



# SECOND QUARTER NEWSLETTER

April, May, June 2013

## Introduction

April through June witnessed a great deal of activities at HUC. There was a great deal of excitement and sense of accomplishment through out the university because of the successful completion of almost two academic years. Since a lot was learned from the first year experience every body felt sense of increased responsibility and thus committed to stronger working principles in the second academic year.

### Academic Affairs Highlights:

During this quarter, the three schools (the Schools of Business & Finance, Information Sciences, and Science & Technology held several academic commission meetings and deliberated on staff and student affairs, with much emphasis on academic and student advising and enhancing teaching processes. The Senate of HUC also undertook several sessions to address major issues and problems pertaining to the rationalization of CBE (competency based education), staff discipline, student progression, mentoring, consultation, and tutoring students with deficiency in certain subjects.

Many of our students from Architecture and Business departments went to different companies, both government and private, to collect information on topics described by their instructors. The English club started functioning this semester where they sponsored meeting and debates to improve and manage using English in campus. They actually declared a couple of days to use only English as means of communication during those specified days. The English Club also played responsible role in the production of the campus newsletter,



English club team working on newsletter

(Voice of Hope University College). During the course of time some four editions have been produced and distributed to all and posted on the University portal for anyone to read. An interesting and all inclusive event took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. This was an event coined as “Run for Hope”. This edition was initiated and sponsored by Jeff (the new arrival and staff member of ILAE) and John (our



Running participants on starting point

long time sport collaborator). In this event 5 km distance was covered and all campus community members who participated were indeed the winners! Once again, we were indeed proud of our students' academic achievements as shown from the results of the first semester.

The University College did its first self evaluation. This was done in order to produce what is known as a Self Evaluation Document (SED) to be submitted to the Government Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency (HERQA). Since the date for reaccreditation for the Business and Information Science to HERQA is approaching, the production of and the prior submission of SED is a requirement to be fulfilled in advance. To the Task Force members who took the responsibility of producing this document, the college is so grateful indeed. After the preparatory work was completed, the final document for the Environmental Science Department accreditation has been also submitted to HERQA. If accepted, this new department will be operational come September, 2013.

In the second part of the quarter we were busy looking for placements for our Business Faculty students for internship. As the result of continuous efforts both by the Dean of Students and the Vice President for Academic Affairs, it looks almost certain that all the aspirants will be placed. We are indeed grateful for the various companies and institutions that have volunteered to accommodate our students for the internship. The second semester being now concluded we are now at the verge of starting Final Exams and break-off for the summer.

## **Administrative Affairs Highlights:**

Major activities of administrative and financial unit of the college in this quarter included filling vacancies, supporting OCA and 5C workshops and supplying instruction materials for the period and following up the facility maintenance tasks as well as supervising routine tasks. These activities are detailed as follows:



OCA under way

Three staff members were recruited in the quarter to fill vacant positions. It was time to conduct internal quality audit of HUC after operating for three semesters and the quality assurance office was vacant as the former director of the office resigned from his post in March. Ato Tariku Gebremichael, a specialist in education, took a position in HUC as part time instructor in the second semester. Ato Tariku has long experience of working in the curriculum department of the Federal Ministry of Education. He has also worked at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). Taking into account the relevance of his qualification and experience, the management of HUC decided to offer the post of director of quality assurance to Ato Tariku as of April 1 so that he can coordinate and spearhead the internal audit process in the University College. Two support staff also joined HUC during the quarter. Ato Wondwosen Ayalew replaced Ato Eyob Niguse as driver from 23 May, 2013 and Ato Asnake Getnet hired as a security guard in the place of Aymiro Chekol who resigned from his post after working for two years.

Mr. Goran Edstrom left his position as ICT director of the University College after he got job in an international NGO. After consulting the two ICT specialists in HUC, the management of HUC assigned Ato Fitsum Tesfaye as Director of ICT. Ato Fitsum, a specialist in ICT and worked in HUC more than five years, is expected to coordinate and lead the ICT services of HUC to a better end.

The plan to hire teaching staff is postponed for later time as the academic year is going to end soon. Screening for potential candidates has been started and all vacant positions of instructors will be filled by September, 2013.

## Workshop/Visits by our partners



**Leen Stok monitoring OCA**

With the facilitator Mr. Leen Stok, organizational capacity assessment workshop was conducted from April 18 and 19, 2013. This workshop made it possible to self-evaluate the activities of Hope University College since it began operations almost two years ago. Twelve members of the University College and general secretary of Hope Enterprises participated in the workshop having representation from three faculties and support offices of HUC. Evaluations scores were made on seven chapters of OCA and five capabilities. This self-evaluations practice helped us to identify the strong and weak sides of our operations leading to the preparation of action plans to improve the performance of the organization (where indicated) in the coming years.

A full day meeting was held with Mrs. Elen Van De Hill and Marike De Kloe, regional coordinator and monitoring evaluation officer of Woord en Daad, respectively on June 13. The meeting was attended by two teaching staff members of HUC who attended Competency Based Education training conducted back in 2010.



**Discussion concerning CBE**

Discussions were held on CBE and other activities of HUC and agreement was reached to strengthen CBE program. Action points were developed that support the activities of HUC. Greater Horn Africa Regional Alliance (GHARA) meeting was held from 17-19 June, 2013. HUC as associate member of the alliance attended the meeting on 18 and 19 of June. After presenting the results of the OCA and five capabilities to the alliance group, HUC was formally admitted to be a member of the alliance. The membership will be formalized after the Memorandum of Understanding is signed by HUC.

Mrs. Rina Molenair, Mr. Edwin Visser and Mrs. Ellen Van den Hil met with the management of HUC on June 20. A brief discussion was held on the activities and challenges of HUC. Many positive views were exchanged and we are encouraged by the group's opinion in our activities. HUC was also visited by business persons from Gatvik, from the Netherlands. The group led by Rina Molenair of Woord en Daad, met with the management of HUC



**Partnership discussion on strengthening HUC**

and two sponsored students. After visiting various parts of the University and also interviewing two sponsored students (female and male), the group indicated its positive reaction to our confirmed stand on affirmative action policy to empower women.

Mr. Jack el Well of the Venture Church and fifteen persons stayed in HUC on 21 June before their further travel for field visits to the Hirara project site in the rift valley region. Mr. Jack el Well, as often, brought a set of four Swan security cameras with cables. The cameras will be installed in strategic points to monitor the campus security system as well as in the library circulation area. Once again, HUC is grateful for the unreserved support extended from Mr. Jack El Well and the Venture Church of California.

A group of 16 students and a teacher came to stay in the HUC compound from 23-27, June. These are one of the five groups that have planned to come and stay in the campus linking HUC with charitable activities. The first group of volunteer students came from Islay High School in Scotland to help an orphanage center near Ayer Tena. A group of student ambassadors from the Netherlands led by

Mrs. Els Hogendorn, officer of awareness raising and youth activities of Woord en Daad, also stayed for 11 days in the HUC's guest apartments. The group interacted with students of HUC during the reflection time and on Ethiopian Easter. Another group of students came from Steering College of the United States

to visit and introduce themselves with students of HUC in the beginning of June led by Mr. Christian Dashed, the Chaplain of the college. The group exchanged exploratory views with our college's English Club and we see such engagements quite meaningful indeed. The Sterling College students



**Visitors from Steering College USA**

also met the President

and during the meeting, the group reflected their interest to form partnership with HUC sharing common values and visions. They were given full support in that HUC will be promote any and all further communications with Sterling College.

Kimm Edwards of Connecting People to God (USA), Steven Timmermans of Trinity College (USA), Kirste de Vette of International Water Association (The Hague), and Prof. Ingo Becker of Kune Stiftung (Switzerland) also visited HUC and had professionally valuable discussions with concerned management officials. Preliminary partnership discussions were also held with Beza Church and Awash International Bank. Such engagements will continue in the coming months hopefully, until some fruitful results are made.

## **Maintenance**

Routine repair activities were made to the water facilities. Four shower facilities were set up and bath rooms furnished in the cafeteria building. These facilities will be used by students and guests as required. In addition, the two pressure bars of the water pump became out of operation and were replaced by greater pressure boosting capacity pumps. The pumps were replaced by the supplier through warranty agreement. Minor leaks in some of our buildings were also fixed during the quarter.

In order to reduce the echo effect, more curtains were set to the perimeter of the multi-purpose hall covering about 90 meter long area. This measure improved the echo problem in the hall. Metal grills were fixed to one of the rooms of the hall. This was done to accommodate the request made by our partner, Beza Church.

Following the recent plan to pay for all liabilities arising from the construction phase by Woord en Daad and Ethiopiaid, a draft plan is developed in consultation with the former site engineer of HUC construction project for ABBA architects. The plan is to carry out the required repair work come October. We are grateful to our partners for their graciousness to cover the outstanding financial cases arising from the early construction phase. Because of such gestures, the management of HUC now is concentrating on the strategic operation of the University.

## Maintenance

A diesel generator that was shipped earlier from the Netherlands has now arrived and set in a temporary site before it is installed in its final operation room. It will be installed in the coming September with the help of volunteer technicians coming from the DWA, the Netherlands. In addition, Ethiopian Electric Authority technicians are working on the revised electric design of the campus. These technicians are going to connect the transformer with the main power supply and automatic switchboard completing the installation work.

## How you can help

*Contact Us:*  
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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 potentials. In this initiative, we believe that no student who has a yearning for learning should be left behind. On behalf of those needy students, we are currently looking for student sponsorships for the academic year 2013-2014.

For more information or to make a donation, please visit our website or contact us in our LEBU Office in Addis Ababa.

Thank you for your generosity!