

# MCAST LINK

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



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# EDITOR'S MESSAGE



**Caroline Balzan**  
Communications  
and PR Manager

**Welcome to another edition of MCASTlink. This issue has been redesigned in order to be visually interesting and appealing. The front cover will now feature the profile of a College student against a background that relates to the different MCAST vocational and professional areas.**

MCASTlink is produced by the Communications and PR Office  
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Over seven hundred students graduated during the annual Graduation Ceremonies held on the 16 and 17 December 2008. Two new courses were introduced this year namely the Diploma for Pharmacy Technicians and Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch. Mr Paul A Attard, President of the Board of Governors, congratulated the students and urged them to further their studies, be ambitious and work hard in this highly competitive world.

The College also held the Teacher Training Graduation Ceremony on the 23 January 2009 whereby sixty two lecturers received BTEC Certificates in Teacher Training, recognised as Level 5 by the European Qualifications Framework. The objective of this course was to provide the participants with the knowledge and skills required for effective teaching. The College is strongly committed to the continuous professional development of its staff and has recently managed to acquire funding for an ESF project entitled Professional Development Programmes for the training of its academic and non academic members of staff.

Students at the Institute of Art and Design and Electrical and Electronics Engineering were given the opportunity to carry out community work at different institutions including ir-Razzett tal-Hbiberija, Mount Carmel Hospital, St. Francis School and id-Dar tal-Providenza amongst others. Students from the Institute of The Art and Design helped to embellish the walls of the organisations by creating colourful and stimulating murals and paintings while the Electrical and Electronics Engineering students carried out various maintenance and electrical works. MCAST strives to ensure that all students have an enriched experience while at College and it is for this reason that it urges them to engage in these kind of activities. These occasions provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate the many varied skills they have acquired and also help in character formation. Well rounded persons with soft skills are what employers look for; therefore the College takes the holistic development of its students very seriously.

Adele Muscat, Sports Co-ordinator provides us with an interesting article on her trekking trip to Nepal and India. She describes the physical challenges she endured and gives us a taste of the magic and lure of India. Read more to discover!

I would like to thank all contributors for their effort and urge others to submit interesting articles to [caroline.balzan@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:caroline.balzan@mcast.edu.mt).

**May you have a peaceful Easter  
and enjoy your well-deserved break!**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Caroline Balzan'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

# INFORMATION

## MCAST and FRAUNHOFER JOIN MARSEC-XL

MCAST and Fraunhofer, one of the world's leading research institutes in software and systems engineering, have joined MARSEC-XL, the Marine Software Engineering Cluster of Excellence in Malta to help strengthen research and education in the yachting sector in Malta.

In a Public Deed on 10 December 2008 in Malta Prof. Dieter Rombach, Chairman of the Fraunhofer ICT Group, Executive Director of Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering (IESE) and Prof. Maurice Grech, Principal and CEO of the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology, formally joined as Council Members of MI-SE@MALTA Foundation, the applied research and education institute of MARSEC-XL.

Fraunhofer IESE, one of fifty-six institutes of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, is one of the world's leading research institutes in the area of software and systems engineering. A vast majority of the products and services delivered by the collaboration partners of IESE is defined by software. These products and services range from automotive and transportation systems to telecommunication and telematics equipment, from information systems and medical devices to software systems for the public sector.

Prof. Maurice Grech stated, "Together with Fraunhofer we are delighted to join MARSEC-XL to help strengthen further the research and educational aspect of this unique initiative in the yachting sector. This fits perfectly with MCAST's objectives to further its operations in the marine sector and to prepare students for today's and tomorrow's jobs."

At the ceremony Prof. Dieter Rombach stated, "Formalizing our working relationship with MARSEC-XL by joining its MI-SE@MALTA Foundation is an exciting step for Fraunhofer IESE bringing an entirely new and highly sophisticated application domain to our portfolio. The marine sector and yachting in particular already deliver hi-tech products and systems that offer significant opportunities for further innovation and integration."



*From left: Dr. Edward Flores - Notary Public, Prof. Maurice Grech – MCAST Principal/CEO and Member of the MI-SE@MALTA Foundation Council, Ms. Krystyna Wojnarowicz - President of the MI-SE@MALTA Foundation Council, Mr. Italo Ellul - Advocate MI-SE@MALTA Foundation, EMD Advocates. Back row from left to right: Mr. Geir Fagerhus - CEO MI-SE@MALTA Foundation and MARSEC-XL Foundation, Prof. Dieter Rombach - Fraunhofer IESE, Member of MI-SE@MALTA Foundation Council and Mr. Emanuel Attard – MCAST Chief Administration Officer*

The MARSEC-XL Foundation (Marine Software Engineering Cluster of Excellence) sets out to shape the digital future of the yachting industry focusing on marine systems and software engineering. The mission of MARSEC-XL is to provide an unbroken sustainable innovation chain encompassing a range of activities from applied research, education and training to business operations and technology transfer. With world-renowned players in the yachting industry, MARSEC-XL has been established as a neutral ground, where leading brands come together for collaborative work. "Fraunhofer IESE and MCAST have been actively supporting MARSEC-XL since its inception. Given the growth and success in MI-SE@MALTA it is now time to expand the Foundation Council and I am delighted to welcome Prof. Rombach and Prof. Grech as members of the council" - said Geir Fagerhus, CEO MARSEC-XL and MI-SE@MALTA Foundation.

# Foundation Day Photography Competition

On Tuesday 3 February 2009 Ms Caroline Balzan, Communications and PR Manager, presented gifts to Art and Design students that participated in the Foundation Day Photography Competition.

Three students, Raycine Cassar, Joseph Caruana and Corinne Caruana, from the Institute of Art and Design received book vouchers as a token of appreciation of their hard work and effort. Ms Balzan presented the vouchers in the presence of Mr Stephen Vella, Institute of Art and Design Director, Paul Camilleri, Lecturer and Ms Irene Bugeja, Administration Manager.



*From left: Mr Stephen Vella, Director Institute of Art and Design, Ms Caroline Balzan, Communications and PR Manager, Raycine Cassar, student, Mr Paul Camilleri, Lecturer and Ms Irene Bugeja, Administration Manager*

## 500 Email addresses for ALL MCAST Staff

An email address has been provided for each member of academic and non academic staff.

Members of academic staff are to contact the Institute Officers for further information.



## Baby Day at MCAST

On the 5 December 2008 MCAST organized its first Baby Day. Babies born in 2007 and 2008 were invited to spend an afternoon together with their parents at the new state-of-the-art Child Care Centre at the MCAST Main Campus, Paola. Parents had the opportunity to meet up whilst the babies played with the attractive toys. The place was decorated for the event and babies were given a gift at the end.

*Proud parents with Prof. M Grech, Principal and CEO, Mr M Attard, Chief Administration Officer and Personal Assistants Ms M Sciberras and Ms J Schembri*

# STUDENTI B'AMBIZZJONI QAWWIJA

PAUL A ATTARD



Paul A Attard  
President tal-Bord  
tal-Gvernaturi, MCAST

**Is-suċċess tal-istudenti wara kors ta' edukazzjoni u taħriġ professjonali u vokazzjonali fl-MCAST hi ċelebrazzjoni taż-żgħożija. Is-suċċess ta' mijiet ta' żgħażaġh li jakkwistaw kompetenzi speċifiċi konfermati b'diploma hi tnejnija u bażi soda għal karriera.**

Id-diploma miksuba hi indikazzjoni tal-livell ta' kompetenzi mill-huqa mill-istudenti. Hi ċavetta li tifihom karriera jew li tikkwalifikahom għal livell ta' studju oġhla. Mhix it-tmim ta' kors u daqshekk imma stadju importanti ħafna fil-ħajja. Id-diploma tindika li l-istudenti jkunu kibru, mhux biss fiżikament iżda wkoll intellettwalment, psikoloġikament, personalment u soċjalment. Il-Kulleġġ mhux qiegħed biss biex iħejji l-istudenti għal karriera, għad-dinja tax-xogħol. Il-Kulleġġ jeħtieġ ukoll jeduka, jagħti formazzjoni, u jiżviluppa l-personalità, il-karattru, il-valuri, l-attitudnijiet, kif l-istudent jgħix u jaħdem ma' ħaddieħor, kif imexxi jew jitmexxa, kif jaħdem f'tim, kif jissapportja lill-oħrajn, kif isolvi diffikultajiet, kif jiffaċċja problemi, kif ikun kreattiv u imprenditorjali. Jiġifieri, l-iżvilupp personali tal-istudenti hu importanti daqs l-akkwist tal-għerf u l-iżvilupp tal-kompetenzi u ħiliet. Dan kollu qed jenfasizzawh kif ukoll jistennewh il-mexxejja tal-industrija, tal-kummerċ u tas-servizzi.

## EDUKAZZJONI U TAħRIG

Għalhekk il-Kulleġġ jagħti importanza qawwiya lill-edukazzjoni tal-individwu daqskemm jinsisti fuq it-taħriġ, jiġifieri kif l-istudent jista' jwettaq dak li jitgħalliem.

L-edukazzjoni mhix biss il-baži tal-korsijiet vokazzjonali u professjonali, iżda wkoll is-sisien għal edukazzjoni matul il-ħajja. Għalhekk l-edukazzjoni li l-MCAST jagħti liż-żgħażaġh tagħna hi usa milli jkollhom bżonn biex jaħdmu f'xi qasam partikulari. Xi studenti ma japprezzawh dan u jqisuh studju u ħin żejda. Iżda mingħajr din il-baži soda ma jistax ikun hemm tagħlim u żvilupp matul il-ħajja.

## AMBIZZJONI MEHTIEĠA

Ilu li spiċċa ż-żmien li żagħżuġh jidhul jaħdem ma' intrapriża u jibqa' fiha għal għomru bħalma konna mdrorrijin fl-imgħoddi. Fl-istess ħin, nittamaw li għandna żgħażaġh li anke jekk jidhlu f'intrapriża bit-tama li jkollhom karriera twila fiha, huma jkollhom ukoll ambizzjoni li jogħlew minn pożizzjoni għal oħra. Nafu li hemm mobilità qawwiya fost il-ħaddiema kull sena f'pajjiżna.

Iż-żgħażaġh li jiġgradwaw aktarx ikollhom jgħaddu minn impieg għal ieħor matul il-karriera tagħhom, sew jekk jagħmlu dan b'għażla personali kif ukoll jekk jagħmlu hekk għaliex isibu ruħhom mingħajr xogħol. Aktar ma jgħaddi ż-żmien aktar qed ikun hemm bżonn ta' tagħlim, ta' teorija, ta' edukazzjoni milli saħħa fiżika fix-xogħol tagħna. Aktar irridu nħaddmu moħħna milli dirgħajna. Għalhekk irridu nkomplu nikbru u niżviluppaw matul ħajjitna kollha.

## IS-SAħHA TAL-MOħH

Il-pajjiż għandu bżonn ħafna "brain power" - is-saħħa tal-moħħ. Moħħ li hu kreattiv, li joħloq oġġetti u metodi ġodda, moħħ li jwassal għall-innovazzjoni, għal prodotti u servizzi ġodda. Għalhekk għandna bżonn assolut ta' riċerka u esperimentazzjoni biex nikkompetu. Għalhekk il-proġetti li jsiru miż-żgħażaġh tagħna matul il-kors tagħhom għandhom għan importanti ħafna. M'aħniex mistennija nibagħtu satellita madwar id-dinja jew fil-qamar. Biżżejjed li nħarsu madwarna u naraw kif nistgħu ntejbu dak li qed nagħmlu, kif nistgħu niżviluppaw prodott ġdid u noħloq domanda għalih, kif nistgħu nsebbhu dak li diġà għandna f'idejna, kif nistgħu nagħmlu prodotti aktar sempliċi jew b'anqas tbatija. Aħna napprezzaw ħafna l-proġetti li jissottomettu l-istudenti tagħna taħt il-gwida tal-lecturers u t-tekniki tagħhom.

Il-brain power, il-qawwa tal-moħħ, mhux biss tagħti karriera tajba lill-individwu nnifsu, iżda ħafna drabi twassal biex jinħoloq xogħol għal ħaddieħor. L-inizjattiva, l-intrapriża, id-determinazzjoni li wieħed jirnexxilu joħloq il-ġid għalih innifsu u għal oħrajn biex tikber l-ekonomija tal-pajjiż. Biżżejjed inħarsu madwarna u naraw min kiseb suċċess u sar sinjurun fl-industrija, fis-servizzi, fil-kummerċ. Nafu b'diversi nies magħrufa li bdew mix-xejn u qed iħaddmu għexieren jekk mhux mijiet ta' ħaddiema. Kultant forsi tiġina t-tentazzjoni li ngħiru għal min jagħmel suċċess. Iżda tajjeb li niftakru li kienu huma li ħolqu xogħol għal ħaddieħor. U ma ninsewx li aktarx kienu huma wkoll li daflu għal riskju, għaddew ħajja ta' tensjoni, inkwiet u pressjoni kontinwa f'kompetizzjoni qawwiya fis-suq lokali u globali.

## ŽGHAŻAGH AMBIZZJUZI

Aħna rridu li jkollna żgħażaġh ambizzjuzi. Ambizzjuzi biex jitgħallmu u jitharrġu. Ambizzjuzi biex jakkwistaw riżultati mill-aħjar u jithejjew sewwa għal karriera tajba. Ambizzjuzi li jirċievu salarju tajjeb. Basta ma jkunux ambizzjuzi fis-sens ikrah tal-kelma, b'kompetizzjoni sfrenata kontra sħabhom jew biex jimxu 'l quddiem għas-skapitu ta' sħabhom.

Fl-istess ħin, iż-żgħażaġh tagħna sikwit jeħtieġ ukoll li jkollhom ftit paċenzja u jistennew biex jilħqu pożizzjoni għolja. Għalkemm jakkwistaw kwalifiċi tajbin, jifdlilhom bżonn li jidhlu fid-dinja tax-xogħol b'kawtela anke jekk b'determinazzjoni u b'ottimizzmu.

Illum hawn hafna opportunitajiet għaz-żgħażaġh. Is-sensjela twila ta' korsijiet *full-time* u *part-time* li l-Kulleġġ joffri turi kemm hawn firxa wiesgħa fl-oqsma tax-xogħol. Iżda xi ftit żgħażaġh jaħsbu li hemm xi hadd li għandu xi obbligu lejhom li jhaddimhom, li jagħtihom pożizzjoni u jhallashom tajjeb hekk kif jibdeu jaħdmu. Oħrajn jaħsbu li x-xogħol m'għandux l-etika tiegħu u huma mhumieq mistennija jagħtu ġurnata xogħol b'effiċjenza u b'lealtà lejn min iħaddimhom. Din il-mentalità tista' tagħmel hafna ħsara lill-individwu u lill-post tax-xogħol fejn jaħdem.

## KOMPETIZZJONI HARXA

Irridu nżommu quddiem għajnejna li l-kompetizzjoni ekonomika qed tihrax kontinwament. Bejn servizzi mogħtija u prodotti magħmulin f'pajjiżna. Bejn servizzi mogħtija u prodotti magħmulin f'pajjiżi oħra. Malta qegħda fl-Unjoni Ewropea u għandha l-wens tal-Unjoni. Iżda fl-istess ħin qed tikkompeti wkoll mal-Istati Membri tal-Unjoni kif ukoll ma' pajjiżi oħra fejn il-produttjoni tista' tkun wisq orħos minn ta' pajjiżna. Għalhekk jeħtieġ li nifhmu sewwa li iż-żgħażaġh tagħna jridu jhejju ruħhom tajjeb u jkunu produktivi fid-dinja tax-xogħol. Bħalma ebda żaġħżuġh m'għandu jaħseb li hemm xi hadd li għandu obbligu li jagħtih ix-xogħol, hekk ukoll pajjiżna ma jistax jistenna li xi hadd iħenn għalina u jassikuralna l-gejjieni tagħna.

Jeħtieġ li iż-żgħażaġh jiżviluppaw – anzi jesplojtjaw – il-potenzjal tagħhom billi jistinkaw biex jakkwistaw l-oġġla livell possibbli ta' kompetenzi u ħiliet imsejsin fuq teorija u prattika skond l-aħħar teknoloġija. Din hi l-isfida kontinwa tal-*lecturers* tagħna biex iżommu ruħhom aġġornati fl-aħħar żviluppi fit-teknoloġija, tal-mexxejja tal-Istituti biex jassikuraw li l-laboratorji u l-*workshops* għandhom l-aħjar apparat u makkinarju, li t-*textbooks* iħejju lill-istudenti għall-iżviluppi t'għada.

## KAPAĊI NIKKOMPETU BARRA MINN PAJJIŻNA

Iva, għandna żgħażaġh li qed jesplojtjaw il-potenzjal tagħhom waqt li jkunu fl-MCAST. Hawnhekk ma nistax ma

nfiisix is-sodisfazzjon tal-Bord tal-Gvernaturi tal-MCAST għall-fatt li sitt studenti tagħna li marru għall-*Euroskills Competition* f'Rotterdam f'Settembru 2008, ikkompetew f'oqsma differenti, fejn ħadu sehem 420 żaġħżuġh u żaġħżuġha minn 29 pajjiż differenti, u s-sitt studenti ġabu lura tliet medalji tal-fidda.

Ma nistax ninjora l-fatt li għadd sabiħ ta' studenti mill-MCAST qegħdin isiefu barra minn pajjiżna biex ikomplu jistudjaw u jakkwistaw grad universitarju fi żmien relattivament qasir. Ma nistax ninjora l-fatt li għadd ta' studenti mhux biss irnexxielhom jakkwistaw l-ewwel grad iżda qegħdin ikomplu jistudjaw barra minn Malta biex jakkwistaw ukoll il-grad ta' *Masters*. Din hi l-ambizzjoni li nixtiequ naraw fl-istudenti tagħna.

Hadd, nirrepeti hadd, m'għandu dritt jillimita sa fejn għandhom jaslu l-istudenti li jaġħżlu kors vokazzjonali mal-MCAST. Hu għalhekk li qegħdin naħdmu biex studenti li jidhlu għal ċerti korsijiet u jilħqu livell ta' *Higher National Diploma*, ikunu jistgħu jkomplu fl-MCAST għal grad vokazzjonali. Bħalissa għaddejja ħidma sfiqa biex din il-wegħda ssir realtà.

Qed ngħixu fi żmien ta' sfida qawwija mhux biss f'pajjiżna iżda wkoll fid-dinja. Qatt ma kien hawn kriżi daqshekk kerha fil-qasam finanzjarju u ekonomiku daqs illum. Rajna banek kbar ifallu u istituzzjonijiet finanzjarji magħrufa jispicċaw fix-xejn. Qed naraw fabbriki jonqsilhom ix-xogħol u jnaqqsu l-ħin tax-xogħol jew jissensjaw il-haddiema. In-nies qed jibżuġu jonfqu għaliex għada ma jafux x'se jiġri. Anqas infieq, anqas qlieġh, anqas xogħol, anqas impiegi, anqas ġid anke fl-aktar pajjiżi żviluppati madwar id-dinja.

## B'KURAĠĠ U DETERMINAZZJONI

X'inhi jew x'għandha tkun it-twegħiba tagħna għal dan kollu? Żgur mhux li noqogħdu ninkwetaw u naqilgħu ġo fina mingħajr ma nistinkaw biex inwieġbu b'kuraġġ u b'determinazzjoni qawwija meħtieġa speċjalment f'ċirkostanzi u ambjent diffiċli. Fi żmien ta' incertezza ekonomika jeħtieġ li jkun hemm aktar investment mill-gvern u mill-intrapriżi fl-iżvilupp tal-individwu, fil-*brain power*, fil-qawwa tal-moħħ. U dan qed isir.

Tista' forsi tiflew xi flus mill-bank. Tista' tiflew ix-xogħol għal xi żmien. Iżda hadd ma jista' jeħodlok dak li tkun tgħallimt – l-għerf, il-kompetenzi u l-ħiliet li tkun akkwistajt. Dan hu l-potenzjal personali li jagħtik ix-xogħol, il-qlieġh.

Iż-żgħażaġh tagħna jeħtieġ li jkunu ambizzjuzi. Ikomplu jistudjaw. Ikomplu jitharrġu. Ikunu kburin b'dak li kapaċi jagħmlu. Jinvestu fihom infushom matul il-karriera tagħhom. Joħolqu l-ġid għalihom u għall-familja tagħhom. Biex jassikuraw il-gejjieni tagħhom u ta' pajjiżna.

# THE MALTESE GOAT

By  
**Jeanette Farrugia**  
Assistant Lecturer  
Institute of Agribusiness



The Maltese goat breed is known throughout the Mediterranean and it was common for farmers from other countries such as Sardegna, to come and buy goats from Maltese farmers. The Maltese male goat has also been depicted on stones from the Tarxien prehistoric temples. It is typically white in colour with long hair and a black head. The high milk yield is an important characteristic as well as the high milk fat and protein content.

The drastic decline of this breed from the Maltese Islands was practically due to the discovery of Brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis*) in goats' milk by Sir Temi Zammit. A misconception was initiated in that only goats' milk contained the disease, this urging Maltese farmers to look for other milk producing farm animals. In fact the government of that time supported this idea by having a programme against goat rearing and proposed a scheme that gave a cow (Holstein Friesian breed) in exchange for five goats. Further to this, the Maltese goat breed was also threatened through the crossing with other breeds.

Goat milk has played an important role in human nutrition for a long time because of its nutritional and dietetic characteristics (Morand-Fehr et al., 2000). The importance of goat milk in infant diets is growing probably because goat milk in some cases is less allergenic than cow milk. Maltese goat milk is often processed into cheese. Goat cheese is of a hard-texture, made with full-cream raw milk. Its sensorial profile is particularly appreciated among cheese tasters. If one wants to purchase the traditional *ġbejniet*, going directly to a farmer that produces them is recommended!

Several actions can be taken towards the improvement of the situation of this breed. The loss of such a valuable breed can mean loss of agricultural biodiversity in the island of origin, that is Malta, but also in the Mediterranean context. Although goats have done considerable damage to the local flora in the past, they are more suitable for Malta than cows which are adapted to graze on pastures, rather than the rocky hills that are more typical of the Maltese islands. It is a pity that having a breed with strong cultural roots is almost absent from its place of origin.



# NEW MANAGEMENT AT THE INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN



Following the recent appointment of Stephen Vella as the new Director of the Institute of Art and Design, MCAST is pleased to announce the completion of the youngest administration team within the College with the appointment of Melanie Mizzi and Mark Theuma as Deputy Directors.

While congratulating them, we wish them luck for their new, appointed roles.

From left: Melanie Mizzi, Deputy Director, Stephen Vella, Director and Mark Theuma, Deputy Director

STEPHEN VELLA -  
DIRECTOR

**Stephen Vella started his teaching career in 1994 when he taught Religious Knowledge, Photography and Design at what was then the Salvatore Dimech School for Craftsmen in Mosta.**

He was appointed Director at the Institute of Art and Design, Mosta in July 2008, after serving as Deputy Director in the same Institute during the previous five years. Stephen obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design from Falkirk College, Scotland. He is also in possession of a Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies (University of Malta).

In 2007 he obtained his Masters in Business Administration from Henley Management College, England. His main area of study was Vocational Training and Management. His dissertation looked at how the modern information technology and the Internet can offer several opportunities for Maltese vocational training institutions.

MELANIE MIZZI – DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR

**After having obtained a Diploma in Fine Art, Melanie Mizzi graduated in Art History and Italian in 1999. She took up a managerial position within the service industry, and concurrently read for a Diploma in Management studies.**

For the next three years she was employed as Brand Manager within the wholesale and retail industry. Following an intensive training period abroad, she was entrusted with various responsibilities including product marketing and promotion, staff training and development, budgeting, ordering and stock control.

Her career with MCAST involved both teaching and quality assurance, comprising internal verification and standardisation, arming her with invaluable knowledge and understanding of BTEC systems. Her teaching experience with MCAST mainly revolved around guiding students in their progression, as well as delivering lectures in Contextual and Professional Studies in Art and Design.

MARK THEUMA – DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR

**Completing his B.Ed (Hons.) degree in the year 2000, Mark has been lecturing Computer Aided Design and Information Technology at the Institute of Art and Design since its inception.**

His specialisations mainly include Technical Subjects, however through the completion of two post-graduate Diplomas in Information Technology and Draughtsmanship, and a number of years experience in the field of Art and Design, he also tutored and assessed students reading for the Edexcel BTEC National and Higher National Diploma within the Institute. In 2006 he completed his Masters in Business Administration (MBA) specialising in E-Business.

## Students design Artworks for Theatrical Backdrops

The Institute of Art and Design was approached by Ms Louise Cini, one of the main leaders and youth worker within the Mellieha Youth Group to provide Foundation Day Diploma students the opportunity to design theatrical backdrops for the Christmas Panto. The pantomime which is organized on a yearly basis attracts a varied audience of diverse age groups and professions alike, amounting to approximately 800 viewers during the two nights the pantomime was performed.

A group of four students, namely, Kaya Jabar, Shawn Pace, Steve Vella and Vanessa Walker, were approached and enthusiastically embarked on this interesting task. The task consisted of painting three backdrops each portraying a different scene, an interior of a living room, a pirate's ship and a jungle scene. Work on the backdrops which measured between 4 metres and 6 metres in width and approximately 3 metres in height, commenced in the last two weeks before the Christmas break and the dedicated students completed them during the holidays.

As a gesture of appreciation the four participating students were each given complimentary tickets to enjoy the pantomime and were publicly thanked and congratulated, by Louise Cini and the director himself, Patrick Vella Gauci, for their dedication and extraordinary work at the end of the show.

# Victor Pasmore in Malta:

## EXHIBITION CURATED BY ONE OF MCAST'S LECTURERS

An exhibition entitled Victor Pasmore in Malta was recently held at the National Museum of Fine Arts, South Street, Valletta. The event, organised by Heritage Malta in collaboration with the Malta Council for Culture and the Arts, commemorates 100 years from the birth and 10 years from the death of this leading British artist.

Pasmore is an artist whose works can be found in many public collections around the world including: Tate Britain, Royal Academy of Arts - London, Museum of Modern Art - New York, The British Council, Yale Centre for British Art and numerous regional British galleries.

Ms Katya Borg, lecturer at the MCAST Art and Design Institute, was approached to curate this important exhibition. This involved choosing the exhibits and preparing information for the panels found in the exhibition area. In writing and compiling the catalogue Ms Borg was in contact with people who worked closely with the artist. Ms Borg was assigned to promote the exhibition and the artist by writing articles and delivering a public lecture.

The exhibition consisted of art works from the National Museum of Fine Arts and the Central Bank of Malta collection ranging from a relief painting, etchings and aquatints and a mock of a marble mural. Works from private collections were not included due to space restrictions.

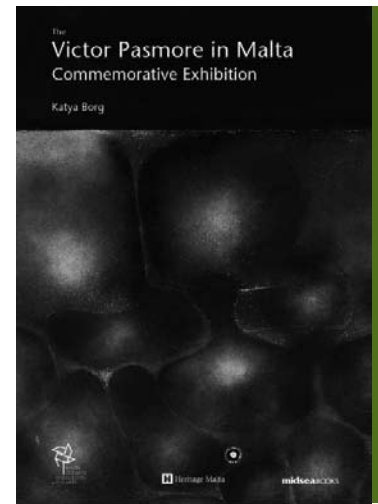
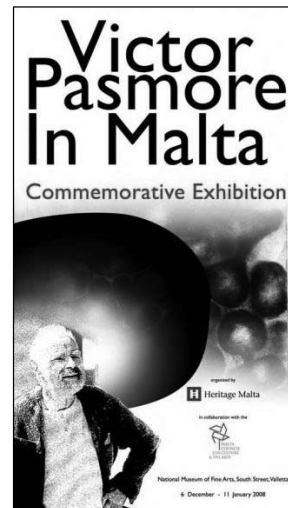
At the inauguration of the exhibition, there was also the launch of a catalogue on Victor Pasmore. The catalogue is a combination of a critical essay and a catalogue entry, both of which were written by Ms Katya Borg, together with a forward by Prof Richard England.

In this catalogue Victor Pasmore's achievements as an artist and educator are underlined. The write up delivers a detailed analysis on his transition in style. A short outline is given on how in the mid-sixties Victor Pasmore together with his wife, Wendy, relocated in a farmhouse in the south of Malta. The 16th century farmhouse was restored and changed into a masterpiece by the artist himself.

Pasmore's works were exhibited in 4 solo exhibitions and 5 collective exhibitions in Malta. A number of works by Pasmore can be found at the Central Bank, at St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity, at the National Museum of Fine Arts and at the Cathedral Museum in Mdina. A large number of works are also found in local private collections.

Currently the exhibition catalogue is available for sale at the museum with future plans for distribution from local bookshops.

Katya Borg has been involved in the local art scene for the past 10 years. She studied at the University of Malta where she obtained a first degree for which she had to write a dissertation on Victor Pasmore in Malta. She further pursued her studies by reading for a Masters Degree for which she specialized in Abstract Painting. For both degrees her main tutor was Dr Joseph Paul Cassar. She assisted Cassar in one of his publications Conversation with 12 Maltese Artists (published in 2007). Recently she contributed to another publication Cross-Currents, edited by Dr Raphael Vella (published in 2008). She works by commission for St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity.



The catalogue

Student Experiences

These opportunities are beneficial to the students, as they will get the opportunity to experience what the real world within the art and design sector has to offer.



From left: Shawn Pace, Steve Vella, Vanessa Walker & Kaya Jabar

## “ Graphic Design is the intersection point between art & communication ”



**Kane O'Flaherty**  
*Higher National Diploma in Graphic Design  
(year 2) MCAST Institute of Art and Design*

After attending sixth form, most probably taking two of the hardest subjects at A level, with the intention of enrolling at the University of Malta to study Architecture, I found myself wanting more. Architecture did not seem like the right course for me and after visiting the Institute of Art and Design, I immediately decided where I wanted to go. I was impressed by the standard of the artwork I saw, the subjects, the software and the desire to learn.

I am currently completing my Higher National Diploma in Graphic Design (2 year course) which has been very beneficial to me as I feel I have developed my technical skills, from photo manipulation, packaging techniques and editorial design to historical studies and generation of new ideas. These are some of the skills that have helped me gain an understanding of the various disciplines within Art and Design.

Starting in a Foundation Studies in Art and Design course, grasping knowledge from all the different workshops and moving on to choosing my pathway in Graphic Design, I look back and realize how much I have achieved over these past three years. I feel, from my progression from G.C.S.E through A Levels to my Higher National Diploma, I am beginning to develop my own style and way of working.

During the years I have been studying, there has not been a single day where I have felt that I have not achieved something new. Throughout my years at MCAST I have learnt how to try my best to achieve what I am aiming at.

I am always willing to learn more and be better at what I do, thus I have recently applied for Art and Design Universities in the UK and will hopefully be attending UCA (University for the Creative Arts) - Farnham next September to obtain a BA (Hons) in Graphic Communication. I also wish to further this degree and get my Masters the following year. Eventually, possibly after working in England for a few years, I would like to come back to Malta with a higher education, a wider array of technical skills as well as an improved outlook on graphic design.

Now is an exciting time to be working as a graphic designer, with more opportunities available than ever before. Graphic design has endless possibilities, and the digital revolution means my creativity can be enhanced by new tools, new ideas and new ways of working. There is always something fascinating to discover, from techniques to technology - and people to share those discoveries with. I look forward to sharpening my artistic skills and facing the future with confidence.

# MCAST Art & Design Students contribute to the Community



For the first time the MCAST Institute of Art and Design embarked on a one-week programme of activities aimed at students contributing to the local community.

This initiative was the idea of Mr Stephen Vella, Director of the Institute of Art and Design. "It was always my firm belief that all parties would stand to gain from the collaboration between our Institute and the community," Mr Vella said. "The organisations themselves have benefited from the energy and vitality that our students naturally injected in these activities whilst the students were exposed to a highly enriching experience, as well as gaining first hand awareness of different aspects and needs of the community in which they live."

Around 240 Art and Design students took part in a diverse range of activities, putting their talents and energy to the service of others within different areas of the community, including Mount Carmel Hospital, Eden-Razzett Foundation, id-Dar tal-Providenza, St Monica School, St Francis School, Verdala Boys' Junior Lyceum and Fortini Secondary School.

"Students came face-to-face with realities existing beyond College or the precincts of their entertainment quarters", said Mr Vella. "As artists and designers, this awareness is crucial for their cognitive development as well as their moral and spiritual growth."

This initiative involved intensive coordination between the Institute of Art and Design and the respective organisations that included student allocation, scheduling, preparing and organising materials and planning custom-made activities targeting the needs of the different groups.

The majority of the activities were directly linked to the students' talents. At Verdala Boys Junior Lyceum and at St Monica School, students worked on artistic murals to embellish the schools' environment. All the students demonstrated their ability to perform and work to given briefs and within set time constraints.

At St Francis School, students worked directly with children at primary level on an arts and crafts project, taking the role of teachers for the day. "It was a joy to watch the interaction between the younger and older students," said Melanie Mizzi, Coordinator of this programme. "The little ones were having the time of their life, while enthusiasm and eagerness were transparently evident on the youths' faces." Over 100 students worked directly with people with different physical and mental impairments. In collaboration with trained facilitators, they carried out arts and crafts exercises with the clients at Eden-Razzett Foundation, and produced clay souvenirs with the residents at id-Dar tal-Providenza. They successfully rose to challenges they probably never dreamed they were capable of.

Higher National Diploma Fine Art students had a more specific assignment. During their week-long stay at Mount Carmel Hospital they tried to capture different aspects of the environment, the buildings and museum artefacts to produce

a range of artistic creations inspired by this very particular setting. "We would like to extend this activity by exhibiting work produced by students within the setting of Mount Carmel Hospital," said Mr Vella.

Mr Vella was very satisfied with the positive feedback given across the board from all organisations involved, with all of them 'pre-booking' for next year's programme. He was sincerely impressed at how receptive and cooperative they were towards the planning and implementation of this programme, and expressed gratitude for the warm welcome given to the students.

The coordinators of the participating organisations were also positively impressed by the students' diligence, hard work, enthusiasm and energy. They also praised their behaviour when confronted with challenging and unfamiliar situations, such as working with children and youths with special needs.

This initiative was also very well received by the students themselves. Some of the most timid or reluctant students came back with a new outlook. "I have witnessed students whose faces literally lit up when they recounted their experience and this was the most rewarding part of the project!" said Ms Mizzi, the Co-ordinator of this activity. "Most of our students for the first time learned one of the most important lessons in life: that, in their smallness, they indeed can make a difference in other people's lives."

"Education of young persons involves much more than simply moulding them into future workers or citizens. In fact education should be based on the premise that each person finds identity, meaning, and purpose in life through connections to the community, to the natural world, and to spiritual values such as compassion and peace. These activities organized by the Institute of Art and Design were one experiment in holistic education that gave results and one which should be explored further," stated Prof. Maurice Grech, Principal and CEO of MCAST.

**MCAST  
Art and  
Design  
Students  
contribute  
to the  
Community**



*Part of the mural at St Monica School*



*At id-Dar Tal-Providenza embellishing the social area*



*Team at Verdala School*



*Working on the Verdala School project*

# ART AND DESIGN

# INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS AND COMMERCE PEACE & RESPECT

**This Article has been prepared and written by students following the MCAST certificate in Marketing Studies at the Institute of Business and Commerce.**

To commemorate the Day of prayer and peace called by Pope John Paul II back in Assisi in January 2002, Comunio organized for the first time at MCAST an event during which Peace and Respect were the protagonists. A number of MCAST young people took part during this activity which was organized at the MCAST Students' House. Students from the Institute of Arts and Design and the Institute of Mechanical Engineering, joined students from the Institute of Business and Commerce for a few moments of reflection on the value of Peace and tolerance, symbolism to enhance the beauty of communion, together with inter-faith prayers for peace.

In fact, leading representatives of the three major religious communities in Malta, accepted Comunio's invite and participated together for the event. The local Civil authorities were represented by the Hon Dr Louis Galea, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The distinguished guests were welcomed in the Students' House carrying a candle as a symbol of Light and Hope for Peace. The guests, included Senior MCAST Management represented by the President of the College's Board of Governors, the College's Principal and MCAST Chief Administrative Officer.

The event took off with a key note speech delivered by Comunio representatives, who explained the motivation behind the event being organized for the first time on the MCAST campus. The introductory speech also dealt with the relevance of focusing on peace and respect as being elements pertaining to the vicinities in which we live, study, work and entertain ourselves and not just something which may be lacking in some faraway place which is ruined by civil unrest and wars.

Five students from the Institute of Arts and Design, the Institute of Mechanical Engineering, and the Institute of Business and Commerce, presented four very interesting and enlightening short essays focusing on Peace and Respect – full texts of these literary contributions (which are worth reading) can be accessed on the Comunio website – [www.comuniomalta.org](http://www.comuniomalta.org)

Peace is not just a topic for nation leaders to discuss in international congress and for religious groups to preach about. Every man and woman of goodwill irrespective of

faith, race or creed should look for and will find a way to accept and embrace each others differences. We should search for compromise not confrontation.

Prof Maurice Grech – MCAST's Principal and CEO – delivered a short address in which he addressed the relevance of peace and the fact that the lack of peace and respect has been an issue featuring attention since the beginning of mankind.

Three short thematic speeches from the three representatives of the leading religious communities in Malta, followed. All three speakers focused on how Religion can be a unifying factor in a world of difference.

Mrs Shelly Tayar from the Jewish Community in Malta, stated, "I practice the oldest religion in the world. However, love is the basis of all peace, and religions have to work with each other. You may find perfection in a religion but if all religions come together there will be peace".

In an interview with Rabbi Shelly Tayar at the end of the event, she again expressed her opinion about Peace and co-existence between Nations and Religions. "Peace is when we have to start loving one another, and that everyone has to try, even though with different religions and beliefs. It is also the way you interpret the religion. All the different religions come from one source, which is God." When asked if the world's differences can be united together in order to be a better place, Mrs Tayar replied; "Each religion donates a lot for the world. The main thing is to reach love and to always give a chance to your enemies. Each religion completes each other because religion is one God."



*The Distinguished Guests: From left: Hon. Dr. Louis Galea, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Paul A Attard, President of the Board of Governors, Ms Shelly Tayar, Representative of the Jewish Community and Mr Imam Muhammad El Sadi from the Islamic Community.*



On the same issue Imam Muhammad El Sadi from the Islamic community commented, "Islam itself means peace and Islam considers that the whole humanity as one family belongs to the same father and mother, Adam and Eve, and they should live in peace and harmony, as brothers and sisters from the same family. Peace is the normal course of relationship between nations and religions. War is the exception. It should be the last resource to solve political disputes after finishing all means for peace."

When asked what should be done to bring peace, he replied, "First, we should educate people. Education is very important. Education is the key for peace. You can educate people to respect one another and to believe in peace itself. Furthermore, certain people in systematic war and destruction should be helped by the international community and should interfere to exert pressure on the outlaws."

Imam El Sadi reiterated, "Islam means submission to the will of God. Islam considers everyone as a big family irrespective of race, religion and culture. Different religions do not cause wars, it is our selfishness that causes wars. Islam teaches us to live in peace with everyone. Justice is one of the biggest fundamental values of Islam." He also emphasized that "Clash between humans is ignorance and to kill one another is against all religions".

Fr John Curmi, MCAST Chaplain affirmed, "Just like other religions, Catholics promote peace. Ever since the beginning of historical records, millions died because of religious conflicts in the name of Allah, Jahweh and God --- all referring to the only Blessed One. Even today many people are still getting hurt and suffering injustice because of religion. The secret of peace is to eliminate selfishness and show love to one another. We have to love each other the way we love ourselves and the way Jesus loves us".

When asked what the Catholic Community was doing to keep peace between different Religions. He answered, "The Catholic Church, after the Vatican Council II announced the liberty of speech between different religions, published documents about peace. The Church is organizing talks about peace and in 2002 the Pope organized an amount of prayers for peace and for everyone to be considered on the same level and see others as brothers and sisters. For me peace means, living as brothers and sisters all together, with respect and without giving importance to race, colour or religion. There can not be peace without justice."

The Hon. Dr Louis Galea, speaker of the House of Representatives, concluded the Manifestation with some very interesting and motivating points of reflection on the theme of Peace and Mutual Respect. His short speech was inspired by comments which were made by the three representatives of religious communities. He stated that reflection has to start from within. He thanked all those who participated, for what he personally described as a healing experience and emphasized the importance of establishing the priorities in our lives where family, friends, love, health and inner peace should always come first.

The Honorable Speaker of the House of representatives also touched upon the main points taken up the literary input of different students at the beginning of the event. He urged everyone to be active in favour of peace and respect. Dr Galea shared with all present his satisfaction in being able to attend and participate in this event. "Now that I have been present throughout this Manifestation, I can appreciate even more the invitation I received". He went on to encourage Comunio to keep on with its mission and enhance its vision amongst young people within MCAST and the society at large.

The Peace manifestation also included moments of song and reflection focusing on Peace and Mutual Respect. At the end of the event, Comunio Project Leaders presented the distinguished guests and MCAST Senior Management, a copy of a Declaration which was prepared and published on the occasion of this event focusing on Peace and Respect. On the much welcome initiative of the Hon Dr Louis Galea, this same Declaration has been passed on to all the Members of Parliament within the House of Representatives. Likewise a copy of the Declaration were presented to His Grace the Archbishop of Malta Mgr Paul Cremona, as well as His Grace the Bishop of Gozo Mgr Mario Grech. A token which was produced for this occasion, was also distributed and read "let's all be instruments of peace through our thoughts, words and actions!"

Peace is something that everyone seems to want. However many a time it seems that very few know how to successfully achieve it. One key to attaining Peace - both locally and worldwide - is a simple formula: Peace=Understanding + Respect.

Just like charity, Peace begins at home – from the way we act within our families, circle of friends, workplace, educational institutions, towns and villages. Let's not turn moments of unity and celebration – such as Village Feasts and Sports events – into an arena of intolerance and hurt.

**Let's start now, let's start here, from home first, from Malta.**

**Let's forget the different shades which tend to be our differences, but which likewise can be our basis for unity.**

**Let's forget North or South, Let's forget East or West,**

**Let it start in our families**

**Because Peace starts from little things!**

**If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. It starts at home!**

**Then let it fly like a white dove!**

**Let it flourish**



*Hon Dr Louis Galea delivering his concluding message*

# NIĊĊELEBRAW IL-ĦAJJA... NIĊĊELEBRAW IZ-ŽGĦOŽIJA!

L-istudenti żgħażaġh fl-Istitut għan-Negozju u l-Kummerċ flimkien ma' studenti oħra fl-MCAST għadhom kemm għexu esperjenza partikulari tul ġimgħa t'attivitajiet u inizjattivi varji bit-tema "Celebrate Life" – niċċelebraw il-ħajja. Filfatt din hija s-sitt sena li Comunio organizza inizjattiva bħal din bil-għan li tinxtehet attenzjoni akbar fuq il-valur qawwi u uniku tal-ħajja.

Il-qofol ta' l-attivitajiet kienu sensiela ta' *Life Encounters* li tulhom żgħażaġh kellhom l-opportunità li jismgħu esperjenzi mill-aktar imqanqla u qawwiya ta' numru ta' żgħażaġh u personalitajiet magħrufa. Żgħażaġh li ġarrbu x-xkiel tad-droga, l-abbuż ta' l-alkoħol u saram ieħor fil-ħajja tagħhom, qassmu dawn l-esperjenzi tul *Life Encounters* li kienu mmexxija separatament mill-Aġenzija Sedqa, kif ukoll mill-Caritas. Mijiet ta' studenti żgħażaġh attendew dawn il-*Life Encounters* mifruxa fuq erbat ijiem. Il-kummenti li nstemgħu wara dawn l-inkontri, kienu ġeneralment juru kemm il-qsim ta' l-esperjenzi missew il-qalb ta' dawk kollha li attendew, kif ukoll fetthu għajnejn dawk kollha li fehmu x'għadda minn għalihom dawn iż-żgħażaġh li għaddeu minn tant xkiel u saram meta ġew imqarrqa mix-xeniel tad-droga u vizzji oħra.

*Life Encounters* ieħor mill-aktar pożittiv kien l-aħħar wieħed li ġie organizza waqt *Celebrate Life Week* u li kien immexxi minn Ivan Grech - il-*frontman* tal-grupp mużikali popolari Winter Moods. Minbarra li kien unur għal dawk kollha li kellhom l-opportunità li jiltaqgħu mill-viċin ma dan il-personalità ewlieni fil-qasam tad-divertiment lokali, żgur li wieħed seta jinnota il-profondità tal-ħsieb

dwar il-valur u l-apprezzament tal-ħajja hekk kif ġew proposti minn Ivan Grech. Wieħed ma jstax ma jikkumentax dwar it-tqanqil tal-ħsieb li halla warajh dan il-*Life Encounter* f'dawk iż-żgħażaġh kollha li attendew u ħadu l-opportunità jixtarru ftit dak li kellu mhejji għalihom dan il-personalità ewlenija f'pajjiżna.

Minbarra din is-sensiela ta' *Life Encounters* tul *Celebrate Life Week*, Comunio organizza numru ta' attivitajiet oħra. *Moments* huwa l-isem li jingħata lil sessjoni ta' talb bi stil żaġħuġh li Comunio jorganizza fil-Kappella ta' l-MCAST regolarment tul is-sena akkademika.

Fl-okkażjoni ta' din il-ġimgħa t'għarfien favur il-ħajja, kien jixraq li s-sessjoni ta' *Moments* għal dan ix-xahar, tkun iffukata fuq il-valur tal-ħajja. U dan sehħ b'mezz mill-aktar effettiv permezz tal-partecipazzjoni ta' tlett żgħażaġh li attwalment qed isegwu programm ta' riabilitazzjoni mmexxi mill-Caritas f'San Blas.

Attività oħra li kellha rispons mill-aktar pożittiv kien DVD Forum msejjes fuq il-film mis-sena 2007 bl-isem ta' "The Ultimate Gift" – film b'messaġġ qawwi li jipproponi tnax-il valur ewlenija li jagħtu sens lill-ħajja fiż-żgħożija. Il-ħsiebijiet imqanqla minn dan il-film huma bosta u ż-żgħażaġh li attendew għal dan il-*Forum* kellhom l-opportunità li jieqfu, jaħsbu u jsaħħu l-apprezzament tagħhom għall-valur tal-ħajja.

L-attivitajiet waslu fi tmiemhom permezz ta' serata li ffukat fuq iċ-ċelebrazzjoni tal-ħajja żgħożija. L-ewwel parti tas-serata kienet imnebbħa minn attività li tat ħarsa lura – *flashback* – lejn il-Jum Dinji taż-żgħażaġh madwar il-Papa Benedittu Sittax f'Sydney f'Lulju li għadda. Żgur li dan l-avveniment jista' jitqies bħala avveniment ewlieni għaž-żgħażaġh għal din is-sena li waslet biex tintemm – u dan għal diversi raġunijiet. Tul l-attività, tlett żgħażaġh li kienu jiffurmaw parti minn grupp li kien ikkordinat mill-KDZ u li tmexxa mill-Eċċellenza Tiegħu Monsinjor Arcisqof, għamlu prezentazzjoni dwar l-esperjenza li huma għexu f'Sydney. Kienet prezentazzjoni li qanqlet lil dawk kollha prezenti, u li setgħu japprezzaw dimensjoni oħra tal-ħajja żaġħuġha. Mhux ta' b'xejn li Comunio għażel li jtemm l-attivitajiet ta' *Celebrate Life Week 2008* permezz ta' *flashback* għall-Jum Dinji taż-żgħażaġh.

The Audience at the Life Encounter



Tul l-attività tkellem ukoll Fr Savio Vella – delegat ta' l-Arcisqof għaż-żgħażaġh li minbarra li qasam l-esperjenza tiegħu ta WYD, wera x-xewqa li l-ispirtu haġ tal-Jum Dinji taż-Żgħażaġh ikun jista' jinfirex fil-parroċċi u l-għaqdiet kollha taż- żgħażaġh fit-triq lejn il-Jum Dinji taż Zgħażaġh li jmiss tlett snin oħra f' Madrid.

F'din l-attività ipparteċipa wkoll b'mod mill-aktar haġ Fr Karm Debattista li pprezenta numru ta' *tracks* mill-aktar CD riċenti tiegħu li huwa nieda f'Sydney propju fl-okkażjoni tal-Jum Dinji taż-żgħażaġh. Permezz tal-kummenti tiegħu bejn diska u oħra, Fr Karm heġġeġ liż- żgħażaġh sabiex japprezzaw il-valur tal-ħajja anke permezz ta' stima lejn esperjenzi mill-isbaħ bħalma huma l-esperjenza tal-Jum Dinji taż-Żgħażaġh.

Waqt l-attività li saret fuq il-Kampus ewlieni ta' l-MCAST, ħadu sehem ukoll Roberta Sacco li kantat żewġ siltiet miż-żewġ *CD Albums* li Comunio pproduċa. Twassal messaġġ awdjo viżwali mibgħut mill-Awstralja mis-Seminarista żagħżuġh Robert Galea li tkellem dwar l-esperjenza tiegħu li għadu iġhix sal-lum wara l-Jum Dinji taż-Żgħażaġh li kellu sehem dirett fih.

Fit-tmiem ta' l-attività ha ċ-ċentru misthoqq ta' l-attenzjoni Dak li jagħti l-ħajja... Permezz ta' ftit mumentu ta' riflessjoni u adorazzjoni mmexxija minn Fr John Curmi – Chaplain ta' l-MCAST – daww kollha preżenti kellhom l-oportunità li għal ftit ħin f'ambjent mill-isbaħ imdawwal bix-xemgħa, jirriflettu fuq l-approġ u s-sens qawwi ta' sigurtà li jagħtina Ġesu fil-ħajja taż-żgħožija.

Aktar tard filgħaxija, sar party bl-isem ta' *Black and White*, b'messaġġ ta' divertiment alternattiv u nadif. Filfatt wara programm qasir ta' taħriġ sponsorjat mill-aġenzija Sedqa, numru ta' studenti żgħażaġh mill-Istitut għan-Negożju u l-Kummerċ serew għadd ta' *mocktails* mhux alkoħoliċi f'tiżwieqa ta' kuluri u toġħmit bnini, u li flimkien mal-mużika moderna komplew joffri sfond mill-aktar adattat għal ċelebrazzjoni tal-ħajja.

Kif issemma aktar kmieni, *Celebrate Life Week* kienet tahlita ta' attivitajiet u inizjattivi bil-għan li titqajjem kuxjenza akbar għall-valur u l-apprezzament tal-ħajja żagħżuġha. Grupp ta' madwar tletin student mill-Istitut ta' l-Arti u d-Disinn fl-MCAST, tellaw wirja ta xogħlijiet artistiki bit-tema "*Life Expressions*".

Din il-wirja kienet attrazzjoni ewlenija fil-Foyer ta' l-Istitut għan-Negożju u l-Kummerċ fil-Kampus ewlieni ta' Raħal Ġdid. Bosta kienu l-kummenti pożittivi dwar it-talent mill-aktar frisk, vivaċi u haġ ta' kull min ippreżenta xi xogħol artistiku għal din il-Wirja. Bosta wkoll kkumentaw fuq l-għażla tal-ħsieb u l-kummenti li dawn l-istess artisti żgħażaġh għażlu li jgħammdu bihom ix-xogħlijiet ta' hila kreattiva tagħhom.

Inizjattiva oħra li Comunio organizza tul *Celebrate Life Week* hija l-pubblikazzjoni u t-tqassim ta' *bookmark* għall-okkażjoni li din is-sena kellha t-tema "*Love Life... Appreciate it!*" Mijiet minn dawn il-*bookmarks* tqassmu sabiex ikompli jitwassal għarfien akbar dwar il-valur tal-ħajja fiż-żgħožija. Barra minn dan, fil-kuraturi ta' l-Istitut għan-Negożju u l-Kummerċ, ttellgħu għadd ta' *banners* b'messaġġi li jqanqlu l-għarfien u l-apprezzament għall-ħajja.

# COMUNIO...

Fil-bidu tal-ġimgħa t'Attivitajiet u inizjattivi bit-tema "*Celebrate Life Week*", Comunio ħadu l-oportunità biex iniedu il-programm ta' ħidma għax-xhur li ġejjin.

Diversi huma l-ħidmiet, inizjattivi u attivitajiet li Comunio għandhom imħejjija sabiex ikompli jqegħdu fil-prattika il-*mission statement* li jixpruna l-grupp fil-ħidma li jwettaq. Prattikament hemm attività ewlenija għal kull xahar sa Lulju li ġej, fejn hemm il-ħsieb li grupp ta' żgħażaġh jorganizzaw ruħhom sabiex iwettqu esperjenza missjunarja barra minn xtutna. L-attivitajiet li qed jigu mħejjija huma varji u jinkludu ħidmiet soċjali, attivitajiet ta' xejra spiritwali, publikazzjonijiet, mumentu ta' divertiment alternattiv, formazzjoni tal-personalità u l-karattru, attivitajiet sportivi, diskussjonijiet u fora, fost hafna oħrajn.

Wiehed mill-aktar mezzi effettivi ta' tagħrif dwar il-ħidma li Comunio jwettaq, huwa bla dubju ta' xejn il-website bl-indirizz [www.comuniomalta.org](http://www.comuniomalta.org) Permezz ta' dan is-sit elettroniku, wiehed jista' jikseb it-tagħrif kollu li jkun jinħtieġ dwar il-ħidma ta' Comunio, kif ukoll jagħmel kuntatt ma' l-istess grupp.

Element ewlieni f'dan il-web site huwa il-Magazine Elettroniku bl-isem ta' *Footsteps...* Dan l-E-Zine għandu l-għan li jiġbor fih kitbiet li jqanqlu l-ħsieb anke jekk fuq temi li hafna drabi neħduhom for granted. It-temi magħżula huma varji filwaqt li bosta huma daww l-artikolisti u opinjonisti li jwasslu l-kitba tagħhom permezz ta' dan il-ġurnal elettroniku. *Footsteps* huwa publikazzjoni regolari li Comunio jqassam permezz tas-sit elettroniku tiegħu kif ukoll permezz tal-posta elektronika. Min jixtieq jirċievi kopja ta' dan l-E-zine kull meta jkun ppubblikat, jista' faċilment jagħmel dan billi jibgħat ittri fuq [comunio@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:comunio@mcast.edu.mt).



The Current Comunio Team

Riċentament dan il-website saħħaħ is-servizzi tiegħu anke permezz tal-Blog ta' Fr John – li huwa ċ-Chaplain ta' l-MCAST. Dan il-blog jinkludi l-oportunità li wiehed jista' jniżżel għall-fuq l-MP3 player tiegħu għadd ta' ħsieb u riflessjonijiet qosra li jinbiddu minn żmien għall-ieħor. B'dan il-mod ta' downloads, dak li jkun jista' jsib il-ħin l-aktar komdu sabiex jisma u jirrifletti fil-kwiet fuq il-bosta temi li Fr John ser jindirizza f'dan is-servizz... wara kollox ftit minuti fil-kwiet ma jagħmlux ħsara speċjalment fil-ġenn u l-istorbju li ngħaddu minnu ta' kuljum! Kulma jonqos hu li żżur il-website [www.comuniomalta.org](http://www.comuniomalta.org) u tagħmlu wiehed mis-siti elettronici li żżur b'mod regolari.

MIXJA TUL 2009

# Parenting Teens Skills Programme

In its endeavor to enhance its mission and vision, Comunio has this year embarked on taking the initiative to organize a Parenting Teens Skills Programme throughout February and March. The five sessions tackle different aspects in relation to Teenager needs. The programme is being supported by various professional experts in the area of youth work. Parents' response to this initiative is very encouraging and Comunio plan to have this initiative in its annual calendar as well as organize one off thematic sessions for parents who will be interested in sharing parenting experiences with other parents as well as be informed and increase awareness of certain elements related to the challenge of parenting.

## IBAC student on FIPA Jury of Young Europeans Biarritz

From the 20 till the 25 of January 2009, Daniela Spiteri, a student in her second year of studies following the Certificate in Administrative and Secretarial Studies, was chosen to participate in the 22nd Festival International de Programmes Audiovisuels that was held in Biarritz, France. Her unforgettable experience in Biarritz centred around acting as a member of the FIPA Jury of Young Europeans. Daniela was representing Malta, and consequently MCAST Institute of Business and Commerce, together with other twelve young Europeans from different countries.

"A confrontation of the most notable works in the world's audiovisual sector" was how French actress Marie-France Pisier, president of the International Festival of Audiovisual Programs, describes the FIPA event. In its 13th edition, the competition has this year brought together a hundred works in different categories, hailing from 35 countries, including Albania, Japan, Brazil, China, Columbia, Mali and, for the first time, Australia. Approximately 40% of the works in competition have never been screened before and are making their world premiers at FIPA.

The Young Jury members, have had the opportunity to review 16 films in the Reportages and Current Affairs Category which was chaired by Philippe Dessaint, a well known journalist for TV5 Monde. Together with her colleagues, Daniela has the opportunity to discuss each film together with other professional jury members.

Every film which was reviewed had its own history and intriguing plot. Surely it was no easy task for Daniela and her European counterparts. Besides deciding and awarding a prize in the particular Category, all jury members had to examine the originality of the film, the protagonists, the different techniques, images and the quality of the films.

After a full three hours of deliberation, deciding, eliminating and voting for the best film, all jury members had the opportunities to attend dinner with a number of big shots in the French media industry

The runner up, was a film named Umoja, le village interdit aux hommes (Umoja, the village where men are forbidden). This film was directed by Jean-Marc Sinclair and Jean Crousillac. Between 1970 and 2003 1,600 women in this village said they had been raped by British Soldiers in northern Kenya. Feeling dishonored, their husbands beat and abandoned them. A handful of these women created Umoja a village off-limits to men, which became the refuge of Samburu women. Jealous men regularly threaten the village and create many problems for its founder, Rebecca Lolosoli.

The first prize in the category was awarded to the film director Yorgos Avgeropoulos for his film entitled 'The Blood of Kouan Kouan'. In the Amazon forest, an appalling crime has been committed and is still being committed against humankind. Texaco is accused of dumping 18.5 billion gallons of toxic oil waste into Amazonia. Ancient native populations are considered invisible and expandable, victims of the oil companies' easy profiteering. They are disappearing on a massive scale, as pollution kills the animals they hunt and causes illnesses until recently unknown to them, such as cancer.

Daniela explains that she has had a jam packed five days at Biarritz, with a lot of time taken up on the Festival. However this has helped her a lot in practicing the French language which she is studying as part of her programme of studies. The Biarritz FIPA experience has helped her increase cultural awareness and understanding. She feels that every minute spent in Biarritz together with her peer representatives from other European countries, was an important contribution to her professional and personal development..... a memorable experience which she will surely not forget.



# INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

# AROMATHERAPY

Eve Taylor, the founder of the Institute of Clinical Aromatherapy, delivered an interesting two hour talk, including a workshop session, at the Institute of Community Services, for students following the ITEC Beauty Courses. Ms Taylor has been working in the industry of aromatherapy for at least fifty years and is regarded as the pioneer of modern aromatherapy. She manufactures her own aromatherapy oils and skin care products.

Some students were given a task whereby, under her guidance, they had to mix aromatherapy oils and then find out what each student's product smelled of. This resulted in quite an interesting analysis.

Whilst in Malta, Eve Taylor conducted a 2-day seminar for beauty therapists during which she launched the "Eve Taylor System of Analysis". This new method is available exclusively through approved and trained Eve Taylor (London) Ltd skincare salons.

## WHAT IS AROMATHERAPY ?

Aromatherapy is the practice of using volatile plant oils, including essential oils, for psychological and physical well-being. Essential oils are the pure essence of a plant and if used correctly and safely provide both psychological and physical benefits.

In addition to essential oils, other complementary natural ingredients can be used for aromatherapy. These natural ingredients can include cold pressed vegetable oils, jojoba (a liquid wax), herbs, sea salts, clays and muds.

It is important to note that perfume oils also known as fragrance oils are not the same as essential oils. Perfume oils and fragrance oils contain synthetic chemicals and do not provide the therapeutic benefits of essential oils. The benefit of an aroma - inhaling essential oils - is that when essential oils are inhaled into the lungs, they offer both psychological and physical benefits. If this is not done correctly and safely, the use of essential oils can have severe consequences.



*Eve Taylor at the Institute of Community Services*



# INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING

## INSTITUTE OFFERS TRAINING TO ACTAVIS LTD

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering has reached an agreement with Actavis Ltd, a leading local pharmaceutical company, to offer training to a number of their employees. Actavis Ltd expressed a desire to upgrade some of their operators to a level of machine setters. This skills upgrading exercise required training at both a theoretical and practical level.

A number of preliminary meetings were held between the MCAST Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering's management and Actavis management staff. Lecturers from the Institute visited the factory and personally verified the type of machinery used.

With this background information and preparation, a 200 hour course consisting of ten modules, ranging from Electrical and Electronics Principles to Mechanical Principles and Automation was designed.

Lectures are being held on the company premises.



*Training for Actavis staff*

## EUROSKILLS 2008 “BEST OF NATION” AWARDING CEREMONY

### BORDEAUX BY MARK PHILIP CAMILLERI

The one-day Bordeaux experience was short-lived yet very memorable. Beside the excitement that came with the fact that it was my first trip all alone, I got to spend a day in a city I had never been to; accompanied by twelve foreigners who were just as alone as I was. Thus comes the obvious need to socialise and make friends. The event consisted primarily of an awarding ceremony where we were presented with a small “Best of Nation” memorial souvenir from the Ministers of our respective countries; in my case from Hon. Dolores Cristina, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. After the ceremony we headed back to the hotel, changed into some comfortable clothing and went on a 2-hour boat trip on the Garonne River. Later we had some free time and together with my new friends we headed off to the city centre until about 7pm in the evening. The next morning I flew back to Malta.



*Mark Philip Camilleri*

# VOLUNTARY WORK AT IR-RAZZETT TAL-HBIBERIJA

For another consecutive year, a number of students from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering kept their annual commitment to help voluntary organizations. During the month of November 2008, a number of students following the City and Guilds 2330 Certificate in Electrotechnical Technology, under the supervision of Mr Marjohn Demanuele and Mr Alfred Mizzi, carried out voluntary work at the ir-Razzett tal-Hbiberija, Marsascale. The students spent two days setting up the light decorations for the Christmas Village. Besides gaining practical experience, the students felt the satisfaction of helping other people in need.

In mid December 2008, a group of 15 students surprised the organisation by spending another full day carrying out maintenance work, under the supervision of various lecturers.



*Gardening*



*Carrying out electrical works*



*The whole group*

# INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

# COLLECTION FOR PUTTINU CARES



During the Christmas holidays, Computer Domain, one of the private training providers offering ICT courses to MCAST students, organised a party for the students.

During this party the students collected money amongst themselves for Puttinu Cares. The staff and management of Computer Domain also contributed to this money collection. Ms Miraide Callus Gatt, Director Computer Domain, in conjunction with a representative group of the students presented a cheque of €1,000 to Mr Rennie Zerafa, Co-ordinator Puttinu Cares at Mater Dei Hospital.

Puttinu Cares is an organisation that takes care of children diagnosed with cancer.

Mr Rennie Zerafa informed us that every year 15 children are diagnosed with cancer, 75% of whom are cured. Thanks to contributions similar to this one, a better environment is created for the children under care and additional equipment and medicines are purchased.

*Ms Miraide Callus Gatt, Director Computer Domain, and MCAST students presenting the cheque to Mr Rennie Zerafa, Coordinator Puttinu Cares*



# GFI SPONSORS MCAST INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

The MCAST Institute of Information and Communication Technology is pleased to announce that GFI Software has once again extended its sponsorship of its award winning GFI MailDefense Suite.

The GFI MailDefense Suite offers organizations like MCAST comprehensive anti-virus, anti-spam and anti-phishing protection. This powerful package comprises two market leading GFI products that together filter and clean all inbound email for spam, viruses, malware and many other threats. The GFI MailDefense Suite makes use of multiple technologies – such as Bayesian filtering to remove spam and up to five anti-virus engines to detect viruses – to achieve this. It is very easy to install and configure and companies looking for a holistic way to handle spam and viruses, will find the GFI MailDefense Suite to be the right tool, at the right price.

“We are very happy to extend our sponsorship to MCAST,” said GFI CEO, Walter Scott. “The College has been instrumental in providing local IT companies, like GFI, with skilled human resources. This sponsorship is our contribution, as a prime industry player, towards the continued education and training of the local IT community.”

“Over one thousand two hundred full-time students at various levels of study at MCAST’s Institute of Information and Communication Technology will be benefiting from the sponsorship provided by GFI,” said Prof. Grech, Principal and CEO of MCAST. “Such support is a clear indication of the collaboration of the College with Industry, a cornerstone of MCAST’s mission.”

GFI is a leading software developer that provides a single source for network administrators to address their network security, content security and messaging needs. With award-winning technology, an aggressive pricing strategy and a strong focus on small-to-medium sized businesses, GFI is able to satisfy the need for business continuity and productivity encountered by organizations on a global scale. GFI has offices in the US, Malta, UK, Hong Kong and Australia which support more than 200,000 installations worldwide. GFI is a channel-focused company with over 10,000 partners worldwide. GFI is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner.



# MARITIME INSTITUTE

## MARITIME INSTITUTE ORGANISES FAMILIARISATION TALKS FOR LAW FIRMS DEALING WITH SHIP REGISTRATION

A number of lawyers and clerical staff from Ganado & Associates attended two half day sessions at the Maritime Institute where they received information on maritime related subjects such as General Ship Knowledge, Maritime Legislation, Maritime Communications, as well as other Shipping facts from Maritime Institute Lecturers. The sessions were organized to give personnel working on Ship Registration and Maritime Litigation issues the opportunity to take a closer look at the practical side of shipping and to become more familiar with the day-to-day duties of seafarers at sea. The staff from Ganado & Associates also had the opportunity to try out their nautical skills on the ship bridge simulator and were given an extensive tour of the Institute's facilities. Towards the end of the sessions, Dr. Jotham Scerri-Diacono, on behalf of Ganado & Associates, presented a number of books and publications to the Maritime Institute Library, as a sign of gratitude for organising the sessions.

*Dr. Scerri-Diacono presenting one of the books for the Maritime Institute Library to Capt. R. Lanfranco, Director, Maritime Institute. Also in the photo are Capt. Michael Pagan, Probationary Officer Cadets and Staff from Ganado & Associates.*



# OFFICER CADETS VISIT THE MIA METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE



Maritime Institute Officer Cadets together with Capt. F. Gauci, Meteorology Lecturer at the Meteorology Station in Luqa

On Friday 6 February 2009, Maritime Institute Probationary Officer Cadets and First Year Officer Cadets visited the Malta International Airport Meteorological Office at Luqa. This visit was organized by the Institute's Meteorology Lecturer, Capt. Francis Gauci, as part of the Meteorology course being followed by the Officer Cadets at the Maritime Institute. The Officer Cadets had the opportunity to

meet Meteorologists and gain first-hand information about how Meteorology Forecasts are carried out. The Cadets were given a detailed tour of the Met Station and also had a chance to look at instruments which were used for Meteorological Forecasting in the past, in a separate museum area at the Meteorological Office.

## FIRST YEAR OFFICER CADETS ATTEND PREPARATORY SESSIONS PRIOR TO GOING TO SEA, ORGANISED BY MCAST COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE SECTION

In line with the Leadership and Management Training Programme, first-year Officer Cadets attended a two-day preparatory session organized by the MCAST Counselling and Guidance Section on how to cope with certain issues which they may face during their 12-month phase of Officer Cadet training at sea. For many who have never experienced being away from family and friends for a lengthy duration of time or served on a ship which poses a totally different and difficult environment, this may become a problem. It is therefore important to prepare for this challenging phase and to train oneself to accept the new environment he or she will be living in over the next 12 months.

It was with this intention in mind that MCAST Counselling and Guidance Section launched a two-day training course to prepare the Officer Cadets for the challenges that lay ahead. The first day of training was held at the Maritime Institute on the 11 March 2009, whilst the second day on the 12 March, was spent at Fort Madalena, Madliena, the training school of the St. John Rescue Corps, where cadets had the chance to work together in an isolated and different environment. The Cadets thoroughly enjoyed the course and recommended it for all other Officer Cadets embarking on seagoing vessels.

The following officer cadets were at sea on the following vessels during the period this article was written:

VESSEL	CADET	DATE EMBARKED
MT Salina Bay	Giovanni Bartolo	26/11/08
MV Eurocargo Istanbul	Julio Caruana	16/01/09
MV Grande Ellade	Andre Agius	15/08/08
MV Grande Portogallo	Dorian Grech	22/08/08
MV Eurocargo Valencia	Vivienne Chircop	27/10/08
MV Maersk Itea	Jesmar Vassallo	15/01/09
MT Salina Bay	Luke Saliba	06/02/09
MSC Boston	Ben Vassallo	13/01/09

# INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

## CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

December 2008 was a busy month for the Institute of Mechanical Engineering. Students eagerly participated in the two main activities organized, namely the Christmas Football Tournament and the Hobbies Exhibition.

The Christmas Football Tournament was held at the Hibernians Football Ground and was won by 'Heat Exchangers' (HND 2A). The team 'ND 1B' team placed second, whereas the 'Fies Team' placed third.

A good number of students and staff attended the Hobbies Exhibition which was held at the Institute on the 17 December 2008. Members of the Association of Model Engineers also participated in this event. Of particular interest were the photographic works by Steve Decelis and the life size quad bike made by Dominic Camilleri.

*The Christmas Football Tournament*



# THE HOBBIES EXHIBITION



Photographic & Digital enhancement by Steve Decelis



Mr Anthony Saliba, Deputy Principal viewing the exhibit



Life-size quad bike by Dominic Camilleri



Car Model by Antheon Micallef



# GOZO CENTRE

## CHRISTMAS 2008 MASS AND CONCERT

As in the previous years, the first term at the Gozo Centre ended with the celebration of mass and a Christmas concert in the Xaghra Centre hall.

Mass was celebrated by Fr. Alfred Farrugia, former Chaplain of the MCAST Gozo Centre. Mass animation was left in the hands of the Xaghra pastoral team, led by Maurice Saliba, who selected readings of the liturgy, coordinated student participation in the prayers of the faithful and a prayer of thanksgiving. In his brief message, Fr. Alfred appealed to the congregation to place Jesus at the focal point of all Christmas festivities and to accept the plans that He has laid for us in our lives. During mass, a collection was made from those present in aid of the Community Chest Fund, presented on the same day to L-Istrina representatives.

The concert involved the participation of staff and students and included several varied items. It was coordinated by Ms Liliana Xuereb, Mr Paul Camilleri, Ms Victoria Sultana and

Mr Maurice Saliba and students decorated the stage and hall. National Diploma in Computing (networking) students presented a short enjoyable video illustrating their daily life at College. Francesca Borg, entertained the audience with a number of songs whilst female students and lecturers performed dancing items, including a piece from the Mamma Mia musical. This was followed by the awaited 'Teachers Awards' item, which has now become a classic, organized by Xaghra and Xewkija students. It was an opportunity for staff to realize personal attributes of which they had been unaware of. Male lecturers entertained the audience by their hilarious "Elephant-story" with poor Mr Joseph Gatt, ending up with a good treat of ... shaving foam! Another item involved Xaghra lecturing staff confronting the Xewkija lecturing staff in a peculiar quiz – Xaghra staff won hands down!

Once again, this year's concert was a manifestation of students' talent in an enjoyable and memorable experience.

## GOZO CENTRE OPEN DAYS

On the 10, 11 and 12 December 2008, the Gozo Centre opened its doors to hundreds of secondary school students to make them more aware of the vocational training provision offered by the College in Gozo as well as giving them the opportunity to view the new workshops and facilities that have been inaugurated in 2008. In collaboration with the Principal of the Gozo College, Chev. Frank Gatt, and the various Heads of Schools, all Form 4 and 5 students from the various state and church schools were hosted at the Xewkija Centre in a well-organised orientation and informative tour. For the event, a number of stations were set up, with each station representing a particular vocational area of study available at the MCAST Gozo Centre. Secondary school students and their accompanying teachers were presented with appropriate Powerpoint presentations and/or practical demonstrations by the Gozo Centre lecturers. In some of these stations, MCAST students were engaged in practical assignments. The visiting students had the opportunity to get a first-hand account of training in various vocational sectors. The initiative was particularly appreciated by the Heads of Schools and their guidance units and there was a general recommendation to hold a similar event on an annual basis.



*Students from the Agius de Soldanis School visiting the Gozo Centre*

The Centre was also open for visits by the general public on the evening of Sunday 14 December 2008. A number of prospective students visited a second time accompanied by their parents.

This was the first open days initiative that has ever been organised at the Gozo Centre. The response was very positive and the management and staff are determined to make it a regular annual event of the academic calendar.

## PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

A series of three personal and social development seminars have been programmed for the students attending the Gozo Centre with the aim of giving them important lifeskills and contributing to their holistic development and education as well as making their stay at MCAST Gozo a truly enjoyable learning experience.

### SEMINAR ON ADDICTION

A day-seminar focusing on the theme of Addiction was organised for each of the two Gozo Centres on 19 and 26 November 2008. The seminar addressed various forms of addiction including substance-abuse (drugs and alcohol), smoking, as well as other forms of addiction (such as gambling) that do not immediately come to mind but which are no less harmful. An official from OASI foundation gave a presentation on causes and symptoms of different forms of addiction, focusing on questions submitted anonymously by students through a question box in the days preceding the seminar. 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. In the second part of the seminar, the students were divided into small groups to participate in workshops sessions, facilitated by MCAST lecturers. Special thanks go to Father Manuel Cordina, Director OASI Foundation and his staff for their support and dedication to the cause.

### SEMINAR ON SEXUALITY AND RESPONSIBLE SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

Another day-seminar on the theme of sexuality was organised for the students attending the two Centres on 22 January 2009. This event was held in a conference hall outside the College and the Xewkija and Xaghra students had to opportunity to come together for a whole day. Special guest speakers were invited to cover various aspects related to sexuality. Dr. Anna Vella from the Health Division covered the medical aspect, including STDs and contraceptives. A young single-mother shared her personal experiences and explained the change of lifestyle and all the repercussions of her teen-age pregnancy. The students had been given the opportunity to submit questions in a discreet and anonymous manner through question-boxes several days before the seminar. Students' queries were addressed during the seminar by the various guest-speakers. Following a good meal at lunch-time, in the last part of the seminar, the students were divided into groups and debated a number of liberal and conservative views related to various aspects related to the theme. Each group was led by two or three lecturers who facilitated the debates.

Student attendance in both seminars was very encouraging. The organizing team was pleased to see that its initiative had been met by a very good response. A third seminar will be held later on this academic year.

## MCAST LEVEL 1 AND 2 AWARD GIVING CEREMONY

The Award Giving Ceremony for students who successfully completed Level 1 and Level 2 courses at the two Gozo Centres was held at the MCAST Centre in Xaghra on Wednesday 4 February 2009. Sixty-three students were presented with awards in recognition of their efforts and success. These included 10 Foundation in Care students, 19 MCAST BTEC First Diploma in Care students, 13 MCAST BTEC First Diploma for ICT Practitioners students, 3 Foundation in Business students, 7 Foundation Certificate (Engineering Skills) students, 5 Certificate in Electrotechnical Technology (CG2330) students and 6 Certificate in Engineering Skills (C&G 1155 craft level) students.

The ceremony was presided by Prof. Maurice Grech, Principal/CEO. In his address to the Gozo Centre students, Prof. Grech emphasized the importance of life-long learning and continuing professional development with the aim to re-skill and up-skill oneself. He congratulated the students on their success, urging them to further their studies. Prof. Grech also congratulated the students' parents, even though not present for the ceremony, since parents are always behind the success of their sons and daughters.

Also present for the ceremony were Mr Ray Farrugia, Registrar, Mr Godwin Grech, Gozo Centre Director and Mr John Sciberras, Director of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

As in previous years, Gozitan students who successfully completed Level 3 and Level 4 courses at the Gozo Centre graduated with the rest of the MCAST students in the Graduation ceremonies held in December 2008.



*Rodianne Buttigieg receiving her certificate from Prof. M Grech*

## MCAST HOLDS THE SECOND TEACHER TRAINING GRADUATION CEREMONY

On Friday 23 January 2009 the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) held the Teacher Training Graduation Ceremony at the Westin Dragonara Resort. Sixty two participants received certificates after successfully completing courses in pedagogy.

Forty two assistant lecturers teaching at various MCAST Institutes obtained the BTEC Certificate in Further Education Teaching while twenty primary and secondary school teachers obtained the BTEC Professional Certificate in Primary/Secondary Education Teaching. The certificates are recognised as Level 5 qualifications by the European Qualifications Framework.

The MCAST assistant lecturers completed an intensive eighteen-month course in pedagogy at further education level specifically designed for a vocational education and training institution. The certificate is offered to MCAST assistant lecturers as part of their continuous professional development that is in line with the aims mentioned in the College's Strategic Plan.

Twenty teachers successfully completed the BTEC Professional Certificate in Primary/Secondary Education Teaching. This course was agreed upon in February 2006 after discussions between the College and the Education Directorates. The two-year evening course was held for part-time instructors who had been in full time employment before 6 October 1999 and who did not possess a recognised pedagogy course certificate.

The BTEC Certificates in Teacher Training included eight units. The first unit was specifically designed for the vocational further education field and the primary/secondary area respectively. The other seven units were common for both courses and included the following units: 'Communications and the Teacher', 'Professional Practitioner', 'Induction, Initial Assessment and Support', 'Learning Theories and Teaching Techniques', 'Teaching Practice and Resources', 'Purpose and Use of Assessment' and 'Research Project'. Each unit consisted of 30 or 60 guided learning hours involving the notional measure of the teaching, instruction and assessment, together with other structured learning time such as directed or supported assignments.

The main objective of the teacher training courses was to provide course participants with key knowledge, understanding and practical skills required for successful teaching. Course participants were expected to develop a

range of skills which included the application of educational theories to practical and realistic classroom situations, the synthesis of a range of concepts, the knowledge and skills relating to teaching and the ability to research and investigate educational policies and practices.

During the graduation ceremony the graduates and guests were addressed by Ms Josephine Pace Caruana, a representative of the lecturers, Prof Maurice Grech, Principal and CEO of the College, and Mr. Paul A Attard, President of the Board of Governors.

In his speech Prof Maurice Grech, MCAST Principal and CEO, mentioned the importance of continuous professional development and MCAST's pledge in that regard. He stated that the College received funds from the EU for a project related to the Professional Development Programmes for MCAST staff and top-up degrees for students. He also mentioned that these were exciting times with many interesting projects including the professional development of staff, both academic and other, the launch of the degree programmes, the completion of a large number of ESF and ERDF projects and the initiation of the Master Plan Project.

Mr Paul A Attard, President of the Board of Governors, spoke about the many important qualities that a professional teacher possesses and the vital role he/she plays for both the student and society in general. He ended by congratulating the graduates and reminded them of the mission of the College 'to place the student at the heart of all that they do'.



*Lecturers that successfully received the BTEC Certificate in Further Education Teaching together with Mr Paul A Attard, MCAST President of the Board of Governors, Prof Maurice Grech, MCAST Principal/CEO, Mr Anthony Saliba, MCAST Deputy Principal, Mr Emanuel Attard, MCAST Chief Administration Officer and Mr Ray Farrugia, MCAST Registrar and Ex VTTU team, Mr David Bonello, Ms Katya De Giovanni and Ms Jacqueline Micallef Grimaud*



# Diskors għall-Okkażjoni tal-Gradwazzjoni tal-Għalliema li temmew b'suċċess iċ-Ċertifikat tal-BTEC fit-Tagħlim tal-*Further Education*

Sur Paul A Attard, President tal-Bord tal-Gvernaturi, membri tal-Bord, Professur Inġinier Maurice Grech, *Principal* u *Chief Executive Officer* ta' I-MCAST, Diretturi Ġenerali fid-Divizjoni tal-Edukazzjoni, mistednin distinti, membri tal-Amministrazzjoni Ċentrali, Diretturi, Deputati Diretturi, Kollegi Lekċerers, sħabi li ser niggradwaw illum, famlijari u ħbieb.

Illum qed niċċelebraw suċċess misthoqq għaliex mingħajr dubju kull wieħed u waħda minna li ser nigradwaw f'din iċ-Ċerimonja kellna nieħdu impenn serju u nagħmlu għadd ta' sagrificcji matul is-sena u nofs li domna nseguw l-kors '*BTEC Certificate in Further Education Teaching*'. Nixtieq nenfasizza b'sens ta' sodisfazzjon f'isem il-grupp kollu l-fatt li fil-grupp tagħna konna għalliema ġejjin kemm mill-Kulleġġ Malti tal-Arti, Xjenza u t-Teknoloġija, kif ukoll għadd sabiħ ta' għalliema li huma impenjati fil-qasam tal-edukazzjoni mad-Divizjoni tal-Edukazzjoni.

Għal xi wħud minna, dan il-kors ta' natura esklussivament pedagoġika fisser li ridna nerġgħu nibdew studji interessanti u impenjattivi wara xi snin li konna tlaqna mit-tagħlim u t-taħriġ formali f'korsijiet ta' livell għoli. Għal oħrajn, li forsi diġa' għandhom l-*ewwel degree* jew *Masters*, dan il-kors fisser taħriġ prezzjuż u addizzjonali sabiex iġibu l-hiliet u l-għarfien pedagoġiku fil-qadi ta' dmirijiethom bħala edukaturi. Hu x'inhu l-każ, kull wieħed u waħda minna ried jaħdem wara l-hin tax-xogħol, u b'edukazzjoni tħarriġna flimkien fil-pedagoġija. Huwa suċċess tassew misthoqq li qegħdin hawn, u qed nuża l-kelma suċċess intenzjonalment, minħabba li frott ta' dan it-taħriġ u s-sagrificcji marbuta miegħu se nkunu qegħdin ingawdu minnu aħna u, fuq kollox, l-istudenti kollha li se jkollna l-privileġġ li nedukaw fil-gruppi li se jkunu afdati f'idejna.

Naħseb li sħabi kollha jaqblu miegħi li dan il-kors kien strument effikaċi sabiex nippreparaw lekċerers aktar interessanti u bi ħsieb. Dan l-istudju għinna naraw l-istudent minn perspettiva aktar ħolistika, fejn stajna nifhmu l-bżonnijiet tiegħu u naraw kif nistgħu nġinuh fil-formazzjoni tiegħu f'dimensjoni sħiħa ta' student bniedem, student b'identità personali, u student membru ta' grupp aktar wiesa'. Fi kliem ieħor, dan il-kors għinna nifhmu li l-istudenti tagħna mhux qed jiġu mħejjija biss għal ekonomija b'saħħitha f'pajjiżna, jiġifieri li jkunu haċċiem ta' kwalità, iżda li fuq kollox ikunu ċittadini tajbin u responsabbli.

Din l-esperjenza kienet ta' suċċess u waħda pożittiva għalina lkoll. Il-fatt li aħna konna ġejjin minn oqsma differenti għinna niksbu esperjenza ta' pedagoġija msejsa fuq possibiltajiet u xenarji diversi, fejn il-qsim ta' dawn il-fatti kabbruna l-viżjoni tax-xogħol li issa rridu nrettqu b'aktar sens professjonali. Aħna tgħallimna haċċiem minn xulxin u anke stajna naqsmu esperjenzi diversi li niltaqgħu magħhom u nitgħallmu minnhom. Ta' dan nixtieq minn qalbi nringrazzja lil kull parteċipant f'dan il-kors.

Nixtieq nieħu din l-opportunità sabiex inressaq xi suġġerimenti fi spirtu ta' kritika konstruttiva. L-uniku għan ta' dawn ir-rakkomandazzjonijiet huwa li jkun hemm progress fil-hajja tal-istudent, tagħna l-lekċerers u fuq kollox tal-Kulleġġ kemm fl-istrateġija tiegħu kif ukoll fil-għanijiet li jfassal fuq bażi immedjata u fl-ippjanar għas-snin li ġejjin.

Matul dan il-kors kemm-il darba spiċċajna nistaqsu lilna nfusna kif nistgħu ntejbu l-kwalità tas-servizz li I-MCAST joffri lill-istudenti. Diversi drabi ġejna mogħtija struzzjonijiet għal sistemi ta' pedagoġija fejn il-messaġġ tagħna jista' jasal aħjar, jew gwidi biex inkunu nistgħu nilhqu b'manjera aktar effiċjenti lill-istudent kollha, irrispettivament mill-hiliet u l-bżonnijiet tagħhom. Madanakollu, konna nirriflettu li dawn il-gwidi ftit li xejn nistgħu nużawhom minħabba li s-sistema mhux dejjem tippermetti li dan iseħħ fl-aħjar mod possibbli, jew minħabba xi nuqqas ta' riżorsi. Hawnhekk nixtieq nissuġġerixxi lill-amministrazzjoni tal-MCAST u dawk responsabbli mid-Divizjoni tal-Edukazzjoni sabiex jisimgħu b'mod aktar enerġetiku xi riflessjonijiet u rakkomandazzjonijiet li nkunu għamilna wara l-informazzjoni li għaddiet lilna u l-formazzjoni li rċevajna matul dan il-kors. B'hekk l-oqsma tal-edukazzjoni li aħna nrettqu d-dmirijiet tagħna fihom ikunu jistgħu jaħdmu aktar fl-interess tal-istudenti.

Lecturer's Speech by Josephine Pace Caruana



Bla dubju, għeżiež kollegi, taqblu miegħi li l-aktar biċċa xogħol iebes u interessanti li kellna matul dan il-kors kienet il-*long essay*. Kull wieħed u waħda minna haċċiem fuq xi suġġett interessanti u relatat ma' xogħolna, fejn l-istudju għalih kien dettaljat, riċerka u miktub b'mod li jista' jwassal għal għarfien aħjar dwar l-istess oqsma. Jiena nemmen li I-MCAST għandu jibbenefika minn dawn l-istudji u aktar milli nħallu dawn il-*long essays* jakkumulaw matul is-snin fuq l-ixxakaf, jistgħu jiġu użati għall-aħjar interess tal-istudenti tagħna u għall-istess Kulleġġ fit-taħriġ tal-għalliema nflushom.

B'xi mod jew ieħor dan il-kors ifisser bidla fil-mod ta' kif għandna ngħallmu. Din il-bidla seħħet fina l-gradwati kollha kemm fuq livell individwali kif ukoll bħala grupp magħmul mill-MCAST u minn skejġ pubbliċi u privati. It-taħlit ta' ideat, viżjonijiet u perspettivi f'oqsma diversi tal-edukazzjoni huma mezz qawwi ta' tagħlim tal-valur tal-inkluzjoni, parteċipazzjoni u użu aktar għaqli ta' riżorsi eżistenti li minnhom gawdejna aħna lkoll. Għalhekk, nixtieq nawgura lil kull parteċipant għall-kisba ta' dan iċ-ċertifikat fil-pedagoġija, filwaqt li nawgura li dan is-suċċess ikollu rikonoxximent akbar kif dovut fil-professjoni tagħna.

Fl-aħħarnett jixraq li l-lejla, f'isem il-kollegi kollha, nagħmel xi ringrazzjamenti. Nixtieq nibda billi nringrazzja lilkom - sħabi kandidati - ta' dan il-kors, fejn għal sena u nofs sħaħ qsamna esperjenzi diversi u kbirna flimkien bħala grupp f'ambitu ta' taħriġ edukattiv u professjonali.

Inroddu ħajr b'mod partikulari lill-koordinaturi ta' dan il-kors, Mrs. Jacqueline Micalef Grimaud, Mr David Bonello u Ms Katya de Giovanni, li ppruvaw joffru s-sapport sħiħ tagħhom bl-aħjar mod possibbli, anki fiċ-ċirkustanzi meta huma ġew mogħtija rwoli oħra xi jwettqu matul l-istess kors tagħna. Inkun qed nonqos jekk ma nsemmix b'sens ta' gratitudni kbira lill-Professur Ronald Sultana għall-kontribut tiegħu fit-tfassil u l-ippjanar ta' dan il-kors.

Bla dubju, nixtieq nringrazzja mill-qalb lil Ms. Grace Barbara tal-paċenzja li haċċiem bina u d-dedikazzjoni fix-xogħol tagħha. Kull meta konna mmorru għandha b'xi diffikulta' konna nsibuha hemm lesta biex tgħinna, filwaqt li tagħmel l-almu tagħha haċċiem tarana herġin mingħandha bi tbiissima.

Grazzi lit-*tutors* li tawna s-sapport tagħhom matul il-*long essay*, u li xi wħud minnhom aċċettaw li jkomplu jgħinuna wara li konna diġa' bdejna naħdmu ma' *tutors* oħra.

Grazzi wkoll lill-lekċerers li taw il-*lectures* tagħhom matul dan il-kors.

Nixtieq nieħu l-opportunità u nringrazzja lil Mr Anthony Saliba, *Deputy Principal* tal-Kulleġġ, li fil-mument diffiċli li Itqajna magħhom matul dan il-kors, dejjem ipprova jagħti l-għajnuna tiegħu.

Fl-aħħar u mhux l-inqas nixtieq nringrazzja lill-MCAST li tana l-opportunità nitharrġu fil-pedagoġija. Grazzi wkoll u mill-qalb lill-Principal u l-awtorità tal-MCAST li qed jemmu fit-taħriġ tal-lekċerers tagħhom, tant li jidher li hemm pjanijiet li t-taħriġ tagħna ma jjeqaf biss sa dan il-kors, iżda li nkomplu t-tħejjija tagħna bi studju aktar intensiv u f'livelli oghla.

Filwaqt li nawgura lil kul haċċiem biex inkomplu niċċelebraw din il-lejla, tajjeb li nżommu f'moħħna l-htieġa li napplikaw bl-aħjar mod dak li tgħallima - dan nagħmluh biss sabiex ikompli jibbenefikaw l-istudenti tagħna.

Grazzi haċċiem tal-prezenza tagħkom f'jum ta' ferħ u tant sinifikanti għalina lkoll.

List of students that successfully obtained the BTEC Certificate in FE Teaching Level 5, Stage 3

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Abela, Dolores           | 22 Esposito, Anthony       |
| 2 Alessandro, Cristina     | 23 Falzon, Joseph          |
| 3 Azzopardi Mamo, Josianne | 24 Fitzgerald, Peter       |
| 4 Azzopardi, Brian         | 25 Formosa, Joseph         |
| 5 Azzopardi, John          | 26 Gauci, Francis          |
| 6 Bonello, Raymond         | 27 Grech, Stefan           |
| 7 Bonnici, Albert          | 28 Grima, Reuben           |
| 8 Borg Mangion, Tania      | 29 Mallia, Patrick D       |
| 9 Borg, Katya              | 30 Mercieca, John          |
| 10 Bottiglieri, Helen      | 31 Micallef, Joseph        |
| 11 Brincat, Lawrence       | 32 Nocilla, Silvio         |
| 12 Bugeja, Sarah           | 33 Pace Caruana, Josephine |
| 13 Buttigieg, Maureen      | 34 Privitera, Daniel       |
| 14 Camilleri, James        | 35 Scerri, Jeremy          |
| 15 Camilleri, Ray          | 36 Scicluna, Joseph        |
| 16 Caruana, Nadia          | 37 Seguna, Claire          |
| 17 Cassar, Kathleen        | 38 Seychell, Charlot       |
| 18 Chetcuti, Michael       | 39 Spiteri, Simeon         |
| 19 Ciantar, Philip         | 40 Vella, Kevin            |
| 20 Coleiro, David          | 41 Xuereb, Liliana         |
| 21 Demanuele, Marjohn      | 42 Zarb Giorgio, Elaine    |

List of students that successfully obtained the BTEC Professional Certificate in Primary Secondary Education Teaching

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Ageli, Farag         | 11 Farrugia, Maria Lourdes |
| 2 Attard, Carmel       | 12 Gauci, Lydia            |
| 3 Bonello Gellel, Ruth | 13 Gonzi, Josette          |
| 4 Buhagiar, Paul       | 14 Grech, Victoria         |
| 5 Buttigieg, Brigitte  | 15 Riolo, Juliet           |
| 6 Camilleri, Nathalie  | 16 Saliba, Michael         |
| 7 Caruana, Carmen      | 17 Sciberras, Mary         |
| 8 Caruana, Marthese    | 18 Suleiman, Claudine      |
| 9 Esposito, Carmen     | 19 Zammit, Rita            |
| 10 Farrugia, Stephanie | 20 Zammit, Sonia           |



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# SPORTS

## BADMINTON

A French Badminton coach Christophe Jeanjean was at MCAST on Friday 5 December 2008 to teach our students techniques in badminton. This was a great learning opportunity for MCAST students and was made possible thanks to Mr. John Attard from the Malta Badminton Federation.

## FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The MCAST football league is now well underway and is at the semi-final stage. The teams still in contention are: Havana (Institute of Information and Communication Technology), Street Fighters (Institute of Community Services), HND2 Stars (Institute of Mechanical Engineering) and E.P.F.C. (Institute of Business and Commerce).

## SCHOOL SPORT TOURNAMENTS

On Wednesday 21 January 2009 MCAST participated in football, basketball, volleyball, table-tennis and breakdance against St. Aloysius College, St. Martin's College, Junior College, Higher Secondary and Gozo 6th Form. Satisfactory results were achieved in all disciplines.

## MCAST SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR ELECTED AS DIRECTOR WITHIN THE MALTA OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

MCAST Sports Co-ordinator Adele Muscat was recently elected as one of the two new Directors within the Malta Olympic Committee. Adele has been the Malta Olympic Committee's Sport Psychologist for the past nine years in charge of Malta's top athletes, mental preparation for Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and Small Nations Games. She has worked with various sport federations and formed part of the Maltese contingent at several Small Nations Games, Manchester Commonwealth Games 2002 and Athens Olympic Games 2004.

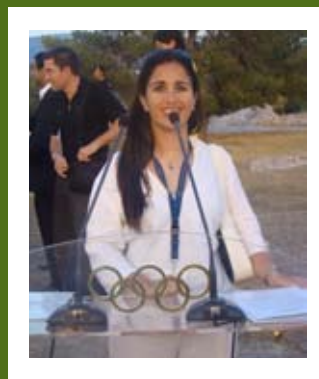
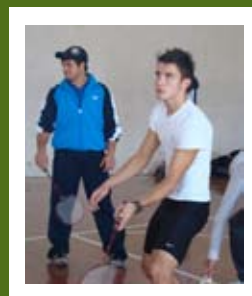
Adele is now the Director for the Olympic Academy, in charge of culture and education within the Olympic Committee, Chairperson Athletes' Commission, Assistant Chairperson Women in Sport and Assistant Secretary General. She forms part of the 12 person team on the Executive Board of the Olympic Committee together with President Justice Lino Farrugia Sacco, Secretary General Joe Cassar, Vice

## ROUND GOZO TREK

The Round Gozo Trek will this year be held in March. Participants will trek around the Gozitan Coast for 4 days (weekend and public holiday included), camping in tents during the nights and cooking over a bonfire. Participants will also need to carry their backpacks with their belongings over the 4 days (around 12kgs). Anyone interested in participating is to contact the Sports Co-ordinator: [adele.muscat@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:adele.muscat@mcast.edu.mt).

## BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

A basketball tournament was held on the 18 December 2008 instead of Sports Day since this had to be cancelled due to the bad weather. The winning team was All Stars. The Sports Department hopes to hold Sports Day later on this year.



*Adele Muscat - Sports Co-ordinator*



President Julian Pace Bonello, Director of Sport Mark Cutajar, Director of Finance David Azzopardi, Director of Marketing Vince Scicluna, Director of PR Charles Camenzuli, Director Anti Doping/Women in Sport Lucienne Attard, Director of Museum and Library Anthony Chircop, Director of Youth Envic Galea and Director Kirill Micallef Stafrace.

# SPORTS

## Trekking in India & Nepal

By Adele Muscat,  
Sports Coordinator

Having had a very hectic couple of months I felt the need to get 'lost' again somewhere far among the mountains where no one could find me, phone or email me (am sure some of you who know me well will be reading this with some amusement seeing that 2 years ago I had actually got lost on Mount Etna and had to be rescued by the Italian Mountain Rescue Services).

My original choice of mountain was actually Everest itself – Base Camp only mind you which stands at 5320m. However this trip requires a number of weeks due to having to acclimatize gradually because of the very high altitude reached. Due to work commitments a shorter trip had to therefore be arranged. India was the next preferred option since one can trek in the Himalayas there with beautiful views of the 6,000m, 7,000m and 8,000m peaks.



After lots of internet browsing I came across the Tenzing Norgay Adventure Company run by Jamling Norgay Tenzing, son of the famous Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, the first man to summit Everest together with Edmund Hillary in 1953. This was the ideal person to be trekking with! Retracing his father's historic footsteps, Jamling Tenzing Norgay summited Mount Everest in 1996, just two weeks after nine people died in the mountain's most deadly storm ever recorded (there are a couple of very good books about this in the MCAST library...have a look!). Not only did Jamling Tenzing Norgay make it to the top of the world's most forbidding mountain - described by the Sherpa people as "The Mother Goddess of the World" - but he also helped capture it all on film. As the star of Director David Breashears' Imax film Everest, Jamling helped to portray not only the physical challenges of the mountain, but also the mental and spiritual challenges faced by the climbers. The film depicts the selflessness exhibited by Jamling and his companions in risking their own lives to save their fellow climbers. For his bravery, Jamling received His Holiness The Dalai Lama's Award, as well as the National Citizen's award from the President of India.

When travelling to another continent a lot of care has to be taken in planning the trip well. When travelling to a still developing country such as India even more care needs to be taken...huge train delays, cancelled flights and even the recent Mumbai terrorist attacks all played a part in our plans. However on the 20th December 2008, the first day of the Christmas holidays, I left for India together with Natalie Debono, a part-time entrepreneurship lecturer at ICT and Andrew Ellul with whom I had summited Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895m) in Tanzania 2 years ago.

Our first few days were spent relaxing in Kerala, South India and getting ready for our trek. Beautiful tropic scenes greeted us on our arrival there. We took a backwater cruise in Alleppey enjoying the peace of the place as compared to the extreme hustle and bustle of India's roads and enjoyed watching Indian village life from our comfortable Kettuvalam boat. Swimming at Christmas was our next plan and Varkala was the chosen location. The food in this part of India was the best we had in our trip. Fresh fish, curries with coconut oil and rice all made great nutritional preparation for the hard trek we were to face in the coming days.

A few days later we flew from Trivandrum to Trichy, Trichy to Chennai, Chennai to Calcutta, Calcutta to Bagdogra then 3 hours car journey in a long uphill winding road to Darjeeling (this place is very famous for its tea plantations). Long journey to get to the mountains but it was worth it! We were lucky to have Jamling himself picking us up at the airport and keeping us entertained with his stories during that long journey up the mountain. When finally we arrived in Darjeeling we were to be met with freezing temperatures which shocked our bodies after the beautiful hot weather of the south. India does not have much comforts and our room in Darjeeling certainly was no sauna. Having a shower was a chore, one had to fill a bucket with hot water and pour bit by bit over him/herself in a freezing bathroom, then wear loads of layers of clothes and throw loads of blankets over you to try and get warm in order to manage to sleep.

The next day, after a great breakfast at Keventer's (they actually had good hot chocolate here) we were briefed by Jamling regarding the trek and we were introduced to our guide Norbu. From here we drove for an hour and a half to Dhotray where we met our porter who was to carry our stuff for the next 3 days....an 18 year old who looked no older than 14 but who had the strength of an ox. In Dhotray we entered this 'hut' without any windows or light and were given tea and biscuits ...this was the real India - poverty, dirt but friendly curious faces all around. A few minutes later we started the trek from around 2000m above sea level (our highest point in Malta is 253m). At this level one will start experiencing some difficulty in breathing. Going up a hill becomes so much harder and getting out of breath quickly is the norm. That first day was tough, a continuous uphill all the way on uneven terrain. I sure was glad to reach Tumling, the point where we were to stop for our first night. Greeted by lambs, cows and dirty kids we were really happy to see a sign saying 'Welcome to Nepal'... this was an added bonus as we thought that we were only going to trek in India, close to Nepal. After some chowmein (noodles) and tea we explored the area and learnt about the plants and animals that frequent the place.

The rest of the evening was spent with a blinding headache... the altitude was starting to affect both me and Natalie. Altitude sickness can come about in various forms but the first stages will include severe headaches, nausea and decreased co-ordination. This brought back bad memories of my summit attempt on Kilimanjaro 2 years back when I was on the verge of cerebral edema, swelling of the brain tissues. One wonders why we keep going back to such pain.....I guess mountains are addictive though....one is at peace out there in the wild, one with nature.... Howling wind, blizzards, scorching sun and just the basic essentials.







The next day we woke up bright and early and started making our way along the vast plains towards Sandakphu. This day was going to be a long one with more than 6 hours of trekking. It was also characterized by more steep uphill and less and less oxygen. The higher we went the colder it got and the less vegetation there was. The snow line slowly came into view with howling winds following suit. Out came the wind and waterproof jackets, the beanies, gloves and neck gaitors. Oh how we enjoyed warming ourselves up against the fire when we stopped for lunch in a small home. There was still 2 hours of uphill struggle after that however until we finally made it to Sandakphu (3600m) in the bad mist. After a cosy dinner of soup and rice we made our way to bed to get a much needed sleep (showers are an impossibility in these places).

After a very fitful sleep caused by the high altitude we were jolted awake by Norbu the guide at 6am calling us to go and watch the sun rise over Mount Kanchenjunga, Everest and the rest of the Himalayan peaks. Still feeling nauseous and with a splitting headache I found myself with tears in my eyes as soon as I put my foot outside the door. What an amazing sight.... Beautiful snow covered majestic mountains surrounded us.....this was what all the pain I was enduring was for. We spent a good hour just looking, taking photos and deep breaths in the pure morning air.

The rest of the trek was all downhill or flat from then on. Knees were aching, quadriceps were struggling under the strain but breathing was improving as we went lower and lower. The vegetation increased, we could see people at work by the mountain roadside, kids ran to us for chocolate and the streams and river produced beautiful scenery.

We were picked up by our driver and made our way to the village of Rimbick on our final trek day. It was great to meander amongst the colourful people in the market, watching Buddhist monks purchasing their goods and smelling the spicy smells of India.

We travelled back to Darjeeling by car and spent the rest of the evening relaxing and enjoying the sights. The next day we were to make our way to the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, the Everest museum with memorabilia of Tenzing Norgay's first climb and we also had tea with Jamling Norgay at his house, which was formerly his father's house. Here we had the opportunity to see the private family museum, to chat with Jamling about both his climb and his father's influence and to purchase Jamling's book "Touching My Father's Soul". Today Jamling runs his adventure travel company "Tenzing Norgay Adventures" and now personally guides Treks and Trekking peaks in Sikkim, Bhutan and Nepal. When he is not guiding he travels around the world doing lectures as a motivational speaker to a variety of Groups, Corporations and Universities, sharing his personal experience about this 1996 Everest climb, his father's historic climb of 1953 and about the Sherpa culture. He also continues his involvement with the "Tenzing Norgay Climbing Club" that he started in 1997 to help the kids off the streets.

We made our way out of Darjeeling on New Year's Day. It was one of the most bizarre New Year's Day I had ever spent. Whilst everyone back home was having a big family lunch we were huddled back to back in a packed train station for 5 hours due to a train delay, with people looking at us curiously as if we were exhibits in a zoo, watching sick people being carried on stretchers with drips etc., and dirty kids pestering us for food and money every time we tried to have a bite to eat. That was one hell of a train journey – about 16 hours long.

The next few days were spent in the spiritual town of Varanasi where it was normal to see the dead being carried in the street, the burning of the dead at the Ghats and the spiritual washing of the people in the river Ganges. We had been told that if we fell in it, it would be considered attempted suicide it was so polluted, however the locals had no problem in washing in this water.

Agra and the Taj Mahal, Jaipur, the pink city and Udaipur, the lake city, were beautiful sights worth visiting. Only Delhi disappointed us, with plenty of touts around and too much pollution in the city. India is called Incredible India for a reason. The colours are amazing, the food is gorgeous, the people are very friendly and helpful...and there are so many of them...everywhere seems to be packed with people, the traffic is absolutely chaotic with cars suddenly coming at you in the opposite direction on the motorway, cows crossing all over the place and horns blaring non-stop and one should definitely not miss out on the elephant and camel rides. But poverty is still very much evident and one can't help but stop and ponder on the future of these people.

On visiting India one needs to be open-minded, tough, not plan too much and just take everything in your stride. Malta now has a High Commission in India. They were very helpful to us in particular the High Commissioner Mr Wilfred Kenely. This was one of the most amazing places I have ever visited.

# GRADUATION CEREMONY

## 742 STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM MCAST

Seven hundred and forty-two students graduated from MCAST at the Graduation Ceremonies held at the Dolmen Resort Hotel on the 16 and 17 December 2008. This year there were two new courses namely the Diploma for Pharmacy Technicians and Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch.

Both events started off with speeches by MCAST Graduates. Stefan De Battista, Art and Design graduate delivered his speech on Tuesday 16 December 2008 while Gwendoline Sciortino, a graduate from the Institute of Business and Commerce delivered her speech on Wednesday 17 December 2008. The student speeches were followed by addresses by Prof Maurice Grech, MCAST Principal & CEO, Mr Paul A Attard, President of the Board of Governors and Hon Dolores Cristina, Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. This year music interludes livened up the graduation ceremonies. On Tuesday 16 December 2008 students from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, the Institute of Art and Design, the Institute of Mechanical Engineering and the Institute of Community Services received their certificates. On Wednesday 17 December 2008 students graduated from the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering, the Institute of Information and Communication Technology, the Maritime Institute, the Institute of Business and Commerce and the Institute of Agribusiness.

Since its inception a few years ago MCAST has grown from strength to strength. This year the College is adding another achievement namely the provision of vocational top-up degree courses for students that successfully complete the two-year Higher National Diploma (HND) in the areas of Art and Design, Information and Communication Technology, Business and Commerce and Electrical and Electronics Engineering. MCAST has partnered up with foreign universities to design the courses which meet the demand for local skills while maintaining international quality standards. Through this top-up degree programme students will be given the opportunity to further their studies at MCAST and therefore avoid travelling and paying out huge amounts of money.

In line with the College's Mission Statement and Strategic Plan 2007-2009 MCAST launched the Diploma in Manufacturing Excellence with the Malta Federation of Industry (MFOI). This Diploma, a major step in the development of professional and vocational education and training of employees, is targeted at those

employees in industry that have acquired skills and competences through informal and non-formal routes and are interested in polishing their skills and advancing in the career ladder. Once completed successfully it will enable students to meet the entry requirements for a variety of Higher National Diploma courses. This Diploma is an outcome of the partnership agreement that MCAST signed with the MFOI last November and continues to reinforce the College's objective to meet the training demands of industry and the economy.

MCAST has invested heavily, through Government and European Union funds, in the latest equipment in various industrial areas and will continue to invest to ensure quality education and training. Moreover, MCAST is planning very substantial investment in the professional development of its human resources, the primary element of MCAST's success story. This year the College has received nearly D200,000 approved funding from the EU to be spent on international exchange programmes. Students as well as members of administrative and academic staff will have the opportunity to participate in international exchange programmes including Mobility Studies, Mobility Placements, Teaching Assignments and Staff Training Projects.

In his speech Prof Maurice Grech, MCAST Principal & CEO mentioned that what differentiated MCAST from other teaching institutions was the student intake with its varied academic levels, the staff that other than being academically qualified, frequently had vast hands-on experience and the close links which the institution had with industry, business and commerce. "We value feedback from our industrial partners and other stakeholders as this ensures relevance of our teaching programmes and optimal preparation of our students to the world of work," he stated.

In his speech Mr Paul A Attard, President of the Board of Governors and Policy Advisor to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, spoke about the significance of the holistic development of the student and the value of brain power. He mentioned the importance of the development of a creative, entrepreneurial mind that will lead to the success of the student and also Malta. He urged the students to further their studies, to work hard and be ambitious and successful in this strongly competitive environment.



## Onorevoli Ministru, Sur President tal-Bord tal-Gvernaturi, Professur Inġinier Grech, Amministrazzjoni tal-Kulleġġ u tal-Istituti, Mistiedna distinti, Għeżiež Membri tal-istaff akkademiku, Għeżiež Kollegi studenti

Tmien snin ilu, jien u grupp ta' studenti oħra ddeċidejna li nkompli l-istudji tagħna fl-Arti u l-Artiġjanat. Nista' ngħid illi f'Malta kienu tnejn biss l-iskejjel li wieħed seta' jattendi sabiex jistudja l-arti u d-disinn - dik tal-Mosta, li kienet iżjed mixhuta fuq l-artiġjanat, u l-oħra tal-Belt, imsejja l-*Art and Design Centre*. Jiena ddeċidejt li nattendi dik ta' Targa Gap. Jekk illum hawn xi artisti jew għalliema preżenti fostna li kienu jgħallmu f'din l-iskola u illum jgħallmu fl-MCAST, tafu sew x'tip ta' karattru kellha din l-iskola. L-istudent kien jiġi mgħallem kif inaqgax xi salib ta' Malta fil-ġebbla, jagħmel xi vażun taċ-ċeramika jew xi disinn fil-bizzilla. Kien proprju sentejn wara li ġriet l-aħbar li din l-iskola kienet ser tingħalaq. Smajna li l-iskola kellha tinbidel f'kulleġġ ta' l-arti u t-teknoloġija.

Sena wara, fl-2001, ġie mwaqqaf il-Kulleġġ Malti tal-Arti, ix-Xjenza u t-Teknoloġija. Konna ftit beżgħana li dan kien ser ikun it-tmien tagħna. Iżda matul is-sajf irċivejna ittra li kienet tgħid li kellna nattendu fl-istitut il-ġdid fl-ewwel ta' Settembru biex nibdew is-sena skolastika tagħna.

Fit-tmienja ta' filgħodu preċiż, għadni niftakar ċar, bi qmis bajda u xagħar miġbud lura, lill-eksdirettur tagħna, lis-Sur Donald Friggieri, jiġborna fi spazju mdaqqas u jgħidilna eżattament dan il-kliem - "Hbieb, illum l-ewwel ġurnata f'dan il-kulleġġ ġdid. Aħna l-artisti ta' għada. Eja biex flimkien nibdew il-mixja li twassalna għal suċċess f'dak kollu li nagħmlu."

Iva, illum, tmien snin wara, qegħdin hawn ġew ingawdu dak li xtaqu jaraw fina l-istaff tekniku u l-għalliema li ggwidawna f'din il-mixja twila u impenjattiva. Illum aħna l-istudenti qegħdin niċċelebraw is-sagrificiċi twal li għaddejna minnhom. Dawn l-aħħar seba' snin ma kinux snin hfief tafux, u kien hemm drabi meta qtajt xi ftit qalbi, iżda dejjem sibt l-appoġġ mingħand l-għalliema u l-ġenituri tiegħi sabiex inkompli. U hekk għamilt.

L-esperjenza tiegħi bħala student fl-MCAST tfisser hafna għalija. Li kelli nippubblika l-esperjenza tiegħi f'kotba, niggarantikom li l-Unjoni Ewropea tvaħħalni multa bin-numru ta' sigar li jkollu bżonn biex niproduci l-karti. Nista' ngħid li kbirt u żviluppajt mal-istess żviluppi li għadda minnhom l-MCAST. Matul dawn l-aħħar tmien snin rajna l-*workshops* u l-*studios* jiġu mmodernizzati. Meta gergirna għax il-*workshops* kienu żgħar, l-MCAST għalqilna ħalqna bi spazji li illum insejnilhom *state of the art*. L-MCAST lili, bħal kull student ieħor, ha ħsiebi billi investa u tani l-ghodda biex naħdem biha. Sellifni wkoll magni tal-aħħar teknoloġija. Ha ħsieb ukoll li jiggarantixxi li l-ambjent ta' madwari jkollu l-livell meħtieġ ta' sigurtà, biex b'hekk jien naħdem b'mod li nkun protett u ma nweggax waqt li nkun qed naħdem il-proġetti tiegħi. Forsi gergirna wkoll għax kellna ħinijiet fissi u twal. Gergirna kemm-il darba għax l-*ismart card* tasal tliet xhur tard, jew għax l-istipendju baxx hafna. Semmejt hafna nuqqasijiet materjali li diversi kienu daww li ġew irranġati matul iż-żmien. L-MCAST beda u għadu joffri

Graduation Speech by Stefan De Battista



opportunitajiet ġodda lill-istudenti. Fuq nota personali, lili, l-istess kulleġġ tani l-opportunità li nipparteċipa f'diversi programmi tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Programm partikolari tani ċ-ċans li mmur xahar Sqallija naħdem ma' artisti u ċeramisti barranin. Din l-esperjenza fethitli bibien ġodda għall-karriera tiegħi. Ma rridx ninsa lill-istudenti l-oħra li qegħdin ikompli korsijiet oħra barra minn Malta, li bit-taħriġ li ħadu mill-Istitut tal-Arti u d-Disinn, illum komplew l-istudji tagħhom f'universitajiet barra minn Malta u qed jiksibu riżultati għoljin hafna. Kellna anki studenti kollegi li diġà ġabu l-*Masters* wara li spiċċaw l-istudji tagħhom fl-MCAST.

Illum il-ġurnata, wieħed ma jistax jaħrab miċ-ċirkustanzi tal-ħajja, u l-problemi li kuljum qegħdin insofru anke f'pajjiżna. Kull wieħed preżenti jiftakar sew l-incident traġiku li seħħ kmieni din is-sena. Splużjoni ġewwa n-Naxxar ħalliet wieħed mill-*istaff* tagħna bla dar u bla saqaf. Bħala student ipparteċipajt f'inizjattiva sabiex niġbru fondi billi għamilna diversi attivitajiet sabiex nilhqu dan il-għan. Din kienet esperjenza li ma ninsa qatt. Għext l-għaqda kbira li teżisti fi ħdan il-komunità tal-MCAST.

Illum il-ġurnata kulhadd għajnejh miftuħa dwar il-mument ihsin li l-Ewropa qiegħda tiffaċċja. Ix-xogħol ġo din il-gżira żgħira huwa importanti u kruċjali. L-MCAST qed jipprepara lill-istudenti b'teorija u Prattika tajba sabiex ikunu jistgħu jaffaċċjaw il-bżonnijiet ta' pajjiżna fl-oqsma differenti tax-xogħol. L-MCAST ipprovidielna *lecturers* tajba li huma kapaċi jħarrġuna bi professjonalità kbira. Għalhekk nixtieq ngħidilhom grazzi tal-esperjenza u t-tagħlim li huma għoġobhom jaqsmu magħna.

Għadni kif semmejt il-*lecturers* u l-*istaff* tekniku, u ma nistax ma nsemmix il-mod kostruttiv li kienu jikkritikawna bih. Nammetti li mhux dejjem kont lest biex naċċetta l-kritika. Illum niringrazzjahom għax il-maturità ġegħlitni nifhem li l-għajnuna tagħhom għenitni niżviluppa l-ideat b'mod kreattiv u innovattiv.

Hbieb tiegħi, ħa nagħlaq billi nsemmi l-isbaħ memorja li ser inżomm ta' dan il-kulleġġ. Niftakar meta l-ewwel ġurnata tal-kors kont miġbur ma' mitt student li għalija wiċċhom kien ġdid. Bdejt nibza' li mhux ser jidrawni u li ħa nispiċċa waħdi. Illum l-istess ucuħ saru l-familja tiegħi. Niringrazzjahom li kienu hemm meta bdejt inħoss li l-miri li tajt lili nnifsi kienu wisq diffiċli għalija. Niringrazzja lill-*istaff* tekniku li tani l-kuraġġ tul dawn is-snin kollha.

Nifraħ ukoll lid-direttur il-ġdid u nixtiequ kull suċċess, għall-ġid tal-MCAST u għall-futur tal-arti f'Malta.

Fl-aħħar, le ma nsejtkomx, nixieq niringrazzja liż-żewġ persuni li dejjem inkuraġġewni u offrewli s-sapport li kont neħtieġ. Grazzi lill-ġenituri tiegħi.



Graduation Speech by Gwendoline Sciortino

## Onorevoli Ministru, Sur President tal-Bord tal-Gvernaturi, Professur Inġinier Grech, Amministrazzjoni tal-Kulleġġ u ta' l-Istituti, Mistiedna distinti, Għeżiež Membri ta' l-istaff akkademiku, Għeżiež Kollegi studenti

Jien u nhejji dawn il-kelmejn, għaddew minn moħħi bosta u bosta ħsibijiet li xtaqt li naqsam magħkom f'din l-okkażjoni ta' ferħ u sodisfazzjon għalina lkoll. Però tiħdux qatgħa... ser nislet biss ftit minnhom ħalli ma niħux fit-tul.

Aħna lkoll li llejla qed nieħdu sehem f'din l-okkażjoni memorabbli, qegħdin inwettqu s-siġill fuq snin ta' studju fi programmi varji f'ħames Istituti differenti. U allura mhux ta' b'xejn li llejla Itqajna lkoll flimkien biex niċelebraw is-suċċessi tagħna – kull wieħed u waħda minna fil-qasam vokazzjonali li għażilna li nimirħu fl-istudji tagħna.

Fost dawn il-mument ta' ferħ u sodisfazzjon, xieraq li nirrikonoxxu kif permezz ta' modi differenti dan il-Kulleġġ – li aħna lkoll kburin bih – offriena firxa kbira ta' opportunitajiet li l-veru sens ta' edukazzjoni kien fil-milja tagħhom. Żgur li mhux ser tieqaf hawn illejla, ix-xewqa tagħna li nkomplu nħaddnu opportunitajiet li permezz tagħhom inseddqu l-edukazzjoni tul il-hajja. Kieku kellu ikun hekk, iċ-certifikat li ser nircievu, jkun verament bla valur ta' xejn.

Anzi... din il-lejla memorabbli għandha sservi ta' pjattaforma li minnha nintelqu għal aktar opportunitajiet li permezz tagħhom insaħħu l-ħiliet tagħna filwaqt li nkebbu fina x-xrara għal aktar mument ta' taħriġ, tagħlim u fuq kollox formazzjoni għall-karattru tagħna.

Ma jonqosx ukoll li din l-okkażjoni tal-lejla sservi sabiex tagħtina l-motivazzjoni meħtieġa ħalli nilqgħu l-isfidi li jiġu fi triqatna. U bil-ħiliet li ksibna tul l-istudji tagħna fl-MCAST, żgur li nistgħu nagħmlu dan b'mod intraprenditorjali.

Ninsab ċerta li fl-Istituti kollha li ġejjin minnhom, żgur li sew l-istaff akkademiku kif ukoll l-Amministrazzjoni għamlu minn kollox sabiex aħna nieħdu l-aqwa.... U llejla ninsabu hawn riżultat ta' dan ukoll. Ġejna offruti kull opportunità possibbli sabiex intejbu u nissahħu fl-għarfien tagħna, sew jekk fl-oqsma tal-Agri Kummerċ, tal-Bini u Kostruzzjoni, tat-Teknoloġija tal-Informatika, Marittimu kif ukoll tan-Negożju u l-Kummerċ.

Nitlobkom hawnhekk tippermettuli naqsam magħkom ftit ħsibijiet personali mill-esperjenza tiegħi ta' 4 snin fl-MCAST.

Bdejt permezz taċ-Certifikat fl-istudji Amministrattivi u Segretarjali u komplejt permezz tal-HND fin-Negożju.

Itqajt ma' taħlita sabiħa ta' persuni, li jaħsbuha differenti u li jħaddnu valuri differenti. Lkoll kemm aħna ġejjin minn realtjiet soċjali diversi u trobbija differenti.

Esperjenzajt ambjent fejn kollox għandu d-*deadlines* tiegħu, filwaqt li r-regoli u l-proċeduri ma kinux hemm bħala ornament imma sabiex iżommu l-ordni meħtieġa fid-diversità kollha li konna flimkien. Nemmen li dan l-ambjent kien l-aqwa *rehearsal* possibbli bi tħejjija għad-dinja tax-xogħol. U dan nista' nixhdu b'mod ħaj, issa li għandi l-pjaċir ingawdi minn sodisfazzjon fix-xogħol u l-karriera li qbadt. Il-ħajja fl-MCAST verament tista' tkun mill-aktar ikkulurita, b'qawsalla ta' opportunitajiet imħejjija għal kull min jixtieq jilqa' sfida. Intbaħt li kollox jiddependi minn kemm student lest li jagħti l-impenn li jilqa' għal bidla dinamika u kontinwa li

s-soċjetà toffrilna. Bħala prova għal dan nixtieq li tippermettuli naqsam għal darb'ohra mill-esperjenza personali tiegħi. Żgur li qatt m'hu ser jiddispaċini għall-ħin li qattajt wara l-erbgha u nofs ta' wara nofsinhar naħdem bi tħejjija għall-parteeċipazzjoni fil-*Mini European Assembly*. Din kienet opportunità li permezz tagħna Itqajt ma' studenti sħabna minn istituzzjonijiet ohra ta' edukazzjoni għolja f'pajjiżna. Flimkien iddiskutejna għadd ta' temi topiċi mill-perspettiva ta' diversi pajjiži Ewropej.

Probabilment kieku ma kinetx din l-opportunità li fiha kelli fost l-ohrajn nindirizza l-Assemblea msemmija, kieku ma ksibtx il-kunfidenza li kont ninhtiegħ sabiex nottjeni l-impjeg li għandi bħalissa – u anke li nkun hawn fuq illejla nindirizza lilkom. Esperjenza ohra pożittiva li żgur qatt m'hu ser ninsa, hija dik li permezz tagħna ifformajt parti minn *Comunio* – organizzjoni ta' studenti attiva f'għadd ta' ħidmiet volontarji f'oqsma spiritwali, soċjali u ta' formazzjoni.

Ingħaqadt ma' *Comunio* sa mill-ewwel sena li bdejt nattendi l-Istitut għan-Negożju u l-Kummerċ. Sa minn dakinhar tajt l-almu kollu tiegħi biex flimkien ma' sħabi norganizzaw attivitajiet varji u nnettqu inizjattivi mill-aktar interessanti.

Issa li temmejt l-istudji tiegħi fl-MCAST, ma jfissirx li temmejt l-impenn tiegħi f' *Comunio*. Fl-istruttura nnifisha ta' *Comunio*, għandna l-opportunità li żgħażaġh li ma jkunux għadhom studenti tal-MCAST xorta nibqgħu niltaqgħu flimkien f'għadd ta' attivitajiet li nsibuhom mill-aktar utli għall-mixja li nkunu għaddejjin minnha, sew jekk fix-xogħol tagħna kif ukoll jekk fil-ħajja personali li tifnifex quddiemna ta' kuljum.

L-esperjenza *Comunio* għadha parti integrali minni f'dak kollu li nagħmel fil-ħidma tiegħi ta' kuljum. Permezz tad-diversi inizjattivi li kont involuta fihom ma' sħabi tul l-erba snin li għaddew – inkluż preżentazzjoni ta' programmi fuq il-media - *Comunio* għeni niżviluppa u nsahħaħ il-karattru u l-personalità tiegħi. Ix-xewqa tiegħi hi li bħali jkun hemm aktar studenti li jgħixu l-esperjenza *Comunio* għax meta tgħixha tkun tista' tifhem dak li pprovajt nispejja f'dawn il-ftit kelmiet li għaddew.

Jiena ninsab ċerta illi li kieku kull wieħed u waħda minna li qed niggradwaw illejla kellu jitle' u jieħu posti hawn sabiex jindirizza din il-miġemgħa, ilkoll inkunu xhieda għal kaleidoskopju ta' esperjenzi li jnixxu mill-ħames Istituti miġbura llejla f'din is-sala.

U dan ikun prova ohra ta' kemm ġid ħareġ – u ħafna aktar irid joħroġ – mill-eżistenza u mill-ħidma fejjieda tal-MCAST.

Grazzi kbira u mill-qalb ġejja minn għandna lkoll hawn preżenti llejla, lilkom ilkoll li tant taħdmu bla heda sabiex isseddqu u ssahħu lill-Kulleġġ tagħna.

Napprezzaw ferm dak kollu li għamiltu magħna, filwaqt li nieħdu l-opportunità sabiex niskużaw irwieħna għal dawk il-mument fejn kellna xi ftit tat-trikki trakki, kif ukoll fejn stajna ħadniekom *for granted* u m'apprezzajniex l-isforzi ġenwini tagħkom.

Grazzi għalikom, aħna ser nibqgħu ngħożżu f'moħħna u fi qlubna dak li l-MCAST verament jibqa' jfisser għalina. Fuq kollox, grazzi għall-MCAST, aħna kburin li mexxielna niffurmwaw bagalja ta' esperjenzi li jew diġa għexnihom jew għad irridu ngħixuhom fil-ġejjieni qrib. Jien konvinta li dan huwa *feeling* pożittiv li lkoll kemm aħna – ġejjin minn liema Istitut ġejjin – nistgħu naqsmu bejnietna. Bosta minna jistgħu faċilment jistqarru kif l-MCAST diġa għenna ngħixu b'suċċess l-esperjenza tal-bidla dinamika f'dak kollu li nagħmlu.

Min ma jaċċettax il-bidla bi tweġiba għas-sinjali taż-żminijiet.... jspiċċa tellief fil-ġirja tal-ħajja. F'dan ir-rigward, l-MCAST huwa minn ta' quddiem biex joffrilna dak kollu meħtieġ sabiex inkunu mħejjija għal dak kollu li l-ħajja għandha lest għalina.

Tislima u ħajr sinċier lil kulhadd !

Awguri !

# LIST OF GRADUATES

## INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING

### LEVEL 3

#### MCAST Diploma in Computer Engineering

AGIUS, STEPHEN	GATT, CHRISTIAN	SCERRI, STELVIO
CINI SARREO, MATTHEW	SAMMUT, CHRISTIAN	

#### MCAST Diploma in Industrial Electronics

ABDILLA, MICHAEL	CAMILLERI, JUSTIN	FARRUGIA, COLIN	MIZZI, ANTOINETTE
ABELA, DARREN	CARDONA, CHARLES	GAFFIERO, JAMES	SCERRI, MARIO
ABELA, ELIEL	CARUANA, JONATHAN	GARNISI, ANGELO	VELLA, ALESSANDRO
AZZOPARDI, SHAWN	CHIRCOP, KEITH	GATT, ROBERT	VELLA, ANDREW
BORG BONACI, ALBERT	CIANTAR, ALISTAIR	GRIMA, NORBERT	ZAMMIT, DANIEL
BORG, CLINT	CIAPPARA, ADRIAN	GRIMA, STEFAN	ZAMMIT, LEONARD
BORG, STEPHEN	CUTAJAR, LIAM GEORGE	MALLIA, REUBEN	ZAMMIT, MATTHEW
BUSUTTIL, KAI	DEBATTISTA, DARREN	MICALLEF, VINCENT	

#### MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Electrical & Electronics Engineering

ABELA, MARIO	CAMILLERI, ANTOINE	GALEA, JEAN PAUL	SANT, KERSTIN
AQUILINA, KIRSTEN	CAMILLERI, KEVIN	GIORDMAINA, GODFREY	SANT, PATRICK
ATTARD, BRIAN	CARDONA, KARL	GRECH, TERRENCE	SCHEMBRI, GLENN
ATTARD, MIGUEL	CARUANA, MELVIN	GRIMA, FRANKLYN	SCHEMBRI, RYAN
AXIAK, CHRISTIAN	CASSAR, JONATHAN	GRIMA, JOSEF	SCICLUNA, NORBERT
AZZOPARDI, GERALD	DEMANUELE, TRISTAN	MIFSUD, DALE PETER	SPITERI, JEREMY
BEZZINA, NICOLAI	FARRUGIA, CLIFF	MIFSUD, LEONARD	SPITERI, NICHOLAS
BONDIN, JOHANN	FARRUGIA, MICHEL	MIFSUD, MELVIN	WARNE, MATTHEW
BRIMMER, DANIEL	FARRUGIA, ROBERT	MIZZI, MATTHEW	ZAMMIT, JEANPIERRE
BUSUTTIL, JONATHAN	FARRUGIA, SEAN	PACE, CLAYTON	
CACCIATTOLO, DEO	FRENDO, MICHAEL	SAMMUT, NICHOLAS	

### LEVEL 4

#### MCAST-BTEC Higher National Certificate in Electrical & Electronics Engineering

ATTARD, ARNOLD	BUSUTTIL, MARK PAUL	FARRUGIA, MATTHEW
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#### MCAST-BTEC Higher National Certificate in Electrical & Electronics Engineering (Communications)

MULA, ETIENNE	PULLICINO, MARIE-LOUISE	SCHRIHA, JAMES
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#### MCAST-BTEC Higher National Certificate in Electrical & Electronics Engineering (Communications)

AZZOPARDI, EPHRAIM	CACHIA, NICHOLAS	GRECH, CLINT	SCERRI, KEVIN
BORG, JOHANN	DUCA, SIMON	GUSMAN, SARAH	SCIBERRAS, SHAWN RODERICK
BORG, JULIAN	FARRUGIA, ADRIAN	MIFSUD, JONATHAN	SPITERI, IAN
BUGEJA, JANET	FENECH, JOSEPH	PISANI, DANIEL	ZAHRA, STEPHEN

## INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN

### LEVEL 3

#### MCAST Access Course to Diploma in Foundation Studies in Art & Design

AZZOPARDI, VERONIQUE	GAUCI, ADRIAN	SAVONA VENTURA, ELISA	TONNA, DAMIAN
BORG, FRANCESCA	JABAR, KAYA	SCIBERRAS, SARAH	VASSALLO, LUKE
CASSAR, MANDY	MICALLEF, KURT	SCICLUNA, SARAH MARIA	VELLA, CARL
CUTAJAR, CASSANDRA	PACE, RAUL	SCUDAMORE, EMMA	VELLA, KEITH
FERRANTE, ALEXANDER	RYAN, CHRISTOPHER	SPITERI, BETTINA	WEBB, TAMARA

#### MCAST-BTEC Diploma in Foundation Studies (Art and Design)

ANASTASI, KEVIN	CAMILLERI, MARIKA	FALZON, RYAN	MARTIN, NEIL
ANASTASI, PAULA	CARABOTT, CLIFFORD	FARRUGIA, ROSANNA	MIZZI, CARDEN
AQUILINA, KRISTA	CARUANA, JUSTIN	FENECH, KAILEY	RIPARD, KRISTA
ATTARD, JESSICA	CASSAR MONTANARO, PHILIPPA	GALEA, RYAN LEE	SPAGNOL, DANIEL
AZZOPARDI, CHERYL	CREMONA, MARIE CLAIRE	GAMBIN, ADRIAN	VELLA, KURT
AZZOPARDI, KEITH	D'AMATO, MAURO	GRECH, LEANNE	ZAMMIT, ADRIAN
BAKER, DAWN	DEMARCO, MATTHEW	KEITH, MATTHEW ANTHONY	ZAMMIT, GABRIEL ROSARIO
BONELLO, FRANCESCO	DINGLI, EDWARD	MACDONALD, CRAIG	ZAMMIT, JESSICA
BONNICI, CHANELLE	DONEO, ABIGAIL	MALLIA, JULIAN	
BORG, CLAIRE	ELLUL, MIREILLE	MAMO, MATTHEW	
BUTTIGIEG, JESSICA	ELLUL, SABRINA	MAMO, SARAH	

#### MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Design Crafts

AGIUS, MICHAEL	CAMILLERI, SEAN	JUUL NIELSEN, MAGDALENA KAROLINA	ZAHRA, FELICIEENNE
AQUILINA, KAMY	CAUCHI, JONATHAN	MICALLEF, STEPHANIE	ZAMMIT, TROIKA
ATTARD, CHRISTIANA	DARMANIN, INGRID	MIGGIANI, FRANCESCA	
BORG, GLEN	FARRUGIA, JAMIE	SALIBA, ADRIAN	
CALLEJA, SABRINA	FARRUGIA, LINDSEY	STIVALA, KRYSTA MARYANN DANIELLE	
CAMILLERI, DANIELLA	FENECH, KIRSTEN	TABONE, ENRIQUE	
CAMILLERI, SARA	GENOVESE, RITIANNE	TANTI, KENNETH	

### LEVEL 4

#### MCAST-BTEC Higher National Diploma in 3D Design

CALLEJA, MICHAEL	DE BATTISTA, STEFAN	MERCIECA, STEFANIA	PISANI, VICTORIA MARIA
CAMILLERI, RITIANNE	FALZON, JENNINGS	MUSCAT, ERICA	VASSALLO EMINYAN, MARTINA
CARUANA, RUBEN	FALZON, MICHAEL	MUSCAT, RACHEL	VELLA, ELAINE
COPPINI, NADYA	GALEA, VANESSA	MUSCAT, SARAH LEE	ZAMMIT, EMILY
CURMI, RUTH	GRIMA, ENRIKA	MUSCAT, SHAWN	

#### MCAST-BTEC Higher National Diploma in Graphic Design

BORG, KEN	CAUCHI CUSCHIERI, FRANCCANTONIO	GATT, ROBERTA	TERPOUGOFF, GABRIELLE
CAMENZULI, JAMES	CAUCHI, RAMONA	MIZZI, JOHN	ZAMMIT, NEIL
CAMILLERI, TRISA	CUTAJAR, YANOV	PACE, JEREMY OLIVER	

#### MCAST-BTEC Higher National Diploma in Spatial Design

ATTARD, DANIELA	VELLA, CLAIRE
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## INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

### LEVEL 3

#### MCAST-BTEC National Certificate in Manufacturing Engineering

DEGIOVANNI, ILARIO

#### MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Aerospace Engineering

AZZOPARDI, JOSEPH	FENECH, CHARLENE	MIFSUD, MALCOLM	ZAMMIT, PIERRE DANIEL
AZZOPARDI, NATHAN	GAUCI, PAULA	MIZZI, JOSEF	ZAMMIT, RODERICK
BORG, CRIS	GRECH, CHRISTIAN	SAMMUT, DAVID	ZAMMIT, STEPHANIE
BORG, RUSSELL	GRECH, DARIO	SCICLUNA, MATHIAS	
FACCIOL, DOMENIC	GRIMA, CLINT	TANTI, CHRISTINE	
FARRUGIA, SAMUEL	MICALLEF STANMORE, KENNETH	VASSALLO, ANDRE	

#### MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Manufacturing Engineering

BARBER, SHAWN	MAMO, GABRIEL	SAMMUT, DANIEL	VELLA, NOEL
BORG, ALEXANDER	PISANI, SHAWN	SPITERI, SAVIOUR LUKE	XUEREB, CHRISTOPHER
LIVORI, MARK			

#### MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Operations and Maintenance

BEZZINA, CHARLTON	CARABOTT, KARL	DELIZIO, DUNCAN	MUSCAT, JAMES
CALLUS, BERNARD	CARUANA, NICHOLAS	GRIOLI, RICHARD	SACCO, JONATHAN
CAMILLERI, MATTHEW	DEBONO, DARREN	HILI, MELVIN	TOUTOUNGI, OMAR

#### Technician Diploma in Motor Vehicle Engineering (C&G 3905)

CAMILLERI, STEPHEN	GALEA, CHRISTIAN	VELLA, JOHN
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### LEVEL 4

#### MCAST-BTEC Higher National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering

ALAMANGO, KYLE	CARUANA, TROY	MAMO, SEFTON	SULTANA, KRISTIAN
ATTARD, LOUIS	DALLI, JOHANN KARL	OVEREND, DANILO	TANTI, RYAN MARK
BONELLO, DAVID	DARMANIN, RYAN	PACE, JEAN PAUL	VASSALLO, AMY
BUGEJA, WAYNE	GRIMA, CHRISTIAN	SAMMUT, OMAR	VELLA, WAYNE
CAMILLERI, TERENCE	MALLIA, JONATHAN	SCIBERRAS GRUNGO, MARK	

#### Technician Advanced Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (C&G 2565)

BORG, CHRISTIAN	SCHEMBRI, TERENCE
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## INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

### LEVEL 3

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

ATTARD, ROBERTA	CASSAR, ANGELA	JACCARINI, FRANCESCA	SCHEMBRI, MARIE
AZZOPARDI, CHERYL	CASSAR, ELAINE	MERCIECA, MARIE JOSETTE	SPITERI, STEPHANIA
BELLIZZI, AMANDA	GALEA, TRACEY	MIFSUD, LOURDES	
CALLEJA, CLAIRE	GRIMA, KIM	NAUDI, ANN MARIE	

#### MCAST Diploma for Pharmacy Technicians

AQUILINA, BERNARDETTE	ELLUL, JESSICA	MIFSUD, VALERIE	PORTELLI, NADIA
BORG, ILONA	FENECH, SERGIO	MIZZI, EMMELINE	VELLA, DANIELA
CECI, MELISSA	GILES, CHERIEANNE	PARIS, JENNIFER	WONNACOTT, STEPHANIE

#### MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Applied Science

ATTARD, CHRISTINA	CUTAJAR, DORIANNE	GRIMA, MARIE STELLA	MUSCAT, VANESSA
BARBARA, ZENAIDE	FALZON, ANTON PAUL	MALLIA, MELVIN	
BUHAGIAR, LEANNE	GALEA, GLEN	MICALLEF, GEMMA	
CALLEJA, ROWENA	GAUCI, ISMAEL	MINTOFF, CHRIS	

#### MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Care

AGIUS, KATHLEEN	DEBATTISTA, JOLENE	MICALLEF, CHARLENE	TANTI, ROXANA
AXIAK, LARISSA	FARRUGIA, JURGEN	MUSCAT, MARGARET	VELLA, JOSETTE
AZZOPARDI, MIRIAM	FENECH, MARLENE	PIZZUTO, BERNICE	VELLA, LOREDANA
BEZZINA, JENNIFER	FITENI, NADEGE	SILLATO, SVETLANA	XUEREB, DIANE
BUTTIGIEG, JEANNIE	GALEA, CHARLENE	SPITERI, JANICA	
CASHA, SARAH	HAIDON, LEANNE MARIE	SULTANA, ANNAMARIE	
CASSAR, SEPHORA	MCKEON, EVE MARIE	TANTI, GEORGETTE	

#### MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Early Years

ATTARD, VICTORIA	GALEA, ELISHA	MERCIECA, RODIANNE	SAMMUT, KRISTIANNE
BIANCO, ROMINA	GALEA, MARIS	MIZZI, STEPHANIE ANNE	
BUSUTTIL, SVETLANA	GHIGO, STEPHANIE	MUSCAT, MELISSA	
ELLUL, BRYNDIS	MALLETT, GEORGINA ROSE	PENZA, JANELLA	

#### MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Health Studies

AZZOPARDI, NATHALIE	BALZAN, MARIA	SALIBA, MIRIAM	
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#### MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Sports

DEBATTISTA, LEANNE	LONGO GALEA, MIKE	MUSCAT, PETRA	SALIBA, MICHAEL
GRECH, DAVID	MUSCAT, JULIAN	NAUDI, MATTHEW	VELLA, MICHELLE

## INSTITUTE OF BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

### LEVEL 3

#### MCAST Advanced Diploma in Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning

FARRUGIA, STEVE	MALLIA, CHRISTOPHER	MIFSUD, JEAN PIERRE	POLIDANO, ADRIAN
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#### MCAST Technician Diploma in Masonry Heritage Skills (Mastru)

BORG, MARILYN	BUGEJA, JASON EMANUEL	FALZON, CARMELO	SANT, JOSEF
BORG, NEIL MIGUEL	CACHIA, JEFFREY	SALIBA, JOSEF EMANUEL	SCHEMBRI, ANNETTO

#### MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Building Services Engineering

BORG, MARK	CINI, ANDREAS		
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#### MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Construction

BONNICI, PAUL ANTHONY	DEBONO, DANNY	GALLO, JURGHEN ARYE	SCICLUNA, MALCOLM
CAMENZULI, ANDRE	DEBONO, DEAN	GRIXTI, DAVID	VELLA, VICTOR JOSEPH
CARUANA, NICOLETTE	FARRUGIA, ERROL CHRISTIAN	GRIXTI, FARREN	XERRI, MATTHEW
CAUCHI, DANIEL	FORMOSA, ERIC	MICALIZZI, ERIKA	XUEREB, LUDWIG
CAUCHI, DAVID EDWARD	FORMOSA, JEFFREY	PACE, CARMELO	ZAHRA, ADRIAN
CIANTAR, DANIEL	FRENDO, MARK	PISANI, FRANKIE	

#### LEVEL 4

##### Diploma in Quantity Surveying

BARBARA, RYAN	MIFSUD, RAQUEL	SPITERI, SANDRO	XERXEN, CONRAD A
MAMO, JOSEPH	SCERRI, CHRISTIAN PAUL	VELLA, JULIAN	

##### Diploma in Construction Management

GAMBIN, STEVE	REFALO, CHRIS	TORPIANO, LUANA	VASSALLO, RENO
GRECH, SAVIOUR			

## INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

#### LEVEL 3

##### MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Computing (Networking & ICT Support)

ABELA, JAMES	CAPPITTA, DAVIDE	FARRUGIA, MARLON	RONAYNE, ALEJANDRA
AGIUS, THOMAS	CARABOTT, JOHNROSS	FARRUGIA, THOMAS	SAID, GEORGE MARIO
ATTARD, DAVID	CARUANA, ANGELICA	FENECH, KIMBERELY	SCICLUNA, ALESSANDRO
ATTARD, JASON	CASSAR, MANUEL	GALEA, GORDON	TABONE, RUSSELL
BARBARA, AARON	CAUCHI, JOZEF JUAN	GATT, ADRIAN	THEUMA, NATHAN
BEZZINA, PATRICK	CURMI, CHRISTIAN	GREGORY, LUKE	TONNA, VICTORIA
BONNICI, ANNMARIE	CUTAJAR, CHRISTIAN	GRIMA, DARLENE	VELLA, JOSEPH
BORG, TIMOTHY ANTOINE	DE LUCCA, MARCO	GRIMA, KLINSMANN	VELLA, PAUL
BUTTIGIEG, JOSEPH	DE MARTINO, ANDREA PAOLO	MAMO, PHILIP	ZAHRA, KIM
CACHIA, CHRISTIAN	DEGIOVANNI, CHANTELE	MCCARTHY, CECIL	ZAHRA, MATTHEW
CAMILLERI, BERNICE	DUNCAN, SARAH	PACE, CLAYTON	ZERAFA, IAN
CAMILLERI, CHARLENE	ELLUL, JACQUELINE	PORTELLI, LUCA	ZERAFA, TIZIANA
CAMILLERI, KYLE	FARDELL, MARIO	PORTELLI, ROBERT	
CAMILLERI, MARTIN	FARRUGIA, ANNALISE	RAPA, MATTHEW	

##### MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Computing (Software Development)

ABDILLA, DANIEL	CAUCHI, MICHAEL	FARRUGIA, DAVID	SALIBA, GABRIEL
ABELA, CHRISTOPHER	CAUCHI, STEFAN	GALEA, CHRISTINE	SALIBA, GEORGE
AGIUS, NEIL	CINI, ALAN	GRECH, CHRISTOPHER	SAMMUT, CLIFTON
ATTARD, GEORGE	CORTIS, MAURIZIO	GRECH, RODERICK	SANT, JASON
ATTARD, STEPHEN	CRISTIANO, ALESSIO	GRIMA, MATTHEW JOHN	SCERRI, QUINTON
AZZOPARDI, NADETTE	CURMI, CHRISTIAN	GRIMA, PHILIP	SCICLUNA, GEORGE
BONELLO, BRANTON	DEBONO, NORBERT	HANNAN, RASHID	SPITERI, CLINT
BONNICI, JOSEPH	DEBONO, PAUL	LAUTIER, STEPHEN	TABONE, TAMARA
BONNICI, MARK	DEBRINCAT, SAMUEL	MAMO, CEDRIC	VASSALLO, EVAN
BORG BRINCAT, MICHAEL	DEGUARA, CHRISTIAN	MASINI, ANDRE	VELLA, ANDREW
BORG, ANDREW	DEMICOLI, AARON	MELI, ADRIAN	VELLA, ANNALISE
BRIFFA, JOANNE	DEMICOLI, DARREN	MICALLEF, RODERICK	VELLA, CHRISTIAN
BRINCAT, ANDREW PAUL	DIMECH, AMANDA	MIFSUD, GILBERT	VELLA, JESSICA
BRINCAT, LUKE	DIMECH, JEFFREY	MIZZI, DARREN	VELLA, KEVIN
BUTTIGIEG, JOSEPH	ELLUL, STEFANO	MIZZI, JEAN PAUL	VELLA, MARLON
CACHIA, JUSTIN	FACCIOL, SIMON	MUSCAT, AARON	VELLA, RODREN
CAMILLERI, NEIL	FAENZA, GILBERT	MUSCAT, JASON	XUEREB, MATTHEW
CARBONARO, ROBERT JOHN	FALZON, OMAR	PORSELLA FLORES, ANDREW	ZAHRA, RYAN
CARUANA, CHRISTOPHER	FALZON, PIERRE	PORTELLI, ALEXIA	ZAMMIT, ANDREW
CASSAR, CLAYTON	FARRUGIA, ALAN	PORTELLI, GRETA	



#### LEVEL 4

##### MCAST-BTEC Higher National Diploma in Computing (ICT Systems Support)

ABELA, JOSEPH	CAMILLERI, NICHOLAS	FENECH, JESMOND	SANT, JONATHAN
AQUILINA, DANIEL	CASSAR, JONATHAN	FLORES, CHRISTOPHER	SAPIANO, MALCOLM
AQUILINA, IAIN	CUTUGNO, TIMOTHY	GALEA, IVAN	SCHEMBRI, SHAWN
BORG, WILLIAM	DEGIORGIO, ANDREA	GATT, NICHOLAS	SCHEMBRI, WARREN
BRINCAT, BJORN	DEGIOVANNI, AMAND	GATT, STEVEN	VASSALLO, MARLON
BRISTOW, XYLON	DESIRA, DARREN	GRIMA, MARIE	VASSALLO, NEIL
BUTTIGIEG, MARIO	ESPOSITO, RODERICK	SAMMUT, ANDREW	ZAMMIT, MARK

##### MCAST-BTEC Higher National Diploma in Computing (Software Development)

BONNICI, MARK ANTHONY	CHETCUTI, ALISON	LOPORTO, ROBERT	VASSALLO, JONATHAN
BORG, NOEL	CHIRCOP, STEFAN PHILIP	MIFSUD, RYAN	VELLA CATALANO, ELAINE ANNE
BORG, RON	CIANTAR, DARREN	MINTOFF, MARK	VELLA, LARKEN
BUGEJA, MICHAEL	FLERI SOLER, BENJAMIN	PISANI, GRAZIELLA	VELLA, MARGARET
CAMILLERI, CHRISTIAN	FLORIAN, KRISTIAN	PORTELLI, MATTHEW	ZERAFA, STEVEN
CAMILLERI, DARYL	GALEA, VANESSA	RAPA, JOHN	
CARABOTT, JONATHAN	GAUCI, RITIENNE	REALE, AMANTE	
CASSAR, CLAYTON	LAUTIER, CLAYTON	SPITERI, GRAZIELLA	

## MARITIME INSTITUTE

#### LEVEL 3

##### OIC Navigation Watch

CUTAJAR, LORRAINE	GRECH, GEORGE	XERRI, GIOVANN	ZAMMIT, MEVRIC
DINGLI, WILLIAM	XERRI, ABIGAIL		

## INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS & COMMERCE

#### LEVEL 3

##### Matriculation Certificate Course

ABELA, EMAN	BORG, DIANE	GALEA, JOLEN	SEYCHELL, ANALISE
BONAVIA, GRAZIELLA	BORG, NADINE	GRIXTI, GLEN	SPITERI, TIFFANY
BONNICI, RAISA	ENRIQUEZ, DEBORAH	PORTELLI, CHERISE	

##### MCAST Certificate in Administrative & Secretarial Studies

AXISA, JESSICA	CARABOTT, PAULINE	MERCIECA, DANICA	SEISUN, MARIA
AZZOPARDI, LETIZIA	CHETCUTI, MAXINE	MICALLEF, STEPHANIE	SPITERI, ABIGAIL
AZZOPARDI, TRACY	DEBONO, ANGIE	MIFSUD, STEPHANIE	TANTI, ANNALISE
CAMILLERI, CHARLENE	DEBONO, MICHELLE	MUSCAT, FABIENNE	ZAMMIT, LUANA
CAMILLERI, ELAINE	GALEA, SAMANTHA	RONAYNE, LINDSAY	ZAMMIT, VERONICA
CAMILLERI, JORLINE	GAUCI, KAREN	SAID, STACEY	

##### MCAST Certificate in Marketing Studies

CALIGARI, JULIAN PAUL	FENECH, KERSTY ANN	MICALLEF, STACY	VELLA, LARISSA
CARUANA, SINEAD MARIE	FORMOSA, MAVERICK	MIZZI, VERONICA MARIA	ZAHRA, JOSE
CINI, YANIKA	GRIMA, ANNABEL	PACE, NOEL JOSEPH	
DEBATTISTA, LUKE	MELI, DIANDRA	VASSALLO MANCHE, CHRISTIAN	



### MCAST-BTEC National Certificate in Business

ABELA, EDMEA MARIE  
ABELA, KIMBERLY  
BONGAILAS, DANIEL  
BRYDON, STEPHANIE  
BUSUTTIL, MARLENE  
CACHIA, ROBERTA

CAMILLERI, GRAZIELLA  
CAMILLERI, JEAN PAUL  
CHETCUTI, KARSTEN  
CIANTAR AGIUS, GAIL  
CILIA, MELINA  
CUSTO, DANIEL

CUTAJAR, NADIA  
DELIA, RYAN  
FALZON, SPIRIDIONE  
GATT, NADINE  
GRECH, AMANDA MARIE  
GRECH, MARYGRACE

PICCININO, ALEXANDRA  
SANT, ETIENNE  
SCICLUNA, GODIANNE  
VASSALLO, AMANDA

### LEVEL 4

#### Accounting Technician Certificate

ABELA, CLINT  
AQUILINA, KAREN  
BARRY, ELAINE  
BORG, JAMES

BORG, KARL  
BORG, SVETLANA  
BUHAGIAR, MARIA  
CORTIS, MARISA

MERCIECA, RACHELLE  
MICALLEF, NOELLA  
SEYCHELL, MITCH  
SPITERI, KRISTY MARIA

SPITERI, MATTHEW  
ZAMMIT, CHRISTIAN

#### Diploma in Financial Services

ATTARD, YANIKA  
BORG, ALEXIA  
BORG, REBECCA  
CAMILLERI, LORRY  
CASSAR, SAMUEL  
DARMANIN, MARIA

DEGUARA, MONIQUE  
DEMICOLI, MARIA  
DINGLI, PAULA  
FENECH, RITIANNE  
FENECH, SAMANTHA MAY  
GARRARD, KIMBERLY

MERCIECA, CHRISTINE  
MIFSUD, KATHLEEN  
MIFSUD, KRISTINA  
PAVANELLO, JURGEN  
SCIBERRAS, CLAIRE  
SPITERI, DORIANNE

VELLA, ANN MARIE  
VELLA, CHARLENE  
ZAMMIT, HUBERT  
ZERAFA, CLARA

### MCAST-BTEC Higher National Diploma in Business

CHETCUTI, CHANTELLE  
MICALLEF, ANDREA  
MIFSUD, DOMNIC  
PACE, SARAH

PISANI, MATTHEW  
SAID, MIRIAM  
SAMMUT, NOELLA  
SCIORTINO, GWENDOLINE

STOKES, HAYLEY JANE  
SULTANA, JARED  
SULTANA, YANIKA  
VELLA, ALISON

VELLA, FRANCESCA  
VISANICH, LARA

## INSTITUTE OF AGRIBUSINESS

### LEVEL 3

#### MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Agriculture

AGIUS, ALAN  
CARUANA, MARIA

DUCA, MARL  
FARRUGIA, JOYCE

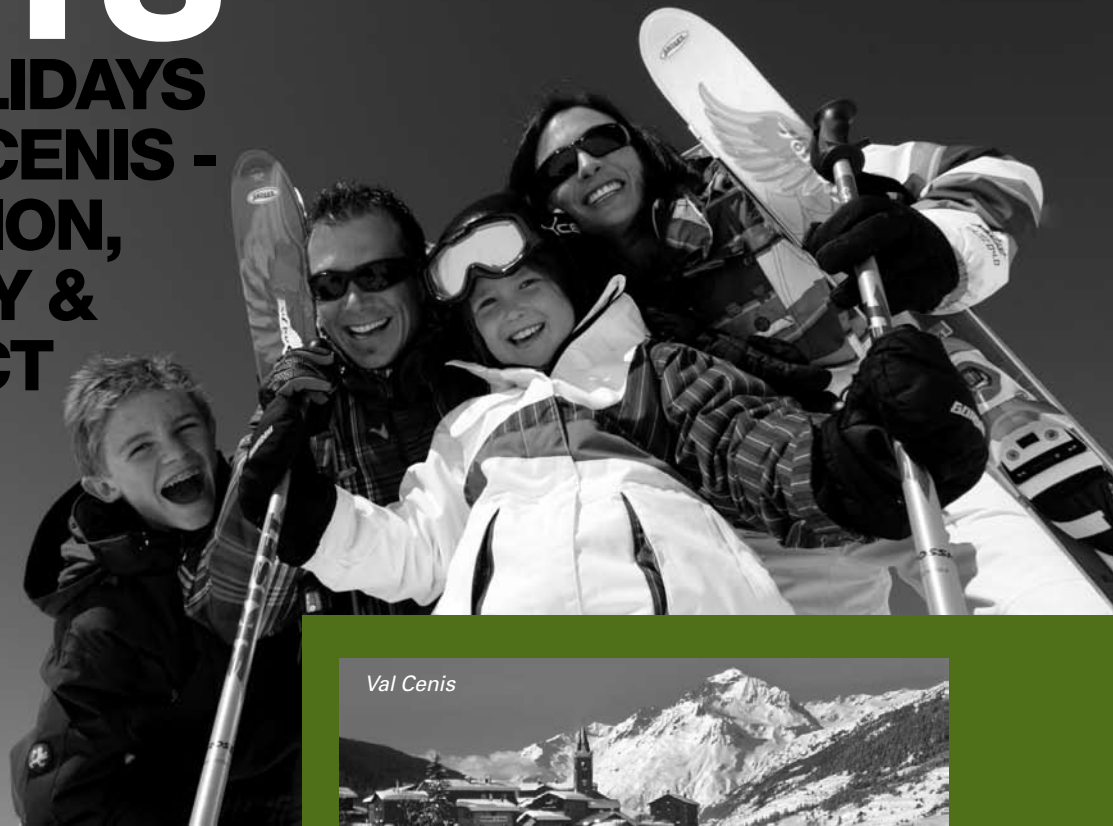
GRIMA, CARL

PISANI, MATTHEW JACOB



# NSTS

## SKI HOLIDAYS IN VAL CENIS - TRADITION, QUALITY & PERFECT PISTES!



*Skiing is one of those unique experiences that one must do at least once in his or her life and there is no better time to take the plunge than as a student.*

Most people dream of spending a few days up on a snow-covered mountain skiing down the slopes and enjoying the activities that a modern ski-resort offers but when it comes to the cost we realize that we require a small fortune for a couple of days. Well NSTS has come up with an excellent package aimed at making skiing holidays affordable with their 'nice-price guarantee'. NSTS is offering a great package to Val Cenis, a ski resort in the midst of the French Alps, not far away from the French-Italian border.

This spectacular ski resort offers a wide range of activities and amenities that together with the breath-taking mountain scenery and the friendly locals makes it an excellent destination for skiing. The region has a very long and interesting history that gives it its charm and uniqueness and gives the visitor much more to do and see than just skiing and winter sports. This historical area stands apart from many mass ski resorts; nevertheless, it offers the infrastructure of a modern ski holiday destination.

The main feature however is undoubtedly the ski slopes and the beautiful snow-covered landscapes that this region offers. In fact the ski resort is set in the Vanoise National Park and boasts 125 km of slopes in 56 different pistes of

Val Cenis



varying difficulty to suit all types of skiers from the beginner to the professional including Europe's longest beginners' slope and thrilling black pistes. To climb the vertical drop of over 1500m there are 27 lifts servicing the slopes. During the winter months you are guaranteed to find snow and good skiing conditions to ensure you have a good time on the slopes. For those who have never been skiing there are beginners' courses and slopes and whilst you might get a few bruises in the first couple of days, by the end of your stay you should be skiing down the slopes with confidence.

Apart from skiing the resort offers a myriad of other activities from the skating rink to the fitness centre and spa, from sled-dog school to trekking, from ice-wall climbing to paragliding. There are also a few cultural activities you could do whilst you are in the French Alps such as visiting the local museum and some of the several chapels that dot this area, or for cheese-lovers a visit to the 'laitiere' to see how Beaufort Cheese is made and obviously do some tasting. Lanslebourg offers plenty of Savoyard charm for the after-piste with its quaint shops, picturesque lanes, French cuisine and beautiful art and crafts.



# SELF HELP AFFECTIVE PERSONAL EMPOWERMENT UP!

# GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING SERVICE

## INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMES

### An opportunity to learn and grow from experiences!

Life experiences can be many and vary from ones that occur directly to us, to those that are experienced by our friends or family and still affect us. These enrichment groups can help you work through such encounters in a way that you can become a richer and more empowered person.

These groups involve up to ten students working with a group facilitator (counsellor) in weekly sessions of just one hour. The group members will decide the number of sessions and whether newcomers are welcome or not. This depends on the nature of the work. There is also no limit to the number of group sessions each member can attend and this is decided and based on individual need. The characteristics of group work enable a type of interaction that is not possible in one to one work. This can also be a highly respected manner of addressing emotional distress.

Group sessions time and venue –

Thursdays between 12:30 – 13:30,  
Student Counselling Service,  
Student House,  
MCAST Main Campus,  
Paola.

Arrangements can be made for these group sessions to be held at any satellite Institute on other days if there are enough participants.

Topics that have been offered are:

**Sexual Abuse**  
**Learning Difficulties/Dyslexia**  
**Relationship Breakdowns**  
**ADHD**

**Other topics can be arranged**

Students are encouraged to come up with suggestions on other topics they would like to discuss. If you are interested please just send an email to [counsellors@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:counsellors@mcast.edu.mt) The Counsellors will get back to you with more information.

If you have any other questions, please contact:

Marthese Vassallo on Tel 23987133  
or e-mail [marthese.vassallo@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:marthese.vassallo@mcast.edu.mt)  
Student Counselling Service.

## Help your friends reach up high!

# STUDENT-2-STUDENT TRAINING COURSE IN HELPING SKILLS

## An opportunity to help yourself and your peers!

The first course in 'Student-2-Student – Helping Skills' has been offered and ran between November 2008 and January 2009. This has been a unique opportunity for all participants to develop their social and interpersonal skills. Thirty hours of training were delivered by the two MCAST Counsellors and covered themes such as:

- Self-awareness and peer relations
- Values, beliefs, and attitudes
- Diversity in College
- Core conditions of helping skills
- Importance of language and listening
- Roles and boundaries
- Confidentiality etc.



On completion of the training, students obtained the confidence to deal and talk with people who disclose their personal problems. They have become more aware of themselves and they can help their friends more effectively. Additionally, this course provided participants with the skills that will be of benefit in many aspects of their life. All students who completed the 30 hours of training received a certificate verifying their participation which can also serve as an addition to their *Curriculum Vitæ*.

The Counselling Department is in the process of introducing a Student-2-Student network. This consists of a voluntary network wherein students who would have completed the training course in Helping Skills can apply to become a volunteer in this network. It will involve a variety of interpersonal helping behaviours assumed by students who undertake a helping role with others. This network would be regularly supervised by the College Counsellors.  
E-mail: [student2student@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:student2student@mcast.edu.mt)

Another course in 'Student-2-Student' Helping Skills will be offered next academic year.

If you have any questions, please contact:  
Marthese Vassallo tel 23987133, Student  
Counselling Service or email: [counsellors@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:counsellors@mcast.edu.mt)

## RECOGNITION CEREMONY FOR STUDENTS THAT SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE HELPING SKILLS COURSE

MCAST encourages its students to develop their full potential by supporting them in acquiring the skills which they will need to make a valuable contribution to society and to be active, thoughtful learners throughout their life. The Counselling Department organized the Helping Skills Course. This course gave students the opportunity to increase their communication skills, creativity, reflectiveness and ethical responsibility amongst others.

Academic life brings a considerable amount of pressure and stress, and it is not easy for students to keep up with other regular commitments like the one needed to follow this course. The effort that these students have made was an excellent and evident one and their satisfaction could clearly be seen during the Recognition Ceremony held on 28 January 2009. Prof. Maurice Grech, Principal and CEO, congratulated the students and presented them with the certificate.

The students that successfully completed the course were:

- Julia Azzopardi (Institute of Information and Communication Technology)
- Rosanne Borg (Institute of Information and Communication Technology)
- James Borg Cumbo (Institute of Business and Commerce)
- Cristian Darmanin (Institute of Business and Commerce)
- Darrell Formosa (Institute of Information and Communication Technology)
- Dorianne Mifsud (Institute of Information and Communication Technology)



From left: Cristian Darmanin, Darrell Formosa, James Borg Cumbo, Marthese Vassallo (Counsellor), Professor Maurice Grech (Principal and CEO), John Bartolo (Director, Information and Student Services), Ray Farrugia (Registrar), Rosanne Borg, Dorianne Mifsud, Julia Azzopardi



## ST. ALOYSIUS' COLLEGE CAREERS WEEK

Mr. John Bartolo and Mr. Robert Cassar participated in the bi-annual St. Aloysius' College Careers Week held on the 17-19 November 2008. It proved to be a success as more than 700 students from the secondary college and the sixth form visited the MCAST stand. The event allowed the

students to get a first glimpse of MCAST courses, discuss their career aspirations and seek to make informed academic choices. The event was also attended by industry players and this further highlighted their link with MCAST's aims and endeavours.

## LEARNING FROM FAILURE

Failure is a common experience in life. If we look back we all can recall that particular experience/event where we felt we were failures. Assignments, projects, tests, examinations, interviews, relationships and driving tests are all common experiences of everyday life that can lead to failure. Failure does not mean that one is incompetent because one has not originally succeeded. Failure only means that one knows what does not work and it can give us the opportunity to try a new approach to improve and get better.

The whole history of discovery is filled with people who used erroneous assumptions and failed ideas as stepping stones to new ideas. Christopher Columbus thought he had found a shorter route to India. Edison knew 1800 ways not to design a light bulb. One of Madame Curie's failures was radium. An inventor is always trying and failing until one learns what will work. It is important that one learns how to fail creatively, leading him/her to think differently.

Negative feedback means that the current approach is not working and it is up to the individual to find a new one. We all learn by trial and error. It may be the case that if one hits every time, either the target is too near, too big, or both.

Trying something that you have not tried before demands creativity and courage. Chances of success favour only the prepared mind by strengthening the 'risk muscle' and by increasing self courage and self confidence. Trying new things and taking risks means experimenting with life, gaining experiences and learning about yourself and others.

Science and art history informs us that stories of great success are also stories of great failures. At school Einstein was so dull that he was called 'Dull Albert'. His teachers described him as: mentally slow, unsociable and adrift forever in his foolish dreams. Darwin wrote that all his masters and his father considered him a very ordinary boy, rather below the common standard in intellect. Keynes failed every year his examinations in economics. Van Gogh was unable to sell his paintings. Many great painters had experienced the same failures. These men were like other men, the only difference was determination and perseverance which are key aspects towards success. Every time they failed, they bounced back. This is called failing forward, rather than backward meaning that you learn to move forward.

**Ask yourself after every failure,  
"What did I learn from this experience?"**

Learn from your errors and keep going.

# WHAT IS MY CAREER?

We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand.

Prof. Randy Paush (The last lecture)

At the end of January 2009, the Graduation Ceremony for students that successfully obtained Diplomas and Certificates in Level 1 and Level 2 courses took place. The MCAST Student House was packed with students, most of whom proceeded to their respective career path, whilst others continued their studies. It was obvious that many career paths are available after completing studies at MCAST.

In his address Prof. Maurice Grech, Principal and CEO of MCAST, mentioned this notion and highlighted the importance of following your dream for a career. The address was definitely inspired by the saying, "The best gift an educator can give is to get someone to

By Robert Cassar,  
Career Advisor



become self-reflective." Thus it occurred to me that I was surrounded by dreamers. Well, dreams and aspirations don't pay bills. But we surely need to follow them. It is brilliant to see that MCAST is the key enabling so many students' dreams come true.

## In a nutshell -

Following your dream career is not as simple as choosing one's job... and there is no such thing as one job for one person. Yes, it is true that your current studies are what you always wanted. Yet it does not mean that we will dedicate our life to one single job.

Get the right experience: You don't have to wait until your studies are over before you get started on your chosen career path; you can try your hands at working in several ways. By this, I don't mean working part-time in a completely different industry just to pay the bills.

Most MCAST courses have apprenticeships or work placements. This not only gives you hands-on experience of the work environment, but it also helps you identify your strengths and weaknesses

Those who are following their apprenticeship or working on their first job have tons of questions or insecurities such as:  
*Will my co-workers like me? Will my boss or supervisor respect me? Am I good enough?*

These fears are understandable and will be with you in different forms throughout your career. Sometimes you may be tempted to take an extreme pathway: either trying to please everyone or simply lose interest and give up. Well, there is a better way. Just doing your best is a start.

Start doing some research into the sort of jobs that your studies will lead you to. Think also about your positive aspects and skills, and what kind of job you might enjoy doing.

Although there can be pressure on you to get a job as soon as studies are over, it does not mean that your future career simply lies ahead straight away. Many successful careers take years to form and you should view it a lifelong process not just a one-time decision immediately after completing studies. The key is to start on a positive note.

The Counsellors and Guidance Team  
can be contacted on 23987133  
or by email on:

**counsellors@mcast.edu.mt**  
**marthese.vassallo@mcast.edu.mt**  
**robert.cassar@mcast.edu.mt**

# LIBRARY & LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE



## TOYS (AS WELL) R US

Toys in the library? Yes the Main library here in Paola now houses a small collection of educational toys. We are probably one of the first libraries in Malta to have such a toy collection. The purposes of this collection is for use by our Early Years, Children's Care, Learning and Development students during their supervised practice sessions with very young children in schools. It is through toys that children learn the basic concepts of colours, sounds, shapes, letters which at a later stage will be used to teach them reading, writing, mathematical and social skills. To support this function the Library also keeps a collection of big picture books. This toy collection is available for borrowing from the second floor of the Main Library. Please ask for the Assistant Librarian on that floor or the main counter downstairs.



*Jo Anne Carabott*

## OVERSEAS TRAINING VISITS BY LIBRARY STAFF

For the first time this year the Library was successful in getting members of staff accepted to participate in EU funded projects aimed at training employees away from their usual place of work. The Library participated in two programmes in November 2008.

Ms. JoAnne Carabott took part in a 4 day training programme (Comenius-Grundtvig) the subject of which was "Multimedia Based Presentation," a subject that is useful to the library since we use such presentations both for library instruction and library promotion. The course was held in Wiener Neustadt in Austria.

On the other hand Mr. Laurence Zerafa (Librarian) and Ms. Josephine Mifsud participated in an Erasmus programme, the outcome of which was a one week long visit to the Letterkenny Institute of Technology Library in Letterkenny in the north of the Republic of Ireland. The scope of the visit was to compare our library to a similar sized and scope library abroad. We also had the opportunity to visit other academic and public libraries in Derry and Belfast in North Ireland.

## TWO LIBRARY MEMBERS OF STAFF GRADUATE.

Ms. Josephine Mifsud and Ms. JoAnne Carabott (both qualified Assistant Librarians) after having obtained their Diploma in Library and Information Studies continued to further their professional development by reading for a Degree in Library, Information and Archive Studies at the University of Malta. They finished their studies successfully and graduated last November. Congratulations.



## EMERALD ON-LINE JOURNALS – NEW JOURNALS TRAINING WORKSHOP

Starting from January 2009 the range of on-line journals available to MCAST library users has increased from 30 to 46. Apart from the 30 journals in the field of management that the MCAST Library has been subscribing to for the past three years, there are now also another 16 journals in the Engineering field. Their titles are as follows:

Title	Full text from
Aircraft Engineering and Aerospace Technology	1997
Anti-Corrosion Methods and Materials	1997
Assembly Automation	1994
Circuit World	1996
COMPEL	1996
Engineering Computations	1996
Industrial Lubrication and Tribology	1994
Industrial Robot: An International Journal	1994
International Journal of Clothing Science and Technology	1994
International Journal of Numerical Methods for Heat & Fluid Flow	1997
Kybernetes: The International Journal of Systems & Cybernetics	1994
Microelectronics International	1996
Pigment & Resin Technology	1997
Rapid Prototyping Journal	1995
Sensor Review	1994
Soldering & Surface Mount Technology	1996

You can access these articles and the abstracts of another 300 titles at [www.emeraldinsight.com](http://www.emeraldinsight.com). From College Library and other PCs in most Institutes and Administration buildings (not just library PCs) you do not need a password. Simply go to the site and you should be logged in automatically as 'MALTA COLLEGE FOR ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY'. 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 using the Emerald site at these Libraries or from a home PC e-mail us to get the current User name and Password. Articles from journals which are not included in this list of 30 titles if required can be purchased by opening a personal on-line account with Emerald.

An Emerald Training Workshop was held on Wednesday 11th February 2009 at the Main Library's IT area on the 3rd floor. During this free workshop an Emerald trainer explained in detail how to get the most out of using the Emerald suite of information sources. Certainly these days no serious research and study projects can do without some on-line information.



At the end of 2008 Mr. John S. Vella retired after just over 3 years of service as Library Clerk in charge of the main circulation desk at the Main Library in Paola from where all persons entering the library were greeted. A rough calculation of an average 600 persons a day coming to our library shows that Mr. Vella must have faced over 400,000 persons during these 3 years. Besides loaning out, and receiving back, books he was also in charge of the receipt of and preparation for shelving of all periodicals. Again a job involving thousands of individual periodical issues a year. Thank you for your service John and may you enjoy many years of retirement in health and happiness.

The person replacing John is Ms. Catherine Busuttil. Welcome.



John Vella



Mr L Zerafa

## WORKS ON THE FIRST FLOOR ON THE MAIN LIBRARY

During the last weeks of 2008 and the first weeks of 2009 MCAST handy men carried out works on the first floor. As a result there are now two lockable study / lecture / tutorial rooms for use by (mainly) SU lecturers. There are also two other similar smaller areas which however are open plan.

The new arrangement creates as well an Audio-visual presentation room where films can be watched, in small

groups of 20, with no interference by, or with, other areas. Finally the Library has also gained a medium sized store room.

Appointments need to be made for use of all areas of the first floor of the Main library. No unsupervised students are allowed to use the area.

# LIBRARY FILM COLLECTION IN THE ART & DESIGN INSTITUTE IN MOSTA



The MCAST Libraries all hold a number of A-V items mostly as films in Video (VHS or DVD) format. Films are either non fiction documentaries or fiction feature films. The former are of course instructional explaining facts in a visual manner. The latter serve two main purposes as follows:

1. Used for discussion purposes highlighting values and issues
2. Watched for their edutainment value as much as our book fiction collection does,

In the case of the Art & Design Institute Library, the film collection there serves different purposes, mainly as follows:

1. Teaches the technique of creating digital films. In fact all the films here are in their extended versions which besides the feature films would contain several other DVDs explaining the 'making of the film.' We have had such films since about 3 years.
2. Teach the art of film, the elements that make a good film.

In fact the recent addition to this film collection is over 60 films covering

- classic films since the early years of cinema (1920s)
- all genre of film like horror, cult, musicals, epic drama, sci-fi etc. and
- world cinema. So besides Hollywood films (USA) other countries are now represented like Canada, UK, Germany, Brazil, Australia etc.

# DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY

In the period November to December 2008, the Library, through its contacts, received several donations of books worth over €8,000. Donations were received from the following banks: BOV, HSBC and CBM and from a local book seller Audio Visual Centre of Gzira, owners of Books Plus bookshop in Bisazza Street, Sliema. The nature of these books varies from Classic & Modern Art to Digital art techniques (BOV and HSBC) to Melitensia (CBM) and a broad spectrum of science and humanities subjects (AVC/Books Plus). It is not the first time that we have received donations from these companies and we thank them for their continued support.



From left: Mr Alex Mizzi, Director HSBC, Mr Laurence Zerafa, Librarian, Professor Maurice Grech, Principal and CEO, Mr Stephen Vella, Director

# NEW LIBRARY REGULATIONS

In November 2008 new library regulations came into use after discussion and approval by the Council of Institutes. The regulations can be read at [www.mcast.edu.mt/llrc/](http://www.mcast.edu.mt/llrc/). The main significant changes are that:

1. It is now possible for non-MCAST associated students, lecturers or staff to get a special permit to use our library. They can do so by writing to the Librarian and if approved they can make full use of all our library facilities against an annual fee of €35.00.
2. The new regulations now give the College the right to take disciplinary action in those few cases where library users fail to return loaned items on time or never return them at all. In order of how serious the case is the Library can request a fine, withhold borrowing rights, withhold part of a student's stipend and finally not allow a student to progress or even graduate.

# INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES OFFICE

## Administration staff visit the Institute of Technology in Ireland

Following a rigorous selection process, Mr Mario Falzon, Clerical Officer Communications Office, Ms Sharon Vassallo, Clerical Officer Human Resources Department and Ms Louise Gusman, Executive Secretary, Administration Department, were chosen to participate in an Erasmus Staff Training Programme at the Institute of Technology in Letterkenny, Ireland. During the one week visit they had the opportunity to exchange work policies and procedures with their respective departments.

The Institute of Technology was set up in 1971 and currently boasts of 2,500 full-time students and around 500 part-time students. It employs around 250 full-time staff. In 2007, the College took over the Tourism College in Killybegs. There are 13 Colleges in Ireland and 28 Vocational Schools in Donegal. Half of them are vocational and cater for immigrants and disabled persons.

Louise Gusman spent her visit with Ms Heavey, Head of the Registry and Student Services. The Registry administers the student services and various departments such as the careers officer, the counsellors, nurse and medical doctor, sports office, students' union and coordination of the access office. All these services are funded through the student capitation. The students pay a registration fee which also covers public insurance, examination consumables, non campus medical service and students' union fund activities. Ms Gusman had the opportunity to attend promotional visits at other schools. She also interviewed various officers on their work and on the way they file and store confidential administrative and student data.

Sharon Vassallo's work exchange programme was spent with the Human Resources Manager, Mr Shay Henry. During her stay, Mr Henry, gave her an overview and information of how the HR department operates. Sharon gained insight into the systems and processes employed including the database of all staff; conditions of work of both academic and non-academic staff including full-time and part-time members of staff; the filing method used such as archiving, absence records, performance appraisals, statistics, the recruiting system (e-recruiting) and their day-to-day work. Sharon also had the opportunity to go through the Policies and Procedures of the College with the Human Resources Officer.

Mario Falzon spent the exchange programme with Ms Marina Doherty, the School of Science Administrator.

The School of Science consists of 3 Departments: The Department of Science (courses include Food Science, Analytical and Forensic Science, Bioscience and Veterinary Nursing); the Department of Nursing & Health Studies (courses include General, Psychiatric, Intellectual Disability, Health & Social Studies and Early Childhood Nursing), and the Department of Computing (courses include Business Applications, Security & Digital Forensics, Games Development, Network & Mobile Communications).



*Mario Falzon and Sharon Vassallo at Glenveagh Castle*

Mario assisted in the preparation of material for the Annual 'Science Week' activities attended by approximately 1,800 primary school children. He also helped in gathering together promotional material required for the Annual College Open Day.

Louise, Sharon and Mario would like to thank MCAST Administration and the International Office and the staff at the LYIT for their hospitality. They also had the opportunity to visit Dublin and Belfast with their managers.



*Back row from left: Mr Shay Henry, Mario Falzon, Sharon Vassallo, Louise Gusman. Front row Fiona Gallagher, Angela Boyle and Linda McGlinchey*

# From a Small Island to a Small Island ... An Erasmus Mobility Experience in Cyprus

by Alex Wright, Inventory Officer

After getting through the selection process, in the beginning of September 2008 I was told to contact Mr Stelios from Cyprus. I started emailing Mr Stelios and things were taking shape for my visit to Cyprus. My only concern was the travelling from Larnaca to the hotel in Nicosia. When I voiced my concern to Mr Stelios his reply was, "Just pack your bag and get your tickets... we will have everything ready for you. It will be a College visit and a cultural visit too." To be honest I was scared. I was going to a place where they do not have a proper bus system, that is split between Greeks and Turks and with limited funds.

On Sunday 24 October 2008 I left Malta in a thunderstorm to start my trip to Cyprus. The fun began when I was told that I do not look like a Maltese but as a Cypriot and this joke stayed with me the whole week, everywhere I went I was mistaken for a Cypriot. Next time I'll dye my hair blond!. After a short trip from the airport to the hotel I was promised to be picked up the next day at 7am.

Michael came to pick me up along with his son at 7am sharp. On the way to the college Michael filled me up on life in Cyprus and about Philips College. It took us half an hour to get from the hotel to the outskirts of Nicosia and another 30 minutes stuck in slow traffic to the college. After a coffee and a croissant, I was taken to meet the Head of the college Prof. Philippos Constantinou who welcomed me. We talked about the similarity between Malta and Cyprus. After this meeting, I spent the rest of the morning talking to the Dean of Economics and Management, Mr. Andreas Antoniou, where again they were astounded how Malta being such a small island could get so much financial deals from overseas companies and from the EU.



*In the Troddos Mountains*

In the afternoon, I was taken for an enjoyable traditional Cypriot meal and then back to the college for more meetings this time with Mr Marios Socratous, the librarian.

The college's size is comparable to the main library at MCAST, but the amount of work done is incredible. The Head of the college gives lessons. Everyone helps each other as the college depends on income generated by the intake of foreign students since the college is privately owned. Philips College has applied and is waiting to be granted the status of University. The main people working on foreign students are Michael, Stelios and Marios. They work hard and as a team. I noticed the interactivity between them.

My first day nearly ended with a bang when our Cypriot colleague on the wheel took a wrong turn and we nearly ended in the Turkish zone. Had we done so, it could have ended as a news item entitled '2 British citizens, 1 Maltese and 1 Cypriot arrested and charged with spying after entering the green zone'.

As Tuesday was a public holiday, Stelios promised to take me to the mountains in the afternoon. I decided to walk to Larnaca, an 85 minutes walk from the hotel. I wanted to visit St Lazarus church where, according to legend, St Lazarus is buried. The church was small and beautiful, full of icons especially of St George and The Virgin Mary.

At 1.30pm, I was picked up by Stelios and Marios and taken to the mountains. No one could believe that in Malta we have no mountains, lakes or rivers except when it rains. A little more than 1hour drive took us up to the Troodos Mountains 1,200ft above sea level. Then, we headed for the village of Kakopetria with the mountains shrouded in clouds. It seemed as though I stepped into Mdina and Buskett combined together. Narrow streets with very old buildings on stilts, tall old trees and the sound of gurgling rain water running over stones, rocks and among reeds and trees, the wind whistling among the foliage. It was the most tranquil music a person can enjoy hearing while having another traditional meal and chatting with a couple who Stelios invited to meet us. We wondered around the village and went down to the old mill, before I was taken to a small coffee shop and given a Cypriot coffee and a glass of water. From there we went further up the mountains to Marios's grandparent's mountain house, which Marios had fixed up nicely. The view was breath taking but soon it was too dark to enjoy more.

I spent both Wednesday and Thursday at the college visiting classrooms and talking with teachers and students. Stelios is in charge of IT and the Inventory System. The inventory system is under Stelios's domain and one method he uses is to involve fourth year students to create a software programme. He supervises the project. The students chosen to work on this programme are responsible to gather all the necessary information to build the software and input all the data. It is a good system because the students are getting hands-on experience in both building software and testing the software themselves. Some of the foreign students asked me from where I came and about MCAST. When I told them the subjects we teach to students here in MCAST they were very interested. Students at the college are encouraged to forget their ethnic upbringing and take part in the student council. Students are even entrusted to help in the library and take care of the inventory system.

On Thursday we went for a short trip to Nicosia and I was shown the Turkish side from a high rise building. Then back to college and more discussions with Stelios about the inventory system and how they dismantle the PC's and write down each and every serial number on each part of the PC. In the evening, I was taken to meet Vassilis Hadjikiltis, a conchologist like myself, or as it is commonly known a seashell collector. Collecting and carrying out research on shells is my main hobby. Vassilis and I ended up chatting from 5pm till 10pm. I also met his wife and two young sons and even had a meal with them. The hospitality of the Cypriots is similar to ours.

Friday was the last day at the college and I was taken to Limassol for a few hours' visit. In the evening I was taken for a farewell meal which was hosted by Marios, Stelios and his wife. I really enjoyed the evening as I tasted various different Cypriot dishes and wine which after a few glasses I had to decline or I would have woken up with a headache.

Finally, Saturday at 6am I woke up, looked out of my hotel room and watched the sun rise. I was sorry that I was going to miss this view as I had to return to Malta. I was going to leave behind not friends but more like brothers as I was made to feel as if I was at home with everyone being so friendly. Our Cypriot colleagues made my stay a most memorable one and for this I would like to thank them all.

In every opportunity we had, Stelios and I always discussed how MCAST and Philips College could improve their relations to start exchanging students and lecturers. My comment was that if we both are in the EU and most things are common, why not education too? This way students and teachers can be exchanged and thanks to the EU, together we can make learning and teaching more interesting.



*St Lazarus Church*



*The Philips College*



# CHILD CARE CENTRE

## NEW CHILD CARE CENTRE ON MCAST MAIN CAMPUS

The MCAST Magic Wonders Child Care Centre is proud to support and make a real difference to the lives of students and members of staff by providing modern facilities and the latest equipment to support children in a safe, fun, stimulating and nurturing environment. Students and members of staff with babies aged 0 to 3 years now have the opportunity to leave their child in the care of qualified child carers at Magic Wonders while they are at College.

The provision of this service is in line with the Lisbon Strategy to promote equal opportunities for women and men and the promotion of a better reconciliation of work and family life with the main objective to contribute to the female labour force participation. MCAST Magic Wonders was built and furnished using EU funds. The Centre was financed 75% from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and 25% by the Malta Government.

MCAST Magic Wonders is a state-of-the-art Child Care Centre that is fully equipped for the provision of the child caring service. It is fully air-conditioned, has a TV/DVD surround system, CCTV cameras and separate rooms for children under 18 months and toddlers as well as a spacious and attractive outdoor area where children can play and have fun. MCAST Magic Wonders prides itself on making certain that all centre facilities are constantly upgraded ensuring a safe and secure environment for all children. The extensive play and educational facilities are specifically designed with child safety and child development as the main priority.

The management of MCAST Magic Wonders believes that children give their full potential when they are stimulated with well structured and well organized activities. The Centre provides well packed days full of daily activities including story-telling, painting/crafts, music/singing/dancing, outdoor play, role/pretend play, block/puzzles. The activities provided by the Centre will include the activities that help children to grow in all areas of development including social, language, emotional, cognitive and motor skills.



By planning activities that build upon the individual child's strengths MCAST Magic Wonders ensures that children succeed in their skill building and therefore develop a healthy attitude to learning. Children at Magic Wonders can participate in a wide variety of activities as well as a flexible daily routine and planned transition times which are developed to ensure that every part of the day is a 'teachable moment in time'.

MCAST Magic Wonders has employed early childhood professional, experienced and qualified staff trained in childcare. They bring their own individual skills and experiences enhancing their own personal teaching style. They are all trained in first aid and have a clean police conduct.

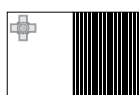
**Magic Wonders is committed to ensuring each child is loved, nurtured, educated, entertained and protected.**



All students and members of administration and academic staff who currently have children from new born till 3 years of age may apply. Pregnant mothers who have a confirmed pregnancy due date may also apply.

The Centre is open Monday to Friday from 8 am to 5pm and is closed for weekends, all public holidays and Christmas shutdown. Half day / full day packages are offered and attendance may be of two, three or five days per week according to parent's necessities.

The Centre is situated at the south end of MCAST Paola's Main Campus next to the ICT Institute. For details, applications, visits or other information, contact Irene Bugeja, Administration Manager on 23987161 or on e-mail [irene.bugeja@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:irene.bugeja@mcast.edu.mt)



Programme for Malta 2004-2006  
Project part-financed by the European Union  
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)  
Co-Financing Rate 75% EU and 25% Malta Government



# CHAPLAIN'S PAGE

## VOLUNTARY WORK AT ID-DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA

For the Pastoral Team and a group of MCAST students, Friday 19 December 2008 will remain a day to remember. Mary Grace Cardona, Daniela Carbone, Mandy Cortis, Miriam Farrugia, Adriana Caruana, Christina Falzon, Mandy Spagnol, Mary Louise Zammit, Elaine Pavia, Maria Gatt, Geraldine Grech, Anthea Gatt and Diandra Galea, all students at the Institute of Community Services, accompanied by the Pastoral Team, spent the day giving a helping hand at id-Dar Tal-Providenza.

As soon as the students arrived they were briefed on the house history and its founder Mgr. Mikiel Azzopardi. They were also given some tips on the house residents and some basic information on how to relate to them.

All students were allocated different chores - some in the kitchen to prepare food for the day, others cleaned the refectory, others went to the flats helping the residents, while others went to the agricultural department.

At half past twelve they had lunch together and immediately after shared their experiences and their plans to do missionary work in the future.

They spent the afternoon washing the hundreds of newly arrived chairs which were to be used in the yearly first day of the year event in aid of id-Dar tal-Providenza. This year a record sum was collected, more than half a million euros, and they were glad to have given a tiny share in it.

Looking back, it was a beautiful experience. It was not a question of doing much but a matter of being there for others with a great spirit of love and solidarity.

*In the kitchen*



*The whole group*





# THE CHRISTIAN CALL TO LOVE & SOLIDARITY

(Mt. 25: 31-40)

When the Son of Man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory; and before him shall be gathered all nations, and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats; and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, "Come, blessed of my Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry, and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in; naked, and you covered me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me." Then the just will answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see thee hungry, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when did we see thee sick, or in prison, and came to thee?" And answering the King will say to them, "Amen I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me."



## **VOLUNTARY MISSIONARY WORK**

Anybody interested  
to do voluntary/missionary work,  
please contact  
Fr. John Curmi on 79240956

# MCAST STUDENT COUNCIL



*Joseph Matthew Muscat*

## JOIN THE STUDENT COUNCIL AND MAKE A CHANGE!

This year will be the fourth year that the MCAST Student Council has been operating and working for the well-being of the students. The aim of the MCAST Student Council is to make MCAST students proud to be MCAST students.

The MCAST Student Council is currently undergoing a reformation. It has lately been given an office in the new Student House. All the members of the administration and senior management are supportive of the MCAST Student Council and have always helped when needed.

The MCAST Student Council has through the years become more influential and with your help it will continue to grow and prosper. Launching new ideas for the better of all students. It is our intent to make life at College more interesting and appealing to all students.

The MCAST Student Council is looking for students who are enthusiastic and willing to commit for a better and stronger College.

Any student who is interested may come to the MCAST Student Council Office in the Student House during break hours when there will always be a member of the MCAST Student Council.

By Joseph Matthew Muscat  
Council Member

**mcast**  
kunsill studenti  
student council

# EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND COURSES

## TWENTY-FOUR WORKERS COMPLETE A PROGRAMME IN ENHANCING THEIR PRACTICAL SKILLS IN ENGINEERING (ESF 81)

Twenty four persons, aged between 26 and 45, most of whom are employed in engineering concerns, have successfully completed a programme of training related to different fields of Engineering. The programmes focused on Motor Vehicle Repairs (Panel Beating), Automation Transmission as well as Automation and PLCs. All three programmes involved in excess of 60 hours of training (with Automation and Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) involving 100 hours of training) intended to help participants enhance their skills related to PLCs, panel beating and automation.

The programmes of training were designed in recognition that new technology is creating work barriers in engineering jobs – an issue identified in research conducted by MCAST with Malta Standards Authority (MSA), the Malta Insurance Association, the GRTU, the Employment and Training Corporation and selected representatives of motor vehicle repair garages. These barriers hinder employment among Maltese workers if such new skill requirements are not considered and addressed effectively. The training programmes which were part-financed by the European Union through the European Social Fund (ESF), aimed at enhancing the worker capabilities as well as augmenting local human resource capacity, satisfying new labour market requirements.

The training programmes featured in-depth hands-on approaches, helping participants adapt to modern and updated work methods that are a result of changing modern technologies. Along with participants already employed in the related sectors, the programmes were attended by a number of participants wishing to shift their employment into such occupations. The programmes were designed and delivered by the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology at the Corradino Campus, and covered both technical as well as other aspects exemplified by safety and environment protection.

Of the three courses, the Automation and PLCs course featured 100 hours of training to 20 technicians who previously had no experience in the use of PLCs although they had worked on automated systems. Until now, Maltese manufacturers relied on foreign suppliers for the repair and programming of PLCs, involving the shipping and reshipping of such equipment. Through this training, participants became capable in the actual programming and trouble shooting challenges that such equipment presents in normal use, “almost as a natural aptitude” according to one of the programme lecturers.

Structured on the City & Guilds 4101 syllabus, the Advanced Panel Beating programme featured 65 hours of theoretical and hands-on training to 9 technicians, all of whom had a minimum of 5 years experience in the trade. The programme provided an introduction to the latest techniques, tools and materials that prevail in the automobile and repair sectors.

Another 17 technicians participated in the Automatic Transmission (gear boxes) programme that involved 60 hours of theoretical and practical training. The programme is a response by the College to an increasing demand for servicing and repairs of automatic transmissions as these become a growing feature in cars driven in the Maltese Islands. Participants, who typically had little or no experience on this kind of gearbox, had the opportunity, among others, to dismantle and reassemble automatic gearboxes, thus gaining invaluable experience in the field.



Structural Funds Programme for Malta 2004-2006  
Project co-financed by the European Union  
European Social Fund (ESF)  
Co-financing rate: 75% EU Funds; 25% Government of Malta



Enhancing Practical Skills in Engineering

**Training for**

- Advanced Panel Beating
- Automation Transmission
- Automation & Programmable Logic Controllers.

... **Another Success Story**

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

Structural Funds Programme for Malta 2004 - 2006  
Project Part-Financed by the European Union:  
European Social Fund (ESF)  
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## EU FUNDED MCAST COURSE TO ENTICE WOMEN BACK TO WORK AS CONTACT CENTRE AGENTS (ESF 85)



Contact centres are one of the fastest growing sectors on the local scene. They have been a focal point for various measures to attract foreign investment including advantageous tax rates, financial support and privileged financing facilities. These measures have been instrumental in attracting a number of international operators to transfer, or even start contact centre operations locally.

Malta also offers an encouraging set of characteristics to prospective foreign operators. Apart from the cost and the European identity, Malta features a multi-lingual workforce, a reliable and efficient telecommunications infrastructure, a well-knit travel network and a safe and secure style of living. The combination of these factors makes Malta very attractive for international and local contact centre activities.

Companies outsource services to cut costs, to increase efficiency from their resources and to be better able to focus on core competencies. Front office operations are the most commonly outsourced function to contact centres by the larger corporations in mature markets, but the largest sources of contact centre operations still remain the communications and the financial services sectors.

Malta plays a strong role with a short but interesting history of international contracts awarded by the likes of HSBC, La Redoute, Reader's Digest, Lufthansa, BT and Microsoft, and it is expected that, in the short term, Malta will be offering more resources to financial services and ICT companies, both locally and abroad. This expectation is highly dependent on the availability of skilled labour. With already about 1,400 agents employed by the some 22 call centres, the shortage of skilled labour in this sector is already being felt. Human Resources managers in the sector are increasingly claiming such shortages especially in relation to sales capabilities, software utilisation, language and general outbound call handling.

The above situation combined with the gap between males and females in the local workforce and government's intention to focus on reducing this gap on a national basis,

albeit with little success so far, has prompted the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) to organise through Structural Funds, a programme of training for women, who have had a career break and did not return to their previous jobs, to encourage them to return to work in this sector.

For this purpose the College issued a call for tenders for specific training courses and this was awarded to a consortium formed by a company specialised in business training, research and consultancy who is also the local contact point for the Contact Centres Association of the UK, together with an Anglo-Maltese contact and business process outsourcing centre serving a significant range of Maltese and foreign organisations.

The project, which is part-financed by the European Union through the European Social Fund (ESF), had the intention of providing qualified agents for contact centres and comprised a 400 hour long course over 14 weeks which included both theoretical as well as practical sessions. These included; Call Handling Operations and Skills, ICT Skills, Customer Service, English Language, Communication Skills and Quality Assurance together with experiential training where the participants were also given call handling experience in the contractor's active call centre. This experience helped the participants to discover the reality of customer needs at work in a live contact centre and to adapt the theoretical aspect to the direct skills required in real life situations. Under constant and strict supervision, each individual participant established the preferred learning style to assimilate maximum skills.



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# LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

## ASPETTI LETTERARJI



Artiklu minn Mandy Tabone  
Senior Lecturer, Learning Support Unit

Matul is-sekli saru sforzi biex tingħata tifsira tal-kelma "letteratura," jew aħjar biex titwieġeb il-mistoqsija "x'inhi l-letteratura?" L-aktar tifsira li setgħet kienet viċin hija dik tal-kritiċi soċjali, li qalu li l-letteratura hija l-mera tas-soċjetà. Meta mbagħad naraw kif il-formalisti jħarsu lejn xogħol letterarju, nintebħu li huma jqisu x-xogħol letterarju b'mod xjentifiku, aktar u aktar meta nagħrfu li huma jikkonsidrawh bħala għaqda ta' ħafna biċċiet jew aħjar għodda flimkien, li bejniethom isawru x-xogħol letterarju. Tant iħarsu lejn ix-xogħol letterarju b'mod xjentifiku li saħansitra jaslu biex jgħidu li l-kritiku m'għandux jgħaqqad kull forma ta' emozzjoni max-xogħol letterarju li jinsab quddiemu.

L-analoġija hija element ieħor letterarju jew aħjar li jikkontribwixxi biex xogħol isir letterarju. L-analoġija f'xogħol letterarju teħodna lil hinn minn dak li fil-fatt għandna miktub fit-test għax dak li jkun miktub fit-test ikun ifisser aktar minn dak li jista' biss jinqara. George Orwell uża l-analoġija sabiex ifiehem is-sitwazzjoni tal-komunizmu fir-Russja tal-bidu tas-seklu għoxrin. Jekk wieħed ma jmurx lil hinn minn dak li hemm miktub fil-ktieb, jibqa' mwahħal mal-interpretazzjoni litterali u allura t-tifsira tal-qiegħ ma toħroġ fil-wieċ.

Jekk allura bil-kritika nidhlu fil-fond tal-kitba, li hemm miktub iswed fuq l-abjad huwa biss il-bidu, il-punt tat-tluq tal-kritiku serju. Minn hemm jitlaq ix-xogħol tal-kritika, ix-xogħol li jwassal għat-tifsir li huwa lil hinn mill-kitba ta' quddiemna, it-tifsir veru li l-kittieb kellu f'moħħu, il-messaġġ waħdieni u ewlieni ta' moħħu, dak il-messaġġ li bih ried jgħallem, irawwem jew iwiddeb.

Bil-kritika storika pereżempju, wieħed jista' jgħid li din hija l-punt tat-tluq minn fejn jaf ħafna dwar il-perjodu li fih inkiteb ix-xogħol li qed jiġi studjat, aktar u aktar meta wara li tiġi applikata din it-tip ta' kritika jsib li hija mezz ta' kif joħroġ tagħrif dwar dak li minnu għadda n-nazzjon. Jekk il-poeżija ta' Dun Karm "L-Għanja tar-Rebħa" wieħed iħares lejha b'dan il-mod, jiġifieri pemezz tal-kritika storika, isib li għandu ħafna informazzjoni fejn tidhli il-battalja tal-kavallieri mat-Torok, jew aħjar l-Assedju l-Kbir tal-1565. Huwa fatt ukoll li l-poeżija hija xempju tal-patrijottizmu tradizzjonali, aktar u aktar meta Dun Karm iħaddem l-iperbole.

Il-kritika eżistenzjalista hija importanti meta naraw li minnha joħroġu kriżijiet varji kemm emozzjonali u kemm psikoloġiċi l-aktar tas-seklu għoxrin, meta l-bniedem permezz tal-iżvilupp industrijali, u aktar u aktar b'dak teknoloġiku, beda jitlef lilu nnifsu.

Dan l-istudju jzomm dawn ix-xejriet quddiemu fid-deskrizzjonijiet u d-diskussjonijiet li ġejjin. Ta' min josserva wkoll li l-kritiku Malti, li kumparattivament ma' pajjiżi oħra beda tard, kellu ħażna ta' ideat kritiċi fuqieq jibni.

Il-kritika letterarja hija l-analiżi u l-interpretazzjoni tat-testi, filwaqt li f'sens aktar wiesa' tipprova tasal għall-konkluzjonijiet dwar x'inhi l-letteratura, kif tinħoloq, x'inhuma l-effetti tagħha fuq l-umanità, u saħansitra kif nistgħu nanalizzawha. Il-kritika letterarja hija b'żonjuża ħafna fis-soċjetà tal-lum, aktar u aktar meta r-realtà turik li l-epoki letterarji f'furmawhom il-kittieba klassiċi. It-termini letterarji, kif ukoll ħafna mit-temi studjati fil-letteratura bħad-drama, il-kitba fiha nfisha, il-morali, u t-teknika tal-kitba, kollha jsibu li l-għeruf tagħhom qegħdin fid-dinja klassika.

Kull kritiku letterarju ma jistax ma jistudjax lil Platun u lil Aristotli li taw bidu xieraq għall-kritika letterarja kif nafuha illum. Nies bħal Umberto Eco, li ħareġ bit-teorija xjentifika tas-Semjotika, u li illum il-gurnata huwa magħdud fost l-ewlenin, ma setax ma studjax il-klassiċi biex ħareġ bl-idea tiegħu tas-sinjali u seta' jistudja r-relazzjoni bejn is-sinjali u dak li jirrappreżenta. Hawnhekk, it-teorija tal-forom ta' Platun kienet indispensabbli għalih.

It-teoriji kif nafuhom illum huma frott ta' ħafna xogħol li l-kittieba u l-kritiċi moderni sabu lest mill-klassiċi li l-moderni komplew jibnu fuqhom. Dan kollu jwassal għall-istudju ta' dak kollu li nkiteb. Il-kittieb jikteb biex iwassal messaġġ u l-kritiku jagħmel żgur li dak il-messaġġ jasal. Tant hu hekk li l-kritiku joħroġ it-teoriji b'mod li l-messaġġ tal-kittieb jidher ċar fid-dawl tat-teoriji li ħareġ bihom il-kritiku, u għalhekk imbagħad teorija bħal dik Marxista tidher li qed tgħallem lill-poplu. Kieku hadd ma pprova jinterpreta l-kritika Marxista għall-ktieb ta' Orwell Animal Farm, hadd ma kien jitgħallem xejn minnu, u kieku kritiku bħal W. Iser ma kienx jibni fuq l-interpretazzjoni.

Il-kritika hija ħajja u sakemm jibqgħu jinkitbu l-kotba ma tmut qatt.

Mandy Tabone ilha tgħallem għal dawn l-aħħar hdx-il sena u nofs fejn għaddiet l-aħħar seba' snin u nofs tgħallem fil-livell post-sekondarju. Gābet l-ewwel lawrja fil-B.A. fil-Malti u l-Filosofija, fl-1997, PGCE fl-1998, fl-2005 iggradwat Masters fil-Malti fejn speċjalizzat fil-Kritika Letterarja. Ilha miżżewġa erba' snin lil Joseph Tabone, konsulent finanzjarju u flimkien għandhom lil Malcolm ta' tliet snin.

# LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE



*The LSU coordinator listening to Agora representative launching the European Framework of Recommendations to Assess Basic Competences in Lyon, France, in September 2007.*

*MODEVAL 2 partners discussing the project's workplan in Jena, Germany in December 2008.*



## MODEVAL2 PROJECT PARTNERS MEETING BY DAVID MUSCAT, LEARNING SUPPORT UNIT COORDINATOR

Between the 7 and the 9 of December 2008, David Muscat, the Learning Support Unit (LSU) Coordinator attended the first meeting of MODEVAL2 project, a two year Leonardo Transfer of Innovation Project coordinated by Agora, a Non Governmental Organisation based in Lorient, France. Agora runs lifelong learning courses for unemployed youths and disadvantaged people.

The principal aim of MODEVAL2 project is to create training modules for literacy teachers, adult trainers, researchers, literacy programmes coordinators, policy makers and any other stakeholders in the knowledge and skills required to create assessment tools based on the recommendations of the MODEVAL1 European Framework of Basic Competences set in 2007.

Research has shown that it is not sufficient to produce a European framework to assess basic skills, however relevant this may be, if the stakeholders concerned do not appropriate this framework. With this in mind, the nine partners from seven different European countries of MODEVAL2 project will re-write the MODEVAL1 recommendations in a more explicit and user friendly form, produce training programmes, pilot them in the partnership countries and finally develop a European network strategy for the assessment of basic competences.

The other institutions participating in MODEVAL2 project besides MCAST Learning Support Centre are:

- a) the University of Barcelona, Spain,
- b) the University of the Aegean, Greece,
- c) the University of Lyon, France,
- d) the University of Kaposvar, Hungary,
- e) l'Agence Nationale de Lutte Contre l'Illettrisme, France,
- f) Thuringen Volkshochschulverband e.V., Germany
- g) Taleinstuttet, Region Nordjylland, Denmark, and
- h) the Hungarian Radio, Budapest

# PART-TIME COURSES



The Department of Part-time Courses is once again organising the landscaping painting course entitled 'In Search of Maltese Landscapes'. The course, commencing on the 4th of April 2009, will consist of ten sessions of a duration of three hours each. The classes will be held every Saturday morning. Lessons will be held outdoors under the excellent guidance of lecturer Salvatore Montanucci. The course units include: Observation of Reality, Perspective for Artists, Architectural Landscape, Light and Shade and Learning how to express Emotions in Art. The course involves painting in different locations around Malta.

*A new Landscaping Course  
by Salvatore Montanucci*

## ABOUT THE LECTURER

Born in Acicatena (Catania), Salvatore Montanucci became a professional artist, at the young age of 21, in 1986. He obtained his Diploma from the Art Institute of Agrigento, Sicily. Montanucci's artistic experience is not only derived from his studies, but also from his traveling experiences gained through the knowledge of different peoples and cultures. These experiences include: Italy, Spain, France, Switzerland, Tenerife, Palma de Majorca, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Germany, Portugal and more.

**Montanucci is presently also producing a collection of paintings dedicated to Mediterranean characters and architectures relating to countries such as Malta; Sicily; Libya; Algiers; Morocco and Tunisia. This production will lead to a series of exhibitions around the various relative Mediterranean countries visited.**



*Outdoor landscape painting*



# Magic Wonders

Child Care Centre

## CHILD CARE CENTRE OPENING THIRD TERM 08/09

### APPLICATIONS:

TO BE COLLECTED FROM INSTITUTE OFFICERS OR FROM THE RECEPTION DESK,  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING,  
MCAST MAIN CAMPUS,  
CORRADINO HILL, PAOLA.

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