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ON THE COVER CELAINE ELLUL INSTITUTE OF AGRIBUSINESS



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Editor's message



A major event this term was the first celebration of the MCAST Foundation Day, held on the 26 October 2007. Several activities were held to mark this day including sports activities, fun games, free hair and beauty services provided by the Institute of Community Services. Students and staff had the opportunity to meet and share moments of celebration and relaxation and understand the significance of having nine Institutes in one College. This event, organised with the collaboration of the Student Council, has enhanced our sense of belonging to a strong, fast developing College, where we share the same mission and work hard to be its deserving members.

Another event tied to Foundation Day was the first official visit of His Grace Mgr Paul Cremona to MCAST on the 25 October 2007. His Grace celebrated mass for all students and staff, toured the Institutes and also blessed the new MCAST Chapel located outside the College gates. Further information on this special event can be found inside the magazine.

This issue includes information on the collaborative agreement signed between MCAST and the FOI. This agreement stipulates that both organisations pledged to provide a structured framework that would provide MCAST students with the opportunity to better access the world of work through FOI membership, as well as to deliver vocational education and training programmes/services for the diverse client groups. MCAST and FOI have been collaborating in a number of very positive initiatives, including the preparation and dissemination of the Employer's Guide to Vocational Education and Training and, more recently, the joint development of European Social Fund (ESF) project proposals.

This edition introduces the new MCAST Chaplain – Fr John Philip Curmi. His first contribution focuses on the importance of Jesus in our lives and stresses that Christmas is not Christmas without Jesus. The College wishes Fr John all the best in his new endeavour at MCAST.

The new Community Services Institute block is now fully functional and is providing discounted hair and beauty services to the community. MCAST staff and students also benefit from further reductions ...so go on, head down to the Institute of Community Services and spoil yourself this Christmas.

I would like to thank all readers and contributors of this magazine and wish you all the best for the festive season. May you have a peaceful Christmas and may your New Year be full of happiness, health and love.

Caroline Balzan

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Communications and PR Manager

All new and progressing students and members of staff are encouraged to submit any interesting articles and pictures to the Communications Office on this e-mail address: **caroline.balzan@mcast.edu.mt**

message from the principal

Malta will always be part of me!



As many of you will know, I shall be relinquishing my post as Principal and CEO of MCAST at the end of December. After completing my current contract I shall be returning to the United Kingdom to be closer to my family. I have been privileged to serve MCAST for the past seven years, as Executive Consultant in

the first instance and since October 2004 as Principal and CEO. The time I have spent in Malta will be remembered with fondness and the many sentiments expressed to me from colleagues, professionals and friends will always be treasured. Malta has been good to me and my family and this, I can assure you, I will never forget. I am more than proud to say that there will always be a part of Malta

MCAST is a truly wonderful organisation and its committed, dedicated and hardworking staff and students have made MCAST the National Icon that it is today. I can honestly say that it has been my privilege to work with so many people who have contributed directly and indirectly to the success of this fine organisation.

As we all know, MCAST has a major role to fulfil regarding the economic and social agenda of Malta within both a European and global context. The challenges that lie ahead for MCAST are enormous; however, I am confident that MCAST will continue to grow from strength to strength. My confidence is based on the commitment of the Government and the dedication and professionalism of MCAST employees, both academic and non-academic, who will work together to create opportunities for all Maltese and Gozitan students.

During my time as Principal I have witnessed the remarkable achievements of MCAST students and their achievements have made me proud to be associated with the College and have contributed to the tremendous success that the College is today.

It has personally given me great pleasure to see how many students have progressed within MCAST and how many have progressed from Foundation level and to their credit have even gone on to successfully complete the MCAST/BTEC Higher National Diploma, an outstanding achievement by any measure or international comparison. During my time as Principal, more than two hundred and fifty MCAST students and apprentices have successfully participated in European mobility programmes, which is remarkable. As well as gaining valuable international experience MCAST students have indeed been excellent ambassadors for Malta and Gozo.

Many of our students have been involved in charitable work and vocational projects of national and international importance and all of this activity has raised the profile and importance of vocational education and training in Malta. The international success at competition level has clearly established Malta within a European context. Whenever we have international visitors to the College or we from the College visit overseas we are able to talk about our students' achievements with a great sense of pride. We have had a large number of MCAST graduates take up degree programmes overseas and are not just successful but are outstanding students. It says a lot about MCAST, the quality of our provision and the calibre of our students.

I have been privileged to be Principal at a time when the MCAST Student Council was established. I cannot praise them enough for their tremendous efforts and the way that they have assisted me in providing a voice to the student body and a mechanism for effective communication and engagement with College activities. The Student Council has managed its affairs professionally and has positively contributed to the Quality Assurance processes of the College.

At MCAST we have rightly put "students at the heart of all that we do" and I know that Employers talk about MCAST students positively and with admiration, not just about the skills and knowledge acquired but also their attitudes and good manners. I also know that MCAST students talk about their experiences at the College with pride. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all past and present MCAST students and staff for their commitment, dedication and support. I would also wish to thank you all for making MCAST the fine institution that it is today. I have been fortunate to witness that if one is able to create opportunity students will take those opportunities and no one does it better than Maltese and Gozitan students.

I am confident that MCAST will be a fine example of a Community College continuing to operate with a professional, learning and caring ethos. I sincerely wish you all the very best for the future and finally, may our Heavenly Father continue to have His mighty hand on this College and the Islands of Malta and Gozo as MCAST establishes itself as a Centre of Vocational Excellence in the Mediterranean Region.

Frank Edwards Principal / CEO MCAST



Hi! Happiness and joy to you all. Writing during the Christmas Season, I have introduced myself with a very direct slogan: 'No Jesus No Christmas!' which may remind many of you of the television advert – 'No Martini No party.' It is not just a slogan for this festive time but it clearly portrays my reason for being at MCAST as a priest and most important as a friend to you all. I dream sincerely of Jesus as a friend of us all. And my task is just that – bringing Jesus to every heart.

I remember in my childhood days reading the nativity story. I used to be struck by the story of Jesus knocking at every door in Bethlehem seeking a loving heart and a warm place to embrace Mary while giving birth to Jesus, our Saviour, the Son of God. I could not understand, then, the closing of doors in front of such a holy, extraordinary event! Now, growing up, I realise that history keeps repeating itself. It is fortunately true that Jesus is still very present and meaningful in the lives of many of us yet it is also true that some have estranged themselves from Jesus and when Christmas comes they just contain the lure of it: parties, presents,

discos and so on, leaving their hearts empty of the One who makes the real Christmas. That explains my choice of such a slogan 'No Jesus No Christmas!' for this time of the year.

This letter is an open invitation to you all. Open your hearts to Jesus. Take this festive occasion to invite Him into your life and heart. Let Him be a friend.

Ask Him to embrace you with his love, his mercy and his compassion. Do not be afraid of Him. He is knocking at the doors of your hearts. Open them and let Him in. He is waiting to love you and

hold you.

A blessed Christmas to you all!

Fr. John Philip Curmi MCAST Chaplain





On Thursday 25 October 2007, His Grace Mgr Paul Cremona, Archbishop of Malta, made his first official visit to MCAST. This special occasion was the prelude to the first celebration of MCAST's Foundation Day, which was held on the following day.

When MCAST Management started discussing with the Curia authorities in order to identify the spiritual needs of the MCAST Community, one of the items on the agenda was new premises to be used as a Quiet/Prayer Room.

A building just outside the main gate, which third parties had used as a bar up to a couple of years ago, was identified as the potential chapel. MCAST made an official request through the Ministry of Education to the Lands Department to be entrusted with the use of the premises. A full development application was submitted to the Malta **Environmental and Planning** Authority (MEPA) in order to obtain the necessary permits

for the structural alterations required and the change of use.

The selection of this particular building had primarily three major advantages: it is situated very close to the main gate; it is very easily accessible by all the MCAST students and staff; it is external to the main campus, which means that it can be used beyond the normal College hours; and, the nature of the new use is more compatible with MCAST's policy.

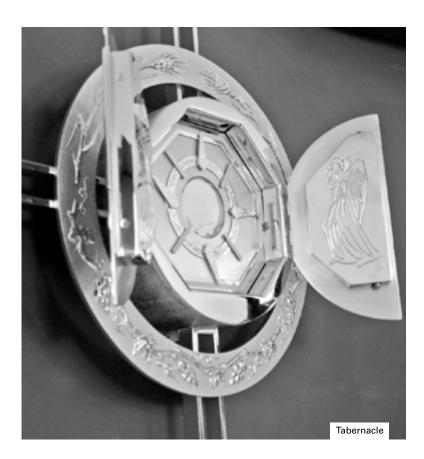
Official permits were granted to the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology. Structural alterations kicked off, followed by the installation of new mechanical and electrical installations as well as new finishes.

Dr Arch. Jevon Vella was brought in to advise and monitor works which were carried out under the auspices of the College's Projects Office. The concept for the MCAST Prayer Room was to establish a crisp, uncluttered environment that facilitated quiet prayer. This

was achieved through the use of simple forms and uncomplicated detailing. Ways to create a physiologically warm atmosphere were created by allowing as much sunlight to enter the space (though proprietary glazing on the doors reduces unwanted glare) and by doing away with most hard edges.

The semi-elliptical plan was adopted not only because the space suggested it, but also because it produced a softer transition between wall surfaces and the ceiling. The idea to use an ellipse as a basic shape was perhaps partly inspired by the curvilinear spaces associated with the local Neolithic temple building tradition. Historically speaking however, the ellipse was best employed in its most pure form in Baroque architecture. Back then, it replaced the circle and represented a greater degree of dynamic tension in building plans, since the ellipse is formed from two foci rather than one centre.





The unique beautiful tabernacle was bought directly from the manufacturers in Rome. The form is based on basic geometric elements and therefore, perfectly suited the overall design programme. A model that had a useful double door to mount the host was resorted. This way, when used for daily prayer, there is no need for the traditional monstrance and altar, and the space in the Prayer Room will consequently feel roomy and tidy.

In order to maximise the available space further, sliding doors were specified. This meant that one could further cut down on conspicuous details, such as door handles. Moreover, all light fittings are either recessed or hidden behind bulkheads. Nonetheless, in order to be practical, a projector and screen were installed, so that the Prayer Room could double up as a small meeting place.

Glass blocks were opted for, since they not only achieve the desired lively effect but help simplify the details and permit adequate insulation around the apertures. By cutting down on the joints between various elements and materials that constitute the building envelope, particularly around the windows, both thermal and sound losses have been reduced. Although the space has been isolated from the noise generated by the traffic outside, a level of comfort is still afforded by concealed HVAC and forced-ventilation systems. This way, the same degree of comfort expected in a domestic environment is attained.

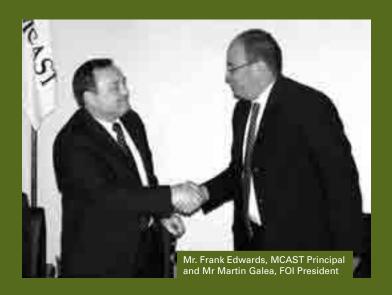
Moreover, the use of timber parquet for flooring allows tactile warmth. In fact, it is expected that students will squat, kneel or sit on the floor, rather than sit on chairs. In any case we want the users of the space to feel as comfortable as possible. After all, the Prayer Room was designed to offer a daily measure of respite to those frantically pursuing a scholarly existence, be they students or lecturers.

The Chapel is fully accessible for people with special needs and has been certified as such by the Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Persuni b'Dizabbilta.

This Chapel was handed over officially to the new Chaplain Fr John Curmi immediately after it was inaugurated and blessed by His Grace the Archbishop of Malta, Mgr Pawl Cremona OP, on Thursday 25 October 2007. On that unforgettable occasion, the Archbishop led for the first time a participative, prayerful congregation, while reflecting on God's Word and His love for all MCAST staff and youngsters.

A special word of thanks goes to all members of the Projects Office at MCAST for their special role in the implementation of this 'Chapel-project.'

MCAST AND FOI GOLLABORATION AGREEMENT



At a press conference held at the Floriana premises of the Malta Federation of Industry, the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology and the FOI signed a collaboration/partnership agreement. This agreement seeks to pursue areas which can be developed to the benefit of both institutions and their respective clients.

Through this agreement, which was signed by FOI President Martin Galea and MCAST Principal Frank Edwards, both organisations pledged to provide a structured framework that would provide MCAST students with the opportunity to better access the world of work through FOI membership, as well as to deliver vocational education and training programmes/services for the diverse client groups. Amongst the other objectives of this agreement, the two bodies agreed to develop initiatives relating to the provision of industrydemanded programmes and courses; the delivery of talks; participation in international and European Union projects; as well as the exchange and dissemination of Labour market intelligence and good practice for benchmarking and comparative studies.

In order to provide a mechanism to overview all aspects and issues arising from collaborative developments, MCAST and FOI have agreed to establish a Steering Group comprising appropriate officials/ representatives from each of the two organisations.

During the signing ceremony, Mr. Galea expressed his satisfaction that this agreement has been reached and sets the framework through which the FOI, together with MCAST, will slowly start to address the specific vocational education and training requirements of FOI members. He added, "With the constantly changing market scenarios, the business community has to keep reinventing itself to be more competitive and thus must be supported by a workforce that is equipped with the required skills and technological knowledge. This would help to ensure that each venture undertaken by a firm is sustainable."

Following Mr. Galea's intervention, Mr. Edwards was pleased to declare that MCAST and FOI have been collaborating in a number of very positive initiatives, including the preparation and dissemination of the Employer's Guide to MCAST and, more recently, the joint development of European Social Fund (ESF) project proposals. He stated,

"The agreement will build on the positive initiatives that have already been established between both organisations and is probably one of the most important and exciting agreements that MCAST will have signed."

Mr. Edwards added, "This agreement will be of great mutual benefit. It will ensure that MCAST is clearly linked to and in sync with several crucial sectors of industry for which MCAST will be re-skilling people to be better able to meet the technical challenges of their jobs. Through the FOI membership base the agreement will create many opportunities for MCAST staff and students, as well as ensuring that MCAST plays a major role in responding to present and emerging economic imperatives as regards to a knowledge based industry and economy."

"With the FOI being a highly respected organisation, both locally and internationally, this agreement is a clear indication of the confidence that the FOI has in MCAST and its endorsement of MCAST as an effective organisation with direct economic relevance and importance for the development of the Maltese economy to which the Federation is a key player", concluded the MCAST Principal.





The MCAST President, Mr Paul A Attard and the MCAST Principal and CEO, Mr Frank Edwards were invited to attend an Edexcel Conference held in Valencia, Spain. Other countries represented were the Netherlands, Spain and Brazil. Developments and activities undertaken by MCAST during the last five years were discussed and

the excellent achievements of MCAST students were presented through a series of "case studies". MCAST was promoted as a Centre of Excellence which is working towards being a "World Class Provision" by placing students at the heart of all that it does.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT FOR JON-ACADEMIC STAFF



The Union Haddiema Maghqudin has reached an agreement for non-academic workers at the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology.

This is the first collective agreement for this category of employees and covers January 2007 to December 2010.

Besides the financial package, the agreement includes new measures in favour of the family. A copy will be distributed shortly to each non-academic member of staff.

article by anthony saliba



"Hurting a man is all too easy, and we all get the chance to do that; but it's not everyone who is in a position to do a good turn." Plato, The Laws, Book 15, 26.

A student population of circa 5,000 youngsters with a 400 strong staff spread over 9 Institutes and the two branches of the Gozo Centre easily give rise to considerations about issues concerning respect, treating others with dignity and being fair. Apart from timetabled lectures and other learning related assignments. there are those hours when we meet each other at a social level. This could happen in the canteen, on our way to the Library, while waiting for the next lecture, or early morning on our way to the different Institutes.

We form a community of people with so many different strengths and ambitions. MCAST in no small way responds proactively to social demands in the fields of the economy, industry, employment and vocational education and training. Yet, as human beings, we (MCAST) do not always find it so easy to accept other colleagues, students and friends, as they are. This could result from our adherence to incompatible values or diverging opinions. Consequently, the issue of character and moral formation of MCAST's students cannot be underestimated.

We can 'hurt' each other in various ways and for silly reasons. We should respect others in all circumstances. The former reflects subjective feelings, untimely words which lead to offence or gestures of refusal of friendship. The latter is something noble and only happens if there is good will on our part.

Fortunately I have already met so many individual members of MCAST's community - students, lecturers and staff - who respect others selflessly. The charitable deed done with id-Dar tal-Providenza on our first encounter with His Grace Mar Paul Cremona, Archbishop of Malta, is just one manifestation of generous hearts.

"Only the friendship of those who are good, and similar in their goodness, is perfect. For these people each alike wish good for the other 'qua' good, and they are good in themselves. And it is those who desire the good of their friends for the friends' sake that are most truly friends, because each loves the other for what he is, and not for any incidental quality." Aristotle, Ethics, Book VIII, 1156b2-23.

In an environment strongly biased in favour of achievement in studies, technology, success and reputation, one would question the worth of Aristotle's appeal for embracing true friendships. He not only highlights the importance of true friendships, but also qualifies his statement by defining its most core attributes. It almost predicts our Lord's emphasis on true love as the hallmark of Christian living.



Very shortly we will celebrate Christmas. One of its most significant aspects is God's friendship with man, at all times and in all places. The advent of a small baby in an unpopular location and away from those days' leading cities had to be the prelude to profound changes in our way of thinking and perceiving friendships. Thirty years later, that grown up child - Jesus - sent a strong message of true friendship based on altruism, the total giving of oneself to love others irrespective of their gender, age or nationality. His Cross ruined selfish philosophies and restored our lost human dignity as 'God's images.'

Our Christmas celebrations would be bereft of their proper meaning if we fail to acknowledge Christ as the most tangible sign of God's friendship with mankind. You and I - all of us at MCAST and our families - form part of this cohort, the creatures who are so strongly and uniquely loved by their Creator. May Christmas be for us a unique occasion to encounter our best friend, the child of Bethlehem.

"Nevertheless I have long

had fixed in my mind the belief that an all-powerful God existed by whom I have been created such as I am." Renè Descartes, Meditations, 21,

Accepting oneself as one is constitutes a greater possibility of physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual self-fulfilment. We often hear about people being referred for help and guidance because of their lack of self-acceptance due to wrong judgements about their potential and human value, or due to social exclusion based on prejudice.

Our community is strong, vibrant and demanding. God alone knows how many of our friends and colleagues possess qualities which are often left unknown and, unfortunately, unutilised for the good of MCAST itself. Apart from the determining factors which underlie the constitution of our 'self' from the moment of conception, there is so much that we achieve throughout our

There is much more that we acquite through social interaction on campus. The incalculable wealth of non-academic learning inside and outside lecture rooms and workshops enriches MCAST beyond any accurate guess work. The secret of MCAST's resounding success is firmly rooted in our 'being what we are individually', which reality has a strong, positive bearing on MCAST as a whole community.

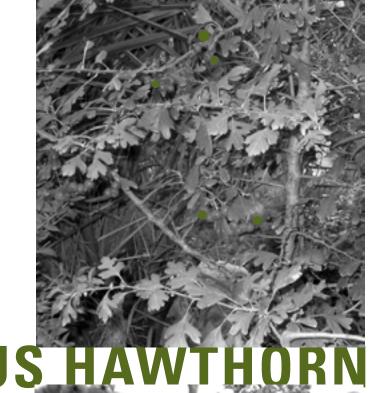
While MCAST seeks to face and satisfy the needs of a rapidly changing learning and teaching environment, it does so most confidently because its individuals are committed to what they are and to being always better through this great journey of self-exploration moving towards self-fulfilment.

Doing good to others is much easier

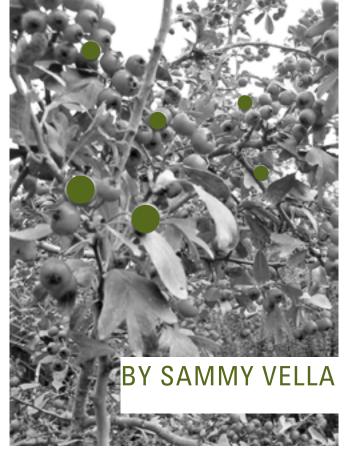
if one accepts oneself and others as we are, with a firm determination to become always better. True friendships last much longer if and when they are founded on such considerations. The birth of Christ gives all this its true value.

Anthony Saliba Deputy Principal (Academic and Student Services)









In Malta, there is quite a bit of confusion with regard to the Hawthorn. Most people – more than 90% of the population – do not even know that it exists. Some of those that are aware of its existence confuse it is with the jujube tree – Zizyphus jujube.

Perhaps the confusion arises from the perceived similarity in the names of these two valuable medicinal herbs. The Maltese name for Hawthorn is Anżalora while the name for Zizyphus is Zinżell. The confusion could also arise due to their similar fruits. Both bear red berries and if one is familiar with one of them and not with the other, then the verbal description of the berries of the Hawthorn could easily be understood to refer to those of the Zizyphus.

A close look at the two fruits would easily distinguish between the two. The Zizyphus or jujube fruit is larger than that of the Hawthorn and it is rather on the brown side while the Hawthorn berries are a bright red.

The botanical name for Hawthorn is Crataegus Azarolus. There is some dispute about this amongst botanists. Some insist that it should be Crataegus Monogyna and others insist on C.Oxycantha. I prefer the C.Azarolus because it is clearly a derivation of Anzalora. And I cannot believe that the similarity in the name is complete coincidence. Botanists also agree that even amongst themselves there is quite a bit of confusion regarding nomenclature and Hawthorn is one of the most notorious plants for species ambiguity.

This plant – sometimes called a bush, at other times called a tree – has many uses.

It is a very tough shrub bearing spines along its branches and thus lends itself very well for use as a hedge. One must remember that hedges were originally not used as decoration but to fence animals in – or out. Thus the robust branches with their awesome thorns were regarded as ideal to discourage large animals like cattle, sheep and pigs from wandering away from their enclosures.

The Hawthorn produces a bright red berry. The varieties found in more temperate regions like Northern France, UK, Holland, Germany etc, usually produce small berries that attract birds such as thrushes, starlings, finches but are not normally considered to be edible by human beings. In Malta, on the other hand, our Hawthorn produces a nice big red berry up to 2 cm in diameter. The fruit resembles a tiny apple and tastes just like that. In the centre, there is usually one kernel which is very hard. Sometimes this splits into two halves.

Hawthorn is an extremely valuable medicinal herb. It is used mainly for treating disorders of the heart and circulation system, especially angina. European herbalists consider it a tonic for the heart. It increases the blood flow to the heart muscles and helps restore

normal heart beat. This effect is brought about by the presence in the fruit, of bioflavonoids which are also strongly antioxidant, helping to prevent or reduce degeneration of the blood vessels.

The fruit is antispasmodic, cardiac, diuretic, sedative, tonic and vasodilator. Both the fruits and flowers of Hawthorns are well-known in herbal folk medicine as a heart tonic and modern research has borne out this use. The fruits and flowers also have a hypotensive effect and they are especially indicated in the treatment of weak heart combined with high blood pressure and as such, they are used to treat a heart muscle weakened by age, for inflammation of the heart muscle, arteriosclerosis and for nervous heart problems.

Prolonged use is necessary for the treatment to be efficacious. It is normally used either as a tea or a tincture. Hawthorn is combined with ginkgo (Ginkgo bilboa) to enhance poor memory, working by improving the blood supply to the brain. The bark of the tree is astringent and has been used in the treatment of malaria and other fevers. The roots are said to stimulate the arteries of the heart.

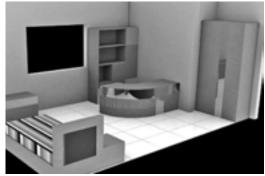
Hawthorn is one of our prized indigenous trees. Unfortunately it has become very rare. Its habitat has been encroached on by development and it cannot be found in commercial nurseries. The tree looks magnificent in spring when it is covered with bunches of white flowers that attract many insects. In fact the Italian name for Hawthorn is Biancospino – a name that reflects both the notorious thorns on the branches as well as the white blossoms. Few people know that the ship on which the Pilgrims sailed from England to America – The Mayflower – was actually named after this tree – the Hawthorn – because another English folk name for it is, in fact, Mayflower.

If this tree is very attractive in Spring because of its rich blossoms, its appearance in October and November, when it is loaded with the bright red berries is truly spectacular.

The tree is a great favourite of mine because of its brightly coloured fruits - which I eat heartily - but also because it attracts many songbirds which flock to its branches to gorge themselves on the ripe berries.

The tree is not very easy to propagate since the seeds are subject to several germination inhibitors. It takes about two years for a seed to germinate and sprout. And even then the germination rate is less than 40%. Nevertheless, I have managed to germinate and cultivate several of these trees. Three of them have been fruiting regularly in my front garden for the past eight years while several others are growing steadily in large pots in my back garden.





The Parliamentary Secretary, the Hon. Edwin Vassallo has enthusiastically launched the Design Malta Action Committee in the interest of local manufacturing firms and service providers. The government, through Design Malta, is taking direct, active action in the promotion and implementation of design policies which will enable Small and Micro Enterprises to gain a considerable competitive advantage as well as ensure they remain avantgarde in both the local and possibly European markets. Design Malta is a concrete step towards increasing the quality and competitiveness of local products which will in turn guarantee their long-term success and future expansion on our shores and beyond.

Design Malta is responsible for the provision and propagation of information regarding design. Producers will have access to authoritative design research, knowledge and practical advice whilst students of design attending the University of Malta and MCAST as well as designers will be backed up by this Action Committee. At the top of our agenda and in our common interest is that a designoriented culture be encouraged among all enterprises across a variety of fields.

A steering committee made up of Dr Ing. Jonathan C. Borg, Head Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering, University of Malta, as Chairman and Patrick Galea, Deputy Director, MCAST Institute of Art & Design, as project co-ordinator, have developed a strategic plan which aims:

- (a) To influence and make sure that design is at the heart of government policies.
- (b) To offer free information, advice and debate for all stakeholders - users, buyers, students and practitioners of
- (c) To direct an awarenness programme for promoting the benefits of good design to Maltese society and business stakeholders.
- (d) To direct a programme of design support for Maltese stakeholders.
- (e) To direct a programme of design education to help Maltese stakeholders to be innovative, entrepeneurial and competitive.

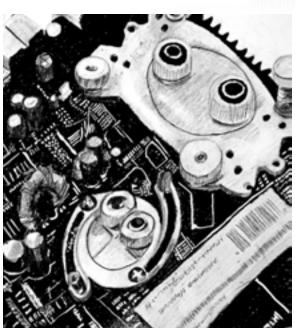
- (f) To provide authoritative design research, knowledge and networking.
- (g) To promote artefacts designed in Malta, both here and overseas.
- (h) To regulate and establish a code of ethics for design practitioners.

Four students are:

- Roberta Gatt (Higher National Diploma Graphics);
- Ritienne Camilleri (Higher National Diploma 3D);
- Emily Zammit (Higher National Diploma 3D) and
- Neil Zammit (Higher National Diploma Graphics) from MCAST Institute of Art & Design were chosen to work with sixteen companies (two weeks with each company on a Summer placement) in order to allow the students to share knowledge with local businesses and also for them to gain experience.







Second year students following the National Diploma in Design Crafts at the Institute of Art and Design are currently working on a project for the Administration Block at MCAST Campus in Corradino. The project, which is set within the guidelines of the Community Art Unit, is led by Assistant Lecturer Mr. Alfred Camilleri who was also in charge of a similar project last year for the concert hall at the Tumas Dingli Primary School, Attard. The project, consisting of about fifty paintings in a mixture of media, has Art, Science and Technology as its main theme. The idea is that while making thematic references each student develops an interesting, evocative and individual interpretation of the subject based on the formal elements of art and design. The works which are planned to be completed at the end of the unit in mid-January next year, should provide an ideal embellishment of the place both for the administration staff and visitors.

building & construction engineering



STAINABILITY ISSUES IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT – SUB PROJECT

BY MARTIN BORG, LECTURER

The Institute of Building and Construction Engineering has successfully concluded a Comenius project titled 'Sustainable Buildings' with a vocational institution in the north of Holland, Alfa College. The primary aim of this project was to equip the learners involved with key knowledge skills related to issues of sustainability within the built environment. Through this project concepts such as insulation, energy efficiency, construction techniques, alternative forms of energy, water usage and sustainability were investigated.

To reach these objectives two project meetings were held during 2007. The learning group was composed of learners currently following diploma courses in construction within the respective institutes. Fourteen members from the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering, currently involved in the BTEC National Diploma in Construction, participated in a project meeting held in Groningen in the second week of June 2007.

A number of lectures and seminars on issues of sustainability formed the basis of activities during the project meeting in Groningen. Jean Frantzen

and Jaap Vries conducted organized lectures for the learning group. Students visited an architectural studio and the main construction techniques and procedures were explained to the group. During the project meeting the group visited a number of construction sites with the intention of investigating sustainable practices currently being implemented in Dutch construction projects in the north of the Netherlands.

The project also included a language aspect. Learners attended a short intensive course at Alfa College. Students had the time to visit cultural places of interest such as the Martinitower, Roderwolde, Groningen Museum and Martinikerk. A number of multimedia presentations were prepared and presented by the whole learning group. Students worked together in international groups during the project meeting and conducted research on issues of sustainability in the built environment. The presentations were conducted at Alfa College and lecturers, parents and students attending Alfa College were present for the presentations.

ICT INSTITUTE LAUNCHES **APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME**

The Institute of Information and Communication Technology, in collaboration with the ETC, launched its first apprenticeship scheme in September 2007. Students studying the Networking and ICT Support stream of the MCAST/BTEC National Diploma in Computing were targeted.

A total of fifteen students applied to participate in the scheme and all students were found placements by ETC in Industry with entities in both the public and private sector. Due to the additional workload, students on this programme will complete the National Diploma in a three year period instead of the usual two.

Students are attending College for three days a week and the other two days each week are taken up by their job placements.

A focus group involving the ICT Institute, the ETC and the sponsoring organisations was created in order to discuss how the students are performing, as well as to tackle any ongoing issues that may arise from time to time. The first meeting was held at the ICT Institute on Tuesday 30 October 2007 and the general feedback received was very positive.

The Institute is looking to extend the apprenticeship scheme in September 2008 to the Software stream.

The ICT Institute wishes to extend its thanks to the following organizations who are participating in the ICT apprenticeship scheme.

ADS Ltd

Computime Ltd Courts of Justice Division within the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs Infomate Ltd Intercomp Ltd Malta Tourism Authority (Information Management Unit) **MITTS** NSO PC Wise Ltd PricewaterhouseCoopers Simark Supplies University of Malta (IT Services)

ICT INSTITUTE HAS RECORD NUMBER OF



FULL-TIME STUDENTS The ICT Institute this year has a record student population of over one thousand one hundred full-time students, which is an increase of almost twenty five percent over last year's student population.

> Once again, the strong cooperation between MCAST, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment, as well as the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Information Technology resulted in a total of four hundred students commencing their full-time studies at one of the four Private Training Providers. Such an initiative was necessary to accommodate the ever-increasing number of students wishing to pursue their studies in Information Technology.

It is to be noted that all students at each of the Private Training Providers have been enrolled as MCAST students and are following the same courses as those offered at MCAST's ICT Institute.

The ICT Institute is responsible for all quality assurance aspects of the agreement and is in constant touch with all training providers to ensure that all students receive the best possible support and guidance.

community services





HAIR DEPARTMENT

Hair – Scalp treatment	Lm 2.50	€ 5.82
Champao & Plays day		
Shampoo & Blow-dry Short hair	Lm 2.25	€524
Medium Length hair	Lm 2.75	
Long Hair	Lm 3.00	€ 6.99
Finger Twisting	Lm 3.50	€ 8.15
Non-Permanent Colour	Lm 1.75	€ 4.08
	Lm 2.75	€ 6.41
Cut	Lm1.25	€ 2.91
Up-style	Lm 2.25	€ 5.24
Perm & S/B	Lm 4.75	€ 11.06
	Lm 7.25	€ 16.89
Colour re-touch & S/B	Lm 4.75	€ 11.06
Colour full head & S/B	Lm 6.00	€ 13.98
Highlights		
Cap & S/B	Lm 3.50	€ 8.15
	Lm 4.75	€ 11.06
Foil & S/B	Lm 6.00	€ 13.98
	Lm 7.00	€ 16.31
Bleach		
Re-touch & S/B	Lm 4.75	
Full Head & S/B	Lm 6.00 Lm 5.50	
Tun Ficua & S/D	Lm 7.00	
		3 . 3.3 1
Straightening & S/B	Lm 5.00	€ 11.65
	Lm 6.00	€ 13.98

BEAUTY TREATMENTS

Hands & Feet Treatments:		
Manicure & Hand Massage (M/M)	Lm 2.25	€ 5.24
Manicure / Massage / Buffing (M/HM/B)	Lm 2.50	€ 5.82
Manicure / Massage / French M (M/HM/FV)	Lm 2.50	€ 5.82
Reshaping / French V (RS/FV)	Lm 1.75	€ 4.07
Pedicure & Foot Massage / NIV (P/EM/NIV)	l m 2 25	€ 5.24

-	
Facial Treatments:	
Eyebrow shaping (E.B.S)	Lm 0.50 € 1.16
Eyebrow / Lash Tint & Cleanse (E.L.B.T)	Lm 2.25 € 5.24

Eyebrow shaping (E.B.S)	Lm 0.50 € 1.16
Eyebrow / Lash Tint & Cleanse (E.L.B.T)	Lm 2.25 € 5.24
Eyebrow & Lash Tint (E.L.B.T)	Lm 2.00 € 4.66
Eyelash Tinting (E.L.T)	Lm 1.25 € 2.91
Deep Cleanse & Mask (D.C.)	Lm 2.50 € 5.82
Deep Cleanse, Massage & Mask (D.C/M)	Lm 3.00 € 6.99
Cleanse & Make-Up (C/M-Up)	Lm 3.00 € 6.99

Waxing:		
Upper Lip Waxing (U.L/W)	Lm 0.50	€ 1.16
Chin Waxing (CW)	Lm 0.50	€ 1.16
Under Arm Waxing (U.A/W)	Lm 1.25	€ 2.91
Bikini Line Waxing (B.L / W)	Lm 1.50	€ 3.49
Full Leg Waxing (F.L. /W)	Lm 3.50	€ 8.15
Half Leg Waxing (H.L/W)	Lm 2.00	€ 4.66
Facial Hair Waxing (F.H. / W)	Lm 1.00	€ 2.33
Abdomen Waxing (A. W)	Lm 1.00	€ 2.33
Back Wax (B/W)	Lm 1.75	€ 4.08
Lower Arm Waxing (L.A/W)	Lm 1.50	€ 3.49

Tan Log Traking (T.L., TT)	0.	00 00.10
Half Leg Waxing (H.L/W)	Lm 2.	00 € 4.66
Facial Hair Waxing (F.H. / W)	Lm 1.	00 € 2.33
Abdomen Waxing (A. W)	Lm 1.	00 € 2.33
Back Wax (B/W)	Lm 1.	75 € 4.08
Lower Arm Waxing (L.A/W)	Lm 1.	50 € 3.49
Full Arm Waxing (F.A/W)	Lm 2.	00 € 4.66
Special Treatments:		

Special Treatments:		
Manicure / Hand Massage /		
Paraffin Treatments (M/HMP. Wax)	Lm 2.75	€ 6.40
Deep Cleanse / Massage /		
Paraffin Treatment (D/C M/P. Wax)	Lm 3.00	€ 6.98
Deep Cleanse / Massage /		
Galvanic Treatment (D/C M/GT)	Lm 4.00	€ 9.32
Deep Cleanse / Massage /		
High Frequency (D/C M/HF)	Lm 4.00	€ 9.32
Deep Cleanse / Massage /		
Vacuum Suction (D/C M/VS)	Lm 4.00	€ 9.32
Deep Cleanse / Exfoliation (D/C/EXF)	Lm 2.75	€ 6.40
Back Massage (B.K/M)	Lm 3.50	€ 8.15
Body Massage (BM)	Lm 6.50	€ 15.14
(ANY SPECIAL TREATMENT		
WITH 2 ELECTRICAL UNITS INCLUDED)	Lm 4.50	€ 10.48
AMPULES & COLLAGEN	Lm 1.25	€ 2.91
EXTRA		
EYE TREATMENTS (EXTRA)	Lm 1.50	€ 3.49
ACNE TREATMENTS (EXTRA)	Lm 1.50	€ 3.49

NEW COURSE – NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN DENTAL SURGERY ASSISTANT



A new course offered by the Institute of Community Services this year is the National Diploma in Dental Surgery Assistant.

This new course was requested by the St. Luke's Hospital Dental Department. After several meetings with personnel from the Health Dental Department the new course became a reality.

The students following this course will be able to work in a Dental Clinic where they will assist the dentist in the day-to-day running of the clinic, such as taking appointments, getting the client ready for treatment, cleaning and sterilization of tools and equipment and updating clients' personal cards.

Twenty enthusiastic students applied for the two year course that started in September.

From the very beginning, it was decided that lectures will be delivered by both MCAST and the Dental Department lecturers. The Work Placement Practice which will take place at the hospital will be in the hands of the Dental Department with the help of MCAST lecturers who will help in the mentoring and assessment.

Modules in this course vary and students will be studying Health and Safety, Elements of Psychology, Personal Development and Communication, Dental Terminology, Pharmacology and Anaesthetics and Instruments/ Equipment/Materials.

Students have already attended a conference related to dentistry and private dentists are already interested in their services. This augurs well for the future.

electrical and electronics engineering



A visit to the Kordin Business Incubation Centre (KBIC) was organized for third year Industrial Electronics/Computer Engineering students. The visit was coordinated by Mr Alex Rizzo, lecturer at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and KBIC Executive, Mr Alexander Vella. Alexander Vella organized a presentation for the students in one of the KBIC conference rooms, detailing the structures of the KBIC and initiatives offered. He was very adept in highlighting the numerous advantages that the KBIC offers to first-time technology business investors. Issues such as office space, loan collateral, capital assistance, mentoring aid and network support were described in detail. A presentation of the ongoing 'Innovation Relay Centre Network' was also made. Students were made aware of how KBIC carries start-up businesses through a 3-year development process, before letting them compete on their own steam. The

MCAST students were then taken on a quick tour of the facilities at the centre, and were shown a standard 'unit' that is used by start-up businesses. The visit was well received and appreciated by students and MCAST administrators. Director, Mr John Sciberras, who was also present for the visit, commended the students for the interest shown and the quality of questions presented to the hosts. Our thanks go to Mr Alexander Vella of KBIC.

Following the above visit, a meeting was held between KBIC management, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Director and lecturer Alex Rizzo to establish direct links and expose the facilities to all interested students. Further visits and presentations will be organized in the near future to students following other courses at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

VISIT TO THE LASCARIS TRADE OFFICE, VALLETTA (MINISTRY FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND **COMMUNICATION**)

This visit was the second of two visits carried out by third year students following the Diploma in Industrial Electronics/Computer Engineering. A final, third visit is planned for the VAT Office in Birkirkara. The visits form part of the students' coursework in entrepreneurial studies and business planning, coordinated by lecturer Mr Alex Rizzo. Four main topics were covered during the visit, these being: trade licensing, trade marking, patents, and the use of the taric code. On the use of the taric (HS) code, Mr. Peter Vella explained that the code was instrumental in informing an importer/exporter whether an item required a particular form of import/ export licence. Following this Mr. Brian Montebello gave a very informative talk on the use and application of trade

licences, and various forms of business registration. Mr. Montebello explained the different configurations and costs of trade licences, and how they interacted with other licences/permits such as a MEPA permit. Finally, Ms. Maria Bonnici gave a detailed explanation on the concepts and mechanisms relating to trade marking and patenting. Ms. Bonnici demonstrated how a trademark gives identity to a business, and helps it to define and build brand recognition. The various steps towards trademarking a product were explained. Finally Ms. Bonnici described the concept of product patenting, explaining the differences between international, regional and local patenting. Once again, students were commended for the interest shown and their behaviour.



Electronics Electrical and Engineering participated in the National IT exhibition/fair, held during the last weekend of October. The exhibition ran for three days. The Institute provided a stand that showcased the best of student projects over the last two years. The range of projects included electrical, electronics and telecommunications exhibits. Examples of top projects included a 3-phase grid tie inverter (David

operated mobile robot (Shawn R.

Sciberras), and a car entry, security and ignition system using fingerprint recognition (Sarah Gusman). The Director together with a number of MCAST lecturers were available at various times to provide information to the many visitors to the stand. A range of literature was also provided on the stand, including the Project Booklet, MCAST Prospectus, and An Employer's Guide to MCAST and Vocational Education and Training.

The Director of the Institute thanks the organizer of the ITEX Fair, Mr Paul Vella, who gave the Institute such an important opportunity. Also one must appreciate the good will shown by lecturer Mr Alex Rizzo who coordinated and set up the stand at such a short notice as well as the Institute's technicians Mr Quentin Farrugia and Mr Jesmond Gatt who fully supported him in the activity.



<u>INKS WITH</u> THE COLLEGE OF NORTH WEST LONDON

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering in collaboration with the College of North West London had organized an intensive course on the latest plasma and LCD TV technology. The training at that time was delivered by an internationally known trainer in the field of TVs and electronics and who was a senior lecturer at the above mentioned college.

The Director of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering also had the opportunity to visit the College. The Director was welcomed by Patrick J.Leavey, Head of the Technology Faculty, Mr Pasha Mazhary, Curriculum Manager and Mr Mervyn Ross, **Deputy Head of Curriculum Development. Together they** discussed the possible opportunities that may develop between the two colleges. There is a variety of common areas and thus the possibility of further links and support between the two colleges is a real possibility.







ANOTHER PROJECT TO SUPPORT DISABLED PERSONS





As part of his second year project, student Mark Camilleri, following the MCAST Certificate in Industrial Electronics, built an Electronics Communication Device.

The project, entitled 'Voice Recording and Playback Module', was designed and constructed by the student who has been mentored by lecturer Mr Reuben Grima. It is worth mentioning that Mr Grima has been involved in other projects developed to support disabled persons.

The project consists of a system which is practical, lightweight and custom made. The main objective was to fulfil the needs of Mr Tony Cordina who is a resident at 'Id-Dar tal-Providenza', the residential-care home. The project was based around a programmable speech IC which is capable of holding data even when it is switched off. Mark learned a lot from the electronic circuit development.

The project was presented to Mr Tony Cordina in order to facilitate communication. The Institute will now be expecting to receive feedback from his carers or coresidents and will adjust or carry out the necessary modifications accordingly.

Tony looked more than pleased with the project presented to him. This facilitates communication with staff and as a result his carers act more efficiently.

The Institute feels that by carrying out such projects in the community it is playing an important role in delivering a holistic education to the students that are on their way to becoming responsible citizens.

OFFICER CADETS ASSIST IN THE RUNNING OF THE PACEM IN MARIBUS XXXII CONFERENCE

Maritime Institute Officer Cadets were heavily involved in the running of the Pacem in Maribus XXXII Conference which took place at the Corinthia Palace Hotel, in Attard between the 5 November and 8 November 2007. The topic for this year's conference which was organised by the International Ocean Institute was Women, Youth and the Sea and the Maritime Institute Officer Cadets participated throughout the conference by assisting in the setting up of the conference area, helping the speakers and delegates throughout the sessions and distributing conference material.

The International Ocean Institute was founded in 1972 as a knowledge-based non-governmental, non-profit international organisation devoted to the sustainable development of the oceans. It operates through the activities of its Headquarters residing in Malta and Operational Centres located in 25 countries around the world.

Its establishment was a milestone in the struggle to enhance, promote and advocate the peaceful and sustainable uses of ocean space and coasts as well as the management and conservation of the oceans so that future generations can share in their benefits.

As a non-governmental body with consultative status at the United Nations, the International Ocean Institute works to uphold and expand the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea – namely that the seabed and the oceans are the common heritage of humankind, for the benefit of humankind as a whole.



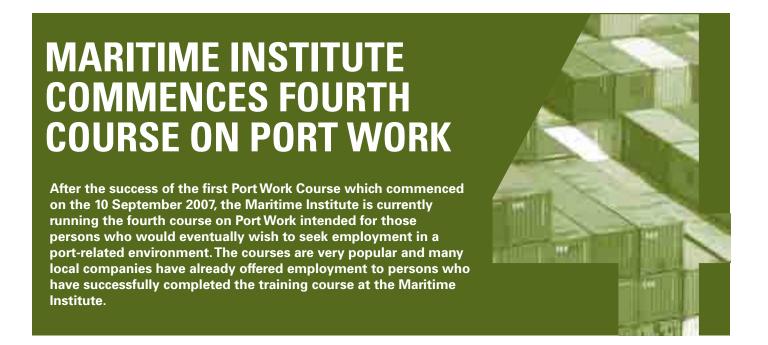


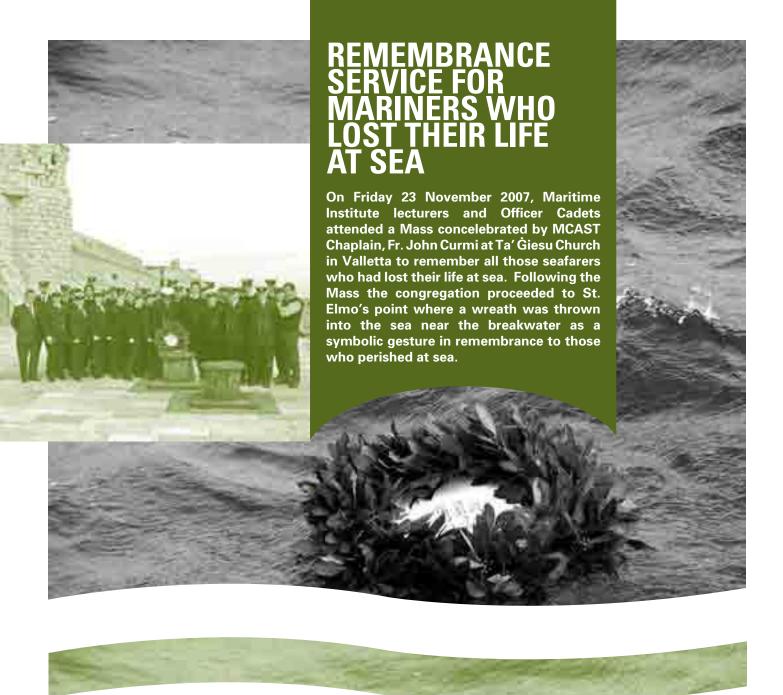
OFFICER CADETS VISIT HMS CHATHAM

On Monday 19 November 2007, Maritime Institute Officer Cadets and Probationary Officer Cadets paid a visit on board HMS Chatham where they were accompanied throughout the visit by Mr. Stephen Farrugia, the Lecturer on GMDSS and Radio Communications at the Maritime Institute. The Maritime Institute Officer Cadets were given a tour of the vessel by. HMS Chatham is the fourth and last of the Batch 3 Frigates and she is the seventh ship to bear the name. She was built on the Tyne by Swan Hunters Shipbuilders Ltd and was

launched in 1988. HMS Chatham's design was modified after experience with earlier versions of the ship in the Falklands conflict.

One of the most famous of her predecessors, built at Chatham Dockyard and launched in 1741, had the sad, but great, honour of transporting the body of Lord Nelson from HMS Victory to Greenwich Hospital where he was to lie in state until his funeral at St Paul's Cathedral.





OFFICER CADETS AT SEA

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

Vessel	Cadet	Date Embarked
MV Eurocargo Valencia	Christian Grima	17/09/07
MV Eurocargo Valencia	Larissa Portelli 17/09	/07
MV Grande Scandinavia	Angele Marie Agius	21/09/07
MV Grande Istanbul	Chris Bugeja	26/09/07
MV Grande Anversa	Brandon Lee Camilleri	22/09/07
MV Grande Detroit	James Vella	26/09/07
MV Grande Mediterraneo	Alessandro Zerafa	26/09/07
MV Grande Ellade	Sergio Zahra	29/09/07
MV Grande Spagna	David Cutajar	03/10/07
MV Grande Europa	Dylan Bartolo	25/09/07
MV Grande Benelux	Mauro Zammit	27/09/07
MV Grande Bretangn	Keith Marshall	19/09/07
CMA CGM Sambhar	Daniel Attard	02/11/07
CMA CGM Sambhar	Charlot Cassar	19/09/07

EUROPEAN SKILLS COMPETITION -A NEW INITIATIVE

BY MR EMMANUEL ZAHRA, DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Investments in Skills are needed

Education and training have a central role in responding to the challenges we are facing in Europe: globalisation, an ageing population, emerging new technologies and skills needs. This is reflected in the European Union's agenda, the revised Lisbon strategy and its integrated guidelines for growth and jobs in 2005-2008. It calls for expansion and improved investments in human capital and for adaptation of education and training systems in response to these challenges. At the Helsinki meeting, the European Ministers of Vocational Education and Training, the European Social Partners and the European Commission have decided that priority should be given to the image, status and attractiveness of the VET system in all EU member states.

Without doubt the VET system and its graduates are of great importance for vital economies in Europe. This observation underlines the necessity of a truly European approach towards the mobility of (young) professionals, the establishment of a European Qualification Framework and the promotion of the VET system itself. VET is an essential tool in providing European citizens with the skills, knowledge and competences needed in the labour market and knowledge based society.

VET is an integral part of the lifelong learning strategies which are now top priority of the European Commission. Educational institutions in Europe are reacting to these developments by organising competence-based programmes - practical situations where young students have to resolve real life problems. Support is given by the Leonardo da Vinci programme of the European DG Education and Culture.

Improving the attractiveness and quality of Vocational Education and Training

In the reviewed priorities of the Helsinki Communiqué, Skills Competitions are identified as a promising method for developing and highlighting excellence in skills. The element of competition (either individual or team based) motivates students to perform to their maximum level. The collaboration between industrial and business partners is crucial to the success of this approach. Competitions are a practical and powerful showcase of the craftsmanship needed. The main competition is World Skills which is held every two years. Now European countries will be having their competition, EuroSkills.

This will help new member states to integrate into the competition system by first competing on European level. The first EuroSkills Competition is going to be held in Rotterdam, Holland in September 2008.

EuroSkills 2008 is supported, both politically and financially, by the European Commission and national governments. The event incorporates the objectives of the Copenhagen process and the goals of the Maastricht Communiqué (2004). As a result, EuroSkills will be integrated in the EC Programme for Life Long Learning, especially the Leonardo da Vinci activities. Hundreds of young professionals, VET students and graduates, will compete and demonstrate their skills in almost 50 typical European trades. EuroSkills 2008 provides unique opportunities for the development of new and attractive ways in promoting skilled labour and educational pathways in VET in a European context. The EuroSkills event is organised by Skills Netherlands under the supervision of ESPO (the European Skills Promotion Organisation) in conjunction with WorldSkills.

Malta is already a member of ESPO and intends to participate in this first EuroSkills competition. MCAST will be representing Malta and Mr E Zahra, Director of the Institute of Mechanical Engineering, is the Technical Delegate. He attended the first General Assembly of ESPO in Budapest, last September.

The EuroSkills 2008

The EuroSkills 2008 event, which was held from 18-20 September 2008 in Rotterdam (The Netherlands), was a perfect showcase for today's craftsmanship and vocational education and training (VET) in Europe.

Throughout the competition there was a constant element of excitement by watching the different skills in action, being involved in hands-on activities and by getting additional information about the trades presented. EuroSkills 2008 focused on the vocations and skills necessary for Europe's competitive edge in the world. The skills competitions accurately reflected the vocational standards required by EU member states and the EU as a whole.



archbishop's visit

OFFICIAL VISIT BY HIS **GRACE** ARCHBISHOP MGR. PAUL CREMONA











His Grace Archbishop Mgr. Paul Cremona paid an official visit to the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology on Thursday 25 October 2007.

On his arrival at the College the Archbishop was welcomed by Mr Paul A Attard, President of the Board of Governors, Mr Frank Edwards, Principal/CEO, and Ms Cladonia Scerri, General Secretary of the Students' Council.

The activity started off with a short introduction by Ms Cladonia Scerri who invited Mr Paul A Attard. President of the MCAST BOG, to welcome the Archbishop and the congregation. All Institutes and College sections, including Board of Governors members, management, Directors and their Deputies, administration personnel, students and people working at the College were present for the celebration of mass by Archbishop Paul Cremona. The student group, Comunio, animated the congregation. A stage 10 by 6 metres, with a backdrop for the occasion, was put up to welcome the Archbishop and other concelebrants for the Holy Eucharist. Different stakeholders across MCAST participated in the entrance procession, penitential rite, liturgical readings, bidding prayers, offerings, thanksgiving

prayers, and other moments throughout Mass. This most important service marks the Archbishop's first visit to MCAST.

In his speech Mr Paul A Attard, President of the Board of Governors, stressed on the importance of the holistic education that MCAST imparts to its students. He mentioned that this education will help students throughout their life. He also mentioned that the College will continue to develop educational, social, sports and cultural activities, based on sound values, which will guarantee a healthy lifestyle.

Immediately after mass, the Archbishop proceeded to the newly built and refurbished Chapel, which is located very close to the main gates of the MCAST main campus. This building was selected because of its accessibility by all students next to the main gate and, therefore, could be used beyond normal College hours.

The concept behind the Chapel was to create one whole space to serve the spiritual needs of the MCAST Community. The main space was lined with white gypsum, dry partition walling to create a curved enclosure, with the focus being the very original













tabernacle. Windows have been enclosed with glass blocks which allow an ample amount of diffused light to enter the Chapel. The whiteness of the Chapel contrasts sharply with the parquet and the burgundy fascia on to which the tabernacle has been fixed, hence, further enhancing the Chapel's focal point. Ancillary to the main area, are the Chaplain's Office and sanitary facilities. The Chapel is fully accessible for people with special needs and has been certified as such by the Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Persuni b'Diżabbilta`.

After the blessing of the Chapel the Archbishop visited the Administration Block where he had tea and the opportunity to meet Board members, management, Directors and Deputies, Administration personnel and the



Student Council. MCAST presented the Archbishop with a gift to signify the collective appreciation of his first pastoral visit to the College as well as a donation for the Dar tal-Providenza. After meeting with the staff the Archbishop met with students at the Institute of Business and Commerce, the Institute of Community Services, the Institute



of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and the Institute of Mechanical Engineering.

A bookmark was given to all present to commemorate the Archbishop's first visit to MCAST, the opening of the Chapel and the Foundation Day celebration.

MCAST CELEBRATES ITS FIRST FOUNDATION DAY

The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology celebrated its first Foundation Day on 26 October. The 26 October will, from now onwards, be the official MCAST Foundation Day.

The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology was established in 2000 by the present Government and by the hard work, commitment and dedication of the Hon Dr Louis Galea, Minister of Education, Youth and Employment. In July 2006 MCAST was incorporated in the Education Act (Chapter 327 of the Laws of Malta). The College opened in September 2001. The first group consisted of 1539 students. Today the College boasts of 4700 full-time students.

Friday 26 October 2007 was an excellent opportunity to bring together, for the second time in a festive mood, all College Institutes to officially mark MCAST's Foundation Day. The main activity was held outside the Administration Block. The event started with short speeches by Ms Cladonia Scerri, Student Council representative, Mr Frank Edwards, Principal/CEO, Mr Paul A Attard, President of the Board of Governors and the Hon. Dr. Louis Galea, Minister of Education, Youth and Employment.

At around 9.45 am the Minister unveiled the main commemorative plague in the presence of MCAST senior management, directors and deputies, College staff and all MCAST students.

The AFM Band brightened the atmosphere with a high quality musical performance, part of which involved its members in a band march.

Activities for students, starting at 10.00 am, included a two hour performance by two different bands - Mind the Step and Cable 35, with a 30-minute break in between, a human Table Soccer, visits to the Institute of Community Services, where students offered their services free-of-charge to raise funds for id-Dar tal-Providenza, and

tents hosting exhibits put up by the Student

Council and their sponsors, MCAST, NCHE and Young Enterprise. Activities came to an end at around 1.30 pm.



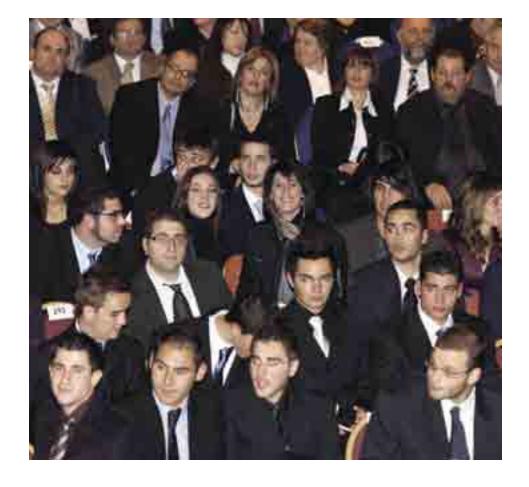
-MCASE



graduation ceremony

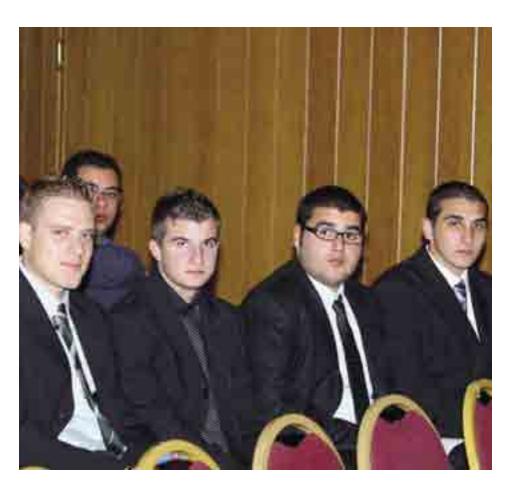






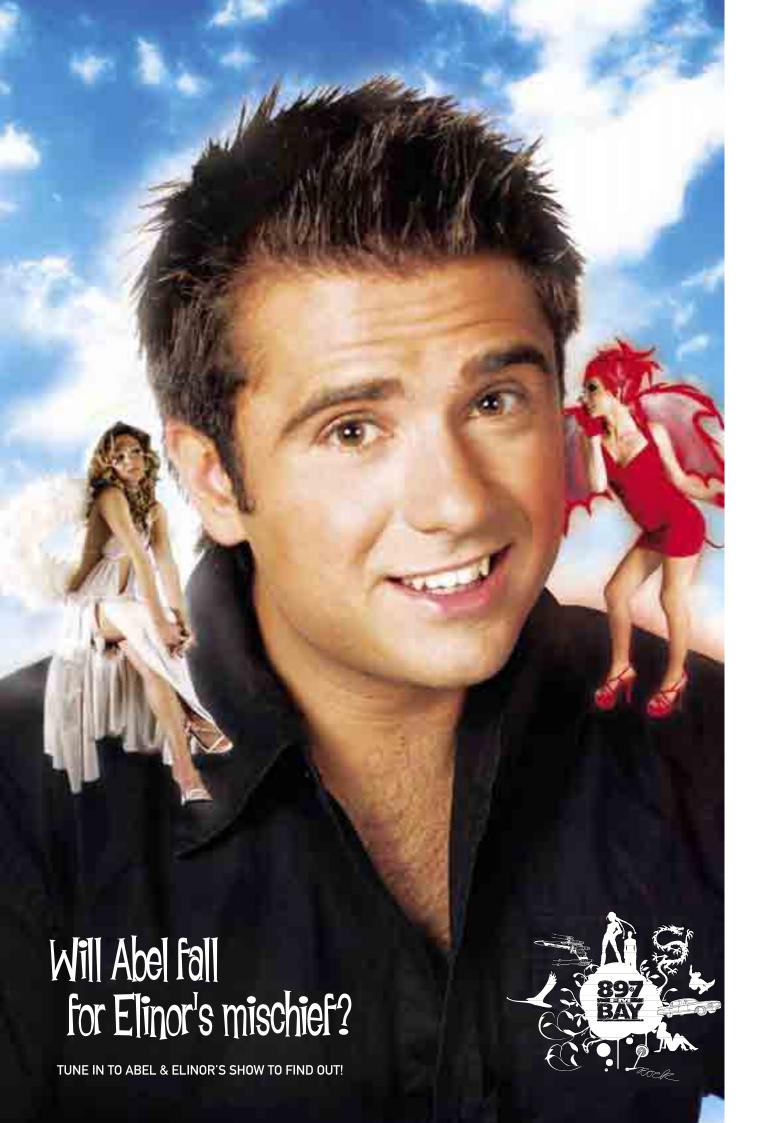












INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS & COMMERCE

LEVEL 4 MCAST-BTEC Higher National Diploma in Business

Aquilina, Antonella Calleja, Clive
Caruana, Stephanie
Casha, Claire
Galea, Melanie
Gauci, Cynthia
Grech, Charis
Mercieca, Jana
Mifsud, James
Mifsud, Stephanie
Pulis, Chantelle
Sammut, Nicholas
Spiteri, Charlene
Spiteri, Emanuel
Zammit, Andre

LEVEL 4 Accounting Technician Certificate

Bonello, Marica Briffa, Christ Cauchi, Antoinette Falzon, Roderick Farrugia, Mark Gatt, Herbert Grixti, Estelle Vassallo, Stephania

LEVEL 4 Diploma in Financial Services

Aquilina, Malcolm Aquilina, Maria Azzopardi, Carmelina Bartolo, Gineve Briffa, Charmaine Brimmer, Kirsten Buhagiar, Francelle Busuttil, Paul Busuttil, Stephanie Caruana, Beverley Cassar, Andrew Cassar, Francis Chircop, Ilona Debono, Reuben Fenech, Marcelle Gatt, Stephanie Gauci, Caroline Gauci, Dustin Genovese, Stefanie Grech, Marica Lia, Stefan Magro, Marilyn Mallia, Stephanie Said Sarreo, Stephen Schembri, Maria Vella, Clint Vella Kirstv

LEVEL 4 Diploma in Insurance Studies

Muscat, Ramona

Xerri, Jennifer

MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Applied Science

Aquilina, Diane Bonnici, Stephen Buhagiar, Gevit David Busuttil, Aaron Buttigieg, Clyde Camilleri, Dean Caruana, Elaine Cilia, Andrew Debattista, Roslyn Degaetano, Derek Depasquale, Roberto Dimech, Caroline Maria Fiott, Malcolm

Galea, Joseph Grima, Matthew Lupo, Valentina Muscat, Marilyn Muscat, Nicolette Pavia, Joseph Efrem Vella, Mario Zahra, Malcolm

Galea, Dorian

LEVEL 3 MCAST Certificate in Administrative & Secretarial Studies

Attard, Annmarie Azzopardi, Adriana Azzopardi, Bernice Borg, Daphne Borg, Janice Borg, Maria Briffa, Yana Cachia, Amanda Camilleri, Charlene Camilleri, Dinah Marie Carannante, Tiziana Chetcuti, Elaine Curmi, Charmaine Darmanin, Charlene Falletta, Alessia Farrugia, Elaine Farrugia, Jessica Galea, Maria Gauci, Jean Paul Ghirxi, Moira Grech, Ritianne Grima, Lara Grima, Melissa Grima, Rina Marie Mifsud, Matthew Parnis, Tiziana Portelli, Diane Sciberras Flaine Scicluna, Andreana Scicluna, Francelle Sultana, Jessica Sultana, Joanna Sultana Melissa Tanti, Martina Theuma, Marilyn Tonna, Flawerta Tonna, Stephen Vella, Christine Vella, Georgetta Vella, Roberta

LEVEL 3 MCAST Certificate in Marketing Studies

Abela, Denise Dalmas, Andrew Grima, Sabrina Hingari, Nizar Spiteri, Christopher Spiteri, Rosemarie Vella, Tara Maree Williams, John Henry Zammit, James

Zammit, Leanne

Zerafa, Stephanie

LEVEL 3 MCAST-BTEC National Certificate in Business

Abdilla, Karen Agius, Adrian Attard, lan Axisa, Katia Azzopardi, Patrick Bonnici, Elaine Briffa, Charlene Burke, Terrence Camilleri, Marija Catania, Judy Marie Chetcuti, Diana Duca, Tiziana Facciol, Tiziana Farrugia, Tiziana Grima, Natasha Mifsud, Eman Mifsud, Lara Portelli, Anna Zammit, Christianne 7ammit Keith

LEVEL 3 Matriculation Certificate

Agius, Maria Barbara, Alexander Bugeja, Dorian Busuttil, Gianella Cassar, Mark Cauchi, Michelle Chircop, Sean Darmanin Lia, Charlene Francica, AnnMarie Galea, Doriana Galea, Nicholas Lia, Keith Mallia, Brenda Mercieca Bons, Anita Mifsud, Hertha Muscat, Janet Sammut, Raissa Schembri, Justin Zammit, Samuel

INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN

LEVEL 4 MCAST-BTEC Higher National Diploma in Spatial Design

Busuttil, James Francis Grech, Melania Mamo, Lana Mifsud, Mary

LEVEL 4 MCAST-BTEC Higher National Diploma in 3D Design

Borg, Sadie Castillo, Christian Marsh, Claude Micallef, Noel Keith Vella, Audrey Zerafa, Sarah

LEVEL 4 MCAST-BTEC Higher National Diploma in Graphic Design

Attard, George Mario Borg, Daniel Hilli, Richard Navarro, Justine Portelli, David

LEVEL 4 - MCAST-BTEC MCAST-BTEC Higher National Certificate in Graphic Design

Cachia, Josephine Ellul, Jesmond Saliba, Cynthia Scicluna, Steven

LEVEL 3 MCAST-BTEC National Certificate in Design Crafts

Agius, Reuben

Bartolo, Sarah Ann

LEVEL 3 MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Design Crafts

Bonello, Katrina Calleja, Antonella De Gabriele, Mikaela Farrugia, Paul Gauci, Andrea Kuzeljevic, Jovana Pace, Matthew Paolella, Daniel Radmilli, Nicole Sant, Joseph Scicluna, Mark Spagnol, David Tonna, Jessica Wood, Christine Xuereb, Trudy Zammit, Ritianne Zammit, Stefano

LEVEL 3 MCAST Certificate in the Access Course to the Diploma in Foundation Studies in Art & Design

Attard, Jessica Azzopardi, Cheryl Bianco, Antonella Bonello, Francesco Bonnici, Chanelle Camilleri, Marika Carabott, Clifford Caruana, Andrea Caruana, Justin D Amato, Mauro Demarco, Matthew Dingli, Edward Ellul, Sabrina Falzon, Ryan Fenech, Kailey Grech, Leanne Mizzi, Carden Tonna, Abygail Vella, Benjamin Vella, Gary Vella Kurt

Zammit, Jessica

INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN (CON'TD)

MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Foundation Studies in Art & Design

Anastasi, Nigel Azzopardi, Desiree Azzopardi, Jeanine Azzopardi, Josmar Bonavia, Nadine Bonello, Chiara Busuttil, Sean Callus, Lorraine Camilleri, Jessica Camilleri, Kristina Camilleri, Sarah Caruana, Corinne Caruana, Joseph Caruana, Luke Cassar, Donna Cassar, Raycine Cilia, Rebecca Cutajar, James Raymond

Cutajar, Joel Benjamin Delia, Manuel Farrugia, Elisa Fenech Adami, Martina Friggieri, Mathilde Galea, Roderick Grech, Glenn

Kingswell, Martina Faye

Mallia, Julian Micallef Brennan, Michael

Mizzi, Paul James O Flaherty, Kane Pace, Liza Michelle Pace, Roderick Peel, Justine

Sammut, Jean Pierre Scerri, Cladonia Stroud, Matthew Karl Theuma, Rowena Vella, Christabelle Vella, Marc Wirth, Elaine

Zammit Maempel, Martina

INSTITUTE OF AGRIBUSINESS

MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Agriculture (Agribusiness)

Cassar, Andrew Chircop, Vincienne Fenech, Manuel Galea, Thomas Gladwish, Daniel Muscat, Marija Sammut, Gareth Carl Tanti, Jonathan Vella Denis Xerri, Joseph

INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

LEVEL 4 Technician Advanced Diploma in **Engineering** (City & Guilds 2565)

Agius, Christian Bajada, Jonathan Bezzina, Steven Borg, Ashton Caruana, Peter Lia, Donald Mifsud, Malcolm Sacco, Silvan Vella, Derick

MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Aerospace Engineering

Bajada, Joseph Borg, Matthew Borg, Shaun Bugeja, Christopher Louis Cachia, Roberta Ann Camilleri, Christian Camilleri, Darren Cassar, Jonathan Cauchi, Luke Craus, Rueben Cutajar, Noel Farrugia, Christopher Genuis, lan Grasso, Andreas Long, Michael Micallef, Stephanie Mifsud, Luke Portelli, Timothy Scerri, Brady Francis Zerafa, Simon

Agius, Darren

LEVEL 3 **MCAST-BTEC National Diploma** in Operations & Maintenance **Engineering**

Abela, Eman Agius, Matthew Agius, Nicholas Buhagiar, Nathaniel Camilleri, Karl Caruana, Justin Cefai, Christian Cesare, Felix Chan, Axel Ciantar, Bjorn Degiorgio, John Farrugia, Christian Formosa, Ryan Galea, Giovanni Gatt, Alexander Gauci, Daniel Grech, Joseph Grech, Steven James Gusman, Edwin Magro, Matthew Micallef, Christian Micallef, Matthew Mintoff, Ronald Muscat, James Pace, Mark Pisani, Vanessa Rodenas Aquilina, Marc Scerri, John Schembri, Christian Scicluna, Keith Scolaro, John Spiteri, Emanuel

LEVEL 3 **MCAST-BTEC National Diploma** in Manufacturing Engineering

Bonnici, Christian Camilleri, Dominic Portelli, Andrew

Zarb, Andrew

Technician Diploma in Motor Vehicle Systems (City & Guilds 3905)

Agius, Mark Baldacchino, Ryan Bonnici, Philip Buttigieg, Roderick Ciappara, Christian Fenech, lan Galea, Albert

Grech, Josef Mifsud, Kurt Pace, Gordon

CITY & GUILDS GOLD MEDAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Debono, Charlie Cassar, Ivan Calleja, Jason Camilleri, Josef Mifsud, Philip

INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION **TECHNOLOGY**

LEVEL 4 MCAST-BTEC Higher National **Diploma in Computing** (Software Development)

Azzopardi, Mary-Jo Bonanno, Ivan Borg, Mark Andrew Buhagiar, Christian Debattista, Matthew Farrugia, Kevin Farrugia, Matthew Gatt, Charlotte Salafia, Sarah Abigail Saliba, Clayton Spiteri, Anthony Spiteri, Christian Vassallo, Andrea Xuereb, Melvin

LEVEL 4 MCAST-BTEC Higher National **Diploma in Computing (ICT** Systems Support)

Abela, Ivan Bartolo, Clayton Brincat, Lionel Camilleri, Keith Cassar, Adrian Darmanin, Noelle Deguara, Ian Deguara, Joseph Farrugia, Charlene Formosa, Stephen Frendo, David Gatt, Christopher Gauci Piscopo, David Gilson, Edward John Mamo, Reuben Micallef, David Micallef, Marcelline Seguna, Roderick Shaw, Steven Tabone, Christopher Vassallo, Roderick Vella, Reuben Xuereb, Adrian Zammit, Fyodor

LEVEL 3 **MCAST-BTEC National Diploma** in Computing (Networking & **ICT Support)**

Abela, Glenn Abela, Marvic Attard, Matthew Attard Robert Bajada, Darren Baldacchino, Neil Baldacchino, Norbert Bonavia, Justin Borg, Francois Borg, Gilbert Briffa, Michael Cacciatolo, Keith Camilleri, Claire

Casaletto, Ryan Cockram, Sean Cortis, Jonathan Cortis, Patrick Debattista, Reuben Dutton, Steven Ellul, lan Farrugia, Keith Fiorini, Keith Frendo, Daniel Galea, Dean Giordmaina, Dennis Grech, Janica Grech, Justin Grima, Maxine Grima, Sylvio Mansueto, Dorvic Marquett, Adrian Micallef, Daniel Mifsud, Chervl Mizzi, Jonathan Muscat, Jacob Muscat, Joseph Pace, Alvin Pace, Melaine Previ, Glenn Scerri, Alan Schembri, Samuel Sillato, Gabriel Theuma, Miguel Zahra, Christian Zahra, Derrick Joe Zammit, Denise Zammit, Roberta

Camilleri, Eric

Caruana, Suzanne

LEVEL 3 **MCAST-BTEC National Diploma** in Computing (Software **Development)**

Abdilla, Andre Abela, Dorianne Agius, Kevin Aquilina, Kenneth Attard, Ann Marie Azzopardi, Christian Azzopardi, Justin Baldacchino, Darryll Bonnici, Stephen Borg, Analise Borg, Glenn Borg, Jean Borg, Ryan David Brincat, Matthew James Bugeja, Christian Buhagiar, Francois Busuttil, Christian Buttigieg, Angelo Calleja, Darren Camenzuli, Mark Camilleri, Andrea Camilleri, Cleaven Camilleri, Mark Philip Carta, Claudio Caruana, Owen Cassar, Francesca Cassar, Gabriella Cassar, Luke Cauchi, Christian Cefai. Charlene Ciantar, Aaron Ciantar, Ian Cini, Antoine Cini, Clayton Cumbo, Daryl Curmi, Eman Damato, Joseph Damico, Melissa Debarro, Melanie

Delmote, Kim

Demicoli, Neville

Dimech, Luke Ellul, Ryan Joseph Farrugia, Kristjan Formosa, Darrell Gambin, Adrian Gauci, Kevin Grech, Andreas John Grech, Brandon Grech, Damian Grech, Duane Grima, Stephanie Magro, Rosalin Massa, Yannick Micallef, Sharon Mizzi, Michelle Mizzi, Stephanie Muscat Darren Musu, Christopher Muxi, Adrian Orland, Josef George Pace, Christian Pace Duane Pace, Nicholas Ricciari, Daniel Russel, Lynn Norma Saliba, Alexei Saliba, Cameron Saliba, Raymond Sammut, Marlon Sammut, Simon Schembri, Daniel

Schembri, Mark Daniel

Schembri, Richard

Scicluna, Gabriel

Spagnol, Joseph

Spiteri, Gabriel

Sultana, Derrick

Tabone, Michael

Tucci, Davide

Vella, Daniel

Vella, Kieron

Zammit, Graziella

Zammit Cordina, Keith

Theuma, Emmanuel

INSTITUTE OF BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

LEVEL 4 MCAST Diploma in Quantity Surveying

Azzopardi, Alison Azzopardi, Ivan Busuttii, Duncan Grima, Godwin Magro, Alfred Muscat, Patrick Tanti, Geoffrey Epifanio

LEVEL 4 Diploma in Construction Management

Attard, Ryan Farrugia, Alan Grixti, Mario Micallef, Peter Vella. Domnic

LEVEL 3 MCAST Technician Certificate in Draughtsmanship

Azzopardi, Charlton Azzopardi, Tiziana Borg, Clive Cachia, AaronMoses Calleja, Dimitrius Camilleri, Antonello Camilleri, Matthew Caruana Borg, Keith Ciantar, Lawrence Cortis, Darren

Curmi, Antoine Darmanin, Christopher Debattista, Marilyn Debrincat, Josette Desira, Delcimo Falzon, Owen Farrugia, Christian Farrugia, Leonard Galea, Antoni Gauci, Frank Grech, Lucienne Grech, Roland Lia. Daniel Mangion, Pierre Micallef, Trevor Muscat, lan Pomorski, Keith Portelli, Neville Sammut, Christine Sant, Antoinette Schembri, Marlon Theuma, David Vella, Antoine Vella, Martin Vella, Mylene Zerafa, Keith

LEVEL 3 MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Construction

Anastasi, Louisa Borg, Daniel Bugeja, Clive Caruana, Charlot Cutajar, Christopher Joseph Debattista, Karl Matthew Ellul, Jean Pierre Fenech, Kurt Said, Chris Tabone, Amanda

LEVEL 3 MCAST Advanced Diploma in Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning

Azzopardi, Anthony Cardona, Marcel Galea, Alexander Galea, Reuben

LEVEL 3 MCAST Technician Diploma in Masonry Heritage Skills

Bezzina, Christian Borg, Antoine Cassar, Louis Andrew Chircop, Saviour Gatt, Lawrence Gauci, Mark Grima, Mario Smith, Kevin Spiteri, Mario

INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Early Years

Atanasio, Mildred Bonett, Joanna Cutajar, Silvienne DAmato, Lisanne Marie Decelis, Francesca Fenech, Nadine Galea, Giselle Grech, Ann Marie Mamo, Samantha Micallef, Charlene Micallef, Daniela Micallef, Diane Mizzi, Jolene Montebello, Diandra Pace, Martina Riolo, Bernardette Vassallo, Mary Jane

LEVEL 3 MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Health Studies

Agius, Rebecca Azzopardi, James Bickle, Stephanie Cini, Raymond Grech, Nadia Grech, Rodianne Masini, Mariella Mizzi, Anthony

MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Care

Borg, Mary Grace Cauchi, Stephen Cohen, Nastassia Curmi, Carmlin Farrugia, Audrey Farrugia, Caroline Haber, Josceline Muscat, Sylvana Psaila, Brandon Said, Simon Schembri, Chentelle Xerri, Donnalise

LEVEL 3 MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Sport (Sports Development & Fitness)

Bayliss, Denelza Buhagiar, Lawrence Farrugia, Diane Fenech Soler, Emma Galea, Roxane Scerri, Christian

LEVEL 3 - ITEC ITEC Diploma in Holistic Massage, ITEC Diploma in Facial Electrical Treatments, ITEC Diploma in Diet & Nutrition for Complementary

Baker, Marian Bianco, Randyl Borg, Graziella Calleja, Stephanie Caruana, Clara Cassar, Tiziana Degiorgio, Michelle Ellul, Michelle Ferrante, Karen Grech, Bernice Portelli, Christine Vella, Lara Bella Zahra. Stephanie

Therapists

INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING

LEVEL 4 MCAST-BTEC Higher National Certificate in Electrical/ Electronics Engineering

Abela, Roderick Bileci, Franco Grech, Edward Zerafa, Michael

LEVEL 3 MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Electrical/Electronics Engineering

Baldacchino, Kurt Bonanno, Daniel Bonello, Charlton Borg, Reuben Camilleri, Jonathan Cassar, Eric Cassar, Matthew Chircop, Paul Formosa, Daniela Grima, Renier Saliba, Sario Scerri, Dion Sciberras, Steve Vella. Jean Paul

LEVEL 3 MCAST Diploma in Computer Engineering

Attard, Josmar Azzopardi, Mark Anthony Bonett, Matthew Borg, Terence Calleja, Daniel Caruana, Keith Curmi, Clayton Deguara, Ronald Farrugia, Joenick Vella, Antoine Zammit, Brian

LEVEL 3 MCAST Diploma in Industrial Electronics

Abela, Christian Borg, Johann Briffa, Josef Bugeja, Janet Calleia, Rvan Delezio, Marco Duca, Simon Ellul, Glenn Gusman, Sarah Incorvaia, Jurgen Mifsud, Jonathan Mifsud, Robert Sammut, Ian Scerri, Kevin Sciberras, Shawn Roderick Theuma, Ryan Vella, Gary Zahra, Stephen Zarb, Michael

LEVEL 3 - MCAST-BTEC MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Telecommunications

Bonavia, Jean-Pierre Busuttil, Christopher Camilleri, Kevin

CITY & GUILDS GOLD MEDAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Portelli, Charlie Webb, Adrian

THE HON. EDWIN VASSALLO MEETS THE **MCAST GOZO CENTRE STUDENTS**

On November 6 2007, the Hon Edwin Vassallo, Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and the Self-Employed, addressed the MCAST Gozo Centre students at the Xaghra annex. The main theme of the meeting was Entrepreneurship.

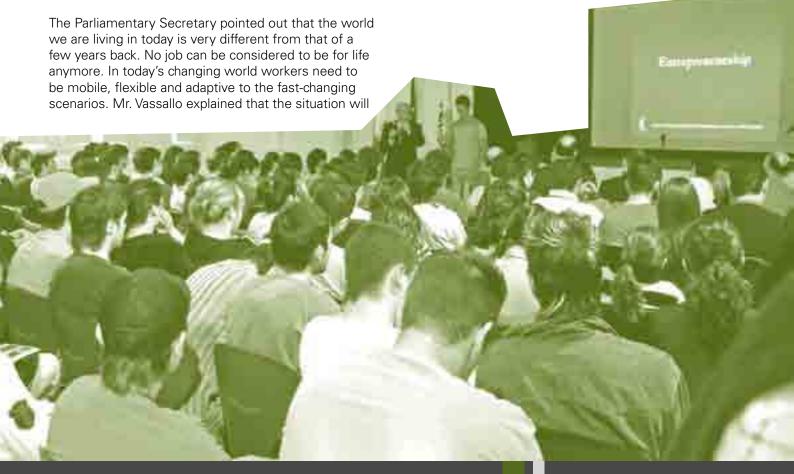
The Parliamentary Secretary was greeted by the Chief Administration Officer, Mr Emanuel Attard, the Deputy Principal, Mr Anthony Saliba, and the Gozo Centre Manager, Mr Godwin Grech. Mr Grech thanked Hon. Vassallo for his continuous efforts to promote the concept of Entrepreneurship among young people and for supporting SMEs.

The students were appreciative of the informal style adopted by the Hon. Edwin Vassallo in conveying his message. It was an interactive dialogue where students were invited to actively participate in the discussion. Mr Vassallo stressed on the importance of instilling an entrepreneurial mentality among students of all ages. This, he continued, was crucial for improving and strengthening the competitiveness of our country. Mr Vassallo admitted the entrepreneurial route is often uphill and at times risky but it is usually worth taking the risk. The pay-back is often significant.

become even more challenging in the years to come and it is up to our youth, to rise up to the challenge. Students effectively represent Malta's future and they must be trained to be able to shift gears quickly. The Parliamentary Secretary appealed to the lecturers present for the meeting, to nurture these mentalities among all MCAST students, irrespective of their vocational area of studies.

At the end of the meeting, copies of the publication entitled "Il-Valur tas-Solidarjeta` fin-Negozju - Biex Nirbħu fil-Kompetizzjoni" were distributed. This publication is not only valuable for those persons considering the idea of setting up their own business but may be adopted as a complementary text in a wide variety of subjects.

Mr. Emanuel Attard thanked the Hon Vassallo and urged students to carefully consider the Parliamentary Secretary's message as this is the mentality to be adopted in the years to come. A meeting between the Parliamentary Secretary and the Gozo Centre lecturing staff will be held in the near future.





TALKS BY OASI

A series of talks related to substance abuse were held for first year students attending the Gozo Centre. This is part of an educative prevention programme delivered by OASI Foundation in collaboration with the various educational institutions in Gozo. Students were briefed about the variety of services provided by OASI, including primary and secondary prevention programmes as well as the in-house rehabilitation services for people with addiction problems. Students had the opportunity to get a first-hand account of the grim realities and consequences of substance abuse from two persons who are currently nearing completion of a rehabilitation programme at OASI. It is to be noted that this initiative is held annually for all new students. Special thanks go to Father Manuel Cordina and all his staff for their support and dedication to the cause.

GOZO ICT SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT STUDENTS VISIT UNIBLUE

Students following the Software **Development stream in the BTEC** National Diploma in Computing at the Gozo Centre had an organized visit to Uniblue, a local software development company, launched in 2003, which has become renowned in innovative and award winning computer protection, security and performance solutions. The students were welcomed by Mr Marlon **Grech, Software Development Project** Leader and .NET expert at Uniblue and above all, a former ICT student at the Gozo Centre. Other company officials briefed the students about the software solutions provided by the company, the company clients and innovative aspects of their work practices and organizational structure. At the end, the students were presented with a software gift-pack.

HIS GRACE MGR MARIO GRECH CELEBRATES HOLY MASS FOR MCAST GOZO STUDENTS

To kick-start the programme of Christmas activities in the weeks preceding Christmas, the Gozo Centre management, Chaplain Father Alfred and the newly formed pastoral team organised a mass at the Xaghra Basilica for the MCAST Gozo Centre community.

The aim was to give priority to the spiritual aspect of Christmas. His Grace Monsignor Mario Grech was invited to lead this celebration of the Holy Eucharist together with the Archpriests of Xaghra and Xewkija, the two localities hosting the MCAST centres in Gozo. As always, the Bishop heartily accepted the invitation. The event was also an occasion for him to meet the staff and students currently undertaking courses at the Gozo Centre. The Bishop was greeted by the Mr Frederick Fearne, member of the MCAST Board of Governors, Mr Anthony Saliba, Deputy Principal and Mr Godwin Grech, Gozo Centre Manager. Mr Grech stated that, on the same line of thought as the College's corporate management, the mission of the Gozo Centre is fulfilled not only by giving students the appropriate vocational training but by educating them in a holistic manner, imparting sound moral and ethical values and a sense of social responsibility.

The liturgy was animated by a small orchestra composed of MCAST students and staff who gave a brilliant performance with appropriate songs and lyrics. Monica Marie Parnis (AAT) was soloist, Joseph Vella (ND ICT) and Mr Paul Camilleri (lecturer) clarinetists, Mark Grech (ND ICT) base-guitarist, Mayol Curmi (Electrical Installation) drummer, while Liliana Xuereb (lecturer) and Sabrina Jill Attard (AAT) co-ordinated the orchestra.

In his sermon, His Grace focused on the liturgy of the day whose main message was placing Christ at the centre of our lives. The Bishop challenged the congregation, particularly the students and asked them to be aware of the intensity of negative influences with which they are bombarded and reminded them that Christ provides the authentic way to counter-effect these influences. Students and staff read the prayers of the faithful,

appropriately selected for the occasion, followed by the procession of the offerings. The offerings also contained symbols related to the various vocational disciplines covered by the courses delivered at the Gozo Centre.

At the end of the celebration, Father Alfred thanked the Bishop and all those who in one way or another were involved in the organisation of this event. Mr Grech presented a token to the Bishop as an appreciation of his service and continuous support. The Bishop praised the formation of the pastoral team – a novelty for this year - composed of the Chaplain, Father Alfred and members of staff from the two centres.

Present for this event were Mr Frederick Fearne, member of the MCAST Board of Governors. Mr Anthony Saliba. Deputy Principal, Mr Ray Farrugia, Registrar, Mr John Sciberras and Ms Dorothy Meli, Directors.

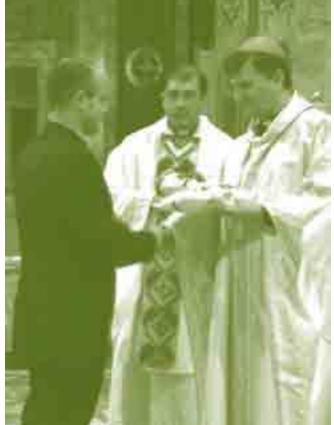
IS SATANISM A MYTH OR REAL?

Another event organised by the Gozo Centre pastoral team were two talks, one for each centre about the negative effects of satanism. The invited speaker was Father Marcello Ghirlando OFM, one of the leading exorcists of the Catholic church in Malta and lecturer at the University of Malta. Father Ghirlando explained typical situations which often lead young people to 'experiment' with the occult and eventually satanism. The students raised a number of issues and questions. He also clarified certain doubts and distinguished between myths, psychiatric disorders and the realities of demoniacal possessions. Father Ghirlando emphasised that people who fall victim to such rituals face a difficult and lengthy recovery path until they are freed from such possessions. Nevertheless, he assured students that people in a good relationship with God need not fear, since faith in the Almighty is a guarantee of protection against the evil one.











counsellors



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA CAREERS' CONVENTION 2007



This year the Careers' Convention organized by the KSU (Kunsill ta' I-Istudenti Universitarji) at the University of Malta was held between the 22 and the 26 October 2007. Once more MCAST participated in this event. Other participants were mainly organizations and companies attempting to recruit new employees. The horrendous weather on the opening day, did not stop the organizers nor the participants from struggling to put up their stands for exhibit. Luckily this improved by the following day and university life was felt all round.

The target audience ranged from secondary school students to post-secondary ones and even those from the university itself. It was interesting to note that there was an interest in the College's part-time courses.

It is very positive to have the University of Malta and MCAST complementing each other. In this way there exists a place for all those who would like to move towards a career path of their liking.

Our participation was a successful one with the cooperation of MCAST Administration and the Communications Office. The presence of MCAST students from the Institute of Mechanical Engineering; the Institute of Information and Communication Technology; and the Institute of Community Services made the MCAST look more vibrant and interesting.

UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS **FROM ESTONIA**

This academic term started off with an enriching experience as the MCAST Counsellors had the pleasure of hosting three counsellors from Estonia on Friday 12 October 2007. Ms Piret Tatunts, Senior Specialist and Head of Career and Psychological Counselling Service from the University of Tartu, Ms Ethel Eharand, Career Counsellor from Tallinn University and Ms Mirjam Lindpere, Careers Officer from Tallinn University of Technology were our guests for the day. They have previously visited other institutions in various countries, however they thought Malta was most suitable for them to relate to, since even though contrary to Estonia our island is very small in size, the sizes of our colleges and university are closer to the sizes of the ones in their country. During their week stay in Malta they also visited the Students' Advisory Services and the Counselling Services of the University of Malta, as well as the Guidance and Counselling Services of the Education Division.

The Estonians were first hosted in the College's Boardroom, where two presentations were delivered. The first one consisted of general information about MCAST, its set-up, the

together with opportunities and services offered. The second presentation was more elaborate, as it showed a clear picture of all the courses, the different levels, the progression routes and the various entry points.

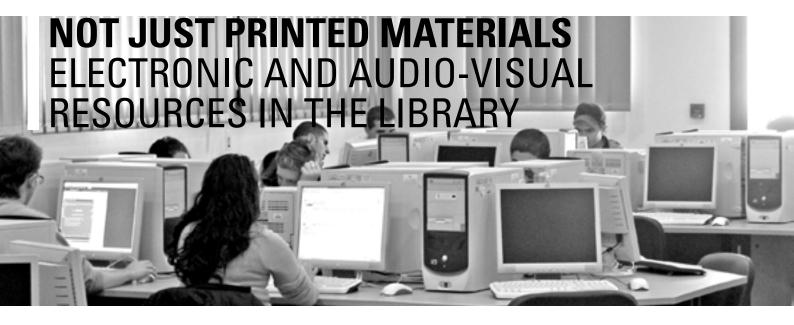
Mr. Frank Edwards, MCAST Principal/CEO, and Mr. Paul A Attard, President of the Board of Governors met the Counsellors. Their presence and knowledgeable input gave another dimension to this meeting. Mr. Anthony Saliba, Deputy Principal, met the delegation later on in the day.

They later proceeded to some of the Institutes where they met students during a variety of practical sessions; amongst which were those at the aviation workshop, ICT labs and the Hairdressing and Beauty salons, the most envied by our female guest counsellors. They also paid a visit to the Library and Learning Resource Centre.

On asking what impressed them most about our College, they stated that the hands-on approach; together with the progressive routes from one level to another were the most striking.



library and learning resource centre



The Library still invests in its printed materials collections. For example check out the new art and design periodical titles in Mosta, specialised titles on marine navigation in Kalkara, new books on agribusiness in Qormi, architecture and construction in Naxxar, and on various subjects here in Paola. However though the Library's collections are still in their majority in printed format the library has started to purchase some information in an electronic and audio-visual format.



1. EMERALD ON LINE **MANAGEMENT JOURNALS**

The Library subscribes to 30 Full-text on-line Journals (including their back issues), all published by Emerald. These journals are mainly in the area of applied and vocational management as follows:

- Accounting, Finance and Legal
- Health Care Management
- Industry Sector Management
- Information and Knowledge Management
- Innovation and Enterprise
- Library Management and Library Studies
- Managing People
- Managing Quality
- Marketing
- Organizational Development and Change Management

- Performance Management and Measurement
- Property and Real Estate
- Strategy and General Management
- Training and Development

See full list at www.emeraldinsight.com/info/ products_services/collegejournals.jsp

You can access these articles and the abstracts of another 300 titles at www.emeraldinsight.com/ Insight/. From College PCs in most Institutes and Administration buildings (not just library PCs) you do not need a password. The exceptions are the Building and Construction Engineering Library in Naxxar, the Maritime Library in Kalkara and the Agribusiness Library in Qormi. If you are at these Libraries or at home e-mail us (Ilrc@mcast.edu.mt) to get the current User name and Password.



2. 3000+ FREE FULL **TEXT JOURNALS**

Other free full text Journals may be viewed at the Open J-Gate portal (www.openj-gate.com) produced by Informatics India Ltd. Open J-Gate is an electronic gateway to global journal literature in open access domain. Open J-Gate provides seamless access to millions of journal articles available online. Open J-Gate is also a database of journal literature, indexed from 3000+ open access journals, with links to full text at Publisher sites.





3. WEB-LINKS A CLASSIFIED DIRECTOR OF USEFUL FOR COLLEGES WEB-SITES

The Library also subscribes to the following site www.weblinksresearch.co.uk. This is a subject categorised listing of selected and reviewed international Internet sites useful for College students and lecturers. From College PCs in most Institutes and Administration buildings (not just library PCs) you do not need a password. From elsewhere e-mail us to get the current username and password.

4. FINDING OUT WHAT YOU NEED FROM THE LIBRARY FOR YOUR COURSE HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER

Over summer the Library improved its web-pages www.mcast.edu.mt/llrc in several ways. One major improvement was the introduction of a new page 'Your course and the Library' http://195.158.110.84/llrc_ yourcourseandlibrary. asp. This page is essentially a search engine of the Library's catalogue with a direct link to the individual study units of each course. It is very easy to use. First choose your Institute, then choose your course, then choose the particular study unit you are following at present. Here you can continue searching by a number of subject headings or class numbers. Either search takes you straight into our catalogue giving a list of items related to your study units.

5. NEW DVD FILMS AT THE LIBRARY

The Library (mostly in Paola) has a small but growing collection of films (over 400 titles) on Video and DVD. Most titles are feature (fiction) films though a few are documentaries. You can check the whole list in all libraries by going to http://llrc.mcast.edu.mt/search.asp the 'Search our Catalogue' page. In the Subject Heading box, key in 'films', sort under 'title' then 'Search'. Besides actual films you will also find a number of books about films. All titles can be borrowed by lecturers and staff for one day or weekend use. Students can view these films in the library. The Library moreover can subscribe individuals to an on-line service called Teach With Movies http://www.teachwithmovies.org/ which gives ideas and detailed lessons plans how to use a particular film for discussion purposes according to age group, value or issue you would like to highlight. E-mail us (Ilrc@mcast.edu.mt) to enquire about a subscription.





EUROPEAN CNC-NETWORK: A NEW COMENIUS PROJECT FOR THE INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL **ENGINEERING**

This year the MCAST Institute of Mechanical Engineering together with the support from International Programmes Office is embarking on a Comenius project namely European CNC-Network. The coordination team is made up of four MCAST staff members. Eventually students will also be invited to join this project. The MCAST team together with 25 participating countries will be taking an active part in this project. The other participating countries are: Germany, Belgium, England, Greece, Italy, Austria, Sweden, Poland, Slovenia, Czech Rep., Bulgaria, Finland, Ireland, Croatia, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey, France, Island, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and Hungary. The coordination of this project is entrusted to BBS TGHS Bad Kreuznach (Germany). This is the largest Comenius partnership launched so far.

A preparatory visit was conducted between the 7 and 13 November 2006 at the BBS College of Bad Kreuznach Germany. The participants of the preparatory visit for the "European CNC-Network" agreed on a number of points namely that a European Network in the field of computerized numerically controlled (CNC) machines will be developed. English has been selected as the working language and the end product of this project will be, in fact, a train, aptly titled "Train for Europe". The train will be composed of an engine and a wagon representing each participating country. The different parts of the locomotive will be the result of common planning and manufacturing based on a European division of labour. Each partner school will provide several parts of the locomotive. The various parts of the locomotive will be assembled in the final meeting, and the wagons will be individually designed and manufactured by each participant. The wagons will incorporate unique characteristics representing the different countries. Four meetings will be held during the project:

- Dec 2007: Coordination and distribution of the design tasks
- Mar 2008: Assessment and agreement on the design drawings
- Sep/Oct 2008: Planning and coordinating of the production tasks
- Apr 2009: Final assembly and presentation of our project "Train for EUROPE"

Apart from the exchange of technical expertise, this project will also allow staff members and students at the Institute of Mechanical Engineering to compare the different kinds of vocational training and educational work and to exchange and develop training methods and material. Differences in teaching, training methods and equipment will be evened out. The participants will also develop a multilingual internet platform as a basis for long-lasting communication.

During the meeting held in November the participants were convinced that this project is perfectly suited to result in a product supported by a "European CNC-Network". The result of the efforts symbolizes the successful cooperation of the different European educational institutes. The Institute is confident that this project is an excellent example that will bring the "European thinking to life."



This project is being funded with the support of 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.



The National Commission for Higher Education (NCHE), in collaboration with the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST), have organised three foresight events with selected institutions and organisations involved in Further and Higher Education. Futures tools were utilised in order to meet the specific requirements of the organisations and councils and in facilitating the discussions during the event.

Senior management from the Malta College for Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) were brought together for the third workshop entitled 'The Learning Environment of the Future'. The purpose of the workshop was to analyse emerging changes which are transforming the learning environment, discuss how MCAST strategy could address those changes, and lastly to instil a culture of foresight among MCAST staff. Guest speakers were also invited to deliver a presentation on the increased use of elearning technology in teaching and learning. The importance of these new methods of learning was also outlined by MCAST staff as indispensable to ensure that the College retains its competitive edge vis-à-vis other further and higher education institutions.

The participants for the MCAST event were also invited to view the work done by all student representative bodies who, on the previous day identified emerging changes and skills required for future work. NCHE and MCAST both agree that it is imperative to listen to the ideas put forward by students, whose development is considered to be the core of any strategy which all institutions embark on. Student involvement is vital to ensure that the quality of Malta's institutions is upheld.

The NCHE has taken a lead role in ensuring that all further and higher education institutions in Malta are given the opportunity to carry out discussions which will enable the development of a collective vision for the sector in the coming years. This is in line with one of the roles of NCHE which is to "formulate the guiding principles for further and higher education, and propose a clear vision and sustainable strategic targets and objectives for the further and higher sectors of education".

This initiative was supported by FUTURREG, which is an EU funded project under INTERREG IIIC, whose central objective is the development, application and dissemination of a refined set of futures tools that can be used to address common regional development challenges. These tools are meant to assist all of us collectively to deal with uncertainty, serious challenges and trends, and provide scope for choices to be made in an intelligent and strategic way. Futures thinking and tools have been used by a number of countries for various reasons, one of which is that of developing strategies and policies for given institutions within the public and private sectors.

FITNESS CLASSES CAMPING **FOR STAFF**



As from the end of September the Sports Department has started organizing fitness classes for MCAST academic and administrative staff members. The training generally done is circuit training where staff members can push themselves as far as they feel able to and target both cardiovascular exercise as well as muscle toning exercises.



On the 29 September MCAST students had the opportunity to camp out for the night at Migrah il-Ferha at Imgiebah. This was organized in collaboration with Green Drinks Malta who organize activities in order to help promote awareness of the importance of looking after our environment.

THE GREAT MALTESE **CHARITY RAFT RACE 'SAVE THE MAIDEN'**



A group of MCAST Community Services students recently decided to have a go in this raft race. This was held at the Duck's Village on Sunday 7 October and it turned out to be really good fun for all who participated.

BADMINTON EQUIPMENT



The Malta Badminton Federation has recently donated a number of badminton rackets and shuttlecocks to MCAST in order to help promote the game further. Badminton is a popular sport at MCAST and the Sports Department organizes a league every year. A big thank you goes to the federation, especially to Mr. John Attard, who every year sends over a coach to help promote the game at the College.



Once again a team of five MCAST students had the opportunity to take part in the street soccer tournament in Senftenberg, Germany. Matthew Naudi, Julian Muscat, Michael Saliba, Emma Fenech Soler, Mirjana Zammit together with their group leader Jason Muscat, left Malta on Wednesday 29 August.

This was the third opportunity for MCAST students to attend a Street Soccer Tournament abroad and was made possible by MCAST Sports Co-ordinator Adele Muscat. In July 2006, a group of MCAST students had also gone to Germany to participate in the World Street Soccer Championships and in July 2007, another group of students participated in a tournament in France.

The competition was organized by "Brandenburgische Sportjugend", a German organization which promotes Street Soccer for Tolerance in Germany and in other European countries. In this competition there was a strong participation of 46 teams, coming from various countries, including Scotland, Denmark, Poland, Cormany, Finland, and more.

Germany, Finland, and more.
The model project 'Street Soccer for Tolerance' in Brandenburg, Germany is based on the methodological development and previous 3-years-experience of the 'Football for Peace' project in Medellin, Colombia. The project contains two main pillars: the first one focuses on the methodological approach of the game itself, the second one engages structural changes in the form of local networks aiming for long term sustainability.

The methodological approach looks at soccer as a tool for social integration, especially between young people. Therefore the focus is on community soccer as a nonformal activity, as unrivalled and so far unexploited opportunity for the creation of new young groups and collective identities in its organizational and mobilizing dimension for building a new concept of citizenry and public life in local, regional and international (European) dimension.

The street and public areas in general, are developing as new settings in which to learn how to cope with the tough demands of everyday life. Public space here turns into a place for non-formal education.

The methodological approach also encourages participation beyond institutionalised or specific interest groups. It also involves major participation by female participants. A figure of adviser replaces the referee or judge, who ensures that agreement on rules for behaviour and technical decisions are respected. Street soccer has an extended evaluation system where points are also given for fair play.

The MCAST team performed very well and made it all the way to the quarter finals. The championship was won by Red Stars of Denmark. The MCAST team placed 9th overall.

Before and after the competition the students participated in a youth exchange programme with cultural visits and sports activities. They had the opportunity to visit the Family Centre, the Military opportunity to visit the Family Centre, the Military Museum, a brown coal opencast mine in Welzow, and a city tour of Dresden and Berlin. As sport activities the students had another soccer competition, where they won the prestigious trophy for fair play, and a bike ride round the lakes of Senftenberg.

The team returned on the 3 September. It was a great experience for the students where they learned how one should respect his/her opponent by playingfair and being tolerant. They had the opportunity to socialize, being tolerant. They had the opportunity to socialize, participate in discussions with students from different countries and also to promote our country and what it has to offer. All the students gave their utmost, and participated in all the activities with great enthusiasm.

KENDO



Recently James Perry and Craig Wightman from the Cottonera Kendo Club gave a Kendo demonstration at the Institute of Agribusiness, Luqa. This was well attended and students had the opportunity to try some Kendo moves. Kendo sessions are now being held on a regular basis, every Tuesday at this Institute during break time. Anyone who is interested in this sport can join the group.

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT MCAST- ST.ALOYSIUS -**CHESHAM HIGH SCOOL, UK**



On Tuesday 23 October, students from the Institute of Community Services and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering participated in an 11-a-side football tournament which was held at St. Aloysius Sports Grounds. MCAST students first played against an English Team from Chesham High School and then went on to play against St .Aloysius.

SANDBALL TOURNAMENT



On Wednesday 30 October National Diploma First Year Sports students at the Institute of Community Services organized a Sandball Tournament at Mellieha Bay for all students studying the sports course. Sandball is like handball but played on sand. This was done to get to know each other better and create better team dynamics between the students and also the sports staff.

SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR ADELE MUSCAT AND MCAST STUDENT JOHN XUEREB ATTEND RAZZETT TAL-HBIBERIJA ABILITY CHALLENGE









Razzett tal-Hbiberija once again organized the Ability Challenge which was held in the mountain village of Mayrhofen in Austria last August. This challenge consisted of an adventure team challenge that took place over a week. The activities included mountain biking, high ropes course, canyoning, paragliding, glacier trekking and rafting. Each team was made up of five individuals and had at least one physically disabled person. Team members had to help each other complete each challenge.

Each participant was required to raise a minimum of Lm 650 in sponsorships which will go towards buying equipment for disabled individuals who wish to train for the 2012 Paralympic Games. A basic level of fitness and an adventurous spirit were essential elements for the success of this event therefore participants had to attend training sessions and meetings to be eligible to form part of the team. The Ability Challenge proved that with inclusion, ambition and a positive attitude, people with mixed abilities went through canyons, did paragliding, trekked on an ice glacier, did rafting, cycled different terrains and climbed a ropes course, irrespective of their disability.



SHOOTING

On the 6 and 9 November students from the Institute of Community Services as well as students from the **Institute of Information and Communication Technology** tried their hand at shooting. This activity took place at the Hal Far ranges where students learned about the trap discipline in clay pigeon shooting. Thanks goes to Lino Grech for instructing the students.

THE LAUNCH OF A NEW MATHS BOOK AT MCAST



Understanding Mathematics / Nifhmu I-Matematika is an extremely valid tool for those students following Foundation Courses at MCAST as well as those who are preparing themselves to sit for the SEC Mathematics examination. The Maltese translation provides a very suitable and thoroughly researched first attempt to set up the Maltese terminology commonly used in Mathematics. The book is divided in 31 chapters and covers the O-level syllabus. All the chapters have explanations, worked examples and exercises at the end of each section. The exercises in the Maltese version differ from the exercises in the English version so that the reader is exposed to a broader set of exercises. Understanding Mathematics also has a set of worksheets and a glossary. Furthermore, the reader can download a computer program called 'Graph' from the Internet, which is a very useful

tool for plotting graphs and inequalities. The author, Mark A. Caruana is a Mathematics lecturer at the MCAST Basic Skills Unit (BSU). He graduated with honours in Mathematics, Statistics and Operations Research. The text was translated into Maltese by David Muscat, the BSU Coordinator at MCAST, who is also the author of the adult literacy resource pack, Sisien. Mr. John Baptist Gauci, a Maths lecturer at the MCAST Institute of Business and Commerce, proof read the text and proposed various important improvements to it. Understanding Mathematics was officially launched on the 18 October 2007 at the MCAST Library and Learning Resource Centre. Ms Joyce Shepherd-Thorn, Director, Information and Student Support Services presided the event and Mr. Paul A. Attard, President of the MCAST Board of Governors delivered the final speech.

INTERVIEW WITH MATTHEW CAMILLERI

When did you join MCAST and why did you choose your particular course?

I joined MCAST this year and I chose this course because I like Electronics and anything technical that goes with it. I've always experimented on my own but this course is exactly what I needed to start my career.

Besides the course at the Institute of **Electrical and Electronics Engineering you** also attend sessions in Basic Skills. How do you find the sessions?

I find these sessions interesting. The library and learning resource centre where we go for lessons is great too and we can work on the computers during session time.

Are Basic Skills sessions helpful?

Yes, very because we are in a small group so we learn better. We do the same materials as other students in my course year but with individual attention.

How often do you attend sessions?

I attend three times a week. We have an extra lesson on our timetable and this helps us spend more time on explanations and work.

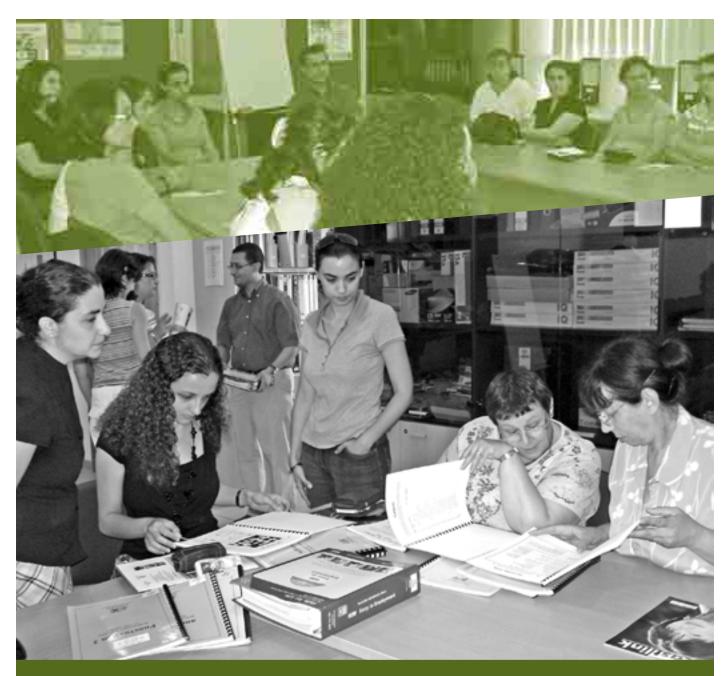
What have you covered so far?

In the beginning we did some revision of tenses because we needed to do a lot of written assignments in our course. We then wrote a paragraph about ourselves, a sort of presentation and we started to prepare for a mock job interview. I learnt how to present a CV and prepare a letter of application.

Do you recommend this course to others?

Yes, because you cover a lot of English practice and not only theory and you get help to tackle your difficulties. The course is short, just until you manage to tackle the subject on your own and it helps you manage and handle the rest of the course materials with ease.





SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS VISIT THE BSU LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

In July and September 2007, several teachers, literacy tutors and learning assistants visited the Basic Skills Unit Learning Support Centre at the Library and Learning Resource Centre, Kordin. The programme of visits was organised in collaboration with the Literacy Centre of the University of Malta and teachers teaching Maltese, English and Mathematics at Dun Karm Psaila, Boys' Secondary School, a - ebbu , Lorenzo Gafa, Boys' Secondary School, Fortini, Vincenzo Borg Brared, Boys' Secondary School, B'Kara and Erin Serracino Inglott, Girls' Secondary School, Bormla benefited from the programme.

In the visits, Ms. Joyce Shepherd-Thorn, Director, Information and Student Support Services and Mr. David Muscat, MCAST Basic Skills Unit Co-ordinator spoke about the Basic Skills Unit's aims, objectives, teaching methodology and strategies whilst BSU lecturers exhibited handouts, assessment tests, individual profile sheets and other teaching aids produced by the Basic Skills Unit lecturers and other resources purchased from the Basic Skills Agency, the Department for Education and Skills, National Extension College Limited and Cambridge Training and Development Limited.

student counci



A year has passed since the first MCAST Student Council was established in November 2006 and the huge number of meetings and events organised has proven the need of a Students' Representative Council at MCAST.

The first major hurdle was to get even representation from all Institutes. Sixty percent of the Institutes were being represented during the past year, a percentage surely on the increase in the coming months. A wider representation means more work and with a population of over 4600 students this does not make the MCAST Campus an easy one to represent, thus the need to remain close to the students on every occasion possible through various channels of communication and support.

One of these was the production of EDGE Magazine, a co-production by the MCAST Student Council to deliver a different kind of literature on College and the national student community in general but always making sure, everyone knows it is an 'MCAST Student Product'; a brand name that the MCAST SC wants to keep on strengthening in the future.

Another important task was to establish a solid financial platform from where to operate that is both independent from the College's public funding and that will never be a burden on the students or on the student's right of expression.

The huge support obtained from HSBC, GO, SG Solutions and Bookmark goes beyond all financial figures and the interest expressed in the Student Council by other organisations; mainly NSTS, Misco, Sedqa' and the American Embassy cannot go unnoticed especially in the light of other smart partnerships to deliver the MCAST Students the services and benefits all these organisations can offer.

Huge milestones were reached between the Student Council and the MCAST Administration, who understood the need of the students to participate in its decision making mechanism of the College since all the work of an educational institution revolves around students.

Last but not least the Student Council cannot but sincerely thank the hundreds of students who took active part in the events organised by the Council during the past year, mainly the National Youth Day 2007, in March when over 900 students attended the day's activities taking part in the football tournament, setting up of stands and artistic performances or by just visiting and encouraging their fellow students.

This was just the beginning and with the new executive taking office, future projects will contribute in making life at MCAST, one that really revolves around the students needs.

BUILDING ON SOLID FOUNDATIONS, MCAST STUDENT COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2007



The first MCAST Student Council AGM was held on Friday 23 November 2007, at the hall of the Institute of Business and Commerce. The MCAST SC Executive addressed the students present for such an important milestone in the formation of a strong democratic student movement at MCAST. The theme of this year's AGM was 'Building on Solid Foundations', since the past year has all been about setting strong foundations for the future.

Mr. Julian Portelli outlined the financial report for the 2006-2007 financial year. He mentioned the strong strategic alliances forged with a number of companies in order to deliver the concept of 'One College', where students from all Institutes were given the opportunity to actively participate in the creation of events such as the National Youth Day, Foundation Day and other smaller activities throughout the year. On the other hand Ms. Cladonia Scerri explained how the Student Council had to face strong difficulties whilst actualising its decisions, mainly because it was the first time the MCAST was including a Student Council in its decision-making. However these difficulties were never against the concept or the student but against how both entities prioritise their work.

Finally the students present, unanimously agreed to the declaration entitled "Different Needs, One College" which outlines the MCAST Student Council commitment to democratically represent the totality of the MCAST Students by keeping in mind their needs and differences.

THE CROSSLIFE PROJECT

CROSSLIFE STANDS FOR CROSS-CULTURAL COLLABORATION IN LIFELONG LEARNING AND WORK.

The CrossLife Project involves six universities funded under the Erasmus curriculum development programme. The CrossLife partners include the www.um.edu.mt, www.uta.fi/english/index.html, www.ioe.ac.uk, www.int.unizh.ch/index.html, www.monash.edu.au and www.dpu.dk/site.asp.

The programme, which runs for approximately 18 months during 2007-08 and aims to develop qualitatively new educational expertise emerging from multi-cultural research and collaboration, is a framework intended to enhance and enrich those courses offered by partner institutions, by organising workshops, producing learning materials and using advanced technology to build a cross-

the piloting of a scheme that builds capacity and crosscultural expertise for a new generation of research

the establishing of cooperative networks in universities that cross boundaries and enhance collaborative learning through the exploration of cultural diversity the development of research led programmes, which can include many different types of research that

connect to the interests of learners the enhancing of teamwork that allows learners to compare perspectives across different cultural and

the development of a Masters and PhD programme of contextual settings

launching workshops and online-resources as learning

developing learning material facilities

promoting active curriculum development building and fostering a cross-cultural research

embedding technology mediated communication with intensive face-to-face contact into the research activities



The study-programme consists of three thematic components and a final report/dissertation. The

Methodological challenges of cross-cultural themes are: collaboration in education, work and research Challenges from the politically integrating and economically globalising world for education, work

Theoretical challenges in conceptualising crosscultural collaboration in education, work and research and research

The general principles in teaching and learning activities and processes underpinning the CrossLife learning pathway are the following:

collaborative study/research in national home groups individual study/research and cross-cultural groups,

producing a variety of study data: visual, auditory and

sharing, analyzing and interpreting the data collaboratively in a cross-cultural context combining practical and theoretical elements by visiting national education units.

The first step in this pathway consisted of the preparation for the actual participation in the London workshop which focused on developing a shared

Each home group had to upload the following on to understanding.

www.peda.net/veraja/uta/vetculture/crosslife the CrossLife website List of participants and staff from each partner

Web-profiles of individuals: research interests; expectations; studies; the reason for participating; etc

Individual study plans were to be negotiated within the home groups and a powerpoint presentation treating education within its wider national context, taking MCAST and Heritage Malta as case studies on vocational education, was to be prepared by each home group for comparative discussion purposes. It may be accessed on the website quoted above. This presentation was to reflect the reading material on "Travelling Ideas" supplied by the organising universities and, thus, to relate to questions raised in the literature with a particular focus on policy borrowing, policy travelling, policy transfer, cultural diversity and gender issues.

During the London workshop various other areas were tackled including the use of ICT in education. The thematic crosscultural small groups were formed. These groups are to work via the internet in fields of research such as quality assurance, mobility, employability, etc., elicited from the Copenhagen Declaration, which introduces the EU as an actor in vocational education policy. A report following the workshop, together with a learning diary/log book, during the study process are two of the required products of this programme both for personal development and dissemination purposes.

Malta home group being treated to a lavish lunch at Lewisham College's equivalence to Malta's ITS during the site visit to this vocational institution. From right to left Mr John Sciberras, Director EEEI, MCAST, Ms Jacqueline Micallef Grimaud, Deputy Director IBAC, MCAST, Dr Claire A Baluci, Manager, DSL, Heritage Malta and Ms Gabriella Borg, University of Malta.



exercise your min



WHERE DID THE AIR WE BREATHE COME FROM?

The planets originated, astronomers suspect, out of swirls of gas and dust made up, in general, of the various elements present in their usual cosmic abundance. About 90 percent of the atoms were hydrogen and 9 percent were helium. The rest included all the other elements mainly neon, oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, sulphur, silicon, magnesium, iron and aluminium.

The solid globe of the earth itself formed out of a rocky mixture of magnesium, iron and aluminium silicates and sulphides, with molecules that clung tightly together through chemical forces. Excess iron slowly sank through the rock to form a hot metallic core.

The solid matter of the earth, as it collected, trapped some gaseous material and retained it in spaces between solid particles or through loose chemical union. These gases would include atoms of helium, neon and argon, which remained uncombined; and atoms of hydrogen, which either combined in pairs among themselves to form hydrogen molecules or combined with other atoms. They could combine with oxygen to form water, with nitrogen to form ammonia, or with carbon to form methane.

As the material of the forming earth packed down, gases fizzed out through the squeezing effect of pressure and the more violent effect of volcanic action. Molecules of hydrogen as well as atoms of helium and neon, are too light to be retained and they escaped rapidly. Earth's atmosphere came to be made up of what remained water vapour, ammonia, methane plus argon. Most, but not all, of the water vapour condensed to form an ocean.

This is still the sort of atmosphere possessed by planets such as Jupiter and Saturn, which, however, are large enough to retain hydrogen, helium and neon!

The atmosphere of the inner planets, however, began to evolve chemically. The ultraviolet rays from the nearby sun broke up molecules of water vapour to hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen escaped, but the oxygen accumulated and combined with ammonia and methane. With the ammonia, the oxygen combined to form nitrogen and water; with methane, to form carbon dioxide and water. Gradually, the atmosphere of the inner planets changed from ammonia plus methane to nitrogen plus carbon dioxide. Mars and Venus have nitrogen plus carbon dioxide atmospheres today, and the earth must have had such atmospheres at the time life first formed billions of years ago.

Moreover, such an atmosphere is stable. Once formed, additional ultraviolet action on water vapour allows free oxygen to accumulate. Further ultraviolet action alters such oxygen and turns it to ozone. Ozone absorbs ultraviolet and cuts it off. Little ultraviolet can penetrate the ozone layer in the upper atmosphere to break up water molecules below and the chemical evolution of the atmosphere stops—until such time as something new is added.

On earth, something new was added. A group of lifeforms happened to develop that could use visible light to break up water molecules. Visible light was not stopped by the ozone layer and the process which incidentally is called photosynthesis could go on indefinitely. Through photosynthesis, carbon dioxide was consumed and oxygen was released. Beginning about half a billion years ago, then, the atmosphere was converted to the nitrogen plus oxygen we have today.

Question Time:

Let's say that we are cooking hamburgers in a frying pan or over an open grill. I like to say that to cook them quickly you should cook them slowly! Does not this sound unreasonable? The fact remains, however, that to cook a hamburger thoroughly in the guickest time one should cook it slowly without the risk of burning it. Why is this so?

Answer (Upside down please)

If the meat is cooked fast with a high flame, that on the outside becomes scorched and covered with carbon. This carbon coating is a good thermal insulator and it now takes longer to get the meat cooked inside. On the other hand, there is evidence that the nutritional value of the meat is enhanced by the carbon, but this was not our enquiry.

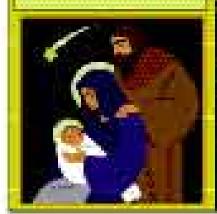


Message This igus of

Includible cores out just in time for Christmas. This is the local time for the loan and I st. J.M. Operations to wish all of you a 1-linly Christmas and a Nice Year seeing all your wishes for note and the future being fulfilled.

May you all receive the true joy and self fulfilment of a 1-fely Christmas

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Free drinks and party forkt

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Chicken Baguette



Our No.1 seller and most popular at MCAST

