



Summer Newsletter

July, August and September 2010

From the Office of the President

Happy New Year! Just as Ethiopia welcomed in the new year on September 11th (2003 in the Ethiopian Calendar), HUC has welcomed many new changes this quarter. Our summer has been uncharacteristic this year — Ethiopia was provided with a large dose of rain and we were very busy with the final touches needed for the long awaited accreditation. In keeping with the requirements for accreditation, we hosted a two-day orientation in July for the new staff, outlining the HUC Charter and academic programs.

We were also quite happy to have Dr. Eyayu Lulseged join us as our Vice President for Academic Affairs on August 1st. Our expatriate volunteer staff arrived at the end of the summer and we began preparations to move our offices to the University College campus. HUC anticipated good news for accreditation and the start of the academic year and has moved forward with preparations for the inaugural class of students through trainings and putting the finishing touches on the campus.

In July, a team of experts from the Ministry of Education visited us and the campus. They were given an orientation on all aspects of the University College's preparations, including the progress of the campus construction. The team was quite surprised with the progress and with the volume of the investment. A few days later, we learned that the team wrote its recommendations to the Vice Minister of Higher Education, indicating our readiness to start classes in September. Towards the end of September, our campus was also visited by the Minister of Education. We have been encouraged by this attention and are eager to open our doors!

None of this would have been possible without the generous support we have received both in Ethiopia and from abroad. Thank you for continuing to keep HUC in your thoughts and prayers.



New grass on the roof of the De Pagter Library

Administration and Finance

Volunteer Staff: Eight volunteers have joined HUC from the U.S., Sweden and the Netherlands this summer. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Doug and Mrs. Betty Lu Holland (Director of Quality Assurance and Director of Cross-Cutting Courses), Jessica Risco (English Faculty), Mark Carlson (Cross-Cutting Faculty/IT Support), Goran Edstrom (Director of ICT), Brian Elwell (Cross-Cutting Faculty/IT Support), Dr. Jennifer Stevenson (Registrar), and Judith Lechanteur (Dean of Student Life) to HUC.

Support Services: In order to prepare for our move onto the campus, we posted a vacancy notice in *The Reporter* inviting bids for custodial services. A total of nine companies applied and Shebelle Building Cleaning Service was chosen on the basis of their fee-for-service and performance capacity; we began a one-year contract with Shabelle on October 1st. We have also begun to accept bids for bus services for staff and students given the campus' distance from the city center. After terminating our contract with Dejen security service on October 21st, we began recruiting replacement guards independent of a security agency.

Customs: We were finally able to clear ten containers full of furniture and furnishing materials from the Netherlands in July and August. Additionally, a 40-foot container holding books arrived from the United States. We anticipate getting another 40-foot container of books and computers from the U.S. next quarter. The books, which are to be stocked in our library, were donated by Books for Africa with the shipping costs covered by Ethiopiaid/UK.

The HUC Finance Office: HUC established financial autonomy from Hope Enterprises in August by developing a system for financial administration and hiring a Senior Account, Ato Saron Hiruy, on September 1st. W/rt Meron Eshetu, an economist, was assigned to assist in the Finance Office, as well. The HUC Finance Office has taken over the management of payroll, the distributed of salaries, coding and entering expenses into Peachtree files and generating financial reports beginning from September 2010. The Ladders of Hope Finance Office will complete the reports from January to August, 2010, as well as work on creating a system for balancing the HUC account. The quarterly financial reports will also be produced in consultation with Ladders of Hope.

Competency Based Training (CBT)

With financing from Woord & Daad, our academic staff participated in workshops outlining the principles of Competency Based Training (CBT) with two consultants from the Netherlands, Wim Hartog and Jan Lok on September 6-8th. This three-day training provided an opportunity for foreign and Ethiopian staff to collaborate and begin curriculum preparations centered on the competencies valued by the University College: theoretical knowhow, applicability of professional knowledge within a work-place environment, and combining the world of work and personal development.

This knowledge was welcomed by the staff, who see CBT as an indispensable method to train youngsters to play a pivotal role in the Growth and Transformation Plan of the government, a plan that has a five-year span and began in September. A new contract was financed by Woord & Daad to have Mr. Hartog return for two months in October and oversee the conversion of our curricula through daily interactions and trainings with the faculty.

Academic Affairs

Over the past few months, we have seen significant advancements in the Academic Affairs of the University College. Dr. Eyayu Lulseged has joined us to serve as the Vice President for Academic Affairs and has taken over the responsibility of all matters related to accreditation, coordinating suppliers for textbooks and machinery for the Industrial Technology Department from India and the preparation of official documents pertaining to students and staff, including the coordination of curricula into the CBT model. Additionally, Dr. Eyayu will serve as the Secretary of HUC's Executive Team, which began meeting every Friday morning at 9am.

Despite efforts on our end, we learned that a directive was issued in late July suspending the accreditation of private higher education institutions. We made appeals to the Ministry of Education using our already-approved project agreement but, it wasn't until late September that the Ministry decided to approve accreditation for institutions such as ours— under new rules. These rules are designed to ensure quality education that requires private institutions to focus 70 percent of their academic programming on science and technology. Because HUC already has a technical bent, even within our pre-college educational programs at Hope Enterprises, our curriculum is in line with these new regulations. We were congratulated by government officials for this emphasis and the honorable Minister of Education met with us in late September to approve our request for a new project agreement, allowing us to move forward with our preparations.

Thus, we have decided to move our operations from the office on Churchill Road to the University College campus. Office chairs and tables have been arranged for and a temporary internet connection has been established. Two high-powered printers will be purchased locally; the rest of the printers for the campus will come from The Netherlands. Additionally, efforts are being made to provide transportation for all staff members not living on campus.

In order to better prepare for our students, Dr. Stevenson and Ms. Risco have begun working on revising and editing the Staff and Student Handbooks and Student Catalog with feedback provided by the academic staff. Dr. Stevenson has also been researching registrar software used at other universities in Ethiopia. She is working with Dr. Eyayu and Mr. Edstrom (Director of ICT) to establish a digital registration system for the campus. The Executive Team has decided that HUC should have digital systems for the library and Finance Office, as well. An ICT Committee was formed to address the issue of establishing an IT infrastructure on campus that includes these digital systems. Our goal is to provide state-of-the-art technological services to our students in order to better support their education.



HUC staff participating in the CBT training with Wim Hartog and Jan Lok

Construction Update

The University College campus is nearly complete and ready for students! According to Project Manager, Daniel de Witte, the buildings in Phases 1 and 2 are complete. This includes the Henk de Pagter Library, Administration Building, Classroom Complex A and B, Student Center, Faculty Complex and expatriate staff apartments. The construction team is currently working on the completion of the auditorium and the technical services building. Work on the auditorium roof was increased in anticipation of the stone tiles at the end of September. Several designs were explored to modify the Technical Services Building. We agreed on a plan to use the building as a workshop. However, in light of the building's foundation problem, a thorough soil test is needed to ensure safety before a final design is approved. We will move forward with generating a bid for the soil test using the advice of Abba Architects and the construction consortium.



Additionally, Abba Architects proposed a design for campus landscaping and our main driveway and we are now looking for bids from local companies. While funding is still needed to complete these projects, we decided to move forward with Geluk en Treurniet Architecten's plan to plant grass on the roof of the De Pagter Library. On July 3rd, Kassu Beautification Gardening Work began planting the 1300m² area with grass in time for the rainy season. Early in September, the grass became green— it's quite a sight for those of us who have never seen grass on the roof of a building! HUC also hosted a Tree-Planting event on August 24th. With the help of HUC faculty and staff, Abba Architects and several HUC guests, over 250 indigenous trees were planted around the perimeter of the campus. We celebrated the event by sharing a lunch with the both the Chinese and Ethiopian construction workers.

Ethio-Dutch Furniture continued furniture production in their Debre Zeit factory, using materials imported from Holland. A sample of the furniture we requested was delivered for immediate use however, several months are still needed to complete the furnishing for the whole campus. Global Computing Solutions continued to work on the digital infrastructure on campus and importation of data systems. Delays are being noted in this work but we insisted that everything must be ready for the start of HUC.

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How you can help

The vision of HUC is to provide quality education that produces graduates who combine knowledge, skills and values to contribute to the renewal and transformation of Ethiopia. HUC believes all students should be in a setting where they develop a love of learning driven by creativity and curiosity, and also a desire to make their communities a place of hope, justice, peace and progress.

We value each student and desire to involve them in an educational process that develops them to their full potential. In this initiative, we believe that no student who has the thirst for learning should be left behind. For students of financial need, we are currently looking for student sponsorships for the 2010-2011 academic year.

For more information or to make a donation, please visit our website or contact us in our office. Thank you for your support!