In view of its efficient and cost-effective means of enhancing access to education without compromising quality, as well as the guaranteed flexibility, learner-centeredness and attendant high quality of teaching and learning interactions, all without constraints on time and space, the Executive Secretary, National University Commission (NUC), Prof. Julius Okojie has called on Nigerians to embrace the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode of university education. Speaking at an ODL advocacy forum and roll out of General Studies (GST) e-Modules for distance learners in the Nigerian university system, Okogie maintained that there was compelling need for Nigerians to encourage this mode of study.

Describing the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) as being at par with its counterparts from around the world, the NUC boss reiterated the commission’s determination to effectively monitor the ODL to ensure that that the institutions providing distance-learning services have the required facilities. “Everything new in this country is treated with some levity. I know many people sitting here who have acquired these degrees from some other institution somewhere and they are sitting on it. You will be amazed about how many people that must have earned this degree from somewhere and when it comes to our own very dear one, they will doubt the quality of the National Open University,” Okogie stated. Speaking in an interview with journalists shortly after the event, Vice-Chancellor NOUN, Prof. Vincent Tenebe, stated that the programme was organised to reduce the level of ignorance amongst Nigerians about acquiring education through the open and distance learning methods. He explained that there was no difference between the open and distance-learning mode of education and the conventional university system, stressing that the “crux of the matter was what one has learnt and what one can deliver.” He added, “We are monitored by the NUC, we are using the same curriculum as well as the same lecturers. Facilitators and lecturers of the NOUN are the same that are operating within our conventional university system and the quality of the graduates is the same. In his remarks, Director, Open and Distance Education of the NUC, Dr. Sulieman Ramon Yusuf, explained that the commission has “painstakingly” developed modules for five GST courses in collaboration with its partners in seven universities. “What we have just launched today, are distance learning materials that have been carefully developed to take into account flexibility of a distance learner. Those modules are written in very simple language, they are written in conversational tone so that the student has a feeling that there is a lecture or somebody addressing him or her,” he said.
Universities administrators of Nigerian Universities rose from a three Day National Workshop for Middle and Junior Administrators organized by the Association of Nigerian University Professional Administrators (ANUPA). The workshop which took place at the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State on 12th-15th October, 2014, titled “Administrative Competence: Service Delivery Strategies for the Effective Performance in Higher Education” drew participants from across the Nigerian Universities. It also considered topical to national development and university growth.

ANUPA National President, Mr. Samuel Mwansat, described the association as a non-trade union group but a professional association of university administrators and a training arm of the Committee of Registrars of Nigerian Universities (CORNU).

Welcoming participants to the national workshop, he stressed that the association has greater roles to play in the effective administration of universities, Mwansat urged members to rise to the challenges of service delivery strategies for the effective performance of Administrators in the citadel of academic excellence. On the various topical issues discussed at attendance, Mrs. Tewogbade Shakirat Oluwatoyin, Mr. Adeniyi Titus Adedeji, Mr Dada the workshop and the theme of the conference, he explained that they were so chosen to address various aspects of the university system.

According to ANUPA president, Mr Mwansat, ANUPA was set up to promote and advance professional administrative knowledge and practices in Nigerian Universities and pursue the individual and corporate welfare of its members. Parts of its objectives are among the following: provide forum for discussion of current problems in higher education; stimulate members’ development activities by organizing specific training opportunities and by monitoring the training programmes; facilitate the exchange of information on professional, managerial and administrative activities as well as techniques and skills; and establish and maintain links with administrators and managers involved in higher education overseas in order to further the interest of higher education internationally.

Oluwole Olalere, Mr Adewuyi Adetoyese Adegoke and Mr. Adesigbin Akeem Adeyinka.

The 2013/2014 batch “C” corps member of UNIOSUN, Osogbo campus has donated 10 waste baskets to the University on the 9th October, 2014 at the main campus, Osun State University, Osogbo. Receiving the donation on behalf of the University management, Mr. S.O. Abokede, Principal Assistant Registrar, said the Vice-Chancellor, Prof A.B. Okesina, lamented the attitude of some Corps members, who he said, were not committed to the primary goal of the Service. Such
youths, he said, always left their host community the way they met it. He thanked the corps members on their kind gestures towards the university.

Speaking on the motivation, Mr. Emmanuel, who represented the corps members, said their drive stemmed from the purpose of the scheme of making the university environment clean, and is to imbibe the spirit of selfless service to the nation in the youths. “We wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, the entire management and all staff of the university community for their support and encouragement during our service year, this is a way of showing our profound appreciation to the management of the university, for their hospitality and care throughout our service year” he said.

ANAN DONATES BOOKS TO UNIOSUN

Association of Nigerian Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN) has donated volumes of books to contribute to the training of qualified Accountants and Finance Managers in line with the strategic plan of Osun State University. This follows a recent presentation of about 1000 titled books to the Department of Accounting, Banking and Finance, Okuku campus on the commissioning of Accounting Laboratory by Otunba Grace Titilayo Laoye-Tomori (Deputy Governor & Commissioner for Education, State of Osun) on 25th September, 2014, and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof A.B. Okesina who was represented by Mr. Fatai Adebayo Lasisi, the Bursar.

During the event, leader of the delegation and representative of ANAN National President extended the goodwill of the National president Alhaji Sakirudeen Tunji Labode who was unavoidably absent. Alhaji Sakirudeen Tunji Labode stated that ANAN is committed to attainment of standard professional training of Accounting and Finance students and having considered the hardwork the Management has put in so far, decided to donate books to the University. “We have looked at the hardwork you have put in, we did promise that we are going to assist you in training your accounting students.” He said. Adding that, “we are here today with these books to redeem our promise, now we present these books to the glory of Accounting students, Research Fellows and the generality of persons in UNIOSUN”.

Responding, Vice Chancellor, Prof. A.B. Okesina, represented by Mr. F.A. Lasisi, thanked ANAN for their donations and expressed optimism that the books will be beneficial to the students, adding that ANAN membership is expected to increase when they are fully utilized. “I really want to thank you for these books, I am sure that these books I see here will be extremely useful to our students and we thank you for it, surely ANAN membership will increase when the books are being utilize by the students and see that they were donated by ANAN.” the VC said.

While acknowledging that books are now expensive, Prof. A.B. Okesina stated that it is important that enough books be made available to students to enable them acquire the desired knowledge without having to fight over them. In his words,”
Books are very expensive now, at the stage at which we are, it is important that textbooks are what we concentrate on and that we have multiple copies so that students do not have to fight over books, my recommendation is that at least 5 copies of each recommended textbook should be in the library.” He further assured the delegates that the books will be properly processed and made available for usage soonest. “We will make sure that they are properly tagged and catalogued and put on our shelves in the shortest possible time.” he said.

Witnessing the presentation were the Bursar, Mr. F.A. Lasisi, Dr. A.O. Gbadebo, staff and students of Accounting, Banking and Finance department. A total of 205 books with 41 titles and 5 copies each were presented to the University by ANAN

**NIGERIA’S TOP TEN BEST UNIVERSITIES 2014 WEBOMETRICS**

According to the recent ranking results released by Webometrics on Monday, Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) in Ile Ife Osun State is now the best University in Nigeria. On the ranking, Covenant University in Ota Ogun state came 2nd followed by University of Ibadan in Ibadan Oyo state. Last on the list of 100 is Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University Lapai.

The Ranking Web of Universities (Webometrics) is a rank of world universities web presence. And below is the Top 10 Best University in Nigeria from the 2014 edition of the webometrics results. Top 10 Best Universities in Nigeria for the second quarter of 2014:

1) Obafemi Awolowo University
2) Covenant University Ota
3) University of Ibadan
4) University of Lagos
5) University of Ilorin
6) Ahmadu Bello University
7) University of Agriculture, Abeokuta
8) Landmark University
9) Federal University of Technology Akure
10) University of Nigeria

**CODESANU URGED NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES TO ASSIST FINANCIALLY-DISTRESSED STUDENTS**

The Committee of Deans of Student Affairs of Nigerian Universities (CODESANU) ended their Conference recently at the University of Abuja, with a call on universities in the Country to introduce students’ work-study schemes to assist financially-distressed students. The position of the Committee was contained in a Communiqué issued at the end of the three-day Conference, tagged “UNIABUJA 2014”, which was attended by Deans of Student Affairs from federal, state and private universities.

The Committee also resolved that only students with a CGPA of 3.0 and above should be allowed to contest elections in order to reduce unnecessary tension with regard to Student Union leadership. The Communiqué appealed to students of all tertiary institutions not to allow themselves to be used by politicians during the 2015 elections and advised university authorities, not to also allow political rallies, under any guise, on university campuses

The Committee in a unanimous decision call on Nigerian universities to admit students based on the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) quota, in order not to over-stretch
facilities in the Nigerian University System (NUS). The Communiqué called on universities to strengthen infrastructure in the NUS and put in place strategies that would ensure adequate security on university campuses. This could include proper manning of university gates, wearing of identity tags by staff and students and sensitisation of students on security issues on campuses.

The Committee also called on universities to always share data of expelled students in Nigeria universities with the National Universities Commission (NUC) and CODESANU, to avoid impersonation. In seeking alternative sources of funding, the Communiqué encouraged Nigerian universities to enter into public and private partnerships to provide more hostels for students in order to reduce the accommodation and security challenges experienced in most universities.

The Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC), Professor Julius A. Okojie, OON, has charged the Committee of Deans of Student Affairs of Nigerian Universities (CODESANU) to ensure compliance with the Commission’s Benchmark Statements for Student Support Services and Facilities produced in partnership with CODESANU, in order to achieve or exceed the minimum standards prescribed in the document.

The Executive Secretary, who was represented by NUC’s Director, Student Support Services, Mallam Ibrahim Dan’Iya, gave the charge at the 2014 CODESANU Conference, held at the University of Abuja, from 28 – 30 September, 2014, with the theme: “Enhancing Students Welfare and Academic Development through Public Private Partnership”. He challenged delegates to the Conference to dissect the subject matter with a view to re-examining the need for improved welfare and security of students. In his speech, as special guest of honour, the NUC Scribe observed that the Conference and the choice of theme, could not have come at a better time when the welfare and security of students in the Nigerian University System (NUS) were being threatened by myriad challenges. He added that some of these challenges, which included inadequate hostel accommodation, inadequate transportation services and inadequate healthcare facilities, could be resolved with the cooperation of the Committee, the NUC and the private sector. While charging the Committee to take advantage of the numerous proposals for collaboration with the private sector in providing affordable hostel accommodation for students on the basis of Build, Operate and Transfer Scheme, the Executive Secretary urged CODESANU to work with their university managements to find the much needed solutions to the common challenges confronting students in the NUS. He advised the Committee to explore alternative means of funding to complement Government efforts and proprietors of private universities to find a lasting solution to these challenges.

The Executive Secretary disclosed that in a bid to ensure improved standards in healthcare delivery to the NUS, the NUC, in partnership with the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), had designed the Tertiary Institutions Health Insurance Scheme (TISHIP), aimed at providing insurance cover to students in the NUS in order for them to access affordable healthcare delivery at a minimum cost. He called on the Deans to embrace the TISHIP and ensure that the premium and capitation charges are realistic and affordable to students.

The NUC Scribe commended the out-going executive members of the Committee for their dedication and commitment to the students’ welfare, and called on the incoming ex-co members to learn from the mistakes of their predecessors and strive to take the affairs of the Committee to greater heights.
Twenty year-old Oluwatosin Ogunbusola was the cynosure of all eyes at the second convocation ceremony of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD) on Tuesday as she emerged the Best Graduating Student of the 334 students at the 2014 convocation of the institution. The Economics graduate led the pack of 46 other First Class graduates; 158 Second Class (Upper Division), 115 Second Class (Lower Division) and 14 Third Class graduates.

On the occasion, a former Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon (retd); a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos and currently the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University, Ndifu Alike in Ebonyi State, Professor Oye Ibidapo-Obe; the Vice Chairman of Julius Berger Nigeria Plc, Mr. Heinz Stockhausen, and a United Kingdom-based specialist in General Medicine and Neurology, Dr Ann Coxon, were honoured with honorary doctoral degrees. Ogunbusola, told Tribune Education on the occasion that she “sacrificed social life, sleep time, gist time” to achieve the feat, thanking Governor Ayò Fayose, who gave her N1million as gift as well as an offer of employment, saying “I’m extremely grateful and short of words.”

She also thanked Chief Afe Babalola, the founder of the ABUAD, saying “his dream and vision gave the opportunity to pursue my own dream,” and added that “I am convinced that with determination and hard work, anything is achievable.”

Speaking on the occasion, the acting Vice-Chancellor of ABUAD, Professor Michael Ajisafe, expressed delight that “the university which commenced academic work on January 4, 2010 with 149 first set of students has grown geometrically so much so that we now have a student population of about 6,000 offering courses in Social and Management Sciences; Law, Agriculture, Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, Health Sciences and Computer Science.” Ajisafe said, “In the course of its development within the last five years, ABUAD has been able to distinguish itself as a leading university in Nigeria.”

Governor Ayò Fayose, who was the chief host, in his speech on the occasion, noted that the dream of the founder of ABUAD, Chief Babalola, had “positively impacted on Ekiti State as ABUAD is the highest employer of labour in the state after the state government.”

Fayose noted the positive impact of both Chief Afe Babalola and his ABUAD on the state, saying “ABUAD is a further affirmation of the excellence Afe Babalola stands for” and announced that his government would partner the university “particularly in its agricultural sector.” Chief Afe Babalola thanked Governor Fayose for attending the programme and for his promises, and said they would expect the fulfillment of the promises as the administration grows.
The authorities of the Federal University, Lafia, Nasarawa State, have offered scholarship to 44 students of the institution. The beneficiaries, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Ekanem Braide, said, received the offer for posting outstanding results in the 2013/2014 academic session. She announced this at the institution’s fourth matriculation where it admitted no fewer than 375 students for the 2014/ 2015 academic session.

“It is the policy of the university to award scholarship to the best performing student in each of the departments at the end of the first year of study,” she stated. The VC promised that the university would continue to sustain the offer, provided the recipients excelled in their studies.

The VC, who urged the fresh students to take their studies seriously if they wish to enjoy the package, also challenged them to be of good behaviour. The university, whose values, according to her, revolve around integrity, innovation and excellence, has admitted 62 and 38 per cent males and females respectively in the last three years. She also commended President Goodluck Jonathan for his transformation agenda in education sector, as well as other stakeholders for their support to the university.

The University of Lagos (UNILAG), has held its ninth annual research conference and fair themed: ‘Health, infrastructure and development’. The three-day event which opened at the school’s Main Auditorium, was attended by scholars, and researchers both within and outside Nigeria.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Rahamon Bello, stressed the management is committed in supporting and encouraging scholarly research. Rahamon said the school recently set up a research and innovation unit to intensify research activities and facilitate access to research grants. He urged the researchers and organisations to visit the unit.

He said: “Let me inform you that the University of Lagos is committed to supporting all members of the academic staff and others that take research and scholarly publications as a major calling. As you are already aware, one of the strategies we adopted to achieve this is the institution of this research conference and fair and other related workshops, seminars and conferences at faculty and departmental levels.

“In pursuit of excellence in research, and in order to take the research efforts and all its components to the desired level, the University of Lagos recently set up a research and innovation unit to intensify research activities, coordinate multidisciplinary research projects and facilitate access to research grants from international and local sources. We encourage all organisations to visit this research and innovation unit to see for themselves, the great work going on. It could open up further collaboration between town and gown,” he said.

In his keynote address, the Minister for Health, Prof. Onyebuchi Chukwu, noted that Federal Government has adopted different strategies to improve the health of Nigerians. He therefore stressed the importance of collaborative effort in fighting diseases.

His words: “One of the strategies for improving the health of Nigerians has been the deliberate policy of this administration to improve national infrastructure through a mix of mechanisms including direct government investment and public private partnerships. Improved health will impact on economic growth.
and development as has been in England between 1780 and 1990 and Southeast Asia in recent times among other regions of the world.”

**MENACE OF FAKE CORPERS: NYSC, NUC PARTNER TO PUT AN END TO IT**

The National Youth Service Corps, NYSC, has reiterated its readiness to collaborate with the National Universities Commission, NUC, to checkmate incidence of fake corps members in the country. The partnership, will also improve the quality of graduates coming out of the Corps Producing Institutions, CPIs, for mobilization for the one year mandatory national service programme.

Director-General of NYSC, Brig-Gen. Johnson Olawumi, made this known during a visit to the Executive Secretary of NUC, Prof. Julius Okojie, in Abuja. Olawumi noted that NUC was chosen as the first point of call to CPIs in view of its relevance to the success of NYSC. He noted that automating the system would go a long way to detect many irregularities that adversely affected the system.

Responding, the NUC boss, Prof. Okojie commended the NYSC for promoting national unity, but noted that the issue of identity crisis was a challenge that needed cooperation of all relevant stakeholders to tackle. Okojie’s words; “NYSC is a very successful scheme and I must say it is good we maintain it. “On the part of NUC, we are working hard to ensure that we improve on quality of education.” Okojie noted that the commission was fully aligned with NYSC on the issue of system automation, adding that “we will ensure that in our portal, university authorities enter their data.” Prof. Okojie also urged university authorities to ensure that they put encrypted coded chip on their certificates to make it impossible for people to forge.

**BAZE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES 64, HONOUR LATE ADADEVOH, DASUKI**

Baze University, a private university based in Abuja, on Saturday, graduated 64 students and conferred posthumous honorary doctorate degree on Dr Stella Adadevoh, the first doctor to die of Ebola virus in Nigeria. The university also conferred honorary doctorate degree on former Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki, at its maiden convocation ceremony. The university, established in 2011 with 17 students, grew to have a student population of 1,300 in 2014.

Prof. Micheal Hodd, the Vice Chancellor of the university, lauded Adadevoh for her contributions in the medical field and her legacy in the profession. Hodd said that the university, which started with a foundation class and three faculties—management and social sciences, law, computer and applied sciences, added that the academic standard of the institution was high as confirmed by stakeholders. The vice chancellor said “external examiners have rated our academic standard as being marginally higher than those of an average UK university.” Prof. Julius Okojie, the Executive Secretary of National Universities Commission (NUC), commended Baze University for its contributions to the country’s education sector. According to him, Baze University and other private universities have contributed in bringing Private Public Partnership (PPP) in education to fruition.

Okojie, who was represented by Prof. Chiedu Mafiana, the Deputy
Executive Secretary of NUC, pledged the Commission’s continued assistance to private universities to enable them to grow according to existing laws. He said “we want you to ensure that the private initiative and discipline in the private sector are brought to bear in the school. You must adhere to quality assurance stipulations.” He urged operators of private universities to monitor their students to ensure that they did not indulge in drugs and other vices. (NAN)

The Management and entire Staff of UNIOSUN rejoice with the Staff members whose birthdays fall on the dates noted below. We wish you many happy returns.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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QOUTABLE QOUTE

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up. ~ Thomas A. Edison

Follow your dream as long as you live, do not lessen the time of following desire, for wasting time is an abomination of the spirit. ~ Plato

Don't let the fear of the time it will take to accomplish something stand in the way of your doing it. The time will pass anyway; we might just as well put that passing time to the best possible use. ~ Earl Nightingale

Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream, so shall you become. Your vision is the promise of what you shall one day be; your ideal is the prophecy of what you shall at last unveil. ~ James Allen

The winners in life think constantly in terms of I can, I will, and I am. Losers, on the other hand, concentrate their waking thoughts on what they should have or would have done, or what they can't do. ~ Dennis Waitley