



# SMU<sup>In</sup> *STRIDE*

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Committed to Excellence!

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# Editorial

**Dear Valued Readers,**

Welcome to the December 2025 edition (Volume 27, Number 73) of SMU in Stride.

This issue offers a rich collection of updates and highlights from across our university community.

- **Teaching and Learning:** We feature the graduation ceremony, a strategic briefing on SMU's Fourth Strategic Plan, and an update on the ISO project's progress and key milestones.
- **Research and Development:** This column showcases the vibrant academic culture at SMU, including thesis writing support for postgraduate students and other scholarly initiatives.
- **Partnerships, Outreach, and Community Engagement:** We highlight SMU's collaborations with various organizations and the donation of over 5,400 books to support educational initiatives in Lideta Sub-City—an inspiring example of our commitment to community empowerment.

We deeply appreciate your continued interest and support for SMU in Stride. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome as we strive to strengthen our communication and connection with you.

**Enjoy the reading!**

Communication Office St. Mary's University

# NEWS AND EVENTS

## Teaching and Learning

### Participation as an International Reviewer

**S**t Mary's University founder and President, Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD, Associate Prof.), served as an international expert in reviewing the internationalization efforts of the Women's University in Africa (WUA), Zimbabwe, from 18–20 November 2025. This engagement formed part of the one-year UNESCO Participation Programme, "Promoting Equitable and Inclusive Internationalization at Universities in Africa," coordinated by the International Association of Universities (IAU). The project seeks to support WUA in strengthening and enriching its internationalization strategies and activities, ensuring that they are equitable and inclusive in terms of both knowledge and people, with a particular emphasis on women.

Dr. Wondwosen is one of three global experts on internationalization who have been working with WUA since the inception of the project, conducting an in-depth analysis of the University's internationalization processes. This work was further advanced through a two-day site visit, which offered targeted, on-site guidance aimed at enhancing institutional capacity and addressing identified gaps.

During the first two days of the review mission, the team held extensive consultations with the University leadership and diverse groups within the WUA community. The final day, 20 November 2025, featured a workshop where the outcomes of the consultative and guidance process were presented to the broader Zimbabwean higher education community. The event aimed to facilitate wider learning from WUA's experiences in advancing equitable and inclusive internationalization. In addition to his role as a reviewer, Dr. Wondwosen also served as a panelist during the workshop.



### A distinguished Appointment to Global Impact

St Mary's University founder and President, Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD, Associate Prof.), has been selected to serve as distinguished member of the Task Force for the online University of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by the UN-OHRILLS. The online University is a "proposed UN initiative, stemming from the Doha Programme of Action, to provide quality, affordable online graduate education, especially in STEM, to bridge access gaps in the world's poorest nations". It is indeed a great honor and recognition to him in particular and the University in general.



education institutions that hold membership in the IAU, an organization that brings together more than 500 universities and higher education institutions from across the globe.



### SMU participates in the 34<sup>th</sup> National Education Conference

St. Mary’s University (SMU) took part in the “34<sup>th</sup> National Education Conference” titled “Equitable and Quality Education for All” held on November 11, 2025, at Adama Science and Technology University, Adama, Ethiopia. Organized by the Ministry of Education and Adama Science and Technology University, the conference discussed equity, quality, and ethical mindset.



Officials at different levels of the Ministry, including the Minister of Education, reflected on the questions.

SMU was represented by the VP for Research and International Relations and the Dean of the College of Open and Distance Learning.

### Participation at the IAU International Conference

St. Mary’s University (SMU) took part in the International Association of Universities (IAU) 2025 International Conference, held from 21–23 October 2025 at the University of Rwanda in Kigali. The conference was organized under the theme “Building Trust in Higher Education” and brought together around 200 higher education leaders and experts from across the world. SMU was represented by Dr. Wondwosen Tamrat, President and Founder of the University.

### A Session on the 2017 EC Comprehensive Evaluation of Instructors

On October 8, 2025, the Center for Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA) at St. Mary’s University, led by Nibretu Kebede (PhD), presented the Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER) of instructors for the 2017 (EC) to the University leadership, faculty, and department heads. The presentation emphasized the limitations of relying solely on Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) and introduced a more robust evaluation framework incorporating four distinct sources: student feedback, supervisor assessments, self-evaluations, and peer reviews. Full-time and contract instructors were evaluated using all four methods, while part-time instructors were assessed through student and supervisor input, with scores normalized to a full scale. The report covered seven undergraduate departments and highlighted several challenges, including inconsistent data submission

In his capacity as a member of the IAU Administrative Board representing the African continent, Dr. Wondwosen also attended the 95th Administrative Board Meeting held on 20 October 2025 at the Serena Hotel, Kigali. SMU is one of the few Ethiopian higher

from departments, limited student engagement with the online evaluation platform, and the absence of meaningful written feedback due to system constraints.

Despite these issues, the University reaffirmed its commitment to CES as a vital tool for enhancing instructional quality and motivating faculty. It was noted that each evaluation method captures different dimensions of teaching performance, and discrepancies across methods underscore the need for a balanced approach. However, supervisors and peer evaluations were found to be highly subjective, often lacking rigor and supporting evidence, which undermines the credibility of merit-based incentives. Encouragingly, the overall evaluation outcomes for the 2017 EC showed a significant improvement compared to the previous year.



### Effective plan Preparation Session

On October 16, 2025, the Center for Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA) at St. Mary's University (SMU) hosted an orientation session in the Syndicate Room, aimed at equipping student club representatives with essentials in the development and execution of annual plans. The session was facilitated by Ato Shegaw G/Medhin, Director of CEIQA, who emphasized the critical role of strategic planning in guiding the University's day-to-day operations and optimizing resource utilization. Ato Shegaw provided a detailed walkthrough of SMU's structured approach to annual planning. He highlighted that effective plans are built upon clearly defined objectives, actionable strategies, realistic timelines, designated responsibilities, and a thorough

assessment of required resources. This structured methodology ensures that each unit's efforts are aligned with the broader institutional goals.



### SMU Co-organizes International on “The Future of Creativity and Innovation in Higher Education in Ethiopia”

St. Mary's University (SMU) co-organized the International Conference on “The Future of Creativity and Innovation in Higher Education in Ethiopia”, held on November 4–5, 2025, at East Star Hotel, Dire Dawa. The event brought together academia and industry representatives from Ethiopia, Italy, and Germany to explore ways of making higher education more experiential through Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), and Simulations.

The conference was organized as part of the MaDE-for-UASs project, co-funded by the European Union and implemented by a consortium led by Kotebe University of Education (Coordinator) and Dire Dawa University (Co-coordinator). Other partners include Aksum University, Assosa University, St. Mary's University, Federal TTV Institute, and ThumbsUp Social Entrepreneurs PLC (Ethiopia); TH Ostwestfalia-Lippe (OWL) and University of Applied Sciences Heilbronn (Germany); and Free University of Bolzano (Italy).

The two-day event featured inspiring speeches, panel discussions, scholarly paper presentations, and vibrant exchanges between university and industry representatives. Opening remarks were delivered by leaders from Dr Megersa Kassim,



Academic Vice President, Dire Dawa University, Dr Teshome Nekatibeb, President, Kotebe University of Education, and Dr Eba Mijena, CEO, Academic Affairs Office, the FDRE Ministry of Education, followed by a keynote address by Prof. Erwin Rauch from the University of Bolzano.

The event concluded with an engaging discussion, certificate ceremony, and closing remarks. As the lead institution for MaDE-for-UASs dissemination, St. Mary's University played a pivotal role in organizing and communicating the conference outcomes.

relationship between universities and employers, noting that in the past, employers primarily selected students who best fit their immediate interests. Today, however, the trend has shifted significantly through strengthened university–industry linkages. He emphasized that St Mary's University has been at the forefront of fostering such connections for more than two decades, thereby enhancing integrity and collaboration between academia and the labor market.

The Job Fair brought together a wide range of organizations, including banks, ICT centers, NGOs offering employment readiness training, real estate developers, manufacturers, and other institutions. Students had the chance to engage directly with employers, ask questions, and gain deeper insights into various industries and career paths. The event also provided opportunities for networking, with many students receiving interview invitations and placement offers facilitated by the Career and Internship Unit.



## Bridging Academia and Industry

St Mary's University, through its Career and Internship Unit, organized a Job Fair on January 1, 2026, at the Main Campus with the aim of connecting prospective graduates to potential employers from diverse sectors. The event was officially opened by Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD, Associate Professor), founder and President of the University. In his keynote address, he reflected on the evolving

## Building Pathways in Tourism and Hospitality

On January 2, 2026, Tourism and Hospitality Management Department of St. Mary's University brought together students, industry leaders, and entrepreneurs for a vibrant panel session under the theme Business, Entrepreneurial, and Employability Skills in Tourism and Hospitality.

The event opened with a keynote address by Ato Fetene Shimelis, Dean, Faculty of Business and Economics. His words set a tone, emphasizing the importance of such initiatives in strengthening the tourism industry and preparing students to meet future challenges with confidence and creativity.

Beyond the discussion, the exhibition provided a colorful showcase of cultural heritage, displays highlighting UNESCO registered treasures.

Networking opportunities added another layer of value to the day, as students engaged with industry principals and entrepreneurs, exploring career pathways and discovering how their academic journey could translate into meaningful professional achievements.

The event concluded with closing remarks from Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice President of St. Mary's University. He expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management for their dedication and vision, encouraging them to continue organizing such impactful programs.



## St. Mary's University Engages in Institutional Audit Training Led by ETA Experts

St. Mary's University welcomed two experts from the FDRE Education and Training Authority (ETA) for a pivotal two-day training session, marking the official launch of its Institutional Self-Evaluation (ISE) process. Held from November 6 to 7, 2025, at the university's Main Campus, the training was a strategic move in preparation for the upcoming five-year institutional audit. These ETA experts played a central role in guiding the university's task force through the intricacies of ETA's self-evaluation manual and other practical steps, which serve as the foundation for the external quality audit. Their presence underscored the importance of the ISE as a mandatory prerequisite for ETA's institutional audit, which rigorously assesses both institutional and programmatic quality across higher education and technical institutions.

The training focused on the Institutional Quality Audit Standards and Indicators for Higher Education Institutions. Participants were introduced to the fundamentals of institutional quality audits, ETA's audit procedures, the process of standard development and review, and the vision, mission, and core values of ETA. The session also covered the legal framework surrounding quality audits and highlighted their importance in fostering continuous improvement, promoting accountability, enhancing transparency, and decision-making.

The presenters elaborated on the scope of the standards and explained ETA's quality audit concepts and model, including the key focus areas, standards, guidelines, and indicators. A significant portion of the session was dedicated to the ADRI model—Approach, Deployment, Results, and Improvement—which underpins ETA's audit methodology.



## SMU Launches Innovative Land Mapping and Planning Apps for the Financial Sector

St. Mary's University, through its Short-Term Training and Consultancy Office, launched new Land Mapper, Planning, and Progress Control Apps. These tools aim to support banks and microfinance institutions in addressing land-related challenges.

The first session, held on October 17, 2025 welcomed 30 bank representatives. Dr. Misganaw Solomon, Vice President for Research and International Relations, opened the event with remarks on SMU's commitment to practical solutions and skill development. Dr. Teshale Teshome presented his research and introduced the apps, followed by a lively discussion. Some issues raised will be addressed in future hands-on training through further arrangements.

The second session, on November 7, 2025, focused on microfinance institutions and included 12 participants. Ato Ayele Legesse, Head of the Short-Term Training and Consultancy Office, shared SMU's vision for supporting the financial sector. Dr. Teshale's presentation covered land mapping, collateral, and ownership issues specific to microfinance. Participants expressed strong appreciation and pledged to share the insights with their teams.

These sessions mark a major step in tackling long-standing land mapping and planning challenges in Ethiopia's financial sector. By combining technology and research, SMU continues to lead innovative efforts that strengthen banking and microfinance practices.



## Orientation Session Launches the Institutional Self-Evaluation Process

On November 3, 2025, St. Mary's University officially launched its Institutional Self-Evaluation (ISE) process with an orientation session led by Assistant Professor Zemenu Aynadis. The session introduced the University's task force to the Education Training Authority's (ETA) self-evaluation manual, laying the foundation for the forthcoming external quality audit.

Assistant Professor Zemenu emphasized that the ISE is a mandatory prerequisite for ETA's five-year institutional audit. He described it as a critical tool for internal reflection, strategic planning, and continuous improvement. The audit, he explained, focuses on two dimensions: "fitness of purpose"

and “fitness for purpose.” He also outlined the seven key focus areas and sixteen standards that guide the evaluation process.

The University will employ the ADRI model— Approach, Deployment, Results, and Improvement— to assess its performance through document reviews, statistical analysis, and stakeholder input. The orientation underscored the importance of broad participation, objectivity, and strict adherence to ETA’s reporting format and deadlines.



### Panel Discussion Held

As part of the From Industry to School series, the Department of Marketing Management, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Marketing Professionals Association, organized a Panel Discussion under the title ‘HOW BRANDS COMMUNICATE IN TODAY’S MARKET:

A PRACTITIONER’S VIEW ON IMC’ on 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2025 at the Col. John C Robinson American Corner. The session featured Seleame kiristos Belay – a senior marketing professional, Efri Derejie – Chief Marketing officer of Gebeya Inc., Samuel Bekele – Founder of Spotlight Group, and Aron Simeneh – a Creative director and Photographer as the panelists.

All the panelists shared their experiences, perspectives and thoughts on the matter from the different professional and career path standpoints they were in. They also highlighted on the challenges and opportunities AI presents in the industry and as to how organizations, agencies and professionals in the industry cope up with the dynamism it presents.



### Student Union Leadership Training

The Student Support Service Office of St. Mary’s University organized a leadership training session at the Syndicate Room of the Main Campus on December 17, 2025. The program aimed to help newly elected student union members deepen their understanding of leadership and prepare for the responsibilities of guiding others.

The training was facilitated by Manaye Adela (PhD), Academic Vice President of the University, who opened the session with an exploration of the meaning of leadership. He encouraged participants to reflect on self-awareness and the personal values that shape a leader’s character, emphasizing that leadership is not defined by authority alone but by embodying qualities that inspire trust and respect.

The training also focused on team formation and

management, underscoring the leader's role in building high-performing groups. Dr. Manaye addressed motivation and engagement, delegation and empowerment, and the necessity of fostering diversity and inclusion. Trust-building was highlighted as the glue that holds teams together, enabling collaboration and resilience in the face of challenges.



### **Strengthening Skills and Partnerships: Advanced Excel Training for humedica Staff**

St. Mary's University delivered a specialized Advanced Excel training program for humedica staff members from December 11 to 13, 2025. The three-day program brought together 15 participants representing various departments.

The training opened with a welcome address by Ato Benyam Kenene, Operations Manager at humedica, followed by remarks from Ato Ayele Legesse, Head of Short-Term Training and Consultancy at St. Mary's University, who highlighted the University's profile and emphasized the preparation of the training materials.

The sessions followed a structured schedule, covering advanced data handling, formulas and functions on the first day, data analysis on the second day, and advanced charting and visualization on the third. The program was designed to be highly practical and interactive, ensuring participants gained hands-on experience with advanced Excel tools and techniques relevant to their daily work.

The training concluded with a closing remark by Ato Benyam Kenene, who expressed appreciation for the quality and relevance of the training delivered by St. Mary's University and highlighted humedica's interest in establishing a long-term partnership with

the University. Certificates of participation were then awarded to all attendees.



### **SMU Press at AAU Book Fair**

St. Mary's University Press (SMU Press) took part in the Book Fair organized by Addis Ababa University at Sidist Kilo Campus from December 8 to December 14, 2025. The event was held to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Addis Ababa University. SMU Press distinguished itself as the only publishing house representing higher education institutions at the fair, underscoring its unique role in advancing scholarship and fostering academic dialogue.

Throughout the week, SMU Press engaged in promotional activities, connected with new customers, and held discussions about future collaborations with bookstores and readers. Brochures highlighting the Press's work were prepared and shared, ensuring that visitors gained a deeper understanding of its mission and publications. The fair also provided an excellent opportunity for SMU Press to strengthen relationships with established and emerging bookstores, while at the same time reaching new audiences.

SMU Press's participation in the anniversary celebration not only honored Addis Ababa University's historic milestone but also reaffirmed its dedication to promoting scholarship, accessibility, and community engagement. The presence of the Press at such a significant event highlighted its growing influence in the publishing landscape and its commitment to nurturing a culture of reading and learning.



## St. Mary's University Reports Steady 2017 E.C. Annual Performance

St. Mary's University held its Annual Performance Report discussion for the year 2017 E.C. on December 13, 2025, at the Main Campus Syndicate Room. The session was opened by Ato Shegaw G/Medhin, Director of the Center for Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA), who outlined the purpose of the meeting and presented a detailed report covering the performance of both supportive and academic offices. In his presentation, he highlighted that the University achieved an overall performance rate of 88.1%, a result that matched the previous year's achievement, reflecting consistency in institutional progress. He further elaborated on the major activities accomplished during the year, structured around the seven strategic priority areas, underscoring the University's commitment to continuous improvement and quality assurance.

The open discussion that followed the presentation provided a valuable platform for participants to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of various offices. Constructive insights were shared, offering guidance on areas that require further attention while also recognizing the successes that can serve as models for other departments.

The session concluded with remarks from Wondwosen Tamrat (Ph.D., Assoc. Prof.), President of St. Mary's University, who commended the efforts of CEIQA and emphasized the importance of learning from the exemplary performances observed in certain offices. He reiterated the University's dedication to fostering a culture of excellence, collaboration, and accountability as it continues to build on its achievements and address challenges in the years ahead.



## Orientation for Newly Admitted Remedial Program Students

On December 13, 2025, St. Mary's University held a comprehensive orientation at its Main Campus for newly admitted students in the remedial program for the Ethiopian academic calendar of 2018. The session aimed to familiarize students with the University's academic expectations, support services, and the structure of the remedial program.

The orientation opened with remarks from Manaye Adela (PhD), Academic Vice President, who warmly welcomed the students and outlined the University's vision, goals, and the objectives of the program. He provided detailed insights into the curriculum, teaching methodologies, assessment systems, and academic regulations. Emphasizing discipline and behavioral standards, he also highlighted the range of student services available to support academic success.

Following this, Ato Solomon Bekele, Head of the Registrar's Office, briefed students on key administrative processes, including registration, attendance requirements, the academic calendar, ID card distribution, class assignments, and communication channels.

Ato Solomon Hunegnaw, Head of ICTDU, introduced students to the University's digital infrastructure, focusing on internet services, network systems, and the effective use of the Learning

Management System (LMS). Meanwhile, Ato Biruk Megersa, Head of the Library, provided orientation on accessing and utilizing the University's extensive physical and digital library resources.

The orientation concluded with an interactive

session, allowing students to raise questions and seek clarification on academic and administrative matters.



### Culture day Celebration

St. Mary's University Main Campus came alive with color and energy on December 9, 2025, as students came together for a cultural extravaganza organized by the Student Support and Services Office in collaboration with the Student Union and the Student Wellness and Success Unit. The event showcased Ethiopia's rich traditions and highlighted the beauty of unity in diversity.

The program opened with remarks from Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Academic Vice President of St. Mary's University, who underscored the importance of cultural celebrations in strengthening Ethiopian identity, fostering mutual understanding, and promoting harmony among communities. He praised the students for their creativity and enthusiasm in organizing such a meaningful occasion.

Students dressed in striking traditional attire representing Ethiopia's diverse cultures captivated the audience with dances, recited poems, and engaged the audience with interactive activities including games and question-and-answer sessions. The poems reflected pride and love for their country, while also exploring the challenges and opportunities of living in a multicultural society.



Widely regarded as a success, the event reinforced a sense of belonging among students and staff while celebrating Ethiopia's cultural wealth. It left participants inspired and united, embodying the spirit of harmony and inclusivity that defines the nation's identity.



### White Ribbon Day: Standing United Against Violence

On December 4, 2025, St. Mary's University commemorated International White Ribbon Day under the theme "Promoting Awareness Against Violence and Abuse" at the American Corner. The event, organized by the Gender and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office, brought together students and staff to stand united against violence toward women and girls.



Through inspiring speeches, student performances, and the symbolic White Ribbon Pledge, participants reaffirmed their commitment to advancing gender equality, fostering respect, and encouraging positive masculinity. This celebration served as a powerful reminder that ending violence is a shared responsibility.



### **Orientation Session for Freshman Students**

St. Mary's University held a comprehensive orientation program for Freshman students of the 2018 E.C. Academic Year on October 31 and November 1, 2025, at its Main Campus. The event marked an important milestone for new students as they embarked on their academic journey. The sessions were designed to introduce them to the university's culture, academic expectations, and the wide array of support services available to ensure their success.

The orientation began with opening remarks by Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice President of St. Mary's University. He warmly welcomed the students and provided an insightful overview of the university's mission, academic programs, and core values. He emphasized the importance of adhering to institutional rules and regulations, encouraging students to maintain discipline and integrity throughout their time at the university.

Over the course of the two-day event, students attended a series of presentations from key academic and administrative units. Representatives from the Registrar's Office, Library, Career and Internship Unit, Gender and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office (GHAPCO), Accounting Department, Computer Science Department, and Basic Courses Department provided detailed briefings on the roles and services of their respective offices. These sessions were instrumental in helping students understand how to navigate university systems,

access academic support, and engage with campus resources effectively.



### **St. Mary's University Welcomes New Students with Vibrant Ceremony**

St. Mary's University welcomed its incoming students on December 1, 2025, with a lively ceremony at its newly established campus. The event marked the beginning of an exciting academic journey and showcased the University's commitment to student success and holistic development.

The event opened with an inspiring address by Hirut Ebdo, Head of the Student Service and Support Office, who encouraged students to immerse themselves in extracurricular activities as a way to enrich their university experience. Following her remarks, Ato Tedla Haile, the Executive Vice President, warmly

welcomed the students and offered thoughtful guidance. He emphasized the values of discipline, excellence, integrity, and service, urging the students to uphold these principles throughout their academic journey. He congratulated them on their admission and expressed his confidence in their future success.

The ceremony continued with lively introductions from various student clubs, whose representatives invited the newcomers to join and participate in activities spanning academic, cultural, artistic, and social interests. Clubs such as the Speech and Debate Club, Literature and Entertainment Club, Book Club, and Hagerigna Club showcased the diverse opportunities available for students to engage and grow beyond the classroom.

Adding a special touch to the ceremony, a captivating interview session was held with Ato Solomon Teka, a celebrated Ethiopian actor, and Betelhem Sherefedin, a renowned musician. Their humorous anecdotes and heartfelt advice on pursuing dreams, nurturing talents, and overcoming challenges resonated deeply with the audience, leaving a lasting impression.

The event concluded with the presentation of appreciation certificates to the guests of honor, followed by closing remarks from Ferhan Mohamed, President of the Student Union. In his address, he expressed heartfelt gratitude to all who attended and conveyed his hope that the new students would fully embrace their time at St. Mary's University, making the most of the opportunities and experiences that lie ahead.



## St. Mary's University Launches ISO 21001:2025 Implementation

On December 2, 2025, St. Mary's University marked a historic milestone in its pursuit of educational excellence by officially launching the implementation of ISO 21001:2025 at American Corner located in the Main campus. The ceremony opened with a welcome address from Ato Shegaw G/Medhin, Director of the Centre for Educational Improvement and Quality Assurance (CEIQA) and chairperson of the ISO steering committee, who greeted distinguished participants and invited guests.

A detailed presentation was delivered by Ato Shimelis Tamiru, Management Representative of the ISO taskforce, outlining the University's journey toward certification. He highlighted the signing agreement with the Institute of Ethiopian Standards, the responsibilities of the taskforce, gap analysis, management review, staff training, documentation preparation, awareness creation, and next steps. Ato Shimelis emphasized that ISO 21001:2025 offers a global benchmark for educational quality, a structured management system to align processes, and a learner centric philosophy that places student success at the heart of every decision.

In his remarks, Ato Mengistu Tefera, CEO of Training and Technical Support at the Institute of Ethiopian Standards (IES), commended St. Mary's University for its commitment to quality and expressed hope that it would become the first University to achieve ISO 21001:2025 certification.



The event concluded with the official handover of ISO documents to planning units and a closing address by Wondwosen Tamrat, PhD, Founder and President of St. Mary's University. He praised the dedication of the taskforce and reminded participants that the University's quality journey began two decades ago with self evaluation initiatives, long before institutional quality assurance became a

national priority. Calling the day “historic,” he urged staff to contribute to ensuring that St. Mary’s University becomes a certified institution under ISO 21001:2025, where standards are upheld and learner success remains the ultimate goal.



## St. Mary’s University Annual Student Clubs Award Ceremony

St. Mary’s University held its Annual Student Clubs Award Ceremony on November 29, 2025, organized by the Student Support Service Office (SSSO) at the American Corner in the main campus. The event opened with a keynote address by Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD), President and Founder of the University, who highlighted the vital role of student clubs in enriching extracurricular life, fostering interaction, and developing soft skills, while reaffirming the university’s commitment to supporting such initiatives.

Certificates of appreciation were awarded to all clubs in recognition of their contributions, with the Computer Science Club receiving the Best Club Award for its outstanding performance and innovative activities.

The event concluded with closing remarks from Hirut Ebdo, Head, Student Support Services Office, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to the University President, student club leaders and members,

the Student Wellness and Success Unit, and all contributors for their dedication and ongoing efforts in ensuring the continued success of student clubs.



## ISO 21001:2025 Awareness Program

St. Mary's University has conducted an awareness program to support the implementation of ISO 21001:2025. The sessions, held November 24–25, 2025, were organized by the ISO Task Force in eight rounds to ensure full participation of SMU community.

The program highlighted the importance of adopting ISO 21001:2025 at SMU, emphasizing the role of continuous improvement in enhancing institutional effectiveness. Presentations outlined the progress made by the task force, particularly the completion of key documentation, and guided participants on what the implementation means for them, what is expected from them, how they will contribute to the process, and the next steps ahead.

Participants were reminded that all offices are expected to use the approved documents, retain records, make documents readily available, and fulfill all operational requirements in conformity with ISO standards. Internal audits will be conducted to verify compliance before external auditors are invited to review the system. The sessions concluded with a dedicated time for questions and reflections, allowing participants to seek clarification and engage in dialogue about the implementation process.



## St. Mary's University Graduates Global MBA Entrepreneurs

St. Mary's University took part in the E4Impact Pan-African Graduation Ceremony, celebrating the achievements of its MBA graduates in Impact Entrepreneurship on 21 November 2025. The event, hosted virtually from Milan, Italy, brought together more than 100 entrepreneurs from eight African nations, marking a milestone in fostering innovation and sustainable business leadership across the continent.

The ceremony opened with welcoming remarks

from Fabio Petroni, General Manager of E4Impact Foundation, and Prof. Mario Molteni, CEO of E4Impact Foundation, Italy.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Bradley Googins, Senior Fellow at E4Impact Foundation (USA), emphasized the importance of leveraging the E4Impact alumni network—now exceeding 2,000 members—to accelerate business growth. He urged graduates to embrace the spirit of “impact” by transforming Africa’s pressing challenges into opportunities under the banner of a Pan-African alliance.

Representing St. Mary's University, Misganaw Solomon (PhD), Vice President for Research and International Relations, conveyed congratulations on behalf of Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD), President of the University. He highlighted the program's transformative nature, designed not only to impart knowledge but to cultivate innovators and leaders who turn problems into opportunities. He also reminded the graduates that their newly acquired skills and entrepreneurial mindset carry a responsibility to contribute meaningfully to their nations and to Africa's broader development.

During the event St. Mary's University proudly presented 15 graduates from its Global MBA in Impact Entrepreneurship program.

The ceremony concluded with closing remarks from Fabio Petroni, Director of Programs at E4Impact Foundation, underscoring the collaborative spirit of the initiative.

During the event Master in Business Administration degree was conferred to more than 100 E4Impact Entrepreneurs from Congo DRC, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Mali, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zimbabwe. The Global MBA in Impact Entrepreneurship is offered by E4Impact Foundation in collaboration with ALTIS Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy) and 17 African universities, reinforcing a shared vision of nurturing impact-driven leaders for Africa's future.



# Research and Development

## Thesis orientation session

St. Mary's University successfully conducted a comprehensive orientation session on thesis writing for its postgraduate students on October 25, 2025. The event, held at the University Library, provided crucial guidance to 78 attending students embarking on their research journeys.

The session was led by two key figures from the University's Academic and Research Leadership. Dr. Mossisa Kejela from the School of Graduate Study (SGS) and Mrs. Medenekiya Getie from the Research and Knowledge Management Office (RaKMO) served as the primary resource persons.

The orientation focused on elucidating the thesis writing process and familiarizing the students with the University's research infrastructure. The major activities included detailed presentations covering essential topics for successful thesis writing.

The formal presentations were followed by an interactive question and answer segment, allowing the students to seek clarifications on specific concerns related to their proposed research and the administrative procedures.

The session concluded with a summary and closing remarks delivered by Mr. Samuel Fantaye, Director of the Student Support Service Office (SSSO). He synthesized the key takeaways from the presentations and reiterated the University's commitment to providing comprehensive support to its postgraduate scholars throughout their academic tenure.

The orientation was regarded as a significant step in equipping St. Mary's postgraduate students with the foundational knowledge and resources necessary to produce high-quality research and successfully complete their degrees.



# Partnership, Outreach and Community Engagement

## St. Mary's University Forges Global Collaboration

St. Mary's University signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on November 19, 2025, with institutions in Malaysia and Hungary as part of its internationalization efforts.

The first MoU was signed with INTI International University, operated by INTI International Education in Malaysia. This partnership will foster student and staff mobility, visiting scholar programs, academic collaborations, joint publications and research, exchange of academic materials, and a wide range of scholarly engagements including courses, seminars, trainings, conferences, and symposiums. The agreement was signed by Professor Joseph Lee, PhD, Vice Chancellor of INTI International University,

and Misganaw Solomon, PhD, Vice President for Research and International Relations of St. Mary's University.

On the occasion, St. Mary's University also formalized a partnership with Wekerle International University in Budapest, Hungary, one of the country's leading private higher education institutions. This agreement emphasizes student exchanges for bachelor's programs, short-term visits and summer courses, scholar exchanges for lectures and seminars, collaborations on credit transfer programs, and joint research activities. The MoU was signed by Misganaw Solomon, PhD, on behalf of St. Mary's University and Imre Balogh, PhD, Acting Rector of



Wekerle International University.

By signing these two agreements, St. Mary's University has reaffirmed its commitment to global academic cooperation, opening new opportunities for students and faculty to engage in diverse international experiences and collaborative research, thereby enriching its academic community and strengthening its global presence.



## **SMU and Golden Sales Institute Sign Partnership**

St. Mary's University (SMU) and Golden Sales and Marketing Institute signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on December 19, 2025, at SMU's Main Campus. This landmark agreement marks the beginning of a collaborative partnership designed to strengthen sales and marketing education, enhance employability, and foster entrepreneurship among SMU students and graduates.

Golden Sales and Marketing Institute (GSM), Ethiopia's first government-accredited Sales Certification Centre, established in 2017, brings over seven years of expertise in training professionals, creating job opportunities, and working with more than 100 companies across diverse sectors, including real estate, hospitality, insurance, and manufacturing. With its specialization in training, outsourcing, and consultancy services, GSM is well-positioned to support SMU in advancing workforce efficiency and preparing graduates for the demands of the market.

Through this MoU, both institutions commit to working together on tailored training programs, research initiatives, and academic events such as

conferences and seminars. SMU will provide access to its students and graduates to participate in GSM's programs, while also promoting these opportunities within the university community. In turn, GSM will design and deliver specialized training, offer internships and job placements, and share industry insights to enrich SMU's academic offerings.

The partnership is designed to equip young professionals with practical skills and entrepreneurial knowledge. By combining SMU's academic excellence with GSM's industry expertise, both institutions are building a strong foundation for mutual growth and lasting impact.

The MoU was signed by Ato Ermiyas Hailegnaw on behalf of Golden Sales and Marketing Institute and Misganaw Solomon (PhD), Vice President for Research and International Relations, representing St. Mary's University. This agreement reflects a shared vision to empower students and graduates with the tools they need to succeed in today's competitive business environment.



## **SMU Recognized for Youth Sports Contribution**

In a commendable display of community service, St. Mary's University was honored by Lideta Sub-city, Woreda 10 for its significant contribution to youth sports in 2017 EC.

To celebrate this outstanding initiative, the Lideta Sub-City Woreda 10 Administration Youth and Sport Council Office organized an acknowledgment event on November 18, 2025. During the ceremony, St. Mary's University, along with other institutions, received a Certificate of Recognition.

The event highlighted the University's dedication to fostering youth development through sport and strengthening community engagement.



### An Event of Recognition

On October 21, 2025, the Addis Ababa City Administration held a recognition program at the Addis International Convention Center to honor organizations for their charitable contributions. During the event, Mayor Adanech Abebe delivered an inspiring opening remark, expressing her appreciation for the voluntary efforts of various organizations that support the community alongside their regular activities. She emphasized the importance of continued participation in charitable works, highlighting the positive impact these contributions have on society.

During the ceremony St. Mary's University was recognized for its outstanding commitment to community service, receiving a certificate of appreciation. The recognition underscored St. Mary's

University's dedication to fostering a culture of social responsibility and active engagement in initiatives aimed at uplifting the community, reinforcing the vital role educational institutions play in societal development. This acknowledgment not only celebrates past efforts but also serves as a motivation for ongoing involvement in charitable activities. St. Mary's University was represented by W/rt Hirut Ebdo, Dean of the Student Support Services Office, received the award on behalf of the institution.

In closing, Ato Tagese Chafo, the Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives, expressed gratitude on behalf of the government to all those who engaged in volunteerism and contributed to society. He emphasized the importance of recognizing and honoring the efforts of individuals and organizations dedicated to making a positive impact in their communities, reinforcing the government's commitment to supporting these noble initiatives.



# Administrative News

## Records Management Training

St. Mary's University Human Resource Management Office successfully organized a Records Management Training on December 19, 2025, at the Main Campus Syndicate Room, aimed at enhancing customer service across the institution. The program brought together seventeen participants from different offices. Seventeen participants from various offices attended the session, which was facilitated by Ato Yimer Adem, an experienced professional trainer.

The session emphasized the importance of understanding one's role within the organization and how employees can maximize both personal benefits and institutional profits. Participants were introduced to the fundamentals of office records management, highlighting how accurate, timely, and complete information enables managers to make effective decisions. The training underscored that records must be properly documented, stored in appropriate systems, and retrieved efficiently to support smooth operations.



Ato Yimer Adem elaborated on the diverse types of records that serve as the memory of an organization, ranging from forms, correspondences, and lists to statistical data, legal documents, maps, photographs, and modern digital storage formats. He explained the

major functions, objectives, and principles of records management, stressing the need for systematic filing, proper control of lending and borrowing of records, and effective disposal and transfer processes.

## Strengthening Customer Care and Handling

St. Mary's University Human Resource Management Office held a half day training session on December 6, 2025 at the Main Campus, Syndicate Room, focused on improving customer service across the institution. Twenty participants from different offices joined the program, led by Muluadam Alemu (PhD), who emphasized professionalism, empathy, and efficiency in meeting customer needs.

The session explored effective communication, strategies for handling complaints and difficult customers, and the importance of consistency, fairness, and reliability in building trust. A central theme was the concept of desired service, encouraging staff to proactively identify customer expectations and close service gaps.

Participants engaged in group exercises reflecting on service habits, role models, and staff behavior, followed by an open discussion. The training concluded with commitments to apply lessons learned, highlighting that customer satisfaction depends not only on service quality but also on fairness, emotional experiences, and perceptions of equity.





## Comprehensive Induction Session

On December 11, 2025, St. Mary's University held a half day orientation program at the Chamber Room of its Main Campus, organized by the Human Resource Management Office. The session was designed to acquaint newly hired employees with the university's guiding principles—its vision, mission, strategic goals, and core values—ensuring that they are well prepared to align their contributions with the institution's long term objectives.

The gathering opened with a warm address from W/ro Sintayehu Birhane, Director of the Human Resource Management Office. In her remarks, she offered a broad introduction to the university's background, organizational framework, leadership system, and

administrative practices. She also outlined key human resource policies, including regulations on working hours, overtime, holidays, standards of professional conduct, and other workplace expectations.

W/ro Sintayehu underscored the indispensable role each staff member plays in advancing the university's achievements. She highlighted the importance of discipline, cooperation, and collective effort, while reminding participants that institutional guidelines are readily available to support them in understanding their responsibilities.

The program concluded with an interactive discussion, giving attendees the opportunity to share perspectives, raise questions, and seek further clarification on matters of interest.





## 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 አገልግሎቶችን ይጠቀሙ::

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የፈተና ማዕከል



# ቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ ፕሬስ

## የመጻሕፍት መሸጫ መደብር

ቅድስት ማርያም ዩኒቨርሲቲ ፕሬስ የመጻሕፍት መሸጫ መደብር ከሜክሲኮ 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 በቸርቻሮ ለተገልጋዮች ስለምናቀርብ መጥተው ይጎብኙን።

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# 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

### Graduate Programs Offered in Partnership with Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

- ◆ MBA in Impact Entrepreneurship

### Graduate Programs In Partnership With IGNOU (Distance)

- ◆ Master of Business Administration
- ◆ Master of Arts in Social Work
- ◆ Master of Arts in Economics
- ◆ Master of Arts in Public Administration
- ◆ MARD (Master of Arts in Rural Development)
- ◆ Master of Arts in Sociology
- ◆ Master of Arts in Political Science
- ◆ Master of Commerce

### Short Term Training

- ◆ Business, IT, and Education areas
- ◆ Certified Quality Manager
- ◆ Certified Quality Engineer
- ◆ ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System
- ◆ ISO 31000:2015 Risk Management
- ◆ Supply Chain Management
- ◆ Quality Professional
- ◆ ISO 9001:2015 Auditor
- ◆ ISO 9001:2015 Lead Auditor
- ◆ Quality and Productivity areas
- ◆ Entrepreneurship
- ◆ and more

### Address:

Tel: +251 11 554 6669 (Graduate Studies)  
+251 11 553 8017 (Undergraduate Regular/Ext.)  
+251 11 550 4762/63 (Undergraduate Distance)  
+251 11 550 3140 (International Program)

Fax: +251 11 558 0559