



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University January 19-23, 2015

CU Hosts Carnegie African Diaspora Scholars



Vice-Chancellor, Prof C. K. Ayo, (4th right) with the Scholars of Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship

Covenant University, on January 19, 2015, welcomed two scholars of the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Programme, from the United States of America.

The scholars, Professor Tokunbo Ogunfunmi, a specialist in Electrical Engineering, from Santa Clara University, and Professor Peyibomi Soyinka-Airewele, a specialist in International and Comparative Politics, from Ithaca College, New York, were hosted at the Vice Chancellors' conference room in Canaan Land, Ota.

In his remarks at the event, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo,

appreciated them for coming to Covenant University, noting that their visit coincided with the institutions' vision "1 of 10-in-10."

The Vice Chancellor further stated, "We have our objectives clearly set, we have 8-point agenda that we are running with, and with your presence - particularly looking at one of the objectives, which is internationalization - we will make a lot of progress. We know in the ranking of Universities globally, there is need for an appreciable percentage of international scholars, as well as students, so we are working hard at it.

"On an annual basis, we have our

academic calendar run from August to December, for the first semester, and January to May, for the second semester, so that we have June and July to appoint a number of visiting scholars from abroad, to interact with our faculty, organize conferences and collaborate in the area of research," he emphasized.

In her remarks, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Taiwo Abioye, appreciated the duo for accepting to mentor the Covenant University faculty. She stated that the University Management was glad that its 'handshake,' as it were, was accepted by the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Programme.

She reiterated, "We are happy to have you and we are expecting wonderful results; and would all be here to celebrate your contributions."

While making his remarks, the Registrar, Dr. Olumuyiwa Oludayo, stated, "On behalf of the University, I would like to welcome you to Covenant University, trusting that your arrival here would give us a quantum leap towards realising our significant goals, one of which is to have become one of the best ten universities in the world by 2022. We see partnerships in this University as being very vital to achieving set targets. I want to believe that Covenant University is a good platform to discharge some of your abilities and competences as well as give back to Nigeria, having been in the United States for so long."

In her remarks at the event, the Director of International Office and Linkages, Dr. Angela

Contd. on Pg 2

● Covenant University hosts Fulbright Scholar, Professor C. Nana Derby

Professor C. Nana Derby is one of the Fulbright Scholars currently hosted by Covenant University. An Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, she teaches Criminal Justice at her home University, Virginia State University, USA.

Since her arrival at Covenant University, she has fully integrated herself into the system and bought into the Vision.

Her research interest in "human trafficking" with special focus on "child domestic servitude" partly led her to apply for the Fulbright Scholar Award with the intention of understanding child domestic servitude, as it exists in Nigeria.

According to her, Nigeria is ranked "Tier 1" by the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which according to this ranking, means that the government is implementing

policies that protect children and make sure that trafficking is not an easy crime. She said her goal "is to determine what Nigeria is doing that is different from other West African Countries," which earned this country that ranking.

Professor Nana Derby shared her experience so far in Covenant University. "I am privileged to have the opportunity to experience spirituality in the academia. You don't get that in so many environments. Although there are many religious based universities in the US, the intensity of spirituality here is on a different scale."

She scored the University "A" in many areas including: integration, security, and mentoring, among others. "Integration: for me, I will score the University an 'A' because you can see conformity to the University culture. You see students so

professionally dressed. I haven't been to any university where you see students so professionally dressed. It's impressive.

"The University is secure. The University is in a world of its own. You get out of Canaan Land (the University Campus) and you see real African traditions, but in here, it's a whole different ball game.

"The first week, my observation was awesome, where at the end of the Semester, faculty at the Department level met and looked at the exam scores to see who was not doing well, questioned what efforts were made in the course of the semester to assist the students, and to make arrangements to contact the students to advise them. This information goes to the college and university levels. You do not get this institutional tradition of mentoring and advising in a lot of institutions. Once the student is failing, it's up to them to sit up. On that scale, Covenant

Contd. on Pg 2

Covenant University hosts Fulbright Scholar, Prof. C. Nana Derby *Contd. from Pg 1*

University earns my 'A'."

On what she hoped to have achieved before August 2015, when she would have completed her fellowship, Professor Nana said she hopes to impact Covenant University at both personal and academic levels and expected the University to do the same on her. She would also work toward establishing a long-term relationship between her University and Covenant University.

"I hope to make an impact on the University and the University on me. For instance, on Spirituality, maybe I will be more open to charismatic worshipping.

"Academically, I hope to have accomplished more research than before. I am collaborating with so many of the faculty on different projects. I'm impressed with various Research Clusters at the Covenant University and particularly commend the leader and other group members of the Cluster on Breast Cancer for the awesome work they are doing on breast and cervical



Professor C. Nana Derby

cancer.

"Beyond that, I anticipate that my stay here is not going to end in August when I leave, but I will be able to work with the George H. Bennett Office of International Education at VSU to establish a long-term linkage with Covenant University.

"For instance, prior to my coming here, I spoke informally with the Dean of the

College of Engineering at VSU and he was so excited about the probability of coming here to see what he could do with CU. So, in the short-term, I want to see what I can do to complete a lot of projects and in the long-term, I want to see CU become a part of the institutions the VSU has long-term relationships with," she explained.

Originally from Ghana, Nana Derby obtained her First degree (B.A. Hons.) in Sociology at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana and her Masters as well as Ph.D. in Comparative Sociology at Florida International University, USA. In 2005, she joined Virginia State University where she rose to the level of Associate Professor in 2010.

Professor Nana Derby is a member of many professional associations, which include the Virginia Social Science Association, where she served as the President, Vice President, Local Arrangements Committee Chair; and Newsletter Editor. She is also the Managing Editor of the Journal of Ethnographic and Qualitative Research and Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Behavioral and Social Sciences. She is an author and award winner.

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Contd. from Pg 1

Eni, said, "We are very pleased to have both of you. We strongly believe in outstanding Nigerians who are out there, coming home to contribute to what is being done at home to build this nation."

In her response, Professor Peyibomi Soyinka-Airewele, stated "I cannot adequately express how much I appreciate the opportunity to deepen the relationship between Ithaca College and Covenant University. We will be working on Strategic Studies and Policy programme with the Postgraduate students. We are hoping to produce a very innovative and ground-breaking programme that is really at the edge of what the Continent needs in terms of producing students who have developed the capacities and the skill sets to cope with a very difficult security situation in our world today."

Professor Soyinka-Airewele elaborated, "I have the opportunity to teach some of the students and also to work with the Department in transforming the programme. I really appreciate this opportunity. It is a mutually beneficial one and our University has benefited from working with Covenant University. It is a model and an example of what top institutions in Africa are going to look like."

In his comments, Professor Tokunbo Ogunfunmi, stated, "I am here with two main objectives: one is to fashion a new curriculum and the second objective is to mentor the Postgraduate students. I also want to thank you for the brilliant environment you have here. It is very unique and serene; I think other Universities should imbibe it."

Others at the event were the immediate past Director of International Office & Linkages, Dr. Sheriff Folarin; the Director, Media and Corporate Affairs, Dr. Lanre Amodu and other members of the directorate.

Department of Sociology Holds Seminar

Students of the Department of Sociology, Covenant University, have been urged to add value to their world, because qualification does not guarantee success, but the value one adds.

This advice was given by Mr. Wilson Akanbi, the Managing Director of a fast growing Juice Company in Nigeria, Akanbi Ventures Limited, in his presentation titled, "Think Big, Start Small" at a departmental seminar on Friday, January 16, 2015.

According to him, education is learning how to set goals by creating a plan. He observed that there are many opportunities in Nigeria, but the problem with Nigerians is that they cannot identify them. Mr. Akanbi also encouraged the students to develop interpersonal skills and should not be engrossed with making money.

Akanbi stated that not everyone is destined to be an entrepreneur and one is not paid for efforts but results. "Entrepreneurship is not about great ideas, but execution of those ideas. Don't look for security, look for

opportunities," he advised.

In another presentation titled, "Career Prospects in Sociology," Dr. D. Imhonophi, a lecturer in the Department of Sociology, stated that Sociology is the queen of social sciences because of its diversity and social relevance.

He highlighted Criminology, Population and Demography, Sociology of Youth, Sociology of Education, Sociology of Art, Sociology of Entrepreneurship, Sociology of Music, Sociology of Law, Mass Communication Sociology, among others, as areas in the field that students can specialize in. He added that professional opportunities in the field include lecturing, social researching, banking and criminology, among others.

Dr. Imhonophi urged the students to identify their visions in life and be ready to compete with others, contribute, and develop skills, among which are driving and communication skill.

The Head, Department of Sociology and Chief Host, Dr. Tayo George, stated that the purpose of the programme was to rub minds with individuals who were making impacts in the industries.

In attendance at the programme were lecturers and students of the Department of Sociology.



Participant at Seminar