



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University March 11-15, 2019

## Vice-Chancellor Reassures Faculty, Staff of Equity, Fairness in Career Progression



Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, making his presentation at the Orientation Programme for new faculty and staff

acknowledging and rewarding scholarship, teaching quality, professional competence, service and leadership, and alignment with core values, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, has reassured.

This heartening remark was made on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at the Orientation and Induction of new faculty and staff of Covenant, whom he urged to endeavour to key into the vision of the University by contributing their quota to its realisation.

Professor Atayero, who gave presentations on 'The Vision, the Mission and the Mandate of Covenant' and 'ReCITe: Approach for Realisation of Vision 10:2022', said that the vision of Covenant was to be a leading world-class Christian Mission University

committed to raising a new generation of leaders in all fields of Human endeavour, with its short term vision being to become one of the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022, aptly dubbed 'Vision 10:2022'.

Vision 10:2022, according to him, was considered fulfilled whenever Covenant attained a Top 10 position in any reputable global academic ranking

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## Doing Individual Analysis Helps to Avoid Academic Stress, Says Expert

If a situation or action is too much for you, it will be so difficult, tiring, or upsetting that you cannot cope with it. This was the submission of Dr. Olubukola Ajayi, the Guest Speaker at a recent Town and Gown Seminar of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Covenant University.

While delivering a lecture with the topic, 'Doing Too Much Means How Much? Tips for a Healthy Living in an Academic Environment', Dr. Ajayi, who is a lecturer at the Department of Psychology, Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti, said the major problem among undergraduates was that they had goals and targets, and in the course of achieving these goals and targets they encountered stress.

Stress, he said, was a psychological strain or distress resulting from exposure to unusual or demanding situations known as stressors, with some of the common types of stress being Time Stress (worry about time including academic time table for lectures and exams), Anticipatory Stress (worry about the future, which could be vague, e.g seminar presentation among students), Situational Stress (when you are in scary situation you have no control over), and Encounter Stress (this involve round people, worry about interacting with a or group of

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Covenant University will strive to attain and maintain credible standards of appraisal for all career tracks of staff with the key objectives of encouraging,

## Study Reveals Women Highly Vulnerable to Intimate Partner Violence

The results of a study undertaken by a team of scholars at the University of Pittsburg, USA, in an attempt to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, have highlighted significant vulnerabilities of women related to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and other forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Boko Haram settings. Boko Haram is a jihadist terrorist organisation based in northeastern Nigeria. It is also active in Chad, Niger and northern Cameroon.

A Consultant with The World Bank Group and an Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Pittsburg, Dr. Uche Ekhaton-Mobayode, made this disclosure on Thursday, March 14, 2015 at the 2019 Seminar of the Centre for Economic Policy and Development Research (CEPDeR), in the Department of Economics and Development Studies of Covenant University.



Dr Uche Ekhaton-Mobayode, making her presentation at the 2019 Seminar of the Centre for Economic Policy and Development Research (CEPDeR), hosted by Covenant

She emphasised that the study was important, because responding to and preventing all forms of violence against women was increasingly recognised as both fundamental to assuring women's rights and achieving the empowerment of women and girls and, to sustaining peace.

While making a presentation with the topic, 'Armed Conflict and Intimate Partner Violence: Evidence from the Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria', Dr. Ekhaton-Mobayode, who was the Guest

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# Vice-Chancellor Reassures Faculty, Staff of Equity, Fairness in Career Progression

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outlet, irrespective of the ranking methodology.

While shedding light on ReCITe, which translates to Research is our responsibility, Citation + Innovation = Income is the reward and Teaching is our goal, the Vice-Chancellor said that approaches to achieving a world-class status included transition from a predominantly teaching university to a research university, gradual realisation of an overall student-staff ratio of 10:1 across all programmes, strict adherence to established grading policy, pegging of undergraduate intake and strict adherence to all established Senate decisions on promotion (or otherwise) among others.

ReCITe, said Professor Atayero had started yielding the desired dividends, which included the astronomic rise in the number of Covenant's publications between 2016 at the inception of his administration and now (2019); 100% success in the last accreditation of programmes exercise; the rating of Covenant as the institution with the most employable graduates in 2016 and 2018; and consistent rise in the number of First-Class graduates. Also mentioned was the elevation of the University to a world-class status courtesy of her ranking in the 601-800 bracket of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, and her 151st ranking among universities in the world's Emerging Economies.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Akan Williams, had while enlightening the new faculty and staff on the enhancement of quality of service delivery, implored them to be customer-focused, polite, approachable and available for customers' (students, parents and guardians) satisfaction. Also, he enjoined them to embrace Covenant's core values, clearly understand their briefs as service providers, understand the Covenant operating environment and understand the perceptions of the University's stakeholders.

In his remarks, the Ag. Registrar, Dr. Lanre Amodu, apprised faculty and staff that the University's decisions were guided by policies. He stated that the policies promoted consistency and operational

efficiency, enhanced the University's mission, guided decision making and set parameters or choices. The policies bordered on postdoctoral study, contract appointment and resignation notice among others.

The Chaplain of Covenant, Pastor Kayode Martins, in his presentation, posited that the motto of Covenant, 'Raising a new Generation of Leaders' was only truly possible by staying connected with the author of true Leadership, the Almighty God. "Being a privileged faculty/staff in Covenant University, therefore will enable you make that connection and stay connected," he added. components for the open market or tailor-made for the oil and gas sector through additive manufacturing. ■

## Study Reveals Women Highly Vulnerable to Intimate Partner Violence

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Speaker at the seminar and Lead Author of the study, said that forced displacement and violence associated with the Boko Haram insurgency, which started in 2009, had been widely reported to have exacerbated violence against women. According to her, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), had in 2017 estimated that 1.8 million people, mostly women and girls, in Northeastern Nigeria, where Boko Haram attacks were most prevalent, needed protection from GBV.

To carry out the study, she said that her team had used data from the Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) for 2008 and 2013, including data from ACLED, which collected information on a range of violent and non-violent actions by political agents including governments, rebels, militias, communal groups, political parties, external actors, rioters, protesters and civilians.

Dr. Ekhatior-Mobayode further disclosed that the findings of her team's study were consistent with findings from

Uganda and Liberia, but her team's results were interpreted as a lower bound of the average causal effect of the Boko Haram insurgency on IPV for two reasons. "First, there are significant barriers which disincentives reporting of IPV. In most rural areas in Nigeria, involving law enforcement in family matters can be considered a taboo while in urban areas women may refrain from reporting to prevent stigmatisation and/or protect the honor of their family. Second, our analysis excludes the most intense areas of Boko Haram activity because NDHS interviewers could not reach those areas," she explained. ■

## Doing Individual Analysis Helps to Avoid Academic Stress, Says Expert

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Dr Olubukola Ajayi, making his Presentation at the Department of Political Science and International Relations' Town and Gown Seminar

people).

Dr. Ajayi highlighted factors that could induce stress as situation or events that put pressure on one, like parental choice against students' choice; one's reaction to being placed under pressure; and personality. Stress, he noted, could cause mental health problems and mental health problems could also cause stress. Other risk factors, according to him, were death of a loved one, divorce, loss of job, increase in financial obligation, getting married, moving to a new home, chronic illness or injury and emotional problems (depression, anxiety, anger, grief, guilt, low self-esteem).

While stating that maintaining academic excellence was a big stress among undergraduates, the Guest Speaker urged students to do individual analysis to avoid academic stress. "Begin to search who you are and where you belong to. Your profession does not determine your success in life," he said. ■