



The Seventh National Conference on Private Higher Education in Ethiopia

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# St. Mary's University College

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# COMMENCEMENTS



**S**MUC graduated 1,233 students of the regular division in nine fields of studies in certificate, diploma and degree. The graduation took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2009 at the Exhibition Center. Among the prospective graduates, 54.6% were female.

The President reminded the prospective graduates that the true instrumentality of education would be realized when there is the will and determination to combat corruption.

He concluded his speech by forwarding thanks to the families of the graduates, the community of SMUC, government and non-government organizations and offices who made significant contribution in the course of the training period.



Founder and President of the UC, Wondwosen Tamrat, (Ass. Professor) noted the contributions of the UC in addressing the national gap of skilled manpower.

The President mentioned that the annual national conferences, the student annual research forums, the production of research journals, are some of the gestures which reflect the commitment of the UC to the national call of quality education.

The guest of honour, Professor Tirusew Tefera, Dean of Education College, A.A.U. remarked the essence and contributions of education to a country and the need for supporting the private sector.

The professor advised the graduates to be prepared with the highest integrity and ethics to serve the people.



The guest of honour finally stressed the necessity of updating the scope of knowledge to be able to remain useful to one self and to the nation as well.



Similarly, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2009, the UC graduated 4,393 students of the Distance Education Division in various disciplines in certificate, diploma and degree at the Assembly Hall, Addis Ababa.



After Dr. Eylachew Zewde's, Dean of the Distance Education Division, welcoming address, Ato Wondwosen Tamrat, (Ass.prof.), and President of the UC Congratulated the graduates on their achievements.

He appreciated and admired the determination of the students, the instructors and the administrative staff in accomplishing the arduous tasks of distance learning. He also forwarded his appreciation to the family, the government and non-government offices in overcoming all sorts of challenges.

The president advised the prospective graduates not to remain satisfied with what they had achieved. The alumni, suggested Ato Wondwosen, could be used by graduates to strengthen their further ties with SMUC.



The guest of honour, Prof. Alemtshay Mekonen, Senior Researcher in Biology and Instructor at AAU, underlined the values of education in every walk of life. She also noted the importance of continuing education in order to cope with the demands of the changing world. The Professor appreciated SMUC for extending its distance education program to people who live in remote areas deprived of getting further education.



Abebe Bekele, representative of the graduating students, reminded that there were years they had spent in the remote areas without getting additional education and skills in spite of their strong desire to learn. He, thus, extended his thanks and appreciation to SMUC for it has offered them and too many others the opportunity to satisfy their long-awaited desire for higher education.



# RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Seventh National Conference on Private Higher Education in Ethiopia



Organized and sponsored by SMUC, the Seventh National Conference on Private Higher Education in Ethiopia, "Charting the Road-map for Private Higher Education in Ethiopia" as its main theme, was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August at the UN Conference Center. The conference was opened by H.E Ato Demeke Mekonen Minister of Education.



Over 300 participants comprising higher government officials, lecturers from almost all public and private higher education institutions, members of the Ethiopian Private Higher Education Association, and other professional associations and societies, representatives of ministries, education bureaus, financial institutions, embassies, the donor community and international organizations were present in the conference.

Fifteen research papers were presented of which most were directly or indirectly related to quality of education. The rest were on cross-cutting issues like gender, HIV/AIDS, etc.

HE Ato Demeke Mekonnen, Minister of Education, in his opening speech, stressed the need for cultivating the culture of research and technology transfer in higher education institutions as their impacts on the national development are unquestionably far-reaching.

"Because of conducive environment and wider opportunity given to the private sector," the Minister noted, "the number of private higher institutions has been growing. And they visibly contributed to our accelerated and sustained development particularly at producing trained human capital."

He also reminded the necessity of introspection by some individual and institutional investors to promptly understand the expectations of the country and to effectively undertake their responsibility.

The Minister extended his appreciation to SMUC in making research its core objective.

HE the Minister concluded his speech confirming the readiness of the Ministry of Education to provide the necessary support.



Wondwosen Tamrat, (Ass. Professor), Founder and President of SMUC, in his welcoming speech, noted the growth of the private sector into a viable development partner of the government in the collective pursuit for quality higher education in Ethiopia.

The President thanked the participants for attending the conference which assumed a special place in the history of the UC as it was held at the time when St. Mary's is celebrating its 10th Anniversary.



Professor Roy Du Pré, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Durban University of Technology-South Africa, in his keynote address pointed out that education is a key to success and governments are working intensively towards it.

As the demand, particularly of higher education, is increasing, the Professor went on, private higher education has a role to play in the sphere. The Professor also underscored that offering quality education and acquaintances to modern technology are sole factors to create competence to adapt to the fast changing world.



Ato Hailemeleket Taye, Head of the Center for Educational Improvement, Research and Quality Assessment (CEIRQA) - SMUC- thanked the Management, the Organizing Committee and Offices of St. Mary's for their unreserved contributions and support. He also extended many thanks to the researchers for accepting the call for research papers; the participants for accepting the invitation and for enriching the papers in the plenary and group sessions; and the UN Conference Center and Sheraton Addis for their humble services.





### The Third Annual Research Forum

The Academic Development and Resource Center (ADRC) of SMUC organized and held the Third Student Research Forum of 2009 on August the 15<sup>th</sup> at Mexico-Campus-Multi- Purpose Hall.



The Forum was opened by Wondwosen Tamrat, (Ass. Professor), President of the UC.

The President underscored the commitment of the UC to such forums as they reinforce the culture of research undertakings and equip the skills of research writing and presentations which are milestones for further improvement.



Twelve selected research papers were presented in the forum to more than 200 students, instructors, faculty, department and office heads.

According to Ato Endale Ashagre, Head of the Academic Development Research Center (ADRC) , participants reported that the forum was interactive and created a good opportunity of adding valuable educational inputs to prospective graduates.

### The Annual Meeting

The Second Annual Meeting of Center Co-ordinators of the Distance Education Division (DED)-SMUC- was held at the Head Office of DED-Addis Ababa from Sept 2-6/2009. It was organized by Marketing, Customers Services and Human Resource Development (HRD) of the Distance Education Division.



Dr. Eylachew Zewde, Dean of the DED, SMUC opened the Meeting by giving working guidelines.

Among other things, the conference assessed the performance, challenges and outcomes of academic and administrative matters of the previous year and remedies sought based on the lessons gained.

The Conference gave opportunity to Center Co-ordinators to exchange ideas and share experiences.

Wondwosen Tamrat, The President of the UC, gave prizes and issued certificates to best performers of Distance Centers and Branch Offices of 2009.



He gave a closing speech and wished all the participants a happy fruitful new year.

### Training

The Marketing, Customers Services and Human Resource Development Unit (HRD) of DED held a four-day training, i.e. from August 19-31 /2009 at the Green Campus. The training was given to heads of Units, Departments and Sections of DED to equip them with better leadership and managerial skills.

The resource person, Ato Abebe Yirdaw from Business Faculty- SMUC, addressed main issues relating to Concepts of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership, Delegation in Leadership, Team-work, etc.

In a similar Vein, the Marketing, Customers Services and Human Resource Development Unit (HRD) gave a two-day induction and training to newly recruited editorial, tutorial and assessment staff of the Distance Education Division . The training focused on assessment and tutoring. It was given on July 29 and July 30, 2009

The trainers were Ato Biruk Birhanu, Ato Ketsela Hailu, Ato Tegaye Gebisa, Ato Tesfaye G/Meskel, Ato Tamiru Tesfaye and Ato Aschalew Teklu from Distance Education Division-SMUC.

The participants noted that the training had helped them to understand more details about the work and would add more efficiency to their future engagements.

### Customer Service Training

The Faculty of Business gave Customer Service Training to Front-desk Workers of SMUC on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2009 at the Business faculty Syndicate Room-Mexico Campus.

The objective of the training was to upgrade the customer service skills of Front-desk Workers.

It was given to 13 Program Attendants from June29-August 12/2009; to 4 Registrar Front-desk Workers; and to 13 Computer Laboratory Attendants from August 10-17/2009.

Some of the major issues discussed by the resource person Ato Abebe Yirdaw -SMUC- were ‘Organizations and Their Customers’ with related details like, ‘Communication Skills’, ‘Team Work,’ ‘Defining Customers Services’, ‘Handling Complaints’ etc.





## Career Development Training



**T**he Guidance and Counseling Unit organized Career Development Training on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2009 at Mexico Campus-Multi-Purpose Hall.

The objective of the training was to train the prospective graduating students of the year develop job searching skills; to equip them with skills needed by employers; and to acquaint them with common challenges they might face in the actual working places.



The resource persons were Ato Mesay Kifle from Ethio-jobs, Ato Gebrekirstos Menkir from the Ethiopian Road Authority and W/ro Yeshemebet Zewolde from Paul Ries. Ato Mesay, Ato Gebrekirsos, and W/ro Yeshemebet talked on 'Job Searching Skills', 'What Employers Are Looking for', and 'Challenges in Networking Environment', respectively.

Biruktawit Bogale, Head of the Unit, remarked that prospective graduating students were highly interested and would hopefully benefit from the talks.



## Panel Discussion

**T**he Academic Program Office organized a panel discussion for instructors and department heads on the duties and responsibilities of the Program Office on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2009 at Multi-purpose Hall.



Ato Alemu Mankelklot, the Program Office Head, talked on the academic program of SMUC from the perspective of instructors and department heads. Briefing was given on examination programs, absenteeism and on make-up classes by the office head. It was followed by comments from instructors and department heads.



# COMMUNITY SERVICES

## St. Mary's Walk for Sisters with Disabilities

Interested community members of SMUC participated in the fund raising event organized by the Ethiopian Women with Disabilities National Association (EWDNA) on June 21<sup>st</sup> 2009. It was a five kms – walk from Theodros Avenue to St. Mary's Main Campus, Mexico Campus.

The UC sponsored the cost of 100 T-shirts, and the venue where the ceremony was held at the end of the walk.



Board members of the association made various speeches on the objectives, performances, challenges and needs of the association.

Some invited guests expressed their willingness to assist the association. The ceremony ended after the guest of honour, Ato Baye Nigatu, External Relation Office Head-SMUC-handed certificates to the sponsors.

## The 'kiremt' Tutorial Program

The Social Support Forum of SMUC conducted the annual 'kiremt' Tutorial Program from July 21 to August 30/2009 at Edget Behibret Primary and Junior School.



The program was conducted for 130 students of grades 5-8 drawn mainly from the most economically disadvantaged families of Kirkos Sub-city. Three selected tutors from the Faculty of Education, SMUC, tutored the students in English and Mathematics.

The exercise books and ball-pens needed for the students were fully supplied by SMUC.



At the closing ceremony held on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 at Multi-Purpose Hall-SMUC, Ato Tedla Haile, Vice Academic President of SMUC, gave presents and certificates to three ranking students of each grade and to the tutors who participated in the training.



## Welfare Gesture



**T**he Social Support Forum organized an event at Mexico Campus, Multi-Purpose-Hall- on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2009 to sponsor a three-month school fee of 51 students orphaned by the HIV pandemic and are supported by 'BEFIKIR SERE AIDS MAHIBER'.

Wondwosen Tamrat, (Asst. Professor), made a welcome speech to the students, to the board members of MAHIBER and to invited guests.

The President advised the pupils to be serious about their education and promised them that the community of St. Mary's University College will always be on their side to help them complete their studies. Ato Wondwosen Tamrat handed the manager of the association, Ato Elias Alem, a check of Birr 6,360.00 to be paid for the three month school fee of 51 students.

The ceremony ended after the board members of the association thanked and appreciated the UC for its usual assistance to the children.





## PARTICIPATIONS

### National Conference

Head of the External Relations, Ato Baye Nigatu, attended the 'National Anti-Corruption Coalition Conference.' It was organized by the cooperation of Government Communication Affairs Ministry and the Federal Ethics & Anti Corruption Commission. The conference was held from July 2-3/2009 at the Civil Service College.

The conference was opened by HE Ato Girma W/Giorgis, President of FDRE. HE, among other things, noted the difficulties of development without the real fight against corruption by people and the government.

Several papers on corruption and related issues were presented by different experts after which the National Anti-Corruption Coalition was established.

The closing speech was finally given by HE Commissioner Ali Suleman, Federal Commissioner of Civics and Anti-Corruption Commission.

### Workshop

Yetnayet T/wold, Head of the Department of Social Sciences, attended a workshop organized by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission under the title, 'The Review of the Human Rights & Civic and Ethical Education Curricula at the Tertiary & Teachers Training Colleges Level.'

The Workshop was held at Adama, Adama German Hotel on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2009.

An Executive Summary on the issues was prepared and presented by Dr. Zewdneh Beyene, W/t Zimmita Beyene and Asst. Prof. Getachew Assefa, all from Emahizee Global Consulting PLC.

Paper presentations were made on 'Human Rights & Civic Education;' 'Problems Related with the Quality of Human Rights Education;' and 'The Corrective Measures that Should be Taken to Improve the Quality of Human Rights Education.'

The participants appreciated the commission and the presenters and suggested the need for training to civic & ethical course instructors.

In a similar vein, Yetnayet T/wold and W/o Tsige Taffese attended a workshop organized by the Anti-Corruption Commission on July 6, 2009 at the Anti-Corruption Commission Hall.

Ato Abebe Zewde from Anti-Corruption Commission spoke on issues related to corruption, including ethical problems in private higher institutions,



main tasks accomplished by the commission concerning the formation of civic clubs, and types of corruption at schools.

The issues evoked a lot of questions and views among the participants as reported by Yetnayet T/wold.

\*Ergogie Tesfaye, Gender Office Head of SMUC attended a two-day training on ‘Human Rights Law’ organized by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission on October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 at Global Hotel.

The objective of the training were to learn from each other and to share expertise; outline of type of work carried out by the seminar leaders.

The resource persons were Rosin Hennessy, Senior Research and Policy Officer, Irish Human Rights Commission; Dr. Vinodh Jaichand, Deputy Director of the Irish Center for Human Rights, University College Galway; and Dr. Siobhan Mullally, Senior Lecturer/Co-director Center for Criminal Justice and Human Rights.

The above mentioned resource persons talked on ‘Human Rights Law in Ethiopia –International and National Mechanisms of Implementation’; ‘Economics, Social and Cultural Rights’, Gender-Based Violence: International Human Rights Law respectively.

Ergogie commented that the training was valuable and interesting.

## Experience Sharing

The Student Affairs & Services Office (SASO) held an experience sharing workshop with members of the Ethiopian Private Higher Education Institutions Association on July the 31st 2009 at Mexico-campus, SMUC.



W/o Tsige Taffesse, Head of the Student Affairs & Services Office-SMUC- spoke mainly on student handling; and Ato Abebe Zenebe, Head of the Support Services, on various supports like, The Friday Talk Show, Literary Forum, Welfare Club,





Bruktawit Bogale, Head of the Guidance and Counseling Unit and Ergoge Tesfaye, Head of Gender Office of the UC, noted on how they entertain academic, social, gender, etc. problems of students.

All the speakers underlined the challenges, good practices and measures taken in discharging their respective responsibilities and duties.

Twenty representatives of Private Higher Education Institutions in Addis attended the workshop. Almost all of them, reported W/o Tsige Taffesse, remarked that the lessons drawn from the workshop were immensely valuable.

## SPORT

### Dangila Soccer Tem

The Dangila Distance Education Center- SMUC- organized a football team in the name of the UC to participate in the 2008/09 Football Match of Dangila City Administration. The UC has bought needed materials to facilitate the match.

In a letter sent to the UC, the City Administration of Youth & Sports of Dangila has acknowledged the manifold contribution of the UC for the development of the sport in the town.



St. Mary's University College

# Photo Gallery





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