SMU *In* STRIDE

Quarterly Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

Committed to Excellence!

Editorial

Dear readers,

Warm welcome to the first issue of SMU in Stride 2022. We apologize for the unexpected delay in the publication of SMU in Stride Vol. 24, Issue No. 57, which is attributed to administrative and technical reasons.

The Teaching and Learning Column presents news on the launching of the 4th Cohort English Access Microscholarship Program; training of the newly recruited academic staff; panel discussion on Awra Amba Community; and graduation ceremony of the 2013E.C. undergraduate program students, among others.

Under the Research and Development column appears news of research sensitization session, which was intended to raise graduate students' awareness about the thematic areas of St. Mary's University and help them refresh their memories on master's thesis and journal article writing, and the 15th Student Research Forum.

The Partnership, Outreach and Community Services column comprises news of SMU's signing of partnership/cooperation agreements with different organizations, including Embassy of France in Addis; Alliance Ethio-Francaise and Reach for Change Ethiopia, an international NGO. The column also presents news of SMU's participation in external events, as usual.

Zena Astedader **"ዜና አስተዳደር"** column presents administration related news, including news of award to best achieving admin staff and a meeting organized on service provision.

Under the obituary, we remember one of our teaching staff, whom we suddenly lost due to COVID-19.

In closing, we are always grateful to your continued support and contributions to the Newsletter. Suggestions and comments towards improving the Newsletter are most welcome.

Happy reading!
International Relations and Communication Office, St. Mary's University

NEWS AND EVENTS

Teaching and Learning

Public Lecture Held

The Office of the Vice President for Research and International Relations organized a Public Lecture titled "Project Management: Agile, Traditional and DevOps" on December 22, 2021 at SMU, Main Campus, Syndicate Room. The speaker was Professor Solomon Negash, an educator, certified Project Management Professional (PMP), coordinator of the Modular Agile Deployment Lab (madLab), and block chain analyst. He is a Professor of Information Systems at Kennesaw State University, USA, with 40 years of experience, 20 years in industry and 20 years in academia.

The welcoming speech was made by Misganaw Solomon (PhD), Vice President for Research and International Relations, who introduced the speaker, citing his educational background and experience.
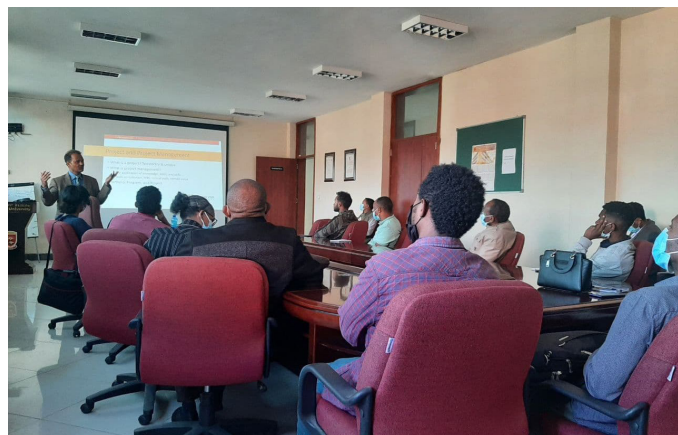

The public lecture was on Project Management in general and Agile and DevOps, in particular. The major topics covered in the first part of the lecture

included: project, project management, project management tools, process-based project management, project constraints, and project teams, agile project versus DevOps project management systems, among others.

The lecture was followed by Q & A session, where the participants raised questions and the speaker gave detailed responses. One of the participants, a lecturer at SGS/SMU, asked how he would take the high-level advisory role in assisting St. Mary's University in the areas of IT and Project Management, to which the guest lecturer replied that he would be more than happy to support.

Finally, the Vice President for Research and International Relations thanked and expressed his hope to closely work with the guest lecturer in the future. The event was attended by SMU academic staff and graduate students.

Newly Recruited Academic Staff Trained

St. Mary's University gave training on pedagogy to its newly recruited academic staff. The training was given to 14 Graduate Assistants from November 25 – December 7, 2021. The objective of the training was to equip trainees with the requisite knowledge and skills on classroom management, active learning, presentation skills, and teaching and assessment methods. As part of the package, trainees were introduced to the SMU rules and regulations and the University's Learning Management System as well.

The training came to an end with microteaching, where every trainee demonstrated the knowledge and skills they gained from the training and received feedback on their performance from trainers.

Following the training, the newly recruited academic staff were awarded certificate at a ceremony which took place on December 11, 2021 at SMU Main Campus, syndicate room.

Recognition Event Held

The Student Support Services Office, SMU, organized a thank-you program for former Student Union committee members on October 21, 2021. At the event, former interim Student Support Services Office Head, W/ro Nazret Tikher, and the newly-elected Student Union members were invited where W/ro Nazret made remarks about the experiences the former students gained from their role as members of the diverse committees of the Union. In her remarks, she stressed that, above all, they were able to practice teamwork skills during their engagement with the student community. The event, which was organized to recognize the most active members of the Union in the presence of newly elected members, would have motivational impact on the new ones during their stay as Student Union member.

4th Cohort English Access Microscholarship Program Launched

The 4th Cohort of English Access Microscholarship Program was launched on November 14, 2021 in the premises of St. Mary's University in the presence of a representative from the US Embassy Addis Ababa, parents and students who won the scholarship. The English Access Microscholarship Program is a unique English and life skills training opportunity given to economically disadvantaged but bright government secondary school students.

St. Mary's University runs the program in collaboration with the US Embassy Addis Ababa, and has enabled 300 government secondary school students benefit from this program in the three cohorts.

In this 4th cohort, 75 students are being trained. These students joined the program after passing an entrance exam administered by the University. The project is funded by the Department of State, USA.

Training Conducted

The Career and Internship Unit, SMU, in collaboration with Women in Self Employment (WISE), a National NGO, organized a two round, four-day, General Employment Readiness training on November 9-12, 2021 and November 22-25, 2021.

In the first round four-day training, the first two days focused on General Employment Readiness. The main objective of this training was to make the trainees aware on how they can access the job market and become competitive. The students were trained about the skills that help them to find and retain/stay on their job. They were also taught how to develop a Curriculum Vitae (CV), conduct successful interviews, and exhibit good work ethics. The third day was devoted to Reproductive Health, which focused on family planning, particularly the use of contraceptives, along with its advantages and side effects. Attention was given also to the prevention of diseases such as breast and cervical cancer. The fourth day's topic was on Women Empowerment, which focused on the importance of women's involvement in education and other social, economic, and political affairs of their country. It also covered the basic obstacles that hinder to achieve Women's Empowerment. The training helped the gradu-

ates to believe that women can become leaders. The second round of similar training was offered on November 22 - 25, 2021. The program included a two-day training on General Employment Readiness, and a one-day each training on Reproductive Health and Women Empowerment, respectively.

The two round training was attended by a total of 156 graduate female and male students (100 in the first round and 56 in the second round), who reported that the training was very important in providing them with new skills and experiences. It was also learned that the third-round training program will continue soon.

The training was provided to the graduates as per the Memorandum of Understanding signed between St. Mary's University and Women in Self Employment (WISE) to provide General Employment Readiness training to 250 such students between 2021 and 2022.

Panel Discussion Held

A half-day panel discussion on Awra Amba Community was held on 22 October 2021 at the Multi-purpose Hall, Undergraduate Campus, SMU.

Misganaw Solomon (PhD), Vice President of Research and International Relations, SMU, welcomed participants and thanked HE W/ro Tsion Teklu, former State Minister of FDRE Ministry of Foreign Affairs for initiating the event and the guests, Doctor of Honor Zumra Nuru, Founder of Awra Amba Community, and his wife W/ro Enaney Kibret for accepting the invitation and being willing to share their experiences with St. Mary's University's staff and students.

Panelists, Doctor of Honor Zumra Nuru and his wife W/ro Enaney Kibret, shared the experiences of Awra Amba Community with participants under the facilitation of Dr Zekarias Amdebirhan. The core points discussed included the philosophies that guide the living styles of Awra Amba Community, its historical accounts, the challenges it encountered and the current status of the Community.

While presenting the experience of the Awra Amba Community, the Doctor of Honor, Zumra Nuru, explained that the idea of establishing the Community emanated from what he had experienced in the daily life of his father and mother at home during his childhood, where his mother labored more than his father and women in that society were treated as unequal. In addition, the child labor exploitation and the suffering of the elderly gave him no peace of mind and thus had to find ways to curb the situation, he said. He added, getting people who dared to share his views was not easy and took him too long. It is through hard work and incessant efforts that his dream came true and the Awra Amba Community which "walks its talk" has been made a reality. According to Zumra and Enaney, 145 households live peacefully and with the highest level of mu-

tual understanding. This has been made possible through the fundamental principles the Community strictly adheres to. These are human being come first while money or property comes next; women are equal to men; children's rights must be respected; there should not be any room for bad deeds as they affect human beings negatively; no one should tell lies; there should not be gender-based division of labor; respecting work is a necessity; believing that one can do what seems impossible if s/he is optimistic and works hard toward achieving it; and above all, living what one talks is a must, they underlined. Their experiences revealed that the Community is a living witness, to have proven the proverb "Where there is a will, there is a way".

The panel discussion was followed by Q & A, where participants raised several questions to which the guests responded. At the event, poems were presented by one of the SMU students.

At the end of the panel discussion, Ato Tibebu Belete, Manager of Ahadu Radio and Television, thanked St. Mary's University for organizing the event, encouraged students to do research on the Awra Amaba Community and reminded the media to promote the Community.

W/ro Tsion, on her part, thanked SMU for organizing the event, Arts TV for promoting the Awra Amba Community and urged the participants to promote the Community and its objective via all opportunities they may come across. W/ro Tsion

mentioned that this one is part of the different events being held to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Community and recognize its contributions to Ethiopia.

Closing remarks were made by Misganaw Solomon (PhD), Vice President of Research and International Relations, SMU. In his remarks, he encouraged the participants to visit the Awra Amba Community using all means and become members and support the Community. He finally thanked W/ro Tsion and Ato Tibebu for the initiative, the guests and the organizer, Wellness and Development Center, SMU, for their contributions to the realization of the event.

St. Mary's Hosts Graduation Ceremony

St. Mary's University graduated a total of 1585 undergraduate students (614 male and 971 female) on October 9, 2021 at Golf Club, Addis Ababa. Surpassing the national females' participation in higher education, the female grad¬uates account for 61%.

The ceremony started with congratulatory remarks made by Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD, Associate Professor,) Founder and President of the University, who urged the graduates to put the knowledge and skills they have acquired during their stay at the University into practice and contribute their share to Ethiopia's development.

The graduation ceremony took place at the Addis Ababa Golf Club in the presence of Guest of Honor, Ato Biniam Belete, Founder and Manager of Mekedoania Charity Association, which provides care and support to the elderly and persons with mental illness. He made an inspirational speech

revealing his own life experience. Thanking St. Mary's University, graduates and their families, Ato Biniam reiterated that graduates, in addition to working hard towards attaining their life goals, should practice lending helping hands to the needy/destitute as part of their social responsibility.

The ceremony came to a close with the award of Trophy and Medal to the best achievers. The winners of this year's medal were two male graduates who completed their study with very great distinction from departments of Management and Computer Science.

Pedagogical Training Provided

The Center for Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA), SMU, provided a three-half-day Pedagogical Training from September 22 to 24, 2021 to the non-teaching field graduates of SMU instructors. The objective of the training was to equip the participants with the essence and the implementation of Classroom Management, Active Learning, and Continuous Assessment.

The training was facilitated by Ato Manaye Adela, Ato Solomon Bekele, and Ato Daniel Zewdie. Fifteen instructors participated in the training

where the great majority of them successfully completed it.

In the informal discussion which took place after the training, most of the trainees indicated that they enjoyed the training and benefited a great deal from it, and requested the Center to organize similar trainings in future.

Research and Development

Research Sensitization Session Held

The Research and Knowledge Management Office (RaKMO) of St. Mary's University, in collaboration with the Vice President for Research and International Relations, held a "Research Sensitization Session" on December 11, 2021 at the School of Graduate Studies Library, Main Campus. The session intended to raise graduate students' awareness about the thematic areas of St. Mary's University and help them refresh their memories on Master's Thesis and journal article writing.

The Director for Research and Knowledge Management Office explained that there are eight thematic areas identified by the University. She also mentioned that the University has four annual research events and three journals on which selected high quality student papers can be published. These research platforms can help students to enhance their research, presentation and publication skills, she added. She encouraged students to actively engage in the diverse research activities by presenting and/or publishing their research findings.

The Vice President for Research and International-al Relations discussed salient points on Master's Thesis and journal article writing. He touched upon core areas that would enable students write quality Master's Thesis and publishable research articles for journals.
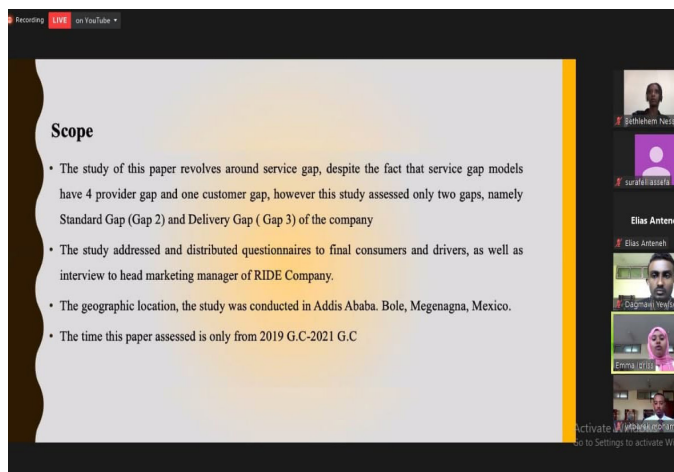

In attendance were graduate students who are in the process of writing their Master's Theses. The participants appreciated the organizers for such a timely, relevant and very important session and asked for another round of session to be arranged.

RaKMO also organized the second round of similar session on December 18, 2021 at the same venue, where graduate students who could not attend the first session took part.
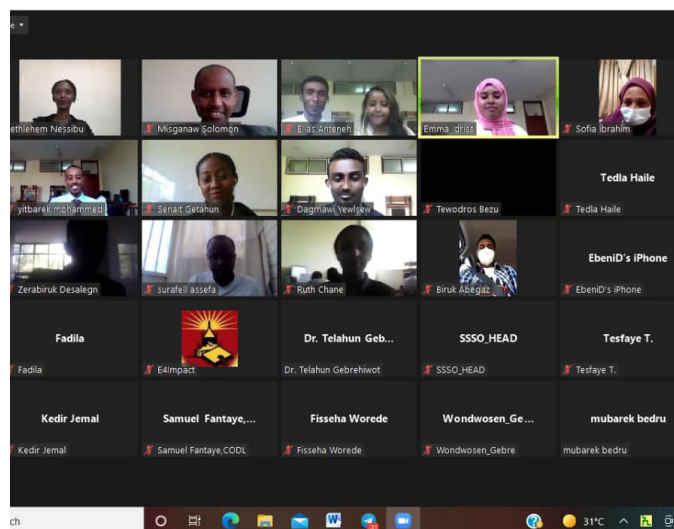
St. Mary's University Holds the 15th Student Research Forum

St. Mary's University held the 15th National Student Research Forum on 14th October 2021 virtually. The Forum is one of the annual national research events St. Mary's University organizes with the aim of creating an opportunity for undergraduate students to present their research findings and share their experiences.

The opening speech was made by Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice President of St. Mary's University. In his speech, he underlined that St. Mary's University has been conducting the Forum every year uninterruptedly for the past 14 years. He mentioned that such a platform inspires junior students and enhances the culture of research and oral presentations.

At the Forum, nine papers were presented and discussed. The papers covered a wide range of is-

sues such as organizational culture on employee performance, service recovery strategies, service quality gap, heritage conservation, urban regeneration and its impact on historical buildings, online registration system, internal audit in the public sector, adoption and implementation of IP-SAS, and employee recruitment and selection on the organizational performance.

Finally, a closing remark was made by Senait Getahun, Director of Research and Knowledge Management Office. In her speech, she appreciated and thanked paper presenters, participants, and different offices who contributed to the realization of the Forum.

Partnership, Outreach and Community Services

SMU Signs Partnership Agreements

St. Mary's University signed a partnership agreement with Alliance Ethio-Francaise "to foster Ethio-French ties in the fields of culture and education" on November 22, 2021. This agreement will allow the delivery of French training at St. Mary's University. The University also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Reach for Change Ethiopia to implement the "Catalyzing green business in Ethiopia" project on December 2, 2021. The project has two components – "Green Entrepreneurial Boot Camp" and "Green Innovation Lab", where hundreds of TVET and university graduates will be trained to become self-employed.

Blood Donation Campaign Held

The Student Support Services Office, in collaboration with Ethiopian National Blood Bank, organized blood donation campaign in both Undergraduate and Main Campus which started from November 15, 2021 for three days. In the campaign, a total of 166 volunteers participated. The

Office extends its thanks to the University's community for its participation.

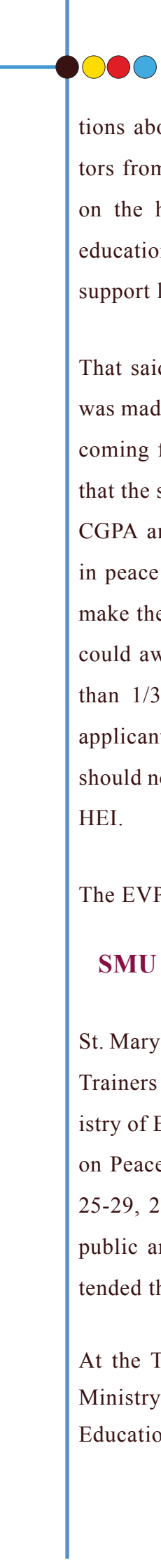
SMU at a Consultative Meeting

St. Mary's University took part in a half-day consultative meeting held on November 02, 2021. Organized by the Ministry of Education, attendees at the meeting were exclusively heads of private HEIs in the presence of the new Minister of Education, Professor Birhanu Nega, flanked at the podium by the State Ministers for Education. Also present among the attendees were the Director General of HERQA and his deputy.

After being introduced by Dr. Samuel, Professor Birhanu started his speech by alluding to Adam Smith's Harmony of Interests to elucidate why private actors are important in the economy. With that viewpoint, the Minister stated the complaints that Private HEIs lodge towards the government (government favors public HEIs; land is allocated to public but not to private entities; government looks at private HEIs as mills; quality differences among private HEIs not considered, accreditation is tainted with corruption; and private HEIs have become cash cows of corrupt experts etc.) and what the public talks about Private HEIs (private HEIs are diploma mills; the very few give reasonably good services; transcripts cannot tell the quality of a graduate from private entities…).

Concurrent with the above comments, the Minister revealed his own position on Private HEIs. He stressed that it would not be appropriate to see private and public HEIs with partiality. Both should pass through the accreditation process, first locally, then internationally. He added that he would put in place exit exams for all graduates and would not allow any HEI to cut corners. He further asserted that, it would be outrageous if he comes across a college which would involve in corruption to earn accreditation. In this regard, he stated the presence of colleges that completed a semester's course in a single week.

Participants at the meeting had their views heard too. It was pointed out that the HE Proclamation is the biggest stumbling block for Private HEIs. For example, one participant stated that he did not know the rationale why HEIs would be forced to employ full time instructors upon opening a college before registering students. He was also puzzled by HERQA's guidelines to consider a new campus, more than a km away from the main campus, as a requirement for accreditation as a college. Another participant enquired clarifica-

tions about PhD scholarships offered to instructors from Private HEIs. He also made comments on the hurdles at customs office for imported educational electronic goods after the Ministry's support letter was duly presented.

That said, in a different note, the one issue that was made clear at the meeting was about students coming from conflict zones. The Minister stated that the students would fill out a form about their CGPA and other details, which, if found untrue in peace time, would disqualify them and would make them legally accountable. Even so, no HEI could award credentials to a graduate with more than 1/3 transferable courses. For instance, an applicant transferred being in his/her final year, should not be awarded a degree from the recipient HEI.

The EVP represented SMU at the meeting.

SMU Participated in a ToT Workshop

St. Mary's University participated in a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop organized by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with UNESO, on Peace and Resilience Building, from October 25-29, 2021 at Bishoftu City. More than twenty public and private university representatives attended the workshop.

At the ToT workshop, it was indicated that the Ministry of Education is planning to give Peace Education as a course in universities as of January 2022, second semester of the academic calendar. The objectives of the workshop were to enable the participants to:

1. Articulate how issues related to peace, resilience and Prevention of Violence Extremism (PVE) manifest and intersect in the Ethiopian context;

2. Reflect on the role of education in peace, resilience and PVE in Ethiopia; and

3. Identify strategies to strengthen education for peace building and transformative pedagogy in Higher Education.

The major topics covered included: education for peace building in Higher Education Institutions; peace education for peace building; ethics as a lens for building peace; conflict, conflict management/resolution, conflict transformation and peace building; transformative pedagogy for peace building; and assessment of learning.

Finally, the workshop came to close by agreeing on future directions and plans. There were activities identified to be done in respective universities including cascading the training involving the management, staff and students. During the workshop, universities were grouped under clusters. St. Mary's University was assigned in Cluster One with Addis Ababa University and others. The Gender and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office represented SMU.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

St. Mary's University signed a cooperation agreement with the Embassy of France on 11 October, 2021. The cooperation agreement includes, on the part of the Embassy, among others, supporting the training of French language teachers and supplying teaching aids and learning materials that could enhance the language skills of students. The signing ceremony involved 13 public and two private HEIs. While two of the public universities were first-time entrants into the cooperation agreement, the rest, including the private ones, renewed their agreement. Preceding the signing ceremony was networking with universities from France with each local HEI having a table, at which the delegates from France move to the 15 tables, one at a time.

The ceremony was opened by the remarks of HE Mr Rémi Maréchaux, Ambassador of France. The whole event was moderated by Ms Sophie Moal Makame, who signed the agreement representing the Embassy as Head of Cooperation.

The signing ceremony, held at the Embassy's compound, was followed by an exhibition on "Ethiopian Students in France" and an opening of the new Campus France office at the Alliance Ethio-Française.

Present at the occasion representing St. Mary's were: Tedla Haile, Executive V/P, Misganaw Solomon (PhD), V/P for Research and International Relations, and Telahun G/Hiwot (PhD), French Language Teacher.

SMU Participates in a Workshop

St. Mary's University participated in a workshop held at Africa Leadership Excellence Academy, Sululta, on September 23 and 24, 2021. The workshop, which deliberated on the Ethiopian Higher Education and Training Accreditation Strategy, the Ethiopian Qualifications Framework, the HEART Convention Book Project, and Peace Education and Multidisciplinary Intellectual Di-

alogue Initiative, was organized by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MoSHE) to obtain input from stakeholders.

Draft documents were presented after the opening remarks by Excellencies Prof. Afework Kassu and Dr Mulu Nega, State Ministers, MoSHE, and a welcoming address by Ato Awolu Abdi, President of the African Leadership Excellence Academy.

According to Dereje Engida (PhD), President of Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, the Ethiopian Higher Education and Training Accreditation Strategy requires all higher education institutions, public as well as private, to be accredited to operate as an institution and run higher education programs. This means an institution must secure institutional and program level accreditations to function. There shall be an independent accrediting body and other authorized accreditation bodies.

The Strategy requires all higher education institutions to register and re-register. The registration and re-registration shall be carried out by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education while the accreditation shall be handled by the accrediting body. The strategy is said to become operational as of this Academic Year. Accordingly, all higher education institutions shall be required to register to operate as a higher education institution.

The draft document on the Ethiopian Qualifications Framework was presented by W/ro Amarech Kebede, Senior Researcher, Higher Education Strategy Center. This document was drafted eight years back and had undergone several deliberations with stakeholders, she said.

It was suggested that a national Qualification Authority is needed to implement the Framework, which is hoped to become operational as of this Ethiopian Academic Year. Comments and concerns were aired on both documents by the workshop participants. Questions, too, were forwarded.

On Day 2, three presentations were made. These presentations introduced the Ministry's plan to launch a HEART Convention Book Project, Peace Education, and Multidisciplinary Intellectual Dialogue Initiative. According to Dr. Worku Negash, Senior Advisor to the Ministry, the first book will be disseminated at the 2nd HEART Convention in June 2022. This will be an annual publication, he said. Dr Abate Getahun, on his part, said that there is a plan to offer Peace Education at all levels and the Ministry is preparing towards this end. In addition, he said, there is a plan to launch a Multidisciplinary Intellectual Dialogue. He presented 10 themes already identified and invited comments. Accordingly, participants gave comments on the book project, the initiative and how peace education should be handled. They also suggested additional themes to be considered.

After the deliberations, a signing of a letter which requests the US to stop meddling in Ethiopia's internal affairs under the theme "The White Post Flood to the White House" took place. The coordinators called for universities to get their staff and students sign the letter to help this initiative secure 5,000,000 signatures.

Finally, Dr Mulu Nega, State Minister, MoSHE, said that the feedback given on all documents shall be considered to enrich them, and HE Dr Samuel Urkato, Minister, MoSHE, brought the workshop to an end by reiterating the prominent points which require immediate attention.

St. Mary's University was represented by the Vice President for Research and International Relations.

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በዩኒቨርስቲው በአስተዳደር ዘርፍና በአጠንና ርቀት ትምህርት ኮሌጅ ማዕከላት በተመደቡ ሠራተኞች መካከል በየተሰማሩበት የሥራ መስክ በ2012ና 2013 ዓ.ም የሥራ ዘመን በተደረገው የሁለት ዓመት የሥራ አፈጻጸም ምዘና በየደረጃው ተጣርቶና በዩኒቨርስቲው የአስተዳደር ካውንስል ጸድቆ ለ7 የአስተዳደር ዘርፍ ሠራተኞችና 7 የማዕከላት ሠራተኞች ባጠቃላይ ለ14

ሠራተኞች ጥቅምት 30 ቀን 2014 ዓ.ም ሰርተፍኬትና የገንዘብ ሽልማት ተበርክቶላቸዋል።

የዕውቅና ሽልማት መርሐ ግብሩ ለአምስተኛ ዙር የተካሄደ ሲሆን በተቋሙ የአስተዳደር ሠራተኞች ዕውቅናና ሽልማት አሰጣጥ መመሪያ መሰረት የገነዘብ ሽልማትና በዩኒቨርስቲው ፕሬዚዳንት የተፈረመ የምስክር ወረቀት ተበርክቶላቸዋል።

አዲስ ለተቀጠሩ የአካዳሚክ ሰራተኞች የትውውቅ መርሐ ግብር ተካሄደ

በዩኒቨርስቲው ቅድመ ምረቃ ትምህርት ፕሮግራም ለተለያዩ የትምህርት ክፍሎች የተቀጠሩ 12 አዳዲስ መምህራን በተቋሙ ስላሉ አስተዳደራዊ አሰራሮችና መመሪያዎች ህዳር 08 ቀን 2014 ዓም በሰው ሃብት

አስተዳደር ኃላፊ ገለፃ ተደረገላቸው፡፡ ከተቀጠሩት መምህራን 66.7% ሴቶች ሲሆኑ ይህም በተቋሙ የሴቶችን ተሳትፎ እንደሚያሳድግ ይታመናል፡፡

በገለፃው የእንኳን ደህና መጣችሁ መልዕክት፣ ስለተቋሙ አጠቃላይ ገጽታ ገለጻ መስጠት፣ ስለሠራተኛ ዋና ዋና ጥቅማጥቅሞችና የሠራተኛ ግዴታዎች እንዲሁም ከሠራተኛው ስለሚጠበቁና ስለተከለከሉ ተግባራት ማሳወቅ የተካተቱ ሲሆን በቀጣይም በአካዳሚው ዘርፍ በሚገኙ የሚመለከታቸው አካላት በኩል ተጨማሪ ውይይት እንደሚደረግ ለሰራተኞቹ ተገልጿላቸዋል፡፡

Success Story of Yidnekachew Ejigu
Compiled by International Relations & Communication Office, SMU

Yidnekachew Ejigu is one of the 2021 graduates from Undergraduate Program, St. Mary's University, who was awarded a Trophy and a Medal. He graduated from the Department of Computer Science, regular program, with a Cumulative GPA of 4.0. Aiming to draw lessons for those who are pursuing their studies at SMU and beyond, the International Relations and Communication Office of SMU had time with Yidnekachew to share his experiences and the factors that contributed to his success. We have compiled his story as follows.

First, we asked Yidnekachew how he chose SMU and what his stay at the University looked like. In responding to our question, he told us the following. Yidnekachew, upon completion of his preparatory education, was assigned to the Applied Physics department of the Addis Ababa University in the Year 2007 E.C. But, he could not continue his study due to critical financial problem, his parents encountered at the time. Therefore, he

withdrew from the University and started doing different jobs to support his parents. But through time, he realized the difference between working as an educated person and working without having any education. He discussed with his mother that he needed to continue his study soon or it would be difficult for him to get back to college if he stayed any longer, to which his mother agreed. He went back to Addis Ababa University to re-start his study but he was informed that they would not accept him in the regular program. Then he consulted his brother about which field of study he needed to pursue and at which university. He finally decided to study Computer Science at St. Mary's University after learning that it has excellent reputation among employing organizations and in terms of the quality education it offers, besides its being located near his residential area. Hence, he joined St. Mary's University in 2010E.C. after discontinuing his education for more than three years. Yidnekachew told us that, "My stay at SMU was awesome in every aspect, even more than what I had expected." He also told us that he practically proved what he heard about SMU previously: good quality education, which he also learned while applying for jobs, where he saw employers' preference for SMU graduates over other HEIs.

In responding to the contributing factors to his success, Yidnekachew attributes his success mostly to his instructors. The instructors, according to Yidnekachew, were highly qualified and committed. He told us that, "The majority of instructors had requisite knowledge and skills and they made me to study hard to make them happy by fulfilling their expectation about me".

Asked about his personal qualities that contributed to his academic success, Yidnekachew owes the feelings he developed about the three years he spent working to support his parents financially by discontinuing his education, while his friends were studying at different HEIs. This was a driving force, Yidnekachew told us, for his academic success: "It made me become stronger, helped me to commit myself to compensate for the wasted time and energy".

Besides, Yidnekachew attributes his success to his parents. Yidnekachew said that his parents always regret that their son lagged behind his friends, quitting from college to support them financially by doing different jobs. To compensate that, they put much effort by providing him with material and financial support he needed, after their financial problem was solved overtime. Yidnekachew on his part, as reward to what they did for him, surprised his parents at the graduation ceremony by making it secret from them that he was graduating with CGPA of 4.0 and was a Medal and Trophy winner.

We also asked Yidnekachew about his time management. He says, "Most students think that they become successful by studying for longer time. But, I study each subject immediately after each class instead of waiting for exam or test time. I use the few days before the exam only for revision purposes. I attend my classes attentively and consider it as part of studying by itself".

Asked about his advice to students who are pursuing their study at SMU, Yidnekachew responded that, "Most students think that success is a gift from God, and do not understand that it requires their personal effort." He suggested that, "Students learn in different ways: some learn by listening, some by reading, some by writing, yet others by taking notes, etc. Therefore, students need to identify their learning style and follow it, to become successful in their study".

As the tradition at St. Mary's University has it, Yidnekachew was given full scholarship to pursue his Master's study at the University. Yidnekachew is currently an academic staff at the Department of Computer Science, from which he graduated, while simultaneously pursuing his Master's Degree in Computer Science at the School of Graduate Studies of SMU.

Success Story of Elias Anteneh
Compiled by International Relations & Communication Office, SMU

Elias Anteneh is one of the 2021 graduates of St. Mary's University, who was awarded a Trophy and a Medal. He graduated with Bachelor of Arts Degree from the Department of Management, regular program, with a Cumulative GPA of 4.0. Aiming to draw lessons for those who are pursuing their studies at SMU and beyond, the International Relations and Communication Office of SMU had time with Elias to share his experiences and the factors that contributed to his success. We have compiled and presented his story as follows.

The first question we forwarded to Elias was how he chose SMU and what his stay at the University looked like. Elias, before joining St. Mary's University, was first assigned to the Department

of Computer and Electrical Engineering, Addis Ababa University in the year 2004 E.C., after he had passed the National Higher Education Entrance Exam. While he was in the second year, he lost his father who was the bread winner for the family. That incident turned the whole family upside down and subsequently put Elias into depression that had forced him to alienate himself from friends and relatives for nearly two months. The depression, together with other diseases, made things worse and he ended up withdrawing from the University. Elias returned back to the university after a year but the problem recurred and he withdrew again. He withdrew from the university three times and finally gave up and went to a Monastery in Southern Ethiopia where nobody knew him and he stayed there.

While staying at the monastery for more than six months, he started meditating, to find himself, his passion, and his life purpose. Finally, he asked himself questions and decided to choose between two options: to surrender and extend his miserable life, or confront and defeat the challenges of life through education. Besides, from the whole process, he understood that Engineering was not his call. He returned from the monastery with a new mindset, to become a new person looking for his passion.

As of March, 2010 E.C. Elias started preparing himself to re-start his study and help himself by doing different manual jobs such as aluminum work, working in a bakery, etc.

Elias discontinued his study at the Addis Ababa University, decided to shift from natural sciences field to social sciences after finding his life passion. With financial support from one of his friends at the Engineering College of Addis Ababa University, he joined St. Mary's University in 2011 E.C. after learning that it is one of the most reputable Private HEIs. Fortunately, while he was tutoring children to earn money, he met one of his relatives, the father of his tutorial students, whom he had not known before. The person and his family allowed him to live with them. That was a great relief for Elias to not worry about where to stay, and to focus on his studies to earn excellent grades. He has become part of that family and is still living with them. He extended his thanks to this loving and caring family.

The second question we forwarded to Elias was about factors that contributed to his success at the University. To this end, Elias replied that he appreciated the place quality is given at St. Mary's University. The instructors, according to Elias, were very much friendly, even outside classroom/campus, excellent in encouraging students to work hard. Their dedication, Elias told us, had made him to say, "I have to work hard, not only for my own sake, but also to make my instructors happy, fulfilling their expectations." That is why he committed himself towards the realization of this. Another contributing factor to his success was the availability of sufficient reading materials at the University, both at the libraries and online.

We asked Elias about his personal qualities that contributed to his success, of which he gave much credit to the behavioral change he exhibited after the challenges he went through following the dev-

astating death of his father. He reached at setting a learning goal:" I have to learn not for the but to acquire knowledge, I have to become problem solver, first for myself and then for the society at large." He went on telling us that he reads a lot, he reads to gain knowledge, never limits himself to handouts provided by instructors, but rather enriches them through additional readings. That helped him a lot to satisfy his craving for a better knowledge. He also attributed his success to his commitment towards his study, and doing assignments with quality and concentration. As he was pursuing his study through many challenges, he learned for survival; he learned to conquer the challenges and become a winner.

Besides his personal qualities, negative comments from some people who undermined him during his hard time energized him to work hard, Elias told us. Particularly, he never forgets an incident where a brother of one of his friends called him "A failure." Concluding that all people who know him might think the same way, Elias swore to himself to proof to all that he is "not a failure". That has become a strong motivation for him to work hard to the end. Completing his study as soon as possible and supporting his elderly mother was also another positive pushing factor for him. The support from his friends had a very positive impact on his success. Had it not been for four of his friends who paid his tuition fee regularly, it would have been very testing to complete his study on time. He owes so much to them and extends his gratitude.

We also asked Elias about his time management skills. To this, he replied that, "Time is my life; I never spend my time on things that are not val-ue-adding. I spend my time reading books, discussing issues with friends, participating in different entertaining events at the University, I am punctual for classes as well as for any appointment, I budget my time well. We have to exploit all opportunities that time brings." He continued saying that, "As a still water stinks after sometime, unused time is a wasted time" During his stay at the University, he gave priority to his study. "I am at the University to study, period! Therefore, I have to focus on my learning, I do not put any work aside. I revise after class what I learned in the morning. I finish studying a week ahead of exam time and use the week for revision", Elias reiterated.

Finally, we asked Elias to forward his advice to students who are studying at SMU to be successful and he suggested the following: be aware of and adjust oneself towards the frequently changing international trends; be aware about what the job market needs ahead of time and work hard towards that; avoid shortcut in acquiring the requisite knowledge and skills, rather exert the required effort to achieve it; set a goal and commit oneself towards achieving that goal; manage your time; be disciplined, Develop reading habit, etc.

As the tradition at St. Mary's University has it, Elias was given a full scholarship to pursue his Master's study at the University. Elias is currently an academic staff at the Department of Management, from which he graduated, while simultaneously pursuing his Master's degree in Business Management at the School of Graduate Studies of SMU.

የሐዘን መግለጫ
የዶ/ር አስፋው ይልማ አጭር የሕይወት ታሪክ

ዶ/ር አስፋው ይልማ መጋቢት 28 ቀን 1975ዓ.ም ከአባታቸው ከአቶ ይልማ ደምሴና ከእናታቸው ከወ/ሮ ትክክል ልዑልሰገድ በደቡብ ብሔር ብሔረሰቦችና ህዝቦች ክልል፣ሲዳማ ዞን፣ ሐዋሳ ከተማ ተወለዱ። ዕድሜያቸው ለትምህርት ሲደርስ የመጀመሪያ ደረጃ ትምህርታቸውን ሐዋሳ ከተማ በሚገኘው ታቦር አንደኛና መለስተኛ ሁለተኛ ደረጃ ት/ቤት፣ የሁለተኛ ደረጃ ትምህርታቸውን ደግሞ በታቦር ሁለተኛ ደረጃ ት/ቤት የተማሩ ሲሆን በ1995 ዓ.ም. ከዲላ ዩኒቨርስቲ በትምህርት በመጀመሪያ ዲግሪ፣ በ2001ዓ.ም. ቻይና ሀገር ከሚገኘው ውሃን የቴክኖሎጂ ዩኒቨርስቲ በቢዝነስ አስተዳደር በማስተርስ ዲግሪ እንዲሁም በ2004 ዓ.ም. ከተመሳሳይ ዩኒቨርስቲ በቢዝነስ ኢኮኖሚክስ በዶክትሬት ዲግሪ ተመርቀዋል።

ወደ ሥራ ዓለም ከተሰማሩበት ከ1993 ዓ.ም. ጀምሮ በሁለተኛ ደረጃ መምህርነት፣ በተለያዩ መንግስታዊና መንግስታዊ ያልሆኑ ድርጅቶች ውስጥ በቡድን መሪነትና በዳይሬክተርነት እንዲሁም በኢትዮጵያ ንግድ

ባንክ በልዩ ልዩ ሃላፊነቶች ሲያገለግሉ የቆዩ ሲሆን ከመስከረም 1 ቀን 2012 ዓ.ም. ጀምሮ ሕይወታቸው እስካለፈበት ቀን ድረስ በቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርስቲ ድኅረ ምረቃ ት/ቤት በረዳት ፕሮፌሰርነት ማዕረግ በመምህርነት፣ በማማከርና በምርምር የሥራ መደብ ተቀጥረው ሲያገለግሉ ቆይተዋል።

በስራ ገበታቸው ላይ በነበሩበት ወቅት በየደረጃው ከሚገኙት የዩኒቨርሲቲው ልዩ ልዩ አካላት፣ የስራ ሃላፊዎች፣ መምህራንና ሠራተኞች ጋር ተግባቢ፣ በስነ ምግባራቸው ትሁትና በስራቸው እጅግ ታታሪ ሠራተኛ የነበሩት ዶ/ር አስፋው ይልማ ባጋጠማቸው ህመም በህክምና ሲረዱ ቆይተው ጥቅምት 12 ቀን 2014 ዓ.ም በተወለዱ በ39 ዓመታቸው ከዚህ ዓለም በሞት ተለይተዋል። ሥርዓተ ቀብራቸውም በዚሁ ዕለት ቤተሰቦቻቸው፣ ወዳጅ ዘመዶቻቸውና የሥራ ባልደረቦቻቸው በተገኙበት አዲስ አበባ በሚገኘው ቅዱስ ዮሴፍ ቤተክርስቲያን ተፈጽሟል። ዶ/ር አስፋው ይልማ ባለትዳርና የአንድ ወንድና የአንዲት ሴት ልጅ አባት ነበሩ።

ቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርስቲ በዶ/ር አስፋው ይልማ ኅልፈት ሕይወት የተሰማውን ጥልቅ ሀዘን እየገለፀ ለቤተሰቦቻቸው፣ ለወዳጅ ዘመዶቻቸውና ለሥራ ባልደረቦቻቸው በሙሉ መጽናናትን ይመኛል።

ቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርስቲ

ልዩ የምዘናና ፈተና አገልግሎት በቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርስቲ

ለመሥሪያቤትዎ የአዲስ ሠራተኛ ቅጥርና የዕድገት ፈተና መስጠት ይፈልጋሉ? እንግዲያውስ የቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርስቲ ፈተና ማዕከልን ቀልጣፉና ሙያዊ የፈተና አገልግሎት ይጠቀሙ!

በተጨማሪም የቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርስቲ የፈተና ማዕከል፡-

- ■ የ ቶፍል ቴስት (TOEFL-Internet-Based Test)
- ■ የ ጂኦርኢ ቴስት (GRE-Internet-Based Test)
- ■ የ Praxis Exam
- ■ የ CISI Exams እና
- ■ በትምህርት ምዘና መስክ የተለያዩ ሥልጠናዎችን በተመጣጣኝ ዋጋ ይሰጣል፡፡

ብቃት ያለው ባለሙያ ለመቅጠርም ሆነ ሚዛናዊነቱ በተረጋገጠ ምዘና ሠራተኞችዎን ለማሳደግ በፈጣንና አስተማማኝ አገልግሎታችን ይጠቀሙ፡፡

ለበለጠ መረጃ፡-

- ■ በስል ክቁጥር 0115 51 09 91 ያገኙናል፡፡

የቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርስቲ

ፈተና ማዕከል

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