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- Building leadership through Christian education; transforming lives, impacting society for positive change.

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- Team Spirit
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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“You are expected to bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the despondent and a shining light to those in the dark alleys of the world.”

Prof. Ademola Tayo

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## BU HOODS 164 DOCTORAL GRADS



Waiting to soar: The doctoral graduates await hooding at the ceremony wait as the coordinator read out their research abstracts and parting words.

## “NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES CAPABLE OF SOLVING THE NATION’S CHALLENGES,” PROF OKEBUKOLA



Prof. Peter Okebukola: A case for a research-driven better educational system

By Godwin Ugbaka with additional reports

Nigerian universities are in a position to provide at least 40 per cent of the solutions to the nation’s challenges and attain-

ment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Former Executive Secretary of the National Universities

Commission, Professor Peter Okebukola stated this while delivering the Babcock University 2023 Convocation lecture.

In a paper, *“From Tangible to Virtual Reality:*

*Redefining the Nigerian University System,”* Professor Okebukola noted that the nation can achieve this by strengthening universities’ research capacities through in-country and international training, better funded research laboratories and workshops, as well as sizeable grants for quality research.

If these enablers are not in place, he said, Nigerians should not turn round to accuse the universities of irresponsibility to the nation’s needs.

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## BABCOCK DIGEST

A Babcock University Newsletter

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Facilities -070 640 699 96

Fire Service-0803 606 44 44

Food Services

080 340 333 72

Security 081 495 146 46

BU Pastor 090 31 90 72 11



Prof. Peter Okebukola makes his presentation to an attentive audience

### “NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES CAPABLE OF SOLVING THE NATION’S CHALLENGES,” PROF OKEBUKOLA

Continued from page 1

He further stated that a gap analysis conducted over the last two months by his group of scholars, showed that the future of Nigeria’s tertiary education needed quick-fix interventions.

Aside research funding; he said emphasized the need to improve the quality of primary and secondary schools as these formed the foundation of Nigeria’s educational system.

This implies getting all the out-of-school children into school; re-sourcing our primary and secondary schools for improved delivery of quality education as well as engaging better-quality teachers in the

right numbers

“It means paying the teachers well and exposing them to continuing professional development,” he pointed out.

On the future of quality in the University system, Prof. Okebukola noted that “quality is driven by a multiplicity of factors including the curriculum, teacher quality and motivation, cur-

riculum delivery, governance, and quality of resourcing.

He praised the President/Vice Chancellor, Professor Ademola Tayo and his management team for the academic and infrastructural progress.

Professor Tayo described Professor Okebukola as one of Nigeria’s finest intelligentsia.



A cross section of the students listen to Prof Ademola Tayo (right)



Prof Ademola Tayo and Prof. Peter Okebukola (6th and 7th left) with other officers.



# BABCOCK CPGS HOODS 164 DOCTORAL GRADUATES



Supervisors take their place behind their supervisees to begin the hooding. Pictured right is Prof. Christiana Sowunmi and her supervisee.

By Godwin Ugbaka with additional reports

**B**abcock University this year recorded the highest number of doctoral graduates in the history of the college of postgraduate studies as it marked the 12th hooding ceremony of 164 doctors of Philosophy.

At the event which took place at the University Amphitheatre, the Ogun State Governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun made a strong case for capacity building and resolution of societal problems through scholarly research.

Represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Mr. Tokunbo Talabi, the governor commended the University for rising up to the challenge of national development.

“The list of candidates hooded today reflects the areas of human capacity needed for the continued development of the society,” he

said. “We cannot have this large number of higher institutions in the state and producing a large number of PhD graduates yearly and keep seeking for specialists in various sectors of the economy,”

In his charge, President/Vice Chancellor, Professor Ademola Tayo told the graduates to take advantage of the expertise ac-

quired to tackle societal problems and stand tall in their academic and professional pursuits.

“As you celebrate your achievement, remember that your certificate is valuable to the extent you use your knowledge to bring about positive change in the society with high sense of integrity and honesty,” he said.

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Faculty and doctoral graduates listen as Prof. Ademola Tayo gives his charge.



**CPGS HOODS 164 DOCTORAL GRADS**

**Continued from page 3**

Aside the unique list of accomplished professionals who made it at the hooding, the event also marked a first of doctoral candidates in Nursing Sciences, Finance and Economics.

Amongst these were the Chief Medical Director of the Babcock University Teaching Hospital, Prof. Barnabas Mandong, BU Director of Legal Services, Dr. Niyi Arije, Family Medicine Consultant, Dr. Smart Nwosu, captains of industries, top government functionaries and the judiciary.



Dr. Christian Asonye gives his vote of thanks on behalf of the doctoral grads.



Dr. Olutayo Sokunbi



A cross section of the graduates.

1.	BIOCHEMISTRY	1
2.	COMPUTER SCIENCE	4
3.	HISTORY & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES	4
4.	LANGUAGES & LITERARY STUDIES	3
5.	LAW	19
6.	ACCOUNTING	19
7.	BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	24
8.	MARKETING	8
9.	FINANCE	5
10.	IRM	23
11.	NURSING	21
12.	PUBLIC HEALTH	9
13.	AGRIC SCIENCE	3
14.	MICROBIOLOGY	4
15.	ECONOMICS	6
16.	MASS COMMUNICATION	9
17.	POLITICAL SCIENCE	6



Doctoral graduates of Public Health, Dr. Chinyere Nwankwo (left) and Dr. Smart Nwosu



Dr. Emmanuel Ajike (left) and Dr. Idowu Nwankwere hood their supervisees.

# WHAT THIS HOODING MEANS TO US



Clockwise: Dr. Niyi Arije, Dr. Amarachi Ananaba, Dr. (Prof) Barnabas Mandong and Dr. Oladapo Adeduro

*“If we are able to prevent diseases at the community level, it would help reduce the health burden in tropical sub-Saharan Africa.”*

By Josephine Akarue

The 12th hooding ceremony of the College of Postgraduate Studies held more than memories of celebration of academic accomplishment, commitment and excellence. It meant different things to each candidate. The editorial team was there to get responses from the doctoral graduates. Excerpts:

**ADEDURO, Oladapo;** (PhD, Computer Science):

*This hooding means a lot to me because it is an opportunity to celebrate the culmination of years of hard work and dedication. It is also a time to reflect on personal growth and accomplishments as well as look forward to future opportunities and challenges. My counsel to others to take advantage of the opportunities available within and outside the classroom and be open to new experiences and challenges.*

**ARIJE, Niyi** (PhD, Law): *This hooding was a crown-wearing after the*

*rigours of academic wars. I had to defer my PhD until the two approvals (NUC and AAA/IBE) were given to BU to run a doctoral degree in Law before I continued. So it was indeed a worthwhile and noble experience. With my PhD in Law, by God’s grace, I purpose to continually make life better than I met it and impact more positively into the lives of my generation in any capacity.*

**ANANABA, Amarachi;** (PhD Political Science, International Law & Diplomacy):

*I’m so happy and grateful to God. This hooding is special to me and distinguishes us from other graduates of the 2023 convocation. The degree is an opportunity to use my knowledge on women’s inheritance to impact the lives of women in the rural areas who are often the most vulnerable. Women are still disinherited even in the 21st century. I hope to go to the rural areas to educate women so they can know their rights and how to*

*go about it.*

**MANDONG, Barnabas** (PhD, Public Health):

*This hooding gives me a sense of fulfilment; there is no age limit in learning. I have practiced Pathology for 30 years and finished medical school over 35 years ago. I’ve been a Professor for 18 years now. Yet, this degree has given me a wider perspective. I see that 90% of Nigeria’s Health problem are Public health issues. If we are able to prevent diseases at the community level, it would help reduce the health burden in tropical sub-Saharan Africa. Many diseases are preventable and what we see in the lab are the end results. My field of study is in Epistemology. The main motivator, is Nigeria’s former President, Rtd. General Olusegun Obasanjo who went back to school at the age of 82. I hope to use this knowledge to create public health enlightenment through an NGO.*



# ZIRCON CLASS MARKS A DAY WITH THE STARS



Mr. Fela Durotoye makes a point as other special guests and the Alumni Director, Dr. Jonathan Dangana (left) listen. Pictured right is Dr. Esther Afolabi.

By Josephine Akarue and Kenny Ebrimson

Babcock University rose to the challenge of preparing graduates to navigate the stormy seas of life after studies as she hosted *A day with the stars*, for the Zircon 2023 Graduating Class.

The annual programme which has become a significant part of the graduation week creates a platform not only for interaction but for networking and capacity building.

Themed, *Beyond the University Walls: What Next?* the programme featured the CEO of Leadership Gemstone National Builder Foundation, Mr. Fela Durotoye, Chairman Presidential Committee on Fiscal Policy and Africa Tax Reforms, Professor Taiwo Oyedele, CEO of ATB, Abiodun Atobatele and the Accountant General of the Lagos State Government, Dr Abiodun Muritala.

“My counsel to young graduates is to recognize their true

worth and value,” said Mr. Durotoye. “Understanding this will empower them to navigate the complexities of the outside world and equip them for whatever challenges they may encounter in the future.”

He stated that finding your niche through self-awareness of your uniqueness and working with passion were critical tools for survival in business.

“Knowing your worth allows you to set appropriate boundaries, negotiate confidently, and avoid being undervalued in your career,” he added.

Expressing similar views, Prof. Oyedele noted that acknowledging one’s value provides a solid foundation for making informed decisions about job opportunities, career paths, and personal development.

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A cross section of the audience applaud as the Elijah Leadership group make their presentation.



Abiodun Atobatele



Professor Taiwo Oyedele makes his presentation





“Having the ability to persevere and maintain a resilient mindset will empower you to navigate through tough times and emerge stronger.”



Mr. Fela Durotoye (left) responds to a question to an appreciative audience..

**Continued from page 4**

“Awareness of your strengths and weaknesses, can help you capitalize on your strengths and work on improving areas that need growth,” he said.

In the face of setbacks, this knowledge of self-worth would become a significant tool for overcoming obstacles.

For Atobatele, understanding the difference between self-employment and entrepreneurship, is one of the most critical indicators of success. For him, not everyone is cut for the journey of self employment. In this regard, taking a cue from your innate skills would come in handy.

“Embracing your worth sets the stage for a fulfilling and prosperous career journey,” he said. “It will be your guiding compass, empowering you to navigate the ever-changing landscape of the world with confidence and resilience.”

In his submission, Dr. Muritala threw in the perseverance factor.

He urged his audience to persevere as they embark on their life journey.

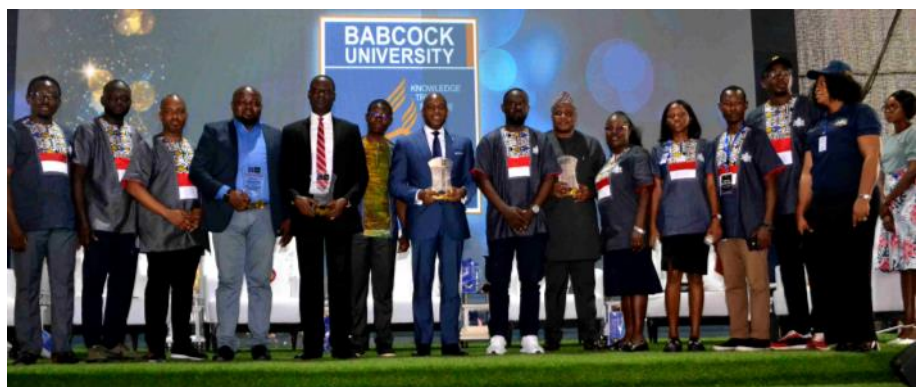
“It is crucial to recognize that the real world can be tough and full of uncertainties,” he noted. “Having the ability to persevere and maintain a resilient mindset will empower you to navigate through tough times and emerge stronger.”

He also encouraged them to surround themselves with like-minded individuals who share their ambition and drive.

“Collaborating with others who possess a similar mindset can provide support and motivation during difficult times,” he said.



Dr Abiodun Muritala responds to a student’s question.

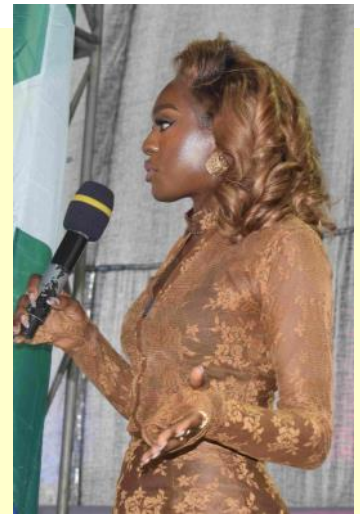


The special guests with executive members of the Zircon Graduating Class of 2023.

# ALUMNI CONNECT WITH ZIRCON GRAD CLASS



Beverly Osu (right) addresses the Zircon Class



Two Babcock greats have called on the Zircon Grad Class never to settle for less when they can be more in a fast changing world with declining moral values.

The call came as the GMD/CEO of Irvin Global Investment Ltd, Nwangwa Uzonna and Nigerian model, actress and Entrepreneur, Beverly Osu set the ball rolling at the 2023 Alumni Connectivity programme themed, *Igniting Connections, Fuelling Success.*

In her submission, Osu, who was a Mass Communication student in BU, urged the Zircon Class to take advantage of the network built in school but never get stuck with relationships that would not add value to their lives.

“Be ready to take risks and never settle for relationships that won’t allow you grow to your fullest potential,” she said. “Identify what works for you and be prepared to move on if you have to.”

While expressing pride in the development of the University, she said some of her best resource persons and ideas came from the relationships she built in school.

Similarly, Mr. Nwangwa, a Babcock gradu-

ate of Theology turned financial investor, reminded his audience of the power of resilience in the face of adversity and refusing to be defined by others’ opinions.

He said his decision to go into investment banking was partly motivated by the need to prove his detractors wrong

and that he could be anything through God’s grace.

“God has called us to make disciples of men and be ambassadors of Christ,” he said. “We don’t have to build cathedrals or be general overseers to do that.”

Continued on page 11



Some Zircon Class members at the event.



Mr. Nwangwa Uzonna



Prof. Ademola Tayo welcomes the guests. With him are the Zircon Class Sponsors, Dr. Emmanuel Ajike (left) and Pastor Israel Muyi Oyinloye.



“God has called us to make disciples of men and be ambassadors of Christ. We don’t have to build cathedrals or be general overseers to do that.”  
- Uzonna



Beverly Osu in a pose with a student after presenting her with a gift. Pictured right, Osu and another recipient of her beauty product. With them is Mr. Nwangwa Uzonna

**Continued from page 10**

Uzonna, who has more than a 10-year stint in banking, recalled experiences which strengthened his resolve to never be defined by the standards of public opinion.

He said being a Theology graduate did not mean he could never aspire to be anything more than a local church pastor.

He further added that he hoped his story would inspire people to understand that with God’s grace, they could be greater than they ever imagined .

“Sometimes, the obstacle is the way; never relent and never give up,” he said.

Like Osu who shared some of her beauty products as gifts, he shared free mobile airtime and the promise to engage BU students for IT in his company.

President/Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ademola Tayo, Director of Alumni, Dr. Jonathan Dangana and other officers were also there to give their support.

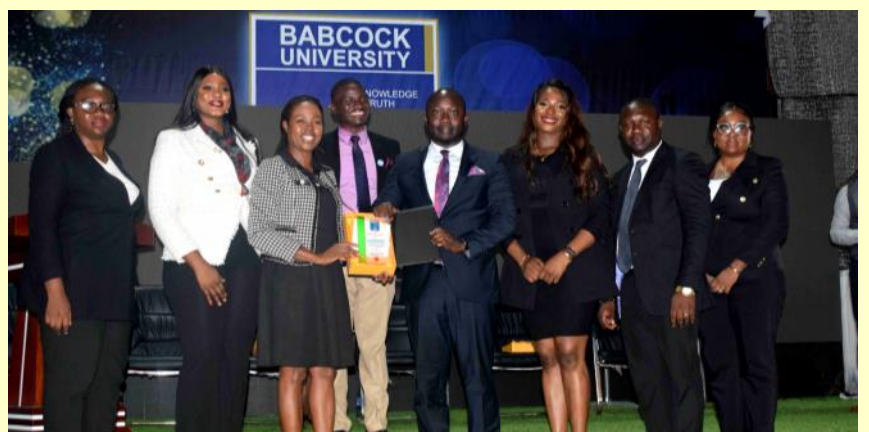
“This has been an amazing experience and an eye-opener,” said one of the students. “The shared experiences of the guest speakers and how they scaled through their hurdles have been a great encouragement.”



Dr Chika Solomon Nwaejike (left) receives an applaud from the audience after his musical presentation.



Beverly Osu receives an award of excellence from BU faculty, Dr. Esther Lawal as Dr. Jonathan Dangana (right)



Dr. Esther Lawal presents an award of excellence to Mr. Nwangwa Uzonna. With them are some of the executives of his Irving Global & Invest-

## NMCN INDUCTS 75 NURSING GRADS



Professor Ademola Tayo addresses a cross section inductees as they take oath of allegiance

By Godwin Ugbaka with additional reports from Josephine Akarue

The Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NWCN) admitted 75 Babcock University newly qualified Nurses into the professional body with a charge to uphold the standard.

This came up as the University marked the 19<sup>th</sup> induction ceremony July 20.

President/Vice Chancellor, Professor Ademola Tayo reminded the inductees that their role as caregivers go beyond the medical needs of patients.

“You are expected to bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the despondent and be a shining light to those in the dark alleys of the world.”

Similarly, while congratulating the inductees, the Council’s Secretary General/Registrar, Alhaji Farouk Abubakar, represented by Mr. Timbuak Yemai urged them to show compassion and diligence in their service delivery.

“You have chosen a path that is not only rewarding but carries a great responsibility. Nurses need

to be knowledgeable and compassionate. Know that in your hands lie the power to make a difference in the lives of patients,” he stated.

In her presentation, *Brain Drain and Brain Gain in Healthcare Systems: The Challenges and Motivations for New Nursing Graduates*, the Guest Speaker, Prof. Omolola Irinoye, stressed on the need to uphold profes-

sional standards and ethics.

Prof. Irinoye who is the Acting Vice-Chancellor of Achievers University, Owo, Ondo State, added that they are required to uphold the highest ethical standards in the discharge of their duties.

“Seek opportunity to deliver the best care possible and be adaptive to changes.”

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Mr. Timbuak Yemai leads out in the oath taking of the newly inducted Nursing graduates,



Prof. Omolola Irinoye makes her presentation to the inductees



“You have chosen a path that is not only rewarding but carries a great responsibility. Know that in your hands lie the power to make a difference in the lives of patients.”

Prof. Ademola Tayo

**Continued from page 8**

Dean of the School of Nursing Sciences, Professor Christiana Sowunmi also reiterated the need for professionalism and responsibility in caring for the sick.

“As you go into the larger society, much is expected of you. Keep watch on the ethics of your professional practice and be committed to quality practice and professional,” she said.

She also urged them to be team workers and the patients’ advocate.

“Go out there and be a shining light as you practice,” she charged.

The event also provided a platform to recognise academic excellence of the top three Nursing graduating students .

Amongst them, Best Olugbuyiro, emerged overall best,. The other two, Jennifer Onyemenam and Adedolapo Oyebanji, came second and their best respectively.

“It feels great,” said Olugbuyiro, “I thank God and everyone who made the experience a worthwhile one.”



Prof. Omolola Irinoye (right) receives her plaque from Prof. Philemon Amanze. Middle is Prof. Ademola Tayo.



Prof. Christiana Sowunmi



Best Olugbuyiro receives an award of excellence from Prof. Omolola Irinoye.



Jennifer Onyemenam with her second place award of excellence.



Adedolapo Oyebanji receives her award from Prof. Christiana Sowunmi



Dr. Christian Asonye receives an award of excellence from Prof. Yacob Haliso



Prof. Omolola Irinoye and Prof. Ademola Tayo (5th and 6th left) with other BU officers and faculty. With them is Council Registrar’s rep, Mr. Timbuk Yemai (4th r)



# PHOTO-SEEN-THESIS

The 12th hooding ceremony of the doctoral graduates turned the University amphitheatre into a kaleidoscope of colours. Pictures capture some of the faces and moments of the programme.





## BU LAW STUDENT WINS BOSAN AWARD



Chisom Ofoma

A newly graduated Babcock University Law student, Chisom Ofoma has won the 2022 Body of Senior Advocates of Nigeria Award for excellence in academic performance and character.

The award which comes with a cash prize of N1,000,000 is aimed at motivating Law students to academic excellence and resolving the problem of falling standards of the Legal profession at all levels.

It is also expected to provide sustain-

able positive impact on the quality of legal education.

Beneficiaries get 50% of the prize in their final year in the University and the other during their training at the Nigerian Law School.

Similarly, they can use the name of award all through their professional practice.

Ofoma is the second BU Law student to receive this award. The first was Simioluwa Yesufu who won the 2021 BOSAN Award.

An excited Dean of the Babcock School of Law & Security Studies, Prof. Deji Olanrewaju said, "This is a further recognition of the quality of graduates we produce here in the School of Law & Security Studies."

"The competition is opened to all Law undergraduates with CGPA of 4.5 and above in all Nigerian Universities."



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## FACTS

### SINGAPORE

Singapore is one of the smallest countries in the world with a land-mass of 682.7 square kilometres. It has no capital making it one of three city states in the world. The others are Monaco and the Vatican.

- The world's largest fountain is in Singapore in Suntec City. It cost about \$6million dollars in 1997 to build.
- Its national language is Malay

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