

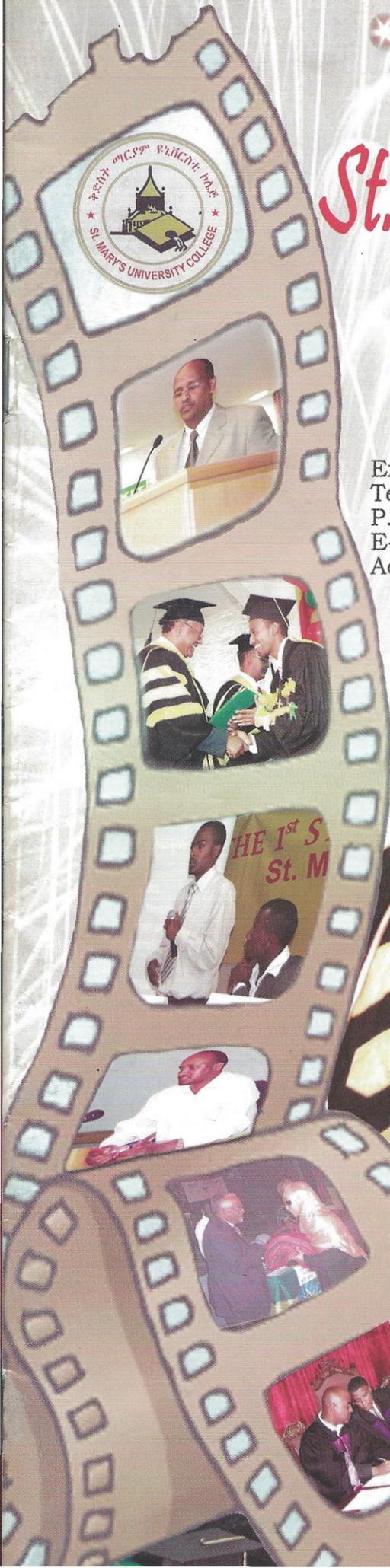
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St. Mary's University College

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CONVOICATIONS



St. Mary's graduated a total of 4,521 students trained in various fields in the Distance Education Program on September 1, 2007 in almost all regions of the country.

At Bahir - Dar, 1,485 students graduated from the regions of Afar, Amhara and Tigray. From the regions of Oromia, Somalia, Dire - Dawa and Harari City Administrations 1,947 students graduated at Adama. Similarly, 1,089 students at Awasa, graduated from the regions of Benshangul Gumuz and SNNPS on the same day.



Ato Wondwosen Tamrat, at Adama University, and his representatives in other graduation venues noted the unique difficulties of distance education and the complex challenges it poses in countries like Ethiopia. The graduates were praised for their hard work, and their families for their unreserved assistance to the



graduates. The graduates were also advised to be model citizens in their respective working and living places and bring respect and honor to themselves and to the University College as their predecessors have done.

All the three guests of honor at the three locations passed similar messages. They appreciated the endeavor that the University College is undertaking to contribute its share in improving the skills of the manpower needed at the national level. They also stated that the graduates would stand with the people who badly need their leadership and support in the struggle to reduce poverty.

The representatives of the graduates on their side expressed their gratitude to St. Mary's for all the efforts it has exerted to improve their skills regardless of all kinds of geographical and social barriers. They also extended their thanks and respect to their families, instructors and employees of the University College at all levels and to the government and non - government agencies for the support they rendered during the period of their study.

Similarly, the UC graduated 2,392 students on September 8, 2007 at AAU, Christmas Hall, of which about 543 were from the Distance Education Program, Addis Ababa Center. This number has

brought the number of the graduates of the UC so far to 20,000.



The President in his opening speech stated that the UC has been working hard to keep the education up to its expected standard. He reminded the graduates to work responsibly and dutifully.

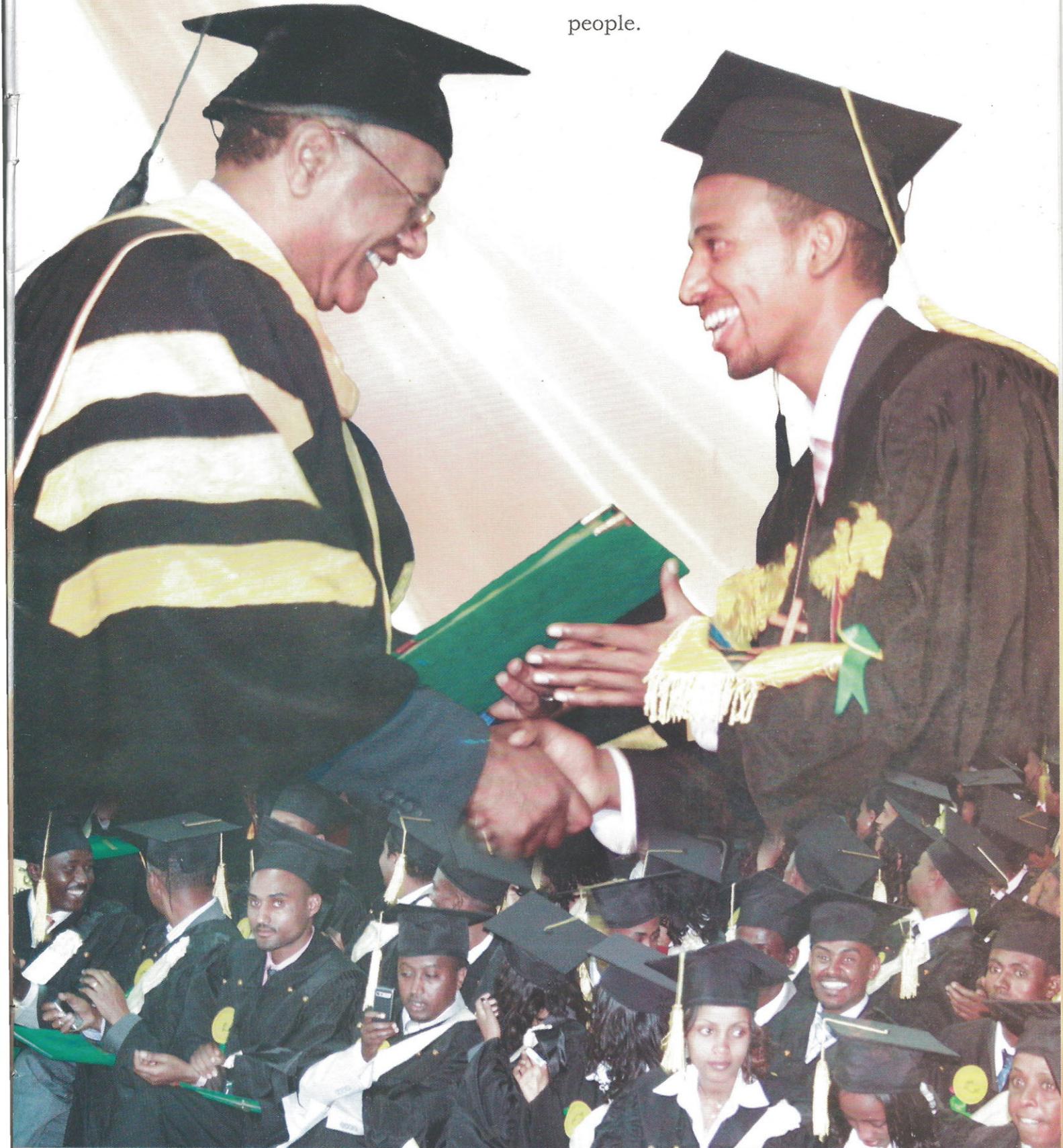


On the other hand, the guest of honor, Dr. Belay Abegaz, Founder and Board Chairman of Children's Heart Fund of Ethiopia, welcomed and congratulated the graduates and their families warmly.



He stressed that the successful achievements of the graduates in the academics would be testified by the practical solutions they give to the actual

challenges they face in the real life of the Ethiopian people. Dr. Belay added that the value of our knowledge is measured by the service we render to the welfare of our people.





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Fifth National Conference on Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs) in Ethiopia



St. Mary's University College organized its Fifth National Conference on Private Higher Education Institutions and held it on the 25th of August 2007 at the United Nations Conference Center, Addis Ababa under the theme, 'Private Higher Education at the Turn of the Ethiopian Millennium'. Its objective was to provide a forum for national and international scholars on Ethiopian Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs).

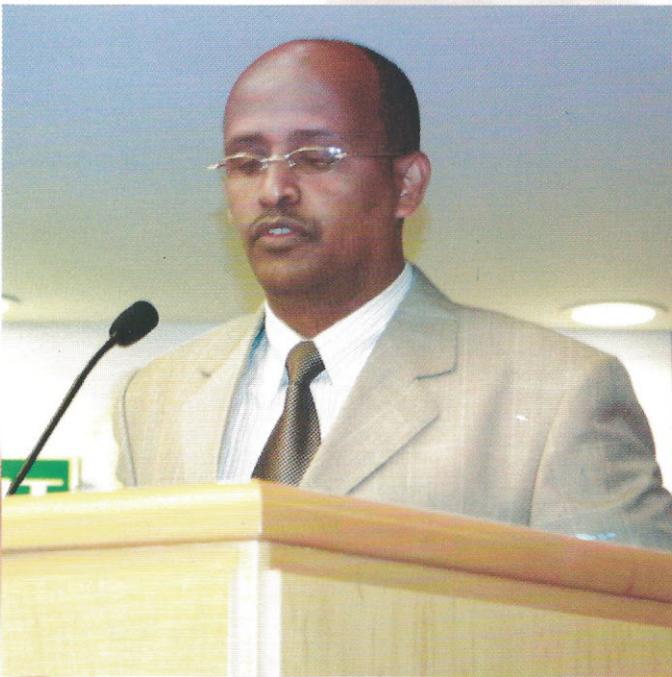


His Excellency Dr. Sintayehu W/Michael, Minister of Education, in his opening speech stated that private higher education institutions have an



irreplaceable role in the government's effort of fighting poverty and backwardness. Private higher institutions, currently constituting more than 20% of the total national higher education enrollment, the Minister added, have been playing a key role in producing educated human power that can contribute to the development of the nation.

The Minister appreciated St. Mary's University College for organizing and sponsoring such annual national conferences since 2003.



Ato Wondwosen Tamrat, Founder and President of the University College, pointed out the need for concerted efforts from institutions, stakeholders and the government in order to maintain the remarkable growth of the Ethiopian private higher education system exhibited only within a decade.

Ethiopian private higher education institutions, the President stated, are expected to carry out their duties with a great sense of responsibility and commitment.



Ato Dagnachew Yilma, Board Chairman of the Ethiopian Private Higher Education Institutions' Association in his keynote address underscored the rapid growth of the sector, within a decade. He mentioned that the 22% share of the total trainee population in the degree program and the provision of almost 60% Technical and Vocational Education mark the fact that the expansion and massification is increasingly reliant on private higher education institutions.

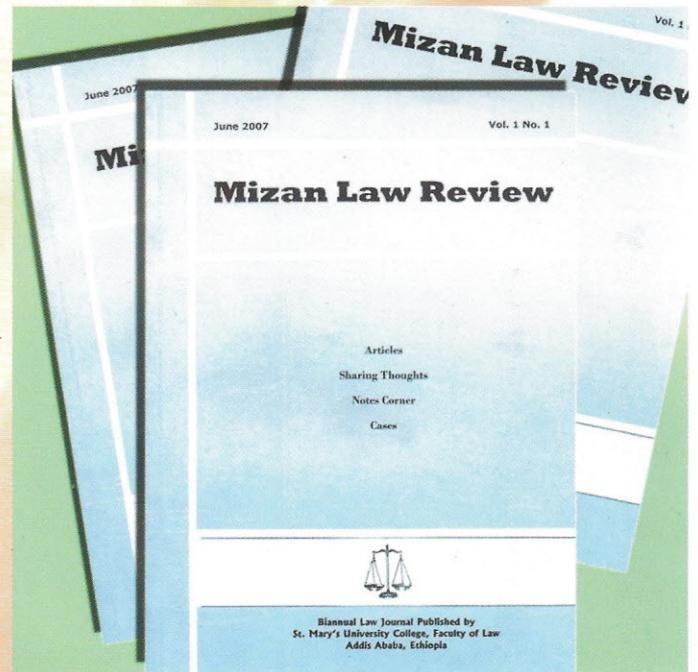


Academic Development Resource Center



The University College academic staff, regular and distance, are welcomed to use the center every working day, including Saturdays, from 8:00 AM (Morning) – 8:00 PM (evening), and from 8:00-12:30 on Sundays.

Mizan Law Review



The University College has organized an Academic Development Resource Center since Ginbot 1999 in order:

- To facilitate the availability of teaching materials which could support and modernize the teaching/learning process;
- To identify the challenges encountered in the teaching/learning activities and organize remedial trainings;
- To help improve the quality of student assessments and to conduct research on the same; and
- To network with similar centers in the country.

The center, for the time being, provides lap-top, L.C.D. and Overhead Projectors to instructors; and also has some newspapers, journal collections, and internet services that all faculty could access.

The Faculty of Law has started publishing a biannual Law Journal: Mizan Law Review. During the launching event held at SMUC, Multi-purpose Hall, on the 19th of August 2007, invited guests appreciated the standard and content of the Journal and underlined the need to focus on its continuity.

Three hundred copies of the first issue of the Journal were distributed as complementary copies to instructors at various law schools (public and private), libraries, and pertinent offices.



The remaining seven hundred copies are being sold at a nominal price of Birr 20 at St. Mary's Book Shop and various other appropriate venues. The budget of the publication was partially covered by the assistance obtained from the Embassy of Finland.

Another achievement that needs to be recognized and appreciated is the Moot Court Competition held among Regular Degree Program Graduating Class Students. The preliminary (First) round and the second round involved the preparation of appellate briefs by every student and oral debate in an appellate moot court setting. The semi-final round which involved six students was held on 17th of July 2007, and the final round was held on the eve of the graduation of the finalists.

nurture the culture of research and discussion in the minds of students. Fourteen prospective graduate students drawn from the Faculties of Business, Informatics and Law presented their papers. Students who attended the forum expressed their appreciation for the presenters and said the forum had enlightened them with research undertaking and oral presentations. A student participant confirmed the view remarking, "An insightful practice that needs to continue."



Student Research

Forum

A day-long Student Research Forum, the first of its kind in Ethiopia, was held at SMUC Multi-purpose Hall on September 2, 2007. The purpose of this forum was to

More than 300 students, faculty and staff attended the forum. It was learned from the Academic Dean's Office that such a forum will be organized every year.

Carrier Orientation Conducted

The Student Affairs Office along with the Guidance and Counseling, and the Student Council conducted a half-day orientation to the graduating students of



1999 E.C on September 4, 2007 at the Multi-purpose Hall, Mexico Campus.

The orientation was mainly on how graduating students develop self-confidence in the world of work; on manifestations of a good worker, on what is expected from a graduate to create or/and get jobs and the advantages of apprenticeship.



The orientation was given by Ato Tedla Haile, Academic Dean of SMUC; Ato Fisseha Tesfaye, Head, Practicum & Apprenticeship Unit, Ato Belay Reta, Head of Student Affairs Office, Ato Dilnesaw Samuel, Lecturer, Management Department, and Ato Dawit Arage, Management Department, Addis Ababa University;

The UC extends its gratitude to the organizations and individuals who sponsored the event and made the orientation successful.

LMDP Wrap-up Conference

The wrap-up conference of the leadership and Management Development Project (LMDP) took place in Addis Ababa at the UN-ECA Hale on 15 and 16 December 2007. The conference culminated the two-year long series of workshops, which brought together the leadership team of nine public and four private institutions of higher education. As one of the beneficiary institutions, the SMUC academic and administrative leadership actively participated in the workshops and shared experiences toward setting its change agenda having an in-depth discussion concerning the areas of improvement to be focused on.

The project was financed by the Netherlands program for the Institutional Strengthening of Post Secondary Education and Training Capacity (NPT) and was carried out with the support of the Vrije University of Amsterdam, Center for International Cooperation (CIS) and Maastricht School of Management (MSM). Locally, the Ministry of Education oversaw its implementation in collaboration with the African Institute of Management, Development and Governance (AIMDG).



Workshops



The Practicals Unit of the Distance Education program, along with Networking and Computer Maintenance Administration of the Regular Division conducted a two-day workshop on using Dialup Internet Connections.

The workshop was given for ten selected Distance Education centers on the 18th and the 19th of December 2007 at Mexico Campus.

The objective was to hasten effective communication between the selected ten distance education centers and the Head Office of the Distance Education Program, Addis Ababa.

❖ A workshop on Teaching Methods and Assessment was conducted by the Department of Education, Teacher Education Faculty, from the 24th of September to the 1st of October 2007 at Mexico Campus.

The objective of the workshop was to acquaint new academic staff with key issues like: methods of teaching, basic concepts in assessment, principles of test construction and classroom management. The resource persons were Ato Melaku Girma, Dean, Faculty of Teacher Education; Ato, Bekalu Atnafu, Head, Education Department; Ato Kasahun Habtamu, Instructor, Education Department, and Assistant Professor Lemma Setegn, Curriculum Department, AAU.

At the closing ceremony, some of the participants among the twenty-five new academic staff participants, noted that the workshop was productive, Interesting, timely and useful.

Professional Services

The Faculty of Business, in its part, gave a two phase training for five days on 'Supervisory Management' to first line and middle level managers of Akaki Spare Parts and Hand Tools Share Company at the company's premises.

The first phase training was given to 25 first line managers from the 22nd – the 26th of October; and the second one, to 43 middle level managers from the 19th – the 23rd of Nov, 2007.



The Objective of the training was to enhance the supervisory skill of the trainers.

The training was administered by Ato Goitom Abrham, Dean, Faculty of Business and by Ato Abebe Yirdaw, a lecturer in the Department of Management.

PARTICIPATIONS

The Head of the Office of the External Relations attended several national and international workshops, conferences and events. It has also assisted other faculties and offices in similar lines of endeavor.

❖ The office head along with Ato Belay Reta, Head, Student Affairs Office; W/t Bruktait Bogale, Guidance and Counseling Officer; and Ato Mengistu Gobeze, Head of Department of Social Sciences attended the 'Ethiopian Millennium Summit of Religious Fathers Meeting' held on the 26th of September 2007 at the New ECA Conference Hall.

It was attended by Holy Patriarchs, prominent faith leaders and senior government officials. Universal issues like 'Overcoming Violence, Conflict, Displacement, Human Security, Global Economic Justice, Poverty and the Scourge of HIV/AIDS, and Earth's Environment and Human Development' were discussed.

❖ The consultative meeting organized by the Ministry of Trade and Industry on September 11, 2007 at the hall of the same was the other event attended by the Head of the External Relations Office. The consultative meeting was held to discuss and exert collective effort in organizing Miss Tourism of the Millennium event here in Addis Ababa. The Miss Tourism of the Millennium event at Addis Ababa was but the second Miss World Competition in the continent of Africa after South Africa. The event would have, as stated in the meeting, a huge impact on the country's image and would also have economic contribution.

❖ The Head of the External Relations Office attended an event organized by the Ethiopian Millennium Festival National Council Secretariat on the 2007 at the Bole Airport Terminal under the motto that runs, 'let's overcome backwardness by contributing a book'.



Some of the objectives of the project were to capacitate the national library services, to help develop the culture of reading, particularly of the youth; to enhance creativity and research undertaking, SMUC showed its earnest support for the call by contributing a book.

❖ On the 16th of October 2007, the office attended the annual celebration of the 'International White Cane Day' at the AAU, Cultural Center. On this occasion, the Head of the External Relations Office handed blankets donated by SMUC to twenty-four impaired students who had scored good grades in the Ethiopian General School Leaving Examination (EGSLE) of 1999 EC and joined their tertiary Institutions.

❖ A reception held on November 9, 2007 at the British Embassy to launch a special book was also attended by the head of the External Relations Office.

British Embassy and British Council launched entitled 'Perspectives: Ethiopia and Britain', which explore the link between Britain and Ethiopia and illustrates the many diverse links between the two countries.

Mr. Bob Dewar the British Ambassador speaking at this ceremony said, "Links between Britain and Ethiopia go back hundreds of yearsembody the modern bonds which are stronger at Ethiopia's Millennium than ever"

The other two celebrations attended were, the 'World Philosophy Day' and 'World Teachers Day' held on the 15th of November 2007 at the AAU, Cultural Center, and on October the 5th 2007 at Ghion Hotel respectively.

During the celebration at the Cultural Center, AAU, there was an essay competition among senior students of the Department of Philosophy, A.A.U; a presentation by the students of Philosophy Club; and the highlight of the event, a lecture by Professor M.B. Ramose of the University of South Africa (UNISA).

The mottos of this year's 'World Teacher's Day' were two: "በሩህ ተስፋ በትምህርት ጥራት በአዲሱ ሚሊኒየም" and "Better working





conditions for teachers mean better learning conditions for students.”

Joint messages, mainly elaborating the mottos above, from the Director-General, UNESCO; Director-General, ILO; Administrator, UNDP; Executive Directors, UNICEF; and from President, Education International were read out by Dr. Nureldin Satti, Director & Representative UNESCO to the participants.

❖ In addition to attending meetings, and events the External Relations Office has facilitated for some faculties, centers, and offices to participate in workshops, conferences, etc. as per invitation letters forwarded to the institution.

❖ Ato Yalew Gorfu and Ato Abiy Mesfin of the Department of Marketing attended a two-day workshop on the 5th and the 6th of December 2007, at the Imperial Hotel. The workshop was organized by Mahiber and the Heinrich Ball Foundation, Ethiopia (MELCA)

The workshop was to offer an opportunity to discuss the costs and benefits of free trade and the implementation of the reform of the agricultural trade values under WTO as well as the proposed alternatives.

❖ The Accounting Department, on its part, facilitated the venue request of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) by preparing the Multi-purpose Hall of the UC for Wednesday, November 28, 2007, Announcements were also made to interested students to attend the 'Awareness Creation Presentation' by the Association. It was reported that about 200 students attended the presentation.

❖ The launching ceremony of Addis Network of People Leaving With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) Associations (ANPT) on December the 6th 2007 at the Global Hotel was also attended by the Student Wellness and Development Center of SMUC.

❖ Nine instructors of the Faculty of Law participated a pedagogical workshop prepared for Law Instructors from the 17th – the 28th of September 2007. It was organized by the Justice and Legal System Research Institute. The law instructors were drawn from public and private law schools.

The workshop was conducted by Professor Ruger Burrige, Head of Law School, University of Warwick (UK) and Dr. Sammy Adelman from Warwick Law School.



Scholarship Offers

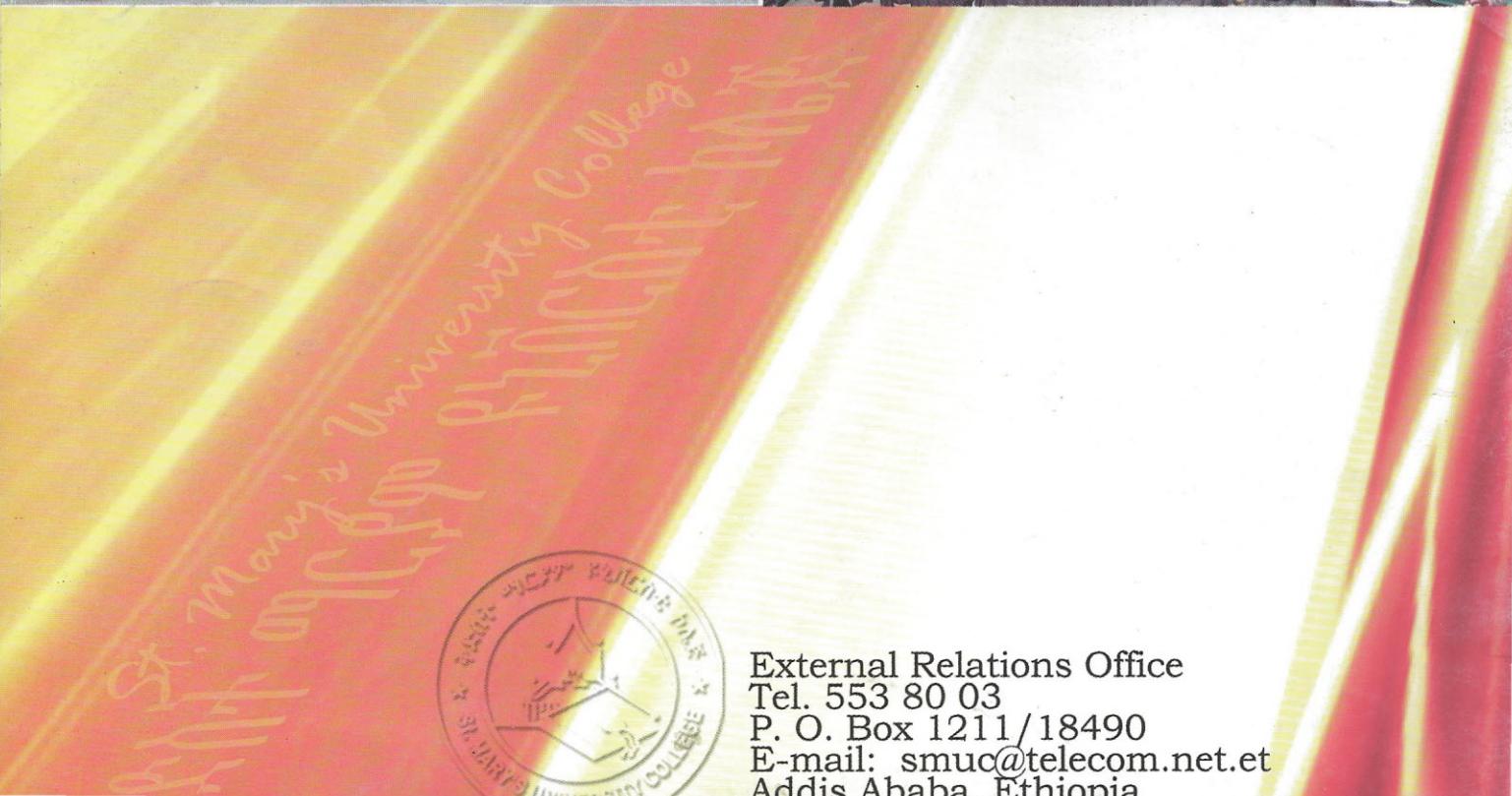
This year the University College has offered scholarship for sixty six applicants as part of its annual scholarship offer.

The candidates were individuals from poor families, government and non-government offices (federal and regional), schools and organizations.

Welcome Aboard

The community of the University College welcomes you all, the instructors, administrative personnel and the students who have joined the institution as of Meskerem 2000 EC. The community of the University College, with your assistance, hopes to further boost its impact in the sphere of education in the new Ethiopian Millennium.





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