



ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Committed to Excellence!

Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. XI, No. 31, March 2012

Information & Communication Office

Tel. 00251 115 53 80 03

P.O.Box 1211/18490

E-mail:smu@smuc.edu.et

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Participation in International Research Seminar

St. Mary's University President Wondwosen Tamrat (Asst. Prof.) participated in the joint seminar organized by European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) from 30 November-2 December 2011 in Brussels, Belgium. The Seminar was held under the theme 'Internationalization & QA Connecting European and Global Experiences.' Wondwosen presented a paper on 'Cross Boarder Higher Education and its Implication for Quality Assurance in Ethiopia relating the Ethiopian experience in the area.'



Training on 'Entrepreneurship Development Training' was given to SOS Village Youth leaders from Dec 12-14, 2011 at the SOS National Office hall. The objective of the training, according to Ato Tewedros Bezu, Head of the Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation Department, SMUC, was to coach SOS Village Youth leaders.



Ato Hailemeleket Taye and Ato Mekdela Mekuria the resource persons, both from St. Mary's, talked on the 'Theory & Practices of Entrepreneurship', 'Basics of Marketing,' 'Feasibility Study', 'Financial & Business Plan Formulations' and 'Project Cycle Management'.

Sisters Informing Sisters on Topic of AIDS (SISTA) Program

Following the signing of the MoU, SMUC and NASTAD Ethiopia have been working towards minimizing challenges resulting from HIV and AIDS of which one is, 'Training of Facilitators (ToF) on Sisters Informing Sisters on Topic of AIDS (SISTA) program.' The training was given from Dec. 16-18, 2011 to a total of 26 female students, 14 from St. Mary's and 12 from Tegabareid Technical and Vocational College, at St. Mary's University College.



During the Weekly Friday Shows, St. Mary's promoted the program by introducing the SISTA members and dispatching leaflets intended to female students. In addition, the first fourteen trainees dispatched information of the program informally and the overall SISTA Program was briefed to the Talk show participants which was followed by some questions that were entertained.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Volunteerism



After the comprehensive discussion that took place at St. Mary's & Mary Joy Development joint-celebration of the International youth Volunteers' Day at St. Mary's on the 23rd of Dec.2011, volunteer community members of the UC made a house- to –house visit to orphan children around the vicinity of Asco. During the visit, money and clothing were donated to the needy children on Dec.31st,2011.



In link manner, The Student Support Service Office (SSO), SMUC, along with volunteers of the UC discussed and decided to spend the Easter holiday with the needy and the poor. They collected birr 1,720 from volunteer community members of the UC and held a luncheon event to the orphans on the 20th of January 2011, the Ethiopian Epiphany.



The SSO appreciated and thanked St. Mary's University College for it provided transport service both on the 23 of Dec.2011 and the 20th of January 2012. Again the office extends its gratitude to W/rt. Seblewongel Traekegne, the owner of Betelhem Megbaresenay Medhanialem Mahber for her provision of food and drinks to the luncheon.



IN-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

The Renaissance Dam Donation Event



As notified in the Quarterly Newsletter Vol. X, No, 28, July 2011, under ‘Salesmanship in Action in Support of the Renaissance Dam’, the students of the Department of Marketing Management, SMUC, donated 21,000.00 birr to the Renaissance Dam. The money, the students got as proceeds from the sales of commodities on consignment from companies was handed over to the Ethiopian Development Bank in the presence of Ato Berhanu Taye, Manager, Business Promotion & Communication process and Ato Ababu Kassa, Principal Business Promotion and Communication Officer of the same at Mexico Campus, SMUC, on Dec. 30,2011.



Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice-president of St. Mary’s and Ato Berhanu Taye appreciated and thanked the students, instructors and the community of St. Mary’s for their integrated efforts to bring the event into such a success.

Mainstreaming Workshop

The Gender Office in collaboration with NASTAD Ethiopia organized and held ‘HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming Workshop on January 17, 2012 at Mexico Campus, Multi –

Purpose Hall. The focus of the workshop was to discuss on papers presented on HIV/AIDS mainstreaming.

Present were representatives from Health Bureau, Education Bureau, Police Department and Youth Affairs of Lideta Sub-city Administration, A.A HAPCO, Task Force members and Facilitators, representative instructors and students from each department.

After Ato Baye Nigatu, Information & Communication Office Head, made the opening remarks, papers on ‘The Responses of the University College’ by W/ro Ergogie Tesfaye, Gender Office Head, SMUC; ‘Preventive Packages on HIV/STI and Prevention Package in University College’ and ‘Concept of HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming’ by Ato Tesfaye Bogale, AA,HAPCO, were presented.

After discussion on key points and the way forward, the workshop ended by closing remarks of Ato Birhan Mengistu from NASTAD-Ethiopia.

Celebrating Volunteers Day

Student Support Service Office, SMUC, in collaboration with Mary Joy Development Association sponsored and organized the celebration of International Youth Volunteers Day. The celebration was observed at St. Mary’s, Mexico Campus on the 23rd of Dec, 2012.



Present were volunteer members of Mary Joy of which most of them were professional artists, students, instructors and office employees of SMUC.



During the event, the opening remarks were made by Ato Tedla Haile, Vice- president of SMUC; and the closing, by Ato Baye Nigatu, Information & Communication Office, Head, St. Mary's.



International Law Moot Court Competition



The National Rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition 2012 was held here at St. Mary's University College on February 3 & 4, 2012. The competition was a simulation of fictional dispute between countries before the International Court of Justice. The law School of Addis Ababa University has come out as the National Champion and represents Ethiopia for the International Tournament, which is to be held in the USA. The only competitors and, by default, finalists this year



have been the Law Schools of Addis Ababa University and Haramaya University. The Law School of SMUC has been a host for the National Rounds for the last four years by virtue of assuming the position of National Administrator for the competition.

Question & Answer Program Held



The Student Supports and Service Office (SSSO), SMUC, Organized Question and Answer (Q&A) Program among the regular TVET students of the departments of Accounting, Marketing, Law and Information Technology. The program took place in three rounds on Dec. 30, Feb. 17 and Feb. 24, 2012 at Mexico Campus.



The Question & Answer Program, according to Ato Abate Laqew, Head of SSSO, included general knowledge questions on sports, the TVET Program, traffic rules, Amharic proverbs, HIV/AIDS and TB.

It was also reported that Ato Getachew Assefa, Senior Office Public Relations Directorate Director, Ministry of Health, acted as a judge during the Q&A Program held on the 17 of Feb. 2012.

Jazz Performance at SMUC



A trio from the USA staged jazz music here at St. Mary's University College on February 7, 2012. The performance was sponsored by the US Embassy in Addis Ababa. In his opening speech, Mr. Robert Post, Public Affairs Officer of the Embassy, noted that the event was organized honoring the Black History Month recalling the key role of jazz in helping to shape and quicken the arrival of the civil rights movement. As recorded in American history, jazz musicians took up the cause of civil rights, using their celebrity and their music to promote racial equality and social justice. In the early 20th century, black and white musicians were not allowed to perform together publicly.



Present at the performance were staff and students of the English Access Micro-scholarship project, which is run by SMUC in partnership with the US Embassy. Other students and staff of SMUC were also among the audience. The performance of the

ensemble has been well received by the audience by a show of repeated applause.

March 8 Celebrated



This year's March 8 Women's Day was celebrated under the international theme 'Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures', Empowering Women on Hunger and Poverty.' At St. Mary's, it was organized by Gender, and HIV Office, SMUC, in Collaboration with NATSAD and celebrated at St Mary's University College on Mar. 8, 2012.



After the Opening Remarks by Ato Baye Nigatu, Information & Communication Office Head, SMUC, W/ro Ergogie Tesfaye, Head of Gender & HIV Office, SMUC, made a Keynote Address. The Guest Speaker, W/t Hirrut Gedlu, a devoted volunteer in giving support to people living with HIV/AIDS, advised and shared her wonderful and inspiring experience with students and employees of St. Mary's. Similarly, W/ro Workabzu Benti, a successful entrepreneur, was the other Guest Speaker who shared her challenging and encouraging life experiences. The life experience of both women Guest Speakers were valuable and thrilling.

OFF – CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Image Building Consultative Forum

Ato Baye Nigatu, Head Information & Communication Office, SMUC, attended the establishment of the Consultative Forum Organization by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The forum held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Dec.29, 2011 aimed at carrying out integrated activities with a view to build the image of the country.

Participants drawn from religious institutions, Chamber of Commerce, higher learning and research institutions and other stakeholders were briefed by Ato Getachew Reda, and by Ato Assefa Negussie, Public Diplomacy and Communication Directorate, Director General, and Domestic Media Relations Director, respectively, both from the MoFA.

After discussion were held, the Consultative Forum was established, and members of the forum vowed to exert their utmost effort to achieve the goal.

Private HEIs and TVET Institutions Meeting

A meeting, organized by the Ministry of Education, was held at the Ghion Hotel on January 4 and 5, 2012. The meeting brought together all private HEIs and TVET operators nation wide under one roof to have exchange of ideas and thoughts on the Growth and Transformation Plan and related matters. The day-and half long meeting was presided over by the Minister for Education and witnessed heated discussions that largely dwelt on TVET related issues.

The most important part of the discussion was the assignment given to all TVET operators; private and public alike. By the end of this academic year, all regions, including the City Administrations of Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa, will face a serious test on their programs; all their graduates of the current academic year will take competence tests and the results will be made public immediately. The results of the competence tests of trainees in the Tigray Regional State have been released together with the names of the institutions. The results show that business programs have dismally very low scores compared to those of their technical counterparts. In addition, it was revealed that all TVET trainers should sit for competence tests sooner than later in the current academic year. If not, the institution will not be allowed to operate in the sector and the trainers too will not have a place anywhere as trainers.

Lessons drawn from the Tigray Regional State, according to the State Minister for TVET, have made it clear that both the government-owned and private institutions have common denominators; the ones that have properly trained staff, institutional leadership, facilities and duly monitored cooperative training schemes have performed well and the ones that have given lip-service in their programs have gone down the rung of the score ladder. Therefore, service delivery correlates with the results of the trainees. The gist of the whole discussion has great implications to the entire institutions; the lower the pass rate of trainees, the more likely will be an institution to go out of business in the sector.

Awareness Raising Discussion

Information & Communication Office, SMUC, facilitated the participation of Ato Abebe Zenebe, Head of the Student Wellness Unit, and Keria Nurhusen, member of the Student Union, in the awareness raising discussion on TB as per the invitation. The panel was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, TB Care EATHIOPIA AND IB Media Forum at Sinoyt Hall, on Dec. 3, 2011.

According to Ato Abebe Zenebe, the papers presented were educational and the discussion participatory.

Consultative Meeting Organized by the ACCA

A consultative meeting, organized by the country office of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the global body for professional accountants, was held on February 17, 2012, at the Hilton Addis, Addis Ababa. The ACCA aims to offer “business-relevant, first-choice qualifications to people of application, ability and ambition around the world who seek a rewarding career in accountancy, finance and management.” As reported by the East African Regional Office Head, the ACCA currently gives support to its 140,000 members and 404,000 students throughout their careers, providing services through a network of 83 offices and active centres.

The core agenda of the meeting was to forge partnership with ACCA focusing on its Approved Learning Provider Programme. The consultative session, which had six participating private institutions, including SMUC, dwelt on the issue of how to go about the partnership. The regional director, who came from Kenya, explained that ACCA’s global infrastructure means that exams and support are delivered - and reputation and influence developed - at a local level, directly benefiting stakeholders wherever they are

based, or plan to move to, in pursuit of new career opportunities. He further elaborated that ACCA’s focus is on professional values, ethics, and governance, and it delivers value-added services through 57 global accountancy partnerships, working closely with multinational and small entities to promote global standards and support

Seminar Participation

Ato Biruk Megersa, Head of the Library & Documentation Office, SMUC, participated in the Seminar ‘Prevention of Literary Heritages in Ethiopia’ organized by the National Archive and library Agency and held on Mar. 2012.



According to Biruk, after the opening remarks by H.E. Ato Dawid Mohammed, the State Minister of Culture and Tourism, papers related to the issue of the Seminar were presented. After discussion, by the participants, Biruk added, an eleven-person committee that would work along with the Agency to identify the basic challenges on the issue was established by the general assembly.

The Great Women Run



Forty female students and employees of St. Mary’s participated in the Great Women Run held on Mar. 11, 2012. This five kms run organized by the Ethiopian Great Run was held under the motto ‘Empowering Women’.