

# Quarterly Newsletter

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ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

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Congratulations!!



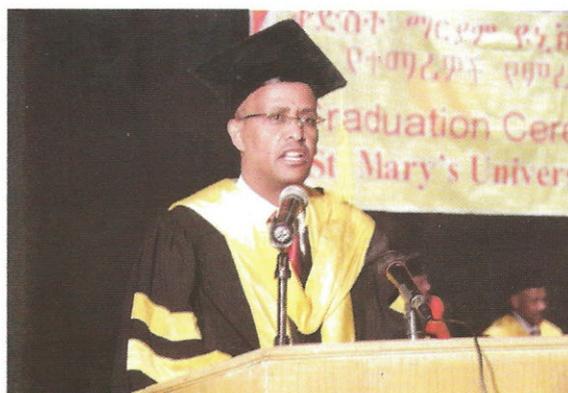
# CONVOCATION



St. Mary's graduated a total of 5,989 students, both in the regular and distance mode programs. Nine hundred seventy-seven students in the regular mode at the National Theater on July the 7<sup>th</sup> 2013; and 5, 012 in the distance at the ceremony held at the Ethiopia National Culture Center, Addis Ababa, on July 21st 2013.

Ato Wondwosen Tamrat (Associate Prof.), Founder and President of St. Mary's University College in his welcome and congratulatory speech noted that the graduation success was, in the main, due to the determination and tireless effort of the students themselves along with the support of their parents and relatives; the assistance of their instructors, and the entire community of SMUC, government and non-government

organizations. The President thanked all the parties involved and congratulated the graduates.



Ato Wondwsen stated that St. Mary's which is one of the pioneers of private higher education institutions here, has become one of the front line institutions that has gained trust among the society at large by performing different accomplishments in the teaching-learning, research and community service activities. The UC, he added, has not only graduated thousands of



students in first and second degrees in the regular and distance modes as inputs to the on-going societal development, but also has worked to enable graduates to create jobs in order to help themselves, their families and the country. Moreover, Ato Wondwosen congratulated the first batch of the second degree graduates of the recently opened programs in Business Administration which have added new educational opportunities.

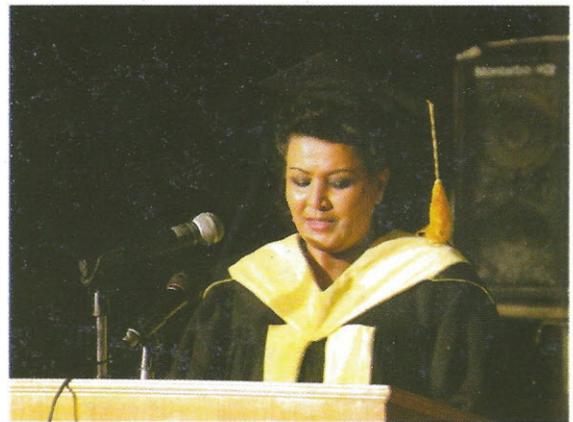
In order to attain its mission and vision, Ato Wondwosen stated that St Mary's has devised and is implementing various activities, of which one is organizing and sponsoring different conferences at different levels to strengthen its research work.

St. Mary's in a bid to accomplish its vision and mission, carries out various studies and research works at different levels within the campuses; and publishes research journals and bulletins in order to encourage national researchers. In addition, it has strengthened its links with foreign institutions as well in order to strengthen its effort in the teaching-learning activities and research work. Consequently; the UC is now ready to open new programs from which citizens could be benefited as of the following year.

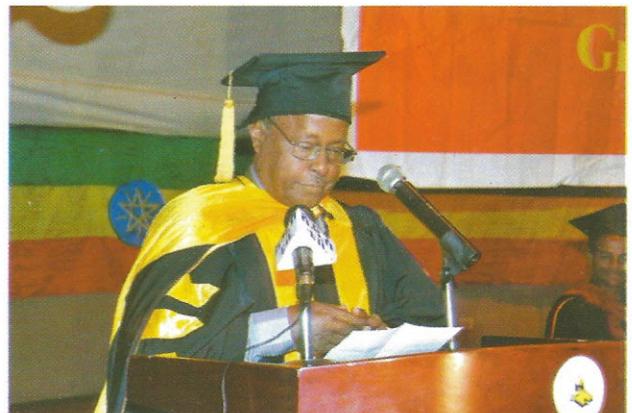
Ato Wondwosen also remarked that the institution has also opened schools from kindergarten up to grade twelve in

the last two years. These schools have become exemplary ones in achieving extraordinary academic performances in the evaluations carried out in their respective sub-cities, which have motivated them to prepare themselves to become national models in the coming years.

Ato Wondwosen Tamrat concluded his opening remarks expressing his hope that the graduates would be free from corruption, ready to learn from others; and will be models of pride to the country at their work places.

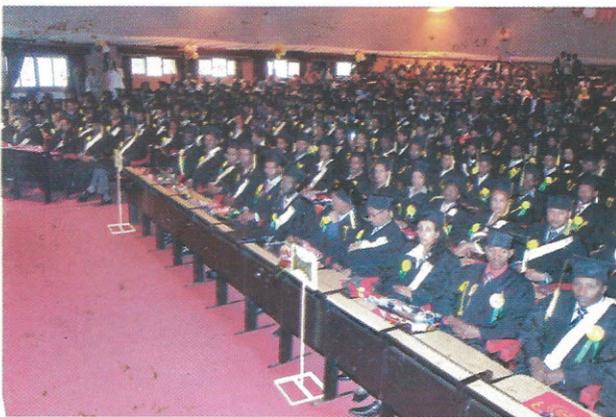


W/o Mulu Solomon, President of The Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association (ECCSA); and

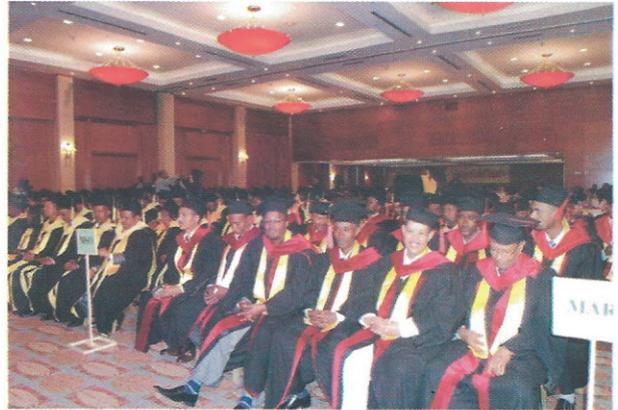




Dr. Tareke Berhe, Program Director, Value Chains-Teff & Rice, Agriculture Transformation Agency, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, were the guest of honors of the graduation ceremonies held at the National Theater on July the 7<sup>th</sup>, and at the Ethiopia National Culture Center on July the 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013, respectively. Both guests of honour extended appreciations and thanks to the families of the graduates and to St. Mary's for their respective contribution to bring the prospective graduates to such a success.



They both, though were in the ceremonies held in separate places and dates, stressed that the importance and value of education to the country and to the self are best implemented when they are practiced in correspondence to the local given realities that demand self-realization and initiation without which education would turn out to be a useless modern weapon that never operates.



In a similar development, St. Mary's University College in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), graduated 192 students in the fifth graduation ceremony of the post-graduate program held at Hilton Addis on the 31<sup>st</sup>/2013.



Ato Wondwosen Tamirat ( Associate Prof.), Founder and President of St. Mary's extended his congratulations to the prospective graduates for their success, and thanked Her Excellency Mrs. Jayashree Kunda, First Secretary of the Indian Embassy in Ethiopia who graced the day by her presence. Ato Wondwosen remarked that the alliance of St. Mary's with IGNOU has created a new opportunity for many Ethiopians in opening new doors and has added more on current government efforts in



## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



### **The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Private Higher Education**

Committed to research and quality of education, as stated in its vision and mission, St Mary's University College has been organizing and sponsoring annual national conferences on Private Higher Education in Ethiopia since 2003. Its unabated and consistent efforts over the years have enabled the UC last year to align its force with the African Union, Association of African Universities and jointly issue the Addis Ababa Declaration which appealed to governments and stakeholders offer the needed attention to the private sector so that it responds to the public demand

and outcry for better and quality education. On the basis of the Addis Ababa Declaration, St. Mary's University College has continued to work as a member of the steering committee that is preparing the ground for the establishment of an African Association of Private Higher Education Institutions, which will have the major purpose of further enriching the knowledge base on the area at continental level and improving the status quo.



expanding post-graduate programs across the country. The President pointed out that the completion of one's studies successfully despite the rigours challenges is an indication of their huge potential, which would also be critical to more success in their career and future life.

Ato Wondwosen extended his thanks and appreciation to the dedicated staff of both St. Mary's and IGNOU who put lots of inputs in ensuring that both institutions reach at that level; the Office of the Vice- chancellor of IGNOU and the International Office for their hard work that contributed immensely to the success of the graduates; IGNOU Coordination Office at St. Mary's, the School of Graduate Studies; and the faculty involved in IGNOU for what they did and continue to do. He also thanked the Ministry of Education, the Higher Education Relevance and Quality Assurance Agency, the Management of the National Bank of Ethiopia, Bank of Abyssinia, Business and Construction Bank, and all government and non-government organizations for the assistance they rendered St. Mary's to successfully run the post-graduate programs.

The President concluded his welcoming and congratulatory message reminding the graduates to live up to the expectations of their institution, families and the people at large.



Ato Mekonen Tadesse, IGNOU Program Director, on his part, expressed his strong belief that the prospective graduates would implement the knowledge they gained effectively and fruitfully at their respective work places.

The guest of honour, Mrs. Jayashree Kundu, First Secretary of Indian Embassy in Ethiopia, stated that she was full of praise for the efforts of the Partner Institution, the prestigious St. Mary's University College, which has build the bridge of collaboration and immensely helped hundreds of Ethiopians, some students and some working in senior positions to graduate from the collaborative educational programs.



Founder and President of St. Mary's University College, Ato Wondwosen Tamrat, (Associate Prof.), in his welcoming speech pointed out that though private higher education has become the fastest growing sector of higher education across the globe, it has not received the required attention it deserves in the form of active academic and scholarly engagements. The President remarked that the continued success in bringing participants together and contribute to every annual conference was not only due to the willingness of the participants but also due to the assistance received from the Ministry of Education and the successive ministries who graced the conferences by their presence and opening speeches.

Ato Wondwosen extended his thanks to His Excellency Ato Shiferaw Shigute, Minister of Education of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, for his great interest to come to the meeting. Though the Minister was unable to open the conference due to urgent official duty outside Addis Ababa, the President extended his thanks to the Minister for the respect he showed for the

Conference as was evidenced by the presence of Dr, Tesfaye Teshome (Associate Prof.) HERQA's Director as the Minister's designee for the day.

Hoping that the conference would create opportunity for the participants to share and explore variety of ideas and experience, Ato Wondwosen, finally, thanked the paper presenters who traveled long distances responding positively to the calls to share their experiences and research findings and all the participants.



Dr. Tesfaye Teshome (Associate Professor), Director General of the Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency and designee for the Minister in his opening speech underlined that the Ministry of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has always been supportive of such an annual conference which has demonstrated its presence being a forum for scholarly discourse, including that day's conference, for eleven years. The Director General went on and stated that the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) has stipulated that the key priority in the higher education system is to

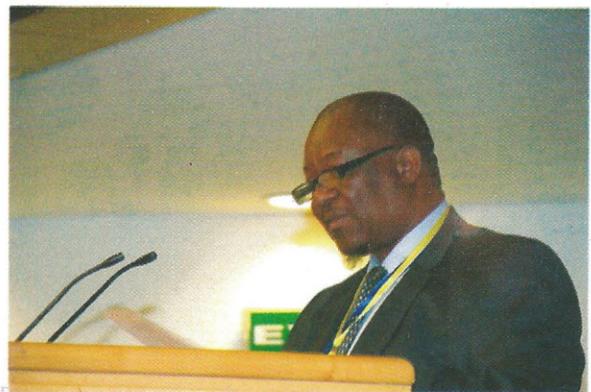


five-year period plan is to ensure the system of quality assurance. Accordingly, Ato Tesfaye told that HERQA has so far audited close to 30 public and private institutions; and reported that the results of the audit were published and disseminated to stakeholders while the results of the remaining are to be released soon. He immediately underlined that though the efforts done in this respect by his Agency were commendable, ensuring quality of education is primarily the responsibility of individual institutions. Dr. Tesfaye continued and added that the Ministry of Education envisaged in its Fourth Educational Sector Development Plan (ESDP) that the goal for the higher education sector is to develop highly qualified, motivated and innovative human resources; and produce and transfer advanced and relevant knowledge for socio-economic development and poverty reduction with a view of turning Ethiopia into a middle-income country by the year 2025. He expressed his hope that the papers to be presented in the conference would be closely linked to such educational challenges that Africa is facing as the main theme of the Conference is, "poverty Reduction and the Contribution of Private Higher Education in Africa."

He also stated that the leap taken by some African countries, Ethiopia included, in creating access, addressing the issue of equity, and the benefits and

the opportunity of women to make use of their potentials from the affirmative action implementations, are great and appreciable; but without underestimating the challenges ahead.

Dr. Tesfaye Teshome concluded his opening speech extending his thanks to St. Mary's University College for its commendable job for organizing and sponsoring annual conferences for eleven years in a row. Wishing fruitful discussions and anticipating issues and experience sharing of continental interest to come out in the day-long session, the Director General declared the conference open.



Mr. Arnaldo Nhavoto, Director, UNESCO-IICBA (International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa), in his keynote address remarked that the private sector has an important contribution to the education sector in terms of enrollment seen as one of the viable alternatives and is one of the most fast expanding segment of higher education in Africa. He also stated that some weaknesses of some private higher education institutions



revealed by some research outputs, like, employing more part time workers; accepting students who couldn't get opportunity to join public universities; the offering of courses that require less investment in terms of infrastructure and equipment; and the rarity of emphasis in research in private universities of recent origin, should be improved in the future. Mr Nhavoto went on and stressed, among other things, that higher education institutions should educate students to become well-informed and deeply motivated citizens, who can think critically, analyze problems of society, try to find solutions to solve them and accept social responsibilities. The core missions of higher education as stated in the Education Sector Development Plan IV worked by UNESCO and the Ministry of Education is to give more emphasis in achieving the Millennium Development Goals ;and particularly poverty reduction; the enhancement of quality education; strengthening research capacities in higher education institutions. The Director continued his speech and cited the new project, **"Support to strengthen teacher education for bridging the quality of education quality gap in Ethiopia,"** which started in Bahirdar and Hawassa Teacher Colleges as one of the many collaborative engagements of UNESCO and the Ministry of Education.

Mr. Arnaldo Nhavota, told that the papers to be presented addressing the

conference would be helpful to improve the quality of higher education institutions which contribute for poverty reductions. Finally, he expressed his feeling that the conference would be the most useful and fruitful from which all participants shall draw significant lessons that could be inputs for the government as well as for private higher institutions; and ended his keynote address appreciating St. Mary's University College and other development partners for convening that important forum.



Mrs. Tricia Jenkins, Director, International Center for Excellence in Educational Opportunities, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom, in her part, remarked that as private higher education has proved itself as a new rising contributor to the educational sector in Africa, it should be given the appropriate consideration and support by governments and stakeholders.



In his closing remarks, Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice-president of St. Mary's University College, told that as the paper presenters of the day came up with issues that needed serious scrutiny, the conference remained intellectually stimulating and discussion-promoting which entertained diverse views through and through. Ato Tedla continued and stated that St. Mary's University College had contributed its share in bringing distinguished scholars together from the rest of Africa believing that institutions of higher learning in the continent need to collaborate for knowledge sharing; and better utilization of the existing data in a meaningful way so that Africans could ease the riddle of poverty.

The Executive Vice-president extended his thanks to H.E. Ato Shiferaw Shigute and Dr. Tesfaye Teshome for their strong support to the conference, Mr. Arnaldo Nhavoto and Mrs Tricia Jenkins for their keynote speeches; the Chairs and rapporteurs for enabling the organizers run the discussions smoothly; the participants who made the discussion vibrant through their

questions, comments, opinions and suggestions. He stressed that special mention should be made to those who traveled from African countries and the UK; and DKT Ethiopia for the bags and pens which made the conference kits a full package. Finally, Ato Tedla praised the UN-ECA Conference Center technical and security staff for their kind handling of matters; Sheraton Addis banquet team for making participants awake all day; Research and Knowledge and Management Office which has been responsible for organizing the conference, and other staff members of SMU who joined hands to make the conference a success.



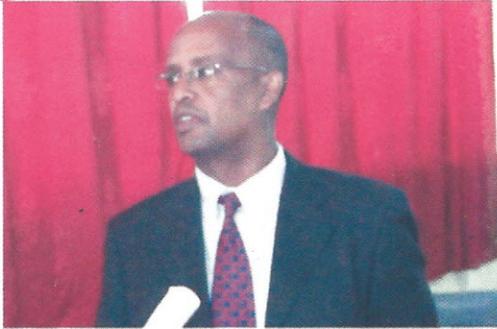
## The 7<sup>th</sup> National Student Research Forum



As St. Mary's has realized the essentialities of research to improve the quality of education since its establishment, it has created various opportunities to encourage research work of which one is organizing and sponsoring an annual Student Research Forum.



On July 04/2013, Research and Knowledge Management office (RKMO), SMUC, organized the 7<sup>TH</sup> National Student Conference. It was held at the Multi-purpose Hall (SMUC) sponsored by St. Mary's. Eleven papers from Jimma University, Admas University College, Addis Ababa University, DebreMarkos University, and St. Mary's University College were presented. The three areas of focus were, 'Marketing, Modern Payment Practice and Financial Management in Ethiopia', 'Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth', and 'Human and Material Resource Management in Ethiopia'.



Ato Wondwosen Tamrat (Associate Professor) stated that St. Mary's asserts that research is a life skill crucial to the success of its graduates who would assume a variety of positions in the world of work; and should be practiced earlier before students leave their institutions so that young graduates could develop both the skill and the confidence.

Hoping that the day's presenters from within and outside SMUC would be exemplary in encouraging other young researchers follow their footsteps, he extended his thanks and appreciation to



Dr. Tesfaye Teshome, Director of Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency (HERQA) and concluded his speech wishing a successful and productive discussion.

Dr. Tesfaye Teshome in his opening speech told that research is no more the domain of an elite club of the academia

done even by less educated people as it is rather an endeavor to overcome challenges posed by a given surrounding. He continued and remarked that creating favourable environment by investing and developing the culture of research is one of the foundations and the pillars of HEIs; and stated "It is a great success for St. Mary's in sponsoring and organizing such an event to imbue commendable values and practices early in our young researchers, starting at the undergraduate level."

Wishing a successful engaging day-long discussions, The Director of HERQA declared that the Seventh National Student Forum was officially opened.



Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice-president of St. Mary's, in his closing speech remarked that the Forum had covered a wide array of topics in diverse disciplines and had brought about animated discussion.

The Executive Vice-president extended his thanks to the paper presenters, the session chairs, rapporteurs, the audio-



the Research Management Office that were involved in making the day-long sessions a success.

## **Management Team Visits Employers**

Fundamentally, St. Mary's University College has put in place a system of checks and balances of its provisions of educational services of which one is to constantly ensure the quality of its graduates. Consequently, a team, according to Ato Misganaw Solomon, The Associate Vice-president for Academic Affairs of St. Mary's University College, comprising the Top Management visited Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE), Ethiopian Airlines (EA) and Ethiojobs on May 17, 22 and June 05, 2013 respectively.

Each meeting started with a briefing about SMUC in general and the purpose of the visit in particular by the Executive Vice-president, Ato Tedla Haile, to each Head of HRM office of the employers. The business executive officers, on their part, appreciated the visits of the delegates; and the initiative to hold such high level deliberations with them on the performance of their graduates.

The respondents from CBE and EA, from their observations, asserted that St. Mary's cares about its students; as a result of which its graduates demonstrate better knowledge and skills; and

communicate effectively. As all the respondents didn't have pre-defined human resource performance appraisal system that identifies an employee's background, all of them preferred to discuss their observations about employees irrespective of the institutions they graduated from. Accordingly, the findings of the common concerns about the recent employees (over the last three to five years) were summarized as follows:-

- lack appropriate attitude for their jobs; professionalism, office etiquette, integrity and taking responsibility for certain tasks, politeness, readiness to learn new things, and lack of practical skills, confidence in one's potential, and lack of motivation appeared to be more visible on PHEIs graduates ;
- very poor communication and language skills ;
- lack of readiness to share the vision and mission of the organizations in which they are hired or unable to demonstrate interest to discharge responsibility to the maximum;
- repeated absence from work places; and leave jobs with no prior notice to employers. encounter serious problems in 'customer handling.'

After sorting out the major weaknesses observed in recent graduate employees, the respondents recommended that the



following issues to be given due attention while students are in schools:

- students should be prepared to the international market as well and;
- ways and means should be sought to equip teachers with practical experiences so that they could be able to provide their students with practical knowledge and skills;
- emphasis should be given to language and communication skills, and building reading habits ; and
- the essentialities of good rapport between teachers and students, hard work for building confidence in students' learning experiences; and maximizing learning opportunities should be emphasized.

Ato Misganaw reported that the team found out that the visits were worthwhile in terms of getting feedback from the horse's mouth, which will enable SMUC enrich the curricula and extra-curricular activities.



## The 5th Multi-disciplinary Seminar



In another development, on July 24/2013, the Research and Knowledge Management Office, SMUC, organized The 5<sup>th</sup> Multi-disciplinary Seminar at the Main Campus, Multi-purpose Hall, SMUC

Eleven papers under four separate themes: *“Human Resource and Institutional Management”*, *“Gender and Culture”*, *“Teaching-Learning Practice and Quality of Education in Ethiopian Higher Education”*, and *“Government and Law”* were presented from different higher learning institutions, an investment agency, management institute, and a bank.

Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice-president of St. Mary's University College, in his opening speech pointed out that as the papers to be presented were diverse as the institutions they had come from, the seminar would be an appropriate one to sort out ways and means to the aspiration for finding

possible solutions to the challenging problems that were encountered at work and within the larger society.

Ato Tedla extended his thanks and appreciation to the UC for nurturing the culture of research; the Research and Knowledge Management for organizing such events; the researchers for the guts they exhibited to pass through the arduous journey of doing research; and the participants who would enrich the research papers.

The Executive Vice-president declared the opening of the seminar wishing a fruitful day-long discussion; and hoping to see the papers published and disseminated to the pertinent business entities and centers of learning.



Ato Goitom Abrham (Asst. Prof.), Vice-president for Research, School of Graduate Studies and Outreach Services, SMUC, in his closing speech told that as the forum was launched to provide opportunity for more academic staff to actively involve in carrying out research undertakings, the seminar had, for the first time, included the first MBA program graduates and other professionals from other universities. Such opportunities, for sure, he added, would help to celebrate our diverse interests and experience as teachers; and build a community of scholars who exemplify the commitment to academic excellence; and further helps develop academic careers.

Thanking the organizers, the chairpersons and rapporteurs, and the participants, Ato Goitom ended his closing speech.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **Welfare Gestures**

St. Mary's University College, in support of the welfare ideals of Mekedonia: Home for the Elderly and the Mentally Disabled, printed 31

thousand tickets of 25, 50 and 100 Birr free of charge that would be sold at the fund raising program of the Center to be held at the Exhibition Center on March 3/2013.

### **Visits and Supports**

The Student Supports Services Office, SMUC, organized interested students and employees of St. Mary's University College and visited Mekedonia in the month of Feb. 3/ 2012. Most of the visitors told that they had seen a lot of welfare deeds and activities done to many helpless, aged, and sick people; and felt that they must do something to witness the big welfare ideals of the Center. Consequently, the students collected more than Birr 4,000. 00 from students and employees of St. Mary's University College; bought some food and cleaning materials; and visited the Center on June 1, 2013 as per their promise. In addition, students sold tickets that worth Birr 3,100.00 for the Center in support of the income-generating program organized by the Center on Feb.3/2013.



## Blood Donation



Similarly, the Student Support Services Office (SSSO), SMUC, along with the National Blood Bank of Ethiopia Red Cross Society organized 'Blood Donation Week' from June 3- 5, 2013 at the Multi-purpose Hall, Main Campus of SMUC. During those allotted days, 115 students and employees donated blood. The Society sent a letter of thanks and forms of membership to the donors.

## Cleaning the Surroundings

On Feb. 8, 2013, SSSO, SMUC, as it frequently does, organized cleaning program along with Woreda 9, around the Wabishebele Hotel, the nearby villages and the Main Campus of St. Mary's wearing 50 T-shirts sponsored by SMUC.

## Walk for Humanity

In a similar vein, the Office made some interested students participate in the 'Walk for Humanity' program organized by The Ethiopia Red Cross Society on May 12/2013 wearing 60 T-shirts sponsored by St. Mary's.

## IN-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

### Panel Discussion

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of April, 2013, SSSO along with the Library and Documentation Office organized a panel discussion on 'Reading Culture in Ethiopia' at the Multi-purpose Hall, Ato Ahmedin Mohammed, an Ethiopian volunteer who came from America and opened libraries to promote reading, among other things, discussed the values and advantages of reading; and what, when and where to read.

Associate Prof. Zerihun Asfaw, AAU, in his part, stated that mental wealth, unlike property wealth, is a life-long one, and it is gained through reading. He expressed that he has reservation to the comment which he commonly hears 'this generation is not involved in reading'; as there are young people who are reading books.

# St. Mary's University



We, at St. Mary's, express our thanks to our stakeholders for closely working with us through the years. With your continuous support, our institution is now upgraded to a University. For us, it is more than a name; it strengthens our commitment to live up to your expectations.

## Graduate Programs

- MBA
- MBA (with HRM concentration)
- Accounting & Finance
- Rural Development
- Agri-Economics
- Agri-Business

## Undergraduate Programs

- Tourism and Hospitality Management
- Information Technology
- Information Systems
- Computing Science
- Management
- Marketing Management
- Accounting

## Graduate Programs in Partnership with IGNOU

- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Commerce (MCOM)
- Master of Arts in Economics (MEC)
- Master of Arts in Rural Development (MARD)
- Master of Arts in Sociology (MSO)
- Master of Arts in Public Administration (MPA)
- Master of Arts in Political Science (MPS)
- Master of Arts in Social Work (MSW)

## Distance Undergraduate Programs

- Accounting
- Marketing Management
- Rural Development
- Management
- Cooperatives
- Agricultural Extension
- Economics
- Sociology
- Agricultural Economics
- Educational Planning and Management
- Finance and Development Economics
- Agribusiness Management

## Twinning Program with Marshall University

- Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)

## Professional Training

- ACCA

## Other Services through our Testing Center

- Toefl ibt (internet based)
- Recruitment tests

## Short term Training

- Business and Computer Science areas