



First Quarter Newsletter

January, February, March 2013

Introduction

As the year 2013 ushered in, the students and the staff alike were busy in their teaching-learning processes. They did not even recognize it was already a new year. What is to be recognized during this year change was the presidential change at the management level. The former president, Dr. Minas Hiruy, after serving the University College from its inception to the end of 2012, left and Ambassador Dr. Teketel Forssido took over.

Dr. Minas, in his farewell address to the college community, stated that all community members stand united in fulfillment of the college's vision stipulated in the charter. It was with enthusiasms that the college community as a whole promised, to both the out-going and the incoming presidents, to fully uphold and execute to the level possible, the objectives of the university college.

The handover process was smooth. Both the academic as well as the administrative vice presidents were so helpful that the incoming president started the job and could establish himself with comfortable ease. I would like to thank all who were so helpful during the transition period in orienting and providing valuable information about the university college and its environs.



Ambassador Dr. Teketel Forssido addressing during a reflection hour

After taking office, the new president corresponded (in the way of introduction) with all the friends and supporters of HUC. In return, all of them assured their good will to the university college's successful operation. It is therefore, with such assurance and meaningfully positive stand from the friendly partners that the new president assumed his responsibilities of HUC.

Academic Affairs

As Ambassador Dr. Teketel Forssido started a seamless power transfer on January 1, 2013, had many meetings with the faculty of each school individually and also campus wide general staff. On January 4, 2013 in a staff meeting, he gave the following message: 'you are my hands and my feet that can touch the life of a student and impact in many ways. Without you, I am handicapped. You are the soul of the college. Make the impact intended by becoming the role model, 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 University College.' The president also addressed our students during the one hour reflection time on how to be good citizen that can make a difference in their world, and gave advice to prepare for the final exams at the end of the first semester. He also had many meetings with the management in order to device better methods of effective and transparent management. He set Monday mornings to have a prayer meeting in order to bring the day, week, month in front of God and pray about. This started the second week of January 2013 and continued every Monday ever since and has been going on well.



Teketel meetings with the faculty

Our Librarian also addressed the staff, faculty and students on the subject of good readership. He stated that those who utilize the library resources become often well informed citizens. In this regard, he encouraged all students and the staff alike to be good readers and to use the Library rather effectively. The Vice President for Academic Affairs made similar presentation on “Effective Study Skills”. This was done in the way of preparing the students for the final exams at the end of January.

The HUC Senate held four meetings during this quarter to address issues of final exams, make ups, passing and failing grades and most of all to discuss the continuous evaluation procedure and evaluate the ‘Competence Based Education’ approach HUC has adopted. The departmental councils also have had their meetings to address many learning issues and procedures that could contribute to the improvement of the academic achievements of their students.

A trip was made to the Debrezeit area with our Marketing and Food Science students to expose to the business world in their respective fields of study. We are thankful to Ms. Lieske Hulscher who arranged and organized the trip and to the Dutch companies of Maranatha Farms and Holland Dairy for taking the time to set such an opportunity for our students. All those who participated in the trip were thrilled.

It was during this first quarter that final exams were scheduled, finals given and results also posted. A total of 39 students were in the honor role with 18 of them on distinction, 14 on great distinction and 9 on very great distinction. When considering the female students, the picture showed 7 distinctions, 3 great distinctions and 1 very great distinction. The university college applauds their achievements indeed.

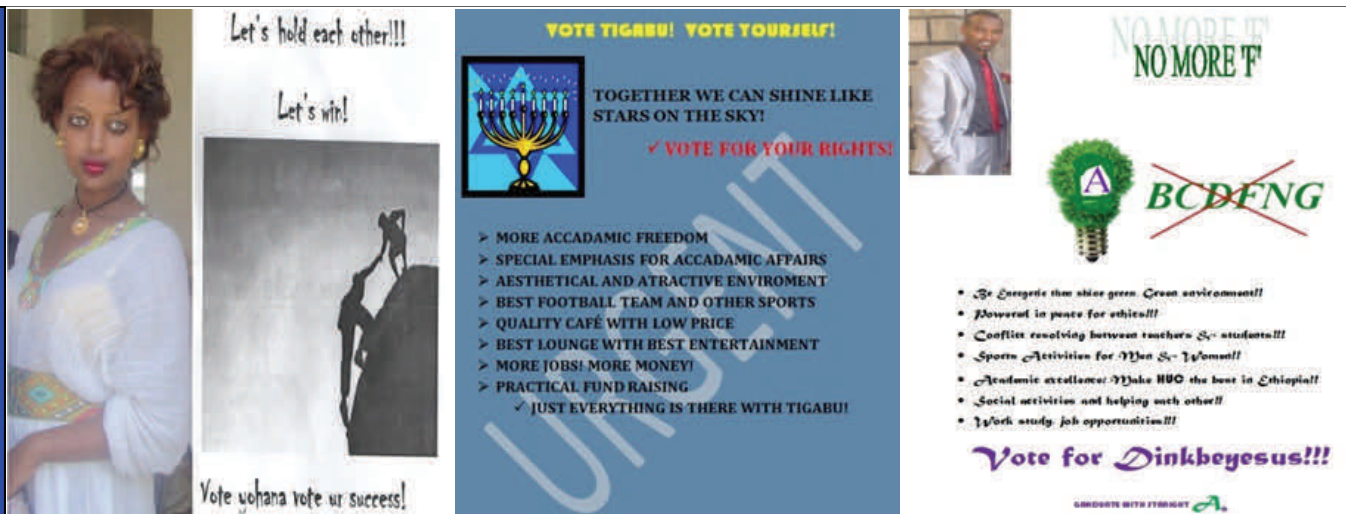
Faculty evaluations were also done to see if things are running according to plan. Some instructors were found wanting and were given advice to show improvement in their teaching methodologies. Students were straight and forthcoming in their criticisms and suggestion for change. Some part-time instructors had to discontinue their work with us as a result of such evaluation. Such practice of maintaining only duty-bound academic staff will continue in our pursuit for academic excellence.

Towards the end of the quarter, HUC participated in the Annual Sports Festivals organized by Association of Private Higher Education Institutions. Our students competed in events that included Volley Ball, Badminton, and athletics. Being first timers to the occasion, our students could not bring trophies but their enthusiasm both during opening ceremony and the competitions was extraordinary indeed. We are quite proud of them.



Students Sport Team

The student government has been actively participating in the election procedure, and individuals who want to run for different offices have been running their ads all around the campus.



Ads of those running to president of the student government are shown here. Election will be in the first week of April. Good Luck for all of them.

Since the application for Environmental Science accreditation is coming soon, Ms. Sarah Assefa has been very active in preparing for this important procedure- in buying books, increasing the e-library list of books for reference and textbooks, preparing needed lab manuals and buying laboratory equipment that required to run a full-fledged program. The second semester classes have started smoothly on March 14, 2013 and will continue till JULY 15, 2013.

Administrative and Financial Affairs

Major activities of administration and finance during the quarter included filling vacant positions, procuring and supplying instructional materials and following up the facility maintenance and furniture repair tasks as well as supervising routine security tasks in the campus.

Human Resources

All the necessary documents and the working contexts of HUC were handed over to Dr. Teketel on January 1, 2013. Following the smooth handover of HUC's management, a farewell party was given to Dr. Minas on January 4, 2013 in the presence of Dr. Minas' family, Ato Negash Kebede, Dr. Teketel and staff members of HUC. Appreciating the contribution of Dr. Minas in founding the university college, a token of gift was presented and a placard was dedicated to him on the administration building of HUC. Two staff members were recruited to fill vacant positions. W/ro Yeterefworke replaced W/ro Mekdes who resigned from the university college for personal reasons as of December 21, 2012. W/ro Yeterefworke has a BA degree in accounting and joined HUC's finance office from February 7, 2013. Similarly, W/ro Bedane Bakuma joined HUC as full time English instructor as of March 15, 2013. W/ro Bedane served as part time teacher in the first semester and subsequently recruited to take a full time position to replace Mrs. Hulscher who went back to the Netherlands after serving HUC as volunteer for the first semester of 2012/13. Mrs. Mrs. Hulscher will be missed as she was a very dedicated teacher



Dr. Minas Hiruy farewell party

with lots of experience in coaching and counseling. She could have benefited HUC a lot if she stayed a bit longer. Unfortunately, we were not able to get her a work permit because she was unable to produce her transcript from her former university in the Netherlands.

Mr. Edstrom left his position as ICT director of the university college. Assumably, he joined other agencies elsewhere. Mr. Edstrom set up the ICT service of HUC with the help of his teammates and served for more than two years in the university college. As he leaves us, he has promised to give one-month training for our ICT staff in different areas of ICT operation like EPO and trouble shooting. He also agreed to provide support whenever needed and finalize the pending works with GCS and items to be imported. HUC is grateful to him for all he has.

Maintenance and Repair

A team of three facility maintenance team has been busy in fixing many things during the quarter. Straps were fixed to all toilets of 24 apartments. Clogged PPC pipes were opened and the sewerage system was repaired. Water pipes were fixed at different water pointes. Some pipes broke two meters deep into holes socking wide area of the campus and were fixed after hard work though. Student toilets were regularly checked and repaired. Plastic pipes were connected to water lines to take water on top of the campus library and to water grasses in front of the classroom building B. One of two water pumps were damaged and replaced by the supplier through warranty agreement. A damaged breaker for the water pump had to be replaced as well. It was reported that the sound echo was too high and was affecting the use of the multipurpose hall. In order to reduce that effect, curtains were set to perimeter of the hall covering about 100 meter long area. This measure improved the echo problem in the hall. Part of the electric line in the same hall was reconnected after failing to supply power for half of the building. Many

doors and windows to offices and classrooms were repaired. More secured key locks were fixed on two stores, server room, and the registrar room. Outdoor lights were installed to improve the campus security. Many lamps were replaced in the administration and classroom buildings. Our power meter was also moved to the transformer room. Different routine repair tasks were performed on daily basis. Three push wheel-barrows were made from wood. These wood-made wheel barrows were useful to move different heavy items on campus like furniture, books, concretes, bag of cement and many more. Stand posts were made for volleyball giving a chance for our students to practice the game. Transparent plastic shade was fixed to the glass wall of the president's office. Several metal grills were also fixed to windows of science labs, workshops and one apartment. Two notice boards with glass windows were made and hanged in front of the lecture hall in the classroom building B. Similarly, three flip-chart stands were made and are used for presentations. More landscaping work was done and more trees planted on the campus. Additional soil and fertilizer materials were spread over the grass in front of the library and multipurpose hall. The lawns got a new touch and gave the campus an even more attractive view to all its resident workers as well as its esteemed visitors alike.

Goods in transit

A diesel generator was donated for Hope University College by Woord en Daad. The generator was serviced by a team of three volunteers who sacrificed their free time for the good cause. The servicing work took almost one year. The generator now has been shipped together with 50 desktop computers and tools to Djibouti port and expected to arrive soon. The invoices and bill of lading were received and we are waiting for the official authenticated donation letter from Woord en Daad to start customs clearance process.

The ICT unit of the college provided the needed back-up support in the smooth operation during the quarter. Without their continuous follow-up on the ever problem- shooting elements in various departments, we could not have managed many of our daily activities. The entire management is grateful for their patient service in this case.

IV. Partnership

As part of building partnership with like-minded organizations, HUC established a collaboration agreement with International Leadership Academy of Ethiopia (ILAE) during this quarter. The academy has similar vision and mission with HUC supporting undeserved students from urban and rural areas. To start its program, ILAE will use our facility on a temporary basis until it establishes itself. The academy had a launching event in our campus on February 8, 2013. We are



Ato Eshetu from ICT unit giving technical support in the Lab.

looking forward to a fruitful co-operative engagement with ILAE.

Similar partnership possibility with Norwegian Program for Capacity Building in Higher Education and Research for Development(NORHED) was forwarded to us by our good partners(Woord en Daad)office. After jointly working with Woord en Daad and sending the proposal for partnership, we are told that it would be too late for this year's consideration. We still hope to do it again for next year's consideration. We are grateful to the project office at Woord en Daad for their continuous search for additional sources of assistance for HUC.

V. Visits

Ms. Ellen van den Hil, program coordinator of Eastern Africa for Woord en Daad, visited HUC in February, 2013. She had meetings with the General Secretary of Hope Enterprises, President of HUC and executive director of Ladders of Hope. Among many issues discussed was the financial position of HUC. Clear understanding was reached on major issues.

Similarly, a team of three Ethiopiaid/UK staff including Ms. Abigail, program officer, and Ms. Alexandra Chapman, member of board of trustee came to visit HUC on March 8, 2013. A report was presented on the current status and challenges of HUC. The team got good understanding of current situations at HUC. Mr. Jack Elwell, from Ventures Church of California, on his way to Hirara project of the Ladders of Hope, stayed in one of our apartments. Mr. Jack Elwell brought white-board markers and posters for our science laboratories. We are indeed thankful for his continuous support for our 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 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!