



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University November 9-13, 2015

'The library is one of our highest investments' - Professor Ayo

The Vice-Chancellor of Covenant University, Professor Charles Ayo, stated that the University invests highly in library resources in order to boost the quality of education and research at the University. He made this known at the occasion of the 98th Bi-Annual Meeting of the Committee of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities (CULNU), hosted by the institution from November 2nd -3rd, 2015.

In his opening remarks, Professor Ayo, stated, "We all know the importance of the library to the education system. Our Library is one of the highest investment areas in our University; the Director of the Library is on top of his game and we have no regrets. It is no longer news that we have the intention of becoming one of the top ten universities in the world by the year 2022. To the glory of God, we have completed our own power plant which will be commissioned before the end of this year, that way, we have complete control of our power supply."

The Vice-Chancellor appreciated

the Director of the Centre for Learning Resources (CLR), Dr. Christopher Nkiko and his team for keeping the University Management on their toes. "The heart of quality teaching and research is the library; our Centre for Learning Resources is one of the major consumers of our revenue and we are committed to it. According to him, the available information from the Centre for Learning Resources states that there are presently about 131,465 books in print, 774,000 titles in electronic format, over 50,000 electronic journals, and about 2,498 in hard copies. Covenant University repository is ranked the best in Nigeria and in West Africa by the Cybermetrics. "We adopted mobile learning to enable our students learn anywhere, anytime," he concluded.

In his remarks, the Chairman, Committee of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities, Professor Innocent Ekoja, appreciated the Covenant University Management for hosting the Conference. He noted that



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Charles Ayo making his remarks

every CULNU meeting gives the organisation the opportunity to review performances in relationship with its core mandate, which is the pursuit of a better university library system, particularly, and a better university system, generally, in Nigeria. "In realising this mandate, however, we have a lot to learn from this University," he stated.

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English Students Exposed to 21st Century Job Opportunities

English students have been urged to expand their perspective and explore the possibilities available to them when seeking employment after graduation. The Chief Executive Officer, Stargate Insurance Limited, Lagos, Mrs. Joycelyn Ogbuokiri, gave the advice during a presentation titled, "Job Opportunities for 21st Century Graduates of English" at the Department of Languages & General Studies' Town & Gown interaction on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. The Linguist-turned-certified Insurance expert stressed that if the students have a good communication background, there is nothing they cannot do.

The Dean, Professor Charles Ogbulogo, in his welcome remarks, reminded students that from whatever angle they can impact their world, the mode of expression is language. "The

man of tomorrow is a man of ideas and ideas are always captured in words," he remarked, highlighting the magnitude of English language expertise.

Mrs Ogbuokiri opened her presentation by sharing her initial experience as a linguistics student, pondering the next chapter of her career. She had initially struggled, while completing her degree, with the question of what to do with a qualification in linguistics. She informed students that there are limitless job opportunities open to 21st century graduates of English. Mrs Ogbuokiri mentioned a number of career paths directly related to the study of English: various positions within the print media, positions on editorial boards, teaching and writing.

She encouraged the students to ponder the skills they have acquired

throughout the course of their studies as English students, reminding them of their sound oral and written communication strength. In addition, she reminded the students of their analytical and critical reasoning abilities developed throughout the course of their English programme, their ability to understand and articulate texts along with their ability to think creatively, and boldly articulate their relevance in the world.

Mrs Ogbuokiri stated that there are many different industries where skills acquired as an English student are highly sought and valued, including: marketing, public relations, advertising, telecommunications, banking, manufacturing and even health. She shared how she had initially started her career as a teacher prior to accepting a position as a front desk staff member of an insurance company. She then developed interest in

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CU Students Encouraged to Actualise the Full Importance of Mathematics

Mathematics is the gate and key of the sciences. Neglect of mathematics works injury to all knowledge, since he who is ignorant of it cannot know the other sciences or the things of this world." -Roger Bacon

This was the assertion of the Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Dr. Samson Babatunde Adebayo in his lecture titled, "Mathematics and Statistics: An Indispensable tool in NAFDAC" at the Town and Gown interaction, organised by the Department of Mathematics, Covenant University.

The guest speaker noted the relevance of mathematics in both private and public sectors, adding that mathematics has rapidly gained ground in actualising effective decisions. "For every decision to be executed, despite the sector, there must be elements of reliable, quality data that is easily accessible and can assist in

decision making, actualising the goals of both sectors. Every organisation needs data to succeed," he said.

Dr. Adebayo further enlightened the students on how mathematics serves as an indispensable tool in NAFDAC. He mentioned that it helps in providing a Mobile Authentication Service to generate random numbers for producers in Nigeria.

He urged the individuals present at the interactive seminar, to increase their background in mathematics in order to increase their competitive edge in any sector they find themselves. "Understanding basic business math is necessary for profitable operations and accurate record keeping because statistics play an important role in business. A successful businessman must be very quick and accurate in decision making," he remarked.

"Business ownership requires more than skill in creating a product, or talent

in providing a service. Overseeing the finances of your company is key to survival and success," he added.

Concluding his presentation, he told the students to gain experience outside the classroom because companies are looking for graduate students with powerful thinking and trouble-shooting capabilities - just the skills that are developed in mathematics and research programmes.

The Head of Department, Mathematics, Dr Alfred Owoloko, noted that the Town & Gown interaction was designed to help the students acquire relevant knowledge about the industry. He advised them to develop their skills and take advantage of the available training in the University in order to have industry experience after graduation.

Also in attendance were the former Head of Department, Mathematics, Professor S.A Iyase, Dr Sheila Bishop, Dr Timothy Anake, Dr Michael Agarana and other faculty, staff and students of the Department.

English Students Exposed to 21st Century Job Opportunities *Contd. from Pg 1*

insurance which later led to her being chartered as an insurer in 2003. In order to widen her scope in business management, Mrs Ogbuokiri completed an MBA. She encouraged the students to be willing to add to their knowledge by undertaking additional training.

She reminded the gathering that

we live in a 21st century global economy that has been transformed by the internet. "There are three types of skills in the 21st century workplace," she informed all in attendance. She referred to the first skill as "learning skills" or "critical thinking," which is to reason rather than act on emotion. It also

encompasses the ability to collaborate and communicate with others. The second category of skills was related to literacy. These include information literacy, media literacy and technology literacy. The final type of skills Mrs Ogbuokiri referred to were life skills: flexibility, initiative and social skills - an ability to accommodate people, productivity and leadership abilities. She emphasised the notion that employers want to work with people who have a variety of skills, with this in mind it is imperative for students to develop their skills in order to give them a competitive edge in the workplace.

Mrs Ogbuokiri stated that as a young person she grew up being told that the only way she could make it in Lagos was through men. "God proved people wrong," she stated. "Jesus is the only way to success. Don't sleep with people to get a job or promotion. God is the One who promotes," she advised those in attendance. The Head of Department, Languages & General Studies, Dr Samuel Owoeye, offered his gratitude to the guest speaker, describing the interaction as highly thought-provoking and robust.

Also in attendance were members of the Department of Languages & General Studies and the Department of Mass Communications as well as two members of the Directorate of Media and Corporate Affairs.

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He also said that it was gratifying to note that the Covenant University Centre for Learning Resources is actively supporting the institution in realising its core values of Spirituality, Possibility Mentality, Capacity Building, Integrity, Responsibility, Diligence and Sacrifice. "This," he said, "is evident from its building which is an edifice, as well as the fact that it is well resourced in terms of personnel and requisite materials."

Moreover, Professor Ekoja said, "The University's routine activities are fully computerised, together with a functional library which offers the members of its community 24/7 access to the Web Public Access Catalogue (WebPAC) and other electronic resources from any location in the world. The CLR of this University is certainly a leader in this regard in Nigeria." Professor Ekoga explained that most universities in Nigeria are facing challenges due to inadequate funding and this calls for more creative ways of running the libraries,

making them relevant to the objectives of their parent institutions, thereby meeting the expectations of the larger society.

The meeting featured presentations from distinguished personalities amongst whom were the keynote speaker and Dean, College of Leadership Development Studies, Professor Charles Ogbulogo; the Registrar, Pastor Olamide Olusegun; Registrar, Librarians Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN), Abuja, Dr. Victoria Okojie. Other distinguished personalities include the President of the Committee of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities, Dr. Rilwanu Abdulsalami and the Public Relations Officer, Professor Ahmed Balarabe.

Officials of CULNU earlier paid a courtesy call on the Covenant University Management and were received in the Vice-Chancellor's conference room.