

# ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. X, No. 29, October 2011

Information & Communication Office

Tel. 00251 115 53 80 03

P.O.Box 1211/18490

E-mail: [smu@smuc.edu.et](mailto:smu@smuc.edu.et)



5<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research Forum  
Organized & Sponsored by: Research and Knowledge  
Management Office, SMUC  
Date: 28-30/11/2011 Venue: SMUC Multipurpose Hall



### IN THIS ISSUE :

#### CONVOCAION

#### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ The 9th National Conference on Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs)
- ❖ The 5th Student Research Forum
- ❖ St. Mary's Quality Audit Result

#### ❖ Strengthening Foreign links

#### COMMUNITY SERVICES

- ❖ Venue Accommodation

#### Off Campus Events

- ❖ Conference & Seminar
- ❖ Trade Talent-Show
- ❖ Award Event
- ❖ Partnership Meeting
- ❖ Research Conference



# CONVOCAATION



St. Mary's University Collage graduated a total of 3,444 students in both modes, 989 in the regular mode of learning and 2,455 in the distance mode in various fields of studies. The graduation took place at the Exhibition Center on July the 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Ato wondwosen Tamrat (Asst.Prof) Founder and Presidents of St. Mary's stated that the graduation success was due to the determination and tireless efforts of the students, the support of their parents and relatives, the assistance of their instructors, and the entire community of SMUC, government & non - government organizations. He thanked all the parties involved and congratulated the graduates.

Ato Wondwosen told that St. Mary's, as one of the pioneers of private higher education institutions in the country, is contributing its own share to fill the gap of skilled manpower in the country.

The President concluded his speech underlining that the graduates should be models of productive works, discipline and honesty; and should be pride of themselves and to their institution wherever they may be. He advised the graduates to strengthen their link with the UC through the alumni of St. Mary's.





The guest of honour, Prof Yewoynhareg Feleke, Professor and Senior Researcher at Medical Science College of Health, AAU, affirmed that St. Mary's is an institution, which works hard to deliver quality education to its stakeholders. She expressed her happiness to be the guest of honor of the graduation ceremony at which the number of graduates and honorary graduates of women was significant.



After the professor stated that knowledge is power, she concluded her speech advising the graduates to be hardworking, considerate, responsible, visionary, goal-oriented, and confident; and people of change to help themselves, their country and the world at large.

Similarly, in a graduate program St. Mary's University Collage (SMUC) runs in partnership with Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) 285 students were graduated in seven various fields of studies in that third graduation ceremony on the 9th of July, 2011 at Hilton Addis.

Ato Wondwosen Tamrat (Ass. Prof) remarked that the alliance between the two institutions has availed the choice of destination for many Ethiopians and foreigners from different corners of the country who seek to attend post-graduate programs. He also added that the partnership has contributed to current government efforts to expand post graduate programs the enrollment rate of which is still far below what is planned in the Education Sector Development Program of Ethiopia. The President admired the capacity, commitment and perseverance of the graduates which all as one enabled them to pass the rigorous studies of distance learning.



Ato Wondwosen acknowledged with a big sense of gratitude the efforts of His Excellency Latha Pillai, (Dr) Pro-Vice-chancellor of IGNOU; who traveled all the way from India as it was a great sign of respect to what SMUC is doing. The President expressed his thanks to IGNOU Coordination Office, the School of Graduate Studies and the faculty involved in the program for their efforts, and the Ministry of Education, the Higher Education Relevance and Quality Assurance Agency, the National Bank of Ethiopia, Bank of Abyssinia and all government and non-government organizations for their various assistance to successfully run our Post-graduate Programs.



The guest of honour, Dr Lathe pillai, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor remarked that IGNOU is proud to be associated with St. Mary's University College (SMUC) to help people who are in need of higher education. Though distance education needs strong coordination, she pointed out that the alliance of the two experienced institutions in the field has made efficient strides towards the delivery of quality education.

Mr. Kanduri, First Secretary, representing the Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia, the other guest of honour, told the historical relationships of the two countries particularly in education. He declared that his government has offered two scholarship grants.



# RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

## The 9th National Conference on Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs)



St. Mary's University College (SMUC) organized and sponsored the 9th National Conference on Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs) On the 20th of August 2011. The conference was held at the UN Conference Center in Addis Ababa under the theme: 'The Role of Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs) in Human Capital Development to Achieve the Ethiopia Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP)'

Sixteen research papers which focused on a range of major issues, including Higher Education Quality Policy and Practice in Higher Education; Career Choices and Employment; and Higher Education and Cross-cutting issues were presented.

The conference comprised close to 300 participants from government and non-government offices, lecturers from public and private higher and technical and vocational education institutions, professional associations and societies, education bureaus, financial institutions, embassies, NGOs and the business sector.

In his opening speech, Dr. Kaba Urgessa, State Minister for Education, pointed out that the conference organized and sponsored by St. Mary's

University College, is a laudable and commendable initiative as the focus of its discussion is the key agenda of the government to which it has



always been supportive. The State Minister continued his remarks and underlined, "To enable the country have a competitive edge on the various sectors of the economy, institutions of higher learning, public and private, must strive for quality education to which students are exposed;... They must be accountable for their performance, and transparent and efficient in their operations." Dr Kaba Urgessa reminded that the day's conference needs to address issues more than the papers to be presented might entail: translating the outcomes of the discussion in to deeds more than the scholarly discussion that normally the papers trigger."



Ato Wondwosen Tamrat (Asst. Prof.), on his part, noted that the significant contributions that have been made (so far) by both the public and the private sectors to the ongoing effort of poverty reduction and economic development at a national level is and will be one of the critical issues to service providers. Anticipating the fruitful discussions, the President Asserted that participants will have a good deal of topics and issues to choose from; discuss, exchange views and also be able to identify themes, ideas and directions that will be useful to policy makers, beneficiaries and the sector at large, now and in the years to come.

He extended his thanks to his Excellency Dr Kaba Urgessa, The State Minister for Education, His Excellency Mr. Adamou Labara, International Financial Co-operation (IFC) Country Director for Ethiopia, and to all the participants; and concluded his well-come speech hoping that day will be productive and enjoyable.

The Key-note speaker, Mr. Adamou Labara, International Financial Corporation (IFC) Country Director for Ethiopia, stated the key role played by education in general and higher education in particular, in a country, would provide one of the

most critical ingredients, necessary to start and drive growth and transformation; which is human



capital. In his key-note speech, the Country Director focused his remarks on financing private education which is solely dependent on the frameworks of the regulatory policies as it determines the ease or difficulty for private providers to enter the market.

Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice-president of St. Mary's University College, in his closing speech told that though much remains to be done concerning quality of education, the day-long deliberations were useful since quality, as an issue, is dealt with forthrightly. The Executive Vice-president underlined that the move from the realm of rhetoric to the actualization and implementation of what we vowed to do is crucial.



Ato Tedla extended his thanks and appreciations to the dignitaries for committing their precious time to convey their messages; and to all offices, centers, units and personnel who were instruments in bringing the event to a successful end.

## The 5th Student Research Forum



As research contributes much to improve the quality of education, St. Mary's has created various opportunities to encourage research, of which one is the Students Research Forum organized and held annually since 2007.

On August 21, 2011, The Research and Knowledge Management Office, SMUC, organized and held the 5th Annual National Student Research Forum at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Mexico Campus.



Ato Goitoum Abrha, Business & Administration Vice-president, in his opening speech underscored the commitment of St. Mary's to such forums as they are essential mechanisms to reinforce the culture of research undertakings which in its turn should be, he stressed, geared towards solving real problems which challenge the society.

The conference was a remarkable one as there were a good number of female presenters.

In his closing speech, Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice-president of SMUC's, expressed the importance of such forums to enhance the culture of



research and their contributions to the quality of the teaching-learning process.

In a separate development, Dr. Wondimagene Chekol, Ass Director of the Center of Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA), SMUC, gave training on Quality Assurance concept and practices to the Academic & Support Staff of Gondar Teacher Education College. The training was given to not less than 200 Academic and Support Staff with in the college premises on Sept. 8, 2011. The training was conducted to enable the college establish internal quality assurance system.

Similarly, Ato Biruk.Worku, an instructor in the Faculty of Information Technology, gave training on 'Office Application and Introduction' to 19 employees of Artistic Printing Enterprise at Mexico Campus, SMUC on Sept. 14, 2011.

## Strengthening Foreign links

St. Mary's University College do spares no effort to enable it's students get exposed to people of diverse attitudes. One such opportunity that the UC has made available to its interested students is the annual eight-week English Conversation Class conducted by volunteer American university students since 2008.

Elias Walker, Josue Lugo, Tomi Balogun and Catherine Pettiborn, all from the University of Texas except Tomy who is from Midwestern State University, arrived here on May 24, 2011 and started class on May the 30th, 2011.

At the end of the course, during the farewell event, held at the end of each course, the hugs, the overwhelming happiness, and the excitement they exhibit during the local songs and dances was beyond measure. The tears and the heart-felt Farwell Speeches could easily tell any participant of the event that a lot of cross-cultural friendship, experience-sharing, exchange of ideas, and views have taken place among the youth of the two countries during the eight-week English Conversation Classes.

# COMMUNITY SERVICES

## Venue Accommodation

St. Mary's University College assisted the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERC) Ledta Branch, to hold its General Assembly on July 19/20011 by providing its assembly hall, the Multi-purpose Hall, as per the request of the branch.

## St. Mary's Quality Audit Result

The new academic year has just begun with the registration of non-freshman students. A month or so back the Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency (HERQA) released the quality audit results of Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs). St. Mary's has

achieved spectacular results as assessed against nine major focus areas, which include institutional governance and internal quality audit system. In the former SMUC scored 1175/1200 and in the latter 800/800. Our student assessment system is rated as remarkable, earning 980/1000. As a whole, SMUC scored 8878/9925. By any standard, the score shows the commitment that the SMUC community demonstrated toward enhancing the services the institution renders. The University College thanks all stakeholders for committing themselves to work with St. Mary's.

# Off-campus Events

## Conference & Seminar

Luisa Gatteschi, a Research Officer, Research and Knowledge Management Office, SMUC, participated in a National Conference to share relevant research results organized by the Ethiopian Economic Association. The conference was from July 21-23, 2011 at the Multi-purpose Hall of the Association.

In another development, Luisa attended a seminar organized by ECA-UNDP, the objective of which was to develop and verify new theories and to deliberate on poverty alleviation through trade.

Luisa reported both the conference and the seminar were participatory and motivating.

## Trade Talent-Show

Information & Communication Head (SMUC), Ato Baye Nigatu, attended the Opening Ceremony of Trade Talent Show organized by the Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency and held at its studio, at the Head Office, on June 27, 2011.

Likewise on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, 2011, Ato Baye attended the inauguration ceremony of the completion of about 23 projects organized by Lideta Sub-city at the Renaissance Preparatory School.

The work of the projects, according to Lideta Sub-city, was carried out in collaboration with the Lideta Sub-city Administrations, the government and the people.

## Award Event

Similarly, Ato Baye Nigatu attended the event organized by Addis Ababa City Administration on August 27, 2011 at the Theater and Culture Hall of the A.A City Administration to give prizes to different offices. The objective of the event was to give certificates and other awards to organizations and individuals who contributed significantly to the cleaning and beautifying activities of the city, Addis Ababa, in the year 2003EC fiscal year.

On Sept. the 18th, 2011, Ato Bye Nigatu attended the Lideta Amhara Development Association (ADA) Assembly organized by the Lideta Sub-city ADA Branch Office. The assembly was held at wereda 1 Hall.

## Partnership Meeting

W/ro Ergogie Tesfaye, Gender Office Head, SMUC, took part in a framework creating and broadening partnership meeting to promote girls education. It was organized by the Gender Director Office, MoE; and held at Inter-Continental Hotel, Addis Ababa on August 4, 2011. Participants included different national and international NGOS (donors), public higher education institutions; and the private ones represented by St. Mary's. The resource persons, Ms. Mekdes Eyuel, Ms. Tizita Maphalala and Ms. Sifraye Mengistu from MoE, UNICEF and Addis Ababa Education Bureau (AAEB) respectively, presented different but three issue-related papers.

## Research Conference

W/t silenat Abebe, a member of the Resource & Knowledge Management Office, SMUC, participated in the 4th Annual Multi – disciplinary Research Conference Organized by Central University College and held at Semen Hotel on the 30th of July 2010.

The Objective of the conference was to encourage research work and share experience. Six research papers on various issues were presented by different people in the Conference.