



**Our Mission**

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

**Our Vision**

- A first-class Seventh-day Adventist institution, building servant leaders for a better world.

**Our Core Values**

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Servant Leadership,
- Team Spirit
- Autonomy & Responsibility
- Adventist Heritage

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"Through hard work, perseverance and faith in God, you can achieve your dreams."  
- Ben Carson

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## BU CELEBRATES FEAST OF LIGHT



Children of the BU Staff School make their presentation at the Feast of Light.

## CALLS FOR PURITY AS BU CELEBRATES FEAST OF LIGHT



Mrs. Titilayo Adebayo (left) and Dr. Elizabeth Okonkwo

By Josephine Akarue

The University Sports complex literally glowed with lights, music and drama as Babcock celebrated the 2023 *Feast of Light*.

This year's programme themed, *Christ, the Light of the World*,

came with extra perks: calls for renewal of vows for chastity as lifestyle.

"Chastity has several virtues and remains a

top choice for happiness in marriage," said guest speaker, Mrs. Titilayo Adebayo, a senior management staff at Total Energies.

Mrs Adebayo, who is also a seasoned counsellor and Executive Director/Founder of the Paroche Reach Out Foundation, commend-

ed Babcock for encouraging and instilling moral values upon the next generation of leaders.

President/Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ademola Tayo also lent his voice as he encouraged the BU community to renew commitments to chastity before and after marriage.

In response, the Chastity Club and other BU community members stepped out to renew their vows.

Beyond calls for chastity, the Feast of Light will always for many, be remembered as a time to show and celebrate love as Christ did.

## BABCOCK DIGEST

A Babcock University Newsletter

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Photo Credits: Olugbenga Olajobi,  
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### HOTLINES

Ambulance -080 360 097 40  
 BUSA President—  
 090 319 101 79  
 Chaplain - 080 626 560 81  
 Counsellor-080 601 440 27  
 BUTH Clinic -080 360 097 40  
 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



The audience listen with rapt attention as Prof. Christiana Sowunmi delivers her lecture.



## DON CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE

Reduction of rising maternal mortality rate in Nigeria is possible as long as government is willing to improve quality and access to healthcare facilities.

A Professor of Maternal and Child health, Prof. Christiana Sowunmi made this submission while delivering the Babcock University 45<sup>th</sup> inaugural lecture themed, *Plummeting Maternal Mortality Rate: An Uphill Task in Nigeria*.

According to her, while Nigeria makes up 2.4% of the world's population, it currently contributes 10 per cent of global maternal deaths placing it third behind the South Sudan and Chad.

Quoting the WHO, she said, "A Nigerian wom-

an has 1 in 22 lifetime risk of dying during pregnancy, childbirth or postpartum or post abortion compared with the lifetime risk of 1 in 4,900 in developed countries."

Aside inadequacy and quality of healthcare facilities, she attributes high maternal mortality to the non-attendance of

antenatal care, unavailability of skilled birth attendants during labour as well as low maternal education and socio-cultural norms against women among others.

Continued on page 3



Prof. Yacob Haliso and Prof. John Sotunsa



Prof. Ademola Tayo



Prof. Dora Akinboye (left) and other Deans at the lecture.



The congregation gives the inaugural lecturer, Prof. Christiana Sowunmi a round of applause as she concluded her lecture. Left: Prof. Sowunmi and spouse, Prof. Akintunde Sowunmi.

**Continued from page 2**

She believes these sad narratives can be reversed if more women had access to quality healthcare facilities.

“Patient satisfaction is a strong indicator for healthcare quality. When patients are satisfied, they will return for institutional delivery.”

Among others, she recommended a four-point strategy to reducing Nigeria’s maternal mortality rate: accessible and affordable healthcare; political will; harnessing of WHO’s provisions and upgrading of health personnel knowledge and skill.

“Reduction of maternal mortality rate is possible as documented in some pragmatic approach undertaken by government for example the Abiye scheme of Ondo State.”

“I call on governments in other south-western states to replicate such schemes to reduce the menace in the Southwest, Nigeria and Africa as a whole.”

“Patient satisfaction is a strong indicator for healthcare quality. When patients are satisfied, they will return for institutional delivery.”

- Prof. Sowunmi



Friends and professional colleagues with the inaugural lecturer



Left: Prof Constance Nwosu and Prof Christiana Sowunmi; Right: Prof Christiana Sowunmi and a friend.



Deans and officers with inaugural lecturer



# STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR DESIGNS HEALTH APP



By Josephine Akarue

Left: The founding team members of BookClinic. Right: CEO/Founder, Miracle Nwankwo.

A final year student of Computer Science, Miracle Nwankwo, has designed a new health app connecting patients with the health-care providers nearest them at the best prices. Aside these, the App also serves as a time-saver by enabling the confirmation of appointments before leaving home.

The editorial team met with him to shed more light on the project. Excerpts:

**Q: Tell us more about this app**

A: *BookClinic is revolutionizing healthcare in Africa with its Diagnostics service booking and Consultation Appointment System. This platform empowers healthcare providers, diagnostic centres, and patients by simplifying the service booking and appointment process.*

*Our mission is to enhance healthcare accessibility across the continent.*

**Q: What sets you apart from other payment platforms?**

A: *What sets us apart is our flexibility in payment options; users can either make payments through our platform or choose to pay directly at the healthcare centre.*

**Q: What other features make you unique?**

A: *We understand that today's busy professionals value their time so one of our stand out features is the ability for users to book healthcare services in advance, even from the comfort of their own home, allowing them to secure their spot without the hassle of physical presence.*

**Q: For now, Africa is your area of coverage. Why Africa?**

A: *Africa's healthcare industry faces challenges related to accessibility and ease of booking at diagnostic centres by comparing services of different service providers. Patients seek a more convenient and efficient way to access healthcare services.*

**Q: Are you working alone or as a team player?**

A: *We are a three-man team: Aside me, as CEO/Founder,*

*we have Vynie Yadav, Head, Growth and our MD/Co-Founder, Obiora Michael Nwosu.*

**Q: What has been your business traction so far?**

A: *Since our inception in May 2023, during our student internship period, we have expanded to cover approximately 18 locations in Lagos, with a network of over 80 esteemed partners.*

Our platform has garnered a significant user base, with an impressive average of 100 customers monthly. We are proud to have secured investments from reputable names in the healthcare industry.





Pastor Ajila prays for the congregation



“In the Pioneer Church Children’s Ministries Department, we believe every child deserves more than warm meals and gifts. They deserve to smile.”

## CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES HOST OPERATION SMILE 2023

Members of the Pioneer Church Children’s Ministries rose to the challenge of walking to the talk of reaching out to the vulnerable in the host community as they celebrated the 2023 Operation Smile.

Aside the over 100 regular members, this year’s Outreach programme, themed, *Beyond Bread*, stretched out a hand of love and fellowship to more than 45 children from two schools: Ikenne Community School and Unity School, Ikenne.

“In the Pioneer Church Children’s Ministries Department, we believe every child deserves more than warm meals and gifts,” said one of the programme coordinators. “They deserve to smile.”

Consequently, the programme also featured Health check and talk from outreach partners, Nursing student volunteers.

They talked on *Substance and Drug Abuse, Child Molestation and Prevention* among others.

The invited children also made

their presentations.

The Youth Church Pastor, Pastor Ajila shared a sermonette in which he encouraged all to emulate Christ in kindness.

“Jesus fed over 5,000 with bread given by a little boy willing to share his lunch.



A cross section of the congregation



Nursing volunteers make their presentation.



Students at the event.



A pupil receives a copy of the Holy Bible

# “MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITY,” SIWES DIRECTOR CHARGES STUDENTS



Prof Oludele Awodele addresses a cross section of prospective SIWES bound stu-

By Josephine Akarue with additional reports.

**A**head of the January 2024 Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme, the University has charged the next batch of students to maximize the opportunity to acquire workplace experience and professional skills.

While declaring the event open, the Director of Academic Planning, Prof. Oludele Awodele who represented the University administration, thanked the ITF for taking time out for the orientation and urged the students to remain focused.

“We appreciate your support and always look forward to working with you,” he said.

In her presentation, the ITF Abeokuta Area Manager, Mrs. Bolanle Ajibade shared nuggets to help students maximize the potential provided in skills acquisition and professional development training.

“SIWES will not only help you get a head start and opportunity in the world of work, it will also change the way you perceive your contribution to an industry.”

Similarly, the Deputy Provost of the College of Postgraduate Studies, Dr. Olutayo Shokunbi, admonished the prospective interns to be diligent.

“We congratulate you for the milestone you are about to achieve in your industrial work experience,”

said Director for SIWES, Dr. Seun Ebiesuwa.

He also shared pertinent information concerning the SIWES program and enjoined the students to be at their best all through the training.



Dr. Seun Ebiesuwa



Mrs. Bolanle Ajibade



Prof. Oludele Awodele and Mrs. Bolanle Ajibade (3rd and 4th left) with Dr. Seun Ebiesuwa, Prof. Olutayo Shokunbi and Pastor Emeka Abaribe (5th - 7th left) and other officers at the orientation.



Prof Ademola Tayo addresses a cross section of students at the BUSA congress



## BUSA CONGRESS RESUMES FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER COVID

By Godwin Ugbaka

The University administration has renewed its pledge to resume its Students Congress each semester in line with its drive to build a more robust student relationship.

President/Vice Chancellor, Professor Ademola Tayo who made this pledge while addressing members of the Student Association, said the congress provided opportunity for mutual engagement between students and the university management.

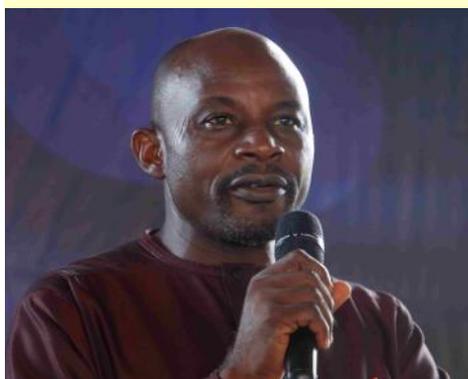
“It is going to be once a semester to keep students abreast of happenings”.

He thanked the BUSA executives, senate leader as well as Clubs and Association Presidents for their maturity in handling issues in the absence of the congress.

“I always praise our students because they prefer to build rather than to destroy. BU students are the best in the world and because of this, you all will go places by God’s grace,” he said.

He urged the officers and students to continue to comport themselves knowing that God would lift them higher and higher.

Earlier, Vice President, Student Development, Dr. Sunday Audu said the



Dr. Sunday Audu

resumption of the congress was a delight as it created opportunity for information sharing and relationship building.

During the congress which took place at the Amphitheatre, the first since the COVID 19 pandemic, students had opportunity to have their issues addressed by relevant officers.

“The resumption of the congress is a welcome development,” said one of the students. “It gives us platform to air our views and get direct responses from the University administration.”



Teamwork: BUSA President, Justice Okechukwu-Adama and BU officers: Dr. Folorunso Akande, Prof. Philemon Amanze and Prof. Ademola Tayo .



The winning team: Mr. Godwin Ugbaka (left) interacts with Fatimah Lawal (middle) and Anuoluwakinton Kaka

## TWO STUDENTS WIN IMF 2023 CHALLENGE

By Godwin Ugbaka

Two 300 level Economics students, Fatimah Lawal and Anuoluwakinton Kaka have put Babcock University and Nigeria on the global map as they emerged co-winners in the 2023 International Monetary Fund (IMF) Challenge.

Organized by three of the IMF's regional departments: African (AFR), Asia and Pacific (APD), Middle East and Central Asia (MCD) and the Institute for Capacity Development (ICD), the competition attracted Economics students across the world.

The duo who emerged among the global top six, said contestants were required to successfully complete the ICD's online Macroeconomic

Diagnosics course (MDSx) before proceeding to the next stage and writing case studies at the finals. "We wrote a case study on Brazil; analyze output, gap, and productivity as well as fiscal and monetary policies. We also made short and long term recommendations to promote growth and development."

Winning institutions and countries emerged from the 664 participating



Miss Fatimah Lawal

students across countries in Africa, Asia and Europe that registered for the IMF Challenge.

Kaka and Lawal described the competition as "confidence-boosting" which broadened their understanding about the IMF's work in assisting developing and developed economies.

"I could hardly control myself as I checked my email the day I learned the result was out," said Lawal.

Kaka said he was overwhelmed with joy.

They both expressed gratitude to the department, faculty and staff, particularly, Mr. Bola Aroyewun who provided assistance before the work was submitted.

### SIX TOP WINNERS

1. D & K Team : Sub-Regional Institute of Statistics & Applied Economy, Cameroon
2. Fund Managers Team: Babcock University, Nigeria
3. Magical Witches Summer-time Edition Team: Renmin University, China
4. Gamesha Muda Team: Bandung Institute of Technology, Indonesia.
5. SDSB LUMS Team, Lahore Institute of Management, Pakistan
6. Children of Adam Team, ADA University, Azerbaijan

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

## 2023 FUND CHALLENGE

For undergraduate students in economics

# PHOTO-SEEN-THESIS



The University's 45th inaugural lecturer shares warm moments with faculty, staff, family and friends after the programme. Pictures capture some of the faces and scenes at the cocktail held at the Babcock Guest House.



# PHOTO-SEEN-THESIS



The Pioneer Church Children's Ministries celebrated the 2023 Operation Smile with more than 40 children from two schools in Ikenne attendance. The aim is to put a smile on faces of children in the host community and spread the gospel of Christ love. Pictures capture faces at the event.



## CONDOLENCES

The University administration regrets to announce the death of the immediate past GMD of the Babcock Investment Group, Prof. Yetunde Makinde.

Prof. Makinde held two Bachelor's degrees: B.Sc. Biology from the Union College, Nebraska, USA 1977 and B.Sc. Agriculture from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 1979 respectively.

She had her MSc in Food Sciences from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln in 1980. She took a Diploma in French from the Université de Bordeaux III France in 1986 before taking her PhD in Nutrition Education in the Université de Bordeaux II also in France.

She was married to Professor Emeritus, Prof. J. A. Kayode Makinde, immediate past President/Vice Chancellor of Babcock University.

She is survived by her husband, children, grandchildren and other family members.

The University also regrets the loss of Dr. Aaron Ogundiwin, an Associate Professor of Political Science.

Until his death, Dr. Ogundiwin who hailed from Oyo State, earned his doctoral degree in Political Science in 2012. He had his Bachelor's and Masters Degree in Political Science from Babcock University in 2004 and the University of Ibadan, 2008 respectively.

He began his career in Babcock University as a Graduate Assistant in the Department of Political Science before rising to the rank of a senior lecturer in January 2017.



March 17th 1954 - Nov 21, 2023



Dr. Aaron Ogundiwin

## TRIBUTES

*Who will paddle the canoe while I  
pause to think of the great tree  
that has fallen?*

*Who will guide the waves of leaves  
rustling in the African Harmattan  
wind?*

*For out of the depths of the womb,  
you came forth, brave,  
daring and determined.*

*you stood for  
what you believed;*

*Never taking no where yes has  
right of way.*

*Out of life's storms ,  
You took giant strides, laughed at  
impossibilities; mocked at tired-  
ness; never taking failure as an  
option*

*Where success is a possibility.*

*Out of life's assaults*

*You reached for new heights*

*Unflinching, unyielding,*

*Walking the talk, never allowing  
doubts to hold sway.*

*Where you could recalibrate new  
mileage.*

*Out of life's staggering stress,  
you walked where some feared to  
tread.*

*Creating new ideas and great  
things, never allowing fatigue to  
stop you.*

*Out of life's pains,  
You smiled, held on, fought on,  
never giving up without a fight.*

*You may be gone but*

*Your memories linger on.*

**By Josephine Akarue in tribute to  
late Prof. Yetunde Makinde**

## BU LAUNCHES BOOK IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NAF



Profs. Grace and Ademola Tayo with Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar (5th - 7th I), Prof. David Alao, Prof. Bankole Sodipo, (8th & 9th I), Mr. Richard Olusanya (3rd left) and other University and Airforce officers.

President/Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ademola Tayo and his team made a strong presence at the Federal Capital Territory, to launch a book on Counter Terrorism in collaboration with the Nigerian Air Force.

The work, *“Terrorism and counter-terrorism in North-east Nigeria: Emerging perspectives and the imperatives of airpower,”* is a collaborative effort between two the NAF and BU’s Chief of Staff, Prof. David Alao and Surveillance Unit Head, Mr. Richard Olusanya.

The Book gives a fresh perspective on the significance of the Nigerian Air Force cover in the fight against terrorism in the country.

At the launch, the Nigerian President, His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu called for collective efforts of stakeholders to overcome terrorism in the country. Represented by the Senate Leader, Hon. Godswill Akpabio, the President acknowledged the critical role of air power and intelligence gathering in modern warfare.

## SAFETY TIPS

- Always report unsafe conditions
- Wear protective equipment especially on construction sites and when handling electricity.
- Maintain proper sitting posture to avoid back pain
- Take breaks from the computer screen.
- Watch your steps when climbing up or down the staircase
- Offer guidance to new employees
- Remember to turn off all electrical appliances at the close of work.



## BENEFITS OF PINEAPPLE

Pineapple is loaded with a lot of health benefits that guarantee our well being, of which some are:

- Boosts immunity
- Lowers cancer risk.
- Helps recovery from surgery
- Reduces risk of infection because of its rich Vitamin C content.
- Protects against inflammation and disease.



## FACTS

**REPUBLIC OF INDIA**  
 Situated in Southeast Asia, India is the world’s seventh largest country in terms of size. It also has the highest population. Its capital is New Delhi.

- The board game, Chess, was invented in India.
- English and Hindi are the official languages.
- The place value system and decimal were developed in India in 100 BC.