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We want to use Unilorin to brand Nigeria – VC



THE BRAND: Prof. Oloyede responding to the issues raised by his guests last Thursday

Highlights

- **Unilorin FM: waxing stronger one year after** p.3
- **Unilorin set to develop anti-plagiarism software** p.4
- **Unilorin wins international agric award** p.5
- **Varsity discards paper, adopts e-communication** p.5
- **Advert: Invitation for Bids by SSANU** p.6
- **Two extortionists nabbed on campus** p.7
- **Unilorin in the News** p.8

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, has stressed that the University is desirous to brand not only Ilorin and Kwara State but Nigeria at large through its commitment to the pursuit of excellence and determination to embrace best practices.

Prof. Oloyede made this submission while interacting with members of the various chapels of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Kwara State Council, who were his guests for *Iftaar* (breaking of the fast) and sunset dinner last Thursday (August 19, 2010) at the Vice-Chancellor’s Lodge, University of Ilorin.

According to Prof. Oloyede, who is also the President of the Association of African Universities (AAU), some universities across the world are noted to have branded the cities in which they are situated. He cited the examples of Oxford and Cambridge which are famous not because of themselves but because of the universities cited in them which people easily think of when the cities are mentioned. He also said it is the dream of the University that when Ilorin, Nigeria, is mentioned, the global community would think of academic excellence. *(Contd. on page 2)*

Why we choose Unilorin, by admission applicants

While several thousands of candidates were screened last week by the University of Ilorin in its Ilorin, Lagos and Minna centres, many of the applicants have expressed their views about the University of Ilorin and the pre-admission screening exercise

To Lawal AbdulQadir, a native of Kwara State, his choice of the University of Ilorin is based on the fact that “the school is interesting compared to other schools”. He said he would rate Unilorin one of the best universities in the world because “no matter what, Unilorin never goes on strike”. He also observed that the “dress code” is another strong point that endears the University to his heart.

As far as Adedotun Adebawale, who hails from Lagos State, is concerned, the desire to explore other parts of the country motivated her to venture out of Lagos, for the first time in her life. *(Contd. on page 2)*



POST-JAMB: The candidates writing their CBT screening test last week

Unilorin lucky to have quality administrators

(Contd. from front page)

Speaking further, Prof. Oloyede observed that when the University of Ilorin decided to subject itself to the assessment of the International Association of Universities (IAU) based on international parameters, many people were apprehensive but he said he was not afraid of failure. He said that when the result eventually was highly favourable, staff and students felt gratified while other sub-saharan African universities are now bracing up to submit themselves to the international assessment.

He added also that when the University pioneered the use of Computer-Based Test (CBT) in the screening of the admission applicants three years ago, many people within and outside the University of Ilorin were miffed, with some anticipating failure. But at the end of the day, the University succeeded and now at least 25 Nigerian universities are taking advantage of the CBT in screening their admission applicants among other forms of uses.



CHAT: R-L, The VC, Prof. Oloyede, Mr. Oni of the NUJ and Dr. M.A. Adedimeji of the Directorate of Information and Protocol at the occasion

Responding further, the Vice-Chancellor said that the Nigerian media may wish to challenge universities based on their annual reports on the basis of accountability and transparency. He said while annual reports are important documents across the world, like academic briefs, the publication of annual reports in Nigerian universities became comatose at a time. He expressed satisfaction that since the University of Ilorin re-started the publication of the report three years ago and made the document available to other universities, at least 10 other Nigerian universities have revived the culture of publishing their annual reports, having been inspired by the University.

In his reaction to what was said to be the “many successes” of the University under his administration, Prof. Oloyede noted that whatever is achieved is based on the foundation laid by his eminent predecessors. He described the seven Vice-Chancellors, mentioning their names, who presided over the University before him as great men whose academic robustness and administrative resourcefulness had propelled the University to such heights that a Vice-Chancellor like him would only do little to make their earlier efforts bloom.

While making his remarks further, the Prof. Oloyede noted that many people do not know the limitation of the Vice-Chancellor who is just one of many professors. “People think that a Vice-Chancellor is a Chief Executive of a company not knowing that he is just another Professor out of about 200. For instance, if the Senate decides that the cut-off mark is 200 for admission, there is nothing a Vice-Chancellor can do about it. But some people will say, ‘my son scored 199, why can’t you do it since you are the Vice-Chancellor?’, without realising that the Vice-Chancellor does not have such powers”.

He also added: “Even a VC cannot admit a one hundred level student without the support of the Head of Department. If the Head of Department says, “okay, the VC has admitted you, go and register for your course in the VC’s office”, that’s the end of it, the VC is powerless. The same thing applies to recruitment. Supposing the VC decides to recruit a messenger and the Department says I don’t need him, there is no way the person can be recruited. This is unlike a Chief Executive or Managing Director who wields executive powers. The University operates on a committee system and power is devolved among various committees.”

Earlier speaking, the leader of the delegation and Chairman of the NUJ, Kwara State Council, Mr. Stephen Oni, congratulated the Vice-Chancellor on the achievements of the University and the recent award conferred on him by his Council, saying that the award was purely based on merit. He also thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his presence at the last programme organised by the Council, which he was subsequently represented at when the programme could not start long after schedule, just as he acknowledged the support the University lent the Council in the past. He pledged the support of the journalists to the University of Ilorin saying that the achievements of the University are discernable to informed segments of the society and that journalists will always play their role in recognising such developments and achievements that impact positively on the lives of several Nigerians.

Unilorin FM: waxing stronger one year after

When the undulating voice of the programme announcer hit the air-waves on the bright Thursday morning of August 13, 2009, the whole University community and its neighbours were filled with thrill and ecstasy. Not a few wondered if what they heard that morning was actually Unilorin FM, the in-house radio station of the University of Ilorin that had just begun transmission.

One year after its uninterrupted transmission of educative programmes, entertaining gists and edifying news, the radio station appears to have come to stay, competing favourably in programming content with radio stations that had been established several years ago.

Unilorin FM radio is transmitted every Monday to Friday (except on public holidays) on 89.3 frequency modulation both in the morning (8:00 a.m. – 12 noon) and (4:00p.m – 8:00 p.m.) belts. It features both daily and weekly programmes and has a vast array of educative, entertaining and informative programmes that have succeeded in whetting the appetite of the listening audience.

Some of the daily programmes include “Top Highlights”, which reviews the current headlines in the Nigerian media (9:00 a.m.– 9:30 a.m.), “News” at 12 noon, “Let’s Learn Unilorin Anthem” at 12:30 p.m., among others.

Its weekly programmes include “You Think You Know?”, a quiz programme that focuses on current affairs, (Monday 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.); “E ma ya’s e o”, a Yoruba programme that keeps people going as work progresses (Wednesday 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.); “Legal Issues”, a programme that educates the listening audience on their rights and other legal matters (Thursday, 10:00a.m – 11:00p.m.) and “Straight from the Hearts” (Wednesday 7:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.) which focuses on relationships and issues pertaining to the heart. Other programmes that the radio station airs, or has in the offing, are “Sports Tit Bits” (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 4:30p.m. – 4:45p.m.), “Health Tips”. “Request Show”, “Mr. and Mrs. Ajanlekoko”, “Flavo”, “Take-a-Pick”, “Today in History”, “Musicals” among others.

While recounting the achievements recorded by the station in its one year of existence to *Unilorin Bulletin*, the man in the studio, who is the acting Studio Manager, Mr. Oluwasegun Alabi, noted that like all things new, the station has general, infrastructural and attitudinal challenges.

Explaining, Mr. Alabi, who anchors many of the programmes, said people appear to be “radio-shy”. He recounted his experience with a programme he had promoted but the guest, who is a Director in the University, failed to show up at the eleventh hour and it was when he called the Director that he was still being expected that he said he couldn’t come. He also said members of the University community are yet to be fully taking advantage of the potentials that the radio station offers.

Unilorin FM can be heard clearly not only all across the University campus but also in its surrounding communities. It is expected that with the kind of sophisticated equipment and facilities the University is planning to procure soon, Unilorin 89.3 FM will be a campus radio station to beat in Nigeria.



HANDOVER: Immediate past acting Head of English Department, Dr. (Mrs). V. A. Alabi, handing over to the new acting Head, Dr. S. T. Babatunde, last Thursday

Fast Facts File

Did you know?

- The first Muslim ambassador to the United States, a Tunisian, was hosted by Thomas Jefferson, the third American President, to a sunset dinner or *iftaar*, because it was Ramadan, over 200 years ago. It was the first *iftaar* to be hosted by the White House.
- The Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy was completed 200 years after it was started in 1173. Standing with a 10-degree tilt without falling, the tower where Galileo Galilei (1564 -1642) performed his gravity and relative speed experiments, about 400 years ago, is considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Candidates express why Unilorin is their choice

(Contd. from front page)

Miss Adebowale noted that the University of Ilorin would naturally strike her as a dream University because “we have heard so much about Unilorin. It is a school that doesn’t take nonsense, even lecturers behave themselves with female students (sic)”. Another high point of Unilorin, according to her, is that “Unilorin is a good school with space everywhere not like Lag. In fact, I rate Unilorin high – number one among all federal universities.”

In their own opinions, two young candidates who identified themselves simply as Praise and Maryam from Delta State, said the University of Ilorin is the best and that is why they have chosen it. While saying that “this is a school that is academically sound”, they noted that the “University of Ilorin is the best and the first to introduce the act of CBT”. On what they think of the Computer-Based Test (CBT), the two friends said, “it is a very good one, it’s faster, easier to judge students.”

On the part of Samsudeen Oseni, a native of Osun State, why he chose the University of Ilorin is that “Unilorin is far, far better by far”, echoing exactly the words of Prof. Peter Okebukola, former Executive Secretary of the NUC. According to Oseni, “Unilorin is an advanced University. Talking about landscape, structures, academics and so on... and its students are good wherever you meet them.”

For Temiloluwa Arinde-Simeon, a Kwara State indigene, she chose the University of Ilorin because “the school is fast, the mode of teaching and style is unique with quality tutors and zero tolerance for indiscipline”. On what she felt about the CBT, Miss Arinde-Simeon submitted that “it’s normal since all schools are doing it now. But it is very good because there will be no room for *partial* from lecturers while marking. Please let me add this, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. I. O. Oloyede, is doing a very good job, see, he has transformed the school totally.”

Unilorin set to develop anti-plagiarism software

In their bid to sustain the academic standard the University is noted for, the authorities of the University of Ilorin have finalised arrangements to develop an anti-plagiarism software.

This pro-active measure is designed to discourage research students and scholars alike from plagiarism, though no instance of such has been recorded in recent years among members of the University Community.

According to a crack-team of four who recently gave a technical report of their work in that direction, anti-plagiarism software is “a piece of software that compares “text by text” content of an article with existing articles. Such articles can be any kind of text documents such as theses, journals, coursework and so on”.

The software, when fully developed, will scan an article on which it is deployed and give a report. The report will indicate the level of originality or otherwise of the article as matched with its online database.

“Articles are submitted in a format specified by the software developer. The specifications given are such that the software will be able to *read* the content of the article and compare with a database containing all articles.” It will be agreed that such database will give access to only articles that are online and in a format that the software can understand.

After the successful testing of the software, the University plans to extend it to other Nigerian higher institutions so that the quality of academic research will be enhanced and originality of such efforts guaranteed.

Apart from the one to be developed by the University of Ilorin, the University also plans to subscribe to an online company to back up the services rendered by the in-house type being developed so that at no time will there be no facility to scan articles and subject them to plagiarism test.

Unilorin wins international agric award

The University of Ilorin has won the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (IMMYT) and International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) award, alongside other institutions and agencies for Nigeria.



L-R: Prof. Omotesho showing the plaque to the VC while the DVC (MS), Prof. A.B. Olayemi watches with interest

The award, tagged “Best Maize Technology Development and Dissemination Team, 2009”, was conferred on the University and its team members.

The award was in recognition of the University’s “invaluable and excellent contribution towards development and dissemination of Drought Tolerant Maize in West Africa” as indicted in the plaque presented to the University, endorsed by Dr. Paula Bramel, Director General of Research for Development (R4D), IITA and Dr. Wifred Mwangi, Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa (DTMA) leader.

Presenting the award to the Vice-Chancellor last Thursday (August 19, 2010), the Dean of Agriculture, Prof. O. A. Omotesho, noted that the Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa (DTMA) project is implemented jointly by IMMYT and IITA and is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. He described it as part of a broad partnership that involves national agricultural research and extension systems, seed companies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Community-based organisation (CBOs,) and advanced research institutes known as DTMA initiative.

According to Prof. Omotesho, the University of Ilorin is represented on the project by the acting Director of Unilorin Sugar Research Institute, Dr. Gbadebo Olaoye, and it is the first time the DTMA award recipients were given a plaque in addition to the cash award that had been the tradition since the awards were introduced in 2007 to foster team work and excellence among project partners.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, congratulated the Faculty of Agriculture and Dr. Olaoye on the well-deserved award. He expressed satisfaction especially with the joint nature of the award and the cooperation the programme fosters among the University of Ilorin, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, and the University of Maiduguri along with seven other agencies and companies that are partners to the University of Ilorin in the project.

He remarked that the irony of the situation is that it is Nigeria that should be presenting awards to the international agencies and bodies for their commitment to the development of agriculture not only in Nigeria but across other parts of Africa, not the other way round. While urging the Faculty to keep its good work up, Prof. Oloyede appealed to other members of the University community to continue to put in their best in all they do because good work will be rewarded one way or the other.

Varsity discards paper, adopts e-communication

In their drive to improve service delivery and reduce several man-hours lost in the manual delivery of bulk mail, the authorities of the University of Ilorin have decided to be sending mail meant for all members of the University community to their individual official e-mail addresses.

According to a statement signed by the Registrar, Mrs. Olufolake O. Oyeyemi, “Senate members, Deans, Directors, Heads of Department and the generality of staff are please advised to check their e-mail boxes regularly to know if mails have been sent to them.”

The Registrar urges staff to comply with the directive as excuses would not be accepted for failure to read or act on official mail sent to staff members through their e-mail addresses.

SENIOR STAFF ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES (SSANU)
INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR THE SUPPLY OF LAPTOPS AND DESKTOP COMPUTER
SYSTEMS FOR SENIOR STAFF ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES (SSANU),
UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN BRANCH

A. INTRODUCTION

The Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), University of Ilorin Branch, wishes to procure laptop and desktop Computer Systems for its members.

B. REQUIREMENTS

Interested vendors are to obtain details of specifications of these computers online from the University of Ilorin website using the URL <http://www.unilorin.edu.ng/index.php/news>

Also required are:

1. Evidence of Incorporation of Company by Corporate Affairs Commission;
2. A detailed Company Profile

C. PROCESSING FEES

Interested vendors are required to pay a non-refundable processing fee of ₦20,000.00 (twenty thousand naira only) for the bid by bank draft in favour of Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, University of Ilorin Branch.

D. SUBMISSION

All submissions in sealed envelopes should be delivered to the address below not later than 12 noon on the 23rd of September 2010. The envelopes should be clearly marked at the top-right-hand corner: SSANU LAPTOP/DESKTOP COMPUTER ACQUISITION SCHEME. Bid documents will be opened at the Doctors' Common Room, University Health Services, University of Ilorin at 2.00 p.m. on the 23rd of September, 2010.

The Secretary,
Laptop and Desktop Computer Systems Acquisition Scheme (LDCSAS),
SSANU,
University of Ilorin,
P.M.B. 1515, Ilorin.

Note:

- (i) The Union reserves the right to reject any or all of the bid packages;
- (ii) Failure to comply with any of the above instructions or provide any of the listed documents may automatically result in disqualification.
- (iii) Computer Specifications are available online at the URL-
<http://www.unilorin.edu.ng/index.php/ssanu>

Signed
A.O. Dunmade (Mrs.)
For: SSANU

LAUGH LINES

At school, a boy is told by a classmate that most adults are hiding at least one dark secret, and that this makes it very easy to blackmail them by saying, "I know the whole truth" even if you don't know anything.

The boy decides to go home and try it out. As he is greeted by his mother at the front door, he says, "Mum, I know the whole truth." His mother quickly hands him \$200 and says, "Just don't tell your father.

Quite pleased, the boy waits for his father to get home from work, and greets him with, "Dad, I know the whole truth." The father promptly hands him \$40 and says, "Please don't say a word to your mother."

Very pleased, the boy on his way to school next day sees the mailman at his front door. The boy greets him by saying "I know the whole truth." The mailman drops the mail, opens his arms and says, "Then come give your father a big hug. This is the day I have been expecting since you were born." The boy was transfixed and wished he didn't say he knew any whole truth that he did not know half its truth.

Two extortionists nabbed on campus

Last Thursday (August 19, 2010), Nemesis caught up with two young men, apparently students of the University of Ilorin, who were engaged in extorting money from the pre-admission screening candidates at a time they were supposed to be enjoying their holiday at home.

The students, Ismaheel Hussein and Peter Olorunmola, who confessed to have criminally collected about N70,000.00 from the innocent but desperate candidates, with false admission promises, were nabbed by the University security officials. They are both now assisting the police with their investigations.



BAD EGGS: A policeman leading the two extortionists away from the campus to where they are now cooling their heads

Happy Birthdays To You !

No	Name	Department/Office	Date of Birth
1.	Akanni, Jimoh. S.	Electrical Engineering	August 22 nd
2.	Ogunlela, Ayodele O.	Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	August 24 th
3.	Ogunbiyi, Isaac O.	Bursary	August 24 th
4.	Olaleye, John	Faculty of Science	August 24 th
5.	Aremu, Felicia F.	Health Services	August 24 th
6.	Salawu, Elias A.	Crop Protection	August 25 th
7.	Sani, Alhassan	Microbiology	August 25 th
8.	Titiloye, Emmanuel O.	Mathematics	August 25 th
9.	Amadi, Jude E.	Plant Biology	August 26 th
10.	Alamu, Samuel O.	Works/Civil	August 27 th
11.	Dunmade, Aderinola O.	Computer Centre	August 27 th
12.	Abolarin, Samuel I.	Security	August 27 th
13.	Abimbola, Comfort N.	Bursary	August 28 th
14.	Anifowose, Dorcas B.	Health Services	August 28 th
15.	Alfanla, Mansur A.	Council Office	August 28 th
16.	Salawu, Bashir	Sociology	August 28 th

Unilorin in the News

(Contd. from page 7)

- A total number of 73,392 candidates applied to the University of Ilorin for the admission exercise of the 2010/2011 academic session.
(‘Unilorin to screen 73,392 for admission’, *New Nigerian*, Wednesday August 18, 2010 p. 23).
- The second edition of the Joint University of Ilorin and University of Cape Coast conference with the theme of “Climate Change and Sustainable Development” will take place at the University of Ilorin soon.
(‘Varsity, UCC hold joint Conference’, “UNILORIN File” *The Nation*, Thursday, August 19, 2010 p. 22).
- The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, has urged Nigerian journalists to uphold the cardinal principles of their profession always.
(‘VC urges professionalism’, same as above; and for other reports like “Workshops in US, Greece” and ‘Imam advises on Ramadan’, see same page).
- A 300 level student of English at the University of Ilorin, Lynda Ochimana, has called for a shift in emphasis from certification to knowledge while urging people to develop good reading culture.
(‘Redefining education’, same as above, p.39)
- A new Chairman of the Kwara State Chapter of Joint Campus Committee (JCC) has emerged in Olateju Taofeek, a Law student of the University of Ilorin. (‘Kwara JCC gets new leaders’, same as above, p.40).
- Not fewer than 73, 392 candidates applied to the University of Ilorin for the admission exercise of the 2010/2011 academic session.
(‘73,392 candidates jostle for admission to Unilorin’, *Daily Trust*, Thursday August 19, 2010 p. 45).
- The pre-admission screening candidates of the University of Ilorin whose tests have been scheduled for 1p.m and beyond should note that the tests have been shifted forward by two hours.
(‘Announcement’, *Radio Kwara*, Ilorin. Various times. Friday, August 20, 2010)

Unilorin in the News

- The Secretary to the University of Ilorin Muslim Community, Dr. Mahfouz Adedimeji, has highlighted the significance of Ramadan and the implication it has for Nigerians.
(‘The Qur’an was revealed to the Prophet Mohammed at this period’, *The Guardian*, Sunday, August 15, 2010, p.23).
- Some of the 73,392 candidates seeking admissions to the University of Ilorin have started their pre-admission screening at the three centres of Ilorin, Lagos and Minna on Monday 16, August 2010.
(‘73, 392 candidates jostle for UNILORIN admission’, *Nigerian Compass*, Monday August 16, 2010, p.15).
- A retired Professor of Education Psychology at the University of Ilorin. Sheu Ahmed Jimoh. has appraised the state of education in Nigeria.
(‘Policy inconsistency, bane of education development in Nigeria’, *National Pilot*, Monday 16 – Wednesday 18 August, 2010 pp. 14 & 19).
- The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, has noted that Nigerians should think strategically by making Nigeria the hub of medical tourism in sub-Saharan Africa.
(‘VC harps on medical tourism’, *National Pilot*, same as above, p. 20).
- A student of Unilorin Secondary School, Mustapha Najah, has emerged the best among the 10 finalists of the Great Kwara State Spelling Bee Competition recently organised in Ilorin.
(‘Improving students through spelling competition’, *The Herald*, Monday, August 16, 2010, pp. 10-11)
- No fewer than 73, 392 candidates applied to the University of Ilorin for the admission exercise of the 2010/2011 academic session.
(‘73,392 candidates jostle for admission to Unilorin’, *The Herald*, Monday, August 16, 2010, p.24).
- The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, has urged Nigerian journalists to always uphold their professional principles of truth, fairness, balance and objectivity in their reportage.
(‘Oloyede tasks journalists on professionalism’, *The Herald*, Monday, August, 16, 2010 p. 25).
- Having pioneered the deployment of computer technology to the screening of admission applicants three years ago, the University of Ilorin is fully prepared to screen its 73,392 applicants at its three centres in the University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Minna and Lagos.
(‘Post UTME test: 73,392 candidates jostle for admission to Unilorin’, *The Punch*, Tuesday, August 17, 2010, p.36).
- Dr. Pius Oyeniran Abioje of the University of Ilorin has, in another letter to a newspaper editor, wondered why elections must hold in January 2011 “with much rush and stampede.”
(‘Must election hold in January?’, *The Nation*, Tuesday, August 17, 2010 p. 20).
- The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, has been appreciated alongside other eminent Nigerians, for his contribution to the success of a book presentation in Abuja.
(‘Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan and Niger State Government: Appreciation’, *Nigerian Tribune*, Tuesday, August 17, 2010 p. 6).
- The acting Dean of Communication and Information Sciences, University of Ilorin, Prof. Lenrie O. Aina, has been named the President of the Nigerian Library Association.
(‘Don named President of library association’, *Nigerian Compass*, Wednesday August 18, 2010, p.16).
- The University of Ilorin is poised to host the Committee of Directors of Academic Planning of Nigerian Universities (CODAPNU) very soon.
(‘UNILORIN to host academic planning directors’, same as above, p. 20).

(Contd. on page 7)

Quotes of the Week

All men should strive to learn before they die what they are running from, and to, and why.
– James Thurber

People who never do more than they get paid for, never get paid for more than they do.
– Norman Vincent Peale

Every man over forty is responsible for (the disposition of) his face. – Abraham Lincoln

In the long run, we shape our lives, and we shape ourselves. The process continues till we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility. – Eleanor Roosevelt