

### Capacity Building

In a bid to strengthen its academic and administrative wings, the college has signed various agreements with different agencies.

An agreement with a local computer network agency was signed to automate the Registrar, Finance and the Program Offices so that better and efficient services could be rendered. As part of this initiative, networking and automating the systems of the Distance Education Students' data and other services are underway.

Consultancy and research works are very vital in enriching, particularly, the teaching/learning process. The college has signed a memorandum of understanding with Nile Consulting Group—a local consulting group—that provides research and consultancy services. The agreement includes a joint venture in research and consultancy related activities.

### Short Term Training

In addition to the conventional teaching/learning process the College has embarked on offering training to employees in the civil service. Accordingly, very recently, the college offered short term training to the staff of Road Transport Authority, Addis Ababa on Time and Materials Management tailored to the specific needs of the authority. Moreover, the College gave a three - month in-service training for 15 library employees through a special arrangement to up-grade the services of the Lideta Campus and Mexico Campus libraries. The training was offered by professional librarians from the various branches of Addis Ababa University.

### The Need for Hands—on Experience

In an extraordinary show of teamwork, heads of the departments of Education, Languages, Mathematics and Basic Sciences, and Social Science have developed a seventy-three page practicum manual, which will be used as a guideline to classroom based observation and teaching practice. Their achievement owes much to the synergistic effort they put into their work. In a similar development, the Department of Law has produced the draft guidelines to gear up Moot Court Competition and made the necessary arrangements which is one of the requirements for securing accreditation for the degree program.

### Web-site Uploaded

As the college has uploaded web-site pages, it invites people who wish to have basic academic and administrative information about the college to have a quick glance at the web-site pages.

Our web-site Address:

[www.stmarycollege.edu.et](http://www.stmarycollege.edu.et)

### Getting Prepared for the Practicum

Teaching practice is part of the teacher education program, which arms the would - be teacher with the basic skills of the profession. Cognizant of this, the college has signed an agreement with eight neighbouring schools around the Lideta Campus to initiate joint relationships needed to run the practicum.

### Considerate Gesture

No matter how developed the structure of an organization is, it is mute without the touch of human brain and hands. This is why the college keeps on working to the best interest of its students, instructors and the administrative personnel by creating an enabling environment.

The college, with great pleasure, notified in a letter dated 12 December 2003 that it has entered agreement with Nyala Insurance S.C for its permanent employees to make them beneficiaries of Group Personal Accident Insurance Coverage. This is in addition to the provident fund the college has already put in place in its employment provisions.

### Student Union Formed

Students have formed their council which consists of 7 members as executive body. Each member of the executive body has duties and responsibilities of organizing different committees in which member students could develop their hobbies and interests, exercise various social commitments and learn how to solve problems and misunderstandings through discussions.

### Social Commitment

The college community in general and the students in particular have really shown their profound desire and interest to contribute their shares to the needy.

A month ago, when untimely rain was a threat to the crops of farmers on the fields, the college wrote a letter to Oromia Regional State, Office of the President, expressing the students' desire to help the farmers in collecting their crops.

Activities of self-initiated students to create awareness in the society and to help the needy are becoming very common and encouraging in our college. This is really a promising gesture as it shows the concern of the youth – a social force to be reckoned with.

Beginning August 2003, a group of students formed a committee to collect clothes intended for the homeless from students, instructors and the administrative staff. The committee was able to collect 390 different clothing items.

Netsanet Fettene, a female student in the Extension Program, in the Department of Computer Science, initiated an idea to visit patients in hospitals during Christmas.

Through the joint efforts of a committee set up by students and the student Affairs Office of the College about 4,000.00 Birr was collected from the college community.

The committee bought fruits and, together with volunteer students, visited patients at the Black Lion, Fistula, Zewditu, Yekatit, Ras Desta, St. Paul and Menelike II hospitals on the eve of Ethiopian Christmas while the other committee again, along with the college students, distributed the clothes to the homeless. Students also presented Christmas Cards to the patients.

The college is really proud of the social concern of students, and the collaboration of the instructors and the administrative personnel. The college community should keep up this spirit.

## Participation

As usual, the college had not only responded positively to various local and international invitations but also participated actively in the meetings held at various venues.

The conference on the 'transparency' of the functions of our parliament organized by African Initiative for World Democratic Order on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October, 2003 at the Ghion Hotel; the 'Japan Week' - a celebration of culture and friendship (16 / 24 November 2003) at Hilton Hotel and at Sheraton Addis; 'World City Day' organized by the Addis Ababa City Council held On the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 2003 at the Cultural Hall of the same were some to mention.

The 'Launch Ceremony of the African Virtual University Business Studies Degree Program at Sheraton Addis' on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2003 was of particular interest to us not only because it was directly related to education, but also its importance as a joint partnership between Curtin University of Technology in Austria and Addis Ababa University to provide higher quality accredited African students who are badly needed.

## Sports

When students seek an alternative to the academic routine, they usually turn to extra-curricular activities.

One such active club is the sports club that comprises football, athletics and table tennis. The sports club has participated in the intercollegiate sports since its inception.

The football, table tennis and the Athletics team have made the necessary training to compete in this year's intercollegiate sports festival to be held at Jimma from February 5—15, 2004.

St. Mary's College wishes all the Jimma intercollegiate participants to have a nice time and to use this golden opportunity to strengthen friendship and common understanding among themselves.

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One drinks clean water to the satisfaction  
of her/his quench were the stream is deeper.

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