



SMU^{In} *STRIDE*

Quarterly Newsletter

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Committed to Excellence!

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Editorial

Dear Readers,

A warm welcome to Vol. 25, No. 64 Issue of SMU in Stride! In this issue, news items around teaching-learning, research, and outreach activities that took place during the fourth quarter of the year are presented in their regular columns. The Teaching and Learning column presents 2023 graduation, different pedagogical and software program trainings, CEIQA'S awareness creation sessions and other news. Under the Research and Development column appears news of the 17th Student Research Forum (SRF), the 15th Multi-Disciplinary Seminar (MDS) and the 11th Open and Distance Learning Seminar (ODLS) conducted by the University. The Partnership, Outreach, and Community Services column comprises news on SMU's participation in external events. Zena Astedader “ዜና አስተዳደር” column presents administration-related news, including news of new staff introduction.

In closing, we are always grateful for 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

St. Mary's University graduated its Undergraduate and Postgraduate students at Addis Ababa Exhibition Centre on July 15, 2023.

In his opening speech, Wondwosen Tamrat (Ph.D., Associate Professor), Founder and President of the University, congratulated the graduates for successfully completing their field of studies.



The President remarked that in accordance with the directives given by the Ministry of Education this year, the University has conducted a properly organized and coordinated tutoring and teaching program to prepare the undergraduate program graduates in the competency areas of each field of study and qualify them for the Higher Education Exit Exam (HEEE).

“In the Higher Education Exit Exam conducted in June 2023, apart from one field of study that has been disregarded at the national level, a 75% average score was obtained in all other fields of study allowing most of our students to pass the exam. This

achievement has made the students and our institution very proud,” the President remarked.



This year, 993 undergraduate and 585 postgraduate students have completed their studies. In terms of gender composition, 275 (47%) of the postgraduate program graduates are male, and 310 (53%) are female; likewise, 493 (49%) of the undergraduate program graduates are male, and 500 (51%) are female.



The graduation ceremony was a celebration of academic excellence and achievement. Graduates with top academic scores were recognized for their hard work and dedication to their studies. The Guest of Honor, honorary Dr. Zumra Nur Muhamed, founder

of Awramba Community, presented the awards and trophies to the deserving graduates.

Honorary Dr. Muhamed's closing remarks were filled with wisdom and inspiration. He encouraged the graduates to work together diligently and respect one another. His words will undoubtedly stay with the graduates as they embark on their next journey in life.



The graduation ceremony was a memorable event that celebrated the achievements of the graduates and inspired them to continue striving for excellence.

SMU Conducts Pedagogical Training



St. Mary's University comprehensive pedagogical

training for the newly recruited graduate assistants was given on October 3, 2023. The pedagogical training aims at equipping the teachers with the required pedagogical skills.

SPSS Software Training

A half-day training on the utilization of the statistical package SPSS Software was conducted on October 4, 2023, for six academic staff of SMU/CODL. Mr. Behailu Tamiru from the Department of Economics delivered the training.

The training was a valuable opportunity for the academic staff to refresh their knowledge and get acquainted with the perks of using SPSS in data analysis and research work.

University Prepares Postgraduate Applicants for National Graduate Admission Test

St. Mary's University (SMU) conducted a mock exam for its 2023/24 postgraduate program applicants on September 30 and October 1, 2023. The purpose of the exam was to help the students prepare for the National Graduate Admission Test (GAT) that will be administered by Addis Ababa University (AAU) on October 9 and 10, 2023.



SMU hopes that the mock exam will boost the confidence and performance of its applicants in the national test and increase their chances of getting admitted to their desired programs.

Discussion on Class and Invigilator Absenteeism and HEEE

A meeting comprising faculty deans, department heads, and the pertinent office heads was held on August 12, 2023. The meeting, chaired by the President, focused on exam invigilators' and instructors' absenteeism, HEE Exam preparation and evaluation, and future directions. The Power Point supported presentation revealed that there were noticeable gaps in invigilation, programming and exam quality. It was also highlighted that less attention was given to computer-assisted exams in comparison with paper and pencil ones in terms of invigilator assignment and the actual invigilation in computer labs.

Upon ending the half-day session, it was decided that department heads and deans should sort out the gaps in absenteeism reports and bring forth counter reports to the President's Office by Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at the latest. With regard to the gaps, instructors should respond to the pertinent office on time why they missed classes, if at all they did or if they want to prove their presence to the contrary

CEIQA Holds Annual Plan Preparation Meeting

The Center for Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA) of St. Mary's University (SMU) held its annual plan preparation meeting on Wednes-

day, July 12, 2023 in the Syndicate Room, SGS. The meeting was attended by representatives from various offices and departments of the University.



The meeting was led by the Ato Shegaw G/Medhin, Director of CEIQA, who highlighted the importance and process of planning for the university's activities and resources. He defined planning as the process that guides the day-to-day activities of an organization, and explained that at SMU, it involves outlining what each office or department or the University, as a whole, intends to achieve in a year's time, and identifying what resources are required to make it happen.

The Director of CEIQA advised the participants to use the five-year strategic plan of the University, especially the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) of the strategic plan, as the main reference document for preparing their annual plans. He also directed them to consult previous year plans and performance reports, research findings from internal or external sources, new developments in the sector, government regulations and national educational plans and new directives such as the Higher Education Exit Exam (HEEE) that students have to take as part of their

graduation requirements. Moreover, he emphasized that each office or department needs to do a Situational or SWOT analysis to identify their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats while preparing their plans.

CEIQA Conducts a Half day training

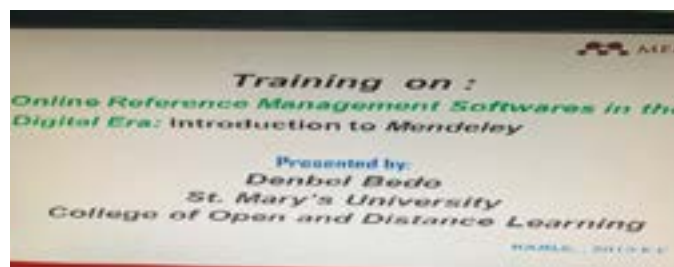
The Quality Enhancement Committee of the DBCs, in collaboration with the Center for Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA) of SMU, conducted a half day awareness creation session on the “Internal Quantity Assurance System and Practices of SMU” that targeted the academic and administrative staff of the University on Saturday morning, the 5th of August, 2023 at Multi-Purpose Hall, Undergraduate Campus. The training was given to 28 staff members of SMU by Ato Shegaw, Director of CEIQA.



A number of issues related with quality and quality assurance were raised in the session. Among others, the definition and concepts of quality and quality assurance, components of quality assurance system, quality audit, HERQA’s (ETA’s) ten focus areas of quality and the internal quality assurance system, structure and practices of SMU, and major functions of CEIQA were the most important ones.

With regard to quality assurance practices of SMU, it was said that the University started conducting Internal Quality Audit well before the practice was started at the national level in 1997E.C. (2004). SMU even pioneered in establishing an internal quality assurance office at country level. Since then, one pilot and two Internal Quality Audit reports have been issued and currently it is conducting the third SED. Following the self-evaluation conducted by SMU, HERQA, now ETA, conducted two external audits and produced a report based on the evaluation.

Online Reference Management Software



A half Day Training on Online Reference Management Software was given to Academic staff of CODL on July 21,2023.

Mr. Dembel Bedo, Head of CODL delivered the training to seven academic staff. The training was a valuable opportunity for academic staff to understand about the benefit of using Mendeley (Reference Management Software) and how to use it effectively in their research. The participants are now better equipped to manage their research references and produce high quality citations and bibliographies.

Partnership, Outreach and Community Services

Job Fair for Prospective Graduates



Career and Internship Unit of St. Mary's University organized a Job Fair on July 19, 2023, at Undergraduate Campus to connect prospective graduates with potential employers from various sectors. The event, which was officially opened by Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice President of the University, attracted more than 500 students and 30 companies.



The participating companies included ten banks, five ICT centers, four NGOs offering training on employment readiness, two hotels, one construction firm, one brewery factory, and seven others. The students had

the opportunity to ask questions, network with employers, and learn and explore more about different industries and careers. Many of them also received invitations for interviews and placements from the companies through the facilitation of the Unit.



The Job Fair was a mutually valuable experience for both the students and the employers, as they gained better insights into each other's expectations and opportunities.

The Career and Internship Unit organizes similar events every academic year to support the graduates' transition to the labor market.

Samaritan work

On August 9, 2023, the Accounting Department at St. Mary's University demonstrated their commitment to community service by engaging in a Samaritan work initiative. The department organized a donation drive, resulting in a generous contribution of essential supplies for Lideta sub-city Woreda 10 administrative. The donated supplies included various stationery materials and reference books.



Teshome Mulugeta, Head, Accounting Department, and Hirut Ebdo, Head, Student Support Service Office (SSSO), presented the donated supplies and used clothes to Berihun Amare, Head of community service and charity services in Lideta sub-city Woreda



10 administrative. The event showcased the collaboration between St. Mary's University and the local community, emphasizing the shared goal of improving the lives of individuals residing in Lideta sub-city Woreda 10 administrative.

Research and Development

St Mary's University held the 17th Annual National Student Research Forum and the 15th National Multi-Disciplinary Seminar



St Mary's University held the 17th National Student Research Forum on Tuesday, August 1, 2023. The Forum is one of the research events the University holds each year. The Forum is organized exclusive-

ly for undergraduate students in order to help recent graduates share their research findings and insights with fellow students and researchers.

In his opening speech, Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice President of St. Mary's University showed his gratitude to all the participants, paper presenters, and the organizers.

He also appreciated the current batch of graduates for being the most resilient batch in enduring the load of high credit hours of courses due to the Covid pandemic. This particular cohort again is unique because it has sat for the newly introduced Higher Education Exit Exam.



students which the 17th Annual Student Research Forum witnessed by saying, “Presenters showed us how research can make a positive impact on society, the economy as well as on our personal and professional development.”

Finally, she appreciated all who contributed to the realization of the event and closed the event officially.



After all paper presentations were made, certificates for presenters and students involved in the research event were awarded by the Executive President.

On another event, St. Mary’s University held its 15th National Multi-Disciplinary Seminar on August 3, 2023, at the same venue. The Seminar is one of the four annual research events the University organizes with the aim of promoting innovation and the culture of knowledge transfer among academicians, researchers, and practitioners in different disciplines.



The Seminar was opened by Wondwosen Tamrat (Ph.D., Associate Professor), Founder and President of St. Mary’s University.

Senait Getahun, Director of Research and Knowledge Management Office, gave a closing Remark. She expressed the amazing work of undergraduate



“It is a clear reflection of the tremendous efforts St. Mary’s University has been making over the last 25 years,” he reiterated.



“Events like this cannot be organized with no challenges. Thanks to such hardworking instructors, we have been able to sustain our research tradition amidst an intolerable level of workloads for which our staff and all presenters deserve the highest appreciation,” he added. Finally, he recognized all who took part in the annual research events.



At the Seminar, 11 papers that covered a wide range of issues under five thematic areas were presented by researchers from: Addis Ababa University, Medawelabo University, Ambo University, Civil Service University, and St. Mary’s University and discussed.



Finally, Misganaw Solomon (Ph.D.) Vice President for Research and International Relations (VIPRIR), officially closed the Seminar by acknowledging the researchers who endured the persistence their research undertakings required and shared their findings. He also appreciated all offices for their support and contributions to the success of the research event.

St. Mary’s University Conducts the 11th Open and Distance Learning Seminar

The Research and Knowledge Management Office (RaKMO) of St. Mary’s University, in collaboration with the College of Distance Learning (CODL), organized the 11th Open and Distance Learning Seminar (ODLS) on August 31, 2023 under the theme “Reimagining Distance Learning in Developing Countries” at the American Corner located in the Postgraduate Campus,.



The Seminar was opened by Ato Tsegaye Gabissa, Vice President of CODL who stated that open and distance learning is a significant alternative for bridging the knowledge gap of beneficiaries with limited time, opportunity, and capacity. He also emphasized that it can improve the quality of life of the people by making technology-mediated education accessible to the remotest corners of the country and to all those who cannot attend regular classes.

Five papers were presented by participants from Arsi, Werabe, and St. Mary's University under five sub-themes, followed by lively discussions and debates.



Finally, a closing remark was given by Misganaw Solomon (Ph.D.), Vice President for Research and International Relations (VPRIR). He highlighted that this year's seminar envisioned the future of open and distance learning and explored the roles and challenges of e-learning in relation to equity and quality of education.

Student Success Stories



Abenezer Befekadu and Fenot Demeke, 2023 graduates of St. Mary's University, was awarded a trophy and a medal for graduating from the Department of Accounting and Finance with a Cumulative GPA of 4.0. Following their graduation, the International



Relations and Communication Office of SMU, aiming to draw lessons for those who are pursuing their study at SMU and beyond, asked them how their stay at St. Mary's was and the factors that contributed to their success. We compiled and presented his story as follows:



Abenezer Befekadu explaining how he joined St Mary's University he replied, "Before joining SMU, I was assigned to Mekelle University; however, I couldn't go there due to the war. After discussing the matter with my family, I decided to join St Mary's University. He further mentioned that "During my stay, I made friends with many of my classmates. I acquired academic and life skills. I was easily convinced as I had learned that SMU has a good reputation. I dedicated myself to studying hard and registered excellent results. For this, I appreciate the

instructors for their well-organized instruction, and their assessment techniques; most of the instructors were very good and supportive."

He attributes his success to God and his parents who take the lion's share in many respects. He said, "My family and teachers, my friends, and the University helped me in guiding and orienting towards my achievement."

Replying to the question about how he managed working and studying, he said that he was a full-time student, so he didn't have time limitations.

Concerning St. Mary's University's strengths, he remarked, "St Mary's University always strives to improve the teaching-learning process by doing serious follow-ups. The instructors at St Mary's University are competent and very helpful. The University is always ready to receive comments and complaints from the students. It has transparent and smooth relations with its students. For instance, student problems and complaints are always solved through student representatives and through the Student Service Support Office. As I was part of the student union, that is what I can witness about the University." Commenting on the weakness, he said that as every institution has its weakness, St Mary's University is no exception. For instance, usually, it takes time to get academic documents. Since we live in the digital era, quick service is expected from the University.

Regarding what advice he wants to forward to other students, he said, "Students need to reconsider if they are simply looking for a degree or not. They



ought to study to acquire the required knowledge and skills. Once they are convinced that learning is mandatory and they are there to learn, they have to accept that and work hard to achieve it.”

Asked about his personal qualities that contributed to his academic success, Abenezer responded that to succeed in their learning, students should search for their talents, follow their passion persistently, shouldn't give up, push forward, try again and again, and work hard and make effective use of their time.

Fenot Demeke upon completing her preparatory education at Meskaye Hizunan school, was assigned to Debre Markos University, but due to the remoteness, she was obliged to remain here in the capital, Addis Ababa.

Explaining how she chose St Mary's University, she responded, “My brother, my sister, and my brother-in-law graduated from St. Mary's University. All of them suggested to me to join St Mary's University and study Accounting.” “Here at SMU, I had quite an interesting time. It is where I was able to get many good friends and good teachers. More than anything, the University helped me in acquiring a lot of knowledge and skills,” she further mentioned.

Responding to how she became a successful student, she responded that “I can't say I'm successful completely; however, I recognize each success at each step of my life.”

“First and foremost, I acknowledge my creator God, Virgin Mary and my family, who helped me a lot. Since

I was a girl, my family, especially my mother was there for me. On top of all these, she supported me the most. “My mom, acknowledged how much I changed, understood me well, and gave me the freedom to lead my own life and follow my own path. She advised me like a friend. That was a key to my success.” “Moreover, my dear friends helped me a lot when I was in my second year. I was very sick then and my school friends helped me to sit for the exam by providing me with teaching materials and helping me with exam preparation,” she replied to the question of who contributed to her achievements.

Regarding time management, she commented that, “I am a full-time student. I was a member of the Speech and Debate Club and Career Club. I was also a class and batch representative, but my extracurricular engagement did not stop me from being a successful student because I had a plan for each and every one of my activities. Of course, my personal quality, and strict time management, also had a big contribution to my success. I always tell myself why I am there at the University. I plan my time ahead and act accordingly.” She extended her advice to the students saying, “To use our time effectively, we need to plan and prioritize our tasks. On the other hand, we need to be goal-oriented and we have to be focused on our target.”

About the strengths of SMU, she went on commenting, “It has competent teachers; it always facilitates a conducive environment for its students. The university is always ready to get feedback from its students through online and other means of evaluation.”



On the teaching-learning process, she has commented that the university has limitation on offering standardized teaching aid materials. She also suggested that the University should have uniform handouts.

On the other hand, since there is a new exit exam at the national level, she remarked. the University has to prepare teaching materials considering the national exit exam.

ዜና አስተዳደር

አዲስ ለተቀጠሩ ሠራተኞች ትውውቅ ተደረገ

በዩኒቨርሲቲው በተለያዩ የስራ ክፍሎች የተቀጠሩ አዳዲስ ሰራተኞች በሰው ሃብት አስተዳደር ቢሮ ኃላፊ በተቋሙ ስላሉ አስተዳደራዊ አሰራሮች እና መመሪያዎች በተመለከተ መስከረም 12 ቀን 2016 ዓ.ም ገለፃ ተደረገ። በዚህም መርሀ ግብር 7 ወንዶች እና 14 ሴቶች በድምሩ 21 ሠራተኞች ተሳትፈዋል።

በዚህ ገለፃ የእንኳን ደህና መጣችሁ መልዕክት ማስተላለፍ፣ የተቋሙን ራዕይ፣ ተልዕኮና ዋና ዋና እሴቶችን ማሳወቅ፣ የተቋሙን መመሪያና ፖሊሲዎች ማሳወቅ፣ የሰራተኛውን ግዴታዎች ማመላከት እና ከሰራተኛው የሚጠበቁትንና የተከለከሉትን ተግባራት ማሳወቅ ተካቷል።

ከላይ በተነሱት ነጥቦች ሰፊ ያለ ማብራሪያ በመስጠት ወደተቋሙ የሚቀላቀሉ አዳዲስ ሰራተኞች ስለተቋሙ ያለውን የአሰራር ሂደት እና መረጃ እንዲያውቁ ይረዳል።





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ልዩ የምዘናና ፈተና አገልግሎት ከቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ

ዓለም አቀፍ ፈተናዎችን ለመፈተን ወይም ለመሥሪያቤትዎ የአዲስ ሠራተኛ ቅጥርና የዕድገት ፈተና መስጠት ይፈልጋሉ? እንግዲያውስ የቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ ፈተና ማዕከልን ቀልጣፋና ሙያዊ የፈተና አገልግሎት ይጠቀሙ!

የቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ የፈተና ማዕከል:-

- የ ቶፍል ቴስት (TOEFL-Internet-Based Test)
- የ ጂኦርጂ 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 አገልግሎቶችን ይጠቀሙ::

ለበለጠ መረጃ:-

በስልክ ቁጥር 0115 51 09 91 ያገኙናል::

ቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ

የፈተና ማዕከል



St. Mary's University

Programs Offered



Undergraduate Degree Programs (Regular/Extension)

- ◆ Accounting & Finance
- ◆ Management
- ◆ Marketing Management
- ◆ Tourism & Hospitality Management
- ◆ Computing Science

Undergraduate Degree Programs (College of Open and Distance Learning)

- ◆ Accounting
- ◆ Management
- ◆ Marketing Management
- ◆ Financial Economics
- ◆ Rural Development
- ◆ Agricultural Extension
- ◆ Agri-Business Management
- ◆ Cooperative (Accounting & Auditing)
- ◆ Cooperative (Business Management)
- ◆ Educational Planning & Management
- ◆ Economics
- ◆ Sociology
- ◆ Public Administration and Development Management
- ◆ Agricultural Economics
- ◆ Banking and Finance
- ◆ Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Graduate Programs Offered in Partnership with Open University of Tanzania (OUT)

- ◆ Master of Project Management
- ◆ Master of Arts in International Cooperation & Development
- ◆ Master of Science in Economics
- ◆ Master of Human Resource Management

Postgraduate Programs (Regular)

- ◆ MSc in Quality and Productivity Management
- ◆ MA in Social Work
- ◆ MA in Development Management
- ◆ Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- ◆ MBA with HRM Concentration
- ◆ MSc. in Agricultural Economics
- ◆ MA in Project Management
- ◆ MBA in Accounting and Finance
- ◆ MA in Marketing Management
- ◆ MA in Development Economics
- ◆ MSc. in Computer Science
- ◆ MA in Higher Education
- ◆ MA in Sociology

Graduate Programs Offered in Partnership with Universita Cattolica del Sacro Coure, Italy

- ◆ MBA in Impact Entrepreneurship

Graduate Programs Offered in Partnership with IGNOU (Distance)

- ◆ MBA (Master of Business Administration)
- ◆ MSW (Master of Arts in Social Work)
- ◆ MEC (Master of Arts in Economics)
- ◆ MPA (Master of Arts in Public Administration)
- ◆ MARD (Master of Arts in Rural Development)
- ◆ MSO (Master of Arts in Sociology)
- ◆ MPS (Master of Arts in Political Science)
- ◆ MCOM (Master of Commerce)

Short Term Training

- ◆ Business & Computer Science areas
- ◆ Higher Education areas

Services through SMU's Testing Center

- ◆ TOEFL (Internet-based test)
- ◆ GRE (Internet-based test)
- ◆ Praxis Exam
- ◆ CISI Exams
- ◆ Recruitment tests

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