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## Aregbesola charts way to credible polls



**CREDIBILITY:** the Governor's representative, Mr. Ajibola; the VC, Prof. Oloyede; the Dean of Law, Dr. Egbewole and President, HRC, Mr. Olaide at the occasion last Wednesday

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The Governor of Osun State, Mr. Rauf Aregbesola, has tasked civil society organisations, the media, religious leaders, traditional rulers, community leaders, Labour and students, market men and women, and indeed all Nigerians to ensure that they vote and defend their votes to guarantee free and fair elections next month.

Mr. Aregbesola gave this charge while delivering a public lecture, "One Man One Vote without the Implementation of Uwaig Report: Myth or Reality ?" organised by the Human Rights Chamber of the Faculty of Law, University of Ilorin, last Wednesday (March 16, 2011) at the University Auditorium.

*(Contd. on page 2)*

## US dons thrill varsity community with lectures

Four US-based scholars have shared their insights with members of the University of Ilorin community in presentations that were considered to have direct impacts on institutional, professional and personal development. The dons are members of the visiting delegation of Virginia State University, Petersburg, United States, Prof. Maxine Sample, Prof. Justina Osa, Prof. Adeyemi Adekoya and Dr. Oluwarotimi Odeh, who were in the University of Ilorin between last Monday and Saturday.

Speaking last Wednesday (March 16, 2011) at a lecture on "International Education: Maximising International Initiatives and Resources for Campus Internationalisation", the leader of the delegation and Professor of Comparative Literature at Virginia State University, Maxine Sample, noted that the process of internationalising a University is about broadening the perspectives and environment of learning such that learning will incorporate intercultural, international and global perspectives into the process of learning, teaching, research and service function of higher education institutions.

*(Contd. on page 4)*



# Oloyede charges politicians on golden rule

(Contd. from front page)

According to the Governor, who was represented at the occasion by Mr. Bashir Ajibola, “all of us must be prepared to struggle for our votes to determine who leads and who does not lead us. Every registered voter must come out to vote and be prepared to defend his/her vote. If you don’t come out to vote or you vote and refuse to defend your vote, you are an accomplice of political ragamuffins. It is only when we make our votes count by ourselves that leaders can respect our yearnings and aspirations and be accountable to us in the delivery of services that will make life better for us.”

Mr. Aregbesola described elections as the only means by which citizens participate in the governance of their own country through the power to freely choose their representatives for the purpose of the organisation and development of their society. He added that the “pervasive state of irresponsibility on the part of most of the wielders of governmental powers is as a result of the fact that they were not really elected by the people.”

The Governor identified malpractices that mar free and fair elections in Nigeria as failures in the late delivery of voting materials, late commencement of polls in most of the states, ballot box stuffing, allocation of votes where voting did not take place, falsification of votes and deliberate denial of election materials to perceived strongholds of the opposition. He said these malpractices should be guarded against, in order to ensure free and fair elections characterized by “one man, one vote”, while lauding the Uwais Report as a document that, if implemented, “will definitely sanitise our political environment adding that such implementation “may only materialize after 2011 elections.”



**BEAUTIFUL: Mr. Ajijola, assisted by Mr. Olaide, admiring the gift of the University to the Governor of Osun State**

In his address at the occasion, captioned “Live and Let Live”, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, lauded the Governor on the adoption of “Mr. or *Ogbeni*”, despite being an Engineer. “It is a known fact that a typical Nigerian politician is a lover of titles, both deserved and undeserved. A lot of money is often committed to acquiring bogus high sounding titles and questionable honorary degrees just to inflate the egos of the personae involved,” he said.

Speaking further, Prof. Oloyede said that “as Nigeria prepares for elections next month, it is expedient that we all imbibe the spirit of *live and let live*. We should contest, if we like, and let others contest for positions. We should vote and let others vote. We should allow the Golden Rule, which is that we should do to others what we will like others to do to us, to rule our lives. If we desire peace in our lives, we should work towards letting others live in peace.”

Earlier in his welcome address at the occasion, the acting Dean of Law, Dr. Wahab O. Egbewole, noted that several years after most of our “co-travellers who are not by any standard better endowed have gotten it right, we are still at the stage of advocacy” noting that the problem afflicting Nigerians “is in us not in our stars.” He also stressed that “in order to get it right and not stop at mere sloganeering and political campaigns, the political class must be ready to give it what it takes: honesty; dedication; sense of purpose; and unflinching love for the people they pretend to serve.”

In his own address, the President of the Human Rights Chamber (HRC) and final year student of Law, University of Ilorin, Mr. Abdulganiy Sahid Olaide, charged his listeners to defend “our collective treasury from looters and to protect our individual votes from parasitic politicians.” He urged all “to vote for only true leaders and not for demagogues, whose only interest is to have your vote by their N500 and abandon you only to come back when another election is around the corner.”

The high points of the occasion included the conferment of awards on distinguished Nigerians and institution including the Governor of Osun State, Mr. Aregbesola, Malam Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN), Mustapha Akanbi Foundation, among others.

## Beware of propaganda, UNILORIN ASUU tells all

**T**he Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), University of Ilorin Branch, has urged members of the University community and the public to beware of the antics of a tiny group, “whose tirade is known to all of us spreading misinformation like wild fire and busy telling lies to unsuspecting members of the University Community.”

According to a statement dated March 15, 2011 and signed by the General Secretary of the Branch. Dr. AbdulRasheed A. Adeoye, a copy of which was made available to *Unilorin Bulletin*, the Congress of the union denounced “the recent calculated attempt to create confusion and disrupt the acknowledged academic stability of the University”, noting that the rank and file of the University lecturers condemned unequivocally “Dr. Oloruntoba-Oju’s insulting and divisive letter” and the earlier one by the ASUU National President, Prof. Ukachukwu Awuzie. It added further that “Congress re-affirmed the Exco’s initial position that ASUU constitution has no place for Sole Administratorship. Attention was drawn to the fact that almost all the Oloruntoba-Oju led Exco that served from 1997 to 2001 (the Vice-Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, A.S.G. and so on) have resigned from the University of Ilorin.”

“Congress noted that the present industrial harmony, academic stability and the ranking of the University of Ilorin as the best University in Nigeria and the 20<sup>th</sup> in Africa were the positive reasons why we should not allow the present unpopular action to derail our enviable reputation which has made its mark on the sands of time. Members unanimously condemned the context and the timing of the two ill-conceived letters as products of mischievous minds... the Congress resolved that:

“Whereas Dr. Taiwo Oloruntoba-Oju was the Chairman of ASUU Unilorin Branch from 1997 to 2001, and whereas many Chairmen had come after him, the Union, known as ASUU Unilorin Branch, hereby unanimously pass a vote of confidence on the present Executives of Unilorin ASUU led by Dr. S.Y. Omoiya, and in strong terms, condemn the divisive actions by the National President, Professor Ukachukwu Awuzie, and in particular, Dr. Taiwo Oloruntoba-Oju,” the statement reads in part.

While noting that the suspension of the University of Ilorin Branch by the National Body since about ten years ago is no longer news, Dr. Adeoye said that the ability of the University of Ilorin dons to sustain the union, promote scholarship and achieve excellence should be celebrated. He charged all staff to “let us unite, as we always do, to say ‘NO’ to a few people who want to take the majority for a ride” while he appreciated the lecturers for their unflinching support to the present leadership of the union.

Meanwhile, a lecturer in the Department of Religions, Dr. Abubakar Aliagan, has challenged students of the University to join their lecturers in condemning the nefarious activities of those he referred to as “Olorunruntoba-Oju and his cronies” who are toying with the students’ future.

Speaking at a lecture at the Faculty of Education last Wednesday, Dr. Aliagan expressed reservations to what he called “the devilish mission” of some people who are insistent on causing disaffection, rancour and turmoil in the University through some external agents who want to drag the University to where it was ten years ago. He added that though the lecturers would not allow anyone to impose himself on them, it is in the interest of the students that they know those who want to ignite fresh crises that would make them ultimately lose the peaceful academic culture cherished by all, which has made the University of Ilorin enjoy its current pride of place among Nigerian and African universities.

### Fast Facts File

#### ***Did you know?***

- The three wealthiest families in the world have more assets than the combined wealth of the 48 poorest nations.
- The city of Las Vegas (sin city) has the most hotel rooms in the world.
- The chance of a woman having twins is increased after the age of 35. About 1 in 27 women will give birth to twins after this age. After 50, however, the chance of a woman having twins is 1 to 9.
- During a typical human life span, the human heart will beat for approximately 2.5 billion times.
- New Zealand is the first country to allow women to vote.

## Most computer software used are obsolete - Expert

*(Contd. from front page)*

According to the 1972-Trenton State College graduate and Professor of Comparative Literature, internationalisation is a dynamic process which involves both the local and the global and which demands global competence from scholars and students. She added that such process may require change of infrastructure as well as a re-consideration of the mission and vision of institutions of higher learning.

Prof. Sample, who is also the Director of the Dr. George H. Bennett Office for International Education at VSU, one of the oldest American institutions, for students to be globally competent, they must know how global events will impact on them. She remarked that following September 11 event, the American Council on Education had to contend with a decrease in the number of foreigners who are interested in pursuing higher education in the United States.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, who chaired the lecture, emphasised that the solutions to most of the problems people have are within their reach if they can just step out of the cage and relate with others. He said it is essential that every educated individual internationalise by learning another language, visiting a different country and networking with colleagues elsewhere.

In a related development, last Thursday (March 17, 2011) other members of the delegation made their presentations which were also well received by the teeming members of the University community. In his paper, "Reliability of Statistical Software", the interim Chair of the Department of Agriculture at VSU, Dr. Oluwarotimi Odeh, submitted that he discovered that many of the everyday software used by scholars and researchers portend the danger of misguiding individuals, institutions and nations given that all the software are defective and therefore unsuitable for predicting economic conditions and events.

According to the don, while carrying out his research, many of the popular software used for basic calculations in offices across the world were subjected to the same model of test and they gave different results. He added that sometimes, the same software give different results when the same model of test is repeated. Dr. Odeh concluded that users should therefore adopt the principle of scientific enquiry which says "trust but verify" by authenticating the software they supposedly trust.

In his own presentation, entitled "Dynamics of Successful Information and Communications Technology: a Nigeria Case Study", Prof. Adeyemi Adekoya of the Department of Computer and Information Systems, VSU, submitted that in Nigeria, providing ICT facilities is still very expensive and the Return Over Investment is disappointing just as customer satisfaction is yet to be a reality. He noted that his study, which was carried out in Jos, Ibadan and other Nigerian cities, revealed that unstable power supply and other factors are responsible for the situation. He therefore submitted that the situation requires that investors in ICT study the best practices adopted by those institutions that have recorded some level of success and adapt the models to their contexts.



**EGG HEADS: L-R; Dr. Odeh, Prof. Adekoya, Dr. Omotosho, Mrs. Oyeyemi, Prof. Oloyede and Prof. Osa last Thursday**

In the presentation of the Chair of Doctoral Studies at VSU, Prof. Justina Osa, entitled "Accountability in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Enhancing Personnel Effectiveness and Student Learning", the scholar noted that her philosophy is that "schools are never built in order to document the failure of students." She also reiterated that the 21<sup>st</sup> century demands that the students of today should be prepared to have enough skills to take up jobs which are not available at the moment.

Prof. Osa emphasised that the contemporary student needs to be trained in such a way that s/he will be disposed towards dynamism and this can be ensured by giving students the opportunity to learn and pass according to their natural rate of learning. She added that there is no student who cannot learn but educational institutions need to provide the required environment for all students to be inspired. She suggested that the salaries and promotion of teachers should be tied to the success of their students and failure among a large number of students is a failure of their teachers and not that of the students.

## NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED

*Text of the Address Delivered by the Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin, Professor Is-haq O. Oloyede, on the Occasion of the Matriculation Ceremony of the 2010/2011 Fresh Students of the University on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at the Auditorium, University of Ilorin.*

I feel happy to welcome you to this much expected occasion. It is admittedly a glorious moment in a way that the various hurdles you scaled to be students of this University were not in vain. I congratulate you and I thank God for you. I know that today is a day of joy for many of you because it symbolizes your actual admittance into this academic community. As Samuel Johnson wrote in one of his *Adventurer* series (i.e. 111) as far back as 1753, "life affords no higher pleasure than that of surmounting difficulties, passing from one step of success to another, forming new wishes, and seeing them gratified." It is gratifying that you are successful till this stage. May your joy not be short-lived!

My dear students, while you rejoice on the success of your admission application, I advise you to be moderate. This is because in the real sense of it, it is not yet time to rejoice. A provisional admission is not an end in itself but a means to an end. It is time, therefore, for you to buckle up and prove that you were not admitted in error. This requires that you sit up, face your studies squarely, avoid all distractions as you obey the University rules and regulations. As the foundation is to a building, your first year in the University appears to be the most critical level as a student. If you are not academically strong or in good standing, the whole effort crashes and you are sent back home.

It is in the light of the foregoing that you should know that success depends on sacrifice and you need to imbibe this spirit of sacrifice to actualize your dream. As the saying goes, *nothing ventured, nothing gained*. You had all sacrificed sleep and comfort to pass all the various examinations right from the Ordinary Level till you joined the University. The spirit has to be sustained and you need to work harder than you did before. This is the message I have for you. University education requires determination, discipline and devotion. You have to give it all it takes.

It is very important that you know that everything has its time. This is the time for study and you have to study hard to excel. As I had once told your predecessors, you have a limited time to spend here and within the next four years or so, you will go. But you must not lose sight of the fact that how you spend these four critical years will eventually determine your future, the rest of your lives. If you graduate with a First Class, it sticks with you forever as it cannot be taken away from you. If you make a Third Class or a Pass, it will also be there forever. So, face your studies squarely, invest in your future by sacrificing your today and ensure you are among the best.

One serious problem with many people is that they don't mind their own business. As a result of that, they lose at all fronts. I understand that many young people including students waste their precious time on what does not concern them. What is your business with whether one European football club wins or loses? What concerns you about whether one musician sings better than the other or that an actor should have won an Oscar? Or what relevance is fashion to your purpose at the University that you would waste time discussing models and designers? These are some of the ways through which people nowadays waste their time and misdirect their energies.

While widening your horizons and socialising positively is part of your education – in fact your education is not complete until you know something about everything – your main business is to attend your lectures, do your assignments, render community service and make a good grade when you graduate. The world of today is interested in excellence in anything. If you excel in your studies for instance, you become a University scholar and the University will be paying your school fees. Despite all what people say, there are still many opportunities available, but they are meant for the excellent ones.

I am aware that not everyone of you would have been admitted for the course of first choice. The right attitude to such a development is to thank God for what you have because thousands of others wish they have your opportunity. The reality of today is that it is your stuff, your personality, that takes you far, not

your course of study *per se*. If you are excellent in your course and personality, the world will reckon with you. So be the best you can and it shall be all well.

It may interest you to know that 73,392 candidates applied one way or the other for undergraduate admissions to the University of Ilorin for the current session. Out of this figure, 27,847 were eventually part of the pre-registration screening exercise that you all partook in last August. Some 16,225 candidates (or 58.3%) passed the screening exercise, scoring a minimum of 50% and 6,344 were offered admission for the academic session while 5,384 registered eventually. Therefore, the total number of all matriculating undergraduate students is 5,384. This figure includes students of the newly introduced courses this session like Nursing, Metallurgical Engineering, Veterinary Medicine, Health Information Management and Pharmacy. Also admitted this session are 891 postgraduate and professional students.

As you begin your sojourn as students of this great University, there is a home truth in one foreign campus publication called *Off To College* that I read several years ago. The truth applies to you and this is it: “The bottom line is that poor class attendance is the major cause of students’ failure. It is your responsibility to get to class regularly, keep up with the assignments and participate in discussions. It is very difficult to fail.” With hard work, punctuality and discipline, you will realise that it is indeed “very difficult to fail”. Without them, there is nothing and *nothing ventured, nothing gained*.

Before I conclude, let me inform you that the University of Ilorin has a motto, “*probitas doctrina*”. This simply means “character and learning”. You will notice that character comes before learning because without character, learning is in vain. You are expected to dress properly and behave well. You are expected not to associate with unauthorised groups because evil communication corrupts good manners. As students of the University of Ilorin, which, I must tell you, was rated best again in Nigeria last week by a major international ranking organisation, [www.4icu.org](http://www.4icu.org), you are expected to be the best both in character and learning. Let me use this opportunity to thank the current staff and students of the University of Ilorin for their roles in making sure that we remain the best ranked University in Nigeria while we continue to rise on the Continental and Global rankings. (The *For International Colleges and Universities* or 4icu ranking released January 2011 is as attached.)

Finally, my dear students, as Jim Rohn wrote, “let others lead small lives, but not you. Let others argue over small things, but not you. Let others cry over small hurts, but not you. Let others leave their future in someone else’s hands, but not you.” This is because you are students of the University of Ilorin, not another university.

Thank you and God be with you.

## Committee extends abstract submission till March 30

**B**ased on the requests made by a segment of the prospective participants, the International Organising Committee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> joint international conference of the University of Ilorin, Nigeria, and University of Cape Coast, Ghana, has agreed to extend the deadline for the submission of abstracts to March 30, 2011. The previous deadline was March 12, 2011.

The Committee, which will further hold a full meeting involving members from the University of Cape-Coast, this week, noted that the theme of the conference remains “Climate Change and Sustainable Development” (CCSD 2011) while the sub-themes are: *Climate Change, Culture and the Arts, Climate Change and Environmental Development, Climate, Engineering and Infrastructural Development, Curriculum Response to Climate Change and Development, Climate Change and Health Management, Climate Change, Social Transition, Legal and Business Development*, as well as *Climate Change and Agriculture*.

Interested participants including the academic staff of the University, who are all encouraged to participate, should submit their abstracts to [uccunilorin2011@unilorin.edu.ng](mailto:uccunilorin2011@unilorin.edu.ng); kyankson [201@yahoo.com](mailto:201@yahoo.com) and [yaquadri@unilorin.edu.ng](mailto:yaquadri@unilorin.edu.ng). Full papers are to be submitted by April 15, 2011.

**UNILORIN BULLETIN – READ THE REAL THING!**  
[www.unilorin.edu.ng/unilorinbulletin](http://www.unilorin.edu.ng/unilorinbulletin)

## How BRAIN can attract research funding - Dons

The Head of the Morphological Anatomy Division, School of Anatomical Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, Dr. Ihunwo Amadi, has posited that the Brain Research Artificial Intelligence Network (BRAIN) group and the Stem Cell research group in the University of Ilorin have a great potential to attract foreign donors but before foreign donors are interested in funding any research, they assess the level of internal institutional funding available for such research in order to be assured that their investment is not misplaced.

This was part of Dr. Amadi's submission last Monday, (February 14, 2011) while delivering a lecture on "Handling Neuroscience Tools for Better Research". The lecture was part of the conference organised by BRAIN, University of Ilorin and the School of Anatomical Sciences, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. The don identified Local, State and Federal Governments as the public sources of funding for research while industries and charities are private sector sources of research funds. He also named local and international academic associations as potential donors to research.

According to him, "Neuroscience is the study of the nervous system – brain, spinal cord and networks of sensory nerve cells, or neurons, throughout the body" and this means that brain research is not just about humans but is also about research into the nature and workings of the brain of animals. He further said that with Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine, research into the brain will be upscale.

In his own presentation, "Adult Neurogenesis: Myth or Reality?" Dr. Salihu Ajao of the College of Health Sciences, University of Ilorin, who is also a PhD student at the School of Anatomical Sciences, University of Witwatersrand, submitted that contrary to the belief that brain cells do not regenerate if they are lost, new knowledge has proven otherwise. He also noted that Nigeria needs to meet international standards of animal rights and commented that the laws on animal rights are sometimes overbearing than necessary in the West.

On the second day of the conference, Prof. Margot Hosie delivered two papers on stem cell research in her laboratory at the University of Witwatersrand.

Speaking earlier at the event, the Chairman of BRAIN, University of Ilorin, Prof. I. O. Abimbola, in his welcome address, said that the same conditions that have seen the University of Ilorin to its number one position in Nigeria have applied to the success of the conference.

The Chairman of the occasion and Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Prof. W. B. R. Johnson, said that the purpose of brain research should be for its therapeutic potentials adding that the hue and cry over mortality in rats used in research to understand the human brain better is uncalled for.

## Faculty hosts lecture

The Faculty of Law, University of Ilorin, has invited the University Community and the general public to this year's edition of its annual Justice Muhammad Mustapha Akanbi Faculty of Law Lecture. The theme of this year is "Tackling Corruption and Corrupt Related Practices in Election Processes for Credible Election in Nigeria".

The lecture, which will be delivered by a retired Justice of the Supreme Court, Hon. Justice Pius Olayinka Aderemi, holds at 10.00 a.m. next week on Tuesday (March 29, 2011) at the University Auditorium. The occasion will be chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede.

Similarly, the University of Ilorin Chapter of the National Association of Muslim Law Students (NAMLAS) has announced that it will hold its annual public lecture in honour of Hon. Justice Olabanji Orilonise (rtd.) at the University Auditorium. The topic is "Gender Equality vis-à-vis Political Leadership: The Islamic Perspective" and it will be examined by Hon. Justice M. A. Oredola while Hon. Justice M. M. Akanbi will be the Chairman.

## Unilorin's one week with Virginia State varsity

For the whole of last week, the University of Ilorin was a beehive of activities as one of its partners in the United States, the 1882-established Virginia State University (VSU), through four dons, spent a week networking, sharing insights and furthering academic friendship with Unilorin.

The four-man delegation arrived Lagos, Nigeria, on Sunday (March 13) and by 9:00 a.m. last Monday (March 14), the plane conveying the four had touched down at Ilorin Airport where they were received by the University. The delegation, which comprised academics with Nigerian roots like Prof. Justina Osa, Dr. Olurotimi Odeh and Prof. Adeyemi Adekoya, were later formally received by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, and the staff of the Centre for International Education led by the acting Director, Dr. A. O. Omotosho, in the Vice-Chancellor's office.

Welcoming the delegation to the University, the Vice-Chancellor expressed his pleasure to receive the team and thanked them for reciprocating the earlier visit of the University of Ilorin. He noted that their visit to Nigeria would be mutually beneficial to the two institutions and would contribute to the development of humanity. The Vice-Chancellor also told the delegation that the University of Ilorin was then hosting a Visitation Panel set up by the proprietors of the University as part of the accountability process.

In her response, the leader of the delegation, Prof. Maxine Sample, who is also the Director of Dr. George H. Bennett Office for International Education, VSU, expressed the delight of the VSU to, through the visit, deepen the friendship between the two institutions of note in their different countries. The delegates were later hosted to a reception at the University auditorium basement where they had an initial interaction with members of the University of Ilorin community.

During the reception, Prof. Sample recalled that the relationship between VSU and Unilorin began in 2008 when her institution was looking for a scholar of Islam who could articulate a version of Islam that is more authentic than the knowledge of Islam which is available on Cable Network News (CNN) and other Western media to the Virginia State University Community and Dr. Omotosho, who was a Fulbright scholar at the University of London, was invited. She also commented that she believes that historical black colleges such as VSU also belong to Africa and as such, forging partnerships with renowned African institutions is desirable.

In her own response, the VSU Chair of the Department of Doctoral Studies, Dr Justina Osa, who is also a specialist in Teacher Education, said that she loves being a student and the visit to the University of Ilorin was another opportunity for her to learn more. The interim Chair of the Department of Agriculture at the Virginia State University, Dr. Oluwarotimi Odeh, described home as the best place to be at anytime while in his own comment, Dr. Adeyemi Adekoya expressed the joy of his team to be at a University which has prided itself on academic excellence.

The following day, the delegation had meetings with the Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Engineering and Technology. The delegation also met the staff of the University Library where support services to the deaf and blind users were discussed after which they were received by the students at the Students Union Building. There, the Vice-Chancellor reiterated that students could spend a session at VSU and continue their education with the credits offered there computed with their grades at the University of Ilorin without them losing anything. The students impressed the delegation with a dance performance and presentation of souvenirs.

On Wednesday, which was day four, the delegation had meetings with the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Communication and Information Sciences and other units of the University. This was followed by a lunch at the beautiful ambience of the recently upgraded Unilorin Biological Garden after which Prof. Sample delivered a well-received lecture (*see page 1*). At night, the Vice-Chancellor hosted the delegation and other international staff and students of the University of Ilorin to a sumptuous dinner at his house. More interactions were held on Thursday with the Faculty of Education and the Postgraduate School Board. The day ended with a symposium chaired by the Vice-Chancellor in which the trio of Prof. Adekoya, Dr. Odeh and Prof. Osa addressed the University audience in the auditorium (*see page 4*).

On Friday, there was a final meeting of the two Universities on approving the blueprint of the collaboration and after the day's activities, there was a reception at the Dam Site. It was the following day that the delegation had time to tour the city of Ilorin after which they departed to Lagos for their return journey to the United States. As you are reading this report, the VSU team are already savouring the memorable experience they had at the University of Ilorin thousands of kilometres away in Petersburg, United States, where VSU is located.

## Civil societies have failed Nigerians - Mahmud

The Head of the Department of Global Sciences and Social Studies at Kwara State University, Malete, Dr. Sakah Saidu Mahmud, has identified the prevalence of ignorance among the electorate as a factor responsible for the continuous failure of politicians to fulfil their electoral promises.

Dr. Mahmud made this submission last Thursday (March 17, 2011) while delivering a paper entitled “Electoral Promises and Good Governance: the Nigerian Experience”, at a distinguished personality lecture organised by the Ilorin Emirate Students Association, University of Ilorin Branch, in honour of the Emir of Ilorin, Justice Ibrahim Sulu Gambari (rtd).

The lecturer posited that Nigerian electorates remain ignorant because civil societies and the opposition parties have not lived up to the responsibility of educating the electorate on their constitutional powers which include the power to recall the non-performing representatives. He also stressed that electoral campaigns in Nigeria are always saturated with promises and the citizens should demand for the fulfillment of the promises by publicising and publishing politicians’ promises. He said such promises should be reviewed regularly to determine the extent to which they have been fulfilled with the help of the civil societies especially when elections are approaching. He added that those who break electoral promises should be prevented from re-contesting.

The Associate Professor also noted that the average Nigerian electorate demonstrates ignorance by accepting money from politicians because s/he is yet to acquire the right political culture needed to achieve good governance. He also lamented that politicians allow campaigns to occupy the time that should be used to focus on development and soon after they assume office, they carry signs of good living on their cheeks at the expense of the poverty-stricken electorate. He explained that in the United States, every citizen can keep track of politicians’ activities by just logging on to the internet, and this goes a long way in checking potential excesses by politicians.

Speaking earlier at the occasion, the President of Ilorin Emirate Students Association, University of Ilorin Branch, Mr. Abdullahi Akanbi Tajudeen, noted that the association has the objective of looking after the welfare of its members as well as being an agent of social education.

The occasion, which was chaired by the Chairman of the Ilorin Emirate Community at the University of Ilorin, Prof. Ahmad Abdusalam, was attended by Balogun Alanamu and Balogun Gambari, among other dignitaries.

## UNILORIN is truly the best – American varsity dons

Members of the Virginia State University delegation to the University of Ilorin have expressed their happiness with the quality of staff, students and facilities of the University of Ilorin saying that they could attest to the ranking of the University as the best in the country.

Prof. Maxine Sample and Prof. Justina Osa who spoke on behalf of the group last Wednesday night at a dinner in their honour noted that they were impressed by the University and they hoped that with what they had seen, the University of Ilorin is destined to the top.

“The University of Ilorin is truly the best. The Vice-Chancellor is a man of vision. He has an idea of where he wants to lead the University to and what I observe is that he is pursuing the vision vigorously,” Prof. Osa said.

### LAUGH LINES

At the office of the Chief Dentist in a major dentistry, the doctor was passionately begging the patient:

Dentist: Could you help me? Could give out a few of your loudest, most painful and insane screams please?

Patient: Why, Doc? It isn't all that bad this time.

Dentist: You have to do it for me please. There are so many people in the waiting room right now and I don't want to miss the 4'o clock match between Arsenal and Man U!

## Screening exercise for next-of-kins of deceased pensioners holds this week

The screening exercise earlier slated for 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 (announced in *Unilorin Bulletin*, Monday March 7, 2011, p. 8) has been re-scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

According to a statement signed by the Deputy Registrar (Establishments), Mr. E. D. Obafemi, all next-of-kins of the deceased pensioners of the University of Ilorin to be verified are expected to present both original and photocopies of the following documents during the exercise:

- (a) Letter of identification from the institution;
- (b) Letter of First Appointment of the deceased;
- (c) Confirmation of Appointment of the deceased;
- (d) Letter of last promotion of the deceased;
- (e) Letter of retirement of the deceased (if the deceased retired before death);
- (f) Medical Certificate of Cause of Death;
- (g) Letter of Administration from the Court;
- (h) Deceased employees' file (to be provided by the PDOs);
- (i) Banking details – (Bank, Branch, Account number, sort code);
- (j) A recognized form of identification (i.e. International Passport OR National Identity Card OR Drivers Licence);
- (k) One recent passport photograph (not older than six months).

The statement further reads that “the verification exercise will take place at the University of Ilorin Auditorium. See Punch Newspapers of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 for details. You may wish to see the Pension Desk Officer for further clarification where in doubt on any issue in respect of the above.”

## Unilorin seeks nominations for emeritus professors

The University of Ilorin has called for nominations for the appointment of Emeritus Professors from its College and Faculties. A statement signed by the Registrar, Mrs. Olufolake O. Oyeyemi, announces that “in line with the University extant regulation, nominations are hereby invited from the College/Faculties for the appointment of Emeritus Professor.” Such nominations should be forwarded to the Registrar, not later than 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2011.

The University guidelines for the appointment of Emeritus Professors stipulate, among others, that only a person who has been a Professor for not less than 15 years, at least 10 of which must have been spent as a Professor of the University of Ilorin, may be recommended for appointment; the candidate recommended for appointment must be at least 60 years; the candidate must have retired from the University System with good record; the candidate must show evidence of continuing research and teaching activities and, in general, distinguished scholarship after attaining the grade of Professor and up to the time of retirement and the candidate must have delivered an inaugural lecture in a University, preferably in the University.

## Happy Birthday To You!

S/N	Name	Department/ Faculty	Date of Birth
1.	Ojuawo, Ayodele	Paediatrics and Child Health	20 <sup>th</sup> March
2.	Adeleye, Benedict T.	Bursary	21 <sup>st</sup> March
3.	Ahon-Usi, Stephen O.	Vice-Chancellor's Office	21 <sup>st</sup> March
4.	Akangbe, Jones	Agricultural Extension and Rural Development	22 <sup>nd</sup> March
5.	Garba, Khadija W.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	23 <sup>rd</sup> March
6.	Olorundare, Solomon A.	Dean, Education	23 <sup>rd</sup> March
7.	Gbadeyan, Florence	Bursary	24 <sup>th</sup> March
8.	Adams, Bashir O.	Physical Planning Unit	25 <sup>th</sup> March
9.	Olademo, Oyeronke	Religions	26 <sup>th</sup> March

## Unilorin in the News

(Contd. from back page)

- The University of Ilorin through its Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, in conjunction with Sasakawa Fund for Extension Education (SAFE), has organised a workshop aimed at introducing a new course in order to address the food security challenges facing the country.  
(‘Varsity introduces new program on agric’, *Nigerian Compass*, Wednesday, March 16, 2011, p.18)
- The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, has dispelled the rumour that he resigned his appointment as Vice-Chancellor describing the peddlers of such rumour as mischievous.  
(‘UNILORIN VC dispels resignation rumour’ *National Pilot*, Thu. 17<sup>th</sup> – Sun. 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2011, p.3)
- On the supposed leadership tussle in ASUU, University of Ilorin Branch, a newspaper has reported that “to most lecturers, Oloruntoba-Oju is on a devilish mission to cause instability in a university that has, for more than a decade, been peaceful and maintained uninterrupted academic calendar to the utmost benefit of the students.”  
(‘Disquiet in Unilorin ASUU...as Oloruntoba-Oju lays claim to union’s leadership’, *National Pilot*, same date, p.4)
- The acting Dean of Communication and Information Sciences, University of Ilorin and President of the Nigerian Library Association, Prof. Lenrie O. Aina, has bared his mind with journalists on issues concerning Nigeria. (‘We went on rampage because of rumour over NYSC scheme in 1973 – Aina, President, Nigerian Library association’, *National Pilot*, same date, pp. 5 and 20)
- The Chief Imam of the University of Ilorin, Prof. A.G.A.S Oladosu, and the Chaplain of the University of Ilorin, Dr. C.O. Ogunkunle, have cautioned politicians against violence in the forthcoming elections while speaking at a workshop held at the University of Ilorin.  
(‘Religious leaders, others, caution against electoral violence’, *National Pilot*, same date, p.9)
- The serialization of Prof. Olurotimi Fakeye’s inaugural lecture delivered at the University of Ilorin recently continues to run in a newspaper.  
(‘That our women die not without gains II’, *National Pilot*, same date, pp.11, 14 and 6)
- While speaking at a dinner organised in honour of the visiting Virginia State University delegation, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, has disclosed that the delegates were in Nigeria in furtherance of the MoU between the two Universities, which will lead to the exchange of staff and students soon.  
(‘Virginia varsity partners Unilorin on academic dev’, *Nigerian Tribune*, Friday, March 18, 2011, p.48)
- Dr. Mahfouz Adedimeji has clarified that though the former Minister of Education, Dr. Sam Egwu, promised automatic employment to first class graduates of the University of Ilorin, the University always employs such categories when and where there are vacancies according to the law.  
(‘Re: UNILORIN’s futile promise to first class students’, *The Punch*, Friday, March 18, 2011, p.13)
- The authorities of the University of Ilorin have organised a reception in honour of four delegates from Virginia State University, USA, who were in the University for a week as part of implementing the bilateral relations and MoU between the two universities.  
(*NTA Ilorin news*, Thursday, March 17, 2011 @7:00 p.m.)
- The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, has disclosed that the internationalisation of the University of Ilorin and the planned staff and student exchange between the University of Ilorin and Virginia State University will go a long way in deepening the multicultural nature of Ilorin while speaking with journalists at a dinner in honour of the VSU delegation.  
(*Radio Kwara news*, Friday March 18, 2011 @ 3:00 p.m.)
- Those who have children, wards and relations as students of the University of Ilorin have been told to check three newspapers on Monday March 21, 2011 for a piece of information that may be of interest to them as stakeholders. (*The Punch, Nigerian Compass, Daily Trust*, Friday, March 18, 2011, front page)

## Unilorin in the News

- The 2011 Visitation Panel to the University of Ilorin has commended the University on the strategic investments it has made in its IT infrastructure saying that such facilities can boost the internally generated revenue of the University.  
(‘Visitation panel commends UNILORIN on IT facilities’, *The Guardian*, Sunday, March 13, 2011, p.46)
- Prof. Olurotimi Fakeye of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Ilorin, has flayed the government over its neglect of the health sector resulting in the high maternal mortality rate in the country.  
(‘Don blames government for maternal mortality’, *The Guardian*, same date, p.47)
- A commentator has described how the University of Ilorin made a “quantum leap” from number 5,484 to 2,668 in the world thereby emerging as the No. 20 University in Africa while writing that Nigerian universities have improved with eight universities being in the best 100 league table now.  
(‘Beyond webometrics ranking’, *The Guardian*, same as above, p.47)
- The Director of the Department of State Security Services, Kwara State Command, Mr. W. A. Ologba, has described political violence as the bane of democratic process while speaking at a workshop organised by the Centre for peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ilorin, recently.(‘Political violence, bane of democratic process – SSS boss’, *National Pilot*, Monday March 14 to Wednesday 16, 2011, p.3)
- A former Chairman of the ICPC, Hon. Justice Mustapha Akanbi, has said that Nigerians lack the political education that would make them realise the importance of placing national interest above personal interests while speaking at a recent two-day workshop held at the University of Ilorin.  
(‘Nigeria lacks political education for a peaceful nation – Akanbi’, *National Pilot*, Monday March 14 to Wednesday 16, 2011, p.5)
- The inaugural lecture of Prof. Olurotimi Omoniyi Fakeye delivered recently at the University of Ilorin has been partly published.  
(‘That our women die not without gains’, *National Pilot*, same as above, pp. 5 and 23)
- Between September 29 and October 9, 2011, at least some 60 Nigerian universities are expected to participate in the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of West Africa University Games (WAUG) to be hosted by the University of Ilorin. (‘60 Nigerian universities for WAUG games’, *National Pilot*, same date, p.31)
- The Chief Imam of the University of Ilorin, Prof. AbdulGaniy Oladosu, has said in a Jumat sermon that despite the efforts of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), unscrupulous politicians will still not allow the 2011 elections to be credible. (‘INEC cannot prevent rigging, manipulation – Don’, *The Herald*, March 14, 2011, p.2)
- A Mass Communication graduate of the University of Ilorin, Perpetual Umeaku, has expressed her opinion about the establishment of additional federal universities in Nigeria.  
(‘Much ado about more federal universities’, *The Herald*, Monday March 14, 2011, p.18)
- Though the Congress of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) University of Ilorin Branch, is not aware of any other executive council, a news reporter has indicated that there are two parallel executive councils. (‘Parallel excos battle for UNILORIN ASUU’, *The Nation*, Tuesday, March 15, 2011,p.5)

(Contd. on page 11)

### Quotes of the Week

The first great gift we can bestow on others is a good example. - Thomas Morell

Age wrinkles the body. Quitting wrinkles the soul. - Douglas MacArthur

Money can't buy you happiness, but it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery. - Spike Milligan

Girls are the future mothers of our society, and it is important we focus on their wellbeing. - Miriam Makeba