



FOURTH QUARTER NEWSLETTER

October - December, 2016

The 2016-17 academic year started with some 410 new students registered, bringing the total population of regulars to 1121. Out of these, nearly 200 are sponsored students. With the extension students numbering 306, we have now a grand total of 1427 students. Due to the local tensions manifested here and there in the country, the entire student admission program was slightly delayed. The Academic departments are doing their level best to compensate for the loss by introducing additional /remedial lecture hours at their own conveniences, which is very much appreciated.

In the early week of the start of the school activity, the President along with the faculty Deans made a well come address to the entire student body. The welcome address was meant to stress the values of this institution to the incoming freshman class in particular and the general audience as well. Adherence to the prevailing campus rules and regulations was also pointed out. As the College has attractive academic ambience in the way of general cleanliness and green culture, all campus visitors as well as resident students are expected to respect such harmony, it was expressed.

Dear Readers,

This Quarter is witnessing “The Change of the Guard” as the saying goes. After serving at this institution for four years now, I am leaving as of the end of this year. It is therefore, time for the change of leadership. To this effect the Hope Enterprise has successfully recruited the President as well as the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The smooth transition has been already underway. The new team has been introduced to the College’s office holders on the 18th of November and has very informative and fruitful rounds of discussions. As the Deans and Directors welcomed them with spirit of open heartedness, the incoming President declared his readiness to be useful to the extent this firmly established family needs his humble contributions.

A separate introductory session was also arranged for the new team with the student body and the rest of the college community combined on the 22nd of November, 2016. The introduction of the new team was made by the out-going President who stated how friendly and caring the campus community has been. The students have been exemplary in their supportive culture. The out-going President thanked the entire college community members and asked them to keep such fruitful behavior during the tenure of the new team as well. The incoming President Dr. Alem Bazezew, in his short message to the community stated that he is here to work with everybody with open heart for the enhancement of the College’s objectives.

Academic achievements of the College thus far:

Having graduated three batches thus far, the Hope College of Business, Science and Technology has now gathered substantial experience in relation to curriculum revision, internship administration, competency based education application as well as in seminar related publications. Having also some its academic staff trained in HERQA's Quality Audit program, these personnel are now playing important promotional roles for the College as they participate in auditing other higher education programs. This part is an important recognition of our institution by HERQA. HERQA undertakes a periodical.

quality audits at the various higher educational institutions that are so accredited and registered to carry out college education. As HCBST had earlier submitted its self evaluation document to HERQA, the actual institutional audit by the Agency took place back in 2013. As this was a comprehensive audit checking every bit of our academic as well as support units, the entire College community participated in the information provision and answering at times quite hard questions. Our students manifested rather mature and confident behavior during this audit encounter as often. The results of this academic quality audit has been published by HERQA and also been distributed to all concerned institutions and stake holders. Enhancement action plans on the recommendations have been prepared and submitted to HERQA earlier in October.



HERQA Audit Team at HCBST (2013)

In my first message to the teaching staff, back in 2013, I stated "You are the souls of the College. Make the impact intended by becoming the role models, the educators, the guiding and motivating power of students. Let us make the necessary adjustments altogether to reap a harvest well-rounded , motivated, informed , with competency in their fields of study and connected graduates of Hope College." By then there were about 20 instructors only. At this time there are 61 academic personnel with ten of them females.

I must say that we were able to keep our words in producing graduates that have been confident in their areas of engagements. All those graduated during the last three ceremonies have been employed and the information we have from the different sources in regards to their work habits and general responsibilities has been encouraging. We are proud of them, for sure.

Our students learnt to participate in fruitful activities while in school. This can be witnessed as shown hereunder:

A. Their roles in UNESCO STUDENT EXCHANGE Program

HCBST hosted the student exchange program of UNESCO from Oct 31-Nov.15, 2015. The programs aimed at sharing of experiences of Ethiopian and United Arab Emirate students and involved 16 students (Eight from United Arab Emirates and Eight from Ethiopia). UNESCO selected 8 participants from Ethiopia to be involved in the excursion and biosphere training exchange; these participants were selected on a competitive basis based on the strength of their applications, and one of these students was our student Rahel Bekele from the department of Environmental Science and Sustainable Development.

B. Participation in Ethiopian Soil Week

Ethiopian Soil Week was organized by FAO, GIZ, Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture, I international Academic institution,(IAS) at our premises. Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) was also involved in this preparation. HCBST provided meeting hall and break out rooms for the research seminars, about 200 persons attending the seminars. The participants then divided into their areas of interest and a total of seven research papers were presented. Environmental Science students of our College attended all the different presentations and reported back to the general panel. The students' participation was very active in the soil week serving as ushers and facilitators of the program. In connection with the soil campaign event, two students (Rahawa Yemane and Bethlehem Girma both Environmental and Sustainable Development Department students) did attend a workshop in Hargesa and Zimbabwe, respectively.

C. Their role in Nation and Nationality Day Celebrations

The College's staff and students colorfully celebrated the Nations, Nationalities & Peoples Day during the last consecutive years. The students' participation to make the occasion more entertaining was really great! These occasions have been spearheaded by our female students' club.

We are always proud of their national zeal!

The various colors of this proud and ancient nation were represented by our students. The entire College community joined and enjoyed this fun-filled celebratory occasion every year as it occurred.



2013



2014



2015

D. Student Exchange Program with Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences (RUAS)

HCBST started a student exchange program with RUAS. 12 students from RUAS and 13 from HCBST participated in the program coached by three instructors from each institution. Three projects out of nine were selected by full participation of student from the two institutions. The projects suggested were Agricultural Knowledge Center and Student Associations and Environmental Education. Twelve students and three instructors from RUAS came in March, 2016 to have a week's training together with HCBST students. This type of external partnership is expected to expand to other collaborative areas like research and faculty exchanges we hope.

Community services oriented activities and trainings carried out thus far:

EthiopAid/UK carried out trainings for its partners at different times at our institution. The trainings covered varying topics like coaching, project management, brand awareness etc, Our students also took advantage of the availability of EthiopiAid expert staff. Some selected 60 senior students were involved in a training that focused on the development of application letter, CV and appearing for job interviews. The training was organized in small groups and was insightful for our students. We are very grateful to EthiopiAid for organizing such training for our students. EthiopiAid has been conducting trainings for some years now. Our students and all those participated in the trainings benefited a lot from the program, we should believe.



EthiopiAid staff and the trainees (2015)

Hope Enterprise's "Education for Change Oriented Development" training program was also hosted at this College premises. Several Competency based trainings were also carried out by special experts from Universities of Amsterdam and Ede, in the Netherlands. Our academic staff took part in these trainings that are now in use for our Competency Based Education.

Associated to its 25th Anniversary in Ethiopia's venture, Sir Alec Reed, its founder and trusted philanthropist attended a special students discussion forum. Sir Alec made a motivational address to our students in entrepreneurial skill development. During this chanting discussion Sir Alec raised the importance of English language, skill development to business and entrepreneurship as a way to enable one to self respect and valubleness in a given society. Our students as a matter of fact enjoyed and admired Sir Alec's approach to businessmanship mentality development.



Sir Alec with our students (2015)

The Advisory Committee was re-established by stream lining its role and responsibilities anew. The committee is comprised of 8 members from our two major stakeholders and representatives from Hope Enterprises Board. And thus the first meeting was held during the last days of December 2015. As this was their introductory session, familiarization with Hope Enterprises systems, particularly with the College's functional units, the members were briefed by both the Executive Director of the Enterprises and the President of the College on the present and up-coming five year (2015-2020) strategic plan. It is much anticipated that this Advisory Committee will play a useful role and be a valuable tool for the better and resourceful connections with both local and international academic and research institutions for the College.

Hope College of Business, Science and Technology has been a very useful venue for the many meetings and social activities emanating basically from the Sub-City. The local administrative organs, without exceptions, choose our premises for their annual or semi-annual program assessment conferences. We are quite proud and happy to serve the local community whenever approached, without reservation.

General maintenance activities continued during the quarter. Water pump problem fixing, generator check-up, sewerage line maintenances and bush clearing were major tasks carried out. The library floor repair and roof green covering are yet to be done in the coming quarter. The sudden departure, from the College, of our former administrative head partially delayed this particular task. The general staff of our College participated in the Ethiopian Great Run this time around. The members of the College proudly brandished the College's emblem through the white caps they were decorated with. Upon the successful completion of the running competition, all the participants were awarded with medals. The pictures indicate the story.



Staff assembled just before running



Staff with medals of achievement

Acknowledgements.

I am grateful to all our faithful supporters who made it possible for many of our needy students to go through and get their college degrees, making them proud citizens with enormous hopes to become even more visible in the societies they serve. The last three graduations witnessed 147 sponsored students proudly completing their college education to become competent citizens. The ultimate goal being achieved, words cannot express the generosity of such sponsors like EthiopiAid/UK, Woord en Daad, and Yemisirach Tefera, Doug and Betty Holland, Klaas de Witt, and many others for their meaningful advices and fruitful suggestions through the years. Our trusted friends at Hope Ethiopia Inc. (USA) were indeed my source of strength whenever I needed them. Mr. Grant Bomze, former Chairman of the Board and the current Director for finance, has been a real asset for our cause. John van Deman assured that our quarterly newsletter was on the reading shelf for all those who visited our website.

Since this is my last communication through the Newsletter, I would like to thank all who were behind me in my many calls for support and cooperation for our work at Hope College of Business, Science and Technology.

I do want to solicit for your continued support and fruitful cooperation for my successor, Dr. Alem Bazezew. Email: alembazezew@gmail.com.

To all of you friends, may the Lord reward you in His own ways!!

TEKETEL FORSSIDO (Ambassador)

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