

ASEC-SLDI Educational Insights

Together we are making a difference in the lives of women religious in Africa!



TABLE of CONTENTS

From the Directors Desk	2
News & Events	3
Funders Voices	11
Impact by the Numbers	12
ASEC Staff Voices	14
Sisters' Voices	15
Service Learning	23
Instructors' Voices	25
Partners' Voices	26
ASEC Board Voices	29
Sisters in Action	31
ASEC Board Listings	42

Louisville Filtered Water Project: Transforming a Community

by Sr. Mary Lucy Afful, SSL, SLDI Alumna, Ghana

The explosion of population within Kumasi combined with climate change are causing water scarcity, or lack of good drinking water, which is one of the leading problems affecting people in our community. Most of the drinking water in our area is from untreated water sources, and it often contains tiny disease-carrying worms and bacteria. This leaves many students in our schools and people within households at risk to water contamination and incidents of many life-threatening diseases such as typhoid, malaria, diarrhea, cholera and malnutrition. Most of the diseases that stem from unclean water are completely preventable if people have safe, clean drinking water. Many of the students in our school spend a great amount of time looking for water and this decreases the amount of time available for their education.

The issue of water scarcity prevents many young children, especially girls, from attending school and receiving their education. They are expected not only to help their mothers in water retrieval, but to also help with the demands of household chores that are made more time-intensive because of a lack of readily available water. Finding a reliable source of safe water is time consuming and expensive. When infected with these waterborne diseases, students and people within the household cannot contribute to the community's productivity and development because of a simple lack of strength. Most of our local women within the household are burdened by scarcity of clean drinking water.

In our area, women are seen as the collectors, managers, and guardians of water, especially within the domestic sphere - which includes household chores, cooking, drinking etc. Because of these traditional gender roles, women are forced to spend most of their time each day collecting water. Their daily role in clean water retrieval often means carrying the typical jerry can, which can weigh over 40 pounds when

Continued on page 3

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends, Partners, Donors and Colleagues:

Thank you for making 2015 a remarkable year for ASEC! Our journey together has not only been an incredible one but also very inspiring and enlivening. We feel blessed to have you journeying with us in support of Catholic sisters as we celebrate and thank God for the gift of Consecrated Life in the Church.

At this time of the year we take a moment to evaluate, to take stock of, to listen, to ponder our encounters, experiences, and successes, and to identify areas for growth. For sure, the year has been filled with activities; our staff and programs have grown and impacted more sisters and their ministries in Africa. Indeed, mutual relationships and partnerships have not only been expanded but also have been enriched, with sisters, partners and our staff working together on multiple projects. Our work together illustrates the strength of collaboration, confirming the African adage – it takes a village to raise a child!

In retrospect we accomplished a lot and the year has been a success. With no hesitation I echo the psalmist to exclaim with a grateful heart, “What returns can I make to Yahweh for his goodness to me!”

In November 2014, Pope Francis announced 2015 as the year of Consecrated Life. As an agency that serves Catholic sisters, the year has been a time to reflect; to assess how we will continue to strengthen sisters in Africa through the provision of education at multiple levels to increase the sisters' attainment of desired skills and competencies for a global society. In this regard, ASEC Board Directors approved the expansion of a scholarship program to provide high school and two-year college support for sisters in Africa. Since inception in 2012, the scholarship program has benefited over 104 sisters. ASEC will continue to deliver the Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA) and the Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI) programs, both funded through the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. Together, the programs have benefited over 3,500 sisters from over 487 congregations in ten countries in Africa - Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, South Sudan, and Lesotho. While these are the locations for our programs, sisters from other nationalities have benefited because they are serving these locations. Additionally, ASEC will continue to grow our Service Learning program, enabling students from the U.S. to travel to Africa to work with and learn from the sisters and the people they serve. This program has brought 55 students and faculty mentors to Tanzania every other year. Mutual relationships have developed between American and African students expanding their global and cultural perspectives.

The streams of vocations are alive and flowing in Africa, with over 40,400 sisters serving in the ten countries served by ASEC, and another 4,200 in formation houses - the growing numbers of entrants require an education so as to be effective stewards, however, high cost of education are inhibitive. With sustainable funding ASEC will continue to serve the growing population of sisters in Africa.

In line with the UN Sustainable goals, ASEC programs provide educational opportunities to Catholic sisters who, in turn, serve their communities in ministries that serve the underserved and build community-capacity and life quality. Sisters continue to strengthen Africa, and its people, through provision of quality healthcare, education, social and pastoral services, and addressing issues such as food security, educational access, fighting disease and poverty.

Undeniably, 2015 has been an incredible year, together we attained significant milestones. Thanks to our committed board of directors, staff, partners and friends of ASEC in both the USA and Africa.

Definitely, many hands make right work. In 2015, a total of 1,088 individuals were served by ASEC's programs. We continue to record 99% retention rates in each of our programs. This year was a landmark year for sisters' graduation from ASEC programs. Of the 1,088 beneficiaries in our programs, in the SLDI, 758 graduated in 2015. Through the HESA

program, 15 sisters acquired degrees and diplomas, and 229 sisters are continuing on with their degree programs at eleven universities. Thanks to the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the legacy of Mr. Hilton to support Catholic sisters globally lives on! Through ASEC's scholarship program, 14 sisters graduated from the Bigwa Secondary School, with an additional 21 freshmen entering Form V; and 40 are in two-year colleges. Finally, our Service Learning program benefitted 11 students, and their faculty chaperones, from ASEC's partner colleges/universities in the USA. Together the students and faculty spent two weeks in Tanzania tutoring English at the Bigwa School and learning African culture – truly an incredible way to foster interdependence in a globalized society.

The longest journey begins with one step, our dream of telling the stories of African sisters from their perspectives became a reality through the publication of our first anthology, *Voices of Courage: Historical, Cultural and Sociological Journeys of Women Religious*. The piece contains 19 chapters. It connects the reader with historical, social, cultural, political, and educational journeys of women religious. It is a remarkable piece, giving sisters a voice to tell their stories from their African eyes, and it is a true example of collaboration! Thanks to the GHR Foundation for a timely grant that supported the development and publication of our anthology!

Our staff, partners, in the USA and in Africa, have done incredible work through the year in moving ASEC's mission forward in service to the sisters. To better achieve its mission, ASEC has grown, adding new staff, moving to a new office space, and serving unprecedented numbers of sisters. Our new ASEC home is spacious, welcoming and accommodating our program needs. Thank you, I am deeply grateful to our staff for they are truly committed to excellence!

Indeed, we are moving the needle in response to the UN Sustainable Development Goals through provision of education to the sisters who in turn continue to serve in remote, marginalized communities being present and standing by the disenfranchised in Africa. Together we are working to eradicate hunger, poverty, and create a sustainable future for new generation. Join ASEC for this is a force of good!

As you read 2015 newsletter, I hope it does not only tell a fine story, but also, that it connects you with sisters, their ministries and the people they so willingly serve in Africa. We desire to tell a story that has a human face and that appeal to global citizens. For sure, investing in sisters is a strategy to give back to the community and a way to bring change that impacts so many underprivileged in our society.

I am so grateful to foundations and individuals who continue to partner with ASEC to make a difference in Africa. I thank you and I look forward to working with all of you in 2016. And now, in thanksgiving, “Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together” Psalm 34:3. For he assures us to “Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go . . . for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you” (Gn 28:15).

I wish you a very blessed and enjoyable Thanksgiving and Christmas Festivities! May the new year 2016 bring all good tidings to you and your families!

Sincerely,

Jane Wakahiu, LSOSF

Sister Jane Wakahiu, LSOSF, PhD
Executive Director.



Sr. Jane Wakahiu

Louisville Filtered Water Project *(continued from front)*

full. This has health consequences such as permanent skeletal damage from carrying heavy loads of water over long distances each day which translates to a physical strain that contributes to increased stress.

When cholera broke out last year in Ghana, many of our school children and households were affected. We, the Sisters of St Louis, realized that one way of helping to curb the spread of cholera was to offer good drinking water; and so, the idea of filtered water production came into being.

Our water drinking project is about water treatment systems that will filter and chlorinate water, pack them in bottles, sachets and gallons, and supply them in the schools, hospitals and households within our community at an affordable cost. Many of these diseases affecting our students and people within the household will be reduced. The filtration device is designed to eliminate waterborne diseases, and as a result provide safe drinking water. Again the available clean water for women and children will translate to greater potential for education, and thus prosperity, power, literacy, hygiene, security, and equality. The project will be a source of income for the people in the locality who are facing problem of unemployment.

When the ASEC Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI) Alumnae Grant came into force in 2014, I was one of the pioneers who took advantage of this grant and, as a result, I can share on how it has brought smiles to the faces of many students in our schools, hospitals and the various households in our community.

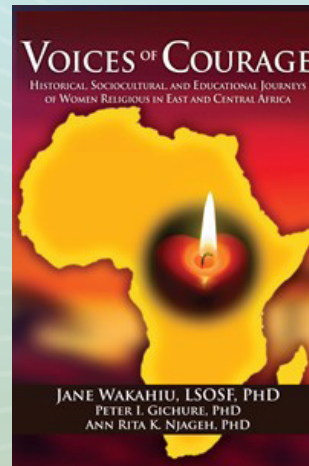
One of the major achievements of this project, apart from eliminating waterborne diseases, being a source of income for people and relieving women of their burden, is that it is also helping us to solve an environmental problem. Children and women are encouraged to bring the plastic sachets and bags for recycling in exchange of filtered water, which is making them environmentally conscious as they embark on waste reduction and litter prevention aimed at reducing the production of waste in the first place.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank ASEC-SLDI for making this project a reality. Your gesture is not just charitable contribution but it is also an empowering opportunity. Without the support of people like you we would not be able to reach our dream. Thank you once again for your generous support.



ASEC News

ASEC is serving sisters in 10 sub-Saharan African countries, providing access to educational opportunities. There is much to celebrate regarding the work of ASEC, and the impact of sisters who are benefiting from our programs.



ASEC anthology *Voices of Courage* is published

With a grant from the GHR Foundation, ASEC sponsored *Voices of Courage: Historical, Sociocultural, and Educational Journeys of Women Religious in East and Central Africa*. The anthology, which brings together scholars from the U.S. and African countries, is a collection of case studies, research, and scholarly reflections on the role of Catholic sisters in Africa, in their communities, and in a larger societal context.

"Drawing on empirical studies of women religious, the book documents the commitment of sisters to the education, healthcare, and

spiritual enrichment of people, especially those who are impoverished," commented Donald E. Miller, Executive Director, Center for Religious and Civic Culture, University of Southern California.

A book launch was held October 1, 2015, at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA). The ceremony was attended by the collection's chief editors, Sr. Jane Wakahiu, LSOSE, Ph.D., Peter I. Gichure, Ph.D., and Ann Rita K. Njageh, Ph.D., as well as women religious, SLDI and HESA students, CUEA students, and religious from around the region.



*A book launch for *Voices of Courage* was held at CUEA, Nairobi, Kenya.*

ASEC Board News

ASEC held its annual board meeting on April 21, 2015, in Scranton, Pa. The SLDI-HESA Advisory Board meeting was held the day prior, April 20.



President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., President of Chestnut Hill College

Recently, ASEC welcomed Sr. Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., President Chestnut Hill College, as Chair of ASEC Board for 2016-2018, and Vice Chair, Sharon Hirsh, Ph.D., President Rosemont College.

In 2015, ASEC also welcomed new board members: Sr. Kathryn Doherty, President, Sisters' of Saint Francis of Philadelphia; Sr. Florence Hee, OSF; Teresa Peters, Ph.D., Dean, REAP College, Marywood University;



Sharon Hirsh, Ph.D., President of Rosemont College

and Marie T. McCormick, MBA, Ph.D. We are grateful to Ann Henry, Ph.D. Sr. Kathryn Miller, SSJ, Ph.D. and Sr. Margaret Gannon, IHM, Ph.D., Thank you for serving diligently in ASEC board for consecutive three terms (9 years), you are an inspiration to us and have seen ASEC crawl, walk and stand.

Finally, thank you to Sr. Anne Munley, IHM, Ph.D., President of Marywood University, for serving as Chair, of the ASEC Board for two-years. We are grateful for

your wisdom and willingness to share your expertise.



Sisters Lina, Clementina, Florence, and Anna traveled to the U.S. from Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda, to participate in the Annual Board and Advisory Board meetings. The sisters also visited partner colleges and universities in Philadelphia and Scranton, Pa.

Open House welcomes community and partners to ASEC's new offices

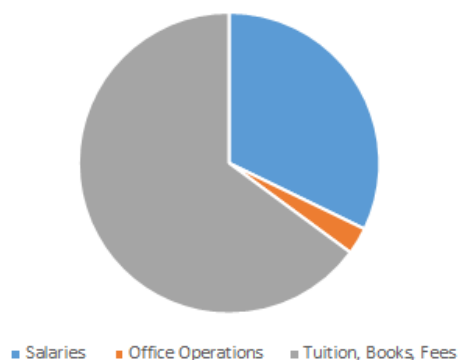
On September 21, 2015, ASEC held its first Open House in commemoration of its new Headquarters at Emmanuel Hall on the grounds of Marywood University. The event served as an opportunity to celebrate ASEC's new office space and gather in joyful celebration of the tremendous amount of growth our organization has experienced over the last few years. Over 60 friends and peers joined the ASEC Open House in September and we are already looking forward to planning another Open House to welcome existing and new friends to learn about ASEC's work in Africa.



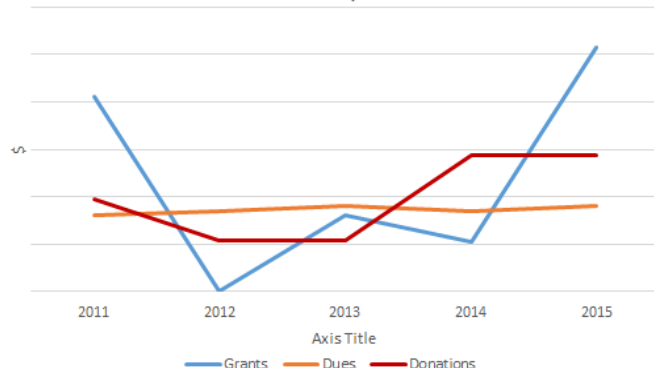
From the DEVELOPMENT Desk

In 2015, ASEC created the Development Desk for the purpose of inaugurating a robust fundraising program with the goal to diversify funding sources, build its capacity and ensure philanthropic support. The objective of the Development Department is to implement programming that will allow ASEC to continue living out its mission to enhance and expand access to educational, healthcare, social and spiritual services for the people we serve. To this end, ASEC is creating systems and processes that will result in a scalable development function with a goal to increase philanthropic support, deepen relationships with current supporters, diversify funding sources by acquiring new donors and expand the base of supporters engaged with ASEC. Dr. Cecilia M. Cardesa-Lusardi is leading the creation of ASEC's first Development Department. To follow is an overview of ASEC's financial health through an overview of income and expense reporting.

ASEC Prior Year's Expenses: 2014-15



ASEC Revenue Analysis 2011 - 2015



ASEC Staff and Board Conduct Site Visits

ASEC staff and board members completed site visits to eight countries since January 2015. Sr. Jane Wakahiu, ASEC Executive Director, along with HESA Evaluator, Dr. Samantha Christiansen, and Dr. Donald Miller, University of Southern California, visited Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia in January 2015. During this site visit, Sr. Jane and Samantha facilitated the SLDI faculty workshop, visited and interviewed HESA Sisters studying at CUEA and Kisubi Brothers University, Uganda; and Sr. Jane and Donald attended alumnae meetings and visited ministries, in Tanzania and Zambia, as well as visited the Bigwa School in Tanzania. Sr. Jane traveled to Nigeria and Ghana for SLDI graduations in September, as well as to have meetings with Catholic University College of Ghana and Veritas University, Nigeria. Sr. Jane also traveled to CUEA in October 2015 to attend graduation for three HESA students and to be present for the book launch of Voices of Courage.

ASEC continues its commitment to conduct and share best practices through research and dissemination. To strengthen data gathering and research endeavors for sisters in Africa, research training will be conducted for 60 regional participants. In West Africa, a workshop will be held in January 2016 in Accra, Ghana, serving participants from Cameroon, Ghana and Nigeria. Dr. Samantha Christiansen and Ms. Jennifer Mudge, evaluators for both HESA and SLDI, respectively, will facilitate. In East and Central Africa participants from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, South Sudan and Zambia, will congregate in Nairobi, Kenya, in December 2015. Ms. Rosemary Shaver, Assistant Director for HESA Program, Dr. Terri Peters and Sr. Jane Wakahiu, LSOSF will facilitate. Also, during the site visit, interviews with SLDI and HESA students and meetings with administrators at partner colleges/universities will be held.

Ms. Brigid Blake, ASEC Board, facilitated SLDI training for one-month in Malawi and was present to award Certificates to SLDI graduates in Tanzania in September, 2015. Dr. Jane Farr, ASEC Board Member was the keynote speaker at the SLDI graduations in Kenya and Uganda. She also conducted site visits to witness how the SLDI graduates and alumnae are implementing the skills acquired in the program. Sr. Kathryn Miller, SSJ will be the keynote speaker and will award certificate to SLDI graduates in Malawi and Zambia.



Dr. Samantha Christiansen poses for a photo with a HESA student studying at CUEA, Kenya.



Sr. Benedicta, SLDI alumnae, gives Sr. Jane, ASEC Executive Director, a tour of a water treatment reservoir, Tanzania



Sr. Benedicta, SLDI alumnae, showcases a successful project at a school benefiting Muslim children in the Bagamoyo, Tanzania.

Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI) Program

Building the leadership, financial, and technological capacity of women religious in Africa to create positive social and economic change. SLDI has developed strong global and interdisciplinary partnerships, facilitating the success of the program. Since 2007, SLDI has served nearly 1,800 sisters. By the end of the current phase of the program in 2015, it is projected that 2,100 sisters will be served.

Graduations, End of Phase III

Beginning in August 2015 through December 2015, SLDI participants will celebrate their graduation from the SLDI Program. Sisters participated in either Technology or Web Design in Year I, and then branched into two tracks - Administrative Leadership or Financial Leadership – which were completed in two month-long workshops from 2014-2015. Graduation marks the culmination of the 2-year program and is a time for the sisters, their Instructors, and SLDI staff to reflect on all that has been gained during the program, as well as the new opportunities that lie ahead.

In total, 785 sisters will graduate from nine countries - 80 from Cameroon, 80 from Ghana, 100 from Nigeria, 100 from Kenya, 100 from Uganda, 100 from Tanzania, 80 from Malawi, 82 from Zambia, and 36 from South Sudan. SLDI graduation photos are featured in the Sisters in Action section of this newsletter.

ASEC Board members, staff, and other partners were present for SLDI graduations ceremonies at each graduation site.



SLDI Graduation, Nigeria, September 2015.

New Phase, Start of Phase IV

SLDI will enter its fourth phase in 2016. In September, ASEC was awarded a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation for SLDI Phase IV. The foundation committed to serving 1,890 distinctive participants and 2,100 alumnae in ten countries - Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. We are immensely grateful for our partnership with Conrad N. Hilton Foundation is transforming sisters and their ministries.

SLDI phase IV will include 3 components, Major Superiors Training, Basic Technology & Web Design workshops, and Leadership (i.e. Administration and Finance workshops). Phase IV of SLDI will begin in January 2016 with the newly introduced Major Superior training workshops. This workshop is geared at building the capacity of Major Superiors and deepening their knowledge of ASEC; several sessions will be held between January and November 2016.



Uganda Finance track students on a field study visit to St. Joseph vocational school, Kyabirukwa.

will take place over one month; and Administration/ Finance, over eight weeks, or two one-month sessions over 2 years. Phase IV will mark the first time Basic Technology/ Web Design will take place over one-month, expanding from three-weeks.

Alumnae Meetings

Alumnae meetings are a central component of SLDI. In 2015, three-day alumnae-mentee networking workshops took place in six countries with 408 participants, 273 alumnae and 135 mentees. One component of the SLDI program, which will be covered in greater detail the Sisters' Voices section of this newsletter, is the mentoring program. Sisters who graduate from SLDI are expected to mentor at least 3 other sisters or colleagues. 2015, was the first time mentees were engaged in such a workshop. Sisters have gone facilitated workshops in their communities with their



SLDI alumnae-mentee meeting, sisters showcase posters, Kenya.

The majority of sisters will complete three workshops over three years. Between April and December 2016, sisters will participate in either Basic Technology or Web Design workshop, depending upon the sisters computer skills upon entry. Next between April and December 2016, the sisters will participate in either Administration or Finance workshops. Year 1, Basic Technology/ Web Design workshops



Group discussion, SLDI alumnae Nigeria.

congregations and local groups.

The focus of the 2015 networking workshop was Global Mentoring: Fostering Mentorship in Women Religious, and Grant Writing and Fundraising Skills. In Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia, alumnae and mentees presented posters showcasing their projects and the impact of their projects. Attendees in Nigeria visited a successful alumna ministry project that serves underprivileged individuals at Ontisha. Both alumnae and mentees praised the workshop as an opportunity to connect, to network, and to learn new skills.

SLDI Alumnae from various congregations are joining together to working collaboratively to meet the needs in their communities, even forming alumnae associations. For example, in Zambia, alumnae initiated an ASEC-SLDI sweatshirt project featuring the ASEC logo to raise funds for an SLDI alumnae association. In Ghana, alumnae are collaboratively working with the major superiors to educate girls on the dangers of migrating to the cities with a project titled, Eradicating Girl-Child Migration from the Three Northern Regions to Kumasi and Accra to Work as Sex Workers, "Kayayo."

SLDI Faculty and Coordinators Meeting

For the first time ASEC coordinators from eight countries - Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia - joined with SLDI instructors, partners, and ASEC staff for a three-day workshop. In total,



SLDI Instructors pose for a photo during the three-day strengthening partnership workshop held on January 4-8, 2015, in Nairobi, Kenya.

29 participants attended the meeting held in Kenya in January 2015.

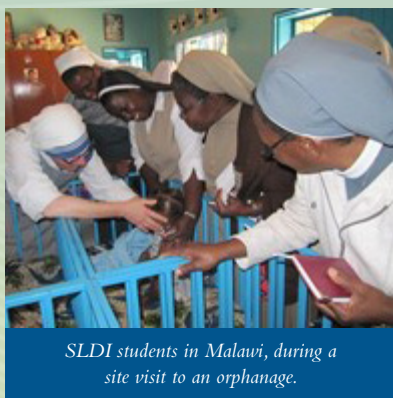
The theme of the meeting was Strengthening Partnerships: The Role of Instructors in the Program Implementation. It was designed for ASEC administrators to learn from SLDI stakeholders, gain the instructor perspective, and reach mutual understanding of program goals. Presenters explained SLDI's program design, goals, objectives, and impact; portfolio development; the roles of partners; and the culture of women religious in Africa.

Instructors appraised the convening as an opportunity to learn,



ASEC Project directors and coordinators from 8 countries pose for a photo, January 2015.

evaluate, and to share best instructional practices.



SLDI students in Malawi, during a site visit to an orphanage.

Field Study Trips to Successful Ministries

A new feature of SLDI was instituted in 2015. Sisters participating in workshops this year went on field study trips to successful ministries. The sisters' responses to the field trips are detailed in the Sisters' Voices section of this newsletter. Some examples of field trips include:

In Uganda, SLDI Administration workshop participants

visited a sustainable farm, managed by an SLDI alumna who has become a Regional Superior since graduation from SLDI. The farm has received funding to grow a large number of crops, plant 20 acres of trees, buy farm animals, make liquid soap, and use technology to run the farm, including solar power and biogas.

In Malawi, SLDI Finance workshop participants visited Parliament and during their visit met both the Minister of Gender as well as the Second Speaker of Parliament. The Second Speaker has a physical disability and shared with the SLDI participants that he was able to become successful through the support and care he received at the Kankao mission. The sisters then visited the Kankao mission, which is a home for physically challenged children. On their visit, sisters met some of the children served at the mission and learned about how the mission operates.

In Nigeria, SLDI Finance workshop participants visited Our Lady of Fatima Sisters, Novitiate Projects which focus on sustainable farming and animal husbandry. An SLDI Alumnae works on these projects and another sister who is in contact with the SLDI program is the Sister-in-Charge of these projects. Visiting these projects allowed the SLDI participants to learn about and observe rain water harvesting, a biogas system which converts animal droppings into gas for cooking, piggery, poultry farming, fruit orchards, and fish pounds. SLDI participants also saw some small-scale industries in action as part of the Novitiate Projects, which train women and youth on sewing and knitting sweaters and in the production of honey, soaps, and disinfectant products.

Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA) Program

The HESA program provides African sisters access to quality, affordable higher education leading to a bachelor's degree or diploma in professional fields identified as relevant and needed – including education, business administration, nursing, social work, and religious studies. HESA is

designed to be delivered entirely onsite in the traditional model and through the online-onsite model, which allows sisters to complete a portion of their studies online.

Entering year three of phase I, the HESA program is serving 230 sisters in eight countries, including 16 graduates. With a retention rate of 98.3 percent, the program is successful in recruiting qualified sisters to enroll in degree and diploma programs. HESA students are studying at 11 colleges and universities in the U.S. and Africa. Particularly, 87 sisters are studying in the online-onsite model through partnerships between Marywood University and Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), and Chestnut Hill College and Catholic University College of Ghana (CUCG); and 143 are studying onsite at Saint Augustine University (Tanzania), Tangaza University College (Kenya), CUEA (Kenya), Kisubi Brothers University (Uganda), Chemchemi Institute (Kenya), Veritas University (Nigeria), CUCG, and Aga Khan University (Kenya).

102 Sisters Enter the HESA Program

Throughout 2015, 102 sisters enrolled in the HESA program, entering degree and diploma programs at various ASEC partner colleges and universities. In January 2015, 58 sisters enrolled in the HESA program, enrolling at Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), Tangaza University College, and online at Marywood University through its



Sisters studying online at Chestnut Hill College, from Nigeria and Ghana, are picture at cohort 2 orientation, July 2015.

partnership with CUEA.

To start the fall 2015, semester, 44 sisters joined the HESA program, enrolling at Saint Augustine University in Tanzania, Kisubi Brothers University in Uganda, Chemchemi Ya Uzima Institute in Kenya, Catholic University College of Ghana (CUCG), and online at Chestnut Hill College through its partnership with CUCG. Additionally, one sister from South Sudan joined Catholic University of Eastern Africa.

First HESA Graduates from Tangaza College

Twelve sisters graduated from Tangaza University College, Nairobi Kenya, with Diplomas in Leadership and Resource Management. The sisters began the diploma program in August 2013; they are the first graduates



HESA graduates of Tangaza College, December 2014.

among sisters enrolled in the HESA program. ASEC East Africa Project Director, Sr. Lina Wanjiku Ndung'u, SE, was present for the graduation ceremony, held at the college on December 6, 2014. Another sister, graduated in May 2015.

Congratulations to: Sr. Mary Chebet, ASE; Sr. Margaret Nthenya Kaleli, SSJBC; Sr. Josephine Maru, ASE; Sr. Elector Moraa Mogaka, FSJ; Sr. Christerbel Mwaaba Mutinta, RSHS; Sr. Florence Mercy Mwangi, ASN; Sr. Felician Iguna Njagi, CPS; Sr. Betty Rose Omoriit, CLFS; Sr. Bibiana Shilwatso, FMSJ; Sr. Margaret Saru Shinga, CPS; Sr. Felly R. Wamutitu, FMI, and Sr. Margaret Wangeci, LSOSF, who graduated in May 2015. Additionally, Sr. Kezia Wangui Ngotho, SMI, completed the program with a Certificate in Leadership Resource Management, July 2014.

First HESA Bachelor's Degree Graduates

Congratulations to HESA students, Srs. Adeodata Ahimbisibwe, DJM, of Uganda; Petronilla Kyomugisha, MSMMC, Uganda; and Miriam Stella Obiekwe, IHM, Kenya! The three sisters graduated from Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), Nairobi, Kenya, on Friday, October 2, 2015, receiving Bachelor of Education degrees.

Among 18 sisters to enroll in HESA cohort 1, the three sisters began classes at Marywood University in January 2013. Marywood University and CUEA partner to offer a Bachelor of Education degree program which enables sisters to complete a portion of their coursework online before transferring to CUEA to complete the program. Through HESA, 55 sisters are enrolled in the online-onsite hybrid degree program offered by the two universities.



Srs. Miriam Stella Obiekwe, IHM, Kenya; Adeodata Ahimbisibwe, DJM, Uganda; and Petronilla Kyomugisha, MSMMC, Uganda, stand for a photo at CUEA graduation, Oct. 2.

Sr. Lina Wanjiku Ndung'u, SE, ASEC East Africa Projects Director, and Sr. Jane Wakahiu, LSOSF, Ph.D., ASEC Executive Director, attended the graduation ceremony; Rev. Dr. Peter Gichure, CUEA's Director of Academic Linkages and Dr. Ann Rita Njageh, Deputy Director Directorate of Academic Linkages were also in attendance. The sisters are the first HESA students to graduate from the Marywood-CUEA partnership program.

Already, Sr. Adeodata has moved on to a Master's degree program at CUEA, and Sr. Petronilla is heading a new school in Uganda.

HESA Students Participate in Annual Reflective Learning Workshops

HESA is designed for sisters to enter their degree programs together with a cohort of sisters studying at the same university through the program. All HESA students participate together with their cohort in orientation and annual reflective learning workshops. Between May and August

2015, Reflective Learning Workshops were held in six countries – Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Zambia.

In total, 153 HESA sisters participated in reflective learning workshops, representing over 90 percent of sisters enrolled at the time of the workshops.

Reflective learning is designed for sisters to share their experience, bond with their cohorts, and receive essential learning skills. Topics covered at reflective learning included time management, study skills, social media, computer skills, and other topics. Online students were greeted by their US instructors via skype.



HESA Students participate in reflective learning, Kenya, July 2015.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed between Chestnut Hill College and Veritas University

On August, 24, 2015, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed to form a partnership between Chestnut Hill College and Veritas University, in Abuja, Nigeria. Representatives present for the MOU signing at Chestnut Hill College were Professor Michael Kwanashie, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor of Veritas University, Sr. Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., President, Chestnut Hill College, Sr. Jane Wakahiu, ASEC Executive Director, Rosemary Shaver, HESA Assistant Director and Chestnut Hill administrations.

The MOU will serve sisters enrolled online in Chestnut Hill College's Bachelor of Education degree program. With the Veritas partnership, sisters enrolled in the online program through Chestnut Hill will be able to transfer to Veritas University or Catholic University College of Ghana. This will enable sisters to from Nigeria to transfer to a university in their home country upon completing the online portion of their studies.



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Chestnut Hill College and Veritas University, Nigeria. Seated: Sr. Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, President of Chestnut Hill College; Professor Michael Kwanashie, Vice Chancellor of Veritas University. Standing (left to right): Sr. Lisa Oliveri, SSJ; Ms. Rosemary Shaver, HESA Assistant Director; Sr. Jane Wakahiu, LSOSF, ASEC Executive Director; Sr. Kathryn Miller, SSJ; Mrs. Hellen Kwanashie; April Folwes; Dr. Elieen Green; and Ms/. Brighid Blake.

Currently 34 sisters have participated in the online degree program at Chestnut Hill College. In August, 17 sisters transferred from online studies; another 17 remain online.



Dr. Sharon Latchaw Hirsh, President, Rosemont College, met with Professor Michael Kwanashie Ph.D., Vice Chancellor of Veritas University during his August visit. Seated (left to right): Ms. Rosemary Shaver, HESA Assistant Director; Sr. Jane Wakahiu, ASEC Executive Director; Dr. Chris Dougherty, Provost of Rosemont College; Dr. Sharon Hirsh, Professor Michael Kwanashie, and Mrs. Helen Kwanashie.

Framework of Reference Signed between Veritas University and ASEC

ASEC signed a Framework of Reference (FOR) with Veritas University, Abuja, Nigeria, on September 1, 2015, to establish a collaborative partnership for the Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA) project. The FOR was signed by ASEC Executive Director, Sr. Jane Wakahiu, LSOSF, Ph.D., and Vice Chancellor of Veritas University, Professor Michael Kwanashie, Ph.D. Also present for the signing were Veritas administrators, Nigeria Conference of Women Religious & ASEC board member, Sr. Florence Nwaonuma, SSH, and ASEC West Africa Programs Director, Sr. Clementina Ombebe, OSF.

ASEC's partnership with Veritas University will serve sisters in Nigeria. Already, 16 HESA students are studying at Veritas. The sisters, who enrolled in August 2014, are studying for bachelor's degrees in various fields. Particularly, eight sisters are studying for a Bachelor of Education, five for a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, one for a Bachelor of Science in Economics, one for a Bachelor of Arts in English and Literary Studies, and one for a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Diplomacy. Several HESA students were present for the signing ceremony.



Professor Michael Kwanashie and Sr. Jane Wakahiu (center) pose for a photo with HESA students studying at Veritas University during the FOR signing, September 2015. Sr. Florence Nwoma (left of Kwanashie), president, National Conference of Women Religious (NCWR), and Sr. Augustina, Secretary General, NCWR were present among many other superiors.

Service Learning

ASEC's service learning program is delivered for students of ASEC's charter institutions. The program provides a global experience to students through a two-week service experience in Tanzania. Prior to

the service experience, students complete a 3-credit course and engage in fundraising. Since 2008, 55 students and nine faculty from Chestnut Hill College, Rosemont College and Marywood University participated in ASEC's Service Learning Program. Historically, Service Learning has taken place every two years - in 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014.

In 2015, nine students and two faculty from Marywood University and Chestnut Hill College participated in the Service Learning Program, traveling to the Bigwa School in Tanzania. The students praised the experience



Marywood and Chestnut Hill students visited SLDI alumnae ministries, including an orphanage.

Scholarship Program

ASEC's scholarship program is currently providing scholarships for sisters to attend the Bigwa Secondary School in Tanzania, as well as to enroll in two-diploma programs in Tanzania. The Scholarship program is partially supported by funding from the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago. ASEC's partnership with FSC has had far reaching impacts.

The Bigwa Secondary School

The Bigwa Secondary Sisters School promotes academic achievement, leadership and social development, college access and career readiness. Through Bigwa, ASEC and its partners have the opportunity to provide scholarships for sisters to join a cohort of 65 women, who have benefited from the two-year scholarship to acquire high school education.



Sister recipients of ASEC's scholarship to Bigwa School appear with high school-age students, also attending the school, January 2015.

Bigwa scholarships are an integral component within ASEC's education pipeline for providing a sustainable "systems change" within Africa. Of the 36,567 sisters in the region ASEC serves, 80% have no higher education credentials. Tanzania has over 13,000 sisters; of these 3,000 have no high school diploma. The Bigwa school scholarship is targeted specifically at these sisters.

Bigwa Secondary School bus arrives

A school bus, supported by ASEC, the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters, and the Tanzania Catholic Association of Sisters (TCAS), was purchased for use at the Bigwa Secondary School. The bus is solving transportation issues faced at the school. It was also used by Marywood and Chestnut Hill Students who participated in ASEC's service learning program.



2-Year Scholarship Program

ASEC is serving 40 sisters to enroll in 2-year diploma programs in Tanzania. The sisters are studying for diplomas and certificates in education, teacher training, library, accounting, finance, business administration, hospitality, law, social work, and nursing, medical laboratory science.

Obtaining a 2-year diploma is often a stepping stone for sisters who are not directly admitted to a four-year program, especially in countries, like Tanzania, where the number of qualified university applicants is greater than the number of available university seats.



Sisters in Tanzania are central figures in their communities. Higher education enables them to better serve the people of their communities as teachers, administrators, etc.

FUNDER'S VOICES

Brad Myers, Senior Program Officer at the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Reflects on "The Importance of Being Inclusive"

It may surprise you to learn that early in the planning stages of the SLDI many of us (myself included) thought that we would have to take a few years off between sessions because there would not be enough interest in the SLDI to warrant a continuous program. Needless to say, we underestimated demand! Now we have "double cohorts" each year, and still we do not have enough capacity to offer admission to every sister who wants to participate in the SLDI.

Thus, one of the more difficult questions faced by those of us on the funding and coordinating side of ASEC is: "How do you determine who gets to participate in the SLDI and why?" It is not the easiest question



to answer. In part, we are guided by a principle that I find to be implicit in the way Conrad N. Hilton himself thought about Catholic sisters. Here are two key passages from his Last Will & Testament:

- It is my wish... to have the largest part of your benefactions dedicated to the Sisters in all parts of the world.
- Give aid to... the Sisters who devote their love and life's work for the good of mankind, for they appeal especially to me as deserving help from the Foundation...

Notice that Mr. Hilton does not name a particular sister or a particular

congregation of sisters; rather, he speaks of "the Sisters" as a singular collective noun, as if sisters stand in solidarity with one another such that they constitute an undivided "whole." Of course, we know that this is not the most natural way for sisters to relate to one another. Sisters are far more likely to identify much more strongly as members of their particular congregations than as equal members of a "global sisterhood." But what a powerful, beautiful vision Mr. Hilton presents to us! It is as if he is challenging us to imagine a global communion of all sisters, united in their service and presence to the poor and disadvantaged.

In fact, I tend to see our the objectives of our grant-making strategy at the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation in these very terms—we make philanthropic investments to help build a vital global sisterhood serving as an influential member of the global partnership for human development. It is worth noting that, in my experience, African sisters tend to see how much more resilient and effective in ministry they can be when working in concert with one another across congregations—in this, I think African sisters are modeling "sisterhood" for the rest of the world.

Now, with all this talk about the "global sisterhood," it is crucial to remind ourselves of the incredible diversity of consecrated religious life. In Africa alone there are hundreds if not thousands of congregations. We certainly do not want to impose a false sense of unity that fails to respect the genuine differences among congregations and charisms. In fact, respect for diversity of religious life is the principle that plays the most important role in determining which sisters are selected to participate in the SLDI. We try to engage sisters from as many different congregations as we can, and we will go out of our way to include members from congregations that are especially underserved or isolated. We want to help bring those congregations into the global sisterhood, so to speak. This often means that we have to deny otherwise well-qualified, highly deserving sisters opportunities of which they and their congregations would greatly benefit. I certainly do not envy our coordinators who must make and communicate these very difficult decisions. But I am proud that they continue to uphold the value of diversity in religious life by trying to be as inclusive as possible in their selection process. In doing so, they are, I think, honoring the vision and intent of Conrad N. Hilton himself.



HESA students at CUEA, of different congregations, interact with one another.

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation conducted a site visit to SLDI Alumnae ministries in Zambia in April 2015; the foundation also sat in on a live SLDI training.

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Board conducted a Site Visit to the Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI) alumnae ministry at Chipapa, Zambia. Four alumnae of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary have transformed Chipapa by introducing improved agricultural activities, land rehabilitation, and training for self-sufficiency. The Chipapa project was created in 2010 and sits on 23 hectares of land. The sisters are running the Holy Rosary Sisters Training Center for Empowerment and Development to serve the people of Chipapa, who live scattered among villages between 6 and 18km from the Center.



Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Board of Directors at Chipapa, Zambia, with ASEC staff and SLDI Alumnae.

The projects serve the surrounding community, which includes: a center for training girls in tailoring and catering; a bakery specialized in making bread, scones and altar bread (hosts) that are sold throughout Zambia; and a dairy farm.

SLDI alumnae are maximally utilizing the skills acquired in the program. For example, Sr. Catherine Oguonu, SLDI Administration Track, is the local superior and coordinator of programs at Chipapa; Sr. Nkiruka Roseline Onwu, SLDI Finance Track, is Assistant Project Coordinator; and Sr. Pauline Ohalla, SLDI Finance Track, serves as Program Accountant.

In addition, the CNHF Board attended a live SLDI class, and met and interacted with the HESA and SLDI alumnae at the Kalundu Study Center, Lusaka, Zambia.



Hilton board member, Zambia.



Sisters give a tour of SLDI alumnae ministry at Chipapa, Zambia.

Franciscan Sisters of Chicago support 104 sisters with high school and 2-year diploma scholarships over 3 consecutive years.

For three consecutive years, the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago have awarded ASEC a grant to support its scholarship program, educating 104 sisters. The grant is supporting sisters at the Bigwa Secondary School in Tanzania, as well as 40 sisters studying for 2-year degrees in Tanzania. A portion of the Grant is also supporting the development of online courses for sisters studying in Ghana and Nigeria.



Sisters studying at the Bigwa Secondary School, January 2015.



ASEC Scholarship recipients at the Bigwa School, January 2015.

APPRECIATION

We would like to take a moment to express sincere gratitude to our donors, partners and champions who help bring our mission to life through their support. We thank you. We appreciate you. We celebrate you. We recognize you (in alphabetical order):

Agnes Cardoni / John Cardoni
Allison E. Antonini
B. Lynn Hutchings
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Brett D Amosson / Tamara D Amosson
Brigid Blake & Robert Ryan
Cecilia M. Cardesa-Lusardi
Chestnut Hill College
Christine Kessen
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters
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Dr. Ann Henry
Erin Sadlack
Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
J. P. Sabo
J.W. Norpel/M.E. Norpel
John & Elizabeth Stapleton

Laurie M. Cassidy
Mary Ann Zimmer
Marywood University
Mount St. Francis
Neumann University
Notre Dame Sisters
O.S.F. Mission Activities
Penates Foundation
Rosemont College
Saint Joseph's Church
Scot Anderson & Laurie McMillan
Sister of Mercy West Midwest Comm.
Sisters of Bon Secours USA
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia,
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet, Albany Province
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia
Sisters of St. Joseph Elizabeth House
Sisters of the Holy Redeemer, Inc.
Society of the Holy Child Jesus
The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
Theresa Sandok

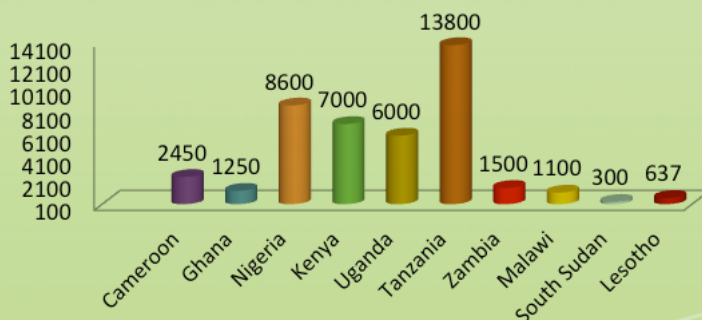
We acknowledge with a grateful heart many anonymous donations we received from our friends, individuals. God bless you!

IMPACT BY THE NUMNERS

With the support of our funders, ASEC has been able to support over 2000 sisters in ten countries – Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

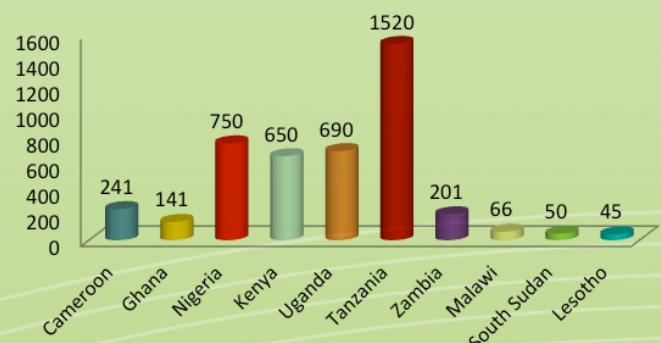
CATHOLIC SISTERS IN AFRICA

Population of Women Religious by Country



Source: 2014/15 ASEC Survey to National Association of Religious in Africa.

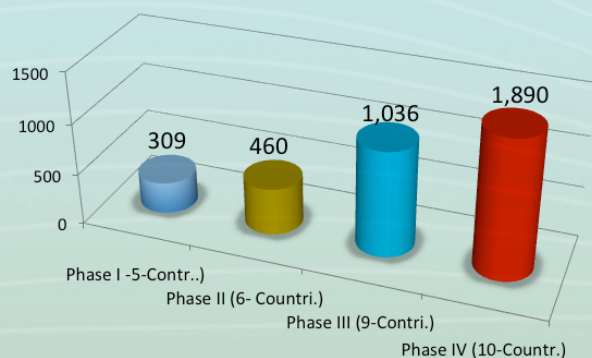
Women in Formation Houses by Country



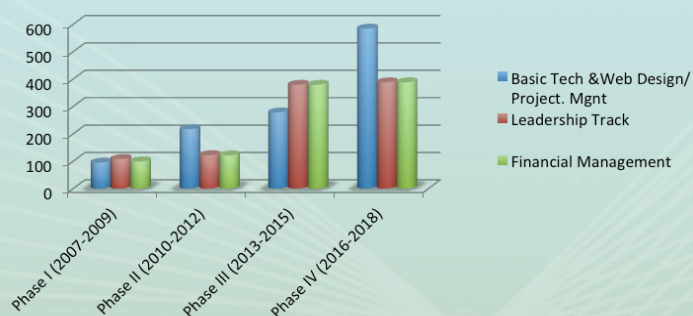
Source: 2014/15 ASEC Survey to National Association of Religious in Africa.

SLDI PROGRAM

Percent of SLDI Participants by Phase



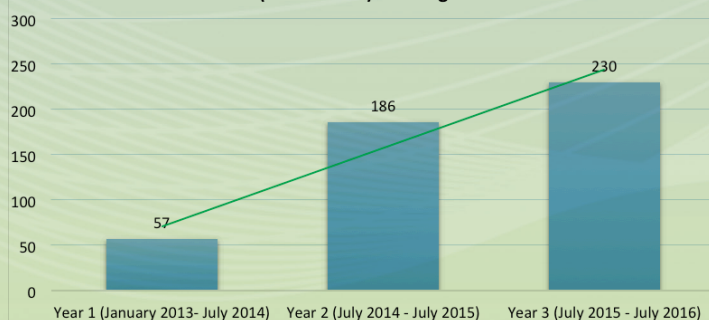
Comparison SLDI Growth by Phase



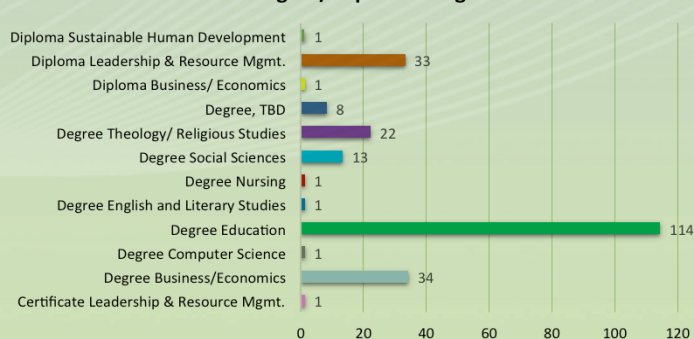
NOTE: Phase IV will also serve 457 superiors.

HESA PROGRAM

HESA Enrollment (2013 - 2015): Serving 230 Sisters to Date

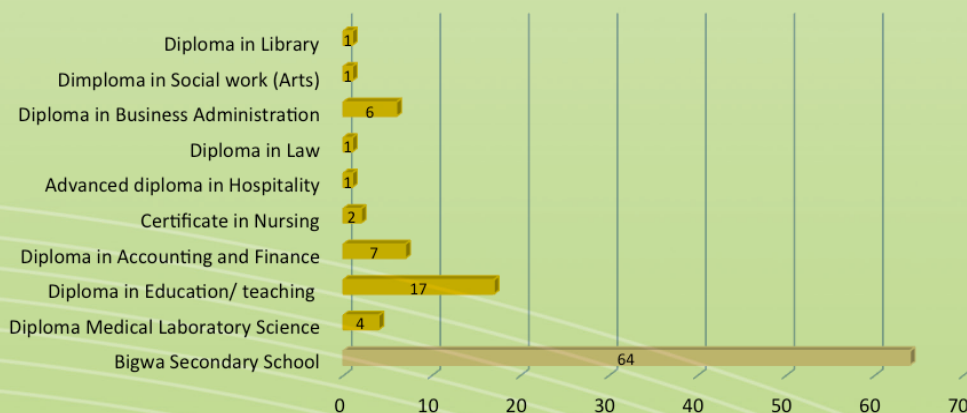


HESA Degree/ Diploma Programs



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarship Program: 104 Sisters in Tanzania Studying for High School and 2-Year Diplomas



ASEC STAFF VOICES

ASEC Welcomes New Staff



MS. SAMANTHA SMITH: I am a Graduate Assistant for the Sisters Leadership Development Initiative branch of ASEC at Marywood University. In working for ASEC, I perform various research activities such as sorting and filing incoming forms, entering and analyzing data, and helping to write various reports for the programs' evaluation. Working for ASEC as a graduate student

has not only given me the opportunity to help pay for my schooling, but it has continued to inspire my passion for serving others which is of great importance in my life. To see the impact ASEC has had and continues to have on the lives of thousands of people in Africa is incredible and stimulates my work as a clinician, and as a human every day.

I received my Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Associate's degree in Sociology from Rutgers University in 2011 and received my Master's degree in Clinical Psychology in August of 2015. Currently, I am working on my Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Marywood University where I am expected to graduate in May of 2018.



DR. CECILIA M. CARDESA-LUSARDI: I joined ASEC in July 2015 for the opportunity to create the founding pillars for ASEC's first Development Department. In this capacity, I lead the designing, scaling and implementing of ASEC's fundraising and communication strategy.

Dr. Cardesa-Lusardi studied Political Science at Villanova University. Her undergraduate thesis

focused on the impact of globalization in international non-governmental organizations: role of the Internet in human rights. The thesis for her master's degree at the University of Pennsylvania was on the Role of Storytelling in Social Value Creation. Cecilia's doctoral dissertation at the University of Pennsylvania looked into Situating Traumatic Memory in Social Value Creation in post-conflict rebuilding – an exploratory study in Liberia.



MS. SNEH AKRUVALA: My journey with ASEC started as a graduate assistant (2013-2014) during which I worked with the data of SLDI workshops. Since January 2015, I have been working as a Data Manager/Analyst, where I performed various research activities involving data organization, data entry, evaluation and data analysis of SLDI and HESA program. Currently, I am working on creating a Comprehensive Database of students in the HESA and SLDI program. Over the several years working with ASEC, I have learned a lot of administrative, research and

communication skills that have been very helpful. The inception and growth of the organization is very inspirational and the thought of being a tiny part of the greater good – serving thousands of sisters in Africa, definitely adds meaning, peace and enthusiasm to my life. I am proud to be a part of this excellent team of intellects.

I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and I am a Registered Nurse and Registered Midwife in India. I earned my Master's Degree in Gerontology (2011) from Marywood University and I am currently pursuing my Doctorate in Human Development (Health Promotion track).



JENNIFER MUDGE: I am a Licensed Social Worker and the newly hired Program Evaluator for the Sisters Leadership Development Initiative at ASEC. Through over ten years of advocacy work with domestic and sexual violence survivors, combined with my experience in youth- and women-led international development efforts, I cultivated a passion for working collaboratively with women and communities to create social and economic progress. My experiences living and working in a rural Ugandan village, ranging from

implementing a successful business plan with a local women's group, to building the capacity of youth-led groups to educate their peers about important health issues, influenced my belief in partnerships and education as powerful tools in creating change. As a graduate student, I utilized my beliefs in partnership and education to engage my University and local community on sexual assault awareness and prevention.

My research on sexual assault awareness, attitudes, and programming contributed to a successful collaborative proposal to implement a new educational program on healthy relationships for first-year students at Marywood University. I am inspired by ASEC's efforts and looks forward to highlighting the impressive social impact of SLDI through program evaluation.

SISTER BENEFICIARIES OF ASEC PROGRAMS ARE RETURNING TO THEIR COMMUNITIES TO SERVE IN HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, PASTORAL, AND SOCIAL MINISTRIES, AND PROVIDING INNOVATIONS IN THEIR FIELDS.

SLDI alumnae are returning to their ministries and emerging as community leaders in the fields of healthcare, education, pastoral, and social ministries. SLDI sisters have been successful obtaining grants to support their ministries and build capacity in their communities. Sister alumnae of SLDI submitted stories detailing their ministries and the success of applying for grants.

Sr. Irene Christian Oparku, SIJ, an Alumna of SLDI in Ghana, details her success obtaining funding for a gate and solar power facility at the Infant Jesus Catholic Preparatory School, where she is Headmistress.

We are grateful to have received our share from the Hilton Fund for Sisters, to address two urgent needs in our community and school – (1) the provision of a fence for the school, and (2) support for a solar power facility. Our first intervention was for the school children in our community. Over the past ten years, it has been proven that children in the Central Region of Ghana perform poorly in the basic school exams, and hence are likely to be shut out of further education that could enhance their future career options. Responding to the crisis, we started a nursery and a basic school in Twifo Praso to cater for the educational needs of poor children. The intervention has been patronized over the years, as the number of students in school continues to increase each year.

There was an urgent need to construct a fence around the property, to bring security to the children and help bring effective teaching and learning. The lives of the pupils were gravely in danger, as the environment had open access to the public. So the management of the school were unable to manage the movement of the pupils, especially with herdsmen and animals walking around the property, which posed a threat to the children and adversely affected academic performance. Children crossing the road to the opposite side were sometimes knocked down by passing vehicles.

Secondly, electricity supply in Ghana has been erratic for the past three years. As such, schools and the communities in Ghana are experiencing challenges associated with persistent electric power outages. Some of the effects of the power crisis that Ghanaians have to battle with include – the increased cases of night marauders) and poor academic performance due to inability of students to study in the night; local farmers and artisans who use equipment that use electrical power in production have also been affected.

Members of our local communities are reporting robbery and rape cases in the night due to persistent electric power outages, especially in our district. The provision of solar light, which is currently being fixed, will help the school with electricity in the computer lab and the administration office during school hours.

In fact, both the solar light and fence wall will provide adequate security and freedom for the local people, especially the women and children. These will safeguard the welfare of the children in the school and help manage their movement from crossing the nearby road to be knocked down by passing vehicles. We thank our sponsors for heeding to our plight to save the situation.



SLDI participants made a field study visit to Infant Jesus Catholic Preparatory School.

Sr. Stephany Ayomah, SMI, an Alumna of SLDI in Ghana, recounts her experience writing a grant application to the Hilton Fund for Sisters.



I was posted to work in a rural community in 2013, where a majority of the people are illiterate. Also this community had suffered several ethnic conflicts, and the people, especially the women and children, are still living in fear. Upon arrival, I engaged myself with a rural women ministry in a village called “Ordormea-Bra,” which means: “If you love come.”

With the skills gained from SLDI, I was able to acquire grants from individual funders in Scotland and Germany for my ministries, including to support: the purchase of school textbooks, student fees, farm equipment, the construction of a laboratory at our clinic, and the construction of a center for soap production, used by a women's group.

This article is to let my fellow sisters know that there are several ways we can raise funds for assistance, apart from the formal and common means which is grant or proposal writing. However, I will focus on the SLDI Alumnae Grant, of which I am fortunate to be one of the first beneficiaries.

It was in June 2014, when Sr. Francisca, the coordinator for Ghana SLDI, sent me an email requesting that I present a brief description of a project that I initiated since my graduation from the SLDI program. Thank God, by then the women's group I formed was already functioning, thus my first stage qualification for the grant.

After my first submission in June 2014, my application was sent back to me by the donors asking that I expand the budget, as well as broaden the project activities to include capacity-building for the group. This I did and re-submitted.

However, in March 2015, my project was again sent back to me requesting an expanded budget, more activities, and a revised project description. At this stage, I almost gave up, because with every change to the document, I had to travel over 200 kilometers in order to have Internet access. I thank Sr. Francisca for always encouraging me not to give up.

To process the grant application, a lot is demanded – such as access to a good Internet facility, familiarity with the use of the Internet, and time to move for gathering information, to mention but a few. In working on the grant form, one needs to make financial sacrifices because of there are costs for use of the internet and transportation. Thanks be to God my toil over the year was not in vain. In June 2015, I was called by my congregational bursar with the good news that: “\$65,300 has been transferred from Hilton Fund for Sisters.”

You can guess my mood after receiving this news!

On this note, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to, Sathya Bly for her patience and concern for me during the processing of this Grant Form, as well as Sr. Francisca Damoah and all those who assisted in one way or the other. Though Sathya does not know where Chamba is located in



Students, near the fence of Infant Jesus Catholic Preparatory School.



Ghana, she understood the difficulties I had at times in accessing my mails and downloading the application forms. She had time to answer all my questions and always encouraged me to write if I did not understand and think or I had a challenge.

I know many would like to know what is happening after receiving the grant.

This year, even with the rains delayed, the group has been able to farm 3

archers of maize and one archer of soybeans. Also, we have started with the constructional works.

To my fellow SLDI Alumnae, I would like to say that if you are to take part in the Alumnae Grant, or you are writing to any donor for financial support, do not give up when your proposal is sent back to you asking you to work on it by expansion or editing. It may be that the donor has interest in funding your project.

Also, in writing to Hilton Fund for Sisters through the eGrant, be ready to sacrifice. For me, I feel ASEC/SLDI, and the Hilton Fund, have a lot in stock for us the African Religious Women. Therefore, let us come out and support each other.



Sr. Adebola Daramola, SSMA, an Alumna of SLDI in Nigeria, gives her testimony of the “wonderful impact of SLDI,” in helping her obtain the position of ICT Director at Augustine University, Nigeria.

Since my graduation from SLDI 2009 as a project manager, I did not receive a second critical opinion on the evaluation of my management skills until a change in my job. At that time, I only noticed a change in my attitude to managerial issues but it did not dawn on me that something very massive actually happened to me until I received the opportunity to apply for the position of Director of ICT in St. Augustine University, which belongs to the Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos. I had to prove my worth amidst several others.

The post was advertised on print media and the school's website. I applied like many others and was invited for an interview before a 12 man panel. All of the questions thrown at me were management and / IT- based. Thanks to the Project Management track and Website Design component of SLDI, my responses to the interview questions were just flowing from the accrued knowledge of management.

On the other hand, the website design training initiated me into the world of codes, Web design and applications management. Since my introduction

to Web design in the SLDI training, I became very interested in application software; SLDI was the gateway to my interest. I yearned for more, and made great efforts to discover and learn more. I therefore, completed a 2-week crash training on java script and data management programming.

The amazing part of this experience is that before I got to the interview panel, I looked around and I felt very little, because I was in the midst of people who had their lives in their hands and could do whatever they liked with them. I wanted to believe that I was the only one with the barest academic qualifications – a Bachelor of Science, though in a relevant field. I have no Masters, I am not a member of any of the existing professional bodies but I have certificates in project management, introduction to Web design (courtesy of ASEC/SLDI) and advanced Web design.

Questions were asked, if I had Masters, and I said No. I could read some disappointment in them but I told myself, 'Bola, you aren't a failure, no matter how tall your dreams are, as a religious; they are forced to bend under the Evangelical counsels especially of Obedience.' I have always longed to further in software development, but for short of funds, I was always told to keep the dream.

As God will have it anyway, I left the interview panel fulfilled that I am not a failure. I had seen some come out with squeezed faces while in contrast; I came out elated with a high spirit. On the other hand, considering the caliber of people that also got interviewed, I thought the job was not meant for me. Barely two weeks after, I was called by a member of the panel, and the question was, "Sister, when do you think you can be free from your current apostolate / ministry to join Augustine University?" It was like a dream I had to wake up from.

ASEC actually gave me a legacy I will never forget in a hurry. As a religious, I had no exposure to the world of IT. I therefore implore all the sisters who might have SLDI or HESA opportunity to use it judiciously for it definitely is not a wasted venture. For ASEC, you are simply wonderful. I am actually short of words to describe your contribution to whom and what I am today. I simply say 'Adupe', 'Mungode', 'Thank you' a bunch.

Sr. Florence Naphazi, Medical Mission Sisters, is an Alumna of SLDI in Kenya. She serves as Coordinator, St. Mary's Ang'iya Widows' Project and Pontifical Missionary Children.

I am Sr. Florence Naphazi of the Medical Mission Sisters. I have attended ASEC-SLDI Finance management workshop of 2014-2015 in Uganda. I work in Kenya as a Coordinator of the widows group in Ang'iya Parish, situated in Homa-Bay County, which is leading in HIV/AIDS infection in the whole of Kenya at the rate of 27.1%. We support the widows' project with income-generating activities, which helps them avoid harmful practices such as wife-inheritance – one of the major contributing factors for the spread of HIV/AIDS infection in this part of Kenya.



Women from the Ang'iya Widows' Project working in their sugarcane garden.

The support we provide these women empowers them to be self-reliant. We give them money to run small businesses and also to enable them to engage in agriculture, whereby after harvesting the produce, they sell and get the money for their personal use. A portion of their profit generating activities goes into a group account. At the moment, the total number of members in widows' project is 55.

I am grateful to ASEC for the skills I received from the workshops. After a workshop last year, I wrote (and was awarded!) a grant for this ministry of women in Ang'ya Parish. The amount of money received was four-hundred thousand Kenyan shillings (400,000Ksh). This money was requested for two groups in the parish: the Widows Project and the Pontifical Missionary Children. My ministry with the Pontifical Missionary Children includes mission/charity work within the parish and the surrounding villages. There are 75 children registered.

I feel grateful to work with these women and they give me joy and happiness. I love their simplicity and the heart and the spirit of welcoming. They are focused women and full of hope of their lives in spite of their status.



Sr. Florence and the Pontifical Missionary Children. The children visited Florence at her convent in Homa-Bay Diocese, at Sacred Heart Ang'ya Parish.

Several ministries in Institute of the Sisters of Our Lady of Good Counsel sisters in the Mbarara Diocese, Uganda receive Support through SLDI alumnae ministries.

Sr. Lilian Baitwakakye of the Institute of the Sisters of Our Lady of Good Counsel through SLDI Alumnae association in Uganda applied and received funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters in the amount of USD \$35,000 for the construction of a pediatric ward at Makonje Health Center. We also received a grant in the amount of USD \$10,000 for economic empowerment programs given to caretakers of orphans and vulnerable children in the Mbarara Diocese.

The health center is the only mission facility in the remote area that serves the locals from six sub-counties in the Mbarara district. Due to the remoteness of the area and lack of other health facilities, the mission's health center was overwhelmed the number of patients, especially children.



Sr. Lilian and Leonidas Supervising the Pediatric ward under construction.

This necessitated a pediatric ward to save hundreds of children dying from preventable diseases. Currently, the ward is in its final stages of completion, thanks to the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation's generous support. Once completed, the ward will facilitate admitting many children and save them from the potential of death

and other illnesses. Additionally, the mission will use the health center for educating and sensitizing mothers about family hygiene and nutrition, as well as the benefits of antenatal and delivery service program. This initiative will mitigate child controllable diseases and safe motherhood deliveries. The facility will provide critical services to all, particularly the poor women who do not have the health-care access they need.



Sr. Lilian supervising the Pediatric ward at Makonje.

Another project by Sisters of Our Lady of Good Counsel which received funding was for orphans and vulnerable children. The project received \$10,000. It supports orphans and vulnerable children whose parents died of HIV/AIDS, focusing in provision of education. The mission of the project is to empower orphans and vulnerable children and their caretakers through capacity building, economic empowerment and psychosocial, spiritual, health and educational support to enable them live decent and meaningful lives.

The project is proud to partner with the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters in funding some of the capacity-building programs and economic empowerment among caretakers. Currently, the project is undertaking a series of workshops for caretakers in the areas of household income generation and sustainability programs. These are aimed at creating wealth in families, so that caretakers and parents can be self-sustaining and look after the orphans to realize their dreams and potential.



Caretakers' workshop delivered by the Sisters of Our Lady of Good Counsel.



Beneficiaries pose for a photo after the caretakers' workshop.

Sr. Faustina Bwalya, Sisters of Mercy of St. Charles Borromeo, a recent SLDI Alumna in Zambia, reflected on the impact of SLDI.

It has been a great privilege for me attending the SLDI Administration track in Zambia. Indeed, I am grateful for the knowledge and skills which I have acquired through the program. Before attending this course, I lacked some skills in fulfilling my duties. Now life has changed, I am able to work in an effective and efficient manner; I am able to serve better the people entrusted to my care.

The SLDI Administration course has helped me to improve in so many ways. I am now able to carry out my duties confidently, with courage. One of the benefits I received after attending the first phase in of the SLDI Administration training course in 2014, occurred. Immediately, after I went back to my community.

Upon returning, with the skills I learned at SLDI, I wrote a grant proposal to Manos Unidas in Spain. I received the grant for the construction of 1x2 classroom blocks and an ablution block, which are now being used by 300 Children at our Mission to improve the learning standards, as well as promoting sanitation in our learning environment.

As for now another construction is going on well, a computer lab for the school, and we have already purchased 15 Computers for a start to start up the lab.

The School aims at empowering the pupils with Technology.



A classroom block constructed with funding from Manos Unidas.

Thank you very for the ASEC / SLDI Programs for empowering me and many other Sisters in Africa Region. The course has left a big difference in my life and community at large.

Rev. Sr. Josemaria Anyanwu, HFSN, an SLDI Alumna in Nigeria, reflects on "The Mustard Seed of our Time"

Some years ago a mustard seed was planted in Nigeria and other parts of African countries which germinated into bigger shrubs. Different types of birds took shelter and built their nests on it. These birds were nurtured by some committed individuals and the birds grew with knowledge. Eventually, the birds were scattered into the world to the make the world a better place.

Yes, this mustard seed is the initiators of African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC), the different types of birds are the sisters from different congregations and were nurtured by our able facilitators. Eventually, these sisters were graduated to go into the world to showcase the knowledge they acquired to the betterment of the whole world, ASEC/SLDI, I in union with my congregation, Holy Family Sisters of the Needy, are very grateful for your assistance towards our ministry, may the good Lord continue to bless you the initiators, and Hilton's family.

I received among the first SLDI Signature grants from the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters, to the amount of \$25,000. The funds were for the purchase of a dialysis machine at our hospital. I appreciate you and promised to use it to serve the poor in my ministry. I was meant to purchase a dialysis machine and I pray to establish a wonderful dialysis center in our hospital in no distant time.



IN PHASE III, SLDI STUDENTS VISITED ALUMNAE MINISTRIES AND LEARNING FROM THE EXAMPLE OF THEIR SUCCESSES.

The SLDI program continually seeks to improve how sisters' integrate the knowledge they receive in their leadership workshops and transform that knowledge into meaningful action. In an effort to help sisters envision the type of projects they can develop after graduation from SLDI, field trips to successful projects/programs were instituted in 2015. Sisters participating in the SLDI workshops had the opportunity to visit an array of projects, including a biogas plant, Parliament, a center for abandoned or orphaned HIV positive children, a community hospital, a program supporting vulnerable street children, a beekeeping farm, a vocational secondary school, and sustainable farms. Some the SLDI participants took field trips to projects led by SLDI alumnae, including SLDI alumnae who received the SLDI signature grant. Sisters were able to witness firsthand how successful projects operate, speak to sisters leading these projects, and learn about strategies to implement their own projects.



The Salome Learning Centre, Tanzania, offers training to girls in the community.

Sr. Germina Keneema, ASEC Projects Coordinator, Uganda, facilitated field trips for sisters in the Finance and Administration Track. She praised the process and recorded student reactions. Sr. Germina is an alumna of SLDI.



The introduction of study visits to the Sisters Leadership Development initiative (SLDI) workshop is an important aspect that has been added to this program and has been welcome by participants with joy and excitement. In Uganda we have so far had two visits for the Administration and Finance participants. Visiting the ministries of SLDI alumnae

helped the participants see that the skills they learn are practical and will enable them to be more effective in their various ministries.

SLDI Administration participants visited Mother Kevin Sustainable Organic Farm in Busunju, Mityana. The farm belongs to the Little Sisters of St. Francis and is managed by Sr. Lydia Nakawunde, LSOSF. Sr. Lydia participated in SLDI Administration Phase II. She works closely with Sr. Mary Gorreti Nasuuna, an alumna of SLDI Administration Phase I, who is now a regional superior of the Central Region.

Land for the farm was purchased in 2000, but due to lack of personnel and funds, it was not utilized for some time. In 2009, a small house was built where sisters could go and stay for some days to work and to

interact with the rural community. Through the initiative of Sr. Lydia, the farm has grown, receiving grants and local support. The farm now boasts large gardens of crops, including: Maize, beans, cassava, coffee, sweet potatoes, soybeans, bananas, and 20 acres of eucalyptus, markhamia and cidrela trees. It has grown to include Cows, goats, pigs, and more than 400 chickens. Technological innovation has aided the sisters' mission. Today, the farm includes a water reservoir, tip-tap and gas for cooking from cow dung, and solar power for lighting. Sr. Lydia has also started 8 women's groups and has given some of them zero grazing cows.

After walking around the farm and seeing all these and sharing with Sr. Lydia how she managed to put things in place.



Sr. Nakawunde leads the participants and Facilitator Andrew Otsieno on a tour of Mother Kevin Organic Farm, May 2015.

"It was on that day I saw some of the technology they use which I never saw in my life before example, Bio gas which produces gas, harvesting rain water and make use of it, the person sister Lydia has for her work. Really moved me, to myself I was asking do I have it in my work? It encourages me to start doing it in my work," Sr. Jennifer Waru, SLDI student, commented.

SLDI Finance workshop participants study tour was in Mbarara at the Sisters of Our Lady of Good Counsel Sisters where Sr. Lilian Baitwakakye and SLDI Project Management phase one is coordinator of the Congregational projects. She works in the same office with Sr. Leonidas Tirikwendera who is also attended the SLDI Project Management workshop in phase one. Together, the sisters have used the skills learned in SLDI for local fundraising and writing projects for grants. Sr Lilian is among the sisters in Uganda who has received the SLDI Signature Grant of US 35,000 US dollars from Conrad N.Hilton Fund for Sisters. Lilian's grant went to the paediatric ward at Makonje Health Centre.

Sr. Lilian led the participants to tour the following projects that have been put up through fundraising by her office - a restaurant serving the community and St. Joseph Inn, a hostel with a capacity of nearly 30 beds at Nyamitanga. She then led them to Kyabitukwa, nearly 25 kilometers from Mbarara, where they toured Bon consili Girls Vocational Secondary School that has buildings well-constructed with a capacity of



SLDI Finance participants July 2015 led by one teacher to tour Bon Consili Secondary School run by Sisters of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mbarara 25th July 2015.

522 students and 32 teachers. Blocks from the classroom were purchased from funds donated by Caritas Switzerland, and the computer laboratory blocks from funds donated by Monos Unidas. In this class there were 15 students sitting for computer exams and the other 10 were for lessons.

"I have become aware that being trustworthy with donors by giving good reports and accountability, proper use of funds, good relationship to donors, good management, proper use of resources, good working relationship, cooperation, team spirit, positive attitude towards work will lead me to succeed in my work," Sr. Dorcus Nankyama commented.



Sr. Hilaria Chombo, SBVM, ASEC Programs Coordinator, Malawi, also praised the field trips.

The site visit program boosted the sisters to work extra hard in their working places and ministries. They were impacted by learning the work others are doing.



Sr. Barbara Bhima with Orphans, Malawi.

2015 HAS BEEN A LANDMARK YEAR FROM GRADUATION FROM ASEC PROGRAMS

In 2015, 785, will graduated from SLDI, and HESA saw its first diploma and bachelor's degree graduates with 16 alumnae. For many, obtaining postsecondary education is a dream due to limited educational access points, especially for women and girls. Sister Alumnae of SLDI and HESA submitted articles reflecting on the impact of education in their lives.



Over half, 115, of HESA students are studying for Bachelor of Education degrees, and will return to teach in school such as the Holy Cross Primary School in Tanzania.

Sr. Adeodata Ahimbisibwe, DMJ, Uganda, entered the HESA program in 2013 with the program's first cohort of sisters to begin online at Marywood University. In January 2014, the sisters transferred to Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), where they will complete their Bachelor of Education degrees. Sr. Adeodata graduated on October 3, 2015, and enrolled in a Master's program in August 2015.

HESA program is a gift from the Lord through the arms of visionaries: in a word, thank you ASEC. If one is ready when an opportunity is available there are no excuses. I was ready to move when I was invited into HESA as a pioneer. I could not believe the news I heard on the telephone from Sr. Lina Wanjiku. It came at a time I least expected. I had switched my thoughts away from higher education to other ways of living. Then suddenly, I woke up and the journey started for me.

Eighteen of us, sisters from Kenya and Uganda, responded to the invitation to pioneer the HESA program. The journey of our studies online was a learning experience, for the instructors and students. Combining study and work was also a challenge. Having to study assigned materials, completed assignment, and return them on time was challenging. However, I loved the material, and I was willing to have less time for leisure and sleep to complete it. The experience was to work hard.

I imagined the challenges encountered online would be less when I would be full time student. I looked forward to a time I would be at CUEA. Joining CUEA University, after studying one-year online, fourteen of our cohort reported as full-time, two joined the school focused, and two continued online through CUEA. The beginning was not all easy. Like all beginners, I lost my way on the campus many times.

Thank God for the office of the academic linkages. There is a mother in the office of the academic linkages by the names of Dr. Anna Rita. She created a bridge for us. Every HESA student at CUEA will tell you how she cares to clear the hurdles that may be along the academic path.

As I write, I can proudly say that our cohort of 18 still feel great about each other as the pioneers of HESA. We are following different subjects at different academic levels depending on our previous academic background. The concern for each other has made it possible to face the academic challenges. Oh yes, it was not an easy journey but it was an empowering experience. At the end of it, looking at the joy in the completed work, I forget all the tough days I went through. I forget the few times I was almost at tear point.

The experience reminds me of a story we used to be told by our parents when we were growing up: One day a Fox was given a hot stone smeared with a delicious source to swallow by a Hare. The Fox just opened the mouth and the Hare threw the hot stone in the mouth of the Fox to swallow. It was too hot for the Fox to swallow and too delicious to spit out. The Hare requested the Fox to swallow if he found it delicious or spit if it was too hot. Finding it difficult to do either, the Fox replied to the Hare; "Mire, mire omuriro, ncwere, ncwere obuuzi!", translated as: "How can I swallow fire, on the other hand, how can I spit this delicious meal!"

Good things come with hard work, so it was with being pioneer to the HESA program. It was a journey undergone in faith. It was not an easy trip.



Sr. Adeodata (Center) poses for a photo with fellow HESA graduates, ASEC East Africa Projects Director, Sr. Lina (front, Left), Dr. Ann Rita (front, Right), and Sr. Jane Wakahiu and Dr. Peter Gichure.

There were many a time when I wanted to give up. Oh, what a mistake this would have been! Education is truly wealth. To gain knowledge and skills is such an empowering experience.

To those sisters who are to join HESA, I say welcome. University education is a preparation to face the challenges of society but it is not a picnic. Prepare to work hard. The world more than ever before needs authentic and knowledgeable religious who will bring a difference in society. All you need is to offer yourself wholly and all will be well for you.

Sr. Teresa Adele is a Daughter of Divine Charity living around Nsambya Hill, Uganda. Sister is a 2014-2015 graduate of SLDI, studying on the Finance Track. Already she is making an impact in her community.



Sisters pose for a photo during the SLDI Finance Track Workshop, Uganda.

I am so grateful to ASEC-SLDI for the programs they facilitate particularly in Uganda. I am Sr. Teresa Adele, a Daughter of Divine Charity. Our apostolate is to train house girls on home management skills. It springs from our Foundress' original mission to provide training to impoverished girls and so uplift society. We started with six girls last year in October and later received another group of ten girls from different parts of the country.

The facilities we had at the beginning were not enough for us to train these girls.

Through the skills I gained during the 2014 SLDI Finance workshop in Kampala, I wrote a grant proposal for the construction of a laundry, store, and garage to Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters. It was successful. I received a grant of 15,000 U.S. dollars, or 42,989,250 Ugandan Shillings, which enabled us to build the structures we needed to support the girls and provide training.

Sr. Euphemia Beri is a sister of the Congregation of the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis, Cameroon. Sister is a 2014-2015 graduate of SLDI, studying on the Finance Track. Sisters was promoted to a new position upon completing SLDI.

ASEC has come to put into action the Gospel values saying to the crippled 'take up your sleeping mats and walk.' Rising sisters from grass to grace. Before I came to participate at the SLDI program, my apostolate was



Sisters from SLDI Finance Track, Cameroon, visit an organic agricultural project, the ministry of an SLDI alumna.

catering in the community and I was asked to do release duty at the Diocesan level in Central Africa. I had no idea of managing an account. Shortly after that, I was invited by my superiors to come for SLDI training.

The skills I learned there enabled me to update my accounts from a year back to the present month. This success, which was the fruit of the SLDI program, pleased my Superiors that they decided I should do more training in software, after which I will work as the bursar of one of our large hospital.

Is this not a big miracle ASEC has done in my life? Has it not asked me 'to pick up my sleeping mat and walk?' Has it not raised me from grass to grace? I really feel like shouting to the whole world the marvels ASEC is performing in Africa.

AN IMPORTANT AND CONTINUING COMPONENT OF THE SLDI PROGRAM IS MENTORSHIP. SISTERS WHO GRADUATE FROM SLDI ARE EXPECTED TO MENTOR AT LEAST 3 OTHER SISTERS, AND IN DOING SO THEY NOT ONLY UTILIZE THEIR NEWLY ACQUIRED LEADERSHIP SKILLS.

Many SLDI graduates go on to mentor more than 3 sisters and some mentor groups of sisters. As of May 2015, SLDI alumnae report having 1698 mentees and to date 2720 sisters have been mentored. For the first time in 2015, alumnae and mentees came together for a training, with 406 alumnae and mentees in attendance, representing 6 countries.

At the time of the training a mentee survey was conducted, which revealed that after experiencing mentorship: 92.6% were interested in attending leadership workshops, 58.9% accepted a promotion, 40% participated in special projects, 36.8% instituted new policies in their ministries, 28.4% started up new projects, 20% wrote grant proposals, 8.4% were able to secure funding (receiving approximately \$47,571 in grant funding), and 16.8% changed their career track.



Sr. Clariise Remijka Jaiwo, STH, ASEC Coordinator for Cameroon, described SLDI's mentoring component as a laudable pursuit. The most interesting thing is that some mentees become mentors to others and invited others to join mentoring sessions when they found the topics very interesting and helpful. Upon returning to their ministries, a remarkable degree of mentoring was done by sisters in field. With their

mentees, the sisters conducted independent sessions covering topics including time and stress management, human resource management, excel, bookkeeping, leadership, stewardship and accountability, just to name a few. Some participants even organized workshops to share knowledge and skills with large groups of women, youths, students, postulates or novices, thus diffusing the skill set to a broad audience.

I must say mentoring is a very laudable initiative that enables several lives to be transformed beyond the walls of the classrooms in the training center in Cameroon.

Sr. Regina Kadifwala, of the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa, Malawi, is alumna of SLDI Administration, described the joy of mentoring. Sr. Regina works as a clinical officer at St. Joseph's Community hospital. She completed the Basic Technology Workshop in 2013.



My experience after computer course is that I am now able to teach my sisters in the community on how to

use the computer like Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Internet usage. Living in the technological world, the use of technology is helping me to find and discover a lot of information I need to serve better.

I feel my life has completely changed after attending these trainings. As part of my training was on change management, I have personally accepted this change and ready to implement everything I have learnt for the development of my organization and my Congregation. And I am also ready to share the knowledge I have acquired to my sisters through mentoring program.



Sr. Wezie Esther Leonias Gondwe, M.I.C., Malawi, echoed Sr. Regina's joy in sharing knowledge.

Most of the time we are not aware of the pots we are holding and we do not know whether they are full or not. When we are open enough to the realities of life, it is when we discover which pot needs to be filled. We have different types of tools for us to come to the realities of life and one of it is ASEC programs and trainings given to

the sisters of different congregations.

We have different pots of knowledge but the pots of Administration and Finance were empty. Can we thank the SLDI program for taking an initiative for helping us filling our pots with knowledge like; on communication, stewardship, proposal writing, change and project management and many more through the training. We realize to have task of filling others' pots too by sharing our knowledge with them and make use of it in our places of work. When sharing our knowledge it's when we feel the beauty of being generous with the knowledge you have. Mentoring process will be always there to help us deepen the knowledge we have and we come to appreciate what ASEC has done to us. When we empty our pots by sharing with others it's when ours will be filled with some more knowledge.



Sr. Georgia Kyenda of the Institute of Missionary Sisters of Mary Mother of the Church, Uganda, a mentee, commented on the experience of mentoring.

I am currently a manager of Mbarara Catholic Bookshop and Mbarara Catholic Social Center. I would like to give vote of thanks to the founders and Directors of ASEC for the SLDI in Uganda. I have benefited through Sr. Germina Keneema, an

alumna of SLDI, who offered her time in mentoring me. She taught me how to use the books of accounts and taught me a Computer program called EXCEL. Now I have the skills, I make smart and timely monthly financial reports of these Diocesan projects that I head. Now I can make my reports with ease. I pray to God that He may continue to bless and guide you as you continue giving us this service in the world especially in Uganda.

SISTERS OFFER THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO FOR THE BENEFIT OF ASEC'S PROGRAM, PRAISING THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION IN THEIR OWN LIVES, AND IN THEIR CONGREGATIONS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

Sr. Estella Kasonde, Daughters of the Redeemer, Zambia, praised SLDI for helping save a friend's job.

During the December 2014 vacation, I decided to pay a surprise visit to my friend Joy (Pseudonym). Even if Joy tried to smile when she saw me, it was easy for me to tell that something was terribly wrong with her. A little probing revealed to me that my good friend was at the verge of losing her job. The establishment where she worked was reducing the number of



employees and a few people had already been laid off. Joy was told that her contract would not be renewed unless she explained in writing her relevance to the establishment. She needed to justify why the institution should not do away with her position. I was aware of what that job meant to Joy, and how devastated she would be if she lost it.

After reflecting on my friend's predicament, I realized that a clear job description could be just the solution to her problem. I asked her to explain to me what her job entailed. Using the skill of developing a job description that I acquired from ASEC/SLDI Leadership program, I was able to come up with a detailed job description for my friend. She presented to the board of managers at her place of work and within the next two weeks, she was signed a three-year contract

Sr. Eveling Ambe, Sisters of St. Ann, Cameron, described the “joy of discovering” her “hidden talent” through the SLDI program, especially regarding computer skills.

Amongst the many skills gained were computer skills. The computer was not equipment that I used to work with regularly. By the end of the third week, after the course on computer sciences, I took it upon myself to practice what I had learned.

Today, I am proud to say that thanks to ASEC, I could dig the hidden talents that were going to lie dormant and unused in my. Today, I am very happy when I prepare my talks using the computer skills I acquired through my training, and how people appreciate it. I used these skills both for pastoral animations and for recreational purposes. I am so proud of what I have become after training.



Sr. Mary Musonda, Little Servants of Mary Immaculate Sisters, Zambia, is a student studying online through HESA. She also commented on new technology skills gained in the program.

HESA has met its goals by creating a supportive learning environment to us sisters. HESA online learning provides an independent approach to distance learning and makes us to be more effective time

managers. While online learning, as a student, we develop the technological skills needed in our careers. Knowledge of the functions of the Internet, typing and software programs are necessary to be considered digitally literate, and studying online helps strengthen these skills.



Sr. Lydia Berewono, SMI, Ghana, expressed the impact of SLDI on her work as an accountant and reflected on the joy of forming bonds with sisters from other congregations.

I really enjoyed every bit of this program from beginning to end.

After treating stewardship, accountability and integrity, right away I understood the work of an accountant, my own responsibility. That as a steward of my congregation or area of work, I have the obligation of taking care of

whatever that is entrusted to my care, and therefore I am accountable to those whose property I take care of. And I am required to do this with integrity, honesty and faithfulness guided by a standard known as the professional code of ethics which guide all professionals in their service delivery as regard their moral behavior.

I again grasped the opportunity of learning how to record financial transactions properly especially using accounting software, and excel. I am very happy that this knowledge and with the help of the computer has helped me improve greatly in my work thus, increasing my production capacity. I have also gained knowledge on grant writing, strategic planning, and effective leadership which were my greatest expectations during this workshop. Leadership qualities such as service in leadership, stewardship, integrity, effective communication, sharing vision, a shepherd leader are the most important qualities I want to build in me as a leader in my small corner.

This program has also offered me the opportunity to make friends with other sisters from different congregations and through my sharing with them I am strengthen and encouraged to carry my cross because I am not the only one facing a particular challenge in life.



Sr. Angelica N. Atuhair, OLGC, SLDI, Uganda, echoed Sr. Lydia on the effect of sharing with sisters of many congregations.

There is true happiness in sharing with other sisters, especially when you are of different congregations. You have built us a home that makes us proud of be sisters, friends, one community members, and mostly the children of ASEC. I am going to do my level best to

share the knowledge I have got with my sisters and the whole community at large.

Sr. Ursula Agge, MMM, Kenya, reflected on the empowering force of knowledge.

“Knowledge is power” so goes the ancient saying, and it is true considering the learning experience of the SLDI finance track.

At the inception of this program, most of us came not well acquainted with financial matters but thanks to the program we are doing absolutely well. We have become competent in terms of accountability, budgeting and budgetary controls, alongside Proposal writing to source for funds to support our projects. It is thanks to ASEC and Conrad Hilton Foundation in general. Sisters have confidence as they work because they are empowered and those who have ideas in accounting before they came are more empowered now.

For some of us still, after participating in the course last year, 2014, in which we studied proposal writing for grants, we were able to apply for funds without calling for external consultants which would have been the case in times past prior to our coming for this program. One of the participants puts it this way and I quote: “The peak of my joy was the 5 year proposal I just got from one of the donors I wrote to, one can easily get approval from donors for a year but rarely for 5 years, I guess I must have done a good work, of course with the help of God.” Therefore, the importance of this course to us individually and collectively cannot be over emphasized.

There are also sisters who have never been able to negotiate for a better rate at the bank when opening or renewing a fixed deposit account, but after the program of last year, they are now able to negotiate with the banks at better and higher rates where necessary. It is an eye opener for sisters who have never been able to speak to bank officials or negotiate for businesses as well as making good and profitable investments.



Sr. Bernadette Mnyenyembe, SLDI Administration, Malawi, echoed Sr. Ursula.

The training has developed my courage, self-esteem and empowered me, especially relating to the topics of stewardship and accountability, servant and ethical leadership, and conflict resolution. I value these courses in my ministry very much. I am currently responsible for the welfare of pastoral sisters in the congregation and before this course

I found it difficult when asked to give guidance on issues dealing with leadership, but now I am able, because with the topics I have learnt I can advise them how to be a good servant and steward leader and how they can work on team building when working with people.

Sister Euteria Delia Paliani, of the Teresian Sisters (TS), Malawi, is an SLDI Alumnae and a teacher at Mtendere Boys Secondary School. She contributed a chapter to Voices of Courage.

I appreciate the knowledge and skills acquired through the computer basic technology and administration course offered to me. The skills have assisted me to write a book chapter titled, "The Sisters of Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus: Women of Great Zeal" which was published in Voice of Courage. In addition to that, the course has imparted me with the skills of how to deal with difficult personalities, ways of resolving conflicts, how to make a budget and ways of sourcing funds through proposal writing, ways of managing a project and many others. The skills are also assisting me to work efficiently, effectively and courageously as a nun and a teacher in the society, by creating conducive environment in my community and at work place.

Sr. Jane Perpetual Chitete, Sisters of Charity of Ottawa, SLDI Malawi, commented on the benefit of stress management skills.

It has been so difficult for me to manage the stress that I normally face in my apostolate which is a so challenging and stressful apostolate. I feel so empowered for I have come to know them means of managing stressing situations. I often had problems to manage my apostolate because I neglected and misused my time, which also resulted into stressing situations. After gaining knowledge of time management and delegation, I feel very much helped, for I am now a different person who can delegate and plant to manage time.



HESA students at CUEA share feedback, January 2015 site visit.



Keneema and Immaculate helping each other with computer skills during SLDI finance, Uganda, July 2015.

Students from ASEC-charter colleges, Marywood University and Chestnut Hill College, traveled to Tanzania in July 2015 through ASEC's Service Learning Program.

ASEC's Service Learning program was formed in 2008, to provide students at charter institutions with an opportunity to travel to Africa for service. Coupled with a 3 credit course taken in the semester prior to the experience, the program is designed to broaden students' perspective and to prepare them for citizenship in a global community. The program introduce students to Africa and facilitates a lifelong connection with the continent. In 2015, 9 students, 7 from Marywood and 2 from Chestnut Hill, were accompanied by 2 faculty in a service trip to the Bigwa Secondary School in Tanzania. In Tanzania, the students tutored English at the Bigwa School and visited selected ministries in the nearby community.



Marywood student, Nadine Burton, reflected on her experience in the service learning program by describing the experience as life-changing.

Those 20 days in Africa were the most inspiring and life changing experiences I have had to date. Through ASEC my team and I were able to travel to Morogoro, Tanzania to serve as teachers at the Bigwa School for high school girls and at local orphanages. Our mission was to help the girls with their English by teaching during the day. However,

since the students began taking their exams when we arrived, we could not continue with the original mission. ASEC was accommodating enough to give us the choice on how best to serve the girls and teachers at the school. We realized instead of having them push off their exams another two weeks, which would delay them going home for Summer break, it would be better to tutor the girls in small groups for the afternoon and help the teachers proctor exams in the morning.

The teachers were very nice and always accommodating to our needs even though we were there to serve them. They learned from us as much as we learned from them. It was nice to have a bond with them, especially the English teachers. When we made posters for all of the classrooms on the last day, they were joyful with the thought of decorations in the classroom.

In charge of the school was Sister Praxida and she was thrilled to have us spend our time with her students and staff. She appreciated our kindness and insight into the school but was even more grateful for our company.

The people in Tanzania are much different from people in the States. Even with all the hardships, they have a better soul, if one can say such a thing. They are kind to any person they meet, no skin color or language is an obstacle, and treat them as if they were family. When we were driving through Dar Es Salaam, we accidentally drove down a one way street, the wrong way. Instead of people honking at us, shouting curse words, giving us the middle finger, etc. like what would happen in the States, people along the side of the road, going about their everyday lives, helped us turn around and navigate our way on the street to safety. Even people in Morogoro would go out of their way to make sure we were happy.

On our last evening at Amabilis Centre, the hostel we stayed at, Sister Baptista, the person in charge of running the Centre, paid for boys from a seminary school to come perform for us as a going away party. She even heard us talking about craving pizza and hamburgers so she had the cooking staff make pizza and burgers for us one night. I am sure we would not have survived as well as we did without her help. She did not have to help make our stay easier or help show us around town but she went out of her way to make sure we were welcome in Tanzania. So many people made this trip mean more than any of us expected.

I was told right before I left for Africa from a friend that I would leave my heart in Africa. I did not believe him but now that I am back, I truly

SERVICE LEARNING

understand what he meant. I will always think back to the people I met in Tanzania, wondering how they are, where they are, and if they are okay. A part of me will always wonder if the orphans have found homes, or if they are sick with a fever from Malaria, or if someone is there holding them. Are the girls healthy, understanding the material in class, and happy?

A part of me is left in Africa, with the people I encountered and the sights I have seen. For anyone else traveling to Africa on a service trip I will tell him or her they will leave a piece of them there, but one really has to start the journey to understand, just as I did.

Marywood Student Emily Schweiger wrote a collection of poems about her experience in Tanzania.

Excerpt from "Orphans of God"

This orphanage in Tanzania
Is one of my favorite places to be;
Though the conditions are sad,
There is much more to see.

You do not know true joy
Until you have seen a child smile,
Especially one that appears very sad,
And hasn't been loved in a while.

You do not understand happiness
Until you have heard children laugh,
Their little giggles so priceless,
Bringing life in their eyes back.

You do not know fun
Until you've played with a child that's small
Communicating with love,
No words needed at all.

...

You have not really seen God
Until you have looked at His children
And realized they are beautiful creations
That He, Himself, resides in.

We must always remember
That no one is ever alone;
Orphans are children of God
And His loving comfort will be shown.

As the hands and feet of the Lord,
We must do what we can do
To spread His love to these children,
And help them make it through.



Cawike Chibuzo, Nigeria, is a Finance instructor of SLDI.



A student in Africa has a lot of battle to understand western terminologies, most of which don't have direct translation in our local dialects, incidentally most of the researches carried out in the social sciences at the international level are by western scholars, therefore both for the instructor and the students, there is a need to look for the nearest synonym to equate these terms in order to internalize them and ultimately work with them. In many cases, a lot of fun is created by breaking down these concepts.

For the 2015 SLDI finance group, we relied heavily on stories and case studies from the field experience of sisters to try and bring these concepts to our reality. We watched a lot of films that also helped out, the group also looked at hypothetical situations that touched on the core of the topics we handled including leadership, environmental analysis and ethics.

One of the things that stood out for me during the course of the 2015 SLDI Finance track was the fact that it is always good for students to have a good mix of theory and practical experience. It was obvious from our interaction in class that a lot of the sisters have meaningful practical exposure in the course of the discharge of their duties, which helped us navigate through ordinarily complex terrains smoothly.

Our discussion on Environmental Analysis made a deeper impression on the class when a sister narrated an experience they had in a community where an organization had a grant to construct a major road that leads to a community, but could not make a headway, because of an influential businessman in the community who saw the road construction as a threat to his interest in the community. He was the major supplier of motorcycles in the community and actually had a lot of young men that had his motorcycles on hire purchase.

We were deeply touched by the story a Sister from one of the states in the South Eastern part of Nigeria told us of how her group of sisters decided to set up a home to cater for some vulnerable children in the state capital

who are living in an over-stretched facility. According to her, they were so moved by the state of the said children that they rented an apartment and accepted some of the children into the house before they realized that they were not yet quite equipped professionally to cater to some of the children who have special needs like Dyslexia, Autism, and more acute developmental disabilities. She said that while they were still trying to grapple with that, they ran into another storm with the state government. The government office kept sending kids from the street to them, not minding the capacity of their facility, while giving them endless empty promises of support.

By the time our Sister from the South East Nigeria finished her story, she concluded by saying that she just realized their mistake of trying to meet a need based on the situation on ground, without first taking time to prepare both a strategic plan and a strategic implementation framework. In the many years I have been involved in training both as a participant and a facilitator; I have not been able to experience the level of camaraderie present at ASEC-SLDI track 2015. It is actually true that we love learning in a friendly environment as human beings.



Safiya Mansoor, Nigeria, is a SLDI Administration Instructor.

In 2007, I was approached to facilitate the Finance Track phase 1. I have been a part of the program since then. During the phase 1 workshop, we were involved in the training for Nigeria and Ghana. I have never met a people, so loving, eager to learn, determined, focused fun

to be with and most importantly so intelligent and selfless in their service to humanity.

When you interact with and watch the Sisters during training some come in shy and timid but as the training progresses they blossom into confident and outspoken individuals at the end of the program. They now have self-strength, control, self-power, self-reliance, own choice, life of dignity in accordance with their values.

As with any thing in life, I encountered some challenges arising from the varied educational background, qualification, and experience on the job and well as computer appreciation of the Sisters. This slowed down the tempo of the training at first, but with teamwork everyone became involved in being their sisters' keeper so at the end of the training with shared experiences everyone was carried along and better than they came in.

Over the years, ASEC/SLDI has helped the Sisters to develop themselves during and after training in various skills especially mentoring, web design, grant-writing, proposal writing, presentation, and leadership skills. Some have taken up writing professional exams as well as developing projects of their choice.

I had an enriching experience with other Facilitators from African countries during the workshop in Kenya early in the year 5th-8th January, 2015 where I learnt to appreciate the life of Women Religious better among other things.

The Sisters have come a long way, they have been empowered therefore, my expectation is that in the future the best participants will be further trained (Train-the-Trainer) workshop to facilitate in future programs and that they continue to develop and sustain projects that will improve their communities and environments.

Mark Mantey, Ghana, is an SLDI instructor.

I am overwhelmed with happiness that Women religious in Africa are being provided with opportunities to reach their full potential through the SLDI. By the virtue of their consecrated life as Religious Sisters, there is a higher expectation that they should help to address 'human suffering and destitution' with effectiveness and competence. Managing

a healthy administration of goods operated by Women religious in the socioeconomic context of contemporary societies comes with its own unique set of challenges. Consequently, providing Sisters in Africa with critical competencies to help tackle 'human suffering, destitution' and administration of services is a step in the right direction.



I am privileged to be associated with such an innovative project as an instructor. In the beginning, I did not fully realize the importance of the programme, until I began my interaction with the first cohort of sisters.

It is truly incredible to witness the impact the SLDI training and education has to the specific needs and contexts in which some of the sisters are working. I work with two

sisters who completed the SLDI program. In the center where I work, our work is primarily based around the rehabilitation and reintegration of former leprosy and buruli ulcer sufferers into their communities, the critical competencies are required to efficiently run operations.

Our center is benefiting immensely from the training of two sisters who completed the SLDI administration and finance tracks. Their training has come at the right time as there are many structural and organizational changes being implemented in a bid to improve the center. Many of the changes we are implementing currently are only possible because of the hard work and dedication of the two sisters, Sr. Gladys Kyoshabire (DMJ) and Sr. Louise Kwizera (DMJ). Our attempt to put sound financial management systems and managing internal controls in place is strengthened by the sister's new found skills, courtesy of their SLDI training.

In recent months, we have witnessed some amazing developments with Sr. Gladys, who used her own initiative to organize a two-week summer program for over 50 children. She is currently the secretary of the management team of PPRC and is applying what she learned from the administration track regarding effective meeting to her work. Sr. Louise has learned many skills during her finance track course and she has become invaluable in the running of the center.

I have watched the course grow and have had the pleasure of watching it impact the lives of those participating. I am excited to see how the course continues to adapt and grow. It has certainly impacted the lives of the two sisters from the center and it will stand to them in whatever situations they may find themselves in the future.



A portion of facility involved in teaching SLDI Financial Management track.



Faculty teaching SLDI Administration track engage in discussion during SLDI faculty workshop, January 2015.

Sr. Mary Matilda Sorkpor, HDR, President of the Conference of Women Religious in Ghana, reflects on “The Year of Consecrated Life”

The Conference of Women Religious in Ghana is committed to the educational and on-going spiritual development of the Ghanaian Sisters, to be able to fulfill the call of Christ in His mission to the Church today. The Conference in the past has been in collaboration with ASEC and continuous to be cooperation in promoting educational and spiritual development for Ghanaian Sisters. The Ghanaian Sisters are grateful to God for our vocation to respond in faith to follow Jesus Christ in the Religious Life, seek intimate relationship with Christ, and live out our common missions expressed in the various charisms of the Congregations within and outside Ghana. Truly, by our common vocation we are united and respond to our diverse Charisms in focusing on education, ministry to the sick, and offering social services.

Through ASEC- SLDI Aand HESA educational and spiritual programs, the Ghanaian Sisters are impacted with knowledge and empowerment that enhance the individual self-transformation and commitment to our missions. Through prayers, self-sacrifices and ministry, we become witnesses of Christ, and imitators of Him, as contemplating on the mountain, feeding the hungry, healing the sick and setting captives free. The Ghanaian Fante adage goes “If you educate a woman you educate a nation” holds true with ASEC goals in delivering educational programs for the Ghanaian Sisters that cultivate critical and competencies, giving us the feeling of empowerment, growth in knowledge, and making positive impact in our societies. As, we administer projects and programs that alleviate human suffering and poverty in Ghana and other parts of the world. Through this empowerment we serve as beacon to better human lives especially for children and women.

The experiences of transformation of the mind and attitudes through modern technology help us to improve our work with the acquired skills, such as designing our own work, adapting collaborative spirit of teamwork and dynamics of dealing with different people.



SLDI alumnae-mentee meeting, sisters showcase posters, Kenya.

The Ghanaian Sisters are taking meaningful action to create and run small projects for self-reliant for our congregations that offers job HESA students at orientation for Chestnut Hill College, online, in Ghana. finance management with great accountability.

Similarly, the Ghanaian Sisters are competent in administering and delivering educational projects and programs to young /old women to establish them and being responsible in their families and in the society. This has been an effective means of responding to human suffering and the destitute through human capacity building and sustainable social-economic growth like farming, catering, sewing, personal hygiene, orphanages and religious instructions.

Many challenges the Ghanaian Sisters as we serve the people. Often, there is a misunderstanding of Religious Life. The lay people do not understand Religious Life, therefore, the Ghanaian Sister is torn between a lay and consecrated person. Ghanaian Sisters working in

Church Institutions are not recognized as collaborators of the ministry of the Church, but seen as one of the hired laborers. We lack financial support from local Church and Government to support our spiritual and sustainable social projects.

To sum up, by the grace of God, we live our dedication to God, and respond to our call to holiness, the following of Christ in His mission to the Church with unbounded generosity, love, devotion to God and the Church towards others.



Sr. Agnes Wamuyu Ngure FES, Executive Secretary, Association of sisterhoods of Kenya, discusses the “Solidarity and Strength of Catholic Sisters”

The partnership between the Association of Sisterhoods of Kenya (AOSK) and African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC) continues to grow stronger and bearing immense graces. ASEC and AOSK are two networks coming together for greater

the impact. Coordinating with others scopes in great synergy, enabling each to achieve and influence the lives of religious congregations, their institutions and services. Yes, partnerships open new horizons and activating mental processes that envision new possibilities for greater partnership especially if there is a mutual and shared achievement.

AOSK as an umbrella organization of close to 160 congregations in Kenya has been the first beneficiary of this partnership. AOSK has boosted its capacity to respond to the needs of religious women in Kenya. It has reached out more visibly to the members and Sisters from diverse congregations have had the opportunity for interactions and exposure. These last two years have seen great numbers of sisters join institutes of higher learning and other relevant trainings in finance, administration and technology than ever. ASEC is achieving its goal and fulfilling its mission likewise. There is mutual benefit.

It is certain that as the number of educated consecrated women increases, the greater the possibility of having educated leadership and better leadership teams. The representation capacities are enhanced, for they have content and can articulate ideas, participate actively and contribute to discussions with confidence. They are accountable and can take conscious and informed decisions. Leaders who can deliver are esteemed and members are feels good and identify with them. The benefit of education far outweighs the cost.

ASEC and AOSK has a shared conviction that if religious women have access to quality and affordable educational possibilities then they will expand their outreach, offer more professional and quality services to the church and society. Because by educational empowerment they will enhance their understanding of themselves and the world; they will begin to understand more clearly who they are called to be and they are called to do in this most complex time in history; raise their personal and institutional profile; run more sustainable activities and will attract and support more vocations.

It is assumed that all the sisters who will be educated will remain committed to their religious consecration, that they will be able to use their skills, mentor others and that they will collaborate with congregational leadership to improve their organizational capacities. It is hoped that the improvement of the quality of their lives will lead to greater social benefits, will raise productivity and creativity, secure economic sustainability and support the charitable ministry of the church to a hundred fold.

Religious women offer a great service and at times very sensitive and delicate to the church and society. To be authentic and prophetic witnesses also requires that sisters have a combination of all qualities

both spiritual and professional that are connected with trained and skilled people and reach a level of excellence and competence that is necessary for ministry each according to her talents and professional orientation. Sisters have been entrusted with much and are running huge institutions. This globalized world endowed with new technology requires a new mind set and professionalism well versed with ethical formation than ever. Ongoing theological and professional formation will increase the ability of Consecrated women to better serve the church in its evangelizing mission.

The journey is not yet over, and education will never be enough given the large number of women joining religious life in Kenya today and the demands for professional upgrading. I am glad and proud to be part of this story both as an alumnus and as an executive.



A HESA student receives her Diploma in Leadership and Resource Management from Tangaza College, Kenya.

Bro. Luwerekera Bernard, PhD.; Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Kisubi (KBUC), assesses KBUC's Collaboration with Marywood University and ASEC after one year

The conversation about the possibility of a collaboration between the then Kisubi Brothers University College (KBUC) and Marywood University, in conjunction with the African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC), had started way back in early 2013. Brother Deogratias Mugema, then Acting Principal of the College, entrusted me with the responsibility to maintain communication with Marywood and ASEC, through the good contact of Sr. Jane Wakahiu, LSOSF, Executive Director of ASEC.

A couple of emails were exchanged, mainly comprising of the draft Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), between KBUC and Marywood, on the one hand; and KBUC and ASEC on the other. Sr. Jane followed the discussions in the emails, with a telephone call on a few occasions, in order to articulate a certain point, or to seek further clarification on a particular issue that was deemed to be of significant importance for the collaboration. Sr. Jane was due to visit our College in January 2014; so this provided the timeline for our studying of the MoUs. Indeed, all was set for the signing of the ASEC-KBUC MoU on January 6, 2014.

A MOU, to formalize KBUC's relationship with Marywood, was to be signed six months later, on June 11, 2014. It also served as a test case for the kind of educational relationship the three institutions were seeking. Hence, to ascertain the viability of the critical role technology was meant to play in the realization of this partnership, the teams at Marywood and at KBUC opted to carry out the signing of the MOU at their respective institutions, in the USA and in Uganda. At exactly 4.00 p.m. on that date, the President of Marywood University, Sr. Anne Munley IHM, PhD headed the team on the other side and eventually co-signed the MoU, via a 'Blue Jeans' connection prior arranged by Sr. Jane, with his counterpart, Professor John Ssebuwufu, the KBUC Principal, who headed the team this side. At the end of the day, the event was a great success.

Meanwhile, Sr. Germina lost no time to begin recruiting potential candidates for the August in-take of the ASEC-Marywood-KBUC scholars

that same year. This would be the pioneer class, the first cohort of eight Sisters on the programme. Although the collaboration was to cover the Faculty of Education and that of Business and ICT, the pioneer class enrolled in the Faculty of Business and ICT alone. This is because the students on this programme are to do the whole course of their studies here at the KBUC campus. On the contrary, the Sisters on the Education programme will have to enroll at Marywood for the first part of their course, and will eventually transfer to KBUC for the remaining part and for their degree award. We are, therefore, expecting our pioneer class on the Education programme for the 2016/2017 in-take, as the Business program will be welcoming Sisters on its third in-take.

Looking back at the year of our collaboration with Marywood and ASEC, one marvels at how much progress has been realized in so short a time. With sixteen Sisters already beneficiaries of the programme, the first cohort of our student Sisters will be graduating in 2017. Both at the institutional level as well as at the level of the individual Sisters, this collaboration has connected us to a large network of the different stakeholders of this programme across the African continent, the USA and elsewhere. The future of our collaboration is very bright, for it comes at a time when KBUC has grown to become an autonomous university, the University of Kisubi (UniK), now duly licensed by the National Council for Higher Education since June this year. We extend our deepest appreciation to all those who work tirelessly to make this programme and our collaborations ever stronger and better!



Staff members of KBUC at the signing of the MOU on 11th July 2014 at Kisubi Brothers University College. Seated: Prof John Ssebuwufu and Sr. Margaret Kubanze; Standing looking on: Sr. Germina Keneema, Bro. Bernard Luwerekera, Ms. Scovia Alijawa, Bro. Kizito Mulindwa Aloysius, Bro. Ssekate Vincent and Bro. Kalama John Baptist.

Sr. Eneless Chimballi, SBVM, Secretary General, Association of Consecrated Women of Eastern and Central Africa (ACWECA), reflects on the impact of ASEC in Malawi.



I serve as Secretary General of the Association of Consecrated Women of Eastern and Central Africa and want to give testimony to what I have observed over the last two years that ASEC has been working with sisters in Africa. The Association of Women Religious in Malawi (AWRIM) started hosting the program in 2014 with 4 circles of 20 Sisters each.

This group will be graduating in December 2015. Many of SLDI's goals align with the goals of AWRIM and its 2014-2018 Strategic plan. I have witness positive changes among the sisters who participate in SLDI:

- Many Sisters are able to communicate using emails;
- Sisters felt appreciated and recognized some even confessing that I had never known that I will have a computer in my Life but today through ASEC I have;
- It have has opened up for some sisters for Further education;
- They feel motivated as religious people that they can fit in the society; and
- It has brought Joy in many religious communities and congregations.



ASEC Board Member, Ms. Brigid Blake, talks with SLDI administration students in Malawi.



Sr. Bonita Mbawala OSB, General Secretary, Tanzania Catholic Association of Sisters, describes “The Power of Transformative Collaboration”

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude for what you are doing for us. Our Sisters were taking different trainings, such as Computer, Finance and

Administration etc. These trainings have enabled the Sisters to acquire education of the modern world. For example, nowadays they can do activities in a technical way compared to the past where they performed activities basing on experience. At that time in the past they had no computer knowledge which could enable mathematical calculations in expertise and speed but now all these are possible through ASEC effort.

These courses have given challenges to the sisters whereby they have gained new knowledge in performing their ministry better than before. The sisters appreciated very much about this program and urge that the program continue for other groups of sisters.

TCAS have seen also the importance of this program and we urge you to support the request of the African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC) to find another program, since not all the congregations of TCAS have had this golden change.

We appeal to ASEC to continue providing these courses to enable our sisters to work comfortably with the current world as Tanzania is a great country and the number of sisters who have passed these courses is big, though many other congregations have not sent their sister to take these courses.

Again we thank you very much for your cooperation and collaboration with our Association. We have nothing to pay you except with our prayers for yours kindness.



Novices at a formation house Mgorore Sisters, Morogoro, Tanzania. Novitiate is run by an SLDI alumna.

Education for the Life Of Africa And For The Life Of The World

By Anne Munley, IHM, President of Marywood University



At a time when this world needs moral leadership borne of integrity, Pakistani teenager Malala Yousafzai, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, stands tall. Survivor of a 2012 assassination attempt by the Taliban, she is a passionate advocate for education, especially for girls. Now a global spokesperson for universal access to education, Malala is an icon of courage and hunger for education—the

courage and hunger for education that I have seen and experienced in opportunities that I have had to engage with young people and women religious in various sub-Saharan countries of Africa.

The African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC) is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when people of good will come together to provide a creative response to a crying need for development of God-given potential through capacity building and access to higher education. Like Malala, the African Sisters, who have been, are, or will be participants in the Sister's Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI) or in the Higher Education for Sisters in Africa program (HESA) recognize that education transforms society as well as individuals.

What has been accomplished so far through SLDI is truly remarkable. Thanks to a series of grants from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, nearly 2,500 Sisters in East and West Africa have empowered themselves and so many others by acquiring needed skills and educational credentials to enhance the impact and sustainability of their vital outreach through a wide range of educational, health care, social service and pastoral ministries. Soon, through Phase IV of the Sisters' Leadership initiative, another 1,890 Sisters in Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan, Zambia, Malawi and Lesotho will benefit from various instructional tracks in basic technology and web design, or through competency-based financial and leadership training. Every Sister who is educated is a spark of light and fire that ignites and fans the flames of possibility for all those who are touched by her life of service.

I feel blessed to have seen with my own eyes the impact that access to educational opportunities through SLDI and HESA has had on the Sisters, their co-workers and those among whom they minister. The Sisters of Africa are woven into the fabric of the everyday lives of the people. They are a quiet, yet powerful presence in both urban and remote rural areas where they have been missioned by their Congregations. They respond to needs of every kind from direct service to orphans, vulnerable woman and children, the poor, the sick, the excluded and displaced, to establishment of schools, healthcare and social service institutions that meet current needs while also preparing future generation, to systemic change initiatives such as agricultural cooperatives, micro-financing, and organized networks to counter human trafficking.

I have reflected long and hard on the generosity with which the Sisters share what they have learned with others. The expectation that each Sister who participated in SLDI would mentor at least three other persons has been greatly surpassed. It has touched me deeply to see how quickly the Sisters have put what they have learned into practice. They are extraordinarily resourceful in identifying needs and working collaboratively to meet them. Some of them have become adept at writing grants to help support and sustain their ministries. They are role models in the fullest meaning of the term in countries where gender disparities often have set

huge obstacles in the path of girls and women. And they bring to all they are and do hearts of compassion.

There is a Swahili proverb that states succinctly but profoundly: "Wealth, if you use it, comes to an end; learning, if you use it, increases." I would like to expand that adage based on my experience of the impact of the SLDI and HESA programs and related ASEC activities. The Sisters in sub-Saharan Africa that I have been privileged to meet and see in action are surely a part of the wealth of the continent: as their learning expands, they are a transformative force for the betterment of all.

Those of us in the United States who are a part of ASEC are blessed by this experience of global Sisterhood. Through ASEC we have grown in mutuality and understanding of the strength that flows from interdependence. Because of my ongoing involvement with ASEC, my heart resonates with the concluding passage of "A Call to Solidarity with Africa," a 2001 Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops:

The Synod for Africa reminded us of the astonishing richness of the cultures of Africa and the profound contributions that the Church in Africa has made to the universal Church from its earliest history. We indeed mutually enrich each other in mission when we engage one another as sisters and brothers in Christ, in whom we find our true riches and our lasting hope. The critical challenges and enormous potential facing Africa today serve as the opportunity for—and test of—our mutual solidarity. Our response to this vocation of solidarity with the Church and peoples of Africa enables us to express love "in deed and in truth" (1 Jn 3:18), a love that creates no borders and sets no limits to what might be accomplished together in Christ.

Sr. Anne Munley is the out-going president of ASEC's Board.

Partners in Mission: ASEC and SHCJ (Society of the Holy Child Jesus)
By Mary Ann Buckley, SHCJ



We, Holy Child sisters, are an international community of women religious, committed to live the life of the gospel and inspired by our American founder, Cornelia Connelly, to respond to the needs of our time.

The deep foundation of our mission is the mystery of the Incarnation. From God's outreach to us in human form we receive our mission to reach out to others in love and service. In our

constitutions we say that we want to help others grow strong in faith and live fully human lives. The mission that drives us is, quite simply, to help people believe that God lives and acts in them and in our world so that they can truly rejoice in God's presence.

In the past 20 years we've placed great emphasis on partnering with other groups to accomplish this mission. In 1997 we committed ourselves to collaborating with other congregations, churches, faith traditions and organizations for this purpose, and we just renewed this commitment in July 2015 at our most recent provincial chapter. Consequently, we regard ASEC as one very vital way that our congregation can collaborate with other institutions to respond to an unmet need for the sake of the reign of God.

Education — of children and adults, at every level, in schools and in non-traditional settings — has been a major way we've dedicated ourselves to helping people live more fully human lives. So, partnering in the creation and development of ASEC has been a very good fit for us. We want to do everything in our power to help people grow to their full potential as whole persons. We are passionate about the education of women. We believe in the power of women religious to be catalysts for the full flowering of many other people and we are delighted to join our

energy and vision with that of ASEC to realize these goals in a part of the world that is too often exploited or ignored, in places where our own community is growing in wisdom, age and grace.

As collaborators Holy Child sisters are also beneficiaries of ASEC's mission. In Africa, the Society has a growing province of sisters in Ghana, Nigeria and Chad, with a small community of students in Kenya. Our African Province is now the largest in the congregation, with a median age of 35, so the education of new members is a constant challenge to creativity and resources. ASEC has helped us meet this challenge. Since 2009 two sisters, from both Ghana and Nigeria, have participated each year in the Sisters' Leadership Development Institute (SLDI) and one is currently enrolled in the program for Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA). We expect that kind of involvement to continue and are grateful for it.

Sisters in SLDI have expressed appreciation for all aspects of the program. Sr. Angela Adimazoya says, "I use the skills of motivation to encourage my pupils to learn harder and to keep themselves neat by the rewards, affirmation and praises methods....I use conflict management in my local community...Mentoring was also a great help to me...I also tried my hand on proposal/project writing..." Sr. Mary Akinwale says, "SLDI has been of tremendous help in my Masters program in Educational Administration and Planning and in my work as the Society's representative to UNANIMA" [a non-governmental organization of women religious at the United Nations].

The skills our sisters acquire become gifts they can bring confidently to our many ministries. We staff schools at every level in northern and southern Ghana, as well as schools, clinics, adult education centers and an organic farm in eastern, western and northern Nigeria. An added benefit is that SLDI is inter-congregational, a feature that promotes the possibility of networking and collaborating to make an even more effective response to the pressing needs of each place.

For all these reasons ASEC is for us a community of partners with whom we share a vision and commitment; surely the ripple effect of that sharing is more than we could ever ask or imagine.

Sisters of Saint Joseph Associates in Mission Support ASEC

By Mary Ellen Norpel, SSJ Associate in Mission

SSJ Associates are women and men who share a common mission with the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia. They have been aware of the work of the African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC) since its inception because the congregation and Chestnut Hill College are founding members.

In 2004, the group of associates who meet at Mount Saint Joseph Convent in Chestnut Hill invited Sister Kathryn Miller, ASEC board member and assistant to the president at CHC, to share her experiences with our African sisters who had come to Philadelphia for the United States Conference, Women Religious Bridge the Gap: Collaborative Education for Service. This conference was the beginning of relationships that developed in summer 2006 when five African sisters studied at CHC and lived with SSJ communities.

By 2009, both Sister Kathryn, who had visited ASEC sisters and ministries in Africa, and Sister Lisa Olivieri, who had taught the sisters in the summer sessions in several African countries, updated the associate group on the amazing development of ASEC programs. Associates learned of SLDI, the Sisters Leadership Development Initiative, HESA, Higher Education for Sisters in Africa, and the Bigwa School.

When associates discovered that four of our African sisters would be staying with SSJ communities in April, 2015, they thought it was a perfect opportunity to invite Sisters Kathryn and Lisa and the sisters to deepen our relationships and commitment.

The presenters provided an attractive environment for the gathering. They displayed colorful African cloths and artifacts, the latest ASEC magazine issue, calendars, and the SSJ One With magazine that highlighted the involvement of SSJs and CHC in the ministries of ASEC.

Associates were delighted to know that travel to Africa was on the

horizon for both of our Chestnut Hill College presenters. Sister Kathryn will represent ASEC at graduation ceremonies in Zambia and Malawi in December, 2015; Sister Lisa was scheduled to prepare a new cohort of students for distance learning during June/July 2015 in Ghana. Her students would come from Ghana, Nigeria, and Cameroon.

Consider what the lives of many U. S. readers would be like were it not for the work in education and social service provided by sisters. With modern technology and ASEC, all of Africa could be transformed!

We Are Witnesses of Communion

By Sister Anne Myers SSJ, Ph.D., Congregational President, Sisters of Saint Joseph

Pope Francis proclaimed 2015 the Year of Consecrated Life, citing that



the aim of this year was to “look at the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion and to embrace the future with hope.” He urged consecrated women and men to be “witnesses of communion, the joy of the Gospel and to go to the margins of society to proclaim the Good News.”

I believe that the wonderful work of ASEC is in complete harmony with these aspirations of our Holy Father. African and United States (U.S.) women

religious, and our lay board partners, along with the Hilton Foundation, are truly “witnesses of communion” as we work together for the education of our African sisters. Equipped with much needed resources, these sisters are going “to the margins of society” and transforming them—what a proclamation of the Good News of Jesus! Through this communion, all of us go with them to the margins as well.

Pope Francis urged us to “look at the past with gratitude.” Our U.S. Congregations look with great gratitude at the many ways our charisms and heritage have been gifts to the Church. We “live the present with passion” as we daily serve others in ministry. As we “embrace the future with hope,” we link arm in arm with our African Sisters as part of the global sisterhood of women religious. And while many of our U.S. congregations are decreasing in number, our African counterparts are increasing, which gives hope and joy to all of us, for we are one. Reflecting on the many sisters who have participated in leadership development and various skill-building through SLDI (Sisters’ Leadership Development Initiative), education at Bigwa School, and higher education through HESA (Higher Education for Sisters in Africa) there is reason for great hope.

As Congregational President of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, I have been a member of the ASEC Board of Directors since 2009. This has been a wonderful experience of relationships and has expanded my consciousness of a much broader world.

I am touched by the core values of ASEC, particularly the value of “empowerment” to which I would add the word mutual. This is central to the experience of all of us who are involved, as minds and hearts are touched on both continents - Africa and North America. Through our relationships, we are mutually impacting each other.

African Sisters are being empowered and at the same time, they are empowering us, their U.S. partners in this venture. Mutual Empowerment is the “...freedom and capacity to act purposely with the use of the energies, resources, and strengths of each person through a mutual relational process.” (adpt. Jordan, Walker and Hartling 2004).

As we connect with one another, we all grow, expand our consciousness and are enriched beyond measure. These relationships have changed us. Our African sister-friends have taught us about their culture and customs. We have been inspired by their courage, faith, love and zeal, their stories of reaching out to the poor in their own countries, procuring resources to

improve the lives of the people they serve. They have enlarged our world, our hearts and our souls. Personally, the example of these sisters quietly challenges me to be all that God calls me to be. They unknowingly stir the flame of my original zeal. Africa is no longer a distant continent to be viewed on a map. It is alive with these sisters’ eager faces, twinkling eyes and loving hearts.

May we continue to grow through our mutual relationships that empower each one of us and that have the power to change the continent of Africa. As Pope Francis urges, let us “witness to communion, the joy of the gospel, and go to the margins of society to proclaim the good news.” ASEC is doing exactly this!



ASEC Board Members pose for a photo at the 2015 Annual Board Meeting, Scranton, Pa.



Sisters in Tanzania purchased a school bus to encourage young students to attend school.



A HESA student shares her experience at a student meeting, CUEA.

SISTERS IN ACTION

CAMEROON



Sisters take notes during a SLDI field study visit, Cameroon.



Sisters at group work trying to draw up a Strategic Plan on Formation.



Sisters chatting on their way to class in Cameroon.



Sr. Tabot assisting to give a sheep to a woman in a support project for women during a field study visit, Cameroon.



Sisters Rigbe, Dorothy and Felicia during a class presentation on Project Design and Planning.

GHANA



52 sisters participated in the SLDI Alumnae gathering, Kumasi, Ghana.



SLDI Ghana graduation, September 2015.



HESA students at Reflective Learning, Ghana.



HESA students practice computer skills during orientation, June-July 2015.



SLDI graduates attend their graduation ceremony, Ghana.



HESA students studying online at Chestnut Hill College and onsite at Catholic University College of Ghana (CUCG) pose of a photo at Reflective Learning, June 2015.



Chestnut Hill Orientation, Ghana.



Sisters from Ghana and Nigeria, entering Chestnut Hill College online participate in orientation, July 2015.

KENYA



SLDI faculty participate in a group discussion at Donum Dei Center, Nairobi, Kenya.



One way alumnae exhibited their talents and activities in their ministries at alumnae meeting is through poster sessions. Sisters are pictured hanging up their posters for display.



SLDI alumnae-mentee meeting, sisters showcase posters.



HESA students at CUEA share feedback, January 2015 site visit.



Graduation ceremony, Tangaza College, December 2014. posters, Kenya.



Eighty eight (88) alumnae-mentees gathered for a three-day workshop in Kenya, January 2015. They showcased successes in their ministries in Kenya.



Sisters from Kenya and South Sudan, studying at four universities, CUEA, Chemchemi Institute, Tangaza College, and online at Marywood University, participated in HESA Reflective Learning, July 2015.



SLDI field study visit to Cottolengo Centre. The Centre started in 1994, with the aim of taking care of vulnerable abandoned and Orphaned children, who are either infected or affected by HIV+ from all Kenya and preferably from Nairobi. It is managed by the Cottolengo Sisters here in Kenya.



Sr. Margaret Wangeci, LSOSF, graduated from Tangaza College in May 2015 with a Diploma in Leadership and Resource Management.



HESA Reflective Learning, Kenya.



A group of sisters among the 21 to enter Tangaza College, cohort 2, pose for a photo at orientation, December 2015.



HESA cohort 3 students studying online at Marywood University through a partnership with CUEA, and cohort 2 studying on campus at CUEA pose for a photo during HESA orientation, December 2014.



Sisters from cohort 2 to enter Chemchemi Ya Uzima institute participate in mass during orientation, August 2015.



ASEC's book, Voice's of Courage was displayed during a book launch ceremony at CUEA in October 2015. institute participate in mass during orientation, August 2015.

MALAWI



SLDI Finance students pose for a photo with Malawi's Minister of Gender and Second Speaker of Parliament (center) during a field study visit, posters, Kenya.



Sisters of SLDI and HESA, as well as CUEA staff, students, and guests, participate in ASEC book launch.



Sr. Hilaria poses with a child at an orphanage during a field study visit.



SLDI students, Malawi, pose for a photo during a field study visit to an orphanage.



Sisters in Malawi with children during a field study visit.

22/05/2015



SLDI students Malawi, play with children during a field study visit.



77 Alumnae gathered for meeting in Ontisha, Nigeria.



NIGERIA

SLDI students, Nigeria, pose with their laptops.



Celebration at SLDI graduation, Nigeria



Sr. Florence & Sr. Jane with HESA students at Veritas.



Professor Michael Kwanashie, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor, Veritas University-Abuja (left) and Sr. Jane Wakahiu, Ph.D., ASEC Executive Director, pose for a photo at the signing of a Framework of Reference between ASEC and Veritas, September 2015.



Sister students of SLDI, Nigeria, participate in a Field Study visit.



Professor Michael Kwanashie and Sr. Jane Wakahiu pose for a photo at the FOR signing, September 2015.



SLDI alumnae-mentee meeting, sisters showcase posters, Kenya.



HESA students studying online at Chestnut Hill College talk to one of their instructors during Reflective Learning, June 2015.



Sixteen sisters studying at Veritas University, Abuja, Nigeria, pose for a photo at HESA Reflective Learning.



Nigerian sisters studying online at Chestnut Hill College, pose for a photo at HESA Reflective Learning.

TANZANIA



An SLDI alumna in Tanzania was awarded a grant from UNDP through the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme for the construction of a Solar Powered Water Pumping Scheme.



Sisters participate in a ceremony during the offering of gifts during SLDI graduation in Tanzania.



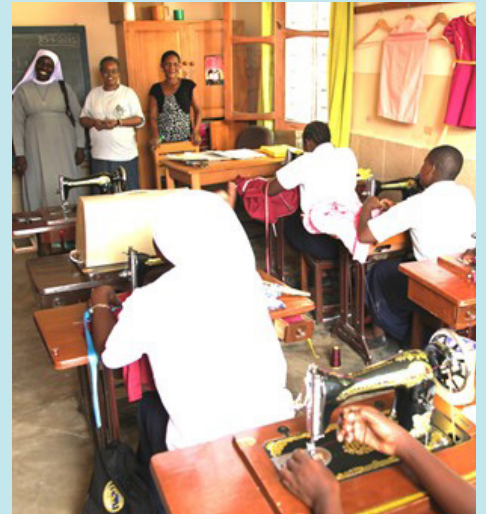
Sr. Anita, Tanzania, displays her SLDI Finance certificate while posing for a photo with friends.



A student at the Bigwa School, Tanzania.



Students at the Bigwa School, during ASEC's January 2015 site visit to Tanzania.



MSOLA sisters engage in developing skills to young women in the low-income area in Dar es Salaam, January 2015 site visit. posters, Kenya.



ASEC Board Member, Ms. Brigid Blake attends SLDI graduation in Tanzania. posters, Kenya.



Sisters at the Bigwa Secondary School, January 2015.



A borehole constructed at Bigwa School has resolved water problems; students now have fresh vegetables grown in the school compound.



*Sr. Jane met with administrators at Saint Augustine University during her site visit, January 2015.
Through HESA, 24 sisters are studying for bachelor's degrees at SAUT; in addition, a number of sisters are studying for 2-year diplomas at SAUT through ASEC's scholarship program.*



HESA cohort 1 and 2 students studying at Saint Augustine University, Tanzania, participated in HESA Reflective Learning, July 2015.



SLDI Finance, during a field visit, Sisters make a stop at the Equator, Uganda.



SLDI Finance, sisters pose for a photo during a field study visit to Mother Kevin Organic Farm, Uganda, May 2015.



SLDI Finance, field visit at St. Joseph vocational School, Kyabirukwa, Uganda.



SLDI Administrator workshop, Uganda.



SLDI alumnae-mentee meeting, sisters showcase posters, Kenya.



HESA Cohort 2 to KBUC orientation, July 2014.



Sisters participate in a group discussion during HESA Reflective Learning, Uganda. posters, Kenya.



Cohort 2 students join Kisubi Brothers University College, Uganda.



An new SLDI alumna speaks at SLDI graduation, Uganda, October 30, 2015.



SLDI alumna, instructors, and board member Sr. Jane Farr, right, celebrate graduation in Uganda, October, 2015.

ZAMBIA



Sister Catherine, is an SLDI alumna and one of four Holy Rosary Sisters running projects at Chipapa, January 2015 site visit.



Thirty seven SLDI alumnae and mentees held annual meeting at Maria Center, Lusaka Zambia.



Altar-bread bakery, Zambua.posters, Kenya.



SLDI Administration students pose for a photo, Zambia.



SLDI Administration students engage in a group discussion. Left to right: Srs. Regina, Jacqueline, Elizabeth, Evelyn, Nalishebo & Antoinetteposters, Kenya.



SLDI Finance participants participate in a group discussion. posters, Kenya.



Mr. Steve Hilton, CEO of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation site visit to Zambia, April 2015.posters, Kenya.



Participants pose during the meeting with ZAS Executive. Pictured left to right: Professor Donald Miller, USC, Evaluator; Sr. Elizabeth Mooney, ZAS Treasurer; Sr. Anna Phiri, ZAS Secretary General; Sr. Prisca Matenga, ZAS Committee Member; Sr. Beatrice Wanjiku, ZAS Chairperson; Sr. Mariana Bbalo, ZAS Committee Member; and Sr. Jane Wakahiu, ASEC Exc. Director.



SLDI participants use their computers during a group discussion.



Sr. Jane and Donald Miller, tour the Holy Rosary Development Centre, an SLDI alumnae ministry, January 2015.



Sign outside of the Holy Rosary Development Centre, Zambia.



HESA Students studying online at Marywood University pose for a photo during orientation, December 2014.

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