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Dons seek improved agriculture in Nigeria



ROYAL BLESSING: The Unilorin Visitation Panel in a photograph with the Emir of Ilorin during the courtesy visit to the Emir last Thursday

This Week

- ❖ 28 years of Unilorin Women's Basic School p.3
- ❖ Unilorin becomes full member of GUNI p.4
- ❖ The Young Shall Grow p.5
- ❖ We are proud of Unilorin, by Emir of Ilorin p.6
- ❖ Why candidates jostle to attend Unilorin- Gov. 7
- ❖ Pluralism defines a university – Oloyede p.9
- ❖ FIRS to endow Unilorin professorial chairs p.10
- ❖ Visitation panel commends varsity p.10
- ❖ Lecture on entrepreneurship holds tomorrow.10
- ❖ Cooperative group elects officers p.11

❖ **Unilorin in the News** p.12

Scholars from all over Nigeria and beyond have converged on the University of Ilorin to seek better agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability in Nigeria. The meeting was at the instance of the International Soil Tillage Research Organisation (ISTRO) Nigeria Branch, which organised a symposium themed "Tillage for Agricultural Productivity and Environmental Sustainability", last week (i.e. February 21-24, 2011) at the University.

Speaking at the occasion, a Professor of Agricultural and Environmental Resources at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Maiduguri, John Ohu, who delivered keynote address at the symposium, noted that soil tillage technology has negative effects on the environment and continuous research in soil tillage for the purpose of conserving the environment is imperative.

(Contd. on page 2)

Fakeye tasks government on maternal mortality

A Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Ilorin, Olurotimi Omoniyi Fakeye, has painted a gory picture of the high incidence of maternal mortality in Nigeria, blaming the unfortunate situation on neglect on the part of government.

Prof. Fakeye, a former Chief Medical Director of the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UITH), gave this insight while delivering the 93rd inaugural lecture of the University, "That Our Women Die Not In Vain", last Thursday (February 24, 2011) at the University of Ilorin.

"Nigeria has the world's second highest number of maternal deaths with approximately 59,000 deaths annually. Although Nigeria makes up 2% of the world's population, it accounts for 10% of its maternal deaths. Nigeria's maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is 545 maternal deaths per 100,000 live birth (DHS 2008) with a range of 200 – 1800 per 100,000 live births", he said.

(Contd. on page 4)



Prof. Fakeye delivering his inaugural lecture last Thursday

VC seeks 20% of national budget for agriculture

(Contd. from front page)

Prof. Ohu noted that mechanised agriculture affects the environment in many ways. He added that the emission of green house gases by tractors, tilling the land and herbicides, which have effects on vegetation, all affect the environment and there is therefore a need for more research to understand the exact effects of these activities on the environment.

Prof. Ohu pointed out that Latin America has moved ahead of the world in the practice of no tillage in agriculture to conserve the environment with 46 percent of its farms not tilled. He added that advanced conservative agricultural technology involves making use of different types of cultivation techniques as part of conservative tillage which ensures that the soil is only disturbed along the slit which seeds are planted.

In his address, entitled “Poverty Is Preventable” delivered at the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, observed that the need to take agriculture and food security seriously is compelled by the increasing number of the hungry people in the world. “Unlike what it has witnessed within the last 50 years, the world we live in is facing an acute hunger crisis with the population of the world’s hungry already hitting a billion mark last year though the official statistics of the FAO last October puts the number at 950 million,” he said.

Prof. Oloyede decried the failure to implement the good policies that could have guaranteed food security for the nation and described the current budgetary allocation of about 2% to agriculture as “grossly inadequate”. He added that “Nigeria can generate from agriculture more than what she generates from oil if she invests well in her vast arable land. “Let the government allocate 20% of the national budget to agriculture and I am sure that Nigeria, apart from being food secure, will be exporting food to many countries of the world by the year 2020. In essence, I believe that *poverty is preventable* if we accord agriculture its right attention.”

Earlier in his welcome address, the President of ISTRO - Nigeria, Prof. Kayode C. Oni, expressed his hope that the symposium would impact positively on the nation and the continent. “It is our hope that the outcome of these efforts would guide our country and the sub-region on how to manipulate and sustain our soil environment for enhanced agricultural productivity, even in the face of current climatic changes, and their effects on soils and the environment,” he said.

A Director in the Kwara State Ministry of Agriculture, Mrs. Beatrice Adeyemi, who represented the Governor of Kwara State, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, expressed hope that the outcome of the symposium would fetch food for Kwarans and lead to the creation of more employment. Mrs. Adeyemi noted that one of the first programmes of the Kwara State government under Governor Saraki is to urge people to go back to farm which has reflected in the introduction of commercial farming in the State.

In his goodwill message, the Assistant Secretary-General of ISTRO, Dr. Blair Mckenzie, observed that without Nigeria in ISTRO, hardly would there be African presence in the body at all because Nigeria and Kenya have the largest African presence in the international association, with the Nigeria headquarters being just outside Ilorin at the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation (NCAM).

Another ISTRO member from the University of Tennessee, United States of America, Dr. John Morrison, expressed his happiness to be in Nigeria with all the warmth that her people offer while other participants from various universities and institutions across Nigeria expressed their happiness to participate in the symposium.



EXPERTS: The representative of the Governor of Kwara State, Mrs Beatrice Adeyemi, in a photograph with the Vice-Chancellor and Registrar of the University of Ilorin and ISTRO officials and delegates last Tuesday

28 Years of Unilorin Women's Basic School

Education is the best legacy and an asset which all human beings crave after in order to be complete and live meaningfully. In some traditions like that of Islam, espoused by Prophet Muhammad (SAW), it is noted that education is from the cradle to the grave, which means that learning is a life-long experience.

Buoyed by this philosophy of education perhaps, the University of Ilorin, while remaining committed to providing high level manpower training, does not lose sight of the necessity of providing and supporting basic education. This is why apart from its well known Unilorin Secondary School and the University School (primary), the University through its Unilorin Women Association is committed to catching them young through the Basic School, a kindergarten, located at Sabo Oke area of Ilorin.

Historically, it was on October 6, 1983, that the University of Ilorin Women's Association came together to actualise its vision of tackling the challenge of catering for the children of working mothers in the University and its surrounding communities in order to prepare the infants for further education at the University School. The Association took the bull by the horns and the Basic School was born.

At inception in 1983, the school had three sections which were the Play Group, the Kindergarten and the Nursery sections which were divided into five classes with the pupil population per class ranging between 15 and 18 with the total population of pupils being 65. The staff strength then was nine, comprising four teachers, four "aunties" and a Head Mistress. The wife of Prof. E. A. Obeng, the immediate past Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape-Coast, Ghana, the University that the University of Ilorin now has a robust academic relationship with, was the pioneer Head Mistress. Her name is Mrs. R. A. Obeng and she was later succeeded by Mrs. S. Ajayi Dopemu.

Since 1993 to date, Mrs. F. O. Daramola has been the Head Mistress of the school. Within this period, the school has witnessed substantial growth that it now has to a total of 258 pupils in the first term of the current 2010/2011 session.

The success of the nursery school over the years can be attributed to its successive management boards, which are often chaired by distinguished personalities. The Chairman of the Board, by practice, is usually appointed by the President of Unilorin Women Association, who is usually the wife of the Vice-Chancellor, while the board is constituted by the Association. The first Chairman of the Board was late Dr. D. B. Odu after whom Mrs. Owolabi, Mrs. T. Alao and Chief Mrs. Olatunde in that order ran the affairs of the school. The current President of the Association is Dr. (Mrs) Raheemat Oloyede while Chair of the Management Board is Dr. (Mrs) Victoria Alabi.

As no organisation can survive without funds, the main source of revenue for the Unilorin Women's Association Basic School is the fees paid by the pupils. The school fees include money realised from the sale of forms and tuition. In 1983, the first set of pupils paid N40.00 per term but now, while many nursery schools charge more, the Basic School charges the pupils N9,600 only per term, which is mostly expended on recurrent expenditure.

During the 2003/2004 academic year, the primary school section was introduced following demands by parents, who understandably want the best basic education for their children. The school has also recorded some developments recently which include the introduction of television sets as teaching aids, the construction of a bore-hole and building of seven new classes. The pupils of the School perform excellently at quizzes, competitions and debates. Where else would you rather want your child to be?

Fast Facts File

Did you know?

- India (with 1 billion people) has 8,407 universities, the United States of America (with 290 million population) has 5,758. Argentina (with 39 million people) has 1,705 universities while Japan (with 127 million people) has 1,223.
- In Nigeria, 1.2 million unintended pregnancies occur annually and 1 million miscarriages of all pregnancies (intended and unintended) occur every year in the country.

Don flays Nigerian legislators on jumbo pay

(Contd. from front page)

While attributing the frightening figures to budgetary underfunding, the don, who trained at the first Hospital in the United States of America, the 1777-established Pennsylvania Hospital, decried the “jumbo pay” the Nigerian legislators award themselves. His words:

“Our lawmakers provide for themselves JUMBO-PAY at the expense of lives of the poor, powerless women and children. This is IMMORAL. Their insensitivity is aptly described by the classical expression “Nero fiddled while Rome burned”. I am sure you will join me in using the Shakespeare’s quote in warning our lawmakers “Tempt not a desperate man” and by extension, “Tempt not a desperate nation”.

Prof. Fakeye recommended that the National Assembly should stop collecting the “jumbo pay” that drains the national treasury and join the salary scale prescribed by the National Salaries and Wages Commission. He suggested further that between now and 2015, an annual increase ratio of Total Health Expenditure divided by GDP by 1 percentage point be legislated in order to enable Nigeria attain the Millennium Development Goals pertaining to health, education and poverty reduction.

While quoting Mahmoud Fathalla who said that “Women are not dying because of a disease we cannot treat. They are dying because societies have to make decision that their lives are worth saving”, the don remonstrated the political class on its failure to address the critical situation of maternal mortality.

“Our persistent, unrelenting high mortality rate over the last 3 decades is a clear evidence of failure of our political system, both at national leadership and operational level. At national level we have lack of political will, bounteous rhetoric and grandstanding. Many State Governors boast of free antenatal care, but show lack of understanding that a greater proportion of maternal deaths occur during labour, delivery and the first 24 hours postnatal for which women require free emergency obstetric care facilities”, he said.

While describing abortion as a “silent pandemic” that requires appropriate legislation on safety, Prof. Fakeye advocated the legalisation of abortion saying that the process through which many women go about it results in needless deaths. “The 3,000 Nigerian women who die annually die preventable deaths; they die without gains. More striking is when one deeply reflects on the profile of women who die from abortion; 55% are aged under 25 years, 60% are childless, 18% have university education, 19% are schooling and risk expulsion and among those aged 30-45 years are many who are married, wanting to stop or delay further childbearing. Do these women need to die without gains?”

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, who chaired the lecture, described it as successful noting that response of the audience was an indication that the lecture impacted immensely in them. The high point of the occasion included a cocktail reception organised by the University in honour of the family of the inaugural lecturer.

Unilorin becomes full member of GUNI

The Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI), Barcelona, has announced the full membership of the University of Ilorin.

According to a letter signed by the Executive Director of GUNI, Cristina Escrigas, “I am pleased to welcome the UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN as full member of the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI) and hereby enclose the certificate of membership.

“From now on, your institution is part of a network of highly innovative members especially interested in the social commitment of higher education, which includes nearly 200 institutions from around the world, among them the UNESCO Chairs in Higher Education, higher education institutions, research centres and networks related to higher education...”

“We very much hope your GUNI membership will allow us to work closely for the strengthening of higher education world wide”, the letter partly reads.

THE YOUNG SHALL GROW

Text of the Address Delivered by the Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin, and President of the Association of African Universities, Professor Is-haq O. Oloyede, on the Occasion of the Inauguration Ceremony of the “Greater Scientists” Project of the University on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at the University Auditorium.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this special occasion. The occasion is special because of its inaugural nature: it is the first time a workshop of this type would hold in the University. I find it gratifying that the University of Ilorin is contributing its quota towards the development of the country and fulfilling its mandate of developing the human resources. I especially welcome our “Greater Scientists” and it is my firm belief that this programme will be a step further in promoting the knowledge of science and technology among young Nigerians, who are the future leaders of the country.

Let me begin by saying that it is clear to all of us that our world has witnessed tremendous transformations and monumental developments over the past century in a way that would be quite unimaginable to those who lived in the 19th century. These developments, which traverse all aspects of human endeavour, from communication and transportation to construction and the rest of them, are a product of the advancement in science and technology. As such, it is a truism that the more a nation advances in science and technology, the more developed the country is and the more a country remains stagnant in science and technology, the less developed or more under-developed the nation becomes.

The foregoing submission explains why the University of Ilorin is largely science-oriented in nature with 60:40 admission ratio for science and humanities students respectively. The University is taking a step further today in its drive for a more scientifically developed and technologically advanced Nigeria with its engagement with the pre-university students. The idea is to catch them young by bringing the greater scientists of tomorrow into our laboratories and teaching them how to swim with the technological currents rather than watch from the shoreline. Through this orientation, training and exposure, we believe that *the young shall grow* and the lion cubs of today that leap upon rats will be killing buffaloes in the years ahead.

In doing his, the University is keying into the national agenda. The University had constituted in the last session its Science Policy and Management Group, headed by a distinguished Professor of the University and Researcher of the Year 2008, Prof. J. A. Obaleye. The inauguration of this project is timely. Perhaps you all know that the seventh Junior International Science Olympiad is going on in Abuja after its opening ceremony held last Friday (2nd December, 2010). The programme attracted such personalities as the Minister of Science and Technology, Prof. Mohammed Abubakar; the Director General of Science and Engineering Infrastructure, Prof. Olusegun Adewoye; the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Mr. Femi Olayisade and other dignitaries and stakeholders.

It is the hope of the University to use this programme to create awareness about science and technology and encourage our young talents to have interest in the fields. This intervention will take the form of career talks, seminars, workshops and other related activities targeted at the young minds.

In a lecture delivered at the State University of New York, Albany, many years ago, Albert Einstein (1879-1955), who was one of the greatest scientists the world has produced, said: “Knowledge...resembles a statue of marble which stands in the desert and is continuously threatened with burial by the shifting sands. The hands of science must ever be at work in order that the marble column continue everlastingly to shine in the sun.” By according science its due recognition and stimulating interest in it among the younger generation, we believe that we shall keep the marble of knowledge shining and the banner of development aloft for the sake of our present as well as the future.

I say for the sake of our present and the future because the low industrial capacity of the country is attributable to the low level of scientific and technological knowledge. The Manufacturing Association of Nigeria (MAN) said not too long ago that 820 firms closed down in Nigeria between 2000 and 2008. Our national industrial capacity is embarrassingly low and that low capacity is even under-utilized, declining

from 35% in 2000 to 27% in 2009 while our manufactured goods are not so competitive in the globalised economy. Today, manufacturing, which is a product of science and technology, contributes only 4% of the GDP and this is the main reason the level of unemployment is high. It is thus high time we accorded priority to what matters and stimulated our young ones so that our tomorrow will be better than today.

Now, my dear young scientists in Basic 8 and 9, the future of the country is in your hands and you have the responsibility of deciding right from now that you will make Nigeria greater. One way through which you can do this is to develop yourselves academically and equip yourselves with scientific knowledge. You have an opportunity now that your predecessors did not have and it is your duty to take advantage of the opportunity offered to you by this project to project your vision. There are engineers among you, there are medical doctors among you, there are inventors among you, there are scholars among you and there are great scientists among you. Therefore, work hard on your studies and discipline yourselves. You are young but *the young shall grow* and the chicks of today are the cocks of tomorrow.

Before I conclude, let me give you an assignment. Go and read about the lives and contributions of about ten great scientists whose names I will give you. Write down their brief histories in your own handwriting and then think of how you can be like anyone of them. These are Aristotle, Sir Isaac Newton, Galileo Galilei, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Alessandro Giuseppe Antonio Anastasio Volta, Stephen Hawking, Louis Pasteur, Ibn Sina, Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose and Guglielmo Marchese Marconi. In terms of knowledge and erudition, who among them will you want to be like? How do you want to ensure that dream becomes a reality?

I wish you a pleasant and fulfilling workshop and I thank you for your kind attention.

We are proud of Unilorin – by Emir of Ilorin

The Emir of Ilorin and Chairman of Kwara State Traditional Council, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, has commended the University of Ilorin on its various achievement in recent times saying that “we are proud of the University of Ilorin”.

The Emir gave this commendation while receiving the Visitation Panel to the University who paid him a courtesy visit last Thursday (February 24, 2011) at his palace.

The foremost traditional ruler also lauded the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, on the commitment he puts into his assignment at the University.

“The Vice-Chancellor is a great man; he is doing very well. He is a totally committed man. He is an Ilorin man. I have reasons to relate with him at other fora. He is the Coordinator of NIREC, another important national

assignment. If he were not a man of competence and commitment, he would not be able to do what he is doing”, he said.

The Emir said it was his delight to receive the team of eminent men and women of great learning who constituted the Panel members, Council members and principal officers of the University. He described Ilorin as a haven of peace and harmony saying that members of the Panel could be sure that there are no kidnapping, disturbances and violence that are typical of other places in Ilorin.

Earlier speaking at the event, the Chairman of the Visitation Panel, Prof. Murtala Salau, expressed his fascination with the promptness of the Emir, describing such as one lesson that he and his team would take home. He noted that the Emir had appeared as soon as the delegation sat down, saying that it is usual to wait for a long time to see traditional rulers and political office holders but the Emir really surprised them with his appreciated promptness.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Oloyede, thanked the Emir for his compliments and for making the forum another learning experience on promptness. He said that as the song goes, a lazy person cannot live in Ilorin because Ilorin wakes at four, prays and continues to work while a lazy man wakes at 10a.m.



R-L: The Emir of Ilorin, Prof. Salau and Prof. Oloyede

Why candidates jostle to attend Unilorin – Governor

The Governor of Kwara State, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, has identified why several thousands of students choose the University of Ilorin as their dream institution. The Governor, who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Chief Joel Afolabi Ogundeji, made this disclosure while receiving members of the Visitation Panel of the Federal Government to the University of Ilorin who paid him a courtesy visit last Thursday (February 24, 2011) at the Deputy Governor's Office, Ilorin.



The Deputy Governor, Chief Ogundeji, receiving the Visitation Panel last Thursday

“No human institution in life is perfect. The idea of the visitation is good. We can always make corrections. I can tell you that the relationship between the University and the community is cordial. We have a lot of respect for the Vice-Chancellor and the institution,” he said.

The Governor also stressed the importance of agriculture and urged Governments at all levels to take agriculture seriously. He urged the members of the panel to take time during their assignment in Ilorin to visit Tsonga Farms to appreciate what the Kwara State Government has done in that respect.

Earlier speaking at the occasion, the Chairman of the Panel, Prof. Murtala Salau, expressed the pleasure of his Panel to notice that the relationship between the town and the gown is cordial, saying that the observation is part of their assignment in the University. Prof. Salau, who was the Vice-Chancellor of Ladoké Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso, between 1997 and 2005, and a former Board member of the National Universities Commission (NUC), described the nature and scope of his Panel's assignment emphasising that the visitation exercise is a peaceful one aimed at improvement and not an exercise in witch-hunting.

Joining the Panel on the courtesy visit to the Governor were the Council members and principal officers of the University of Ilorin.

Drivers association elects new leaders

The University of Ilorin Drivers' Welfare Association has elected a new set of leaders to administer its affairs. The election took place at the first meeting/workshop of the year on Saturday, February 19, 2011. The officers were elected for a term of four years.

The elected officers are Mr. Joshua Olatunde (Chairman), Mr. Owolabi E.D. (Vice-Chairman), Mr. Afolabi Samuel (General Secretary), Mr. Fatai Salawu (Assistant General Secretary), Mr. Funso Osason (Treasurer), Mr. Olarenwaju Ibrahim (Financial Secretary), Mr. Samuel Kehinde (P.R.O.), Mr. Kolade Jacob (Auditor I), Mr. Babasola Oludiran (Auditor II) and Mr. Sunday Samuel ('Chief')

Speaking at the occasion, the Chairman thanked the past leaders and current members for their selfless service to the Association. He also implored the University officers to always allow their drivers to attend association meetings/workshops which he said provide opportunities where members are taught new innovations and developments in driving and vehicles.

Mr. Olatunde also thanked the University authority for recognising the contributions of the drivers and appreciated *Unilorin Bulletin* for always supporting the activities of the association.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE (IETCH 2011) Istanbul University, Istanbul, TURKEY www.iet-c.net

Call For Papers

“The International Educational Technology Conference (IETC)” series is an international educational activity for academics, teachers and educators. This conference is now a well known educational technology event and the number of paper submissions and attendees increase every year. It promotes the development and dissemination of theoretical knowledge, conceptual research, and professional knowledge through conference activities, the conference proceeding book, and the Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology (TOJET). Its focus is to create and disseminate knowledge about the use of instructional technology for learning and teaching in education.

The International Educational Technology Conference aims to diffuse the knowledge and researches among academicians and lead to development in educational technology and instructional technologies.

Last year, IETC-2010 received almost 700 applications. The conference academic advisory board accepted 470 applications. This year IETC-2011 will be organized at Istanbul University between 25 and 27 May 2011.

In IETC 2010 we had lots of participants from 19 different countries. These countries were Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, former Yugoslavia, Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, United Arab Emirates and United States.

TOJET (in SSCI) will publish two special issues for IETC 2011. After peer-reviewing process, selected papers will be published in July 2011 and October 2011 issues.

We would like to invite you to share your experience and your papers with academicians, teachers and professionals.

Conference Language

The official languages of the conference are English and Turkish. Proposals can be sent and be presented in either language. Please, submit your proposal according to the following presentation category descriptions in www.iet-c.net.

Deadlines

Proposal & Abstract Submission

Deadline: May 16, 2011

Full Paper Submission: May 20, 2011

Early Registration: April 18, 2011

Registration: May 16, 2011

LAUGH LINES

One day, there was this lawyer who had just bought a new car, and he was eager to show it off to his colleagues, when all of a sudden, an articulated vehicle or *trailer* came out of nowhere and took off the driver's side, with him standing right there.

“Noooo!”, he screamed because he knew that no matter how good a mechanic tried to fix it, it would never be the same. Finally, a cop came by and the lawyer ran up to him, “MY JAGUAR DOOR WAS JUST RUINED BY THAT FOOLISH DRIVER!”, he exclaimed.

“You are a lawyer, aren't you?”, asked the police man.

“Yes, I am, but what does this have to do with my car?” the lawyer asked.

“Haa! You lawyers are always so materialistic. All you care about is your possessions. I bet you didn't even notice that your left arm is missing, did you?” the cop said.

The lawyer looked down at his side and exclaimed, “Gosh, MY ROLEX!”

Pluralism defines a University - Oloyede

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, has noted that for a University to be worthy of its name, it has to be composed of representations across the nation and around the world saying that the hallmark of a university is pluralism.

The Vice-Chancellor made this observation while delivering his address, captioned “Think Out Of The Box”, delivered at a one-day workshop on the internationalisation of the University of Ilorin campus last Thursday (February 24, 2011). The workshop was organised by the Centre for International Education.

“One important institution that promotes the universality of mankind is the university. The university conceptually is supposed to be a centre in which the universe, as diverse and varied as it is, resides within its city, something like a *universal city* where everyone is represented. This, I believe, is why a university is a melting point of ideas, a confluence of people, the centre point of disciplines and other resources that ignite value”, he said while urging all to *think out of the box of self* and appreciate the *other*. He also charged the Faculties through their representatives, who were inaugurated at the occasion, to make the various Memoranda of Understanding signed by the University work by keying into the areas of relevance in their Faculties.

Earlier speaking at the occasion, the Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. A. O. Omotosho, remarked that many people do not understand the rationale behind admitting students and recruiting staff from outside the country though they know that many Nigerians also seek educational and career opportunities abroad for the same reasons others should be attracted to Nigeria.



DONS, L-R: Prof. Abdusalam, Dr. Omotosho, Prof. Oloyede and Deans at the programme

He submitted that among other benefits, internationalisation introduces the kinds of education which cannot be obtained in a classroom saying that mixing with people of divergent cultural and linguistic backgrounds provides a good source of education that cannot be taught in class or conferred by a Ph.D.

In his presentation, Prof. S.O. Akande underscored the place of the alumni, promotional products and mementoes in projecting the international image of the University of Ilorin. He noted that pictures of accomplished alumni should be hung in strategic locations while the bookshop is central in the marketing of souvenirs which inspire many to be part of the University community.

Prof. A. AbdulSalam highlighted the various ways of internationalising Departments and Programmes which include joint supervision of postgraduate research by universities, beginning programmes at the University of Ilorin and completing them in foreign universities and curriculum exchange. He also noted that programmes need to be flexible such that students can determine their own progress and graduation while concluding that these will make the University more attractive to international students.

The acting Dean of Law, Dr. Wahab Egbewole, focused his own presentation on internationalising campus through environmental sanitation. He noted that one of the selling points of the University of Ilorin is its greening programme which includes the development of well-paved lawns and plantations. He submitted that though the University has achieved much in this direction, there is room for more improvement.

The University of Ilorin Researcher of the Year 2010, Dr. O. A. Mokuolu, at his turn called for a shift in the orientation of the University, its staff and structures. He noted that there is a need to have positive welcoming messages to students which would motivate them towards greatness. He noted that the admission office needs a welcome desk that presents new students with a streamlined movement pattern. He noted that students and visitors should have sweet welcome messages that incorporate facts, opportunities, goals and history of the University. He added that lecturers should be international in outlook by mentoring and inspiring their students instead of threatening them with failure. He concluded emphasising the imperative of special accommodation with matrons for students who gain admission into the University before reaching the age of 18 so that such students may be protected as children.

FIRS to endow Unilorin professorial chairs

The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) is to endow professional chairs on the law of taxation in the Department of Accounting and Finance, Faculty of Business and Social Sciences and Faculty of Law, University of Ilorin.

This was disclosed during a visit to the University of Ilorin by the joint team of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and the National Universities Commission (NUC) on Friday, February 18, 2011.

The team revealed that the University of Ilorin is one of the 13 universities chosen for the endowment and all the chosen institutions were so chosen because they have existing good programmes related to taxation law. The FIRS and NUC team also disclosed that part of the purpose of their visit was to see what the University has on ground in the two Faculties in respect of the proposed endowment.

While receiving the visiting team in his office, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, said that the FIRS informed the University of its decision to endow the two chairs in June 2010 and the University wrote back to express its interest especially in the field of accounting where highly trained academic manpower is a challenge.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, few universities in Nigeria have the quality of the academic staff that the University of Ilorin has because the Department can boast of many PhDs. He added that the quality of the programme had attracted Chief Adekanola to build and donate a well-furnished block of offices for the use of the Department.

The visiting team that inspected the two programmes included Prof. A. Akpa of the Department of Accounting, Benue State University, Makurdi; Prof. G.O.S. Amadi, Faculty of Law, University of Nigeria, Nsukka; Mr. Aminu Abba, Deputy Director, Department of Academic Standards, National Universities Commission and Mr. Augustine Odey, Department of Learning and Development, Federal Inland Revenue Service.

Visitation panel commends varsity on IT facilities

The Chairman of the Visitation Panel to the University of Ilorin, Prof. M. Salau, has commended the University on its facilities especially the Electronic Test Centre used for the Computer-Based Test (CBT) of the University.

The commendation was given while the team was inspecting the ICT facilities of the University including the Electronic Test Centre, with its intranet, and the Network Operating Centre which has teleconferencing facilities. The Chairman noted that such strategic investments by the University apart from the academic benefits would enhance the internally generated revenue of the University. He also lauded the vision of the University of Ilorin, which used the facility to pioneer the electronic screening of admission applicants in Nigeria three years ago, the method now adopted by at least 27 other universities.

The Vice-Chancellor, who led a University team that conducted the Visitation Panel round the structures, said that 450 computers were active for the Computer Based Test based on a joint venture between the University of Ilorin and its partner. He also disclosed and that the University had built two blocks that would accommodate 900 additional computers such that the number of batches would be reduced and large classes could write their examinations at once.

Lecture on entrepreneurship holds tomorrow

All members of the University community, especially the final year students, are invited to a mandatory lecture on Entrepreneurship. The lecture holds tomorrow (Tuesday, March 1, 2011) under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, at the University Auditorium beginning from 9 a.m. The Guest Lecturers are Engr. I. K. Inuwa, Chairman, National Board for Technology Incubation, and Mr. A. O. Yusuf, Managing Director, Accentures.

Cooperative group elects officers

The Unilorin Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Union Limited has elected a new crop of leaders to run its affairs.

At the end of its Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday February 16, 2011, the union elected Dr. Rotimi Omotoye, Mrs. Victoria Olubanke Taiwo, Dr. A. Yusuf, Mr. Olakunle Ojo-Idowu and Mr. Abdullahi A. Ali as President, Vice-President, Treasurer, General Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively.

The body also elected members into its Credit and Supervisory Committees. Credit Committee consists of Mr. L.A. Olaosebikan (Chairman), Mr. T.F. Sanusi (Secretary) and Mr. E.A. Adebisi while the Supervisory Committee members are Mr. F. Olobayo (Chairman), Mr. F.A. Ajewole (Secretary) and Mr. J.K. Olajide. The Ex-officio members are Dr.(Mrs) A.A. Jekayinfa, Dr. M.A. Ajayi, Mr. B. B. Bakare, Engr. S.O. Abiola and Mr. E.O. Aboyeji.

Obaleye's daughter gets married

Miss Mercy Oluwaseyi Obaleye, daughter of Prof. and Mrs. J. A. Obaleye, has vowed that her days of spinsterhood will be over this week as she joins her heartthrob, Mr. Olufemi Sijuade Bamigboye, in matrimony.

According to the programme circulated by the Obaleyes and Bamigboyes, the introduction and engagement ceremonies of Seyi and Femi will hold this Friday, March 4, 2011 at the residence of the bride's parents on Ayo Obaleye Street, Oke-Odo, near Bekandims Hotel, Ilorin beginning from 12 noon.

The wedding solemnisation will hold on Saturday March 5, 2011, at the United Missionary Church of Africa Theological College (UMCATC) Ajase-Ipo Road, Ilorin at 10:00 a.m. while the reception will be at Circular Hotel, off Wahab Folawiyo Road, (Unity) Ilorin, immediately after the solemnisation.

Happy Birth Day To You!

S/N	Name	Department/ Office	Date of Birth
1.	Ariyo, Bashiru O.	Electrical Engineering	1 st March
2.	Omipidan, Bashiru A.	Islamic Law	1 st March
3.	Adekola, Folahan A.	Chemistry	2 nd March
4.	Bariki, Isaiah O.	French	2 nd March
5.	Ibrahim, Ridwan O.	Islamic Law	2 nd March
6.	Alawode, Janet B.	Admissions Office	3 rd March
7.	Abdkareem, Yahaya A.	Civil Engineering	6 th March

Unilorin in the News

(Contd. from last page)

- The Visitation Panel to the University of Ilorin, in company of the principal officers and Council members of the University, has paid courtesy calls on the Governor of Kwara State, Dr. Bukola Saraki and the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari.
(NTA Ilorin news, 7 p.m. Thursday, February 24, 2011)
- The National Publicity Secretary of the University of Ilorin Alumni Association, Mr. Wale Fasakin, has congratulated the Vice-Chancellor, management, staff and students of the University of Ilorin on the successes of the University including its recent ranking as No. 20 in Africa and No. 1 in Nigeria.
(‘University of Ilorin, better by far’, *Nigerian Tribune*, Friday, February 25, 2011, p.16)
- A lecturer at the University of Ilorin has questioned the preparedness of INEC to conduct free and fair elections in April while citing his experience during the verification exercise to boot.
(‘My journey through INEC’s list of eligible voters’, *Nigerian Tribune*, same as above)
- While delivering his inaugural lecture at the University of Ilorin, Prof. Olurotimi Fakeye, has decried the high maternal mortality rate in the country while clamouring for ‘safe abortion’.
(NTA Ilorin news, 7.p.m. Friday, February 25, 2011).

Unilorin in the News

- The University of Ilorin has matriculated some 5,384 students during which the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, told the matriculating students in an address tagged “Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained” to be hard working. (‘UNILORIN matriculates over 5,000’, *The Guardian*, Sunday, February 20, 2011, p.33).
- An alumnus and former lecturer of the University of Ilorin, Dr. Sunday Ododo, has discussed his writing career and experiences as the Vice-President of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA). (‘How writers create ideal society’, *National Life*, Sunday, February 20, 2011, p.17)
- The University of Ilorin has advertised the 93rd inaugural lecture by Prof. Olurotimi Omoniyi Fakeye. (‘University of Ilorin: Inaugural Lecture’, *The Nation*, Monday, February 21, 2011 p.47, *National Pilot*, Monday 21 – Wednesday 23, January 2011, p.23 and *Daily Trust*, Tuesday, February 22, 2011, p.60)
- The University of Ilorin has signed new Memoranda of Understanding with the University of Massachusetts and Boston College in the United States of America. (‘UNILORIN, American varsities partner to promote scholarship’, *Nigerian Compass*, Wednesday, February 23, 2011, p.16)
- While receiving the NASU national leaders in his office recently, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, has advocated making the salaries of doctors and lecturers a percentage of the pay of the Senators as a way of curtailing strike actions in the country. (‘VC advocates improved salary’, *Nigerian Compass*, same as above).
- The University of Ilorin has graduated some 49 medical doctors at an occasion recently held at the University auditorium. (‘Varsity graduates 49 medical doctors’, *Nigerian Compass*, same date, p.18)
- The University of Ilorin has been ranked 20th in Africa and 1st in Nigeria by the Webometrics ranking of world universities while the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, has told his audience while breaking the news that “Success is a Choice”. (‘UNILORIN webometrics ranking’, *This Day*, Wednesday, February 23, 2011, p.47)
- In its bid to guarantee food security, the University of Ilorin through its Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development in partnership with Sasakawa African Fund for Extension Education (SAFE), has organised a workshop on curriculum development. (‘SAFE seeks better food security’, *Nigerian Tribune*, Thursday, February 24, 2011, see same page for other UNILORIN stories like ‘WAEC recognizes UNILORIN’, ‘VC counsels Christians, Muslims’ and ‘Student emerges overall best Mathematician’)
- A 400 level Mathematics student of the University of Ilorin, Mr. Toheeb Biala, has emerged the best student Mathematician in Nigeria at a national competition organised by the National Mathematical Centre, Abuja. (‘Student wins national math prize’, “UNILORIN File”, *The Nation*, Thursday February 24, 2011, p.22’, see same for other UNILORIN stories like ‘Varsity on WAEC committee’, and ‘New agric course to make debut’).
- In a report by a 400 level student of English, University of Ilorin, Tunmise Oladipo, many female students of the University have said they would not marry those who have lower academic qualifications than they do. (‘Our men must be varsity graduates’, *The Nation*, same date, p.27).

(Contd. on page 11)

Quotes of the Week

A work well begun is half-ended. – Plato

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are. – Theodore Roosevelt

A successful man is the one who makes more money than can be spent by his wife. A successful woman is one who finds that man. – Anonymous

One well-cultivated talent, deepened and enlarged, is worth 100 shallow faculties. – Williams Matthews