

#testimonial

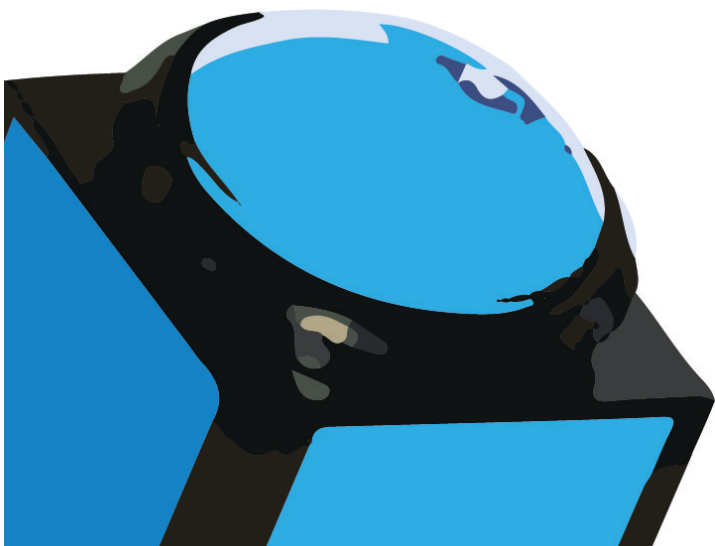
Being called to the staff room was nerve-racking enough. I met with the other girls called and we were told our fates. We were selected to participate in ACTT's National Quiz. Unsure of my ability to succeed, I listened to my Coach-to-be explain to us about the competition I had never even heard of prior to that day, and the fifty-page long Study Guide which did nothing to steady my nerves. Somehow, I managed to quell my fears (it may have helped that our Coach told us we were each recommended by our teachers) and agreed to take part in the competition. I definitely don't regret it.

At each round of the competition, we all got together and worked as much as possible. Lunch times were sacrificed by the five of us, our Coach Miss Mayers, and Miss Nelson, who also helped in coaching. It was rough going at first, and it didn't get much easier towards the end. We tried our best to memorise the Study Guide, chapter by chapter, every time we had a round approaching. This method was mostly successful, but did not prevent the cramming of dates and definitions on the drive to the venue on the morning of the competition, or the skimming of the dreaded Chapter 2 (the longest and most difficult chapter to learn) minutes before the competition started.

All this preparation was worth it. Not only did my studying (and, let's be honest, cramming) techniques improve greatly over the course of the competition, but I also made new friends. We still talk today and try to give each other advice and help whenever possible. As a group, we learned teamwork and strategising, as well as how to rely on the strengths of others. When we figured out two of our team members excelled at learning dates, while the rest of us found our niches in memorising definitions, processes and other details, we were better able to work together to complete the content of the Study Guide.

This discovery gave rise to the epiphany I had during this competition. Previously, I was a self-sufficient person, and I did not enjoy having to rely on others to accomplish certain goals. Because of the National Quiz, my view on co-dependence has changed. Human beings can achieve much more if each person utilises their talents and contributes towards whatever needs to be done, than they can alone. I am more enthusiastic now about group assignments, trusting that others will play their parts, instead of feeling the need to prepare a backup plan in case they don't.

I would, without a doubt, encourage students from my school to participate in ACTT's 4th National Quiz. I believe it would be easy to do so, as I have already discussed the competition with my friends, and they are proud of how well the school did (especially considering this was the first time we entered) and have expressed a desire to improve our performance next time. Repeating the benefits of participating in the competition, reminders of the fact that representing the school in a national competition is an amazing addition to one's school file and, should all else fail, tales of a professional telescope purchased with the prize voucher should convince students that being a part of ACTT's National Quiz is an opportunity that cannot be squandered.



Elise Miller | *St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando*
ACTT's 3rd National Quiz on
Quality Assurance in Higher Education 2015