

Quarterly Newsletter

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Editorial

Dear Readers,

Warm welcome to Vol. 23, No. 56, September, 2021 Issue of SMU in Stride! In this issue, news items around teaching learning, research and outreach activities, which took place during the 4th quarter are presented.

The Teaching and Learning column presents the graduation ceremony of postgraduate students and the guest lecture organized by the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management of the Undergraduate program.

The Research and Development column provides news on SMU research events and experience sharing session of SMU PhD students organized by the Office of the Vice President for Research and International Relations, and award of certificate to SMU for the accreditation of the Mizan *Law* Review journal by MoSHE.

The Partnership, Outreach and Community Services column has news on SMU participation in different meetings and workshops (drafting of National Research Priorities documents, curriculum accreditation workshop), Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia's visit to SMU, SMU's visit and support to charity associations, blood donation by SMU staff and students, and SMU participation in tree planting, among others.

In closing, we always appreciate your continued support and contributions to the Newsletter. Suggestions and comments towards improving the Newsletter are most welcome.

Happy reading!
Stay safe and well!
International Relations and Communication Office
St. Mary's University

NEWS AND EVENTS

Teaching and Learning

St. Mary's University graduates students



St. Mary's University (SMU) graduated a total of 636 postgraduate students, of which female graduates account for 49.1%, on July 31, 2021 at Oromo Cultural Center, Addis Ababa. The graduates did their Master's studies in 11 local and five international programs. While almost all of the graduates completed their studies in the local programs, 11 graduates did their Master's in SMU-IGNOU programs. The SMU-IGNOU programs have been offered at SMU since 2006.



The ceremony started with congratulatory remarks made by Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD, Associate Professor) Founder and President of the University, who urged the graduates to translate the knowledge, skills and experiences they have acquired into practice and contribute their share to Ethiopia's development. In his remarks, Dr. Wondwosen Tamrat reiterated that St. Mary's University has been offering demand-driven programs, which align with Ethiopia's needs in skilled human capital at various levels. He also mentioned that St. Mary's University works closely with renowned international institutions to deliver programs relevant to Ethiopia's needs and demands. The IGNOU's programs, which SMU has been offering for the last 16 years, are good examples. SMU has continued strengthening its linkages with other international higher education institutions that help contribute to the attainment of the national goal of producing skilled professionals, he pointed out. Dr. Wondwosen Tamrat underscored female's participation, which surpasses the national ratio encourages SMU to strengthen its efforts to make the environment conducive to them.



H.E. Mr. Robert Shetkintong, Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia, who graced the event, made a closing speech in which he reiterated the strong link between Ethiopia and India. Mr Shetkintong appreciated SMU's efforts toward contributing its share to spread education, which, he underlined, plays a very important role in peoples' lives. He also expressed his pleasure to be part of this important event which allowed him to witness graduates' confidence in their achievements.

Department of THM holds a guest lecture

The Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management (THM) organized a guest lecture for undergrad students taking the course titled Meeting, Incentive Travel, Convention and Exhibition (MICE Tourism) on Friday July 16, 2021 at the University's Main Campus.



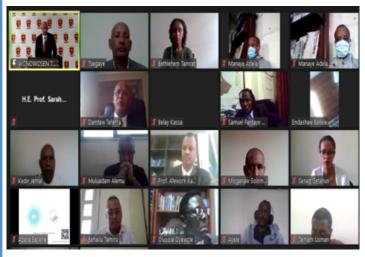
The guest lecturer, Ato Teshome Fantahun, discussed issues related to the concepts, principles and practices of MICE Tourism as well as the development and trends of the sub-sector in Ethiopia, Africa, and across the globe.



The lecture incorporated introductory and closing remarks by the Department Head and the instructor of the course as well as a question and answer session.

Research and Development

St. Mary's University Holds the 19th Conference on PHE in Africa





St. Mary's University held its 19th International Conference on Private Higher Education in Africa on September 2, 2021 virtually with a theme "African Higher Education and its Contributions to Self-reliance". The conference had particular focus on Technology and its Implications to access, equity and quality; Internationalization of Higher Education and its benefits and implications; and Private Higher Education in Africa and the response to development challenges. The conference had distinguished and eminent speakers from around the world who shared their expertise and experiences.



Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD, Associate Professor), President and Founder of St. Mary's University, made a welcoming speech. He said, SMU "has added more knowledge and thoughtful deliberations" about private higher education in Africa and contributed to the growth of the sector. He extended his gratitude to His Excellency Prof. Afework Kassu, State Minister for the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, for being able to grace the occasion despite his extremely busy schedule, Excellencies Professors Sarah Agbor and Olusola Oyewole for participating in the event, and its partners Ethiopian Ministry of Science and Higher Education, African Union Commission, Association of African Universities, International Network for Higher Education in Africa, and Program for Research on Private Higher Education for their valuable contributions toward the success of the conference

Professor Afework Kassu, State Minister, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, gave opening remarks where he recognized St. Mary's University's strong commitment to research and

the organization of this annual international conference for the last 19 years without interruption. He also thanked all partners who have contributed to the successful organization of the event. He expressed his hope that the conference would transpire thoughts around analyzing Africa's "poverty conundrum" and seeking solutions that would enable Africa to be self-reliant.



In his opening remarks, Professor Olusola Oyewole, Secretary General of the Association of African Universities, appreciated St. Mary's University for "championing the collaborations among private higher education institutions in Africa" and for selecting very relevant and timely themes – technology, internationalization and private higher education – for deliberations.



A keynote speech, which framed the series of presentations that followed it, was made by Professor Daniel Levy who gave the audience insights into Private Higher Education in the Developing World. Then six eminent speakers drawn from South Africa, the USA, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Ethiopia made presentations on the role of technology in higher education, internationalization in HE and the challenges associated with it and the role and contributions of Private Higher Education in development from African and global perspectives.



Finally, closing remarks were made by Professor Belay Kassa, Vice Rector, Pan African University, Cameroon, who recognized the fruitful deliberations and expressed his hope that the results of the deliberations will have important contributions to relevant and responsive private higher education in the continent.





tance Learning Seminar

St Mary's University held the 9th National Open & Distance Learning Seminar on 21 August 2021 virtually. The seminar aimed at promoting innovation, the culture of knowledge transfer among academicians, researchers, development agents and practitioners on issues related to open and distance learning.



The Seminar was opened by a welcoming speech made by Ato Samuel Fantaye, Vice President for College of Open and Distance Learning, St. Mary's University. In his opening remarks, Ato Samuel said that the Seminar is a good platform to share and learn new developments in open and distance learning. He thanked paper presenters and the organizing team for their dedication toward the realization of the Seminar.



SMU Hosts the 9th National Open and Dis- Four research papers (2 from Wachemo, one from Jimma and one from Dire Dawa universities) were presented and discussed. The papers presented at the Seminar covered different topics, including the right to access to legal education, social media usage, and evaluation of distance learning students' performance.



The presentations were followed by a Question and Answer session, which made the Seminar lively and added much value to the quality of the papers. The papers presented at the Seminar will be published in the Proceedings as has been the case for the last eight years.

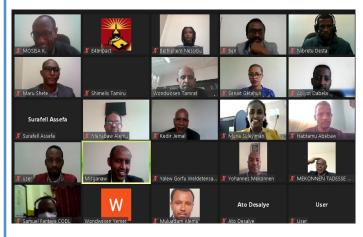


Finally, closing remarks were made by Senait Getahun, Director, Research and Knowledge Management Office of SMU. She thanked participants, paper presenters and the organizers without whose contributions the Seminar would not have been realized.

In attendance were St. Mary's University staff and scholars and students from other higher education institutions

St. Mary's University Holds the 13th National Multi-disciplinary Seminar

St. Mary's University held its 13th National Multi-disciplinary Seminar on 20 August 2021 virtually. The Seminar is one of the four annual research events St. Mary's University organizes. This conference aimed at promoting innovation and the culture of knowledge transfer among academicians, researchers and practitioners in different disciplines.



St. Mary's University has strengthened its commitment to research despite the challenges it is facing following COVID-19, said Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD, Associate Professor), Founder and President of St. Mary's University, while making the opening speech. He expressed his hope that the ideas to be transpired would enable generation of solutions toward solving the problems identified. Thanking paper presenters and the organizing team for their dedication toward the realization of the Seminar and wishing them fruitful deliberations, he declared the conference open.

At the Seminar, 11 papers (five from SMU, and six from Selale University, Assosa University, Debre Markos University, Bahir Dar University, Ambo University and Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, one from each institution), which have nation-wide implications, were presented and discussed. The papers presented at the Seminar covered different topics, including Agriculture, Law, Management, Economy, Accounting and Finance, Waste Management, Energy, Marketing, and Social Media, The presentations were followed by Question and Answer sessions. The papers presented at the Seminar will be published in Proceedings as has been the case for the last twelve years.



Finally, closing remarks were made by Ato Tedla Haile, Executive Vice President of St. Mary's University, who noted the roles of the studies in Ethiopia's efforts toward development and thanked the participants, paper presenters and the organizers for their relentless efforts to make the event a reality.



The National Multi-disciplinary Seminar was launched 13 years ago with a view to create opportunities for scholars and practitioners to come

together to deliberate on timely critical issues. In attendance were St. Mary's University staff and scholars and students from other higher education institutions.

PhD Students' Experience Sharing Session held



The Research and Knowledge Management Office of St. Mary's University organized a PhD Students' Experience Sharing session for its faculty on 27th July 2021 in the SGS Library, Main Campus, SMU.



Prior to the presentations, Misganaw Solomon (PhD), Vice President for Research and International Relations, welcomed all in attendance and said the session is organized for the second time to enable PhD candidates, who are at different status, to learn from one another.



Nine faculty members of SMU who are pursuing their PhD studies in different national and international universities shared their experiences. In their presentations, they briefly explained their respective entry processes, their current status, the major challenges they faced and the tips they found valuable to be successful in the journey.



After the presentations, discussions were held to unpack the challenges the candidates are facing and the way forward.



Dr. Misganaw thanked all presenters and encouraged them to consider publishing on St. Mary's University journals.

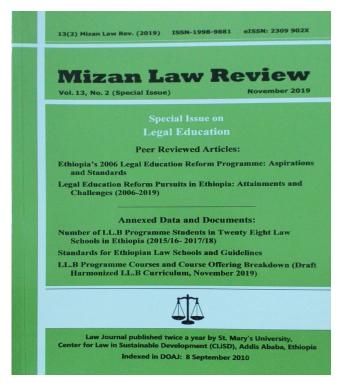


St. Marys' University provides support to its faculty members who pursue their studies. Currently, 13 faculty members of SMU are doing their PhD in national and international universities under the auspices of the University.



Mizan Law Review receives Certificate of Accreditation

Mizan Law Review, one of St. Mary's University's bi-annual journals, received a certificate of accreditation at the event organized by the FDRE Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MoSHE) on July 14, 2021 at Intercontinental Addis Hotel, Addis Ababa.



Mizan Law Review was accredited by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education after it underwent a rigorous evaluation by the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences. According to MoSHE, of the 32 journals submitted for evaluation in the first round, 16 of them met the requirements and were accredited. Mizan was one of them.

At the event, His Excellency Professor Afework Kassu, State Minister, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, appreciated the institutions, whose journals were accredited, for working hard toward ensuring quality and sustainability of their respective publications. He also mentioned that the acknowledgement his Ministry has given to these journals would encourage others to follow suit.



Mizan Law Review is a bi-annual journal which was first published by the then Faculty of Law a decade and a half ago. Although the Faculty of Law was closed due to the Government's decision which banned private higher education institutions from offering Law and Education degree programs in August 2010, the Faculty was restructured as a Center for Law in Sustainable Development (CLiSD) and has continued the publication of the journal to date without any interruption while maintaining the quality of its contents.

SMU publishes two other journals titled Journal of Business and Administrative Studies and Journal of Agriculture and Development.

Partnership, Outreach and Community Services

SMU attends curriculum accreditation workshop

St. Mary's University took part in a higher education curriculum accreditation workshop held at Adama Science and Technology University (ASTU) on August 30 and 31, 2021. The Twoday workshop was organized to discuss on the concept note prepared by a committee assigned to produce Accreditation Guideline (Directive) for HEIs in Ethiopia.

The workshop was opened by H.E. Dr. Samuel Kifle, State Minister of Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MoSHE). In his opening speech, Dr. Samuel underlined the need for accreditation in order to provide quality education in Ethiopia. He also noted that the accreditation should start in 2014 E.C. Following the opening speech, H.E. Dr. Mulu Nega, State Minister of MoSHE, made a keynote speech that mainly dealt with what is expected from the workshop.

During the afternoon session, participants were divided into two groups: one focusing on TVET and the other on Higher Education. The presenter of the second group, where SMU was a member, was Dereje Engida (PhD), President, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (ASTU).

In his presentation Dr. Dereje informed participants that the whole process of accreditation is planned to be completed in ten years, of which the first three years will be a pilot project on nine universities (eight public and one private). In the discussion session, different concerns were raised, including the time to launch the pi-

lot project and the criteria to select universities to be included in the pilot project.

Closing remarks were made by Dr. Samuel. He appreciated the dedication shown by participants and informed them that when the draft guideline (directive) is completed, few representatives will get together to finalize it.

SMU participates in drafting National Research Priorities documents

St. Mary's University took part in the drafting of Ethiopian National Research Priorities documents at a meeting held on 24 and 25 August 2021 at Bishoftu.

Prior to the actual task, HE Prof. Afwork Kassu, State Minister, MoSHE, made a keynote address. He made the purpose of the meeting clear to participants. Then participants were set up in eight groups to draft Ethiopian National Research Priorities documents on the following focus areas: Agriculture, Manufacturing, Mining, Tourism, ICT, Health, Education, and Peace and Diplomacy. Another team was set up to draft a National Research Strategy document.

Each team drafted a document and presented the output to the general gathering for comments

and feedback. After enriching comments were

and feedback. After enriching comments were given by participants, it was agreed to revise the documents in accordance with the feedback and submit the revised drafts to MoSHE. Professor Zerihun Woldu, who is coordinating the preparation of these documents, will make them ready for the National Stakeholders' Workshop scheduled to take place on Pagumen 1, 2013EC, it was disclosed.

In his closing remarks, Prof. Afework Kassu appreciated the output and the dedication shown by the task forces and reminded them to stay active in due course of the tasks ahead.

SMU visits and supports charity associations



The Gender and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office, SMU, in collaboration with the University's Girls' Club members visited *Muday* and *Yewodekutin Ansu* Charity Associations on July 01, 2021 and August 26, 2021, respectively. The visits were aimed at supporting the disadvantaged sections of the community who are being supported by the organizations.

The in-kind support to Muday Charity Associa-

tion included 75Kg of Macaroni, 50Kg of Rice, 10 cartons of Pasta, 10Kg of wheat flour, 20 liters liquid soap, and 1 liter of sanitizer. The University's management, students, staff, and Enku Design, a design company based in Addis, were participated in contributing cash to purchase the items.



The in-kind support to *Yewodekutin Ansu* included pasta, laundry and dish washing detergents and used clothes. Pooling resources from different sources, the Gender and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office and the Girls' Club purchased and donated 80 liters of washing detergent and five cartoons of Pasta.



Gender and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office extended its appreciation and thanks to all parties for the support made.



Tree planting held



St. Mary's University students and staff planted trees on the outskirts of Tefki, a small town, 40 Kms from Addis, on the 12th of August 2021. As part of the country-wide initiatives of re-greening the depleted forest land, citizens across the country are planting trees on open spaces to enable the future generation enjoy clean air and fresh water.



Organized by MoSHE and the Association for Private HE and TVET Institutions, the half-day tree-planting undertaking involved several private HEIs, which joined hands to reforest the plot of land allocated for the purpose.



SMU participates in annual research conference

St. Mary's University participated in the 1st Annual Research Conference of Universal Medical & Business College held on 1st August 2021 at Jupiter International Hotel. The major theme of the Conference was "Health Research for Sustainable Development".

Welcoming remarks were made by Ato Bekele Minda, President of the College. The President's speech focused on the importance of research in higher education. He noted that his college will continue organizing such a research event annually. Following the welcoming address, five papers were presented. Two-phase discussion sessions were conducted and important inputs were given to presenters.

Dr. Firehiwot Mesfin, Chairperson, Board of Directors of the College, made a closing speech.

strengthening research activities, including dissemination of results using such an event, and conducting internal research. She concluded her remarks by thanking paper presenters, modera-

St. Mary's University takes part in research conference

tors, organizers and participants.

St. Mary's University participated in the 3rd National Research Conference organized by Hope Enterprise's University College held on July 22, 2021 at the College's Campus, with a major theme, "The Impact of COVID-19 on Private Higher Education Institutions".

A welcoming speech was made by Terefe Feyera (PhD), President of Hope Enterprise's University College. In his speech, he mentioned the major challenges faced by Higher Education Institutions in Ethiopia including Hope Enterprise's University College, as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. The President mentioned the challenges and measures taken.

Following his speech, seven papers in the area of internationalization experience of Ethiopian higher learning institutions, the impact of COVID-19 on student performance and quality of education, TVET colleges, Online-marketing, and audit performance in Ethiopian Insurance companies were presented.

In her remarks, she underlined the need for Finally, Tilahun Abegaz, Chief Executive Director of Hope Enterprise's University College, made closing remarks.

Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia visits St. Mary's University

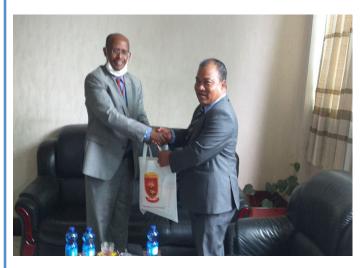


The Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia, his Excellency Mr Robert Shetkintong, paid a visit to St. Mary's University (SMU) on July 16, 2021.



The Founder and President of St. Mary's University, Wondwosen Tamrat (PhD, Associate Profesor), along a team of the Top Management, received and discussed with Mr Shetkintong on areas of further collaboration

Dr Wondwosen Tamrat, President of SMU, briefed the Ambassador about the long-standing partnership between SMU and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and appreciated the support provided by the Embassy to facilitate the delivery of IGNOU programs here in Ethiopia.



His Excellency Mr Shetkintong, after thorough deliberations with the SMU team, promised to improve the already established partnership with SMU in multiple ways. He mentioned some opportunities the Embassy will make available to support SMU's capacity building efforts and teaching-learning activities.



St. Mary's University takes part in validation workshop

St. Mary's University took part in a Validation Workshop held at Adama on July 16, 2021. The one-day workshop was organized to validate the draft proclamation which intends to reestablish the Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency (HERQA) as Higher Education Quality Commission.

The new proclamation is to replace the previous one, which was thought to have had limitations in ensuring HERQA's autonomy. This proclamation is believed to give it autonomy as it is to report to the House of People's Representatives, not to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education as has been the case to date.

Organized by HERQA, the workshop had participants from public and private universities.

SMU students and staff donate blood



St. Mary's University Gender and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office, in collaboration with Girls Club, facilitated a blood donation program from June 29 to July 02, 2021.



A total of 230 units blood was collected from students and staff. St. Mary's University extends its acknowledgement to the students and staff who made the donation, which will help save hundreds of lives.



St. Mary's University attends meeting

St. Mary's University participated in a half-day meeting organized by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Ethiopia, on July 1, 2021 at Sheraton Addis Hotel, Addis Ababa. The objective of the meeting was to launch a National Labor Market Information System (LMIS) developed by the Ministry.

In the opening ceremony, representatives from International Labor Organization (ILO), African Union Commission (AUC), and Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT) made speeches. Ergogie Tesfaye (PhD), Minister, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA), welcomed and thanked participants and highlighted the importance of the LMIS and the collaborative efforts in realizing the objectives of the National Digital Transformation Strategy. She also thanked partner organizations that contributed to the success of the project and invited concerned stakeholders to contribute their share toward the implementation of the system.

Following the Minister's remarks, Ato Dejene Bekele and Ato Tewodros Worku, both from MoLSA, gave detailed presentations on the national LMIS and its features.



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- የ ጂአርኢ ቴስት (GRE-Internet-Based Test)
- Praxis Exam
- P CISI Exams X9
- በትምህርት ምዘና መስክ የተለያዩ ሥልጠናዎችን በተመጣጣኝ ዋጋ ይሰጣል::

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St. Mary's University

Programs Offered

Undergraduate Degree Programs (Regular/Extension)

- Accounting & Finance
- Management
- Marketing Management
- Tourism & Hospitality Management
- Computing Science

Undergraduate Degree Programs (College of Open and Distance Learning)

- Accounting
- Management
- Marketing Management
- Financial Economics
- Rural Development
- Agricultural Extension
- **Agri-Business Management**
- Cooperative (Accounting & Auditing)
- Cooperative (Business Management)
- **Educational Planning & Management**
- Economics
- Sociology
- Public Administration and Development Management
- Agricultural Economics
- Banking and Finance
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Graduate Programs Offered in Partnership with Open University of Tanzania (OUT)

- Master of Project Management
- Master of Arts in International Cooperation & Development
- Master of Science in Economics
- Master of Human Resource Management

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- 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

Postgraduate Programs (Regular)

- MSc in Quality and Productivity Management
- MA in Social Work
- ▲ Master of Business Administration(MBA)
- MBA with HRM Concentration
- ▲ MSc. in Agricultural Economics

- MA in Marketing Management
- MA in Development Economics
- MSc. in Computer Science
- MA in Higher Education
- MA in Sociology

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

MBA in Impact Entrepreneurship

Graduate Programs Offered in Partnership with IGNOU (Distance)

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

SHORT TERM TRAINING

- Business. IT, and Education areas
- Certifide Quality Managere
- Certifide Quality Engenineer
- ◆ ISO90012015 Quality Management System
- ISO 31000:2015 Risk Management
- Supply Chain anagement
- Quality Professional
- ISO9001:2015 Auditor
- Quality and Productivity areas
- Entrepreneurship and more