



# SECOND QUARTER NEWSLETTER

April - June, 2016

During the months of April-June, the second semester advanced with teaching-learning activities intensified. The quarter witnessed a heavy down pour of rains instead of short rains normally expected during this period. Thus our campus remained wet and starkly green all the way. Activities as experienced within the two wings are related as below:

Academic:

## **Re-accreditation**

Our Environment and Sustainable Department started back in 2012. Initial permit by HERQA was for four years. In order to re-accredit, the curriculum has been revised and submitted to HERQA so that the program will be renewed further. Additional supporting documents like self-evaluation report, staff-list and a report on the improvements made in the department were handed over to the Agency. The re-accrediting team of HERQA is expected to visit the campus in July or thereafter.

The official audit report on our College was published by HERQA and distributed to all concerned higher educational institutions. The report has 40 essential, 22 advisable and 11 desirable recommendations. We will prepare actions plans to address the

recommendation highlighted in the report and submit same to HERQA by October 1, 2016, as required. The Quality Assurance Office is tasked for the preparation of the action plans together with academic and administrative units. The Quality Assurance Office has also been issuing recommendations that will improve both the semester books and examinations administration. The feedbacks were circulated to all concerned departments.

## **CBE**

Competency Based Education is smoothly run by all departments in the second semester. The CBE Commission held several meetings to assess the program activities. Observations were made at classes where students presented their professions task assignments and feedbacks were given to class during the visits.

The report on the evaluation of the program was made collecting data from 45 students, lead-course instructors and grade analyses. The findings suggest that CBE approach of teaching had a good sign that will lead to an overall improvement of student learning in the College. This was strongly supported by the student surveys and reflections of instructors that coordinated CBE courses.

Two lessons were learned from the activities thus far. First, it was observed that we need to improve the organization of the professional tasks in time. Students need to get enough orientation of the objective and purposes of the professional task. The second point is related to the time factor. We observed that activities in the professional tasks and coaching students needed more time than is indicated in the curriculum of courses. The addition of time will

increase the activities of students in group work and that will be addressed in the next planning program.



### ***Architecture Student Presentations on Professional Tasks***

## **Student activities and reflections times**

The student governing body had been working closely with the management of the College in matters of common interests. Having noticed that some individual students were breaching the dress code at the College, convincing discussions had taken place in order to make the issue quite clear to all students without distinction. The dress code was also posted to all students. The students' governing body was helpful in making students understand the value of adhering to the dress code in promoting their educational goals.

Sporting events were carried out by our students during the quarter. The campus witnessed matches of volley ball and hand ball among

different departments. What we learned from these limited adventures was that we needed more space and increased dimensions to the sport theme itself at our institution.

As part of promoting understanding and good cultural behaviors within our fellow students, a presentation by an invited guest was made on the topic of “Protecting self from bad sexual behaviors. A witness from real life experience presented this topic in a very revealing way. The speaker (an Ethiopian) shared her experience while she was in the USA and Europe and warned the risk of engaging in deviant sexual activities (behavior) and drugs. The speech, during one of the reflection times, was well attended as it addressed the real issues facing our young in the current context.



***Reflection hour presentation***

## **Seminar /Research activities**

Research and Publication Office (RPO) has been active in coordinating research endeavors of the College. During the quarter, two seminar presentations were made as shown below.

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Title</b>	
Ato Negash Kebede	Issues on Pedagogy	
Ato Gemechis Agessa	Planning for Harbu River Riparian Restoration- Addis Ababa	

- Two seminars that were planned to be handled during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester have been postponed to next quarter.



***Seminar Presentation Session***

## **Research project proposals**

1. Research project titled “Optimization and Characterization of Improved White Bread with Dietary Fiber and in vitro and in vivo Estimation of Hydrolysis and Glycemic Index” by Ato Anteneh Taye, Department of Food Science, has been accepted with financial support by the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. Another research project which is titled “Planning for Harbu River Riparian Restoration-Addis Ababa” has been presented by a team of researchers from the Departments of Architecture and Environmental Science and Sustainable Development, The team leader in this case is Ato Gemechis Agessa from Architecture department. The research project will be implemented with co-researchers: Dr Kassahun Embaye, Ms. Abaynesh Belay, Ms. Sarah Assefa, and Ato Walelegn Mekonen from the other department, and Dr. Mulugeta Taye from RPO.

Improving the Success of Female Students’ Progress in Science and Technology Fields at Hope College “was also prepared by Dr Behailu Abebe and has been submitted to potential donor for financial backing.

It is quite encouraging to witness some movement in the direction of research activities by our academic staff members. This is an indication of continued efforts by the RPO, which is now bearing fruits.

## **Administrative activities-**

During the quarter the Administration and Finance unit has been undertaking the following:

Preparation to celebrate the 2016 graduation ceremony has begun from the start of the quarter already. To this effect the Graduation Committee (with its several sub-committees) has been formed and tasked with long and short-term activities to be carried out. The reports coming from these committees so far are satisfactory with additional graduation gowns procured and contractual service agreement to publish student graduation book being signed.

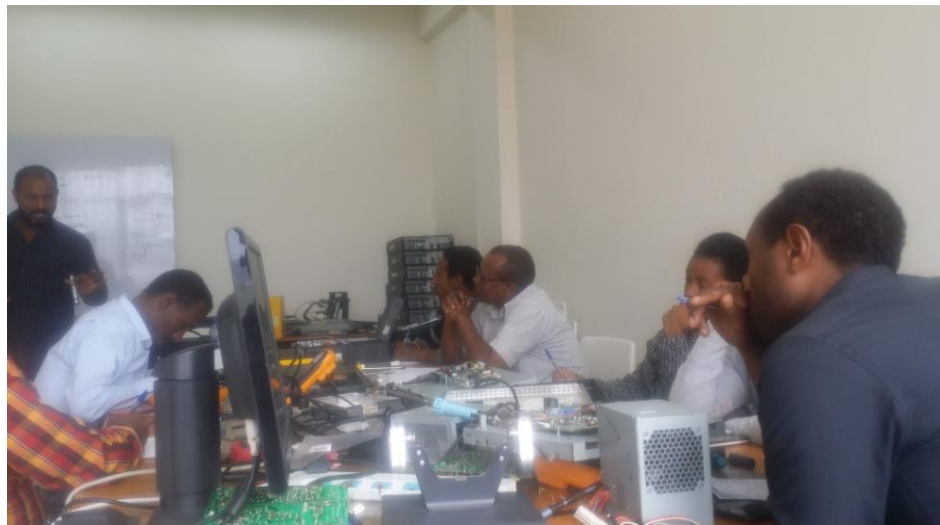
Students and staff members have once again participated in the Blood Donation Drive and many of them gave blood to our national blood repository center.



***Blood Donation***

A project agreement proposal to be signed with the Addis Ababa City Administration's Economic Development and Finance Office has been submitted. This 3 years' service level agreement will enable the College to expand its area of engagement and will help create better relation with the Office. It is hoped, such agreement will have a facilitative function towards our expansion plans.

In our attempt to build capacity of our staff, a short ( 23 days) on-the-job training for 7 ICT staff members on the area of motherboard, laptop screen & board, monitor, LCD projector, air conditioner, adopter and power supply maintenance has been started. It is expected that after the completion of the raining, most of our non-functioning PC's and other devices at hand will be fixed, since the training is purposely designed to use these devices as training tools.



### ***ICT Training Session***

Furthermore, a memorandum of understanding is reached with Addis Ababa University to conduct a training on “Digital Library System, a.k.a. CoHa” during the up-coming summer break for all library staff members of our College. Attempts are being made with Hope



Enterprise Headquarters to incorporate selected qualified librarians from all Hope Enterprise elementary and high school libraries.

Preparations are also underway to conduct a training to finance officers of the College on modern accounting system and Peachtree Accounting application software.

Protective fence/grill of the sport fields has been erected to ensure the safety of our guest house, classrooms and food science lab. As the rainy season is up front, some one hundred tree-seedling holes are being prepared. The planting will take place as soon as the seedlings are procured. Each rainy season, we plan to add certain number of trees so as to contribute to our green campus drive.

### **Graduation Announcement:**

I would like to inform all our readers that our next commencement ceremony will take place on July 23, 2016. As often, the full coverage of the ceremony will be sent to all of you in our next Newsletter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Teketel Forssido

President

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