Welcome to the 2015 Summer Edition of PACE. I hope you all enjoyed the festive break and had a safe and happy holiday with family and friends.

In this edition of PACE, we highlight the exciting progression of ACPE and their work with the Cambodian Children’s Fund. We also showcase one of our own Alumni Chantal Leaudais and her work with ACPE during Dance Artist in Residence. Furthermore ACPE held events on campus for prospective 2015 students.

Don’t forget to continue to keep us up-to-date on your careers and lives; we love receiving letters and emails from our Alumni.

Brian Nook
Head of College
ACPE

ACPE ALUMNI RETURNS FOR DANCE ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Written by Chanel Leaudais

I would like to begin by thanking ACPE staff, particularly Vinette Espiritu, Jacqui Simmonds, Diane Grant and IT staff. Their support and kindness throughout DAIR (Dance Artist in Residence) was continuously extended to me and the dancers involved. Sincerely, thank you.

At ACPE I have been continuing my research into Integrated Dance – a contemporary dance form, accessible to people with and without disabilities. In May 2014, I undertook a DirtyFeet Choreographic Lab. Over 2 weeks, I explored whether the use of biomechanics and gravity (through the use of harnesses) would allow for greater understanding of the intricacies of a dancer with a physical disability, and if this would allow me to create more efficient movement. At the conclusion of the lab, I had focused greatly on the use of gravity and discovered a strong choreographic interest in tactile stimuli; notably, sand. I had not however, deeply employed a biomechanical analysis of dancers with a disability and this became a strong directive for DAIR.

My three weeks at ACPE allowed me to dive into researching and exploring my creative practice and deeply focus on how dancers with a disability can be supported through biomechanical analysis. In my first week at ACPE I set up interviews, improvisational tasks and collaborated one-on-one with Daniel Monks, a Sydney-based dancer, paralysed on the right-side of his body. Since then I have tested as to whether his unique physicality can be valued, communicated and interpreted by an able-bodied dancer, Sophie Cook.

Returning to ACPE as an “artist in residence” has been a wonderful experience. It was a joy working in familiar surroundings, alongside staff that I have enjoyed long-term relationships with. I am grateful and excited to share this creative journey with them. One of the best decisions I ever made as a Dance Educator, was to sustain an industry practice. It informs my teaching, deepens my understanding of contemporary dance in Australia and fuels me to make a difference creatively.
IN BRIEF

CC2 PLAYGROUND OPENING
During their visit to Cambodia, ACPE staff and students attended the opening of the second playground that has been subsidised with fundraising from the ACPE community. This second playground is located at a facility/refuge that houses young girls who are victims of various types of abuse. This playground affords them the opportunity to utilise the play equipment, including climbing ropes and slide, as well as a basketball court for them to play sport on. This playground also provided a valuable area to conduct PE lessons during the visit, replacing the uneven surfaces littered with dirt and rubbish that lessons had to be taught on during previous visits. In attendance to assist in opening the playground was CCF founder Scott Neeson.

2014 ended with the relationship between ACPE and CCF growing stronger; playgrounds continue to be built for children to enjoy safe spaces to be physically active. The next project that ACPE will support will be to fund three CCF students as they continue their educational journey at university. ACPE will cover the costs of the student’s tuition fees, accommodation costs, resources and uniforms.

The College looks forward to 2015 when they will celebrate the 5th ACPE Cultural Experience Program.

2014 ACPE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE PROGRAM
The 2014 ACPE Cultural Experience Program (CEP) recently travelled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to again volunteer teach at the Cambodian Children’s Fund (CCF). Now in its fourth year, the ACPE CEP has raised $48 000 and donated $8 000 worth of sporting equipment.

Last November, the program continued to teach PE lessons, as well as the swim program and conduct first aid sessions for both CCF students and staff. This year’s group had the privilege of attending the opening of the second playground that has been donated by ACPE with CCF founder, Scott Neeson.

The group travelled to Prey Vang province, located two hours outside of Phnom Penh, and helped CCF student leaders distribute 1500 pairs of TOMS shoes to children from six local schools.

The annual ACPE/CCF Sports Gala Day provided 160 CCF students the opportunity to participate in eight different sports, with each student receiving their own team t-shirt.

The visit concluded with the annual performance night that included CCF performing dances taught by ACPE students, as well as ACPE students performing the coconut dance that was taught to them by CCF students.

ACPE ALUMNI - STUART AYRES
Recently, ACPE was able to catch up with Alumni Stuart Ayres. Mr Ayres is the NSW Minister for Sport and Member for Penrith. He spoke with us about his time at ACPE - the culture and community - and how his studies have helped shape his career in the sports industry. To view his full video testimonial, please visit the ACPE homepage: acpe.edu.au

EVENTS AT ACPE
On 18 December 2014, ACPE held a Q&A Night on campus for prospective students. The night included presentations from Dean/Head of College, Brian Nook; Associate Dean/Student & Services, Jacqueline Simmonds; Student Services Manager, Kellie Maxwell; and Student Enrolment Advisor, David Martyn.

The presentations gave an introduction to ACPE, highlighting the support that is provided for students. The evening provided an opportunity for prospective students and parents to have their questions answered. Alongside these presentations were two elite athlete guest speakers who discussed their careers in sport - Andrew Patmore, Bulldogs U20’s Coach and Caitlin Thwaits, NSW Swifts player. Overall, the evening was a success with many students applying on the night, or submitting their HSC results.

Similarly on 6 January, we held an Information Evening, allowing prospective students to come on campus, complete their application and/or enrolment and chat with various staff members.

We look forward to welcoming many of these students to the ACPE family in Semester 1, March 2015.