



SMU^{In} *STRIDE*

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Committed to Excellence!

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Editorial

Dear Esteemed Readers,

Welcome to the June 2025 issue (Volume 27, Number 71) of SMU in Stride.

Teaching and Learning Excellence

This edition spotlights the remarkable engagement of the President of St. Mary's University in a High-Level Expert Meeting at the United Nations, alongside his distinguished academic accomplishments. Other highlights include updates on the ISO 21001 Certification Project, the vibrant 10th Annual ICT Exhibition showcasing innovation and student talent, the University's Semi-Annual Performance Review, and the Ministry of Revenue's recognition of student success in Tax and Customs Training, among other insightful news.

Research and Development Focus

We feature the 23rd International Conference on Private Higher Education in Africa, hosted by St. Mary's University, reinforcing our longstanding commitment to knowledge creation and policy dialogue.

Partnerships, Outreach, and Community Engagement

This section presents our dynamic new partnerships, such as the ISO 21001 agreement with IES and a formal collaboration with Kenya's KC University. It also highlights our commitment to social impact, including a charitable feeding program for needy and disabled elders in Woreda 10 and a visit from top EU diplomats through the "EU Comes to Your University – Ambassadors' Speech Series."

Administrative News Highlights

In this column, we share initiatives designed to foster professional development and organizational growth. These include a comprehensive training program, workshops on change management, and a special act of generosity led by the Business Administration Division.

We sincerely thank you for your ongoing support and engagement with our newsletter. Your feedback and ideas are always welcome as we continue to grow and enhance our communication.

Happy reading!

International Relations and Communication Office

St. Mary's University

NEWS AND EVENTS

Teaching and Learning

An Outstanding Accomplishment in Academic Pursuits

Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD) strong publication record, the impact of his work, and the notable quality of his scholarly contributions have placed him in the top 0.5% of all scholars worldwide, according to the most recent 2024 Scholar GPS rankings.

Scholar GPS recognizes top scholars for their outstanding performance in various fields, disciplines, and specialties.



Participation in High-Level Expert Meeting at the United Nations

Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD, Assoc. Prof.), President of St. Mary's University (SMU), took part in a high-level expert group meeting convened by the United Nations to generate ideas for the establishment of an online university or equivalent platform focused on STEM education for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The meeting was held from 3-4 June 2025 at the UN Headquarters in New York. It was organized by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), in close collaboration with other relevant UN and non-UN stakeholders engaged in the delivery of online education.



This expert consultation was convened in response to directives outlined in the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (DPOA), which calls for feasibility studies to explore the potential for establishing an online university or equivalent platforms tailored to the needs of LDCs. With only five years remaining to meet Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) on quality education, LDCs are significantly off track and face persistent challenges in delivering inclusive and quality higher education.

The expert meeting aimed to develop a roadmap addressing, among other issues, the mapping of existing initiatives, identification of viable modalities, assessment of resource needs, accreditation mechanisms, and strategies for sustainable funding. The outcomes of the meeting will be submitted to the UN General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session for consideration.

Dr. Wondwosen was among the few individuals selected from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to participate in the expert meeting. His travel and daily expenses were fully covered by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing



Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), for which St. Mary's University (SMU) expresses its sincere gratitude.



An Insightful Experience Sharing

On April 29, 2025, the Office of the Vice President for Business and Administration of St. Mary's University held an experience-sharing session with the College of Open and Distance Learning (CODL) in the Syndicate Room. The session, led by Ato Desalegn Berie, vice president of the Business and Administration Office, provided a platform to exchange best practices, address challenges, and strengthen collaborative leadership.

His presentation covered the division's history, organizational structure, and operational principles, emphasizing efficiency, accountability, and continuous learning. Key topics included administrative support for academic operations, effective communication, and streamlined document management.

Following the presentation, an interactive discussion took place, where attendees exchanged insights, asked questions, and shared experiences. This engagement fostered mutual learning, allowing both divisions to draw valuable lessons from each other's approaches to leadership and administration.

Complementing the discussions, attendees participated in an office visit to the VP for Business and Administration, where they observed best

practices in documentation and office management. This hands-on experience demonstrated the meticulous processes in place and the division's dedication to operational excellence.

The insightful experience-sharing session was attended by staff from both divisions, including the dean and faculty members of CODL. The gathering underscored the indispensable role of efficient administration in academic success while fostering a collaborative environment that encourages institutional development and long-term improvement.



Awareness Creation Session for SMU's Middle Management on the ISO 21001 Certification Project

The steering committee of the ISO 21001 Certification Project arranged a half-day orientation session for SMU's QEC members and heads of the different units on Saturday, March 29, 2025. Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD), president of the university, made an opening remark and underlined that the university's top management has been supporting the project by giving the necessary administrative decisions to the steering committee. He further explained collaborative effort is crucial from the university's staff to effectively finalize the process and earn the ISO certificate.

During the event, Melaku Girma (PhD), a member of the steering committee, presented on what ISO 21001 is about. He elaborated on the benefits of being certified for ISO 21001:2018 and highlighted the procedure and contents of the target version of the ISO certification

The chairperson of the steering committee, Ato Shegaw G/Medhin, also presented the eleven principles and the seven major clauses of the ISO Educational Organization Management System (EOMS).



SMU 10th Annual ICT Exhibition Showcasing Innovation and Talent

St. Mary's University (SMU) marked a decade of technological innovation with its 10th Annual ICT Exhibition, held from May 19 to 21, 2025, at the Multipurpose Hall of the Undergraduate Campus. Organized by the Faculty of Informatics and the SMU ICT Club.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice President of SMU, who emphasized the significance of such events in fostering creativity, skill development, and collaboration. He also commended the faculty for continuously providing a platform for the students to showcase their technological prowess over the past decade.



Throughout the event, the students exhibited a wide array of innovative ICT projects. Among the highlights were cutting-edge cybersecurity solutions designed to safeguard personal, industrial, and institutional networks from cyber threats. Additionally, the students unveiled new software applications and problem-solving technologies, demonstrating their ingenuity in addressing real-world challenges. One standout presentation featured a student-designed drone, exemplifying the practical application of emerging technologies.

The exhibition culminated in an engaging panel discussion, where industry experts delved into Bitcoin, cryptocurrency, and blockchain technologies, providing valuable insights into these rapidly evolving fields.



Over the past nine years, SMU's ICT exhibition has inspired countless students, with many leveraging their newly acquired skills to venture into entrepreneurship. This year's event continued to reinforce the university's commitment to nurturing talents, fostering innovations, and strengthening industry connections.

ES ISO 21001:2018 Certification Training



In a major step towards ES ISO 21001:2018 certification, St. Mary's University (SMU) commenced a five-day training program for its dedicated task force members on June 4, 2025. The training, held in the Syndicate Room, is being led by an expert from the Institute of Ethiopian Standards (IES) and marks a significant milestone in SMU's commitment to international academic standards.

This initiative comes as part of SMU's broader quality enhancement efforts following its partnership with IES for technical support in achieving ISO certification. The University's leadership has expressed unwavering dedication to maintaining high educational standards, demonstrating its proactive approach to academic excellence.

Participants were actively engaged in in-depth discussions, interactive sessions, and practical applications designed to equip them with essential knowledge for the ISO certification process. The certification is expected to strengthen SMU's position as a leading institution, ensuring its academic and administrative services are in line with globally recognized standards.



St. Mary's University's Semi-annual Performance Review

On May 24, 2025, St. Mary's University convened its semiannual performance review session for the

2017 E.C., was conducted in the Syndicate Room at the Main Campus. This vital gathering served as an opportunity for university leaders and representatives to assess institutional progress, discuss challenges, and reinforce strategies for continued improvement.

The meeting commenced with the opening remarks of Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice President. He emphasized the importance of the session in carrying out a thorough evaluation of the University's performance, ensuring alignment with strategic priorities. Ato Shegaw G/Medhin, Director of the Center for Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA), then presented the 2017 E.C. Semiannual Performance Report, outlining achievements across both academic and administrative offices. His analysis included a comparative review with the previous quarterly outcomes, highlighting a modest yet meaningful 0.1% improvement in the University's overall performance, which made a 79.7% completion rate.

The report also provided a detailed breakdown of activities that were fully, partially, or incompletely executed, offering insight into the effectiveness of various offices in achieving institutional goals. These assessments were framed within seven strategic priority areas, allowing for a structured evaluation of progress.



Following the presentation, the representatives from different planning units engaged in an open discussion, sharing insights on the obstacles they faced, their accomplishments, and lessons learned over the past six months. These collaborative dialogues enabled participants to reflect on both strengths and areas requiring further attention.

Experience-Sharing Session to Enhance Institutional Learning

On June 14, 2025, the Center for Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA) organized a good practice sharing session at the Syndicate Room. The session aimed to foster institutional learning, quality assurance, benchmarking, and continuous improvement. CEIQA Director, Ato Shegaw G/Medhin, opened the event and emphasized the importance of sharing proven methodologies to strengthen efficiency, leadership, and collaboration. He highlighted that the good practices serve as models for success and contribute to the institutional development. Hinged on this, the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) and the College of Distance Learning (CODL) were selected by CEIQA to share their insights, highlighting their accomplishments, challenges, and ongoing strategies for continuous institutional improvement.

Melaku Girma (PhD), Dean of SGS, presented the faculty's achievements, challenges, and future aspirations. While SGS has been instrumental in offering courses across departments, conducting researches, and engaging in community services, it faces challenges, such as limited collaboration, lack of integration, and reduced innovation in curriculum development. To address these, the SGS has undertaken leadership restructuring, launched a comprehensive quality assurance program, strengthened student support services, encouraged faculty research involvement, and advocated for fairer regulations. These initiatives have started yielding positive outcomes.

Behailu Tamiru, Dean of the CODL at St. Mary's University, shared CODL's achievements in faculty training, exam administration, student support, and regional engagement. CODL has provided training on module writing, LMS usage, tutoring, classroom management, and quality assurance. It has also improved online exam administration and manual development. He credited the college's success to teamwork, planning, monitoring, experience-sharing, and strong management support. He emphasized that collaboration, open communication, and engagement across all the staff members have been key drivers in sustaining CODL's educational excellence.



A Strategic Briefing for SMU's Leadership

In a move to enhance academic quality and align institutional processes with global standards, St. Mary's University (SMU) hosted a focused half-day briefing session on June 19, 2025. The session was tailored for the University's senior leadership team, including top management, deans, and department heads, highlighting SMU's ongoing commitment to

securing ES ISO 21001:2018 certification.

An expert from the Institute of Ethiopian Standards (IES) led the session at the SMU's Syndicate Room. The program aimed to enrich participants' understanding of the Educational Organization Management System (EOMS) outlined in the ES ISO 21001:2018 framework. A comprehensive presentation covered the standard's core principles, its applicability to higher education institutions, and practical steps for implementation accompanied by guidance on effective interpretation.

Participants actively engaged in interactive Q&A segments and case-based discussions, creating a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and leadership alignment. The session is regarded as a foundational step in equipping SMU's decision-makers with the insights and readiness required to effectively navigate the upcoming stages of the ES ISO 21001:2018 certification process.



Ministry of Revenue Celebrates Student Success in Tax and Customs Training

Faculty of Accounting and Finance Students of St. Mary's University were trained and successfully accomplished their training given for the past 10 weeks by the Ministry of Revenue, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Customs Commission. The intensive training was delivered on tax laws and customs procedures to the students drawn from 13 universities across Ethiopia. The program aimed to equip participants with practical knowledge and essential skills in the nation's tax and customs framework.

To mark the successful completion of the program, a graduation ceremony was held on June 21, 2025, at the Capital Hotel. The event was celebrated not only by the trainees who completed the training but also by the institutions that effectively facilitated the training. Addis Ababa University, St. Mary's University, Admas University, Unity University, Rift Valley University, and Gage University were among the participating universities.

In its first-ever participation, the Faculty of Accounting and Finance of St. Mary's University stood out as a model of excellence. All the 59 students who took the certification exams passed with flying colors—achieving a 100% success rate. Even more impressively, the highest overall average score was recorded by the students at St. Mary's University. The top six performers were awarded laptops and mobile phones along with recognition certificates by Customs Commissioner, Ato Debele Kebeta.

During the ceremony, Misraqu Molla (PhD), Academic Vice President of the University, delivered a speech, commending the Ministry of Revenue and the Customs Commission for their vision and dedication. He expressed deep appreciation for the students' hard work and congratulated them on their accomplishments. In addition, St. Mary's University was recognized with a laptop and certificate of

appreciation by W/o Meskerem Debebe, State Minister of Revenue.



The Faculty of Accounting and Finance of St. Mary's University extended its sincere thanks to all the staff members for their supports and contributions throughout the training period.



Brainstorming Session on Planning and Implementation

St. Mary's University, Center for Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA), organized a half-day brainstorming session on June 27, 2025, focused on effective institutional planning, implementation, and monitoring practices. Held in the Syndicate Room, the session gathered department heads, and academic and administrative staff for an interactive discussion.

Led by CEIQA Director Ato Shegaw G/Medhin, the SMU in Stride

session created space for open dialogue on effective strategies for annual plan development. In his presentation, Ato Shegaw outlined the full cycle of planning at SMU—from setting clear objectives and defining action steps to allocating responsibilities, determining timelines, and identifying essential resources.



The discussion covered the structure of SMU’s annual planning documents, which include activity descriptions, responsible units, performance indicators, means of verification, allocated budgets, and implementation periods. These components are anchored in the university’s Five-Year Strategic Plan, particularly the priorities set forth in the new Fourth Strategic Plan. These priorities span transformative education, impactful research, digital innovation, global partnerships, and continuous quality assurance.

The session concluded with a lively exchange of perspectives and practices, reinforcing the shared commitment to collaborative planning and continuous institutional improvement.

Research and Development

St. Mary’s University Hosts 23rd International Conference on Private Higher Education in Africa

St. Mary’s University successfully hosted the 23rd International Conference on Private Higher Education in Africa on May 29, 2025, at Inter Luxury Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This year’s gathering centered around the theme “The Academic Profession and Research Excellence in Africa,” highlighting two critical sub-themes: “The Academic Profession in Times of Change” and “Research for Development and Impact.”



alongside Prof. Olusola Oyewole, Secretary General of the Association of African Universities, and esteemed guests from various local and international higher education institutions.

State Minister, Mr. Kora Tushune, in his opening remarks, acknowledged the significant contributions of private higher education institutions in complementing public universities and advancing Ethiopia’s academic landscape. He commended the longstanding impact of the conference and thanked St. Mary’s University and its partners for their continued efforts.



The conference was inaugurated by His Excellency Mr. Kora Tushune, State Minister for Higher Education of Ethiopia’s Ministry of Education,



In his welcoming address, Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD, Assoc. Prof.), President of St. Mary's University, expressed deep appreciation for the presence of distinguished guests and emphasized the importance of collaboration in advancing higher education and research excellence in Africa. He encouraged participants to engage in meaningful discussions, fostering academic growth and strengthening the roles of researchers in Africa's development.

The conference gathered around 200 participants from various sectors, including university leaders, researchers, policymakers, and industry experts from Ghana, France, the UK, Spain, Norway, Canada, the USA, Kenya, South Africa, Egypt, and Ethiopia. Discussions covered key trends in higher education, innovative academic practices, and the evolving role of research in addressing Africa's development challenges.



Throughout the event, the scholars from diverse backgrounds engaged in panel discussions, and eleven research papers were presented; transformative approaches to academic assessment and scholarly exchange were explored. The discussions reinforced the importance of aligning research priorities with real-world challenges to drive meaningful social and economic advancements across the continent.

The conference was concluded with closing remarks from Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice President of St. Mary's University. He extended his heartfelt gratitude to all participants, paper presenters, and moderators for their invaluable contributions. He also recognized the dedicated efforts of the university's offices in ensuring the event's success before formally declaring the conference closed.



Partnership, Outreach and Community Services

SMU and IES Sign Agreement for ISO 21001 Certification

St. Mary's University and the Institute of Ethiopian Standards (IES) signed an agreement on technical support for ISO 21001:2018 certification on April 7, 2025, at the IES meeting hall.

Ato Mengistu Tefera, IES's Executive Officer for Training and Technical Support, welcomed the SMU team and emphasized the importance of commitment from the top management of the customer institution to successfully complete the ISO certification process. He briefly outlined the upcoming steps in the bilateral agreement, noting that the process involves thorough scrutiny to ensure compliance with ISO-based management standards.

Meseret Bekele (PhD), IES's Director General, praised SMU's dedication to achieving ISO certification and commended the university's long-standing commitment to maintaining high-quality services. She further commented if successful, SMU will be the first higher education institution in Ethiopia to be certified for ISO 21001:2018.

Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD), President of SMU, expressed the university's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of education, which began even before the establishment of HERQA and IES. He confirmed that SMU's management understands the importance of ISO standards and is committed to supporting the certification process.

The agreement for technical support in the ISO 21001:2018 certification project was officially signed by Meseret Bekele (PhD), Director General of IES, and Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD), President of SMU.



Journey Beyond the Degree: Bridging Education and Employment for Ethiopian Graduates

On April 8, 2025, the “Journey Beyond the Degree” soft skills training and job fair was held at St. Mary's University Col. John C. Robinson American Corner. The event was organized by Stenar Trading PLC through its Ye-Muya Weg initiative, in partnership with St. Mary's University and Col. John C. Robinson American Corner, and in collaboration with UNICEF



and Aha Psychological Service Center. The event aimed to bridge the gap between higher education and the evolving job market demands in Ethiopia.



Sofoniyas Girma, co-founder and managing director of Stenar Trading and Program Chief of YeMuya Weg initiative, opened the training session. This was followed by an opening remark from a representative of the Minister of Women and Social Affairs. Misganaw Solomon (PhD), Vice President for Research and International Relations, St. Mary's University, also addressed the participants, emphasizing the importance of such sessions in facilitating students' transition beyond graduation.



The event marked a significant milestone in addressing youth unemployment and underemployment, which affect thousands of fresh graduates each year. Participants received half-day intensive training co-facilitated by senior counselors from Efuye-gela and Aha Psychological Service. The training covered topics such as psychological resilience and post-graduation mental health, CV/resume writing and application strategies, interview preparation and workplace communication, and career planning and navigating job platforms.

The job fair, attended by over 20 employers and recruiters, provided information on internship placements, volunteering, and freelancing opportunities and collected CVs from attendees. A side event featured a roundtable discussion on the competencies of graduates and the demands of the job market, with contributions from representatives of St. Mary's University, private sector hiring organizations, UNICEF U-Report, the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, CSOs, and non-formal education specialists.

During the dialogue, St. Mary's University shared its career development experiences and challenges, while the private sector highlighted the importance of hiring fresh graduates with no prior experience to cultivate adaptable and loyal talent. The roundtable



session underscored the need for cross-sector collaboration to reduce youth unemployment, support students who do not pass exit exams, and create new pathways for job market entry. This initiative, the first of its kind at this scale, established St. Mary's University and its partners as pioneers in promoting integrated, student-centered workforce solutions.



Book Club, and the Charity Club, has launched a fundraising event which runs from April 16-19, 2025, at the undergraduate campus. This initiative aims to create an inspiring experience by bringing readers together to support both literacy and community impact.

The event features a variety of activities designed to engage participants and promote a sense of community. A wide selection of books is available for purchase, with all proceeds going to charitable causes.

The primary goals of the event are to promote literacy among students and the broader community, raise funds for charitable initiatives, and foster a sense of shared purpose. By participating in this event, attendees will not only have the opportunity to expand their personal libraries but also contribute to meaningful causes that positively impact the community.

St. Mary's University invites all students, faculty, and community members to join in this effort to support literacy and make a difference during Samaritan Week.



Samaritan Week Book Sale to Support Literacy and Community

St. Mary's University Press, in collaboration with the Student Support Service Office (SSSO), the Students

SMU Hosts Charitable Event to Honor Elderly and Disabled

On April 26, 2025, St. Mary's University (SMU) extended a warm invitation to eighty needy elderly and disabled individuals from Lideta Sub-city, Woreda 10 Administration, to enjoy a complimentary meal at the Undergraduate Campus, Multi-Purpose

Hall. This event was a part of the University's ongoing community service initiative, funded by a dedicated budget. The Undergraduate Program Student Support Services Office, in collaboration with the Charity and other student clubs, coordinated the event.



The event commenced with a warm welcome and opening remarks by Wondwosen Tamrat, (PhD, President of SMU). He expressed his gratitude and respect for the elders, acknowledging their contributions to the country and emphasizing the importance of caring for them. The President highlighted that community service is a core value of the University and pledged continued commitment to such initiatives. He also praised the Student Support Services Office for organizing the event and encouraged the University community to participate in similar noble activities.

Following the President's remarks, Ato Fikadu Arega, head of the Community Engagement and Voluntary Service Coordinating Office of Woreda 10 administration, addressed the gathering. He commended St. Mary's University for its steadfast dedication to humanitarian and community service endeavors. Ato Fikadu recognized and appreciated the University's ongoing commitment to various impactful projects that serve the community. He urged SMU to continue with its engagement in

community services, underscoring the significance of such noble activities.



The closing remark was delivered by Ato Tedla Haile, Vice President of the University. He highlighted the importance of such events in honoring and recognizing the elders as seniors, and stressed the need for continuous charitable efforts.

The program concluded with a heartfelt blessing from the elders, who expressed their gratitude to the University and everyone involved for making the event memorable and meaningful.





Ethiopian Space Science Society 20th Assembly

The Ethiopian Space Science Society (ESSSO), of which St. Mary's University is a member, celebrated a significant milestone by convening its 20th General Assembly on 3 May 2025 at the Addis Ababa University of Technology Multi-Purpose Hall. The gathering brought together members, stakeholders, and space science enthusiasts to reflect on the society's achievements over the past two decades and to chart a strategic roadmap for the next five years.

A highlight of the assembly was the presentation of the annual report, which included an external audit assessment, reflections on ESSSO's 20-year achievements, and the unveiling of a new five-year strategic plan. Among the central topics discussed were financial challenges, membership fees, and delays in the Lalibela project. While concerns were raised over funding constraints, the conversation ultimately led to a significant decision regarding membership fees.

Board members took time to address concerns raised by participants, ensuring clarity and transparency on key issues. The assembly concluded with a remark from Mr. Demeke Mekonnen, who oversees the institution. He extended his appreciation to stakeholders and volunteers, acknowledging their invaluable contributions to ESSSO's progress and continued success. Ato Ayele Legese, representing St. Mary's University was present at the assembly.



Academia-Industry Partnership for Outsourcing Excellence

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on May 13, 2025, at the St. Mary's University Syndicate Room, marking a strategic partnership between St. Mary's University and leading outsourcing and digital service providers R&D Entrepreneurship & Outsourcing Center PLC (R&D Group), MODETH OUTSOURCE P.L.C (MMC Tech), Eziti Information Service PLC (Africa 118), and IE Network Solutions. This collaboration seeks to bridge the gap between academia and industry by aligning university programs with the evolving needs of Ethiopia's business process outsourcing (BPO) and digital sectors, enhancing students' employability, and fostering innovation. Through curriculum enhancements, industry certifications, and practical training modules, graduates will be equipped with the necessary skills for seamless workforce integration.

The agreement also facilitates internships, externships, and job placements, ensuring hands-on experience while supporting faculty professional development through Training of Trainers (ToT) initiatives. Joint research projects, knowledge-sharing events, and innovation-driven collaborations will further strengthen academia-industry relations. Additionally, a governance framework will be established to oversee implementation and ensure alignment with national and global priorities, including Ethiopia's digital transformation agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The MoU was signed by Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD) on behalf of St. Mary's University, along with Meaza Birhane, Project Manager at MMCY Tech Plc; Bereket Abayneh, Project Manager at Africa 118; Winta Ekubay, Project Manager at IE Network Solutions Plc; and Abel Desta Belai, Project Manager at R&D Group Plc.



SMU and IGROW Forge Transformative Partnership

In a landmark agreement, St. Mary's University (SMU) and the Institute for Economic Growth and Legal Reform (IGROW) have joined forces to enhance institutional and professional capacities. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed on May 21, 2025, establishes a dynamic collaboration aimed at delivering high-impact training programs,

consultancy services, joint research initiatives, and project development efforts.

Leveraging their respective expertise, IGROW—renowned for its specialized methodologies in adult learning and capacity-building—will design and implement training curricula, while SMU, a leading private higher education institution, will provide resources, experts, and state-of-the-art facilities to support the programs.

The MoU outlines a clear framework for cooperation, ensures high-quality training delivery, expert selection, certification standards, and competitive bidding processes. This strategic partnership is expected to empower professionals and institutions across various sectors, foster knowledge-sharing, and strengthen workforce capacity.



EU Comes to Your University—Ambassadors' Speech Series





In a spirited celebration of diplomacy, education, and international cooperation, St. Mary's University (SMU) welcomed top European Union (EU) diplomats as part of the "EU Comes to Your University – Ambassadors' Speech Series," held at the SMU Undergraduate Campus' Multi-Purpose Hall on June 13, 2025.

The event, which brought together students and university staff for thoughtful reflection, inspiration, and engaging dialogue, began with a warm and welcoming address by Misganaw Solomon (PhD), Vice President for Research and International Relations, who praised the initiative as a moment where "minds meet, ideas are exchanged, and new possibilities take shape." He emphasized that this forum would leave a lasting impact on the academic community by encouraging open dialogue and cross-cultural learning.

Following him, SMU's Executive Vice President Ato Tedla Haile expressed the University's deep gratitude for the visit, noting that the presence of such high-level dignitaries not only honored the institution but also reaffirmed the EU's commitment to strengthening ties with Ethiopia's higher education sector.



The spotlight was on H.E. Sofie From-Emmesberger, EU Ambassador to Ethiopia, and H.E. Luísa Fragozo, Ambassador of Portugal, who delivered powerful keynote speeches under the theme "Tackling Youth Unemployment: Lessons from the EU's Global Engagement." Drawing from a wealth of global

experiences, both ambassadors engaged the audience with practical insights and uplifting messages.

With over 120 participants in attendance, the session transformed into a vibrant forum of mutual learning. The speakers encouraged students to take initiative in their academic and professional growth by exploring EU-funded programs such as Erasmus Mundus-gateways to global networks, advanced studies, and career-defining experiences.



Their Excellencies emphasized that this event goes beyond symbolic gestures; it's a clear invitation for institutions like SMU to tap into collaborative projects from joint research and faculty exchange programs to dual-degree opportunities and curriculum development support.

The program concluded with an interactive Q&A session where attendees explored topics ranging from EU partnerships and funding opportunities to practical strategies for academic collaboration



Kenya's KCA University and St. Mary's University Forge Academic Partnership

In a significant step towards fostering international academic collaboration, a delegation from Kenya's KCA University visited St. Mary's University in Ethiopia for a two-day working tour on June 12-13, 2025. The visit marked the beginning of a promising partnership aimed at expanding postgraduate opportunities, particularly doctoral programs for Ethiopian students.

During their stay, KCA University delegates engaged in in-depth discussions with St. Mary's University leadership and staff, exploring areas of collaboration across multiple academic sectors. A key focus of the meetings was addressing Ethiopia's higher education capacity gap, particularly in PhD programs, where there is a shortage of full professors and associate professors at universities across the country. To bridge this gap, both universities deliberated on launching KCA University's PhD programs in Ethiopia through a distance-learning model facilitated by St. Mary's University.

KCA University delegates provided a detailed overview of the institution's philosophy, vision, and strategic plan for 2024-2028. They emphasized their commitment to excellence in teaching, research, entrepreneurship, resource optimization, digital transformation, and stakeholder engagement. St. Mary's University leadership acknowledged that the core values enunciated above closely align with their own and expressed enthusiasm for building a strong academic relationship.

By the end of the visit, both universities reached a landmark understanding to formalize their collaboration. The agreement outlines the modalities for postgraduate, particularly doctoral programs, including course durations, financial considerations, and the integration of online and physical study models. These initiatives are expected to elevate Ethiopia's academic landscape to a higher level of

education.

With this partnership, both institutions are poised to strengthen higher education accessibility in Ethiopia, paving the way for innovative learning models and impactful research that will benefit scholars and professionals across the region.



Administrative News

Consolidating Managerial Excellence

St. Mary's University's HRM department conducted a training session on May 26, 2025, aimed at middle-level managers to enhance their understanding of Performance Management Systems (PMS). Led by HR Manager, Ato Kibresha Wolde, the session emphasized the importance of structured appraisal systems in identifying top performers, facilitating merit-based promotions, addressing training needs, and ensuring fair employee evaluations.

Participants explored key differences between PMS and traditional appraisal methods and examined Critical Success Factors (CSFs) and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) essential for effective assessments. The session introduced Balanced Scorecard (BSC) methodology and 360-degree feedback as comprehensive approaches to KPI development, integrating financial, customer, internal process, and learning & growth perspectives.

A balanced evaluation strategy was discussed, advocating for 70% measurable criteria and 30% qualitative assessments, with weight allocation based on core job responsibilities. Emphasis was also placed on best practices for evaluation, leadership competencies for managerial roles, and the necessity of pre- and post-appraisal meetings to promote open communication and continuous improvement.



Following the presentation, an engaging discussion was actively held by the participants, who sought clarifications, shared thoughts, and received explanations on key concepts.

A Charitable Gesture

On April 11, 2025, the Business Administration division of St. Mary's University demonstrated its commitment to community support through a charity event. This event saw the enthusiastic participation of 35 employees who collectively raised Birr 3,825.00 (three

On April 11, 2025, the Business Administration division of St. Mary's University demonstrated its commitment to community support through a charity event. This event saw the enthusiastic participation of 35 employees who collectively raised Birr 3,825.00 (three thousand eight hundred twenty-five) in cash. In addition to the monetary contributions, various clothing items were also collected and donated.

The beneficiaries of this generous effort were the members of the "Miskab for the Elderly and Children" association, a local charity dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable groups in the community. The event not only provided much-needed financial and material support but also fostered a sense of solidarity and compassion among the participants.



Fostering Transformative Leadership through Change Management in Academia

St. Mary's University's Human Resource Management (HRM) office conducted a salient training on July 1, 2025, on Change Management in Academia led by Sintayehu Gobeze (PhD), a lecturer and certified management consultant. Held at the University's Consortium Room, he addressed the pressing need for academic institutions to adapt to rapid technological changes, evolving student needs, policy shifts, and external market demands. Dr. Sintayehu further emphasized the prominence of a clear vision, inclusive planning, operative communication, and consistent leadership in managing institutional transformation.

He outlined key reasons for change, including innovation, competition, technological advancement, and socio-cultural evolution, and addressed common challenges, such as resistance, poor communications, and lack of vision. The training looked into strategic models and frameworks for managing changes, identified crucial stakeholders, such as faculty, students, and administrative bodies, and stressed the pivotal role of leadership in championing reforms. Participants were encouraged to embrace changes as a trajectory to institutional growth and sustainability, with takeaways highlighting the power of transparent communications, strong leadership, and focused objectives in driving successful transformation in higher education.

Following the presentation, the participants engaged in an engaging discussion and sought for clarifications, shared thoughts, and received explanations on key concepts.





ቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ

ልዩ የምዘናና ፈተና አገልግሎት ከቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ

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

የቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ የፈተና ማዕከል፡-

- የ ቶፍል ቴስት (TOEFL-Internet-Based Test)
- የ ጂኦርጂ ቴስት (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 ሠራተኞችዎን ለማሳደግ በፈጣንና አስተማማኝ አገልግሎታችን ይጠቀሙ፡፡

ለበለጠ መረጃ፡-

በስልክ ቁጥር 0115 51 09 91 ያገኙናል፡፡

ቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ
የፈተና ማዕከል



ቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ ፕሬስ

የመጻሕፍት መሸጫ መደብር

ቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ ፕሬስ የመጻሕፍት መሸጫ መደብር ከሜክሊኮ አደባባይ በሣር ቤት መውረጃ በኩል 150 ሜትር ያህል ወረድ ብሎ ከሚገኘው አይል ሊቢያ ነዳጅ ማደያ አጠገብ ይገኛል። በዚህ የመጻሕፍት መሸጫ መደብር ውስጥ በተለያዩ የሀገር ውስጥና የውጪ ቋንቋዎች የተዘጋጁ ለከፍተኛ ትምህርት ተማሪዎችና መምህራን፤ ለአዋቂዎችና ለሕጻናት ግልጋሎት የሚውሉ በተለያዩ የትምህርት ዘርፎች የተዘጋጁ መጻሕፍት በጅምላና በችርቻሮ ለተገልጋዮች ስለምናቀርብ መጥተው ይጎብኙን።

ለተጨማሪ መረጃ ከሥር በተጠቀሰው አድራሻችን ደውለው ይጠይቁን

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በተጨማሪ መጻሕፍቶቻችንን አንላይን ያገኙአቸዋል።





St. Mary's University

Programs Offered



Undergraduate Degree Programs (Regular/Extension)

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

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

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- ◆ Master of Arts in Sociology
- ◆ Master of Arts in Political Science
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- ◆ ISO 31000:2015 Risk Management
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- ◆ Quality Professional
- ◆ ISO 9001:2015 Auditor
- ◆ ISO 9001:2015 Lead Auditor
- ◆ Quality and Productivity areas
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