



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University March 14-18, 2016

Chancellor Tasks PhD Students on Innovations, To Fund Research



Dr. David Oyedepo

Young PhD graduates of Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, have been given what perhaps could be the biggest challenge of their academic career, with the Chancellor of the University, Dr. David Oyedepo, urging

them to come up with innovations that can solve some of the myriad of problems plaguing the society.

The Chancellor, who laid down the gauntlet at a meeting with the young PhDs, promised to make funds available to them to identify problems and find solutions.

While attributing current challenges faced by Nigeria to lack of capacity to get jobs done, Dr. Oyedepo lamented a situation whereby PhD holders, who should be finding solutions to problems, seem to lack the thinking capacity.

"I have come to provoke your potential," he said. "There is more inside you than the earned certificate. If

you cannot think out solutions to problems, your PhD is a complete waste.

"When we say Doctor of Philosophy, we are saying master of thinkers; someone committed to finding solution to life's problems. And until our learning translates to thinking, our PhD is zero.

"There is no make-up PhD at Covenant University. The first PhD here won a Microsoft award, one out of six in the entire world. That has not excused us from a lifelong demand of being a thinker.

"All that we have done going through the rigour of PhD is to ignite our thinking capacity. It's so important that we have what it takes to recreate our country and the world. What it takes is to make thinking our career." ■

CU Urges New Faculty, Non-Teaching Staff to Imbibe Core Values

Emphasis was laid on the importance of Spirituality as the management of Covenant University admonished new Faculty and Non-Teaching Staff on the imperative of embracing all the Core Values of the University at an orientation programme held on Tuesday March 15, 2016 inside the amphitheater of the African Leadership Development Centre within the school's premises.

Welcoming the new academic and non-academic staff to the University, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, who highlighted the pride of place that Spirituality occupies among the core values of the University, urged them to see their presence in the institution as an opportunity to contribute their quota to the school's ambition of being among the Top 10 universities in the world by year 2022.

"Spirituality", he said, "is a major determinant of students admission and staff employment, and the vision of spirituality is driven by the faculty, the staff and the students."

Other core values of Covenant University emphasised at the orientation with the theme 'Innovation, Product Development and Nation Building' include Possibility Mentality, Capacity Building, Responsibility, Integrity, Diligence, Discipline and Sacrifice.

The Vice-Chancellor, in his presentation, which centres around the Vision 10: 2022, said, "The uniqueness of

the University as the best private university in Nigeria, most preferred private university by aspiring undergraduates, pioneer of entrepreneurship study and prime mover for abolition of the Pass Degree, has continued to attract students, teaching and non-teaching staff to the school".

The 47 new employees were at the conclusion of the presentations taken on a guided tour of facilities and infrastructure at the university. ■



Facilitators and participants at CST College Seminar for PG Students

Students Sensitised On Benefits of Writing for Reputable Journals

Getting well researched articles published in reputable journals, would be of immense benefits both to the students and their institution, according to Dr. Olawande Daramola, the Director of Academic Planning Unit, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State.

Daramola, an Associate Professor at the Department of Computer and Information Sciences, made the submission at the recent seminar held by the College of Science and Technology to prepare Post-Graduate students of the College for greater exploits in paper writing and the

importance of viable research endeavours.

The Director, in his presentation titled, 'Writing Research Articles for Publication in High Impact Journals,' said that, "Being published in high repute journals hold the benefits of building scholars' reputation, opening doors for them for fellowships, collaborations, grants, awards and consultancy. It also ensures good career progression and prospects in terms of positions and jobs, which culminates in their published works defining their identities".

Such publications, he added, also serve to enhance the reputation of the institution where the scholars work, giving it the leverage to attract better students, funding opportunities, collaborations, industry partnerships and generally affect the ranking of the institution.

Also speaking at the event, Dr. Christopher Nkiko, the Director, Centre for Learning Resources, whose presentation was titled, "Sourcing for Relevant Literature and Identifying High-Impact Outlets for Publication (Journals and Conferences)", pointed out that Information Communication Technology (ICT) has revolutionized the book

The Dos and Don'ts of Real Estate Practice in Nigeria

The Managing Partner, Broll Property Services, Esv. Omotosho Olayinka has enlightened Estate Management students of Covenant University on the ethics of Real Estate profession and other numerous opportunities in the profession.

He informed the students during his presentation at a recent Town & Gown Seminar of the Department of Estate Management, titled, 'The Dos and Don'ts of Real Estate Practice in Nigeria,' He explained that the industry is currently controlled by quacks making the profession lose credibility due to unethical practice in its service delivery.

The guest speaker gave an overview of the profession stating that Estate Surveyors and Valuers, lease, manage, value, buy and sell residential, rural, commercial and industrial property or business on behalf of clients. Esv. Olayinka highlighted the numerous opportunities in the industry. In his words, "Working in the Real Estate profession offers opportunity to meet wide range of individuals and it takes a special person to work in the industry. One should be prepared to comply with the high ethical standards".

Educating the students on the ethical practices in the profession, he

said, "Continuous learning attitude, staying in tune with the professional body, acting with integrity, at all times, openness and transparency, acting within ones limits, objectivity at all times, treating others with respect, setting good example and courage to take a stand", are what makes a good professional.

The Guest Speaker urged the students to desist from the don'ts of the profession that includes representing both the buyer and the seller in the same real estate transaction, charging special per transaction fee to clients in addition to commission, regular cost of service amongst others. ■

Expert Urges Accounting Students to Embrace Tax Consultancy

Prospective graduates of Accounting willing to take taxation as a profession have been encouraged to do so as "tax is the future".

Speaking at the recent Town and Gown Seminar of the Department of Accounting at the Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, the Facilitator, Mr. Olufela Sokenu, the Chief Executive at the accounting firm, Olufela Sokenu and Associates, said economic meltdown is forcing governments to explore the tax option in revenue drive and as such, open huge window of opportunities for tax professionals.

Sokenu, whose presentation titled, 'Tax Audit and Investigation: Legal and Practical Perspectives', threw up a number of issues that generated debates at the seminar, said modern governments need

money and how they get it is a difficult issue.

In what apparently suggests an allusion to double taxation, he said: "In today's economy, tax is supposed to be in proportion to what you are earning, but it's no longer so, they take more from people. However, you need to know when and how much you are paying is not subjected to the whims and caprices of government.

Mr. Sokenu described Tax Audit as an examination of an individual's tax report by a relevant tax authority, whether Federal, State or Local, to ascertain compliance with applicable tax laws. He explained that the reasons for tax audit include, "the payer is always unwilling to pay or underpay because it is an encumbrance; to assist

government to collect appropriate tax revenues; and to ensure that amount due are collected and remitted".

Speaking on the Legal Perspectives, the Chartered Accountant said its efficiency and effectiveness depend on the scope and power, which entails appropriate regime of laws to penalize defaulters and a legal framework to protect tax payers and tax administrators.

Head of the Accounting Department, Uwalomwa Uwuigbe, an Associate Professor, expressed satisfaction that the facilitator of the seminar had done justice to the topic. He echoed Sokenu's submission that tax is the way to go.

"We can no longer go the way we used to go, we have to diversify. Definitely there would be resistance, but we must constantly reinvent ourselves," said Uwuigbe. ■

Students Sensitised On Benefits of Writing for Reputable Journals

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publishing industry with the emergence of the electronic books and journals

He explained that an ever-increasing proportion of the library's budget is spent on e-resources, which include subject databases, full-text, e-journals and e-books, reference materials and archival back-sets of journals.

E-books and journals, said Dr. Nikko, "have provided robust virtual library platform, leveraging best practices and international standards as well as ensuring internationalization of knowledge, thereby, meeting the expectations of 21st Century library users".

Computer Science Student Wins Treasure Hunt Competition

Dokubo Deipriye, a 400 Level student of Computer Science, has emerged winner of the Treasure Hunt competition held to commemorate the College Week of Engineering and Science and Technology of Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State.

The three-day event, according to Forward Incorporated, organisers of the

event, was designed to test and enhance the intelligence, teamwork and ingenuity of participants.

"The event was aimed at giving the participants a feeling of adventure and making them work together as a team even while having fun," said Daniel Ojinaka, a 300 Level student of Electrical Engineering and the founder of Forward Incorporated.

"The treasure hunt requires the participants to be involved in aptitude tests, projects, mental reasoning and physical alertness exercises," he added.

Not less than 70 students took part in the treasure hunt competition, which featured five main events, and the basis of advancing in the competition was through the accumulation of points either as a team or as an individual. ■

The Dean of College of Science and Technology, Prof. Nicholas Omoregbe, in his remarks, lauded the instructors and urged the post-graduate students to make the most of the information received in order to maximize their publication experience. ■