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Religion should be used for development - VC



TOWN&GOWN: Dr. Ola Makinde, flanked by the former VC of the University of Ghana, Prof. C. Tagoe and Unilorin VC, Prof. Oloyede, and other Principal officers and Deans of the University and members of the Prelate's delegation

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The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, has described religion as a tool that should be utilised for the purpose of development noting that the plurality of cultures and religions in Nigeria should be conceived as an asset which citizens should use for the overall good of all.

Prof. Oloyede made this submission while receiving the Prelate of the Methodist Church of Nigeria, His Eminence, Dr. Sunday Ola Makinde, who paid him a courtesy visit at the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge last Tuesday (June 14, 2011).

(Contd. on page 2)

Unilorin partners University of London

As part of its well-acclaimed internationalisation efforts, the University of Ilorin has signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) through its Faculty of Law with the University of London's Faculty of Law, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).



PARTNERS: Prof. Baderin and Dr. Egbewole exchanging the MoU between their two Universities/ Faculties

Speaking at the formal signing of the documents penultimate Friday (June 10, 2011) at the Faculty of Law, University of Ilorin, the Director of the Centre for International Education, Dr. A. O. Omotosho, reiterated the need for partnership in the modern society saying that this is the age of collaboration.

Dr. Omotosho stressed that the MoU belongs to the entire members of the Faculty and the University community at large and thus urged faculty members to ensure the success of the MoU.

Also speaking at the occasion, the acting Dean of Law, Dr. Abdulwahab O. Egbewole, attributed the reality of the MoU to the resilient efforts of Prof. Moshood Baderin, the representative of SOAS, noting that he expects positive results on both ends as they operate a policy of give and take.

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Unilorin VC sincerely loves his country - Cleric

(Contd. from front page)

The Vice-Chancellor expressed his personal gratitude to the cleric on account of the visit and conveyed the appreciation of the University community while describing the visit of the Prelate and his team as a blessing to the University.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, who is a Professor of Islamic Jurisprudence, “religion properly understood is a tool for development. Problem occurs when there is need for the distribution of resources and this is when all sorts of variables such as religion, ethnicity, etc. are introduced”.



L-R Prof. Albert Olayemi, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, Dr. Sunday Ola Makinde during the visit

Prof. Oloyede emphasised that the problem of Nigeria is not the multiplicity of religions being practised but the inequality in the Nigerian method of distributing resources.

In his response, the Primate thanked the Vice-Chancellor for the warm reception and also appreciated him for his efforts towards the development of the nation especially through his contributions to the Nigeria Inter Religious Council (NIREC) which he serves as the Executive Secretary/ National Coordinator.

Dr. Ola Makinde described Prof. Oloyede as an objective person who truly and sincerely loves his country. He also said the Vice-Chancellor is a success and urged him to remain committed the pursuit of success and excellence.

The high points of the occasion, which was attended by the Principal Officers, Deans, Directors and other functionaries of the University, included a luncheon in honour of the visiting delegation and the presentation of gifts.

Unilorin SSANU members gain more recognition

The Secretary to the University of Ilorin Branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), Ms Wasilat O. Ojulari, has been elected SSANU Women Coordinator for the Western Zone of the union, during the second National Women Congress held between May 12 and 15, 2011, at Michael Imodu National Institute for Labour Studies, Ilorin.

According to a statement signed by University of Ilorin Branch Chairman of the body, Mr. M. A. Alfania, “the image of the Branch and that of the University was positively enhanced as her success was acknowledged by all as a result of her qualities and that of the University she represents”.

In a related development, Mrs. D. O. Adejumo of the University of Ilorin SSANU has also been elected as an Ex-Officio member of the Kwara State Council of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC). Her election was considered another success for the union.

Notice of Meeting

The Unilorin Resource Managers Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited hereby announces that the Ordinary General Meeting of the Society has been scheduled to hold as follows:

DATE: Wednesday 22nd June 2011

TIME: 11.00 a.m.

VENUE: Lecture Theatre 1(Main Campus)

Signed

Mr. J. U. Agbede

Unilorin in 2011: A Mid-Year Appraisal (March)

The University of Ilorin strode into the month of March keen on consolidating the gains recorded earlier in the year. The University management in the first week of the month constituted an eleven-man committee charged with the management of the University Portal, a component of the University ICT infrastructure. The committee is chaired by Prof. C.O. Bewaji.

Also in the week, the University hosted two renowned entrepreneurs in Nigeria as part of its efforts towards producing graduates who are not just job seekers but who are job creators. Both the Managing Director of Accentures, Mr. Niyi Yusuf and the former President of the Nigeria Society of Engineers, Engineer Ibrahim Inuwa, in their well-received presentations accentuated the need for entrepreneurial skills which the University is imparting in students through its GSE course and its Community Based Experience and Service (COBES) programme.

The Postgraduate students of the University were not left out of the activities in the University community in the month as they organised lectures which were delivered by a renowned playwright, Prof. Ahmed Yerima of Kwara State University and Prof. Alfred Adegoke, an educational psychologist at the University of Ilorin. At the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Management Services condemned plagiarism which he described as the ultimate sin in the academics and warned the graduate students of its ills. During this week, four postgraduate students of Geology and Mineral Science Department won the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) financial award to support their research projects.

Meanwhile, a simmering rumour making the rounds within and outside was dispelled this month. Twisting the resignation of the Vice-Chancellor as the President of the Association of African Universities (AAU) for mischievous purposes, tale bearers went to town that Prof. Oloyede had resigned his appointment as the helmsman of the University. It took the rebuttal of the Vice-Chancellor for the peddlers to seek another pastime. While this lasted, the University concluded its in-house training on open distance learning technologies for the technical staff.

Also, as the highly anticipated April 2011 elections drew near, the University through its Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies was thoughtful enough to task stakeholders on the need for violence-free elections. The workshop convoked law administration and enforcement agents, academics, religious leaders and youths in a resolve to get democracy right. The University's quest for credible polls was given a further boost with a lecture delivered by the Governor of Osun State, Mr. Rauf Aregbesola, at the instance of the Human Rights Chamber of the Faculty of law.

The Virginia State University and the University of Ilorin also marched forward in their relationship in this busy month as the Virginia University delegation of four arrived the University and had an academically engaging interaction with faculties, centres and units. The icing on the cake was a series of lectures presented by the experts to the academic delight of the university community.

In the same week, African neuroscientists converged on the University for Brain Research and Artificial Intelligence Network (BRAIN) conference. The month ended with the imminent polls still prominent in the mind of the University as the Muhammad Mustapha Akanbi Faculty of Law Annual Lecture focused on corruption and credible elections in Nigeria.

If there was a contest of months in which the University recorded impressive academic outings with the town and the gown, March would definitely march forward to claim a trophy.

Fast Facts File

Did you know?

- ❖ Neurons (nerve cells) are produced 18 days after conception and human brains have one trillion nerve cells.
- ❖ Your memory is triggered by the position of your body. The way you sit, stand or lie down can help you remember things at a faster rate.
- ❖ Every year, over one million earthquakes shake the earth.

London varsity set to conduct research at Unilorin

(Contd. from front page)

He then disclosed that representatives of SOAS would be attending the Faculty of Law workshop billed for September, 2011.

In his response, Prof. Moshood Baderin, the first African to head SOAS, stated that Unilorin is the second institution to sign an MoU with SOAS in the country after the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies had earlier done the same.

He thereafter called on members of the Faculty of Law to take a full advantage of the MoU as it will only last for three years after which it can be reviewed. Some of the opportunities the MoU offers include Research Associate Programme, Doctoral Programme, Scholars Exchange, provisions of books for the Faculty, among others. He revealed also that some researchers in SOAS have indicated interest to do research in the University of Ilorin.

The MoU was then signed by the Dean after comments from the Faculty members in attendance while Prof. Abdul-Qadir Zubair of the Faculty of Law gave the closing remarks and vote of thanks.

The University of London's SOAS is the world's leading centre for the study of a highly diverse range of subjects concerned with Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

University School tops Kwara children expo

Pupils of the University School have won the 2011 edition of children expo in the junior and senior categories of the science competition in Kwara State. Aremu Muheenat represented the School in the junior category in which the school presented a project on 'Biogas' while Aminullahi Rasheedat represented the School in the senior category where the School presented a project on 'Biofuel'.

Based on the performance, the University School will represent Kwara State at the national level in Abuja where the national exhibition is scheduled to hold at the NTA National Headquarters, Area 11, Garki, Abuja from July 3 to 7, 2011.

Meanwhile, the General Manager of the Nigerian Television Authority, Chief T.R. Gyang has extended an invitation letter to the Head teacher of the University School for the School to participate in the National Competition. According to a letter to the School signed by the General Manager of NTA, "We are pleased to inform you that two of your pupils excelled at the Children's Arts, Science, and Technology exhibition, recently organized by our Station. Muyinat Aremu's entry, which is 'Bio-Gas', came first in the junior category of the Science and Technology section while Aminullahi Rasheedat's entry which is 'Bio-fuel' came first in the Senior Category."

Centre organises retreat for students

The Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies(CPSS) of the University of Ilorin will host a capacity building retreat on mediation and negotiation as part of conflict management skills acquisition training.

According to a release made available to *Unilorin Bulletin* by the Centre, the five-day programme will be held from Monday, July 4, 2011 to Friday, July 8, 2011. It is expected that at the end of the retreat, peace and conflict studies students of the Centre would have acquired negotiation and mediation skills which are appropriate for specific conflict situations and specific conflict phases.

Part of the retreat programme would include practical mediation and negotiation sessions which would enable the participants to be competent and confident in managing a variety of conflict situations.

The 2011 retreat, which will attract about 69 participants, is expected to match the standard of the 2010 edition which was adjudged as a best practice programme in peace and conflict studies and was overwhelmingly considered successful by seasoned peace practitioners.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Text of the Address Delivered by the Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, at the Programme of Public Lectures Organised by the Postgraduate Students Association (POGSASS) of the University of Ilorin at the University Auditorium on Tuesday, June 7, 2011

It is my immense pleasure to stand before you this morning to share these few words with you on this occasion. Let me begin by congratulating you on the thoughtfulness of POGSASS in organising this programme. It is not surprising that you are doing what is expected of students of your calibre because the future of the academia lies within your membership. I hope that the ideas that will be shared with you by the resource persons you have invited to deliver today's lectures will be a further grist to the mill of your quest for excellence. While I urge you to listen carefully to the presentations, I should remind you that listening is not enough, acting on the information provided is the essential thing.

Dear graduate students of the University, it is important that I let you know that the highest academic qualification for anyone can only be obtained through the graduate training you are undergoing. As a result of this, there are certain expectations from you by the University and the Society and you must always prove that such expectations and assumptions are not misplaced. In other words, while excuses may be accepted from undergraduate students for shoddiness, it is taken for granted that anyone on (post)graduate training has a developed mind that should ordinarily be beyond mediocrity. You should therefore know that you carry a lot of responsibilities on your shoulders as budding intellectuals and you should continue to equip yourselves mentally for the challenges of intellectualism.

In order to sustain the integrity of the academia, it is expected that you imbibe the highest ideals that universities are known for in terms of honesty, truth, objectivity, dynamism, rigour and excellence. The University of Ilorin is committed to fostering such an environment that will allow the talents in you blossom and the light in you shine. For instance, plagiarism is a criminal and anti-academic act but students of some institutions, especially in the age of the internet, have tended to take it with levity. At the University of Ilorin, you are aware that anti-plagiarism software is being developed so that if your thesis fails the test, you are subjected to ridicule and punishment. It is your role to *let your light shine* through your commitment to the highest ideals of the academe and your resistance to anything that threatens or compromises academic integrity.

As part of our effort in providing the best graduate training not just in Nigeria but in Africa as a whole, you will recollect that this academic session, the University attracted here a Seminar of the International Association of Universities (IAU) which focused on the "Changing Nature of Doctoral Programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa". During the Seminar, which involved primarily six universities (i.e. University of Ilorin, Nigeria; Kenyatta University, Kenya; National University of Rwanda; Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis, Sénégal; Université des Sciences et Technologies du Bénin; and Université de Douala, Cameroun), apart from a cream of experts from European, North American and other African universities, we came to realise that our graduate programme is in the league of the best and you are not in any way inferior to your counterparts in other world universities though there are areas for improvement.

For the benefit of hindsight, you will remember that during the workshop, which held between November 7 and 11, 2010 in this same Auditorium, the Secretary General of the IAU, Eva Egron-Polak, stated the obvious: "...on the successful and sustainable development of doctoral programs rests the future of academe" and "the future of much socio-economic development in societies that are or wish to move towards a knowledge-based economy and a society that enjoys a good health-care system, high quality primary, secondary, technical and higher education, a society that understands and appreciates cultural differences is based on the rule of law and democracy". This is what I meant when I said that a lot is expected from you by the society. The ball is in your court to propel Nigeria through knowledge to higher heights and the time is now to think of what your contribution to national development will be and to take appropriate step towards that desire.

One implication of the foregoing is that research being the core component of development, our Postgraduate School has to rise to the occasion of revitalising research through a sustained programme that will make graduate students committed researchers, not those who just perform the academic drudgery of getting additional qualifications or just being more marketable. We expect that your training will not be complete until it is required that you attend learned conferences where you make presentations and listen to scholarly debates. We believe that your training will not be adequate until you embark on cutting-edge research endeavours that are capable of generating sponsorships and attracting funds. It is gratifying to note that this academic session, some of you won millions of naira from the World Bank through the Innovators of Tomorrow under the aegis of Science, Technology and Education Post-Basic (STEP B) project. This is the pattern that we expect to multiply among you.

Dear students, the point I am making is that there is a world of difference between the ordinary and the extra-ordinary but the little difference that makes the big difference lies in that 'extra'. If you exert yourselves, discipline yourselves and develop yourselves within the framework of the facilities available at your disposal, both hard and electronic, there is nothing stopping you from ruling your world, as a telecommunication company would say. I urge you to *let your light shine* across the nation and the world by being serious with your studies, being committed to excellence and being diligent in your research. In this regard, the Postgraduate School must drive and you must be ready to be driven. There should be no excuses in this regard: everyone has to use what is available to achieve the desirable as there is nowhere everything desirable is available except Paradise.

Let me reiterate that the Seminar I referred to recommended that there should be a form of negotiated, structured and documented contact period between the supervisor and the student. "This should be monitored by a central body such as the graduate school", the final document states. While our Postgraduate School should ensure that supervisors guide their students towards the publication of articles in reputable journals during training, academic presentations are also expected to be made by students. Graduate students should know that they need to attend both local and international conferences. There are funding opportunities that can be explored in this regard too and the Postgraduate School should double its efforts in providing information about such opportunities to students.

The era of academic inertia through which people literally sleep on their programmes is over, the challenge of the day is for people with active minds and conscious spirits to use postgraduate training to change the society for the better through research. I believe such active minds and conscious spirits are those we have here today. If youths are the engine of development, students of your ilk are the piston in that engine. Be energized, obtain fully the light of knowledge and *let your light shine* to illuminate our path to progress.

I wish you success in the rest of today's activities and I wish you success in your various programmes at the University of Ilorin.

Thank you very much for your attention.

LAUGH LINES

WHY IT IS BETTER TO BE A WOMAN!

1. We got off the Titanic first.
2. We get to flirt with systems support men who always return our calls and are nice to us when we blow up our computers.
3. We can cry easily and get out of police trouble.
4. We have never lusted after a cartoon character or the central female figure in a computer game.
5. Men die earlier than we do, so we get to cash on their life insurance.
6. We don't look like a frog in a blender when dancing.
7. We don't have to fart to amuse ourselves as men do.
8. If we are dumb, some people will find it cute.
9. Free drinks, free dinners, free movies (you get the point).
10. If we forget to shave, no one has to know.
11. We have the ability to dress ourselves.
12. We can hug our friends without wondering if she thinks we are gay.
13. Our friends won't think we are weird if we ask whether there is spinach in our teeth.
14. Our boyfriends' clothes make us look elfin and gorgeous. Guys look like complete idiots in ours.
15. Taxis stop for us.
16. If we marry someone 20 years younger, we are aware that we look like an idiot.
17. We can fully assess a person by looking at their shoes.
18. We'll never regret piercing our ears.
19. If we have a zit, we know how to conceal it.
20. We never have to reach down so often to make sure our privates are still there.
21. We have enough sense to realise that the easiest way to get out of being lost is to ask for directions.

Unilorin delegation leaves for Virginia varsity

The University of Ilorin has sponsored a delegation of 20 lecturers, administrators and student leaders to Virginia State University as part of the collaboration with the American University. The delegation left Ilorin yesterday (Sunday, June 19, 2011) for the United States of America.



UNILORIN: Scaling the heights

The University delegation is invited by the President of VSU, Prof. Keith T. Miller, as part of the “International Institute for Capacity Building in Higher Education”, a professional development programme that emerged from the partnership between the two universities.

The University delegation to the American university represents a range of disciplines including agriculture, engineering, education, library science, computer information systems, language, law, mass communication, postgraduate studies and student government.

During the programme, which holds between June 20 and 30, 2011, the University delegation with its Virginia State University counterparts will engage in academic and cultural activities including participation in conferences and seminars, workshops, guest presentations, outreach activities, and networking in their respective disciplines.

Happy Birthday To You!

S/N	Name	Department/Unit	Date of Birth
1.	Sijuwola, Ayo	Bursar	20th June
2.	Sulyman, Olayinka	Security	20th June
3.	Aboyarin, Ruth O.	COMSIT	21st June
4.	Afolami, Daniel E.	Admissions Office	21st June

Are you a staff member of the University? Do you also want Unilorin Bulletin to wish you a happy birthday? If yes, please send your details as shown above (surname, first name and initial of middle name with your Department/ Office and date of birth) to us a week before the expected date of publication. All requests are subject to space availability and are treated on a first-come first-served basis. You are entitled to a hard copy of the edition in which your name is published. Happy birthday to you!

Unilorin in the News

(Contd. from last page)

- The newly elected President of the Students Union of the University of Ilorin has promised to introduce a broad based leadership for his co-students while speaking during his inauguration. ('New students' union president unfolds agenda', same as above.)
- Prof. S. O. Akande of the Department of Geology and Mineral Science has posited that over 40% of intra state conflicts are linked to the environment. ('40% of civil conflicts are linked to mineral resources', same as above.)
- The students of the University of Ilorin have trooped out in large numbers to elect their leaders for the 2011/2012 academic session at the Departmental, Faculty and Student Union levels. ('Fanfare as Unilorin students elect new officers', *Nigerian Compass*, Wednesday, June 15, 2011, p.15)
- The Chairman of the University School Management Board (USMB), and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic of the University of Ilorin, Prof K. L. Ayorinde, has criticised the negligent attitude of some parents towards the transportation of their wards to and from school while commissioning a bus donated by the Parent Teacher Association to the University School. ('Don counsels parents on child care as P.T.A. donates bus to staff school', same as above, p.22)

Unilorin in the News

- The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, has stressed that the era of misplaced enthusiasm and destructive unionism is gone saying that the civilized way of addressing issues is dialogue while speaking at the inauguration of the new student leaders of the University. ('Era of combative unionism gone – Unilorin VC', *The Herald on Sunday*, June 12, 2011, p.4)
- Lawal Olayiwola, a student of Mass Communication, University of Ilorin, has written a commentary where he averred that indecent dressing leads to crime and accident. ('Curbing menace of indecent dressing', *The Herald*, Monday June 13, 2011, p.7)
- A photograph showing a cross-section of students of the University of Ilorin Secondary School during a career talk organised by the school has been published. (Same as above)
- The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, has charged the new leadership of the University students to imbibe the qualities of commitment, discipline, sacrifice, honesty and accountability in an address captioned "The Sky is not the Limit" delivered during the swearing-in of the student leaders at the University recently. ('Oloyede tasks students on leadership', same as above, p.19)
- Dr. S.O. Aghalino of the Department of History and International Studies, University of Ilorin, has posited that the Nigerian state will continue to have problems until the leaders make the country a true federal state. ('Radio Kwara national news at 3p.m. Wednesday, June 15, 2011.)
- The University of Ilorin will host the 11th international conference and the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Nigerian Institute of Agricultural Engineers. ('Varsity to host NIAE confab', "UNILORIN FILE", *The Nation*, Thursday June 16, 2011, p.26)
- The President of the Students Union of the University of Ilorin, Mr. Musa Surajudeen, has revealed his administrative focus during his inaugural address. ('New SU president unfolds agenda', same as above)
- The Chairman of the Non Academic Staff Union of the University of Ilorin, Mr. J. J. Bello, has charged members of his union to avoid rumour mongering. ('NASU decries rumour mongering', same as above)
- Prof. S.O. Akande of the Department of Geology and Mineral Science has said that many conflicts are a result of natural endowments in the environment. ('Don links 40% of conflict to mineral resources', *National Pilot*, Thur. 16-Sun 19 June. 2011, p.2)
- A group photograph of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin with members of the newly inaugurated executive and the legislative arm of the Student Union leadership has been published. (Photonews, 'same as above, p.4)
- The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, has charged the new leadership of the University students to imbibe the qualities of commitment, discipline, sacrifice, honesty and accountability in order to progress beyond the sky during the swearing-in of the student leaders held at the University recently. ('Oloyede tasks students on effective leadership', *Nigerian Tribune*, Thursday June 16, 2011, p.33)

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Quotes of the Week

You may often make excuses for another never for yourself. - Pablus Syrus

Don't argue with idiots...They will bring you down to their level and beat you with experience. - Martin Luther King Jr

A man's worth depends upon the nobility of his aspirations. - Ali bin Abu Talib

A traitor to his country commits equal treason against mankind. - John Andrew

Individuals may form communities but it is institutions alone that create a nation. - Benjamin Disraeli