



FOURTH QUARTER NEWSLETTER

October - December, 2015

Introduction

The long summer break was over and the new academic year, which started in the early days of October, was underway by admitting both the old and new coming students. With successful promotional works in the local media, the College managed to attract many students in this academic year, admitting 464 students in the first year program. The final list of all students registered for the academic year shows 1006 regular (541 females and 465 males) and 326 extension program, with a total of 1332.

Screening entrance tests were used to select students that joined the department of architecture and to those that came from TVET programs. 87 students were admitted in the department of architecture out of 100 applicants and 48 students from TVET programs qualified to be admitted in the College after taking the entrance exam. The largest admission figures of the year show that the College is becoming a preferred center of study by many students.

Academic activities

Competency Based Education (CBE)

As official teaching policy of the College CBE is now implemented at the College level in all programs for the first time. The program was piloted last year in the Business Faculty and it is taken as a yardstick in improving the quality of teaching-learning in the College. CBE is implemented in the first year programs in all the eight departments and in the second year program for the Business Faculty. As a way of strengthening the preparation for the program, workshop was organized for all staff members that lead to the preparation of the semester books. New incoming academic staff members were also given short orientation to the program so that they keep abreast with the notion of CBE.

Additional staff members were recruited to match the growing number of students that join the College. The staff profiles of the College are improving with three senior staff members with Ph.D degrees joining the College. One of the senior members, Dr. Wolde Emanuel, is heading the Office of Quality Assurance and also coordinating the CBE Commission which conducted its first meeting in November and drew out a clear plan to assess and evaluate the CBE program at the end of the semester.

Reaccreditation of two departments

Following the application submitted by the College to reaccredit the departments of Architecture and Food Science in March, HERQA's team came for an assessment visit on November 27, 2015. The team had long discussions on the curricula of the two departments and also went through the educational resource materials. The team was provided with enough information including a self-evaluation report on the programs of both departments. The team returned after making some pertinent comments for improvements which were already taken care and resubmitted to the Agency, to enhance the reaccreditation process. The outcome is expected in the coming weeks.

Revision of English Curriculum

In line with the consultation report of the British Council, the curriculums of the three English courses are revised emplacing the four language skills. The syllabus was made skill-focused so that specific abilities in speech, writing, listening and reading can be improved. The earlier organizational mode which is divided into grammar, writing and communication skills has not been conducive to all skills in classes. The text and reference books are also changed so that the teaching materials can fit to English learners as a second language (The previous stocks of books are considered to be useful for native speakers).

Reflection time

Reflection times on Tuesday and Thursday were used to address the general student body on different topics. In one of such attempts, a top ranking graduate of Bahir Dar University, presented his award winning software project for students. He developed security system software that has potential benefit for public use. Our students were very enthusiastic in the presentation. One day, one of our own graduates may present similar works. Who knows!

Holly Garet, Ato Negash Kebede and Dr. Teketel also addressed the students on different topics ranging from institutional values to personality development and religious tolerance.



Reflection time



Seminar presentation

The Research and Publication Office coordinated six seminars during the quarter. Three of the seminars were delivered by Professor Sam Walker, a social archeologist, who taught and conducted research at Axum University. The seminar topics and the presentation dates are indicated below. Professor Walker played very important role during the quarter and we are quite grateful for his commitment.

Presenters	Title	Date
Professor Samuel C. Walker	The impact of climate change upon development and society	Oct. 30/2015
Professor Samuel C. Walker	Sustainable development models for Ethiopian future	Nov. 3/2015
Professor Samuel C. Walker	Historical narrative of Ethiopia in archeological and geographical context	Nov. 13/2015
Ambassador Dr. Teketel Forssido	The leadership role in modern setting	Nov. 27/2015
W/ro Zewditu Girma	The study on practicing knowledge management in Hope College of Business, Science and Technology	Dec. 11/2015
Ms. Marjan Kloostterboer	Emergence of new cities in Africa: the new Addis	Dec. 18/2015

All the seminars were much informative and were frequently attended by students, widening knowledge sharing in the College's academic circles. The summary of the presentations will appear in the next bulletin of the College.



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 Rahel Bekele (shown below) from HCBST.





Ethiopian Soil Week Campaign

The first phase of the program was to host UAE students in Ethiopia who visited the biodiversity sites in the South and North West of Ethiopia. A total of 16 students participated in the program. HCBST hosted these students in its guest house and in providing training rooms. There was a welcome gathering on October 31, 2015. Briefing was given about the program by Mr. Beno Böer, head of Science Department in UNESCO.

That was followed by the lively discussions on the topic of biodiversity and the environment. The next trip of the program will be to the UAE in March, 2016.

HCBST also hosted a one day seminar during soil week on 27th October, 2015. The soil campaign was organized by professionals from universities, embassies, International organizations such as FAO, GIZ. Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture, international academic institution such as IAAS, and Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) were also involved. HCBST provided meeting hall and break out rooms for the research seminars. The event started off by a welcome speech given by Dr. Teketel, about 200 persons attending the seminar. 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 Environment students) did attend a workshop in Hargesa and Zimbabwe, respectively. Their trips to attend the workshops were sponsored by Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network (HoA-REC&N).

The College's staff and students colorfully celebrated the Nations, Nationalities & Peoples Day again this year. The students' participation to make the occasion more entertaining was really great! We are always proud of their national zeal!



Nations, Nationalities & Peoples day celebration

EthiopiAid training

Our partner, EthiopiAid, experts conducted two days training on the 24 and 25th of November, 2015. The first day training was delivered to our graduating students. Sixty (60) students participated in the 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. The second day training



EthiopiAid Training

ing was prepared for partners of EthiopiAid. The topics covered included coaching, project management, and brand awareness, among others. 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.

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 will be involved in the program coached by three instructors from each institution. Three projects out of nine were selected by full participation of student from two institutions. The projects suggested are Agricultural Knowledge Center and Student Associations and Environmental Education. Twelve students and three instructors from RUAS will come 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.

ICT and the library facilitation

Some actions were taken to improve the education resources of the College. Due to demands for high performance computers for software programs of GIS and RIVET, 30 computers were purchased and the programs were installed to equip the computer labs. The new computers make the teaching of skill based course such as GIS and Communication skills much easier for environmental science and architecture student, respectively.

In-service training was given to the staff members by the ICT office. The area of the training covered topics-Introduction to Computer (hardware and software (system and application software), Windows, Installation of different applications (Installing and protecting the computer from malware), Internet, How to create and use email and Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Publisher, Power Point and Access).

HCBST library increased its educational stock of books by purchasing about 200 books with different titles. Library induction was given for 359 first year students. By expanding its services, 14 persons were registered to the community library membership of HCBST. The membership allows members to use the library reading service and borrow books.

The first Advisory Committee meeting was held during the last days of December 2015. The committee is comprised of 8 members from our two major stakeholders and representatives from Hope Enterprises Board were present. 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 (2015-2016) strategic plan.



Some of the Advisory Committee members during campus tour

Administrative activities-

As the administrative wing is responsible for any and all facilitative roles and maintenance of the College premises, various such activities continued during the quarter. Major ones are noted here.

A recreational field preparation is underway for students use. Up until now this has been our problem. Upon completion, the field will provide sufficient room for what is known as “three-in-one”.

A well-organized road map has been developed to scale up the campus beautification project by taking it to the next level. As a result, red top soil has been applied to the lawns in order to improve the soil texture and soon, further greening and beautification plans will be implemented.



Soils are also treated!

An alternative to the underground water, a new and sustainable water supply from the city's main water supply system was completed earlier. This will ensure the water availability on campus through out the year, it is hoped.



The new water supply line extension

In its outreach and community program, the College has also started in reaching out the surrounding community by arranging educational entertainment programs in collaboration with both amateur and well-known local artists.



educational entertainment programs

Our administration took responsibility of completing both the 2016 budget preparation (with its action plan) and final edition of the next five year(2016-2020) strategic plan. The service quality and quantity of the College's Cafeteria has been improved and diversified. Consequently, almost all of catering and other refreshment requirements that used to be outsourced to other third parties are now taken care by in-house capacity. The insurance license for the entire College facilities and infrastructure has been renewed for the coming year. New academic staff members have been hired to fulfill the human resource requirements of some departments. And the Office of Quality Assurance has been reinforced by assigning well experienced personnel on voluntary bases.

Visitors,

During his visit to Hope Enterprises to meet the Board members Mr. Jan Lok, the CEO of Woorden-Daad also had a meeting with the President. Accompanied with the Executive Director of the Enterprises, the CEO was briefed about the current status of the College as well as the future plans for the coming five years. Mr. Jan Lok was pleased in his observations during the short but purposeful visit.

Mr Loe Koopejan from the Netherlands also visited our College. His visit was to have a closer look at our academic programs and see if there would be possibility to sponsor some of our programs. After having discussions with both the President and the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Mr. Loe promised to associate his foundation back in the Netherlands with the College's envisioned new department of Nursing and he promised to consider assistance to the establishment of good nursing laboratory. Since this is only at a preliminary stage, further elaborated communications will be made between him and the College in the new year.

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Several seminars were conducted by the local administrative offices. Nine different such meetings were conducted during the quarter. This indicated the level of our relationship with the local leadership and also our commitment to serve them.

The Hope Enterprises education department organized a training called Education for Change-Professional Development Training at our College between 13th and 27th of November. Some 29 staff members from the Organization's schools were involved. The trainers were seconded by W&D.

Sponsorship and Donations

Doug and Betty Holland donated 10,000 USD to support our educational activities. It is to be noted that Dr. Holland gave his personal lap top computer to our College when he and Betty were at our College to attend the graduation ceremony.

Awash International Bank, the local private bank also promised ETB 280,000 sponsorship fund for some ten students during the years 2016-2019.

Ms. Yemisratch Tefera a resident in the USA , continued her promised support for one female student, Bizualem Girma who is in her fourth year now.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The year 2015 has now ended. Within this year 59 sponsored students graduated and thus became full fledged citizens to become part of the country's work force. This has only been possible because of the generous hands extended to these needy ones. On behalf of the beneficiaries, the College community, as well as on my own behalf, I would like to thank all our good friends for their generousities.

May the New Year be of a special blessing to all our friends, near and far!

We still value your assistances

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The vision of HCBSTC is to provide quality education that produces graduates who combine knowledge, skills and values to contribute to the renewal and transformation of Ethiopia. HCBSTC 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 2016 and beyond.