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St. Mary's University College

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Convocation



International Partnership



Community Service

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1. CONVOCATION



St. Mary's University College graduated 323 students of the Distance Education Division in certificates and degrees in seven fields of studies on the 6th of May 2007, at Ethio-Assembly Hall. This number raises the distance education graduates of the UC so far to 13, 682.

Ato Wondwosen Tamrat (Asst. Prof.), Founder and President of the UC, stated the complex nature of distance education and admired the efforts of the prospective graduates. He also appreciated the community of the UC at various levels for assisting the graduates to complete their studies.



He also expressed his gratitude to the offices of the government and non-government and the families of the prospective graduates for their support and encouragement.

The President mentioned the link SMUC has established with internationally reputed educational institutes like Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to improve the skills and capacity of its students.

Moreover, Ato Wondwosen Tamrat reminded the prospective graduates to be part of the SMUC alumni in order to keep their future link with their institution.

The guest of honour, Ato Wubshet Workalemahu, Manager of Lion Advertising & P.R. Organization, pointed out that the country is in dire need of educated people. Consequently, the UC and each family of the prospective graduates, he noted, should be given high regard as they have contributed a lot to the success of each graduate.



Ato Wubshet also noted that the motto, 'Man always learns', is best expressed and implemented in the distance mode of education. He underlined that there is no other proof for this other than the graduates themselves.

Finally, he reminded the graduates that education should be used to help our people in the best possible way and not to fill the self with pride and conceit.



The representative of the prospective graduates, on the other hand, recalled the times when there were no or less opportunities to improve their skills and lives. After he underlined the contribution of higher education institutes in opening the opportunity of education in the countryside, he appreciated and forwarded much thanks to St. Mary's University College that brought them such success and had given them boundless delight.

2. CAPACITY BUILDING

2.1. In-house Training

The Faculty of Business gave training on 'Customer Service' to fifty-one SMUC employees drawn from different offices, departments, faculties and centers; and to 62 members of the support staff of the Distance Education Division (DED) from June 16 - 29 and from June 30 - July 6, 2007 at Mexico Campus. The aim of the training given by Ato Abebe Yirdaw, lecturer of the Business Faculty of SMUC, was to upgrade employees' customer service skills.





★The Main Library of SMUC gave library in - service training to its members from the 30th of June -14th of July 2007 at Mexico Campus.



The resource persons were Ato Segid Molla, Library Head, Faculty of Business and Economics; Hirut Temerga, Library Head, Faculty of Law; Ato Muluken Alemu, Library Head, Commercial College - all from Addis Ababa University and Ato Biruk Megersa, Head Librarian of SMUC.

★The Faculty of Informatics on the other hand, gave three trainings on PC System Troubleshooting and Upgrading from the 24th of February to the 4th of March; 'Network Administration and Security' from the 5th of March – the 24th of June and 'Computer Network Security' on July 14 and 15, 2007 to degree computer science graduating class of 1999 Academic Year.

2.2. Workshop



★The Department of Social Sciences held a workshop on 'Drugs and their Effects' on the 11th of May 2007 at Mexico campus. The workshop was held to create awareness on the community of the UC, especially students, and focused on the effects of drugs on health, economy, and social life.



The resource persons were Commander Tsehay Kinfu, from the Federal Police Commission, and Ato Mulugeta Wondimu, a psychiatrist from St. Paul Hospital.

The community of the UC extended its thanks and appreciation to the resource persons' useful presentations.



2.3. Exhibition and Visits



TVET Marketing and Salesmanship students (regular and extension) of the Department of Marketing Management, along with their instructors, held the 4th Annual Exhibition on Salesmanship in Action for one week from March 12 to 18, 2007 at Mexico Campus. Its objective was to help students translate the theoretical concepts they acquired from classes into practice.



To make the exhibition a success, the Department, as usual, got goods from companies like NAS Foods and St. George Beer Factory on consignment. The Exhibition was visited by almost all students, instructors and office workers of the UC and by people from outside.

The students spent a very busy week handling customers and visitors in a happy and enthusiastic mood.

The students donated the profit they have secured from selling goods to community services. It should be remembered that last year's students gave all the profit (i.e Birr 5,000.00) to forty HIV/AIDS positives living at Lideta District.

★The Department of Accounting organized a half-day educational visit on March 6, 2007 for its TVET 1998 entry students (sections 'A' and 'B') to 'Tikur Abay' Shoe Factory.

The visit was to help students relate classroom lectures with the actual work environment. The Cost and Personnel Sections of the factory showed the students different documents, and gave them explanations on how the theoretical lessons in schools are related with real life. Students reported that they have found the visit useful.

2.4. Visits to Regional Centers

The Dean, the Vice-dean and the Reform Officer of the Distance Education Division (DED) took the Term II Exam period of the academic year 2007 as an opportune time to visit 11 co-ordinating centers in the regions from the 20th - the 23rd of July, 2007.



The three officials observed the administration of examination in various places. They also held meetings at different centers with students and discussed academic issues and specially the new government directives on the employment of Teacher Education graduates of PHEIs.

2.5. International Partnership



Following the England – Africa Partnerships in Higher Education, SMUC in collaboration with the College of St. Mark and St. John (Marjon), Plymouth – England is working on a project entitled Key Skills Training for Women Educators (Key SWOTT). The project team, which is composed of instructors from different disciplines, is writing Supplementary Readers for Grades 5 – 8 students. So far two workshops with the theme Professional Development in Teacher Education have been held at SMUC, Mexico Campus.



The project aims at building the capacity of women teacher educators, producing supporting materials for training purposes and disseminating the materials produced to all regions in Ethiopia and other East African countries. Twelve SMUC academic staff, of which 10 were women, participated in the first workshop, which was conducted from 23 – 28 April 2007 by Dr. Katy Salisbury, Project Coordinator from Marjon.

During this workshop, 11 stories about Ethiopian role models, who were identified for their motivational and inspirational purposes, were written. These stories have been trialed with 85 students and 12 teachers and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.



The second workshop, as scheduled, was held from 4 – 8 June 2007. The written stories have been revised, and 10 additional stories have been



written along with their respective tasks. The team has also prepared its action plan for the rest of the project work.

As part of the project work, six of the SMUC project participants have taken part in a two – week long training on Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) in Marjon, England.

2.6. International Co-operation



In order to expose for its students to international experience, the UC has established links with international institutions.

One such international connection has been established between SMUC, and the New Business School of Amsterdam (NBS), the Netherlands.

The link has enabled the two institutions to take the student exchange programme a step forward. Eight NBS students in the Department of



Management, two associate deans and two senior lecturers came to Addis Ababa from the Netherlands on 17 April 2007 for a one – week educational visit. They are working with their counterparts at SMUC on a project entitled 'Branding Ethiopia' whose purpose is to promote Ethiopian coffee so that Ethiopian farmers will be able to get fair price for their produce.

2.7. Memorandum of Understanding Signed

St. Mary's University College and Punt Land State University- Somalia; have signed a five - year programme of co-operation.



The Programme is to benefit the respective educational institutions to promote the development of joint curriculum, research and staff activities, and other educational programmes of mutual interest.

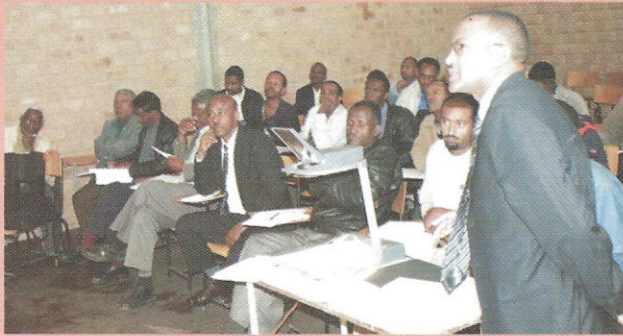


2.8. Purchase of Books

The University has bought different kinds of books worth 78,568.21 to strengthen its library services. The books have been made available in the library since the 7th of July 2007.

2.9. Trainers Trained

A half-day training has been given to 35 Natural Science Laboratory trainers of the Distance Education Division of the University College at Green Campus.



The training was given on the 28th of July 2007 by Ato Mekbib Alemu, Addis Ababa University, Department of Physics. It was to help the Degree Course Experimental Physics I and II students conduct practical laboratory classes and to give support to other physics courses in the Natural Science Department.

2.10. EZANA Ethiopia Mahiber at SMUC



About fifty prospective graduates of SMUC have participated in a four - round Personal Development and Leadership (PDL) Workshop offered by EZANA Ethiopia Mahiber. The workshops were fundamentally organized under the theme, 'we are more than what we are trained for', to help university and college degree prospective graduates bring changes in their professional outlook and contribute enormously towards themselves and the society.



These trained students, in their turn created a nucleus at SMUC on the 7th of Hamle 1999 E.C. The formation of the nucleus was facilitated by the Practicum and Apprenticeship Office with the support of EZANA Ethiopia Mahiber.

The primary goal of establishing the club and creating the nucleus, as reported by Ato Fissha Tesfaye, Head of the Practicum and Apprenticeship Office, is to coordinate and facilitate the implementation and development of the fundamental ideas of the principles they are trained for at SMUC.



2.11. Campus Activity

The Friday Talk Show at SMUC

Among the extracurricular activities undertaken within the University College, The Friday Talk - Show is one run by the Student Union and sponsored by the Student Wellness and Development Center since mid December 1999 E.C.

The Talk-Show has helped students to develop their interpersonal communication skill, discussion culture, self confidence. It has also advanced more acquaintance among the community of the University College.

Moreover; it has become a forum where students and professionals discuss social issues such as the celebration of the Ethiopian Millennium; the benefits of debt reduction to poor countries; the reading culture in Ethiopia; and the impact of our upbringing to the formation of our personalities.



3. COMMUNITY SERVICE

3.1. Training and Workshops

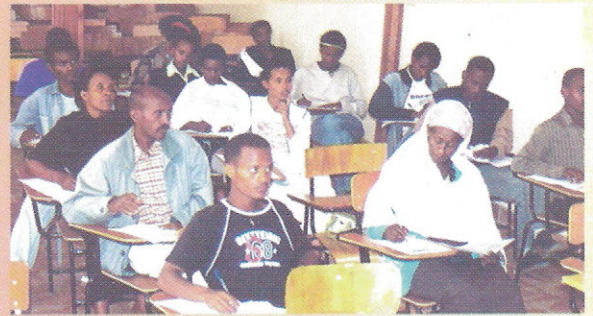


A half-day training was given by the Department of Management on 'Appreciative Inquiry' on the 24th of March 2007 at Mexico Campus to the heads of small and micro Enterprises drawn from the sub - cities of Addis Ababa. The aim of the training was to create awareness on Appreciative Inquiry as a tool of Change Management and initiate its use in the public sector.



The training was conducted by Ato Mesfin Asfaw, Project Manager and a Freelance trainer and Ato Netsanet Tsegaw, lecturer from St. Mary's University College, Business Faculty, Department of Management. The participants

thanked the initiative of the UC and noted that they were well satisfied with the training. They also suggested that the training would be very useful if given to people in the leadership position of other sub-districts as well.

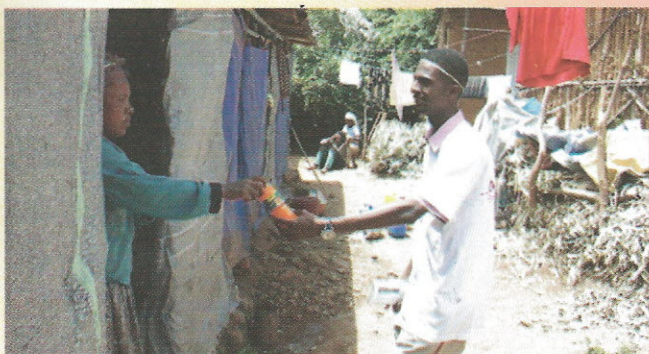


★ In similar vein, The Department of Accounting gave a one-day training on 'Basics of Accounting' to fifty-one people drawn from Lideta Sub-City who are engaged in Small and Micro-Business Enterprises on the 1st of April 2007. The training was given by Ato Jemaneh Bayou and Ato Kasaye Tuji, both lecturers at SMUC, Department of Accounting.

★ The Social Welfare Club of the UC along with the Student Affairs and Services Office, Guidance and Counseling Unit and the Student Union collect clothings and money on various occasions to donate to the needy as a gesture of sympathy of the youth towards the poor.



This year, they collected about 7,000.00 Birr, clothings estimated at about 4,000 birr and more than 150 pairs of shoes for Mouldid and Christmas and distributed them to the needy. They also donated biscuits and juice worth Birr 6,095.00 and dispatched 2,000 cards of good wish to people in hospitals and in the streets of Addis Ababa, and to the sick and the needy around Entoto Church.



★The Department of Languages conducted a one-day workshop on 'Report Writing' on April the 19th, 2007 at Mexico campus.

It was given to thirty office workers and teachers drawn from Lideta and Kirkos Sub cities W/o Tsigie Taffese and Ato Fanta Ayalew, both members of the Department of languages, were. the resource people



★The Practicum and Apprenticeship Office in collaboration with the Faculty of Informatics also gave Training for fifty hours on 'The Uses of computer Application Packages' to help the trainees acquire basic skills of computer use on the 17th of July 2007 at Mexico Campus.



About 17 trainees from Kebele 15/16/17 and Kebele 01/18, from Lideta Sub-City and from neighboring partner schools participated in the workshop. Certificates were issued to the trainees.



★ Another training on 'Basic Skills in Computer Application Usage' was also given to some employees of Addis Ababa Mass Media Agency from the 11th of December 2006 to the 3rd of March 2007.



The training was conducted for 100 hrs, excluding the practice time, by Ato Aklilu Takele, Assistant lecturer, Faculty of Informatics, SMUC. The training focused on 'Computer and Computer Applications and The Internet'. Certificates were issued for 12 trainees who completed the sessions successfully.

4. PARTICIPATIONS

The External Relations Office of the UC attended several national and international meetings and conferences. The Office also assisted faculties and offices to participate in workshops and conferences.

★ The Head of the Office attended the 'Green Award Ceremony of 2007' on the 5th of June 2007 which was organized by Forum for Environment (FfE) at the National Jubilee Palace in the presence of H.E. Green Hero Girma Woldegiorges, President of F.D.R.E and Patron of the Program.

Individuals and associations from the regions and from Addis Ababa who have accomplished extraordinary tasks to improve the greenery of the country and combat against degradation of environment have been honored and awarded during the ceremony.

In addition, The Green Award Ceremony organized by Youth Network for Sustainable Development and by Forum for Environment was inaugurated on the 9th of June 2007 at the Addis Ababa Administration Hall in the presence



of H.E. Brahane Deressa, Mayor of Addis Ababa City Care Taker Administration.

On the 13th of March 2007, the Head of the Office of the External Relations attended the reception held on the occasion of the Launching of the Addis Ababa City Millennium Council. The event was held at the Cultural Hall of the Municipality in the presence of His Excellency Ato Berhane Deressa, Mayor of the Addis Ababa City Care Taker Administration. It was an opportune event for the participants to discuss and give views about the plan of the city's millennium.

★The other important event was the banquet held at Sheraton Addis on June 16th 2007 by the delegation of the UN Peace Force of the Korean War Memorial Federation during which the Ethiopian war veterans warmly welcomed the delegation.

The delegation came to Ethiopia to express their gratitude and strengthen friendship with the Veteran Association for the heroic deeds and sacrifices that the Ethiopian soldiers paid for the cause of global peace and freedom under the UN Peace Forces during the Korean War which broke out on June 25, 1950.

★The other remarkable event attended was the occasion held on April the 18th 2007 by

Berhan Blind Children Association held at the Imperial Hotel.

The Manager, Ato Yirdaw Tenaw stated that the association is created and organized to feed blind poor children, send them to schools and help them participate in other social services. Its plan is to help 20 victims annually.

St. Mary's University College sponsored part of the event so that the association could achieve its mission.

★Two other attended meetings at Lideta Administration are worth mentioning. One on the 30th of March 2007 to discuss the coming Millennium and security matters at Kebele 1/18; and the other on the 24th of March 2007, organized by the Executive of Lideta Administration, on development issues concerning the youth to which the UC has shown its concern and collaboration.

In addition to attending meetings, the External Relation Office has facilitated for some faculties and offices to attend related conferences and workshops as per invitation letters forwarded to the institution.

★CRQA attended the Sixth Annual Multidisciplinary Conference of Unity University College on the theme, 'Changes, Challenges and Opportunities in the New Millennium', held from June 21 - 23.



Ato Teshager Mersha of CRQA reported that different scientific papers in various disciplines were presented.

★Ato Abebe Yirdaw, Ato Dilnesahu Samuel, Netsanet Tsegaw; members of the Department of Management and, Ato Yalew Gorfu, member of the Department of Marketing attended the 2nd Round National Trade Plan Competition winners prize giving ceremony on the 28th of June 2007 at the Addis Ababa Exhibition Center. The above mentioned participants of the Business Faculty of SMUC have played significant roles during the competition. One acted as a juror and the rest three as assessors during the competition in the selection of the 20 winner finalists.

The competition was organized by the Ministry of Trade and Industry under one of its project i.e., Business Plan Competition-BIZPLAN.

★The Student Affairs Office in collaboration with the Students Union collected a sixteen page protest-signature from the community of the UC and submitted it through the External Relations Office to Community Capacity Development Association on the 28th of March 1999 E.C.

The objective of the Association was to collect as many protest signatures as possible from government, non-government offices, institutions, and from the people. The purpose of collecting the protest - signatures is to express the general protest of the Ethiopian wider community along with the advent of the new Ethiopian

Millennium to those who would always like to attach the name 'Ethiopia' with draught and hunger.



Moreover, the Student Affairs Office and the Student Union organized fifty students who planted trees at the hill of Entoto along with fifty members of Oasis Blind Support Association on July 7, 2007.



The participants commented that they were happy and proud to participate in such activity of national concern.

★The Guidance and Counseling Unit Head, W/t Bruktawit Bogale attended the symposium on 'Morality in the New Millennium' organized by the Bible Society of Ethiopia on July 28th, 2007 at Africa Union Conference Hall.

According to W/t Bruktawit, issues concerning the value of good morality intended to show the future direction were discussed in detail



5. SPORTS

The Great Run



Forty office employees of the UC participated in the '2007 Confidence Women First 5kms Run' organized by Great Ethiopian Run that took place in Addis Ababa on Sunday 1st April 2007.

Further more, the Great Ethiopian Run invited ten university colleges in Addis Ababa to select and send a maximum of five female students with high academic and athletic qualities. The event was special in that the final winners among the universities/colleges would be given scholarship to study at a top all women's college in Amritsar, India. As per the request, SMUC selected five students who participated in the 5km competition.

It was announced on the ETV on the day itself, April 1st 2007, that Aster Berhanu and Lemlem Netserab of the Faculty of Education stood 2nd and 3rd respectively after Kidist Berhanu of MicroLink College. This was again printed in Addis Zemen, Sports Page, April 2, 2007.

Aster Berhanu and Lemlem Netserab were again among the five contestants to attend the final interview at the office of the Great Ethiopian Run. But at the end of the day, we learned that none of our students were given any of the prizes among the three awards offered.

The University College has protested writing formal letters twice to the office of the Great Ethiopian Run. However, no positive response has yet been obtained to the dismay of the young competitors and to the institution.

