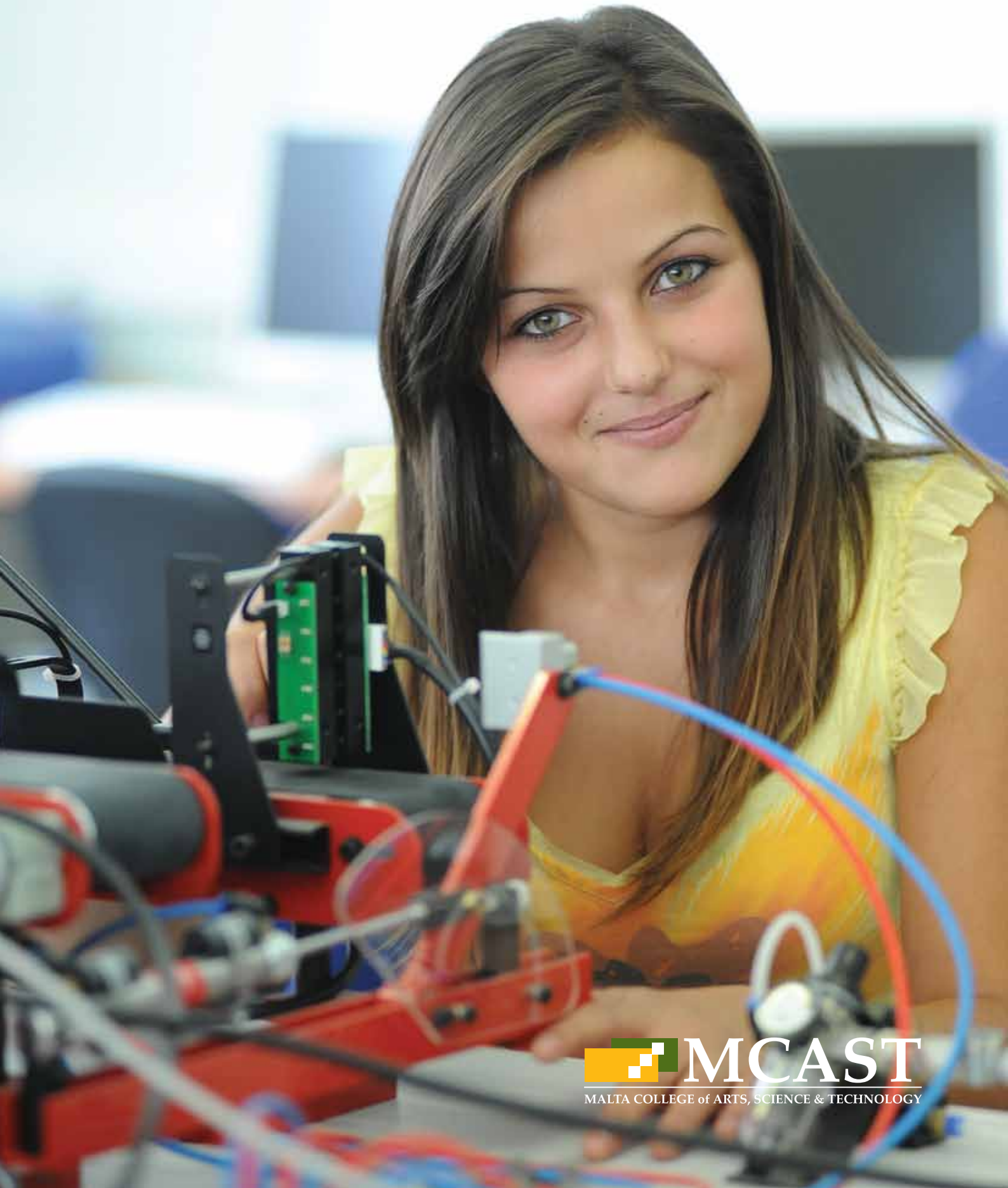


MCAST LINK

ISSUE 34 - AUTUMN 2010

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



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

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Charlene Schembri at the Institute of Mechanical Engineering

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Caroline Balzan
Communications
and PR Manager

Since its birth in 2010 the College has striven to provide students with a professional vocational and holistic education that prepares them for the challenges and demands of industry. Over the years results have been satisfyingly positive with a steady growth rate. This year the College once again registered a rise in new applications for its full-time courses, superseding the growth registered last year. The College also introduced a number of new courses at various levels including the new Level 1 Foundation Certificate Embedded Learning Programme, aimed at improving student retention, the new Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in Fine Arts and the Diploma in Green Energy Technologies amongst others.

This edition includes two articles about the successes of MCAST graduates. After successfully completing the MCAST Diploma in Applied Science, Roslyn DeBattista and Matthew Grima furthered their studies and read for a BSc. (Hons.) in Applied Science and Forensic Investigation at Teesside University. They have now enrolled for a Master's Degree in Forensic Studies. Three other graduates from the Institute of Information and Communication Technology, namely Mark A Borg, Charlotte Gatt and Clayton Saliba, are now working on a very high-profile project in the Netherlands. The College is extremely proud of these students and wishes them further success in their chosen careers.

The open weekends and end-of-year exhibitions held by various Institutes towards the end of the academic year are featured within this issue. Highly innovative, enterprising and creative projects and exhibits were displayed during these exhibitions, some of which are featured within this magazine. The Prime Minister, the Hon Dr Lawrence Gonzi, visited a couple of exhibitions and commented on the high quality of the projects exhibited.

I would like to inform all readers that, regrettably, Mr Paul A Attard no longer holds the position of President of the Board of Governors at MCAST. This is because the President of Malta appointed him Chairperson of the Public Service Commission. MCAST would like to congratulate Mr Attard and thank him for the years of sterling service to the College. Mr Attard was involved with MCAST since its inception and was the one who signed its Deed of Foundation at Castille while he was still Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education. He has been instrumental in shaping the College into what it is today.

I would also like to wish you all a thriving academic year based on hard work and successes. I encourage all readers to contribute to our magazine by emailing articles to caroline. balzan@mcast.edu.mt.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Balzan', with a long horizontal line underneath.

PRINCIPAL AND CEO MESSAGE



Professor Maurice Grech,
Principal and CEO

Dear students,

Welcome to MCAST, the College which embraces an ambitious agenda of excellence, innovation and expansion. Welcome to the College which has been instrumental in raising student achievement and increasing workforce skills to improve national competitiveness.

Once again, we have this year registered an overall increase in student applications across institutes. We are aware that this continued trust of yours places extra pressures on the College resources, not least its infrastructure. And yet, we are committed to deliver high quality teaching and learning in a welcoming environment in order to maintain and continue to build upon the reputation we enjoy.

We are determined, more than ever before, to continue enhancing the quality and service that we offer. As a centre of vocational excellence in all curriculum areas, we shall be targeting various key groups of learners. At the beginners' end of the scale, we are this year introducing a new Level 1 Foundation Introductory Certificate Course, with specially designed innovative teaching and learning methods. It is hoped that this new 'embedded teaching and learning' strategy, as it is often referred to, will gradually lead the drive for a systematic, relevant and attractive curriculum for 16-year old secondary school leavers, thus encouraging more young people to stay on, achieve and progress further. In this regard, we shall be striving for even higher retention rates and attainment by our learners, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

At the higher, more advanced levels of study, we shall again deliver the seven vocational degree courses, between BA (Hons) and BSc (Hons) programmes, which we offered successfully for the first time during the last academic year in four different institutes. In addition the Institute of Art and Design shall be delivering a brand new BA (Hons) in Fine Arts, again in conjunction with Fraunhofer of Germany and the institution's renowned partner universities.

As a result of the large public investment made in our activities and the services we offer, we are obliged to facilitate the expansion in learning and objectives inherent in the targets set by the government. Likewise, MCAST is also accountable to employers, partners and stakeholders alike and takes pride in fulfilling its major role in the economic and social development of the island.

As an example, I can perhaps mention our plans to introduce "green technician" courses for the so-called "green collar industries". These courses would lead to environmental engineering and environment technician jobs in connection with such aspects as renewable energy (solar, photo voltaic and other), green buildings (retrofitting), clean transportation (biomass and biofuels), water management (storm water management), waste management (progressive packaging), land management (organic agriculture, habitat conservation, soil stabilization). All of these are expected to be at the forefront of the new sustainable economy. These courses have been designed following consultation with the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry and all other stakeholders.

MCAST provides courses and services that meet the needs and preferences of the more mature and adult students. The College offers a wide variety of short courses and we are confident that there is something for everyone, whether you are keen to learn a new skill for personal satisfaction or to improve your job opportunities. Staff at the relative Institutes can guide you about the course most appropriate for your needs and possible career routes. We are also prepared to come and talk to you and your staff about our courses if you run a group or organization.

Needless to say, the success we are celebrating today, is also due to an enthusiastic and hardworking team of lecturers and the invaluable support which all College staff provide. In its eagerness to maintain a winning workforce, MCAST, as an educational institution, attaches a lot of importance to the benefits of continuous professional development (CPD) which it sees as a combination of approaches, ideas and techniques that helps each one of us to manage our own learning and growth.

Our focus should be on outcomes and results and with this aim in mind we shall continue to offer vocational teacher training for lecturers and a selection of Masters degree programmes for staff who may then be called upon to teach on the degree programmes in subsequent years. The College is also in a position to offer scholarships from time to time to strengthen those areas of study which warrant such support.

For those of you who are new to MCAST, making the move from school to College is a big step, but we shall offer you lots of support throughout your time with us. For students who were with us already during the last months, we look forward to working with you once again. On behalf of MCAST staff, I wish you every success in your studies this year.

INFORMATION

MCAST REGISTERS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN NEW APPLICATIONS

The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology has once again registered an overall increase in new applications for its full-time courses, superseding the growth registered last year.

As targeted, the Institute of Business and Commerce, which offers a variety of courses in Business and Finance, registered a significant rise in the number of applications. A similar growth pattern was experienced by the Institute of Community Services which delivers courses in Science, Social Care, Beauty, Sports and

Hairdressing. Other institutes that registered an increase in applications were the Institutes of Agribusiness, Art and Design, Maritime, Mechanical Engineering as well as the Gozo Centre.

Students who wish to receive more information on the training and learning opportunities available at MCAST are invited to contact the MCAST Career Guidance and Counselling Department for an appointment on telephone number 23987100.

NEW COURSES

Institute	Course Title	MQF Level
Agribusiness	MCAST Introductory Certificate in Animal Husbandry and Horticultural Skills	1
Art and Design	MCAST Introductory Certificate in Art and Design	1
Art and Design	MCAST Diploma in the Creative Arts	3
Art and Design	Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Fine Arts	6
Building and Construction Engineering	MCAST Introductory Certificate in Construction Engineering	1
Building and Construction Engineering	MCAST Advanced Diploma in Construction	4
Business and Commerce	Diploma in Insurance Studies	5
Community Services	MCAST Introductory Certificate in Care	1
Electrical and Electronics Engineering	MCAST Introductory Certificate in Electrical and Electronic Engineering	1
Electrical and Electronics Engineering	Diploma in Green Energy Technologies	4
Information and Communication Technology	MCAST Introductory Certificate in Computing	1
Mechanical Engineering	MCAST Introductory Certificate in Mechanical Engineering	1
Gozo Centre	MCAST Introductory Certificate in Construction Engineering	1
Gozo Centre	MCAST Foundation Certificate in Hairdressing	2



PROSPECTUS

2010/11

MCAST
MALTA COLLEGE of ARTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

LAUNCH OF NEW PROSPECTUS 2010-2011

On Wednesday 16 June 2010, MCAST launched its new Prospectus for the academic year 2010-2011. The Prospectus includes information on all the 140 full-time courses provided by the College including the Degree Programmes and new Level 1 Foundation Certificate Courses.

MCAST is striving to improve student achievement and retention, and promote learner progression to higher levels of learning. In view of this the College will be introducing a Level 1 Foundation Certificate embedded learning programme. Embedded learning combines the development of literacy, language and numeracy with vocational and other skills. The skills acquired provide learners with the confidence, competence and motivation necessary for them to succeed in the achievement of qualifications, in life and at work. Students who experience most of their literacy and numeracy skills as part of their vocational component are more likely to succeed than those who learn key skills detached from vocational modules.

These courses are specifically designed to provide for the needs of those willing to embark on a 'second-chance' education. Potential learners may be amongst those who, after completing five years of compulsory secondary schooling, obtained a school leaving certificate but no other formal qualifications.

Besides the Level 1 Foundation Certificates the College is also offering the following new courses: Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in

Fine Arts, MCAST Diploma in Creative Arts, MCAST Advanced Diploma in Construction and Diploma in Insurance Studies. MCAST Diploma in Construction, Diploma in Insurance Studies and Diploma in Green Energy Technologies amongst others.

The College is once again offering Higher National Diploma (HND) students the opportunity to pursue their studies and read for a degree within four institutes, namely, Art and Design, Business and Commerce, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, and Information and Communication Technology. As from September 2011 HND students following courses at the Institutes of Agribusiness, Building and Construction Engineering, Community Services and Mechanical Engineering, will also have the opportunity to further their studies to degree level.

Once again MCAST, invites adult learners to apply for courses under the Maturity Clause. This initiative targets primarily those who believe that the education system has somewhat failed them but who would be prepared to grab a new opportunity if offered the chance. The College is aware that a good number of mature learners may need further support to be able to benefit from these courses. MCAST will therefore sustain this initiative with the introduction of evening programmes specifically designed for those who will otherwise be excluded, those, that is, who will not be able to cope with or benefit from such courses unaided.

MCAST APPLIED SCIENCE GRADUATES READING FOR A MASTERS DEGREE IN FORENSIC STUDIES

Two MCAST graduates in Applied Science, Roslyn DeBattista and Matthew Grima, have successfully completed a BSc. (Hons.) in Applied Science and Forensic Investigation and will now further their studies and read for a Masters Degree in Forensic Studies.

Roslyn and Matthew followed the BTEC National Diploma in Applied Science (Laboratory and Industrial) at MCAST between 2004 and 2007. The MCAST Diploma in Applied Science covered principles in general lab practice and applications of the major sciences to different industrial practices. While studying at MCAST they also participated in an apprenticeship programme whereby they carried out several analysis on state-of-the-art equipment to support the conservation of artifacts that belonged to both national and private collections. Apart from the general lab duties they were also involved in several major research projects, including the EU funded PROMET project, which was targeted towards the protection of metal artifacts in the Mediterranean region.

After completing this Diploma at MCAST they embarked on a work placement at the Diagnostic Science Labs that formed part of the Malta Centre for Restoration, now Heritage Malta. Their interest in forensic science started off during this experience due to the similar analytical procedures carried out in both conservation and forensic science. Their enthusiasm and keen interest in the subject prompted them to further their studies beyond Diploma Level and apply for the BSc. (Hons.) in Applied Science and Forensic Investigation at Teesside University, one of the leading providers of forensic degree courses and police training in the United Kingdom. In October 2009 Teesside University was awarded the Times Higher Education University of the Year Award.

During this three year-long period of study they were extensively trained in the forensic analysis and reporting of various evidence types including fingerprints, footwear, fibres, glass, drugs, paint, DNA and body fluids, hair and gunshot residue. Furthermore, they also covered specialist areas such as forensic anthropology, forensic odontology, forensic medicine, toxicology, forensic fire and explosion investigation, crime scene investigation, intelligence gathering and expert witness training for court.

The team of forensic lecturers at Teesside University included former forensic scientists and crime scene examiners, some of whom are still involved in training and expert advice in their respective fields. This team passed on their experiences to their students emphasizing the importance of using key skills and tools in a professional manner so as not to jeopardize any investigation. If an evidence type is not properly recovered or analyzed it may be deemed inadmissible by a court of law. Subsequently a lot of responsibility comes into the sphere with impartiality and factuality being two key investigative ingredients, which start from the crime scene, through the forensic laboratory and ending in court.

Roslyn and Matthew both obtained a First Class Honours degree and are currently writing scientific papers for publication based on their respective research. They intend to further their studies and as from October 2010 they will be reading for a Masters Degree in forensic science.

Rosalie and Matthew pointed out that the initial backbone that served them to start their degree originated from their learning experience at MCAST. They stated, "without the dedicated staff at MCAST who taught and mentored us during the duration of our Diploma, as well as our former colleagues at the Diagnostic Science Labs who instilled confidence and professionalism in our work, we would not have been ready to take such an important step in our life. We wish MCAST all the success with its enlargement and introduction of higher education qualifications in order to continue providing the platform needed for students to continue furthering their studies."



Roslyn DeBattista and Matthew Grima with Prof Maurice Grech, MCAST Principal

ART AND DESIGN

MCAST INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN END-OF-YEAR EXHIBITION

The MCAST Institute of Art and Design held the ninth edition of the end-of-year Exhibition at St James Cavalier between the 8 and 25 of July 2010. The increase in the student cohort, coupled with the introduction of new courses at various levels, resulted in the largest exhibition held to date with a participation of not less than 125 students. The number of exhibits on display only represented a percentage of all the work that has been produced throughout the academic year.

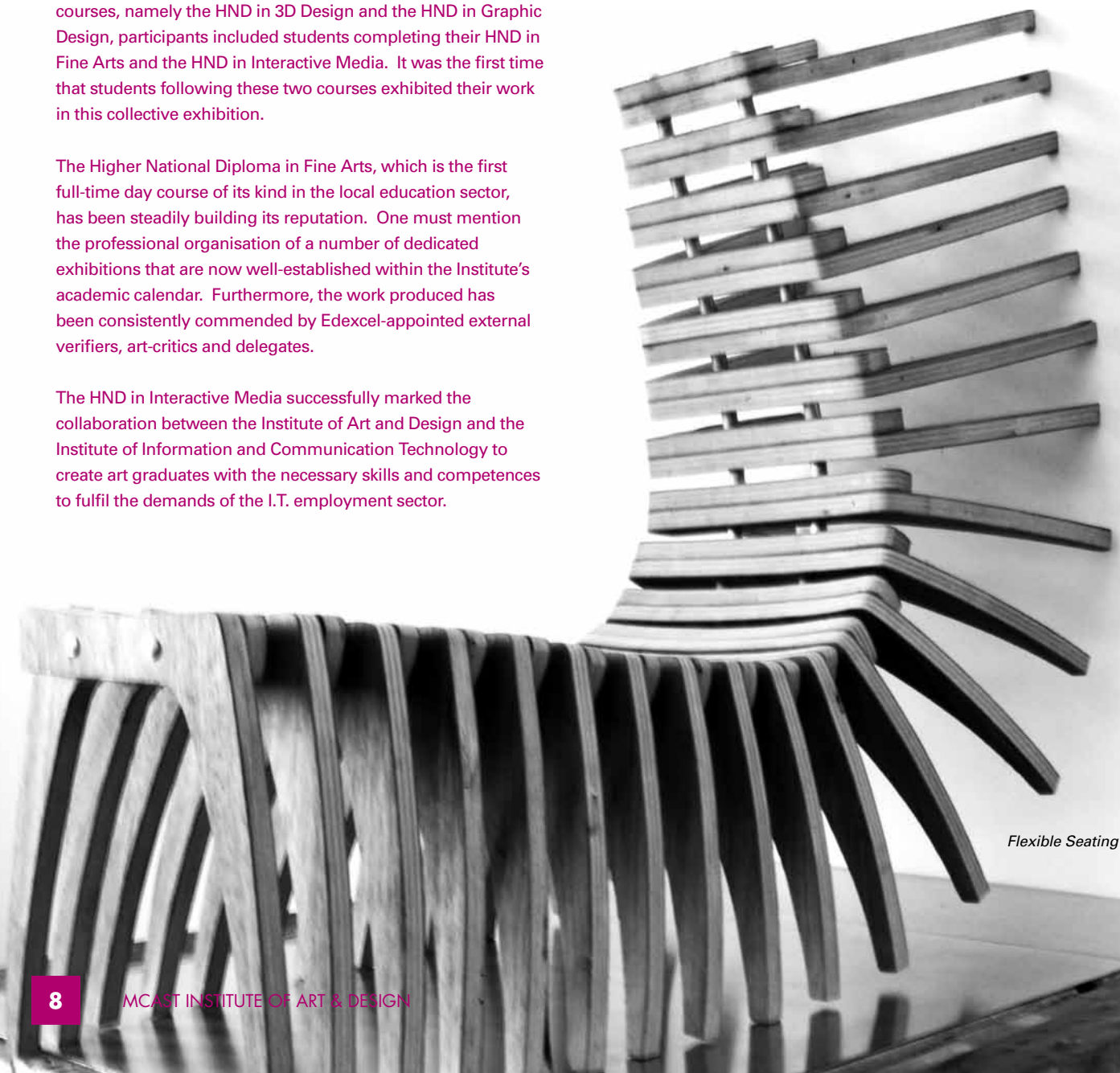
Students participating in this year's exhibition successfully completed courses at various levels, including MQF Level 3 (First Diploma in Art and Design) and Level 4 (National Diploma in Design Crafts and Foundation Diploma in Art and Design). Together with the established Level 5 Higher National Diploma courses, namely the HND in 3D Design and the HND in Graphic Design, participants included students completing their HND in Fine Arts and the HND in Interactive Media. It was the first time that students following these two courses exhibited their work in this collective exhibition.

The Higher National Diploma in Fine Arts, which is the first full-time day course of its kind in the local education sector, has been steadily building its reputation. One must mention the professional organisation of a number of dedicated exhibitions that are now well-established within the Institute's academic calendar. Furthermore, the work produced has been consistently commended by Edexcel-appointed external verifiers, art-critics and delegates.

The HND in Interactive Media successfully marked the collaboration between the Institute of Art and Design and the Institute of Information and Communication Technology to create art graduates with the necessary skills and competences to fulfil the demands of the I.T. employment sector.

This academic year has also seen the launch of two, MQF Level 6, top-up degrees namely BA Hons in 3D Design and Interiors, and BA Hons in Graphic Design and Interactive Media. The two vocational degrees have been set up and delivered by MCAST in collaboration with Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft of Germany. The project was part-financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) 1.36. The successful completion of the courses also marks the first-ever participation of degree graduates in the Institute's end-of-year exhibition.

This year the Institute of Art and Design has launched two new courses in Media at Levels 4 and 5. These courses will be supported by a substantial investment of 2.2 million Euro



Flexible Seating



through European funds, which will be used to set up TV studio facilities and editing suites. This will enable all the various specialisations taught at the Institute to delve into new areas of creative production and this bodes very well for the local creative economy as well as for eventual international synergies.

The discipline of Art and Design provides students, at all levels, with a range of skills that encourage a creative and a lateral approach to problem solving. Learners go through a series of processes that involve research, observation from primary and other sources, concept creation and development. Through their design process students engage themselves in experimentation and finding alternative solutions to a problem. The Institute of Art and Design strives towards preparing its students for the constantly changing market needs. The economy requires an employable workforce that is flexible and adaptable to these changes.

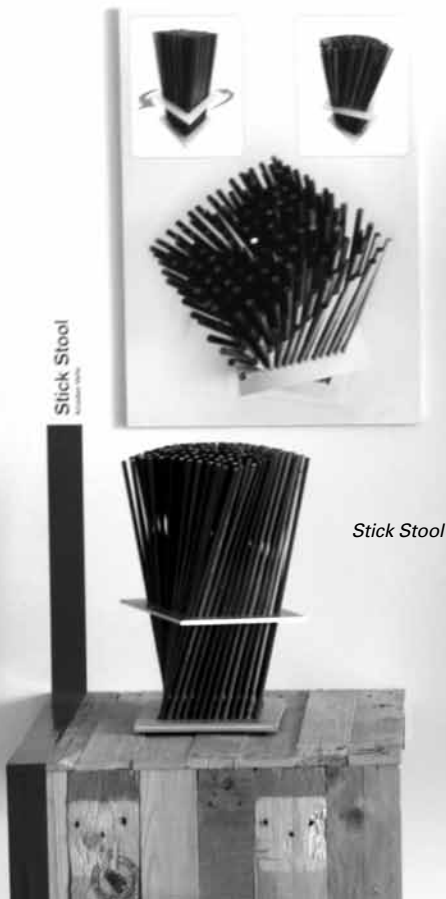
The Institute's administration firmly believes in exposing students to a multitude of experiences and opportunities within and outside the campus. Such events augment



entrepreneurial and organisational skills but also provide real-life working environments.

The Institute of Art and Design boasts of synergies established with the industrial sector and a number of local and foreign institutions. The building of networks and relationships with industry not only provides opportunities for students to work to realistic briefs, but also allows them to promote themselves and their work for better exposure and prospective employment.

For the first time, the Exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Lawrence Gonzi, who took the time to discuss the exhibits with their creators, and was evidently impressed by the level of creativity and innovation on display.



Stick Stool



Dress

FINE ART EXHIBITION - TEN

BY SINÉAD RICE

The Higher National Diploma (HND) students of the MCAST Institute of Art and Design held their first ever end of course exhibition entitled 'Ten' at the old power station on the Valletta Waterfront ("Il-Magazino") in June 2010. Renovating the building entirely themselves these ten young artists represented the first group to graduate locally in Fine Arts and their coming into the local art scene was as significant as the work they proposed.

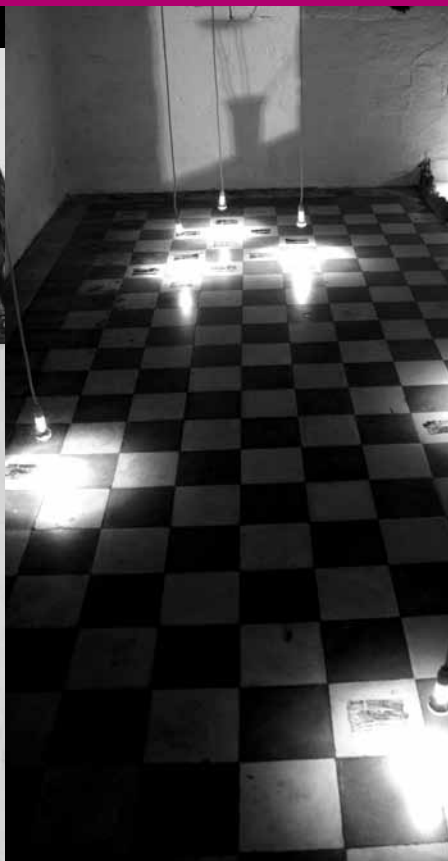
The work itself varied greatly in style, manner and media; however all reflected the radical, contemporary attitude of the artists, who were striving for a fresh creative dialogue amid the rich cultural background of their island home. The use of current and alternative elements such as digital media, film and light was counter-balanced and complimented by a sound understanding and technical mastery in more traditional skills such as painting and sculpture. Moreover as the students allowed the Magazino to inform and become part of the work itself, they creating a situation where not only their art, but also the environment was considered in a new aesthetic light.

Upon entering the exhibition one was met by Sarah Mamo's collograph prints expressively echoing the Maltese landscape and Jennings Falzon's goliath figurative sculptures constructed from reclaimed branches. Viewers had to negotiate their way through and around Daniella Camilleri's contemporary kinetic light installation and Sean Camilleri's 'road' of recycled metal

sculptured figures. Ryan Falzon's photomontages provided an astute visual social commentary on Maltese daily life while Micallef Eynaud presented a documentary style video installation concerning development and change on the island along with a series of mono prints, paintings and objects de Trouve. Jamie Farrugia's highly sensitive delicate line drawings depicting scenes of nature hung alongside Kirsten Fenech's abstract geometric collograph prints and fabric installation. Site Specific Installation was in fact a reoccurring theme throughout the exhibition as seen in Sabrina Calleja Jackson's precariously balanced chairs, Kamy Aquilina's vibrant city of illuminated hemispheres, Sarah Mamo's minimal light bulbs suspended over printed tiles and Jennings Falzon's vast 'soil-scape'.

The resulting exhibition, dynamic and intriguing, filled with exciting, thought provoking and sophisticated work, was a hugely deserved success. It was exceptionally well received by the general public, tourists and members of the artistic community alike and this praise was echoed in the press reviews by established art critics in all of the main National Newspapers.

All Ten of the students involved achieved very high standards in their end of course assessments and as a result all have progressed on to study for their the top up degree B.A (Hons) in Fine Art, the only full-time fully accredited course in practice based arts offered locally.



ART AND DESIGN STUDENT ENTRUSTED WITH THE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE 28TH ANNUAL CIRCOM CONFERENCE

The first year of the HND Media (Moving Image) has been, to say the least, filled with activities that went beyond the normal routine of a programme of study! Indeed, from the very beginning, students and lecturers committed themselves to producing a TV cultural programme called "Int Min Int?", to be broadcast on Education 22 channel. This production proved to be so successful that PBS showed interest in airing the programme on the local national network station every Sunday at 9am.

This first contact led to another collaborative project whereby PBS requested our students to work on the media coverage for the 28th Annual Circom Conference. Throughout this one-week long event the HND Media and Interactive Media students were entrusted with the filming, editing and putting up continuous online streaming of the goings-on of the conference in a documentary format. The documentaries had our students conduct research on the content delivered during the Circom workshops, which was then integrated within the productions for Circom's own PR publishing. This was a great opportunity for MediaCast to work closely with some of the most influential media broadcasting names, including BBC and RAI.

Needless to say, this was an invaluable experience for the students, who also benefited from a huge boost to their budding portfolio of production work. Additionally, in recognition for the show of impeccable professionalism displayed by all participating students, the conference organisers offered the Institute of Art and Design the opportunity to select two students to be sent to Nuremberg on a one-month, fully-paid training course in video journalism. Thus Florentina Tanti and Darryl Schembri were chosen for what will surely be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, which will undoubtedly maximise and extend the learning experience commenced during the Circom Conference.

"All this is perfectly in line with the prime intention and goals of vocational education," said Mr Stephen Vella, Director of the Institute of Art and Design. "Every opportunity to work within the realm of the industries for which the students are preparing themselves must be grasped and handed over to them. We consider this open strategy to be essential not only for the students' personal and professional development, but also as a network-building exercise, which benefits all stakeholders, including the Institute of Art and Design, and more broadly, MCAST and even the national economy."



LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

The Community Art project is becoming yet another yearly event on the calendar of the Institute of Art and Design. Forming part of the National Diploma in Design Crafts, the primary aim of the Community Art unit is often the improvement of an environment to enhance the quality of life there.

This year, arrangements were made for 45 students in their second year of studies in the National Diploma in Design Crafts to work in the St Paul's Primary School, which forms part of the College of St Mary. Students had to work towards the production of murals which celebrate diversity and equality as part of the multi-cultural environment inhabited by school children, and the theme "Life is Beautiful" was very apt in this respect.

The two experienced lecturers at the helm of the project, Mr Alfred Camilleri and Ms Ruth Ancilleri, provided students with the necessary guidance not only in terms of artwork and idea development, but also in the organisational planning and decisions with regards to the purpose and use of materials within the selected environment, before the production of the final works. As part of their preparatory work, students had to carry out a survey of the school environment in terms of its character and the social behaviour of the children, which proved to be a learning experience in itself.

At the end of it all, saying that the school environment was embellished through the works produced would be an understatement. Indeed, the school Head mistress, Ms Deguara was ecstatic and the staff and school children were awed by the array of colours and variety of characters, animals, toys, rainbows and flowers, all witness to the beauty of life! To show their heart-felt appreciation, the staff of St Paul's Primary School, with the contribution of their children, organised a splendid thanks giving event for the students-artists who created the murals and the lecturers who guided them.

Ms Deguara and her staff went through the trouble of setting up a presentation of the works against the backdrop of the soundtrack of the film "La Vita e' Bella", and the boys' band of St Mary's College delighted all present with a brass ensemble. The Art and Design students were presented with gift tokens and a certificate of appreciation. The whole event centred around "precious value of appreciation", as appropriately described by Mr Alfred Camilleri in his speech. "This experience had multi-faceted positive outcomes," said Mr Stephen Vella, Director of the Institute of Art and Design. "St Paul's Primary School and its current and future children are the beneficiaries of the final outcome of this project, but the MCAST Art and Design students themselves had the opportunity to work on a socially responsible, real-life project."



SME WEEK

On the 25 May 2010, the Institute of Art and Design was host to this year's launch of the SME Week, which is an event conceived to provide information on the support offered by local and European governments to small and medium-sized businesses. This is especially relevant to students who aim to work in the creative industries but often find themselves at a loss when it comes to starting their own business.

Commenting on the selection of venue for the launch of the SME Week, Mr Stephen Vella, Director of the Institute, said: "The Institute of Art and Design is a most appropriate choice for an event which targets entrepreneurs and promoting entrepreneurship among young people. Students following one of the various programmes offered at our Institute generally have a highly creative disposition, and are often more inclined towards the idea of setting up shop, rather than necessarily finding employment."

The workshop/seminar included the SME Week Information Mobile Unit, which had representatives from relevant government departments, authorities and agencies dishing out advice to the more entrepreneurial students. A number of talks were held with the students and staff, including some interesting insights by ex-Art and Design students, who have demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit. Much emphasis was put on the need for persistence, hard work, broad networks and passion for successful entrepreneurship. Additionally, interesting discussions were also held with the Hon. Minister Tonio Fenech and Mr Alan Camilleri, CEO of Malta Enterprise, who enlightened the students with regards to the economical and support factors in relation to SMEs, while Mr Godwin Warr focused on the importance of intellectual property particularly in the creative industries.



STUDENTS FROM SAN MIGUEL RESOURCE CENTRE VISIT THE INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN

During the past academic year five young students from San Miguel Resource Centre had the opportunity to experience two multi-sensory clay sessions at the Institute of Art and Design.

These five students, who have profound, multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) were welcomed with open arms. They were surrounded by lecturing staff and students who have sound ethical values and who were very hospitable and appreciative of diversity.

This experience proved to be a unique and excellent educational opportunity, both for the PMLD students as well as for the learners at the Institute of Art and Design. In fact, the latter were highly respectful and caring, and provided the PMLD students with all the necessary individual support, enabling them to actively participate in both of the multi-sensory clay sessions. Thanks to this one-to-one support these students with PMLD were able to engage in exploration of clay and they also had the opportunity to engage in meaningful social interactions.

Thanks to these wonderful partnerships they were able to create striking works of art.

INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

ANNUAL SOIRÉE

On the 2 July 2010, the Institute of Community Services organised the annual Student and Staff Soirée. This Soirée aims to promote the artistic talent of students following all courses at the Institute of Community Services. Both students and staff organised fashion and hair shows, danced to their own choreographies and also created sketches. Students also exhibited projects related to Applied Science.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of certificates and awards to over a 100 students. These certificates and awards are given by the lecturers and aim to reward skills which are not normally assessed through course work but are important in ensuring a successful career. The students

received the following awards: Participation and Commitment throughout the Course, Participation during Institute Activities, Best Personal Presentation, Social Awareness and Respect, Effort and Perseverance, Leadership and Best Overall Student.

Mr. Paul Attard, ex-President of the MCAST Board of Governors, and Prof. Maurice Grech, MCAST Principal and CEO, presented the certificates and awards to the students. The overall co-ordination of the Soire was in the hands of Ms. Simone Restall, Mr. Anton Calleja and Ms. Therese Camilleri. Mr. Chris Busuttli, Mr. Malcolm Micallef and Mr. Jason Aquilina were responsible for the backstage.



Hairdressing students performing their dance



National Diploma in Care students carrying out the 'News Clip'

Information and Communication Technology

ESF PROJECT ENHANCES MCAST'S ICT TRAINING CAPACITY

The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) has successfully launched and is currently implementing European Social Fund Project 1.33 - 'Increasing ICT Student Capacity in Malta'. This project, aimed at delivering ICT training programmes, will provide an opportunity for capacity building that will ensure a skilled and trained workforce within the ICT sector.

The training programmes are directly linked to the emerging, immediate and future needs of the information and communication technology labour market in Malta in view of the continuous development that took place within the last couple of years. The objectives of the project are to: attract and retain persons interested in pursuing a career in the ICT sector; provide appropriate training leading to quality vocational education and certification thus increasing the prospects of obtaining a better job at the end of the programme; and provide a progression route for persons already

involved in the ICT sector. Persons already working within the relevant industry now have the opportunity to participate in life-long education and training.

Through this project MCAST is in a position to accept more students wishing to further their studies within the Information and Communication Technology sector. Provision of the right quality and level of ICT skills are an imperative element supporting the ongoing growth of this industry. The increased investment of human capital and capacity building through better education and training will ensure that this expanding sector will find the qualified and skilled personnel required.

Three full-time courses, namely the MCAST Foundation Certificate in Computing, the MCAST/BTEC First Diploma for IT Practitioners and the MCAST/BTEC National Diploma in Computing, are funded through this ESF project. EU funded training will continue to be delivered over the next two academic years, that is 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.



INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS AND COMMERCE HOSTS LEADING EUROPEAN EXPERT IN LEADERSHIP AND EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

The concept of Emotional Intelligence is fast gaining its merited acknowledgement at all levels within any organization which aims at enhancing its operational success as well as nurturing and bettering its human resources – a valuable asset in an economy such as ours. To this effect, it is only natural for the Institute of Business and Commerce to give due importance to the value of soft skills especially in preparing its students in taking up an effective role within the economy. Besides the soft skills and related training offered to its full-time students as part of their programme of studies, the Institute has had the opportunity to host one of the leading international key experts in the area of Leadership and Emotional Intelligence. Thanks to the very positive working relationship the Institute has fostered with the Institute of Leadership and Management (UK) over the past year, during the first week of June, the Institute had the opportunity to welcome David Pardey for a three-day visit to Malta.

David Pardey is a Senior Manager, Research and Policy at the Institute of Leadership and Management, the UK's premier leadership and management development organisation. David started his career in the marketing industry and subsequently taught economics and marketing for several years. In the late 1980s he became involved in leadership and management development, and for several years ran his own training and research consultancy, and has written widely on the topic, including Team Leading, Introducing Leadership and (with Jan Childs) Mindchange: The power of emotionally intelligent leadership.

In 2008 David was asked to develop ILM's research programme. The ILM is the UK's premier professional institute for leaders and managers at all levels of organisations, in the public, private and third (not for profit) sectors. It offers a wide range of qualifications for current and aspiring managers, and provides membership services to encourage continuing professional development. In the last eight years, over 600,000 people have registered for an ILM programme through one of over 2,500 centres worldwide, including here in Malta at the Institute of Business and Commerce.

ILM's research programme draws on the best academic research but is focused squarely on the practical issues facing

leaders and managers today. ILM's membership services offer access to some of the latest thinking about leadership and management, including the AQR Integrated Leadership Model and Mental Toughness diagnostic tools, and the Management Mentor series from Harvard Business School.

The first public event addressed by David Pardey during his three-day visit, was a Half Day Seminar for Senior HR Managers and Organisation Executives at The Palace Hotel in Sliema.

During the Seminar, Pardey introduced the latest thinking from the Institute of Leadership and Management about effective leadership and its development, with a particular focus on the role that emotional intelligence plays in leadership performance and in learning and development. The event was fast-paced and very active, covering a number of significant issues relevant to those responsible for ensuring that their organisations are being led effectively.

The Seminar explored the relationship between 'leadership' and 'management', the most effective strategies for developing both leadership and management performance, and for evaluating its effectiveness. It also reviewed the nature and role of emotions, their impact on our relationships with others, our rational analysis, our decision-making and our behaviour, and the interaction of emotions with personality, learning, and organisational and social context. Ultimately, the Seminar offered an opportunity, to all those who attended, to reflect on their own emotional awareness and the way that emotions shape their own and others' behaviour, as well as ponder on techniques for managing their emotional states and recognising others' ('emotional intelligence').

Leadership and management development and the challenge of learning transfer, was also on the agenda. How does knowing about management get translated into effective performance (doing)? The nature of emotions and their role in leadership and management performance – the importance of emotional intelligence was constantly hinted at, as were methods of how personality and experience affect our emotional intelligence. The motivation underlying the Seminar, all boiled down to offering tangible reflections on how to learn to be more emotionally intelligent.

Right on the heels of a very inspirational and positive Half Day Seminar, David Pardey led a Thematic Seminar on the same subject, this time addressing members of academic staff at MCAST. Here again the event unfolded in a very interesting and informative session. David designed his exposition on the matter, addressed to academic staff involved in leadership and management training. He also explored the increasing understanding of how the brain works and how this can enable us to appreciate the impact that emotions have on behaviour. Student personality, as well as previous learning and experience, have a role to play on our own and others' emotional reactions. Such emotions tend to shape our ability to learn, as well as our interactions with others and our ability to apply rational analysis and decision-making techniques.

An informal Seminar followed in the evening, wherein David Pardey had the opportunity to discuss Effective Leadership with representatives of a few Non Governmental Organisations who met to share experiences and have the opportunity to bounce ideas with this international expert.

David Pardey also facilitated the afternoon session of the Management Studies Thematic Conference sponsored by Banif Bank and which was attended by over 180 students at the New Dolmen Hotel. The session was a very colourful and dynamic one which kept students constantly looking forward to the next team exercise through which the concept of effective leadership

and emotional intelligence was enforced all throughout the two-hour session. Students who participated in this event were evidently pleased with the experience they had the opportunity to live through. They were thrilled at the fact that they had the opportunity to be so close to and interact closely with one of the international key experts in leadership management.

Throughout all these events, David Pardey's delivery was clearly targeted at offering an interactive mode, giving participants a chance to explore some of the ideas which were discussed and reflect on their relevance to them and their organisations.

The outcome of David Pardey's visit is still tangibly felt through the positive reflective comments relayed by all those who had the opportunity to attend and participate during one of the events which were ably facilitated by David. Various Human Resources Managers and organisations' Executives who participated during the events, openly share the fact that various aspects emanating from David's presentations have set the ball rolling for new procedures and related actions to start taking shape within the organizations they hail from.

All this makes of David Pardey's three-day visit, a living experience which has left a positive imprint on many – both personally in as far as their own emotional intelligence formation is concerned, as well as on the vision steered towards by various organizations.



David Pardey

THEMATIC CONFERENCES AN EXPERIENCE WORTH PARTICIPATING IN

Thematic Conferences have been an integral part of the Institute's calendar of events ever since its inception within MCAST. The main aim underlying such conferences is to have students experience the feel and the benefits which may be reaped from formal one-day conferences as a means of enhancing their knowledge content. Moreover, during such conferences students would have the positive opportunity to meet key players in their area of studies, making the best of the opportunities which arise from being so close to those who will potentially be their employers and with whom their chosen career can be shaped out.

Three thematic conferences were held close to the end of the academic year 2009 / 10. All were held at the New Dolmen Resort Hotel in Qawra.

The Financial Services Annual Thematic Conference, sponsored by Banif Bank Ltd, started off with a presentation by Mr Charles Mizzi, Head of Unit, Strategy and Image at Banif Bank (Malta) Ltd tackling the theme of "Launching a Marketing Campaign within the Financial Services Industry". Mr Karol Gabarretta, Director, Banking Supervision Unit, Malta Financial Services Authority, followed on with a presentation about "The New Regulatory Landscape: de Larosiere and Beyond".

Mr Stephen Borg, Senior Manager Research at the Bank of Valletta (Wealth Management Unit) dealt with "Analysis of Financial Performance", whilst Mr Reuben M Buttigieg, Managing Director of Erremme Business Advisers, attracted the attention of all the students who attended the Conference by delving into the upcoming concept of Islamic Finance.

The importance of Credit Management for Business was tackled by Mr Mark Curmi, Relationship Manager at HSBC Bank (Malta) plc. The Conference drew to a close with a very interesting and attention grabbing presentation by Mr Christian Farrugia, Sales Manager at Valletta Fund Management, who dealt with the theme "Financial Crisis... is Greece pushing it further within the Euro-Zone?" – a very down to earth approach and explanation of an otherwise very complicated matter entangled with considerable complications.

Jessica Grima and Leanne Guillaumier, both first year students following the Diploma in Banking and Financial Services, facilitated the Conference proceedings.

The Accountancy Studies Annual Thematic Conference was sponsored by Richard Clarke Academy. The key note presentation was in fact delivered by Richard Clarke himself, Founder and CEO of The Richard Clarke Academy, who focused on the various dimensions and aspects of IFRSs – a key instrument to all Accountants and Accounting Technicians.

Mr Mario Farrugia, Partner within Mahoney & Co., moved on to delivering a presentation about "Audit Procedure and Evidence... the Group Companies Dimension."

Mrs Geraldine Schembri, Managing Director at EMCS International, tackled VAT Amendments, 2010, whilst Mr Edwin Ward, Executive Director of Peak Ogilvy & Mather rolled out a presentation about Corporate Governance.

Ms Maria Micallef, Partner within RSM Malta, unwrapped the afternoon session with a presentation themed "Debt and Equity Financing – what is so attractive about local debt financing?" In conclusion, Ms Pamela Mamo, Human Capital Assistant Manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers, focused on characteristics and aspects which are of particular importance for an effective career within Accountancy.

Jessica Baldacchino and Cressida Darmanin, both first year students following the Diploma in Accounting, facilitated the Conference proceedings.

The Management Studies Annual Thematic Conference was again sponsored by Banif Bank (Malta) Ltd. An event filled with key players within the industry, the first presentation was delivered by Dott. Tonio Portuguese, Company Director and Director of HR and External Relations at STMICROELECTRONICS, who presented an overview of his latest book "People Engagement for Business Excellence and Social Well-Being". Mr Joe Tanti, Chief Executive Officer at Malta Business Bureau, focused on the international business dimension through a presentation themed "Connecting Maltese Business to Europe".

Given the importance of Corporate Governance in Management, Mr Edwin Ward, on behalf of the Institute of Directors (Malta), tackled the subject from a tangible approach, grabbing the attention of those present.

"People Make the Difference at Farsons" was the theme of a presentation by Ms Antoinette Caruana, Group Human Resources Manager at Farsons Group.

The afternoon session was all taken up by a dynamic and colourful David Pardey, Senior Manager, Research and Policy at the Institute of Leadership and Management (UK), who dwelt on "Emotional Intelligence... completing the picture".

Charlene Zahra, a Certificate in Administrative and Secretarial Studies first year student, facilitated the Conference proceedings.



WORK PLACEMENT

One of the vocational highlights of the academic year at the Institute of Business and Commerce, focuses on a five-week work placement experience wherein students have the opportunity to gain work observation experience within areas related to their studies.

MARÉE CAMILLERI

CERTIFICATE IN ADMINISTRATIVE AND SECRETARIAL STUDIES *ONE OF THE NINE STUDENTS PLACED AT VODAFONE MALTA*

I believe that to have a successful career, it is important that you take any opportunity you can to increase your awareness about the world of work and your place in it. Thanks to the Institute of Business and Commerce, the Certificate in Administrative and Secretarial Studies offered me the opportunity to work within an organisation for five weeks.

I was assigned to work within the Human Resources Department at the Vodafone Malta Ltd a mobile telecommunication network company, which is celebrating its 20 years of operations in Malta this year. I had the opportunity to work with reward and payroll specialists, learning and development professionals, and HR Business Partners.

My work involved a vast range of duties; therefore, I gained valuable on-the-job training and inside knowledge of working in a Human Resources Department.

GABRIELLA CAPPITTA

HUMAN RESOURCES EXECUTIVE AT VODAFONE MALTA

The Summer Work Placement initiative by the Institute of Business and Commerce is an excellent opportunity for students to obtain business acumen, skills and experience in the workplace before they leave College. It is an excellent opportunity for students to gain practical knowledge and experience of what it is like to be part of the workforce, preparing them for what to expect in a full-time job.

In June 2010, close to five hundred students were out on a work placement. These were welcome at more than two hundred organizations, who generously gave a positive experience to our students.

The Student Summer Work Placement for nine students at Vodafone Malta took place between 21 June and 23 July 2010. The selected students for this year are following different courses including the Diploma in Accounting, the Certificate in Administrative and Secretarial Studies and the Certificate in Marketing Studies. All students were assigned to different departments within the organisation.

During the course of their work placement they proved to be self-motivated, team players, organised, efficient and reliable and the hosting departments were saddened when the work placement was nearing its end!

Work placement is an ideal stepping stone for students with benefits both for them and the employer; and Vodafone, has in the past, offered full-time employment to previous participants. Consequently, should the opportunity present itself in the coming years, Vodafone will be more than willing to participate in such an exercise.

It is evident that most students who participate in work placements have a more successful transition from College to full-time employment.



Ms Gabriella Cappitta together with the nine MCAST trainees

MATTHEW MARK AGIUS

**HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS
ONE OF THREE STUDENTS PLACED AT
THE WESTIN DRAGONARA RESORT**

At the end of the first year of my studies I had the opportunity to complete a work placement at the Westin Dragonara Resort. It was a very enlightening experience. I learnt various aspects regarding the Events, Sales and Reservations Departments. I also learnt that teamwork at the Westin Dragonara Resort is regarded highly as everyone works to help each other for the good of the hotel. I was in the midst of people who were very willing to help me in order to gain as much experience as possible during this placement.

I am sure that the experience gained whilst at the Westin Dragonara Resort will serve to help me in future employment.

LIAM CARUANA

**EVENTS COORDINATOR AT THE WESTIN
DRAGONARA RESORT**

One of Matthew's virtues is his passion towards anything he does. Whenever he came with me for site inspections he watched attentively and always asked questions afterwards, which showed how interested he is in learning new things. Every task that he was given was done with attention to detail and definitely up to our 5 star standards. He is a team player and thus I am very positive that Matthew will succeed in life.

KATYA ABELA

DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTING AT VF GROUP

This year I was given the opportunity to carry out a five-week traineeship experience with VF Group which is located in Floriana.

They were five weeks during which I learned how to use accounting software such as the Ex-chequer accounts. Every day, I carried out new things based on what I learned during the academic year such as petty cash, daily sales, bank statement reconciliation and others.

I will never forget my experience with VF Group. I would like to thank everyone who made this experience possible.



Katya and Noemi Ann together with the VF Group

SELENE VASSALLO

**FIRST DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS AT
ACROSSLIMITS LTD**

After finishing my BTEC First Diploma in Business at MCAST, I was assigned by the College to a five-week work experience with an organisation named AcrossLimits Ltd. During my work experience I carried out different tasks. I also worked together with another employee who works for AcrossLimits Ltd on a project entitled EuropeanaLocal. This is a digitised library where I was asked to provide information and find materials such as audio, articles, pictures, etc about Malta together with the help of all Local Councils around Malta and Gozo. I inserted all of the items in a database with a short description of each. Through this work experience I learned several tasks of an administrative role and how such an SME, with a limited number of workers, works on such important projects such as the EuropeanaLocal.

ANGELE GIULIANO

DIRECTOR AT ACROSSLIMITS LTD

During her five-week placement, Selene showed diligence in the various tasks assigned to her. Furthermore she managed to integrate well with her colleagues. Moreover, she showed capabilities to work productively in a team. Selene proved to be a capable and accountable young woman. She is prompt to take on any task passed on to her, with sensible reactions in all the circumstances I have seen her in. I feel confident in saying that she is capable of handling any situation with thoughtfulness and maturity.

VISIT TO PROGRESS PRESS BY MARKETING STUDENTS

Written by Rodianne Baldacchino and Gabriella Galea

Towards the end of the first year of studies, students following the Certificate in Marketing had the opportunity to visit the Progress Press in Valletta.

The group was welcome and hosted by Mr Camilleri, Printing Director at Progress Press. Although the organization is in the process of moving to a new larger building at Mrieħel, we were quite surprised at the smooth transition taking place.

Mr Camilleri led the group to his office, where he gave us a good explanation of the printing process at the Progress Press. He also gave us some IT-related tips that we shall eventually find useful once we shall be in employment.

We proceeded to the Pre-Press department. We were shown what happens at this first stage of the printing process. We moved on and saw the actual printing taking place. Mr Camilleri explained to us that when the plate is chemically treated, the image that is to receive the ink is left on the surface. The image area accepts the printing ink while the surrounding area repels the ink because it is dampened. The image is transferred to the sheet by pressing the sheet of paper against the ink. We saw the concept of colour printing. It is interesting to know that all colour printing occurs through the use of four colours - Cyan, Yellow, Magenta and Black (CMYK). In fact, colour printing is also known as CMYK printing.

Mr Camilleri then led us to the Binding Department where

we could observe how the binding of publications, such as magazines, takes place. He explained that binding can take two forms, either the stapling technique or else the gluing technique. We moved on and saw the trimming machine, where each job is trimmed so that it becomes the actual size as specified by the client.

This visit was very useful since we were able to relate the theory that we have covered in class to what happens in reality. We have to admit that printing is a very difficult skill that requires a lot of planning and technical knowhow. We would like to thank Progress Press who were so kind as to welcome us to their printing facility, especially Mr Camilleri.

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VISIT TO THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICES LTD NEWSROOM AND STUDIOS

Written by Angele Agius, Lorna
Cassar and David Micallef

Second year students following the Certificate in Marketing Studies, had the opportunity to visit the premises of the Public Broadcasting Services (PBS) Ltd at G'Mangia.

During the visit the students were given information on the operations of the company, including the production, editing, broadcasting and monitoring of local TV programmes and commercials.

The students were taken on a tour of the premises. They visited the studio, where the actual sets of the programmes 'Meander' and 'Dissett' were set up. These local TV programmes are produced and broadcasted from the premises of PBS. Various equipment and technological systems are used to create special effects and enhance the overall presentation of the programme. The students were given a detailed explanation of how studios are set up for the filming of programmes and commercials.

The tour also led the students to the main audio and visual control room of PBS Ltd. The technicians working in this room during broadcasting monitor and adjust the studio equipment according to the director's requirements.

Another interesting area was the editing room. The editor's role is to edit images, sounds and action sequences of programmes and advertisements before they are broadcast. The editor needs to be patient and creative to carry out the time-consuming editing process, as well as have excellent knowledge in operating highly technological computer systems which allow the editing to be professionally completed. The Marketing students had the opportunity to

follow the editing of a local programme which was taking place at the time of the visit.

The group was given an explanation about the procedure used and the equipment involved in the transmission of live outsourced programmes. Outsourced programmes are filmed in studios outside the premises of PBS. At the same time, controlling and scheduling of other programmes are monitored by using a specialised system that allows them all to be transmitted according to a specific schedule.

The TVM news control room features professional technical equipment which is used to edit captions whilst the journalist is reading out the news live. The news studio is situated just next to the control room and is the only studio where the set is never altered, as news is reported on a regular basis.

In the news room, which is the office of the PBS journalists, research is conducted, and relevant information is obtained through international news as well as external leads and sources. This provides journalists with immediate updates and feedback on daily reporting. At this stage, journalists write news scripts about their findings, which are later reported in the broadcasting of news.

This was definitely a very interesting experience for the group of Marketing students, who yet again – this time thanks to PBS Ltd Management – had the opportunity to relate the theory they encounter during their studies, to the actual real life working situation.

HAMSA U GHOXRIN SENATA' SERVIZZ... B'IMPENN UMLI U B'HAFNA MHABBA !



Miktuba minn COMUNIO

Kull meta nisimgħu b'xi koppja li tiċċelebra għeluq il-hamsa u għoxrin anniversarju miż-żwieġ tagħhom, ninnutaw kif, b'mod jew b'iehor, din il-familja partikolari tiċċelebra dak l-avveniment li mhux ikkunsidrat bħala wiehed ta' kuljum.

U mhux b'inqas il-komunita' fl-MCAST. Fis-6 ta' Lulju 2010, ma' nżul ix-xemx fil-pjazza sabiħa tar-Rabat, grupp ta' zghazagh attivi f'Comunio u f'Comunio Plus, flimkien ma' għadd ġmielu ta' għalliema u impjegati oħra mill-Istitut għan-Negozju u l-Kummerċ kif ukoll l-MCAST, ingabru flimkien sabiex bħala familja jiċċelebraw l-anniversarju saċerdotali ta' ragħaj spiritwali li tant jistinka u jaħdem bla heda u fis-skiet fil-Kulleġġ. Qed nirreferu għal Fr John, li huwa l-Kappillan tal-MCAST u li bosta jafuh sew fil-hidma u l-għajjnuna kontinwa li huwa jagħti, lil hinn mill-folla, fis-satra umli.

Intgħażlet il-kappella ta' fuq il-Grotta ta' San Pawl għal diversi raġunijiet, fosthom għall-ambjent miġbur u familjari. Pero' l-għażla tal-post kellha wkoll sinifikat. Intgħażel post li ftit tal-ġimgħat qabel, laqa' lill-Papa Benedittu fil-qofol tas-Sena dedikata lis-Saċerdot. Mhux biss! Intgħażel dan l-imkien sagru bħala post marbut bis-shiħ ma' anniversarju ieħor importanti li qed niċċelebraw tul din is-sena.... l-elf disa' mija u hamsin sena mill-miġja ta' San Pawl f'pajjiżna, fejn wasslilna l-fidi li aħna lkoll inħaddnu, u li għal dawn l-aħħar hamsa u għoxrin sena, Fr John ilu jaħdem u jistinka sabiex jindokra fost dawk kollha li ħadem magħhom bħala saċerdot.

Kienet attivita' sorpriża! U l-element ta' sorpriża kien evidenti ferm fuq wiċċ u f'għemil Fr John sa ftit tal-hin mhux hażin tul iċ-Ċelebrazzjoni. Kif huwa magħruf sew fil-Kulleġġ, Fr John mhux it-tip li jiċċelebra u jdoq it-trombi. L-umilta' tiegħu hija ingredjent ewlieni li tiġbidna lejn il-personalita' stupenda li għandu dan is-saċerdot tant għażiż u ħawtiel. Kulhadd jieħu gost jieqaf jitkellem ma' Fr John, mogħni b'ħafna esperjenzi ta' hidma pastorali sew f'pajjiżna kif ukoll fl-artijiet tal-missjoni.

Comunio ħass li minbarra li hija ħaġa f'waqtha li wiehed jiċċelebra avveniment hekk sabiħ u specjali bħalma huwa l-25 anniversarju mill-ordinazzjoni saċerdotali ta' Fr John, kien ukoll dmir li flimkien ma' dawk li laqgħu l-istedina silenzjuża għal din l-attivita' sorpriża, tkun iċċelebrata l-Ewkaristija bħala Radd ta' Ĥajr lil Alla għar-rigal sabiħ li ta lill-MCAST u lilna lkoll, fil-persuna ta' Fr John li din is-sena qed ifakkar il-Hamsa u Għoxrin Sena mill-Ordinazzjoni Presbiterali tiegħu.

Kienet ċelebrazzjoni tal-Ewkaristija li tulha spikkat l-enerġija spiritwali li Fr John għad għandu wara hamsa u għoxrin sena ta' servizz fl-għalqa tal-Mulej. F'din l-okkażjoni, b'differenza

mis-soltu, l-omelija saret minn żewġ membri fi hdan Comunio, li f'isem shabhom siltu ftit ħsibijiet dwar is-saċerdot. Għal din l-okkażjoni, Fr John (bla ma kien jistenna) žanżan tliet rigali li huma marbuta sew mal-hidma saċerdotali tiegħu: Alba, Pjaneta u sett komplut tal-Kalċi. Dan tal-aħħar Fr John kellu jfittex ftit mhux hażin għalih, ġewwa bixkilla mimlija ħobż u għeneb, ferm sinonimi mal-Kalċi li nawguraw li Fr John jgħożż b'tifkira tagħna lkoll fl-MCAST, għal bosta snin oħra.

U dan kollu seħħ lil hinn minn dak li fil-fatt kien qed jistenna Fr John, li sal-mument li fih dahal fil-Kappella biswit il-Grotta ta' San Pawl, kien għadu ma setax jifhem eżattament x'kien hemm imħejji għalih f'ambjent festiv ta' ċelebrazzjoni familjari.

Kien jixraq ferm li t-tema magħzula għal din il-lejla ċelebrattiva kienet "Hamsa u Għoxrin Sena ta' Servizz... b'impenn umli u b'ħafna mhabba !"

Dan huwa Fr John... mhux biss hawn fl-MCAST imma kull fejn ta s-servizz tiegħu u kull fejn għadu qed iwettaq il-hidma bla heda tiegħu.



Fr John Curmi

ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING

INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING PROJECTS EXHIBITION

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering held the tenth edition of its annual Projects Exhibition between Friday 2 July and Monday 5 July 2010 at the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry. This year, for the first time, projects by students that successfully completed Degree programmes in Electronics Engineering and Electronics and Control Engineering were exhibited.

There were 100 projects on display ranging from Technician Diploma level to Degree level. Some of the areas covered included Robotics, Automation and Control, Home and Industrial Automation, Automotive and Power Electronics.

The Projects Exhibition was an opportunity for industry to view students' work, levels of achievement as well as to discuss and exploit new ideas with the students. It was also an excellent

opportunity for prospective students interested in joining the Institute to obtain further information on the Institute and the courses on offer.

The Institute presently offers two degree programmes, at MOF Level 6, namely Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Electronics Engineering and Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Electronics and Control Engineering. These have been designed and delivered in collaboration with Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft of Germany in conjunction with various leading Universities. It is of extreme satisfaction for the Institute to remark about the positive comments received from the foreign tutors on the quality and motivation of the students. This year the Institute will be introducing new courses in Communications and Green Engineering and also engineering courses related to the marine and yachting sector.



Kai Busuttill – Receiving the Award for Excellence in Project Development from Prof Maurice Grech, Principal/CEO



Clint Schembri – Receiving the Best Industrial Application Award



Luke Agius – Receiving the Best Project for Creativity and Design Award



Mario Cassar – Receiving the Best Project for Originality in Implementation Award



Clint Schembri - Pick and Place Packaging Machine



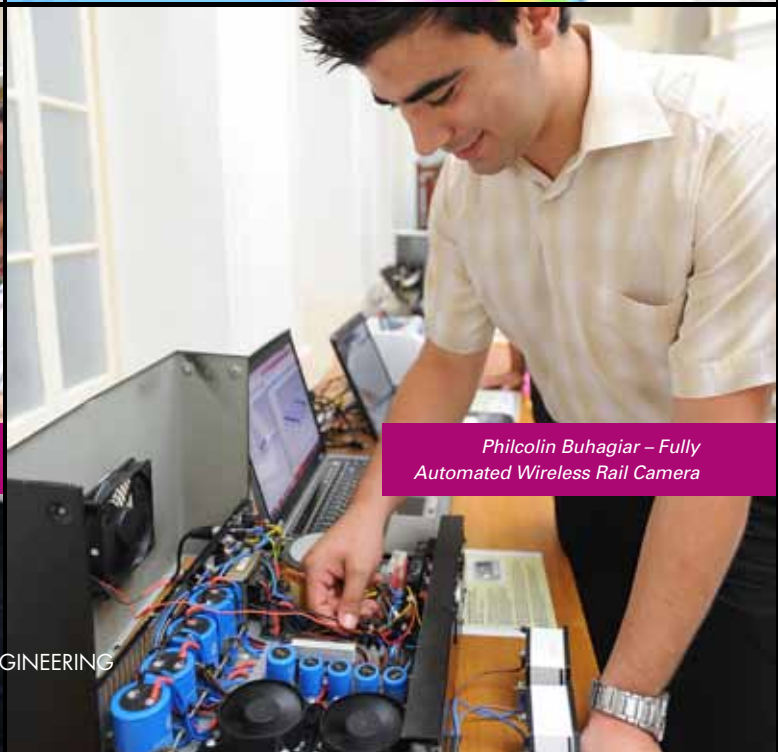
Peter Bugeja - Aquarium Automated System



Sascha Fenech - Boat Berthing without Anchoring



Domenic Abela and Stephanie Micallef - Pick and Place Robotic Arm



Philcolin Buhagiar - Fully Automated Wireless Rail Camera



Patrick Muscat – Robotic Arm Sprayer



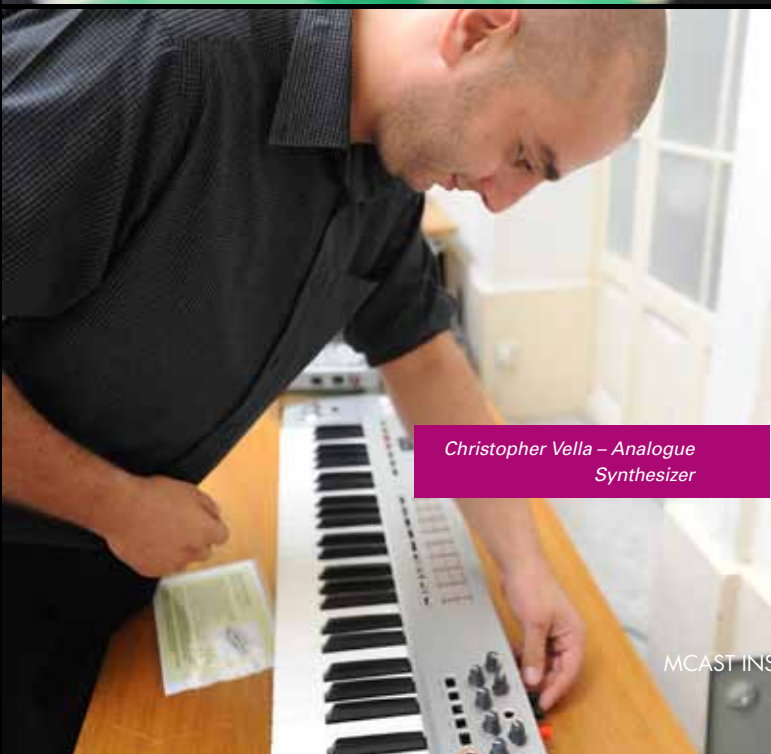
Johan Gatt – Home Control System Via Radio Remote Control



Michael Abdilla – Intelligent Traffic Lights



James Farrugia – PET Fill Bottle Inspector



Christopher Vella – Analogue Synthesizer



Domenic Abela – Pick and Place Robotic Arm

INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

MCAST GRADUATES WORKING ON HIGH-PROFILE PROJECTS AT CRIMSONWING

Crimsonwing has over the years employed several MCAST students. Three graduates from the Institute of Information and Communication Technology are currently working on a very high-profile project in the Netherlands. The graduates, Mark A Borg, Charlotte Gatt and Clayton Saliba, are sub-contracted to the world's leading provider of portable navigation solutions and digital maps.

Before embarking on this opportunity all three of them worked on projects based upon Intershop's Enfinity Suite technology. This Java-based product is used for the creation of large eCommerce websites. Some graduates proved themselves as an integral part of the team creating the website for the UK's largest office supplies company. This project provided an online shop window not only for the client, but also for the dealers retailing their products. Similar projects have been conducted for a global business process outsourcing company based in the UK, and the largest book retailer in the Netherlands.

Crimsonwing has recently adopted Magento, the world's fastest growing eCommerce platform. An MCAST graduate formed part of the original team investigating the fitness of the product and another graduate was a valuable member of the team delivering the first Magento-based web shop for the UK's leading supplier for industrial flooring and building maintenance.

Other projects involving MCAST alumni were:

- A project for the UK based leader in enhancing safety of

life and property. Their staff will all be using the Time and Expenses system on a global scale.

- A project based around a critical system through which ships around the world are able to keep their maintenance up to standard and keep the umbrella company updated at the same time.
- A project for one of the largest independent companies trading commodities with offices in 44 different countries. The Crimsonwing team is now even considered an extension of the client's own IT team.
- Bespoke projects: usually entail the customisation of ERP systems based on Microsoft's Dynamics™ platform, implemented for e.g. a UK-based group specialising in passenger transport, travel and logistics; a British IT services company; a Welsh jewellery company; and the world's largest listed retail property group operating shopping centres around the globe.

For all of these projects, graduates have acquired new technologies and methodologies in order to be productive members of the respective teams. Not all the projects have been for foreign customers. One graduate, who worked on some high-profile projects before, is now engaged on a new project to synthesise Maltese speech, which is a great challenge and is funded by the EU. And not to forget, the MCAST part-time courses website itself was developed by Crimsonwing as well and it only made sense that alumni have handled support and maintenance tasks required for the site.



Higher National Diploma Students. From Left: Mark A Borg, Charlotte Gatt and Clayton Saliba.

INSTITUTE OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE INSTITUTE OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND MCST

The Institute of Building and Construction Engineering is currently involved in a collaborative effort with MCST with the objective of promoting science and technology to our young learners and the public at large. MCST is organizing a Science and Technology Fair in the final week of October 2010 which will be held at the University of Malta.

The Institute will be setting up a stand in the science and technology fair, focusing on Applied Science in Buildings. To this end, students currently following Higher National Diplomas in Construction and Civil Engineering will be explaining scientific concepts in relation to buildings and their services through documentation, demonstration and an audio-visual product.

Students from the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering will also be developing a DVD which will be shown during the fair to explain further the nature of applied science in buildings. In addition, visitors will have

the opportunity to use a thermal infra-red camera during the fair. The camera allows users to accurately determine heat loss and infiltration parameters in buildings. This will enable learners to make a direct link between application and theory and hopefully engage them to pursue studies related to sciences and building construction.

Furthermore, results on thermal transfer tests carried out at the Institute over the last two academic years will be shown. Building materials, such as limestone, bricks and aerated concrete, were tested under simulated conditions as part of an educational programme titled 'Prima-Klima' which was successfully concluded in June 2010. The learning group is also currently involved in another project titled 'Building Efficiently in Europe' together with other European vocational partners. The Science and Technology Fair will therefore also serve to disseminate work produced by the learners themselves.

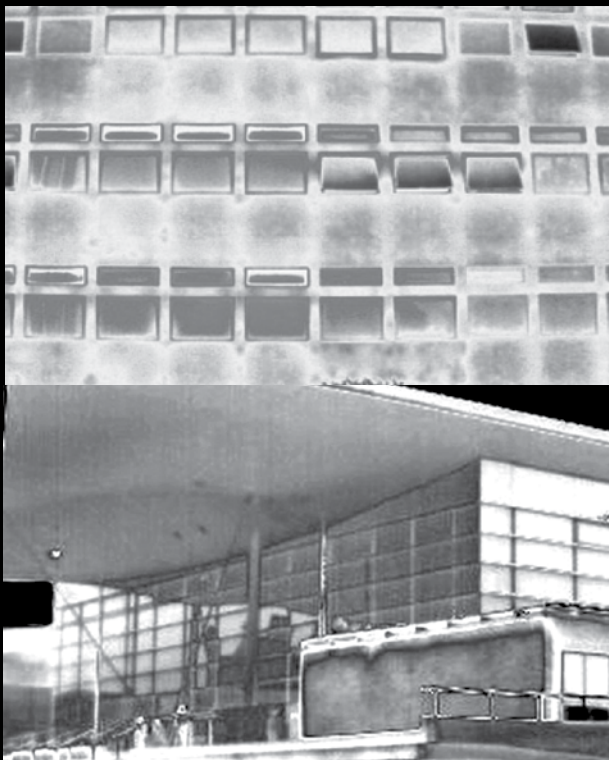


Figure 1: Typical thermal infra-red images (Can you identify where the heat losses are greatest?)

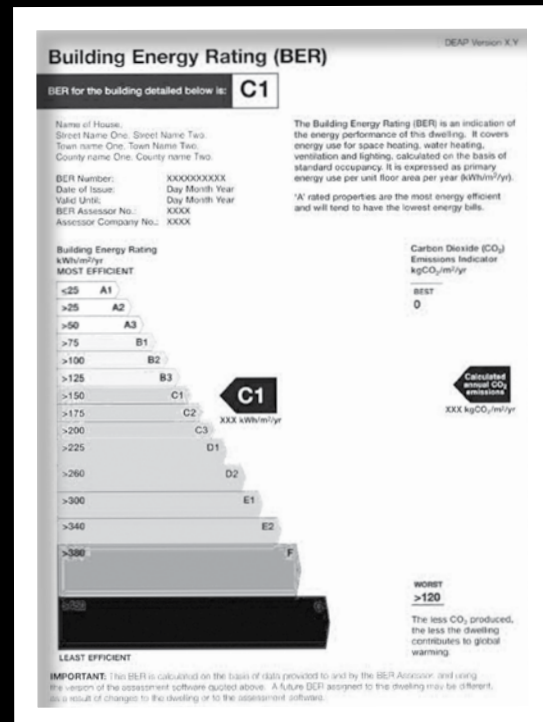


Figure 2: An energy certificate illustrating energy performance and carbon dioxide emissions for a building

CLIMATE RESPONSIVE BUILDING DESIGN

By Martin Borg, Institute Co-ordinator



Buildings account for approximately 40% of the total energy consumption within EU member countries. Due to expected population growth, this share is expected to increase further unless sustainable measures are put into practice across the building and construction sector. The latest EU directive (2010/31/EU) issued in

May 2010, highlights the fact that reduction of energy consumption and utilization of renewable resources for energy generation in buildings are necessary measures in reducing the energy dependency and carbon emissions.

Sustainable development within the building sector relies on the concept of energy hierarchy as illustrated in Figure 1 below. Renewable energy generation is an important aspect in this hierarchy, however the fundamental pillar is that of utilizing less energy.

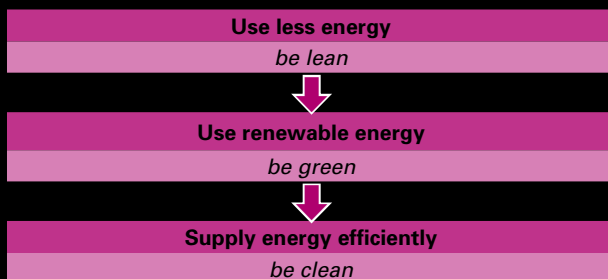


Figure 1: Energy hierarchy (Source: Integrating Energy in New Developments)

Energy efficient building design, especially for domestic buildings, is characterized by variability. For instance occupancy patterns lead to variations in space cooling/heating loads in the same building. In addition, such patterns vary significantly from one building to another. Such variations lead to differences in energy demand required for acceptable room temperatures, lighting provision, adequate fresh air and water heating.

In this context, flexibility and adaptability are important design considerations. The local climate and environment play a central role in the consideration of design principles, such as:

- Siting
- Site layout
- Building form
- Internal planning
- Thermal properties of building fabric
- Glazing and window design

- Ventilation
- Space conditioning
- Integration of renewable resources within the building fabric.

Climatic conditions and site location have a major impact on the design and thermal performance of a building, and should be considered at the initial stage of the design. Malta's climate may be defined as typically Mediterranean, having hot, dry summers and mild, moist winters. The mean air temperature ranges between 7°C and 33°C (Busuttill et al, 2008). Climatic design information for Malta is presented in Table 1.

Geographical location	35.85 N (Latitude) 14.48 E (Longitude)
The air temperature is colder than 6.8°C in only 35 hours per year	
The mean speed and prevailing wind direction at a temperature of 6.8°C is 2.6m/s and 270° respectively	
The air temperature of 33.2°C is exceeded in only 35 hours per year	
The mean speed and prevailing wind direction at a temperature of 33.2°C is 4.1m/s and 310° respectively	
The average daily temperature swing in the hottest month of the year is 8°C	

Table 1: Air temperature and wind design conditions – synoptic data (Source: Ashrae Fundamentals Handbook, 2009)

The solar radiation graph is presented in Figure 2, showing a minimum solar radiation value of 2kWh/m² per day, highest value of 8kWh/m² daily and the average daily solar radiation is 5kWh/m².

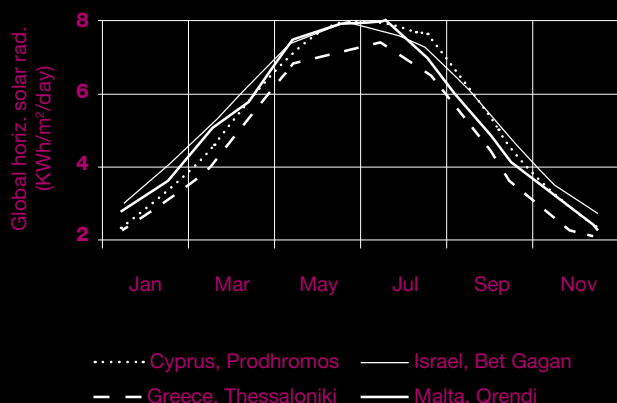


Figure 2: Global horizontal solar radiation for Mediterranean sites (Borg et al, 2005)

Figure 3 shows the sun path diagrams for a number of days for Malta. Such diagrams enable careful consideration of the sun's elevation and position at different times during the day.

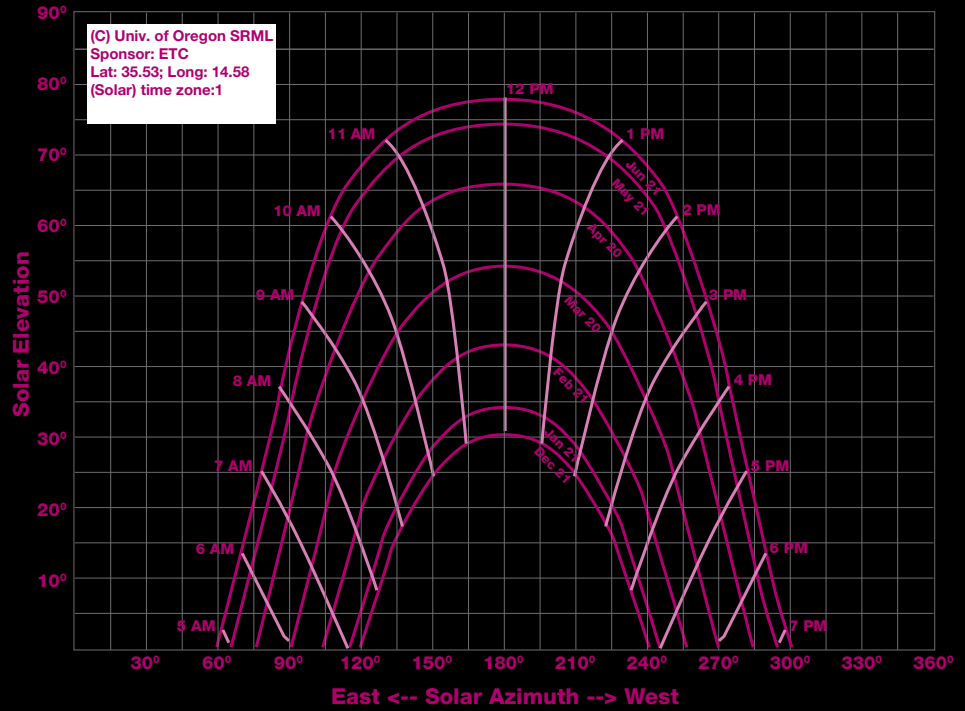


Figure 3: Sun path diagrams for Malta (Source: <http://solardat.uoregon.edu>)

Busuttill et al. (2008) suggest that the average wind speed is 4.46m/s and the prevailing wind direction is from the north-west.

The amount of vapour in the air, compared to the amount of vapour the air can hold at a particular temperature (relative humidity), varies appreciably during the year, is consistently high, and rarely falls below 40%.

Figure 4 below presents the monthly average climatic data since 1985, for mean air temperature, relative humidity, and hours of daily sunshine.

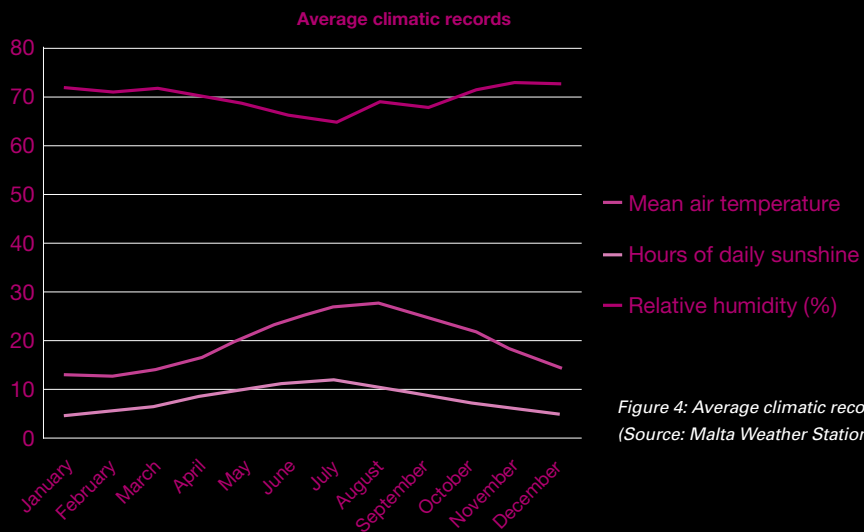


Figure 4: Average climatic records since 1985 (Source: Malta Weather Station, 2010)

A number of advantages and key challenges for low energy design are summarized in table 2.

Positives	Challenges
Energy savings	Costs
Environmental effect	Marketability
Reduced energy dependency	Lack of incentive
Thermal comfort	Lack of design information
Visual comfort	
Potential for innovative design	

Table 2: Arguments for low energy design (Source: Solar Energy and Housing Design)

With reference to new buildings, the EU directive clearly stipulates that all new buildings by December 2020 should be nearly zero-energy buildings. Studies and various building developments have shown that this target may be achieved. Respecting the energy hierarchy, through climate responsive design, is both necessary and achievable.

MARITIME INSTITUTE

Presentation on AMVER by United States Coast Guard

On the 26 May 2010, the MCAST Maritime Institute organized an evening presentation on AMVER (Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System) for its Officers and Officer Cadets who are also members of the Nautical Institute (Malta Branch). Other members of the Nautical Institute (Malta Branch) and the International Propeller Club – Port of Valletta were also invited to this event, which was held at Villa Portelli in Kalkara. The presentation was delivered by Cdr Sean Schenk, previously the United States Coast Guard Attaché at the Embassy of the United States of America in Malta.

Cdr Schenk gave a very interesting presentation and discussed how the AMVER System works and how it has helped to save lives at sea. He mentioned that the

participation in AMVER is done purely on a voluntary basis and is specifically targeted at facilitating Search and Rescue missions in collaboration with Maritime Rescue Coordination centres worldwide. After the presentation, the audience participated in a discussion with Commander Schenk who gave further details of how ships can participate in this scheme and even distributed AMVER souvenirs to those present at the discussion. Cdr Schenk also presented Capt. R. Lanfranco, Chairman of the Nautical Institute (Malta Branch) and Director of the MCAST Maritime Institute, with a framed Blue AMVER pennant from the United States Coast Guard AMVER Office in the United States as a sign of gratitude for organising the presentation and for working to promote AMVER in Malta and on Maltese Flagged Vessels

Cdr Sean Schenk (Centre) with Capt R. Lanfranco and some of the participants attending the AMVER Presentation.





MCAST Maritime Institute Officers, Officer Cadets and lecturers, being shown around on the AFM Diciotti Class Patrol Vessel, P61.

VISIT TO AFM MARITIME SQUADRON BY MARITIME INSTITUTE OFFICERS AND OFFICER CADETS

On the 12 May 2010, Officers and Officer Cadets attending full-time courses at the Maritime Institute were given the opportunity to visit the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) Maritime Squadron at their Naval Base at Hay Wharf, Floriana. The visit was organised through the Nautical Institute (Malta Branch) for its members. Presentations were delivered by a number of Commissioned Officers of the Armed Forces of Malta on subjects such as the role, function and organization of the AFM Maritime Squadron, and its role in Maritime Law Enforcement, Marine Safety and Search and Rescue. Following a coffee break, students were given a tour of the facilities on the Base and were

then taken on board various vessels of the Squadron where they were given information on the instrumentation, weapon systems and general role of the ships in what are today fulfilling more of a Coast Guard role, rather than one of national defence. It should also be noted that Malta is one of those EU Countries currently actively participating in Counter-Piracy Operations in the Gulf of Aden as part of the European Union Naval Force - Somalia, where it recently also contributed AFM personnel for boarding operations during Operation Atlanta as well as having others assigned to the team at Northwood Headquarters in the UK.

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	MV Conti Shanghai	24th February 2010
Alexia Fenech	MV Eurocargo Genova	2nd August 2010
James Sammut	MV Grande Mediterraneo	7th August 2010
Fabrice Bonello Dupuis	MSC Alexandra	15th February 2010
Benjamin Borg	MV Conti Singa	27th March 2010
Christian Coleiro	MT Salina Bay	1st July 2010
Luke Fenech	MT Paradise Bay	1st April 2010
Gordon Lungaro	MT Paradise Bay	18th June 2010
Kenneth Ciantar	MV Eurocargo Valencia	12th May 2010
Max Galea	MV SCI New Delhi	25th May 2010
Szabolcs Pocza	MV Conti Sharjah	20th June 2010
Tim Fenech	(With AML) Vessel confirmed	22nd August 2010
Stephanie Bugeja	(With AML) Vessel confirmed	15th September 2010
Patrick Darmanin	MV Eurocargo Salerno	3rd August 2010
Lyden Zerafa	MV Eurocargo Istanbul	5th August 2010
Karl Cutajar	Virtu Ferries Ltd	26th June 2010
Anthony Agius	(With AML) Vessel confirmed	15th September 2010

INTERNATIONAL CODE OF SIGNALS

Local Regulations

Alfa  I have a diver down. Keep well clear at slow speed.	Juliett  I am on fire and have dangerous cargo on board, keep well clear of me.	Sierra  My engines are going astern.
Bravo  I am taking in, or discharging, or carrying dangerous goods.	Kilo  I wish to communicate with you.	Tango  Keep clear of me. I am engaged in pair trawling.
Charlie  Yes (Affirmative or the signification of the previous group should be read in the affirmative)	Lima  You should stop your vessel instantly.	Uniform  You are running into danger.
Delta  Keep clear of me, I am manoeuvring with difficulty.	Mike  My vessel is stopped and making no way through the water.	Victor  I require assistance.
Echo  I am altering my course to starboard.	November  No, negative (Negative or the signification of the previous group should be read in the negative).	Whiskey  I require Medical Assistance.
Foxtrot  I am disabled. Communicate with me.	Oscar  Man overboard.	Xray  Stop carrying out your intentions and watch for my signals.
Golf  I require a pilot. (When made by a fishing vessel operating in close proximity on the fishing grounds it means I am hauling nets).	Papa  <i>In harbour.</i> All persons should report on board as the vessel is to proceed to sea. <i>At Sea.</i> It may be used by fishing vessels to mean "My nets have come fast upon an obstruction"	Yankoo  I am dragging my anchor
Hotel  I have a pilot on board.	Quebec  My vessel is 'healthy' and I request free pratique.	Zulu  I require a tug. When made by fishing vessels operating in close proximity on the fishing grounds it means 'I am shooting nets'
India  I am altering my course to port.	Romeo  Has no meaning on its own.	

INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

ANGELO BORG WINS THE 8TH EDITION OF THE YOUNG MUSICIANS CONTEST



Angelo Borg

Saxophonist Angelo Borg, lecturer at the Institute of Mechanical Engineering, won this year's edition of the Young Musicians Contest organised by the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.

The finals were held at the Casino Maltese where 12 young musicians competed in the contest restricted to string, woodwind and brass instruments.

The competitors were divided into 2 categories: the promising category for musicians under 7 years of age and the category for mature musicians under 30 years of age.

Angelo Borg (saxophone alto) won the mature category, with Reno Cassar (trumpet) and Marita Cassar (clarinet) placing second and third respectively.

All the awards included cash prizes were sponsored by the Malta Council for Culture and Arts. Angelo Borg also won a fortnight scholarship at the London College of Music at Thames University sponsored by the London College of



Angelo Borg receiving the Award

Music TVU and the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.

Angelo Borg started his musical education 13 years ago with Mro Joseph Tonna and continued studying with Mro Archibald Mizzi and Mro Ivan Borg. He also attended the Johan Strauss School of Music under the tuition of Mro Joseph Vella. He is a member of the National Youth Orchestra and plays soloist with several bands in Malta.

In 2008 Angelo graduated with ALCM in Saxophone Performance from the London College of Music and in 2009 he also obtained the LLCM in Saxophone Performance from the London College of Music. In 2009 he attended master classes at the National Conservatory of the Region of Poitiers in France.

Jessica De Battista, vice president of the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce presented the prizes to the winners.

AGRIBUSINESS INSTITUTE

SUCCESSFUL OPEN WEEKEND

Between Friday 28 and Sunday 30 May 2010 the College organized an Open Weekend at the Institute of Agribusiness, Qormi. The aim of this Open Weekend was to provide prospective students and their parents with a clear idea of the various learning and training opportunities and resources available at the Institute of Agribusiness.

Visitors had the opportunity to learn more about the multi-functional role of agriculture through the variety of planned activities. These comprise apiculture, environmental management sessions, a fancy poultry and rabbit show, guided tours to the animal husbandry units

and cultivated fields, a display of hydroponics as well as a variety of horticulture activities including floriculture, crop and herb production.

Pet owners were encouraged to bring their pets over to the Institute for free grooming.

Several products grown at the Institute were on sale during the Open Weekend. These included honey, marmalade and jams, carob syrup, traditional Maltese herbs, fresh vegetables, black Maltese chicks, live rabbits, gerbils and dwarf rabbits.



Prime Minister at the Exhibition



Prime Minister and Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs at the Open Weekend



Pet Handling



Animal Grooming



Honey Making

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES OFFICE

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO BENEFICIARIES OF EU-FUNDED PROGRAMMES

The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) presented certificates to 166 beneficiaries of EU-funded programmes on Wednesday 16 June 2010 at the new MCAST Theatre, Paola.

MCAST has been a major beneficiary of EU funding under various educational programmes such as Leonardo Da Vinci, Erasmus, Comenius, Grundtvig and Youth in Action. Throughout the 2009-10 academic year, MCAST benefitted from nearly 265,000 Euros, which marks a sharp increase when compared to the previous academic year.

Between June 2008 and May 2009 105 students and members of staff benefitted from mobility programmes. The College is proud to note that the number of beneficiaries has increased to 166, an increase of 58% over the same period the previous year.

The Award Ceremony included testimonials by students and members of staff that participated in an exchange programme between June 2009 and May 2010. The main aim of these testimonials was to evaluate and disseminate the benefits of EU-funded mobilities and also to encourage future applicants.

This event also exhibited thematic partnership projects, a major source of funding for MCAST within the last few

years. The College was awarded funding for five new biennial partnership projects with a total sum of 109,000 Euros and a minimum number of 101 mobilities. Two key projects, namely Prima Klima Box Project and Creative Exchange Programme, were exhibited during the Awarding Ceremony. The Prima Klima Box Project, coordinated by the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering, researched methods of improving the energy efficiency of buildings, while the project entitled Creative Exchange Programme, coordinated by the Institute of Art and Design, focused on the organisation of an intercultural fashion show.

MCAST also awarded certificates to beneficiaries of informal learning mobilities including participants in youth exchanges funded through the Youth in Action Programme. It also presented certificates to forty ICT students that followed a short visit to European Institutions in Brussels funded through the Opinion Multiplier Scheme.



Receiving the Certificates

Beneficiaries - Marthese Vassallo and Elaine Fenech



ART AND DESIGN STUDENTS ON A STUDY MOBILITY IN THE UK

The last academic year marked an exciting episode in the studies of Désirée Azzopardi and Jessica Zammit Stevens. The two had the opportunity to participate in a study mobility in York, UK.

Hailing from the Institute of Art and Design, Targa Gap, the two found themselves attending a 4,500 square metre York St John University (which is in fact considered to be a small University).

Thanks to the brilliant organisation and management of Mr. Bjorn Azzopardi, International Office Coordinator, Désirée and Jessica settled down very quickly in a quaint and well-equipped student accommodation close to the University. On arrival, they were warmly welcomed by the university staff, and along with a group of approximately 50 other international students were greeted and shown round the University and all its facilities.

The learning experience proved to be a different one to that usually earned in Malta, yet equally beneficial. This was mainly due to the fact that since one was exposed to foreign

teaching methods, a shift in understanding how others tackled the subject broadened one's mentality, as the same subject was viewed from a different angle to that which one is accustomed to.

Life in the medieval village of York proved to be a highly beneficial one in educational, cultural, and social terms. Sports, dance classes and extra-curricular activities were also included in their programme of studies. With an extensive range of weekly sport societies and classes to choose from, a balance between study and leisure was soon found. Adapting from sunny Malta to snowy, rainy York proved to be an exciting challenge for the two. The laundry, the cooking, and the cleaning all became part of the experience, and with no family member to happily attend to them, all three chores had to be dealt with on a daily or weekly basis. However, amongst all differences met, it was specifically these changes from life in Malta which made the whole experience so beneficial and worthwhile.

It is definitely one of the most exciting part of student life, and most certainly an opportunity highly recommended to all.



Jessica and Désirée outside York St John University



Désirée together with some fellow students

EUROPEAN CNC NETWORK TRAIN FOR EUROPE WINS CHARLEMAGNE YOUTH PRIZE 2010

European CNC Network – Train for Europe, a Comenius project in which MCAST worked closely with twenty four vocational colleges, won first prize at the Charlemagne Youth Prize 2010 Award event on 11 May 2010 in Aachen, Germany. The European Charlemagne Youth Prize aims to encourage the development of European consciousness among young people, as well as participation in European integration projects. The Prize is awarded to projects that foster an understanding, promotion and development of a shared sense of European identity. The European CNC Network – Train for Europe won first prize as it is an excellent example of the promotion and implementation of the European idea – that of acting together, overcoming the limits of boundaries and discovering diversity and its potential.

The Train for Europe was created in November 2006 and was co-ordinated by the Bad Kreuznach Vocational School. It brought together over 1,500 trainees to build a small-gauge locomotive and wagons on the Airbus principle with the use of CNC machines. The project was extensive and ranged from the design and development to the manufacture of the model train locomotives and wagons.

The project also included the exchange and development of teaching and training methods.

MCAST's main role was to design the locomotive and to co-ordinate the manufacturing of the individual parts for the locomotive by the 10 colleges in the sub-group (Picture 1). MCAST also designed and manufactured its own wagon representing Malta (Picture 2). Fourteen lecturers and nine students, from among the thirty four MCAST contributors to the project, benefitted from mobilities. This was possible due to the EU grant of 18,000 Euros for a minimum of twelve mobilities under the Comenius School Partnership Sectoral Programme.

The ceremony was hosted by RWTH Aachen University. The first prize was presented by Mr Jerzy Buzek, EP President and Mr Michael Jansen, Chairman of the Charlemagne Prize Foundation.

The Train for Europe project was coordinated by the MCAST Institute of Mechanical Engineering and the MCAST International Programmes Office. Mr Pierre Vella, lecturer at the Institute of Mechanical Engineering, was Project Coordinator.



Picture 1 -The train has a gauge of 90 mm, a total length of around 8 m and runs on a 12 m circular track.



Picture 2 – The Maltese Wagon

2,200 EUROPA DIARIES FOR MCAST STUDENTS FREE OF CHARGE

In recent years, the need for consumer information and education has become increasingly evident at European level, given a number of economic and technological developments.

Consumer information on its own does not suffice. It is highly necessary to complement this information with consumer education which addresses skills, attitudes, and knowledge to help individual consumers look for, understand and apply consumer information.

The Europa Diary is an educational tool. It contains the basics of what the EU offers young citizens, covering a range of their specific concerns: e.g. travel, nutrition, drugs, shopping, money matters, environment, climate change, sustainable consumption, development, external trade, safety issues, etc.

It is accompanied by a teacher's guide. This guide contains background information on different consumer

topics, exercises to test students' understanding, questions for discussion and suggested research projects. There is a teacher's guide for every 27 diaries.

In May/June 2010, a total of 3,275,500 copies of the diary have been distributed to more than 21,000 schools in the EU-27. Out of 9,965 diaries distributed in Maltese schools, 2,200 diaries are available to MCAST students. These Europa Diaries will be distributed for free, on a first-come, first-served basis.



ART AND DESIGN STUDENTS IN GERMANY

Students from the Institute of Art and Design had the opportunity to carry out a work mobility in Recklinghausen, a northern city in Germany. This city is characterized by large fields and farms. We arrived in Dusseldorf where a taxi was waiting for us to take us to our hotel, near Recklinghausen's centre.

Roxanne Testa worked in a photography studio named 'Foto & Medienstudio Holtz' in Münster. The company offers a wide range of services such as image restoration, optimization, enlargements and mass print production such as leaflets, flyers, catalogues and magazines. Throughout these weeks Roxanne learned how to take professional photos using professional indoor lighting as well as using various editing programmes.

Roberta Grech worked in a company named 'LKE' and was situated in Marl. This company makes different types of trolleys that can be used for hotels and the catering industry. Roberta's job entailed creating brochures,

magazines for hotels, logos as well as editing 'LKE' products and also designing a cheerleading outfit which 'LKE' sponsored.

Sarah Doublet worked with an interior design company called 'Schaumstoff Centre'. The company specializes in interior decorations such as curtains, carpets and restoring new covers for sofas and pillows. They also sell different types of expanded polystyrene.

She visited different clients with her employer and was shown how the business works including the way to communicate with clients. She also experienced some practical work such as making pillowcases, hanging curtains and restoring old chairs. From this experience Sarah gained the knowledge of useful tips which helped develop interest in interior decorating.

During this three week stay the students visited several cities including Gelsenkirchen, Münster, Dortmund, Marl, Oberhausen, Bochum. They also travelled to Holland.

LINCOLN'S PREPARATORY VISIT A TRULY UNIQUE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

BY MS. VICTORIA SULTANA, LECTURER AT THE GOZO CENTRE

The primary aim of this visit was to get an idea of the work structure to be followed by our students at MCAST Gozo Centre during their experience in UK. The plan was to visit different care settings, which the students had previously identified as their preferred choice for their experience. During these visits I can say that I succeeded in acquiring all the relevant information about the settings' make-up; the most significant being awareness and familiarity about the students' required input in these settings. This meant I could prepare them for this experience in the best way possible. I learned about the priorities involved: students had to show the best personal attitude, responsibility and caring skills while working in the setting's multi-disciplinary team. These visits allowed me to meet the persons who would be responsible for the students undergoing their experience. I succeeded in obtaining information about:

- the settings' structure: how each setting is set up in relation to services provided
- the aims and roles of these settings
- the policies that have to be followed
- the organization's history
- the management and staff structure in relation to roles and job descriptions
- the type of service users that each setting caters for
- work procedures carried out
- knowledge, skills and care practice used by the care workers.

I also had the opportunity to attend various lectures with different lecturers currently teaching at Lincoln College. They follow the BTEC programme, the same course that I lecture at our College. I attended six lectures in all and I had the opportunity to get a good idea about how lectures are prepared and delivered. I also had the possibility to see various students' work and I could compare our standards with theirs. It was a great learning experience as I realised that we adopt the same systems and procedures and that at times our students do even better work than those at Lincoln College. I also had the opportunity to carry out some tutorials with students while they were doing group work for Unit 1 and Unit 10 – the same two units that I lecture at the Gozo Centre. Being familiar with the material covered, I could easily guide the students during their class work.

I sincerely believe that this experience helped to enhance my teaching knowledge especially in relation to the BTEC programme since I never actually received any formal training in it. This experience allowed me to interact and discuss the difficulties these "distant" colleagues encounter and also examine the preparations for the material to be covered. With regards to placements I feel that I have been able to get all the information needed so that our students can be fully prepared beforehand. Furthermore I made contacts with other lecturers who teach the various units so that we can continue sharing resources and exchanging information in the future. I am determined to remain in close contact with my colleagues abroad. I believe that maintaining a good relationship will create a bond that can benefit both our Colleges.



Lincoln River

STUDENT PAGE BY JURGEN BORG



I hope summer is going well for all of you out there and hope that you are enjoying our island's clubbing spots to the full... I know I am! In the first article I mentioned that some special interviews will take place. Well this one is an extra special treat from Sweden... an all round package: deejay, vocalist and producer! This special edition is featuring none other than Linnea Schössow!

A sneak peak about Linnea Schössow

Linnea Schössow was born in 1988 in the south of Sweden in a little town called Helsingborg. She spent her youth travelling to concerts in Sweden and overseas. At the age of 14 her older brother showed her a 'Tiesto Live in Concert DVD' with a live vocal performance by Sarah McLaglan during the anthem 'Silence' by Delerium. From that moment Linnea knew that she wanted to become a producer, singer and songwriter. From that day forward she started to immerse herself in Electronic Dance in Music.

In 2009 her dream began to take shape when she began to write, sing and produce her own material in her home studio. A year later, after a lot of sleepless nights and experimenting, she teamed up with producers such as Jo Micali, Ben Nicky and last but not least, Marcus Schössow. She got her first official track 'Someone like you' signed to Armin van Buuren's label 'Armada'. Linnea has also collaborated in remixes with artists featured on DJ MAG's TOP 100 Artists such as Myon, Shane 54 and Sebastian Brandt. Armada also picked up the track 'Tears' by Ben Nicky which features Linnea. Linnea is also

working with a host of top producers from around the globe, who are allowing her to bring her exquisite songwriting to life through her now highly sought after vocal skills.

Linnea Schössow is already working on her next original track and some remixes for a fine selection of trance luminaries and labels. She has her own radio show entitled 'From Sweden With Love' which showcases her sound from progressive dipped delights to epic vocal trance and up beats. The show enforces the style of music played by Linnea in her live DJ sets and can be heard twice a month via www.music.com.mt.

Linnea is flying the flag for female trance artists in her native Scandinavia and has officially joined the ranks of some of the most impressive upcoming talent to emerge in planet trance this year. Sweden has a fine wealth of trance talent and with a heavy arsenal consisting of deejaying, producing, remixing, singing, songwriting and radio show hosting, it is only a matter of time until Linnea Schössow is a household name on the global trance circuit.

INTERVIEW

Q: How were you first introduced to singing, deejaying and track production?

My interest in music started when I was quite young... at the age of four I was standing in front of the mirror, dancing and singing. By then I already knew that I wanted to be a singer one day. At the age of five I started to attend music school weekly till I reached the age of nineteen. I went through many years saying to myself, "I really wanna do music..." but it wasn't until one Christmas Eve, when I was nineteen years old, when my brother Marcus Schössow (a highly renowned trance DJ and producer) gave me his old studio as a present since he did not make use of it any more. That was the best present I have ever received till now. It took me some weeks to learn how to handle the music production software by myself. But finally I felt that I could create music for real. That was what I always wanted to do! I was introduced to electronic music when I was quite young, mainly due to my brother who was into trance music as well.

At the age of ten I used to listen to my elder brother who used to play very, very loud trance music. Back then I actually thought it all sounded like a big "boom boom mess", until I came across a few songs that sounded really great! I guess I first got hooked on deejaying and trance music again through Marcus who showed me a video of Tiesto performing live to thousands of people along with Sarah McLachlan who sang 'Silence' live. It was right then when I said to myself, "This is what I want to do."

Q: Of all the things mentioned above, which is your favorite thing to do? And why?

I enjoy working alone when creating a piece of music. Sometimes I create a melody that I am really, really happy with and end up playing it again while turning up the volume. And of course I'll most certainly be jumping up and down, screaming my head off with happiness since it sounds so good to me... That feeling is so great! I also like it when I'm out deejaying and I happen to play one of my own songs. Seeing how people dance to it and sing to the lyrics makes me so, so happy... those moments make all the long, hard days of producing worth it!

Q: Where did you first perform? And where did your last gig take place?

My first performance took place in my hometown, Helsingborg, Sweden. The last time I was performing, coincidentally took place in one of Malta's beautiful clubs.



Q: You have collaborated with many of today's super-star deejays... how does working with these guys feel? Who's your favorite and who's an inspiration to you?

I really enjoy working with all of them... they are all kind and professional and thanks to them I was able to broaden my knowledge of music. I feel very happy and lucky that I get to work with other people who share the same passion for music as I do.

Q: Do you enjoy travelling to foreign countries or do you prefer to perform some place closer home?

Well... I'm really, really scared of flying but I do really love to travel and see new places... so playing in a foreign country is always very exciting and something I look forward to. It's always great to see how people from different countries react to your music. But I really wish to play more in Sweden.

Q: Name one episode which really made you feel proud of doing what you love most and a mishap which happened to you during the years.

Well I have had the odd thing happening lately but I am going to be quiet about those moments for now! I guess the support I got with regards to my songs was an enormous surprise, especially coming from deejays such as Armin Van Buuren, Tiesto, Paul van Dyk, Paul Oakenfold, Gareth Emery, Lange, Rank 1 and Simon Patterson. Even today this feels all so surreal...like some kind of dream!

Q: Any advice for aspiring artists?

If you have a dream then please never give up on it even if it feels distant, hopeless or stupid. All you need to reach your aim is perseverance!

Pretty cool huh? Anyway, my time is up but I do hope you've enjoyed this section and that you will be keeping an eye out for the next article. Until then, as always, enjoy yourselves, be safe and be good!

Send your suggestions to:
Jurgen@oldskoolpromo.com.



STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES PATHWAY TO INDEPENDENT LIVING ACTIVITY WEEK 2010

The Pathway to Independent Living Activity Week took place between 21 and 25 June 2010. As in previous years, the Activity Week proved to be a very rewarding experience for everyone. The second year students had the opportunity to plan the activities themselves.

The Activity Week commenced with a visit to Popeye's Village where students participated in several team building activities including the making of a short movie. The second activity took place at Rinella Beach, where the students enjoyed a barbecue. The third activity involved catching the ferry to visit our neighbouring island of Gozo, where students met their fellow Gozitan students following the Pathway to Independent Living Course. The day ended with lunch at Ghajnsielem where students had the opportunity to order their own food and pay their own bill.

The last activity marked the much awaited farewell party which was held at the MCAST Student House. The students were encouraged to invite a guest to accompany them to

the party. Students and guests had the opportunity to go through the highlights of the past academic year through a slide show showing pictures of the students participating in the various activities held during the year. One could deduce that the party was the students' favourite activity.

An important thing to note is that the students made use of public transport to attend the activities. This gave the students a sense of independence and maturity.



SPORTS DEPARTMENT

SPORTS ACTIVITIES AT COLLEGE

The MCAST Sports Department would like to wish all new students a warm welcome to MCAST and encourages all students to participate in the sport and exercise activities held on a regular basis both on Campus as well as outside the College.

The MCAST Sports Department organizes a number of activities every year. These include sports leagues between teams from different Institutes. Male and female students can choose from football 5-a-side, basketball, volleyball, table-tennis, darts and chess leagues. Mixed teams are welcome. Those students who may not like to compete can opt to borrow some of the sports equipment from the gyms in their free time.

Students may make use of the various gyms at MCAST. The main gyms are situated at the Corradino Main Campus where one can make use of the indoor courts, the weights room which has a number of cardiovascular machines as well as weights, the games area as well as the football pitch. A number of classes and introductory sessions into various sports are held regularly here too.

Those students who would like to represent MCAST at the College Sports events organized regularly against other post-secondary institutions should give their name to the Sports Co-ordinator. Every year MCAST participates in football, basketball, volleyball, handball, snooker, table-tennis, athletics events.

Students may also wish to participate in other activities, organised by the Sports Department, which take place outside the College. Such activities may include canoeing, sailing, climbing, abseiling, camping, trekking, shooting, karting and beach games.

Every year the MCAST Sports Department also offers students the opportunity to get involved in national and international sporting events being held on the island. Any students wishing to volunteer to help out will greatly benefit from this experience. Students may also opt to do one of the regular courses organized by MCAST Sports Department in collaboration with various sport associations. Courses may be on coaching, introduction to the sport and certificate in officiating.

Every year a number of students also have the opportunity to travel abroad on a youth exchange being held in another European country. This is greatly enjoyed by all as various new sport activities are held during these exchanges. These may include floorball, ice-skating, Capoeira and Via Ferrata to mention a few.

Students are to take note of the sport notices in their respective Institutes and at the gym. Anyone wishing to receive emails regarding the events being organized are to contact the Sports Co-ordinator Adele Muscat at adele.muscat@mcast.edu.mt or on 23987367 or 23987382.

MCAST STUDENTS ATTEND YOUNG PARTICIPANTS SEMINAR AT THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY IN OLYMPIA, GREECE

by Tiziana Apap and Nigel McCarthy

"Remember, whatever the strength of your body, whatever the speed of your feet, we are all people of the highest quality. Although the Olympic ideas are of historical heritage, the Olympic movement does not belong to the past, it belongs to the future. You, the young participants, you are the future. We entrust the future to you. How will you shape that future? Let that spark be lit in you as you start your journey as peace makers in your communities!"

Hearing these words from Dr Sock Teo-Koh from the Singapore National Olympic Committee and organizer of the Youth Olympic Games, lit something in us and made us realize that we were going to embark on something special, something that will affect us and the people around us.

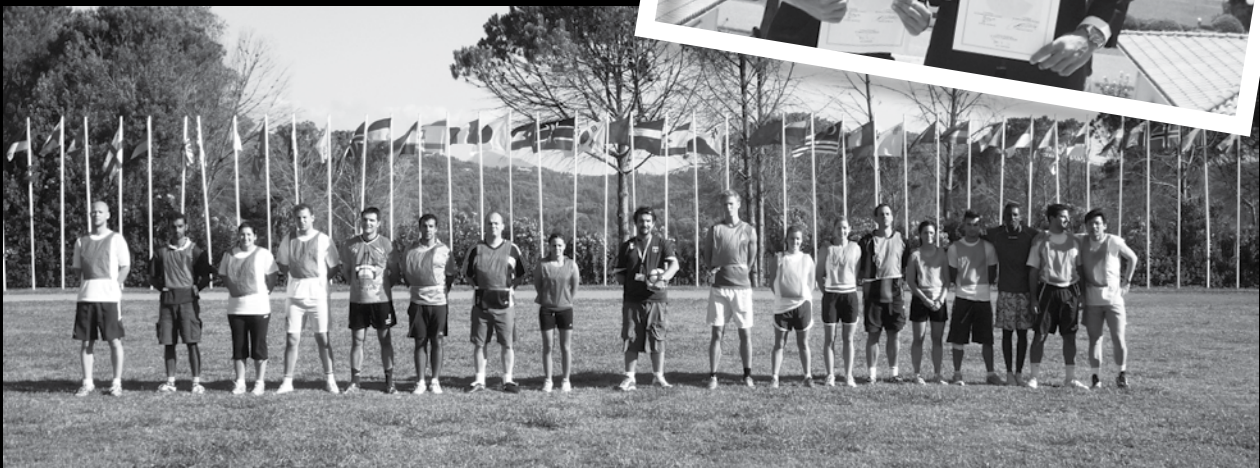
Many people asked us how the trip to Olympia was and our reply was always that there are no words that can describe the whole trip. It is one of those rare things in life that you have to experience to understand the rollercoaster of emotions that were felt during this trip.

The main topic of the lectures was Olympism and the subtopic was 'Peace through Olympic Values'. The lectures aimed to promote the Olympic Ideals. Some of the most important lecturers included Mr Wilfred Lemke, from the United Nations, who explained how the UN funds sports programmes that promote peace. Prince Faisal Al Hussein of Jordan spoke about his efforts of reconciliation and recovery through sport and Mr Edward Kensington, Director of the Olympic Solidarity Movement, explained how all

the money the International Olympic Committee gained from TV Rights is then distributed back to sports around the world. Ms Irena Szewinska, a Polish gold medalist in 3 Olympiads, spoke about her sporting career and served as an inspiration especially for the women present as she was a very successful woman in an age where women's rights were not so promoted. During the discussion groups we had the opportunity to discuss how we are going to implement peace through sport in our respective countries.

We also had the opportunity to visit the Acropolis, the Pantheon, the temple of Zeus and the ancient site at Olympia where the first Olympic Games were held in 776 B.C.

We are now back in Malta and full of motivation to spread the Olympic Values in our respective sports and surroundings. Thanks goes especially to the MCAST Sports Co-ordinator and Director of the Maltese Olympic Academy, Ms Adele Muscat, as well as the Maltese Olympic Committee for giving us this wonderful opportunity.



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

SOME THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY



Fr John Curmi
MCAST Chaplain

YOU CAN
FIND
THE TIME

Two U.S. marines in Korea were stringing a communications line when they entered into what seemed to be a deserted village. All the houses were literally burnt to the ground and the smell of death reigned supreme. But they found one inhabitant, still alive – a small baby, almost dead, hungry and shivering with cold.

The soldiers took the crying baby and hunted around until they found some torn blankets. They wrapped him up and set off to find someone who would take care of him.

After quite a long walk, they came upon a group of Korean women who agreed to feed and care for the baby. Through the help of an interpreter, the women expressed their joyful surprise that the two marines, so busy fighting a deadly, cruel war, took time to stop and care for a small, helpless child!

A heart touching story! Yes the truth is that we too can find the time

to visit mum and dad and spend some good time with them, by their side,
to visit a dear friend in hospital,
to chat for a while with our neighbours,
to play with our young ones,
to give a helping hand in some voluntary work,
to go to Church (at least on a Sunday),
to pray and befriend God.

Like the two brave marines, yes, we can find the time!

DO NOT LIVE ALONE. LIVE WITH GOD.



For many people loneliness or aloneness is terrifying. They cannot stand it! Yet many of us, consciously or unconsciously, live our lives alone. This might be because we make ourselves believe that we are self-sufficient – we can do it alone; or perhaps we are arrogant without even knowing – we do not really need anybody else; or else because relativism is our philosophy of life – we know what is right or wrong, we do not need objective morality: it does not even exist; or even because we are ambitious – we are on a continuous ego trip, we are egocentric!

What a pity indeed and what an even greater pity for people who live in deep loneliness and are little aware that there is someone who wants to share our lives, who invites us to be and stay with him and who regularly knocks at our doors to let him in. And this someone is God. Yes, God is the breaker of our loneliness. All we need is to pray and invite him in. Maranatha! Come Lord come!

Did you ever realise that the gospel of Matthew starts with the announcement of Emmanuel's birth (Mt 1: 23) and ends with the promise that he will be with us always, till the end (Mt 28: 20) Did you know that the good news that God is with us props up continuously in the gospel of Matthew? One instance is Matthew 14: 22-36 where Jesus reassures the terrified followers: "Take heart. Have no fear. I am with you today, tomorrow, always"

So do not live your life alone. Give space to God. Let him in. Give him time and space. Stop rowing your own boat alone. Let him take the oars of your boat and let him drive you.

One great example is King David who let God enter his life completely. Before becoming king he was a devoted shepherd. He took loving care of his sheep. He lived for his sheep. He cared for them, loved them and protected them. He was all there for them. He becomes the beloved sheep and God becomes the devoted shepherd. He knew well what a shepherd meant and this is well expressed and reflected in Psalm 23:

*The Lord is my shepherd
I shall want nothing*

*He makes me lie down in the green pastures,
and leads me beside the waters of peace,
He renews life within me
and for his name's sake
guides me in the right path.*

*Even though I walk through a gloomy valley,
I fear no evil, for you are with me,
your staff and your crook are my comfort.*

*Goodness and love unfailing
will follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of my Lord
my whole life long.*

Are you ready to make God your shepherd? Or you still want to live life alone?

LIBRARY AND LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

What does the Library offer?

The MCAST Library and Learning Resource Centre (LLRC) is your source of information, an essential element to improve the quality and depth of your studies. The Library offers information in different formats:

- print (books and magazines),
- electronic (CD, DVD and on-line),
- film (DVD and VHS),
- music and sound (CD and cassette).

Besides information for study (text books and reference works) and edutainment purposes (fiction books and feature films), the library also offers:

- IT equipment (for internet access, practising MS Office and other programmes, keying in and printing assignments, scanning documents, etc.),
- Study spaces for group work and also for silent individual work,

- Audio visual equipment to watch films and listen to music,
- Assistance by qualified library staff on how to use the library.

All library collections can be obtained through the 'Search our Catalogue' or 'Your course and the library' pages found at www/mcast.edu.mt/llrc/

So if you are new to any of our 6 libraries (Main Library in Paola, 4 Institute Libraries in Malta and 1 Gozo Centre Library in Xagħra) and want to use our collections or services, come and register at any of these libraries and you will be able to use them all. Read all about us at our home page at www.mcast.edu.mt/llrc/

Library Conference

On the 24 and 25 June 2010 Mr Laurence Zerafa, MCAST Librarian, attended the XIII Library Workshop organised jointly by the Consiglio Regionale Della Puglia and 'Teca Del Mediterraneo', that was held in Bari, Italy. The theme for this year was "The library offers informal education: literacy, information, training, updating". Mr Zerafa presented a paper entitled "Informal Learning within the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) Library and Learning Resource Centre (LLRC)". The paper will be published later on this year in the proceedings of this workshop.

Over 250 participants attended this workshop, mainly Italian library professionals. Because there was a Euro-Mediterranean libraries workshop there was also a number of foreign librarians representing the following Mediterranean countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. A representative from Iran too gave a presentation.



Laurence Zerafa, Librarian, delivering the lecture

Library Staff Team Building Exercise

The Library Staff team consists of the Librarian, six Assistant Librarians and two Library Clerks. Together we are responsible for the daily opening and running of 5 MCAST libraries in Malta i.e. the Main Library in Paola and the Institute Libraries at Agribusiness in Qormi, Art and Design in Mosta, Building and Construction Engineering in Naxxar and Maritime in Kalkara. The library in Xagħra, Gozo, which also serves as the local Public Library, is administered by the Local Council.

Because this small number of library staff is spread over five libraries, we rarely get the opportunity to meet at one time except for the four annual staff meetings and Christmas lunch. Therefore this year we decided to spend one day together as one team. We chose to do this in Gozo. Early morning we crossed over by ferry and then by cars to the Xagħra library. There, as one team, we carried out the annual stock take which also gave us the opportunity to meet Ms. Josephine Sultana, the person responsible for opening and running the Local Council library that houses our collection in Gozo. Having finished this exercise we then visited the modern Electrical, Mechanical and Welding workshops in Xewkija guided by Mr. Godwin Grech, the Director of the MCAST Gozo Centre. Afterwards we spent the afternoon together having lunch in Qala, Gozo.

All in all it was an enjoyable opportunity to work and relax together at the same time as one Library Team.



The MCAST Library Team: Emilio, May, Victor, Laurence, Liliana, Abigail, JoAnne, Josephine, Mariano.

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