

# FACULTY NEWSLETTER



**ACBT launches series of research seminars as part of the initiative to encourage research amongst its faculty and students.**

The first Research Paper Seminar was conducted on 19th December 2013 at ACBT lecture hall at 5.00 p.m. by Mr. D.R. Francis accompanied by Mr. K. M Silva as the Discussant, both of whom are visiting lecturers at ACBT. The topic was "Correlation between Dengue Spreading and Climate Change" **MORE ON PAGE 2**



## MY FIRST SEMESTER AT ACBT



My first semester at ACBT came to an end on the 17th of February. It was a hectic six months but it was also a marvellous, amazing **MORE ON PAGE 4**



## Sports at ACBT

ACBT is well recognized for its academic excellence and as an institution that helps build careers. Our students always outperform the competition because they come from a very balanced environment where they are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities while studying to achieve their academic goals. **MORE ON PAGE 5**

## COMMENTSONEXAMPROTOCOL/PROCEDURES

Examinations are an important part in the ACBT curriculum; therefore we decided to conduct a small survey to measure the effectiveness of exams. Following are some of the comments we received from exam supervisors and invigilators. **MORE ON PAGE 3**

## Our portfolio is **expanding**

We are extremely pleased that we were able to start two much anticipated new majors in March 2014. ECU and PIBT were very supportive in this regard and their guidance and constant support helped us overcome numerous challenges. **MORE ON PAGE 6**



## **ACBT launches series of research seminars as part of the initiative to encourage research amongst its *faculty and students.***



The first Research Paper Seminar was conducted on 19th December 2013 at ACBT lecture hall at 5.00 p.m. by Mr. D.R. Francis accompanied by Mr. K. M Silva as the Discussant, both of whom are visiting lecturers at ACBT. The topic was “Correlation between Dengue Spreading and Climate Change”, a timely issue to the recent menace in the health of Sri Lankans today. This topic has been selected by Mr. Francis for his dissertation for the Degree of Master in science at the University of Colombo.

The Seminar commenced at 5.00p.m. as scheduled with an audience comprising students, lecturers and senior officials of ACBT. It was inaugurated by the Principal of ACBT, Dr. Chandana Aluthge. At the inauguration Dr. Chandana spelled out the importance of Research work in an academic institution like ACBT, as students and staff must be in touch with latest developments and current issues and must gain subject specific knowledge at all times.

According to Dr. Chandana, research should be incorporated to match current trends in academic affairs

and it must work in its functions so as to be in par with the upcoming technology. Besides, he stressed that the students and staff must be in touch with latest developments and current issues and must gain subject specific knowledge at all times.

As the seminar progressed, it became an interesting subject to the audience since several questions were raised at the end by Dr. Kala Pieris and Mr. Sunimal Wickremasinghe, the Deputy Principal of ACBT seeking further clarification. The presentation had been made simple and easy to understand by giving information in graphical, pictorial and tabular form even though it was more theoretical. Also, Mr. Francis using his expertise in teaching was able to keep the attention of the audience throughout. At the end of the lecture, Mr. K.M.Silva, a colleague of Mr. Francis briefed the audience as the discussant and stressed that the issue of the research is timely and further studies would benefit the public. He also pointed out that the outcome could be used as guidelines to moderate the menace of dengue

in future. Mr. Silva thanked the ACBT management for taking steps to initiate the research seminar series and Mr. Rathnasinghe for organizing the programme.

At the conclusion, Dr. Chandana thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the lecture and added that if the lecture had been arranged during class hours there would have been an increase in the number of participants.

**by Dushyantha Rathnasighe**



# COMMENTS ON EXAM PROTOCOL / PROCEDURES

The examination process experienced an overhaul in 2013 to introduce state-of-the-art practices to examinations at ACBT. The role and responsibilities of all stake holders of examinations were defined and briefed. Following are some of the comments we received from exam supervisors and invigilators.



## Supervisor 01

I have been invigilating at ACBT for a long time and Mr. Neville Ruwanpathirana and his team are doing a wonderful job. Here are some suggestions:

Make sure the guards are informed about their expected behavior. I am saying this because I couldn't find them when we needed them most, such as when students want to go to the washroom, when the AC settings have to be changed, when we want to ask noisy students in the corridor to go away etc...

Other than that, I see an overall improvement.

## Supervisor 02

Although this was my first time, I felt quite comfortable with the role due to streamlining of the operations. The duties were described well in advance and it was just a matter of adhering to the guidelines. A head count of students was easily taken as there were sufficient invigilators for the task. Invigilators were empowered to make prompt decisions during the exam period. I believe this process does not need any change. Keep up the good work!

## Invigilator 01

I noticed that the examination process has become more streamlined. Further improvements can be made by constant monitoring, analyzing and recording. There was an incident where one of the students fell sick and there was no contingency plan to deal with such a situation. As an example, there should be an authorized

person to take necessary action on such occasions. Also allocation of a separate room ( first aid room) could be considered. Other than that, the parcelling of exam papers and answer scripts and delivery has become very efficient.

## Invigilator 02

Session allocation was highly transparent and it was easy to find the allocated room without any hassle. Also, at times it is better to swap the role of the invigilator and supervisor and vice versa. Other than that, the rest of the process was very well managed and organized.

## Invigilator 03

Invigilating has become much easier with the clear guidelines given now. The quality of the invigilating process has improved dramatically due to the floating invigilation concept. The floating invigilator efficiently attends to immediate needs and this is very helpful. Furthermore, the time frames could be easily planned as names are mentioned on a board and it was just a matter of being in the right place at the right time.

by Dushyantha Rathnasinghe

# My first semester at ACBT

My first semester at ACBT came to an end on the 17th of February. It was a hectic six months but it was also a marvellous, amazing and interesting semester. I loved it!

This semester I took up Advanced Math, COM D, Management and Accounting. All four classes were immensely interesting and enjoyable. We were provided the freedom and opportunity to interact in class. This helped me to make new friends and to get to know a lot of people. The assessments designed for each subject were remarkable. For instance, the oral presentations helped me boost my confidence when speaking in front of large audiences. The COM D class's trial session for oral presentations, in particular, gave me an idea on what areas I should improve in. Besides, watching other presenters also gave me an idea of how to enhance my oral presentation skills. This a skill that will definitely come in handy in the future- for my job perhaps.

Teamwork is yet another important area that I gained experience in. Being able to cooperate and work together with new people is something we will need wherever we go, especially since in an organization good teamwork is what leads it towards success. I think I received that experience at ACBT. For the group presentation in the COM D class I was grouped with new people as my team members. It was great because it was something more than team work - this allowed more interaction and I got to know new people. It was enjoyable and sometimes quite annoying because some of my team members did not get the presentation very seriously. They would want to joke and play tricks and talk a lot. Well, that sounds real fun but I don't think I felt so at that time because I was more focused on doing it successfully. However, I received the opportunity to put into practice the leadership skills I read about in Peter Drucker's book. I tried my best to fulfill my responsibility as a team member, or as a leader in most cases. I learnt how to

become an effective team leader- how to push your members and energize them to achieve something. It isn't an easy task and it requires a lot of hard work. Thanks to the COM D class, it was a marvellous experience, calling my facetious, unenthusiastic but bright geniuses to check their emails all the time because they never do that and to study and prepare for the presentation or assignment. I clearly understood the importance of valuing others' ideas and the importance of encouraging them to contribute their ideas and participate.

Besides, testing a student's active participation and awarding marks for participation was yet another factor that motivated and encouraged me to actively engage in classroom discussions. It also made me more confident and I wasn't nervous or scared anymore to speak up and interact during lectures. Thanks to the lecturers of all four subjects, I'm more confident and I feel more comfortable because of their friendliness, kindness and generosity. Thus, I enjoyed my time in all the four classes.

The most significant and important thing was that I learnt to work on a more strict and a hectic schedule. I clearly understood what it meant to complete assignments and reports and to meet deadlines on time. I also learnt how to manage my time effectively and understood the importance of time. In order to cope with four subjects, time should be allocated to each of them very effectively. There were instances where I found it difficult to complete reports on time because I had poor time management skills and mainly because of procrastination. Earlier, I had the habit of procrastinating with work which is terrible because at the last moment I would be in a hurry to complete them. This heightened my stress levels and most of the time I would stay late up in

of one or two marks to achieve the full amount – my mind would then say that I could have achieved it all if I had started off earlier. This is the worst feeling ever. Thus, I learnt my lessons and made it a point to never procrastinate work.

In addition, the mid-semester tests held for each subject were of great help. I'm a workaholic who works very hard for exams and a person who lives with books all the time and those tests helped me to review and monitor my progress constantly. My performance in all four subjects was very good and I was happy. This was yet another confidence booster and a sign that clearly indicated I could ace my final exams well too. That's the great feeling that you get once you have accomplished something. Thanks again to the lecturers who were ready to help whenever I wanted it. Especially, in the Management class, the lecturer was always ready to help with answers to any question I had regarding the subject matter. Besides, in the COM D class, the lecturer actually identified my interest in writing and I was encouraged to read more and write. Books of reputed authors were recommended and homework to write articles or essays were given to sharpen and polish my writing skill. That was great and I enjoyed it. I'm thankful to my COM D class lecturer. My Advanced Maths lecturer and my Accounting lecturer were really supportive and friendly too and I'm thankful to them.

Finally, on the whole, my first semester was an enjoyable one. I think ACBT clearly gave me a very good university experience. During this short period of four months, I learnt a lot and it has benefitted me. It will be a time that I will cherish.

*by Mevuni Dewanarayana De Silva*



have won several awards as a result of hard work and commitment. Special thanks should go out to Ms. Anoma Edirimanna for organizing and guiding the students towards victory. She has done a tremendous job as the lecturer in charge of the ACBT Sports Club. In addition, these victories would not have been possible without the commitment and the dedication of ACBT's athletes who have shown great sportsmanship.

ACBT is well recognized for its academic excellence and as an institution that helps build careers. Our students always outperform the competition because they come from a very balanced environment where they are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities while studying to achieve their academic goals. Our students have performed exceptionally well in sports during the past few years competing with both national and private universities. They



Some recent achievements include:

### **Basketball Team**

- The Second Runner-Up (2013) – Inter-University Basketball tournament organized by Royal Institute
- The First Runner-Up (2013) - Inter-University Basketball tournament organized by APIIT
- The First Runner-Up (2013)- Inter-University basketball playoff organized by Informatics Institute (IIT)
- The First Runner-Up (2012) – Inter-University Basketball Tournament organized by the Kotalawala Defense University(KDU) with the participation of 5 state universities and 5 private universities
- The Winner (2009) – Inter-Institute Basketball Tournament organized by Informatics Institute
- The Winner (2009) –Inter-Institute Basketball Tournament organized by ICBT City Campus

### **Rugby Team**

- Shield Winner – Inter-Institute Rugby 7's organized by ICBT- Kandy College- 2013
- The First Runner-Up – bowl category Inter-Institute Rugby 7's organized by Informatics Institute- 2013
- The Winner– bowl category – Inter-Institute Rugby 7's Tournament organized by ANC – 2011
- The Cup Champion– People's Bank Rugby Challenge Trophy. This was an Invitational Inter-University Sports Festival organized by the People's Bank – 2011

### **Cricket Team**

- The First Runner-Up- Inter-University Six-a-side Cricket tournament organized by APIIT – 2013
- The Champion – T20 Match vs SLIIT- 2013
- The Champion – 50 Over Match vs SLIIT- 2013

While congratulating the ACBT Sports Club for the achievements of its members, we would like to wish them all the best for their upcoming events. We would also like to encourage our students to participate in these sports events and support your fellow students.

*by Milinda Mendis*

# Our portfolio is

# EXPANDING

## ***(i) New Majors***

We are extremely pleased that we were able to start two much anticipated new majors in March 2014. ECU and PIBT were very supportive in this regard and their guidance and constant support helped us overcome numerous challenges. The new majors, Tourism and Hospitality Management and International Business are now on offer to students. With these majors, ACBT offers you six double major combinations from Semester 1, 2014.

They are:

- (i) Marketing and Management
- (ii) Marketing and Tourism and Hospitality Management
- (iii) Marketing and International Business
- (iv) Management and Tourism and Hospitality Management
- (v) Management and International Business
- (vi) International Business and Tourism and Hospitality Management

***ACBT has sourced a very competent faculty of visiting lecturers to teach the new subjects. Candidates who are offering these units will have lecturers with profound academic and wide-ranging industry experience.***

***If you are interested in any of these new majors and have completed the Diploma in Business, please contact the Principal, the Deputy Principal or your counsellor at your earliest to obtain course planners. You could also obtain course planners via email if you send a request to one of the following addresses:***

***chandana.aluthge@acbt.lk  
sunimal.wickremasinghe@acbt.lk  
upeksha.gunawardana@acbt.lk***



## ***(ii) Credit Transfers***

ACBT successfully renewed credit transfer agreements with the University of Wollongong (UOW) and the University of Canberra (UC) in 2013. As a result, ACBT students, who successfully complete University Foundation, Diploma, and Advanced Diploma Programmes can enroll in a variety of courses offered by these prestigious universities. In addition, the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and Deakin University provide ACBT students easy access to their study programmes.

ACBT is signing an International Articulation Agreement with La Trobe University in early 2014. The agreement gives an important opening for prospective ACBT students to select a substantial amount of degree programmes that will meet their academic and career goals.

## ***(iii) New Programme***

ACBT is also offering a Certificate Level 3 Programme (Pre-Foundation) to assist a substantial number of students who find it difficult to get access to ACBT's University Foundation Programme each trimester due to inadequate qualifications. For the Level 3 programme, candidates study Mathematics, English, Business Studies, Social Studies, ICT and Science and Technology. The meticulous training students are supposed to obtain at the Certificate level 3 will greatly improve their chances of joining ACBT University's Foundation.

Dr. Chandana Aluthge