



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University April 4-8, 2016

## Vice-Chancellor Meets Young Professionals, Expresses Confidence in Nigerian Youths

The Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor Charles Ayo, has expressed confidence in Nigerian youths to take over the mantle of leadership in the nearest future and rescue the nation from its present economic and political doldrums.

Professor Ayo made this known while addressing the leadership of the Nigerian Young Professionals Forum (NYPF), led by its Chairman and Founder, Mr. Moses Siasia, who paid him a courtesy call in his office on Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

The Vice-Chancellor had initially showed concern for Nigerian youths as a result of lack of access to tertiary education, unemployment, insecurity and other social vices affecting the political and economic state of the country but noted that groups like NYPF has erased the bleak future of Nigerian youths from his mind.

"If they have not been here," he said, "I wouldn't have known that we have these crème of young talented individuals that are working silently to transform this nation. With their presence here today, I am seeing a brighter future and a great Nigeria."

The highly elated Vice-Chancellor also stated that the University was ready to partner with the NYPF to train and produce young entrepreneurs and leaders who would transform the nation. "Until what we teach in the classroom is able to transform the abundant natural and human resources that we have in the country, with little or no importation from anywhere, we are yet to start.

The Chairman and Founder of NYPF, Mr. Moses Siasia, had earlier briefed the Vice-Chancellor and other members of the University's management team about the objectives of the Forum, noting that the country had not been able to tap up to 5% of the youthful resource in the nation.

"The Nigerian Young Professionals Forum is made up of young and dynamic entrepreneurs from their various sphere of



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles K. Ayo with the leadership of Nigerian Young Professional Forum

profession, coming together to form a common frontier for the collective growth of our country.

"Our country has not been able to tap up to 5% of our youthful resource and that's why we have the issues we are having in our country today. But the NYPF is the platform to give young people the opportunity to achieve their various

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## EDS Day: Young Entrepreneurs Advised to Grow Ideas

Young and potential entrepreneurs at Covenant University have been advised not to despise their little idea as it may grow to multinational organisations in the future if well managed. The Sub-Dean, College of Business and Social Sciences of the University, Dr. Oluwole Iyiola, gave the advice in a keynote address at the Entrepreneurial Development Studies (EDS) Day recently.

Dr. Iyiola, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, noted that EDS is a vital part of the development in the world. He stated that some multinational organisations started as little idea from the classroom. "Do not despise your little idea, you may be sitting on a keg of gold," he added.

EDS, according to him, would make them employers of labour if they pay attention to what they are taught.

Also speaking at the event, a Guest speaker, Mr. Olawale Lawal, advised the audience, made up of students, to start business early, noting that the earlier they start, the earlier they figure out some of the challenges and failures.

Lawal, who is a graduate of ICT Class 2010 of Covenant University, is also a Managing Partner and co-founder of Dabs.com.ng (an online fashion store). He stated that, "I will also advise anyone to embrace their failure because it is their failure that will make them at the end of the day."

Another Guest speaker, Mr. Seun Owolabi, who is also a graduate of Computer

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## Covenant University to Host All Nigerian Universities Debating Championship



CU Management with officials of ANUDC in a group photograph

Towards the preparation for the successful hosting of the 4th edition of All Nigerian Universities Debating Championship (ANUDC), the Council of ANUDC on Friday, April 1, 2016 paid a courtesy and inspection visit to Covenant University's management and the Local Organising Committee (LOC).

The President of the Council, Dr. Ndubuisi Osuagwu, explained that the purpose of the visit was to ascertain the readiness of the University to host the event and offer advice where necessary. "Our presence here," he noted, "is to look at your facilities, offer you advice where we can and

make other suggestions that would make the 4th edition the best in the series, because we want every year to be an improvement upon whatever

standard we had achieved."

Dr. Osuagwu also explained the idea behind the formation of ANUDC four years ago, noting that the idea was to spread debating and culture of debating across Nigerian universities because of its importance. "It will teach the younger ones the values of speaking and listening to others. That is one of the ingredients in our discussions.

"If we don't discuss, we will fight, and if we fight, there will be violence. The future of our country and our society

*Contd. on Pg 2*

## Explore Career Opportunities in Oil Industry, Expert Charges Budding Petroleum Engineers

An oil industry expert, Dr. David Agiddi, has urged students of Petroleum Engineering at Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, to equip themselves with the right mix of education in order to take advantage of the numerous opportunities in the oil and gas industry.

Agiddi, a Senior Asset Manager at Seven Sea Energy Nigeria Limited, who was Guest Speaker at the Town and Gown seminar of the Department of Petroleum Engineering held on Tuesday, said with the uninterrupted progression in global energy consumption, expansion in oil production and exploration and wide scope of jobs available in the industry, prospective graduates of Petroleum Engineering should be able to fashion out careers for themselves.

He enumerated the four major industry players who offer job opportunities. First, he said, is the National Company, which has the

Upstream and the Downstream sectors, ventures, vessels among others where graduates can get engaged in different roles. Next, according to him, is the International Oil Companies, which are usually segmented and have refining companies.

There are also Independent Oil Companies like Conoil and Seplat, which are focused on the upstream business, including Service Companies that provide service to all the other companies, Dr. Agiddi added.

"Again, we have the Research Institutes and the Universities that will keep supplying the manpower to these major players," he explained. "With the right mix of education, you can plug yourself in one of those companies.

"Geologists, Production Engineers and other support disciplines like Data Management and Surveillance are jobs that exist in the

industry.

"Open your minds to new challenges in the industry and you'll have a fulfilled career. There is a lot of money involved. It gives you opportunity to meet like minds since challenges in the oil industry are not peculiar to Nigeria." ■

## EDS Day: Young Entrepreneurs Advised to Grow Ideas *Contd. from Pg 1*

Science, class 2012 of Covenant University and owner of Grapple-Line Limited, noted that anyone can be an entrepreneur. "People think it's far from them to be an entrepreneur but the fact is that anybody can be an entrepreneur. It is just deciding what to do and sticking to that decision," he explained.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Director, Covenant University Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies (CEDs), Dr. Omotayo Adegbuyi, said that the University pioneered the study of entrepreneurship in the country and has produced over 10, 000 graduates, some of whom are doing well in their own business. "Today, we want to celebrate the success of our graduates and undergraduates who are doing well in business," he stated.

The highlight of the one-day event was the award to three outstanding student entrepreneurs. The Best Student Entrepreneur Award went to Mr. Nwune Ifeanyi; Mr. Omole Olayinka was awarded the First Runner-up while Mr. Fifoluwa Adebakin won the Second Runner-up award.

There was also exhibition of products by students and invited organisations as well as drama piece by Joel Company from Faith Tabernacle, Canaan Land, to further encourage the students to become entrepreneurs. ■

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*Contd. from Pg 1*

would necessarily depend on our ability to cultivate the culture and tradition of exchanging views without fighting, and we have to start from the youths in Nigeria," he said.

While responding, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, noted that being able to communicate convincingly is a unique feature to be cultivated by anyone who aspires to leadership position. "In Covenant University, we are raising new generation of leaders. You cannot help but be able to communicate convincingly, which is a very unique attribute of leadership," he added.

The Vice-Chancellor was delighted that Covenant University would host the event and promised that the University would continue to be an active member of what the Council stands for. That, according to him, is one way the quality of education can be improved. ■

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*Contd. from Pg 1*

aspirations in life," he stated.

Mr. Siasia also noted that the group would not have gained its present status without the contributions of Covenant University Alumni members.

"The NYPF Vision would not have gone this far without the proper support of

the breed of Alumni from this University, because their input towards our objectives and aspirations has enabled us to receive these levels of achievement. We are very thankful to this University for setting this standard for production of real leaders that we need in our society. ■

## Chemical Engineering Students Encouraged to Focus on Innovation Based Technology

The students of Chemical Engineering Department of Covenant University have been told that transformation into high value-added products for economic growth is a key investment driver for Nigeria, which is a country endowed with a unique blend of diverse and abundant natural resources such as petroleum, gas, minerals (bauxite, coal, limestone, etc) and agriculture.

This was stated by the Guest Speaker, Professor Adesoji Adesina, at a recent Town and Gown seminar of the department where he gave a lecture with the topic, 'University-Industry Relationship as a Driver of Innovation-Based Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Economic Development.'

Professor Adesina, who was a former Professor, School of Chemical

Engineering, University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW, Australia and currently the CEO, Atodatech LLC, a private Engineering Company in Pasadena, California, USA, stated that longitudinal economic growth data revealed strong positive correlation with labour and capital and negatively correlated with research and development as well as innovation. However, he said, single resource-dependency is unsustainable.

He postulated that modern era is a knowledge-based economy migrating into sustainable development, controlled by technology, innovation, management and entrepreneurship. Professor Adesina emphasised sustainability as being the nexus of innovation. ■