



SMU *In* **STRIDE**

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Committed to Excellence!

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Editorial

Warm greetings to all readers,

Welcome to Vol. 26, No. 67. issue of SMU in Stride 2024.

Teaching and Learning Column: Highlights include the SMU 9th ICT Exhibition, University's Tourism Week, and Annual Plan Preparation and Implementation Training.

Research and Development Column: Features news on the 22nd International Conference on Private Higher Education in Africa, the annual research review session, and a manuscript writing workshop aimed at raising graduate students' awareness about St. Mary's University's thematic areas and refreshing their knowledge on master's thesis and journal article writing.

Partnership, Outreach, and Community Services Column: Covers SMU's signing of partnership/cooperation agreements with various organizations, including the Access Teachers Program and the University's Impactful Initiatives donation to Woreda 10.

Zena Astedader “**ዜና አስተዳደር**” Column: Presents administration-related news, including HRMO orientation.

We are always grateful for your continued support and contributions to the Newsletter. Your 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

University's Tourism Week

Tourism and Hospitality Management Department of St. Mary's University organized a two-day event, from May 31 to June 1, 2024, under the theme "Empowering the Next Generation: Pathways to Career and Entrepreneurial Success." The event took place at the university's Undergraduate Campus Multi-purpose Hall and aimed to motivate students to pursue successful careers and entrepreneurial endeavors in tourism and hospitality. The celebration is an annual tradition that highlights the dynamic nature of the tourism sector and gathers important stakeholders from the local community.



The event was opened with a speech by the department head, Alemayehu Tsehaye, setting the stage for a series of enriching experiences. The Academic Vice President, Misraku Mola, PhD, delivered a compelling keynote address, highlighting the critical role such events play in advancing the tourism industry and equipping students for future challenges. Next a presentation titled "The Successful Entrepreneurial and Employment Mindset" was delivered by Shiferaw Tadesse, a Tourism and Hospitality Department instructor.

A panel discussion featured industry expert and academic representatives, offering valuable insights into job market navigation and career tips from the

corporate leader and consultant. Following the panel discussion, which included a blend of industry veteran and academic minds, students asked questions and received answers from the panelists.



The second day of the event was marked by creativity and cultural display, featuring a speech and face painting competition and a traditional costume fashion extravaganza, showcasing the rich diversity of tribal attire. The presence of the renowned artist Serawit Fikre, who served as a judge during the student competitions, added a touch of glamour to the proceedings. His reflections on the event's significance resonated with the audience, reminding them of the early years of his career.



The two-day Tourism Week celebration was a comprehensive and engaging event that provided students with inspiration, knowledge, and networking opportunities to help them succeed in the tourism and hospitality industry.

The festivities concluded with an awards ceremony, recognizing the achievements of competition winners and honoring the artist for his contributions.



Book review with Dr. Dawit Wendemagegn

St. Mary's University's Student Support Service Office (SSSO) in Collaboration with the Book Club hosted a book review session with renowned psychiatrist and author Dr. Dawit Wendemagegn on May 14, 2024, at the Undergraduate Campus in Multidisciplinary Mall.

Dr. Wendemagegn, the renowned writer of the book “አለመኖር” and “አለማወቅ”, shared his inspiring journey as an author. He recounted how he transformed challenges into opportunities, and from those challenges, he mentioned how it led him to self-published his books.



With full passion, Dr. Wendemagegn explored the concepts of his books and related them to real-life experiences, bridging the gap between fiction and reality. He shared his knowledge and insights,

offering valuable lessons for the current generation. He also provided a hint about his upcoming book, “አለመኖር” to the audience.

The event was attended by a large number of St. Mary's University students and staff members. The audience actively engaged with the author, posing insightful questions and receiving valuable feedback.

Annual Plan Preparation and Implementation Training

On June 28, 2024, the Center for Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA) of St. Mary's University conducted a half-day training session on annual plan preparation and implementation at the Syndicate Room.

Ato Shegaw G/Medhin, Director of CEIQA, led the meeting, emphasizing the critical role of planning in guiding the University's daily activities and resource allocation. He detailed the steps and tools involved in plan preparation, implementation, and revision at SMU. Key elements of the annual plan include defining desired outcomes, outlining steps to achieve these goals, setting timelines, assigning responsibilities, and identifying required resources. He also stressed the importance of using the University's five-year strategic plan, previous year's performance reports, and Government regulations as key sources for preparing annual plans.



The plan preparation process at SMU is consultative, involving input from all members of an office or department. Once a draft plan is prepared, it is reviewed by CEIQA for technical accuracy. After incorporating feedback, the revised plan is submitted back to CEIQA, which then organizes an annual plan review session with all planning heads and top management. This session, scheduled for the end of September, ensures that all plans are aligned and comprehensive.

The meeting concluded with an interactive discussion, where participants asked questions and shared their views and experiences on planning and reporting. Suggestions included considering awards for high performers, maintaining the format for annual performance reports, and utilizing technology like One Drive and Microsoft 365 for documentation and reporting.

Evaluating Progress: A Mid-Year Review of QECs

St Mary's University's Center for Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA) held a meeting on June 15, 2024 at the Syndicate Room to assess the half-year performance of its Quality Enhancement Committees (QECs). The session, led by CEIQA Director Shegaw G/Medhin, featured a detailed presentation by Nibretu Kebede (PhD), who reported on the progress of 14 QECs.



After the presentation during the discussion members engaged in a thorough examination of their successes and the challenges they faced. The discussion brought to light the essential need for CEIQA to enhance its support mechanisms, particularly through orientations focused on documentation and reporting methodologies. The participants also suggested the integration of SWOT analysis into the reporting structure, to enrich the reporting process and to provide a more comprehensive strategic outlook.



The session culminated with Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD) the President of SMU, acknowledging the diligent efforts of CEIQA and the QECs. He underscored the critical importance of learning from diverse committee practices and the need for a continuous evolution of the evaluation framework. He emphasized the necessity of a standardized reporting and assessment system, adaptable enough to allow for the reformulation of plans by the CEIQA office when required.

SMU 9th ICT Exhibition

St. Mary's University's Faculty of Informatics organized the 9th Annual ICT Exhibition, under the theme "Connecting Possibilities, One Bite at a Time". The 9th ICT Exhibition, SMU, opened on May 15, 2024, is to last for three days and ended on May 17, 2024. Computer Science students presented technology solutions to the diverse institutional and community problems toward enhancing efficiency and reducing service delivery time. To that end, among the presentations was solution to identifying host institutions, interns' placement and follow up mechanisms. Another was Students' identity authentication solution, which prevents intruders and lets in only active students at campus gates. Many more innovative solutions are exhibited at the event.



Meanwhile, Informatics students deserve appreciation for establishing Google Developer Student Club, SMU Chapter, which has become one of the chapters among more than 2000 HEIs worldwide. In Ethiopia, to date, there are three public and two private HEIs,

among which is St. Mary's University, which are members of Google Developer Student Clubs, destined to build solutions to local businesses and communities with Google technology.

Research and Development

22nd International Conference on Private Higher Education in Africa

St. Mary's University hosted the 22nd International Conference on Private Higher Education in Africa on May 23 and 24, 2024 at Inter Luxury Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme "Re-thinking Research and Academic Assessment and Evaluation towards Quality Enhancement: New Trends and Developments.". The conference sought to initiate conversations on cutting-edge methods for enhancing research and academic assessment quality in African higher education.



The Conference was launched in the presence of His Excellency, Mr. Kora Tushune, State Minister for Higher Education of the FDRE Ministry of Education, Prof Olusola Oyewole, Secretary General of the Association of African Universities, and distinguished guests from various local and international higher education institutions.



Wondwosen Tamrat (Asso. Prof.), the founder and President of St. Mary's University, welcomed participants to the 22nd International Conference on PHE in Africa. He believed the Conference would address research, assessment, and evaluation challenges, provide new knowledge, clarify gray areas, and bridge gaps. He emphasized the vital role of presentations and panel discussions featuring renowned scholars from around the world and Ethiopian universities. These events serve as a critical platform for addressing the multifaceted challenges in higher education and society at large. "Although St. Mary's has shouldered the financial burden of organizing the conference from the outset, the unwavering support of all our partners has been remarkable," he commented.

In his opening remarks, his Excellency Mr. Kora Tushune recognized the pivotal role played by private higher education institutions in complementing the efforts of public HEIs. With its impressive 22-year history, the conference stands as a testament to the

positive impact of private HEIs on Ethiopia's and Africa's development discourse. By providing a platform for discussing and debating critical issues, the event continues to contribute significantly. He also thanked St. Mary's University and its partner institutions for their valuable contributions.



The 22nd International Conference has brought together local and international speakers, higher education institution leaders, paper presenters, researchers, policy/decision-makers, industries, and participants from the private and public sectors together with regional and international organizations from different parts of the world.

During the event, scholars from various countries held a fireside chat, and nine research papers on key concepts and issues related to innovative approaches, emerging trends, and academic assessment and evaluation in African higher education were presented.



The Conference concluded with Ato Tedla Haile, the Executive Vice President of the University, delivering his closing remarks. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to local and international organizations, higher education institutions, officials, and presidents of higher institutions who actively participated in

making the event a reality. He also acknowledged the tireless efforts of paper presenters, moderators, and participants throughout the two-day conference. Finally, he recognized the SMU offices that significantly contributed to the event's success.

Annual Research Review Session

The Research and Knowledge Management Office (RaKMO) held its Annual Research Review Session on June 29, 2024, at the Main Campus, Syndicate Room. This year's session included a presentation on the Analysis of the Annual Research Reviews of St. Mary's University 2020-2023, a Proposal defense, and the 2015 E.C. Outstanding Researcher Award of the Year.

Misganaw Solomon (PhD), Vice President for Research and International Relations, opened the session by extending a warm welcome and introducing the program.



Matheas Shemelis (Ass. Prof) Director of RaKMO, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Analysis of the Annual Research Reviews of St. Mary's University from 2020 to 2023. He highlighted that the review plays a crucial role in ensuring the quality and relevance of the university's research efforts. The review aims to assess current practices, identify strengths and weaknesses, and give recommendations for future improvement.

During the period from 2020 to 2023, twelve researchers actively engaged in research aligned with the thematic area, and the budget showed consistent growth throughout the year. Despite these efforts, he pointed out several limitations, including a limited number of research initiatives, low publication rates, poor staff engagement, and insufficient research funding. To address these challenges several recommendations were made including encouraging and supporting staff to secure research

grants, recognizing research as a fundamental duty of instructors, building research capacity within the university, and increasing funding for research projects.

Following the presentation, a discussion session was held where participants shared their challenges and raised questions about areas that need improvement.

Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD), President of SMU, commended RaKMO for its diligent efforts. He emphasized that research and publication should become a strong cultural practice at SMU. He points out that individual research outcomes should contribute to institutional development. In addition, he mentioned that RaKMO should establish connections with faculty to create a research community. He suggested that RaKMO could publish compiled research activities over the year.

The session included a proposal presentation by Ato Shiferaw Tadessa, who presented on “Intra-Africa Tourism”. Participants engaged actively in posing questions and giving comments on his proposal.



The session culminated with the 2015 E.C. Outstanding Researcher of the Year Award. The award aims to acknowledge researchers’ contributions and inspire staff to actively participate in research. This year, the honor was given to Ato Assefa Belay from the Department of Economics acknowledging his outstanding research efforts with a certificate and monetary prize.

Additionally, Daniel Zewdie (Ass. Prof), Dejene Mamo (PhD), and Ato Manaye Adela received certificates for their research contributions. The competition was open to all staff members who met the required criteria.



Manuscript Writing Training

St. Mary’s University’s Office of the Vice President for Research and International Relations (OVPRIR), in collaboration with the Student Support Service Office (SGS), organized a half-day orientation session for prospective postgraduate students. The session, held on June 1, 2024, was designed to provide essential guidance on manuscript writing—a new requirement introduced by the University’s latest senate legislation. The students, being the first to experience this directive, were given customized guidance to help them manage the new academic duties introduced to them.

The orientation shed light on the nuances between a thesis and a manuscript, detailing their distinct purposes, scopes, lengths, target audiences, and review processes. It also covered the specific guidelines of manuscript submission at St. Mary’s University, including how to prepare manuscripts for the university’s journals and the intricacies of formatting.

Led by Matheas Semeles (Ass. Prof), the event was interactive, culminating in a Q&A session that saw robust participation from the students. The dialogue provided an opportunity for attendees to seek clarifications and gain a deeper understanding of the manuscript preparation process, ensuring they are well-equipped for this critical component of their postgraduate journey.



Partnership, Outreach and Community Services

Access Teachers Program

The SMU Access Teachers participated in a training program held in Addis Ababa from June 18 to 22, 2024. This marks the fifth time SMU has received a grant from the US Department of State to train 36 high school students in English and life skills over two years (2024-2025).

The Access Teacher Training program brought together 28 teachers and coordinators from Ethiopia (St. Mary's, Arba Minch, Mekele and Dire Dawa Universities and the Central African Republic university. These participants were selected to teach in the Access English Scholarship program for the next two years in their respective countries.

St. Mary's University was represented by one director, one coordinator, and four teachers, led by Dr. Misganaw Solomon, with Manaye Adela serving as the program coordinator. Dr. Misganaw shared the best practices from the previous four cohorts of Access student training, which were well-received by participants and organizers, demonstrating the trust placed in SMU by the RELO and the US Embassy.

The training program was comprehensive, covering a wide range of topics. The instructors, experienced professionals in teaching English as a second language, used various techniques, exercises, and group activities to ensure active engagement and learning for the participants over the next two years.

The event concluded with a closing ceremony held at the American Corner at SMU. Notably, SMU is the only institution in Ethiopia that has run the English Access Microscholarship Program for more than two cohorts, having trained 375 secondary school students during the first four cohorts.



University's Impactful Initiatives

St. Mary's University has actively engaged in community development by allocating funds for essential infrastructure and resources. The university recently contributed 500,000 Birr for the construction of Woreda 10 community police station, which will serve as a cornerstone for local safety and community assistance. In addition to this, the university has provided a computer and its accessories, valued at 60,000 Birr.

Recognizing the importance of infrastructure for economic growth and community well-being, the University has also donated 450,000 Birr towards the construction of a cobblestone road in Burayou town. This road is expected to improve connectivity, enhance trade, and provide a durable solution to transportation challenges in the area. These contributions by St. Mary's University highlight its commitment to the betterment of the community and its dedication to supporting local development initiatives.

ዜና አስተዳደር

ለመካከለኛ ደረጃ አመራሮች ሥልጠና ተሰጠ

የቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሰው ሃብት አስተዳደር ሰኔ 11 ቀን 2016 በዋና ካምፓስ መሰብሰቢያ አዳራሽ ለመካከለኛ ደረጃ አመራሮች ስብሰባ አዘጋጅቷል። አላማው የሰራተኞች የስራ አፈጻጸም ግምገማ፣ የተቀላጠፈ የመረጃ ልውውጥ እና የስራ ሰአትን ማክበርና በአግባቡ መጠቀምን ጨምሮ ስለ በርካታ ጠቃሚ ጉዳዮች ግንዛቤ ማዳበርና ማሳደግ ነበር።



በአቶ ክብርሻ ወልዴ የሰው ሀብት አስተዳደር ዳይሬክተር የተመራው ስልጠና በአፈጻጸም ምዘና የሰራተኞችን አስተዋፅኦ እውቅና በመስጠትና በመሸለም እንዴት ማነሳሳትን እንደሚፈጥርና እንደሚያሳድግ አብራርተዋል።

በእለቱም የሰራ ሰአትን ስለማክበር፣ የሰራ የአፈጻጸም ግምገማ እና ጥቅማ ጥቅሞች፣ ስላሚያጋጥሟቸው ተግዳሮቶች ከተሳታፊዎች ጥያቄዎች ቀርበው በመፍትሄዎቹ ላይ በቂ ውይይት ተደርጎ ስብሰባው ተጠናቋል።

ለከፍተኛ እና መካከለኛ አመራሮች የአመራር ክህሎት ማበልፀጊያ ስልጠና ተሰጠ

የቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሰው ሀብት አስተዳደር ሰኔ 1 ቀን 2016 በውጤታማ አመራር ላይ ያተኮረ የግማሽ ቀን ስልጠና አዘጋጅቷል። ስልጠናው የተዘጋጀው ለከፍተኛ እና መካከለኛ አመራሮች ሲሆን የአመራር ብቃታቸውን ለማስፋትና ጠቃሚ ግንዛቤዎችን ለመስጠት ነው።

በጥላቱ ካሳሁን (ዶ/ር) የተመራው ስልጠና የውጤታማ አመራር መሰረታዊያን፣ የውጤታማ መሪዎች ዋና ባህሪያት፣ የመሠረታዊ የአመራር ዘይቤዎች ጠቀሜታና አስፈላጊነት ላይ አጽንኦት የሰጠ ነበረ።



በተጨማሪም፣ የትክክለኛ መሪነት ፣ የትብብር እና የውድድር መንፈስ ጽንሰ-ሀሳቦች ምንነት የዚህ ስልጠና አካል ነበር።

በውይይት መድረኩ ላይ ተሳታፊዎች ከራሳቸው ልምድ በመነሳት ውጤታማ አመራር ላይ ግንዛቤ በመለዋወጥ መልካም ውይይት አድርገዋል።

ለአዳዲስ ቅጥር ሰራተኞች የመተዋወቂያ መድረክ በዋናው መስሪያቤት ተካሄደ

የቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ የሰው ሀብት አስተዳደር ጽ/ቤት ሰኔ 8፣ 2016 አ.ም የግማሽ ቀን ክፍለ ጊዜ የመተዋወቂያ መድረክ በዋና ካምፓስ፣ ቻምበር ክፍል አዘጋጅቶ ነበር። የዝግጅቱ ዓላማ የዩኒቨርሲቲውን ራዕይ፣ ተልዕኮ፣ ግቦች እና ዋና ዋና እሴቶችን ለአዳዲስ

ሰራተኞች ለማስተዋወቅ ነው። ስልጠናውን የመሩት አቶ ክብርሻ ወልዴ የሰው ሀብት አስተዳደር ዳይሬክተርና ወ/ሮ ስንታየሁ ብርሃነ የዚሁ ክፍል ምክትል ዳይሬክተር ናቸው።



በዚሁ ስልጠና ላይ ሰራተኞቹ ተግባራቸውንና ኃላፊነታቸውን እንዲገነዘቡ ተቋማዊ መመሪያዎች በዝርዝር ቀርበዋል። በተጨማሪም ወ/ሮ ስንታየሁ ሰራተኞቹ የሚያገኙትን ጥቅማ ጥቅሞችን አብራርተዋል።

በመጨረሻም ተሳታፊዎች ግንዛቤያቸውን እንዲያሰፉ እና ተጨማሪ ማብራሪያ በሚፈልጉባቸው ጉዳዮች ላይ ጥያቄዎችን አንስተው ውይይት ከተካሄደ በኋላ ከክፍሉ ሀላፊዎች በቂ ማብራሪያ ተስጥቷል።



ትድሰት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ

ልዩ የምዘናና ፈተና አገልግሎት ከትድሰት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ

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

የትድሰት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ የፈተና ማዕከል:-

- የ ቶፍል ቲስት (TOEFL-Internet-Based Test)
- የ ጂኦርጂ ቲስት (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 ሠራተኞችምን ለማሳደግ በፈጣንና አስተማማኝ አገልግሎቶችን ይጠቀሙ፡፡

ለበለጠ መረጃ:-

በስልክ ቁጥር 0115 51 09 91 ያገኙናል፡፡

ትድሰት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ
የፈተና ማዕከል



St. Mary's University

Programs Offered



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

Undergraduate Degree Programs (College of Open and Distance Learning)

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

Other Services Through Our Testing Center

- ◆ TOEFL iBT (Internet based)
- ◆ Recruitment test
- ◆ GRE
- ◆ Praxis
- ◆ (CISI) Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment

Graduate Programs (Regular)

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

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

- ◆ MBA in Impact Entrepreneurship

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- ◆ Master of Business Administration
- ◆ Master of Arts in Social Work
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- ◆ Master of Arts in Sociology
- ◆ Master of Arts in Political Science
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- ◆ ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System
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- ◆ Quality Professional
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- ◆ ISO 9001:2015 Lead Auditor
- ◆ Quality and Productivity areas
- ◆ Entrepreneurship
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