



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University March 4-8, 2019

Professor Chinedu Suggests Investment in Biotechnology, Others to Secure Africa's Future



Professor Shalom Chinedu, presenting his Inaugural Lecture

A Professor of Biochemistry at Covenant, Professor Shalom Chinedu, has advocated that innovative technologies and techniques in the fields of life sciences, notably, modern biotechnology, constitute the emerging pathways which Africans should engage to secure Africa's future.

He gave this suggestion on Friday, March 1, 2019, while delivering the 18th Inaugural Lecture of the University titled, 'From Evolution to Revolution: Biochemical Disruptions

and Emerging Pathways for Securing Africa's Future'.

Professor Chinedu, who described the issues facing Africa as multifaceted, with some life-threatening, said that hunger and famine appeared to be the worst issues confronting the continent. Many African nations, he stated, relied

Contd. on Pg 2

Mathematics Tool for Evaluation and Improvement of Information, Says Data Analyst

A senior Data Analyst from Acclio Creative Solution, Mr. Joshua Kolade, has described Mathematics as a tool for the evaluation and improvement of the quality of information in the face of uncertainty.

He made this assertion while speaking on the topic, 'Follow the Data: Mathematics, the Best Decision-Making Tool,' at a recent Town and Gown Seminar of the Department of Mathematics, Covenant.

The Guest Speaker, who is also a Software Developer, further explained that data was used to present and clarify options; model available alternatives and their consequences; and to control the smaller decisions necessary to reach a larger goal.

"There are no useless degrees. To sell yourself to employers, focus on your skills. If you know your cosines from your differentials, the future looks rosy," Mr. Kolade advised students of the Mathematics Department.

He posited that employers valued mathematics graduates because of their transferable skills, which included problem-solving, logical reasoning, analytical skills, numeracy and creativity. According to him, Mathematical areas

Contd. on Pg 2

Experts Enlighten Petroleum Engineering Students on 4D Seismic, Pressure Transient Analysis

A couple of experts in the oil industry have exposed budding engineers in the Department of Petroleum Engineering, Covenant, to the use of 4D Seismic Technology and Pressure Transient Analysis in oil exploration, production and field development.

Mr. Adeyemi Adeoye, a Geophysicist, and Dr. Victor Biu, a Reservoir Engineer, both from Total Nigeria Plc, delivered lectures on the topics, 'The Value of 4D Seismic in Field Development Training' and 'Pressure Transient Analysis: Brainbox for Sound Reservoir Management and the Value of Time Lapse Seismic in a Maturing Field', respectively, at a recent Town and Gown Seminar of the Petroleum Engineering Department.

Mr. Adeoye, in his presentation, said that 4D Seismic was used to

compare the snapshots of a reservoir taken at two different times. According to him, 4D seismic was all about images and snapshots. His organisation, he said, was interested in real differences because before the commencement of field production and three/four years down the line when production had started, there were some real changes taking place in the reservoir. "Our goal in the whole 4D seismic processes is to amplify the real differences and minimise the fake differences so that

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Mr. Adeyemi Adeoye, a Geophysicist from Total Nigeria Plc., making his presentation at the Department of Petroleum Engineering's Town and Gown Seminar

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Contd. from Pg 1

on food aid from industrialised nations to combat starvation, therefore, Africa's priority must be to feed her people. "Biotechnology provides an ideal solution to hunger because of its potential to improve agriculture and boost food supply," the Inaugural Lecturer added.

While propounding "suitable technologies and manpower development" as two key imperatives for empowering Africa economically, Professor Chinedu gave a number of recommendations as instruments for Africa's technological and socioeconomic transformation, and sustainable development. These included maximal and continuous investment in Science, Technology and Innovation to meet the continent's developmental targets and improve the lot of her people; more emphasis on process and product development, with African researchers striving to move their discoveries from the laboratory to the market; and the promotion of biotechnological research and product development.

The inaugural lecturer, in other recommendations, encouraged collaboration between big biotech companies and African researchers on one hand and negotiations between Governments of African nations and that of the industrialised nations, which could lead to a win-win partnership in the exploitation of Africa's rich bio-resources. He posited that Africa needed persons with requisite skills and competence in the area of biotechnology to drive biological revolution in Africa. He also called for strict regulation of biotechnological research/product development, modernization of agriculture to make it attractive to young people, and addressing the challenges of nomadic African tribes and environmental degradation.

Professor Chinedu, who is the Director, African Leadership Development Centre, Covenant,

averred that innovative technologies and techniques in the fields of life sciences had brought the world into a new era of genetically engineered products and processes with mind-blowing possibilities and tremendous benefits in the area of agriculture, medicine, industry and the environment. He added that this era of biochemical disruptions, aptly described as biological revolution, had the potential to trigger an unprecedented turnaround for Africa and place her on the path of economic recovery and sustainable development. ■

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Contd. from Pg 1

whatever we are seeing on 4D seismic are exactly due to production effect in the river," he declared.

Dr. Victor Biu, in the lecture on Pressure Transient Analysis, said that PTA was mainly used for reservoir characterisation in Exploration and Appraisal stage. He noted that it was about getting pressure data and rates and making good decisions, and to understand volume in the reservoir, which must justify the investment made.

The Reservoir Engineer, who raised a poser on whether being a Petroleum Engineer was still a career for the future, said that people were worried whether petroleum engineering would be relevant in 20-30 years' time considering the evolution in energy.

He analysed that demand may be going down because countries were looking at renewables, however, by the year 2040, oil would still be in the mix. His conclusion was that the demand would still be there because it would take a lot to completely move from one source of energy to another. ■

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Contd. from Pg 1



A Senior Data Analyst from Acclio Creative Solutions Ltd., Mr Dapo Kolade, making his presentation at the Department of Mathematics' Town and Gown Seminar

like statistics, optimisation, probability, queuing theory, control, game theory, modelling and operation research, were essential for making difficult choices in public policy, health, business, manufacturing, finance, law and many other human endeavours.

He asserted that the strength of Mathematics was in its application in diverse settings. "Statistics measures the quality of information and optimisation finds the best alternative. Probability quantifies and manages uncertainty. Control automates decision-making. Modelling and computation build the mathematical abstraction of reality upon which these and many other powerful mathematical tools operate. Mathematics is indeed the foundation of modern decision-making," he said.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, the Head of Department, Mathematics, Dr. Sheila Bishop, appreciated the Guest Speaker for coming and thanked the members of faculty, staff and students of the Department for working together to make the event successful.

She encouraged the students to maximise the opportunity for interaction with the industry as graciously provided by the Management of the institution, while pointing out that not many students outside Covenant had that privilege. ■