

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH AT THE 2020 CONVOCATION CEREMONIES

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#1 in Nigeria and West Africa; #7 in Africa
Top 500 in the Times Higher Education World Universities Rankings 2021

DAY 2: MONDAY, 16 NOVEMBER, 2020

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR A. IDOWU OLAYINKA
AT THE CONGREGATION FOR THE AWARD OF POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS
AND ADMISSION INTO MASTER'S DEGREE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN
ON MONDAY, 16 NOVEMBER, 2020**

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration)
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic)
Deputy Registrar (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships)
Registrar
Bursar
University Librarian
Provosts of the College of Medicine and of the Postgraduate College
Deans of Faculties and of Students
Directors of Institutes and Centres
Heads of Departments
Members of Senate
Members of Congregation
President and members of the University of Ibadan Alumni Association
Members of the Students' Representative Council
Honoured Graduands
Parents and Guardians of our Graduands
Gentlemen of the Press
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I welcome you all to the second day of the three-day 2020 graduation ceremonies of the University of Ibadan. I am highly delighted to welcome through our virtual platforms, parents and guardians, guests, well-wishers and Alumni to this joyous occasion, marking the 72nd Anniversary of the University of Ibadan. I hereby specially congratulate the parents and guardians of the graduands, who are felicitating with them on this memorable day. Today's convocation ceremony is for the admission into Master degree and awards of Postgraduate Diplomas to those who have been trained, examined and undoubtedly found worthy both in character and in learning.

It is my pleasure to specially welcome our graduands and rejoice with you and your families on these noteworthy academic achievements. It is my hope that you will positively impact the various sectors of the Nigeria economy and the challenge that we face as a nation as you begin another phase in your individual lives.

Postgraduate Education

The University of Ibadan is the flagship of postgraduate education in Nigeria and the Coordinating centre for postgraduate training. The Postgraduate College has continued to maintain academic excellence in postgraduate training and research. In furtherance of this objective, our Postgraduate College has continued to organize series of interdisciplinary discourses delivered by eminent Nigerians on the broad theme of education and national development. In view of the foregoing, the Postgraduate College has continued to be a major producer of high quality human resource needed to propel development in Nigeria by virtue

of age, existing manpower and production of correspondingly large number of high quality graduates to tackle the present manpower challenge of the country and meet the future need of the global village. The Postgraduate College, since its upgrade and restructuring from its former status of a Postgraduate School has been living up to expectations.

The Postgraduate College has encouraged promising upcoming younger generation of scholars with an institution of ₦25,000.00 monthly stipend, waiver of tuition among other benefits. It has invested in capacity building and facilities update by supporting Departments, Centres and Faculties in the areas of publications, purchase of equipment and refurbishing of infrastructures to serve as motivation to both the staff and students. The efforts have resulted in a proliferation in the number of applications for postgraduate studies from both within and outside the country.

Ladies and gentlemen, on the first day of the graduation ceremonies, that is Friday, we graduated a total of 639 from sixteen Faculties, including Diploma and Certificate students across the Faculties, as well as Distance Learning Centre and Affiliated Institutions.

I am happy to inform you distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen that today, a total of 222 graduands will be receiving their higher degree certificates from six Faculties. The figure comprised 3 candidates for the M.Phil, 218 Academic Master degrees, 1 Professional Degree of Masters.

I will like to give special recognition to three of our graduating students who emerged the overall best for the session with a perfect Cumulative Grade Point Average of 7.0 out of a maximum of 7.0. They are as follows:

1st position: Adedayo Thomas with an average score of 82.0% in his MSc in Chemistry (Inorganic Chemistry Option)

2nd Position: Temitayo Oluwadara, with an average score of 81.6% in the MSc in Chemistry (Physical Chemistry Option), and

3rd Position: Adenike Mary Olowolagba, with an average score of 77.6% in the MSc in Chemistry (Organic Chemistry Option).

While we pride ourselves in many accomplishments so far, at the same time, we are working assiduously to achieve more. At this occasion, I can only reflect on a few of our modest achievements in academic and sustainable capacity building since the beginning of this session.

Activities and Achievements

It is not possible at occasions like this to exhaustively report all that has been achieved by the University in all areas since my last address to convocation. I would naturally concentrate on the achievements recorded in academic activities and human capacity building:

The Faculty of Pharmacy received the NUC approval to commence the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) programme in the 2019/2020 session.

Prof. Oluwatoyin A. Odeku, Fellow Nigerian Academy of Science, and Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy has been appointed Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Ambassador Scientist for Nigeria.

Prof. Grace O. Gbotosho, Head, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology was elected Fellow of the Academy of Science (FAS) and the African Academy of Sciences (FAAS).

Dr Taiwo Elufioye of the Faculty of Pharmacy won the Fulbright African Research Scholar Program Fellowship which she is utilizing at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, USA.

The Department of Veterinary Physiology and Biochemistry graduated the first set of M.Sc Veterinary Biochemistry students in University of Ibadan and arguably, the first set of M.Sc Veterinary Biochemistry graduates in Nigeria.

Dr A. A. Oyagbemi, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Veterinary Physiology and Biochemistry, won the International Society of Neurochemistry Committee for Aid and Education in Neurochemistry (ISN-CAEN Category 1B) Grant with an award value of \$4,800.

Dr A.S. Akinrinde, a Senior Lecturer in the same Department won the International Society of Neurochemistry Committee for Aid and Education in Neurochemistry (ISN-CAEN) Grant for purchase of Research Supplies with an award value of \$5,000.

Dr. Funmi Olopade of the Department of Anatomy, won the President's prize for the best presentation (Basic Medical Sciences) at the 63rd Annual Scientific meeting of the Society for Research into Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida held in La Laguna, Spain.

Professors A.R.A Alada and S. B. Olaleye both of the Department of Physiology were elected President, Physiological Society of Nigeria and President, African Society for Drosophilia Research respectively.

The World Health Organization Programme for the Detection of SARS-CoV-2 by PCR certified the COVID-19 laboratory in the Department of Virology for correctness, reliability and reproducibility.

The Department of Virology was accredited by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) as one of the COVID-19 testing centres in Nigeria.

The TETFund awarded a grant of N49.725million to COVID-19 Research Team in the Department of Virology for intervention in five Universities on COVID-19 research in Nigeria.

A student of the Pan-African University Life and Earth Sciences Institute (PAULESI) got additional grant of \$12,000 from African Forest Forum (AFF), a platform for stakeholders in African Forestry.

We congratulate two of our Deputy Registrars who have been appointed Registrar. They are Mr Gani Saliu, Registrar, Olusegun Agagu University of Science and Technology, Okitipupa, and Mr Adetona, Registrar-Designate, Bowen University, Iwo. We wish them every success in their new preferments.

Closing

Once again, I rejoice with all the graduands of today for your scholastic achievement at the University of Ibadan. Having obtained a postgraduate degree, your journey into lifelong learning has just begun, considering the rapid rate of change and challenges of the 21st century work place. The challenge before you is to impact the society positively through your newly acquired knowledge and competencies. I also enjoin you to be good ambassadors of this great University in whatever capacities you find yourselves. More importantly, may I implore you to always remember the University of Ibadan in all that you do and contribute to its development. The University has invested heavily in you, you should also give back when you are well positioned to do so.

May God grant you all journey mercies back to your various destinations.

Thank you for listening.

Professor A. Idowu Olayinka

Vice-Chancellor