The University administration last week lent support to the newly unveiled discount project, Elastic Africa Retail Network, EARN, aimed at building upon gains of fiscal prudence and organizational visibility.

At the April 4 unveiling, President/Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ademola S. Tayo, commended the programme’s initiative as innovative concept that could “define digital marketing in Africa and the rest of the world.”

The Group’s Board Chair and BU immediate past President/Emeritus Vice Chancellor, Prof. J. A. Kayode Makinde, said the platform designed by a Babcock alumnus, Mr. Chibuzor Onyema, is to create wealth through rebates from over two million member companies and franchise worldwide.

The GMD/CEO Elastic Group, Mr. Onyema, affirmed that the project offers discount card holders huge rebates and extra benefits for referrals to new members.

The four membership categories are: Platinum, Premium, Gold and Silver.

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A professor of Accounting, Professor Sunday Owolabi has called on the federal government to empower the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (FRCN) to supervise all industry-based code of corporate governance to ensure transparency and wider consultation to stakeholders.

Professor Owolabi who is also Vice President Management Services, made the call while delivering the University’s 21st inaugural lecture.

He advocated professionalism and transparency among board directors to keep relevant stakeholders abreast of developments affecting their companies.

In his paper, Corporate Governance and Performance: A Pathological Exposition of Nigerian Firms, Professor Owolabi noted that integrity of processes among other things, could impact on the quality of a board’s performance.

According to him, since one of the major objectives of corporate governance was to ensure effective and regular monitoring of management operations, the absence of a proactive board to take intelligent and productive decisions, would undermine a company’s success.

He frowned at the politicisation of board members’ appointments which places mediocrity above merit, integrity and transparency.

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He adduced the crisis leading to the banking reforms of the Central Bank of Nigeria to lack of performance and weak corporate governance. He said while the banks’ annual reports indicated “good performance,” to attract investors, the reality showed that these reports were heavily laced with “financial cosmetics.” By implication, the banks exploited the customers’ trust as critical analysis of the banks’ performance often revealed “persistent illiquidity, insolvency, undercapitalisation, outperforming loans and weak corporate governance.” These doctored reports led to the collapse of several banks creating a crisis in that sector.

Professor Owolabi noted that a good governance system required transparency in all its processes and procedures to ensure prompt response to stakeholders’ concerns. Besides these, he recommended the God-factor in linking investors to the right brokers as well as the inclusion of corporate governance in University curriculum to enhance training of future board leaders.

In addition, he called on Federal government’s support in bridging the knowledge gap among board directors of indigenous companies through collaboration with the private sector’s Society for Corporate Governance Nigeria.
Five Alumni members; five awards. For them it was living the dream as they received their N200,000 cash prizes for Best Business Plans. This week, the editorial team captures the mood in this second part of the interaction. Below are excerpts:

Q: Can we meet you?
A: My name is Miriam Ayomide Oni, a graduate of Public Health.

Q: What does this award mean to you?
A: This award means a lot to me. It was a privilege to be financially encouraged by my Alma Mata. I felt uplifted after the business plan was selected for the award. It was a very great boost for me and my business as a whole.

Q: Did it meet your expectations?
A: Yes. It not only met my expectations, it reduced the needed sum to build up my capital base and helped me fill some existing financial gaps.

Q: How will it influence your life?
A: It has positively influenced my life and given me reason to hope. I’ve been getting a lot of positive responses. So far so good. By faith, I believe the best is yet to come.

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“This award means a lot to me. It was a very great boost for me and my business as a whole.”

- Miriam Oni

FAST FACTS

Business Name: HouseofCharah (Fashion)
Favourite Food: Pounded yam and Efo Riro
Most memorable day in BU: Public Health Students Association Departmental Week 2016
Favourite lecturer: Dr. Motunrayo Olanrewaju
Q: Can we meet you please?
A: My name is Oluwatobiloba Mary Ibrahim

Q: What does this award mean to you?
A: This award means a lot to me. I wasn’t expecting it, I just wrote it for fun. But to my greatest surprise I was selected.

Q: Did it meet your expectations?
A: Yes. It only met part of my expectations, it reduced the needed sum to build up my capital base and helped me fill some existing financial gaps. I needed about a million Naira and Babcock gave me a quarter of the sum that I needed to start this business.

I will reinvest this and use the returns to build up my health business. It is a Health Spa that would be herbal-based and natural. You can grow in-house for just within seven days. It is naturo wheatgrass. It’s rich in several vitamins and anti-oxidants.

Q: How will it influence your life?
A: This is useful for adults who want to reduce weight and sleep better. A lot of people don’t even know the benefits of naturo wheatgrass. It has twice the amount of nutrients in carrot and cucumber and moringa.

I believe I can create both wealth and healthy living if I hit it right and hit it well.

Through the Wheatgrass project, I can become an employer of labour and empower others as well as attain wealth and fame.

“It reduced the needed sum to build up my capital base and helped fill some existing financial gaps.”

- Ibrahim

FAST FACTS

Business Name: Naturo Wheatgrass

Favourite food: Yam and Egg

Most memorable day in Babcock: The day I was asked to do community service for coming back late from home.

Favourite lecturer: Dr. Eziakor.
It was a weekend of testimonies, thanksgiving and celebrations as the New Creation and Dominion Chapel worship centres on campus held a special send forth service for their graduating members. Pictures capture the excitement and faces at the events.
It’s still all about celebrations. The week had the several student Associations in celebration mode. Music department marked theirs with outdoor music and thanksgiving.

Below: Prof. Tayo in solidarity pose with the Elastic Group Board Chair Prof. J. A. Kayode Makinde and CEO, Mr. Chibuzor Onyema and other partners and friends.
The 21st inaugural lecture came with all the usual class, decorum and intellectual glamour. Pictures capture the scenes and faces including captains of industries, the academia as well as royal fathers at the event.
It was Law Students Association Week. Dinner was part of the package. The members turned up with swag, style and stunning gowns.
A new student-driven programme has come on air to boost the campus radio’s deliverables to its audience.

The new programme, Campus Gist is a weekly programme to build a student-friendly platform for interaction and information sharing.

BE TO BE

To increase its reach to the children and youth in the community, the weekly programme, Be to Be, is back on air.

The programme which won the Hope FM’s award for the longest running consistent programme with service to children, is anchored by Pioneer Church Children’s Ministries Department.

According to him, the card is valid for two years within which the average user is expected to have saved a minimum of N2million through discounts and referrals.

Through the Elastic platform, Babcock is expected to enjoy global visibility and premium position for institutions.

Besides University officers, executives of the Group’s Corporate partners, the United Bank of Africa, UBA and Airtel were also present at the unveiling held in Babcock.

“Discounts vary per class but Premium and Platinum members can enjoy up to 50% discount,” he added.
COMING EVENTS

APRIL 2 - 13

SEMESTER EXAMS

The University’s second semester exams begin.

The editorial team wishes all our students success at the examinations and a wonderful holiday ahead.

APRIL 12

THURSDAY @ EIGHT

Your favourite student-driven programme, Thursday @ Eight featuring at 8:30pm is back on air, Hope 89.1 FM.

Guess who will be the next guest? Don’t wait to be told. Tune in and join the conversation live and direct.

Call: or send WhatsApp on:

08 08 025 60 87

APRIL 15 –16

AGRIC TRAINING

The University’s Department of Agriculture and Industrial Technology is coming up with a project, #AgriConnect, to boost food production and capacity building for upcoming agricultural entrepreneurs.

Stakeholders in Agriculture from Babcock and other Universities will be there to share their success stories.

Venue: BBS Auditorium A

MOBILE PHONE SAFETY TIPS

- Text more. Talk less. The further the phone from your head, the lesser the risk of RF energy exposure to your brain.
- Ensure your mobile conversations are short to avoid exposure to radiation.
- Use a headset for calls; but do not block both ears.
- Encourage minimal phone use by your children to reduce exposure to radioactive waves.
- Do not sleep with your phone under your pillow.

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REFLECTION

“Self empowerment is seeking the solution rather than fixating on the problem.”

- Coach Bobbi