



The *AAU Bulletin* is an official message board of the AAU where topical issues are addressed, views are exchanged and official information is communicated to the entire AAU family.

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A PUBLICATION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE

A glimpse ahead

By Tekalign Wolde-Mairam,
Academic Vice-President

I have spent the large majority of my life, and practically my entire adult life, at AAU. Therefore, this is not just a place of work, but a second home to me.

Watching the University grow into a large and diverse institution is satisfying to witness. Undeniably, the sweat and hard work of many before me, and of my contemporaries as well, has gone into this growth. I ... rather we ... owe these forbearers a huge debt of gratitude. I have a vested interest in continuing, and even increasing the pace of growth that I have been a beneficiary of.

As Academic Vice President, my office deals with all aspects of academic activity and also non-academic activities that will enrich student life on campus. The title may seem grandiose, but I am in this office, first and foremost, because I am an academic staff member.

So where is the University headed in terms of its academic programs? Obviously, we want strong undergraduate programs that generate qualified and competent intellectuals. Equally important is that our graduates have a strong sense of their place in the global community as well as be socially responsible. The excellence of our graduates largely depends on the caliber of the students that join our programs. Therefore, soon enough, we have to be able to undertake our own recruitment of freshmen students. Obviously, high school academic performance will be one yardstick by which to select our prospective students. But that will not suffice. In addition, the University will actively strive to make the University a reflection of the country. Therefore, such considerations as gender, disability, *etc.* will also figure prominently. Special considerations will also be made to increase admission from historically disadvantaged communities/regions of the country.

As regards the content of individual academic programs, the University will encourage academic units to incorporate internships, externships and national

service in their curricula. These programs, as Dr. Abiy described in the last week's issue, will be coordinated by the Student Affairs office. It will also be desirable for students to gain insight into fields other than their immediate areas specialization. In order to provide graduates with a comprehensive academic background, students will be enrolled in faculties/schools rather than in departments, thus allowing them to pick and chose combination of courses that they find most suited to their future careers. Moreover, it will be mandatory for students to take some courses in general education. Hence, the Center for General Education and Honors Program will design a set of courses intended to broaden the knowledge base of students and enrich their development as all-rounded and principled professionals.

The University also aims to put in place mechanisms by which to decrease attrition rates. The Center for Learning-Teaching Support and Academic Skills is now established and will provide various services through which it will provide support to students who may be struggling to meet minimum academic requirements, as well as assist instructors to be more effective in their teaching.

Last, but not least, is our brand new undergraduate honors program. In order to encourage academically gifted students and foster their intellectual curiosity, the honors program will recruit the top academic performers as per a set criteria and offer them more challenging courses (even graduate level courses). This will lay down a path for an accelerated admission into our graduate programs.

There are many more such planned activities and programs in preparation. I hope I have given you an insight into where we want the University to head and what improvements are in the works. But my description of the programs under preparation is only a cursory portrayal and not an exhaustive presentation; and much work still needs to be done. Therefore, it goes without saying that, as thankful as we are to our predecessors' efforts, we have to toil even more for the sake of our successors.

Hold up Picasso's dove

By Yonas Alemu

3rd year DFLL student

*Throw your gun ... far and yonder
Open all the books, read a lot further
Circle a table discuss the matter
Of all varieties in faith and culture
For only wisdom shall provide the answer
Accept your difference, for it is beauty
Let your word be of peace, not disunity
Call the day a chapter of mere violence
Forgive your brother, forget your vengeance
The spirit of Gandhi your solutions hold
For we know of Hitler's history told
Death, disaster, evil ... these were its fruits
Hold up Picasso's dove,
Keep the sword in the sheath*



Pablo Ruiz y Picasso (1881-1973), perhaps the most influential and prolific artist of the twentieth century, drew this lithograph of a dove with an olive branch for the Peace Congress of 1949. The drawing, and many variants of it, has been adopted as a symbol of peace across the globe.

Announcement

Many good submissions were made towards the 'Poetry Competition'. Choosing the top three from among all the rhymesters was not an easy task. But choose we did, and here are the top three ranked poems and their authors:

1. "Hold up Picasso's dove" by Yonas Alemu, 3rd year DFLL
2. "Presence of Peace" by Bezawit Tilahun, 1st year Nursing School
3. "Peace wins" by Ameyu Etana, 3rd year Broadcasting

The winners are requested to appear in person at the Student Affairs Office to claim their awards.

AAU - Election 2010 Factoids

- Several thousand students registered to vote at AAU
- Students peacefully cast their ballots on Sunday 23rd May 2010 to elect their representatives to national and regional governments
- Turn out estimated at upward of 90%
- Election held on all eleven AAU campuses (Technology and Pharmacy counted as one) including Debre Zeit Vet. Med. campus
- A total of twenty-three polling stations established in AAU
- 40 election coordinators trained and deployed in AAU by the National Election Board of Ethiopia
- Two hundred thirty students served as election observers and officers on AAU campuses
- Thirty-one AAU students recruited and deployed as election observers by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission in Addis Ababa and Afar regions
- Scores of Students' Union members served as observers across Addis Ababa
- Chairman of National Election Board of Ethiopia personally visited several campuses on election day
- Close to three hundred hot meals per meal time served on site to students and security staff working at polling stations
- Last ballot boxes leave AAU campus at about midday 25th May
- One international news agency (BBC) broadcasted live from Main Campus
- Zero incidents of disturbance

Gratitude

The AAU thanks all who contributed to make the election an all around success. Support staff, from cafeteria personnel to drivers, have put in extra time and effort. Particular mention must be made of the indefatigable volunteer students who worked round the clock serving as election coordinators, observers and officers. Peace and order was maintained by the tireless efforts of the AAU security personnel and the Addis Ababa police. But most of all, special thanks is reserved to those students who exercised their civic duty and went in droves to the polling stations, waited patiently in line and cast their ballots.