

MCAST LINK

ISSUE 31 - WINTER 2009

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



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

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On the cover: Anne Marie Cremona Student from the Gozo Centre

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL
READERS!



Caroline Balzan
Communications
and PR Manager

The College welcomes the announcement by SR Technics, a leading global provider of Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services, to set up its new maintenance facility in Malta. One of the reasons for choosing Malta is the quality training provided by the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology. Since 2004, the College took up the challenge to provide a highly-trained workforce for this new industry. It now boasts of a state-of-the-art aviation maintenance training centre, qualified lecturers and examiners, training, examination and quality assurance procedures and its approval to provide internationally recognized Part 66 Category A training and certification. It has provided the industry with over 200 students while 263 are currently following courses at the College.

The President of Malta, HE Dr George Abela visited the College on Friday, 23 October 2009. Students and members of staff had the opportunity to meet him while he visited the Institutes on the Main Campus and the Library and Learning Resource Centre. He later met administrative staff as well as members of senior management and directors. Pictures of the event can be found inside the magazine.

The College is very proud of Philip Cardona, an MCAST Diploma in Industrial Electronics student, who placed second in the European Union Contest for Young Scientists held in Paris, this September. Philip presented his award-winning 'Cappuccino Logo Printer' project, a concept he developed whereby pre-defined logos are printed on the froth of a cappuccino in a cup using food colouring. MCAST wishes to take this opportunity to congratulate Philip on his accomplishment and to urge him and others to further their studies and fulfil their dreams.

The MCAST International Office is proud of the €247,000 that it managed to obtain from EU funds under various programmes namely Leonardo Da Vinci, Erasmus, Comenius, Grundtvig and Youth in Action. Students and members of staff have the chance to embark on these opportunities and enrich their professional and personal development.

The 15th edition of the Hair and Beauty Marathon, held on Sunday 22 to Monday 23 November 2009, was a great success with over €4,000 collected for the Malta Community Chest Fund. Students and members of staff worked together to provide hair and beauty services to the numerous persons that visited the Institute during the marathon. This annual event provides students with the opportunity to work together as a team for the benefit of a charitable organization. Together they learn the values of social awareness and responsibility as well as gain further professional experience in the fields of hair and beauty services.

MCASTlink is produced by the Communications and PR Office

Produced & Edited: Caroline Balzan, Communications & PR Manager

Design: mps marketing communications

Printing: Gutenberg Press

Proofreading: Joyce Hill

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

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

INFORMATION

MCAST'S QUALITY- TRAINING ATTRACTS SR TECHNICS TO MALTA

SR Technics is a leading global provider of aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) offering total solution packages to airlines such as aircraft checks, engine overhaul or component management and repair. SR Technics is planning to set up a new maintenance facility in Malta which is anticipated to create 350 jobs by 2014. There are several reasons why SR Technics decided to add Malta to its extensive network of maintenance facilities. One good incentive was because Malta is able to provide, through the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), the necessary standards of training prescribed by the company.

MCAST was set up to provide a 'universally accessible vocational and professional education and training with an international dimension, responsive to the needs of the individual and the economy'. Since its inception in 2001, the College has done its utmost to fulfil this mission, making a valuable contribution to industry and the economy with the provision of well-trained personnel.

With regard to aircraft maintenance, the College is indebted to Lufthansa Technik which, in 2004, pioneered what was then a totally new initiative for Malta, namely the provision of technical services relating to aircraft. Through its valuable advice, Lufthansa Technik helped MCAST with the initial project set up, including the design

and validation of training programmes for staff, first and foremost, and later for students. The College took up the challenge and to date the College has already trained over 200 students who are presently working with the MROs while another 263 learners are currently enrolled on the college's full-time and part-time courses.

Discussions with SR Technics started last summer when the company's senior management visited MCAST to verify the type of training the College was able to offer. The company was impressed by the standards in place, what with the qualified team of technicians, lecturers and assessors, the fully equipped maintenance workshops, the delivery of the teaching material, the assessment instruments including examinations and quality assurance procedures. This is after all what earned MCAST its approval to provide internationally recognized Part 66 Category A training and certification in the first place. SR Technics' favourable impression of the College led to a series of follow-up meetings and eventually the decision to establish a major, up-to-date technical provision on the island.

MCAST's state-of-the-art Aviation Maintenance Training Centre is in fact designed to international standards. The Centre boasts two dedicated training workshops, one for Basic Training and one for Sheet Metal Training. All

facilities, resources in the Centre as well as members of staff are audited and approved by the Department of Civil Aviation.

MCAST looks forward to the possibility of providing all the support necessary for the initiation and progress of this new venture. This is yet another opportunity to invest further in specialised training with an aim to becoming a Centre of Excellence in Aviation Maintenance. This is a strictly regulated field of application and only approved centres are entitled to provide training in this area.

MCAST is today an approved European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Part-147 Training Organisation. This approval allows the MCAST Training Centre to deliver basic training at Category A and to conduct examinations, relative to the subjects taught, on behalf of the Department of Civil Aviation. Without such structures, no Maltese student would have probably dreamt of following this particular calling, let alone obtain the specialised certification necessary to practise the trade. The College has already initiated the process for obtaining the approval to deliver and examine courses at Category B level.

In August 2008 the MCAST Aviation Maintenance Training Centre benefited from an EU co-financed project as a result of which the College is to extend its training material and workshop facilities including the purchase of a grounded aircraft which will provide students and lecturing staff with the ultimate in terms of desirable training facilities. The design of the training envisaged, the examinations and quality assurance procedures are already being discussed. Presently, the College offers five courses in Aviation Maintenance: The MCAST-BTEC First Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (Aircraft Maintenance Mechanics); the Aircraft Structure and Repair Course, which is aimed at students who wish to acquire skills in the repair of aircraft structures and composites; The Category 'A' Licence Course which is aimed to train students as Aircraft Mechanics, after which successful students become eligible to apply for the EASA Part-66 licence through the Department of Civil Aviation.

MCAST also offers two Aircraft Maintenance Technician Courses, namely the Category B1 (Mechanical Technician for the turbine aircraft) and the Category B2 (Avionics Technician) courses. Successful students will be eligible to apply for the relative licenses through the Department of Civil Aviation. Currently candidates must sit for examinations with the local authority and must complete the requested experience in an approved Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul facility.

Ronald Curmi, Quality Manager of the MCAST Aviation Maintenance Training courses stated "We always look at new investment positively. We feel that a broader base in the aviation maintenance industry will lead to more opportunities for our students and a stronger Maltese economy."

Mario Galea, Chief Officer for Business Development at



MCAST Students while on - the - job training in Manila, Philippines

Malta Enterprise, stated that, "SR Technics... will continue to broaden our aviation cluster already made up of first class names... it will provide the opportunity for many workers, especially young people to work in a challenging environment in a world class firm. SR Technics is a world renowned MRO company with established markets worldwide. It has recently secured a long term contract to service all the Easyjet fleet. The collaboration between Malta Enterprise, MCAST and ETC was important to attract this project to Malta and to convince them about the quality and availability of local, trained people."

Prof Maurice Grech, MCAST Principal and CEO said that the decision taken by SR Technics to come to Malta was not a coincidence, but the result of a combined effort by several key players including the Government, Malta Enterprise, the Department of Civil Aviation, Lufthansa Technik and last but not least, MCAST itself. The contribution made by the various partners paved the way for MCAST to receive the licence approval to operate as a training provider.

Professor Grech said: "MCAST's success in providing high-quality personnel specialised in aviation maintenance has put the College on the international map in the field of Aviation Maintenance Training. Having a College which is able to provide adequately trained personnel in an area which is so closely regulated is a signpost of quality that is likely to attract further foreign direct investment to the country, thus creating more training options for our young people and better jobs for Malta. The College is proud of its flexibility to adapt to changes in the economy and new opportunities of investment."



MCAST Students working on a turbine

INFORMATION

HE DR GEORGE ABELA, PRESIDENT OF MALTA, VISITS MCAST

HE Dr George Abela, President of Malta visited MCAST on Friday 23 October 2009. On his arrival he was welcomed by Mr Paul A Attard, President of the Board of Governors, Prof Maurice Grech, Principal / CEO, as well as senior management.

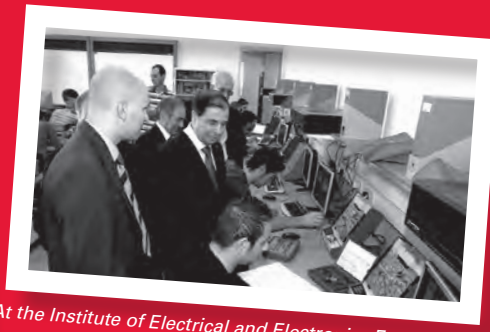
His visit started with a presentation on the College and the Institutes by Prof Maurice Grech. After the presentation the President visited three Institutes located on the Main

Campus, namely the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, the Institute of Mechanical Engineering including the Aviation Maintenance Training Centre, and the Institute of Community Services. He also visited the Library and Learning Resource Centre.

He was later greeted by all administration staff working at the Administration Block. His visit ended by meeting MCAST Management and Directors.



At the Library and Learning Resource Centre



At the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering



At the Institute of Community Services



At the Institute of Mechanical Engineering



Prof Maurice Grech Principal / CEO presenting a gift to HE Dr George Abela, President of Malta



HE Dr. George Abela, President of Malta with Senior Management, Directors and Managers



HE Dr. George Abela, President of Malta with Administration Members of Staff

OPEN DAY AT THE MCAST AVIATION MAINTENANCE CENTRE

On Friday 25 September 2009, the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) organised an Open Day to promote its Aircraft Maintenance Training Courses. Visitors were invited to gather at 09:00hrs at the MCAST Aviation Maintenance Training Centre located at the MCAST Main Campus, Paola.

The programme started at 09:00hrs with a presentation by the training manager on Aircraft Maintenance Training Courses. The quality manager explained the various quality measures and at 10:00hrs students were taken on a tour around the MCAST Aviation Maintenance Training Centre facilities.

At 10:15hrs, the group departed to Lufthansa Technik Malta where it was given a tour around the premises. An explanation was given of the different checks aircrafts have

to undergo during maintenance. Mention was also made of the various job opportunities being created by the rapidly expanding aviation maintenance and repair industry in Malta. At 11:15hrs, the programme continued with a trip to Aeromaritime and Medavia at Safi. Participants had the opportunity to see different types of aircrafts and specialized repairs.

This Open Day was organized in collaboration with all the Maintenance and Repair Overhaul Organizations (MRO's) including Lufthansa Technik Malta, Aeromaritime, Medavia, Air Malta, Mediterranean Aviation Company Ltd. and Falcon Aviation Engineering Limited.

This initiative was organised in collaboration with Malta Enterprise.



Students and their parents at the Information Seminar



Ing Mario Cassar, Deputy Director Institute of Mechanical Engineering explaining the Aircraft Maintenance Courses



MCAST Aviation Maintenance Training Centre, MCAST Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola

ART AND DESIGN STUDENTS REQUESTED TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS TO RENOVATE THE COMMUNITY CHEST FUND OFFICES

Relying on the generosity of corporate companies and the general public for the collection of money, the Malta Community Chest Fund is renowned for the philanthropic work it conducts in aid of those who are less fortunate.

The Office of the President of Malta has just commissioned a number of Art and Design students to put forward a set of proposals for the renovation of office spaces within the Grand Master's Palace, which will be the new premises for the Community Chest Fund.

Thus, linking this project to four different study units, students in their second year of the Higher National Diploma in 3D Design and the Higher National Diploma in Fine Art will be working together to come up with proposals towards the achievement of their unit outcomes.

3D Design students will carry out intensive research focusing on materials and techniques, but also on the users of the space they will be designing, who not only include office staff and volunteers, but also clients, who are generally people in need. At the same time they will be keeping in mind the historical context of the architectural space within which they will be working.

The twenty-seven 3D students will then further their design proposals by producing scale models of the interiors, which will then be displayed at the President's palace. Additionally, thirteen Fine Art students are also contributing to the project with a series of paintings to embellish the offices, waiting area and the rooms where clients/people are received.

The benefits reaped by a project of this magnitude are multi-faceted: students will undoubtedly gain immeasurably through the experience of seeing a real-life project through from beginning to final stages; students' work will be promoted through the exhibition of interior designs, models and artworks; the Community Chest Fund will benefit from original and creative art and design work.

"Our future artists and designers should learn the importance of merging own aspirations with the needs of society at large," said Mr Stephen Vella, Director of the Institute of Art and Design. "We firmly believe that this project will give our students an opportunity to learn a lot in terms of their specialization. Furthermore, it will give them an opportunity to experience first-hand the meaning of social responsibility, which is intrinsic to art and design work."

Students with HE Dr George Abela, President of Malta, Mr Paul A Attard, President of the MCAST Board of Governors, Prof Maurice Grech, Principal and CEO, Mr Stephen Vella, Director and Ms Melanie Mizzi, Deputy Director respectively of the Institute of Art and Design



VODAFONE MALTA FOUNDATION DONATES BOOKS TO MCAST



From left: Mr Mario Pace, Deputy Director, Institute of Information and Communication Technology, Mr Laurence Zerafa, Librarian, Mr John Sciberras, Director, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Ms Louise Stanton, British High Commissioner and Board Member Malta Vodafone Foundation, Ms Gemma Mifsud Bonnici, Chairperson, Malta Vodafone Foundation, Degree Student Annemarie Cachia, Mr Paul A Attard, President of the Board of Governors and Prof Maurice Grech, Principal and CEO.

The Vodafone Malta Foundation has supported the MCAST Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and the Institute of Information and Communication Technology for the purchase of educational material. The material, including books, journals and software training packages, is required to improve the type and quality of the courses in communications offered to students and to keep MCAST staff updated in this fast changing field. The material will be used by students at all levels but more particularly those following the newly launched degree programmes at the above-mentioned Institutes.

“We are proud to have our name down as contributors to this fine institution and we feel it is our duty to support such entities in order to enhance educational programmes for the

benefits of our youths. Education has come a long way and today’s young people are spoilt for choice with the variety of subjects to pursue,” said Mrs Gemma Mifsud Bonnici, Chairperson of the Vodafone Malta Foundation.

Prof. Maurice Grech, MCAST Principal and CEO, said: “MCAST mission statement is to provide universally accessible vocational and professional education and training with an international dimension responsive to the needs of the individual and the economy.” We interpret this donation as recognition to MCAST’s delivery and commitment

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MCAST JAGHTI SERVIZZ ...



Paul A Attard
President
Bord tal-Gvernaturi

L-MCAST jaghti servizz. Servizz lill-istudenti, servizz lill-industrija, servizz lill-ekonomija tal-pajjiż. It-tliet aspetti tas-servizz importanti jinghataw fl-istess hin iżda jinvolvu lill-MCAST f'oqsma u livelli differenti.

Servizz lill-istudent

Fil-pjan strateġiku hareġ għan ewlieni, li "l-istudent qiegħed fil-qalba ta' dak kollu li nagħmlu". Jiġifieri l-istudent jiġi l-ewwel f'kull konsiderazzjoni. L-MCAST joffri lill-istudent kors f'qasam ta' edukazzjoni u taħriġ professjonali u vokazzjonali skond ix-xeħta u l-hiliet, il-livell edukattiv, il-potenzjal u l-aspirazzjonijiet tiegħu. L-istudent jidhol fil-livell ta' kors skond il-kwalifiki li jkun akkwista. Anke jekk ma jkollux kwalifiki formali, l-istudent jista' jsib postu fl-MCAST. Meta jtemm b'suċċess il-kors li jkun għadda minnu jista' jgħaddi għal livell oġhla. Mela, student jista' jibda mill-anqas livell u jibqa' tiela' sa l-oġhla livell. Xejn ma jzommu milli jagħmel dan.

Illum l-oġhla livell sar iwassal għal grad ta' edukazzjoni terzjarja. L-MCAST wasal s'hawn għaliex għaraf il-potenzjal qawwi ta' hafna studenti tiegħu. Għaliex għadd ta' studenti marru f'pajjiż barrani bi spiża kbira għall-familja biex komplew jistudjaw u ngħataw grad. Uħud komplew jistudjaw għal Masters. Mela l-MCAST qed ikollu studenti li jaspiraw fl-oġhli. U jilhq u fl-oġhli. Hadd m'għandu jhalli jew johloq barrieri biex min jaqbad ir-rotta tal-edukazzjoni u taħriġ professjonali u vokazzjonali ma jaqbiżhomx. Inkella jkollna heła ta' riżorsi umani li ma naffordjawnx bħala pajjiż.

Mela, l-MCAST jagħti servizz lill-istudenti li għal xi raġuni jew oħra ma jidhlux f'università. Anke jekk għandhom il-kwalifiki kollha meħtieġa biex jidhlu f'università. Għax jippreferixxu li jaqdbu kors vokazzjonali li jhejjihom direttament għal karriera bit-teorija u l-prattika relatata magħha b'mod komplet. Fl-istess żmien, l-MCAST mhux biss estenda l-livell 'il fuq iżda wkoll saħħaħ il-livelli bażiċi, kemm fejn jidhol il-Foundation Course kif ukoll il-Pathway Course. Għaliex l-MCAST hu inklussiv u jwassal għal inkluzjoni u koeżjoni soċjali min-natura tiegħu.

Mela, l-MCAST tassew iqiegħed liż-żgħażaġh kollha fiċ-ċentru tal-attenzjoni tiegħu.

Servizz lill-industrija

Għid li l-MCAST jagħti servizz lill-industrija. Il-korsijiet kollha vokazzjonali, f'kull qasam u livell għandhom għan ewlieni li jhejju lill-istudent biex isib ix-xoġhol u jibda karriera. Dan l-industrija

għarfitu u tapprezzah. L-MCAST joffri korsijiet agġornati skond il-htigijiet tal-industrija li dejjem qed jinbidlu mhux biss mal-iżviluppi tat-teknoloġija iżda wkoll mal-bidliet fis-suq tal-prodotti u tas-servizzi.

L-MCAST jiltaqa' mal-organizzazzjonijiet tal-industrija kif ukoll ma' setturi differenti industrijali u anke ma' individwi. Magħhom jiddiskuti l-għerf (*knowledge*), il-hiliet u l-kompetenzi li l-industrija teħtieġ illum. Biex l-MCAST jżviluppa u jadatta l-korsijiet tiegħu skond dak li l-intrapriża titlob. Ġew organizzati korsijiet speċifiċi skond programmi partikulari mfassla bejn l-MCAST u l-industrija.

Mhux biss, l-istudent irid ikollu sisien sodi biex ikun kapaċi jiffaċċja l-bidliet li jidhlu matul il-karriera tiegħu. Jiġifieri l-istudent irid ikollu tnejn biex jadatta ruħu skond iċ-ċirkostanzi li jinbidlu matul il-hajja – tagħlim għall-hajja.

Servizz lill-ekonomija tal-pajjiż

L-MCAST jagħti servizz lill-ekonomija tal-pajjiż. Isegwi mill-qrib l-iżviluppi fl-ekonomija tal-pajjiż kif ukoll id-direzzjoni li tinghata mill-Unjoni Ewropea. Isegwi d-direzzjoni li jagħti l-gvern flimkien mal-imsieħba soċjali. Għandu relazzjoni mill-qrib ma' Malta Enterprise u jiltaqa' regolarment ma' investuri barranin u lokali li jkun qad jithajru jinvestu f'pajjiżna. Dawn jistaqsu jekk f'Malta hawnx il-hiliet u l-kompetenzi meħtieġa biex jinvestu f'pajjiżna. L-MCAST kapaċi jadatta korsijiet u anke jiformola korsijiet skond il-htigijiet tal-industrijalisti li jithajru jinvestu f'pajjiżna.

F'dan il-qasam l-MCAST żviluppa flessibbiltà biex iwieġeb fl-aqsar żmien possibbli għat-talba tal-investuri. B'hekk il-Kulleġġ qed jagħti kontribut qawwi fl-iżvilupp u t-tkabbir tal-ekonomija tagħna. B'mod partikulari fi żmienijiet ta' taqlib serju fl-ekonomija fid-dinja madwarna.

Fl-istess hin l-MCAST jibqa' jishaq li għall-Kulleġġ l-istudent qiegħed fiċ-ċentru ta' dak kollu li nagħmlu.

It-tliet servizzi

It-tliet servizzi li jinghataw jeħtieġu pjan li jevolvi kontinwament. Il-bidla hi l-unika haġa dejiema li għandu quddiemu l-MCAST. Parti sostanzjali mill-progress u s-suċċess tal-Kulleġġ kien li adatta ruħu għal żmienijiet ta' sfida kontinwa skond pjan preċiż u mifruż matul is-snin.

Dan is-suċċess hu dovut għall-kontribut ewlieni tat-tmexxija ċentrali taħt id-direzzjoni tal-Prinċipal, il-Prof. Maurice Grech, bis-sehem qawwi tat-tmexxija ta' kull Istitut u bil-professjonalità u d-dedikazzjoni tal-istaff akkademiku u ta' support.

Irrid ukoll nagħti importanza kbira lis-sehem tal-istudenti li matul is-snin urew li kapaċi jaħtfu u jesplojtaw l-oportunitajiet li qed jinghatawlihom u jagħmlu suċċess f'haġġithom. Prosit lil kulhadd.

INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING

MCAST Electrical and Electronics student awarded second prize at EU Contest for Young Scientists

MCAST Diploma in Industrial Electronics student, Philip Cardona, has returned from the EU Contest for Young Scientists where his project “Cappuccino Logo Printer” was awarded second prize. Philip had placed first in this year’s NSTF Contest for Young Scientists held at St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity during the annual National Student Travel Foundation (NSTF) Science Week in March.

The European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS) is an annual European competition for young scientists, all aged between 14 and 20, and coming from 38 countries across Europe – as well as Canada, China, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and the USA. There were 87 winning projects from national competitions presented, covering a wide range of scientific disciplines from engineering to biology, mathematics, chemistry, physics, medicine, computer and social sciences. Philip’s participation in the EUCYS was made possible through NSTF.

This Contest was created to promote the ideals of co-operation and interchange between young scientists and is an annual showcase of the best of European student scientific achievement. The 21st edition was held for the first time in France, at the Palais de la Découverte in Paris, from the 11th to the 16th September 2009.

The idea for this project came while Philip was working in a bar during the summer months. When preparing cappuccino, he always tried to make it more attractive with some design such as a heart or flower. This evolved into an idea for a machine which could print any logo or design on the froth.

The Cappuccino Logo Printer is used to print pre-defined logos on the froth of a cappuccino in a cup using food colouring as ink. It uses an XYZ table, so that it moves its head to print the logo. An SD Card, with the images saved on it, is inserted in the machine and the right instructions are given from the keypad to print the design. The aim behind the project is not only to print the logo but also to create a stand-alone machine that does not need a computer to operate. This uses a microcontroller to read data from the SD Card, processes it and draws it on the cappuccino froth. In this way costs could be reduced. Designs such as logos, texts, images and messages can now be drawn on cappuccino, beer or even cakes with this easy-to-use machine.

During their stay in Paris, the participants had the chance to meet eminent scientists, ensuring that participating in the European Competition was an experience to be remembered

for years to come. For the winners of the various awards, it may also prove to be an important springboard for their future scientific careers.

Philip Cardona is the third student from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering to win first prize in the local NSTF Science Week Competition. Three other students from the Institute have had the opportunity to represent Malta in international competitions. Other students from the Institute also achieved outstanding results at the EuroSkills Competition which was held in Rotterdam in September 2008.

“Science and research needs fresh blood and fresh ideas. Europe needs to encourage the best young talents to take up a career in science and we must make these careers attractive to our future researchers,” says European Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potoènik.

Prof Maurice Grech, Principal and CEO of MCAST, was unmistakably thrilled with the news of Philip’s remarkable achievement and said, “Events in which our students excel, be it on a national or an international level, are becoming more frequent. This is proof of our students’ sound academic preparation and their motivation as well as the support and encouragement offered by our academic staff.”

Anyone interested in participating in this year’s NSTF Contest for Young Scientists with a chance to win the opportunity to represent Malta at the EU Contest for Young Scientists in Lisbon or at the Expo Science Europe in Moscow, should visit: www.nsts.org



Philip Cardona with his award-winning “Cappuccino Logo Printer” project in Paris

VQTS II (VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION TRANSFER SYSTEM) PROJECT

VQTS II is a Leonardo da Vinci Project based on the results of the Leonardo da Vinci project 'VQTS'. The core results of the VQTS project and the Competence Matrix have been transferred to another Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector (Electrical Electronics Engineering) and to other countries and languages. The VQTS II project focuses on transferring and further elaborating methods and procedures for the development of a Competence Matrix by using the ideas and principles in the VQTS project. The task of this Leonardo da Vinci project was to come up with a single competence matrix for electrical and electronics engineering technicians. The first model was designed by the partners from the MCAST Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. This was then modified by Mr Matthias Becker from Biat University, Germany. The project was coordinated by Ms Karin Luomi-Messerer, 3s Research Laboratory, Austria. The other partners in this project are the Malta Qualifications Council (MQC), and partners from Austria, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Germany and the Czech Republic. Most of the partners in the project represent Vocational Education and Training (VET) institutes and Higher Education (HE) institutions.

The first project meeting was held in Vienna in January 2008. The second project meeting was held in Malta in October 2008. This meeting aimed at pooling in expertise in electrical and electronics engineering and relating such expertise to the design of a competence matrix which facilitates transfer of knowledge, skills and competences from Level 5 to Level 6 of the European Qualifications Framework.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering was directly involved in the project as it provided the MQC with technical expertise. MCAST's technical staff led by the Director of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Mr John Sciberras attended the second project meeting. The other technical staff members were Mr Vince Maione, Deputy Director; Mr Alfred Galea, Assistant Lecturer (Electronics) and Mr John Attard, Assistant Lecturer (Electrical Engineering).

The Malta Qualifications Council was represented by Mr Charles Mizzi, Chairman, Dr James Calleja Chief Executive, Ms Doris Mangion Senior Manager Standards and Qualifications and Ms Beatrice Mizzi, Executive Officer.

The MQC hosted the VQTS II National Workshop on the 3 February 2009, at the Council's premises in St Lucia. The half-day National Workshop was chaired by Dr James Calleja. Ms Doris Mangion was responsible for organising the National Workshop. The Workshop was attended by experts from the

field of VET, as well as from the field of Higher Education (HE). These were Mr Vince Maione, Deputy Director MCAST and Mr John Sciberras, Director MCAST and Dr Ing Edward Gatt and Dr Ing. Cyrill Spiteri Staines from the University of Malta.

The principal aim of the workshop was to discuss the Austrian and German Competence Matrices for the sector of electrical and electronics engineering. The experts discussed the development of competence profiles based on the Competence Matrices, as well as gave proposals to concrete procedures to enhance permeability and progression between VET and HE. Overlapping areas of competence profiles of VET and HE programmes were also identified. Similar national workshops were hosted by the project's other partners, as well as by the project coordinator, 3s research laboratory in Vienna, in their respective countries.

The MQC in collaboration with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering also organised an information seminar on the 14 May 2009 as part of the dissemination of the VQTS II Project. Around 50 students in their final year of the Higher National Diploma (HND) actively participated in the seminar.

Dr James Calleja explained the importance of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and its underlying principles particularly the transparency of qualifications which facilitate Life Long Learning and mobility of students and workers. Dr Calleja also explained that there is one Higher Education Area in the Malta Qualifications Framework with academic and professional degrees enjoying the same parity of esteem.

Ms Doris Mangion introduced the VQTS project and highlighted that Leonardo da Vinci projects promote cross-institutional co-operation for the benefit of knowledge transfer and primarily for a student-centred education based on quality. This was one of the results of the VQTS project whereby partners from across Europe agreed on a template of a Memorandum of Understanding and a Competence Matrix.

Mr John Sciberras went into the technical details of the Competence Matrix designed and developed by the project in which the Institute was the national expert providing technical expertise. The Competence Matrix was tested by the technical experts indirectly involved in the project and in workshops in all the partner countries composed of VET and HE representatives.

This seminar was very well received by the students who familiarised themselves with the MQF and with the co-operation among members of networks such as the VQTS Project.

The third Project Meeting was held in the Netherlands on the 16 and 17 March 2009. Ms Doris Mangion, Ms Carmen Dalli Manager Administration and Finance MQC, and Mr John Sciberras participated in this Project Meeting. The third partners' meeting was a follow up to the national workshops held by each partner to discuss and evaluate the two competence matrices developed by the German partners and the Austrian partners. The meeting highlighted the importance of having a single competence matrix on which the whole group would focus on its development, publication and dissemination. One of the objectives of the meeting was to map existing VET courses with a standard competence profile and to discuss ways on how the standard format can better reflect qualifications and industry's needs.

The VQTS II Training and Valorisation Workshop was held to discuss the project's results and get feedback from the social partners. The workshop was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia on the 23 September 2009 and was attended by Ms Doris Mangion, Mr John Sciberras, Mr Joseph Farrugia, Malta Employers' Association and Mr Godfrey Kenely, Evaluator of the Project on behalf of Outlook Co-op. Apart from these Maltese representatives the meeting was represented by the Austrian and Dutch representatives.

The final Project meeting was held on 12 and 13 November 2009 in Prague. This was attended by Mr Godfrey Kenely, Ms Doris Mangion, Ms Carmen Dalli and Ms Beatrice Mizzi from MQC, Mr John Sciberras from MCAST and Mr Godfrey

Kenely as the Project Evaluator on behalf of Outlook Co-op. The objective of the meeting was to evaluate what has been achieved through the VQTS II Project, to reflect on how to improve and disseminate the results and possibly implement the results through another Leonardo da Vinci Project. The Project co-ordinator shall send the printed reports and brochures for dissemination during two separate meetings for identified target groups. One of the seminars will be hosted by MCAST and will address MCAST students, lecturers and administrators. The other seminar will be hosted by MQC and will address social partners.

This project has demonstrated that MQC has a pivotal role in the dialogue between social partners and education and training providers. MQC and the Institute of Mechanical Engineering at MCAST are now collaborating on a new Leonardo da Vinci Project (March 2009 - February 2011) which specialises in mechatronics and aviation qualifications.



VQTS II Valorization workshop in Slovenia participants



VQTS II Valorization workshop in Prague participants

THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETENCIES IN THE WORLD OF WORK AND EDUCATION (DECOWE)

The objective of this international Conference was to bring together 300 people coming from different walks of life including representatives of the European Commission, OECD, researchers, students, policy makers, education and training providers and social partners, and to exchange experiences. The Conference was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia on the 24 to the 25 September 2009.

Malta was represented by Mr John Sciberras, Director, Institute of Electrical and Electronics and Engineering, Ms Doris Mangion, Senior Manager, Standards and Qualifications Malta Qualifications Council. The central theme of the Conference was to see how well students are prepared for the world of work particularly during the time of the global crisis.

MARITIME INSTITUTE

Maritime Institute represented during Valletta Boat Show

Between the 24 and 27 September 2009, the Maritime Institute participated in the Valletta Boat Show which was held, for the first time, at Bormla's No. 1 Dock. MCAST Maritime Institute Staff and Officer Cadets manned a stand and provided information to visitors about the various full-time and part-time courses run at the Institute as well as other courses at other MCAST Institutes. The Valletta Boat Show attracts a large number of boating enthusiasts and other persons keen to buy boats or those who just want to know more about motor cruising or sailing or have a passion for things with a nautical link.

The venue was therefore a perfect environment for the Maritime Institute to fit into as it also served as a means for young persons to find out more about the courses provided at MCAST and to attract them as potential students.

The Boat Show actually paid off, as this year the Maritime Institute managed to recruit its largest number of students on full-time courses.



Officer Cadets Danika Formosa and Pocza Szabolcs giving out information on MCAST Courses to potential clients.

Phase III Officer Cadets visit HMS Kent

On Monday 16 November 2009, Maritime Institute Officer Cadets in their third year of training were invited by the British High Commission in Malta to pay a visit on board the Royal Navy Type 23 Frigate HMS Kent. The Officer Cadets were accompanied on board by Seamanship Lecturer, Lt. Cdr. C. Camilleri and taken on a very interesting tour on board, by the ship's Medical Officer.

The Type 23 Frigate is a highly versatile multi-role warship. This means she can take on any mission from anti-ship and anti-submarine warfare protecting capital ships and merchantmen, to providing humanitarian aid in the wake of a natural disaster.

The Type 23s are all named after British dukes, with HMS Norfolk, the first in the class, entering service in the late 1980s and the last, HMS St Albans, entering service in 2002. The Type 23s have a specially designed superstructure that makes them hard to detect with radar. Their ability to use super-quiet electric propulsion in place of their main gas turbines reduces sound emissions. Equipment on the funnels cuts heat emissions.

A highly sophisticated command and control system enables the crew to conduct simultaneous attacks on hostile submarines, aircraft and ships. Type 23s have a silo containing Sea Wolf missiles capable of shooting down attacking aircraft or in-coming missiles. Harpoon missiles provide a potent anti-shipping capability, whilst Stingray light-weight torpedoes carried in a magazine launcher are used against hostile submarines.

A 4.5-inch gun can supply fire support for troops ashore equivalent to a battery of Army 105mm Howitzers. Two 30mm guns give the Type 23s rapid fire, close-in defence and policing capabilities.

Type 23s are packed with sophisticated weapons and sensors that are technology rather than manpower intensive, and have ship's companies of around 170 people. Type 23s have powerful radar for detecting surface vessels and aircraft, while bow-mounted sonar is used to find and track submarines. Some Duke Class frigates also have a towed array sonar that enables them to hear enemy submarines many miles away.

The frigates carry the Lynx maritime patrol helicopter which is armed with Sea Skua missiles to tackle surface warships or Stingray torpedoes and depth charges for submarines. Some T23s are being upgraded to carry the Merlin Mk 1 and will be fitted with the Low Frequency Active Sonar 2087 making it the most modern powerful ASW vessel in the world.



Phase III Officer Cadets on board the Bridge of HMS Kent.

Amendment to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

The following amendments have recently come into effect with regard to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, as amended.

ANNEX IV: DISTRESS SIGNALS
(including amendments 1 Dec 2009)

1. The following signals, used or exhibited either together or separately, indicate distress and need of assistance:
 - a. a gun or other explosive signal fired at intervals of about a minute;
 - b. a continuous sounding with any fog-signaling apparatus;
 - c. rockets or shells, throwing red stars fired one at a time at short intervals;
 - d. a signal made by any signaling method consisting of the group . . . - - . . . (SOS) in the Morse Code;
 - e. a signal sent by radiotelephony consisting of the spoken word "Mayday";
 - f. the International Code Signal of distress indicated by N.C.;
 - g. a signal consisting of a square flag having above or below it a ball or anything resembling a ball;
 - h. flames on the vessel (as from a burning tar barrel, oil barrel, etc.);
 - i. a rocket parachute flare or a hand flare showing a red light;
 - j. a smoke signal giving off orange-coloured smoke;
 - k. slowly and repeatedly raising and lowering arms outstretched to each side;
 - l. a distress alert by means of digital selective calling (DSC) transmitted on:
 - (i) VHF channel 70 or
 - (ii) MF/HF on the frequencies 2187.5 kHz, 8414.5 kHz, 4207.5 kHz, 6312 kHz, 12577 kHz or 16804.5 kHz ;
 - m. a ship-to-shore distress alert transmitted by the ship's Inmarsat or other mobile satellite service provider ship earth station;
 - n. signals transmitted by emergency position-indicating radio beacons;
 - o. approved signals transmitted by radio communication systems, including survival craft radar transponders.
2. The use or exhibition of any of the foregoing signals except for the purpose of indicating distress and need of assistance and the use of other signals which may be confused with any of the above signals is prohibited.
3. Attention is drawn to the relevant sections of the International Code of Signals, the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual, Volume III and the following signals:
 - a. a piece of orange-coloured canvas with either a black square and circle or other appropriate symbol (for identification from the air);
 - b. a dye marker.

OFFICER CADETS AT SEA

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

Cadets at sea	Vessel	Date Embarked
Pierre Mangion	MSC Boston	9th August 2009
Alexia Fenech	MV Eurocargo Istanbul	10th August 2009
James Sammut	MV Grande Buenos Aires	17th August 2009
Fabrice Bonello Dupuis	MSC Lawrence	21st August 2009
Benjamin Borg	MV Grande Francia	23rd August 2009
Christian Coleiro	MT Salina Bay	26th August 2009
Luke Fenech	MV SCI New Delhi	22nd September 2009
Gordon Lungaro	MV Grande Sicilia	4th October 2009
Kenneth Ciantar	MT Paradise Bay	5th October 2009
Max Galea	MV Grande Napoli	8th October 2009

INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES **ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MARATHON.... € 14,000 COLLECTED**

The 15th edition of the Hair and Beauty Marathon was another great success with over €14,000 collected. The event, held on Sunday 22 to Monday 23 November 2009, took place at the Institute of Community Services, MCAST Main Campus, Paola. During the thirty-six hour marathon the MCAST students worked together with professional hairdressers and beauty therapists to provide hair and beauty services at a discounted rate. This year the proceeds went to the Malta Community Chest Fund.

Students from the other MCAST Institutes organised a number of activities and events to support the hair and beauty services. Students following the MCAST-BTEC National Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development provided a child-minding service at specific times while Agribusiness students sold a variety of herbs and plants. Students also sold a variety of delicacies prepared by themselves while others organised a

car wash. This year, for the first time, a variety of fund-raising activities were held in Gozo. These included a car wash and a concert 'OUR VOICE 4 U' that was held at Aula Mgr Farrugia, St George's Basilica, Victoria. The concert featured singers Martina Galea, Victor Bonanno, Tom Gardner, pianist Jenny Meade and violinist Tatjana Chircop.

The event was transmitted 'live' on Education Channel 22 with various links with other local TV stations. Popular local singers, dancers and artists also provided entertainment.

Ms Dorothy Meli, Director of the Institute of Community Services stated "The MCAST Hair and Beauty Marathon is an invaluable experience both for MCAST students and staff. Besides contributing to a worthwhile cause MCAST students have the opportunity to demonstrate social awareness in a very tangible way, gain practical experience and develop the skills and attitudes valued by society and employers".

MCAST
MALTA COLLEGE of ARTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Hair & Beauty Marathon **Sunday 22nd & Monday 23rd November 2009**

Proceeds for The Malta Community Chest Fund



EUGÈNE PERMA
PARIS

EDD

MCCF THE MALTA
COMMUNITY
CHEST FUND



HAIR AND BEAUTY MARATHON 2009



INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR KINDERGARTEN ASSISTANTS

On the 29 September 2009 the Institute of Community Services launched its first course for kindergarten assistants currently working in state and church schools. The first programme was designed for those kindergarten assistants who have been in employment for over thirty years. Since these kindergarten assistants have a vast experience with children, it was agreed that this 70-hour programme would focus more on sharing of experiences and good practice.

The course topics include Professional Development, Understanding Children's Development and an Environment Promoting Children's Development.

The Institute is currently working on another two training programmes that will provide kindergarten assistants the opportunity to upgrade their skills.

Ms Dorothy Meli, Director of Institute, addressing the kindergarten assistants



INFORMATION MEETING



Service-providers during the meeting

On Wednesday 4 November 2009 an information meeting for all health and social care service-providers was held at the MCAST Student House. The aim of this meeting was to inform the service-providers on the levels and courses offered at the Institute of Community Services. A lot of preparation was involved and all lecturers gave their utmost to welcome and give the appropriate information to the service-providers.

Particular emphasis was made on where these students can work once they finish the course. Students who finish the Foundation Certificate in Care are not fully qualified and therefore have to read for the BTEC First Diploma in Health and Social Care in order to work as care workers. It was made clear that the Institute trains students to work with the elderly that reside in residential homes and attend day care centres. Students following the First Diploma are able to work with people who have intellectual and physical disabilities as well as with children who are living in residential homes on a one-to-one basis.

Students that complete the National Diploma in Health and Social Care obtain the equivalent of three 'A' Levels and can work as senior care workers. The lecturers made it clear

that the Institute prepares students to work with every type of service-user group that is going through some kind of difficulty such as homeless people, drug and alcohol addicts, asylum seekers and also persons who face domestic violence, etc.

Students that enrolled for the newly launched BTEC Higher National Diploma in Health and Social Care follow various management units such as Human Resources Management, Leadership and Organisations, Managing Change and Financial Management amongst others. The students undergoing job placements should shadow the managers who are managing the health and social care settings.

The last presentation was made by the students who are currently following the BTEC Higher National Diploma in Health and Social Care. Some of the students started their studies at Foundation level and are now following this course. They shared their experiences on what they learnt and how they felt during the years spent at MCAST.

This information meeting was a very positive experience for the lecturers, the students and the service-providers.

INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

BY MARIELLA FENECH, ASSISTANT LECTURER

MCAST STUDENTS ON AN INDUSTRIAL VISIT TO GERMANY

For the first time, a group of four Higher National Diploma (HND) students from MCAST had the opportunity to visit German companies such as Volkswagen, Dura Automotive Systems, Pleissner Guss GmbH and Novelis.

Held between the 12 and 20 September 2009, this industrial visit was co-organised by the University of Malta and MCAST. Four HND students from MCAST together with ten engineering students from the University of Malta participated in this industrial visit to Northern Germany. Ms Mariella Fenech, Assistant Lecturer, and Ing C. Azzopardi, Lecturer, accompanied MCAST students while Dr. Joseph Buhagiar, Lecturer, led the University students.

In rather cold but sunny weather, the group lodged at Clausthal University residence just thirty minutes away from Clausthal Zellerfeld town. Long but pleasant travelling distances gave the students from both institutions the chance to get to know each other better and to share their

knowledge about their common matters of interests within the engineering field.

The main attraction of this industrial visit was at Volkswagen, where the group toured around the VW Toureg and VW Golf production lines under strict safety and security rules. There, the students could see the latest mechanical robots used on the automated production line, and appreciate the hi-tech assembly procedures in the production of VW cars. The students could also see high-end storage facilities used by the company and had the opportunity to visit Volkswagen Car City featuring also Audi, Lamborghini, Seat, Skoda, Bugatti.

The group also visited Novelis, a world leading supplier of aluminum automotive sheet. Through its engineering expertise, the company produces a range of high quality products and materials for the automotive industry. The use of aluminum in automobile manufacturing has increased significantly in the last years, as companies are opting for

MCAST and University students together with Dr. J Buhagiar, Lecturer at the University of Malta, Ing C Azzopardi, Lecturer at MCAST, and Ms. M Fenech, Assistant Lecturer at the Mine Museum, in Goslar, Germany.





MCAST and University students together with Dr. J Buhagiar, Lecturer at the University of Malta, Ing C Azzopardi, Lecturer at MCAST and Ms. M Fenech, Assistant Lecturer at MCAST, at Pleissner Guss GmbH in Herzberg, Germany.

lightweight and fuel-saving components. In fact, Novelis has developed Aluminum Vehicle Technology (AVT) to be able to produce high-volume production of sheet-based aluminum car structures. The company supplies leading car manufacturers with aluminum vehicle structures and body panels such as bonnets, deck lids, liftgates, roofs, doors and fenders. During the visit, the group learnt how the aluminum products of Novelis are used in Opel's new model Insignia and Jaguar's XJ model.

Focusing on the automotive industry, the group visited the international company Dura Automotive Systems at its branch in Einbeck. The company is the world market leader in full gearbox actuation from the knob to the guide control. As an innovation leader in shifter and cable offerings, it invests in continuous R&D on modular corporate designs, shift-by-wire actuators, electronic shifters and strong advanced concepts activities.

The next company to be visited was Pleissner Guss GmbH in Herzberg. Employing approximately 300 employees, Pleissner Guss are amongst the leading producers of cast steel in Europe. Their core business specialises in the manufacturing and finishing of cast steel components for industrial valves, pumps and turbine casings.

The group also attended a detailed presentation given by the Institute of Polymers at the University of Technology. Here

the students had the opportunity to explore what courses are offered by the same University and the rather impressive facilities available to students studying there.

In between company visits, the group also found time to visit places of interest within the area. Of particular interest was the visit at the mine museum in Goslar, where the students could learn about the copper mining industry and had the chance to touch with their own hands some of the tools used in mining.

Undoubtedly, this industrial visit to such high profile German companies, contributed to the enrichment of the students' technical knowledge and enhanced their understanding of technology in practice. Furthermore, it served for both University and MCAST students to share their knowledge and improve their inter-communication approach towards each other, skills that will be certainly vital at the place of work. I do believe that MCAST should not limit itself to in-class education, but open up to further educational opportunities for its students internationally.

For such an initiative to successfully continue in the coming years, MCAST should endeavour its efforts to tap EU funding for such industrial visits. Just as the University of Malta managed to obtain funding for its ten students and academics through the DAAD programme, MCAST should strive to provide the same opportunities for its students.

PART-TIME COURSES



The MCAST part-time courses were very popular this term with over 1600 students enrolling and attending one of the 282 courses. The College offered a variety of new part-time courses, within the different Institutes, namely the Foundation Degree in Financial Markets and Management, ICSA (UK) Diploma in Business Practice, City and Guilds Higher Professional Diploma in Retail Management, ABE Certificate in Business Information Services, Introduction to Motion Graphics, Introduction to Child Psychology, Introduction to Environmental Science, Farriery Introductory Course, Introduction to Commercial / Fancy Poultry Keeping, Introduction to House Plant Care, Introduction to Rabbit Keeping,

Introduction to Organic Horticulture, Pottery Throwing and Mould Making, Self Defence, Soft Skills Training and Identification and Basic Routine Maintenance of Vehicles.

The most popular courses this semester were Interior Design and Decoration - Level 1, ACAD 2D Module 1, Wireman Licence A, Make Up Techniques and Basic Welding Courses.

The new intake of applications will be held in February 2010. For further information one may contact the Part-time Courses Office on 23987103 or by email: information@mcast.edu.mt.





DREAM IS REALITY

SALVATORE MONTANUCCI by E. V. Borg

The hedonism of Salvatore Montanucci is almost menacing in its fantasy, imagination, poetry and magic. He gazes sadly, with nostalgia at the landscape, at the panorama, at the horizon from a belvedere and is overwhelmed by its sensual beauty. Captivated by its gilded relief he tragically and dramatically contemplates its total destruction by pollution, indifference and concrete, the effect of modern 'progress'. No wonder Malcolm Borg sums up his art in one breath: 'His melancholy is tangible, the Romantic in him escapes reality and seeks shelter in history'.

I much doubt that Salvatore is an escapist as he clings defiantly and determinately to the cliff edge. He is a dreamer, a poet, a philosopher and will never let go for an instant as the erotic sensuality and tangible beauty in nature never satiate him enough. His definition of reality is dream, fantasy and imagination. His vision is idyllic, primordial and absolute. His wide-open window on life is magical, mythical and mysterious. Perhaps he mitigates his fear of death, the tragic drama of existence and philosophically sings and swings in his gilded cage consciously ignoring the snake in the grass. The scene before him is so tantalizing that he remains spellbound. But is he an outsider to nature's beauty? Is he merely an observer or is he an actual participant eager to reproduce it permanently in his art?

He is a bard. He sings unrestrainedly of the beauty in nature, in man. His expression is a paean, a lyrical invocation or panegyric about the miracle in life – hence the hedonism, a prayer invoking the earth mother. It surfaces in his brilliant, prismatic and enamelled glazes, in the intense light, in meticulous detail and his love of urban design and architecture. As if his eye desires the ultimate in pleasure. For Montanucci is young at heart and like all youths is jealous of his environment and he wants to protect the human dimension of urban living if necessary with his life!

His historic cores of towns and cities in Italy and elsewhere (as Montanucci is a compulsive traveller) are almost surreal utopias in their silent spaces, so meticulously ordered and clean. It is the atmosphere of fable and legend, devoid of man but reassuringly

therapeutic, tranquil, serene and quiet. He is a dreamer who eliminates man and all ugliness of modern cities to suggest a pregnant silence that is the space for music. His, is not orchestral music but of the heart, of the soul, of the spirit.

Montanucci is a sensitive poet and such sensibility fills his heart with fear. He is afraid to lose his equanimity, the equilibrium and 'ben essere' of things made to man's measure. He implicitly applies constant pressure on society to protect the environment not by negatively depicting ugliness and drabness but by projecting beauty and its overwhelming splendour.

In essence he is a child at heart and through suggestion he recommends man to fable and legend for in such a chivalric and heroic world of dream humanity finds catharsis: a change or metamorphosis from physical, tangible beauty to a beauty within, a spiritual nirvana.

Montanucci is most convincing in his simple, clear-cut and cubic structures of humble huts with red slanting roofs in pyramid constructions on top of a hill. The simplicity and purity of these works is mythical. They are 'tesserae' of pure colour. The joy expressed is child-like, innocent and the atmosphere so enchanting with clouds peopled by fairies and nature dominated by the sun or moon, by rounded, undulating hills, sprawling meadows covered with flowers and snaking paths towards infinity. Perhaps these works are the most popular of all his creations as they are elemental. Man's ultimate desire is for an enclave of magic, mystery and enigma that fable and legend can provide as these dreamy huts seem abodes for elves, nymphs, dwarfs and goblins.

Many critics have praised Montanucci among them Rosa Gangemi, Vittorio Sgarbi, Gino Spinelli De Sant'Elena, Giacomo Nicastro, Luciana Argentino and Thomas Blommer. Yet Montanucci knows full well that eventually it is his work that has to speak for him. And his work does speak eloquently rivers of wisdom, dream, poetry, music, silence, nature and man. Dream is reality and reality dream and myth which transform into history.

Salvatore Montanucci is a part-time lecturer at the MCAST Institute of Art and Design. He held a retrospective exhibition at the Auberge d'Italie in Merchants Street, Valletta, after which the exhibition will open in Tripoli at the Al-Amame Heart Clinic (November) and in Sciacca at the Palazzo Comunale in December. The 70 works celebrate life and culture in Malta, Tripoli and Sciacca, Sicily. Mediterranean culture inspires Montanucci who has chosen Malta as a hub.

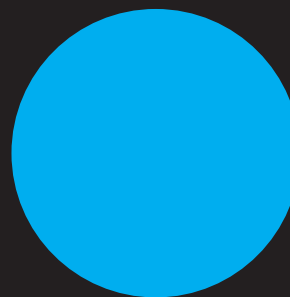
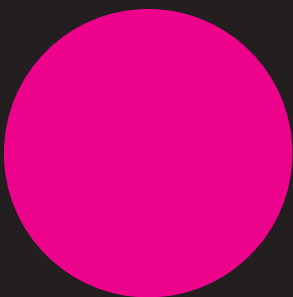
Further information on the part-time courses he delivers, kindly contact the MCAST Information Centre on Tel: 23987103 or 23987117.



Works by Salvatore Montanucci



MCAST CELEBRATE FOUNDATION DAY



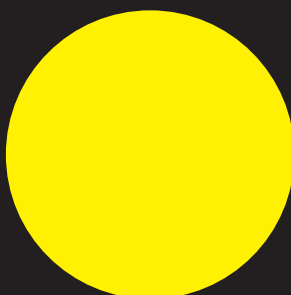
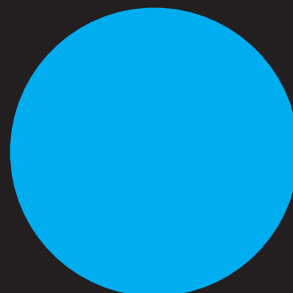
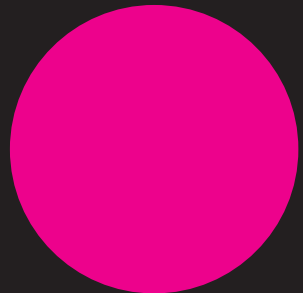
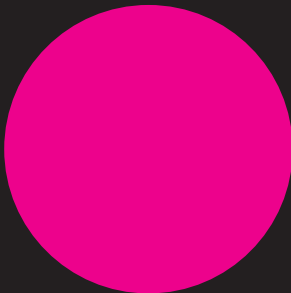
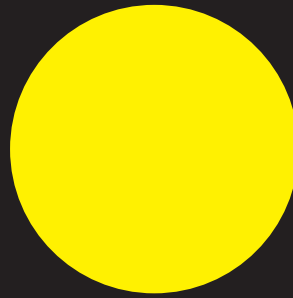
MCAST celebrated its Foundation Day on Friday 30 October 2009. This event was held at the MCAST Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola between 9am and 2pm. The aim of the event was to unite all MCAST students, lecturers and staff to celebrate the set up of the College.

The day started at 9am with a celebration of Holy Mass by the College Chaplain, Fr John Curmi. Soon afterwards at 10:30hrs students and staff got together to engage in

events including a variety of sports activities, fire-fighting demonstrations, a fantasy war-gaming tournament, soldering of PCBs, a lecture on sharks, knot demonstrations as well as hair and beauty services. This year the College set up a Hobbies Section whereby staff had the opportunity to display their hobbies and pastimes. These included shell collections, painting, acting and drama and rabbit rearing. There was also a live band, a play and a treasure hunt.



ST TES ITS ON DAY



INSTITUTE OF

How many eggs should you eat?

By: Paul Spiteri, Dip. Agric. (UoM), PGD Poultry Husbandry (Barneveld), PGC Applied Poultry Science (Glasgow)- Asst. Lecturer



Many people are surprised when asked how many eggs they consume every week. They assert that they do not consume more than three eggs per week because of the negative link between excessive consumption of eggs and one's health. Is this true? In this article, I will discuss the nutritional value of eggs and highlight the importance of egg consumption in one's diet.

It is known that poultry eggs have been a source of food for many years (Surai & Sparks n.d). The popularity of eggs as food has increased throughout the years due to it being more accessible, and also for its nutritional value (Surai & Sparks n.d). The following table breaks down the chemical composition of an egg (weighing between 63g and 73g):

	Egg (Yolk & Albumen)	Albumen	Yolk
% of water	74	88	50
% of fat	11	0.03	32
% of proteins	14	11.5	17
% of carbohydrates	0.3	0.4	0.2

(Howie 2008)

From the above table, one can see that the egg is high in nutritional value. Moreover, the egg's protein can be easily digested. The amino acid profile, which is found in the egg's protein, is very similar to that needed by man (Surai & Sparks n.d.).

Many are aware of the nutritional value of eggs. A few years ago, most parents used to insist on giving their children an egg every day. This fact leads me to ask why so many

people have started to view egg consumption as risky. Back in the seventies (Yaffee et al. 1991) research has shown that there is a link between the level of cholesterol in one's diet and susceptibility to heart disease. It is a fact that egg yolk contains a substantial amount of cholesterol (average of 213mg in every egg). For this reason, heart diseases were associated with egg consumption and other food high in cholesterol. Therefore, most people think that more than three eggs per week cause high cholesterol and thus, an increased risk of heart disease.

This fact has, however, been denied by studies conducted in the last few years. A research conducted by Drawber et al. (1982) showed that cholesterol consumed within one's diet had a minimal effect on the blood serum cholesterol. The amount of cholesterol in food does not necessarily lead to high blood serum cholesterol. The results of this study were similar to those found by Mc Namara in 1995. Another recent study which involved 37,850 men and 80,082 women demonstrated that the incidence of heart disease and stroke does not become higher if one consumes one egg per day (Hu et al. 1999). The table below shows that the amount of cholesterol in egg yolk has a low percentage when compared to other fats in the same egg yolk. Hence, the emphasis that is placed on the amount of cholesterol in egg yolk is overstated.

Analysis of fats in egg yolk	
Triglycerides	65.5%
Phospholipids	29.3%
Cholesterol	5.2%

(Howie 2008)

AGRIBUSINESS

The same study shows that saturated fats have a worse effect on the amount of cholesterol in the blood. It is apparent that the consumption of such fats increases the cholesterol much more than the consumption of cholesterol itself.

It was also found that when one decreased the amount of cholesterol intake by 50%, the amount of cholesterol in the blood decreased by more than 10%. While when saturated fats decreased by 1%, the amount of blood serum cholesterol decreased by 8%! (McNamara, 1995). Thus, saturated fats are responsible for the increase in blood serum cholesterol. This means that every food that contains saturated fats is more likely to lead to heart disease and strokes than cholesterol in eggs.

To conclude this article I am going to compare the nutritional value of an egg with that of a bar of chocolate, as tabulated:

	Egg (63-70g)	Milk chocolate (49g)
Calories	70 calories	255 calories
Fats (total)	11%	29.7%
Saturated Fats (total)	2.5%	18.5%
Sugar	0.3%	56.7%
Proteins	14%	7.55%
Cholesterol	213mg	12.5mg

(Howie 2008) Cadbury (2009)

The above table shows that the nutritional value of an egg is much higher than that of the chocolate, except for the cholesterol level. Therefore, one should be aware of the high nutritional value of the egg when consuming a product. Unfortunately it is much easier for consumers to refuse to eat an egg than to refuse to eat other products when in reality the nutritional value of an egg greatly exceeds that of other products.

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INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

MALTA – CZECH REPUBLIC BUSINESS GAMES 2009

On the 21 September 2009, the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs in collaboration with a Czech Republic company, Podnikatelske Kompetence Do Skol, organised a one week event themed “Business Games” wherein eight students from the MCAST Institute of Business and Commerce together with eight Czech students, came together in a very enthusiastic spirit of collaboration in order to put to practice some business theoretical principles.

The event kicked off with a welcome note by Ms Angele Guliano, President of the Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs (Malta) who introduced her organisation and outlined what was to happen during the Business Games week. She proceeded with a short motivational presentation about the characteristics of being a good entrepreneur.

After this talk, some ice-breakers were put into action. Each of the Czech and Maltese students presented themselves and the sixteen students were divided into four groups. Each group was made up of two Czech students and two Maltese students. This in itself was an excellent opportunity to share ideas and perceptions of how business is done locally and in the Czech Republic.

Each of the four groups had the challenge to come up with a creative business idea and as a team, work on the actual marketing, promotion, product and production plan in relation to the respective ideas.

On the fourth day, at the end of the Business Games event, each group presented their ideas and tangible outcomes. Every student was presented with a certificate of participation and gifts were given to the best group and the best student respectively.

On the last day of their visit here in Malta, the Czech students together with their coordinators were invited to visit MCAST Campus in Paola. The visit started with a short presentation at the Institute of Business and Commerce and continued with a short tour around the Library and Learning Resource Centre and two other institutes, the Institute of Community Services and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

Three of the eight Maltese students who participated in the Business Games shared the following comments about this positive experience for both the Maltese and Czech students:

“During the Business Games week I had the opportunity to test my business skills together with students from the Czech Republic. Together with the team I formed part of, we worked hard and came up with a business strategy

and mission statement for our make believe business. We worked hard and did a lot of research in order to make our “business” the best possible. Besides all the work which was done, it was interesting to see how students from elsewhere in Europe reason out business matters and turn their ideas into action. Personally, I was impressed by the IT knowledge shown by the Czech group... one of my team mates managed to create a perfectly functioning and attractive website in very few hours.

Besides the excellent experience I managed to attain together with my colleagues, at the end of the Business Games challenge I also achieved personal satisfaction when I was awarded with “The best participant of Business Games week 2009”. The whole thing was a great pleasurable and learning experience, and I am looking forward to meeting those students again next year for the next Business Games”.

By Steve Diacono

“Meeting new people has always been something I enjoyed doing and this experience gave me the opportunity to meet people from a different culture and also learn many new things. Overall it was a very satisfying experience as I made new friends and even though communication was rather difficult (being two groups with different languages) we still got on really well together. The games themselves, were very well prepared and also interesting and related to our studies. Teamwork played a dominant part in these games. In general I think the Business Games were educational and gave us all the opportunity to learn new things and the opportunity to interact with others and making new friends from another country.”

By Ina Vella

“This experience was a positive experience, where I met people from a different country and with cultural differences.

From this experience I have learnt what it is like to startup a business, and what is needed before embarking on a business concern. I also learnt how to regulate the business’s cash flow and how to use well the finance that is invested in the business. Additionally, I experienced how to work in a team when communicating in English is not that easy. When working in a team, each team member has his/her own unique qualities that are needed in order for the team to succeed”.

By Claire Spiteri



All the participants

Heartfelt thanks to the Malta Foundation for Women Entrepreneurs who together with Across Limits (Malta) has made this event possible. Likewise appreciation is shown to Ms Charlene Camilleri and Ms Denise Grillo Formosa (two

members of the academic staff at the Institute) who left no stone unturned in order to ensure that our students live a memorable experience throughout this event.



A winning team

ART AND DESIGN

TOP-UP DEGREES AT THE INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN

Among the many novelties at the MCAST Institute of Art and Design, the highlight of this academic year was undoubtedly the launch of two Top-Up Degree courses. The BA (Hons) in 3D Design and Interiors and the BA (Hons) in Graphic Design and Interactive Media have just kick-started to the delight and excitement of thirty-six students who, on successful completion of this one-year top-up programme, will be the first undergraduates of the Institute of Art and Design in Malta!

“It is of great satisfaction to think that finally students can obtain their first degree in Art and Design related disciplines without having to travel and pay exorbitant course and maintenance fees,” said Mr Stephen Vella, Director of the Institute of Art and Design. “This is undoubtedly a huge leap forward in vocational education and training in Malta.”

Thanks to the partnership with Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, lecturers from different, prestigious European Universities and Institutions have taken the reins of the two Top-Up

Degree courses. Degree students are being exposed to new methods of lecture delivery, where great emphasis is placed on self-directed learning, and where presenting findings visually and orally is the order of the day. This promotes sharing of ideas and group learning.

The exposure to foreign lecturers is also encouraging students to open up to opportunities both within and beyond our shores. At the same time, MCAST lecturers also have the opportunity to learn about and share teaching styles and methodologies.

With the new degrees in mind, three rooms were refurbished and equipped with IT facilities, internet connection and adequate studio space to allow degree students to work on their projects. All the students are highly enthusiastic to work on the projects assigned to them, so much so, that they often spend their evenings discussing and working at the Institute, sometimes as late as midnight!

Degree students with foreign lecturer Prof Erwin Bauer



WE'VE OPENED OUR DOORS TO NEW MEDIA COURSES AT THE INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN!

At the beginning of this academic year, the Institute of Art and Design went through quite a number of exciting horizon-expanding changes. It is exciting that for the first time in Malta, this Institute is hosting new courses in Media Studies, focusing primarily on audio-visual productions (that is TV, video and film).

With the numerous applications the Institute of Art and Design has set up two media classes, one at a National Diploma level, and another at a Higher National Diploma level. In two years' time, HND Media students will be able to advance their studies by progressing to a Degree level in Media, hosted in Malta at the Institute of Art and Design. "This is a different horizon for new rewarding opportunities I've never seen before," argues Gian Luca Mercieca (HND Media student).

The current media students are going to be the pioneers in entering the media industries as locally qualified professionals with Diplomas and Degrees. As Simon Grech Jr. (ND Media student) aptly describes it: "So rewarding with so many prospects. I am so proud to be part of such a fantastic course."

The building ground of these courses commences with the students' awareness of what the media industries do, knowledge of theories and the learning of techniques. The students will be able to pull up their sleeves and grab onto the latest equipment to start producing their ideas into film with an already nourished mind. "I have always been passionate in creating small video productions," declared Matthew Muscat Drago (HND Media student). "This is a course where one can express creative thoughts through film."

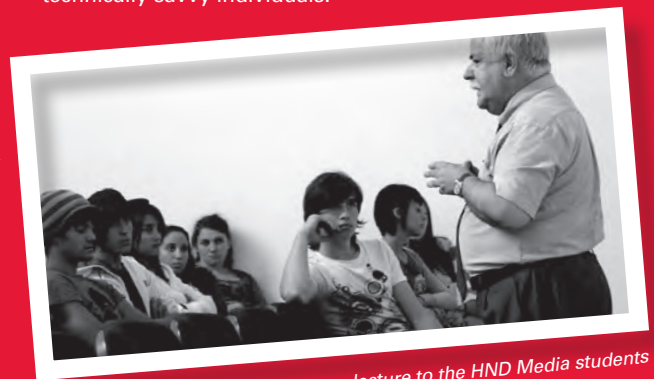
So far, the Institute of Art and Design has also been host to various visiting speakers from the media industry. Ms. Joyce Grech, from Education 22, has focused on the funding, regulations and ethical issues in TV. Mr. Mario Schiavone, ex-editor of In-Nazzjon and Communications Co-ordinator of the Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, has given the students a wide spectrum of the importance of ethics in the media, while Ms. Joanna Spiteri and Mr. Pierre Cassar from the Malta Broadcasting Authority have cleared

out the ground of how the media is regulated in Malta. "Media is essential in our lives," states Jean-Pierre Briffa (HND Media student). "This course is very intriguing and helps me approach and understand media and its concepts differently than how I used to before."

The students are also being prepared to what the future of media will be like, and some students have also attended the MCA Conference on the Digital Switch Over that will be happening next year. "The 2010 Digital TV Conference held in the Westin Dragonara was simply amazing! As Media students, this was a golden opportunity to broaden our knowledge from an industry perspective," stated Flora Tanti (HND Media student). "I myself really enjoyed it and went home with a different outlook. I am definitely looking forward to more opportunities of this sort."

Although still in its infancy, this course has proved exciting for most students concerned. "Very interesting!" said Christine Borg (ND Media student). "I am learning things that I didn't expect from the course. I am so glad that I grasped this great opportunity!"

"This was definitely the way forward," said Institute Director, Mr Stephen Vella. "The Institute of Art and Design, with its focus on creativity and innovation, will allow students to develop their knowledge and skills in communication industries, with delivery based on a hands-on approach, coupled with essential theoretical understanding. Our aim is to boost the local media industry (specifically the audio-visual sector) by providing it with professional, qualified and technically savvy individuals."



Mr Mario Schiavone delivering a lecture to the HND Media students

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

COMMUNITY ART BY THE INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN
BY ALFRED CAMILLERI (TUTOR-IN-CHARGE OF PROJECT)

Surely the phrase is familiar. The 1997 Italian Film "La Vita e' Bella" now occupies a significant landmark in Cinematic History. Everyone knows the story of a certain young Italian Jew, played by that remarkable comedian-actor Roberto Benigni, who during the war is taken to a Nazi concentration camp, together with his son. There, Benigni's Guido Orefice, through an incredible fertile imagination, surprising humour and determination, succeeds to keep his son away from the atrocious destiny which awaited so many others, including his, in those horrible camps.

Well, I am sure you are wondering how this connects with this year's Community Art project. It is not so much for the story in the film but more for that implicit positive message towards life in general that is leading the way. And where does this take us? First let me say something more about this project. The BTEC National Diploma offers a unit directly related to Community Art. This year's unit follows a line of similar projects which the Institute of Art and Design has successfully performed since it was first set up. We had one at Attard Primary School, at the MCAST Student House and last year's at the MCAST Administration Block.

This year's project is targeted for St. Paul's Bay Primary School, one of the nine schools under the umbrella of the Maria Regina College. Situated in a magnificent panorama dominated by St. Paul's Islands, the school provides education to approximately eight hundred students. Such a population has a significant cultural, ethnic, religious and social diversity. And it was precisely this characteristic which has inspired the theme for

this year's project. Life is Beautiful is built on the concept of a harmonious relationship among all human beings, with all creatures around us and with the whole of nature in general.

In the first week of September some forty-five learners led by the author together with another tutor in charge of the project, Ms Ruth Ancilleri, met at the school in St. Paul's Bay. Gathered in the hall they were given a warm welcome by the Headmistress, Ms Lina Deguara. After a brief but interesting introduction by Ms Deguara, the learners were split into two groups, one on each floor. Mr M. Attard, the Assistant Head, and Mr S. Chetcuti, the school's Art Teacher, indicated the specific sites to be considered for embellishment with the projected murals. There and then, the students, equipped with sketchbooks, measuring tapes and cameras, made a detailed survey of the whole wall space in question. The first task accomplished, a thorough research of visual sources related to the theme was completed and students are now busy working on a number of compositions which should provide an ample choice of proposals for the final pieces. Students are being directed to explore all possible aspects of the theme, with a range of 2D and 3D imagery, relevant thematic messages and a visual language which is appropriate to the age group of the children at the school.

This is an assignment which requires the refinement of the necessary art related skills but it is also a task which requires a lot of reflection. Reflection about the positive aspirations of children, about their right to serenity, about the expression of joy, in the end about the beauty of life itself.



Students from the Art and Design Institute surveying the sites

LEONARDO DA VINCI MOBILITY 1

FIRST MEETING IN DENMARK

The MCAST Institute of Art and Design is currently participating in a Leonardo Da Vinci Partnership project with the creative arts departments of Adam Smith College, Scotland, and Aarhus Technical College, Denmark.

During the last week of September, Mr. Mark Theuma, Deputy Director, attended the first meeting which was held in the picturesque city of Aarhus in Denmark. This meeting focused on the project structure, time management, allocation of funds, communication frameworks, cultural events and job responsibilities for all parties, among others. The main theme for the project is hairdressing and fashion. Art and Design students will be responsible for branding, marketing and promotion of the project. The Institute will combine its expertise within the fields of Media, Graphics and Interactive Media through the involvement of a number of Higher National Diploma students. The students, who will team up with their Scottish and Danish counterparts, will

be responsible for logo designs, posters, brochures, video production and editing, web design and authoring.

The Higher National Diploma students have already begun setting up a website for the project. The portal will serve as an effective channel for the promotion and delivery of information on work-in-progress, but also as an efficient communication scaffold between colleges. Once completed, the students could keep track of ongoing work and would be able to download and share graphic artworks, videos, audio and podcasts.

This project will provide our students an excellent opportunity to enhance their creative skills, familiarise themselves with professional equipment and techniques, experience other cultures, and ultimately embrace diversity and team up with foreign students to attain a common goal.

Group photo prior to a cultural visit to AROS, the Aarhus Museum of Contemporary Art



HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA 3D DESIGN STUDENTS VISIT INDUSTRY

Students following the Higher National Diploma in 3D Design, especially those in their final year, are expected to start grasping the concepts of real work in terms of transition from the academic institution to the design industry. This year the Institute is striving more than ever to start exposing students to first-hand experience in the creative industries.

Site visits are being coordinated on a weekly basis. Since the beginning of the year students have already had four site visits, all with different focuses and outcomes. The first visit was to Polidano Brothers' plant in Hal-Farrug, where students got the opportunity to see concrete being produced, concrete blocks, concrete testing and manufacturing of pre-stressed beams amongst other things. Representatives from the company guided the students around the plant, explaining the processes and answering any queries brought up.

During the second visit students were invited to C. Fino & Sons Ltd, a company renowned for impeccable furniture manufacturing, which during the last years due to market changes is focusing more on importing high quality furniture, kitchens and light fittings rather than manufacturing. Students still got the opportunity to visit the workshops where custom orders for furniture (especially kitchens) are still accepted. Corian is also being worked in these workshops to suit custom orders. The group was split into two and toured round the showroom and workshops separately, in order to have manageable groups which are able to go into the workshops in small numbers.

At Hal Mann Vella students were shown around the showroom, which acts as a magnificent showcase to the

materials available. Hal Mann Vella focuses on natural stones such as marble, granite, travertine, hardstone and terrazzo amongst others. Apart from the showroom, students were also toured round the several workshops which process the stones from their raw state to showroom condition.

The final visit (to date) was to Auntielucy's store in Baystreet. Rather than an ordinary visit and a tour round the outlet, students had the opportunity to attend two lectures by representatives from Foscarini, the renowned lighting design Italian company. Denis Dal Ben, export manager for Foscarini, and industrial designer, Vicente Garcia Jimenez, gave those present a high quality presentation on new products by Foscarini, and more importantly on concept development. Mr. Jimenez focused primarily on the generation of ideas, the evolution of concepts, and the difficult task of selling your own ideas to other people. The presentation included the unveiling of a new collection involving joint cooperation between lighting giants Foscarini and top fashion brand Diesel.

The Director of the Institute of Art and Design, Stephen Vella, stressed the importance of building new links as well as consolidating existing ones with as wide range of entities and organizations as possible. He emphasized that, "These visits form an integral part of the Institute's marketing plan, which mainly involves the exposure of our students and their work. It is essential for learners to look beyond the boundary walls of our Institute. Such experiences and activities will not only be fruitful for the knowledge gained on current materials, techniques, technologies and processes, but they will also open up prospective opportunities which may derive from exposure and networking."



At Hal Mann Vella



At Polidano Brothers' plant

GOZO CENTRE

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN RADIO DEBATES

The MCAST Gozo Centre was invited by RTK Gozo presenter, Mr. Vincent Theuma Scerri to involve a number of students in a radio programme “Miż-żgħażaġh għaż-żgħażaġh” that is produced in Gozo. The programme discusses common life issues that are faced by young people. Ms. Victoria Sultana, Co-ordinator at the Gozo Centre, identified students who were willing to take part in eight programmes in this series.

The themes chosen for these eight programmes were: abortion, domestic violence, homeless people, addiction, peer pressure, child abuse, mental health and bullying. Programmes in this series started with a real-life case scenario read by the students themselves and then the presenter facilitated a discussion among the students.

Visit to the Urban Waste Water Treatment Plant

A visit to the new urban waste water filtration plant situated in the limits of Ghajnsielem and Xewkija was organised for the students undertaking the Electro-technical Technology course at the Gozo Centre. The group was greeted by Mr. Mario Ferrero and Mr. Noel Mintoff who kindly gave the students a detailed tour and explanation of the whole process of filtration of waste water and its conversion to second class water, suitable for irrigation.

This plant filters sewage water that previously was ending up directly into the sea, with the resulting adverse effects on the flora and fauna as well as the serious health risks. Water filtration and treatment occurs in three separate stages and the overall process produces second class water. In the first stage large solid matter and fat are removed by a mechanical process. From here water is pumped to a large open reservoir where a natural biological process is used to break down the bacteria.

This process may take between 18 and 24 hours. Sludge then deposits itself at the bottom of the reservoir and the ‘clean water’ is passed through large sand filters to remove any fine solid matter still present in the water. Chlorine can be added to this clear water to kill and disinfect any bacteria that may be present in it. The whole plant is controlled from a central control room and moreover tests are continually taken to verify the quality of the end-product. The whole plant is provided with a massive generator and a large UPS which will provide energy in the event of a power cut.

Students also had the opportunity to observe the various electrical installation methods and technology adopted across different sections of the plant, visualizing in reality what they normally learn at college.

Other relevant educational visits are being planned for these and other student groups throughout the academic year.



Inside the Control Room



Electrical students at the urban waste water treatment plant

CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH

On 9 October 2009, Ms Daniela Sciberras, Assistant Lecturer at the Gozo Centre, and seven National Diploma in Care students attended a one-day conference "Is-Sahha Mentali: Sfida Ewropea: Sfida Lokali" organized by Richmond Foundation. The conference gave students an insight of current themes in the mental health field. The themes which were discussed were: The European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being; Implementation of the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being; Mental Health – Children, Adolescents and EDUCATION; Mental Health and the Elderly; Mental Health and Employment, and The Prevention of Depression and Suicide.

After lunch, students were divided in four different workshops. The workshops were enriched by the views of different professionals who stimulated a healthy discussion and exchange of ideas. At the end of the conference, the students were awarded a certificate of participation.



Ms Daniela Sciberras and the students that attended the Richmond Foundation Seminar

SEMINAR ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

After the success of the extra-curricular seminars held for students in the academic year 2008-2009, the first seminar from a series of three, scheduled for the current academic year, was held on Wednesday 18 November 2009.

The chosen themes for this year's seminars were established from students' feedback in 2008-2009. The theme of this first seminar was domestic violence and the guest speakers were Dr. Marceline Naudi (Chairperson of the Domestic Violence Commission), Major Josephine Gauci (from the Malta Police Force) and Ms. Pamela Demicoli (Social Worker at Dar Merħba Bik). Domestic violence can be broadly defined as a pattern of abusive behaviours by one or both partners in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, friends or cohabitation. The students were made aware that domestic violence can take many forms including physical aggression or threats thereof sexual abuse emotional abuse controlling or domineering intimidation stalking passive covert abuse (e.g. neglect) and economic deprivation.

Dr. Naudi started this seminar by giving the attendees information about the Commission's work related to

domestic violence issues. Ms. Demicoli from Dar Merħba Bik spoke about the services and resources available to victims of domestic violence. The best part of the seminar was the clients' experiences, in which a number of victims of domestic violence shared their personal experiences. The audience was speechless upon hearing first-hand accounts of the ordeal and abuse that these battered women have been through. The first part of the seminar ended with a presentation by Major Josephine Gauci, who spoke about the legal framework in relation to domestic violence and about procedures normally followed by the police when dealing with such cases. The afternoon was dedicated to workshops where students were divided into small groups and discussed a case-study with the help of a facilitator assigned to each group.

This day-seminar was the first in a series of three seminars that will be delivered this year at the Gozo Centre as part of a programme of extra-curricular activities intended to provide holistic education and development to students as well as making their stay at MCAST Gozo Centre a truly enjoyable learning experience.



Library and Learning Resource Centre

ARE WE SPENDING ENOUGH TIME IN THE LIBRARY?



By Victor Vella
Assistant Librarian

MCAST librarians are eager to offer sessions for students on what we call “introduction to information literacy”. But the mistaken assumption by some is that students do not need it. Some assume that students do not need to be taught anything about working online, because they were practically born digital, nowadays!

Yes I do agree that most of our students are or may be computer-literate, but they are not research-literate. And there is a huge difference between being computer – literate and research-literate.

Research education involves getting students to understand how information is organized physically in libraries, as well as electronically in library catalogues and in powerful, sometimes highly specialized commercial databases. It means teaching students to search effectively online to identify the most relevant books, articles, databases, even free web resources related to their study subjects.

Students do not come to college armed with these skills, nor are these skills likely to be acquired without guidance. Yet students desperately need such skills if they hope to function effectively in our information-driven economy. The vast majority of students will have careers in which, if they do not do their own research, they will have to evaluate and depend on the research of others. There is no better way to prepare for that responsibility than to do research of one’s own.

Lecturers may need to be reminded that online searching requires a set of skills that are the strong point of MCAST academic librarians. We are eager to impart those skills to students. MCAST members of staff may also need to be reminded that developing research skills takes practice.

At the moment Assistant Librarians are holding information sessions at the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering . These sessions will provide students with the skills they need to conduct their own research and examine their own research so as to be ready for The Street University.

DEMONSTRATING HIGHER VALUE IN THE CLASSROOM

by Ernest Spiteri (LSU Lecturer)

In my previous article I wrote about vibing and the difference between vibing and building comfort. I also stressed on the fact that whilst building rapport, the value gap between the people talking is leveling out.

What is Value and what is Higher Value?

Demonstrating higher value can take an infinite number of forms. It can be as simple as one person going up to another person and the other person telling them, "I'm sorry but I don't seem to recognize you." In fact in some cases forgetting people can demonstrate that the person has too many important people in his or her life to categorize you as one of them. On the other hand if delivered in authority, remembering names and people can be viewed as a sign of sharpness and intelligence.

Another way of demonstrating value is to be an expert in something. If you are talking about sailing boats and you start explaining how different engines work, give examples, share life experiences and so on, then you will inevitably be seen as an authority. A teacher can demonstrate value thus by being an expert in the subject he or she teaches and transmitting that expertise. If students are not interested in the subject, it would be a good idea to find out what interests them, demonstrating expertise in their area of interest and interlinking the subject to such topic. General areas of interests for boys include music, cars, money, feasts, hunting and travel; for girls, fashion, drama, movies, cooking, drinks, music, books, feasts and travel. These are only some of the general interests of people: being an expert in these will help you in the classroom. It is important that you do not deviate from the academic subject but steer towards it.

Another way of demonstrating value is through setting boundaries. There is a fine line between not accepting certain things and behaviours and getting irritated by them. Getting irritated and angry indicates a weakness which can be exploited by students as they wish. It is therefore extremely important that teachers do not whine, yet are decisive and calm in their actions. Setting boundaries is about what is accepted and not accepted by you depending either on moral or social values, not on what makes you lose your temper.

In the next article I will write about rewarding and punishing behavior.

Sports and Learning Disabilities

by Orlando Bonnici, LSU PD Lecturer

Having a learning disability might hinder the academic achievements of a person, especially in traditional chalk and talk based classrooms, however this has not stopped people with learning difficulties from excelling in other areas in their lives. One of these is definitely sports. In fact, many of the top athletes in various disciplines around the world have stated that they were diagnosed as suffering from a form of learning disability. Michael Phelps (ADD), with a record breaking 8 gold medals won during the last Olympics held in Beijing, is only one in a list of athletes that managed to overcome their childhood learning difficulties and become an accomplished successful athlete. Other renowned names in this category include Mohammed Ali, Carl Lewis and Magic Johnson who had all been diagnosed dyslexics, whilst basketball legend Michael Jordan and 100m Olympic gold medalist Justin Gatlin are amongst the large number of world-class sportsmen who suffer from ADHD. The American National Institute of Health estimates that four to five percent (4-5%) of general adult population suffers from ADHD. The same organization estimates that this estimate is doubled when it comes to professional sports persons (8-10%). Thus, the question arises on why sports in general is attractive to persons suffering from a learning disability.

People with a learning disability can be very talented in sports for a variety of reasons, and in itself sports can become a means to overcome their personal learning difficulty. Any sport, especially if practised since childhood,



helps in instilling within a person a sense of responsibility towards themselves, others and in reaching for a goal. Sport is also more focused and practical, with very few theoretical concepts, and as such people suffering from learning difficulties can relate immediately to the concrete situation with which they are faced daily through sports activity. Physical activity also develops into a series of automated reflexes with daily practice and as such the person uses these instinctual reflexes throughout their activity. Sports can also be a catalyst for a person's self esteem. In fact, if a person starts accomplishing goals in sports s/he may find the intrinsic motivation needed to overcome his/her learning difficulties.

Another important factor with which sports can help people suffering from learning difficulty is social integration. Sports can help a person overcome social and personal barriers that might hinder him or her to make new friends and integrate with his/her peers. Armstrong and Drabman (2004) addressed the hypothesis that improving sports performance will lead to an increase in self-confidence and greater peer acceptance. To investigate this, a programme was developed in which boys were trained in a specific sport so as to improve their skills. These boys were then placed in a position where they could display their improvements in front of their peers. An association between improvements in sports performance and an increase in positive social interactions emerged. The boys also reported greater self-efficacy, self-confidence and happiness. Teachers reported that boys in this programme showed more persistence in the classroom and a decrease in attention-seeking behaviours.

Sport participation is important to all children, due to its relationship to physical activity and therefore chronic disease regardless of ADHD diagnosis. Some of the benefits of sport participation include a decrease in risky behaviours and increased integration into social settings (Kremarik, 2000). Specific to children with a learning disability, participation in a sport can help to increase peer relations, which are often negative. Improved peer relations can increase a child's happiness and self-confidence. Also, it may be possible to stop the cascade of lack of sustained effort leading to lower training levels, lower self-esteem and lower participation in these children through the use of sport and behavioural interventions.

The relationship between sports and learning disability has been acknowledged in some countries for a number of years. In fact, in the UK, the Sports Association for People with Learning Disability (www.uksportsassociation.org) was set up in 1980. Its main aim is to encourage the development of sustainable, integrated quality sports provision for people with learning disability from grass roots through to elite international opportunities. Many organizations in the UK and across Europe also offer specialized programmes where people with learning difficulties can embark into a personal training scheme in which they can develop and overcome their learning difficulties. There is much work to be carried out here in Malta. Unfortunately, we still lack much sports infrastructure however there are many volunteers who work hard to encourage and promote a sports culture through which both people with and without learning disabilities can overcome their personal issues and become successful achievers both in their personal and sports careers.

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

YOUTH EXCHANGE IN FINLAND



Playing Street Soccer



For the second year running the Youth and Sports exchange was hosted in Järvenpää, Finland between Wednesday 29 July and Wednesday 5 August 2009. Its main aim was to understand the concept of fair play. The countries involved in the said exchange were England, Germany, Malta and Finland.

A fully organised programme was prepared by the Finnish leaders. It consisted mainly of physical activities. The main activities were nordic walking, flexibar which is a new technique used in aerobic sessions, street soccer, floorball, sandball, ice skating, bowling, orienteering and many others. Besides all these activities, the team also took part in an intercultural night. In this particular activity each country

presented their typical food, snacks and drinks. In addition to that a small speech about each country was presented.

This youth exchange also involved conducting research beforehand. Each country had to present a powerpoint presentation about Youth and Sports. The Maltese team also presented a power point presentation about a new game called Sandball for Tolerance. The said game was then demonstrated by the group the day before the Game Day.

The focal point of the youth exchange was reached during the Game Day which was held in Park Rantapuisto. All participants were involved in preparing the game area



Off Nordic walking from left; Nigel McCarthy, Tiziana Apap, Edward Falzon, Joseph D'Amato and Matlene Ebejer

and building up the tent. Although it rained on that day, everything worked according to the programme. Street soccer and floorball were the games in which every country competed with the result that the Maltese won all matches however Germany was awarded the Fair Play Award.

The first departure from Järvenpää took place on the sixth day when the team went to Lahti and visited the Skiing museum and a majestic Ski Jump Tower. During their stay the students also had the opportunity to watch two Maltese athletes competing in the 100 metre race. In Lahti they also visited the Pajulhati Sports Institute. Other places of interest that the students visited were the Olympic Stadium and the Capital City of Helsinki.



JÄRVENPÄÄ



CIMO

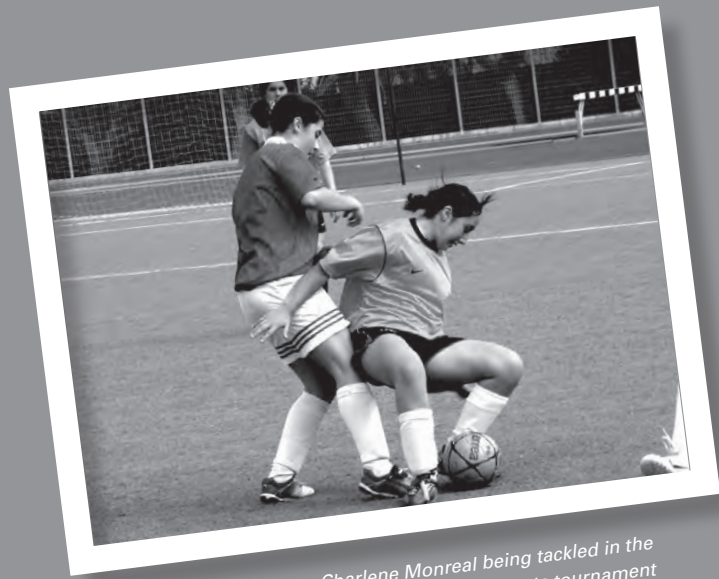


Education and Culture DG

SPORTS LEAGUES

The sports leagues are now underway in football 5-a-side, basketball, volleyball, table-tennis and chess. The winning teams will be representing MCAST in the College sport events against other post-secondary institutions.

Anyone who feels competent to form part of the MCAST team is asked to contact the Sports Co-ordinator at the gym or by email: adele.muscat@mcast.edu.mt. Preference will be given to students who participate in the MCAST sports leagues and who train with a club. Students must be under 19 to participate in the mentioned events.



Charlene Monreal being tackled in the 5 - a - side College sports tournament

BADMINTON

A badminton coach Edmond Abela from the Malta Badminton Federation is regularly conducting badminton training sessions at the gym in Corradino. These sessions have been met well and are well attended. Thanks goes to Mr Edmond Abela and Mr John Attard from the Malta Badminton Federation who have made this possible.



Jason Good playing badminton

CANOEING

A number of students have taken the opportunity to try out canoeing at the various activities that were organised by the Sports Department in conjunction with the Malta Canoe Federation. Any students who want to try out this sport are urged to contact the sports staff.



Gabriel Chircop, Rowenna Pullieño, instructor Adele Muscat, Andre Buhagiar exploring the 3 cities by canoe

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE ROUND GOZO TREK ?

The Round Gozo Trek is scheduled to take place in the coming months. In this activity MCAST students trek for four days around the Gozitan coast carrying 12 kg backpacks and sleeping in tents at night. This is a great outdoor activity enjoyed by all who participate. Please be aware that you need to be fit as it is a tough event. For more information please contact the Sports Department.



Gabriel Rizzo



Tiziana Apap



Etienne Mangion

TAKING CONTROL OF THE FIELD OF PLAY

I was introduced to football earlier on in my life, as I used to play for a local club. Unfortunately, my playing days ended abruptly when I injured myself in a match

against a rival. I had to stop for a couple of years because of my severe injury and never got my full fitness back. That was when I started thinking of becoming a referee. I always had a passion for the game, watching both local and foreign football. An opportunity arose last February when the MCAST Sport Department, led by Ms. Adele Muscat, opened applications for a referee's course conducted by the Malta Football Association (MFA) with the help of the Referees' Association (MFRA). The course was held at the MCAST premises in Paola, and was conducted by one of the veteran football referees in Malta, Mr. Victor Mintoff. Today, he is a member on the referees' board and the head of the Youth Development Unit.

Becoming a football referee is not an easy decision. One may be an ex-player, an ex-coach, even a current youth player or just someone who has a genuine interest in football. It does not matter as long as you are keen and committed. Being fit is also an integral part of being a referee. We are continually being assessed on our fitness, but, nothing to worry about; the fitness tests are quite easy to pass if you keep to a constant training schedule!

The role of the referee can be very rewarding. The fact that you are in control of a match gives you great satisfaction. You've got to maintain discipline and a level of control over the match but still try and keep friendly with the players and the officials. If you try to maintain a calm atmosphere during the match, you will have the same reception from the players and club officials. It is never easy to earn respect on the field of play, but once you establish yourself as a good official, the majority of players and coaches start showing more respect towards you. For me, abuse from the stands or even the bench was never an issue; it is something you get used to by time. Usually these persons would be trying to influence your decisions, in order to win over your judgement of the match.

The MFA is constantly organising new courses throughout the year conducted by former referees. After passing the written and oral examinations, you are ready to go – you will be assigned your first few matches as an assistant referee. As time passes, you climb up the ladder according to your abilities. You never know, you might be the next FIFA Maltese referee!

If you are interested in refereeing in any sport please do contact the Sports Co-ordinator at the gym or by email: adele.muscat@mcast.edu.mt

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

€247,000

APPROVED EU FUNDING FOR MCAST STUDENTS AND STAFF

Throughout the Summer months, MCAST received a number of good news as most of its applications submitted between February and June were approved for funding. A total sum of over €32,321 was approved under the Erasmus Sectoral Programme for a total number of 23 beneficiaries: two for Student Mobility Studies, ten for Student Mobility Placements (both of 3 months duration each), five for Teaching Assignments and six for Staff Training (both of 1 week each).

Another €95,290 has been awarded for the SUCCESS (Students Undertaking College Career Enhancing Study Skills) project. The SUCCESS project is a Leonardo Da Vinci mobility project which offers the opportunity for a minimum 29 students to follow three weeks work experience in one of the 27 EU member states. Together with this Leonardo Da Vinci project, the Creative Exchange Programme (CEP) project has been another successful attempt for MCAST to obtain funding. This project involves €23,000 and it is a biennial project which will give the opportunity to not less than 24 students and lecturers at the Institute of Art and Design.

In addition, the Comenius Sectoral Programme has been the biggest success for MCAST this year. This is because MCAST submitted two multilateral and two bilateral projects and these were all approved, obtaining a total sum of €86,000.

Two multilateral projects, Building Efficiently (BE) in Europe, and the SchoolCom 2.0 were awarded a sum of €25,000 and a minimum of 24 mobilities each on two years. While the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering will benefit from the BE in Europe project, the Institute of

Information and Communication Technology will be the main beneficiary from the SchoolCom 2.0 project. Moreover, the Institute of Art and Design will benefit from the other two bilateral Comenius projects, SOS Fashion and DISTURBIA, approved with a sum of €18,000 and a minimum of 12 mobilities each.

Last but not least, MCAST has also been successful in tapping funding for individual projects such as Grundtvig and Comenius In-Service Training Courses. In fact, up to the time of writing, MCAST was awarded 2 Grundtvig and 1 Comenius projects. One lecturer at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and another lecturer at the Institute of Mechanical Engineering are to benefit from 12 days and 10 days training courses respectively, both in the UK. Whilst €3922 were awarded for the first project, another €3180 were awarded for the second Grundtvig training course. The other Comenius In-Service training course will give the opportunity to a Mechanical Engineering lecturer to follow a training course in the UK for 10 days while granting this lecturer the sum of €3816.

This means that despite being at the start of the academic year, and so more applications are to be submitted throughout the academic year, at present, MCAST was awarded a total sum of €247,000, an increase of around €47,000 on the previous academic year. For this reason, several calls for application are to open throughout the academic year.



Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme



EUROPEAN UNION PROGRAMMES AGENCY
AGENZJA PROGRAMMI TA' L-UNJONI EWROPEA

IN TOUCH WITH THE BENEFITS OF ERASMUS MOBILITY WHILE TASTING THE BEAUTY OF PUGLIA

BY BJORN AZZOPARDI, OFFICER INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Famous for its cultural heritage, history, traditions and most of all its culinary popularity, the south of Italy will remain in the heart of two Agribusiness students, Nicholas Farrugia and Tracy Borg, who followed a three month Erasmus Work Placement mobility throughout the Summer holidays. The feedback received from these students and their living experiences were additional to what the South of Italy can offer to make a monitoring visit a successful one.

The 2008/2009 academic year marks an important milestone in MCAST's long list of milestones since its foundation, just eight years ago. This is because these were the first Erasmus Student Mobility Placements to be embarked on by MCAST students and for the duration of 12 weeks. Being away from your family, your loved ones and from your home country is always difficult to cope with, but it seems that both Nicholas and Tracy got over that phase so well by the time of my monitoring visit in September. On the other hand, being only one week away from their return, both students claimed that they got used to the Italians and their independent life and would love to extend their mobility. To my astonishment, both seemed to have changed a lot from the last time we met at my office, and their independent ability featured in all they did throughout the five days I spent with them in Italy. Also, both students claimed that after this Erasmus experience, their intentions of furthering their studies abroad seemed to be much more plausible.

This monitoring visit was the first one of its sort and being a new partner hosting organization, a visit to the students' accommodation facility was more than required, especially in the light that three more Agribusiness students were soon commence a three - week Leonardo Da Vinci mobility project. Moreover, meeting the employers of both Nicholas and Tracy was the main element of this monitoring visit, to get feedback about their commitment and their quality of work. In contrast with all other beneficiaries, Tracy and Nicholas were not happy with just one work placement, but as the hosting coordinator Drsa Annalisa Trono stated, "These students really came here to work as both of them are working in two different work placements. They return home at around 9pm nearly everyday." This is because while both students worked in an Agritourism farm in the morning, in the afternoon Tracy worked in a veterinary clinic dealing with tiny domestic pets like cats and dogs, while Nicholas assisted a voluntary dog sanctuary, similar to our local Island Sanctuary and SPCA, called Il Canile. All employers were happy with our students and were really looking forward to host the three students in November. Even though the feedback received prior to this monitoring visit through their hosting coordinator was positive, meeting the students' employers and watching them working on the spot offered a much more realistic picture of the reputation our College is building through our own students beyond our shores.

Last but not least, this monitoring visit allowed me some time to go round and visit some of the most stunning locations which characterize the Puglian region. Staying in Lecce made it possible to travel easily around the region as the train station was only a few footsteps away. Apart from dedicating most of the time to the beauty of Lecce, the students took me around various stunning locations which they had already visited themselves such as Porto Cesareo, Gallipoli, Copertino, Ostuni (La Citta Bianca) and the city of Bari. We also managed to pay a short visit to Brindisi and last but not least, being with two Agribusiness students, we could not miss the last visit to Fasano, popular for its Zoo and the Theme Park Fasanolandia. Watching wildlife creatures such as gorillas, seals, rhinos, polar and brown bears, hundreds of monkeys and baboons and hippopotamus was the best curtain call for this visit.

From left to right: Bjorn Azzopardi, International Programmes Officer, Nico, the students' instructor, Annalisa Trono, host organization representative, and students Tracy Borg and Nicholas Farrugia at La Lucia Agritourism



Tracy Borg at her evening work placement, in a veterinary clinic in Copertino, Italy



Tracy and Nicholas, both Agribusiness students, at the Zoo di Fasano.



OUR WORK PLACEMENT IN RECKLINGHAUSEN, GERMANY BY GLEN SCHEMBRI, SARAH MERCIECA AND ALEX SACCO (MCAST - BTEC NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN CONSTRUCTION)

Recklinghausen is the northernmost city in the Ruhr-Area and the capital of the Recklinghausen district. It is characterized by large fields and farms in the north and industry in the south. Recklinghausen is the 60th largest city in Germany. This city will remain in our heart, because staying there for two months will made us part of it. We lived and worked there in the middle of the summer i.e. from mid-June till mid-August.

The year 2008 marks an important milestone for us because we began to work as draftspersons. Being away from your family, your beloved ones and from your home country is always difficult to cope with, but we have done our best in these wonderful 2 months together. At the beginning, we found it difficult to integrate to their life styles but in the last week of our stay, we wished to extend our work placement. If we will have another opportunity to go abroad for another experience, we will go for sure because there, one experiences different life styles and sees wonderful places.

We went there to work. We worked in three different work placements. Alex worked in the centre of Castrop Rauxel, Glen worked in Marl-Fensen near the centre of Recklinghausen and Sarah worked with two different companies that are the City Town and WSV in Datteln. We used to return home between 4pm and 5pm nearly everyday except on Friday (at 2pm).

We were very happy where we were working. Our respective colleagues were very helpful and they taught us many things in the construction industry.

Moreover, this work experience allowed some time to go around and visit beautiful locations which characterize the Recklinghausen and other cities such as Dortmund, Munich and Berlin. Staying in the centre of Recklinghausen made it possible to travel easily around many places as the train station was only a few footsteps away. Apart from dedicating most of the time to the beauty of Recklinghausen, we went on excursions to many cities such as Berlin, Munich, Amsterdam, Dortmund, Munster, Essen, Dusseldorf and Koln. It is impossible to mention everywhere we went because we discovered many interesting places.

We would like to thank our employers that have accepted us to go for this opportunity, and experience a wonderful work placement under Leonardo Da Vinci Mobility Placement. We would like to thank E.U.P.A for giving us the subsidy while we were on our stay in Germany. Big thanks goes to Dr. Reinhold for taking care of the work placements and for providing our transport. Last but not least we would like to thank Bjorn Azzopardi for organising many meetings about our experience.



Glen Schembri with a typical German mountainous scenery at the back



Alex, Glen and Sarah at the Park



Glen Schembri and Sarah Mercieca in front of the Bundestag, the German Parliament, in Berlin

LIVING FOR TWO MONTHS IN DENMARK

BY HUBERT FARRUGIA, MV STUDENT

This Summer I had the experience of a lifetime. Together with two other students, also studying at MCAST, I followed an eight week placement in Denmark.

We were staying and working in a city called Holbæk, which is situated on Syland, an island of the Danish Archipelago. Although Denmark's transportation system is considered to be quite efficient when compared to other European countries, I was lucky enough to have my workplace within a ten minute walking distance from our apartment.

Denmark's fascinating culture struck me. I loved wandering about in the metropolitan city of Copenhagen, admiring the outstanding architecture and cultural diversity. Although very expensive, Copenhagen is a great place for shopping as there are dozens of shopping malls, offering an outstanding variety. Visiting museums was really an experience. I particularly enjoyed the tour in the Viking Museum in Roskilde. I also had the opportunity to visit

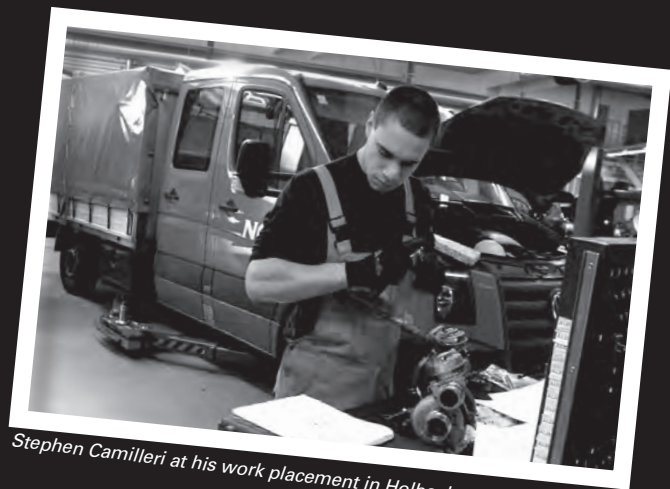
Sweden for one weekend. My fellow schoolmates and I also managed to see a car show in Tolose and a car sale in Kalunborg.

But there is more to this than meets the eye as things were not as simple as one might think. Being away from my home and loved ones made it quite difficult at first. Loneliness starts kicking in and I must admit that I was feeling really homesick at first. In addition, the fact that I could not understand the language that is spoken (Danish is the official language) made it quite difficult to interact with the locals. Luckily I was able to communicate properly with my colleagues since almost all of them could speak English.

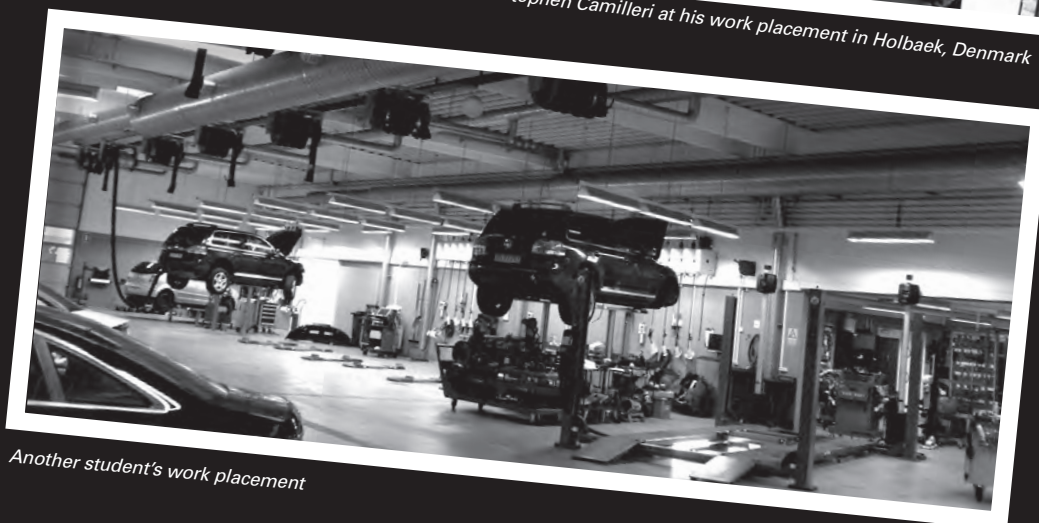
Being far away from home and living on my own forced me to become more independent and mature. With all the ups and downs, I will cherish this experience forever in my heart, not only because it helped me professionally but also because it helped me on a personal level.



Stephen Camilleri together with his Danish instructors



Stephen Camilleri at his work placement in Holbaek, Denmark



Another student's work placement

Students in the bloom of Brussels. . .



“Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there.”

As headquarters of many European institutions, Brussels might also be considered something of a capital of the European Union. Lying at the crossroads of cultures and playing an important role in Europe, Brussels will remain a locked up memory for us Erasmus students who followed a successful three-month internship.

The work experience began on the 22 June 2009. Coming from the Institute of Business and Commerce the students were all prepared to put into practice what they had learned at MCAST. They carried out work placements within the accounts department of Electrabel, Ackroyd Publications, Citibank and Kellen Europe.

Apart from the daily working routine, they had the opportunity to visit different interesting cities across Belgium during the weekends. Amongst the places they visited were Brugge, Gent and Namur. Equally fascinating were Liege, Antwerp and Amsterdam.

From this experience the students learnt that nothing beats discovering new places, new cultures, new points of view and new ways of looking at the world.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

DO YOU LOVE OTHERS? HOW?



Fr John Curmi

We all believe in love. We all speak of it and crave for it. We sing it and sing to it. At times we are desolate for not having it; at other times we celebrate it. Yet, may I ask, how genuine is it? Or how generous is it? You can check it by reading the following story:

The young fireman

In Phoenix, Arizona, a 26 year-old mother stared down at her 6 year-old son, who was dying of terminal leukaemia. Although her heart was filled with sadness, she also had a strong feeling of determination. Like any parent, she wanted her son to grow up and fulfil all his dreams. Now that was no longer possible. Unfortunately, the leukaemia would see to that. But she still wanted her son's dream to come true.

She took her son's hand and asked, "Billy, did you ever think about what you wanted to be once you grew up?" Billy immediately replied: "Mommy, I always wanted to be a fireman when I grow up."

Mom smiled back and said, "Let's see if we can make your wish come true."

Later that day she went to her local Fire Department in Phoenix, Arizona, where she met Fireman Bob, who had a heart as big as Phoenix.

She explained her son's final wish and asked if it might be possible to give her 6 year-old son a ride around the block on a fire engine.

Fireman Bob said, "Look, we can do better than that. If you'll have your son ready at seven o'clock Wednesday morning, we'll make him an Honorary Fireman for the whole day. He can come down to the fire station, eat with us, go out on all the fire calls,

the whole nine yards! And if you'll give us his sizes, we'll get a real fire uniform for him, with a real fire hat - not a toy - one with the emblem of the Phoenix Fire Department on it, a yellow slicker like we wear and rubber boots. They're all manufactured right here in Phoenix, so we can get them fast!"

Three days later Fireman Bob picked up Billy, dressed him in his uniform and escorted him from his hospital bed to the waiting hook and ladder truck. Billy got to sit on the back of the truck and help steer it back to the fire station. He was in heaven.

There were three fire calls in Phoenix that day and Billy got to go out on all three calls. He rode in the different fire engines, the paramedic's van, and even the fire chief's car. He was also video-taped for the local news programme.

Having his dream come true, with all the love and attention that was lavished upon him, so deeply touched Billy, that he lived three months longer than any doctor thought possible.

One night all of his vital signs began to drop dramatically and the head nurse, who believed in the hospice concept - that no one should die alone, began to call the family members to the hospital.

Then she remembered the day Billy had spent as a fireman, so she called the Fire Chief and asked if it would be possible to send a fireman in uniform to the hospital to be with Billy as he made his transition.

The chief replied, "We can do better than that. We'll be there in five minutes. Will you please do me a favour? When you hear the sirens screaming and see the lights flashing, will you announce over the PA system that there is not a fire? That it is the department coming to see one of its finest members one more time. And will you open the window to his room?"

About five minutes later a hook and ladder truck arrived at the hospital and extended its ladder up to Billy's third floor open window - 16 fire-fighters climbed up the ladder into Billy's room.

With his mother's permission, they hugged him and held him and told him how much they LOVED him.

With his dying breath, Billy looked up at the Fire Chief and said, "Chief, am I really a fireman now?"

"Billy, you are, and the Head Chief, Jesus, is holding your hand," the chief said.

With those words, Billy smiled and said, "I know, He's been holding my hand all day, and the angels have been singing..." And with that, he closed his eyes one last time.

SEEK HELP RIGHT FROM THE START

IN NEED OF HELP IN MATHS,
ENGLISH AND MALTESE UP
TO 'O' LEVEL STANDARD?

DON'T WORRY, WE CAN HELP YOU.

CALL MR DAVID MUSCAT, MCAST LEARNING SUPPORT UNIT CO-ORDINATOR ON
23987517/8 OR SEND AN EMAIL TO BASICSKILLS@MCAST.EDU.MT

FITTEX L-GHAJNUNA MILL-EWWEL

GĦANDEK BŻONN L-GHAJNUNA FIL-
MATEMATIKA, L-INGLIŻ U L-MALTI?

THABBILX RASEK. NISTGĦU NGHINUK.

ĊEMPEL LIS-SUR DAVID MUSCAT, KORDINATUR TAT-TAQSIMA GHAJNUNA FIT-TAGHLIM
TAL-MCAST FUO IN-NUMRU 23987517/8 JEW IBGHAT ITTRA ELETTRONIKA LIL
BASICSKILLS@MCAST.EDU.MT