

OUR VISION, WE MUST ACHIEVE

An Address by the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Oguntola Jelil Alamu, on the Occasion of the Fourth and Fifth Convocation Ceremonies of Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria held on Tuesday, 8th and Wednesday 9th, March, 2016

Protocols

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you on behalf of the Council, Senate, Congregation and the entire staff and students of Osun State University to the fourth and fifth convocation ceremonies of this great citadel of learning. It is a privilege, ordained by God, for me to stand before this congregation today as the Acting Vice-Chancellor of Osun State University after my unenviable appointment into that position on the 3rd February, 2015 by the Professor Gabriel Olawoyin-led Governing Council. I hereby return all glory to the Almighty God for his mercies in granting us a peaceful University, where all stakeholders are now committed to repositioning UNIOSUN to greater heights.

Let me warmly welcome the indefatigable Visitor to Osun State University, Ogbeni Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola; the Governor of the State of Osun to our midst. Your strong passion for education and your uncommon regard for University autonomy, evident through academic freedom accorded Osun State University under your leadership, will remain indelible in the annals of University education in Nigeria. On our part, all stakeholders are now consciously working together to make UNIOSUN a unique institution committed to the pursuit of academic innovation, skill-based training and a tradition of excellence in teaching, research and community service; under a very peaceful atmosphere.

I humbly welcome the Deputy Governor, Otunba Grace Titi Laoye-Tomori, The Speaker of the State House of Assembly, the Judiciary and other top government functionaries, our new and unique Chancellor, Mrs. Folorunso Alakija, the Pro-Chancellor, Professor Obafemi Ajibola, all members of the Governing Council, Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, the entire Senate of the University, Royal fathers, UNIOSUN Parent Forum under the leadership of Justice 'Jide Falola, Secretary General, Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, Professor Michael Faborode, who delivered the Convocation lecture, former Vice-Chancellors of UNIOSUN, visiting Vice-Chancellors and Registrars, invited guests, parents and guardians, elated graduands, friends from the press, ladies and gentlemen.

Today marks the beginning of a new dawn, as this year's convocation is uniquely laced with an epoch making installation of a female Chancellor for the University as well as production of first set of Law graduates.

Graduate Output

Distinguished audience, UNIOSUN had produced three sets of graduates prior this year's convocation. I am delighted to report that our graduates are already making us proud as First Class products of Osun State University are completing their postgraduate programmes with distinction in foreign Universities. In 2015, OLOJIDO, Oluwatoyin Esther bagged distinction in M.Sc. Accounting and Finance from University of Leeds, while ODESANMI, Oluwatosin Racheal also had distinction in M.Sc. Analytical Chemistry from Loughborough University. Both are back in UNIOSUN as Academic staff. This testimony, amongst others, is a fulfilment of the global competitiveness of our graduates, as enshrined in the Vision of Osun State University.

For the 4th and 5th Convocation, the University would be awarding first degrees to three thousand one hundred and sixty-four (3164) students from six Colleges. This comprises one thousand four hundred and eighty-eight (1488) male and one thousand six hundred and seventy-six (1676) female.

College/Faculty	2013/2014 Graduands	2014/2015 Graduands
Agriculture	28	55
Education	95	249
Humanities & Culture	160	273
Law	-	40
Management & Social Sciences	551	850
Science, Engineering & Technology	394	469
Total	1228	1936

Breakdown of the class of degrees is provided below:

Class of degree	2013/2014 Graduands	2014/2015 Graduands
First Class Division	27	24
Second Class Upper Division	282	568
Second Class Lower Division	660	991
Third Class Division	251	340
Pass	8	13
Total	1228	1936

OUR SCORE CARD

My greatest joy today is the relative peace and high level of academic excellence attained by the institution since I became the Acting Vice Chancellor about a year ago. Baring all odds, the University successfully completed 2014/2015 academic session promptly without any form of interruption in our academic calendar. This manifested in prompt mobilization of over three thousand students from combined 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 sessions for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in 2015. Of course, the stable calendar aided successful admission of our pioneer graduates from the College of Law into the Nigerian Law School in October, 2015; a rare and remarkable feat in the history of Law programmes in Nigerian Universities! We were able to achieve this through the grace of God and maximum cooperation of all stakeholders including the Visitor to the University, the Governing Council, Staff Unions (NASU, NAAT, SSANU and ASUU), members of staff, students and the Parent Forum.

Strategic Planning

To ensure that our University remain focused, we committed ourselves fully to implementation monitoring and evaluation of the University 2012 – 2016 Strategic plan. In December, 2015, evaluation of strategic development of this University in the past four years was carried out with a view to achieving the set objectives before the expiration of the plan period 2012 – 2016.

Entrepreneurial Graduates

The 2014/2015 academic session witnessed the resuscitation of Entrepreneurial Training for the final year students in line with the mission of the University. This mandatory training has equipped our graduates with basic hands-on skills required to be self-reliant. I am pleased to inform you that the happy graduands of today will be collecting two certificates by the end of this ceremony – the Bachelor's degree certificate and the Entrepreneurship skill set Certificate. Since the last Convocation in 2014, Osun State University has continued to make progress in teaching, research, community service, physical and infrastructural development, development of academic programmes, staff training and development as well as linkages and partnership.

Linkages and Partnership

It gladdens my heart to report that Osun State University has become a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). The University also signed Memorandum

of Understanding (MOU) with the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) which gives our students a good edge in the Professional banking examinations. There is an MOU between Osun State University and National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) for the establishment of Space Weather and Atmospheric Physics Laboratory in the University. In addition to Universities, Institutes and agencies in Nigeria, the University currently has linkage agreements with the Centre for Energy and Environmental Policy, University of Delaware, USA; Texas Southern University, USA; Kyungnam University, Republic of Korea; Medical Faculty, Otto-Von-Guericke-University of Magdeburg, Germany, Albany State University, Georgia, USA; University of Essex, UK; Skyline College, California, USA; Pennsylvania State University USA; University of Manitoba Canada; University of Saskatchewan, Canada; University of Parakou, Benin Republic, Information and Communication Technology University (ICT-U) of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA as well as Centro de Biotechnologia Genomica in Mexico. All agreements have built into them capacity building for our staff and many provide for staff-student exchange in addition to research collaboration.

The University partnered with ExxonMobil and benefited in a donation of a fully furnished Geoscience Laboratory comprising four workstations and a power generating set. Schlumberger also donated operating PETREL software for the Workstations. The facility, commissioned in October 2015, has been found invaluable for teaching and research; and more importantly for bridging the gap between University training and practical job skill set in the oil and gas sector.

Staff Giant Strides, Grants and Endowment

Our staff have continued to make indelible marks in their research and other activities winning competitive international research grants and bagging notable awards and securing high profile appointments. Recently, Professor Olukoya Ogen, was appointed the Provost of Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo. Professor Clement Adebooye was also appointed the Ambassador Scientist in Nigeria for the German Government Humboldt Foundation. Three academic staff, led by the Acting Vice Chancellor, ranked amongst the topmost 500 researchers in Nigeria (Prof. Oguntola Jelil Alamu, Prof. Olukoya Ogen and Falana Benedict) according to their Google Scholar Citations public profiles released by Cybermetric Lab, Spain in March 2015. In the latest of such ranking, the University paraded ten academic staff led by the Dean of Clinical Sciences (Prof. Akinwusi Patience Olayinka, Prof. Esther O Asekun Olarinmoye, Prof. Alamu Oguntola Jelil, Dr. Monsuru Adeleke, Mr. Olu Ojo, Dr. Michaeline Asuquo Isawumi, Dr. Ibukun Oyeyipo,

Prof. Olukoya Ogen, Dr. Mary Oloyede and Mr. Falana Benedict). The Google Scholar citation profile of Professor Clement Adebooye is equally intimidating.

An international research consortium led by Professor Clement Adebooye also won a grant of \$4.45 million for a project with the Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Parakou, University of Manitoba and University of Saskatoon to advance indigenous vegetables technology in Southwest Nigeria and Benin Republic. This is the second phase of the research for which an earlier \$3.0 million grant was awarded. The project is being jointly funded by the Canada's Government International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) under the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF). The Project is currently being implemented in Osun, Oyo, Ogun, Ondo, Ekiti, Kwara and Lagos States in South West Nigeria and Benin Republic. This effort is geared towards enhancing food security and improving the incomes of more than one million West African farmers.

UNIOSUN successfully hosted the 2015 Colloquium/Annual Conference of the Association of Nigeria Geographers (ANG) with the theme ***Climate Change and Human Security***. This theme is germane especially at a time that the world is ravaged by the bio-geophysical distortions caused by changes in the climatic regimes.

Recently, one of our technical staff won Fifty Thousand *US Dollar (\$50,000)* grant from Google.

Osun State University secured a grant of fifty thousand Dollars (\$50,000) from the German government through the Humboldt Foundation to organize an international conference on how to make science and research impactful for rural populace development. The Conference, held in August 2015, attracted scientists from several institutions.

In the same vein, The Visitor, few years ago, endowed this University with a professorial Chair in Building a Knowledge Based Society: Innovation, Infrastructure and Quality of Life (BKBS: IIQL). The Governing Council in 2015 adopted the proposed approach of implementation and approved the endowment to operate under our Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies. The University will collaborate with other institutions, businesses and government agencies who participated in the Western Nigeria Competitiveness Forum and Innovation Cluster Consortium (WNCFICC), which was launched few years ago as part of the BKBSIIQL programme. Together with WNCFICC, UNIOSUN will host teams of graduate students who have been selected via Applied

Innovation Challenge Contests conducted throughout the region. Over the period of one year, these teams will be enabled via direct mentorship and access to needed infrastructure, to develop their innovative ideas into viable commercial enterprises.

I wish to use this occasion to rejoice with some of our staff who recently bagged higher degrees. Within the last one year, six (6) members of staff completed their masters programmes, while twenty-nine (29) academic staff bagged PhD degree from Nigeria, South Africa, Malaysia and the United Kingdom. Distinguished audience, it is not a mere coincidence that this University has another set of twenty-nine (29) academic staff currently at advanced stage of their Ph.D programmes in Kenya, South Africa, Malaysia, Mexico, USA, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia and Germany, it is as a result of robust staff training and development policy of the University aided by strategic utilization of intervention funds from the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund). This has tremendously improved the quality of the Faculty and has translated to globally competitive graduates from this university.

Permit me to also use this opportunity to congratulate the teaching and non-teaching staff, who had meritoriously progressed on their staffing status. It gladdens my heart to mention that within the last one year, thirteen (13) academic staff were elevated to and within the Professorial rank.

Students Awards and Accolades

Our students have also been excelling both in national and international competitions. In the recent edition of the Africa Regional Inter-University Debate Competition organised by the UNESCO Institute for African Culture and International Understanding in partnership with the Centre for Human Security and Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, UNIOSUN students emerged third (3rd) out of thirteen (13) African countries that participated. At the last Nigeria Universities Games (NUGA) competitions held at Obafemi Awolowo University, UNIOSUN students participated and won one (1) gold, one (1) silver and two (2) bronze medals to take 20th position with older sister universities queueing behind us.

In 2015, the Nigeria Society of Biochemistry Students (NSBS) bagged 3rd position in the quiz competition held during the NSBS South-west Zone 2nd Annual Southwest Convention. At the 2015 All Nigerian Universities Quiz Challenge (ANUQC 2015), the UNIOSUN team emerged with second position. The University has also been selected into the National Board of Universities Quiz Competition.

Also in 2015, UNIOSUN team excelled at the National debate and quiz competitions of the Students' Leadership Development Tournament (SLEDT) held at the University of Ilorin. UNIOSUN Debating team comprising Kola Adeagbo (Political Science), Temiloluwa Ogundele (Law) and Oluwanimbe Omolaja (Law) led other universities and bagged first position.

Academic Development

Osun State University continues to sustain its reputation as an Institution established to promote academic and moral standards. Few months ago, the University presented six programmes for accreditation by the National Universities Commission (NUC). I am happy to report that all the programmes got Full accreditation. With these results, all the thirty-two (32) matured academic programmes run by the University have full accreditation status. The University also had full accreditation status from professional bodies such as COREN, ICAN and TOPREC.

One of the key elements in the Institution's strategic Plan is commencement of Postgraduate programmes after six years of establishment. The National Universities Commission (NUC) recently granted approval for us to mount and run courses leading to the award of Postgraduate Degrees and Diplomas. Consequently, applications have been invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into full-time postgraduate programmes (in the 2015/2016 Academic Year). With the approval of the Governing Council, the University also runs the Interim Joint Matriculation Board (IJMB) programme, and we have commenced NUC approved Part-time degree programmes in eleven (11) disciplines.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, Osun State University will continue to unfold national policies to support the 'Change Initiative' of the Federal Government, and we shall continue to provide the platform for intellectual discourse of these change policies. Towards these, I must commend the activities of our Colleges and Faculties that have continued to organise series of distinguished lectures on topical issues.

The College of Education recently hosted an International Conference organised by the Collaboration of Education Faculties in West Africa (CEFWA) with the theme *Education: Innovation, Policy Implementation and Challenges*. The Guest speaker, Prof. Peter Okebukola, OFR *reflected on the challenges facing the delivery of education in Nigeria, especially with regards to policy implementation and how these hurdles can be demolished in a way that climate*

of innovation can prevail in the system'. The CEFWA Conference drew participants across all Universities in Nigeria and West Africa.

The Faculty of Social Sciences also organised 2nd Annual Guest Lecture titled *'Insecurity and Challenges of National Development'*. The lecturer was Mallam Nuhu Ribadu who was represented by Professor Idowu Awopetu. The Faculty also organised a Special Faculty Lecture, *'Sentencing Patterns of Specialized Court Judges'* delivered by Dr. Salmon Shomade, an Associate Professor of Political Law from the University of New Orleans in the USA.

The Faculty of Humanities Distinguished Lecture was also held, where Prof. Oladele Balogun, Dean of Faculty of Arts, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye delivered the lecture titled *'Ethical Revolution and Development in the Nigerian Democratic Space'*. The 2015/2016 Annual Distinguished Faculty Lecture titled *'Rhetorics of Governance, Anti-Corruption and its Sustainability'* was also delivered by Professor Francis Egbokhare of the Department of Linguistics and African Language, University of Ibadan in December, 2015.

The College of Health Sciences organised its 3rd Annual Lecture titled *'Emerging Threats from Political Instability and Terrorism in Nigeria - Will the Education System Survive?'* delivered by the former National President of the Academic Staff Union of Nigerian Universities (ASUU), Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria - Professor Dipo Fasina.

The 2nd edition of the distinguished personality lecture series of the Faculty of Law, Osun State University was organized on the 20th January 2016 at the College of Law, Ifetodo. The lecture, titled: *"Justiciability of Social and Economic Right in Nigeria"* was delivered by an erudite lawyer and human right activist Mr. Femi Falana, SAN.

Earlier this month, (March 2-4, 2016) Osun State University hosted the Strategies for Improving Diabetes Care in Nigeria (SIDCAIN) 2016 Annual Update Course, Scientific Conference and Distinguished Personality Lecture under the chairmanship of Rt. Hon. Najeem Folasayo Salam, Speaker, Osun State House of Assembly. The program, facilitated by the Provost, College of Health Sciences, Prof. C.O. Alebiosu, was organized to update knowledge on diabetes and to call the attention of stakeholders to the rising epidemic of diabetes in Nigeria with a view to providing more facilities, care and prevention. SIDCAIN is currently supporting the care of women with diabetes in pregnancy in Osun State.

Staff Training and Development

Osun State University has robust policies for staff development and training for effective service delivery. Both academic and non-teaching staff enjoyed sponsorship for local and international training. I will like to place on record that ninety-five (95) academic staff have benefitted from TETFund Academic Staff Training and Development (AST&D) intervention to pursue Postgraduate studies within and outside Nigeria, while two hundred and two (202) academic and non-teaching staff have attended conferences/ workshops under TETFund Conference Attendance (CA) intervention. In addition, the University through its 'Learned Conference Policy' has sponsored over two hundred and fifty (250) academic and non-teaching staff to attend local and international conferences, trainings, workshops and seminars.

We hosted the Advanced Digital Appreciation Programme for Tertiary Institution (ADAPTI) of the Digital Bridge Institute (DBI), Nigeria Communication Commission in November, 2015, where 103 staff of the University were trained. The University will continue to support its teaching and non-teaching staff on learned conferences and capacity building workshops.

Physical Infrastructure

The University has continued to invest on physical infrastructure. Apart from the Central Research Laboratory, which was commissioned last week, there are ten (10) major building projects under construction. Four of the structures are nearing completion and would be ready for commissioning in the next couple of months. These are: the Library building at the main campus, Faculty of Environmental Sciences building, College of Health Sciences building and the modern Library for the Okuku Campus. The abandoned health centre projects at the College of Agriculture, Ejigbo and College of Humanities and Culture, Ikire were recently completed.

ICT

Deployment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the University is currently witnessing a substantial leap. The design and development of a Web-based Result Processing Management System (RPMS) as well as *electronic micro portal* (Scholar's directory) meant for staff profile, publications and other information were executed by staff of this University. We engage in online fee collection and automated staff payroll system. It is significant to note that the era of e-Council, e-Management, e-Senate, e-registration and e-payment has not only come to

stay in the University, it had assisted immensely in checking leakages and saving money for the University.

Advancement Office and UNIOSUN Integrated Ventures Limited

The major challenge facing government institutions today is the dwindling of financial resources. The need for a clear departure from the approach of twin dependence on tuition and subvention from the owner state is no longer negotiable. To this end, I am happy to report that the newly established Advancement Office is already repositioning the institution for better funding through endowments, income from intellectual outputs like patents and innovative business ideas. The larger society is now becoming part of the funding of UNIOSUN. Corporate organizations, individuals, enterprises and corporation are partnering with us on funding. The Advancement Board of UNIOSUN was inaugurated last week (25th February, 2016); I wish to use this medium to congratulate and appreciate members of the Board under the Chairmanship of Mallam Yusuf Alli (SAN) for their commitments towards aggressive execution of this task.

With a committed Governing Council and the crop of professionals at the disposal of Osun State University, the institution has registered the **UNIOSUN Integrated Ventures Limited**. This is a commercial enterprise poised to utilize in-house human and material resources to raise the IGR base of the University with the aim of evolving a University that will be self-sustaining any moment from now. It is heartwarming to witness the take-off of one of the IGR projects, the UNIOSUN Water factory; whose product will soon dominate the market. The Advancement Office and the UNIOSUN Integrated Ventures Limited are being nurtured to making the institution financially independent.

With these modest achievements, the nine year old institution has proved itself as a University that is living up to its vision and mission. We will continue to strive to pursue excellence in the areas of need driven research, teaching and community outreach in line with global best practices that will make our institution relevant to its immediate and remote environment.

Appreciation and Admonition

I congratulate and profoundly appreciate our Visitor, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola and the State Government in general, members of the House of Assembly under the leadership of The Rt. Hon. Najeem Salaam, the Judiciary, Executive Secretaries of all Local Governments, the Chancellor

of Osun State University, Dr. Mrs. Folorunso Alakija as well as members of the Governing Council under the leadership of Prof. Obafemi Ajibola. I appreciate the former Visitor to the University, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, the pioneer Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Okebukola as well as the immediate past Pro-Chancellor Professor Gabriel Olawoyin, SAN. You will always be remembered for upholding our core values of integrity, accountability, ethical behaviour, transparency and shared governance. This message of appreciation will be incomplete without recognising the invaluable contributions of the former Chancellor of the University, the Late Imperial Majesty, Ooni of Ife, Oba Okunade Sijuade the Olubuse II.

I thank, most sincerely, the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Professor Julius A. Okojie. The University will continue to foster cordial relations with NUC. We appreciate the Federal Government for intervention projects through NEEDS Assessment intervention funds and the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund). Our profound gratitude also goes to the Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board (JAMB), Prof. Dibu Ojerinde for the wonderful supports at all times. Immense gratitude to members of the Management, Senate, Congregation, staff and staff Unions, students as well as the Parent Forum. Together, we will make UNIOSUN stronger.

I cannot but extend our gratitude to our benefactors who have rendered assistance in one way or the other. The list is endless. Ladies and Gentlemen, we will continue to appreciate you all and we urge philanthropists to come and partner with us in the development of this citadel of learning. This clarion call also go to our Alummi and all stakeholders.

Hearty congratulations to our happy graduands, who have been found worthy in learning and character after years of rigorous academic activities. You have toiled day and night to merit the award and I urge you not to rest on your oars. This is just a phase in your academic life and I urge you to move on to the next phase with greater determination to make your own positive mark on the sand of time.

I am proud to say that you have been well groomed to impact positively on your environment. You have become our ambassadors and you must represent us well wherever you find yourself. I also enjoin you to play active roles in the Alumni Association so as to contribute your quota to the development of your alma mater. Do not forget the virtues in competence, commitment to duty, good conduct, peace, love, honesty, humility and quest for excellence in all your endeavours. While bidding you good bye, I commit you into the hands of God; you will prosper

and you will make it in life. I look forward to hearing good things about you in the years to come.

Finally, I rejoice with your parents, guardians, relatives and friends who have contributed in one way or the other to make your success a reality. I urge parents and guardians to continue to invest in our children, and I pray that you will reap the fruits bountifully.

I thank you all.