



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University July 11-15, 2016

Covenant University Wins 4th ANUDC Public Speaking Event



Prof. Charles Ogbulogo Presenting Prizes to CU representative, Onyinye Mdu

The 4th All-Nigeria Universities Debating Championship (ANUDC), hosted by Covenant University has ended, with winners emerging in the only two categories of the tournament- Debate and Public Speaking. The host, Covenant University won the Public Speaking event of the competition.

Having qualified for the final of the Public Speaking category with two representatives, Onyinye Jacinta Madu, a 400 Level International Relations student beat nineteen (19) other contestants to put Covenant University ahead. In a keenly contested public speaking session, which saw University of Lagos, Afe Babalola University and Imo State Universities contestants pulling lots of weight and commanding crowd ovation, the ten-man adjudication panel went with Covenant University, which unanimously declared the hosts winner of the competition.

Covenant University thus becomes the first private institution in the history of the ANUDC to win in any category of the championship. The second and third positions in Public Speaking were won by University of Lagos and Imo State University, respectively.

In another award category, Covenant

University was given a trophy for "Outstanding Host" in recognition of the superlative and unprecedented organisation of the tournament.

The Covenant University Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA Atayero congratulated the delegates for a commendable initiative and for choosing Covenant University as host. Professor Atayero, represented by the Director, Vice-Chancellor's Office, Dr. Akan Williams, described the championship as one unique platform to develop the mind and capacity of Nigerian youths, saying that, "it is in league with Covenant University's vision, which is Raising a New Generation of Leaders" in the country and continent.

The Vice-Chancellor wished the organisers well and commended them for a job well done.

Speaking at the event, the President of the ANUDC Council, Dr. Ndubuisi

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Participants Seek Action on Global Warming at Conference on Carbon Emission

Participants at a three-day International Conference on Carbon Emission, held at Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, have unequivocally called for strict control of the release of dangerous gases into the air to curtail the effects of global warming.

The conference with the theme, 'Carbon Capture, Storage and Utilization: A means to Mitigating Global Climate Change', covered a wide area of subjects on climate change, its causes, effects and ways to ameliorate the effects.

Dr. Michael Daramola, a Senior Lecturer at the School of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, who was the Keynote Speaker at the event, exposed the debilitating effects of climate change on the atmospheric compositions of the earth.

He expressed regrets that man has aided the depletion of the ozone layer, which is meant to protect all living organisms from the direct and damaging effects of

the sun.

The keynote speaker, who described carbon dioxide as a colourless and odourless gas vital to life on earth, pointed out that carbon emissions are the biggest contributors to climate change and ozone layer depletion. However, technology, he said, has greatly increased the production of these gases to levels that threaten human existence.

"These carbon emissions happen through various human activities, which include industrial activities, transportation, urbanisation, deforestation, oil production and combustion. The largest emitter of carbon is China, followed closely by the United States, with India coming third place. Some of the effects of the emissions include, pollution and climate change, which leads to increases in temperature and global warming," Daramola stated.

In order to mitigate these effects, he suggested the adoption of certain

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SME Workshop: Participants Laud CU, Revel in Benefits

Participants at the just concluded Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SME) Workshop, put together by Covenant University and GoldTrack Business Palace Limited, have commended Covenant University on the initiative, which they claimed has enriched their business acumen and exposed them to new entrepreneurial skills.

The two-day workshop, held at the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies of Covenant University, featured many participants, with facilitators making presentations on different topics like Mind Management; Business Models and Business Plans (Conception, Structure and Benefits); Quality, Production and Industrial Management; Relevance of Record Keeping to SMEs; and Accessing Low Interest Loan from Nigerian Banks.

The participants, some of whom are already into various businesses and others still planning to float one, admitted that the workshop has been of immense benefit.

A lady, who identified herself simply as Elder

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SME Workshop: Participants Laud CU, Revel in Benefits

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Olaseinde, said lessons from the workshop have woken up the hitherto sleeping business drive in her. "From this workshop I have been highly inspired. I have properties, I even have a shop that I locked up for over three years, but right now my mind is open to go and stock it and start working there. I'm blessed and I thank God for Covenant University, the organisers; the N10, 000 we paid is just peanuts compared to the knowledge that we have acquired," she said.

Bamidele Olaniran, who came from Ibadan, Oyo State, described the workshop as "eye-opening". The event, he said, has opened his eyes to some ideas on how to channel his strength for effectiveness and efficiency in the foreseeable future when he may need help professionally.

"I know how and where to channel my resources to. And one thing I've learnt which came lastly, which I really believe in as a

network marketer, is Clustering. I know the benefit of the idea of clustering and I know fully well, without being a greedy person, clustering is like a ladder which can lead to success because one thing leads to another. I know I've benefitted a lot, and now I have exchanged contacts with people I can mingle with in the bid to cluster," said Olaniran.

The workshop, according to Pius Olorunfemi, is a nice one, in that it has exposed participants to so many opportunities. The entrepreneur, who is into virtual automobile business, said: "I've been able to garner experience from here on how to improve on my business in terms of how I manage my staff and also how I can access loan in order to expand on what I have on ground right now. It's actually a very wonderful programme that we've just completed and I pray that God will continue to lift the people that organised the programme."

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Osugwu, praised the University and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the tournament for "being a great team player with the Council, a high sense of responsibility and organization and for putting in place a most orderly championship, which clearly differs from previous experience".

Describing the institution as serene and beautiful, he figuratively said many of the delegates were "disappointed because what they saw and got was not in any way, what they had expected, in view of perceptions before arriving for the event" because in the farms the roads are rough," he revealed

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strategies, which include conservation and energy efficiency, renewable energy, nuclear energy and coal-to-gas substitution among others.

The Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Oluseyi Ajayi, who represented the Vice-Chancellor at the event, commended the organisers for packaging what he termed a "life-changing programme".

He posited that climate change must be put in the Nigerian context in order to bring home the implications of its effects on the country.

"Various attempts at reducing the incidents of climate change phenomenon have not yielded the expected results or gathered needed momentum. This is because of the following: Nigeria is faced with enormous challenges that borders on economic, social and developmental issues; and also, there is no legal mechanism targeted towards climate change in Nigeria. However, there are policy frameworks like the national strategic plan of action on climate in Nigeria (NASPA-CCN). It points out areas of vulnerability to climate change such as energy, water resources, agric, health, biodiversity etc.," said Ajayi.

Covenant University Campus Keepers Encouraged to Pursue Higher Goals

The Management of Covenant University in collaboration with the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies has commenced the training of the university's Campus Keepers.

The training is organised under the auspices of the Women Empowerment Project, a brain-child of the University's 'National Wellbeing through Sustainable Development Research Sub-Cluster.'

The exercise, which is geared towards upgrading the earning capacity of the Keepers is to last for two weeks and would cover topics like, 'Time Management,' 'How to Write A Business Plan,' 'Business Ethics,' etc. It would also incorporate specialised hands-on trainings in areas like Fishery, Soap Making and Perfumery.

Speaking at the event, the Director, Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies, Dr. Omotayo Adegbuyi stated that one of the objectives of the centre is to empower the university's students as well as people in the immediate environment. He stressed that the aim is to make people self-reliant by teaching

them how to fish as against giving the individuals fish.

According to him, "This is a rare life-changing opportunity to own your own business and be employers of labour. I encourage you not to play with it. Few Universities make direct effort to train their staff on alternate means of income. I believe at the end of this programme you would all have great experiences to share."

In his remarks, the Director Financial Services, Pastor Bayo Oladehinbo advised the campus keepers to see the training as an opportunity to improve themselves so as to be able to extend help to others as well. "When you think beyond your salary and improve yourself, you will be able to add value to others and thereby be empowered to receive more of God's blessings," he added.

While making his remarks, the Registrar, Pastor Olamide Olusegun, enjoined the trainees to maximise the great privilege granted them by the University management to discover the hidden abilities in them and use

it for personal advancement. He encouraged them to see the training as an investment that would keep yielding for them. "Whoever teaches you how to fish, is a person that loves you," he stated.

While declaring the event open, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Taiwo Abioye, in her remarks appreciated the efforts of the Sustainable Development Research Cluster and the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies (CEDS) for encouraging women development and empowerment.

"This is the result of diligence, commitment and dedication. A University exists to teach, conduct research and be involved in community development. Community development is what we are doing here today. We are involved in community development in order to help the country move forward," she pointed out.

Also present at the event were the members of the Sustainable Development Research Cluster and members of the Directorate of Centre for Entrepreneurial Development Studies.