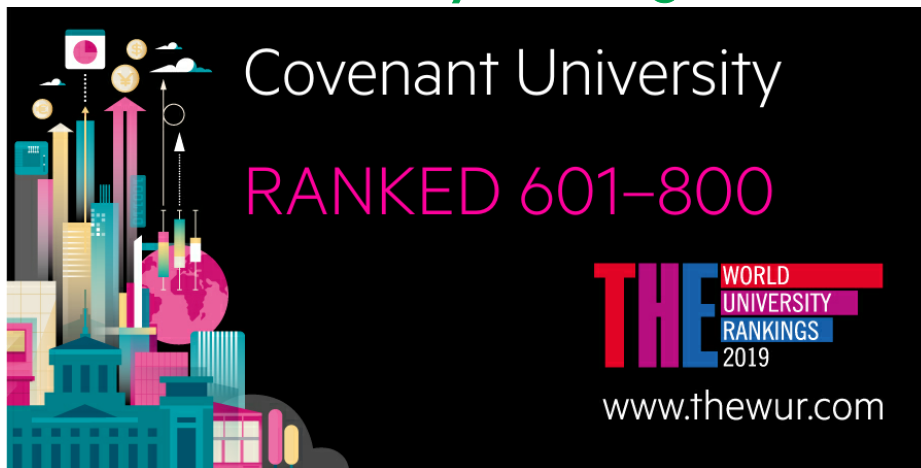




Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University October 8-12, 2018

Covenant Breaks into World Universities Ranking, Now Best Varsity in Nigeria



been ranked within the 601-800 bracket. By this development, Covenant, established 15 years ago, has become the first Nigerian and also, arguably the first African institution to record such a milestone in a rather short time of existence.

The feat came six years into the process of actualising Covenant's divine vision of becoming one of the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022, otherwise known as Vision 10:2022. The current administration of the institution, led by Professor AAA. Atayero, had in its bid to rev up the drive towards the fulfilment of the vision,

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Covenant, Champion of 6th All-Nigeria Universities Debating Championship

Covenant beat all other Nigerian universities to win the 6th edition of the All-Nigeria Universities Debating Championship (ANUDC) hosted by the University of Ilorin between September 23rd and 29th, 2018.

At the competitive tournament, the body that coordinates championships among Nigerian universities, the ANUDC led by Dr. Ndubuisi Oswagwu of the University of Calabar, adjudged Covenant the overall winner of the number one national inter-varsity championship, having beaten Imo State University and host, University of Ilorin to the second and third positions respectively.

Covenant was having her fourth stint in the competition, having had her inaugural participation at the 2nd edition of ANUDC in 2014 at the University of Lagos. In 2016 when Covenant hosted the championship, she emerged winner in the Public Speaking category, while the University of Ilorin emerged the overall champion of the tournament.

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Nigeria's best private university, Covenant, on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, took a leap to the upper reaches of history by becoming the highest ranked Nigerian university in the prestigious world universities ranking of the Times Higher Education (THE).

The THE is the body behind the world's most influential university ranking, and

with almost five decades of experience as a source of analysis and insight on higher education. Its data and benchmarking tools are used by many of the world's most prestigious universities to help them achieve their strategic goals.

According to the latest ranking released midweek by the THE in its office in Singapore, Covenant has

Covenant to Increase Postgraduates and Reduce Undergraduates Admissions

Covenant is planning to increase the admission slots for postgraduate students and reduce the undergraduate intakes into the University, says the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero.

Professor Atayero dropped the hint while addressing both returning and newly admitted postgraduate students of the University at their 2018/2019 Academic Session Orientation Programme on Tuesday, September 18, 2018.

The Vice-Chancellor spoke on "ReClTe Approach to the Attainment of Vision 10-2022: The Place of Postgraduate Students." He noted that the University was focusing its attention on research in order to attain its vision to be one of the top 10 world class universities by 2022 because research

usually took place at the postgraduate levels.

He emphasised that to attain a world class status, the University would need to score 30% in research, teaching and citation respectively, while 10% was required in innovation,

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Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, making his presentation to the PG students

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Contd. from Pg 1

introduced the "ReCITe Agenda", which would simply entail a research-intensive approach.

The University believes that the ReCITe Agenda would be accomplished through the instrumentality of "Glocalisation", which means benchmarking with established (indisputable) world-class universities, while introducing innovations to address our local contextual needs.

So far, the agenda has been a phenomenal success with Covenant now boasting of 40% of top 20 Authors in Nigeria and the University only recently set a new record of over 600 publications so far in the year.

Covenant University was established in 2002 by Dr. David O. Oyedepo, the presiding Bishop of Living Faith Church Worldwide, with a vision to be a leading World-Class Christian Mission University, committed to raising a new generation of leaders in all fields of human endeavour.

The university had since inception lived up to the aspirations of its Founder through unique curricula and quality

teaching, cutting edge research, life-changing innovations, and impactful community development programmes. Covenant had consistently been recognised as the Best Private University in Nigeria. A validation of the excellent teaching curricula and state-of-the-art teaching facilities that produce quality graduates at Covenant was exemplified by the recent ranking of the University as one with the Most Employable Graduates among all Nigerian universities, public and private.

Research, at Covenant, is an integral component of undergraduate teaching. Scholars conduct research in many fields, and seek to expand human knowledge through analysis, innovation, and insight. In the last 15 years, the University's research endeavour had been outstanding.

The outputs from research had culminated in different patents and successful peer-reviews of knowledge (publications and books) beneficial to the present society and the future generations. ■

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Contd. from Pg 1



Covenant Management with the All Nigerian Universities Debating Championship (ANUDC) Winners

Poetic as it may seem, Covenant won on University of Ilorin grounds as the latter had won in Covenant two years ago. Also winning individual awards and medals were Dominic Dominic and Jenny Odjugo, who emerged among the Best Debaters at the Championship.

The Covenant University Literary and Debating Society (CULDS), under the able leadership of the founder, coordinator

and coach, Professor Sheriff F. Folarin, became the first private university to host the ANUDC in 2016 and to win it in 2018.

Professor Folarin had led the team to national and international tournaments, where some important awards had been won. Nevertheless, the most prestigious of the outings was the 2018 national championship which Covenant clinched with an overwhelming consensus of the

Core Adjudication Panel (CAP) and the entire Nigerian universities congregation. Professor Folarin is the current National Vice-President of ANUDC and served as Chairman of Council all through the tournament in the inevitable absence of the president.

The first ANUDC was won by the University of Calabar. The second edition was won by the University of Lagos, third by Imo State University, fourth by University of Ilorin and fifth was won again by the University of Calabar. Covenant joins the ranks of the elite in the Nigerian and world debating circuit by first hosting and then winning two years later. ■

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Contd. from Pg 1

according to Times Higher Education ranking parameters.

"However, you can't have impactful teaching without research and there can't be quality citation and innovation without research. Therefore, by focusing on research, we can achieve 90% of what it takes to be a world class University," he explained.

Professor Atayero explained further that the Vision 10: 2022 would be considered fulfilled whenever Covenant attains a top 10 position in any reputable global academic ranking outlet, irrespective of the ranking methodology. "This we shall accomplish through the instrumentality of 'Glocalisation,' that is, benchmarking with established and indisputable world class universities, while introducing innovation to address our local contextual needs," he added.

On his part, the Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies, Professor Humphrey Adebayo, promised that the School would deliver the highest quality postgraduate education and experience. He enjoined them to work hand-in-hand with management, faculty, staff as well as collaborators and promote team building and engagement.

He expressed hope that newly admitted students would proffer groundbreaking and revolutionary solutions to the challenges in Nigeria, Africa and world in general. ■