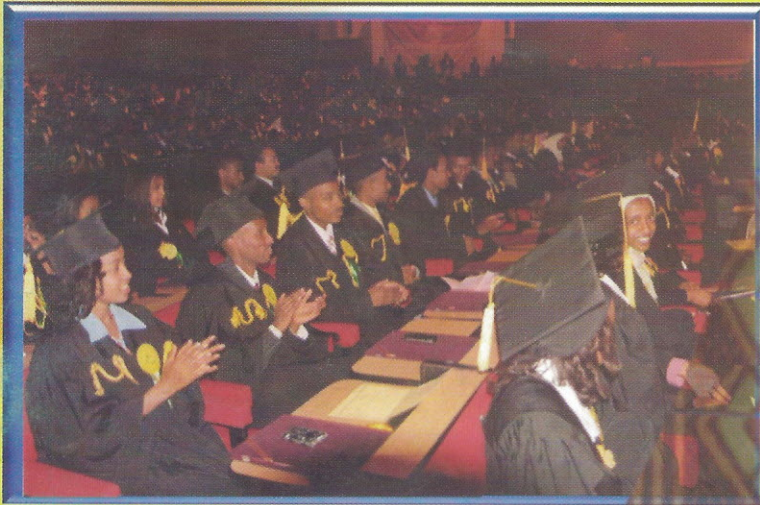




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A Quarterly Newsletter

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St.Mary's University College

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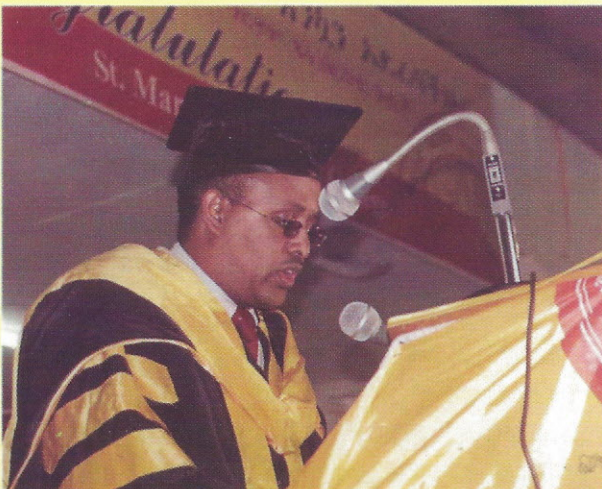


THE COMMENCEMENT



The University College graduated 1,362 students in eleven fields of studies in the Distance Education mode on 22 July 2006 at Addis Ababa University – Christmas Hall-of which 13.3% of the graduates were female.

The fifth graduation of the University College has made the total number of graduates 12,137. Though this appears to be a small number in contrast to the dire need of skilled manpower of the country, it is a considerable educational contribution for an institution which is less than a decade old.



Founder and President of the University College, Ato Wondwosen Tamrat (Asst. Prof.) stressed and admired the graduates and their families in overcoming all the difficulties to achieve their goal. He also appreciated the usual cooperation of the employees of the distance centers to bring the programme to success.

The President mentioned that most of the earlier graduates have brought good reputation to the University College as they have become efficient and model achievers in their respective working places. He reminded the new graduates to follow their footsteps, and to continue their education further with the same zeal.

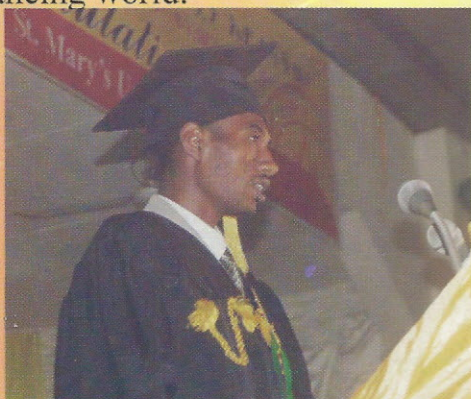
The university college has gathered substantial experience from the programme enriched by the students' feedback and advice. In addition to improving our provisions, this has led

the institution to initiating a collaborative distance education Masters Programme with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).



2 The guest of honour, Associate Professor Almaz Eshete noted that education is an instrument to perform better to the self and to the society at large, and underlined that we should keep on learning no matter where we are and when.

After extending her thanks and appreciations to the graduates, their families and to SMUC, Assoc. Prof. Almaz Eshete advised the institution to widen the scope of the trainings in order to cope with the technologically advancing world.



A representative of the graduates forwarded much thanks to the university college for having given them the opportunity they were denied before. He concluded his speech by noting that all of the graduates are ready to work hard to serve the society.

In a separate development, the university college graduated 860 students in diplomas and degrees in the Regular Programme in 9 fields of studies on the 2nd of Sept. 2006 of which 65.12% were females.

Ato Wondwosen, the President of the university college, expressed that the number of female graduates is indicative of the fact that their future participation in higher education is improving.



He also mentioned that the diploma graduates were the first batch in the 3 years diploma studies under the New Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) programme.

After elaborating the various challenges students have passed through, the

President advised graduates to be sincere contributors to the society and to be always ready to learn from others.



Particularly, at a time when most of our country is hit by flood and natural calamities, the President underscored that their support to others as educated citizens is highly needed. To remind graduates of such responsibilities, the University College has put the motto, "In Our Times of Happiness, We Ought to Think of Our Suffering Brothers and Sisters", in bold on their invitation cards.

In his conclusion, the President extended his gratitude to the federal and regional governments and non – government offices and agencies, schools and individuals who have always been on the side of the University College in supporting the development of education.



The guest of honor, Dr.Amsalu Aklilu, Assoc. Prof., noted that the graduation day did not signify the completion of their education; it is rather a moment when graduates have just begun to live the world with all its challenges.

CAPACITY BUILDING

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



The Fourth National Conference on Private Higher Education Institutions in Ethiopia, sponsored and organized by the SMUC, was held at the UN Conference Center Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on August 18 and 19, 2006 under the theme “Nurturing a Culture of Continuous Improvement”.

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The major objectives of the conference were to:

- examine the challenges and prospects of PHEIs in ensuring quality education;
- encourage and facilitate research undertakings, discussion and national deliberations on PHEIs; and;
- create database on the various issues of PHEIs that would help policy makers and all interested to know more about the sector.

During the preparation, the Center for Research and Quality Assurance of SMUC received about 50 abstracts. Thirty were selected based on their relationship to the theme and on the feasibility of accomplishing the work within the given time frame.

For practical purposes the two – day conference had a plenary session at the opening ceremony followed by morning and afternoon sessions held in three separate panels.



The Conference was officially opened by His Excellency Dr. Sintayehu W/Michael, Minister of Education. The Minister forwarded his profound appreciation and gratitude to SMUC for its initiatives and commitments in successfully organizing such annual conferences for four consecutive years.

He also stated that the successful implementation of the Education Policy formulated and endorsed in 1994 has created the opportunity for the expansion

of higher education institutions by allowing the opening of private higher education institutions. Higher education, the Minister added, has a significant role to enable the country to register a rapid change of development. He also emphasized the need for education to be coordinated and integrated with relevant research actions and development. Concerning quality, he underlined, "When we refer to the expansion of higher education, we should not forget its quality provision. It is only possible to attain educational achievements at all levels when quality education is equally provided."



The President of the University College, Ato Wondwosen Tamrat, also underlined on the significant contribution of the private education sector to the current national development by covering more than a quarter of higher education enrollment in less than a decade. Among the many things, he mentioned the promising contribution in addressing the issue of

gender equity by the private sector as a contributing factor to the national development scheme. The President also stressed on the need to ensure quality.

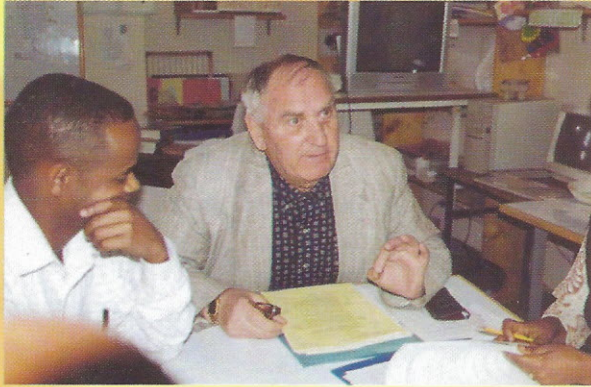
Researchers and participants of the conference were drawn from public and private higher education institutions, government and non – government offices, embassies, industry and the business sector.

Assessment of the Higher Diploma Program (HDP) at SMUC

The Higher Diploma Program was developed in 2003 to meet the identified needs of Teacher Educators by supporting the implementation of the Teacher Education System Overhaul (TESO).

Since St. Mary's University College is the first private university college to open Teacher Training Education Faculty, it has also become the first private higher institute to undertake and implement the Higher Diploma Program (HDP) in October 2005.

The University College has been successfully running two HDP groups,



one led by IFESH Volunteer, Dr. Nikolas Dima, and the other by VSO



volunteer, Karen Waters.

The assessment made during the general observation visit on the 30th and 31st of May 2006 by MOE and Addis Ababa University moderators showed encouraging results. The document written by the moderators' states, "The Dean and the management of St. Mary's are highly supportive and very well organized to facilitate the HDP to a high standard." The volunteers speak very highly of the encouragement and assistance they have received from the University College.

To ensure the sustainability of the HDP, the leaders have trained six tutors. The

tutors are very enthusiastic, clear about their roles, and eagerly and competently undertaking the shared responsibility as stated in the 'General Observations' of the Moderation Team.

Publications



In addition to the Center for Research and Quality Assurance (CRQA) which has begun publishing 'Quality Matters', the Faculty of Teacher Education of SMUC has begun to publish a biannual bulletin, 'The Teacher'.

The community of the University College appreciates them highly for their exemplary endeavors. Such publications are milestones to our journey towards quality.

The Green Campus



SMUC has recently acquired a new campus. This is the third campus of the university college where the main office of the Distance Education Division is situated. It is found just behind the Shell Gas Station along the main road to 'sar bet' from Maichew (Mexico) Square.



Among other things, the Audio – Visual Center of the Division, the Printing Press



of St. Mary's University College, which is under expansion, the Addis Ababa

Distance Education Division and the Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Coordination Office are found in the new Green Campus. Two new blocks which consist of twelve classrooms are also built in this campus.

Post – Graduate Programmes Launched



St. Mary's University College, the first dual mode private higher education institution in the country, has so far contributed a lot in spearheading efforts to revolutionize the provision of distance education in Ethiopia. Currently it has above sixty distance centers within the country and abroad.



Recently, the University College, in partnership with Indra Gandhi National

Open University, (IGNOU), has started offering a variety of post – graduate programmes. With this development, the University College is ready to enable teachers, civil servants, business people and all other interested people to have access to higher level training without leaving their homes or working places.

The University College has made the following address available for any further information on the issue:

St. Mary's University College

Distance Education Division

Office of the Registrar

Tel. 011 - 552 55 28/26

P.O.Box 1211

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

E – Mail: smcs@ethionet.et

Seminars for Graduating Management Students

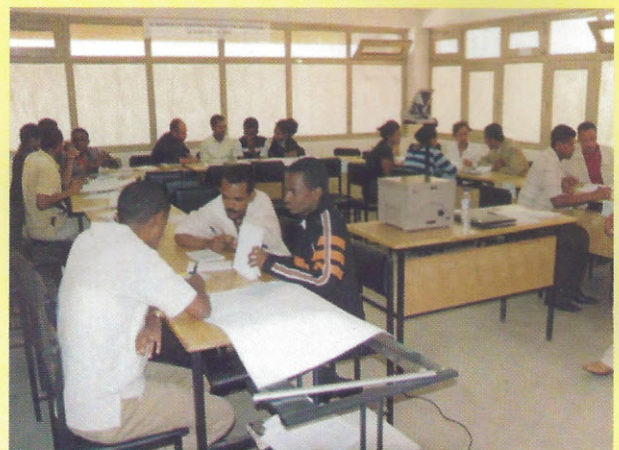


A series of seminars were conducted for graduating management students in the

Faculty of Business from September 3 - 19 2006. The overall objectives of the program were to equip the graduates with updated concepts and knowledge of modern management, and to enhance their competence and employability skills. The program was held for two weeks covering a total of thirty hours.

The department witnessed that the training was essential and participatory. The students also confirmed that they have acquired a lot of essential concepts they needed as management students. They strongly recommended that such series of trainings should continue.

Pedagogical Training



A thirteen-day pedagogical training was given at Mexico Campus for about 25 newly employed instructors at SMUC who had no previous pedagogical training.

The workshop was given by Ato Melaku Girma, Dean of the Faculty of Teacher Education, Ato Bekalu Atnafu, Head of

the Education Department, Karen Waters, HDP Leader, Stephanie Mason, Language Trainer - both at SMUC, Ato Abate Mekuria and Ato Kassahun Habtamu, lecturers in the Faculty of Education.

The training was accompanied by various presentations and exchange of views.

PARTICIPATIONS

Workshops and Conferences

The External Relations Office of the University College participated in various national and international workshops and conferences.

The fortieth Anniversary of '**World Teachers' Day 2006**', held on the 6th of October 2006 at Africa Hall, UNECA under the theme 'Quality Teachers for Quality education' was one. This one - day workshop was organized by UNESCO Cluster Office in Addis Ababa with the Federal Ministry of Education and in cooperation with the Ethiopian Teachers Association.

The purpose of the workshop was to celebrate the World Teachers' Day and to make the day serve as a stimulus to discuss teacher related issues of quality education, organizing programmes and initiatives to build the capacity of

teachers at all levels of the education system.

'**The Launching of Management Express**' held on the 25th of October 2006 at Sheraton Addis was the other workshop in which SMUC participated. It was organized by the British Council under the theme 'The Launching of Management Express to our Regional Products for East and West Africa'.

The British Council offers several forums, trainings and other several supports for professional development.

The other significant forum was the symposium organized by **Walta Information Center in collaboration with CDC - Ethiopia and Johns/Hopkins University** on November 6 and 7 at Sheraton Addis on 'Anti-retrieval treatment: successes and challenges.'

The objectives of the symposium were to ensure increased commitment and engagement of leaders (Action); increase the movement of stakeholders while assuring ownership quality and sustainability (Innovative Partnership); and increase public awareness on ART through media coverage (Social Mobilization).

And the other major event attended was the '**UNESCO Philosophy Day**' held on the 16th of November 2006 by the Department of Philosophy, Addis Ababa University at the Cultural Center.

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The event was opened by Professor Andreas Eshete, President of AAU and UNESCO Chair for Human Rights and UNESCO Representative.

The two public lectures on 'The Concept of Progress and the Role of Philosophy' and 'Culture, Conflict and Democracy' by a professor and an associate professor of philosophy of the AAU incited several questions. Various interesting ideas were discussed in the forum.

The celebration ended the students of the department presented Essays on 'Culture and Progress'.

Exhibition Participation



St. Mary's University College participated in the 8th Addis Trade for Development Exhibition from 1 – 10 Sept. 2006. It was held at the Exhibition Center - Addis Ababa - under the umbrella of the Ethiopian Private Higher Education Institutions' Association.



This event was an opportunity for private higher education institutions to show the actual educational efforts they are making to the public.

All our faculties and education programme offices participated in the event. The participation of the Faculty of Information Technology, the Faculty of Education and of the Distance Education

Division was highly significant and deserves acknowledgement.

Comments given by the exhibition visitors were photocopied and distributed to the faculty, office and unit heads.

Lecture with Show at SMUC



'Magicians Without Borders', a team from the USA, gave wonderful lectures supported by series of magic shows on November 7, 2006 at Mexico Campus.



The team included Professor Tom Verner, the founder of 'Magician Without Borders' and his wife, Janet Fredericks, a painter; Janice Appleton and Steve Appleton, the camera crew.



The lecture, among other things, dwelt on the existence of 'a teacher' and 'a student' inside every instructor and every student, and stressed that teaching is not at all a mechanical act of filling an empty bottle.



The other major issue that remained in most of our memories was the issue of co-existence. The professor lectured that learning/knowledge means understanding 'the other' entity and building a bigger world outlook. Learning/knowledge or wisdom enables enemies/opponents to co – exist in peace; and he remarked that profound learning/knowledge is a solution to our troubled world.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

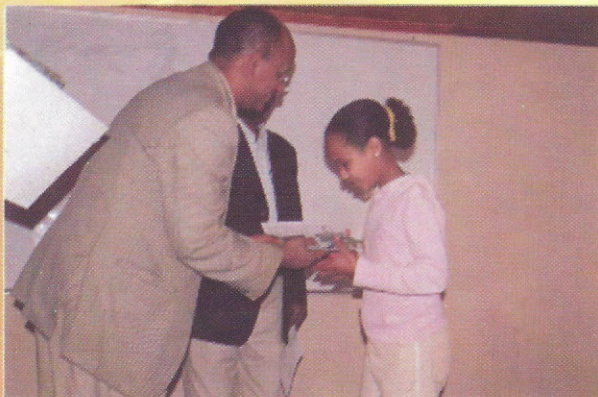
The 'Kiremt' Tutorial Program



The Social Support Forum of SMUC conducted a 'Kiremt' Tutorial Program at 'Edget Behibret Primary School, the then 'Beyene Merid', from 22 July – 8 September 2006.

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English, Maths and Natural Science lessons were given by 4 tutors from the Teacher Education Faculty of SMUC to more than 200 students of grades 4, 5 and 6. The students were mainly drawn from the most economically disadvantaged families in 'Kirkos' and 'Lideta' sub – cities.



A certificate-awarding ceremony was held for the children on 9 September

2006 at SMUC, Mexico Campus; and special certificates were given by Ato Wondwosen Tamrat, President of SMUC, to ranking students from each grade and to the tutors.

Lending a Hand



The Faculty of Education donated teaching aids on the 2nd of October 2006 at Mexico Campus to the following eight partner schools:

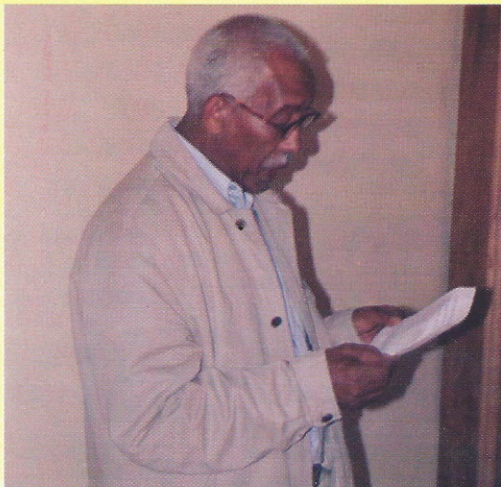
1. *Tesfa Kokeb* School
2. *Meskerem 1* School
3. *Berhane Hiwot* School
4. *Enat Ethiopia* School
5. *John F. Kenedy* School
6. *Yethiopia Ermja* School
7. *Kidus Ghiorgis* School
8. *Frehiwot* School



Ato Fiseha Tesfaye, the Vocational Councillor of the University College, welcomed the representatives of the schools, appreciated and thanked the partner schools for their willingness



and the support they have rendered to the success of the practicum run by SMUC.



Ato Hailu Tsigie, Head of the Pedagogical Resource Center, gave a brief talk on the teaching materials

prepared by his Center and by the Aesthetics Unit.



Finally, Ato Melaku Girma, Dean of the Faculty of Teacher Education, extended his gratitude to the partner schools in the name of the University College for their collaboration. He further stressed that their rich experience and support is necessary in the future. After the Dean handed in lists of letters of the teaching materials to each partner school representative, the materials were visited by all who were in the hall.

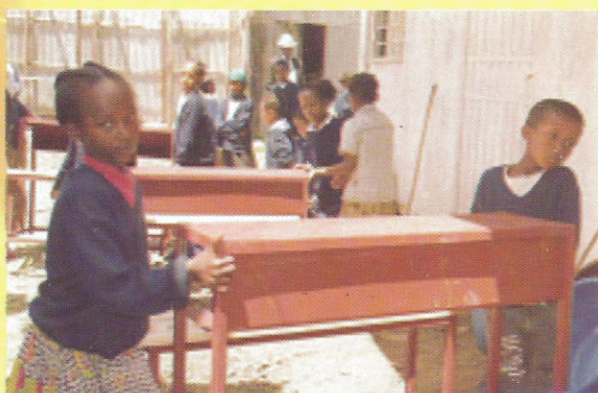
A Little Necessary Support



St.Mary's community had visited 'Action for Female Education (AEF)' school at 'Gurd Shola', 'Kebele' 14/15 five months ago. The School gives

informal education to orphan children who lost their parents because of HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Laila Denoya, a Fulbright Senior Specialist who conducted a seven – week campus - wide workshop on quality assessment program at the St. Mary’s University College in 2006 was one of the visitors of the orphanage school.



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The University College has continued its connections with the school since then. The Social Support Forum of the University College discussed with the community of the school and found out that the children needed desks badly. The University College, along with the financial donation of Dr. Laila Denoya, bought the school some desks. The children have expressed their happiness and gratitude to the university college.

Scholarship Offers

In addition to scholarship opportunities given in the previous years, the University College has offered scholarship for 36 applicants in this

Ethiopian New Year based on their documents and academic achievements.

The candidates are individuals from poor families government offices, federal and regional commissions, schools, organizations, associations and NGOs.

Welcome Aboard!



The University College extends a warm welcome to all the instructors and administrative personnel who have joined the institution since *Meskerem* 1999 E.C. We hope that their contributions would further boost the achievements that the institution has made thus far.

