



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University April 17-21, 2017

## Apply Basic Skills in Students Counselling, Professor Alao Urges Varsity Personnel



Professor Amos Alao

Personnel, who interact with students in the University setting on a regular basis, especially when they engage in mini helping relationship, must be imbued with attending and listening skills, a senior faculty at the Department of Psychology, College of

Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Professor Amos Alao, has advocated.

It is pertinent, he noted, that the attending and listening skills, which are the basic skills that must be used during the entire helping process, are understood by the helper. The goal of attending is to communicate to the client that the helper is paying attention, while listening skills means placing yourself in such a way to avoid noises, views, people or anyone who can distract you from listening, he added.

Speaking at the 9th Inaugural Lecture of Covenant University, held on Thursday, April 13, 2017, where he spoke on the topic, 'Can Two Walk Together except They Agree? A psychological perspective of a journey of a helping relationship and behaviour change', the Professor of Counselling, among other recommendations, said that Universities must

expose their graduates to more practical skills/experiential learning rather than concentrating on theory; and maintain a visible Career and Placement Office or Centre to help students begin to develop the rudiments of career life and development.

Professor Alao, while sharing his experience as Director, Careers and counselling Centre, University of Botswana with the audience, said that career services were viewed from a broad perspective and operational areas like the Careers Unit, which helps to equip students with career related skills; the Counselling Unit, which provides individual counselling to meet specific needs and ongoing problems of each client; and the Job Placement Unit, which promotes the employability and employment opportunities of University students and alumni.

"A helping relationship also presupposes

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## CU Student Wins 2017 SUSI Fellowship, Heads to US for Five Weeks

A 300 Level student of Information and Communication Engineering and President of the Covenant University Literary and Debating Society (CULDS), Dominic Onyeka Dominic, has been selected for the prestigious 2017 Study of United States Institute (SUSI) Fellowship for Student Leaders. This makes Covenant University the first private university ever to produce a SUSI (Student Leaders) Fellow. By this feat, Dominic will be proceeding, fully funded by the US Government, to California State University and be visiting different American states for five weeks on a Social Entrepreneurship programme and return to Nigeria to join the ever expanding and vibrant elite club of United States State Alumni (a group of former US-sponsored Fellows and scholars) in Nigeria.

Dominic's achievement is coming from a rich background in progressive student engagements and leadership. His active membership of the Covenant University Literary and Debating Society, which he joined in 2015, led to many instances of selfless service to the group, founded in 2014 under the leadership and mentorship of a faculty in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Dr. Sheriff Folarin.

Dominic has represented the University at several national debating championships,

including the 4th All-Nigeria Universities Debating Championship (ANUDC), which Covenant University successfully hosted in 2016. More recently, he shone as the Second Best Debater at the National Debating Championship Opens, which was held at the University of Port Harcourt.

SUSI is a competitive annual fellowship

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Dominic Onyeka

## Nielsen Woos CU Students with Operations Academy

Nielsen, a market research and information services company, has selected Covenant University as the first University in Africa to benefit from the Nielsen Academy Operations (NAO).

The NAO initiative, it revealed, entails the selection of some final year students of the University, with experts from Nielsen taking them through course works and at the end of the programme, certificates are awarded to the participants and the best are selected.

Speaking about the initiative on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at a meeting with the CU Management, Leader of the Nielsen Company team, Lola Oyebola, said that after identifying tertiary institutions in Nigeria through the selection criteria, Covenant University was among the four selected, a development she described as a privilege for the University.

"For the first time, a multinational company would be allowing undergraduates to be part of its workforce and to be absorbed as soon as they finish their programmes. Most institutions abroad are rated by the rate at which their graduates secure jobs after they finish," she said.

Shedding more light on the NOA initiative, a staff of the Operations Department, Nielsen

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## Financial Advisor Counsels CU Students on Money Management

The founder of Bestman Limited, Mrs. Opunimi Akinkugbe, popularly known as MoneyMattersWithNimi?, on Thursday, 6th of April, 2017, enlightened Covenant University students on how money works in the world for effective leadership.

Making her presentation titled, 'Financial Literacy for Leadership Effectiveness' at an event organized by the African Leadership Development Centre (ALDC), the financial advisor said it was unfortunate that most young people who graduate from universities have little or no knowledge in money management and this has resulted into lack of effective leadership.

"When our youth are financially empowered, the opportunities are immense and it is important to realise that the choices individuals make in their 20s will have a huge impact on their future financial security," she said.

To address the lack of financial literacy, Mrs. Akinkugbe charged students to invest in themselves by identifying their talent, nurturing and sharing it. She also enumerated some vital points that help in achieving good money management, which include tracking and automating finances, monetizing one's talents and investing in self.

She further explained to the students why the greatest advantage of youth is time,

buttressing this with the current Nigerian job market. "The greatest advantage of youth is time, but time is of no use if it is wasted. A degree just helps in navigating an individual after college but does not guarantee one a job. Nigeria does not owe you a job, create job yourself, start thinking of how to make money while still in school," she stated.

For startups, Mrs. Akinkugbe, said: "Invest in what you understand, spend time with people who motivate you, do not go into business casually with friends, and give back to the community". Ultimately, she summarized her presentation in these words: Plan, Save, Invest and Give.

Mrs. Akinkugbe who holds a Bachelor's Degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) praised Covenant University for promoting entrepreneurship. In her words, "I'm impressed that Covenant University encourages entrepreneurship right from campus and it is great to see such talents among the students and all being fully put to use".

After what was unanimously considered an impactful lecture on financial literacy, the students, under the watchful eyes of the Director, ALDC, Dr. Olumuyiwa Oludayo, presented Mrs. Akinkugbe with some amazing gifts like hand drawn portraits, books and handmade cards to show case their creative ingenuity and burgeoning business acumen.

## Apply Basic Skills in Students Counselling, Professor Alao Urges Varsity Personnel

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that the person seeking help is probably, facing a difficulty, a challenging situation, a psychological problem, in emotional pain, wants to maximize his or her potential, and the individual seeking help believes that he or she could be assisted by the helper because of his/her expertise," the Inaugural Lecturer explained.

In her comments, the Education Secretary, Living Faith Church, Worldwide, Professor Bridget Sokan, who represented the Chancellor and Chairman, Board of Regents, Covenant University, Dr. David O. Oyedepo at the occasion, congratulated the Inaugural Lecturer, Professor Amos Alao for what she said was a very interesting lecture.

She said that, "looking at the various action researches that Professor Alao has engaged in, it is important for Covenant University to have a Careers Placement Office for the students who need to know about what their would-be employers require of them".

Earlier on in his welcome remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, said that the plethora of media freely available for consumption on the social platform of the cyberspace, depicting violence in uncensored manner, was increasingly making the consumer of the same callous and insensitive.

He added that the buzz words like MAGA, which is 'Make America Great Again', with its uncanny undertone of nationalistic tendencies; and 'Brexit', the result of emotional referendum voting against the establishment etc., were becoming a norm.

Professor Atayero, who averred that the current socio-political ambience of the global arena begs for a discourse on unity, tolerance, mutual respect, empathy and brotherly love, said that it was for this reason that the 9th Inaugural Lecture could not have been delivered at a more opportune time.

"What a joy that the person to do justice to the all-important topic is a seasoned scholar and erudite Professor of Psychology, Professor Amos Alao," the Vice-Chancellor enthused. ■

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programme that is offered to successful scholars, professionals and student leaders in Nigeria and across the world. Formerly known as the Fulbright American Studies Institutes (FASI), the SUSI scholarship is ranked very high among prestigious American scholarship programmes instituted by the Department of State in Washington and coordinated by the US Consul-Generals worldwide.

Covenant University has produced four (4) academic fellows of SUSI, with its very first fellows emerging in 2007. Dominic will be the first student SUSI fellow. ■

## Nielsen Woos CU Students with Operations Academy

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### CU Management with Officials of Nielsen

Company, Eric Adodo, said that his organization seeks to identify geniuses through the programme billed for September 2017, with emphasis placed on Integrity, Digital Growth and Innovation.

The four topics to go through, according to him, are Market Research, Operations in Nielsen, Nielsen as an organization and Leadership at Nielsen.

Benefits accruing to the students from the proposed programme, he said, are exposure to multinational companies, interaction with business leaders and certificates, while for the University, the benefits include making CU more visible, valuable exposure for its students and opportunity to increase students employment rate.

The Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, who praised the Nielsen representatives for their

wonderful presentation, tasked them on the generation of a feedback for the University on how its graduates are faring in their various endeavours. That, he said, will count towards the realization of the University's Vision of being one of the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022.

Also, the Vice-Chancellor urged Nielsen to help determine the kind of High Schools the University's intakes are coming from.

While suggesting that Nielsen should have its programme for two weeks during the holidays, shrink the curriculum and leverage on ICT so as to make it easily accessible for would-be participants far and near, Professor Atayero said that it was possible for the University and Nielsen to collaborate.

An alumnus of Covenant University, Sophia Odutola, was also part of the team from Nielsen. ■