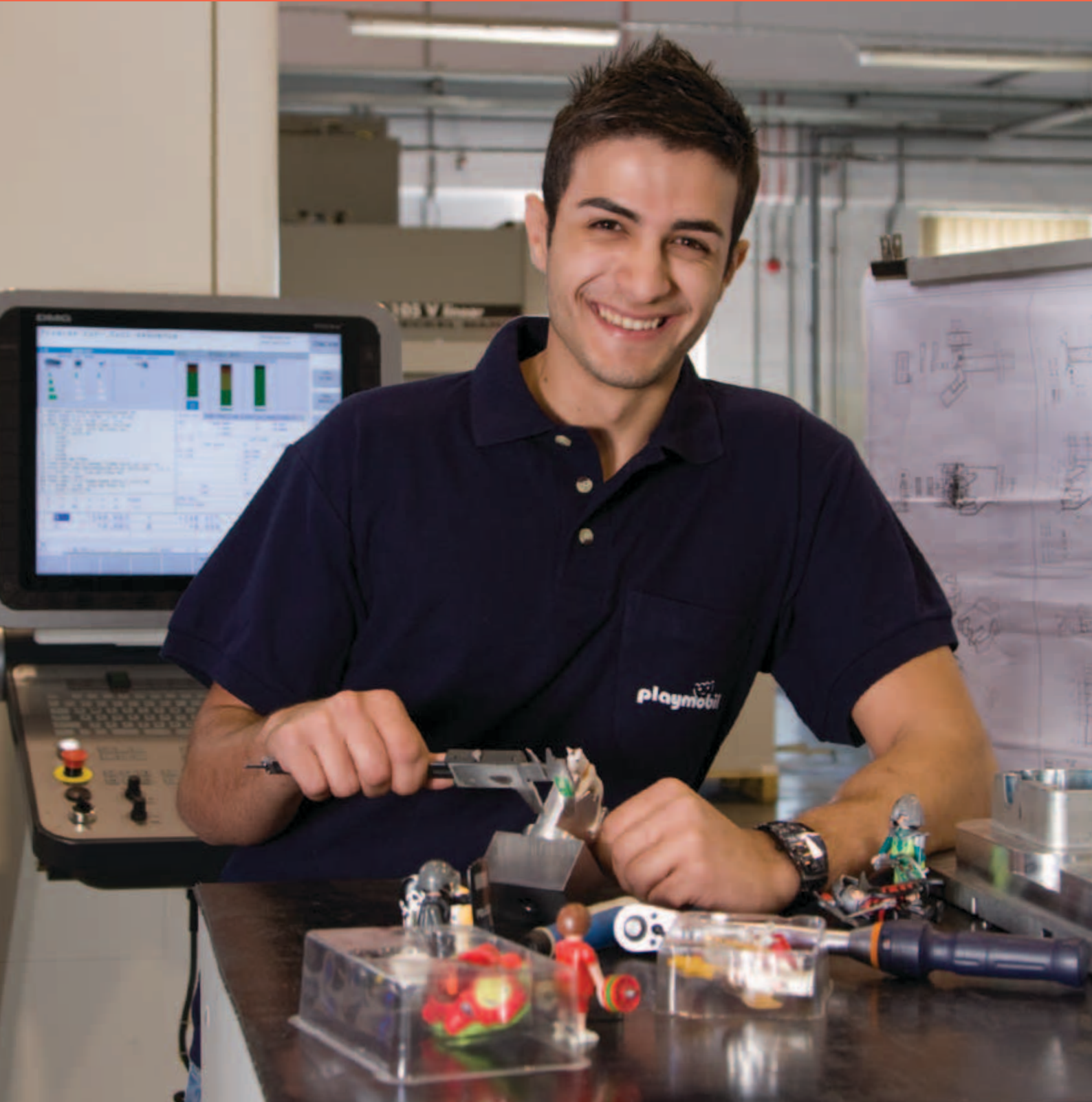


MCAST LINK

SUMMER ISSUE 39

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Jurgen Borg at Playmobil Malta Ltd.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



MCAST has been enlisted as the educational institution with the greatest number of Medal winners in Europe in 2012 due to three former MCAST students that obtained the City & Guilds Medals for Excellence. This award is a notable international award recognising outstanding learners. Well done to all members of staff and students that contributed to this success!

The College launched over 100 free industry-focused training opportunities to employees and job seekers within various industrial sectors. These courses will provide workers and job seekers with the opportunity to upgrade their skills and knowledge thus making them more employable. More details on these courses and on the other EU-funded projects can be found inside the magazine.

This issue includes the Graduation and Presentation Ceremonies held over the last two academic terms. Over two thousand students were awarded certificates on the successful completion of courses ranging from Level 1 to Level 6 during the 2010/2011 academic year. Well done to all!

This edition features photos of the celebration of Diversity Day held on Thursday 26 April 2012. Have a look inside and see how students and staff got together and participated in a variety of sports, musical and cultural activities in order to raise awareness on the importance of social tolerance and inclusion.

Jurgen Borg provides an interesting interview with internationally acclaimed Maltese DJ/producer Tenishia. Find out how they it all started, the recipe for success, about the name and about holding the very first concert.

I would like to wish all readers a well-deserved Summer break!



celebrating 10 years
SUPPORTING INDUSTRY
DEVELOPING YOUR POTENTIAL

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MCAST RECEIVES HIGHEST NUMBER OF CITY & GUILDS MEDALS IN EUROPE

Out of hundreds of educational institutions in 24 different European countries, MCAST students obtained the highest number of City & Guilds Medals for Excellence, a notable international award recognising outstanding learners.

Three MCAST Institute of Community Services students, Suzanne Attard, Juliet Borg and Jenna Milligan, were recently presented with the City & Guilds Medal for Excellence during a presentation ceremony at the MCAST Main Campus, Paola. The three students completed the MCAST Diploma in Hairdressing course (leading to the City & Guilds Level 2 IVQ Diploma in Hairdressing) during the 2010/2011 academic year.

Through a network of 8,500 Approved Centres in 80 different countries, over two million learners register with City & Guilds to work towards one of its qualifications every year. Only 200 of these students receive the Medal for Excellence. Established over 100 years ago, this award recognises the achievements of learners and lecturers who achieve the best results or who go above and beyond what is expected of them and show a true journey of progression.

The three Maltese former students' achievement makes MCAST the educational institution with the greatest number of Medal winners in Europe in 2012.

Upon receiving the Medals, the young hairdressers expressed their satisfaction at this achievement, which they attributed to the constant support of the MCAST Institute of Community Services' team of staff. Since they completed their course last summer, two of the students have already opened up their own hairdressing businesses.

Ms. Brid Healy, City & Guilds Regional Manager (Europe), Mr. Rónán Haughey, City & Guilds Development Manager (Europe) and Prof. Maurice Grech, MCAST Principal and CEO, presented the Medals to the successful students. Ms. Katya De Giovanni, Director of the Institute of Community Services, received a Certificate recognising the achievements of the Institute's students and staff.

"Jenna, Juliet and Suzanne have shown great dedication and enthusiasm for learning, which has shone through in their work and contributed to their success in their City & Guilds assessments," explained Ms. Healy. "As MCAST marks its 10th anniversary, we recognise the great lengths this College has gone through to excel in vocational education and training. This achievement is realised in the success which we are marking through these Medals."

Prof. Grech explained that MCAST and City & Guilds are engaged in several collaborations to offer students more opportunities to obtain international qualifications, as well as to draw upon the international awarding body's expertise to continually improve the quality of MCAST's courses. The College's lecturers receive regular training from City & Guilds experts, who also review students' performances to suggest any improvements required for an enhanced learning experience. "The efforts of our staff, the support we receive from international organisations such as City & Guilds, and our ongoing commitment to improve the quality of our services, ensure that our students continue to succeed in their studies and achieve thriving careers," the Principal concluded.

Since 2004, 25 MCAST students received the City & Guilds Medal for Excellence.



From left: Mr. Farrugia, Mr. Haughey, Ms. Attard, Ms. Healy, Ms. Milligan, Dr. De Giovanni, and Prof. Grech. (Ms. Borg was awarded the Medal in absentia)

MCAST LAUNCHES OVER 100 FREE INDUSTRY-FOCUSED COURSES

Following an extensive consultation process involving 10 different industry sectors, the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) launched over 100 free training courses to Maltese and Gozitan workers and job seekers.

These learning opportunities are the second phase of an EU-funded project (ESF 2.85), entitled Linking Industrial Needs and Vocational Education and Training (VET), which MCAST is coordinating in collaboration with the Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS), the Malta Qualifications Council (MQC) and with the support of the Malta Chamber

of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry. The project was originally intended to provide training to 450 individuals. However, this figure is likely to increase significantly as the number of employers who expressed interest in encouraging their staff to participate was much higher than expected.

The short courses will provide training to current or future employees in the Beverages, Financial Services, Food, Furniture, ICT, Infrastructure, Maritime, Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals, Plastics and Printing sectors, which represent almost 30% of the Maltese workforce.



Details of this project were presented on Thursday 12 January 2012 during a business breakfast at The Palace Hotel, in Sliema. The first phase of the project involved the setting up of groups of representatives from each industry sector to identify the qualifications and skills that current and future workers require to ensure the continued growth of the sector and to enhance their employment prospects. This was complemented by sector-specific surveys among 145 local companies, to learn more on the training needs of Maltese workers, explained Ms. Amanda Borg, on behalf of E-Cubed Consultants, the company contracted to assist in this study. Almost 70% of respondents indicated that they actively encourage their employees to take up lifelong learning courses, while 80% consider such continuous training as an important factor for career advancement.

MCAST President Mr. Joseph Farrugia highlighted the importance of the fact that industry representatives were being directly involved in the design of the courses, making sure that they truly provided the skills that the industry required and that can make individuals more employable. "Malta's ability to survive and grow in the current adverse global economic conditions relies strongly on its ability to adapt to a changing economic environment, which in turn depends on the flexibility and quality of its labour force. Through this project, the country is upgrading the skills of its people and matching them with the requirements of numerous sectors," Mr. Farrugia added.

Dr. Philip von Brockdorff, the MQC's CEO, explained that it was important for Malta to establish the required infrastructure to increase the participation in lifelong learning, because this was an important factor for economic growth. Mr. Joe Tanti, Vice Chairman of the ITS, explained that in certain industries, such as the Food and Beverage sector, there were many older workers who have been in the same job for years, and who will find it more difficult to engage in lifelong learning than younger individuals who are more familiar with today's teaching technologies, including IT. Thus, it was important for lifelong learning initiatives to make an extra effort to reach out to these workers as well.

It has now become impossible for employers to ignore lifelong learning, explained Ing. Ray Muscat, Director General of the Malta Chamber. Even trade unions were now giving it importance when they came to negotiate workers' collective agreements. Investment in lifelong learning would help to increase workers' flexibility, which in turn made them more employable.

The College has recently embarked on another €7 million EU-funded project to introduce new lifelong learning opportunities through e-learning, accreditation of experiential learning, as well as accreditation of prior learning. This project should lead to even more training opportunities within the next three years.

CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONIES

Through a number of certificate presentation ceremonies at its Main Campus in Paola, MCAST recognised the achievements of students who completed Level 1 to Level 4 MCAST courses during the 2010/2011 academic year.

Prof. Maurice Grech, MCAST Principal and CEO, expressed his satisfaction that 73% of these students chose to further their studies at MCAST rather than seek employment. He explained that it was becoming increasingly difficult for low-skilled persons to find employment, meaning that when students extend their studies to higher levels, they were increasing their chances of securing better-paid jobs, assuring greater job security and facilitating their own mobility.

The students who received their certificates completed courses at various levels, including MCAST Introductory Certificates (MQF Level 1), Foundation Certificates (MQF Level 2), and MCAST and BTEC Diplomas and Extended Diplomas (MQF Levels 3 and 4). 64 students completed courses at the Agribusiness Institute, 188 at the Institute of Art and Design, 137 at the

Institute of Building and Construction Engineering, 209 at the Institute of Business and Commerce, 515 at the Institute of Community Services, 123 at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, 438 at the Institute of Information and Communication Technology, 21 at the Maritime Institute, 168 at the Institute of Mechanical Engineering and 133 at MCAST's Gozo Centre. Another 13 students completed MCAST's Pathway to Independent Living Programme.

Among the students who received certificates for successfully completing courses at the Institute of Information and Communication Technology, there were 277 whose studies were financed through MCAST's European Social Fund project ESF 1.33, entitled 'Increasing Student Capacity in ICT in Malta'. Through this project, which started in 2009 and will continue until next year, MCAST obtained the necessary resources to provide ICT training to over 2,000 students. This investment will help Malta prepare the technical and professional personnel required to meet the present and future demands of the local ICT industry.

NEW DESIGNATE PRINCIPAL FOR MCAST

Mr Stephen Cachia has been named designate principal for MCAST. He will succeed Prof. Maurice Grech who has asked not to be reappointed when his term expires in September.

Mr Cachia was an active member of several social and environmental organisations and was founder member of Alternattiva Demokratika. Born in Floriana in 1966, Mr Cachia has taught English and Social Studies and served as an Assistant Head and Head Teacher until he was last year

appointed Principal of the Sta Margherita College. He is married to Dorianne nee' Mifsud and they have two children Maria and Klara. Principal and CEO Maurice Grech will relinquish his post in September to resume his duties as a full-time lecturer at the University's Department of Metallurgy and Materials. Prof. Grech was Dean of the University's Faculty of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering prior to this appointment as MCAST Principal and CEO five years ago.



MCAST LAUNCHES FIRST AUDI TRAINING CENTRE IN MALTA

Through a collaboration agreement with Continental Cars Ltd, MCAST launched the first Audi Training Centre in Malta.

MCAST will be providing training courses to Continental Cars Ltd's employees working at the Audi workshops in Ta' Xbiex. The College's lecturers will be receiving specialised training at the Audi AG Headquarters, in Germany, before they start conducting on-the-spot training to Audi's technical and non-technical employees in Malta later this year.

This new agreement builds on a long-standing relationship between MCAST and Continental Cars Ltd, the sole distributors of Audi and several other renowned car brands in Malta. The company offers numerous apprenticeship opportunities to MCAST students and, in recent years, has also employed several MCAST graduates.

During the signing ceremony, Mr. Maurice Mizzi, Managing Director of Continental Cars Ltd, said that the Maltese Government has dedicated substantial resources to help MCAST and other educational institutions provide highly-trained professionals for the local industry. Continental Cars Ltd supports this investment as it believes that quality education is crucial to the success of our economy.

"We have always endeavoured to reach Audi's tough standards so that our clients in Malta would receive the same standard of service which is expected worldwide. We have now undertaken this revolutionary step in order to continue to meet Audi AG's quality of training standards," Mr. Mizzi added. He expressed his appreciation at MCAST and Audi AG, for their support in this project.

Prof. Maurice Grech, MCAST Principal and CEO, thanked Continental Cars Ltd for choosing MCAST's services for the training of its staff. He highlighted the importance of the College's close ties with local employers, which lead to several fruitful collaborations. These include the donation of advanced tools and equipment to be used by the students, the provision of apprenticeship and other training opportunities in real work settings, as well as ongoing consultations on MCAST's syllabi to ensure that they are constantly updated to reflect the latest skills and innovations adopted by the industry. MCAST also provides employers and industrial organisations with customised lifelong learning opportunities to facilitate the up-skilling of Malta's labour force.



From left: Mr Joseph Farrugia, Mr Maurice Mizzi, Prof. Maurice Grech and Mr Hugh Mercieca during the signing of the agreement.

"As MCAST and local industries work hand-in-hand to improve the quality of our country's human resources, we can make sure that our students are acquiring the relevant skills, flexibility and experience to secure good jobs, while local industries are provided with highly-trained, creative professionals who can generate growth and help develop new investment opportunities. It is a win-win situation for our students, for employers, as well as for our economy," Prof. Grech concluded.

Mr. Joseph Farrugia, MCAST President, Mr Hugh Mercieca, Continental Cars Ltd's Chief Operating Officer, Directors of the MCAST Institutes, and the MCAST lecturers and Continental Cars Ltd employees who will be participating in the training, also attended the signing ceremony.



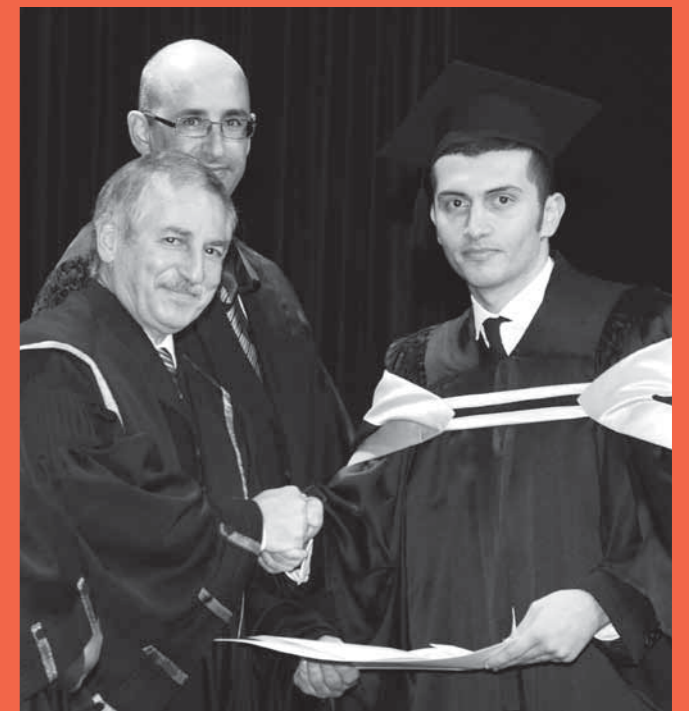
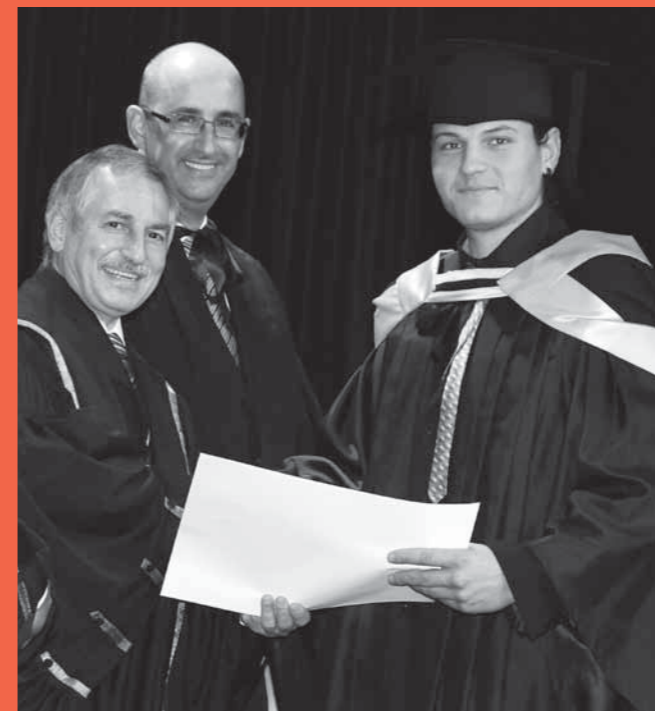
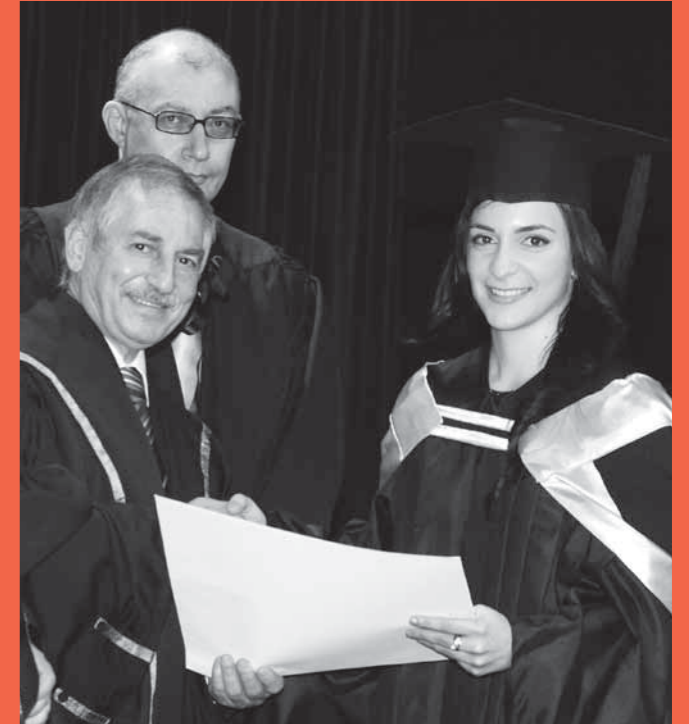
MCAST lecturers will be providing specialised training to Continental Cars Ltd employees at the Audi workshops.

MCAST CELEBRATES THE GRADUATION



512 DEGREE & HND STUDENTS

➤ MCAST GRADUATION CEREMONIES



GRADUATION CEREMONIES

On 6, 7 and 9 December 2011, 512 students from the Institutes of Business and Commerce, Agribusiness, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Information and Communication Technology, Art and Design, Community Services and Building and Construction Engineering graduated at MQF Levels 5 and 6.

The first graduates, 98 students from the Institute of Art and Design, the Institute of Business and Commerce, the Institute of Information and Communication Technology, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering were conferred with Bachelor of Arts or Science (BA or BSc) degrees during the first ceremony on Tuesday 6 December 2011, at the Grandmaster's Suite of the Hilton Malta, in St. Julian's.

Another 414 students who last year completed Level 5 programmes, including Higher National Diplomas, received their certificates during the second and third ceremonies on Wednesday 7 and Friday 9 December 2011. They included students from the Institute of Agribusiness, the Institute of Art and Design, the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering, the Institute of Business and Commerce, the Institute of Community Services, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, the Institute of Information and Communication Technology, and the Institute of Mechanical Engineering.

MCAST Principal and CEO, Prof. Maurice Grech presented the certificates to the students and explained that this graduation marked another successful year for the College as it celebrated its 10th

anniversary. The rapid increase in students opting for MCAST's vocational programmes reflects current international trends, as studies have shown that half of European youths are opting for this type of education based on hands-on training in workshops and real work settings rather than lecture-based theoretical sessions only.

"We are committed to continue raising the quality levels of our courses by acquiring more industry-standard equipment, adopting innovative teaching methods, and most importantly, by investing in our human resources. Our lecturing staff are not only qualified in their area of study, but also have extensive industry experience, which places them in a better position to adequately prepare students for the realities of employment. We also provide lecturers with continued professional development training programmes to enhance their teaching skills and to acquire more qualifications in their subject areas."

Mr Joseph Farrugia, President of the MCAST Board of Governors, who presided over the graduation, congratulated the students on the completion of their studies. He stated that MCAST is a young, dynamic and innovative institution that is focused on matching vocational education with the needs of the labour market. "This is the main reason why MCAST graduates are in demand by various industrial sectors, and also why MCAST's vocational programmes, including our degrees, are being recognised internationally and offering students many opportunities to pursue post graduate studies successfully," Mr. Farrugia added.



STUDENT'S SPEECH - DESIRÉE AZZOPARDI, INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN

President tal-Bord tal-Gvernaturi, Prinċipal, Diretturi, Għalliema, Genituri, u Studenti,

Huwa ta' unur għaliġa li naghmel kelmtejn waqt il-gradwazzjoni tagħna u li nirrappreżenta lill-istudenti kollha tal-MCAST li llum ser jiggradwaw bħali f'din l-okkażjoni tant importanti.

Jiena Desirée Azzopardi, studenta mill-Istitut tal-Arti u d-Disinn. Ċerta li nkun qed nesprimi s-sentimenti tal-istudenti fl-istituti kollha meta ngħid li llum inhossuna grati lejn l-MCAST. Din l-istituzzjoni għamlitilna differenza kbira f'hajjita. Matul is-snin li għamilna fl-MCAST nista' ngħid li kellna relazzjoni tajba mal-għalliema u bejnietna l-istudenti. Dejjem sibna s-sapport li xtaqna mill-għalliema kollha kemm waqt l-assignments kif ukoll b'mod partikolari waqt il-kitba tat-teżi u l-proġett finali. Fejn ma qbilniex, tghallimna niddibattu u nirraġunaw b'mod iżjed matur.

Il-korsijiet tal-MCAST ma jgħallmukx biss it-teorija, li naturalment hija meħtieġa iżda li f'kors vokazzjonali mhix biżżejjed. Il-kulleġġ jgħallmek ukoll kif tmidd idejk. Titharreg fis-sengħa ta' kif taħdem l-industrija, hu x'inhu s-sugġett li għandek għal qalbek. Fil-każ tagħna u ta' studenti f'istituti oħrajn ukoll, ħafna mill-assignments kienu live cases, biex b'hekk setgħu jippreparawna aħjar għad-dinja tax-xogħol.

Ma' dawn il-fehmiet ta' sħabi l-istudenti, nixtieq inżid nota personali billi ngħid illi kieku mhux għall-MCAST, jien ma kontx se nsib nistudja u nitharreg fis-sugġett li għażilt. Grazzi għall-MCAST, nista' nibni l-karriera tiegħi fuq pedamenti sodi u fid-direzzjoni li nixtieq jien. Kemm hu sewwa li x-xogħol li se taqla' x'tiekol minnu jkun l-istess wiehed li dejjem xtaq tagħme!

Xejn ma jiġi mix-xejn u dan importanti li nibqgħu niftakruh għax il-livell ta' edukazzjoni li għadna kif ilhaqna mhuwiex wiehed indifferenti. Ġie wara snin ta' hidma u serjetà ta' impenn. Għaldaqstant, għalina lkoll, il-gradwazzjoni qed inharsu lejha bħala milestone importanti f'hajjita.

Huwa normali li tiltaqa' ma' numru ta' challenges differenti anki fl-istudju. Biss, jekk immorru ftit xhur lura u naħsbu fil-mument ta' diffikultà, għandna wkoll nirrealizzaw li dawn għaddew b'wiċċ il-ġid. Dan allura jfisser li għarafna nohorġu t-tajjeb mid-diffikultà. Li tagħraf tegħleb id-diffikultà huwa wkoll sinjal ta' maturità.

Xi rrid ngħid? Għalkemm l-istudju u l-eżamijiet kienu forsi l-akbar prova f'hajjita s'issa, nistgħu nobsru li 'l quddiem il-hajja tista' tippreżentalna tipi ta' sfidi oħra, sfidi godda, kemm sbieħ kif ukoll



Desirée Azzopardi, Institute of Art and Design

koroh. Dawn jistgħu jirrigwardaw il-karriera, il-familja, is-saħħa, il-finanzi, u l-bqija. Nemmen, u nittama li nkun korretta jekk ngħid li bid-determinazzjoni tista' tegħleb dak kollu li l-hajja titfagħlek. Għax kif jgħidu: "Impossible is nothing."

Hawnhekk nixtieq insemmi l-importanza tal-holm, mhux il-holm ta' waqt l-irqad, iżda l-holm ta' binhar, il-holm ta' bniedem f'sensih. Għalkemm fil-Malti nsibu l-espressjoni: "u mur oħlom!" li tingħad b'ton negattiv, jiena nemmen li mingħajr il-holm wiehed jista' jkun li jitlef is-sens tal-futur tiegħu. Għandna nemmu fina nfunsa u nużaw it-talenti tagħna tajjeb u b'kuraġġ. Kif hemm imsemmi fil-Bibbja fil-parabolla, tat-talenti, inħaddmu t-talenti u mhux naħbuhom. Ikun dnuh li taħbi dak li int kapaci tagħmel għax titlef int u jitlef il-pajjiż! Wiehed mill-unitajiet ta' studju ta' kull kors tad-degree fl-istituti kollha kien jittratta l-Entrepreneurship. Żgur li, b'riżultat ta' dak li tghallmu sal-lum, xi whud fostna se jithajru wkoll jaqdbu karriera għal rashom.

Qabel naghlaq, f'isem l-istudenti kollha nixtieq nringrazzja lill-Professur Grech u lill-amministrazzjoni tal-MCAST li tinkludi dik tal-istituti kollha. Għaldaqstant, f'isem l-istudenti li qed jiggradwaw il-lejla, nixtieq nringrazzja lid-diretturi u lill-għalliema kollha tal-istituti tal-MCAST għad-dedikazzjoni u l-għajnuna li tawna matul is-snin.

B'mod speċjali nringrazzja wkoll lill-ġenituri tagħna għax li kieku ma kienux is-sostenn kontinwu tagħhom ma kienux ikun possibbli għalina li naslu għal dan il-mument daqshekk importanti.

Nixtieq niehu wkoll din l-opportunità biex nringrazzja lil dawk kollha li b'xi mod jew iehor taw sehemhom għall-ġid tagħna.

Nawgura kull suċċess lill-gradwati kollha u j'Alla niksibu f'hajjita dak kollu li stinkajna għalih aħna flimkien mal-għalliema u l-ġenituri tagħna. Grazzi.



STUDENT'S SPEECH
- IAN FALZON,
INSTITUTE OF AGRIBUSINESS

Sinċerament meta ġie xi hadd fuqi u qalli, "Ha taghmel il-valdeorian speech," lanqas kont naf x'inhu. Hsibtha xi torta Franciża. Speċjalment meta siehbi qalli, "Dik trid tkun vera bis-sugu!"

Meta qaluli li din kienet speech għall-graduation hassejt rasi ddu bija. Kif stajt nagħmel speech minn dawk li tant idejqu? Minn dawk li soltu nagħmel 2 minuti attent, 8 minuti nħares lejn l-art u lejn is-saqaf, imbagħad nistenbaħ fl-aħħar 2 sekondi biex inċapċap qisni fidil?

Però qed nara lill-Profesuri u d-diretturi jberrqu li u nahseb aħjar nisserja xi ftit.

Hallina miċ-ċajt. Is-soltu l-istudenti li, f'ċirkostanzi differenti, ikollhom iċ-ċans jktbu xi haġa, jaqilghu dak kollu li għandhom fuq l-istonku għad-direttorat u t-tmexxija tal-MCAST. Nahseb li bħala Istitut tal-Agribusiness, aħna wiehed mill-iktar li wassalna l-ilmenti tagħna tul iż-żmien. Biss minn bihsiebni nibdel din l-okkażjoni f'waħda ta' ġlied jew protesta. Għaliha din tibqa' okkażjoni sabiħa u ma rridx li tibda tielgħa l-persone tiegħi jew li ntella' dik ta' haddiehor. Għalhekk iddecidejt li nżommha light.

Għal min qatt ma sema' bija, jien Ian, ġej mill-Agribusiness Institute. Iva tal-Agribusiness jafu jagħmlu speech ukoll.

L-Agribusiness ili sitt snin. Inħares lura u nara xi rmxxieli nagħmel tul dawn is-sitt snin. Sitt snin fejn tgħallimt hafna affarijiet kemm akkademikament kif ukoll fi żvilupp personali. Waħda mill-ewwel skills li tgħallimt hekk kif bdew ġejjin l-assignments hi kif taqleb malajr minn fuq Facebook għal fuq l-assignment jew il-Google hekk kif tidhol ommok fil-kamra. Imbagħad meta ommok issaqisik x'int taghmel tiċċassa lejn Google tgħidilha, "Ma! Kont qed nirrifletti kif ha nfittejt fuq il-brachisepahilic dogs qabel gerfxtni!"

Jien dħalt l-MCAST b'9 O levels. Kulhadd kien jgħidli: "Għax ma tmurx il-Junior College?" Speċjalment meta jsiru jafu li diehel l-Agribusiness! Però jien minn dejjem kont sod. Hemm xtaqt u hemm dħalt. Avolja kelli nibda mill-First Diploma għax fil-bidu dik biss kien hemm, xorta hemm dħalt. Imma ara issa fejn qiegħed. Issa qed nagħmel Degree f'suġġett li veru nħobb u li lest niddedika ħajti għalih.

Kont fortunat li l-MCAST sibt ambjent uniku. Il-fatt li aħna Istitut żgħir, differenti. Kulhadd jaf lill kulhadd. Fil-bidu lanqas konna biżżejjed nies biex nqas għad l-ogħba futbol fil-break. Però kbirna. L-Istitut bdejna ntu identitā. Flimkien mal-lecturers u d-Direttur tagħna - Ms. Camilleri - organizzajna open days u visits għal hafna postijiet differenti. Permezz ta' intervisti fuq it-TV u r-radio bdejna niġu apprezzati. Minn għid li kien kollox ward u zahar ta' Tahsbux li konna qisna t-teletubbies! Anzi l-argumenti li rajt hemm ġew tal-biza! Izda qatt ma wehilna hemm u dejjem imxejna 'l quddiem u kbirna u tgħallimna. Aħna hadna hafna. Sabiħ meta titkellem ma' professjonisti mis-settur u jgħidulek li student tal-MCAST, student ta' stoffa. Nemmen li l-fatt li l-MCAST jinkludi l-prattiku fis-sillabu jgħin hafna għal dan il-għan.



Ian Falzon, Institute of Agribusiness

Esperjenza Prattika ttik il-kapacita` biex tkun haddiem tajjed għaliex tkun taf hafna aħjar x'jirrikjedi x-xogħol.

Kemm ili l-Agribusiness rajt l-Istitut jimtela bl-istudenti. Kull sena l-istudenti jirduppjaw. Dalwaqt ma jkollniex klassijiet biżżejjed. U mhux nies injoranti biss jidhlu tafux.

Ma nafx x'inhu r-raġuni li meta lin-nies tgħidilhom li ġej mill-Agribusiness, kulhadd jgħidlek, "Tahilbu l-baqar u tagħzqu fil-hamrija?" Mela hux! Ili sitt snin nistudja kif irrid naqbad sider ta' baqra. Mind you, importanti hafna li jkun hawn min jagħmel dak ix-xogħol u li tkun taf jagħmlu. Kieku ma teztix l-agrikoltura la tixorbu te`, la tieklu għajin u laħam u lanqas tilbsu hwejjeġ! Kieku ma teztix l-agrikoltura m'intomx se tixorbu l-capuccino u tieklu l-gallettini wara li tispicċa din iċ-ċerimonja. Imma insomma, ninsew l-ecology studies, il-behaviour, il-biology u l-business li hierieg minn widnejna! Insa kemm morna seminars u ddiskutejna ma' nies prominenti fil-kamp sa ma hrignielhom id-dmugh minn ghajnejhom. Insa meta tlajt l-Irlanda biex tara kif jaħdmu businesses oħrajn u ġgib tagħrif li lanqas jinholom hawn Malta. Kemm hi kerha l-fissazzjoni: kollox narmu l-baħar u nahsbu biss f'sider il-baqra!

Ma rrid niksi lil hadd bix-xemgħa ta! Hemm affarijiet li jridu jitrangaw biex inkomplu mexxin 'il quddiem.

Però iva, hadt hafna kemm ili l-MCAST. U iva, qegħdin hawn għax aħna kapaċi. Illum huwa l-jum fejn jien inħares lejn id-dinja f'wiċċha u ngħidilha, "Arani issa! Kemm-il darba hsibt li ser niġi mgħaffeg mix-xogħol u mill-burokrazija. Kemm-il darba kont se ngħolli kollox!"

Issa qiegħed hawn u ha nibqa' miexi 'l quddiem. Nixtieq nringrazzja minn qiegħ qalbi lil shabi li kibru miegħi ... flimkien bkejna u flimkien dhakna. Però fl-aħħar mill-aħħar dejjem hadna buzz u spicċajna rebbieha. Nixtieq nringrazzja wkoll lill-lecturers kollha li naf kemm -il darba kellhom jiżfugaw fiċ-chewing gum għax l-MCAST għandu policy li teacher ma jstax jittortura student. U xejn inqas lid-Direttur tagħna li, għalkemm bħalna, lanqas ngħoddhom kemm-il diskussjoni mbaqbaqba kellna bejnieta, però naf li kulhadd gid irid lill-iehor.

Grazzi hafna. Mal-MCAST mhux tgħallimt biss, iżda kbirt. Biex nagħlaq ngħid prosit lil dawk kollha li qed jiggradwaw f'dawn il-jiem. Grazzi!



STUDENT'S SPEECH
- GERALDINE GRECH,
INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Onorevoli Ministru / Onorevoli Dr Stephen Spiteri, President tal-Bord tal-Gvernaturi, Principali, Registratur, Diretturi, lecturers, ġenituri u kollegi studenti.

Il-lejla t-tajba u grazzi talli ġejtu għal din iċ-ċerimonja ta' gradwazzjoni. L-esperjenza tiegħi fl-MCAST teħodni lura sitt snin meta ta' 16-il sena dħalt għall-kors tal-Foundation Certificate in Care. Ma kinitx wisq diffiċli biex nagħzel kors bħal dan għaliex minn mindu kont żgħira dejjem xtaqt karrera vokazzjonali. Dik li ngħin persuni vulnerabbli u li jeħtieġu l-attenzjoni jew il-kura xi ftit iktar minn haddiehor kienet waħda mill-akbar xewqat ta' ħajti. Grazzi għall-MCAST din il-holma saret realtà.

Meta dħalt l-MCAST kont xi ftit jew wisq immatura. Kont nahseb li naf hafna imma ma domtx ma skoprejt kemm kont għadni żgħira u mingħajr esperjenza. Il-Foundation Course fetahli orizzonti godda. Ghinni nimmatura f'it iehor biex nagħraf nagħmel għażla u nistabbilixxi l-għanijiet li xtaqt nilhaq fil-futur. Bil-mod il-mod, żviluppali l-għerf, il-kapaċitajiet u l-kompetenzi tiegħi. Kont nahseb li t-fajliet u l-guvintur tal-etā tiegħi ma jkunux maturi biżżejjed biex jiddeciedu verament x'iridu mill-ħajja, speċjalment x'tip ta' karrera għandhom jagħzlu, imma f'dan l-istitut tas-Servizzi fil-Komunitā sibna għalliema dedikati u aċċessibbli li għenu lili u lil shabi naslu fejn wasalna llum.

L-ewwel sena għaddiet bħal lehħa ta' berqa. Issa kien imiss li nitla' għat-tieni sena tiegħi fl-MCAST, dik tal-First Diploma in Care. Ovwjament ix-xogħol beda jitqal u bdejt niffaċċja assignments u eżamijiet iżjed impenjattivi. Kien hemm mumentu fejn bdejt niddubita jekk jien inix kapaċi nirnexxi. Biss, b'determinazzjoni soda, u flimkien ma' shabi, imexxielna negħelbu kull xkiel u dejjem konna ta' support għal xulxin.

Nista' ngħid li aktar ma beda jgħaddi ż-żmien mhux l-assignments biss bdew jitqalu iżda wkoll l-isfidi godda li bħala klassi konna ser nibdew nesperjenzaw, dik li nibdew resqin lejn id-dinja tax-xogħol permezz tal-work placements. Dawn tal-aħħar nista' ngħid li tawna esperjenza liema bħalha, għax tabilhaqq missejna d-dinja ta' veru, dik ta' barra mill-hitan tal-istitut, bis-sabiħ u l-ikreh tagħha, dik li hafna Maltin u Għawdxin jiffaċċjaw fil-ħajja tagħhom ta' kuljum.

Kif mistenni, rajna u ltaqajna ma' hafna. Nibdew mit-tfal u l-anzjani, il-persuni b'diżabilitā, sitwazzjonijiet ta' vjolenza domestika, persuni bla dar, nies bi problemi ta' saħħa mentali, dawk b'xi tip ta' vizzju u oħrajn. Hafna drabi dawn l-esperjenzi kienu jaffettwawlna l-ħajja personali tagħna u dik tal-familji tagħna. Għaliha kien ikollna bżonn is-support ta' nies professjonali u dan sibnieh ukoll. Fl-istess hin dan l-għarfien kien qiegħed jimmuturana dejjem aktar u l-għajnuna li sibna tatna l-kuragg biex nagħrfu kemm hawn bżonn ta' nies bħalna li lesti jidhlu għal dan it-tip ta' xogħol.

Konna nkunu qed nistennew bil-herqa r-rimarki fuq il-logbook, dak l-ispeċi ta' djarju fejn konna mistennija nirriflettu fuq l-esperjenza



Geraldine Grech, Institute of Community Services

tagħna fuq ix-xogħol, kif ukoll kif konna nqas għad l-prattika mat-teorija li niehdu mil-lectures fil-klassi. Dan kollu kien isir biex b'hekk inkunu nafu kif morna u fejn nistgħu ntejbu l-hiliet tagħna.

Sena wara l-oħra nista' ngħid li għadda kollox b'wiċċ il-gdid. Kemm jien, kif ukoll shabi, iffaċċajna diversi sitwazzjonijiet. Insemmi eżempju wiehed, dak li ridna naddattaw ruħna min-National Diploma għall-Higher National Diploma. F'dan l-istadju l-kors beda jitqal sew u kien jittlob minna hafna aktar studju u riċerka. Ma stajniex nibbażaw fuq dak li nahsbu li nafu imma aktar fuq il-fatti u l-istatistiċi. Konna l-ewwel grupp li avvanzajna għall-Higher National Diploma u allura s-sistemi godda li ridna nitgħallmu u nimplimentaw fil-prattika kienu godda għal kulhadd. Ma nistax ma nsemmix il-bżonn ta' aktar disponibilitā mill-għalliema biex b'hekk l-istudenti jkunu ggwidati b'mod kostanti. L-isforzi ta' kull wiehed u waħda minna wassal għas-suċċess. Illum nafu wkoll li peress li n-numru ta' studenti qed jikber b'rata mgħaġġla, importanti li din l-għajnuna tibqa' tingħata lill-istudent bl-istess heġġa u għarfien li ngħatat lili.

Qabel nagħlaq, nixtieq ngħid grazzi kbira lill-MCAST tal-opportunitā tad-deheb li tajtuna. Minn tafja li, sa f'it tas-snin ilu, ma kinitx taf sew xi trid mill-ħajja, illum inhoss li għandi kapaċitajiet varji u viżjoni hafna iżjed ċara għall-futur tiegħi. Bis-saħħa tal-korsijiet li hadt, iltqajt ma' hafna nies li fahħru l-għarfien u l-hiliet li tana l-MCAST u li żgur ser iservuna tajjed biex insibu l-post li jixriqlna fid-dinja tax-xogħol.

Minn qalbi nixtieq nringrazzja lill-amministrazzjoni kollha tal-MCAST tax-xogħol kollu li jsir, hafna drabi minn wara l-kwinti, biex l-MCAST ikun kulleġġ ta' eċċellenza fit-tagħlim u fl-opportunitajiet li joffri, lill-għalliema u lid-diretturi tal-istitut tiegħi li dejjem emmnu f'ija u tawni l-inkoraġġiment li xtaqt nisma', lill shabi tal-kors li kbirt magħhom u li fehmuni u tawni l-għajnuna f'mumentu ta' qtigh il-qalb, u fl-aħħar imma mhux lanqas lill-familja tiegħi li dejjem inkoraġġewni biex wasalt fejn wasalt illum ... u biex inkun nista' nkompli nistudja fil-livell ta' Baċcellerat tal-Arti fil-Health and Social Care Management.

Grazzi hafna u nawguralkom serata mill-isbaħ.

2011 Graduation Ceremony

Level 6

Tuesday 6 December 2011

Institute of Art & Design

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Graphic Design and Interactive Media

Anastasi, Nigel
Azzopardi, Jeanine
Azzopardi, Keith
Bonello, Francesco
Bonnici, Chanelle
Borg, Claire
Borg, Glen
Caruana, Justin
Caruana, Luke
Cremona, Marie Claire
Demarco, Matthew
Ellul, Sabrina
Ellul, Stefano
Farrugia, Thomas
Galea, Ryan Lee
Keith, Matthew Anthony
Mamo, Matthew
Spagnol, Daniel
Zammit, Adrian
Zammit, Gabriel Rosario

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in 3D Design and Interiors

Anastasi, Kevin
Attard, Christiana
Azzopardi, Desirée
Azzopardi, Josmar
Bonnici, Sven
Camilleri, Marianne
Diacono, Luisa
Galea, Elisheba
Galea, Roderick
Micallef, Stephanie
Miggiani, Francesca
Tweraser, Roberto
Vella, Kurt
Zammit, Emily
Zammit, Jessica
Zammit, Ritienne

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Fine Arts

Aquilina, Kamy
Calleja Jackson, Sabrina
Camilleri, Daniella
Camilleri, Sean
Falzon, Jennings
Falzon, Ryan
Farrugia, Jamie
Fenech, Kirsten
Mamo, Sarah
Micallef Eynaud, George

Institute of Business & Commerce

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Enterprise

Attard, Sharon
Busuttil, Marlene
Chetcuti, Karsten
Cutajar, Nadia
Mifsud, Eman
Piccinino, Alexandra

Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineering

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Electronics Engineering

Bondin, Johann
Grima, Franklin
Scicluna, Norbert

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Electronics and Control Engineering

Aquilina, Kirsten
Borg, Alex
Busuttil, Kai
Camilleri, Kevin
Demanuele, Tristan
Galea, Matthew
Muscat, Waylon
Vella, Sharon
Warne, Matthew
Xuereb, Matthew
Zahra, Warren
Zammit, Jean Pierre

Institute of Information & Communication Technology

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Software Development

Abdilla, Daniel
Attard, George
Bonnici, Joseph
Briffa, Joanne
Buttigieg, Joseph
Caruana, Paul
Cassar, Clayton
Chetcuti, Ian
Cristiano, Alessio
Debono, Norbert
Demicoli, Darren
Facciol, Simon
Farrugia, David
Galea, Christine
Galea, Stefania
Grech, Christopher
Grima, James
Meli, Adrian
Porsella Flores, Andrew
Sammut, Clifton
Vella, Kevin
Zammit, Justin

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computer Networks

Bezzina, Patrick
Bilocca, Glenn
Duncan, Sarah
Muscat, Joanne
Pace, Clayton
Said, George Mario
Sammut, Steve
Zahra, Kim
Zerafa, Tiziana



THE LIBRARY'S FILM COLLECTION

The Library and Learning Resource Centre at present has about 2,000 films of which about 500 are documentaries, whereas the other are feature fiction films, found mainly at the Main Library in Paola and the Art and Design Library in Mosta, though much smaller collections can also be found at the Agribusiness Library in Qormi and the Building and Construction Engineering Library in Naxxar.

The reasons for our films collection are several. One reason is because there are many good fiction films that in the course of their unfolding story highlight important social themes like relationships, marriage, life, death, violence, etc. Watching such films and having discussions afterwards can be a good and powerful way for students to learn about how society works and the values underpinning individual and collective actions. In this respect the Library has a subscription to an on-line site called Teach with Movies that has structured lesson plans around several of the films available.

Another reason why we keep a film collection is to support the lecturing programme on films studies at the Mosta Art and Design Institute. We have a growing number of films that besides the main feature film have all the additional footage on how the film was produced, interviews with actors and directors and the impact the film has had i.e. the extended versions of important films by famous directors of all times. Here one will also find classic films and films from many different countries.

Finally we also keep films for their edutainment value, the same way that we keep fiction novels.

The Library provides the necessary A-V equipment (DVD and Video players) for anybody to view these films on the Library premises. Non-fiction (documentary) films can all be borrowed by everybody for home use. In the case of fiction films some restrictions apply in some of the libraries.

The range of titles we have include:

Educational

- Technical instructional (Medication in the care home)
- Documentaries (Ganges)
- Biographies
(Agony and the Ecstasy on the Life of Michelangelo Buonarroti)

LIBRARY & LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

- Discussions (Philadelphia)
- The making of (Lord of the Rings) Entertainment
- Feature fiction films (Mission Impossible)
- Music and dance films (Jesus Christ Superstar)
- Films produced from published books
(Remains of the Day, Ben Hur, Snow falling on Cedars)
- In several cases the library has both book and film
(The Agony and the Ecstasy, The Beach, Billy Elliot)

One can search for all these titles either by using our on-line catalogue at www.mcast.edu.mt/lrc/ "Search our Catalogue" in Advanced mode and selecting A-V collection or else coming to browse physically at our libraries. Fiction films are found together in alphabetical title order, whereas non-fiction films are shelved, together with books, according to subject class. Each of our on-line catalogue entries for films has a direct on-line link to IMDB, the Internet Movie Data Base.

ON-LINE PUBLICATIONS - ATTENTION DEGREE AND HND STUDENTS

Do not forget to make use of 60 full text on-line journals found at <http://www.emeraldinsight.com>. One can research topics for assignments or end-of-year projects in the general areas of Applied Vocational Management and Engineering.

The current user name is malta and the password is island. More details on the titles available and other on-line resources can be seen at http://www.mcast.edu.mt/lrc_aboutus_electronic_resources.asp. Please contact any member of staff for further assistance.



MAGIC WONDERS CHILD CARE CENTRE



Parents of children that attend Magic Wonders Child Care Centre were interviewed in order to discover what they think of the Centre, the Carers and the service in general.



Alison Shaw, ICT Lecturer, mother of three year old Scarlett

1. What improvements did you see in your daughter attending MCAST Magic Wonders?
Scarlett has grown into a sociable, independent, little toddler who loves to meet new friends and play. She likes to interact with people and loves to learn new words and songs.
2. What was the service like?
The employees at Magic Wonders are sweet, patient and loving. Scarlett loves them and loves their cuddles and hugs. As a parent, I like the fact that they give me a report of the day's events, so I feel like I did not miss out on anything Scarlett did.
3. Was MCAST Magic Wonders useful to you and in what way?
When I was expecting Scarlett, I was hoping to find a solution that would enable me to balance my work career and my family.

Having only one grandparent available for childminding, I wanted to find a complement such as a childcare centre that would be flexible, trustworthy and provide an environment that would nurture my child. Magic Wonders Child Care Centre has fit this bill perfectly with the added convenience that it is at my workplace, so there are no transport headaches!

4. Give your recommendations.
From the moment I set foot at Magic Wonders during an orientation visit, I felt I had found a place where I could trust the care of my newborn baby. The environment is safe and clean with the appropriate facilities. The right procedures and staffing ratios are in place and it is being managed by professional experienced staff in the care of young children. Magic Wonders is not just a place where children are minded but a place where children can develop through structured and creative activities such as crafts, organised play, story-telling etc.
As a working mother of three kids, I always had to face the difficult task of finding the right care for my kids whilst I am at work. My only wish would have been to have had Magic Wonders available when my first two kids were born since it would have solved a lot of stress and juggling around in dealing with facilities that were not as flexible or professional in providing an environment where my child can develop.

Meridith Farrugia, Business and Commerce student, sent her son Aidan to Magic Wonders Child Care Centre, at the age of 6 months. Meridith is currently reading for a B Commerce course at the University of Malta.



1. What improvements did you see in your son attending MCAST Magic Wonders?
Aidan was 6 months old when he started attending Magic Wonders, so various improvements were noticeable throughout these two years. He developed his speech due to interacting with children his age and older. He learned shapes, colours, objects and nursery rhymes. He was always included in activities from a very young age.
2. What was the service like?
It is a place where a parent can leave his/her son/daughter without any thought that s/he will be in danger or neglected in any way. The Child Care Centre Assistants took good care of my son and together with the Child Care Centre Officer never hesitated to contact me in the case of any issue, especially when Aidan got sick. All the staff were very understanding, especially in my situation where I was still a student and faced certain timetable clashes.
3. Was MCAST Magic Wonders useful to you and in what way?
The services provided by the Child Care Centre were my salvation when it came to continuing my education!

I was able to follow a course at MCAST with the help of the Centre. The opening hours permitted me to attend College while Aidan was being well looked after at the Child Care Centre.
4. Give your recommendations.
I suggest that the MCAST Magic Wonders extends the hours available in order to reach out to parents that work longer hours.

Eleonora Cutajar, Mattia's mother. Mattia started attending MCAST Magic Wonders at 13 months of age.



1. What improvements did you find in your son attending MCAST Magic Wonders?
At Magic Wonders Mattia learnt a lot of things. He was potty trained, he learned to share and get along well with other kids. He also learnt nursery rhymes, improved his language and overcame his fear of swimming thanks to the outdoor pool activities.
2. What was the service like?
The service at MCAST Magic Wonders was excellent! I really

appreciated the patience, dedication and care shown by the Child Carers. I recommend (as I have already done) the Centre to all parents looking for child care facilities.

The fact that MCAST Magic Wonders remains open all year round including the Easter, Carnival and Mid Term Holidays is a plus! The Centre is very welcoming and safety is given utmost importance. It is air conditioned and is kept very clean. However, most importantly, the Carers are young at heart and so the atmosphere is a very happy one! Different activities are carried out there so it makes it very enjoyable for the children. Activities vary from singing, dancing, cooking, free play, dressing up, face painting and storytelling. I was also impressed by the crafts the children made.

I am also grateful to the report that I receive every time I pick up Mattia as it includes what Mattia did while at the Centre. It indicates whether he slept and if so for how long, what he ate, what activities he carried out. This makes it easier for me to plan the rest of Mattia's day.

3. Was MCAST Magic Wonders useful to you and in what way?
I found MCAST Magic Wonders very useful and very convenient since the Centre opens from 7.45 am to 4.45 pm. These opening hours helped me carry out my working schedule.
4. Give your recommendations.
The only recommendation or rather suggestion I can think of is that a talent show would be carried out whereby parents will be given the opportunity to see their children perform.

Kylie Buhagiar, student at the Institute of Community Services, mother of two children Hannah and Daniel.



1. What improvements did you find in your children attending MCAST Magic Wonders?
Hannah and Daniel blossomed during the time they spent at Magic Wonders Child Care Centre. They started out being very shy, yet gained confidence and made many friends. Their vocabulary grew considerably.
2. What was the service like?
The service was more than I expected!
The care and the dedication shown by the Child Carers made it easy for me to leave my kids in their care. I appreciated the different activities they carried out such as crafts, arts and storytelling amongst others. It was reassuring to know that they were doing a whole variety of activities, making their day more interesting.
3. Was MCAST Magic Wonders useful to you and in what way?
It was useful to me because I could attend MCAST and have my mind at rest that Hannah and Daniel were in an amazing and safe place. I was sure they were enjoying themselves, were well taken care of and at the same time were close to me on campus.

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

CAMPING

In December 2011 a group of students attending the Institute of Community Services participated in a camping team building activity. This was held at the Scouts Camping Grounds at Golden Bay. Students were taught how to erect and dismantle a tent and how to build a bonfire. They were also provided with information on environmental and health and safety issues. They participated in a number of activities including trekking, clay cliffs training, team games such as ball games, ladders, trust game and an obstacle relay. They were a great two days out in the countryside for all despite the howling winds keeping everyone up all night!



Group Photo



Team games



Evening Bonfire

GOLF

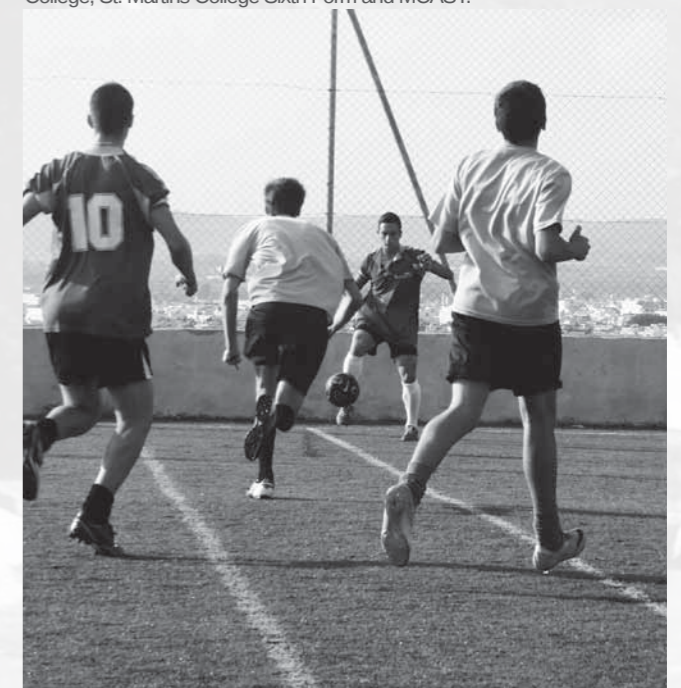
Recently students and staff members were given the opportunity to try out their hand at golf. This was possible thanks to the Royal Malta Golf Club in particular Mr. Henning as well as a resident British coach. Participants thoroughly enjoyed this experience despite golf not being such an easy sport since it requires so much precision.



Mr Micallef Grimaud, Director Institute of Mechanical Engineering, trying his hand at golf

POST-SECONDARY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

In December 2011 MCAST participated in a football post-secondary tournament held at Higher Secondary School. The schools that participated included Higher Secondary School, De La Salle College, St. Edwards College, St. Martins College Sixth Form and MCAST.



MCAST vs Higher Secondary School



Kim Camilleri providing a demonstration to the kids

➤ DOING OUR BIT FOR THE COMMUNITY

MCAST Sports Department is often asked to help out with sports activities in the community, in particular sports days for schools. Thanks to the students studying sports it is possible to do this as well as give our students the much needed practical experience they need so much in preparation for when they start full-time work.

➤ ROLEX MIDDLE SEA RACE 2011

Students were given the opportunity to visit the Rolex Middle Sea Race yachts prior to the race in October 2011. Students were allowed on some of the boats and helped out the sailors with equipment whilst learning more about this prestigious sport.



Aboard one of the MSR boats



Start of the Middle Sea Race 2011



Sitting Volleyball Activity

BADMINTON COACH

In December 2011, the Malta Badminton Federation once again sent a foreign coach to MCAST to help give a workshop to our students. The coach gave several important demonstrations both to beginners in this sport as well as to the sports students who may need to teach this sport in the future. Thanks goes to John Attard from the Malta Badminton Federation for making this possible as well as coach Edmond Abela for always giving a helping hand at MCAST.

FIRST EVER OFFICIAL SITTING VOLLEYBALL ACTIVITY AT MCAST

The MCAST Main Campus in Paola was the setting for the first ever Sitting Volleyball activity held in Malta. This was held for the 1st Year students currently following the Extended Diploma in Sport.

This session was held as part of the unit called 'Exercise for Specific Groups' during which students acquire the theoretical and practical knowledge of how to organize activities for specific groups such as elderly people, people with disability, children and pregnant women. Mr. Renzo Kerr-Cumbo, lecturer for this unit, explained that during this unit students attend Elderly Day Centres and Refugee Closed Centres. They also have different sessions such as the one dealing with Sitting Volleyball.

This session, which was led by Mr. Nello Calleja, International Sitting Volleyball Referee, dealt briefly with some of the aspects of Sitting Volleyball, mainly the differences in rules between Sitting Volleyball and normal indoor volleyball, the skills needed to move on the floor, as well as the proper skills to play volleyball.

STUDENT'S PAGE



by Jurgen Borg

Welcome to our clubbing section! I've been told that these articles are very popular with you students! Thanks for your interest and support. This issue will feature an interview with none other than the internationally acclaimed local duo,

TENISHIA!

A SNEAK PEAK ABOUT TENISHIA

Tenishia is the most successful DJ/Producer in Malta... selling arena shows and appearing everywhere from TV to mobile phone adverts. Winners of 'Best Newcomer Award 2005', 'Best Live Performance 2005' and three years in a row 'Best Dance Tune Award' at the Malta Music Awards. Tenishia has proved to be an icon to the young generation taking the clubbing scene by storm and building up enough fans to hold their own Tenishia Live events. They have been producing some of the biggest progressive trance tunes on Armada Records which are quickly spreading this musical phenomenon around the world!

Hard driven and full of determination, Tenishia kept pushing their way through the road of success, working from their state of the art studio in Malta, producing, organizing their own Tenishia Live events and also establishing their own production school. Today, Tenishia travel the world to promote their music.

Jurgen with Tenishia

INTERVIEW:

Q: For how long have you known each other?

Since 2004... we met through mutual friends in a bar where we discussed music for about four hours before going to studio the next day!

Q: Guys how did it all start?

Joven - I think it never really 'started' for me. I'd rather think myself as being born into it. Media and music run in my family's blood. I have lots of relatives in these industries even in Australia. My uncle, Ivan of Winter Moods, was my greatest influence. I used to steal his cassettes and long plays and follow him around during his gigs and studio sessions from an early age. My career first took off via a community radio at the age of 15 and a year later I was assigned my first club residency.

Cyprian - I was first introduced into music by my father who bought me my first synch when I was 10 years old. I also learnt how to play the drums and guitar when I was 15 and by the age of 17 I started to frequent clubs and dance events, all the while getting interested in producing dance music. I then bought some equipment and started to experiment with some sounds. After two years of experimenting I met Joven and Tenishia was born!

Q: Who came up with the name?

We were looking for a name for our project when we saw 'Tenishia' on MIRC back then. It does not have a particular meaning but it was catchy so we liked it.

Q: When did your first gig abroad take place?

The first international gig happened in Australia. Joven had moved there for a year and had managed to score a few big gigs there, including the 30,000 attending the Summadayze event. Obviously this happened because one of our biggest hits 'Outsiders' was in the charts back then. The first gig as a duo took place in 2008 in the Netherlands, when we played at the Luminosity Festival in Zandvoort. Two weeks after that we performed in Slovakia along with Cosmic Gate...and that is how it eventually kicked off.

Q: How does it feel to work with artists such as Armin van Buuren?

That is a bit of a misconception as we have never actually worked with Armin van Buuren. He first enjoyed our track 'Outsiders' and started to support us by playing all of our tracks during his gigs and radio shows. We met Armin several times though, on different occasions. His support was crucial to our careers. We were lucky enough to be able to have dinner with him and his lovely wife in Amsterdam once, before one of our gigs at Club Escape. We are also very good friends with his brother, Eller, and we are close friends to his shadow, Ruben de Ronde. But getting back to your original question - No we have never actually worked on a track with Armin. We owe our success to Armin since it was him that got the ball rolling for us and really introduced Tenishia to the Maltese crowds.



Q: Has the local clubbing scene changed in any way since you two first started out? If yes, in what way?

The whole world has changed its views on the clubbing scene and deejaying, and yes because we are part of this world, this has affected us locally as well. Today DJs are a new generation of superstars. We have seen it happen in America and we are seeing it taking place here in our small country. Besides that, if going to a 'party' in the nineties was all about doing drugs, today going to an 'event' is all about class and good music.

Q: You have performed at the MFCC headlining your own concert... tell us a bit about that experience...

Even though we mainly focus on the international scene, we love Malta more than anything, and we love our local following. We are the product of the Maltese scene! Maltese clubbers have made us what we are today by supporting us and we are proud to represent them and our national flag around the world. So yes, performing in Malta's largest indoor venue is pretty exciting as this is the same venue that hosted some of the world's biggest names like David Guetta, Armin and Tiesto. Besides that, when we are performing in Malta we are at home, so it is a bonus for us!

Q: What would you consider as being the basic ingredients to your success?

Determination would be the main ingredient along with the ongoing support from our local followers. Criticism has allowed us to grow further while obstacles along the way have convinced us that we are on the right track.

Q: If you both had to choose any other profession instead of Deejaying what would that be?

Were we not deejays we would still try to wriggle our way into the music business. We get asked this question many times, and till now we still have no actual 'this' or 'that' answer to it.

Q: Any advice to aspiring deejays out there?

If you are really interested in this scene pursue it passionately. Go into it because you truly love music and not for the fame. Practice makes perfect guys! Get yourselves music lessons and start producing bits here and there on your computers, in that way you start to explore and experiment with your capabilities. Do not waste your time by trying to mix two tracks together... that is the easiest part of the job. Make your own original music, learn from your mistakes and in a few years time you will be a professional DJ!

We are greatly honoured by the younger generations which we have influenced and we are pretty sure that Malta will have many more Top 100 DJs in the near future!



I would like to personally wish Tenishia the very best of luck in their future endeavours and also thank them for the time they took to answer these questions. Other than that I would like to thank all of you and do hope that you found this issue to be as informative as the previous ones. Until next time, guys! Make the best out of life but keep yourselves safe!

Send any suggestions to:
jurgen@oldskoolpromo.com

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT

The Pathway to Independent Living Programme aims to support students acquire skills for independent living particularly those skills required to gain and maintain employment. Besides the structured classes they attend, students are also given the opportunity to participate in job-orientation visits and job placements. During November and December 2011, first year Pathway to Independent Living Programme students attended five job-orientation visits. The orientation visits were held at Playmobil, RaeschQuartzGlas, Intercontinental Hotel, ELC and Mater Dei Hospital. The job-orientation visits gave the students a glimpse of the different vocational industries in Malta.

The weekly job placement, held every Friday, enhances the students' vocational experience. The first year students' job placements are carried out at the MCAST Institutes whilst the second year students are placed off-campus. Placements vary according to the students' interests and ability. Out of the thirteen students who completed the Pathway to Independent Living Programme last year, seven are now gainfully employed. Three are furthering their education and training and the other three are still registering for work with ETC. Moreover, sixteen second year students are doing their work placements in different industries.



Maria Gauci 1st Year Student Job Placement Cropping at the MCAST Library

STUDENTS CARRYING OUT WORK PLACEMENTS



Clint Farrugia San Anton Gardens during Job Placement



Pathway Students job visit at ELC Attard



Clint Farrugia 2nd Year Student Gardening Job Placement



Benjamin Grech ex-student currently working in an office at Farsons (Malta)

2nd YEAR STUDENTS 2010-2012 COHORT (work placement)		
STUDENTS	EMPLOYER/ COLLEGE	TYPE OF WORK
STUDENT 1,2,3	BELTISSEBH	SORTING BOOKS
STUDENT 4	DES	OFFICE WORK
STUDENT 5	ERNST & YOUNG	OFFICE WORK
STUDENT 6	IT EDUCATION DEPT	ASSISTANT TECHNICIAN
STUDENT 7	JMB LAUNDRY	LAUNDRY ASSISTANT
STUDENT 8	KITCHEN GARDEN	CATERING
STUDENT 9	KNPD	OFFICE WORK
STUDENT 10	MCDONALDS LUQA	CATERING
STUDENT 11	MOSTA PRIMARY	OFFICE WORK
STUDENT 12	MQC	OFFICE WORK
STUDENT 13	SAN ANTON GARDENS	GARDENING
STUDENT 14	SML	STORE KEEPER
STUDENT 15	ST THOMAS MOORE COLLEGE	OFFICE WORK
STUDENT 16	ST.ALBERT SCHOOL	OFFICE WORK

NEW CAREER ADVISER



by Jacky, Career Adviser

My name is Jacky and I am the new Career Adviser. I am very happy to join the existing team.

I have had the pleasure to meet quite a few of you during Diversity Day when we were abseiling, fighting at wheelchair rugby and trying out those cool drums! Besides having fun, I am here to do some work. So if you are having any doubts about which career to choose or if the present one is the right one (or you just want to pop round and say hello ☺) I am to be found in the Students' House with the other Career Adviser Robert Cassar.

After I graduated in Psychology, I left Malta and travelled for fourteen years. I changed careers quite a few times. I have now decided to hang my wings and landed on the MCAST campus for good. I have realised that the only constant thing is change. I have also learnt that discussing routes and options will help before you make those changes. I would like to be that friend if you would so wish.

I look forward to meeting you all.
Jacky

MATHS CORNER



EFFICIENT TILE COVERING

by Alexander Farrugia, Subject Coordinator, Mathematics

The number π (part 1)

The number π (pronounced 'pi', the letter p in the Greek alphabet) is simply the ratio between the circumference and the diameter of any circle, no matter how large or small.

For centuries, mathematicians and philosophers tried to find the exact value of this enigmatic number. In the first part of this article, we shall look at the first method ever devised to find this number π .

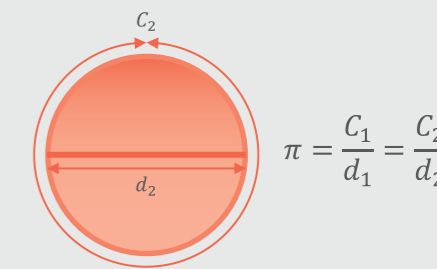
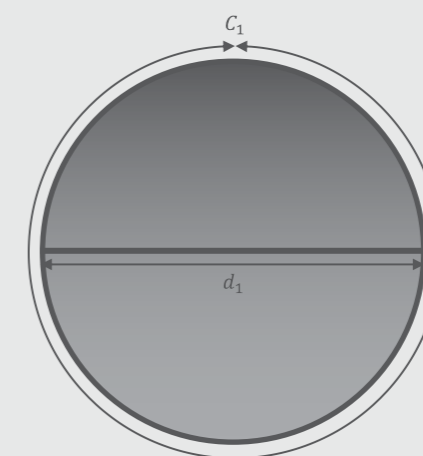


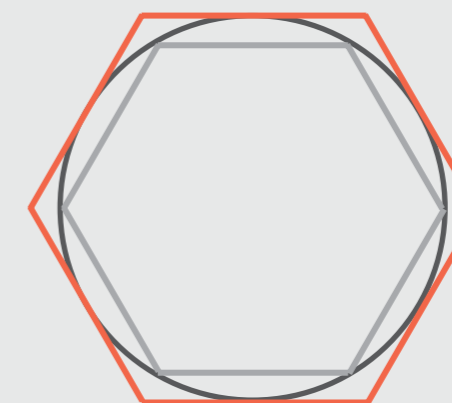
Figure 1: The circumference of a circle divided by its diameter is always equal to the same number, π , no matter how large or small the circle is.

Archimedes' Method to find the value of π

In the third century BC lived a man who is, to this day, considered to be one of the greatest mathematicians of all time. His name was Archimedes and he was the first ever man who calculated the value of π rigorously. Below is an account of his method.

Consider a regular polygon having n sides that is inscribed in a circle of radius 1 unit, and another regular polygon with n sides that is circumscribed across the same circle. Archimedes chose a polygon having 6 sides, i.e. a hexagon, because he knew the length of the sides of such a figure to a relatively good number of decimal places. In Figure 2, the blue hexagon is the inscribed polygon, and the red one is the circumscribed one.

Figure 2: A circle with an inscribed hexagon and a circumscribed hexagon



From Figure 2, it can be clearly seen that the perimeter of the inscribed hexagon is less than that of the circle, and the perimeter of the circumscribed hexagon is greater than that of the circle. Moreover, if we increase the number of sides of both polygons, the perimeter of the blue shape will increase, but will still stay smaller than that of the circle, while the perimeter of the red shape will decrease, but will still stay larger than that of the circle. Thus, we can increase our accuracy of the number π simply by increasing the number of sides of the polygon in our construction.

Finding the perimeter of the inscribed hexagon

Archimedes started from the hexagon because the radius of the circle would then be equal to the length of each side of the inscribed hexagon (since a hexagon is made up of 6 equilateral triangles; see previous articles). Thus, the perimeter of the hexagon is 6×1 , or 6 units long. See Figure 3.

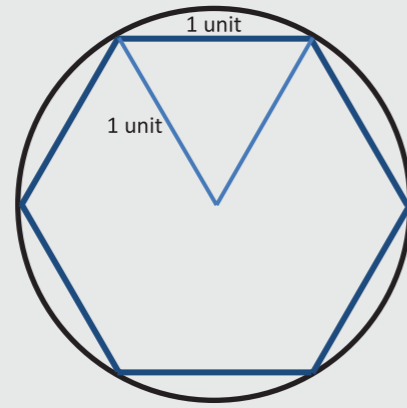


Figure 3: The perimeter of the inscribed hexagon is 6 times the radius of the circle.

Finding the perimeter of the circumscribed hexagon

In the case of the circumscribed hexagon, things are a little bit trickier. From Figure 4, since triangle ABC is equilateral, $AB = AC = X$ units long. Also, the length of AD is half that of AB, and hence $AD = \frac{1}{2}x$ units long. Since CD is 1 unit long, the radius of the circle, we can find X using Pythagoras' Theorem (a theorem that Archimedes knew about).

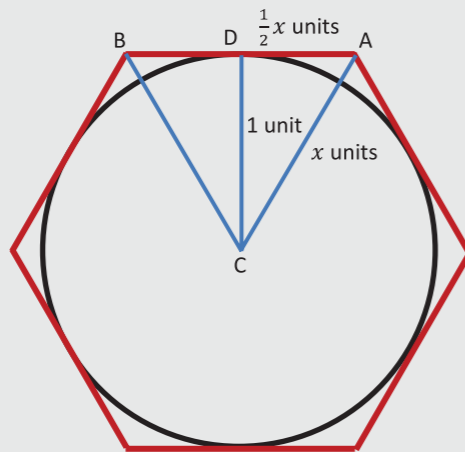


Figure 4: The perimeter of the circumscribed hexagon is 6 times the length of side X .

$$x^2 = 1^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2}x\right)^2$$

$$x^2 = 1 + \frac{1}{4}x^2$$

$$\frac{3}{4}x^2 = 1$$

$$x^2 = \frac{4}{3}$$

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{4}{3}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \text{ units}$$

This presented a problem to Archimedes, as he needed to find a good approximation for $\sqrt{3}$. Remember, calculators and computers would not be invented until some 2200 years later! After another strenuous task to find an approximation for $\sqrt{3}$, he managed to show that

$$\frac{265}{153} < \sqrt{3} < \frac{1351}{780}$$

(This is an astonishingly accurate approximation of $\sqrt{3}$ in its own right!)

$$\frac{1560}{1351} < x < \frac{306}{265}$$

Hence, the perimeter of the circumscribed hexagon is $6X$ units, where X satisfies the property above.

First approximation to π

Since the circumference of the circle is $2 \times \pi \times 1 = 2\pi$ units, we have that

$$6 < 2\pi < \frac{306 \times 6}{265}$$

$$3 < \pi < \frac{918}{265}$$

$$3 < \pi < 3.464$$

Improving on this approximation

As we can see, this first approximation is very crude, because we have used a polygon with only 6 sides. Archimedes then set about doubling the number of sides of the polygon four times, to 12 sides, 24 sides, 48 sides and finally, 96 sides.

After repeating this procedure for a polygon with 96 sides, Archimedes managed to show that

$$3 \frac{10}{71} < \pi < 3 \frac{10}{70}$$

or that

$$3.1408 < \pi < 3.1429$$

In this way, Archimedes managed to find for certain the first two decimal places of the number π , and limited the third decimal place to only three possibilities: 0, 1 or 2.

Notice that the number $3 \frac{10}{70}$ can be written as $3 \frac{1}{7}$ or $\frac{22}{7}$. The approximation of π as the fraction $\frac{22}{7}$ has thus been known for over 2200 years, and is still sometimes used today. What is usually overlooked is the fact that Archimedes had actually proved that $\pi < \frac{22}{7}$ using this construction.



AGRIBUSINESS INSTITUTE TAKING THE PLUNGE

By Lorelle Camilleri - Higher National Diploma in Animal Management



Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that I would be reading for a Diploma in Animal Management at the Agribusiness Institute, let alone pluck up the courage to pursue a career in this sector. I always imagined myself working for a company, sitting at a desk in an office wearing a suit...

The decision to start studying again after graduating from University and starting a full-time paid job was one of the hardest decisions I had to make till now. But I knew that working for a company that imports products just did not feel right. I felt that I could do more with my life. So after a year working for this company, I realised that I should pursue my dream of working with animals.

After months of contemplating about what I should do, looking for jobs or courses abroad, fantasizing about the work I could do and how happy I would be, I came across the list of courses offered at the MCAST Agribusiness Institute. I was ecstatic. I could not believe that I could enroll on a course related to animals in Malta.

After being torn between pursuing my dream or keeping my job I finally took the plunge. I quit my job, convinced my parents of my decision and enrolled on the course. Wow! That was brave, even by my standards. I would usually just stick to my actual reality even if it's killing me from the inside. The first hurdle was over, I enrolled and got accepted. I finally felt that I was living my dream.

Naturally, I had worrying thoughts going through my mind. I was starting a new course, in a new school knowing no one. I felt like a fish out of water re-starting studies from anew at the age of 23, when most at this same age would have ended their studies and would be settling down in a job. I was apprehensive at first, about starting a course with students much younger and probably more into the subject than I was.

I thank my lucky stars that I ended up at the Agribusiness Institute. From the moment I started the course, I was showered with generosity by my

classmates, now great friends. I never expected such an approach especially when considering that I come from no agricultural background and live in a highly urbanized area of the island. People I cannot forget to mention are the lecturers who, although firm, are also like friends to each and every student as they help and care for the success of all their pupils.

I cannot not mention the culture shock I got when I was plunged knee deep into assignments which were no piece of cake. I got a shock, I never was so busy with academic life, juggling from one assignment to another when compared to the work I had to submit at University. Many people outside the Institute have no inkling how demanding the MCAST courses are and how much time and dedication it takes to research for the vast syllabus and the many assignments that students have to submit at the end of each semester.

From what I have seen so far, students here put a lot of effort and dedication in everything they do. This goes to show how interested and passionate they are about the subjects they are studying. But it does not end here. MCAST students show what they are capable of doing when they roll up their sleeves to create an array of things. Students at the Agribusiness Institute do their utmost to help improve the work environment they are in and go the extra mile to help each other. Help is always given to those who ask for it. I can honestly say that I admire my classmates and lecturers and I am grateful for all the help they have given me.

I feel that I have made the right decision and choice. No matter what anyone thinks about where and what I am studying at my age. I had the chance to follow my dream and I decided to take the opportunity. I have come to realise that we only have one life and we should at least try to chase our dreams no matter what people might be saying!

FARMING IN MALTA: THE HURDLES TO AN EVER-CHANGING SECTOR

By Damian Vella and Stephen Bartolo - BTEC Extended Diploma in Agriculture



The art of farming is not as straightforward as it used to be. Numerous obstacles and restrictions make the grower struggle continuously to earn his daily bread.

Because farming depends in its entirety on weather and climate, it comes as no surprise that weather and climate have a direct impact on the cultivation of crops. Weather factors such as wind, rain and temperature extremes are some of the most potentially damaging variables. Wind is the most destructive factor because it damages any agricultural structure that comes in its way. Greenhouses can be damaged by having their plastic ripped, glass broken (in the case of a glass greenhouse) or even displaced from the ground. Crops can be damaged by wind which may break their stem, wilt the leaves, cause their fruit to drop or even smother the crop completely.

Although rain is essential for irrigation because of Malta's scarce water supplies, it may also cause major damages. Rain makes the terrain unsuitable for work, thus keeping the farmer away from his/her fields. Furthermore excessive water can cause soil erosion, thus further compounding Malta's problem of restricted soil cover.

Laws and regulations, such as the Nitrate Action Plan and MEPA (Malta Environmental Planning Authority) Guidelines, can seriously affect the farmer in his/her work. The Nitrate Action Plan aims to reduce the amount of nitrates in the water table by regulating the amount and timing of fertilizers and manures applied. Manure or artificial fertilizers cannot be applied between the 15 October and the 15 March. This happens to be the ideal time to fertilize many crops which, in the absence of these fertilizers, would not provide the maximum yield possible.

The farmer may also need to invest in his farm by building structures for many purposes such as the storage of machinery, tools, etc. MEPA can hold the farmer from building such farm structures because of its policies and guidelines and thus prohibit the expansion of the farmer's business.

Importation of crops from other EU countries is the most challenging factor for today's grower because these imported products are sold at a much cheaper price than our local produce and thus the farmer is forced to lower the prices of his/her crops or risk having his product unsold. This is leaving much less money in the farmer's pockets and although the Government provides compensatory grants, these are hardly enough to cover production costs. Even if local products are of a superior quality, buyers' first preference will always be the cheapest option. This problem is further exacerbated by the fact that the majority of restaurants and fast food outlets do not support the local product because they prefer ready packed products for convenience's sake.

Our plea goes to all people to always choose local: it's fresher, it's tastier, it's closer to home and you can always be sure that your purchase is helping a dwindling sector of genuine growers tending their fields to provide us with our food.



DIVERSITY DAY

MCAST CELEBRATES DIVERSITY

Students and staff organised a Diversity Day at the MCAST Main Campus, Paola, on Thursday 26 April 2012. The aim of this activity was to raise awareness on the importance of social tolerance and inclusion. Through this event, the students and staff made it clear that MCAST will not accept any form of intolerance or social exclusion, especially prejudices and bullying incited by race, sexual orientation, physical or intellectual disabilities.

Diversity Day activities started on the eve of the event, when a group of students and their lecturers camped on Campus. Early in the morning, they started preparing for the day's activities. In the meantime, other students from different localities cycled to the College rather than using their private cars or public transport, to encourage more individuals to take up cycling as an environment-friendly transport alternative. During the day, the students participated in different sports activities, including street soccer, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, wheelchair rugby, chess, tug of war, zumba and abseiling. Other students and staff participated in musical and cultural activities. The event also featured an exhibition of rare artefacts at the Library, a classic cars exhibition, a street market, an African food tasting experience and vehicle safety testing.

All proceeds of Diversity Day's activities were donated to non-governmental organisations that promote diversity and equality, including the Malta Gay Rights Movement, Inspire and the Jesuit Refugee Services. These organisations also participated in this event through different activities on campus. They were accompanied by other organisations, including the National Commission Persons with Disability, SOS Malta, the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality and ME2 Co-op Ltd.

Prof. Maurice Grech, MCAST Principal and CEO, explained that through these events, the students' MCAST experience is not simply a matter of vocational learning in preparation for a successful career, but also includes increased awareness on important social issues that will guide them throughout their lives. Through Diversity Day, the students and staff sent out a strong message for diversity and equality. "MCAST works hard to make sure that its learning and career opportunities are accessible to everyone, regardless of the individual's level of education. Similarly, MCAST strives to always uphold the values of diversity, tolerance and social inclusion in all our services. We hope that our students continue to maintain these values in our lecture rooms and workshops, at their places of work, and among family and friends, throughout their lives."





DIVERSITY DAY



DIVERSITY DAY



INSTITUTE OF APPLIED SCIENCE



INSTITUTE OF APPLIED SCIENCE HOLDS FIRST SEMINAR

'APPLIED SCIENCE STUDENTS' WORK INVOLVEMENT WITHIN THE NATIONAL HEALTH SECTOR'

MCAST's Institute of Applied Science hosted the first of a range of planned seminars. The seminar focused on the issues and challenges that students face when carrying out work placements within the Health Sector. The aim of the first seminar was to strengthen the students' awareness and knowledge of the options, opportunities and expectations related to their work placements within the National Health Sector. The seminar was addressed by a number of key speakers from the Health Sector, commencing with introductory speeches by Mr. Anthony Saliba, Deputy Principal and Dr. Alex Rizzo, Director of the Institute of Applied Science. Mr. Ray Camilleri, Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Applied Science, delivered a most interesting presentation on the issues and challenges facing students within their work placements.

The seminar proceeded with no less than six succinct presentations by key health sector speakers. Mr. Francis Laus, Manager within the Dental Hygiene Services at Mater Dei Hospital supported by Ms. Carmen Caruana, Clinical Specialist Dental Hygienist, provided an excellent presentation on the Diploma Course in Dental Surgery Assistants and the duties carried out by qualified Dental Surgery Assistants. Ms. Grace Jaccarini, Chairperson, MMDNA and Ms. Catherine Zammit, Senior Nurse, MMDNA provided a very interesting overview of the history of the MMDNA organization, followed by a description of the work of the organisation within the community with regard to post natal care to both mother and infant, nursing care to young and old persons and assistance to elderly persons to remain living in the community. Mr. Mario Camilleri provided a very informative

outline of the workings of the Environmental Health Directorate and its main responsibilities, including drinking water supplies, land and sea water contamination, noise pollution and the safety of food. Ms. Bernadette Felice, Assistant Principal Occupational Therapist provided an excellent overview of Occupational Therapy as a health and rehabilitation profession, designed to help people regain and build skills that are important for health, well being, security and happiness. Ian Brincat, Principal Medical Laboratory Scientist provided a detailed overview of the role of Medical Laboratory Scientists in health care, providing clinicians with diagnostic tests which can be used in the diagnosis and monitoring of a wide variety of pathological conditions. Mr. Andrew Sciberras, Senior Audiologist at Mater Dei Hospital, introduced the Audiology Profession. He provided a detailed outline of the role of the Audiologist, explaining the current pathways to becoming a fully qualified Audiologist and providing information about the role of the Audiological Assistant.

Finally, Mr. Noel Abela, Nurse Specialist Infection Control Mater Dei Hospital, gave a most relevant presentation on work-related injuries, in particular exposures to blood-borne pathogens such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis B and C viruses. The students took great interest in the seminar and the information that was being transmitted to them by the speakers. Students had the opportunity to appreciate the role of different Health Sector units participating in the seminar and also gained knowledge on a number of diseases that can be encountered at the work placement.

INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN

➤ THE FIRST ACADEMIC COURSE IN PHOTOGRAPHY IN MALTA!

MCAST has recently launched the new Higher National Diploma in Photography. The need for formal academic training in photography had long been felt on our island, and this two year, full-time, Edexcel BTEC Higher National Diploma enables students to learn all important aspects of this popular artistic medium.

The course covers various modules such as Photographic Techniques, Studio Practice, Location Photography, Fashion Photography, Digital Image Creation and Development and Visual Language in Photography.

Throughout the two-year programme of studies, students are also introduced to a broad range of photographic techniques, with particular focus on modern digital photography. Students are provided with a set of skills and knowledge relevant to a critical understanding of the production and consumption of photographic images, whilst they are consistently encouraged to develop a creative and critically informed methodology to their work. This course embraces a broad approach to image making and will also encourage learners to develop key skills in areas and applications such as fine art photography, advertising, exhibitions and installation work.

The main emphasis is on hands-on practice and workshops giving the students the benefits of learning first hand from seasoned proven professionals in the field. All necessary ethical aspects are not neglected and the blend of theory and practice works well.

As this is the first time that such a course has been instituted, a full studio has been equipped for the benefit of learners. Hardware such as SLR cameras, lenses and flashguns have been procured in order to better equip both tutors and students.

The Institute of Art and Design library has also been purposely enriched with relevant photography books to further support the students while researching on their subject.

COMMENTS ABOUT THE COURSE FROM SOME OF THE HND IN PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF AND STUDENTS:

"It is with pride and pleasure that I am involved in teaching this academic course. The need for it had long been felt and I consider today's students very lucky to have this opportunity. This course can only further improve the quality and standing of photography in our islands – a standard which already is up at the top with the best levels of much larger nations."

Kevin Casha (Tutor)



"I have been waiting for this course for three years and finally I got the opportunity to study photography at the Institute of Art and Design. The assignments are very interesting and well planned. It's a fun and very well organised course, exceeding my high expectations."

Andria Buttigieg



"Throughout these first few months of the course, I already feel that I have developed both technical and creative aspects of my photography work. The course is also helping my in thinking and planning processes. The live assignments are an excellent way of getting to know more about the photography business. This will effectively help us in future work experience. Nevertheless, both our lecturers and fellow peers enrich my studying experience. I look forward to what lies ahead in the coming years."

Angela Cassar



"Very interesting, full of first-hand practical workshops and well guided. Assignments are well planned and fully explained. The HND in photography is fun and better than I expected."

Stephanie Sciberras



"I've been in the photographic industry for 35 years and never had the opportunity for formal photographic education. This course has opened my mind to new horizons, it has liberated my ability to express my ideas freely, not bound to technical ability only."

Charles Calleja





ON SITE AND STUDIO PRACTICE: PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS ON THE GO.



FINO COLLABORATION

A fully-fledged exhibition has marked the culmination of yet another successful collaboration between the Institute of Art and Design and stakeholders from within the design industry. This collaboration had its roots in preliminary meetings with Fino management during the previous academic year, whereby possibilities to promote students' design works were the main topic of discussion. "We are seeing a trend in the way stakeholders from industry are becoming increasingly interested in investing in local talent," said Stephen Vella, Director of the Institute of Art and Design, "with the growing realisation that our students are as capable as their international counterparts".

In response to Fino's interest, students following the BA (Hons) in 3D Design and Interiors were assigned to design the final outcome of which had to relate to Sustainable Design, as per the title of one of their modules. Students designed concepts for items that ranged from lighting to seating to tableware to multifunctional products. Fino directors were extremely impressed by the students' works, so much so that they proposed that the works be exhibited during the Design Thinking Workshop, which they organised at their premises.

The idea behind organising this type of workshop revolved around Fino Ltd's passion for good design. This event is aimed at local designers and architects, who are invited to attend for talks held by prestigious names in the international design scene. This year, the line-up of speakers from Italy included renowned sociologists Francesco Morace and Linda Gobbi, who mesmerised the audience with their futuristic thinking about tomorrow's consumer types and markets for sustainability. These were followed by an introduction to the new line of appliances in response to consumer insights, by Ing. Luigi Campello, President and Electrolux General Director for Italy. Most fascinating was the presentation by world-known designer Andrea Branzi about the conceptualisation of marketable products, while highly relevant was the address of Dante Donegani, Director of the Domus Academy in Milan, who spoke about what it takes to be a successful designer. Workshops were followed by a networking session.

The students' final, fully-functioning prototypes were exhibited together with concept boards. Guest speakers were the main judges of the works but all those present were given the opportunity to vote for their preferred designs. Mr Donegani had nothing but words of praise for the students' works, which he said were easily comparable in level to those of their Italian counterparts. Items on display were produced using innovative materials, as seen in the winning entry by Roberto Tweraser. In fact his Salt Lamp collections which comes in the hanging and in the free-standing version, were voted as the overall preferred design and won the student a one-week design internship at Cucine Venete in Italy. The runner-up was a multifunctional product designed by Antoinette Mamo, whose concept combines together lighting and space-saving shelving, addressing constraints linked to smaller living spaces. The second runner-up was another lighting piece by Kevin

Anastasi, whose Geo Light combines aesthetics with functionality. Runners up were awarded an iPad and an iPhone respectively.

"We can safely say that the products exhibited by these extremely talented students have enhanced the workshop," said Dino Fino, director at Fino Ltd. "Indeed, Fino Ltd is proud to be showcasing works of such calibre alongside its own products". Ruth Farrugia and Carlo Fino, also directors at Fino Ltd, added that among the aims of their company is to support the educational system that promotes young designers through such collaborations, and following the success of this year's workshop, the intention is for this to become an annual event.



➤ LIFE SIZE CRIB AT THE VERDALA GARDENS

His Excellency the President of Malta, Dr George Abela, has once again entrusted the Institute of Art and Design with the design and production of a life size crib. The previous year, such a commission was requested to embellish the San Anton Palace and another one for the President's Palace in Valletta. This time round, the President wanted to greet visitors of the 'L-Istrina 2011' entering the Verdala premises with the truest symbol of Christmas – a life size crib representing the Holy Family and the birth of Jesus Christ.

"This activity was extra-curricular and went beyond the remit of the staff's work," stated Mr Stephen Vella, Director of the Institute of Art and Design. "However, a number of lecturers took it upon themselves to work on this project, and often spent countless hours planning, designing, producing and finishing a crib the beauty of which exceeded everyone's expectations." Indeed, the workmanship of the crib is a reflection of the skills and talent of the staff and students at the Institute of Art and Design in different disciplines, including metalwork, ceramics and textiles.

The final work consisted of five pieces, including the St Joseph, the Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus, the donkey and ox, all of them awe-inspiring in the richness and quality of their finish. The challenge was enhanced by

the awful weather in which the team of staff and students had to work to set up the finished crib at the Verdala gardens entrance, as torrential rain and wind threatened to jeopardise the whole endeavour. This project could not have been possible without the coordination of Ms Ruth Ancilleri, and the main drivers of the production, Ms Anna Ancilleri, Mr Joseph Psaila, Mr Angelo Agius and Ms Sarah Mamo.



➤ MEDIA STUDENTS COLLABORATE WITH VODAFONE EMPLOYEES TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY

A group of students following the second year of the Extended Diploma in Creative Media Production at the Institute of Art and Design have joined forces with employees from the Vodafone Foundation to produce a Christmas-themed music video in order to help raise funds for homeless children sheltered at the Ursuline Sisters' Piccola Casa di San Giuseppe in Valletta.

Vodafone employees Rosalie Theuma, Rachel Zahra and Daniel Bruno performed John Lennon's classic "Happy Christmas (War is Over)", accompanied by MCAST students and fellow Vodafone colleagues. The music video ran in Vodafone's concept stores with the aim of raising over €1,000 in aid of the Home. It was also run virally on Vodafone's Facebook Page and other social media channels and backed up by Vodafone's SMS marketing. The video featured an SMS donation number through which the general public could give their offerings.

"We are very grateful for this initiative and we are so heartened by the eager and altruistic young people from Vodafone and MCAST," said Sister Edelweiss Grech from Piccola Casa, "They have given us a dose of energy and happiness!" The Sisters currently care for 11 boys and girls aged between six and 17 years who come from difficult social backgrounds. The Home is

currently undertaking renovations in order to offer the children a better living environment. Despite being a beautiful house, Piccola Casa di San Giuseppe is in dire need of refurbishment, including maintenance of roofs and walls.



"We have worked exceptionally well with our colleagues and with MCAST students in this production," said Rosalie, Rachel and Daniel. And the result has been exceptional! The €1,000 target was surpassed by more than fifty percent to the delight of all involved. Thus the Maltese public has once again proved its generosity and receptiveness to the needs of others.

Most of the music video was filmed at MCAST's new state-of-the-art, full-HD TV studio at the Institute of Art and Design in Mosta. A team of

➤ MEET THE ARTIST

The Institute of Art and Design has committed itself to promote local artists by inviting them to share their insights and experiences with the public through sessions that are visually documented and digitally archived. The idea behind this initiative is primarily to create awareness on local living artists by documenting their talks for archival purposes, as well as for possible eventual dissemination. Additionally, this digitally recorded material is undoubtedly set to become an invaluable resource for art students and art lovers in general.

Invitations to artists are already being extended to participate in this initiative, with priority being given to prominent individuals who have marked the Maltese art scene and thus can share their extensive

20 MCAST students led by Media lecturer Keith Abela joined forces with Vodafone employees to produce this music video. Mr. Stephen Vella, the Institute's Director, said that the Institute fully supports such working tandems in order to give students the opportunity to work together with the private sector and gain precious hands-on experience in their chosen area of study. "This Christmas initiative is even more special since it will help children in need lead a happier life," Mr. Vella said.

baggage of experience. "We felt it was more than fitting that the first artist to be invited to launch this initiative should be Mr Alfred Camilleri," said Stephen Vella, Director of the Institute of Art and Design, "who has recently retired from his position as lecturer at the Institute of Art and Design after having shared his passion with our students for the past ten years."

Spurred on by the access and availability of the recently set up TV studio facilities, this project was developed in collaboration with media lecturers and students. Such facilities are thus allowing the development of projects that benefit the community from the cultural, historical and educational perspectives.

➤ MCAST INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN PARTICIPATES IN KWALITÀ MALTA

Kwalità Malta was conceived as a platform to showcase local products and services. The fair that took place at MFCC, Ta' Qali between 18 and 20 November 2011, featured large, established enterprises as well as SMEs from various sectors including construction, manufacture, interiors, catering, fashion, communication, literature, education, crafts, art and design.

The Institute of Art and Design was invited to participate during this event. The two stands were availed of by the organisers. The largest, at an area of fifty-six square metres, featured a wide selection of two-dimensional and three-dimensional work from various courses and disciplines offered at the Institute. Fine Art work comprised of sculptures in metal, paintings in various media and prints. 3D-Design exhibits included works in ceramics, wood, jewellery and stone. 3D prints showing models of futuristic bus shelter designs, proved to be popular with visitors. Equally intriguing were a selection of artistic dresses made out of recycled and found materials which were located centre stage. Colourful and eye-catching posters, by graphic design and interactive media students, effectively embellished the stand's interior and exterior. A selection of portfolios by graphic design students provided fine examples of illustration, photography, typography and the printed media.

The other stand, albeit smaller, still boasted an area of twenty-four square metres. This was entirely dedicated to the Media disciplines, whereby

a fully-functional studio was set up for the duration of the three-day event. The use of High Definition video cameras, an AnyCast Outside Broadcasting unit and Chroma equipment certainly drew the attention of many, especially those more experienced in the broadcasting field. The setup not only showcased the latest, state-of-the-art equipment enjoyed by the media students at the Institute, but also provided an interactive workshop that allowed any eager passer-by to participate actively. The Chroma equipment allowed the volunteer standing in front of the camera to be composited over any image or video of choice making him/her seemingly present a feature from any location.

The Institute's participation also involved MCAST 3D Design students in "Stilo", a fashion pavilion that, apart from featuring other artistic outfits fashioned in the textiles workshop, involved a subsidiary event that took place on Friday and Saturday evening. Students proudly paraded the catwalk, alongside professional models, whilst donning their own creations or those of their peers.

According to Mr. Stephen Vella, Director of the Institute of Art and Design, the event proved to be yet another successful way of promoting the college and the students' talents: "Participation in such events places the college on the map, promotes the students' capabilities and conforms to our objective of exposing ourselves to the industry and society at large."



INSTITUTE OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

RESOURCE USE ISSUES INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTOCOLS

By Martin Borg, Deputy Director, Institute of Building and Construction Engineering

Scientific findings reveal that global average air and ocean temperatures are increasing (IPCC, 2007). Global temperature has increased by 0.6°C in the last 100 years, and is likely that the last century was the warmest in the last millennium (Hulme et al., 2002). Moreover, IPCC's fourth assessment report (2007) maintains that global average sea level and snow and ice melting rates are also increasing.

Climatic changes are not attributable to natural climate variations, but are consistent with GHG emission rates (Jenkins et al., 2009). Furthermore, Sorenson (2000) argues that anthropogenic activities have led to a marked increase in global atmospheric concentrations of GHG.

The main objective of the Kyoto and Montreal Protocols are to protect the Earth's atmosphere from the adverse effects of anthropogenic activity (UN, 1998; UNEP, 2000; Powell, 2002; GTZ, 2008). GHG emissions reduction, most notable CO₂ emissions resulting from the fossil fuel usage, is the main focus of the Kyoto Protocol. However, other gases, such as f-gases, need to be considered if we are to limit global warming to 20°C by 2050 (Calm, 2008; GTZ, 2008). Calm (2008) maintains that HCFCs have a GWP which is 2000 greater than that of CO₂.

The Montreal Protocol, signed in 1987, is often considered as a successful environmental international agreement (Powell, 2002). On the 20th anniversary of this protocol, parties decided to phase out the production and use of HCFCs by 2020 (GTZ, 2008). The latter have served as alternatives to CFCs, and a marked increase in usage has been registered, mostly due to growing demands for refrigeration and air-conditioning in industrialised and developing countries (Jakob et al., 2008; Grignon-Masse et al., 2011; Perez-Lombard et al., 2011).

Energy Consumption

Growing world energy use causes great concern in terms of natural resource depletion, supply difficulties and environmental impacts (Perez-Lombard et al., 2008). According to the IEA (2006), primary energy consumption has increased by 49%, and CO₂ emissions by 43%, over the last two decades. Perez-Lombard et al. (2008) maintain that an increase in energy consumption is due to population growth, and an increased demand for building services and comfort levels. In addition, the latter claim that an upward trend in energy demand will continue in the future, as people tend to spend more time indoors.

Energy use in buildings accounts to 40% of the total primary energy used, (EU, 2010; Perez-Lombard et al., 2011) and therefore, energy efficiency within buildings is a sought policy objective at regional, national and international levels (Kim et al., 2006; Atanasiu and Bertoldi, 2008). HVAC systems within buildings are responsible for approximately 50% of building energy consumption (Perez-Lombard et al., 2008; Almeida et al., 2011; Perez-Lombard et al., 2011). Within the residential sector, 68% of the energy consumed is directed to space conditioning, followed by lighting and appliances, and domestic hot water, consuming 18% and 14% respectively (Perez-Lombard et al., 2008). HVAC is said to consume 50%, and also dominates the energy share in office buildings (Perez-Lombard et al., 2008; Almeida et al., 2011). Figure 1 below illustrates the energy consumption (in percentage of total energy use) for different building types by end users.

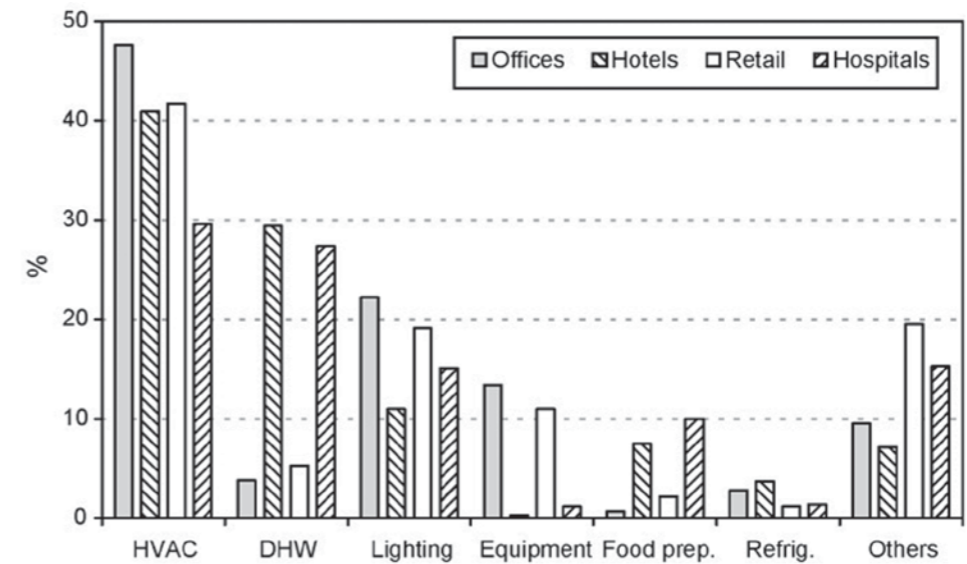


Figure 1: Energy consumption profiles for building types by end users (Source: Perez-Lombard et al., 2008).

Malta's Energy Profile

Grignon-Masse et al. (2011) and Perez-Lombard et al. (2011a) argue that buildings tend to be equipped with individual air-conditioners. Electrical end use is expected to rise, mainly because air-conditioner sale figures in Europe show no sign of approaching market saturation (Grignon-Masse et al., 2011). Moreover, cooling degree days are expected to rise by 40% in southern Europe, compared to the current scenario (Grignon-Masse et al., 2011). Additionally, Jakob et al. (2008) forecast a 270% increase in building energy consumption, due to the utilisation of air-conditioners in Europe between 2005 and 2050.

Busutill et al. (2008) claim that Malta's situation with respect to energy consumption is quite particular, mostly due to its high population density, limited land space and increasing energy demand. In addition, the island is heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels for its energy demands (Busutill et al., 2008). Moreover, the electrical energy demand trends over the last two decades indicate that since 2001, the summer yearly consumption peaks have exceeded the winter peaks. This therefore suggests a greater demand for cooling in buildings through the utilisation of air-conditioners in buildings (Busutill et al., 2008).

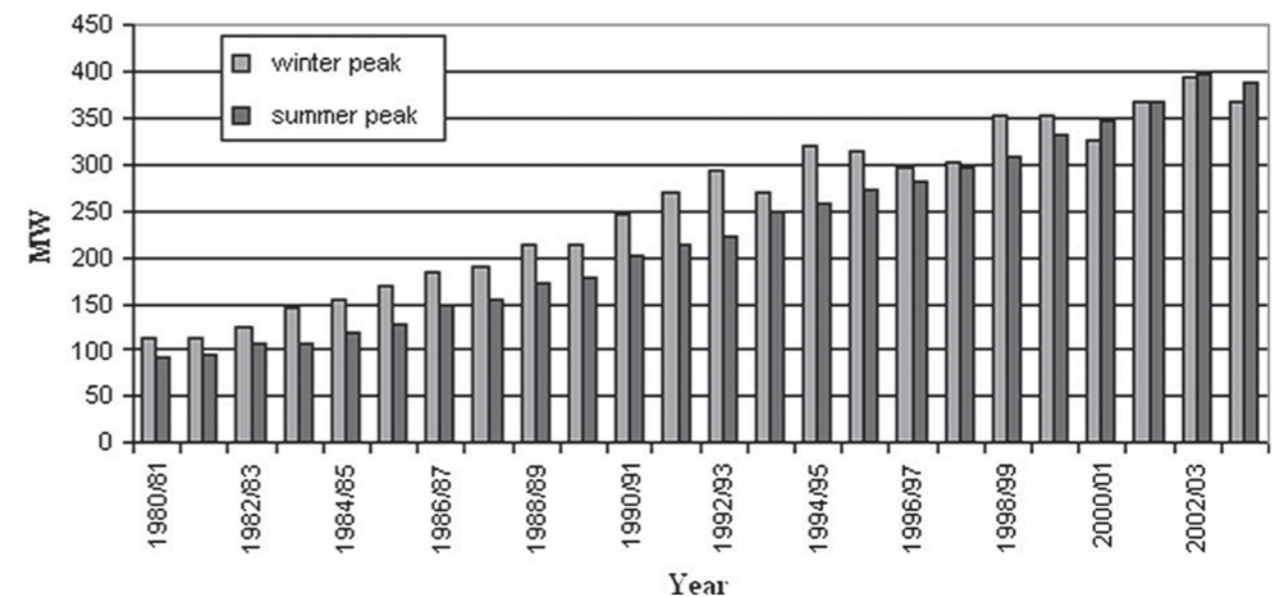


Figure 2: Winter and Summer Electricity consumption (in MW) in Malta (Source: Busutill et al., 2008).

Types of Refrigerants

Several authors (Powell, 2002; Calm, 2008; GTZ, 2008) maintain that the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, has been the most successful international environmental agreement to date. Norman et al. (2008) state that massive reductions in ODS worldwide, since 1986, is well documented, mostly due to an excellent record of compliance, nearly universal membership, co-operation in development, and diffusion of new technologies.

However, opportunities for improvement, most notably in the types of refrigerants used, remain (Powell, 2002; Calm, 2008; GTZ, 2008; Norman et al., 2008; AEA, 2010). In addition, damage due to previous ODS emissions, and ODS embedded in old equipment, are still issues of concern (Powell, 2002; Calm, 2008; GTZ, 2008; Norman et al., 2008; AEA, 2010). Derwent et al. (2007) argue that phase out of CFCs was achieved because replacement substances, within existing equipment and applications, were readily available. Additionally HCFCs (such as HCFC-141b and HCFC-142b) are ozone depleting, and have a high GWP (Derwent et al., 2007; GTZ, 2008; AEA, 2010).

The phase out of fluorinated gases is seen as a necessary objective in various scientific documents (Calm, 2008; Mohanraj et al., 2009; GTZ, 2008; AEA, 2010). Several authors (Calm, 2008; GTZ, 2008; Mohanraj et al., 2009; AEA, 2010) maintain that f-gases may be replaced by natural refrigerants which, apart from being non-depleting ozone substances, have a low global warming potential (GWP).

Table 1 below presents possible alternatives of refrigerant use for a number of applications within the HVAC sector.

Integrating resource use issues into vocational education and training programmes is not simply an option, but a necessary imperative. Developing a workforce skilled for sustainability may be achieved by embedding vocational education and training with knowledge, skills, competences and attitudes associated with sustainable development. The latter requires the use of relevant training approaches, formation of partnerships with key stakeholders and leading by example (Chen Gu et al., 2011).

Sector/ Application	Refrigerants in Use	Low GWP replacements
Stationary refrigeration and air-conditioning – Domestic	HFC-134a; HC; HFC-125a; HCFC-22	Low GWP unsaturated HFCs
Stationary refrigeration and air-conditioning – Small commercial distributed systems	HCFC-134a; R-404A; R-502; HCFC-22	HC-600a; HC-209; CO ²
Stationary refrigeration and air-conditioning – Supermarkets	R-404A; HCFCs	CO ²
Stationary refrigeration and air-conditioning – Industrialised refrigeration	HFCs; Ammonia	Ammonia; CO ²
Stationary refrigeration and air-conditioning – Building air-conditioning systems	HCFC-22; R-410A; R-407C	Application and development of low GWP are still at early stages, due to technical difficulties such as flammability, toxicity, peak load efficiency and economic feasibility.
Stationary refrigeration and air-conditioning – Building air-conditioning chillers	R-407C; HFC-134A; R-410	Ammonia; Hydrocarbons; HFO-12324yf; CO ² ; Water
Mobile air-conditioning	HCF-134a	Hydrocarbons; CO ² ; HFO-1234yf
Foam blowing agents	HFCs	Hydrocarbons; CO ² ; HFO-1234ze
Metered dose inhalers	HFCs	No other gas as yet has met particular criteria for a medical gas
Fire fighting equipment	HFCs	FK5-1-12; Water mist systems

Table 1: Current refrigerant use and possible low GWP alternatives, by application (Source: AEA, 2010)

STUDENTS VISIT PLANT ROOMS AT MATER DEI HOSPITAL



The group of students outside Mater Dei Hospital

Thanks to the kind cooperation of the Mater Dei Hospital Administration and the Maintenance Contractors, students at the Institute of Building and Construction Engineering once again visited the most challenging engineering project conducted on our islands. A group of 18 students following the HVAC course were allowed access to the backstage of this intricate and complex building.

Ing. Cardona, Ing. Fenech and representatives from ESI Malta Ltd led the way through the various corridors leading to a multitude of plant rooms serving all the required building services to the various blocks. Ing. Cardona highlighted the fact that today's engineering designs are based on the principle of Mechatronics. This approach allows the engineers to amalgamate the mechanical, electrical, electronic (including controls) and software engineering fields into one. For this reason a powerful Building Management System (BMS) network was installed which covers the whole complex. The BMS makes such an intricate number of different building services run together in synergy and in the most efficient manner possible. Moreover it makes the tasks of the facilities management much easier by providing quick and user friendly control and monitoring services.

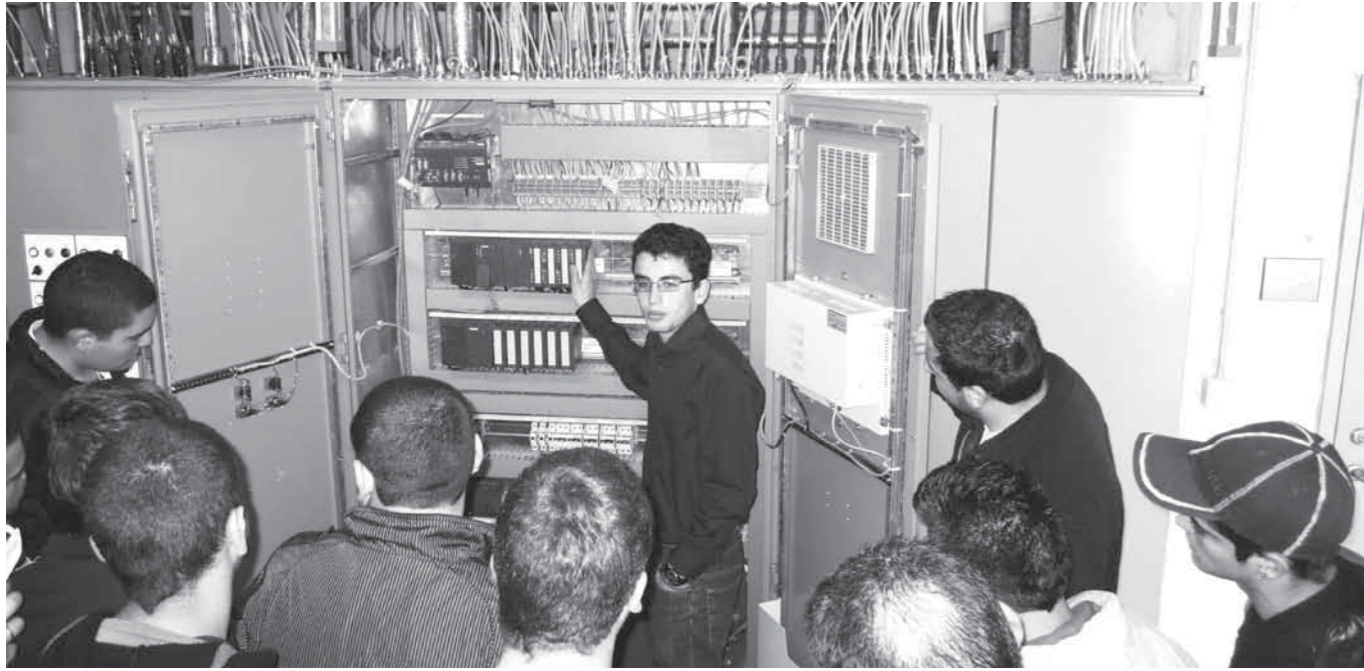
Mater Dei Hospital is one of the most energy consuming buildings on the Maltese islands. In fact its peak electrical demand reached 12 Mega Watts. Due to this fact, during the design stage no compromise was made with the technology chosen and a great deal of energy recovery systems have been adopted. The air conditioning system includes about 120 AHUs, 1200 fan coil units and over 1700 chilled beams. Since the HVAC equipment is the biggest consumer of the electrical supply in the

whole complex it made sense in investing in various energy recovery devices which allow the recovery of energy.

The majority of Mater Dei's air conditioning systems have been designed as a single pass ventilation design. This means that none of the air conditioned air is re-circulated and this implies that a great deal of outside air needs to be filtered and conditioned before entering any occupied space. A lot of energy is constantly being recovered by the thermal wheels and run around coils from the exhaust air, thereby preventing wastage of precious energy. Moreover the majority of pumps are inverter driven and operated by the BMS which contributes to greater savings.

Ing. Cardona stressed that energy consumption is greatly reduced by continuous maintenance. There are 14 air cooled chillers (each with a nominal cooling capacity of 1.2MW) and 2 water cooled chillers which have a life expectancy of about 35 years. Their relative condensers are thoroughly cleaned twice a year. The water used to cool the condenser water of the 2 water cooled chillers is used to warm up the mains fresh water supplied to the boilers. This "free" heating of the water (15°C to 35°C) allows for energy savings from the fuel required to operate the four boilers installed.

A lot of energy and resources are devoted to the continuous maintenance of the chilled water circulation network. Constant chemical analysis allows for the correct addition of corrosion inhibitors and anti scale formation additives through controlled dosing.



ESI representative explaining the BMS operations and its various components

The maintenance team carry out daily, weekly and quarterly maintenance on each of the 120 Air Handling Units spread around the hospital. They try to perform maintenance and remedial works in such a way so as to minimise the impact on the hospital's daily running. Each plant room is checked at least once daily. The various electrical panels are maintained and checked by thermal imaging which quickly identifies any potential sources of trouble.

These visits enhance the students' learning experience. The Institute would like to thank Mater Dei Hospital Administration and the Maintenance Contractors for providing the students with this unique opportunity.

Ing Cardona explaining the Air Handling Units' features and energy recovery mechanisms



INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

STUDENTS' MARATHON RAISES €14,525 IN AID OF PUTTINU CARES

During the 36 Hour Community Challenge, the Institute of Community Services raised €14,525 in aid of Puttinu Cares.

Students and staff from the Institute of Community Services and MCAST Principal and CEO Prof. Maurice Grech presented the proceeds of this event to Dr. Victor Calvagna, Puttinu Cares Chairperson, during a recent meeting at the MCAST Main Campus, in Paola.

The Institute of Community Services invited the public to participate in a series of family events while helping cancer patients by donating money to Puttinu Cares. Activities included hair and beauty treatments, sports competitions, a food and drink sale, a book sale, leisure events for elderly persons, an Easter Village for young children, and basic health services such as blood pressure testing. Most of these events are related to the Institute's different areas of study, giving the students an opportunity to gain practical experience in their chosen sectors while helping to raise funds in aid of Puttinu Cares.

Dr. Calvagna thanked the students and staff and explained that their donation will help Puttinu Cares continue working on its current projects. The organisation is building a specialised residential complex in London to provide accommodation and support services to individuals who require cancer treatment abroad, and to their families.

Prof. Maurice Grech congratulated the Institute of Community Services for this achievement. "We encourage all students to continue using their skills and abilities to help improve the quality of life of people in need even after they graduate and embark on their employment careers," he explained.



Some of the students and staff who coordinated the 36 Hour Community Challenge



From left: Dr Katya DeGiovanni, Institute Director, Mr Anthony Saliba, MCAST Deputy Principal, Dr. Victor Calvagna and Prof. Maurice Grech during the presentation

➤ MCAST STUDENTS' CHALLENGE AT THE MALTA EUROVISION SONG CONTEST

As one of the main sponsors of the 2012 Malta Eurovision Song Contest, Schwarzkopf Professional set MCAST Institute of Community Services hairdressing students on a challenge to create a spectacle of fantasy hairstyles which were displayed during the popular contest's Semi-Final and Final nights at the MFCC, Ta' Qali. With the assistance of their lecturers, the students came up with a variety of hairstyles on several models. George Farrugia and Sons Ltd, the local distributors of the Schwarzkopf range of hair care products, congratulated the students who rose to the occasion and produced a selection of innovative up-styles. This emphasis on innovation is at the heart of Schwarzkopf Professional's fashion-forward brand.



Photos by Angela Cassar, a photography student at the MCAST Institute of Art and Design



➤ MORNING OF PAMPERING FOR WOMEN AT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS

As part of International Woman's Day celebrations, a morning of pampering and beauty therapy was organised for women from the domestic violence shelters Dar Merħba Bik, Dar Qalb ta' Ġesu', Dar Tereza Spinelli and Aġenzija Appoġġ, as well as those receiving support from St Jeanne Antide Foundation and Prison Fellowship.

The event, organised by the HSBC Malta Foundation and MCAST Institute of Community Services in collaboration with Banking on Women (BoW) and HSBC Malta's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, treated the ladies to a variety of relaxation and beauty therapies, including facials, makeovers, haircuts and hairstyling. These treatments were provided free-of-charge by students and lecturers from the MCAST Institute of Community Services, and gifts, donated by The Body Shop, were handed out. Similar services were offered to women who could not leave the shelters.

"Woman's Day celebrates the importance and the achievements of all women in society. This Woman's Day activity reinforces this message while making the occasion a special one for women facing difficult life challenges," said Catherine Gonzi, HSBC Malta Foundation Chairperson, who attended the activity together with Sarah Watkinson, HSBC Malta Foundation Deputy Chairperson, Louise Stanton, British High Commissioner and HSBC Malta Foundation Director, and Simone Mizzi, Director of The Body Shop, Malta.

Prof. Maurice Grech, MCAST Principal and CEO, thanked the HSBC Malta Foundation for collaborating with MCAST in this initiative. "It is an opportunity for our students to understand that, while striving to achieve a successful career, they can also use their skills to improve the quality of life of persons in need," he explained.

➤ MCAST AND INSTITUTE OF TOURISM STUDIES COLLABORATION

During February 2012, lecturers and students following Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy courses at the Institute of Community Services gave lectures on Personal Presentation to students attending the Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS).

The Institute of Community Services staff, ably assisted by a group of students, gave 2 two-hour presentations and demonstrations to ITS students on personal grooming and presentation. After the presentation the ITS students volunteered to have hair up-styles and make-up carried out as part of their professional appearance guidelines set by their Institute.

This is the first collaboration whereby ITS students and MCAST ICS students have embarked on this common ground exercise which will benefit both the trainers and the students.



Community Services students carrying out hair upstyles on the ITS students



➤ SCRUM DOWN

First year BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport students were introduced to the game of Rugby by Sliema Stomper's Community Coach, Adrian Silvester. They were given a practical introduction to the sport by Adrian Silvester as part of their Sports Development Unit. Mr Silvester also spoke about his role as a Community Coach and his responsibility of developing the game on the island.

Rugby is growing in popularity in Malta with teams for senior men, senior women, boys and girls. It is a sport for all abilities, shapes and sizes. For further information about experiencing the game, visit the Malta Rugby Football Union website (www.maltarugby.com).



During a rugby game

➤ MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Second year BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport students had the opportunity to attend a lecture by Richard Geres, well known Personal Trainer and business owner. He spoke about how he set up his own fitness training business.

Richard took them through his experiences of how he first got into the fitness industry, how he set up as a self-employed personal trainer and how his business developed into the successful company he now runs at the Corinthia Hotel in St. Julians.

Students took the opportunity to ask him a number of questions on the qualifications needed, the capital required and how to deal with difficult clients.



From left: Matthew Debono, Darrin Azzopardi, Keith Bartolo Parnis, Dylan Darmanin, Michael Bartolo, Cain Azzopardi and Richard Geres

As part of this unit, students learn about different sports and how they are organised and promoted through various organisations across Malta and the UK.



➤ GOZO CENTRE OPEN DAYS

On the 6 and 7 December 2011 the Gozo Centre opened its doors to hundreds of secondary school students. This initiative was organised in order to provide students with more information on the vocational training opportunities offered by the College in Gozo. It also served to showcase the Centre's training facilities, particularly the workshops, labs and the recently developed Language Lab and Hairdressing Salon. In collaboration with the Principal of the Gozo College, Chev. Frank Gatt, and the various Heads of Schools, all Form 5 students from the various state and church schools were hosted at the Xewkija Centre. The students were greeted by the Director, Mr Godwin Grech, who delivered a short presentation about MCAST and gave details on the programme of this informative visit. A number of stations were set up, each station representing a particular vocational area of study available at the MCAST Gozo Centre. Secondary school students and their accompanying teachers were presented with appropriate power-point presentations and/or practical demonstrations by the Gozo Centre lecturers. Students also carried out practical assignments. The visiting students had the opportunity to get a first-hand account of training in various vocational sectors.

As in previous years, the event was a success and the feedback received was extremely positive. This initiative has now become a regular event in the Centre's academic year calendar.



Students visiting the new Hairdressing Salon



Students visiting the Electrical Lab

➤ AIMING FOR SUCCESS

First year BTEC Extended Diploma in Sport students had the privilege of experiencing the sport of air rifle and air pistol shooting as part of one of their units related to Sports Development. Lawrence Darmanin from the Malta Air Rifle and Pistol Shooting Club visited MCAST to give an in-depth talk about how the sport is organised, the equipment used, the clothing worn and various other aspects of the sport including the importance of physical fitness and mental control.

Students had the opportunity to get to grips with an air rifle which used compressed air and was attached to an electronic scoring system. The electronic equipment is an excellent training tool and meant that students could experience the sport without firing live shots. Lawrence has regularly represented Malta and is seen here instructing Francesco Borg.



GOZO CENTRE

INDUSTRIAL VISITS

Every academic year, a number of industrial visits are organised for the students attending the Electrical courses at the Gozo Centre.

This year, one of these visits was to the Magro Brothers Plant in Xewkija. The plant's main activity is the processing of foodstuffs ranging from tomatoes and their various by-products (tomato paste, ketchup) to dairy products. The visit started at the Savina Centre where students were given a brief history of the factory and the company's evolution along the years, particularly in the last decade when the company had to adapt to the new market conditions due to Malta's entry in the EU. The group then visited the latest extension to the factory, the Hanini Dairy Products Section, where different types of cheese spreads and fresh cheeselets are produced. Afterwards, the students were given a tour of the tomato paste production plant where fresh tomatoes are first washed and later processed to end up as tomato paste or other tomato products. The last part of the visit shifted from production and automation to electrical distribution and maintenance. The students were given a description of the electrical distribution system and energy consumption of the factory, as well as the measures taken to reduce energy consumption and to boost efficiency in the various stages of the production process.

Another visit to the Delimara Power Station was organised. The students were first given an introduction in the main administration area. A detailed account about the energy generation methods currently in use was then given, namely the use of the two 60MW gas turbines, the two 37.5MW Open Cycle Gas turbines and the 115MW Combined Cycle. These turbines constitute a total station generating capacity of 310 MW. A detailed explanation of the connection to the national distribution network through 132kV and 33kV links was given. The Enemalta engineers also spoke about the types of fuel used at the power station, namely heavy fuel oil for the conventional steam plant and diesel for the gas turbines. Students could also assess the fuel supply system for the Delimara power station, based on the mooring of tankers at a dedicated quay in close proximity of the plant. The students toured the various sections of the plant equipment and control areas. They also got a first-hand account of the works in progress for the new plant extension, involving eight additional combined cycle diesel engines generating a total output of 149MW. At the time of the visit, these were undergoing a testing stage. Students were informed that the projected overall efficiency of the new plant is 46.7% making it the most efficient generating unit installed in Malta.



➤ FREE TREATMENTS IN AID OF THE MALTA COMMUNITY CHEST FUND

MCAST Gozo Centre's hairdressing students and staff, in collaboration with the Xewkija Local Council, treated local women to free hair and beauty treatments to raise funds in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund.

Under the guidance of their lecturers, on Woman's Day, 14 students currently enrolled in MCAST's hairdressing courses in Gozo offered free treatments to 45 local women. In addition, the participants were also pampered with free beauty treatments sponsored by the Xewkija Local Council. Through this initiative, these women also had an opportunity to obtain information on the various full-time and part-time lifelong learning training opportunities available at MCAST's centres in Xaghra and Xewkija.

Dr. Monica Vella, the Mayor of Xewkija, explained that "we embarked on this initiative to give women in our locality the opportunity to take

a break from their daily routine and spend some time in a relaxing environment. These services were offered for free, but all participants were asked to donate money in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund. The women who attended this event and the students welcomed this initiative and we are looking forward to organising similar events in the near future." The Mayor thanked MCAST, the companies and individuals who sponsored the event.

Mr. Godwin Grech, Director of MCAST's Gozo Centre added that this event provided students with another practical training opportunity in their area of study, an experience which will surely help them once they start working in this sector. "More importantly, through such voluntary initiatives we are helping our students develop into caring individuals who actively contribute to the welfare of our society."



Mr. Grech and Dr. Vella with some of the students and the participants

➤ GOZO CENTRE STUDENTS HELP THE FLORIANA COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Students and staff from the Gozo Centre completed several renovation works at the Floriana Community Mental Health Services Day Centre and Clinic.

Over 50 students and staff recently visited the centre in Floriana and spent a day helping to upgrade these facilities, where persons with mental health difficulties, their relatives, carers, friends, employers and other individuals receive social, psychological and medical assistance. The students, accompanied by their lecturers, carried out general maintenance, painting, electrical installations and other related services.

The Floriana Community Mental Health Services Centre provides assistance to over 500 individuals living in Valletta, Floriana, Hamrun, Marsa, Santa Venera, Pietà, Gwardamangia and other nearby regions. An inter-disciplinary team including nurses, occupational therapists, a psychologist, trainee psychologists, a social worker, and care-workers provide users with comprehensive support services that help them to lead an independent life and to meaningfully participate in their communities. The team is assisted by several doctors and psychiatrists

from clinics in the same area. The Centre also aims to increase awareness on mental health issues through education, prevention and intervention for a high quality of life at all levels.

The staff at the Centre welcomed the works carried out by the MCAST students. "It is a well known fact that the environment contributes to the well-being of every individual. Thus, the refurbishment does not only enhance the physical resources of our Centre, but will also contribute to the provision of an improved holistic therapeutic programme," explained Ruth Azzopardi, Team Leader at the Centre.

Mr. Godwin Grech, Director of MCAST's Gozo Centre, added that, "MCAST students at the Gozo Centre regularly participate in several voluntary work activities. We believe that these initiatives contribute to the development of our students. In recent years, MCAST Gozo students and staff helped the Richmond Foundation, Arka Respite Centre and Fondazzjoni Wirt Għawdex, among others".

This event was held as part of the College's activities marking its 10th anniversary.



Antonella Farrugia proving her point that female students are equally good as male students for certain tasks.



Ryan Grima's skills engaged in painting and finishing works



Pawlu Portelli carrying out electrical installation work at the Centre

➤ PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVES

Students following the Diploma in Hairdressing participated in a philanthropic initiative together with members of the Step Ahead group. This initiative was coordinated by Ms Sarah Camilleri, Lecturer at the MCAST Gozo Centre.

The Step Ahead Group was set up as a pilot project for Gozitan service users with mental health problems. The group's main focus is to expose the service users to cultural, educational and social experiences in order to contribute towards a more holistic and independent life.

The service users were pampered with a free hairdressing treat. Apart from the satisfaction derived from participation in such philanthropic initiatives, students had the opportunity to practise their salon practice skills. Ms Pauline Camilleri, Social Worker at the Social Work Unit of the Gozo General Hospital, thanked the students and staff for their services as well as the Centre Director who heartily acceded to her request.

This initiative helped to boost these persons' self esteem and also conveyed a message that life is worth living.

INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY



➤ MCAST AND MITA COLLABORATE TO STRENGTHEN THE ICT EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

On 7 December 2011 the Hon Dr Austin Gatt, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications, announced an investment close to €190,000 which MITA is making in the MCAST ICT Institute aimed at strengthening the skills-set of students and the continuous professional development of the academic staff.

The announcement was made public in a press conference with Prof. Maurice Grech, Principal and CEO of MCAST, and Claudio Grech, Chairman of MITA. Attending the Conference were educators, students and representatives of the industry as well as direct beneficiaries of this investment.

"The investment together with the other activities being implemented by the eSkills Alliance, is the foundation for improved business innovation in the industry. The work we have been doing through the eSkills Alliance centres around 4 clear principles: First, we strengthen the attractiveness of ICT careers with the young generations and highlight the benefits associated with this profession; Second, we create new ICT educational opportunities for students which are relevant for the current and future jobs in the workplace; Third, we provide professional development opportunities for the academic staff as well as organise synergistic activities between the industry and educators to strengthen the knowledge transfer process; and Fourthly, we invest time and effort in creating alliance and strategic partnerships between the industry and educational institutions – private and public – to implement these 3 aforesaid principles," stated the Hon Dr Austin Gatt.

MITA will be helping the MCAST Institute of ICT in enrolling in various ICT industry 'Academy' programmes which offer industry-driven certification courses for students which are demanded by the industry. Typical examples of these Academy Programmes are those offered by EMC, HP, Microsoft and Cisco. MITA will be sponsoring the procurement of equipment and library resources in order for students and academic staff to have access to the latest technology resources. Another set of funding will be utilised for the sponsorship of training opportunities for the academic staff of the Institute, both in Malta and abroad. MITA will also be sponsoring a soft-skills course for students for a well-rounded educational experience, as well as sponsoring networking events for students, educators and the industry to discuss and share knowledge on the latest technology trends and industry developments.

Claudio Grech, who provided the details of the investment, said that the action plan backing this investment was crafted jointly by MITA, the Institute and the industry through the eSkills Alliance. It is the result of an analysis of the skills requirements for business development in both the ICT sector as well as other important sectors which consume and apply technology, such as the Finance sector and the Logistics and Distribution sector.

"The instructions from industry were clear," continued Mr. Grech. "In today's competitive economy you are either fast and nimble or you are out of the game." Another clear message was that the ICT vocational graduates should be brilliant specialists in their focused area of technology. "This means that as Government we need to support the industry by providing proficient students who graduate from their vocational education with both the Diploma but also with the industry-related certificates. These two types of certifications guarantee employment and enable individuals to make a profession out of their career. This investment aims to deliver just that - improving access to various certifications for both the students and the academic staff."

Prof. Grech explained that the College is engaged in continuous collaboration with industry to ensure that it continues to provide students with the relevant skills that meet the current and future demands of the local economy. "When it comes to our Institute of ICT, this collaboration is a do or die. Innovation and development in the ICT sector take place rapidly; new technologies are updated, if not replaced, in a matter of months. Keeping up-to-date with these changes is one of the greatest challenges of all those operating in this sector, including students and their lecturers. Continuous investment in ICT education ensures that our students obtain the necessary capabilities and flexibility to keep themselves updated with the latest developments even after they end their education and start their employment career," stated Prof Grech. The eSkills Alliance has been active since October 2010 when it was launched with the promise to deliver national projects aimed at strengthening the e-skills base of the nation. The eSkills Alliance has, with this announcement, launched three action plans aimed at strengthening the awareness of the ICT career and the e-skills capacity at compulsory education and higher education. The eSkills Alliance is also currently deeply analysing the state of the e-skills gap through the eSkills Demand and Supply Monitor which is a research project. Following this research, the Alliance will be recommending further policy to Government and industry to jointly provide ICT education based on aspirations for excellence.



➤ ICT STUDENTS VISIT MITA DATA CENTRE

Friday 30 March 2012 was a different day for Second Year National Diploma MCAST students studying at Computer Domain, Mosta. Over 110 students, together with their lecturers and Head of School Mr. André D'Amato, had the opportunity to visit the new MITA Data Centre premises in St. Venera. This allowed students to meet with ICT professionals, entrepreneurs and employers during a variety of activities, talks and networking events as part of the e-Skills week.

The students participated in a number of discussions on interesting and relevant subjects such as Entrepreneurship and Employability in ICT. In the afternoon, the students participated in numerous workshops including those dedicated to ICT Security, Nanotechnology, Architecture and Infrastructure, e-Health and e-Learning as well as Smart Energy. Computer Domain's hardware and software students were very enthusiastic to discuss their current projects and research with ICT company representatives and professionals.

The feedback received from the students was very positive, remarking that the visit was an enriching experience.



INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

VISIT TO MAX-BORN BERUFSSKOLLEG, RECKLINGHAUSEN, GERMANY BY ANGELO BORG

Earlier this year my colleague Ing. David Mifsud and I, had the opportunity to go for a 5-day experience at Max-Born Berufskolleg. This was a beneficial experience for both of us due to a number of factors, firstly due to the fact that this is a Vocational College. Secondly, they also have a dedicated Orthopaedic Technology department, which was of interest to us in view of the upcoming Biomedical courses. In fact, this college has got more or less the same streams as Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Building and Construction, Art and Design, Orthopaedic Technology and so forth.

During our stay in Germany, we were involved in class observations during lectures related to the Orthopaedic Technology course. The subjects observed were both theoretical and practical, such as Mechanical Principles, Applied Science, Plastering and Knitting. The system was very much vocational oriented and required the students to attend a 4-day week of internship at their employer and one academic day at the college. Throughout our stay at Max-Born we attended a presentation given to us by a group of students. During their presentation they explained to us the German education system. Consequently we provided them with an explanation of the Maltese educational system, identifying the similarities and the differences between the two. We also had the opportunity to hold a meeting with Dr. Lawrence Schulte-Bannert, the college's headmaster and Dr Rheinhold, European Programme representative. During this meeting we had the opportunity to discuss the possible future collaborations between the two colleges.

Our German contact Mr Daniel Schulze Frenking, a lecturer at the college, guided us to the University Clinic in Munster. This was the highlight of our stay because we were given the opportunity to observe

amputated patients. One such observation involved a patient with an above the knee foot prosthesis who was being examined by a team of Orthopaedic Engineers and a medical doctor. On this occasion we could observe the team while they carried out a gait analysis, force and kinetic testing on the motion of the patient. It should be kept in mind at this stage that every prosthesis is uniquely attached to the individual patient. Consequently, the plaster was created in-house at the clinic by Orthopaedic Technicians and manufactured according to the patient's amputation.

We also visited the University of Applied Sciences at Steinfurt. This is a Vocational University targeting students coming mainly from vocational colleges such as that of Max-Born. At this site we had the opportunity to observe the equipment used by students to test patients and their prosthesis. Students are given actual data to test prosthesis

in terms of force and kinetics. Testing is carried out and compared to the theoretical results. One particular department at this university was specialized in Biomechanics. This was very much related to the Biomedical degree currently being delivered at MCAST.

During our visit at Max-Born we were also given the opportunity to visit all the other labs / workshops related to the Electrical, Mechanical and Art and Design streams in the college. We would like to take the opportunity to thank MCAST and our Institute Director, Ing. Aurelio Micallef Grimaud for providing us with this opportunity. It was an experience that was essential both for us as lecturers in a vocational college and for the future upcoming students, who will study in the Biomedical field.

Daniel Schulze Frenking, Dr. Lawrence Schulte-Bannert, Max-Born Principal, David Mifsud, Dr Rheinhold, Angelo Borg





➤ HND MARINE STUDENTS AT PALUMBO MALTA SHIPYARDS

by Mark Philip Cassar, Higher National Diploma Student

In this little island surrounded by sea, there are young people who are aspiring for a career within the shipping industry. The Institute of Mechanical Engineering is now offering prospective students the opportunity to study Marine Engineering at HND level. This year a class of ten students are following this course.

Thanks to Ing. Ray Vassallo, Deputy Director at the Institute, students following the HND in Marine Engineering had the opportunity to visit one of the biggest shipyards in Malta, known today as Palumbo Malta Shipyards.

After being provided with a visitor's card and PPE the students visited the Machine Shop. Lathes, milling machines, grinding machines, balancing machines, boring machines, vertical lathes and gear cutters are a few of the many industrial machining tools found in this workshop. Has anyone ever seen a lathe big enough to hold a ship engine tail shaft on it? Imagine the size of this machining equipment. The students had the opportunity to view a propeller with a diameter of about 1.5m. Materials used for ship construction must have certain properties in order not to fail. In the machining workshop there is a calibration room for checking materials and for calibrating tools. Some of the equipment found there cannot be found anywhere else on this island. Another workshop visited was the Pipe Shop. Pipe cutting, bending and welding are the major jobs performed in this workshop. Angle cutters are used to cut the pipe end to the required angle. There are machines which prepare the pipe edge with a

particular profile depending on the welding being done. Different types of welding sets are used, depending on the type of material and the purpose the pipe will be used once manufactured.

A huge tug boat, 'The Rotterdam', was moored to one of the Yards' wharfs for repairs. Thanks to the captain the students were allowed to go on board. They toured the bridge which is the place from where the vessel is navigated. Although this ship was built in the 1970's, the latest technology has been installed to keep it up to date. This vessel has no steering wheel and the engines are controlled by a joy stick or small lever the size of a hand. The ship can also be navigated without the captain at the helm as it is also fitted with the autopilot system. Going down deck by deck students got to view most of the ship. While onboard, the main engines were being overhauled. Therefore the students managed to view the engines. These engines are similar to a car diesel engine of an automobile, but are much larger than a whole car! The cylinder liners are about 600mm in diameter and the intake and exhaust valves are about 1m long. This might seem quite huge, but there are much bigger engines on bigger ships fareing around the world.

A lot more machinery is fitted on-board. Smaller engines produce the electrical power of the ship. Other machinery is used to perform the tug boats' job. Huge winches are used to pull lots of metres of rope connected to large floating equipment with no navigation ability. Before coming to Malta the vessel was in the Atlantic towing an oil rig in hurricane storms!



➤ PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD ENGINEERS' CONVENTION 2011

BY ING. RAY VASSALLO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR INSTITUTE OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

The World Engineers' Convention (WEC), organised once every four years, was held in November 2011 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland. The conference took place between the 4 and 9 November 2011 and the chosen theme was "Engineers Power the World". More than 1800 engineers from 85 different countries attended more than 150 oral presentations and round table discussions with keynote speakers. Many discussions revolved around the challenges faced by the world regarding the consumption of energy. Such topics included:

- the safety of nuclear power generators,
- the suitability of clean and renewable energy,
- the detrimental effects on the environment of the various methods used to generate energy,
- meeting the future global energy needs,
- limited resources and distribution of fossil based fuels.

The theme was also interpreted and addressed in the broadest of senses and specific round table conferences discussed widely varying topics such as:

- the need for engineers to involve themselves in political and high level decisions,
- the education of established engineers to enable them to meet today's and future challenges,
- the education of engineering students,
- mobility and transportation,
- buildings and mega cities.



Keynote speakers ranged from major political figures such as Doris Leuthard, Federal Councillor of Switzerland and Head of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC, to scientists such as Prof. Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Director General of CERN, Directors of large multinationals such as Dr. Matthias Bichsel member of the Executive Committee of Royal Dutch Shell plc and Gretchen Kalonji, Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences at UNESCO. It also included a young team of Swiss engineers, namely Franziska Barmettler, Christian Zeyer and Nick Beglinger, who set up their own organisation named Swisscleantech and designed, developed and tested an aircraft that was powered solely by solar energy.



From left: Ing. R. Vassallo, Vice President Chamber of Engineers, Deputy Director IME, Engineer Marwan Abdelhamid, President Elect WEFO, Ing. S. Baldachino, President Chamber of Engineers

Meeting, sharing experiences and discussing with engineers coming from Brazil, Nepal, China, Japan, USA, Canada, Italy, Ireland, Germany, Korea, South Africa, Kuwait and other countries was an enriching experience. The convention also offered space for young engineers and no less than 15 engineering projects were presented by young engineers or youngsters aspiring to become engineers. One such presentation was by a young Maltese engineer, by the name of Peter Spiteri, who presented his work on "Investigation of Electric Motor Energy Saving Potential in Industrial Applications".

As mentioned earlier education was one of the sub themes on the agenda, and for obvious reasons, I was particularly attracted to activities that were related to this theme. In fact I actively participated in certain conferences.

The world is changing very rapidly and engineers and their work will inevitably have a great effect on the future. Engineering Educational Institutions have to act just as swiftly not only to react to these world changes but also to anticipate and to enable engineers to effectively and positively participate in the formation of the future world. The world will need engineers who would be able to communicate, to work not only with other engineers but also with scientists, economists, policy makers, business people and other professionals and leaders. The world will need engineers who will be able to understand what the world and

its societies and their environments need in order to ameliorate the world itself and make it a better place where we human beings can live with other species.

Engineering Educational Institutions have a great responsibility in that they have to develop professionals that will be key in finding solutions to present and future challenges that are being and will be faced; but the engineers of the future will have a heavy hand in shaping the future. For this reason Engineering Education must be broadened to ensure that engineers will be better equipped to take decisions that will have a social, ecologic and economic impact on our societies.

Julien Roitman from the Ingénieurs et Scientifiques de France stated that engineers need to have the necessary skills, knowledge and experience to create solutions and to be the leaders of tomorrow if we are to improve the way that we live. He described those engineers that are most sought by the market as those engineers who have proved that they are not only knowledgeable in mathematics, sciences and the various technologies but also in legal, financial mechanisms and are able to communicate, those who have a high level of consideration of the impact their decisions will have on the environment and, most important, those who have proved to be achievers and those who get things done in a professional manner. He stated that in France these engineers

derive from various educational tracks; but he specifically mentioned apprenticeships, alternative training, proximity and familiarity with enterprise, research, international experience and lifelong learning.

Hiroshi Koizumi, Chairman of the Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc of Japan and President Emeritus of the University of Tokyo, described a successful Japanese engineering educational system. He stated that in a world that is shrinking and industry becoming more globalised engineers need to acquire knowledge in small pieces by analysis, find solutions and have the capacity to synthesize in order to come up with real implementable solutions. He again stressed that engineers need to be doers and then went on to describe the Japanese system of education. To make his point he presented a number of examples.

This article does not do justice to all the activities and knowledge transfer that took place at the WEC. I tried to pick out some ideas that might be of interest to engineering lecturers and students at MCAST. Most of the presentations are available on line on <http://www.wec2011.ch/convention-and-program/presentations/#c2275>. I hope that you will find the time to look them up and hope that you find something of interest.

Note: The author was representing The Chamber of Engineers at the WEC 2011 in Geneva.

➤ INDUSTRIAL VISIT TO BAXTER MALTA LTD

On Friday 2 March 2012, students following courses at the Institute of Mechanical Engineering visited Baxter Malta Ltd at the Industrial Estate in Marsa. This visit was of particular interest to the students who are reading for a BSc (BioMedical Engineering) degree.

The tour started off with a brief description of the medical products and hospital equipment manufactured by Baxter, the materials employed and the necessity for a very stringent quality assurance system. The functional features of certain elements of the products were explained in detail so that the students could appreciate the intricacies involved. The visit proceeded to the automated raw material testing and loading bay. The students also entered the extrusion area where tubes of different materials, diameters and lengths are produced. The students could appreciate two diverse assembly lines, one was manual and

labour intensive, whilst the other one was a fully automated line with very little human intervention required.

The laboratory and the research department were of particular interest. Amongst other things, the laboratory technicians were responsible for ensuring the highest level of hygiene of all the elements, of all the equipment and of the manufacturing spaces. The research department was conducting research on leading edge technologies regarding related materials and manufacturing processes. It was stated that this department was one where greatest growth was anticipated.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all the staff at Baxter Malta Ltd for their hospitality and for going out of their way to address the numerous questions that were posed by both students and staff.

AD GENTES A CALL FOR ALL

As the official instrument for cooperation of the universal mission of the Church in the world, the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) have the responsibility of helping people transform their Faith into acts of charity. In essence, the societies have a twofold role, that of creating missionary awareness in their local context and providing financial assistance to those countries where people are still living in dire conditions.

The work carried out by the PMS are a response to the call to spread the message of hope to all as advocated in the Second Vatican Council's Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church, Ad Gentes which means 'to the nations'. While the PMS cooperate with local churches to provide assistance, they support projects which aim to improve people's living conditions and education irrespective of their religion, origin or colour.

"Through their action, the proclamation of faith also becomes help to others, justice for the poorest, emancipation from misery, rehabilitation of outcasts, schooling and medical assistance in the most remote places, support for the development of peoples, overcoming ethnic divisions, and respect for life in each of its stages." (Pope Benedict XVI)

Youth for Mission

- Interested in going on a missionary experience?
- Long or short term? Alone or with a group?
- We can help you out... Contact us on 21236962 or send us an e-mail on info@missio.org.mt

Make it Happen!

Missions Office Malta - 7, Merchants Street, Valletta VLT 1171 www.missio.org.mt

MISSIONS-OFFICE-MALTA

Youth for Mission

Youth for Mission is an initiative of the Missions Office which aims to provide youths aged 18-30 the opportunity to experience life in a missionary country for a few weeks. Youths who sign up for this challenging experience will be able to witness life in poor villages around the world.

They will collaborate with the local congregations of each country in conducting day-to-day chores which may include working with

children, physical maintenance or medical assistance. We believe that everyone has something to offer and this is a great opportunity to put their talents to good use.

Anyone interested in volunteering with us can contact us at: info@missio.org.mt, or on tel:21236962.

www.missio.org.mt – bringing mission to your home!

MCAST Gateway to Industry

MCAST Gateway to Industry Ltd. was established in 2008 to enhance the industrial and vocational objectives of MCAST in support of the students' interest and of the academic standing of the College's staff.

We offer training, research and development services to individuals as well as to local and international commercial organisations.



- Over 300 part-time courses
- Customised training
- Applied research and laboratory services
- Industrial consultancy
- Leasing of events and training facilities
- Services to MCAST foreign students



MCAST Gateway to Industry Ltd.
MCAST Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola, PLA 9032

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MCAST 2012/2013 FULL-TIME COURSES

How can I join MCAST?

MCAST's 2012-2013 Full-Time Courses Prospectus can be obtained from MCAST Main Campus, Administration Building, Corradino Hill, Paola, from any of the MCAST Institutes, or from any local council office in Malta and Gozo. The Prospectus includes detailed descriptions of our 161 full-time courses beginning in October, including entry requirements and career opportunities.

Our career advisors are ready to help you explore alternative paths and decide on the most suitable option for you to reach your career goals and aspirations.

The career guidance service will be offered without appointment at the MCAST Student House, between 9 and 27 July, from Monday to Friday, 08:30hrs to 13:30hrs. Adult relatives who would like to further their studies at MCAST are also encouraged to benefit from our career guidance services.

MCAST will be receiving new applications for full-time courses on:

Dates	Applicants with surname	Time
Monday	23 July 2012 A – B	08:30hrs – 12:30hrs
Tuesday	24 July 2012 C – F	08:30hrs – 12:30hrs
Wednesday	25 July 2012 G – P	08:30hrs – 12:30hrs
Thursday	26 July 2012 Q – Z	08:30hrs – 12:30hrs

Application venues:

Agribusiness courses	Institute of Agribusiness, Triq Hal Luqa, Qormi
Art and Design courses	Institute of Art and Design, Targa Gap, Mosta
Building and Construction Engineering courses	Institute of Building and Construction Engineering, Triq il-Kbira, Naxxar
Business and Commerce courses	Institute of Business and Commerce, MCAST Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola
Community Services/Applied Science courses	Institute of Community Services, MCAST Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola
Electrical and Electronics Engineering courses	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, MCAST Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola
Gozo Centre courses	Gozo Centre – Xaghra, 132, Triq it-Tigrija, Xaghra
ICT courses	Institute of Information and Communication Technology, MCAST Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola
Maritime courses	Maritime Institute, Villa Portelli, Marina Street, Kalkara
Mechanical Engineering courses	Institute of Mechanical Engineering, MCAST Main Campus, Corradino Hill, Paola
Pathway to Independent Living	Student House Board Room, MCAST Main Campus, Triq Kordin, Paola

Further Information:

- 1) Applicants who cannot present their application on the above dates may apply on Friday 27 July 2012 between 08:30hrs and 12:30hrs.
- 2) Applicants who will be abroad between 23 and 27 July have to submit their application before these dates at the Registrar's Office, Administration Block, MCAST Main Campus, Paola. The airline ticket must be shown as a proof that the Applicant will be abroad.
- 3) Applicants who wish to apply for courses held in Malta, and who during the week of Receipt of Applications are residing in Gozo, may submit their application at the MCAST Gozo Centre, Xaghra.
- 4) Applicants may ask another person to present their application as long as the application is signed by the applicant and all the necessary documents are attached to the application. The person presenting an application in the name of another person must also present his/her ID card.
- 5) Applications without all the necessary documents and entry requirements will not be accepted.
- 6) Foreign Applicants have to submit their Application at the Registrar's Office, Room 112, Administration Block, MCAST Main Campus, Paola.
- 7) Application Form A is to be filled in by those applicants who were not students at MCAST in 2011/12 and by those who wish to restart a course.
- 8) Students who would like to request special entitlements are to contact the Inclusion Coordinator prior to submission of application.

Method of Application:

All applicants must fill in the official Application Form A (in triplicate) and submit it together with the following documents:

- Original Certificates (or Result slips) + photocopies
- Valid ID Card + photocopy from both sides. Applicants in possession of a 14+ or 16+ ID Card must make sure that it is not expired.