



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University March 12-16, 2018

Facilitators Discern Parallel Systems as Future of Education at Covenant's Edustart Summit



Director, Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies, Dr Stephen Oluwatobi, giving his welcome remarks

A preponderance of facilitators at the maiden edition of Edustart Summit has averred that the introduction of alternative ways of learning or parallel systems will be the future of education in Nigeria. Edustart is

a conference initiated by the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies (CEDS), Covenant University, to examine the challenges facing education and suggest the way forward.

Setting the tone for discussions at the one-day summit held on Thursday, February 22, 2018, at Covenant University, the Director, CEDS, Dr. Stephen Oluwatobi, said that the nation today is bedeviled by many challenges, one of which is the issue of education and the key issues were whether education is available for all, accessible by all, and affordable by all.

The other challenge, he stated, was in terms of the feedback from the employers of labour on the quality of graduates being produced. "We see gaps in the environment, and we need to see how we can bridge these gaps. We

are here to see how we can create solutions to these problems and find where we are supposed to be," he said.

In his welcome address, the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, apprised the audience, comprised of educationists, entrepreneurs, faculty, staff, and students of the University, with information about what Covenant was doing to secure the future of education.

He said that through her Departure Philosophy, core values, and specialized courses like the Total Man Concept among others, the University produces well-rounded graduates with competitive advantage in the job market, a pedigree that has earned Covenant the recognition as the University with the Most Employable Graduates.

Stating what he envisioned as the future of education, Professor Atayero said the best

Contd. on Pg 2

Building Capacity is Vital to being a Global Employee - Expert

The universality of the human capital resource has been identified as one of the most significant imports of globalisation, which has made organizations to have unfettered access to new pool of human capital from any area in the world. The assertion was made by the Group Head, Compensation and Benefit, First City Monument Bank Limited (FCMB), Mr. Kolawole Amusa, at the Town and Gown seminar of the Department of Business Management, Covenant University, on Friday, February 23, 2018.

Mr. Amusa, who was the guest speaker at the seminar, but represented by Mr. Olumide Ekun, said that while the current wave of globalization might seem a threat and increased competition to some, it avails the resourceful others with greater options, compared to the seeming threat and competitiveness associated

with it. According to him, while a legal tender in one clime may not be acceptable in another, the same cannot be said about skills in various areas of career professionalism.

He noted that with increase in creative disruptions via technological innovations, the number of people not willing to follow traditional career path are multiplying, with strong emphasis on capacity building and increased new skillset, developing flexibility in the ever increasing marketing conditions, and there is a paradigm shift from just securing a job.

The guest speaker stated that most work environments are where advance education for industrial relevance actually starts from, when education from academic settings are exhausted.

He identified employability and hard and soft skills as the various skill levels that help professionals to develop necessary capacity towards maintaining global relevance. "Employability skills are basic and transferable. They are needed to become employable. The hard skills will naturally help such individual secure a job, while the soft skills will always be needed to help retain the job," he added.

Mr. Amusa, who was former Head, Employee Services, First City

Contd. on Pg 2

Graduates of Language Important to Efficiency, Effectiveness in Media Industry- Veteran Journalist

The importance of graduates of English and Literary Studies to the success of editorial functions in any newsroom cannot be quantified, hence undergraduates of the programme must brace up for the rigours associated with operations of the media industry. This was the thrust of a lecture delivered by the guest speaker, Dr. Abiodun Awolaja, at the 'Town and Gown' seminar of the Department of Languages, Covenant University, on Tuesday, February 27, 2018.

Speaking on the topic 'The Media Industry in Nigeria and the Place of Graduates of English,' the renowned journalist and Editorial Page Editor, The Nigerian Tribune Newspapers, assured students of English and Literary Studies of their relevance in the Nigerian media industry, saying that graduates of languages and literature are in high demand in the newsroom. The award-winning journalist asserted that it was difficult to find any news organisation that is worth its salt today where one of the four key line editors is not a graduate of English.

Dr. Awolaja, who holds a Ph.D. in English Language, averred that graduates of English could perform well on any reportorial assignment in a standard newsroom. According to him, "There is no desk in the newsroom where a graduate of English Language cannot work, whether it is the

Contd. on Pg 2



Mr Olumide Ekun, representing Group Head, Compensation and Benefit, First City Monument Bank PLC, Mr Kolawole Amusa at the Department of Business Management's Town and Gown Seminar

Expert Enlightens Students on Engineering Geology



Dr. Malcolm Whitworth, Geologist from the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Portsmouth, UK, making his presentation

A geologist from the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Portsmouth University, United Kingdom, Dr. Malcolm Whitworth, has emphasised the importance of Engineering Geology to the engineering sector. He said engineering geology provides geological expertise to help with location, design, construction, operation and maintenance of engineering works.

Dr. Whitworth, who was speaking on the topic, 'Engineering Geology: The Role of Geology in Society', at a recent lecture organised by the International Office and Linkages, Covenant University, said engineering geology encompasses

geology, engineering, geotechnical work, and site investigation. The Guest Lecturer said that Engineering Geologists are in demand in the construction, energy, mining, tunnelling, and environmental sectors. Their work involves desk study, mapping and reconnaissance, site investigation, sample geotechnical testing, data analysis, and modelling, he added.

Dr. Whitworth stated further that the role of an Engineering Geologist is to understand the geology of a work site and try to predict how it will behave during and after construction. He pointed out that the dynamics have changed considerably and more accuracy with site investigation is achieved with the development of high-end software, which aids the work of a Geologist. "Engineering geologists use technology such as remote sensing imagery to support their work with specialist software," he said.

The guest lecturer, who was accompanied to Covenant University by the representative of the University of Portsmouth in Nigeria, Mrs. Chinelo

Konwea, later paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor AAA. Atayero.

While situating the purpose of the visit, the Director, International Office and Linkages, Dr. Ada Peter, explained that they were there to show gratitude to the Covenant Management for granting approval for the day's lecture, as well as to express the wish for a renewal of the long-standing Memorandum of Understanding between Covenant University and Portsmouth University in order to make it more viable for both parties. She added that the University of Portsmouth was willing to receive guest lecturers from Covenant University as well.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, appreciated Portsmouth University's efforts at keeping the partnership with Covenant University vibrant and active. He expressed the willingness of Covenant to return the favour and promised to visit the University of Portsmouth on his next trip to the UK.

Also, Professor Atayero stated the readiness of Covenant University to have the relationship between the two institutions reviewed in order to refine the contents of the existing Memorandum of Understanding.

Both Dr. Whitworth and Mrs. Konwea commended Covenant for its well-organised ambience and state-of-the-art equipment, which made the lecture session very easy to execute, comfortable, and enjoyable unlike at other universities they have visited in the country. ■

Building Capacity is Vital to being a Global Employee - Expert *Contd. from Pg 1*

Monument Bank (FCMB) Limited, told the gathering that amid the disruptive way things are now done, it is expected that

those seeking relevance must of necessity, position themselves for the future. ■

Graduates of Language Important to Efficiency, Effectiveness in Media Industry – Veteran Journalist *Contd. from Pg 1*

business, politics, Op-ed, online, news, community, tourism, sports, and aviation. Expect to do a lot of work".

The veteran media practitioner told the audience that many professional colleagues on different editorial desks would rely on the expertise and knowledge of the English Language graduate to properly contextualise a report for easy reading and understanding of consumers of news

materials.

The guest speaker highlighted some benefits of pursuing a career in the media world, which include privilege to meet people, building relationships through column writing, investigating and reporting crimes, and holding government accountable amongst others. He urged students at all levels in the Department of Languages to start acquainting themselves with the

business of writing immediately, otherwise all they are being taught would be a waste.

Dr. Awolaja posited that for those who are more concerned with remuneration related issue in the media industry, opportunities abound for them to increase their revenue streams with commission from commercials, freelance services, editing, and doing a review of literary materials. He affirmed that the media couldn't survive without the graduates of English. ■

Facilitators Discern Parallel Systems as Future of Education at Covenant's Edustart Summit *Contd. from Pg 1*

teachers in the emerging dispensation will be those who can successfully impart skills for critical thinking towards lifelong learning; a student of the future will be one who is totally disruptive in his/her thought process and is comfortably challenging the status quo; and the learning environment of the future shall leverage on technology to facilitate personalised and ubiquitous learning. He stressed that the ideal learning environment of the future will have no walls and "the best way to predict the future of education is to create it".

The Keynote Speaker, Professor Peter Okebukola, who is the Pro-Chancellor,

Crawford University, appreciated Dr. Oluwatobi for convening the summit and lauded the Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, for his astute management of the University. "We are currently compiling the reports of all the 161 universities in Nigeria for 2016-2017 and Covenant University is in the Grade A category," he revealed. Professor Okebukola noted that Covenant, an institution without a faculty of education, was the only university thinking about the future. He commended the University for taking the initiative.

While making his presentation on

the topic, 'The Future of Education: What Educators Need to Know and Prepare For', Professor Okebukola highlighted the features of education in the past (the early and late 60s, when he had his Secondary and University education); the present; and what the future would entail. According to him, while the past featured well-resourced schools, a balance of relevance and content in the curriculum, as well as disciplined teachers and students, the present features better technology mediation, poorly-prepared teachers, poorly-resourced schools, indisciplined teachers and students, and overloaded curriculum among others. ■