



Newsletter

April, May and June 2012

From the Office of the President

There were many students who excelled in many areas and it was great to recognize them in front of their colleagues and staff. While the advisory board was getting strong, its chairperson, Ms. Barbara Wickham, resigned owing to a posting to a different country. A few weeks later, Ato Ayalew Zegeye, another key member, also resigned feeling that his busy schedule did not allow him to contribute as he had wanted. We thank the above members for their leadership and wish them well in their endeavors. It was also during this quarter we recognized Dr. and Mrs. Betty Holland, who would leave for home (Arizona) after four years of dedicated service.

The senior management along with the General Secretary screened the many applications that came for the posts of the president and of the vice president for academic affairs and prepared the list of the finalists for the interview by the ad-hoc committee of the Board. Many good candidates came and final selection is planned to transpire in July. The senior management also planned for the subsequent academic year. Realizing that enrollment had to be increased, the Senate approved the incorporation of three new departments. This increase is expected to boost enrollment to 650 students during the 2012/13 academic year for the regular day program and to 250 students for the night School. In addition to architecture that was approved last year, food science and environmental science were added. The stakeholder discussion on the curricular proposals of the latter two academic programs at Ghion Hotel was affirming. The proposals were finally submitted to ETQAA, the accrediting agency, on June 7 and the preparation continued for the visit of the accreditation team. As the new regulations required that all inputs had to be in place before the agency's visit, all in the senior management did their best to equip the new departments with laboratory and workshop equipment. The efforts of Dr. Doug Holland, Dr. Mulugeta Abebe and our new Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, Dr. Letemeskel Asfaw made a difference in this regard.

The big job of gathering up to date textbooks had to also be done. The President, Dr. Minas Hiruy, played a critical role in this regard arranging for the books for the architecture department to come from India and buying the rest from the US along with some remaining lab equipment during his trip to the USA during the latter part of June. Time was also spent in the recruitment of the faculty within country and abroad. At the same time, the funding aspect had to be addressed. The management explored every possibility including income generation. Realizing that facilities rental could bring in

some income, the price committee proposed rates per square meter for the rental of our unused buildings. The big job of gathering up to date textbooks had to also be done. The President, Dr. Minas Hiruy, played a critical role in this regard arranging for the books for the architecture department to come from India and buying the rest from the US along with some remaining lab equipment during his trip to the USA late in June. Time was also spent in the recruitment of the faculty within country and abroad. At the same time, the funding aspect had to be addressed. The management explored every possibility including income generation. Realizing that facilities rental could bring in some income, the price committee proposed rates per square meter for the rental of our unused buildings. Various possibilities were explored for student sponsorships especially during the President's trip to the US. As grants are still needed to turn the financial side in our favor, the management prepared to appeal to our donors for help.



Potential students with impressions that last

The university college opened its doors to the public on May 26 in partnership with student initiated carnival. During such event, youngsters and children came with their parents and lost no moment in enjoying all that we could offer. We hope that this kind of interaction would publicize the opportunities that we have. The President voluntarily edited a seminal work on the re-greening of the Blue Nile Watershed to increase the volume of water and decrease the rising problem of soil erosion. The paper is to be submitted for discussion by policy makers, experts and various other stakeholders at a gathering in Sheraton Hotel in July. Similarly, the president was invited to be in the Board of Agrivest, a new idea of Woord & Daad to empower small scale entrepreneurs using business principles and practices. On May 25, Hope University College attended the founding ceremony of the first think tank in the country.

The theme of this quarter revolves around the university college's role in facilitating self help. One student that has taken a step in this regard is Shewa Tsehai. Shewa majors in business management and aspires to be a leader in the private sector. However, coming from a poor background, Shewa had the challenge of making ends meet while going to college.. She was one of those students who was enthusiastic in taking on the work study opportunity when brought to her attention. She said as she fulfills her part-time job in custodial work, she sees her future in her hands and is further motivated to excel in all that she does. She said, "I have hope now in getting a good education and a bright future is ahead of me. I have gained my confidence and can see how I will turn out."



Shewa Tsehai

Academic Affairs

We had a general faculty's meeting on May 4 to consider various evaluation findings regarding how we have fared as a teaching institution and chart a better course. In this self assessment, all recognized that contact with students could be improved and it was decided for the deans to designate a faculty advisor for each student and post the assignment for accountability. Another important theme that was raised was staff development. The management acknowledged this gap and asked the faculty to designate a committee from its own to recommend how we can address staff development.

Considering the focus on the incorporation of three departments during the following academic year, a third faculty, the Faculty of Science and Technology, was added to the structure of the university college. Dr. Letemeskel Asfaw, coming with credentials in physics as an associate faculty member from Alcorn State University of the US, was hired as the Dean of the faculty. In collaboration with Dr. Mulugeta and Dr. Holland, the establishment of the faculty began to take shape. Critical in this phase was the writing of the full curriculum for the programs of food science and environmental science, which was completed by the middle of May for the stakeholder discussion on June 2, 2012 at Ghion Hotel. The program of architecture was well written the previous year with some editing by Dr. Holland. The stakeholder discussion lasted for half a day and was attended by respective experts in the field from Addis Ababa University, Harmaya University and Hawassa University, employers and regulators. The proposals were presented by outside experts and reviewed by the audience. Happy to say, the proposals were accepted with congratulatory messages. Following some adjustments, the final proposal was submitted to ETQAA, the accrediting agency of the federal government on June 7.



Partial view of curricular stakeholder discussion

In the meantime efforts to secure tools and lab facilities and install them in proper rooms took some time. A team, involving Dr. Mulugeta, Dr. Behailu, Dr. Holland and Dr. Letemeskel surveyed several institutions of higher learning in Addis Ababa to determine staff needs, studios and laboratory equipment requirements pertinent to the three programs. Dr. Holland and Dr. Lete organized the labs. Dr. Minas also had his part in the establishment phase of the departments securing textbooks from India and the US and lab equipment that could not be bought locally. Right after the recruitment for the required staff began using newspapers.

Another internal quality audit was conducted by our Director of Quality Assurance in May. Using the checklist that was developed by ETQAA, the assessment proved positive on most factors. But student achievement and faculty contact still showed deficits.

We managed to have our acting registrar, Ms. Meron Eshetu and the secretary therein trained in the work of registrar by a well experienced person from Addis Ababa University with field visits at the School of Commerce of Addis Ababa University. We plan to have similar training for other staff members in due course.

In keeping with the Advisory Board's recommendation to introduce an English proficiency test as part of admission's criteria, Ms. Holland submitted a draft framework for the test, which is to be in effect in September.

The university college did a survey on how students have felt about its service. One student who was approached was Helen Arega. Helen joined the university to get another degree in accounting and finance. When asked why she joined the university college, she said she saw a lot about what institutions of higher learning should be in the college. When asked to elaborate, she stated that she got her first degree from another institution and was not as such impressed with the efforts attempted. At Hope University College she said the faculty is relatively more interested in the development of students and there are ample facilities to help students grow.



Helen Arega

She further stated that the emphasis on values and professional proficiency had helped to build her confidence. She wants to develop leadership qualities and in this desire she conveyed that the university college has had a lot of opportunities for personal growth. She stated that she wanted to be active in helping others and she was happy for instance in initiating the students' vegetable garden on campus and appreciative that the college was supportive of such idea.

When asked about improvements that the college needs to make she was of the view that an entrance exam in English must be a must. She also made note of the need for transportation from the city center to the campus. Furthermore, she wanted to see various inducements for competition.

Student Life

Second semester marked with better performance as far as our students were concerned. Betty Holland, who ran the tutorial programs, observed improvements. Similarly, many of the students began to show their interests in various activities. Given these developments, halfway into the second semester, there was enough track record to size up our students and encourage them with some awards. The awards were given for academic achievement, goodwill, character, best library user and all rounded performance in a ceremony that took place in our auditorium on June 22. The honor roll went to Samuel Ashagre, Yonas Hadgu, Robel Tesfaye, Shimeles Zelalem, Dinkbeyesus Yacob, Deslegne Birhanu, Thomas Nigussie, Temesgen Tsegaw, Desalegne Tesfaye, Adugnaw Wuletaw, Temkina Beshir Seid and Elias Fetene. The award for goodwill went to Yonas Hadgu, Helen Arega and Aschalew Mengistu while that for character went to Yitagesu Goremes, Haymanot Honelign and Eyosyas Yacob. The award for the best library user went to Etsegenet Ephrem and Thomas Nigussie. The award for all rounded achievement was done by gender and the winners were Mr. Bereket Bayisa and Ms. Freweini Tariku. The recognitions of various achievements lifted the spirits of students and provoked competitiveness.

The university college has been exploring how some of the needy students are coping with their lives balancing academic performance with efforts to meet their basic needs. One exceptional student in this regard is Getaneh Yimer. Getaneh applied to the college after hearing the college's advertising on the nationwide TV. He said he had nothing by way of means coming from a poor background of peasantry in northern Ethiopia. But determined to work his way, he applied and was accepted. He stated that the students' garden was a life saver for him. His lot of 40 square meters has done wonders giving two harvests to date. He said with the first harvest he made Birr 500. He then invested this money for various goods to sell on a city street close by to the college. He said that investment yielded Birr 1,500.00. He conveyed that he attended to the garden early in the morning for an hour each day before classes. He said the garden has taught him a lot about business and he has ideas about setting up a company after he graduates. He is majoring in information technology and he sees a bright future. He is appreciative of the university college for challenging him to take care of himself and to look for greater accomplishments in the future.



Getaneh Yimer

The carnival that was initiated and ran by students with support by the university college on May 26 was a great time with people of all ages coming to have fun and to see the various strengths of the college. Most of the visitors commented that they had never seen anything like what they experienced on campus then and were very appreciative of the initiative. Some of the people were parents of our students and they were glad to have their children attend the university college..



The carnival, our open house

Construction, Equipping and Furnishing

It was agreed with the consultant to make a final assessment of the construction work in the presence of the Project Manager, Mr. Niek Hoffius and settle financially for work not performed well against the last payment and the deposit of the contractor, China Jiangsu. Our supervision team made the final punch list of corrections and submitted the same to the contractor for action. The contractor did the best that it could in June with still some improvements remaining to be made. Critical in this development were some roof leaks observed in the library and the multi-purpose hall.

In May phase two of the buildings went through provisional handover. Soon after we began to use the buildings. The second class room building was slated for use by the Department of Architecture. The technical service building had a lot going for it hosting biology and chemistry laboratories and the maintenance shop.

Eight servers and their accessories were cleared from customs duty-free after staying long in the store. The process of clearing them took long time because of a new rule that required us to authenticate donation letters by respective Ethiopian embassy offices. GCS started to implement the final part of the project. They had set up the exchange server and were working on the rest of the programs. They plan to set up four servers in Microsoft program and three in Sun Solaris. One server will be kept in the store as a reserve.



Our workshop



Class room complex 2

Having very modern facilities, maintenance has been quite an issue. We developed a maintenance plan with the proposal being written by our Facilities Management Manager, Mr. Adamu Assefa. The proposal was accepted emphasizing prevention. We engaged two staff members with one addressing masonry and plumbing works and the other handling metal and wood works. Mr. Adamu, who supervised both handled all electrical and mechanical works including the water pump and quality assurance of all equipping and tools that were to be bought. ICT had its own repair staff. Various equipment was purchased and put to use in the Technical Services Building by the respective staff.

Administration and Finance

The positions of the President and the Vice President for Academic Affairs were advertised on the Ethiopian Reporter and the Daily Monitor, two widely read newspapers. The vacancies were also advertised on Ethiojobs, an online job locator. Applicants came in good number and an ad hoc committee comprising of the senior staff from the main office of Hope and the university college did the screening on the basis of the criteria that was set and submitted a list of finalists for the interview to ad-hoc committee of the Board on June 25. The Board's ad-hoc committee planned to interview the finalists in July.

We had various visitors during the quarter. Our long time friend and supporter, Mr. Klaas de Witte, visited us on May 15. A team of 15 Americans visited us from San Jose California on June 22, 2012. We had Mrs. Lieske Hulscher, a faculty member of Christian University of Ede, visit us for a week. She plans to join the college as an English teacher. Sarah Jackson, a former member of the Advisory Board representing Ethiopiaid visited us on June 5 raising possibility to rent some of our facilities for use by a charity with which she is affiliated.



The tear of our multipurpose hall as a reflection pool

GHARA meeting was held between April 2 and 4, 2012 in the Ethiopian Management Institute in Debre Zeit, a town 45 kms south east of Addis Ababa. The meeting assessed the various programs supported by Woord en Daad. Hope University College was represented by Ms. Kumneger Abebe, the Dean of Student Life of the university college.

How you can help

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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 2012-2013 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!