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Endowment: UNAAB Boosts OOP

The efforts of the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (UNAAB) in partnering with the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library will help in stimulating better understanding and appreciation of the unique potential of the project.

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo made this observation while hosting the University authorities, led by the Governing Council's Chairman and Pro-Chancellor, Chief Lawrence Osayemi when they came to submit a report of the Committee of Experts on the Landscaping of Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library.

Chief Obasanjo said he embarked on the Presidential Library project based on the conviction that it will impact positively on the development of the nation as well as assist in the area of capacity building and human security.

According to him, "in the USA and Europe, they have developed the culture of Presidential Library, but here (In Nigeria), because we are pioneering, it has generated a lot of controversies. We are, however, grateful that people are now appreciating the essence of it".

The former Head of State and
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UNAAB Pro-Chancellor, Chief Olakunle Osayemi (left) in warm handshake with former President Olusegun Obasanjo while the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Oluwafemi Balogun cheers on.

... As OBJ Warns on Looming Food Crisis

The nation may witness a crisis of food shortage in the next decade, given its frightening low agricultural output, in recent time.

Former Nigerian President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo gave this warning during the presentation of the Report of Committee of Experts on the Landscaping of the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library.

To avert this, Chief Obasanjo has called on the government and stakeholders in the agricultural sector, to immediately embark on a far-reaching strategy of averting the impending crisis.

According to him, the nation should review its agricultural practice in a way that will enable it "to be part of the Green Economy, as it is presently done globally".

The former President also disclosed that UNAAB will soon be a beneficiary of a collaboration programme in Agriculture with the government of Hungary and that top government delegates and officials from a Hungarian University would soon visit the University.

The former President said "I personally recommended UNAAB, when the Hungary Ambassador paid me a visit

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No Space For 340,000 Successful UTME Candidates -JAMB

"With this 180 cut-off point, we have about 867,000 candidates who made 180 and above, and yet the available space is just about 527,000. So the remaining 340,000 candidates will have no place to go. That is the point, except access to tertiary institutions is increased; we will continue to have lots of people waiting endlessly for admission".

... JAMB Registrar, Prof. Dibu Ojerinde
(Culled From THE PUNCH OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010)

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8 UNAABITES Bag FG Scholarship

As part of efforts at encouraging academic excellence in the nation's Ivory Towers, the Federal Government has awarded Scholarships to the tune of N150,000.00 each to Eight (8) brilliant students of the University, for maintaining a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 4.0 and good moral conduct in the 2009/2010 Academic Session.

According to a release, signed by the Acting Registrar, Mr. Adeleke Adeboye, the beneficiaries are 6 Postgraduate and 2 Undergraduate Students.

The Postgraduate Students are; Taiwo, Adewale Mathew (PG/09/046, Theoretical Physics); Ogunlolu, Bolanle Temitope (PG/09/047, Animal Science); Adekola, Tolulope Olaitan (PG/09/048, Crop Science); Ogunbo, Muyinatu Mobolanle (PG/09/049, Agricultural

Economics); Sanni, Muyideen Timothy (PG/09/050, Animal Science) and Olugbile, Adetola Olubanke (PG/09/051, Medicine and Surgery).

The undergraduates are: Fashina, Ibrahim Olufemi (UG/09/247, Electrical Electronic Engineering) and Ademolu, Tolulope Ebenezer (UG/09/248, Mechanical Engineering).

The statement directed the beneficiaries to report at the Registrar's Office to obtain their award letters and complete all necessary formalities.

It also informed that forms for students with a minimum GCPA of 4.0 for the 2010/2011 Awards will soon be forwarded to the University by the Federal Scholarship Board for distribution to qualified students.

Cost of training Vet Doctor:

... VC, Dean shed more light

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (UNAAB), Professor Oluwafemi Olaiya Balogun has shed more light on the financial implication of training a Veterinary Doctor in the institution.

Prof. Balogun's clarification came even as the Dean of the University College of Veterinary Medicine (COLVET), Prof. (Mrs.) Morenike Dipeolu added flesh to the N50m project attracted to the College by the Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Senator (Dr.) Iyabo Obasanjo-Bello.

Speaking at the Second Induction Ceremony of the Veterinary Graduates of the University penultimate Monday, Prof. Balogun was reported in the last edition of **UNAAB Bulletin** as saying that the University spends an average of

N700,000.00 to train a Veterinary Doctor, thereby appealing to the Veterinary Council of Nigeria (VCN), to upwardly renew the quota of students that the University can admit.

Throwing more light, Prof. Balogun said the cost of training a Veterinary Doctor in the University, which he puts at N700,000.00 is only per annum and not for the entire duration of the programme.

He stressed that the cost of training is not even static and reliable, given the spate of economic crunch in the country.

Prof. Balogun, therefore, renewed his appeal to VCN to upwardly review the quota of Veterinary students that the University can admit.

Besides, he called on well meaning Nigerians, like the Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Senator (Dr.) Mrs. Iyabo Obasanjo-Bello who apart from giving final year Veterinary students of the University free lecture on Epidemiology has also attracted a N50 million project to the College, to come to the aid of tertiary institutions in the country.

Speaking on the N50 million project, the Dean of COLVET, Prof. (Mrs.) Dipeolu disclosed that it was targeted at boosting the infrastructural base of the College.



UNAAB Vice-Chancellor,
Prof. Oluwafemi Balogun

According to her, the fund would be judiciously utilized in the establishment of Teaching and Research Farm, provision of ultramodern farm equipment and Internet

UNAAB Post-UTME Hitch Free

As part of efforts to ensure that only the academically sound and morally upright candidates are offered admissions into the University, the Authorities on Saturday conducted Post-UTME Screening for admission seekers.

Thousand of candidates turned up for the exercise which took major part of the day.

The screening which was hitch free was conducted in sixteen (16) designated centres comprising Lecture Theatres and Auditoriums which were well manned by tested hands, including seasoned examiners, from the University.

It was a busy day for the Professor Chryss Ijeoma Onwuka led Post-UTME Screening Committee as it had a handful of responsibilities and challenges ranging from transportation to security and down monitoring of the centres to contend with.

However, at the end of the day, it was a success story as the exercise ended on a good note.

Virtually all the candidates and their parents who spoke in separate interviews commended the conduct of the exercise while they called for improvement in the areas of logistics.

Crop Protection Gets Ag. HOD

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Oluwafemi Olaiya Balogun has approved the appointment of Dr. O. R. Pitan as the Acting Head, Department of Crop Protection, College of Plant Science and Crop Production, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.

A release, issued by the Acting Registrar, Mr. Adeleke Adeboye stated that the appointment, which is on the recommendation of the Dean, College of Plant Science and Crop Production (COLPLANT) is for a period of two (2) years, with effect from August 1, 2010.

UNAAB VC Counsels on Capacity Building

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Oluwafemi Olaiya Balogun has said that the progress of any organization depends on the development and capacity building of its workforce.

Professor Balogun made this disclosure at the Induction Training Programme for new Administrative and Executive Officers in the Registry Department of the University.



DVC (Academic), Prof. Chyrss Onwuka addressing participants (inset) while the trio of the Acting Registrar, Mr Adeleke Adeboye (R), Mrs Mariam Popoola, Dep. Reg (Estab.Snr.) And Director VCO, Mrs Christiana Kuforiji watch.

The Vice-Chancellor, who was represented at the occasion by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Chyrss Onwuka reiterated his administration's commitment to the development of staff with a view to achieving the corporate goals of the University.

Delivering his Address at the occasion, the Acting Registrar, Mr. Adeleke Adeboye commended the University Management

for investing in the training and retraining of both Academic and Non-Teaching staff.

Mr. Adeboye noted that under the present administration, many administrative staff have been sponsored to both international and local conferences from funds provided for training in the 2010 budget of the University.

He urged the new administrators and executive officers to take advantage of the training opportunities, which he said would go a long way in providing them with the requisite knowledge in Fundamentals of Administration, Minutes Taking, Report Writing and the Implementation of the Condition of Service, among others.

Resource persons at the training were the Director, Executive Affairs, (Vice Chancellor's Office) Mrs. Christiana Kuforiji; Deputy Registrar (Student Affairs), Mr. Peter Akinlabi; Deputy Registrar, Establishment (Senior), Mrs. Mariam Popoola; Deputy Registrar (COLFHEC), Mrs. Morufat Dawodu, Deputy Registrar, (Post Graduate School), Mr. Obafemi Oginni and the Assistant Director and Head Public Relations, Mr. 'Lasun Somoye.

Don Challenges Nigeria On Food Production And Revolution

For Nigeria to be among the league of agricultural viable nations, there is an urgent need to develop her organic agricultural system.

This was the view of an Agricultural Economics Expert, Professor William Masters, while delivering a lecture entitled, "Food and Culture: How Americans Are Rethinking What They Eat and What Is in Their Food, How They Grow, Market and Distribute Their Food", organized by the AG Leventis Memorial Centre for Learning of the University.

According to Professor Masters, Nigeria, through her tertiary institutions and the different agricultural institutes needed to get involved in a continuous research and analysis of crop genetics, capable of satisfying the endless population growth in the country.

Professor Masters, who also doubles as an Associate Head, of the Department Agricultural Economics, Purdue University, United States observed that the digression in the agricultural sector of Nigeria can be traced to long colonial rule of the 19th Century.

In what he described as the existing agricultural golden geese of the United States and other developed nations, the don challenged Nigeria and other African counties to revolutionize their agricultural practices in order to increase the standard of living and economic dividends.

Earlier in his opening remark, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Oluwafemi Olaiya Balogun represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development), Professor Segun Lagoke stated that the

question, "Why Americans are rethinking on what they eat and the composition of their food" should in all ramifications, stimulate government and the relevant agricultural agencies to work towards increasing the quality of crop production.

The Vice-Chancellor noted the importance of re-creating a workable agricultural sector that is targeted at producing quality food output, which will not only eradicate the starvation among many Nigerians but will boost the economy of the nation.

He, however, condemned the incessant change of agricultural policies especially, in the area of adopting foreign policies, advising that Nigeria should develop its own, efficient, traditional policies capable of enhancing food production

Present at the event were the representatives of the US Consulate in Nigeria, Ms. Uche Benermd, the Acting Registrar, Mr. Adeleke Adeboye, among others.

OBJ Warns on Food Crisis

(Contd from page 1)

recently and informed me of their (Hungarian) University's interest to establish relationships with some Nigerian Universities, particularly in Agriculture".

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Oluwafemi Olaiya Balogun, thanked Chief Obasanjo for the consideration, noting that the University had been repositioned to engage in partnership with Universities and commercial farms of international repute.

The Vice-Chancellor said, "the University is ready to challenge the food threat always occasioned by the break in the chain of food supply from the Northern farmers to the Southwest (parts) of the country".

Professor Balogun said, "UNAAB has started the cultivation of tomato and pepper" that will take care of the immediate needs of community members.

According to him, two hectares of tomato and two and a half hectares of pepper has already been planted out of the proposed 10 hectares set aside.

VC Clears Misconceptions on Organic Agriculture

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Professor Oluwafemi Olaiya Balogun has described the average Nigeria belief that "our fore fathers have been practicing Organic Agriculture by default" as erroneous.

The Professor of Agricultural Bio-Chemistry and Nutrition also faulted the impression that Organic Agriculture is all about non-use of agro-chemicals and inorganic fertilizers.

Declaring opened a 3-Day Intensive

belief that our 'fore-fathers', in technical terms, have been practicing non-certified Organic agricultural production.

Professor Balogun pointed out that if our forefathers had been practicing organic agriculture by default, "let it be known here and now that no market anywhere in the world would accept any produce from such uncertified organic farms".

He described the practice of organic agriculture as the most-assuring



(Inset) ...Participants at the Workshop and group photograph of top officers of the University and Trainees.

Training Workshop On Organic Agriculture at IFSERAR Board Room, Professor Balogun who was represented by his Deputy in charge of Academic, Professor Chyrs Onwuka took a swipe at those who shared the erroneous impression, saying that it was sheer ignorance, that spurred the

persuaded to change from conventional to Organic Agriculture.

Earlier, welcoming participants, the Director of UNAAB Consult, organizers of the Workshop, Prof. Akin Omotayo reiterated the University's commitment to boosting Organic Agriculture.

vehicle for delivering quality and wholesome food for healthy living to the teeming global population.

Noting that the demand for certified organic goods and products was constantly increasing in Europe and North America as farmers were gradually being

to injuries of various sorts, whether it is tendonitis or aggravating underlying arthritis".

US Physiotherapists, therefore, warned that too much texting could cause the thumb and wrist to swell and hurt as the thumb is not designed for repetitive movement.

Findings, however, showed that most phone users in this part of the world usually prefer for communicating their thoughts and feeling to their targets by sending them text messages which is cheaper, in most cases, than making calls.

UNAAB Boosts OOP

(Contd from Page 1)

Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces noted that with the efforts of institutions like UNAAB, "the public will get to understand that, I may be putting resources together through private donations, for the Presidential Library, it will eventually be a public property and national treasure that will be administered by the national archive".

Earlier in his address, the Chairman of the University's Governing Council, Chief Lawrence Osayemi traced the concept of Presidential Libraries to the era of late US Presidents, Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1939) and Harry S. Truman (1950), who established libraries with their personal and presidential papers.

Chief Osayemi opined that former President Obasanjo deserved the commendation of Nigerians for being the first African leader to replicate the innovation on the continent.

The report of the Committee of Experts, which comprised of various technocrats in the University, was presented by a member and Dean, College of Plant Science and Crop Production, Professor Babatunde Kehinde, who identified five main areas of the report's focus to include: Soil Study/Drainage and Erosion Control; Soft Landscaping and Tree Planting and Environmental Impact Assessment. Other areas of the report included Engineering, Landscaping and Amusement Park/Zoological Garden.

The Pro-Chancellor had earlier, on behalf of the University, presented a cheque of N5m as its endowment towards implementing the first three aspects, as recommended in the report.

Responding, an elated Chief Obasanjo said the gesture would "serve as a catalyst that will provoke the Board of Trustees of the Presidential Library into an immediate action", particularly in tackling the remaining two parts of the study.

MOBILE PHONE HAZARD:

- Beware: Texting is Injurious to Health

... Experts Warn Phone Users

Medics have warned mobile phone users, including staffers of the University to beware of frequent and consistent texting of messages because the habit and practice is injurious to their health.



of physical damage caused by the repeated motion of punching buttons.

Describing the physical damage as Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI), the

body disclosed that worst hit are young thumbs.

Checks by UNAAB Bulletin revealed that an RSI article published on www.ergonomic-ohs.co.au informs that "any repeated or constant activity can predisposes someone

According to UNAAB Bulletin Media Research, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists, United States of America is already worried by the spate

OPINION

Post-UTME and Higher Education Credibility

In the present state of ignominy as we currently face as a nation, a sector we can ill afford to be freewheeling about is the education sector. Doing so attracts grim consequences and needless to say, at a great peril. Education incontrovertibly stands as the single most important elixir that can help us retrace our steps on the path of the ideals and hopefully, resurrect to greatness. As such, extreme caution is always required in treating issues bordering on the education sector. It must have been this reasoning that inspired the heated debate on the desirability or otherwise of the recent proscription of the post-Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (**UTME**) by the National Assembly.

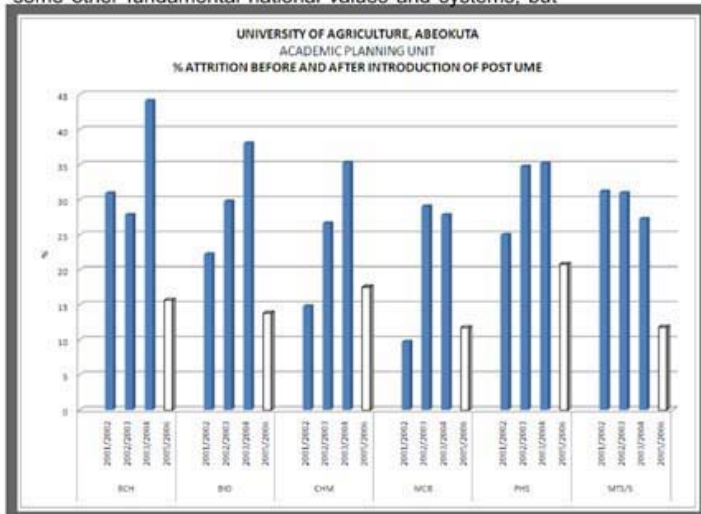
It is interesting to note the passion with which arguments were advanced from the two sides of the divide, underscoring the fact that despite the plethora of failed institutions and high level of moral decadence, Nigerians know their onions when it comes to education. We might have docilely given up on some other fundamental national values and systems, but

the scenario, when most of our Ivory Towers were hijacked and made havens for academic impersonators, in the likes of cultists, armed robbers, political thugs, drug-dealers, etc. Neither do we need any conviction to appreciate that the menace became pronounced simply because admission process into the tertiary institutions became flawed and incapable of preventing miscreants under the guise of genuine students.

It is of course plausible to reason that every individual should enjoy an inalienable right to education. But we should equally appreciate the logic of a caveat, that such unqualified right must stop reasonably, at the post-basic education level. In the interest of both the individual and our collective values, tertiary education should be made a threshold for the specially-determined and academic high-fliers. We ought to have developed enough to accept the simple fact that several people make significant impact and contributions to national development, even without knowing the configuration of the four walls of a tertiary institution. They abound in their thousands, world-over.

It neither benefits the system nor the individual that all prospective applicants must be accommodated by the tertiary institutions without due recourse to merit. It simply does not happen like that anywhere on the globe. It does not hurt the nation for failing to baptize all citizenry with higher education, so far that those not so privileged are adequately and competently groomed in some other vocations.

Universities that agitated for the introduction of the post-**UTME** must have critically weighed the options. They wear the shoes and feel the pinching the most. University administrators are frequently confounded by supposed mavericks that scored almost 100% in **JAMB** but fail to re-enact the feat in almost similar examination. Or how do we appropriate a



education appears too critical to ignore.

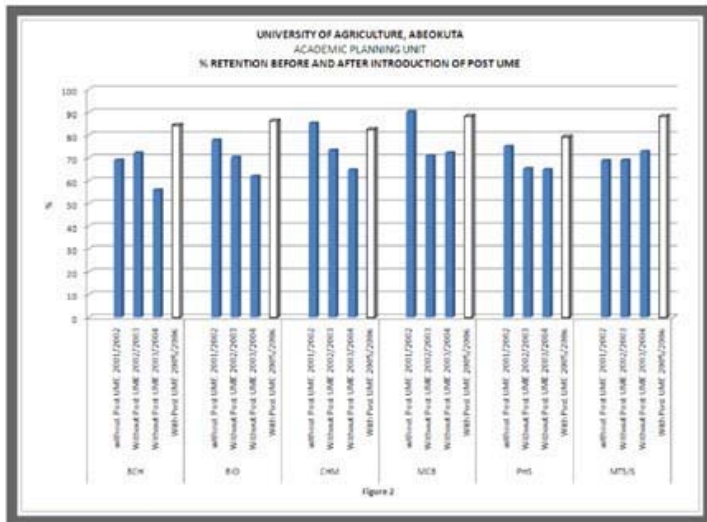
While it is irresistible to pitch tent with a particular side of the debate, it becomes almost impossible not to appreciate the quality exposition of the other. Hence, it is imperative that we take our destiny as a nation desirous of greatness, in our hands, ensuring that logic, rather than eloquence or theatrics, eventually decide the tide of decisions.

It would be recalled that post-**UTME** was introduced in 2005, to bridge the gap and correct certain anomalies that were noted in the process of selecting prospective students for the nation's tertiary institutions. Hence, the national question we need to answer dispassionately is, whether the gap that necessitated the introduction of post-**UTME** has been adequately taken care of or not.

We cannot afford to be sentimental on this critical issue of our educational development, pretending as if we have forgotten

candidate parading A1 in O-Level Chemistry, who during post-**UTME** screening gave the formula for Sodium Chloride as "SO", not to even mention hundreds of them who appallingly could not string together a simple every-day-sentence, without dropping deadly missiles?

An appreciation of the comparison of both the attrition and retention rate of candidates admitted into higher institutions before and after the introduction of post-**UTME** would demonstrate better, the rationale for the extra examination in guiding admissions into Universities. For instance, before the introduction of post-**UTME**, in the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (**UNAAB**), between 2001 and 2004, records show that a significant number of students could not cope with their academic programmes and had to withdraw, given an indication of poor quality of admitted students. However, during the 2005/2006 academic session, after the introduction of the



Using the UNAAB experience, University administrators should reserve the discretion to apply appropriate standards at ensuring that only competent and diligent candidates were offered admission. The legislative machinery of the nation should only help to strengthen standards and not compromise them, particularly on critical issues like education. Higher educational institutions should only be reined-in, not to compromise the admission process for undue commercial gains. Equally important is the need by the society to balance the reward system for academic qualifications, juxtaposed against other vocational skills. Now more than before, all stakeholders have a responsibility of repositioning our higher academic institutions, from being mere knowledge factories to citadel of empowerment, as crucially required for nation building.

'Lasun Somoye, Head, Public Relations, UNAAB.

post-UTME, higher percentage of students were able to favourably cope with their programmes and graduated without much problems. The positive trend of higher retention, has to date, continued to manifest in UNAAB.

UNAABITE to Fly Nigeria's Flag In South Korea

The Nigerian Taekwondo Federation has selected a UNAABITE, Miss Opeyemi Aramide, a 100-level student in the Department of Statistics, College of Natural Sciences (COLNAS), University of Agriculture, Abeokuta to participate in the forthcoming Youth Olympic Camp.

Mr. Victor Oshuntolu, the programme is scheduled to hold in South Korea, between July 22, and August 4, 2010.

It would be recalled that Miss Aramide also participated in the just concluded African Youth Games, held in Morocco between July 13, and 18, 2010.

According to a release from the University's Sports Coach,



UNAAB Athletes in action

UNAAB LOSES STAFF

A Chief Extension Officer with the Agricultural Media Resources and Extension Centre (AMREC), Mr. Isaac Abiodun Adeniji is dead.

According to a release by the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), Mr. Adeniji 51, died on Saturday, July 3, 2010 after a protracted illness.

A native of Atisbo Local Government Area of Oyo State, the deceased joined the services of UNAAB on 2nd November, 1989 (21 years ago), where he rose through the ranks to **CONTISS 14**.

The Governing Council, Management, Senate, Staff and Students of the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta

(UNAAB) sympathize with the family of the deceased.

The late Adeniji is survived by an aged mother, wife and children.

May his soul rest in peace.



Late Mr. Adeniji