

COVENANT UNIVERSITY'S FIRST CLASS GRADUATES DOMINATE PRESSID THIRD TIME RUNNING



National Universities Commission

Presidential Special Scholarship Scheme For Innovation And Development



For the third consecutive time, Covenant University has come tops again in the Presidential Special Scholarship Scheme for Innovation and Development (PRESSID).

The University produced 11 First Class graduates among the 102 successful candidates for the 2015/2016 academic session of the programme, as published by the National Universities Commission, and signed by the Chairman, PRESSID Implementation Committee, Professor Julius Okojie.

While announcing the cheery news to the faculty and staff at a meeting on Friday, April 17, 2015, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, said this has again validated the excellent academic programmes of the University. He added that the success has proved that the University is hinging closer to the realization of her vision to be listed among the 10 leading universities in the world by the year 2022.

It should be recalled that Covenant University came tops in the maiden edition of the Scheme in the 2013/2014 academic session and also produced 10 percent of the successful candidates in the 2014/2015 edition.

The breakdown of this year's result shows that the University produced 11 of the 102 successful candidates, representing 10.76 percent (approximately 11%). Also, the gender distribution shows that they were six males and five females.

A further breakdown by programme representation shows that Electrical/Electronics Engineering produced 4 candidates, ICT produced 2, Accounting, 1, Economics, 2 and Petroleum Engineering, 2.

The Federal Government of Nigeria instituted PRESSID as part of efforts to develop a critical mass of professionals who would serve as catalysts of change and agents of scientific and technological advancement, as well as sustainable economic development.

The Scheme sponsors selected first class graduates from any recognised and approved university in the country for postgraduate studies in the top 100 universities in the world.

TAKE WISE RISKS AND PROSPER

The importance of risk taking, for the survival of any business concern, was brought to the fore at the 2nd Town and Gown Interactive seminar series of the Department of Banking and Finance, Covenant University, when it hosted the Director, Association of Enterprise Risk Management, Mr. Olayinka Odutola as a Guest Speaker.

Presenting a paper on the topic 'Enterprise Risk Management in Financial Institutions,' Mr. Odutola said, "We all have risks to take at certain times in our lives, but we need to pray for the wisdom of God in order to make the best of decisions". According to him, all financial institutions must be adept in the issue of risk management because occasion will arise that will subject this knowledge to a test.

Speaking further, he said that risk taking could come in any form; it could be through the inadequacies of people, processes, systems or even external events such as market failures or government's instability, which could h a m per all the m a n a g e m e n t competencies at any given time.

Mr. Odutola was of the opinion that calculated risk taking



Director, Association of Enterprise Risk Management (Guest Speaker)

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CELEBRATING ENGLISH AND THE NIGERIAN SITUATION

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ovenant University joins the rest of the English speaking global community to mark the English Language Day. Since Nigeria's independence, English has continued to serve as Nigeria's first official language in terms of its functions, not only as a medium of social interactions among educated Nigerians from different ethnic groups, but also as the language of government, education, commerce and so forth.

However, the continual role of English as Nigeria's nativised language of social and business communication is a reflection of the inability of the Nigerian society to develop a national language, perhaps due to the complexity of adopting one language from among over 450 indigenous languages, most of which are in danger of total extinction within the next fifty years. Efforts on some pilot projects to evolve a neutral national language have so far been unfruitful (e.g. WAZOBIA). Thus, English is likely to remain a neutral language of Nigeria's social and economic life with a consistently rising profile.

Currently, an above-average pass in English is mandatory for admission to higher education in Nigeria; moreover, high communication skills in English are viewed as a reflection of high academic qualification. In other words, not being able to speak good English is equivalent to illiteracy. It is also true that the ability to speak the "near-native" variety of English holds a lot of promise, such as job placement, social recognition and privileges. This type of social ethos has its problems. For instance, an ongoing research has shown that the question, of which variety is native or "near-native," and which should be taught in school has not yet been answered. Consequently, Nigeria remains "a dumping ground" for all kinds of English "varieties" with the speakers of these varieties highly respected.

Nigerian English, as one of the



the level of phonology. In terms of standards, some Nigerian scholars have established the existence of standard and non-standard Nigerian English, which often vary on the basis of education, status and social exposure of the users.

As Nigeria joins the rest of the world to mark the English language day, we recognise the invaluable contribution of English in our social and cultural life. The cultural mediatory roles of English are highly commendable. However, given the global status of English as a world language, we could not have expected less. With the stiff competition for survival of Nigeria's indigenous languages vis-a-vis the socially assigned roles of English in Nigeria, we hope one day, to be able to celebrate with the rest of the world an "Igbo Language Day," a "Yoruba Language Day," or a "Hausa Language Day," among others.

TAKE WISE RISKS AND PROSPER

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could give a well-established financial institution advantage because a wise risk taker will use opportunities others are not seeing to gain advantage over them.

He, however, enjoined participants at the seminar to always take advantage of the wisdom of God in the Bible in whatever risk they want to engage in.

Illustrating with the biblical story of Queen Esther who fasted and prayed as a prelude to taking a risk that was tied with the death penalty, the guest speaker emphasized with a quote from John Augustus Shedd, 1928 "A ship is safe in a habour, but that is not what it was made for...," meaning that we need to get out of our comfort zones sometimes by taking the risk necessary to propel us forward in business and life.

In his remarks, the Head, Department of Banking and Finance, Dr. Ailemen Ikpefan, urged the students to make the most of the advice coming from an industry-experienced personality, Mr. Olayinka Odutola, when they go into the work environment.

Present at the seminar were CU's distinguished Professor of Banking and Finance, Professor J.A.T. Ojo, former Registrar of CU, Dr. J.N Taiwo and other members of the department.