

SIX VILLAGE HEADS HAIL AUN'S DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Six village heads from the Yola district, led by Abdulmumuni Abubakar, the Kaigamma Bole of Bole village, on February 19, paid a solidarity visit to President Ensign.

Speaking on behalf of the others, the Ardo Yolde Pate, Alhaji Jingi Yahya, told President Ensign that he had shared with other leaders the story of the University's interventions in a primary school and a health clinic in his community only to discover that similar gestures had been extended by AUN to neighboring villages. He said they were at AUN to openly acknowledge the good deeds of the University, especially those of the community service groups that work in the communities on a weekly basis.

Responding, President Ensign told the delegation that more than 1,500 youths from surrounding villages had undergone AUN's ICT training, and that the University was poised to do more. She disclosed that the University was in the process of applying for an EU grant. When the grant comes, the community leaders will help AUN identify indigenes eligible for development assistance.

Other members of the delegation were the Ardo Mbamba, Alhaji Bashir Mbamba; the Lawan Sebare, Baba Yerima; Danlya Rugange, Obet Chadijo, and the Lawan Njoboli, Abubakar Bapatel.

Over the past year, AUN students provided one-on-one tutoring and educational support to more than 1,000 pupils in Primary Schools in Yola. Participants in this scheme developed original reading materials, forged personal relationships with community pupils, and contributed more than 20,000 hours of their time. AUN students have authored more than 50 original children's books in English and translated a dozen titles into indigenous languages, and created a pilot-tutoring program using tablets along with free educational apps, storybooks, and videos.

PEACE To Mubi with Love & Care

Internally displaced persons in Mubi had cause to cheer on Saturday, March 29, 2014, when they were paid a compassionate visit by a delegation of the Adamawa Peacemakers Initiative (API), a group of community, religious and business leaders partnering with AUN in peacebuilding.

More than 200 men, women and children who escaped violent attacks in other parts of the North East and who are seeking shelter with family members thronged the palace of the Emir of Mubi, Alhaji Abubakar Isah Ahmadu, to listen to the comforting words of the peace ambassadors.

President Margee Ensign, who led the peacemakers' delegation in the company along with, the State Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Rev. Father Moses Taparki, and the Secretary General of the Adamawa Muslim Council, Imam Dauda Bello, assured the refugees that the group shared their agony.

"We are here as your mothers, fathers,



and well-wishers. We feel your hunger; it makes us want to do more to stop the violence. We have come to show our love and support to you people and to tell you that you are not alone". Hajia Turai Kadir, Project Coordinator of the Center for Women and Adolescent Empowerment, an NGO working in partnership with API in Mubi, received the food, clothing, and relief materials donated by the API for distribution to the refugees.

President Ensign shared with the Emir plans by AUN and the API to convene a national peace conference in Yola later in the year, and extended an invitation to the royal father. The latter welcomed the delegation's compassionate visit and agreed that their peace initiative should be everybody's concern.

...AND SECURITY Police Boss Declares AUN Safe & Secure

The AUN community, its environs, and indeed the entire Yola-Jimeta axis are safe, secure and under watchful eyes. That was the verdict of the Adamawa State Police Commissioner, John Abakasanga, during a town hall meeting he held with members of the community on March 24, at the AUN Cafeteria. The commissioner had earlier paid a working visit to the University and was received on behalf of President Ensign by the Security Coordinator, Dr. Lionel Rawlins.

Mr. Abakasanga observed that since his arrival in Yola a couple months ago, and after a tour of AUN facilities, he had come to realize how safe the University was in terms of infrastructure and support systems. "AUN is the safest place in the state," he said, adding that "AUN is safer than my residence."

He further observed that from the well-structured AUN security outfit, safety of lives is taken very seriously. Adamawa State is generally peaceful," he added, "even though a curfew is in force to curtail a spillover of events from neighboring states."



The youths pose for a photo with their certificates

140 YOLA YOUTHS RECEIVE ICT CERTIFICATION

One of the ways AUN impacts its immediate community is to seek out at-risk youth and engage them constructively. Last February, the university took another bold step in the realization of a key component of its Community Development program.

Some 140 young men and women from vulnerable sections of the surrounding communities were presented with certificates of participation in ICT training at an impressive ceremony on Saturday, February 8. The youth were recommended by members of the Adamawa Peacemakers' Initiative (API), a pro-peace movement midwifed by AUN.

One hundred and forty of about 200 who enrolled had completed a rigorous ICT training program at the African Center for ICT Training & Innovation (ACIT), a subsidiary of the University created and funded to impart ICT knowledge on a non-commercial basis to the local community, especially to at-risk youths.

This latest batch of graduate trainees brings to 1,500 the total number of such beneficiaries since AUN introduced its

community-wide ICT literacy and empowerment program, more than two years ago. From this batch, 30, based on their outstanding performance in the training, were selected to proceed to more advanced courses in ICT on scholarship.

Dr. Fidelis Ndeh-Che, who coordinates the program, reiterated that the training was a community-development endeavor by AUN to provide people, particularly vulnerable youth, with basic computer literacy skills. He said that AUN students had been part of the ICT training since it was founded.

President Ensign told the beneficiaries of the program that they had opened a new chapter in their lives, and urged them to use the knowledge gained to advance the needs of their communities. She later presented them with the certificates. The President reminded them that they had been chosen by API members because they were considered to be leaders in the community and that both API and AUN were counting on them to keep learning and sharing their skills with families and society.

Reported with Nelly Atiing

SECURITY DEPT. ANNOUNCES TRAFFIC CONTROL RULES

The Security Coordinator, Dr. Lionel Rawlins, on March 24 made good his promise of last year, announcing changes to the internal traffic policy. The changes, which come into immediate effect, are designed to protect lives and encourage safer driving. The changes cover speeding, parking, registration of vehicles, and various fines for infractions.

A traffic division has been created within the security department and these officers will be responsible for enforcing all traffic and speeding violations. Speed limit is 30km per hour. Speeding on campus will cost N15,000 for the first offense.

Effective immediately, any vehicle not parked in an authorized parking area will have its front wheel locked. A motorist of the vehicle must pay N10,000 for the first offense and N20,000 for the second offense. A third offense will automatically revoke the offender's driving privileges and the vehicle removed from campus.

The new regulations stipulate that the blue parking spaces on campus are designed for two vehicles, not one. When parking under the blue canopies, drivers are advised to use only one parking space; taking two spaces is tantamount to a violation.

All privately owned vehicles (POVs) must now be registered with the security department. To register, the driver must have a valid driver's license, show proof of ownership or authorization to drive the vehicle, and proof of insurance, among other things. Registration can be done at three points: (a) at the security department's main gate entrance, (b) the Banner office, or (c) online at is.support@aun.edu.ng. If you experience any problems registering online, please call Mr. Lukman Yusuff at the Banner office on VoIP line 2223.



YOLA COMMUNITY YOUTH TO BENEFIT FROM SPORTS-FOR-PEACE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Youths from Yola community who participated in the maiden Adamawa Peace Tournament played in 2013 have been offered scholarship opportunities to pursue their academic and sporting careers at the same time.

Already the Peace Sports Scholarship Initiative--a component of the Adamawa Peace Tournament--has conducted on-the-spot interviews for the 140 players from seven teams of the maiden tournament. The candidates were interviewed by a panel of staff of Residence Life, Athletics Department, and selected members of the Yola community.

Senior Resident Director and Coordinator of Resident Security, Adamu Umar Yakubu, who coordinated the interviews, said the initiative was an integral part of the Peace Tournament played last fall. The whole idea, he observed, "is to get them to go back to school." He said this gesture supported by the AUN, "goes beyond the sporting aspect of the peace tournament."

He said that the education of youth in the community was also a target set by the initiators of the Peace Tournament, and added that the

interview panel was trying to recommend interested and qualified youth for financial support. The idea of a Peace Tournament came up at a meeting of the Adamawa Peace Initiative (API) in the fall of 2013 with the aim of using sports to encourage interaction among youths from different backgrounds.

"We want them to be happy and develop themselves; we want them to benefit from the scholarship aspect of it, just as there is the ICT aspect, and the sports aspect which was concluded in December," Umar said. The scholarship initiative for community beneficiaries, he noted, "is free."

He said some of the youths interviewed had shown passion for learning, and that they would be supported by AUN in either ICT training programs at the ACIT, or in their respective educational pursuits elsewhere.

The information required of the interviewees at the session included their work experiences, current challenges, and future goals and ambitions. Interestingly, most candidates have already taken the West African Senior School Certificate exams but they had no

funding to proceed with their educations, and took to football for fun and to earn a living.

At the Residence Hall D, venue of the interviews, our reporter spotted youth from Sunrise FC, Redline FC, and Yola United, waiting on their turn to be interviewed. They spoke about their passion for football and an education. "I love football," said Jerry Joseph, "but I value education too. If there was an opportunity to further my education, it will give me great pleasure." Joseph has a Diploma in Public Administration but hopes to go further.

Festus Ikeh holds a Bachelor degree in Geography, and a Diploma in computer studies. He is seeking financial aid to pursue a graduate degree and better job opportunities. Mr. Umar, who coordinated the interviews on February 7- 9, said the scholarship interview is targeted at 800 youth that participated in the AUN-Adamawa Peace Tournament in December 2012. He said that the number of those who are successful will determine the funding that will be made available to them

AUN MARKS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

AUN's Women Leadership Council, a student club, at the commemoration on March 8 of the International Women's Day formally joined Girl Rising, a global campaign advocating increased girl education. The occasion witnessed the screening of the Girl Rising, a film in aid of the campaign at Washington Hall.

The event began with a stimulating discussion that sought to challenge the belief in some cultural settings that women are not fit to take the lead in education, business, politics and other spheres of endeavor.

The viewing of the Girl Rising movie series followed with the stories of nine girls told from nine countries: Sierra Leone, Haiti, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Peru, Egypt, Nepal, India, and Cambodia. Their stories reflect their struggles to overcome barriers to attainment.

Hauwa Bolaji, WLC President, in her welcoming remarks, said, "People all over the world ...need to be more aware of and enlightened about women empowerment." Africa needs a change and WE are the change, she continued.

It was an opportunity for participants to celebrate mothers, sisters, and friends as well as all the great women worldwide who have caused immense changes in all spheres. Mr. Uchente Harrison said he was grateful to his mother Dame Idiong Harrison, who has impacted and continues to impact his life in innumerable ways. Amina Omakwu took the opportunity to say thank her mom, describing Mrs. Roseline Omakwu as her source of strength.

By Ebuka Ukoh, CMD major with concentration in Advertising

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE HUMANITARIAN VISIT BY MEMBERS OF THE ADAMAWA PEACEMAKERS INITIATIVE (API) TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN MUBI, ON SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2014



President Ensign, assisted by Hajia Turai Kadir, presenting food items to a woman and her baby



API members in the delegation: L-R: Hamidu Inuwa, Rev. Fr. Moses Taparki & Imam Dauda Bello



President Ensign (5th from left) and the Emir of Mubi, Alhaji Abubakar Isah Ahmadu (6th from left) in a group photograph with the Adamawa Peacemakers, at the Emir's palace

THANK YOU VISIT OF SIX VILLAGE HEADS TO PRESIDENT MARGEE ENSIGN



President Ensign (5th from left) with the visiting village heads from Yola District; CIO Julius Ayuk Tabe is on the extreme right

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE SECURITY AND SAFETY TOWN HALL MEETING WITH THE ADAMAWA STATE POLICE COMMISSIONER, JOHN ABAKASANGA, ON MARCH 24, 2014



Commissioner of Police, Adamawa State Command, John Abakasang, addressing AUN students, staff and faculty during the town hall meeting



Security Consultant, Dr. Lionel Rawlins, speaking at the event



Faculty member, Dr. Jacob Jacob making a contribution



The Police Commissioner interacting with members of the AUN community



Mr. Abakasanga taking his message of security and safety to the audience

Cross section of AUN faculty and staff

MEET AUN GOOGLE STUDENT AMBASSADOR



GSA Ahmad A. Inuwa gets a megabyte-hug from President Ensign

The Google Ambassador Program has had three winning AUN students attend its yearly summit in Nairobi, Kenya. In this interview, the incumbent, Ahmad A. Inuwa, speaks to Omorogbe Omorogiwa about his experience after the Kenya summit which he attended last summer. Excerpts:

Intro

My name is Ahmad Alhaji Inuwa, a junior, majoring in Information Systems. I am the Google Student Ambassador at AUN.

About last summer's Google Student Ambassadors' Summit.

The Google Student Ambassador

Summit took place in Nairobi, Kenya, during the first week of July 2013. As much as I was glad to be part of the program, I must say I really wanted it to be in another continent, not Africa, this could have given me the chance to experience a different continent with a different culture, but nevertheless, it

was all good.

The main purpose of this summit was to introduce and orient the new class of GSAs in Africa. This class comprises about 150 students from over 80 universities around Africa. I was part of them, representing Team American University of Nigeria.

So, who is a GSA?

A Google Student Ambassador is a student who acts as a liaison between Google and his university. They can be pursuing any major ranging from Computer Science to Natural & Environmental Science, to Business and even Petroleum Chemistry. Provided they are thrilled by new technology, are enthusiastic about Google, and are involved in their school's communities.

What are the things that excited you?

Actually being the GSA alone is a whole lot of excitement. Also, being with fellow ambassadors representing other universities from other countries, sharing different kinds of experiences about our universities and environments is a joyful moment that I will not easily forget.

How did you feel when you were selected as the Google Student Ambassador?

I couldn't believe it; it was a dream come true.

CAMEROON VARSITY WOOS AUN

As AUN forges ahead as a distinguished center of learning, more institutions across the nation and the continent are extending a hand of fellowship. First was the Nigerian Academy of Science, and then two leading universities in South Africa.

On February 20, three faculty members from Maroua University of Cameroon expressed interest in collaborating with AUN, during a visit.

Meeting with Provost Charles Reith, Vice President Byron Bullock, Deans Matthias Fonkam, and Linus Osuagwu, the

Cameroonian delegation comprising Abdouraman Koffa, Ahmondon Sardawna, and Moh'amadon Bassiron from the School of Science & Education, was hopeful that Maroua could build on the AUN experience in the use of technology and interactive platforms. They also looked forward to further opportunities where both institutions meet to discuss possible areas for collaborative research.

Vice President Bullock told the delegation that AUN was committed to the continuous learning and engagement of its

students by involving them in different activities within and outside the campus. He said the goal of this hands-on approach was to help develop the students in their overall endeavor in school. Bullock also observed that AUN was a multi-cultural environment where students, staff, and faculty members from different parts of the world converged.

Provost Reith pointed out that AUN was trying to create a sustainable environment in Adamawa State that will enable development in the region.



SITC OPEN HOUSE: SHOWCASE OF AUN'S LEARNING TOOLS

The School of Information Technology & Computing (SITC) on February 16 hosted academics, professionals, and businesses from the Yola community to an Open House. The event showcased the various technological platforms that are available at AUN for teaching and learning.

The Chair of SITC Seminar Series, Dr. Francis Adepoju, said the essence of the Open House to enable the community see what is available at AUN, "so that they could leverage it, and use it essentially for teaching and learning."

The event which took place in the Commencement Hall lobby was attended by over 110 staff and faculty from the School of Nursing & Midwifery, College for Legal Studies, Adamawa State Polytechnic, and Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola.

The discussions on Cloud Computing, AUN Library, AUN Open ERP, iPad technology and apps, and Cisco WebEx

Meetings impressed the delegates, who shuttled between sessions, learning more on each topic.

At the Cloud Computing session, SITC instructor Alexey Vedishchev discussed how data can be stored in the cloud. Vedishchev explained the term 'cloud computing' as the variety of computing concepts that involve a large number of computers connected through real-time communication network like the Internet. Data saved on different web servers, he said, may also be retrieved by users from anywhere provided the web service is present.

At the Library session, Mr. Akachukwu Igu discussed the benefits of a digital library in the 21st century. He pointed out the ubiquity of e-libraries, where a single electronic copy can be accessed from many locations, and by many simultaneous users. He said the AUN library is a good example of the 21st century library, adding that since "the migration from print collection to electronic collection" the issues of maintenance costs [of books]

and preservation, and spaces have been dealt with. He listed the databases available at AUN's e-library, and introduced participants to open access materials including EbscoHost, Ebrary, JSTOR, and Project Muse.

The AUN OpenERP session with Daniel Harbor and Michael Njoku was another attraction. OpenERP is a multiuse platform that "does everything relating to the university," said Harbor. It can process data on accounting, purchases, store requisitions, as well as class registration and admissions. Basically, the application has taken over the manual processes of doing things. Even the hiring of new employees, Harbor noted, "can be done on OpenERP." He said this information management tool would enable departments at AUN to keep good records, as well as "reports based on those records."

The "iPad Technology & Apps" session explored the role of new technologies in information usage,

REPORTER'S DIARY: SPRING CLUB EXHIBITION

A showcase of more than 20 student organisations at AUN, the spring 2014 club exhibition had a new side attraction. It combines sporting activities and music to make this year's event unique - a night to remember. The exhibition was held in February, at the Commencement Hall of the main campus. It was a night full of merriment. Tagged "Activities Unlimited," the event was fun-filled with different sports ranging from basketball to volleyball, all in the Commencement Hall, the largest indoor sports building in northern Nigeria.

Some students even practiced playing American football at the scene. With music playing non-stop and food and drinks flowing, it was an event that left students yearning for more. New students had a chance to sign up for any of the over 20 students' organizations that had presence.

The event was organized by the Office of Student Activities and Involvement (OSAI). The mission of this office is to enhance the holistic experience of students through extracurricular and co-curricular events and programs. The office strives to enrich the college experience of every AUN student.

The expectations for that night were set very high and as the night progressed, the vision that OSAI had was



Officials of student organizations at the spring club exhibition

gradually met as more and more students strolled into the venue to get to know the clubs better and maybe even sign up. Some clubs made their tables more attractive to students by having giveaways for anyone who stopped by their tables. Some restaurants owned by students were determined not to be left behind as they took the initiative and used the event as a medium to promote their businesses by giving out free food. What a night to remember! *Reported with Orinami Kure (Senior Majoring in Information Systems)*

VP BULLOCK, STAFF BRAINSTORM ON STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

A Student Affairs workshop held on March 6 has emphasized the role of every departmental staff member toward the overall goal of student development.

Dean, Campus Life & Student Affairs, Vice-President Byron Bullock in a paper on “The Role of Student Affairs In Higher Education: Understanding the Principles, Values, and Beliefs That Shape Our Operations And Services,” charged his staff to uphold professional ethics and good practice in student affairs. Good practice encompasses providing students with opportunities through programs focused on engaging them in various learning experiences, he explained, as well as opportunities to demonstrate values that define a learning community.

He said that as professionals in the various units of Residence Life, Student Activities,



Vice-President Byron Bullock

Community Service, and Career Counseling & Placement, it was pertinent to understand that their role is to foster and promote the holistic development of students. He explained that it would include creating intentional learning opportunities for students to grow and develop and in promoting

interactions among them, while also acknowledging that they constantly change and evolve in attitude and maturity.

Dean Bullock encouraged his staff to maintain the core values of promoting not only lifelong learning, but learning for life, adding that learning occurs in diverse places and ways. He reminded staff that the job to which each and every one of them was now committed, entailed moving the students from where they are, to where they are headed. He said that was the job and that they must commit to teaching students what it takes to succeed.

He urged them to focus on the educational mission of the University in the discharge of their duties, and also expressed a desire to see the Office of Student Affairs excel in the quest to create spaces and environments conducive for

AUN STUDENTS OFFER FREE UTME, SSCE TUTORIALS TO YOLA-JIMETA YOUTHS

More than 20 students volunteered this year to tutor Yola and Jimeta secondary school students preparing for Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examinations and Senior Secondary Certificate Examinations. The yearly program is a community service outreach that provides secondary school seniors an opportunity to study together in the University classrooms under the guidance of a mentor, a volunteer AUN student, who helps to explain challenging topics and provide formulas for getting answers.

First, the undergraduates who volunteer to teach are coached by faculty members before they

mentor the high school candidates. The beneficiaries come from the University’s host communities, some of whom were identified and recommended by members of the Adamawa Peacemakers Initiative (API). Others were identified through recommendations from teachers/principals of various secondary schools in Adamawa State as well as members residing in the host community. “Interested students also come directly upon getting the information,” said Mrs. Jemilat Oladunni Azeez-Amusa, one of the coordinators of the program. She further described the program as “one of AUN’s numerous community development activities” and said

that 43 students benefited from the training last year. Over 100 have registered for this year’s program. The volunteer program “is aimed at reducing JAMB and WAEC failures in the community, and in Nigeria as a whole.”

This program, which focuses on English, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and economics, will last six weeks.

Each beneficiary typically attends two sessions of two hours each for three days of the week (Tuesday/Thursday and Friday). The weekend class which is held on Saturdays has multiple eight-hour sessions and the student typically attends any two of two hours each.