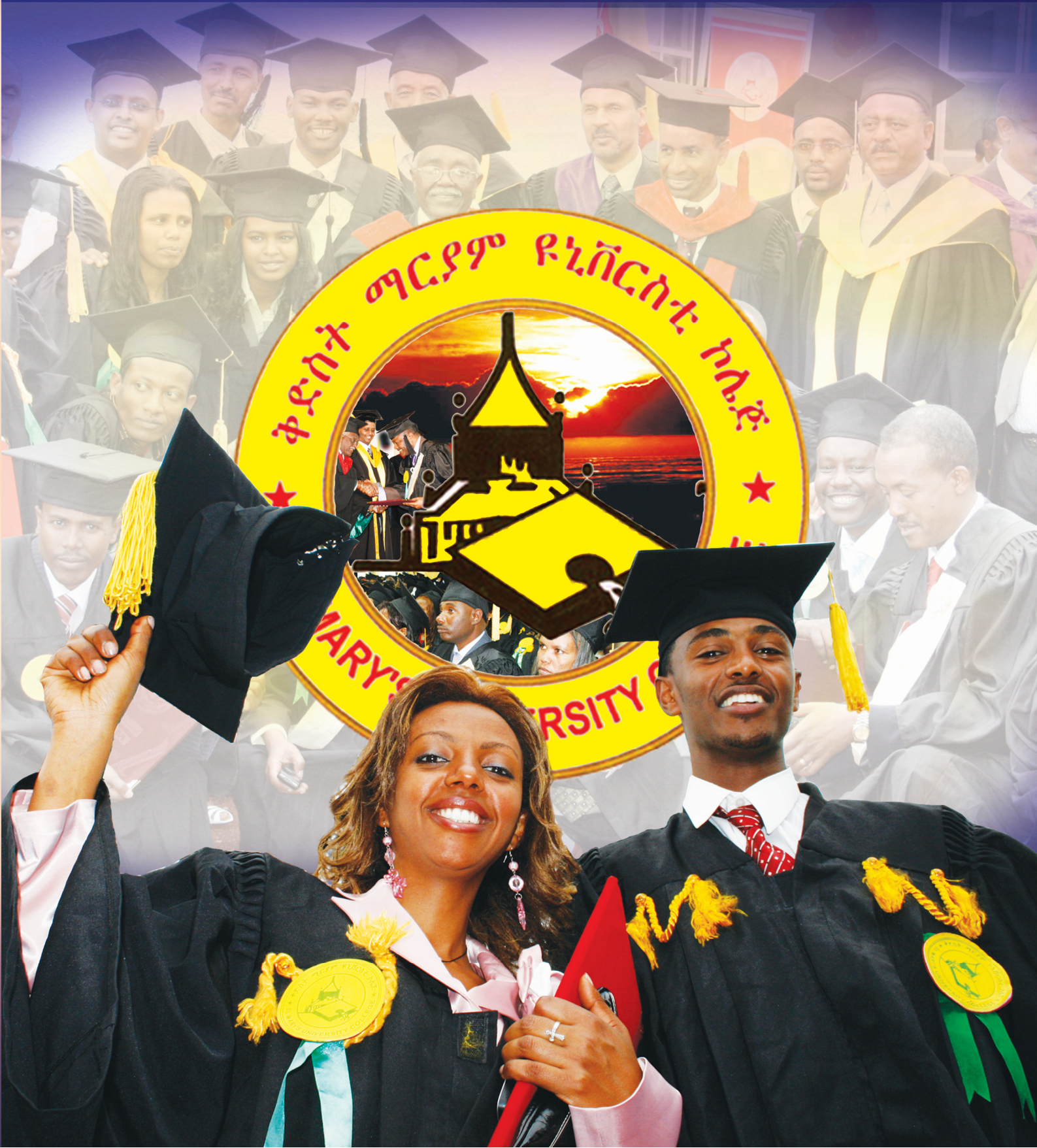


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The Commencement



St. Mary's University College graduated a total of 4,891 students of the Distance Education Division in degree, diploma and certificate on August the 30th 2008 at the Exhibition Center, Addis Ababa.

Ato Wondwosen Tamrat (Asst. Prof.), Founder and President of SMUC, stated the difficulties of the Distance Education Program and the many facets of burdens it imposes on the parties involved. He, thus, praised the graduates for their consistent effort and appreciated their families for their unreserved cooperation.

The President extended his appreciation to government and non-government offices and to the community of St. Mary's for the support they provided at all levels.

Currently; St. Mary's runs its Distance Education Program in more than 60 centers throughout the country and has taken the lead from the private sector in offering post-graduate training in this mode.





The President underlined that the graduates should be models of productive works, discipline and honesty wherever they might be, and should bring pride to themselves and to their institution. In his concluding remarks, the President also stated the necessity of strengthening links between graduates and SMUC through the alumni of St. Mary's.

He extended his appreciation to the community of St. Mary's and to the families of the graduates for the contribution they made to bring the dreams and desires of the graduates true.



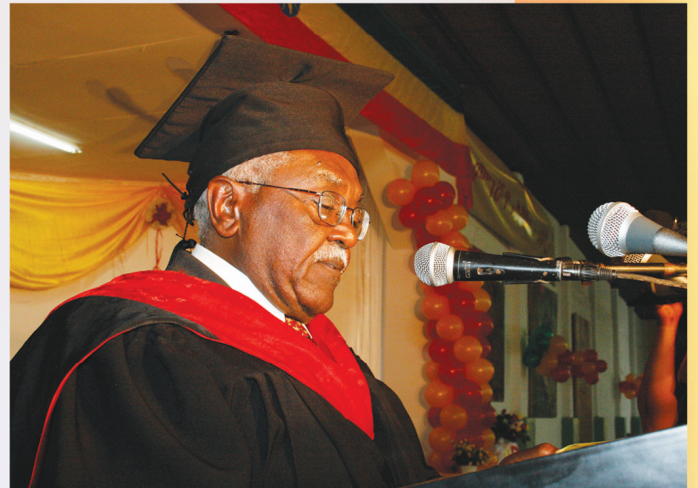
The guest of honour, Ato Kibur Genna, Founder and President of Initiative Africa (IA) and Vice President of the Ethiopian Red Cross, noted the instrumentality of education for constructive behavioral changes and to national development.

Dawit Kelkile, the representative of the graduating students, recalled the times he and his likes spent with no educational opportunity in the remote rural areas against their desires and wills. He admired St. Mary's University College for every endeavor it has made to fulfill the long-awaited wish and desire of many thousands surmounting cultural, geographical, bureaucratic and economic barriers.



Ato Wondwosen reminded the graduates to be determined to fight corruption along with the people and exhibit a sense of responsibility to cultivate respect and bring popular pride to themselves and prosperity to their country.

- Again on September 7th 2008 SMUC graduated 1,934 regular students in 11 fields of studies, of which 54.41 percent are female and 45.6 percent male. This number raises the number of graduates so far to about 30,000. The ceremony was held at Addis Ababa University, Christmas Hall.



The guest of honour, Ato Shimelis Adugna, President of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society and the Vice-President of the International Red Cross and Red Moon Society, expressed that education is key to open better opportunities and to improve the livelihood of our people. He stressed the value of working harmoniously to our common goal. i.e. building a happy and prosperous Ethiopia.



The President, Ato Wondwosen Tamrat, appreciated the families of the graduates, the community of St. Mary's, government and non-government offices and congratulated them all.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

The Sixth National Conference on Private Higher Education Institutions in Ethiopia



The Sixth National Conference on Private Higher Education Institutions in Ethiopia organized and sponsored by St. Mary's University College under the theme, "Nurturing the Teaching Research Nexus in Ethiopian Private Higher Education Institutions" was held at the UN Conference Center on August the 30th 2008.

The conference focused on a range of issues: encouraging collaborative learning and student research in private HEIs; quality education and research; promoting research quality and productivity; university – industry linkage; upholding/maintaining good academic and

scientific practices and surveying the magnitude of misconduct in academics among Ethiopian HEIs and others.



His Excellency Dr. Sintayehu W/Michael, Minister of Education, in his opening speech, expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to the management and the organizing committee of the conference.

He remarked that the government has given due attention to education and training as it has substantial role for socio-economic development of the country. He also pointed out the need for policies and strategies that potentially consider science, technology and basic social need and the plan for equitable and relevant education. With regard to higher education, Dr. Sintayehu stressed the need for providing education and training in an integrated manner as stated clearly in the Education and Training Policy; and carrying out an integrated basic research to enable the parties involved identify the national core problems and work in unison.

His Excellency the Minister noted the establishment of 56 private accredited and pre-accredited higher institutions which provide undergraduate degree programs due to the conducive environment created by the government.

In his statement, in connection to private higher education, the Minister pointed out that SMUC is one of the growing higher institutions throughout the country. St. Mary's University College has shown its accomplishment in preparing varieties of conferences on higher education issues, and has remained an exemplary private institution in this regard.

Dr. Sintayehu confirmed that the Ministry of Education of the FDRE provides all the necessary support for private higher institutions in their effort to undertake expansion of quality and relevant education.



Ato Wondwosen Tamrat (Asst. Prof.), Founder and President of the UC, in his welcome speech, stated the indispensability of the flourishing higher education institutions in Ethiopia to the

growth of the national economy, social progress and to the betterment of the people's well being.

The fourteen research papers presented in the 6th National Conference were enriched by the participants drawn from government, non-government offices and individuals from diverse professions. All these endeavors, the President noted, would enhance the understanding of the sector much better.

education as a key factor for development, as an indigenous capacity-builder and, promoter of human rights, and sustainable development.

He witnessed that higher education, in general, has given ample proof of its viability over the centuries and of its ability to change and to induce change and progress confronted with formidable challenges. He also remarked that higher education must contribute to changes and renewal by the advancement of knowledge through research as an essential function of all systems of higher education.

In his conclusion, Mr. Mohammed Cherif Diarra expressed his great pleasure to observe the same concerns stated by UNESCO at a global level addressed by the title of the 6th National Conference.



Mr. Mohammed Cherif Diarra, Senior Program Specialist for Education (UNESCO), in his key note address underscored, among other things, that UNESCO is the only body with a mandate in higher education. Its mission is to promote higher



The Second Annual Student Research Forum



SMUC held its second student research Forum on the 22nd of September 2008. The Second Annual Student Research Forum was opened by Ato Tedla Haile, Academic Vice President, SMUC, at Mexico Campus, Multi-purpose Hall.

Twelve research papers were presented in the Research Forum by degree graduating students from different faculties.

Questions and constructive ideas which can be used as inputs to the research papers were aired by participants.



TRAINING

The Business Faculty

The Business Faculty held a training on ‘General Management from’ the 6th - the 20th of August 2008 at Mexico Campus , SMUC.

The training was given by Ato Abebe Yirdaw from Business Faculty (SMUC) to enhance the managerial capacity of office holders of the institution.

The major issues raised and discussed were ‘Management Concepts and Process’, ‘Leadership Function of Management and Employee Motivation’ and; ‘Decision Making Communication and Team Building’.

Participants, it was reported, were happy with the training.



Certificates were given to the trainers by Ato Tedla Haile, Academic vice President of SMUC.

Marketing and Customer Handling Unit

The Marketing and Customer Handling Unit of the Distance Education Division, SMUC, held Capacity Building Training for Center Co-ordinators at SMUC-Mexico Campus from the 1st – the 4th of September, 2008. Its main objective was to see the execution of different kinds of educational and training services and to develop awareness on recent related educational issues.



The training was opened by Ato Wondwosen Tamrat, (Asst. Prof.), Founder and President of SMUC.





One of the resource persons, Ato Getachew Kelmu, a Distance Education Expert, presented a paper on ‘Concepts and Management of Distance Education’; and Ato Abebe Yirdaw, Business Faculty, gave training on ‘Customers Handling and Communication in Distance Education’, both from SMUC. Ato Dereje Alemu and Ato Tamene Yigletu, both from the Ministry of Education, gave a talk on the Revised TVET Strategy and on the New Curriculum.



In addition, heads of different Distance Education Division offices and units discussed various issues, including the

strategic plan of SMUC, duties and responsibilities of the employees of regional centers and coordinators; and on organizational implementations and the challenges faced.

The discussion and the experience sharing that took place were found very valuable.



The President closed the training by giving general guidelines and extending much thanks to the participants, the resource persons and the organizing offices and units.

Participants noted the benefits of the training and wished to have more trainings in the future.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Social Support Forum, the Pedagogical Center and the Department of Marketing of SMUC, as usual, ran summer tutorial classes and made donations.



Four selected student-teachers: Kebede Amte, Abiy Getachew, Tamiru Sisay and Simen Sebsebe, all from the Faculty of Teacher Education, SMUC, gave the tutorial classes to 240 students of grades 5-8.



The Social Support Forum, in collaboration with Rejoice Ethiopia, a local NGO, carried out summer tutorial program for children drawn from the vicinity of SMUC from July the 14th –August the 29th 2008 at Edget Behibret Primary School at Cherkos Kifle Ketema, Kebele 15/16.



Besides, The Social Support Forum donated 480 exercise books and 240 ballpoint pens to the same students.

On the other hand, the Pedagogical Center donated different kinds of teaching materials; and the Marketing Department donated 25 desks and 50 chairs to Rejoice Ethiopia to use it for its pre-school children.



At the ceremony held at the end of the Tutorial Program at Mexico Campus, SMUC, Ato Wondwosen Tamrat, President and Founder of SMUC, appreciated and thanked all the participants of the program and gave certificates to ranking students of each grade, i.e. grades 5,6,7 and 8.



Ato Melaku Girma, Dean of the Education Faculty, reminded the participants to implement the issues raised during the awareness training program. After Ato Melaku Girma appreciated and thanked the trainers, he gave certificates to about thirty teen-ager students who participated in the five- day HIV/AIDS behavioral change awareness training program.



PARTICIPATIONS

★ Ato Baye Nigatu, Head of the External Relations Office, attended the 'International Year of Planet Earth 2008 Ethiopian Launch Event' (IYPE) celebration on the 14th of August 2008 at the Science Faculty of AAU. It was organized by the National Committee of the Event along with the Ethiopian Science and Technology Agency and the Ethiopian Geo-Science and Mineral Engineering Association.

During the course of the day, HE Ato Junedi Sado, Minister of Transport and Communication, presented a paper on environment & geology and gave general reflections about earth. Ato Desalegn Mesfin, Assistant Chief Director of Environment Control Authority and Dr. Seife Kebede, member of the National Organizing Committee, elaborately stated the basic concerns of the issue.

On the 25th of September 2008, Head of the External Relations Office attended the joint panel discussion on 'Corruption and the Private Sector in Ethiopia' organized by the Federal Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission (FEACC) and Transparency Ethiopia at Ghion Hotel.

The objective of the panel was to create the awareness on the need for the private sector to join hands in the big national fight against corruption understanding the impact this might have on national development.

After different but related papers were presented, the floor was opened for discussion. Several views and questions were raised accordingly.

★ In a similar vein, the Head of the External Relations Office attended a panel organized by Mary Joy Through Development under the theme, 'Ethiopians For Ethiopians' at Semen Hotel on the 16th of August 2008.

The Welfare Group led by prominent artists, authors and media professionals forwarded the idea of the subject of the panel i.e. building a center of cultural heritage in Addis Ababa.

Some members of the organizing group discussed the objectives and the performances of the committee: Sr. Zebyder Zewde, the Founder of Mery Joy Through Development, gave a talk on the 'Status of the Ethiopians to Ethiopians;



and Yemisrach Atnaf and Ato Abebe Aro did the same on 'The Working Program' and on 'The Future Directives; respectively

Most of the participants supported the theme and also reminded Mery Joy and the committee of prominent artists, authors & media professionals to do more in making the people, institutions, organizations, individuals aware of their objectives & work.

★ Ato Maru Bazezew instructor, Faculty of Law, Shume Alemu, Meklit Fnatahun and Mengistu Eshete, students of SMUC from the same faculty, attended a panel on the 7th of August 2008 at Sheraton Addis. It was organized by Inter African Group on 'Constitutionalism and Human Security in the Horn'.

There were three resource persons for this introductory /briefing session:

Ato Tsegaye Regassa, on 'Constitutionalism, Constitution Making and the Existing Ethiopian Constitution & its Components'; Dr. Assefa Fiseha, on 'Federalism, General View: the Ethiopian Federal Structure', and Dr. Sara Vaughan, on 'Minority and Issues Related to Minorities'.

The participants, it was reported, showed active participation in the panel.

★ On the 2nd of October 2008, the Head of the External Relations Office attended the 139th Birth Anniversary of Mohandas Gandhi in connection with the 2nd International Day of Non-violence at the United Nations Conference Center.

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, in his Gandhi's Memorial lecture, emphasized the need for utilization of Gandhi's non-violence methods to resolve conflicts and differences.

UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of ECA, Abdulie Janneh stated that the principles of non-violence are closely connected with the fundamentals of the United Nations principles, the Universal Declaration of Human rights; and with the purposes of the United Nations Charter.

The Indian Ambassador, Jurjit Singh, on his part, marked the need for utilizing non-violence means to resolve conflicts and differences to bring peace and development.

★ Biructawit Bogale, Guidance and Counseling officer of SMUC; Ergoge Tesfaye, instructor



at Education Faculty, Abebe Zenebe, Student Affairs Office, and Reni Usman, President of the Student Union participated in a workshop on 'Reproductive Health in Higher Education Institution on August the 28th 2008. The workshop was organized by Consortium of Reproductive Health Association (CORHA) along with partners at Ghion Hotel.

The objective of the workshop was to create awareness on the elements of reproductive Health (RH).

The resource Persons, W/t Yordanos Belaineh, and Dr. Michael Dejene, private consultants, presented papers on 'Responsibilities of Higher Institutions Administration on RH' and; on 'Causes that Affect Students' RH and 'What Remedial Measures Should be Taken in the Future'; respectively.

The participants from SMUC reported that the workshop was very participatory and all the discussants agreed on the necessity of having Reproductive Health Centers in higher institutions. They also witnessed that they themselves have gained useful lessons from the workshop.

★ Ato Elias Nour, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Elis Nalbandian, Ato Dagnachew Asrat, Ato Mentenot Gebre, Ato Philipos Aynalem and Ato Asamen Mekonen, all members of the Faculty, attended a Pedagogy and Leadership Training, and a panel discussion on 'Curriculum Development' for two weeks beginning from July the 14th 2008. It was organized by the Justice and Legal System Research Institute (JLSRI) at the Addis Ababa University, Post-graduate Center, Akaki.

Though the objectives of this event were manifold, the major ones were:

- ↳ to improve quality of education, leadership qualities of faculty members;
- ↳ to develop curricula in line with the general consensus of law schools;
- ↳ to inform general legal education community of upcoming post-graduate opportunities; and
- ↳ to develop teaching materials which can be used by all law schools.

The major resource persons were two professors from Warwick University, one from the University of Alabama, one from George Washington University and; various instructors from all universities included in legal education.



The event was said useful as many instructors from all schools participated and students were also involved.

★ Ato Hailu Tsigie, head of the Pedagogical Center, Teacher Education Faculty, participated in the Third National Annual Conference Organized by Central Health University College on September the 8th 2008 at its own premises.

The conference focused on issues related to the importance of health management.

The resource persons, Dr. Tesfaye Teshome, Director of of the Higher Education Relevance & Quality Assurance Agency presented a paper on 'The Role of HERQA in Enhancement of Testing Education'; Dr. Asefa Zeru, from AAU, on 'Complimentary & Alternative Medicine', and Dr. Ameliray from AAU, on 'Health Management'

Ato Hailu Tsigie commented that the Conference was participatory and valuable.

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Literary Forum

The SMUC Literature Club under the Student Union held an inauguration event for a book on the 20th of June 2008 at Mexico Campus, Multi-purpose Hall. The event was held to inaugurate a poetry book 'Angere Tebiban' by Ermiyas Alemayehu, a student of SMUC, Law Faculty.



During the event, several poems from the book were read by the author himself. There were also other poetry recitations during the event.



Ato Ayalneh Mulatu, the guest of honor, commented that the youth, particularly in literature, is producing extraordinary works.

Other invited authors and invited guests appreciated the event. Most participants also found the event very inspiring and thanked SMUC for arranging the event.

Career Orientation

The SMUC Guidance and Counseling Unit organized career orientation to graduating classes on September the 4th 2008 at Mexico Campus, Multi-purpose Hall.



The objective of the career orientation was to inform the graduates about some of the types and nature of the possible challenges they may face after graduation and to discuss related issues.

Several views were shared and questions were answered by the resource persons. Some of the participants commented that they have learned a lot from the orientation.

The resource persons, Ato Mesay Kifle, from Ethio-jobs, presented paper on 'Job Searching'; Engineer Zeleke Mengistu, from Medroc Ethiopia and Ato Balcha Gameda; from Ethiopian Road Authority, on 'What Skills Employers Are Looking For; and Ato Milkias Lisanu from the Chamber of Commerce, presented another paper on 'The Concept and Application of Entrepreneurship'.



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