

## **CAPACITY BUILDING**

### **SMUC has won England - Africa Partnerships in Higher Education for 2007**

St. Mary's has won the England - Africa Partnerships in Higher Education Project run by DFID for the year 2007. The competition was won in collaboration with St. Mark and St. John, a partner institution of higher learning in Plymouth, England with whom SMUC has signed MOU. The project focuses on capacity building through key skills with women teacher educators at the second cycle primary education level.

The components of the project include training to be given to SMUC's teacher educators both in Ethiopia and England, material development at SMUC, and dissemination of project findings to schools and education bureaus in the regions, and in East Africa. The project is worth 68,000 pounds sterling. The competition was held among a total of 99 proposals out of which only 16 were selected for funding.

### **SMUC's Participation at the Inauguration of the Desmond Tutu Centre at Marjon, England**

The Desmond Tutu Centre, which is to serve as ARROW's focus for the global ARROW (Art: A Resource for Reconciliation over the World) programs has been inaugurated at the St. Mark and St. John College in Plymouth, England. The opening ceremony was held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006. SMUC, chosen as a regional centre for ARROW, has been represented by its President Ato Wondwosen Tamrat. The air fare and expenses of the President were fully covered by the generous assistance of the centre and Marjon College. ARROW is a response from within the College of St. Mark and St. John (Marjon) to events such as 9/11, the war in Iraq and increased racial tensions in towns and cities across the World. The ARROW network has currently expanded to include centres in Ethiopia (at SMUC), Siera Leone and Rwanda.

## Quality Enhancing Training



SMUC graduated thirty teacher trainers from the Faculty of Teacher Education on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2006 at Hilton Addis.

The instructors were trained for ten months by two Higher Diploma Programme (HDP) leaders, Dr. Nicolas Dima, a volunteer from the International Foundation Education Self Help (IFESH), and Mrs. Karen Waters, a VSO - volunteer. Six tutors among the thirty were selected and trained as Higher Diploma Teachers (HDTs) to ensure the sustainability of the HDP at SMUC.



Handing out diplomas to the graduates, the guest of honour, State Minister of General Education, Ato Fuad Ibrahim, stressed that programmes like the HDP are vital in building the capacity of teachers to improve the quality of education.

Ato Tedla Haile, the Academic Dean of the University College, on the occasion noted that the objective of the training is to improve the teaching/learning process with new teaching methodology. He also added that the institutional follow up that should come next would help to register the differences brought by the trainees in the teaching/learning activities.

## Workshop on Practicum



A one - day workshop was organized by the Practicum and Apprenticeship Office of SMUC in collaboration with the Department of Education.

The workshop was conducted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2006 at Mexico Campus. Ato Melaku Girma, Dean of the Faculty of Education, discussed the general concepts of practicum under the topic 'Implementing Guidelines of Practicum'.

Ato Tekalign Zewde, Head of the Department of Languages, and Ato Eskinder Ambachew, English instructor at SMUC presented papers on "Reflection on Problems Encountered in running the Practicum at neighboring partner schools."

During the presentations and the discussions, problems or challenges in the implementation of the practicum were discussed; and possible solutions were forwarded. The need for more English language training (written and oral); tutors' follow up, clear supportive orientation to prospective teachers, and the vitality of devising mechanisms to minimize absenteeism and late coming were some of the solutions suggested.

Concerning the **partner schools**, it was underlined that the schools should be aware that the practicum program is but part and parcel of the educational programs they are running. It was also noted that mentors should be given clear

check lists, should be trained how to evaluate the work and should closely follow the performances of the prospective teachers.

## Workshop on Teaching in Large Classes

A workshop on "Teaching in Large Classes" was organized by the Academic Dean's Office of SMUC to improve instructors' skill in the management of large classes. It was given to fifty instructors from the various faculties on December 8, 9, 15 and 16, 2006 at the Mexico Campus.



The resource person for the workshop was Ms. Karen Waters, the HDP Leader at SMUC. The workshop aimed at enhancing course participants' understanding of the large class as a unique context for teaching/learning.

Major issues like opportunities and challenges, assessment of individuals

(oral and written), maximizing use of limited resources of large classes, and creating action plans for large classes were discussed.

### **Workshop on VAT in the Ethiopian Context**



The Department of Accounting at SMUC held a one - day workshop on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2007 for its degree program students at Mexico Campus on "Value Added Tax in the Ethiopian Context"



The objective of the workshop was to integrate the theoretical lectures given in class with the local practices in Ethiopia. The resource persons were Ato Belay

Tafesse - Yeka Sub - City Revenue Department Head; and Ato Sebsibe Ilma - Yeka VAT Team Leader who dwelt well on the issues of VAT registration, declaration, assessment, allocation, and administration. The participants, students, and instructors of the department raised questions and forwarded their views.

### **Panel Discussion on HRM**

The Department of Management at SMUC held a panel discussion on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2007 on 'Human Resource Management'. Its purpose was to familiarize students in the department with the practical aspects of Human Resource Management. The resource



persons, Ato Mesfin Asfaw, Project Manager of Varnero Construction, Wt. Bizuwork Wolde, Head of Human Resources & Administration Department of GOAL Ethiopia, Ato Teshome H/selassie, Deputy HR Manager of

Abysinya Bank and Mr. Lenio, a lecturer at the International Leadership Institute and at the College of Telecommunication Information Technology (CTIT), presented papers on 'Appreciative Inquiry in Human Resource', 'Challenges in Implementing HR Policies', 'Best practices in Human Resources Development', respectively.

Important questions and views were aired during the twenty - minute discussion session after each paper.



In a similar vein, the Department of Management held a panel discussion on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January on the 'Methods of Writing Research Papers' for its prospective graduates.



Two resource persons from Addis Ababa University dealt with the issue: Dr. Zenebe Barake, on 'The Essence of Research,' and on 'The Role of Research in Managerial Decision Making'; and Ato Belay Hagos, on 'Effective Research Skills' and on 'Reporting and Defending Research Findings.'



The prospective graduates, the Faculty Dean, Ato Goitom Abrham and the Head of the Department, Ato Wondafrash Mulatu all expressed that the panel was very useful.

## Skills Improvement Sessions

Degree offering departments of the University College, i.e. Law, Computer Science, Management and Marketing Departments organized three skills improvement sessions in collaboration with the Degree Program Co-ordination Unit.

The sessions were organized to help graduating students develop the appropriate methods, language skills, and self confidence which they need both in their academic life and in their future career.

The skills improvement session was held from November 20 - December 23, 2006. They were given by Ato Tedla Haile (the Academic Dean of SMUC), Ato Goitom Abraham (Dean of the Faculty of Business), Dr. Zenebe Baraki, Ato Belay Hagos (both from the AAU),

Ato Kagnew Fisseha (Marketing Department), Ato Elias Nur (Dean of the Faculty of Law), Ato Bekalu Atnafu (Head of Education Department), and Dr. Nicolas Dima (Higher Diploma Leader at SMUC).

The students' participation was very high in all the sessions. Most of the participants commented that all the topics discussed were useful and should further be offered in the future.



**English improvement Training** was also given to some SMUC office secretaries by



Ms. Stephanie Mason (English Language trainer at SMUC) at Mexico Campus from Meskerem 9 to Hidar 26, 1999 E.C. Certificates were given to the trainees by Ms. Stephanie Mason on Tahsas 17, 1999 EC at Mexico Campus.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Department of Management gave a two – day free training, (Yekatit 21 and 22, 1999EC) on entrepreneurial skills to twenty – two heads of small micro - enterprises drawn from Lideta Sub-City.



The training dealt with different topics addressed by three resource persons: 'Characteristics of Successful Entrepreneurs', by Ato Netsanet Tsegaw and Ato Belay Gezu, and the topic 'Time Management and the Techniques to Change Customers with Complaints to Satisfied Ones', by W/ro Yamrot Nigussie; all three from SMUC.



Participants discussed issues, raised questions, and forwarded their suggestions.

The trainees expressed the appropriateness of the training to their practical work, and extended their gratitude to SMUC. Moreover, they pointed out that such training would help entrepreneurs do their jobs better and improve their lives.



The training ended after certificates were handed to the trainees.

## **PARTICIPATION**

### **Workshop on Brain Drain**

The Center for Research and Quality Assurance (CRQA) of the University College participated in two workshops organized by the Higher Education Strategy Center (HESC-MOE). They were on 'Brain Drain and Labor Market' and on 'HESC Futurology Studies (FS)' and were held on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2007 respectively at the MOE.

The principal purpose of the first workshop was to acquire baseline information about brain drain and the labour market by involving stakeholders from academia, students and the civil society.

In the second workshop, two policy studies, i.e., labour Market Studies and Continuous development of both academic and non - academic staff (organizational gap analysis) were undertaken making use of futurology studies (FS) as a methodology and as a venue to

gather stakeholders of higher education in Ethiopia.

During the plenary session, HESC officials collected suggestions from the participants. The need to secure incentive packages from the government and, the inclusion of private higher education institutions in a number of policy issues were the major suggestions forwarded by the participants.

### **Consultative Forum**

The External Relations Office of the University College attended a consultative evening of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society which convened on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2007 at Hilton Hotel. During the consultative evening, the discussion focused on how to build a Resource Hall around Fil-Wuha, which is supposed to help the Red Cross become self - sufficient.

Encouraging ideas and proposals were given by government, international, NGOs, private agency officials/representatives, and individuals.



## **Collaboration with the Ethiopian Youth Development and Peace Association**

The External Relations Office of SMUC participated in the consultative meeting organized by Ethiopian Youth Development and Peace Association on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2007 at the Ethiopian Peace and Development International Institute Hall.

The consultative meeting was held to discuss the plan of the association in relation to the eve of the Ethiopian Millennium and to establish a forum that would carry out its plan. The association's plan is to give prizes to offices, organizations (government and non - government) and individuals from the federal level down to the locality for contributions and accomplishments with regard to national development in collaboration with the youth.

At the end of the discussion, the discussants elected two people unanimously to help the MAHIBER make better preparation; and adjourned the meeting with agreement to establish

the forum after fifteen days and meet again to commence the actual task. .

## **Working Visit**



Twenty library attendants of SMUC made a half-day working visit of the AAU Library on Feb 22, 2007.



The visit covered various departments with the helpful assistance of officials including the Reference Documentation and Acquisition Departments.

SMUC extends its appreciation to the chief library of the AAU and to all the departments of the library for their collaboration and unreserved support.

## SPORTS

### The Great Ethiopian Run



Thirty - five employees of SMUC participated in the Great Ethiopian Run which was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2006. Ambassadors, government



officials, persons with disabilities and children participated in the colorful event.

The institution thanked and appreciated the participants for the discipline and performance they exhibited.

### Soccer Match

The graduates of Addis Ababa University Technology Faculty, South, organized their Annual Football Match among colleges/universities for the year 2007. Seven colleges/universities, namely, Africa Beza College, Awolya College, Rift Valley University College, Tropical College, Building College - AAU, St. Mary's University College, and Tech - Zone College were the competitors.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2007, Rift Valley University College and St. Mary's University College finally competed for the trophy.



Rift Valley took the trophy of the year beating St. Mary's 5 to 4 in a penalty shoot out.

## WELCOME ABOARD

A warm welcome ceremony was organized by the Student Affairs Office, Guidance and Counseling Service Unit and the Student Union for the 1999 entrants to the University College. It was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2006 at Mexico Campus.

The Academic Dean, Ato Tedla Haile, welcomed the students and wished them fruitful academic years.



The welcoming ceremony was held on World HIV/AIDS Day. Consequently, the Academic Dean in his short opening remark mentioned the alarming spread of the disease and some of its preventive mechanisms with special emphasis on the youth.



Ato Mammo Wudneh, the guest of honour, among many other things stressed the incalculable damage HIV/AIDS has incurred at the national level by killing the productive members of the society. He stressed the necessity of being careful in the life of the youth.

Abebe Zenebe, President of the Student Union, also made a welcoming speech to the new students. The coming of the new students to the UC, he stated, would not be mere numerical addition but would also reinforce community involvement of the youth by participating actively in the various extra-curricular activities of the UC.

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