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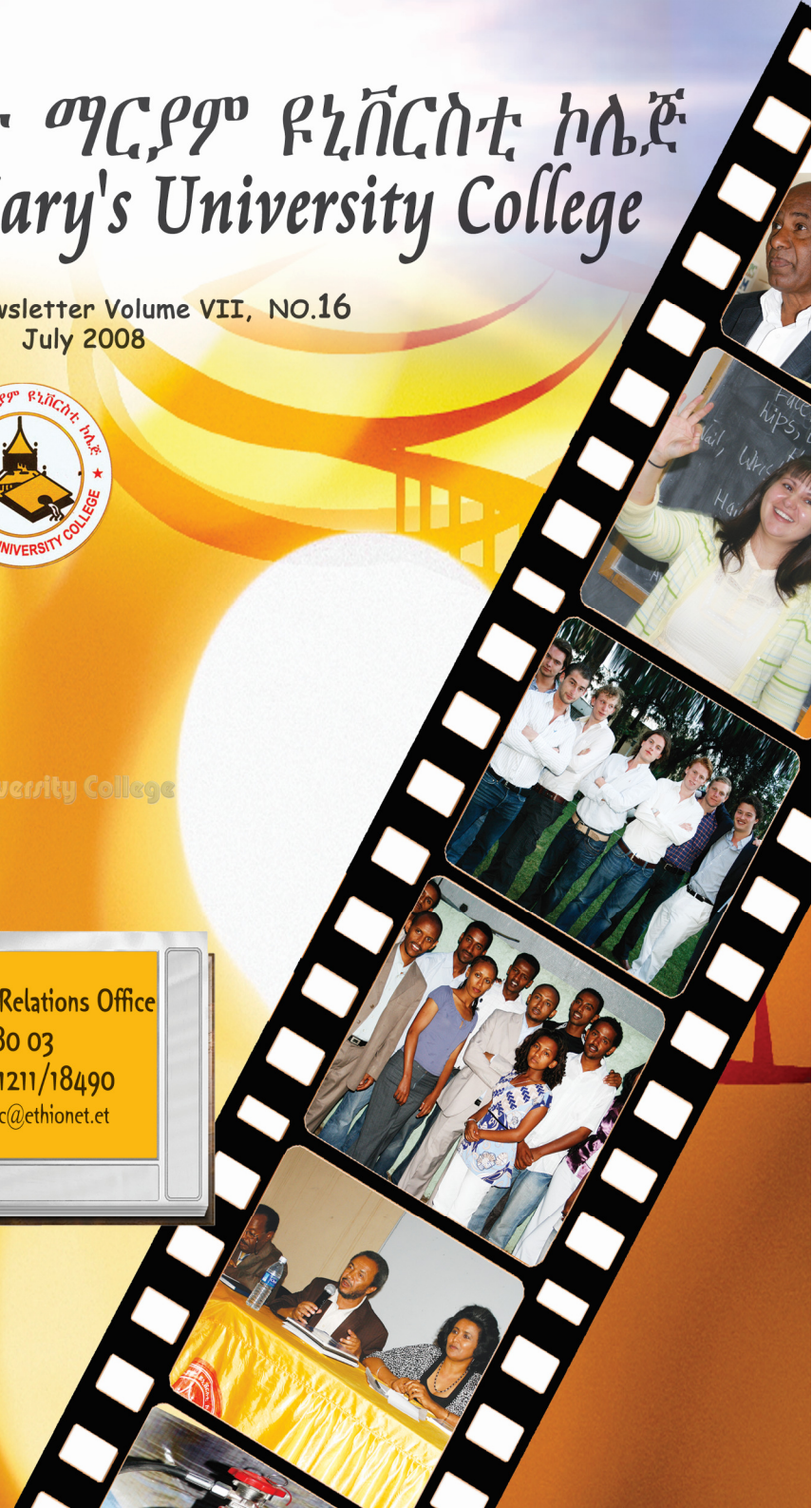
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St. Mary's University College

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INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS



The participants forwarded a lot of enriching views and questions. Religious leaders and authorities were also reminded to work hard for the implementation of the core points agreed by the conference participants so that religion could play a contributing role to peace and development.

The Head of the External Relations also attended the occasions of the 20th Annual Conference of ILS and the 30th Year Anniversary of the Department of Theatre

Arts. It was held on the 27th and the 28th of June 2008 at Amist Kilo Theater Arts Hall, Graduate School and at the Cultural Center, AAU, respectively.

The research papers and the closing musical drama under the main joint theme 'Theatre, Film, Language, Culture and Development Achievements, Challenges and Prospects in the Millennium' were educational and timely.

Both the conference and the 30th Anniversary celebration were dedicated to the renowned personalities, Mengistu Lemma, Debebe Seifu and Laureat Tsegaye Gebre-medhin, who contributed a lot to the development of the Department of Theatre Arts, AAU.

The President in Washington

The World Bank, and the IFC, held a conference in Washington on Private Education from May 12-15, 2008. The conference was held under the general theme 'Investing in the Future: The Evolving Regulatory Context for Private Education in Emerging Economies.

St. Mary's was represented by its President, Asst. Professor Wondwosen Tamrat, who prepared a Country Report on 'Private Higher Education in Ethiopia.' His traveling cost, accommodation and per diem were all covered by the World Bank.

Branding Ethiopian Coffee

It is to be recalled that SMUC has an institutional link with the New Business School Amsterdam (NBS), the Netherlands.

Twenty-six participants from both institutions, twelve from the Dutch group, attended the discussion on the project, 'Branding Ethiopia', at SMUC for one week, from the 25th -30th of May 2008.



Branding Ethiopia, born last year to promote Ethiopian coffee and help

Ethiopian coffee farmers get fair share for their produce, has emerged with its own brand mark 'Meleya'. The coffee bags, cups and the banners used were marked with the 'Meleya' logo. This indicates that the project is on the verge of realizing its intended goal.

Students of SMUC dressed in different nations and nationalities traditional outfits gave insightful presentations on the history and culture of Ethiopia in general and the coffee producing areas in particular. They also discussed coffee production, promotion and export processes. The Dutch students, on their part, presented progress report on the 'Meleya' project.



The one-day long visit to Yirgalem, one of the coffee growing areas, which helped project participants experience the actual situation on the ground, supplemented the deliberations of the workshop.



In a reception held on the last day of the workshop at Wabe Shebelle Hotel, Ato Tedla Haile, Academic Dean, SMUC; Ben Wijering, Associate Dean, NBS; Michel Le Roux, initiator of the project and Debitu Moges, Coordinator of the NBS Team, made informative speeches regarding the purpose, progress and future of the 'Meleya' project. A five-minute film, showing what project participants did during the workshop was also shown. This helped the audience internalize the objectives set and activities performed.

As part of the student-staff exchange program, which is one of the major components of the project, one SMUC lecturer, from the Department of Marketing Management, paid a one-week visit to NBS Amsterdam. He attended the launching ceremony of 'Meleya' and gave lecture to NBS students.



on the revised 1997 Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE) National Draft Policy. It was organized by the Federal Micro-Enterprise Development Agency on the 12th of June 2008 and held at Emperial Hotel.

The resource persons, among other things, discussed the necessity of institutional arrangements to harmonize MSE, the recognition of women's role and the disadvantaged groups towards the development of MSE.

The participants commented that the draft policy needs to be revised mainly taking into consideration the views and opinions of stakeholders.

> The Head of the External Relations attended the Second General Assembly of Lideta Kifle Ketema held on the 9th of Miaza 2000 EC at Higher 4 Technical and Vocational Institute.

After the previous four-year report was presented, election of board members for the coming four years was held, of which SMUC won the vice-chairmanship.

Many Community Members of SMUC, including the President, are registered as active members of Lideta Kifle Ketema Red

Cross Association. The community of SMUC will continue its support as the aims and performances of Red Cross are to alleviate human suffering and save life.

> The office of the External Relations attended the celebration of the 2008 Grand National Green Award Ceremony held on, June the 9th, 2008 at the National Palace.

The occasion was organized by Forum for Environment (FfE). National Environmental Heroes who demonstrated outstanding environmental efforts in the country were awarded in the presence of H.E. Girma Weldgiorgis, President of F.D.R.E and Patron of the Green Award Program.

> On the 16th and 17th of June 2008, the Head of the Office of the External Relations attended a national conference on 'The Role of Religion Towards Peace and Development at the UN-ECA Africa Hall.

Prominent professionals like H.E. Dr. Fasil Nahom, Dr. Kostentinos Berha, Dr. Ahmed Moen, Professor Efreem Yishak and Professor Birhanu Mengistu presented papers which contributed much to the core issues discussed.



'A Sociological Perspective on the Causes of Economic Poverty in Ethiopia' by Dr. Alula Pankhurst and Dr. Philipa Bevan; 'Growth, Inequality and Poverty in Ethiopia' by Dr. Abebe Shimelis; and 'Aspiration, Failure and Wellbeing Outcomes in Ethiopia towards an Empirical Exploration' by Dr. Alemayehu Seyoum were presented.

Although the papers suggest different approaches for the treatment of the multifaceted poverty dimensions, all share the common goal of ending poverty. It is believed that the papers would broadly serve as inputs for decision makers in their efforts to design well-articulated economic policy to reverse poverty situations in Ethiopia.

➤ Head of the Administration and Finance, Ato Mekonen Tadesse, attended a workshop on 'The Ethiopian Millennium and Future Agenda of the Ethiopian Civil Service Program'. It was organized by the Federal Civil Service Agency on the 27th of March 2008 at Ghion Hotel.

The workshop was on how to improve the service delivery of civil service organizations. The presentations were

made by experts from the Federal Civil Service Agency.

➤ From April 29 - May 5, 2008, the chief and assistant librarians of SMUC, Ato Biruk Megersa and W/t Hirut Kasa respectively attended a workshop at the AAU. It was on 'Consortium of Ethiopian Academic and Research Libraries' and a training on 'Greenstone Digital Library Software'.

The workshop was organized by UNESCO in partnership with the African Union (AU), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Addis Ababa University (AAU).

The objective of the workshop was "to take advantage of the new Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to encourage, coordinate and develop the educational, institutional and public information uses of library and information systems that are now available country-wide, or may be available in the future."

Ato Biruk Megerssa commented that the workshop helps SMUC to enhance its library services.

➤ Ato Mulugeta Alem, an instructor in the Department of Management, attended a workshop

Joining Hands with American University Students

After discussing the intention of the Educational Resource Center (ERC), along with Blue Nile Consultants, on improving students English language competence with Ato Kasahun Legese, the administrator of ERC, Ato Baye Nigatu, Head of the Office of the External Relations, SMUC met Mrs. Jennifer Donalo, an administrating staff member, at the office of ERC early April 2008.



Mr. James B.Lyes, the Education Consultant, ERC, in his letter, stated that the invited students from various American Universities are all trained in teaching English to foreigners.

The UC, very soon, expressed its readiness to accept the partnership with ERC and the training took place, from the 2nd of June-the 11th of July 2008.



Accordingly, Mathew Cooper, Joshua Lemer, Anya Thomas, Victor Bagnato, Reuben Sasoki and Tonya Karyagina from the University of Southern California; and Tara Fox from Wayland Baptist University; and Cassia Applegate from Sanford College were assigned to do the course at SMUC.

They did the course, a pair in a class, for three days in a week and a total of five weeks. Both the English teachers and our students commented that the program had helped SMUC students a lot to developed their English communication skills. All wished the program continued.

The teachers extended their appreciation and thanks to the management and the community of SMUC for the co-operation and support exhibited.



St. Mary's forwards many thanks to ERC for initiating the program and sending us those eight able American young English teachers to help our interested students

improve their communication skills in English.



PARTICIPATIONS

➤ Yetnayet T/Wold, Head of the Department of Social Sciences, and Ato Markos Mezmur from the Center for Educational Improvement Research and Quality Assurance (CEIRQA) attended a three-day workshop on gender awareness. It was organized by Education Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP) office from the 31st of March-the 2nd of April 2008 at its office.

The intention of the project of the Special Interest Group on Gender (SIGG) is to bridge the existing gap in academic achievements among higher education institutions in the country by establishing and/or strengthening gender offices. The establishment of a well founded gender office at SMUC is already underway.

➤ In a similar vein, Ato Solomon Bekele, a member of the Department of Social Sciences, attended a half day meeting on methods of teaching civics & social studies the 29th of Megabit 2000 EC. It was organized by The Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission. The objective of the meeting was to discuss

how to establish or assist the established civic clubs in private higher education institutions and to consider the possible arising challenges in the process.

The resource persons, Ato Hailu Berhe and Ato Mekonen Zewde discussed the need to establish civic education clubs, on how to keep them operational at private higher education institutions; and also speculated the possible challenges.

➤ On May the 9th 2008, Kidist Mulugeta, instructor from the Department of Social Sciences and instructors Ato Mulugeta Adem and Ato Temesgen Teshome and Students, Nuritu Behiru and Tefera Mengistu, from the Faculty of Business attended a symposium. The symposium was on Ethiopian Economy under the overarching title 'Poverty, Dimensions, Dynamics and Response Options'. It was held at Africa Hall, UN Conference Center (UNECA).

Four research papers entitled 'State and Dynamics of Poverty in Ethiopia' by Dr. Makia Kitaw and Ato Daniel Delelegn;



The community and the management of SMUC extend many thanks to the Office of Fire and Emergency Services of the City Government of Addis Ababa for its willingness and commitment.

➤ On the 11th of June 2008, the Guidance and Counseling Unit organized a one-day workshop on 'The Impact of Abortion' at the Multi-purpose Hall, Mexico Campus.

The major objective of the workshop was to make students of SMUC aware of the negative impacts of abortion.

Dr. Seyoum Antonios, from United for Life Ethiopia, elaborated on the reasons for abortion, the different ways of carrying out abortion, and the exceptional cases to which abortion might be considered legal. His presentation was accompanied by a forty-minute documentary film.

The resource person stressed the negative impacts of abortion on women.

The discussion won utmost interest from the participants during which various questions were raised.

Literary Event

The Student Union held a literary event on the 10th of June 2008 at Multi-Purpose Hall, Mexico Campus.

Artist Fekadu T/Mariam and Comedian Befekadu Kebede shared students and the instructors of SMUC their professional skills, experiences accompanied by entertainments.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WORKSHOPS AND PANELS

The Department of Social Sciences, in collaboration with the Practicum and Apprenticeship Office, held a workshop on 'Active Learning' on the 28th of March 2008 at the Moot Court, Mexico Campus.

The workshop was organized for twenty-five Social Studies and Civic and Ethical Education teachers drawn from ten partner schools. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen their potential to active learning methods in their daily teaching.

After the training was opened by Ato Melaku Girma, Dean of the Faculty of Teacher Education, Ato Adreajew Mihret from the Department of Mathematics and Basic Sciences, and Ato Solomon Bekele from the Department of Social Sciences made presentations on the 'Nature of Student-centered learning' and 'Active learning', respectively.

The participants reflected their views on the challenges and prospects of applying active learning in the existing Ethiopian school context. Large class management, classroom settings, lack of awareness

among students were mentioned as challenges.

The participant teachers extended their thanks to the UC and stressed the need for such training.

➤ The Department of Education organized and held 'Training on Teaching and Preparation' on the 25th of April 2000 EC at its Pedagogical Center, Lideta Campus.



The objective of the training was to enable partner-school teachers to produce local teaching materials.

The resource persons, Ato Aklilu Mengistu from Kotebe College of Teacher Education, and Ato Hailu Tsigie from SMUC explained how teachers could prepare simple but



useful teaching materials to facilitate the teaching/learning activities.

Participants witnessed the importance of the training and highly appreciated the concern of the department and the UC.

➤ From May the 26th - June 6th, the Faculty of Business held training on Leadership at Mexico Campus.



The objective of the training was to enhance leadership capacity of office and heads of the UC.

Ato Abebe Yirdaw, a member of the faculty and a senior trainer, and Ato Goitom Abraham, the Faculty Dean, elaborated on the issues of strategic leadership along with the steps and processes; on problem solving and decision making; and on leadership in education.

The President, Assist. professor Wondawsoen Tamrat, commended the initiative of the Management Development

Center of the Faculty; and issued certificates to the participants.



➤ In addition, the Department of Management, Business Faculty, held a one-day panel on 'Experience Sharing on Entrepreneurships' on the 8th of 'Sene' 2000 EC at the Multi-purpose Hall, Mexico Campus.

It was organized to the regular and extension prospective degree graduates who are currently taking the course, Entrepreneurship.



The objective of the panel was to support the theoretical knowledge by actual



experience and practices. The resource persons W/rt Mulu Solomon and Ato Mohammed Nursaney model skilled and experienced persons from the private sector, discussed the need for innovation, creativity and vision, and recognition of opportunities to develop entrepreneurial skills. They also elaborated on the advantages of entrepreneurship for self-employment.



➤ The Office of the General Services and Transport arranged training and an evaluation program on fire prevention and control along with the Office of Fire and Emergency Services of the City Government of Addis Ababa.

First Level training on fire prevention and control was given by Instructor General Gizahegne Yigezu. It was given to 112 members of the UC on the 21st, on the 22nd and on the 26th of Ginbot 2000 EC, at

Mexico Campus and the Green Campus (Distance Education Division).

The training was given for a total of seven hours. During the training, 112 brochures were distributed to the trainees.



Survey visits were made in the laboratories (Science, pedagogical and computer), libraries, stores, material production and distribution units, Audio-Video Studio, faculties, offices and centers of every campus on the 4th and the 5th of Sene 2000 EC.



Professional instructions and advice were given after the evaluation visits.