 presentation of certificates ceremony was held on the Main Campus and 315 successful students took part. This number was split between 189 male and 126 female candidates. The second and third presentation ceremonies were held on 19 and 20 February with 644 students participating. The female to male ratio on this occasion was 377 males to 267 females, which reflects a good percentage of female participants.

The peak of the celebrations was reached on 1 and 2 March 2007 when the level 3 and level 4 programme 407 male and 267 female, for a total of 674 students were presented with their diplomas. The Dolmen Hotel and Resort Centre proved to be an ideal venue as the students were called up by the Registrar and walked up to receive their awards from the Minister of Education, Youth and Employment, the President of the Board of Governors and the Principal. The whole Ceremony reached its peak when a number of students were called up to receive their Gold Medal awards to the admiration of all those present.

Institute of Information & Communication Technology

LEVEL 4 - MCAST-BTEC

Higher National Diploma in Computing (Software Development)

Amaira Emerson	Fenech Christian
Attard Felix John	Gauci Owen
Attard Kevin	Lupi Spencer James
Attard Ralph	Mercieca Clinton
Barbara Mark	Mercieca Eucharist
Bonnici Arielle	Micallef Bernard
Borg Christopher	Mizzi Marco
Carbonaro Claude	Mizzi Mark
Debono Pierre Paul	Pisani Anton
Farrugia Clayton	Rocco Luke

LEVEL 4 - MCAST-BTEC

Higher National Diploma in Computing (ICT Systems Support)

Attard Geoffrey	Schembri Kenny
Curmi Michelle	Schiavone David
Cuschieri Thomas	Scicluna Kenneth
Galea Christian	Seychell Jerome
Gatt Simon	Spiteri Alistair
Hughes Alfred Edward	Tanti Robert
Mifsud Nicholai	Xuereb Alicia
Sammut Steve	

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Diploma in Computing (Networking & ICT Support)

Abela Joseph	Da Silva Pace Douglas	Sant Samuel
Abela Medici Matthew	Degiorgio Andrea	Sapiano Malcolm
Agius Louis	Degiovanni Amanda	Scerri Emmanuel
Aquilina Daniel	Desira Darren	Schembri Jeffrey
Aquilina Iain	Esposito Roderick	Schembri Shawn
Attard Trevor	Farrugia Chris Bernard	Schembri Warren
Azzopardi Emanuel	Farrugia James	Scicluna Keith Martin
Baldacchino Aaron	Farrugia Johann	Scicluna Steven
Baldacchino Claudio	Felice Debbie	Spiteri Joseph
Balzan Matthew	Fenech Jesmond	Stafrace Karsten
Bonello Lucianne	Flores Christopher	Tabone Christopher
Borg Jonathan	Formosa Tiziana	Underwood Iommi Andreas
Borg Marcel	Galea Clint	Vassallo Darren
Brincat Bjorn	Galea Ryan	Vassallo Marlon
Bristow Xylon	Gatt Aidan	Vassallo Neil
Busuttill Matthew	Gatt Glenn	Vella Amy
Calleja John Joseph	Gatt Steven	Vella Jamie
Calleja Josmic	Grech Julian	West Neil
Camilleri Etienne	Micallef Matthew	Zammit Clint
Camilleri Nicholas	Micallef Robert	Zammit Mark
Caruana Neil	Mifsud Bonnici Dean	Borg William
Cassar Jonathan	Mintoff Shawn	Gatt Nicholas
Cassar Josef	Mizzi Christianne	Grima George
Cassar Roderick	Mugliette Josef	Grima Marie
Cauchi Kenneth	Pace Sharon	Micallef Donald
Ceci Miguel	Pace Stephen	
Chetcuti Clifton	Portelli Joseph	
Ciantar Ramon	Saliba Renard	
Cutajar Mark Anthony	Sammut Andrew	
	Sant Jonathan	

Institute of Information & Communication Technology con'td

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Diploma in Computing (Software Development)

Agius Charlton	Demicoli Christopher	Vella Clinton
Aquilina Jeanette	Ellul Crystal	Vella Daniel
Attard Claire	Fleri Soler Benjamin	Vella Larken
Barbaro Sant Patrick	Florian Kristian	Vella Margaret
Bonello Stephanie	Galea Nefretiri	Vella Maria
Bonnici Mark Anthony	Gauci Ritienne	Vella Robert
Borg Maria	Grima Emma	Vella Catalano Elaine
Borg Noel	Lautier Clayton	Anne
Borg Ron	Loporto Robert	Zammit Christian
Bugeja Alan	Magro Kristianne	Zammit Rene
Bugeja Michael	Mamo Maria Dolores	Zarb Alan
Buhagiar Keithrick	Mercieca Heather	Zarb Nicholas
Buttigieg Lara	Mifsud Jesmond	Zerafa Steven
Calleja Clayton	Mifsud Ryan	Cauchi Kevin
Camilleri Alison	Mizzi Roderick	Cini Kenneth Victor
Camilleri Christian	Oliva Clayton	Debattista Sandra
Camilleri Daryl	Pisani Graziella	Galea Romina
Camilleri Donnalisa	Portelli Matthew	Galea Vanessa
Camilleri Vladmir	Reale Amante	Grech Stephanie
Carabott Jonathan	Sammud Claude	Mintof Mark
Cassar Clayton	Scioritino Sefora	Mizzi Shaun
Cassar Keith	Seguna Gerson	Rapa John
Chetcuti Alison	Spiteri Adrian	Saliba Maximilian
Chircop Stefan Philip	Spiteri Graziella	Spiteri David
Ciantar Darren	Spiteri Matthew	Sultana Jessica Jane
Debattista Adrian	Vassallo Jonathan	
Debono John	Vassallo Terence	
Deguara Karl	Vella Adrian	

Institute of Art & Design

LEVEL 4 - MCAST-BTEC

Higher National Diploma in Spatial Design

Baldacchino Kerr	Galea Elisheba	Pace O Shea Neil
Aaron	Gravina Charlene	Seguna Amie
Borg Charlene	Micallef Marianne	Vella Croker Melanie
Cauchi Christopher	Montebello Noelene	Portelli Marie Denise

LEVEL 4 - MCAST-BTEC

Higher National Diploma in 3D Design

Camilleri Nicholai	Saliba Dorianne
Mamo Antoinette	Schembri Ryan
Mercieca Charlene	Vella Amadeo

LEVEL 4 - MCAST-BTEC

Higher National Certificate in 3D Design

Borg Vanessa

LEVEL 4 - MCAST-BTEC

Higher National Diploma in Graphic Design

Cachia Graziella	Galea Edouard R.
Camilleri Juliana	Mahoney Christopher
Cuschieri Ilona	Zahra Moira
Falzon Barthelet Matthew	

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Diploma in Design Crafts

Cassar Marilyn	Falzon Michael
Curmi Ruth	Galea Vanessa
Darmanin Alison	Muscat Liam
Debattista Stefan	Muscat Rachel
Falzon Jennings	Zachhau Jamie Carl

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Certificate in Design Crafts

Gauci Christopher

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Diploma in Foundation Studies in Art & Design

Azzopardi Bernardette	Grima Enrika
Borg Benjamin	Grima Graziella
Borg Ken	Mercieca Stefania
Buttigieg Keith	Micallef Nicola
Calleja Michael	Mifsud Patrick
Camenzuli James	Mizzi John
Camilleri Ritianne	Muscat Erica
Caruana Bianca Andrea	Muscat Sarah Lee
Caruana Ruben	Muscat Shawn
Cassar James	Pace Jeremy Oliver
Cauchi Francantonio	Pisani Victoria Maria
Coleiro Tatiana	Terpougoff Gabrielle
Coppini Nadya	Vassallo Eminyan Martina
Cutajar Yanov	Vella Elaine
Cutugno Anne	Vella Sharon
Galdes Giappone Juanita	Von Brockdorff Elisa
Gatt Roberta	Zammit Emily
Gatt Stacey	Zammit Neil
Grima Carla	

Institute of Mechanical Engineering

LEVEL 4 - City & Guilds 2565

Advanced Technician Diploma in Engineering - Manufacturing

Camilleri Josef	Ciantar Claudio
Casha Justin	Formosa Aaron
Cassar Alexander F.	

LEVEL 4 - City & Guilds 2565

Advanced Technician Diploma in Engineering - Plant Technology

Gatt Dennis	Garzia Steve
-------------	--------------

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Diploma in Manufacturing Engineering

Alamango Kyle	Dalli Johann Karl
Attard Louis	Imbroli Franco
Bugeja Wayne	Mugliett Grazio
Camilleri Terence	Sammuto Omar
Caruana Troy	Tanti Ryan Mark

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Diploma in Operations & Maintenance Engineering

Barbara Anthony	Farrugia Andre
Barbara Wildon	Mercieca Glenn
Borg Jonathan	Sultana Kristian
Calleja Justin	Vella Malcolm
Colombo Daphne	

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Certificate in Manufacturing Engineering

Bonello David	Mamo Sefton
---------------	-------------

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Certificate in Operations & Maintenance Engineering

Borg Clint	Fenech Frank
Borg Francis	Mifsud Daniel
Bugeja Christian	Overend Danilo
Busuttil Daniel	Pace Jean Paul
Camilleri Roderick	Polidano Ryan
Cassar Mariano	Zammit Daniel
Farrugia Adam	Zammit McKeon Ian Joseph

LEVEL 3 - City & Guilds 3905

Technician Diploma in Motor Vehicle System

Calleja Clinton	Schembri Mark
Micallef Daniel	Long Christopher
Saffrett Eldrich	

LEVEL 3 - City & Guilds 2565

Technician Diploma in Engineering - Manufacturing

Fenech Darren Joseph

LEVEL 3 - City & Guilds 2565

Technician Diploma in Engineering - Plant Technology

Grech Joseph

Institute of Agribusiness

LEVEL 3-MCAST-BTEC

National Diploma in Agriculture

Borg Cardona Matthew	Farrugia Silvan
Grima Matthew	Mifsud Daniel
Schembri Christian	Sammuto Adam
Sciberras Arnold	

CITY & GUILDS GOLD MEDALS FOR EXCELLENCE

Borg Godwin	Guillaumier Jean Paul
Desira Rosario	Pace Clint
Ebejer William	

Institute of Business & Commerce

LEVEL 4 - MCAST-BTEC

Higher National Diploma in Business

Bonavia Karen	Mallett Tano Sam
Bonello Rishi	Mallia Stephanie
Briffa Graziella	Stockley Marija
Bugeja Ian	Xerri Keegan
Camilleri Clint	Xuereb Charlene
Cachia Pablo	Zammit Gabriel Luke
Grech Gilbert	

LEVEL 4

Accounting Technician Certificate

Agius Maria	Mercieca Therese
Alamango Chantelle	Refalo Theresianne
Buttigieg Lynsey	Saliba Anna
Caruana Amanda	Savona Luke
Catania Erika	Scicluna Mandy
Farrugia Joleen	Spiteri Lucianne
Gauci Christopher	

LEVEL 4

Diploma in Insurance Studies

Agius Stephanie	Gatt Elaine
Bartolo Francesca	Magro Eleanor
Borg Janice	Pisani Kimberly
Buhagiar Brenda	Robertson Tara
Cassar Stephanie	Scalpello Monica
Fenech Pearl Ann	Vella Daniela
Galea Noel	

LEVEL 3

Diploma in Financial Services

Abela Amanda	Debattista Carl
Aquilina Jennifer	Debattista David
Axiao Amanda	Debono Kelly
Balzan Rachel	Farrugia Caroline
Bellizzi Jonathan	Galea Karl Stefan
Bezzina Ritianne	Gatt Stephanie
Bonnici Daniel	Gauci George
Bugeja Angie	Harvey Claire
Bugeja Jean Pierre	Horsewood Zoe Nicole
Caligari Angelica	Magro Roberta
Camilleri David	Mercieca Rodney
Camilleri Diane	Olivari D' Emanuele Manuela
Caruana Joanne	Pulis Kurt
Caruana Marilyn	Spiteri Clarisse
Castillo Amanda	

Institute of Business & Commerce con'td

LEVEL 3 - MCAST

Certificate in Administrative & Secretarial Studies

Abela Christina	Gauci Lizianne
Abela Robert	Grech Melanie
Aquilina Nikita	Grech Victoria
Balzan Charlene	Lanzon Kimberley
Boffa Martha	Magro Vanessa
Bondin Joe	Meilak Christine
Bongailas Silvana	Mifsud Melanie
Borg Mark	Mifsud Sabrina
Brincat Kathleen	Muscat Marlene
Bugeja Michelle	Ohayon Rebekah
Bugeja Svetlana	Pace Theresa
Buttigieg Estelle	Piccinino Lindsey
Buttigieg Ruth	Portelli Lynette
Calleja Tiziana	Piscopo Renabella
Camilleri Consuela	Ronayne Tiziana
Camilleri Martina	Sacco Roberta
Cappello Joanna	Saliba Elaine
Carabott Lucas Anthony	Saliba Maria
Carbonaro Maria	Sammur Nadine
Cassar Stacy	Sciortino Gwendoline
Ciantar Maria Ruth	Spiteri Marisabel
Cini Kellyann	Spiteri Sonia
Dalli Sarah	Theuma Dorianne
Dimech Michelle	Vassallo Lorraine
Dowling Joan	Vella Christine
Fenech Frances	Vella Nadia
Galea Roslyn	Zammit Elaine
Gatt Miriam	Zammit Irene
Gatt Vanessa	Micallef Mirabella

LEVEL 3 - MCAST

Certificate in Marketing Studies

Abela Lorraine	Meilak Bernard
Camilleri Wayne	Mifsud Matthew
Cassar Clint	Portelli Amanda
Ellul Matthew	Said Miriam
Falzon Luana	Saliba Marlene
Fenech Adami Sean	Zammit Jonathan
Livori Karen	Zammit Lynn
Medati Allen	

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Certificate in Business

Abela Philip	Debono Susan	Micallef Kurt
Agius Mandy	Demicoli Karl	Pace Sarah
Bianco Tennerly	Farrugia Marylise	Saliba Carl
Busuttill Diandra	Grima Jennifer	Vella Francesca
Cassar Samuel	Grixti Sharon	
Debattista Christopher	Micallef Andrea	

LEVEL 3

Matriculation Certificate

Abela Charlene	Falzon Daniela	Theuma Loredana
Abela Francesca	Falzon Rachel	Tonna Matthew
Attard Emily	Farrugia Mark	Trevisan Joanne
Borg Melissa	Halliday Jesmar	Zammit Rodienne
Buhagiar Amy	Micallef Sabrina	
Calleja Elaine	Tabone Shaun	

Institute of Building & Construction Engineering

LEVEL 4 - MCAST

Diploma in Quantity Surveying

Attard Ivan	Mangion Katia
Azzopardi Josef	Mizzi Stephania
Azzopardi Steve	Muscat Matthew
Cutajar David	Scerri James
DeBono Ernest	Scerri Pierre
Desira Jesmond	Scicluna Edison
Farrugia Christian	Zarb Malcolm
Galea Josef Charles	

LEVEL 3 - MCAST

Certificate in Draughtsmanship (Civil)

Agius Donovan	Mifsud Raquel
Attard Conrad	Mifsud Etienne
Block Clayton	Mizzi Noel
Briffa George	Rizzo Andrea
Bugeja Roberta	Saliba Clayton
Calleja Daniela	Scerri Jesper
Camilleri Roderick	Scerri Christian Paul
Cardona Clint	Soler Alex
Chetcuti Clint	Spiteri Amanda
Fenech Graziella	Torpiano Luana
Galea Darren	Vassallo Mario
Gatt Kevin	Vassallo Clinton
Mifsud Christian	Vella Clayton

LEVEL 3 - MCAST

Certificate in Draughtsmanship (Electrical)

Mallia Sinclair

LEVEL 3 - MCAST

Certificate in Draughtsmanship (Mechanical)

Attard Ryan	Grima Mark
Camilleri Fabian	Mizzi Michelle
Debono Ryan	Schembri Neil

LEVEL 3 - MCAST

Advanced Diploma in Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning

Attard Michael	Micallef Gary
Bartolo Alan	Scerri Mark
Dalli Stephen	

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Diploma in Construction

Buttigieg Ryan	Saliba Suzanne
----------------	----------------

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Diploma in Building Services Engineering

Galea Keith	Porter Michael
-------------	----------------

LEVEL 3 - MCAST

Technician Diploma in Masonry Heritage Skills

Axisa Elmar

Institute of Community Services

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Diploma in Early Years

Agius Dorianne	Ciappara Charlene	Pullicino Rachel
Azzopardi Claire	Cutajar Denise	Sammut Victoria
Baldacchino Tracy	Galea Maria	Vella Caroline
Balzan Isabella	Galea Ritianne	Zahra Graziella
Buhagiar Bernice	Gauci Graziella	
Cassar Stephanie	Mamo Amanda	

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Diploma in Health Studies

Azzopardi Janet	Camilleri Franky
Borg Francesca	Pace Marisa
Borg Laura	Pace Michelle
Borg Roderick	Zammit Joseph

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Diploma in Care

Cauchi Charlene	Sant Antonella
Fenech Christianne-Marie	Sant Josefa
Galea Svetlana	Scicluna Heather
Grech Caroline	Zammit Joanne
Le Prevost Annabelle	

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Diploma in Sport & Exercise Sciences

Azzopardi Donnaliza	Farrugia Marica	Scerri Jean Paul
Borg Spiteri Mark	Micallef Daniela	Spiteri Brenda
Debono Clayton	Sammut Sarah	

LEVEL 3 - ITEC

Diploma in Holistic Massage, Facial Electrical Treatments, Diet & Nutrition for Complementary Therapists

Bianco Charmaine	Gerada Amanda	Zahra Louanna
Buhagiar Pauline	Muscat Jana	Zammit Donna
Fabri Kimberly	Pace Ritianne	
Fava Justine	Spiteri Rhian	

Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineering

LEVEL 4 - City & Guilds 8030

Advanced Technician Diploma in Engineering

Portelli Charlie

LEVEL 4 - MCAST-BTEC

Higher National Certificate in Electrical/Electronics Engineering (Communications)

Cachia Redmir-Matthew	Spiteri Stephen
Desira Karl	Vella Amadeo
Portelli Andrew Anthony	

LEVEL 3 - MCAST

Diploma in Computer Engineering

Abela Doyle	Magro Christian	Spiteri Joseph k/a Joel
Cacciatolo Clint	Pace Kurt Joseph	Vella Sabrina
Ellul Mario	Palmieri Nicholas	Xuereb James
Grech Clint	Scicluna Matthew	

LEVEL 3 - MCAST

Diploma in Industrial Electronics

Abdilla Jean Carl	Cauchi Frans Josef	Micallef David
Agius Hubert-Ray	Ciantar Roderick	Pisani Daniel
Azzopardi Ephraim	Cilia Federico	Schembri Jonathan
Azzopardi Wayne	Debono Matthew	Sciberras Anthony
Bonnici David	Debono Neil	Tanti Christ Mario
Busuttill Karl-Michael	Faenza Mark	Vella Ian
Cachia Nicholas	Gatt Christopher	Zahra Mario
Calleja David	Grima Alexander	
Cassar Walter	Inguanez James	
Catania Marvic	Mangion Matthew	

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Diploma in Telecommunications

Abdilla Ronald	Mifsud Daniel
Borg Andrew	Portelli Brian Joe
Caruana Steve	Psaila Terence
Cassar Darren	

LEVEL 3 - City & Guilds 8030

Technician Diploma in Engineering

Grima Franklin

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC

National Diploma in Electrical/Electronics Engineering

Abela Roderick	Farrugia Matthew
Attard Arnold	Grech Edward
Bileci Franco	Muscat Matthew
Borg Jostin	Vella Jonathan
Farrugia Daniel	Zerafa Michael
Farrugia Glen	

CITY & GUILDS GOLD MEDALS FOR EXCELLENCE

Farrugia Cann Trustin	Sultana Jason
-----------------------	---------------



INTERNATIONAL OFFICE UPDATE

BY CLADONIA SCERRI, INTERNATIONAL OFFICER - STUDENT COUNCIL

“This is just the beginning..”

After being elected for the post of an International Officer for the first MCAST Student Council, I started to plan my agenda on what changes and what other things could be done in this sector. The top priority on my agenda was to organise a youth exchange at MCAST. But to do so one needs information, ideas and training. And that is why I was successfully chosen to go to Antalya, Turkey in February 2007, to participate in a BiTriMulti Training Course. This training course was mainly intended to encourage and inform young people on how to organise youth exchanges within the Youth in Action Programme, which is what I wanted. During the training seminar, I learned about the YiA (Youth in Action) programme, what are the possible ways of youth exchanges, how to find partners, what are the advantages of organising youth exchanges,

what ‘European citizenship’ means, how to include and work with disadvantaged youths, and how to organise activities such as intercultural nights, ice breakers and energiser games. During the training I got all the necessary information to start planning for a youth exchange in Malta. After coming back, other council members and I came up with an idea for a youth exchange in Malta. This youth exchange will be held in Malta, and we will be hosting a group from Germany, Poland and Greece.

For more information about the YiA (Youth in Action) Programmes, one can log on to www.youthmalta.org

NATIONAL YOUTH DAY @MCAST

BY LUKE CASSAR, SECRETARY GENERAL

National Youth Day is a very important day in the MCAST students' calendar as it helps us communicate our mission of being the voice of the student body. This year the MCAST Student Council, the National Youth Information Centre and Sedqa joined forces to organise a series of activities that were held on Wednesday 21 March 2007 (National Youth Day). The events took place at MCAST Main Campus, Paola between 1000 hrs and 1400hrs.

All students from the nine Institutes joined together to exhibit their work, exchange ideas and bridge the different student initiatives in a pro-life environment. On this day MCAST students not only had the opportunity to demonstrate their potential but also to contribute to the creation of a positive ethos and public perception of the College. Moreover MCAST students actively participated and shared their wealth of experience with other students whilst learning about the possibilities society offers them. Several organisations namely ETC, Solv-it, Malta dev, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment (Youth Section), the National Youth Agency's Youth In Action and the Health Promotion Department set up information stands along with others set up by the MCAST students themselves.

From the early hours of the day students started coming at the Main Campus to set up their work in the stands allocated to them, whilst others took part in

other activities. More than 150 students participated on the day in the various events and activities. The activities included: a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, a Street Soccer Tournament and Break-dancing displays, and a demonstration from the St. John Rescue Corps and LOGOS II. The area which is at the heart of the Main Campus was set up to look like a village with white gazebos all around, where all Institutes and organisations had an allocated area to set up and exhibit their work.

The theme for this year was "All different - All equal". This is the theme for the European Youth Campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation. The "All different, All equal: Be the change you want to see" is one of the founding principles of the European Union and fits in quite naturally with the MCAST Student Council values. MCAST students also participated in a youth debate. The theme of the youth debate was "Fighting Racism, Favouring Diversity". The panel also included Mr. Paul A. Attard, President of MCAST Board of Governors, Mr. Frank Edwards, Principal and CEO, and the USA Ambassador, H.E. Ms Molly Bordonaro.

The MCAST Student Council wishes to thank HSBC, Maltacom Group, Apple IMC, NSTS and Bookmark. The National Youth Day would not have been a success if not for the support and collaboration of all MCAST Institutes and student organisations.



H.E. Ms Molly Bordonaro



TEA AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY

BY CLADONIA SCERRI



Following the visit of Her Excellency Ms. Molly Bordonaro, American Ambassador in Malta, on National Youth Day 2007 at MCAST, the MCAST Student Council was once again invited to attend a meeting with other Maltese University students and American students in Malta to discuss various topics concerning youth.

On this occasion Ms. Bordonaro invited all the students to her private residence in Attard for tea. The main topics that came up during this informal meeting were diversity, xenophobia and the perception of European students about the United States.

As MCAST students we stressed on the need to have youth exchanges with other Colleges like MCAST in the United States, in the light of their vast technological capabilities. We also stressed the need for more active collaboration with the American Embassy in Malta.



HIP HOP AT MCAST

BY CLADONIA SCERRI, INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

I will never listen to a hip-hop song and think of it as I used to. Not anymore. On the 20 April 2007, Ms Myra Michele Brown, Regional Officer for the American Embassy in Rome, delivered a talk on hip-hop music, and I must admit I was simply amazed. Ms Brown explained the history of hip-hop dating back to the 1970s in the heart of Bronx, New York City. During the interactive presentation, Ms

Brown gave out historical facts on what was going on at that time, information about the artists and some music samples to get us in the hip-hop mood. Apart from all this, the students present discussed hip-hop music and even hip-hop dancing, which made the presentation even more interactive and interesting to listen to, thanks to hip-hop music.



A DAY TO REMEMBER

BY JULIAN PORTELLI, MCAST SC PRO

An important element of the National Youth Day's success is active youth participation. In this regard Sedqa, in collaboration with the National Youth Information Centre and the MCAST Student Council, presented a certificate of participation to all the MCAST students who actively participated in the National Youth Day. The Awarding Ceremony was held on 25 April 2007 in the recently completed gym on the Main Campus. The event proved to be a joyous occasion for students to share their memories and experiences with MCAST Principal and CEO, Mr. Frank Edwards, and MCAST Chief Administration Officer, Mr. Emanuel Attard.



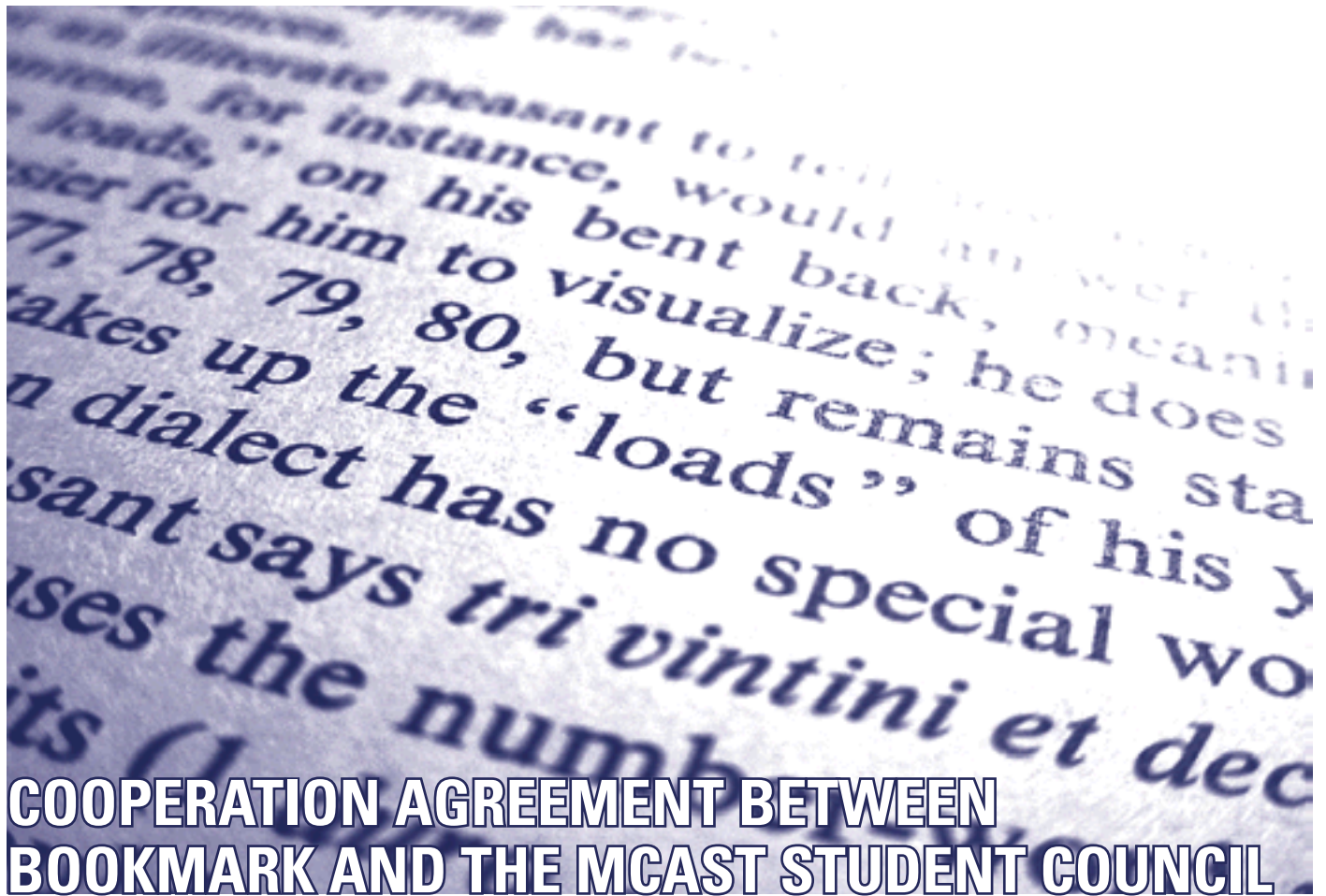
LOGOS II VISIT



On the 20 March 2007, the MCAST Student Council in collaboration with Sedqa organised a visit to the Logos II. The Logos II is an international book ship that travels around the world to sell books. During this visit the ship's crew organised a presentation on how one can believe in himself and in God.

The Logos II is run by volunteers from forty different countries. The main goal of the Logos II is to visit port cities throughout the world, supplying vital literature resources, encouraging intercultural understanding, training young people for more effective lifestyles, promoting greater global awareness, providing practical aid and sharing a message of hope wherever there is opportunity.

Bookmark



COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOOKMARK AND THE MCAST STUDENT COUNCIL

The MCAST Student Council is proud to announce the formation of a cooperation agreement between Bookmark and the MCAST Student Council. This cooperation is set to enhance the variety of services Bookmark offers to students attending the MCAST.

"We have always believed in the potential and positive energy of students. Meeting the executives of the Student Council, them outlining the purpose, goals and plans of the Council, has strengthened our belief.

The Council has a very clear objective to represent all MCAST students in all that concerns them, both on a national and international level, and also to promote educational, personal, social and cultural awareness. When one considers the diverse needs of MCAST students attending the different vocational education levels, we have no doubt that the Council will prove to be an important tool for a healthy MCAST student community.

Bookmark's objective has always been that of giving a good service to all MCAST students at the best possible price on the island. Students have the facility of printing their notes and assignments and are also supplied with the latest editions of textbooks and stationery. We have also launched a "print on demand" service wherein students can print from the comfort of their homes through our website.....a new concept in Malta which is proving to be very popular.

We have no doubt that the MCAST Student Council will prove to be beneficial to all MCAST students and this is why Bookmark has supported it from the very beginning and will remain a supportive partner on such a positive initiative in the coming years."

MALTACOM GROUP SUPPORTS MCAST STUDENT COUNCIL



As part of its ongoing strategy aimed at enhancing educational development in the local community, Maltacom is now supporting the newly set up Student Council of the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST). As a result of the initiative, Maltacom is teaming up with the Council to develop holistic growth as well as vocational skills and knowledge on the part of students by assisting them to reach their individual learning goals during their course of studies.

The Maltacom Group has always enjoyed a healthy and proactive relationship with MCAST. Besides sponsoring familiarisation visits for I.T. Diploma students, the company takes on a number of MCAST students as part of the summer worker scheme. Furthermore, Maltacom currently sponsors eleven students through a three-year course of studies under the Technical Apprenticeship Scheme. Meanwhile the Maltacom Group has always availed itself of MCAST professional training services in various skills including call centre functions for potential Dial It employees, customer care courses for broadband employees, business English and Maltese as well as finance for non-finance people.

"Maltacom is proud to be on the forefront in teaming up with the local education and vocational training institutions for the benefit of young people who are tomorrow's workforce.

We consider this as part of our responsibility to the local community," said Franco Aloisio, Maltacom Group's Head Communications and Public Affairs.

"We are delighted to have this unique opportunity to support the learning experience offered to students attending courses at MCAST. Maltacom is proud to be among the first companies to support the sterling work being undertaken by the MCAST Student Council towards improving student life and promoting the further development of a knowledge society." he added.

Mr Aloisio presented Cladonia Scerri, MCAST Student Council's International Secretary, with a sponsorship cheque. Ms Scerri thanked Maltacom for its ongoing support and for opting to help the student council continue its sterling work for the benefit of students attending courses at the various institutions.

"Thanks to Maltacom's sponsorship, the Student Council will be in a better position to improve communication with the students themselves and ensure that their course of studies gives them adequate skills to face up to the challenges they will encounter in the workplace," said Cladonia Scerri.



Giovanni Galea (far left) with some of the youth exchange participants

UNFORGETTABLE

BY GIOVANNI GALEA, CULTURAL & LEISURE COORDINATOR

'Tikber u Tinsa' is a Maltese saying that translates in English as 'Growing Up, One Forgets'. Definitely this is not the case in my last experience, attending a non-formal education training course, in a little village Mikuszew, in Poland.

It was a challenge travelling across Europe and spending one week with people from a different culture in a totally new place. My philosophy is to surpass all of my fears and so with some efforts I rose to this challenge, and experienced one of the most incredible events of my life.

The aims of the course were firstly to promote social awareness within the YOUTH in ACTION programme and secondly to develop the competencies of youth workers for working with disadvantaged young people in the social field using the cultural animation as a tool. Hence the name of the course being "Culture animation in social inclusion projects - how to organise an effective exchange programme with disadvantaged youth".

The course in Mikuszew was based on non-formal education, so our active participation was essential. Not only did we learn how to use management skills and animation as a tool for social inclusion, but we really enjoyed it as well! It was fun when our leaders prepared a simulation for us as if we were living in a town.

Another major aim of the course was to educate and provide us with ideas regarding structuring and conducting a youth exchange with youths with fewer opportunities in a local background. This experience motivated us to develop such a training course in Malta and hopefully, in the coming months together as part of the MCAST Student Council, we will implement ideas in a youth exchange organized in Malta focused on substance abuse as the main topic.

I would like to thank David Schembri from YEU, Robert Cassar from the NYIC and my colleagues of the MCAST Student Council for all their support and inspiration.

Go beyond Vista. It's time to get a Mac.

Skip the hassles and choose the ultimate PC Upgrade.

iMac



Where did the computer go? iMac conceals everything you need — processor, drives, and more — behind the gorgeous widescreen display.

- 17-, 20-, or 24-inch display
- Intel Core 2 Duo processor
- Built-in iSight camera
- Slim, all-in-one design

PRICES FROM Lm485

Mac mini



The complete Mac experience packed into a 6.5-inch square, 2-inch tall computer that fits almost anywhere.

- Intel Core Duo processor
- Bring your own display, keyboard, and mouse
- Front Row and Apple Remote

PRICES FROM Lm295

MacBook



Presenting the superfast, blogging, podcasting, video chatting, do-everything-out-of-the-box notebook for home, school, and everywhere in between.

- 13-inch display 13-inch display
- Intel Core 2 Duo processor
- Built-in iSight camera
- Durable polycarbonate case

PRICES FROM Lm330

MacBook Pro



Meet the most powerful, slimmest Mac notebook ever, featuring everything you need to take your creativity on the road.

- 15- or 17-inch display
- Intel Core 2 Duo processor
- Built-in iSight camera
- Lightweight aluminum case

PRICES FROM Lm900

Why upgrade to Vista when you can upgrade past it?

Instead of installation nightmares and other hassles, you'll get a gorgeous Mac with the latest Intel chips, bundled software that you'll actually use, and an operating system that's still years ahead.

So choose the easiest upgrade path and get a Mac. It's simpler, more secure, and a lot more fun.

For more information and a demonstration, please get in touch, we'd be happy to advise you on your purchase.



SG Solutions Ltd, Gasan Centre, Mriehel By-Pass, Mriehel BKR 14
Tel: 21442123 Email: Iwant1@sgsolutions.com.mt



WHAT IS THE GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING SERVICE?



Deirdre Hughes, Director, Centre for Guidance Studies University of Derby, in his paper "Career Guidance issues: A Practical Approach" (2005) gives two important definitions:

"Careers Education helps young people develop the knowledge and skills they need to make successful choices, manage transitions in learning and move into work."

"Career Guidance enables young people to use the knowledge and skills they develop to make decisions about learning and work that are right for them."

Young people should be able to:

- Understand themselves and the influences on them.
- Investigate opportunities in learning and work.
- Make and adjust plans to manage change and transition.

To achieve this vision and to contribute to the acquisition of career development skills in our youth, MCAST Counselling Team works on a list of activities, all providing formal or informal pastoral support. The Team also encourages both MCAST and prospective students to engage into self-directed information seeking exercises.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Students from Junior Lyceums and Secondary Schools are keen to visit MCAST workshops and ICT labs. Students from Liceo Vassalli Handaq, F.X. Attard Marsa, Antonio Bosio Gzira and Furtu Selvatico Naxxar came over to the main campus this semester. They could see for themselves what goes on and what will be expected of them if they take up a course at MCAST. They took the opportunity to ask questions to both lecturing staff / technicians in workshops as well as to students who were their ex school mates in previous years.

On the 26 March 2007, the Guidance and Counselling Team also represented MCAST at De La Salle College. This College also believes that getting together a large number of different

organisations, with different career opportunities, is important both to Fourth Formers in planning their future career paths and to students who are about to choose their subjects for specialisation in the upper forms.

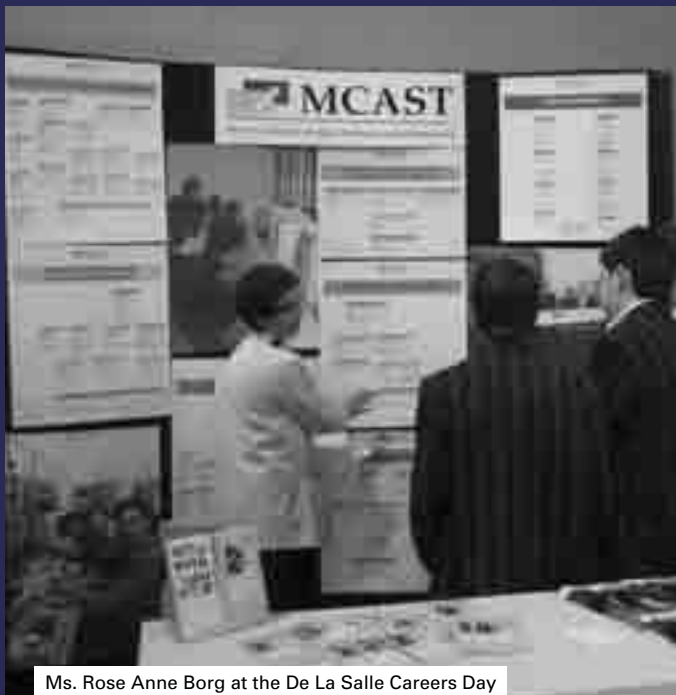
For a whole morning, the De La Salle College Gym was converted into a hub of activity and students asked questions to personnel in each and every stand. MCAST stand presented flow charts showing all the courses in each and every Institute. Pictures of students at work in workshops, salons and laboratories attracted students to ask more questions. Copies of MCASTlink, MCAST Prospectus and contact detail leaflets were available to all visitors during Careers' Day at De La Salle College.

MCAST STUDENTS

With these principles in mind, on the 27 and 28 February 2007, at the Library and Learning Resource Centre, the Armed Forces of Malta gave presentations to MCAST students during their one hour mid-day break. Power point presentations outlined possible AFM careers, further opportunities of such careers, and what qualifications are needed for each category. An outline of the historical development of AFM was presented and details of the Technical Section were explained. As expected, a number of students asked several questions on careers in the Mechanical, the Electrical and Electronic and the Welding fields. These presentations were followed by an exhibition. A few drills, actions taken and interventions used in emergencies were demonstrated.



AFM Presentation at MCAST



Ms. Rose Anne Borg at the De La Salle Careers Day



UNDERSTANDING COUNSELLING

The expansion of sixteen plus education requires the setting of 'A Professional System of Support'. Professionalism needs to be communicated and demonstrated in various ways. The emphasis must be on the service and not on the individual/s offering the service.

May (1999) notes that counselling in an educational context is not central to the educational task, but complements and facilitates it. In a sixteen plus educational institution, the counselling service is an integral part of the student support, resourced by the institution to help students overcome psychological and emotional problems in order that they can complete their studies.

Counselling is and must be a voluntary activity and the autonomy of the client must be protected. (Bell 1997; Bond 1992)

The roles and responsibilities of counsellors can fall into three main areas:

- Working with students
- Managing the service
- Working with staff within the institution.

Working in an organizational context is a 'distinctive experience' (Butler, 1999), which opens up opportunities as well as tensions. If the counsellor is to work effectively, an understanding of organizational dynamics is essential. At times there is conflict because of different values, goals and ethos of the organization and those of the counselling service. The lack of understanding of the ethical position of counselling and the interface between the service and the institution may also create tensions around boundaries and expectations.

The experience of lone counsellors, or a small team, raises concerns about support, case load and social relationships. It is not satisfying for counsellor or client to just scrape the surface of a problem. Simpson (2002) recognizes the crucial need for external support and networking with other counsellors when working as a lone counsellor, or a small team, in an educational setting.

Confidentiality potentially poses the greatest area of difficulty. Davis (2000) suggests that the boundary issues around confidentiality fall into five groups:

- Consultation and referral
- Breaking confidentiality
- Disruptive students
- Call for help at times of crises
- Holding confidentiality both inside and outside the room.

Bell (2000) recognizes that the counsellor's commitment to confidentiality may be seen as an unhelpful attitude in an institution which looks to share information about a student's progress. Maintaining confidentiality, given the involvement in the institution, is a challenge and can cause tensions that can be grouped under two main themes:

- The expectations perceived to be held by the institution about counselling

- Holding the boundaries of counselling particularly with regard to referral and feedback.

A common assumption is that if a student receives counselling s/he will be enabled to stay on their course and complete their studies. This can be difficult for the service. What if the student, despite having counselling, does not 'improve' and begin to cope more effectively with College demands? There is a risk of being seen to fail to achieve the outcome desired by the institution, even if counselling provides the client with the space to make a decision, which might be to leave. From the point of view of the client, it is a satisfactory outcome; for the institution it is not. It raises questions for the counsellor such as 'what is a successful outcome in counselling?' and 'do the needs of the institution or those of the client take priority?' This again highlights the 'facing two way' conflict.

Moving out of the counselling room, from being 'on the periphery' to being more integrated through a wider involvement in the College is a positive and significant move in many ways. This involvement would help in putting on a 'human face' and establishing relationships with other members of the institutions, whether through one to one consultation, through membership of committees or through staff workshops. However this may create difficulties regarding boundaries. Tensions can be created by the need to keep secrets but at the same time be seen as open and that of holding boundaries while communicating with staff.

Keeping secrets is an integral part of the counselling process, but for other colleagues, this can be difficult to deal with. There is the idea that the counsellor's work is 'all to do with emotional stuff which colleagues don't want to know about', but academic staff would be anxious to know how best to help students. Furthermore, they may also have concerns about what has been revealed to the counsellor about them. Counsellors would not like to appear to be unhelpful, but there is a limit to what one can reveal.

Thus, the role, function and influence of counsellors stretches far beyond psychotherapeutic practice. The students' needs and well-being are at the core of the counselling service. Clients are always respected, supported and given serious attention. Colleagues' understanding of the counsellors' role and duties would help in avoiding conflicts and extra tensions. This requires serious attention because finally it would contribute to a better service for those who seek counselling support.

Reference: British Journal of Guidance and Counselling (2004) Vol. 32, No. 4

Hewitt Elizabeth & Wheeler Sue: Counselling in Higher education: the experience of lone counsellors

KLABBSAJF 2007

Give us a helping hand...
become a volunteer!



- Are you motivated, hard working and enjoy being with children?
- Would you like to do voluntary work with children in Cottonera during this summer?
- Are you creative, love sports, crafts or have other skills that are useful for this project?

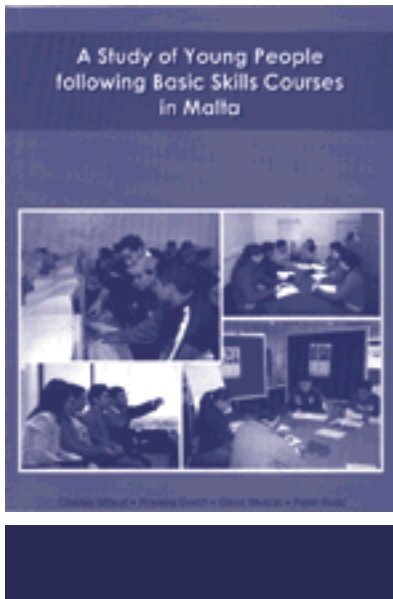
Then contact Bernice Farrugia on **2398 5116** or send us an email on **bernice.farrugia@gov.mt** for more information on how you can make a difference in this project!



APPOĠĠ

Għat-Tfal, Familji, u l-Komunità

"Klabbsajf gives an opportunity to children to involve themselves in various activities during the summer holidays where we create a stimulating environment to help them develop their creativity. The project takes place in Cospicua and the volunteers are given the necessary training."



YOUNG PEOPLE FOLLOWING BASIC SKILLS COURSES AT MCAST

The Department of Further Studies and Adult Education of the Education Division has recently launched the publication: *A Study of Young People following Basic Skills Courses in Malta* (ISBN-13: 978-99909-74-31-7/ 10: 99909-74-31-4). The co-authors are Professor Charles Mifsud, (Director, Centre for Research and Developmental Literacy, University of Malta), Rowena Grech, (Research Officer, Centre for Research and Developmental Literacy, University of Malta), David Muscat (MCAST Basic Skills Co-ordinator) and Dr. Peter Rudd (Principal Research Officer, NFER, U.K.). The book was launched under the auspices of the Minister of Education, Dr Louis Galea who wrote the foreword. Mr Paul A. Attard, MCAST President of the Board of the Governors, Mr Frank Edwards, MCAST CEO, and Ms Joyce Shepherd-Thorn, Director MCAST Information and Student Services, were present for the launch and participated in the discussion that followed.

Dr Sarah Golden of the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) of the UK and a well-know researcher in the area of social inclusion referred to this publication as follows: "In the contexts of lifelong learning and inclusion now evident across Europe and beyond, it is vital that education systems should successfully engage those 16 to 18 year-olds whose previous experiences of education may have been negative in order to equip them with the basic skills and life skills necessary to play a more positive part in employment and society generally. Professor Charles Mifsud and his team have drawn upon both the existing literature in this area and on new data collected from face-to-face interviews with a sample of young people taking basic skills courses in Malta, to provide some useful and practical insights into how this issue can be addressed. This book is essential reading for all those who wish to improve the educational experiences and life chances of this group of young of people"

Forty-five MCAST students who followed basic skills courses at MCAST in 2005-2006 participated in this research study. The key findings of the study were:

- a) Some young people who fail in the primary school fail also in the secondary school and do not obtain the necessary qualifications to proceed directly to post-secondary education.
- b) Family background plays a very important role in a child's education. Young people who lack basic skills often come from families with parents who have a low level of education and are in skilled or semi-skilled manual employment.
- c) Bullying and bad behaviour contribute towards a negative compulsory education experience.
- d) Some young people who were satisfied with their compulsory education experience were still lacking basic skills.
- e) Some young people, including MCAST Foundation students, have problems with functional basic skills, for instance reading printed mail, filling in job applications, sorting out bills and calculating change when shopping.

According to this study, most of the young people who followed basic skills courses at MCAST were pleased with the way they were being taught. They felt as if they were starting schooling all over again and they appreciated the fact that BSU tutors explain slowly, do their utmost to help them and give them individual attention in small groups.

TEACHERS FROM ST BENEDICT COLLEGE VISIT THE BASIC SKILLS LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

During the months of April and May 2007, Mr George Micallef, Assistant Head and ten teachers from St Benedict College visited the Basic Skills Learning Support Centre on several occasions. In the initial visits, David Muscat, the BSU Co-ordinator, explained how the BSU lecturers identified students with low levels of literacy and numeracy and set basic skills programmes accordingly. Following the meeting teachers were shown the material produced by the BSU team such as the initial assessment tests, schemes of work and individual profiles sheets.

Following the success of these visits, the same group of teachers observed BSU lecturers deliver literacy (Maltese and English) and numeracy sessions at the Learning Support Centre. Teachers were shown other resources produced by the BSU team and material available in the Library purchased from the Basic Skills Agency, the UK Department for Education and Skills and the Department of Further Studies and Adult Education of the Ministry of Education.

FOUNDATION BASIC SKILLS PROGRAMME AT ST BENEDICT COLLEGE



Joyce Shepherd-Thorn, Director Information and Support Services, David Muscat, Basic Skills Unit Co-ordinator, together with the teachers from St. Benedict College.

In line with the reform document 'For All Children to Succeed', St Benedict College has embarked on a project to offer learning support initiatives in the form of a Foundation Basic Skills Programme. The main aim is to help students diagnosed as lacking basic literacy and numeracy skills to start acquiring these skills and be in a better position to improve their attainment levels.

This necessitated curricular and pedagogical changes as well as different assessment measures. Throughout this process the school worked in partnership with parents and several institutions, in particular the Basic Skills Unit at MCAST, the Let Me Learn Centre and the Foundation for Educational Services.

LITERACY INFORMATION BY VICTOR VELLA, ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN



Information Literacy

There is nothing more frustrating in the world than knowing about something but not being able to find out where it is, be it an item such as a photograph, CD-ROM, article in a journal or magazine, book or information of any subject.

What is Information Literacy?

Information Literacy is the set of skills needed to find, retrieve, analyse, and use information.

The beginning of the 21st century has been called the Information Age because of the explosion of information production. It has become increasingly clear that students, and their lecturers, cannot learn everything they need to know in their field of study in a few years at College and that is why lifelong learning is increasingly becoming important. Information literacy equips students with the critical skills necessary to become independent lifelong learners.

Why is Information Literacy so important?

Have you ever heard of Data Smog? It is a term coined by author David Shenk. It refers to the idea that too much information can create a barrier in our lives. This data smog is produced by the vast amount of information, the speed at which it comes to us from all directions, the need to make fast decisions, and the feeling of worry that we are making decisions without having ALL the information that is available or that we need. Information Literacy is the solution to Data Smog. It allows us to cope by giving us the skills to know when we need information and where to locate it effectively and efficiently. It includes the technological skills needed to use the modern library as a gateway to information. It enables us to analyse and evaluate the information we find, helps us by building confidence in using that information to make a decision or create a product.

Who needs Information Literacy?

This is not just for MCAST College students but for all of us, as professionals and lecturers, in the workplace and in our personal lives. Being information literate ultimately improves our quality of life as we make informed decisions when buying a house or any other expensive product, choosing a school for us or our children, hiring staff, making an investment, and so much more. Information Literacy is, in fact, the basis of a sound democracy as you become independent to find information that you need.

How do I learn about Information Literacy?

For personal assistance with locating information in any of our libraries ask for the Assistant Librarian (a University qualified person) at any of our libraries. We can also send you a Library Information Literacy Power Point Presentation. You can request this by sending an email to llrc@mcast.edu.mt. Finally the following web-pages found at <http://www.ipl.org/div/teen/aplus/infosearch.htm> should prove useful to look up information on the internet for research and assignment writing purposes.



THE ROLE OF QUALIFIED LIBRARY STAFF AT THE LIBRARY AND

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

BY JOANNE CARABOTT, ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN



The tarnished image of a librarian is highly unjustified. We are considered snobs, strict, disciplined and having an easy job. This is very far from who we really are in practice. The Assistant Librarians who work at the Library and Learning Resource Centre (or LLRC) at MCAST are first and foremost University qualified staff who are extremely dedicated to provide the best service to our students, lecturers and staff. However this is not an easy task.

Keeping a library does not only mean that books are to be kept in an orderly manner and shelved properly. Much happens before the user sees the finished result on the shelves. Processing of books within a professional run library system is very time consuming, and one has to understand that we have to follow established procedures in doing so. However we are happy when the funds come through to purchase and process increasing numbers of new items; some of which are urgently needed by our users. Other services we offer are the induction courses offered at the beginning of each year, marketing our libraries, trying to trace lost or long overdue books (which takes up a lot of time!!), registration of new students, and the list seems to grow as our services and the number of users increases.

During the past two years we have encountered a number of problems, which luckily are not major ones. There have been some thefts (very few we must say because of the good security systems in place), some unreasonable clients who would wish to bring in their lunch and drinks inside, others who would like to use the library as a general meeting place, and the misunderstanding over fines for overdue books. We have a few basic rules which need to be adhered to. It is very important that one understands why we enforce such rules. Everybody is equal to use the library's services and these rules will provide a fair chance to everyone, and not because we enjoy enforcing such regulations.

But in spite of these problems and in spite of the fact that our staff complement is relatively small we have achieved a lot over these few years. The number of users and visitors, as well as the number of items borrowed; is still increasing items that are newly acquired are shelved and ready for use within a couple of days; several extracurricular activities are held in the library, for example student presentations; and we keep some collections that are not purely for study purposes like the film and fiction collection.

It is no secret that the Maltese in general do not frequent libraries to the same extent that other people in some other countries do. Some people won't be seen dead in a library because they feel that this will damage their reputation. However the role of a library in an academic community is not for the user to feel "cool". The library mainly provides a service where the students are able to carry out a research assignment on their own with assistance from us if asked. We try to show them the tricks about finding information from different sources using print and on-line sources that will suit their needs. We try to educate users into using our on-line catalogue found at <http://llrc.mcast.edu.mt/search.asp> and browsing through books to acquire the right information. The end result is to teach the user to feel comfortable in carrying out a search in any library. We try to keep in mind that one day a user might need to use a University library and s/he should be able to gather information without the need of assistance. And for those users who need some confidence and help in their educational performance we are ready to help and refer them to the dedicated staff of the Basic Skills Unit (BSU) which is situated in the library.

Other services we offer include the smaller libraries we have in off-site Institutes in Mosta, Naxxar, Luqa, Kalkara, Msida and Sliema. It is not possible for the Library to provide a daily service here but the situation has improved over the past few months. We try to be consistent in our range and quality of services throughout all our libraries. Books are not the only items we provide. We also provide fiction books, magazines (some on-line), CD ROMs, videos and DVD's. Every library has a number of computers linked to the internet available for free to all our users. The Paola library holds over 80 PCs which are frequented by a large number of students on a daily basis. As one can see we provide a number of services within our limitations and with the help of our trusted library clerks. We only ask our users to use the library responsibly so that everyone can benefit from the facilities, information stock and services we provide, and what we have will last for many years to come.

A most encouraging situation is when I see a group of students engaged earnestly in a group discussion about some assignment or studying a difficult subject together in the study area. However debates sometimes turn into noisy arguments and we are then forced to demand some silence; one should feel some consideration towards other users. So next time a librarian shushes you try not to hold it against us!!

We hope to see you soon!!!



KOPERATTIVA KUMMERĊ ĠUST

FAIR TRADE: A DIFFERENT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOUTH

It all began in 1996. We were members of the local NGO called the Third World Group. For most of our youthful years, we had been committed towards people who are emarginated from society, both in Malta and abroad. Our main drive was to help alleviate poverty without expecting miracles to happen or big, fantastic results.

After many years of voluntary work, we dreamed of doing something different, of embarking onto a new project that would strengthen our link with the peoples of the South of the world. One of us started to read about the Fair Trade movement in Europe, and that was it! We were all hooked onto the idea and had a lot of enthusiasm to carry it out. In a few months we registered the founding members as a cooperative under the name of Koperattiva Kummerċ Ġust (KKĠ) and shortly managed to secure a loan in order to buy the shop which we decided to name "L-Arka".

Ten years on, we are still very active and carrying our work within this project. In the meantime, KKG has also become a registered Fair Trade Organisation with IFAT.

IFAT is the International Fair Trade Association, the global network of Fair Trade Organizations. IFAT's mission is to improve the livelihoods and well-being of disadvantaged producers by linking and promoting Fair Trade Organizations, and speaking out for greater justice in world trade (www.ifat.org).

KKG imports food products such as coffee, chocolate and teas, including a good range of organic products. All of these products carry a fair trade label, which certifies that good working conditions are met with the producers in the South. Other imports consist of colourful and diverse handicrafts, originating from the three southern continents of South America, Africa and Asia. These include ethnical musical instruments, clothes, home decorations, carpets, costume jewelery etc.

KKG heartily welcomes people who are interested and motivated to spend some of their time working for this same aim. Here are some ways that suggest how you can participate and share your commitment and enthusiasm with us:

- Become a member, by completing an application form and paying a one-time fee (i.e. not yearly). The minimum required is Lm5 and this will be your share in the Cooperative. The application process is a very easy one and is not time-consuming.
- Volunteer for a few hours at the shop, where you can meet the customers, explain and discuss with them about the concept of fair trade and handle the sales.
- Volunteer for our public events by manning a stall.
- Join our events organising team. We hold two main events per year, usually in December and in June.
- Join our education team, where you can be guided and trained to carry out sessions in schools, youth centres, etc about fair trade.
- Help to improve our website.
- Help in translation, design and production of information and marketing printed material.
- Organise fund-raising events.
- If you have good leadership skills, you might also wish to join the administrative board (after becoming a member).

If you think you have the skills to help out in one or more of the above tasks, please contact us on kkg@maltaforum.org or call on 2131 5562. You can also visit the shop "L-Arka" in St. Paul Str., Valletta and browse through our website www.l-arka.org

We promise you will gain a very intensive learning experience that will also benefit your studies and work. However, you will gain mostly in your own personal development as persons who believe that together we can do something to improve the livelihoods of producers. This will cause an automatic ripple effect, where in the producers' families will also acquire a more sustainable livelihood in which they do not need to depend on charity or the meagre prices they get for their products from the big companies.





DISCIPLINE.

IS THERE ROOM FOR IT AT MCAST?

WHY ARE THE LEARNERS SO SLACK ABOUT IT?

BY MANUEL GATT – LECTURER @ IME BTEC CERT FET

When one comes to describe discipline in schools the thought goes straight to describe it as a set of rules covering standard clothing, time keeping, social behaviour and work ethics. The misbehaviour of students is common in all schools most of which manage to keep it within limits. Methods of maintaining discipline in schools are not always successful. Several methods were tried during the years, some have temporarily worked, and others have made things worse. When one considers the time taken by the lecturer in preparing a lesson to be delivered in a specified time but cannot achieve all of it, then the energy used becomes a waste of time. A solution has to be found, although one has to accept the fact that no solution can fit all. It is the lecturers' and educational management's task to try and provide the right environment, which obviously varies from one class to another, that makes the delivery of the lesson in full possible. Consequently this is not only for the lecturer's satisfaction, but for the sake of those students, if not all, who want to achieve the goal they have set for their future. In its mission statement MCAST has promised to provide the education required for these learners to achieve their goal, thus the following question is put forward. Are we going to let the very few hinder this process? This has to be tackled with great urgency, before it gets out of hand. We need to provide the best environment possible for our learners, we need to help those very few who are the leaders in this problem, we need to understand their rage and help them understand the need for their future. Students spend a major part of their formative years in school with discipline being an important factor in school adjustment, it is essential for effective learning. Positive and healthy behaviours, pro-social behaviour, mental health and academic achievements are positive outcomes of youth development. Unfortunately, their opposites are highly prevalent and continue to pose critical dilemmas both for the parents and the lecturers. Involving parents in behaviour management is of utmost importance especially with challenging students. A student might be tired, irritable and angry as a cause of what he/she is experiencing at home. It could be the

economic situation of the parents, or he/she could be the victim of a violent adult. The main point being that humans are social beings and their main desire (the basic motivation) is to belong. To achieve this one will try different ways of unruly behaviour. When this sort of thing, no matter how simple, is not seen to straight away it leads to total disrespect. This disrespect has become the order of the day, where students come into the class late, ignore the lecturers' attention, writing on the desks, walls, chairs and even curtains. They don't even think they are doing anything wrong. On the other hand when a lecturer tackles these simple 'disobedience of basic school rules' he or she is referred to as 'being fussy and out of touch from modern society'. Despite multiple and sometimes complicated causes, the discipline problem is not something that is impossible to overcome. This report has concentrated on the kinds of behaviour encountered daily in typical MCAST classrooms. The most striking findings are that a good percentage of students expressing their view on the statement that a lecturer's friendly approach will make students behave better. Another question was that every student should be responsible for his/her actions. These findings show that the majority of the students are mature enough to be responsible for their actions and respect the authority. It also shows that good discipline and behaviour is a must for a successful school. A policy of 'zero tolerance' should be adopted starting from the little rules so that bigger ones are avoided and students know they will be kicked out of school for serious violations. If PSD was given more weight especially in the first years at MCAST, starting with a lecture or two by a psychologist to the new entrants emphasizing the fact that now being in a post secondary vocational education campus, their deportment in all aspects including behaviour should be more mature and thus able to withstand the standards of a modern society that projects itself for excellence with dignity. In simple words, they are adults not kids and are expected to behave so. Convincing the learners to achieve self discipline will be the best ingredient in achieving an environmentally friendly campus.



STUDENTS' TRANSITION TO CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT

BY JOSEPH ZAMMIT – LECTURER @ IEEE BTEC CERT IN FET BSC (HON.) I.T.

Before coming to MCAST many students have not heard about continuous assessment. In fact they would have been assessed through examinations. Thus when starting a new course at MCAST a period of transition has to occur where the student has to get used to the new assessment system.

This transitional period along with the reactions by students and their methods of coping with continuous assessment was the focus of my research project in the BTEC Diploma for FE Teaching. A number of students from three institutes were interviewed and the data was analysed to know their reactions.

It is well known that any transition brings some stress and changing the assessment system is such a situation. Those who cope successfully with it will succeed and do well in the course; others might find it harder to adapt to the new system. It is also known that a continuous assessment system poses more stress on the student as a constant flow of work is required rather than studying towards the middle and end of the academic year. It is important that students are always supported by the system when starting a new course.

The study focused on students' reactions to the changes in assessment, how successful they were in coping with them and what methods they used in order to adapt to the new system. In all 47 students from the National Diploma and Higher National Certificate/Diploma were interviewed from 3 institutes including IBAC, ICT and IEEE. The results were analysed and several interesting trends and patterns evolved.

Students passed through a period of transition when starting a new course, where old habits such as leaving till the last moment to start studying had to be replaced by methods that would work more effectively in a continuous assessment system. Table 1 shows the methods used by students in order to

METHODS
Time Management
Use of educational resources
Less time for hobbies
Starting assignments earlier
Traditional methods of studying

Table 1

From the study it was found that students need to learn or discover these methods themselves rather than being supported by the institution. The process of induction in a new institution is a very important process and not to be taken lightly. The induction process must prepare the student for the new roles and responsibilities that must be undertaken in the course. This is especially important for students that have just finished secondary school education and started in a new institution. Induction procedures should not only introduce the student to the course or to the procedures of the particular institute but must also support the student on how to successfully manage with the new assessment system. The results from such a process will help the student to have a much more pleasant experience and to achieve better results. It is suggested that the methods outlined in Table 1 are used in the induction process to introduce the student to a continuous assessment system. It is also suggested that students who find problems in coping with the system are monitored and given extra support when needed.

The author would like to thank the staff of the Professional Development Centre, Directors of Institutes involved and the Principal, Frank Edwards, for their support in carrying out this research project.

TOWARDS THE STRUCTURING OF A (COMMON?) MODULAR SYLLABUS FOR ENGLISH UNITS ACROSS MCAST

BY CONRAD AQUILINA, LECTURER @ ICT
BTEC CERT. IN FET
BA HONS., MA ENGLISH



This study addresses the teaching of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) in various vocational Institutes at MCAST from a curricular standpoint, where it has been suggested that the syllabic content currently employed might require re-evaluation in the light of the fact that no-one English syllabic framework exists and each Institute has either fashioned its own syllabus or employed exterior ones. This lack of homogeneity or cohesion is also a matter of concern especially when one takes into consideration the following data:

- English as a unit being taught in 44 different MCAST courses with MCAST, BTEC, IFS, CII, AAT, MATSEC and City&Guilds accreditation;
- All 44 English units being taught in a variety of modes, with these modes corresponding to a range of ESPs (Technical English, English for Business, Maritime English etc.) and
- Most of these ESP units following no set syllabic framework or assessment.

The question whether these MCAST English syllabi are always commensurate with vocational learner needs is brought up, in particular since these needs are usually found to be course-specific and require an English content which is more specific in its objectives and methodology than the more conventional 'General English' used in academic institutions. In determining whether both general communicative linguistic needs as well as course-specific ones exist among MCAST's student population, one hundred forty questionnaires were distributed to students from three MCAST Institutes (IICT, IBAC and IME) following selection of courses as diverse as Applied Sciences, Information Technology, Mechanical Engineering and Finance. These Institutes were selected on the basis of the number of ESP units

taught and the questionnaire assessed and evaluated the respondents' general academic background, the vocational field pursued, various attitudinal and motivational factors related to English studied at MCAST and knowledge of the ESP course content.

Results obtained revealed that while in general MCAST students believe English is relevant for their course because of course research and assessment conditions, some disagreed on what linguistic needs are exactly necessary for post-study occupational conditions. The following points summarise the author's findings following analysis of the data obtained:

- Syllabic overlap
- Students' predisposition towards specific English syllabic elements necessary for their vocational course
- Learning predispositions in language, with writing and reading being preferred over speaking, listening and viewing
- Student ignorance of linguistic industry/occupational needs.

To account for present syllabic shortcomings as well as to create an ESP syllabus which meets both the communicative needs of learners as well as their course-specific functional needs, the author therefore proposes a framework for the drafting of a 'common' English for Specific Purposes (ESP) syllabus based on shareable modules. Such a framework would appropriately compensate for the syllabic content overlap and diversity found at the Institute of Information and Communication Technology, Institute of Business and Commerce and Institute of Mechanical Engineering.

TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS



On Wednesday 14 March 2007, an athletic meeting was organised between MCAST, the Higher Secondary School and Junior College. Students had the opportunity to participate in the 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 5000m, high jump, long jump, discus, shot and tug of war. MCAST students from various Institutes recorded excellent results. The following students won gold medals:

100m, 200m, 400m Females – Diane Borg

High Jump Males – Vittorio Aquilina

High Jump, Discus Females – Leanne Debattista

Shot Males – Randle Gili

SILVER MEDALS:

200m Males – Clint Buttigieg

200m, 800m Females – Emma Fenech Soler

400m Males – Mark Cassar

Long Jump Males – Joseph Ellul

High Jump Males – Godwin Lucas

Shot Females – Denelza Bayliss

Discus Males – Warren Galea

Discus Females – Diane Farrugia

BRONZE MEDALS:

100m, 400m Males – Mark Cassar

100m Females – Emma Fenech Soler

800m Males – Clint Buttigieg

1500m Males – Mark Camilleri

Long Jump Males – Lawrence Buhagiar

High Jump females – Diane Farrugia

Discus Males – Matthew Abela

ICT Relay Team



Tug of War



The whole MCAST Team



STREET SOCCER

On Wednesday 21 March 2007, a street soccer tournament was organised on the occasion of National Youth Day. About twenty five teams from all MCAST Institutes participated. The winners were the team Ultras from the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering. The students from the Institute of Community Services placed second. Michael Saliba, also from the Institute of Community Services, was given the Trophy for Fair Play. Thanks goes to Urban Jungle and Robert Cutajar for providing MCAST with the Joga Buonito Street football pitch.



BADMINTON

On Thursday 15 March 2007, a Dutch badminton coach visited MCAST in order to provide our students with more information on the sport and in order to teach students the basic techniques in badminton. This was very useful to those students who knew little about the sport but were interested in learning how to play it. Thanks goes to Mr. John Attard of the Malta Badminton Federation for providing us with the services of this coach.



ROUND GOZO TREK

The Round Gozo trek 'the hard way' was held between the 17 and the 19 March 2007. During this activity the participants, who included MCAST students and staff, had to trek all around the Gozitan coast in 3 days with 12kg (or more) backpacks. During the night the team had to sleep in tents and cook their food over a stove/campfire.



GOZO ADVENTURE WEEKEND



Michelle, Leanne, and Petra

Between the 22 and 24 March 2007, MCAST students came together with Higher Secondary School students and Gozo Sixth Form students in order to participate in a sport and adventure weekend together. The students and sports staff stayed at the Downtown Hotel and had the opportunity to play team sports such as basketball,

volleyball and football in the Gozo Sports Complex. They also had the opportunity of trying out the climbing wall thanks to Jeffrey Camilleri and Xavier Hancock, who are both highly skilled in climbing. Students were also taken on a trek in the Gozitan countryside. This was a very enjoyable three days for all who participated.



SPORTS STAFF



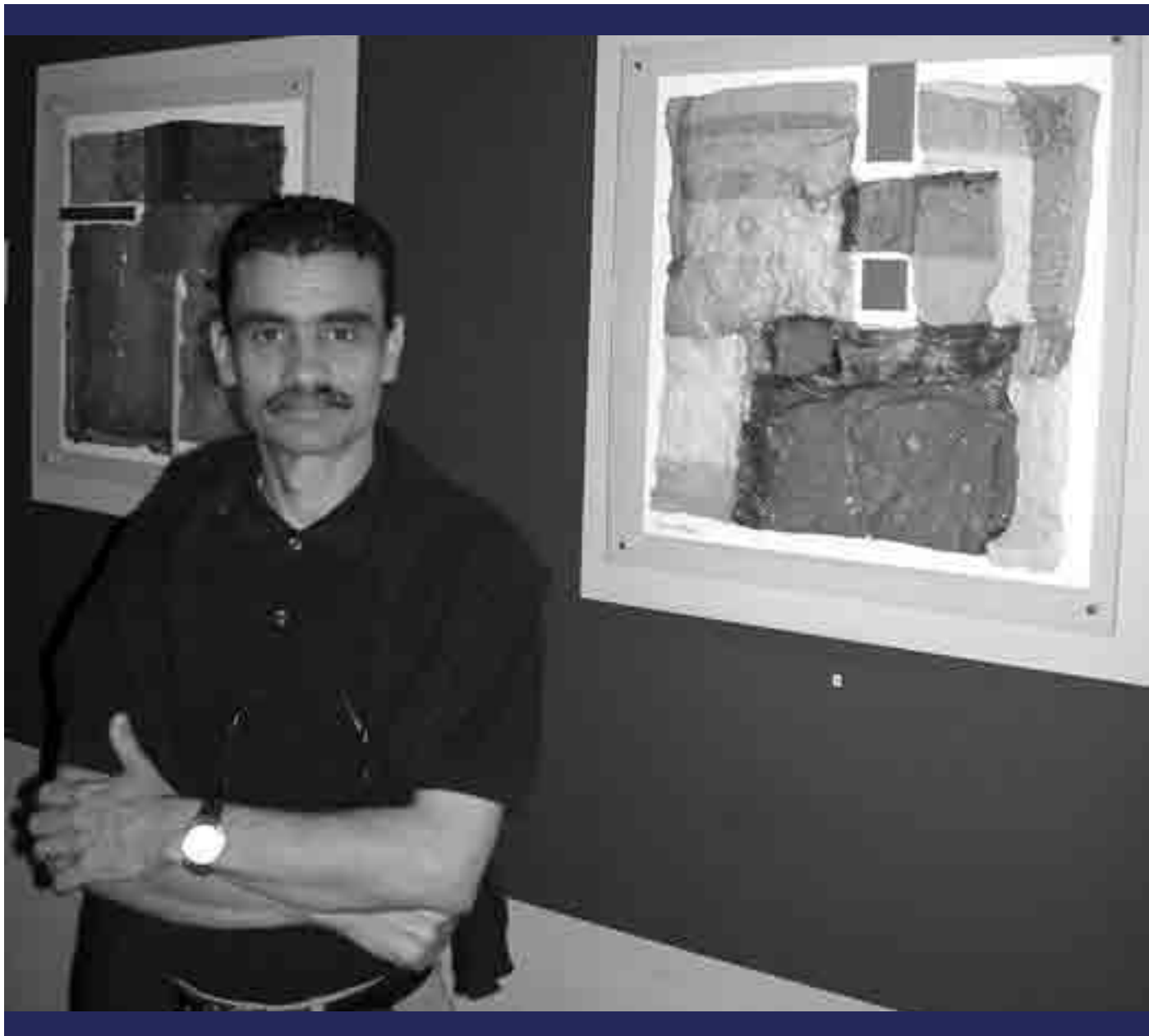
Two new sports staff members Jason Muscat and Alexandra Boninci are now working with Sports Co-ordinator Adele Muscat in order to provide students with more sporting opportunities. For more information on sports activities students and staff are asked to contact Adele Muscat on adele.muscat@mcast.edu.mt

MCAST GYMS

The Naxxar Gym has once again reopened to be used mainly by students at the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering. In the coming months the refurbished gym at Corradino will also be reopened.

All MCAST students and staff may make use of these gyms as well as the other gym situated near the Junior Lyceum 11-a-side pitch.

ARTWORKS – ABSTRACTS BY ALFRED CAMILLERI



The Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta hosted an exhibition by Alfred Camilleri from 20 April to the 15 May 2007.

Born in Valletta in 1950, Alfred Camilleri, an artist and Assistant Lecturer at the Institute of Art and Design, has been on the art scene for forty years, most of which have also been dedicated to teaching full-time in the vocational field. He has successively participated in numerous collective exhibitions, including some major ones on a national scale. Camilleri has also held solo exhibitions at Gallerija Fenici (1981, 1984), the National Museum of Fine Arts (1988), Installation/Tigne' Sea Front (1988), The University of Malta (1995) and at the Council Hall, Rabat, Ghawdex (1995).

Alfred Camilleri's projects also include, among others, the interior design of the chapel at St. Anthony's Franciscan Convent, Ta' Paris; a metal crucifix for the Malta Union

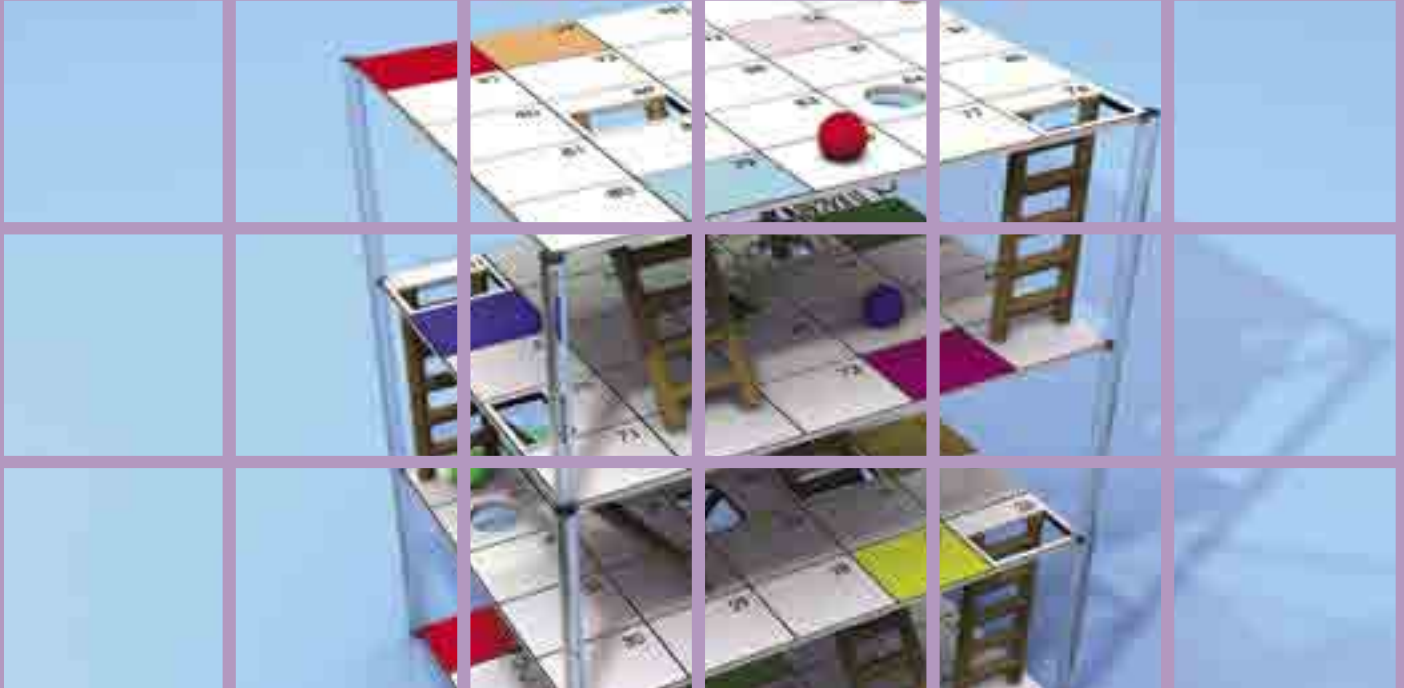
of Teachers Council Hall; cover designs and illustrations for publications on education, and poster designs for The Malta Book Fair and The Malta Carnival.

With commitment and self-inquiry throughout his career, Alfred Camilleri has been gradually developing a particular idiom in his work, where innovation and effective use of visual language are priorities. About these works Alfred Camilleri states:

" ARTworks describes a principle which has been guiding me for a number of years now: that of making an art which works on the levels of the Intellectual and the Emotional, as much as on that of the Visual. Until that is reached, it must pass through a sincere and cautious process of intellectual and emotional maturity on my part."



EXHIBITION INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN



EXHIBITION

at the

St. James Cavalier Centre for Creativity, Valletta

from the

6 - 22 July 2007

Viewing hours: 9.30am to 9.00pm

Institute of Art and Design

Misraħ I-Għonoq, Mosta, MST 1735

Tel: 356 2141 2783

E-mail: adi@mcast.edu.mt

Website: www.mcast.edu.mt