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St. Mary's University College

Quarterly Newsletter Volume 9, NO.20 June 2009



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Designed by
Samson Terefe

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 10th ANNIVERSARY IN PICTURES



The launching ceremony of the bi-annual Journal Business and Administrative Studies (JBAS)



Entrepreneurship training



Quality Assurance in Higher Education discussed



The Annual Salesmanship in Action



A four- room toilet built to the residents of kebele 07/14, Ledeta Sub-city Administration



Red Cross Club Members of SMUC with the Provisional Secretary of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (E.R.C.S) of A.A City Administration Regional Branch

CONVOCATIONS



Ato Abdulaziz Dawid
Deputy Mayor of Adama of city Administration and Head of Capacity Building



W/o Hirut Delebo
Advisor of Social Affairs & Capacity Building at the office of the president of SNNP



HE Professor Bahiru Zewde
Emeritus professor of History at Addis Ababa University & Executive Director & forum for Social Studies



Ato Tilahun Arega
Deputy Executive of the TVET Promotion Agency, Amhara National Regional State

St. Mary's University College graduated a total of 5,975 students in degree, diploma and certificate in various fields of studies in both modes, i.e. in the Distance and the Regular Education programs, on March 28, 2009.

The graduation ceremonies took place at Adama, Gelma Abo Geda Hall; at Hawassa, Sidama Culture Hall; at Bahir-Dar, Mulualem Hall; and in Addis Ababa, Addis Ababa Assembly Center.

Of the 244 regular Students, three fourth are females; and of the 15,022 Distance Education Division graduates, more than 1/3 are females.

The 5,975 graduates of this year raise the total number of graduates of St. Mary's to over 40,000 since its establishment in 1998.



Ato Wondwosen Tamrat (Assistant Professor), Founder and President of SMUC, in Addis Ababa Assembly Center and his representatives at the other graduation venues noted that the UC has done its utmost in the fields of teaching/learning and research to fill the national gap of skilled manpower, and in community services to support and encourage residents at the grass root level.

The President and his representatives, among other things, stated that 25% of the degree and 60% of the diploma students pursuing their education in the country are in the private higher learning institutions.

All the guests of honour at the four locations stressed that education is a key instrument for self and national development. They reminded the graduates to work not only for the self but also for the common good of the society as well.

The guests of honour also advised the UC to broaden and strengthen its institutional capacity so as to disseminate the needed national knowledge, wisdom, professional proficiency and skills.



Representatives of the graduating students at the four venues, on their side, expressed their thanks to the community of SMUC for the unreserved effort they exerted to help students acquire the best possible education. They also stated their

gratefulness to families, friends, and government and non-government offices for the support, facilitation and encouragement they rendered during their study times.

↳ In a similar vein, St. Mary's University College (SMUC) and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) post graduate joint-program launched



in July 2006 has started to bear fruits by graduating the first 92 students in various fields of studies on May the 23rd, 2009 at Hilton Addis.



Ato Wondwosen Tamrat remarked the contribution of the joint SMUC-IGNOU post graduate program to support the government in its effort towards narrowing the gap between the required number of skilled manpower and the growing need of business and industry in the country.

The President thanked and forwarded his heartfelt gratitude to the leadership of IGNOU in general and to Prof. VN Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, in particular for their kind and continuous support and assistance in facilitating the smooth running of the program.

Ato Wondwosen Tamrat concluded his speech expressing his deep gratitude to the Ministry of Capacity Building, Ministry of Education, the Indian Embassy, government and non-government institutions, the coordination office staff members, tutors and the communities of both IGNOU and SMUC.



Prof. VN Rajasekharan, Pillai, Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU on his part, stated the importance of higher education for the development of a country and to the improvement of the qualities of life. He also noted the need for strengthening public-private partnership in education.

The Vice-Chancellor extended his thanks and appreciation to SMUC for the utmost effort it is exerting in assisting the government to expand quality education.



BRIEFING ON INTERNAL QUALITY AUDIT & PREPARATION OF SELF-EVALUATION DOCUMENT (SED)

A briefing session was held within SMUC on the preparation of self-evaluation document at Mexico-Campus, Board-Room, on Saturday the 11th of April 2009.

The objective of the briefing was to assess the quality of TVET program at SMUC based on the request of the Addis Ababa City Administration Education Bureau.

Ato Tedla Haile, the Academic Vice President of SMUC and Ato Melaku Girma, Dean of the Faculty of Teacher Education talked on the purpose of quality assurance and self-assessment; and preparation of self-evaluation document relating to the previous document preparation experience of the institution.

Some of the participants, faculty deans and department heads raised questions and forwarded their views and suggestions.

Finally, a committee from the management, faculties, departments, administration, TVET trainees and from stakeholders, was formed to prepare the document based on the criteria sent by the Addis Ababa City Administration Bureau.

The committee prepared the document identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the TVET Program as implemented in the institution and has submitted it to the Addis Ababa City Administration Education Bureau.

TRAINING

Induction Training



An induction training was given by Marketing, Customers Service & Human Resource Department Unit Distance Education Division to new editors, tutors and assessors to supplement their mastery of their respective duty on April the 2nd and the 3rd 2009 at SMUC - DED Head Office, A.A.

The training was given on various issues like, 'Teaching Methods and Evaluation'; 'Assessment in Distance Education'; 'Tutorial Services in Distance Education'; 'Offering Counselling for Distance Learners'; and 'Writing Editing and Reviewing Courses'. The trainers were Ato Biruk Birhanu, Ato Anteneh Getachew, Ato Tesfaye G/meskel, Ato Tamiru Teferi, Ato Aschalew Teklu, are from,DED,SMUC.

It was reported that the two-day training was interactive, and successful.

➤ The Management Development Center (MDC) of the Faculty of Business gave Customer Service Training to about 25 staff members of National Tour Organization (NTO). It was given for four days, i.e. On April 29, May 1; on May 6 and 7, 2009 at the hall of the organization.

Ato Abebe Yirdaw, from SMUC, gave the training to NTO staff members to enable them improve services to their customers. He talked on how to communicate with customers; and on the importance of team work in giving services, etc.



The participants, it was reported, appreciated the training and thanked SMUC.

Entrepreneurship

The Faculty of Business, as part of the 10th Anniversary of St. Mary's, organized public lecture on 'Entrepreneurship in Ethiopia' on March the 21st 2009 at Mexico Campus-Multi-purpose Hall.

The objective of the public lecture was to make the students of the Department of Management aware of the historical evolution, current status of entrepreneurship in Ethiopia and the efforts of SMUC in enhancing entrepreneurial development



Dr. Girma Mitiku, Head of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation talked on 'Efforts of St. Mary's to Promote Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development'; and Ato Andualem Tegegne from the Department of Management on 'Evolution of Entrepreneurship Theory in Ethiopia & Its Prospects'. Dr. Worotaw Bezebih from Genius Training Entrepreneurship Training Center dwelt on 'Current Status of Entrepreneurship in Ethiopia'.



Some participants and the presenters noted that important issues and concepts were raised and discussed.

Visits

The Departments of Secretarial Science and Office Management (SSOM) took its students to Global and Wabi-Shebele Hotels for a working visit on the 14th and 27th of April 2009.

As the objective of the work visit was to see the actual work of reception services, the Front Office Supervisors at Global and Wabi-Shebele Hotels demonstrated and discussed with the students about the practical work of reception.

The students, it was reported, were pleased with the visit for they found most of their class lessons implemented in what they observed and discussed at the hotels. Students, it was told, commented that such visits, particularly related to major courses, are very important and useful.

CAMPUS ACTIVITY

Salesmanship in Action

The annual Salesmanship in Action Exhibition organized by the Department of Marketing-Management was held from May the 18th – the 23rd 2009 at Mexico Campus, Multi-purpose Hall.



The workshop was opened by Asst. Prof. Wondwosen Tamrat, Founder and President of St. Mary's, in the presence of students and heads of faculties, departments and offices. He thanked the students and the department members for bringing the exhibition to such a success. The President pointed out that the contributions of such exhibitions to see the classroom lectures translated into real practice is manifold.



The students have secured about Birr 4,200.00 from the sale and are ready to donate the money, as done annually, for community services as reported by Ato Ephrem Gossaye, instructor and one of the organizers of the exhibition.

The community of SMUC forwards its thanks to all the companies which assisted the students organize the exhibition; and particularly the sponsors, i.e. NAS Foods PLC, Health Care Manufacturing PLC and Basys Digital Imaging PLC.

Question & Answer Sessions



As part of the 10th Anniversary of St. Mary's, the Business Faculty held 'Question and Answer Sessions' among its departments and within selected students of Secretarial Science and Office Management (SSOM) organized by a committee of seven people.

The program started on April the 9th and ended on June the 5th 2009 at the Multi-purpose Hall-SMUC. The general objectives of the program were to create competitive atmosphere across departments and among classmates; and to create opportunities for students to enrich their academic and general knowledge.

The program took place every two weeks in two phases. At the end of the competition among the departments, students in the Departments of Accounting and Marketing Management happen to be the finalists.

Marketing Management won the Degree Program Competition followed by the Department of Accounting. Accounting Department became victorious in the TVET Competition Program leaving-Marketing Management to second place.

On the other hand, the Department of Secretarial Science and Office Management (SSOM) held a 'Word Processing Speed Competition' amongst its five selected students. Banchu Mekonnen typing won the competition.

During the ceremony held on June 5, 2009 to give prizes to the winners at Multi-purpose Hall, Ato Tedla Haile, Academic Vice-President of St. Mary's, thanked the students, the instructors, members of the organizing committee and the judges for their efforts to bring the Question & Answer sessions into such a success. He also stated that such programs would encourage students to read more and to be aware of their environment.

The Academic Vice-President gave the allotted Birr 700.00 to each first-ranking department students in each competition, i.e. Degree, TVET; and Birr 500.00 to the runners - up.



The Assistant Academic Vice-President, Ato Misganaw Solomon, presented the book prize to Banchu Mekonnen for her accomplishment as number one in the 'Word Processing Speed Competition'. Finally, Ato Goitom Abraham, Business Faculty Dean, gave certificates to all participants of the Question & Answer Competition.

A Public Lecture

On the 2nd of May 2009, the Department of Management organized a panel discussion on the 'Twenty-first Century Management Thoughts' at Multi-purpose Hall-SMUC.



The renowned banker, Ato Lulseged Teferi, President of Dashen Bank, gave talk on the differences between the 20th and the 21st centuries' management thoughts; dwelling on the main features of the latter. He also mentioned valuable ideas from his long and rich experience.

A lot of participants expressed their views that the talk was very inspiring.

The Friday Talk-show



The May 2nd Friday-Talk Show of SMUC, on 'What Should Our Wearings Look Like?', took place in the presence of the sponsor of 'Hand 2 Hand' Program and Mesay Wondimeneh, the reporter of FM 97.1.

The participation of the talk show, particularly the ideas raised by some students like Meron Yonas, Isayas Zeray, Negash Asfaw, Abaynesh Getahun and Eden Solomon highly impressed the two FM radio-reporters.

The reporters appreciated and thanked the community of St. Mary's in general and the Student Affairs Services Office in particular for their efforts to run such lively extracurricular activities.

The talk-show, as reported by Ato Abebe Zenebe, aired by FM 97.1 during its 'Hand 2 Hand' Program of May 8/2009 from 8:00 - 8:20 AM.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Neighbourly Cooperation

As part of the 10th Anniversary multi-faceted activities of SMUC, the Student Affairs and Services Office in collaboration with residents of Kebele 07/14 neighbouring the UC, and the kebele administrative body built a four – room toilet. The four-room toilet and the replacement of the damped non-functioning sewage-pipes cost SMUC more than



During the occasion of the donation, Ato Baye Nigatu, Head of the External Relations Office, advised the residents that they should give communal care for the toilets and for the sewerage – pipe in order not to go back to the awful and health – damaging harmful situation.



W/o Tsigie, Head of Student Affairs and Services Office, mentioned and appreciated the co-operation of the residents and the Kebele 07/14 administrators. After the External Relations Office Head gave the keys of the toilet-rooms to Ato Worku Geda, The Chief Executive Officer of Lideta Sub – City Administration, the toilet-rooms and the sewerage were visited.



Ato Worku Geda, in the name of the residents and the sub-city administration, forwarded his thanks and gratitude to SMUC for the commendable welfare deeds it rendered to the community.



The Annual Welfare Gesture



It has almost become a tradition for the Welfare Club, organized under the Student Union and



working closely with Student Affairs and Services Office, to collect clothings and money from the community of SMUC and visit the needy on national holidays.

This year on Easter, the 19th of April 2009, the Welfare Club, along with the Student Union, collected clothings estimated at about Birr 5,000.00 and donated to the needy in the streets of Addis Ababa. In addition, the club donated bread and juice worth Birr 3,000.00 to the sick around Entoto Church.

Acknowledging SMUC's Assistance

St. Mary's University College participated in the Development Bazaar organized by Nejo Toun Administration and held at Nejo honouring the renowned hero Lieut. Col. Abdisa Aga.

The UC donated two Dell Computers along with 17 Monitors and one PH Model 2014 Printer to the School named after the renowned hero, Lieut. Col. Abdisa Aga.

Ato Kumera Alesa Wacha, the director of the school, sent a letter of thanks to St. Mary's for what has been donated to the school.

PARTICIPATIONS

Conference at UNCC - ECA

Ato Baye Nigatu, Head of External Relations Office, attended a two – day conference on April the 23rd and the 24th 2009 on ‘National Ethiopia’s Reporting Obligations Under International Human Rights Instruments – Progress and the Way Forward’ at the UNCC- ECA, Addis Ababa.

The conference was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in collaboration with the Ethiopian Human Rights Affairs (EHRA) and the technical support Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The objective of the conference was to evaluate and finalize the Treaty Bodies Project which was designed to enable Ethiopia to honour its international obligations under international and regional human rights treaties in submitting the overdue reports to the relevant committees identified in the related document.

In the opening speech, Ambassador Kassa Gebrehiwot, the Ethiopian Human Rights Chief Commissioner, among other things, stated that his office has a plan to issue comprehensive human rights report this year.

Five working groups were established to offer their inputs and suggestions based on their discussions with the members of the drafting committee as well as with the team of legal experts.

The two – day National Conference, ended by adopting eight recommendations.

Symposium

Ato Meselu Fantaye, instructor, Management Department, attended The 7th Annual Research Symposium on ‘Partnership of Higher Learning Institutions and Employers’ organized by the Addis Ababa University, College of Commerce on the 11th of April 2009 at the hall of the College.

The resource persons, Ato Mulugeta G/medhin from the College, talked on ‘Market Innovation in the Grain Marketing System’. Dr. Tesfaye Debela

and Ato Alemayehu Debebe, both from the Civil Service University College, discussed on ‘Higher Learning Institutions and the Labour Market’; on ‘Conceptual Framework of BPR’ respectively.

During the discussion, Ato Meselu reported, it was noted that the relationship of higher learning institutions and employees should be strengthened in employment and other related issues for better common contribution.

The 60th Anniversary of the Ethiopian Teachers Associations

➤ On the 28th of February and the 1st of March 2009, Ato Baye Negatu, Head of the External Relations Office, participated in the 60th anniversary of the Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA) at the main office, Addis Ababa.

Dr Haile W/Michael, Dr. Teklehaymanot Haileslasie and Ato Baye Nigatu talked on the establishment and on some of the ups and downs of the association at different levels mainly based on their experience. After various papers were presented, the invited teachers and guests gave their views and suggestions.

➤ Ergogie Tesfaye, Head of Special Interest Group on Gender (SIGG) -SMUC, attended The 10th Anniversary of People to People (P2P) on May the 8th 2009 Addis Ababa University, Science Faculty. The anniversary was observed under the theme ‘Ten Years: Celebrate the Success and Join the Journey Ahead’.

HE Dr. Tewodros Adhanom, The Minister of Health, talked on the major achievements of the Ministry of Health. Dr. Enawgaw Mehari from People to People, discussed, ‘Ethiopia and the Quest for Modern Health Care’ (historical background); and ‘Overviews of the Accomplishments of P2P and a panel discussion on ‘Building Bridge Between the Diaspora and Ethiopia to Enhance Health Care Delivery – Challenges Opportunities and Options’ was deliberated by Dr. Kinfe Gebeyehu, P₂P.

According to Ergogie, education ideas that could help P₂P strengthen its accomplishment, including creating links with the Diaspora, were forwarded by the participants.

The 146th Anniversary of the International Red Cross

Head of the External Relations Office along with the members of the Red Cross Club of SMUC, attended the International Red Cross and Red Crescent gathering on May the 8th 2009; and participated in the 10kms-walk on May the 10th 2009.

The anniversary was observed under the motto, 'United We Would Bring Change'

In the gathering at the City Administration of Addis Ababa Theatre and Culture Hall, Ms Solome Tadesse, and Ato Leykun Birhanu, Board Chair and Provisional Secretary of the Addis Ababa City Administration Red Cross respectively, told the brief history of the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Association.

A lot of people participated in the 10kms distance walk which was from Meskel Square to Bole and back to Meskel Square. Participants from SMUC joined the walk wearing T-shirts, 'ከቀይ መስቀል ጎን እንቆማለን', ('We Stand by the Red Cross') printed on it.

Workshop at Adama

On the 8th and the 9th of May 2009, W/t Meiraf Girma and Ato Awol Kassim, instructors, Law Faculty-SMUC, participated in a workshop organized by the House of Peoples Representatives of the FDRE at Adama.

The objective of the workshop was to create awareness on Human Rights and Ombudsman and their coverages in the Ethiopian Constitution.

The two-day workshop was opened and chaired by H.E. Ambassador Teshome Toga, Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives.

Ato Kemal Bedri, the resource person of the two-day workshop, gave highlights to the participants on Human Rights and their coverage in the Ethiopian Constitution. It was followed by the

discussion of the Proclamation on Human Rights Commission (proc. No. 210/2000) in the afternoon session.

The first day of the discussion was finalized after clarifications and answers were given to the questions raised.

After the Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives opened the second day of the workshop, the origin and coverage of the Institution of the Ombudsman in reference to proc. No. 211/2000 was presented by Ato Kemal Bedri.

The afternoon session mainly focused on what is expected of the public in the nominations of the candidates for the Offices of the Ethiopian Human Rights Chief and of the Chief of Ombudsman Institute.

After the criteria were briefed, and questions and views were entertained, the workshop was closed by H.E. Speaker of the House.

National Conference at the AAU

Ato Shegaw G/medhin, a member of the Center for Education Improvement, Research and Quality Assurance (CEIRQA), participated in the two-day national conference organized by the Institute of Educational Research of Addis Ababa University. It was held at NBR Hall of the Main Campus on April the 23rd and the 24th 2009.

The national conference was held under the theme, 'Current Trends in the Ethiopian Higher Education System: Focus on Teaching and learning'. It was opened by laureate Prof. Tirusew Tefera, Dean of the College of Education, AAU.

The professor noted that the expansion of higher education observed in the last ten years should be accompanied by quality of education. He called on both the public and private higher education institutions and other concerned government and non-government organizations to exert efforts to bring about quality of education. He also pointed out that organizing conferences could enhance research on quality of education.

The various papers, thirty-four in number, presented by people drawn from the public and private higher education institutions were found noteworthy, and some resulted in heated discussion as reported by Ato Shegaw G/medhin.

World Peace Organization

SMUC Students, Woynshet Nigatu, Hizkias Sintayehu, Rani Usman, Meron Yonas, and Biniam Girma, participated in experience-sharing panel organized by Araya Welfare Organization.

Mr. Ryou Sueeum, a representative from the World Peace Organization, talked on the concept of the basis of peace.

The panel, as reported by Rani Usman, President of the Student Union SMUC was participatory. He also told that they had expressed their willingness to be members of the World Peace Organization.

Walk-the-World 2009

Sponsored by St. Mary's, thirty of its community members participated in the 5kms International Walk under the theme, 'ጋላን እናጥፋ' on the 7th of June 2009 organized by the Food Aid Organization of the United Nations System.

The 5kms distance walk 'END HUNGER' Initiative was held to raise funds and awareness on a serious note that should reverberate across the world.

Currently, the UN World Food Program in Ethiopia is assisting around half a million school children through school feeding programme at hundreds of schools across the country as noted by the Ethiopian Herald of June the 9th 2009.

Photo Gallery





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