

SUCCESS STORIES

GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2020

4. MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL	6. AIMÉE BORG	8. SHAUN ZAFFARESE	10. MARIA APAP	12. ADRIAN FORMOSA
14. ROSALYN DEBATTISTA	16. FRANKLIN VELLA	18. MOIRA BORG	20. DERYN HAIDON	22. CHANEL BUTTIGIEG
24. CHARLON BRIFFA	26. LISA BRAY	28. JOSEPH GRECH	30. JULIAN BORG	32. DEBORAH DEBONO
34. JULIAN LASPINA	36. MATTHEW ZAMMIT	38. MONIQUE CARUANA	40. ING. CHARLIE PORTELLI	42. DYLAN FENECH
44. TRACY VELLA	46. DARREN CASSAR	48. MATTHEW SCIBERRAS	50. LIAM CARTER	52. DYLAN TONNA

In 2020 we took the difficult decision of postponing the graduation ceremony after careful consideration and consultation with the health authorities and the MCAST Student Council.

The graduation ceremony is the highlight of the College’s academic year and more importantly, the culmination of the students’ hard work and learning journey. However, in the current situation, it is crucial to minimise risks to our community and to postpone large ceremonies to a date when students can fully celebrate their achievements with family, friends and lecturers.

Around 680 students were scheduled to attend fourteen graduation ceremonies over the coming weeks. The new date for the ceremonies will be communicated to students in 2021 subject to government guidelines on large gatherings and social distancing.

MCASTlink Special Edition is produced by the MCAST Communications and PR Office.

PRODUCED & EDITED

Caroline Balzan
Communications & PR Manager

PRINTING
Print It Printing Services

DESIGN

STEVES&CO.

PROOFREADING

Joyce Hili



FOLLOW US

PASSION, HARD WORK & SUCCESS

Message from the Principal and CEO, Prof. Joachim James Calleja

Throughout my long experience in education and training and in working with people from different strands and nationalities, I have repeatedly come across two critical pillars that determine one's success in life – passion and commitment.

Passion is an emotion that drives action. Without action, passion yields no fruitful results. When you have passion for something, you do it with pleasure. Finding what you are passionate about is a journey in itself. You are the author of your life. At MCAST, we admire and value students who are passionate about the subject that they have chosen to study. In addition, you can easily identify students and staff members who work first with their heart and then use their brain and their hands!

MCAST provides the necessary qualifications and experience, while we also provide the right tools to learn the necessary skills students require, from being an entrepreneur, a good communicator, and all technical skills that come with each course of education and training.

However, following your passion requires openness and hard work. Our most successful students are those that work hard at what they do. Achievements without hard work are impossible. An idle person can never gain anything if they sit and wait for a better opportunity to come by. Hard work is always the baseline of outstanding achievements.

I invite you to look through this publication and explore how our alumni have achieved their own unique milestone through MCAST's learning environment.

We help our students visualize clear possibilities of where they wish to advance in their career. MCAST focuses not only on the teaching itself but also on the student's learning process, exposing them to modern techniques, current industry practices, concepts, knowledge and tools. We strongly consider work-based learning as the foremost value of all learning experiences at MCAST. Our strong network with 2000 private companies and the public sector helps us link learners' talents to the needs of the labour market. We are proud of our relationship with employers.

As CEO and Principal of MCAST, with pride, I can say that nowadays the MCAST prospectus features over 191 courses across its six institutions. In addition, MG2i (MCAST Gateway to Industry) provides over 300 short courses on a very wide variety of accredited and non-accredited subjects. The courses vary from training in finance insurance, retail, aircraft maintenance, robotics and artificial intelligence, health, design, transportation and logistics management and many more. As a vocational college, we ensure that all qualifications are relevant to the different skills and competences needed in industry today as well as in other traditional jobs, hobbies and work places.

At MCAST, we also share with students our belief that that a college degree is just the beginning of one's career. We do our best to instil a lifelong learning mentality. Jiddu Krishnamurti said, *"There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning."*

I look forward every year to seeing many of our students graduating at all levels and succeeding in their profession. Vocational careers have gained more importance in recent years with very promising future professional career paths in different sectors. This publication is evidence of this future-proof conviction.



AIMÉE BORG

Project Leader at Baxter

I was one of the first students who graduated from MCAST with a degree in Chemical Technology. My experience at MCAST was a journey on an educational level and also of self-discovery.

Through the promotion of vocational learning and apprenticeships, MCAST ensured my exposure to real-life job experiences and helped me obtain the necessary skills in order to perform diligently at my place of work.

I joined MCAST after obtaining my 'A' levels in Chemistry and Biology when I was admitted into the Level 4 Applied Science course. During the course, I experienced my first two apprenticeships, one within the chemical and genetic analysis sector and the second one within the water analysis and microbiological analysis sector. These apprenticeships enabled me to build up and improve my skills portfolio and become better acquainted with the working industry's infrastructure.

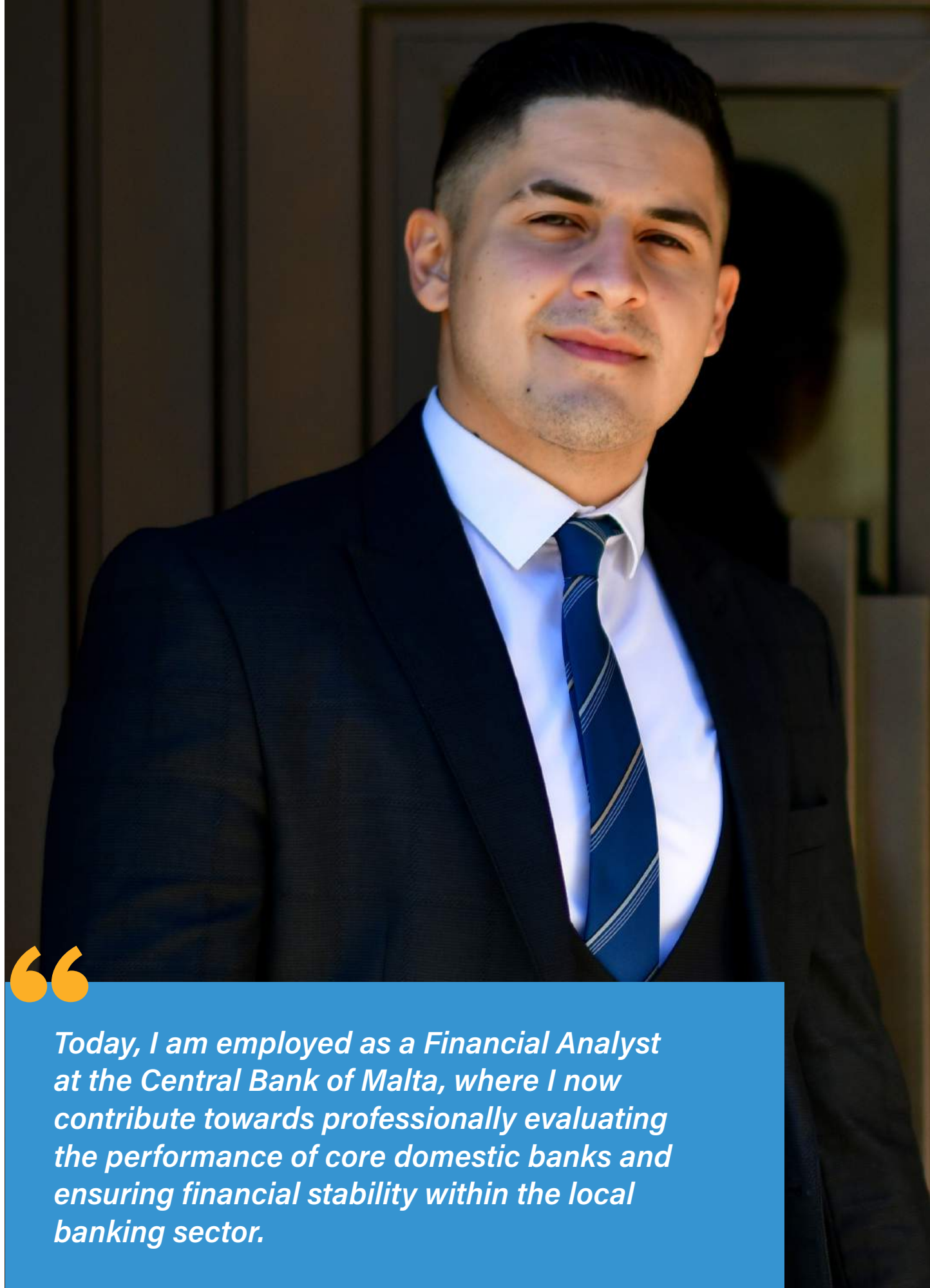
MCAST did not only provide me with a sound educational background, but also helped me sharpen my leadership skills as a member of the IAS Student Council. Furthermore, it also presented me with once in a lifetime opportunities such as Erasmus+ programmes and participation in a variety of cultural and knowledge enriching events and conferences such as those held by CHOGM and ASEF. As a result, through such experiences and skills obtained along the way, I was able to successfully secure a leading position within my workplace where I constantly practise and apply all the skills and knowledge I have acquired throughout the years.

I am currently employed as a Project Leader at Baxter. I form part of the Global Labelling Sector and work in liaison with the engineering department. My role involves the coordination and directing of pharmaceutical labelling related projects from initial request until the final release and implementation stages.

I wish to thank all those who supported me throughout the years and helped shape me into the woman I have become today.



My experience at MCAST was a journey on an educational level and also of self-discovery.



Today, I am employed as a Financial Analyst at the Central Bank of Malta, where I now contribute towards professionally evaluating the performance of core domestic banks and ensuring financial stability within the local banking sector.

SHAUN ZAFFARESE

Financial Analyst, Central Bank of Malta

I remember as a child daydreaming of a smart man driving elegantly to work and then returning home to his family as the sun slowly sets. This made me feel so warm and accomplished, however, when looking at it from another point of view, I realised how much time I had to spend working towards reaching my goals. Therefore, I knew I needed to make some good and important decisions if I wanted to change my dream into a tangible reality. As I grew older, the moment came knocking at my door and I needed to discover my opportunities, and then there was the MCAST 2014 Prospectus!

I was still undecided which career to opt for, and I vividly remember being astonished at the wide array of courses offered by MCAST. I knew that MCAST offered the opportunity to acquire high-level qualifications and training. I was fascinated by the evolving financial services around the globe and considering the increasingly abundant job opportunities within this sector, I applied for the Level 4 Diploma in Financial Services. After successfully completing the two-year course, I had the opportunity to start working full-time. Yet I was still very young to finish my full-time studies and as Benjamin Franklin once said, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest".

I continued studying until I acquired the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Financial Services Management. My five-year journey at MCAST enhanced my knowledge in the financial services yet also improved other crucial skills such as time management and public speaking.

I also participated in two work placements which both helped me to better understand the tasks I would be expected to carry out within the working environment of the financial services sector.

Today, I am employed as a Financial Analyst at the Central Bank of Malta, where I now contribute towards professionally evaluating the performance of core domestic banks and ensuring financial stability within the local banking sector.

MARIA APAP

Technical Services Officer, Malta Information Technology Agency

I have always envisaged myself working as an IT specialist. Since my childhood, I remember finding myself in my element in a technological environment. On completing my secondary education, I went to sixth form. After successfully passing all my Advanced and Intermediate Level examinations, I sought a specialised course in IT. I decided to follow the vocational route.

Being a vocational institution, MCAST adopts a hands-on approach in its teaching and this was particularly appealing to me. It was this aspect that made MCAST stand out as my natural choice for furthering my studies. In September 2015, I started a course at the MCAST Gozo Campus, a Level 4 VET Diploma in Software Development. During my two years at the Gozo Campus, I widened my horizons in the various sectors related to Information Technology.

The first year of the Level 4 programme provided me with an overview of working with databases, web development, coding, as well as the foundations in networking. During the second year, I opted for the Software Development stream studying related subjects including Object Oriented Programming in Java, C#, Client and Server Side Scripting and others. The MCAST Level 4 programme was fundamental to my education and training, as through it I acquired the knowledge, skills and competences that are synonymous with the needs and expectations of the IT industry. I experienced what vocational education and training is all about. On successfully completing my Level 4 studies at the MCAST Gozo Campus, I was encouraged to pursue my studies at higher levels at the MCAST Main Campus in

Paola, where I enrolled in the Level 5 Higher Diploma in Multimedia Software Development.

As a student hailing from Gozo, this signified a big leap for me. However, I was determined to go all the way to complete a 'bachelor's degree and make the most out of this experience. Thankfully, I soon got accustomed to the new environment. In the second year of the Level 5 programme, I was given the opportunity to put theory into practice through an internship. During this time, I was assigned the task of maintaining the MCAST website. This experience proved to be of great help when I later started working at the Malta Information Technology Agency on completion of the degree programme.

Whereas, for some young people, the transition from being a student to employment can at times be a challenging period, for me, as an MCAST graduate, this transition was natural and seamless. Finding my feet at my new workplace was easy and straightforward. My period of adaptation on the job was also relatively short. Undoubtedly, this was thanks to the holistic education that I received at MCAST. Studying at MCAST was definitely an excellent choice!

Today I occupy the post of Technical Services Officer at MITA. My duties include offering first line and second line support on the government's financial system. I also support civil service IT officers working on the provision of the government's online eServices. I look forward to continuing developing myself and advancing in my IT career.



“

MCAST adopts a hands-on approach in its teaching and this was particularly appealing to me.

ADRIAN FORMOSA

Facilities and Resource Manager, Barts and London School of Medicine, Gozo Campus

Way back in summer 2006, at the end of my compulsory education, I remember thinking of finding my career path. I had not done well in my first attempt of the Ordinary Level examinations. I had to decide whether to abandon my studies to try and persevere in them. I chose the latter. Deep down, I knew that I had the potential to succeed. At that point, I had the choice of taking an 'O' Level revision course of pursuing a vocational training pathway.

Being a hands-on person, it was natural for me to choose the vocational path. I enrolled in the MCAST Foundation in Engineering Skills course at the MCAST Gozo Campus. This course proved to be a second chance opportunity for students like me who had finished their compulsory education with little formal qualifications. The programme helped me strengthen my key skills and gave me a very good background of various engineering sectors in which I could choose to further my studies at a higher level. It also helped me to become even more conscious of my abilities and to strengthen my will to study at higher levels. In fact, I not only managed to complete this course successfully but, concurrently, I also succeeded in achieving a pass at 'O' Level in a number of subjects in a second attempt. Nevertheless, I was determined to pursue my studies in the vocational sector.

At that time, the Building and Construction Engineering courses that I intended to take at MQF Level 3 were not available at the Gozo Campus and

therefore I had to continue studying at the MCAST Institute of Building and Construction Engineering that was located in Naxxar. Eventually, I progressed to a Level 4 Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment, a three-year course based on an apprenticeship.

The apprenticeship was key for my career. It was an enriching experience through which I learnt important skills and competences and made important connections through my involvement in several important projects. I am particularly thankful to Mr Žaren Vassallo and Vassallo Builders Ltd. for giving me the opportunity to work with them as an apprentice and later offering me to continue working with them on a full-time basis. They made it possible for me to work and study at the same time. In fact, thanks to their support and flexible working arrangements, I was able to progress to the Higher National Diploma (MQF Level 5) and continue working with them for another two years. I only gave up full-time employment in the final year of my degree, at the end of which I obtained a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Construction Engineering.

After graduating, I was engaged with the Ministry of Education and Employment (MEDE) as Precincts Officer at the Gozo College. In this position, I had the opportunity to organise from scratch and lead a team of tradesmen to support all the schools and learning facilities within the College, as well as some other buildings in Gozo falling under the remit of MEDE. Two

years ago, I was offered the opportunity to join the new team at Queen Mary University of London. This highly regarded UK university was building a new Campus in Gozo, its first outside the UK, intended for the delivery of the Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) degree from Barts and the London School of Medicine, which forms part of the Queen Mary University of London. I am currently working as a Facilities and Resources Manager at the Gozo Campus. This was a unique opportunity as I have indeed learned a lot, from the construction stage of the new campus to the rigorous compliance

with building protocols, standards and procedures, all in conformity with local and UK legal requirements and standards.

Looking back, I can say that my eight years at MCAST have indeed shaped my career and made it possible for me to succeed both professionally and personally. In part, I owe my success to the dedication and professionalism of the MCAST staff and lecturers who taught me. They not only taught me but were an example for me to follow.



“

The apprenticeship was key for my career. It was an enriching experience through which I learnt important skills and competences.

ROSALYN DEBATTISTA

Heritage Scientist, Heritage Malta

Back in 2004, MCAST launched the BTEC National Diploma in Applied Science (Lab and Industrial). I remember I had been instantly attracted to the prospect of joining this course since it gave me the possibility to carry out an apprenticeship scheme in an industrial laboratory, thus giving the student a hands-on experience at an actual place of work whilst still studying.

Nowadays, many courses offer this type of arrangement, however, at the time, this was a rather new concept not only to the College, but to Malta at large. I was lucky enough to be chosen as an apprentice at Heritage Malta's Diagnostic Science Laboratories which, back then, were still under the management of the former Malta Centre for Restoration. This type of laboratory is unique to Malta as it deals with the scientific investigation and preservation of Malta's cultural heritage national collection. It was here that my love for research and investigation was born.

After finalising the diploma, I was eligible to read for a degree abroad and in 2007 I embarked on a journey which led me to Teesside University in the UK. I enrolled in the BSc (Hons) Applied Science and Forensic Investigation degree courses. During this programme, I was extensively trained on the various analytical techniques and scientific processes used in the forensic field for the analysis of several evidence types. My final year undergraduate research project investigated the morphological changes of bone after being subjected to a seawater environment and compared the latter to damage features on bone brought about by other

diagenetic processes. A journal article of this study was published in the Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine.

After finalising this degree programme, I decided to further my studies at Master's level by reading for a Master of Research (MRes) in Science related to forensic science. My master's research was based on textile fibre persistence on buried carcasses. This study was carried out in order to assess the worth of fibre recovery after a body would have been deposited in soil for a period of time, to conceal an assassination. This study was carried out in collaboration with the UK National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). A research article on the findings was also published in the renowned journal Science and Justice. Simultaneously, I also carried out a separate research study on the colour fading (photo degradation) of individual fibres in a forensic context. This was done in collaboration with the University of Leeds. This was also published in Science and Justice.

After four years of study abroad, it was time to return home and in 2011, I was given the opportunity to once again work at the Diagnostic Science Laboratories (DSL) of Heritage Malta, this time as a heritage scientist. No investigation is the same stemming from the uniqueness of the artisan or artist, their likes in choice of materials and the latter's availability at the particular time of execution. This renders our job a research-based investigative one as it is the norm to analyse materials that have no background information attached to them. Science can bring to the forefront latent information which might have been thought lost or impossible to find!



These past sixteen years have been an unimaginable journey, one that would have never been possible without MCAST.

My main interests relate to the analysis and identification of organic material, in particular historical textiles and protective coatings, via advanced microscopic systems and infra-red techniques. In addition, stemming from my forensic academic research, I also have a keen interest in the identification and examination of skeletal archaeological remains.

Over the years working at DSL, I have been privileged to be in research teams that were assessing sea-salt aerosol deterioration on our megalithic sites and pigment deterioration, identifying the only suspected Roman bread we have in Malta, as well as assisting with dietary assessments of bone collections. These projects have led to some publications, including the sea-salt

aerosol study in the Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites International Journal and the Pigment Deterioration Studies in Heritage 'Malta's Bulletin, Tesseract. Interesting revelations about the suspected Roman bread and a particularly intriguing bone collection will be published soon.

These past sixteen years have been an unimaginable journey, one that would have never been possible without MCAST, the passionate tutors who taught me there, and the work experience I was allowed to carry out during the early stages of my studies.



“

The work-oriented approach that the institution adopts in the delivery of its programmes was one of the key elements that were crucial in my educational journey at MCAST.

FRANKLIN VELLA

Underwriting Officer, HSBC

When I finished my post-secondary studies, I was sure that I wanted a career in the Banking and Financial Services industry. I came across the MCAST Prospectus and, after carrying out some research and considering all my options, I decided to apply for the Level 4 Diploma in Banking and Financial Services course at the MCAST Gozo Campus. The course description and the 'College's career guidance services convinced me that this was the ideal course. It would enable me to achieve my career aspirations within the Banking and Financial Services industry, whilst also providing me the opportunity for a real working experience while studying.

The work-oriented approach that the institution adopts in the delivery of its programmes was one of the key elements that were crucial in my educational journey at MCAST. As from day one, all studies revolved around real-life scenarios. After completing the first year of studies, I was given the opportunity to participate in a work placement in one of 'Malta's leading banks, HSBC. This work experience exposed me to a sector in which I still work, ten years down the line. Apart from being an enriching experience in which I could relate the theoretical aspects covered at the College with the real-world banking practices, this experience proved to be a stepping stone to what would become my full-time employment at the end of the course. This was possible thanks to 'MCAST's work-based learning approach and the on-the-job training philosophy, an opportunity which is not possible in all local educational institutions.

Indeed, after finishing my second year of studies, I was recalled by HSBC to continue my work placement, this time on a short-term contract that was eventually converted into an indefinite contract of employment. Since then, I have occupied several roles, mainly within the Credit and Risk department. For the last three years, I have occupied the role of Underwriting Officer.

Choosing MCAST has indeed proved to be the best investment possible for my future.

MOIRA BORG

Bridal Hairstylist and founder of Meadow Vale Weddings Venue

In 2003 I joined the Hairdressing School and during my time there it became part of MCAST. I loved my time there and I must mention Ms Kathleen Cassar. She was one of the best teachers I have ever had: I loved her lessons and her way of helping us to be better. Through MCAST, I had the opportunity to participate in a three-week student exchange programme in Sweden, which provided me additional skills and experience.

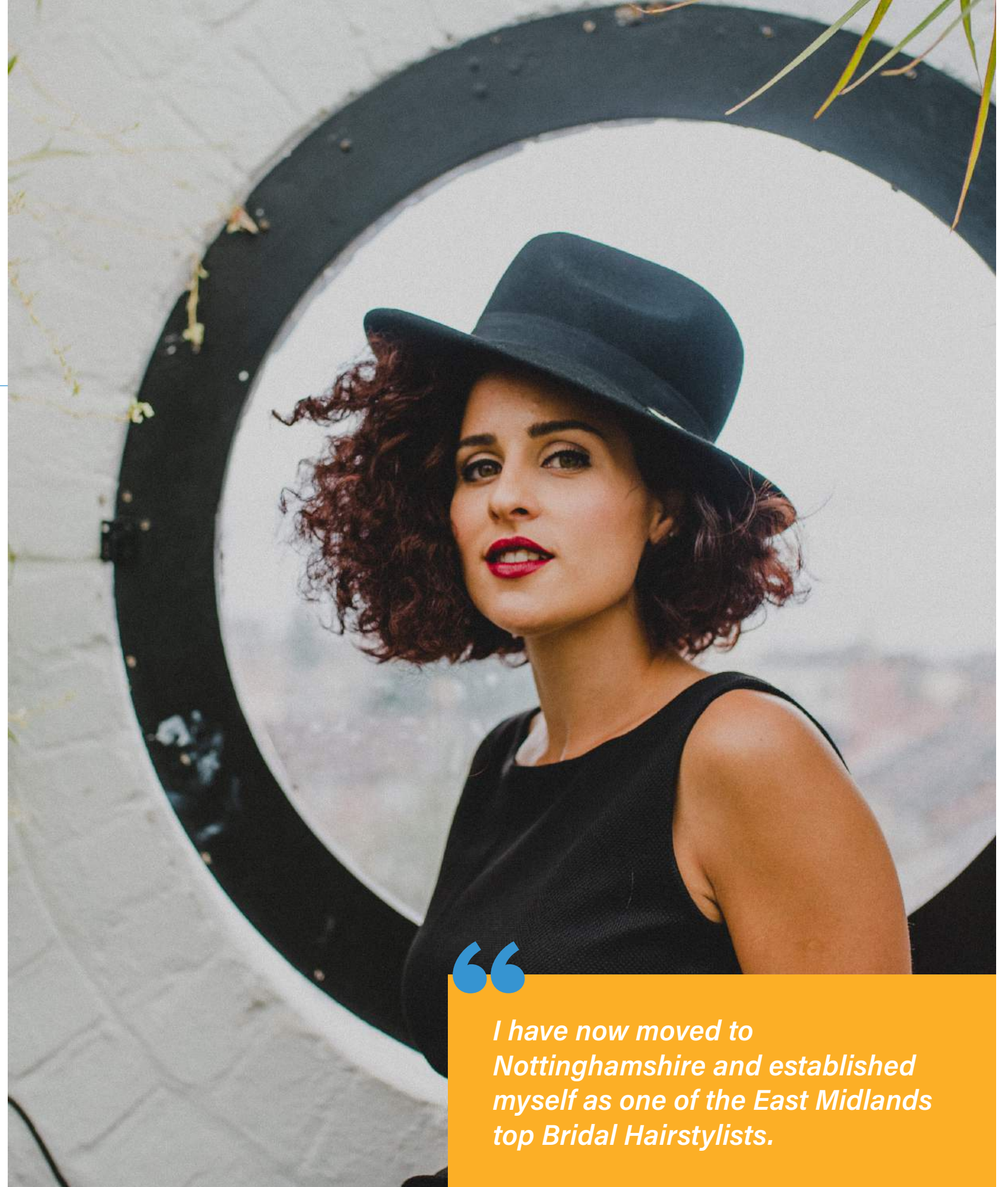
Once I graduated I took it upon myself to grow in my profession. I started by travelling to Australia for a year. There I salon hopped and learned techniques from many international hairstylists. I returned to Malta and worked in a salon and also freelanced for a couple of years, after which I joined a cruise ship and I went off to sail the Caribbean. It was another life-changing experience, always honing my skills and meeting people from different walks of life.

On my return home, I quickly found myself another job in a local salon, but soon became restless and craved diverse experiences. An opportunity to work in the TV and film industry came up and I was selected as an assistant hairstylist for the extras on the HBO series Game of Thrones. This job was followed by photoshoots for magazines and the local fashion industry.

I was eager for more and in 2011 I moved to London where I worked in a number of salons and progressed from senior hairstylist to assistant manager to manager of a salon. It was hard work but I learned so much as my responsibilities increased, which is when I knew I was ready to work for myself.

In November 2014, I took the leap and started my own business. Having made lots of contacts in London, I worked on photoshoots, I styled hair for celebrities, I kept up with clientele, and my favourite of all was specialising in bridal hair. I have now moved to Nottinghamshire and established myself as one of the East Midlands top Bridal Hairstylists.

I love my job and my story will continue to grow as the years go on. With the knowledge I gained in the wedding industry, together with my partner I have ventured into starting up a new wedding venue in Nottingham, Meadow Vale, where I can help guide couples to plan their perfect outdoor countryside wedding. The best part is that I can also offer to make their hair beautiful for their special day.



I have now moved to Nottinghamshire and established myself as one of the East Midlands top Bridal Hairstylists.



Today I consider myself a chemist with much more still to learn. MCAST gave me a future.



DERYN HAIDON

Laboratory Technician,
MCAST Institute of Applied Sciences

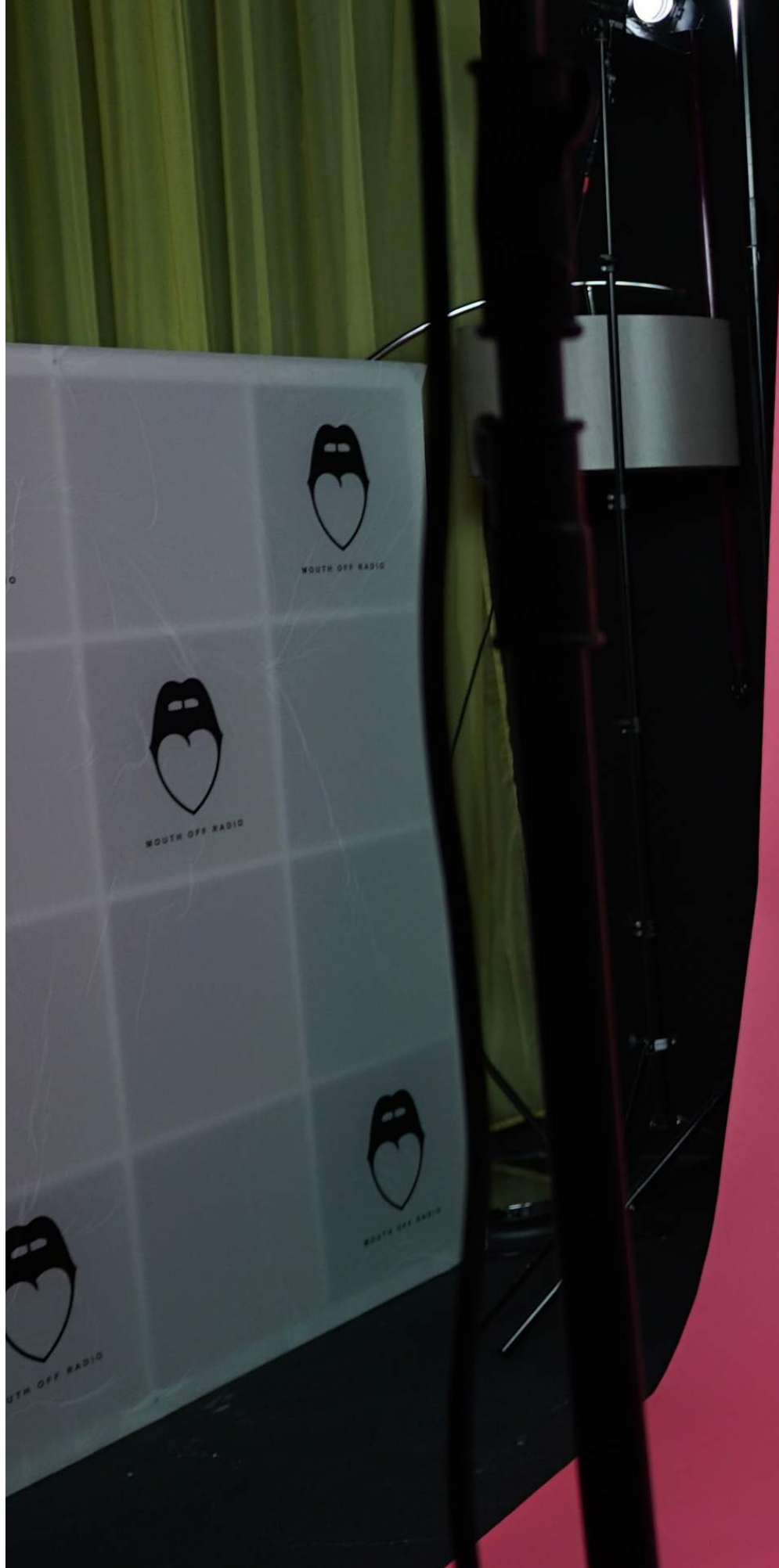
My association with MCAST started back in 2009 when, following a period of uncertainty regarding my path in life, I decided to enrol in the BTEC National Diploma in Applied Science (MQF Level 4). After only a few weeks on this course, it was clear that I had made the right choice. The content was interesting, the lecturers were knowledgeable, approachable and above all supportive, while the whole atmosphere was designed to help each and every student succeed.

Part of this course entailed the completion of an apprenticeship period, whereby we would spend a number of days at a workplace. Places were abundant, with most offering work in the pharmaceutical industry. However, I took a position as an apprentice Quality Control Analyst in a local beverage producing company. My work there was varied. It included not just the testing of various beverages, wines and drinking water, but also the maintenance of process equipment such as a reverse osmosis plant, as well as the general upkeep of the laboratory I was working in. In addition, I was also responsible for liaising with the production manager with regards to which analyses were required, delivering results, meeting with professionals in the field to discuss improvements to the lab, as well as instructing the production team on products. This experience was an invaluable learning experience for me as, in addition to training me on the job, it also gave me very good interpersonal skills, which would be useful to me in the future.

Following the completion of the National Diploma course in 2013, I was offered a full-time contract with the same company. This allowed me to continue working at the same company for another year, after which I got the opportunity to work as a Laboratory Technician at the place which started it all for me - MCAST's Institute of Applied Sciences. Although coming with its own challenges, this new place of work now allowed me to not only perform a job just to get paid, but also to share my knowledge with the scientists of tomorrow. I cherish this aspect of this job.

In that same year, I furthered my studies by enrolling, on a part-time basis, for the BTEC Higher National Diploma (MQF Level 5) with the intent of eventually completing a BSc in Chemical Technology (MQF Level 6). I completed this in 2019, after 6 years of studying part-time while also being able to have a steady income.

Today I consider myself a chemist with much more still to learn. MCAST gave me a future. Before joining MCAST, I was unsure about what I could do with my life. However, through continued guidance and an excellent lecturing staff as well as through my own perseverance, today I can look forward to a bright future within my field and who knows.... perhaps even more.



“

Thanks to MCAST I was able to go on Erasmus programmes three times during my five years of studying.

CHARLON BRIFFA

Senior Applications and Database Specialist,
Malta Financial Services Authority

In 2016, I graduated from the MCAST Institute of Information and Communication Technology with a first class Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree in Software Development. I am currently employed at the Malta Financial Services Authority as a Senior Applications and Database Specialist.

From a very young age, I was always intrigued by technology and how one can apply it in our day-to-day life. I fondly remember the first computer I ever owned, even though it had many limitations by today's standards! From a very young age, I was sure that my line of studies was to be related to computing, because I was certain back then of my love for technology.

Eventually, there came a point in my life when I had to choose a path for my post-secondary education. Like every other student trying to make the most important decision in their life, I was presented with many options that would eventually lead me to my desired goal. There was the easy option, that of following my peers. That would certainly have made life easier, at least I would have had many familiar faces to take on this new journey with. However, I decided to go against the tide, and applied at MCAST and enrolled on the BTEC Extended Diploma in IT course.

I still believe that enrolling and completing my studies at MCAST was the best decision that I have ever made. At MCAST I was given the chance to learn new technologies in an interesting way through hands-on

learning. Besides learning the theory, I also found a lot of support from lecturers that have shaped my future in a way I never thought possible at the time.

During my five-year term at MCAST, I was given the opportunity to work across all areas of the ICT world. I opted to specialise in Software Development. However, this did not limit me to one particular area as during the course I had the opportunity to learn about different areas of ICT. Now that my full-time studies are over and I have embarked on the road of employment, I understand why we were exposed to many aspects of the technological world even though we specialised in one area.

After graduating from MCAST, I started my first job as an Associate Software Developer. It was my first experience working as a full-time employee within a company. And what an experience that was! I had no guidelines to follow or criteria to meet to pass an assignment. I had no lecturer available, ready to help with the solution in hand to any problem I might encounter. I simply had requirements I had to meet and no clear way of achieving those requirements. However, I was very well prepared to face even the toughest of challenges and overcome any situation.

A year after I was given the opportunity to specialise in the area of database administration and data management. Even though it was not my main area of study, I embraced this new endeavour. With hard work and determination, three years down the line I was

promoted to a senior position within the same area. I kept enhancing my academic skills by pursuing official Microsoft Certifications in data management, database administration and database provisioning and I am now a Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate.

I would like to thank the MCAST Institute of Information and Communication Technology, its lecturers and staff for supporting me and helping me achieve my goals. I would also like to recommend to any prospective students a career in information technology: not just in software development or networking, but in many other areas that one can specialise in. I personally believe MCAST provides the perfect learning platform for anyone pursuing this career path; it is the perfect place where one can achieve the necessary skills, experience and expertise to reach their goals.

I graduated from the MCAST Institute of Information and Communication Technology with a first class Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree in Software Development.



LISA BRAY

Nurse, Mater Dei

As part of my post-secondary education, I chose MCAST to continue developing my academic knowledge and skills and to help guide me on the right career path. My first post-secondary course at MCAST was the Foundation in Applied Science (Level 2) where I refined basic academic skills and started being acquainted with science subjects. I then progressed to the Diploma in Health Sciences (Level 3), where various subjects were introduced to help us choose the next path in academia. I then continued my studies in the Advanced Diploma in Health Sciences (Level 4), which was held over two years. During this period, I gathered a lot of knowledge on some of the social sciences as well as on human biology and chemistry. As part of this course, I also had placement hours with various allied health professionals to help us choose an area of potential interest whilst also enhancing our interpersonal skills.

I am now reading for the Northumbria University BSc in Nursing Studies. This three-year course includes several practice hours, simulation days as well as theory weeks. The practice hours are held in various areas of Nursing at Mater Dei Hospital and other health settings, and this helped me discover the nursing areas that interest me the most. Within this course, I also had the opportunity to study and work abroad as part of the Erasmus+ programme.

It took me seven years to get to where I am today. However, it was all worth it as all the lecturers at MCAST helped me become the person I am today and helped me gain all the knowledge I needed to fulfil my career aspirations.

“

The lecturers at MCAST helped me become the person I am today and helped me gain all the knowledge I needed to fulfil my career aspirations.





JOSEPH GRECH

Software Developer, Ixaris Solutions Ltd

I obtained a Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree in Software Development from the Institute of Information and Communication Technology and am currently working at Ixaris Solutions Ltd.

I had initially started reading for the National Diploma in Computing at MCAST in 2007. However, I stopped just after the first year as I did not feel confident enough to handle the content of the diploma. In addition to this, I did not obtain any outstanding results due to my lack of commitment. I also felt detached from the lecturers, not being aware of all the support they are all willing to give when asked for guidance.

I decided to give it another go and in 2013 I enrolled in the Higher National Diploma in Computing (Software Development). This time around I was determined to succeed. I continued my studies successfully and, in 2015, I obtained the Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours. This was possible thanks to the very supportive ICT lecturing staff as well as the excellent tuition provided by the Institute.

During my last two years at the Institute, I was encouraged to take on a part-time job in the industry. I had a passion for Software Development but initially I started out as a Software Engineer in Test to familiarise myself, aiming to become more confident in the area. Eventually, I decided to actually change career paths slightly and start a career in Software Development. To this day, I do not regret the choices I made and the industry I chose.

My advice to anyone still undecided about a career choice is this: If you are one that likes challenges and if you enjoy breaking down a large problem into smaller tasks and seeing puzzle pieces come together through teamwork, Software Development is a good option for you. If you want to understand how your daily Social Media, Business Applications, and automated processes and computer-thinking work, I highly recommend considering Software Development.

JULIAN BORG

Infrastructure Engineer, EWORLD

I am an infrastructure engineer working with a company that provides enterprise solutions such as networks and computer virtualisation.

I started my studies at MCAST at Level 4 in 2013. Since a young age I was interested in computer hardware and networks and this led me to pursue my studies in the area of IT. The College provides both theoretical and hands-on experiences on both hardware and software aspects.

After successfully completing my Level 4 course, I decided to continue with my studies at MCAST to further my knowledge while gaining more practical experience. I enrolled on a 3-year course (Level 6), reading for a Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree in Computer Systems and Networks. This course focused mostly on computer networks, systems administration, databases and virtualisation. The course assignments were based on the practical tasks that one might encounter in their day-to-day work in this field. This aided me to enhance my troubleshooting skills, which I find very useful in my daily work today.

During my degree course, MCAST provided me with an internship opportunity with several companies in order for me to gain more hands-on experience. One opportunity led me to start working on a part-time basis within the same company. During the last year of my course, MCAST introduced us to industrial companies that were ready to provide us with a full-time job right after finishing the degree.

I am currently working with one of the same industrial companies that the College had introduced us to. During this past year and a half, I have gained more theoretical and practical knowledge, whilst focusing mostly on both the network and the virtualisation sectors.

To conclude, I encourage and recommend MCAST to students who would like to explore the computing field. Although this industry is continuously developing, it is very rewarding as it provides its employees with the motivation to gain more skills and self-satisfaction.



“
I encourage and recommend MCAST to students who would like to explore the computing field.”



I am more than sure that no other institution in the field could have possibly passed on all the knowledge and experience I have acquired from MCAST. If I had to go back to the start, I would definitely do it all over again!

DEBORAH DEBONO

Primary School Teacher

Growing up, I have always aspired to pursue a career in teaching. It was always on my mind, and so I set out to achieve this goal. It was a long road and, if I had to be honest, going to MCAST was not in my original plan.

Now, three years into teaching, when I look back, I thank God for choosing to do so. After obtaining my 'A' levels, I started my journey at MCAST in 2011 where I enrolled in the Level 4 National Diploma in Children's Education and Care. After that, I progressed onto the Level 5 Higher National Diploma in Advanced Studies in Early Years, which eventually led me to the third year of the B.Ed. (Hons) degree in Early Childhood Education and Care at the University of Malta. Student life at MCAST was not easy. At that time, I juggled a part-time job, full-time studying, two placements per academic year, assignments, research projects, organising activities, and much more. I am sure I complained at the time, but today I am thankful for all the work we had to do as students. All this and more has helped mould us students into the educators we are today.

We faced many challenges which helped prepare us for the real world. Although it was my dream, I had never worked with children before enrolling in this course. I did not know anything on how to handle, care for or educate children, but the study units, assignments and tasks that we were given were always ones which were applicable to real-life scenarios that we would be facing in the

classroom. At MCAST, we were also very well prepared by our tutors so that, when we progressed to University, we could easily catch up. As students, we had so much experience and knowledge to offer. We also served as mentors to our peers.

During our years of study, we were taught to always make the children in our class feel loved and respected. This was truly passed on to us by our lecturers at MCAST. All of us worked hard, but without their continuous support and understanding, none of this would have been possible. We all developed a wonderful relationship, and as students we had a sense of belonging. Lecturers knew us one by one by our names and knew our abilities. They always put this to good advantage as they always pushed us to strive harder to achieve what sometimes seemed to be impossible. Our tutors were not only mentors to us, but they became friends, who kept contact with us, even after graduating.

My journey to become an educator turned out to be longer than expected. Now that I am onto my fourth scholastic year of teaching, I am truly grateful I went down this road. I am more than sure that no other institution in the field could have possibly passed on all the knowledge and experience I have acquired from MCAST. If I had to go back to the start, I would definitely do it all over again!

JULIAN LASPINA

Scientific Officer,
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

I have recently graduated from MCAST with a BSc (Hons) in Fish Management. Prior to enrolling for this course, I had just read for a Diploma in Agriculture at the University of Malta, and I was very keen on continuing my studies in the marine/aquatics sector as I always had a great interest in marine biology.

Unfortunately, despite being surrounded by sea, Malta does not offer many courses which are specific to the marine sector. But, whilst reviewing my prospects after my diploma, I came across this degree and thought it would be perfect for me as it included units which were related to both marine biology and fisheries studies.

Throughout my degree, I received extensive knowledge and experience during both lectures and work placements. The lecturers were very helpful and provided me with all the tools and skills required for a career within this industry. While on my work placements, I had the opportunity to work at the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture at the Malta National Aquarium. Through these work placements, I managed to gain a lot of experience and competencies and I also had the chance to meet potential future employers.

Three years later, on finishing my studies, I was employed as an assistant manager within the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. A few months later, I had the opportunity to apply for a better post and was accepted for the role of scientific officer within the same department. Apart from several other tasks, I am currently responsible for serving as the contact person for an EU-funded project which involves the enhancement of the recovery of the Swordfish stock. This project has provided me with the chance of working with other ministries and departments and has presented me with the opportunity of gaining a wealth of experience.

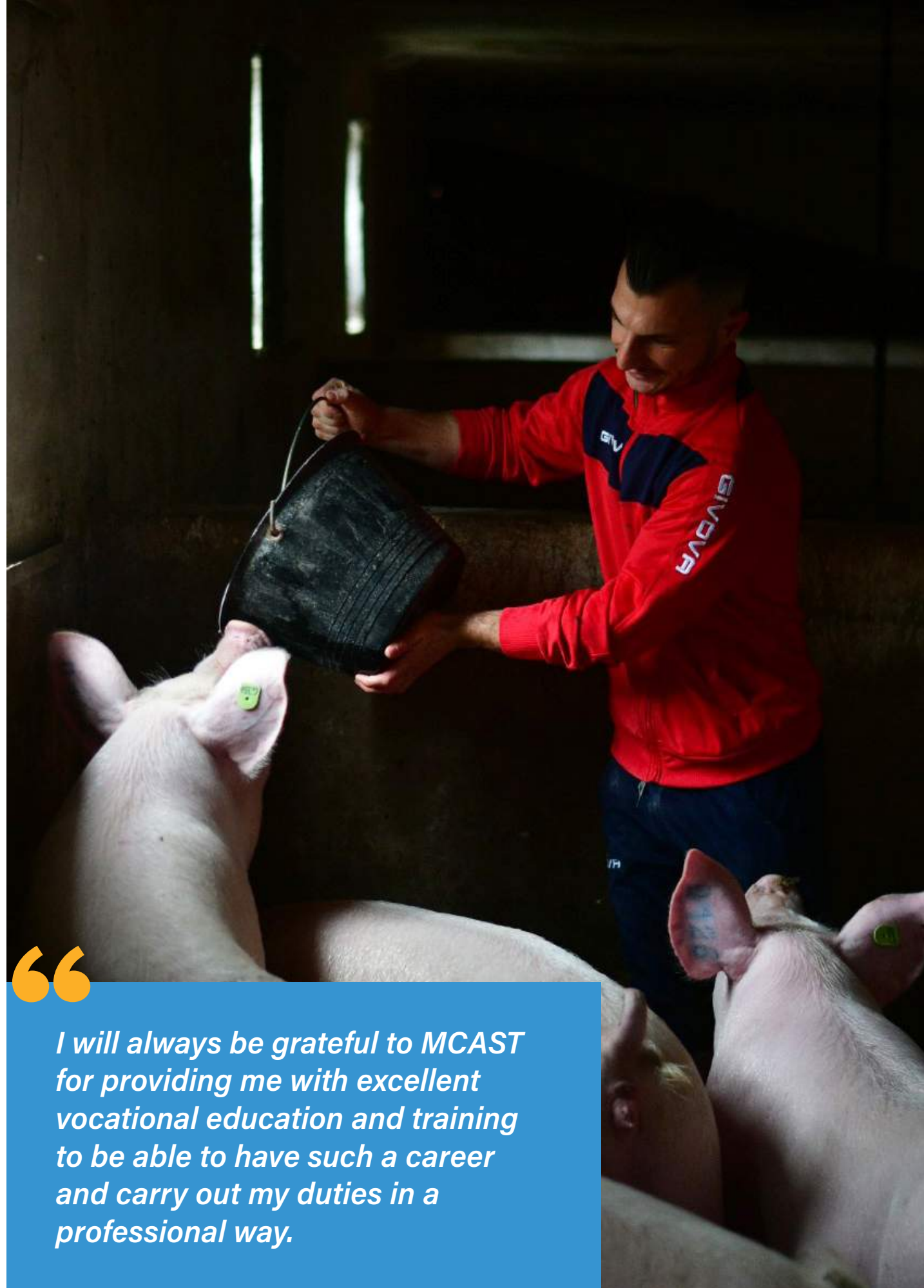
After completing my degree, I decided to further my studies in marine biology. I recently started to read for an MSc in International Marine Science at the Heriot-Watt University in Scotland. It is a challenge to juggle my studies and work at the same time, but I am sure it will be worth it in the end.

I would like to recommend MCAST's Centre for Agriculture, Aquatics and Animal Sciences as the perfect starting point for anyone wishing to pursue a career in the fisheries and marine sector.



Throughout my degree, I received extensive knowledge and experience during both lectures and work placements.





“

I will always be grateful to MCAST for providing me with excellent vocational education and training to be able to have such a career and carry out my duties in a professional way.

MATTHEW ZAMMIT

Farm Manager, Maltese National Breeding Centre for Pigs

I am currently employed as Farm Manager at the Maltese National Breeding Centre for Pigs, which has almost eight hundred pigs. I am a BSc (Hons.) in Animal Management graduate from the Centre for Agriculture, Aquatics and Animal Sciences within MCAST. I am currently reading for an Executive Master's in Business Administration.

I started my studies at the Institute of Agribusiness way back in 2012. I am proud to say that I started from a Level 2 Foundation course. At that time, I had complex reading difficulties that I managed to overcome thanks to MCAST. The Foundation course and the subsequent Level 3 Animal Care and Level 4 Animal Management courses allowed me to gain the skills and knowledge in preparation for the academic years that followed. In fact, I progressed to degree level and I am proud to say that I obtained the BSc (Hons) in Animal Management and Veterinary Nursing.

During these years, I gained the knowledge and experience needed, both through lectures and through hands-on practice, to allow me to work in the animal care/management sector. I had several work experiences at different animal management establishments that greatly enhanced my skills and competencies.

At my place of work, the National Pig Breeding Centre, we have around seventy sows for breeding purposes. However, my duties as a Farm Manager are vast and vary from daily responsibilities to finally reporting to the board of directors of the Pig Breeding Cooperative. Daily tasks include feeding and cleaning as well as observing the growth and development of the animals. Other management duties include the management of breeding sows, planning and performing the artificial insemination process and carrying out pregnancy diagnostics. Other responsibilities include the farrowing stage such as teeth trimming and administration of essential parenteral iron supplements. Besides these duties, it is also the farm manager who must maintain the data records of essential duties as well as pigs' identification records that must be continuously updated.

I will always be grateful to MCAST for providing me with excellent vocational education and training to be able to engage in such a career and carry out my duties in a professional way.

MONIQUE CARUANA

Social Support Worker, Mental Health Section, Gozo General Hospital

My interest in social work goes back to my early youth years in secondary school. At the age of thirteen, I remember choosing the subjects to further my studies, leaving different options open. I always wanted a career which could secure me a good future in a sector where I could help other people.

In 2017, I visited the MCAST Gozo Campus to explore the possibility of enrolling on a course that would appeal to my aspirations. Going through the pages of the prospectus, the words Health and Social Care drew my attention. I re-read all the information about the Level 4 Advanced Diploma in Health and Social Care programme and decided to request additional information about this course from the Gozo Campus' career guidance services so as to make sure that the course was indeed the right choice for me!

This course provided me with a solid foundation in the theoretical aspects related to Health and Social Care. The learning covered important concepts related to sociological and psychological perspectives of social work, communication, challenging behaviour, confidentiality, equality, diversity and rights, anatomy, physiology and nutrition and other aspects that are vital to working effectively in the sector. In addition, the course also featured an important practical component, through which we could relate the theory to practice by means of several block placements in different social care settings.

These placements gave us the opportunity to experience hands-on work in the sector, learn from experienced

professionals in the field, especially by observing how they tackle difficult and challenging situations in a professional and ethical manner. These work-based learning opportunities provided a thorough training opportunity that would make our transition from education and training to full-time employment as seamless and as natural as possible. These placements also helped me improve other skills including time-management, working under pressure, organisational skills and meeting tight deadlines.

I feel that MCAST has not only given me the appropriate knowledge, skills and competences to work in the Social Care field in an effective and professional manner, but it has also given me a holistic education that helped me mature as a person. From my experience, I have discovered that challenges are there to be faced and that we always learn from them, no matter how difficult they are.

Throughout my years of study at MCAST, we had several enriching extracurricular activities. An activity which I will surely always remember is the Girl2Leader interactive session that was led by Silvana Koch-Merin, Founder of the Women Political Leaders Global Forum and former Vice President of the European Parliament. After this session, I was selected as one of three students from all post-secondary educational institutions around Malta and Gozo, to participate in the Girl2Leader Campaign activities in Brussels in October 2017. There, I had the opportunity to job-shadow the work of the MEPs and their team.

Through my own determination and the incredible support of my family, friends and MCAST Gozo Campus staff, I managed to complete my advanced diploma successfully and move into employment.

At present, I work at the Gozo General Hospital as a Social Support Worker in the mental health sector within the Social Work Department. I carry out my duties with passion so as to ensure that all our clients get the best possible service with dignity and respect. Although in my work I assist vulnerable people often facing very

difficult situations, I am always looking forward to my next day at work and this is something that fills my heart with joy! To be able to instil in such people hope, courage and determination is certainly one of the most rewarding aspects of social work.

There are no secrets or short routes to success. This can only be the result of intensive preparation, hard work and sheer determination. However, from my experience, MCAST can help you to achieve your aspirations and fulfil your potential.



ING. CHARLIE PORTELLI

Lecturer, MCAST Gozo Campus

Way back in 2002, on completing my compulsory education, I decided to further my studies. I opted for the vocational route, instead of the conventional academic route, as I believed that VET provides students with equally valid ways to obtain qualifications and be successful in their career and their life.

From a young age, I always had a passion for engineering subjects and was always keen to practise hands-on and experiment with how theory works in practice. I started an MQF Level 4 programme, the City & Guilds Electrical and Electronics Engineering 8030 Course at the Gozo Technical Institute, which was subsequently absorbed by MCAST the following year. At MCAST Gozo, I was among the first group of students who participated in the MCAST Gozo Campus's first Comenius project with a German vocational college in 2004. On successfully finishing my Level 4 studies at MCAST Gozo, I continued my studies at MCAST Paola, where I successfully completed the MQF Level 5 City & Guilds Advanced Technician Diploma 8030 Course and the Journeyman Certificate on completion of a three-year apprenticeship at the Malta International Airport. During this period, I was awarded the City and Guilds Gold Medal of Excellence for outstanding performance in the City and Guilds 8030 course examinations and assessments.

In 2006, MCAST was not yet providing Level 6 programmes in engineering. However, this did not stop me from furthering my studies at degree level.

I enrolled with the University of Malta from where I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, subsequently obtaining the professional Warrant in Electrical Engineering. I have always believed that theory and practice go hand in hand. Over the years, I strengthened my passion for VET, as I could recognise and value the immense benefits acquired through my 4-year learning experience at MCAST before going to university. In comparison with my fellow students in the degree course who were coming from the academic route, my vocational background gave me a greater understanding of the theory and an ability to relate it to practice and practical scenarios found in a real work setting.

After graduating from the University of Malta, I worked for two years in industry, with two renowned companies - Econetique Ltd. and J Martans Automation Ltd.

Eventually in 2012 my passion for VET made me go back to my roots – MCAST – this time as a member of the lecturing staff. I felt that I could provide a good contribution to young people who are inclined towards technical studies and careers as I myself had been, way back in 2002. For these past years, I have been delivering electrical and building services units in Level 3 and Level 4 courses in Electrical Installation and Construction Engineering, as well as in Electrician licence courses (Authorisation A and Authorisation B) at the Gozo Campus.



Apart from the actual teaching and training aspects, I am also actively involved in providing our students with an enriching experience throughout their years at MCAST Gozo. In fact, I have been actively involved in and contributed to the successful implementation of a number of Erasmus+ projects which have given

students and lecturers the opportunity to visit other vocational colleges around Europe.

I hope to be a role model to our current and future engineering students. After all, some years ago, I was an MCAST student myself.

DYLAN FENECH

Games Integrations Developer

I graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree in Software Development from the MCAST Institute of Information and Communication Technology and am now employed as a Games Integrations Developer within the gaming industry.

My journey at MCAST began in 2011-12. I call this a journey as during my studies at MCAST I underwent a complete transformation from a student beginner sitting for a Foundation in IT course to a professional Software Developer with a Bachelor's degree.

I finished my secondary school with minimal results, which made me feel a failed student. I felt as if I failed the system, and that the system failed to educate me. But I always remember being in love with IT and anything related to it, and this is the reason that I decided to pursue a career in this area.

I enrolled in the Foundation in IT course at MCAST and I immediately realised that MCAST was the right choice for me. The College provided me with a progression route to further my studies. Year on year I successfully moved on from one level to the next and finally completed successfully the Bachelor's degree in Software Development. The learning curve was smooth, as each year prepares you for the year to come.

Although my journey was somewhat longer than the one of those who started their studies at a higher level such as at Bachelor's degree level, I had the advantage of acquiring a strong foundation in IT and of mastering the basics completely.

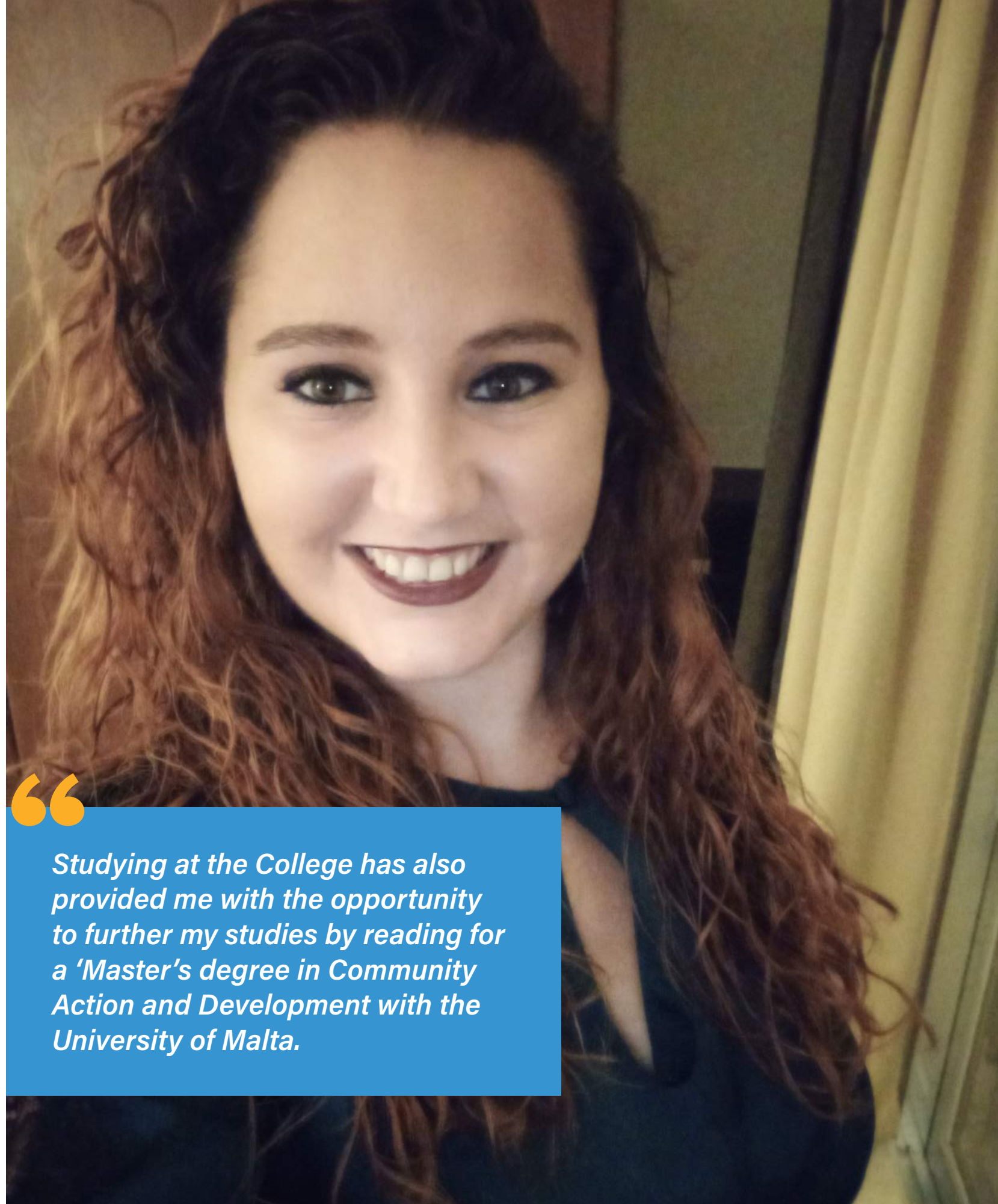
During my degree, I also worked within the gaming industry as a Peak-time Tester. Although the job was not related to software development, a strong background in IT was required, and with my studies at MCAST, I had enough knowledge to land a pretty good job for a student. As time went by, as part of the degree programme, I had the opportunity to participate in an apprenticeship.

When the apprenticeship programme came to an end, my employer offered me a permanent position as a part-time .Net Software Developer with the company. Although I was already in the company, with MCAST's help, I managed to start working as a developer during the academic year 2017-18.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage anyone who wishes to pursue their dream career. No matter your age or your current level of education, MCAST can offer you a complete journey from Foundation level to a Bachelor's degree in a truly professional and supportive way.



No matter your age or your current level of education, MCAST can offer you a complete journey from Foundation level to a Bachelor's degree in a truly professional and supportive way.



Studying at the College has also provided me with the opportunity to further my studies by reading for a 'Master's degree in Community Action and Development with the University of Malta.

TRACY VELLA

Coordinator, Dar Tereza Spinelli

I started studying at MCAST in 2011. I enrolled in the Diploma in Health and Social Care and gradually progressed from one course to another until I obtained my degree in Health and Social Care (Management) three years ago.

I had initially chosen this study path as I enjoy working with people. This course enabled me to carry out this type of work. As soon as I graduated, I immediately started working with Fondazzjoni Suret il-Bniedem, where I was responsible for the management and coordination of Dar Victoria, a shelter for homeless men who suffer from mental health difficulties. I am currently coordinating Dar Tereza Spinelli, a shelter for homeless women and their children within the same organisation.

MCAST has provided me with the required skills and knowledge necessary for employment. At College, I learned how to work in multi-disciplinary teams, prepare individualised care plans and follow through with interventions. The placements undertaken in different social care fields provided me with the opportunity to increase my knowledge and experience as well as develop a work ethic suitable to work with vulnerable individuals. Whilst studying for my degree, I had the opportunity to learn the theory needed to implement policies and procedures, manage human resources, create and adhere to budgets, as well as uphold any relevant legislation. MCAST has given me an enriched experience whereby I have grown both personally and professionally.

Studying at the College has also provided me with the opportunity to further my studies by reading for a Master's degree in Community Action and Development with the University of Malta. Reading for my Master's degree has provided me with the skills I need to analyse the current social sphere, observe demographical changes, as well as envisage and calculate future social needs to improve and develop social care services.

DARREN CASSAR

Agricultural Officer, Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights

I am an Agricultural Officer within the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights. I graduated from the MCAST Centre for Agriculture, Aquatics and Animal Sciences and successfully obtained a BSc (Hons) in Horticulture.

I started my studies at MCAST in 2015 and read for a three year BSc (Hons) degree in Horticulture. Before I enrolled for this course, I was following the Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Malta. But that course was not for me. I was approached by a friend of mine who informed me about the course in Horticulture offered by MCAST. At that point in time I was not aware of the course, but as soon as I checked the modules I was immediately interested.

I come from a family with an agricultural background even if they just cultivate crops as a hobby. I grew up playing in the fields with my grandparents and my father and always loved agriculture and the environment and so I made up my mind to enrol on this course.

At first, especially during the first year, I had some doubts; I wondered if it was a good decision. Agriculture in Malta is declining and the fact that I did not have the full support of my parents was not helpful. They thought that I would not find a suitable job or that I would end up working in a field with a low salary.

During the three years reading for the degree I gained the knowledge and experience needed, both through lectures and through hands-on practice, to allow me to

work in the agricultural sector. I had the opportunity to work at different establishments that greatly enhanced my skills and competences. Every year I had the opportunity to go abroad on an Erasmus programme to gain work experience in a different European country. I had the privilege of working in a walnut farm in Italy, in a nursery in Sicily and in a National Nature Reserve in the Highlands, Scotland, the latter being the best and most amazing experience I ever had. I really recommend these opportunities to study or work abroad as you become more independent and learn to adapt to a different environment, make friends with people coming from different cultures and, more importantly, expand and exchange knowledge and skills in the sector.

Right after graduating in 2018 I was offered the opportunity to work as an Agricultural Officer within the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change. During this past year and half, I have gained even more experience in the sector, with my duties as an officer being mainly related to the certification and promotion of agricultural quality schemes.

I would recommend this career to anyone who has a genuine love for agriculture. With motivation and a lot of hard work, I believe that a career in Horticulture can be very rewarding. MCAST's Centre for Agriculture, Aquatics and Animal Sciences provides the perfect route for gaining knowledge, experience and skills that lead to a rewarding career.





My experience at MCAST has been wonderful.

MATTHEW SCIBERRAS

Office of the General Secretary
of the Malta Football Association

My passion for sports began at a very young age. I grew up playing different types of sport with my friends, and I thought that MCAST was the best option for me to develop my studies and sporting career. I knew that studying at MCAST would help me gain further insight into different areas of sport, and I am proud to be currently working at the Office of the General Secretary of the Malta Football Association.

Whilst reading for the Advanced Diploma in Sport at MCAST I realised that turning my love for sports into a career was achievable. The College has helped me perceive sports from different standpoints and made me realise that the list of careers in sports is long and varied, giving me plenty of options for my future career path.

Through a student empowerment approach and hands-on work experiences, I have acquired skills and discovered talents that I never knew I had. MCAST helped me develop these skills and identify the field in which I would like to specialise, and ultimately made me more employable.

These were all skills which I started to develop during my time at MCAST, primarily when I, together with a number of students, organised the MCAST Sports Conference. Keeping clear communication, handling data, maintaining good time management, problem-solving on my own, planning, and taking a proactive approach were all skills which I gained through this learning experience. On the whole, apart from acquiring these skills, the support of all lecturers and the success of this event made me believe in my abilities and dreams.

My experience at MCAST has been wonderful. MCAST's social opportunities have massively improved my confidence and helped me build new friendships. The course and the hands-on work experiences have enriched me and prepared me for my career in sports. Overall, deciding to study at MCAST was a decision which I shall never regret.

LIAM CARTER

Journalist

I vividly remember my first day at the University of Malta. I had enrolled with great expectations but unfortunately they were not met. The University of Malta was not for me. However, at MCAST I rediscovered my love for arts and creativity. There, a perfect relationship was formed between artistic freedom and academic literature. They worked in tandem.

Before my experience at MCAST, I had scrapped the notion of my being a creative person since I did not possess the necessary tools to map out my artistic expressions. I had instead gone for a traditional approach to furthering my studies. However, very shortly after obtaining the Matriculation Certificate, I felt bewildered about how to proceed and entered the job market.

Luckily, a few months later, an MCAST advertisement caught my attention and I enrolled in a new bespoke degree programme designed specifically for aspiring

journalists. I knew I had to apply since I had always been a news buff with so many ideas but little idea how to break into this world.

During this time, I had the opportunity to gain the necessary skills to develop my portfolio by facing real-life job experiences, brushing up on media theory and learning the aforementioned skill sets. Moreover, thanks to MCAST I got the opportunity to start working on a part-time basis at one of the leading newspapers in the country.

To this day, I constantly use the things learned at MCAST during my professional career as a journalist for Television Malta.

Since then, I have become a huge advocate for vocational education and, with huge confidence and extreme genuineness, I recommend studying at MCAST to all my peers and friends.



“

I had the opportunity to gain the necessary skills to develop my portfolio by facing real-life job experiences.

DYLAN TONNA

Analyst, Malta Financial Services Authority

At the age of 19, I felt the need for a career change as I was not really fulfilled by my profession back then. The Open Day organised by MCAST was a great opportunity for me to establish which courses interested me and the qualifications required to enrol in such courses. I always dreamt of working in the financial services sector, and my career aspirations eventually led me to enrol in the Diploma in Financial Services course. This course has laid a solid foundation for my career, which led me to achieve a Bachelor's degree in Financial Services Management with a first class rating, during the academic year 2017-18.

During the five-year study period at MCAST, I had the opportunity to experience the Erasmus+ programme. In addition to this unique experience, I also had the chance to participate in a work placement in a well-established commercial bank in Malta. The work placement served as a stepping stone to my full-time employment, providing me with the opportunity to implement the knowledge I gained during my studies. With pride, I can say that the years spent as a student at MCAST were very challenging yet extremely rewarding.

For the past two years, I have been working as an Analyst within the Financial Crime Compliance unit of the Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA). Working at the MFSA, which is the single regulator of the financial services in Malta, was an opportunity for me to enhance my knowledge in the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing fields.

From a former student perspective, I believe that the hands-on nature of the MCAST programme promotes career development. I am proud to say that MCAST determined the path to my successful career and empowered me to succeed in the financial services sector.



“

I can say that the years as a student at MCAST were very challenging yet extremely rewarding. I am proud to say that MCAST determined the path to my successful career and empowered me to succeed in the financial services sector.



Industry on Campus

Join our network of industry partners to offer apprenticeship positions and discover new talent. Employers interested in registering as industry partners are to contact MCAST's Department of Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning:

apprenticeships@mcast.edu.mt

mcast.edu.mt

