



Covenant University Newsflash

A daily update of News and Events in Covenant University March 16-20, 2015

Chancellor Receives Faculty from Diaspora

The Chancellor, Covenant University, Dr. David Oyedepo, has described the University's achievement and drive for change in the educational sector as a revolution.

Dr. Oyedepo declared this recently in his office while addressing the faculty from the Diaspora led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo and other members of the Management who paid him a courtesy call.

"Take the message of Covenant University's effort of driving change around the world to your colleagues who also share in this dream. Tell them a revolution is taking place in Ota", he charged them.

The Chancellor told the new faculty who were made up of Senior Fulbright and Carnegie Scholars not to let their commitment towards building a

new Africa be limited to their stay on the fellowship programme. He decried the low self-esteem of Africans that had eroded their dignity and encouraged the scholars to uphold the concept of dignity and equality of every man. He also told them to confront conventional ways of thinking and ensure they deliver products as proofs.

The Chancellor assured them of a fruitful and productive time in Covenant University, adding that they were relevant to the University's



The Chancellor, Dr. David Oyedepo (centre) with Management team and Faculty from diaspora

drive for change.

Earlier in his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, emphasized that Covenant University was poised to attract renowned faculty from all over the world to join the army of change agents in the University in order to rewrite the history of education in Nigeria.

He explained that the system of attracting distinguished faculty from Diaspora was key to attaining a World Class status. He said further that, over the years, the University had attracted visiting faculty from universities of repute from all over the world, who visited during the Summer Semester to facilitate short conferences, seminars and workshops.

The Vice-Chancellor also noted that the visiting faculty participate in teaching and supervising postgraduate students. "This approach", according to him, "has helped to improve the quality of educational offering to the students through broader perspectives brought on board during the interactions."

The University is currently hosting two Senior Fulbright Scholars, Professor Samuel Olorunto and Professor Nana Derby; two Carnegie Foundation Scholars, Professor Tokunbo Ogunfunmi and Professor Peyi Soyinka-Airewele; and four other full time faculty, Dr. Adunola Oke, Dr. Joshua Alabi and Dr. Funminiyi Olajide from United Kingdom, and Dr. Samuel Okposin from Australia.

Also at the meeting were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Taiwo Abioye and Registrar, Dr. Olumuyiwa Oludayo.

Dr. Usikalu Wins Elsevier Foundation Award

Dr. Mojisola Usikalu is one of the young faculty at Covenant University with many achievements. Award winning has become her second nature even as she was recently named among five winner of the 2015 Elsevier Foundation Award for Women Scientists in the Developing World.

The Elsevier Foundation provides grants to institutions around the world, focusing on support for world libraries and for scholars in the early stages of their careers.

Dr. Usikalu, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Physics in the University, specialises in Radiation and Health Physics. She received the Elsevier Foundation award for research on how radiation affects health, finding that exposure to microwave radiation, for example, can increase anxiety and reduce sperm counts in animals.

Just like other entries from around the world, Dr. Usikalu submitted 19 papers



DR. MOJISOLA USIKALU

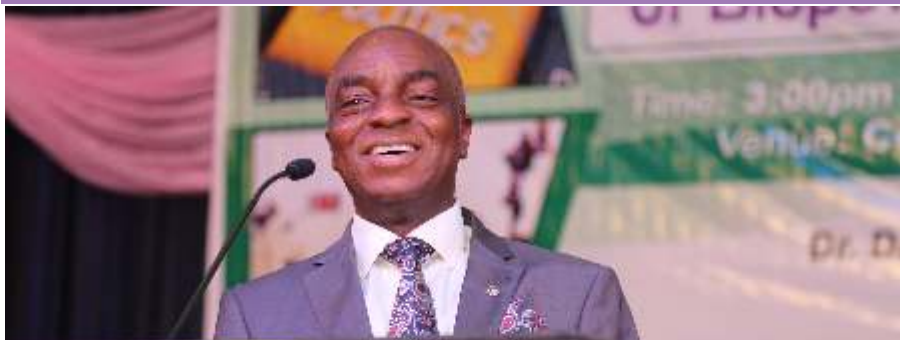
(her first 10 and nine others) and trusted God for the best. She was not disappointed as her papers met all the criteria of excellence, exposure, collaboration, good citation and researcher's productivity.

She attributed her success in the Awards to "Divine Favour", considering her selection as one of the five, out of thousands of entries from Women in Physics and Mathematics from the developing world. "It's just the God factor. It's just the hand of God and not hard work alone", she explained.

She sees the award as an

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2015 Election: Dr. Oyedepo Calls for Peace



The Chancellor, Covenant University, Dr. David Oyedepo

The Chancellor, Covenant University, Dr. David Oyedepo, has called for peace in the forthcoming general elections in the Country.

He made the call on Friday, March 13, 2015, while speaking at the University's 40th Public Lecture titled "The End of Politics? Reclaiming Humanity in the Age of Biopower and Necropolitics", delivered by Professor Peyi Soyinka-Airewele, at the University campus.

Professor Peyi Soyinka-Airewele is a professor of International Relations and Comparative Studies and a Carnegie Fellow at the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Covenant University.

The Chancellor advised that the citizens should not only pray for peace but also work at peace. "When you have opportunity to discuss with people, discuss peace and not violence. Please let's be peacemakers indeed at the grassroots and this election will be a most exciting and adventurous for us", he appealed.

Dr. Oyedepo also noted that no meaningful development takes place in any nation in the midst of crisis. He added that the responsibility of every citizen was far beyond political differences but most importantly to secure peace.

The Chancellor, who is also the Chairman, Board of Regents of the University, also called for home grown solutions to Nigerian problems, noting that the Country has more than enough to solve its problem. "No nation is coming to solve our problems for us. Nigeria has more than enough to solve her problems. The future of a nation is not in the hands of the leaders, it is in the hands of responsible citizens. By the time we all take our citizenship as a responsibility, it will become easy for us to find solutions", he advised.

He appreciated the Lecturer for exposing the problems of Nigeria and

proffering solutions. He also congratulated the University for providing the platform for such a robust intellectual discuss.

Professor Soyinka-Airewele exposed in her lecture the depth at which Biopower and Necropolitics played out across the world, particularly in Nigeria, and how they affected the nation's sociopolitical and religious wellbeing.

She referred to Biopower as the sovereign exercise of power to determine who may live and who must die. "It separate people into categories and sub categories, establishing boundaries between some and other, which is the condition for the acceptability of putting to death," she said.

While borrowing from medical terms, she described Necropolitics as "that lethal festering political power spawned of colonialism and constituted as the construct of distinction between European State, and those 'parts of the globe' perceived to be available for European appropriation".

She also spoke in some depth about religious politics, the Organization of Islamic Corporation and Sharia in Nigeria, because, according to her, "This is not merely about politics, it is a real and escalating dilemma that continues to destroy the lives and wellbeing of millions of Nigerians".

Other dignitaries at the lecture included Senate members of Covenant University, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Deputy Chairman of the National Conference, Professor Bolaji Akinyemi; Ogun State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Olaokun Soyinka; Presidential candidate, KOWA Party, Professor (Mrs.) Sonaiya and the Lecturer's family members and other well wishers.

Dr. Usikalu Wins Elsevier Foundation Award

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encouragement and reward. According to her, this means "People are watching and they still reward hard work."

Dr. Mojisola Usikalu graduated from Federal University of Technology Akure with B.Tech Degree in Physics and M.Tech Degree in Radiation and Health Physics in 2001 and 2005 respectively. She earned a Ph.D from Covenant University, Ota in 2010. Usikalu is a corporate member of the Nigerian Institute of Physics and Radiation Research Society.

She is a recipient of some awards/scholarships including IUPAP 2010 travel grant and TWOWS 2007-2010 postgraduate award tenable in the Institute of Modern Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou, China. Recently, she received TWAS-UNESCO Associateship Award tenable at iThemba Labs, South Africa and International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste Italy Junior Associate Award, among others.

FACULTY/STAFF BIRTHDAY

March 15-20, 2015

15-March

Mrs Agunbiade Julianah Adeyemi
Nursing Officer 1, Health Centre

16-March

Mrs Olanrewaju Osasumwen Faith
Assistant Lecturer
Political Science and International
Relations Department

16-March

Dr Sholarin Adeniyi Muyiwa
Lecturer 2, Psychology Department

19-March

Mr Olowononi Felix Opeyemi
Assistant Lecturer
Elect. and Information Engineering Department

20-March

Mrs Obajowo Modupe Florence
Prin. Nursing Officer 2, Health Centre

20-March

Dr Mordi Raphael
Senior Lecturer, Chemistry Department

21-March

Prof Awosope Claudius Ojo
Elect. and Information Engineering Department