



## 6TH COMMENCEMENT: AUN GRADUATES 262, PIONEER MASTERS CLASS



### Class Speaker's Mum: 'I Sent Her From US to AUN' P.5

Proud mother of 2014 class speaker recounts how she took an inspired decision which has become part of the AUN story

### Founder Pays Tribute To Dr. Robert Pastor P.6

AUN Founder recounts anecdotes of inspiring friendship with his late associate, Robert Pastor

### Summer Can Be Fun At AUN P.10

Summer at AUN is for fun & play one participant recounts

Altogether 262 young men and women received bachelors and master's degrees and postgraduate diplomas during the 6th Commencement of the University held last May 10. This number includes six recipients of the University's Master of Technology degree and 17 others who received the Postgraduate Diploma in Management. It was also the first time higher degrees were awarded since the take-off of the Masters in Telecommunications & Wireless, Information Technology, and PGDM programs.

Like others before him, this year's Commencement Speaker a distinguished former US ambassador to the African Union and White House Special Assistant, John A. Simon, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters, a gesture that makes him an automatic member of the AUN Class of 2014.

Ambassador Simon addressed a distinguished audience of more than 4,000 national and international dignitaries, expressing delight at belonging to the 2014 class. He described the class as accomplished. As accomplished as they were, said the speaker, they shared one commonality: The decision "...to come to a Development University, where their contributions in the community are as valued as the contributions in the classroom."

President Ensign spoke of how proud she was of the achievement of the class of 2014, noting in particular their participation in local development projects, and community service activities, showing "courage and hard work." She urged them to use their education to change the world even though the world can be difficult. "Today's world needs your courage ... reach high, work hard, and commit yourself to the common goal. Do not remain silent."

### New Library Complex Dedicated

Dignitaries from home and abroad graced the formal dedication of the American University of Nigeria's ultramodern digital library complex, named after the late Professor Robert A. Pastor, on Friday, May 9, 2014.

AUN Founder and former Nigerian Vice President, H.E. Atiku Abubakar cut the ribbon to formally open the magnificent edifice, before a distinguished audience that included some family members of the former National Security Adviser to

President Jimmy Carter of the United States.

Pastor's widow Margaret, son, Kiplin and daughter, Tiffin, joined the Founder and President Margee Ensign on the podium to pay tribute to the enigmatic late AU Washington professor.

President Ensign was full of praises for the Founder whose generosity she attributed to the realization of the library project.



**Class Of 2014 Award Recipients**

**Graduate Students Award for Academic Excellence**

- Post graduate Diploma in Management – Oluchi Kay Omoko
- Master of Technology - Mahmud Adamu

**Undergraduate Students Awards for Academic Excellence**

**School of Arts & Sciences**

- Nat. & Env. Sciences – Ifeoma L. Iwobi
- Pet. Chemistry – Ahmad Ahmad Idris
- Economics – Lotana J. Nwosu
- Com. & Multimedia Design – Uduak-abasi E. Bassey
- Overall best graduating Student – Ahmad Ahmad Idris and Lotana J. Nwosu

**School of Business & Entrepreneurship**

- Acc. – Osarumwense M. Evbuomwan
- Business Econ. – Celeste Alex Ukam
- Business Mgt. – Tolulope O. Awoderu
- Overall best graduating student – Osarumwense M. Evbuomwan

**School of Information Technology & Computing**

- Software Engr. – Paul I. Onwurah
- Computer Sci. – Chidubem G. Arachie
- Info. Systems – Steve E. Okeke-Eweni
- Tel. & Wireless Tech. – David S. Gbaja
- Overall best graduating student – Chidubem G. Arachie

**Corporate Awards for Academic Excellence – Undergraduate students**

- Enterprise Bank Award for Academic Excellence – Celeste A. Ukam
- Intels Awards for Academic Excellence – Ahmad Ahmad Idris and Lotana J. Nwosu
- Leadway Assurance Award for Academic Excellence – Best Female Graduating Student

School of Arts and Sciences – Lotana J. Nwosu

School of Business & Entrepreneurship – Osarumwense M. Evbuomwan

School of Information Technology & Computing – Aisha Muhammad Ali

- International Health Management Service (IHMS) – Chidubem G. Arachie
- GTBank Award for Academic Excellence – Osarumwense M. Evbuomwan
- Winlight Award in Petroleum Chemistry – Ahmad A. Idris
- Quanteq Award in Software Engineering – Paul Ifechukwu Onwurah
- Quanteq Award in Information Systems – Steve E. Okeke-Eweni
- Quanteq Award for Computer Science – Chidubem G. Arachie
- Quanteq Award for Telecom & Wireless Technology – David S. Gbaja
- Sam Mac Award in Communications & Multimedia Design – Uduak-abasi E. Bassey
- Haruna Musa Award (Valedictorian) – Ahmad A. Idris and Lotana J. Nwosu

**Other Corporate Awards – Undergraduate Students**

- Enterprise Bank Award for Leadership – Ahmad Idris Ahmad | Toyibat Oluwatope Olonade
- Dell Corporation Award – David Chukwuma
- Athletics Award – Victor Igberease and Anthonia Ziregbe
- Community Service Award – Lotana J. Nwosu and Ebuka Williams Ukoh
- President’s Award for Leadership – Lotana J. Nwosu and Ebuka Williams Ukoh

# ‘You Are the New Story of Africa’

Keynote Address by Ambassador John A. Simon Keynote Speaker



Ambassador Simon

I am really honored to be here among all of you. But really, I am most honored to be here among you, the accomplished and talented graduates of the American University of Nigeria.

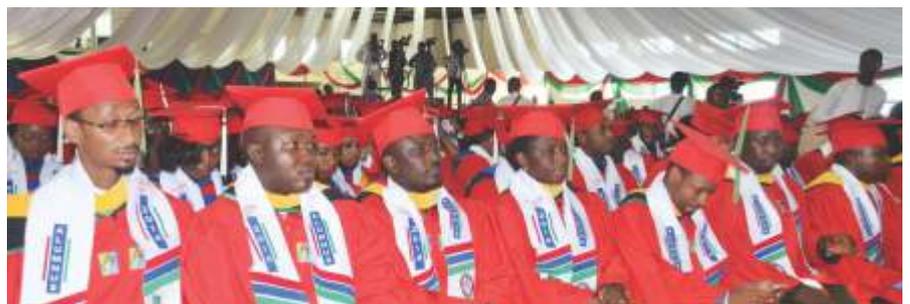
Two years before, the Economist magazine had featured a famous cover calling Africa “The Hopeless Continent.” In the time since Africa’s economies have become among the fastest growing in the world, foreign direct investment has increased by an order of magnitude, and free and fair elections are now the rule, not the exception. Last year, the Economist’s Cover was “Africa Rising.”

Most important, Africans from across the Diaspora were returning to their countries to seek opportunity here. Yet for all those successes, none of them can ensure peace and prosperity forever. As we say in the investment world, and as my own country should remember, “Past performance is no guarantee of future results.” When I used to go through this litany of African

successes over the past dozen years to many of the people I find in the developed world to our Africa-skeptics, I would also note that conflict on the continent had been reduced from about 15 major wars at the turn of the millennium, to just about two or three sustained conflicts that existed in isolated parts of the continent. But unfortunately in the last two years we have seen the crises in Mali, Eastern Congo, Sudan, CAR, and even, tragically, not far from here.

I was blessed to be in a position to play a small part in this story, and I have little doubt that you all will find yourselves with similar opportunities in the future to make a difference not just for your own life, but for hundreds, thousands, maybe millions of your fellows. Of course the story doesn’t end, the story is not over. And with continued diligence the opportunity for peace and development that now exists in Somalia will be realized but only with continued diligence. That is where you come in – not necessarily in Somalia, but throughout this Continent, your talents, your skills, and most of all, your judgment and your courage are need to solidify the gains, overcome the obstacles, and create the next chapter of Africa’s story. As you write that next chapter, you may want to think of yourself as a protagonist – the hero – of this tale. I am sure many of you will be.

Thank you again for allowing me to talk to you, please take everything I have said – and everything anyone who claims some superior knowledge says - with a grain of salt, and let us begin. I will be watching.



Cross-section of graduates

# 'Participate, Change Your World'

## President Margee Ensign's 6th Commencement Address

Welcome to the commencement of AUN's 6th graduating class.

It is a joyful and it is a serious occasion, the high point of our year at the university.

It is an occasion, which has been made possible by many, amazing acts of generosity:

First and foremost--The generosity of our founder, His Excellency Atiku Abubakar, whose singular and unique dream and sacrifice has made all of this—all of this -- a reality:

The generosity of your wonderful and supportive parents, whose faith in AUN and whose faith in you graduating seniors, brought us together here today;

The generosity and commitment of the faculty and staff here at AUN, who have come from all over the world to Yola, to make your dreams come true.

It is about that future that I would like to briefly speak now.

To begin with, let me confess how enormously proud I am of all of you.

I am proud of your courage, of your hard work, of your accomplishments.

I am proud of our undergraduates as well as today our first set of graduate students

As the President of AUN, I have occasion to travel a lot—. And wherever I go, in Nigeria, in the US in other parts of the world, I find myself talking about you. I talk about your academic accomplishments, your presentations at research conferences, your community service, your success at Model UN in New York, and your innovative solutions to development problems.

After all, you are why we are all here, and we take great pride and pleasure in your success.

But the success we honor today is only the beginning of a lifetime of achievement, of engagement, and of participation. Anything less is unthinkable --because today your life's work begins

On one of those long flights I found myself reading an article about Wikipedia—the global online encyclopedia. It is one of the world's most popular websites, as everyone in this room knows.



Dr. Ensign

On any given day, this website, the world's 5th most popular, is visited by 15% of the world's Internet users equaling about 500 million readers a month. Wikipedia states as its aim, "to provide the sum of all knowledge." A little ambitious, but Wikipedia provides a lot of people on the planet—in 287 different languages!—what they know and believe about the world.

But here is the thing about Wikipedia: anyone can contribute to its content. So it is very democratic. But here is another thing about Wikipedia. For whatever reason, we don't. Because 90% of all contributors to Wikipedia—are men, and they are from rich countries like the US and Germany. Not women, and men from Nigeria or Nicaragua or Niger

This of course then shapes what is written about, and what is not written about. Few people are writing about Africa,

Only 2.6% of Wikipedia articles deal with anything African. The second largest continent in the world with over a billion people--

Wikipedia isn't going to change

unless Africans and others start writing more. If one chooses to remain silent...well, these are the results.

There are many things you can't be silent about now in Nigeria: girls being kidnapped, young people being killed, women and men losing their spouses, high levels of poverty, lack of accountability for criminal acts including the violence north of us, maternal mortality rates among the highest in the world, very low levels of literacy, high unemployment, A large portion of the youth without hope.

So what I am here to plead is that you use your education. Participate -- use it to impact Nigeria. Use it to impact the life in whatever community you choose to live in. Use it to change your profession, your community, your country. Use it to change the world.

I know that the world can seem a very difficult place, set in its ways. A very hard place to change.

And yet here we sit, in this glorious hall, on this glorious occasion, because one man, our founder, who grew up here—not rich with well connected parents but poor and an orphan—decided to do something, to make the world a better place. This is today's truth.

The core of education at AUN, Nigeria's first "Development University", has been participation. Participation in your classes. Participation in research. Participation in group projects. Participation in the many activities of Student Life. Participation in our local development projects through community service.

We have sent you out in the community to experience first hand the problems faced by so many poor people—the schools without books or desks or sometimes roofs, the clinics without reliable medicines or equipment...

Read the complete speech at [www.aun.edu.ng](http://www.aun.edu.ng)



**'We Were Taught to Think Independently'**

**Valedictorian Lotana J. Nwosu**



Ms. Lotana Nwosu

AUN, Africa's first development university, has shaped me in ways that will make the path to my dreams simpler, smoother, and shorter. AUN not only taught me but showed me that it is possible to excel in every aspect of my life without making compromises to my dreams and aspirations. This institution also opened my eyes to the challenges that confront Nigeria and taught me that I can be a vital part of the solution. I am more than grateful for the opportunity provided by AUN for me to serve the community. It was during these community service programs that I felt the sense of accomplishment that comes with giving back to the society. I am sure that this was not solely my experience; it was a shared one.

Our experience, more than anything else, will shape who we will turn out to be. At AUN we learned to be friends, fought with our peers and made up, fell in and out of love, learned to think like adults, talk like adults, form valid ideas based on facts, argued with professors, and through it all, we gained knowledge in our own way. We weren't force fed knowledge but taught to think on our own. We endured tough exams, extreme weather conditions from the angry sun to many floods, and endured the security challenges and frustrating curfews.

**'When You See Kids on a Bare Classroom Floor, Your Perspective on Life Must Change'**

**Valedictorian Ahmad I. Ahmad**

Life in AUN is not comparable to any other. Everything about this University is super-amazing from the unforgettable experience, the super-smart and friendly faculty, the awesome state-of-the-art facilities, the learning environment, the diligent and tough President Ensign, and our generous founder, HE Atiku Abubakar.

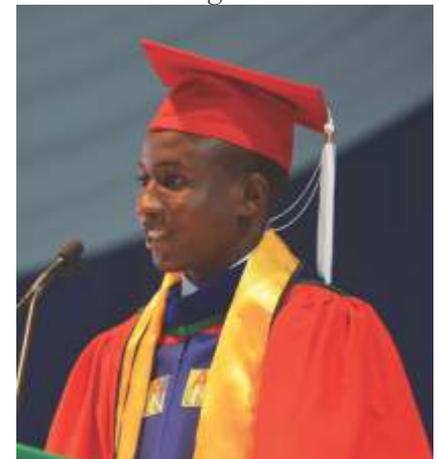
AUN has helped me to pin down a career path, AUN has helped me to find a purpose, AUN has helped me to understand my community, and AUN has made me to feel indebted to the society. It is in this university that I learned I wasn't studying only to have a good career and enrich myself, but to enrich the lives of others who are less privileged. Through community service, I learned how to identify the root problems in our society by having first-hand experience with the local people, and I learned how to provide solutions to the problems. I am sure, the graduating class of 2014 will agree with me when I say AUN is

more than just a typical University. It's truly committed to Africa's development. I believe we shall forever be indebted to AUN and must find ways to fulfill its mission as we move forward in life.

My initial motivation for choosing Petroleum Chemistry as my major was to make money. The plan was simple for me, get a BSc in a petroleum-related field, work in an oil company, and make my clean oil money. Because of my overall experience here, I can tell you, my thinking has changed. Why? We all have hearts, and we are humans. When you participate in community service and you see women as old as your mum struggling to learn how to read and write, when you go to secondary schools and their teachers cannot even speak correct English, when you enter classes and you see students on the floor in a classroom with neither ceilings or windows, when you go to an orphanage and you see kids with no one to take care of

them, when you go to hospitals that are poorly equipped and the medical doctors are on strike and people are dying, when you see a graduate with a degree without a job, and when you see a mother shedding tears because her children don't have food to eat, trust me, your perspective on life changes.

Read the complete speech at [www.aun.edu.ng](http://www.aun.edu.ng)



Mr. Ahmad I. Ahmad

## Proud Parent: 'From US I Sent My Only Child to AUN'

A US-based Nigerian and proud mother of the 2014 Class Speaker, Ms. Nnenna Nwana, on the 6th Commencement eve, held spellbound the audience at the awards ceremony, narrating how she took a decision that surprised many: she actually withdrew her only child, Ms. Odera Okakpu, from the United States to AUN.

Following an auditioning held on November 22, 2013, for no less than eleven equally good speakers from her class, Ms. Okakpu emerged victorious to emerge the Class Speaker for 2014. She was a unanimous choice.

Initially, for Mrs. Nwana, AUN was not any different from other private

institutions in Nigeria, but it soon turned out, she went on, that she was wrong. "I made my enquiries on AUN. I came to visit. I liked the environment. I liked the setting. I was bought. I sent her out here."

She continued: "When she [my daughter] started, I realized AUN has mainly American professors and an American curriculum. Her being in AUN has been worth it all the way through - every step of the way. AUN did not disappoint me, and has not disappointed many parents...As they say, it takes a village to raise a child and I am glad AUN has been part of that village."

The dinner ended in a toast to the graduating class of 2014. Mr Peter

Okocha, a Board of Trustees member, led this part of the awards night's proceedings as he raised his wine glass in a toast to the graduating seniors.

"It is sincerely my honor to be standing in front of you today, to toast to the graduating Class of 2014. This University is somebody's dream. Standing in front of you today, I am proud to be part of the dream of one man who feels that the best is never enough... To the continuous prosperity of AUN, to the continuous good health of Atiku Abubakar, to long-life, peace, and growth of AUN, and to the graduating class of AUN, may the sky remain your limit."



## 'In AUN, I found A Close--Knit Family' Class Speaker Odera Okakpu:

I am proud to say that after four years on this unique campus, I feel like I embody the American University of Nigeria. So allow me to liken my experience to the AUN experience: born in the US and brought back here to blossom. I am originally from the east, went to high school in the west, and have lived in Lagos 12 years now. To put the cherry on top, I attended university here in the north. Suffice it to say that while America may have the seed, Nigeria has the fruitful soil.

For some of us, AUN was not the first choice. A lot like me wanted America, not "American". Permit me to speak for all of us when I say, today AUN has proven to be the best choice.

Ladies and gentlemen, if for whatever reason you are not clear on how AUN is a development

university, let me explain. The people waiting to graduate are not the same as when they stepped onto this campus the first time. They have developed and along the way are taught to develop their community around them, be it by entrepreneurship or community service. AUN is in every right a development institution and we owe everyone that had a hand in it a great, big "thank you".

AUN is a community--more like a close-knit family. From cab drivers, to security officers, faculty to staff, and freshman to senior we have all been affected by each other in one way or another. We may not have talked to absolutely everyone we have come across, but we have shared experiences and a living space and that alone draws us closer.

The last person that has contributed



Ms. Odera Okakpu and mother

greatly to my being here is the queen of my heart, my solid foundation through all the hard times of my life. She has given me the best encouragement, worst criticism, and generous love. She has raised me single handedly and since 2010 when I started here, she has transitioned from a parent to the best friend a girl could ever ask for. Would you please put your hands together for my mommy?

AUN really is where students dreams become Africa's future I can finally say I bear witness to this trademark slogan of the university.

Read the complete speech at [www.aun.edu.ng](http://www.aun.edu.ng)

## Dedication of Robert A. Pastor Library & E-Learning Center Founder Pays Tribute To His Charismatic Associate

It's hard for me to imagine that this University, whose wonderful new library we're here to dedicate today, would ever exist had I not met Professor Robert Pastor. Of course he thought we should perhaps build AUN on the French Riviera but more on that later.

In fact, let me tell you a little about this extraordinary man. He had a distinguished career in academics and in public service. He was a professor in the American University in Washington, DC and authored 17 books and nearly countless professional articles, was Fulbright scholar, White House aide to President Jimmy Carter in his National Security Council and tireless campaigner for democracy worldwide. It was as Vice President of International Affairs at AU Washington that I met and worked with him in the creation of this University.

In his words: "I had just been appointed as a Vice President of International affairs at AU and President Benjamin Ladner asked me to lead a team to Nigeria to determine the feasibility of establishing such a university." By then, actually the first contact was Dr Louis Goodman, who I first contacted in this exercise. Louis had make a presentation to Robert Pastor. He said on arrival: "...when I arrived here (Yola) the land was dry, the heat was oppressive and the poverty was pervasive. It was hard for me to see how a University can grow in this soil. I suggested a different location to Atiku. How about the French Riviera?" He laughed and I laughed. "Or how about Abuja? Won't you think of any place other than Yola?"

As you see, he changed his mind. I had a way of making Bob change his mind. I don't know whether even his wife, Margee, could do that. It was with his invaluable aid that we marked out the physical plan for AUN where once there was nothing but an empty field. He helped us, led us through the complex business of hiring our first faculty members, our first administrators and staff, and finding

our first students. He served on our Board of Trustees. His advice was always thoughtful. His courage kept people going on, when obstacles seemed insurmountable. His vision was to create a university which will spearhead the development of democracy in Africa. He was my friend. I miss him. We all miss him but we shall not forget him and here let me come with a story.

When the library was about to be completed I had two suggestions from the University authorities: to name this building after my late mother or to name it after Robert Pastor. I decided that it should be Bob. As we enter this library today, I

hope that all of you today and all the many future generation of AUN students, faculty, and staff who will follow after you will recall the spirit of the man for whom it is named. He was a man who was dedicated to a peaceful, prosperous and democratic Nigeria--a country he had come to love and a country in whose future he believed as we all do. We are all here at this University to help achieve such a Nigerian, such an African future. This library plays a crucial role in forging that future. It gives me great pleasure to open this intellectual heart of the University he helped us all to create and to name this great library in his honor.



L-R: Tiffin, Abubakar, Margaret, Kiplin

### 'Make No Little Plans'

Dr. Pastor's son, Kiplin, responded to the Founder's glowing tributes to his father with an erudite muse of his own

My dad was very fond of quoting a Chicago architect named Daniel Burnham: "Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistency."

Think big. A library is a place were big plans can be made. It fosters and nurtures them. A library is an honorable tribute for a man who was a devoted teacher and student of the world. He loved books, education, and collaboration. We want to acknowledge my dad's lifelong dedication to education, to all young people, his work with the (AUN) founder and the development of AUN and their commitment to the fulfilment of the founder's vision for a University in Yola.

We also want to express our great appreciation for a deep and vibrant friendship that my dad had with the founder - one of his best friends - and our gratitude for the founder's exceptional generosity toward my dad and our family. He shared peaceful experience, a reverence for the life of the mind, commitment to education and deep and loyal friendship. He made all these happen.

We want to thank the Founder, Board, President Ensign, dignitaries and staff of AUN from the bottom of our hearts. Go forward, make no small plan. Think big. Thank you.

## AUN-API International Conference on Peace and Development, held June 10-13, 2014 at AUN, Yola Summary of Recommendations

### Gender and Education Panel

#### Gender

- Promote and increase married women's access to education
- Ensure all schools are safe and secure for education, specifically boarding schools.
- Require girls stay in school through secondary schools
- Increased participation of women in governance and embed this in the constitution
- Enforce laws against child marriage
- Pass a law requiring girls stay in school until 18yrs.
- Pass legislation to allow pregnant and married women to continue with their education.

#### Education

- Make e-thinking and e-resources available to all through multiple platforms
- Prosecute those who refuse to send children to school.
- Government must fund free education from primary to secondary school
- Require a peace curriculum
- Schools should be safe, secure and gender-friendly
- Develop digital solutions for the uneducated in Nigeria. E.g. Mobile applications
- All children including almajiri must have access to high quality education
- At least 26% of national budget should be focused on education

#### Security

- Military needs additional resources and training
- Corruption is endemic. Corrupt officials must be penalized.
- Recruitment to military should be based on merit
- Begin a dialogue with Boko Haram and consider amnesty
- Find ways to increase trust between military and civilians
- Government must enhance security on porous borders.
- Government should release reports and implement recommendations of previous panels E.g. Lemu Panel
- Government should ensure peoples basic needs are provided. E.g. human security
- Government should expose clerics who radicalized youths
- Government should collaborate

with international community to stop the source of Boko Haram funding

#### Role of Religion

- Both Christian and Muslim religious leaders should instantly and clearly condemn any acts of violence
- Develop an effective regulatory body to monitor the religious practices and proceedings of religious institutions as well as monitor the establishment of Mosques and Churches
- Improve capabilities of religious leaders
- Need to promote culture and dialogue between religions
- Do not popularize extremists
- Build a culture of peace and tolerance in the upcoming generation
- Implement legislation against hate-speech
- Develop early warning, monitoring and response systems for religious leaders.
- Religious leaders should not manipulate religion for personal gains
- Government should respond to conspiracy theories
- Separate religious leaders from traditional leaders.
- Religious leaders should be honest enough to admit ills of their members
- Implement specific frameworks and programs to deal with youth, especially almajiri
- Good governance focused on social justice at all levels would reduce numerous problems.
- Need a better understanding of our problems
- Need more religious freedom, tolerance and understanding in all religious faiths
- Religious leaders should abide

strictly to teachings of scriptures

- Religious leaders and media should convene conference to discuss current security situation and establish action plans

#### Governance

- People and press must be protected
- Promote accountability by implementing performance-based governance at all levels
- Strengthen the voice of the poor-use social mapping exercises in local communities to determine needs and assets
- Encourage the youth to be more interested in politics
- Eliminate culture of impunity—this is a priority
- Erase immunity clause for political leaders

#### Role of the Media

- Journalists must have freedom to report
- Government censorship of media threatens democracy. Media should be allowed to publish freely
- Peace Journalism should be promoted by the media
- Media should present positive stories of people working in harmony
- Media should report first-hand stories on location
- Secularize oaths. Do not use Quran and Bible when administering political oaths.
- Enforce ethics in Journalism
- During conflict, use a peace lens for reporting
- Tell the human face of the Boko Haram violence, i.e. Right stories about the victims
- 10. Promote accountability in the media
- 11. Don't bribe reporters. Use, support and promote whistleblowers



Delegates marched for peace and improved security during the International Conference

# Quotes from Peace & Development Conference Delegates

## 'AUN, an African Model'

*Callistus I. Okaforadi, journalist:*

We need the conference not only in Adamawa but in other states. People have become so used to crisis that they hardly bat an eyelid. So there is need to create more awareness on the need to build peace. The awareness thus created is a welcome development...an avenue for people to consciously think of the need and how to sustain peace in this region and in our nation.

I am very impressed with AUN and never knew that the University was this large and elegant. I note in particular the friendly environment; I believe learning here is more practical and is indeed what Nigeria really needs. AUN is a model for Nigeria and the continent.

## 'API, Domesticating Peacebuilding Efforts'



*Japheth James,  
Founder of Back to  
Basis Development  
Initiative:*

The conference was timely, truthful, and people-driven. I am particularly impressed as the conference attendees were varied: Christians, Muslims, and others from different backgrounds. This is needed for peace building. I also like the manner in which people spoke up on what was on their mind and I believe that this was necessary so as to really recommend appropriate solutions. I hope the recommendations will be implemented.

API has done well in collaborating with AUN to organize the conference. It demonstrates that they are putting into practice some of the recommendations from the conference on peace building held in the UK by the Tony Blair Interfaith Foundation. I attended the event and met some API members. API did well to invite other peace-building organizations.

AUN infrastructures are breath

taking. I will like my children to attend this University. I believe that here students get an "undiluted education." The AUN model is worthy of emulation. It just stands out among all the universities in Nigeria. I didn't expect it. I will give it an 'A' based on everything that I know of and have seen here.

## 'Other schools should emulate AUN, API'

*Zion Zadok, journalist*

## 'Lots of Interaction and Exchange of Ideas'

*Venantius Abbo Jiddere, the Gangwari Ganye (Jarma Ganye):*

The conference is beneficial because at the end of the day, there will be a communiqué which will also help the students that attended the conference to gain knowledge from other people that were invited. There were lots of interactions during the conference and it was an opportunity for people to air their views and exchange ideas. AUN and API are doing a great job.

## 'Good Project'

*Amy Duru, International Rescue Committee, Abuja:*

It was a good project; I hope it has the ability to carry itself. What AUN is doing is fantastic, first of its kind. And I hope to collaborate with others to solidify results.

## 'AUN Gives Me Hope'



*Hajiya Bilikisu  
Yusuf, Political  
Scientist &  
Journalist*

The networking was fantastic, especially meeting other peace activists and provided the recommendations from the conference will be used. AUN is a beautiful concept, the infrastructure, and digitalization and the attempt to meet world standard especially in a country like Nigeria. AUN gives me hope.

## 'Good platform to be maintained'

*Mrs. Orpah Hassan Dalti, Royal Chapel pastor, Jalingo, Taraba*

The conference was wonderful...my first time of attending an API program and it was very enlightening. I like how the conference defined peace. It is a good platform to be maintained.

AUN is amazing; its standard is so high and I am impressed at what the University is doing. I see it compete with American schools in the States.

## 'University merged with community. Good concept!'

*Ojo Maduekwe, journalist:*

This conference was needed; I will compare it to the on-going national conference but a lot better. People, including the youth, are able to vent their opinions about peace. It will be good if we have likes of API in all states, for example, Gombe Peace Initiative. AUN is a university merged with the community--good concept!

## 'Recommendations Should Be Implemented at Local & National Levels'

*Joda Musa, Representing Ganye Traditional Ruler:*

AUN-API conference has been great. Hopefully, we are looking forward to more conferences like this where the two major religious groups in Nigeria meet to disagree to agree. We have to tell ourselves the reality that we need peace. The recommendations should be implemented at the local and national levels. AUN has no rival in Nigeria. I schooled in Leeds University, the UK, and AUN is of standards like Leeds.

## 'Free ICT Training, New Dimension to Peace'



*Pastor (Dr.) James  
Movel Wuye, Co-  
executive Director,  
Interfaith Mediation  
Center, Kaduna:*

A good initiative, good blend of the local and international community.

The cross-fertilization has shown that you go to the grassroots and make impact. As a delegate and a panelist, having to discuss with primary school pupils, ICT training for both old and young has brought a new dimension to education for peace, security for peace, religion for peace and further democracy and good governance. The Interfaith Mediation Center seeks to collaborate with AUN-API in other to step down the mini-town hall meeting, to have local conferences to discuss education, religion, democracy, and good governance. AUN is an oasis in a desert that brings forth beautiful springs forth. It is that pearl in a desert, a desert of underdevelopment and unemployment. Yola is in now on the global map. If other schools can emulate AUN, poverty will be reduced and people will be empowered.

**'AUN initiative should be emulated at Federal level'**



*Olayinka Abdulmojeed, Lagos-based mathematician:*

The AUN-API initiative is what other stakeholders can get involved in as Nigeria needs peace. At the federal level this should be emulated, progress should be monitored. The academic environment, standard is high. Other businesspersons, religious leaders, should replicate the AUN model. Atiku Abubakar's idea of education is optimism.

**'Academic Leading the Search for Peace is Rewarding'**

*Imam (Dr.) Muhammad N. Ashafa, Co-Executive Director, Interfaith Mediation Center, Kaduna:*

The AUN-API initiative is new and needs support. For the academia to lead the frontier in seeking peace in this country is very rewarding. The discussions during the conference, which included what we can do as religious leaders to accelerate peace, what the media can do to promote peace, and how democracy and good

governance can promote peace--all these are vital topics for the sake of peace. The selection of participants, community leaders, youth groups, diplomats, and professors to straighten out this topic also was interesting. In all I have to commend the AUN-API conference. I have attended conferences in 55 countries but this is unique, realistic, and rewarding. AUN represents what an ideal academic institution should be. A university is a universal city; a component of all walks of life. That is why it is a development university. AUN is a tool of exploring knowledge, potentially and adding value to human dignity."

**'There Can be Peace in Nigeria by this Example'**

*Evangelist Paul Musa Misal based in Gombe:*

This is the first time that I will be attending a conference of this nature in one of the best universities in the country and Africa. I want to commend the organizers, especially the President and the entire leadership of the University for a job well done.

The AUN-API initiative of peace is something that if other universities can copy or do, our problems can be resolved amicably. I think the society and even Federal Government need to commend AUN because they have done what society and government ought to do.

By this conference, I have seen that there can be peace in this country. I saw new faces that are willing to work for peace...many here will return with something to do.

**'Pride to Be identified with AUN Initiative'**



*The Rev. Joseph Danboyi, Assistant Coordinator-General, Centre for Religious Co-existence, Kano:*

The conference was inspiring and I feel privileged to attend, especially in Nigeria. I have had the privilege of going to other countries but when I came to this American University, what I saw was very inspiring and

motivating. It has united our minds to have the same focus and of course, we've cleared away some doubts among us.

I saw the sincerity of the organizers, and I'm sure that they have this heartbeat of bringing this country together, especially on the aspect of unity. So, to me, I give them credit; they've tried their best.

I really enjoyed this AUN-API Peace conference. It's motivating and of course, encouraging. I've learnt something of which when I go back to Kano; we're going to put it in practice.

AUN and API are like pacesetters; AUN is setting a pace for other universities to follow. We've not had this before, and it may be beyond my knowledge, that a university will put together this kind of great resources just to bring this community together. And I have seen the fruit of this because if you look at Adamawa, you will discover that within the environment there is peace, I am proud to be identified with such initiative.

**'Model to be copied by varsity communities'**



*Mr. Ibrahim Aliyu, co-chair, Muslim-Christian Youth Forum, Gombe:*

I appreciate AUN and API for organizing this peace conference. It is indeed very timely. The conference gave us an opportunity to interface and discuss ideas that will bring about peace and development in Nigeria. And I think that this initiative is quite good, it is a good platform for people to come, sit down, and discuss. I am sure that most of the participants have testified that it is indeed what is needed in this country Nigeria for us to progress.

This is the best model we have seen so far in the country where a university community and other stakeholders come together to promote peace. I think it is one of the best initiatives that will be a model for us to copy in other parts of the country if peace must be achieved

## AUN During Summer

Most of the AUN community, students and staff alike, feel that summer is a dull phase of the academic year. This sometimes discourages students from participating in the season, as they would rather be home doing nothing than attending a 6-8 week program they perceive to be “boring”. Some summer activities serve to balance the learning environment. One activity that will soon end is the summer league, a series of football matches between several clubs. Of course, football may not attract everyone and most girls would rather be cocooned in their rooms than traipsing to a field to watch boys raise dust in the name of chasing a ball. However, this sport can be thoroughly enjoyed by both male and female if one is open-minded.

In addition, the Office of Student Activities & Involvement has assured us that despite being in transition (with Dorsey gone), they still have exciting events in store for us, as evidenced by the movies scheduled for Friday and Saturday and many more to come. “We already had our plans in place before he left” said Elijah Minso, a coordinator in the office. Furthermore, the fitness facility is also available to students and the club house has also been made available to students every day of the week. The library still maintains its open hours and almost every aspect of the university has remained the same.

All these and many more go to show that there are ample activities one can indulge in to make summer an interesting time of academic and social engagement. *By Funom Hassan*

## AUN Hosts First Adamawa Youth Camp

A two-week summer camping for Adamawa youths was held at AUN between May 26 and June 6, 2014. The summer program was a workshop jointly promoted by the Adamawa Grand Alliance, a network of prominent individuals, businesses, and community-based organizations collaborating with AUN to drive economic and social development in Adamawa State, and the state Local Apprenticeship Scheme.

Chairperson for the Organizing Committee Mr. Reginald Braggs said the program was planned for two groups of 100 youth from two secondary schools - Aliyu Musdafa Secondary School, and REMI Educational Foundation, Yola, within the age brackets of 13 and 16; and 17 and 19. He said the youths were selected from across both genders and were grouped into four parallel tracks. These youths received classes from Mondays to Thursdays during the two weeks duration of the program that started on May 26 and ended on June 5. Braggs added that AUN students with proven record of leadership served as mentors to the

youths.

The program’s curriculum incorporated career guidance and counseling, peace education, self-



Summer camp youths & their mentors

esteem building, and entrepreneurship.

Vice President of AUN Schools & Educational Programs and Chairperson of the Grand Alliance Curriculum Committee, Ms. Krista McKee, outlined the objectives of the program saying, “It is to help these youths gain an understanding of skills and to be employable, to become entrepreneurs, and get ideas of what to aspire to. We want them to be able to dream for a future, interact, and understand each other through the peace curriculum that we have integrated into the program.”

There were motivational speeches

from various speakers, one of whom, a 2014 AUN Alum, Ebuka Ukoh, spoke of how his perspective on life was radically changed after being introduced to community service, as he now appreciates the need to serve others and make the community a better place.

Chief Information Officer, Mr. Julius Ayuk Tabe, inspired the students when he spoke about his humble beginning and how he had climbed the ladder of success through determination and hard work. Other speakers gave insight on how to build self-esteem, choose a career and how to rise to the top.

Concluding the program on June 6, President Ensign attributed its success to “joyful cooperation.” Thanking the organizers, Dr. Ensign said, “This is one of those moments when you realize that when we come together, anything is possible.” The audience comprised members of the Grand Alliance Youth Committee, facilitators of the program, AUN student-mentors, principals and teachers of the participating schools and their student, and invitees from the University community.

## AUN Security Corps Marks 3, Selects 1 of 4 New Applicants

The University's in-house security outfit, formed in 2011, has turned three. In place of rolling out the drums, as it is said, the Corps marked the anniversary with a parade on May 6.

The colorful parade was attended by high-profile guests, including heads or reps of security agencies in Adamawa: Squadron Leader Walter Mutok from the NAF 75 Strike Force, Yola; the Director of State Security Services who was represented by Mr. Mohammed Aliyu; the Captain of the Peace Corps Nigeria, Kazeem Bello; the Man 'O' War Deputy Commander, Chike



Above: President Ensign [2nd left]; Security co-ordinator Dr. Lionel Von Rawlins [2nd right]; Squadron Leader Walter Mutok of the NAF 75 strike Force Yola, and Olayinde Babalola, Acting chief security officer

Adolphus, and the Assistant Commissioner of Police Adamawa State, Mr. Umege Victor.

President Ensign addressed the parade, noting that the Security Corps, in the last three years, has grown to play an important part in the lives of members of the community. Their roles have become increasingly important in the wake of security concerns in northeast Nigeria, she said, adding that the reason AUN community has been safe and secure is the dedication and vigilance of the officers.

She congratulated the security co-ordinator, Dr. Lionel Rawlins, on his training the officers, and the officers for keeping the community safe. "We know how hard you work, and we just ask you that you remain vigilant and keep up the excellent work for the entire AUN community." Dr. Ensign further urged them to continue the excellent work of maintaining the peace in the environment and called forward 16 of the officers at the parade for recognition. She announced that they had been promoted into higher ranks for their hard work, commitment and constant devotion to duty on the job.

*By Nelly Ating*



## New Hires Boost Security, Morale

From the 400 people who recently applied to the AUN Security Corps, only 100 survived the rigorous theoretical examination tests and three weeks of intensive paramilitary training exercises. On June 12, the recruits displayed a colorful parade ceremony to celebrate their success. .

The Security Coordinator, Dr. Lionel Rawlins, explained that 60 percent of the new recruits were degree holders, including doctors and lawyers, assuring that they were "smart and intelligent". He was optimistic they would deliver because "security work is all about intelligence".

Chief Information Officer, Mr.

Julius Ayuk Tabe, delivered a congratulatory speech from President Ensign. He said that she believes in the new recruits and hopes that they are committed and dedicated to their work. He wished them well and welcomed them to the AUN workforce. He further praised a nursing mother, Mrs. Atiya Ezra, who completed the difficult training with her three-month-old baby. Her husband, Mr. Barnabas Jeremiah, a Police officer who came to support his wife, stressed the need for Nigerian husbands to allow their wives work. He expressed satisfaction with the organization of AUN's Security.

## Finance Director Now ICAN Fellow

Director of Financial Operations, Mr. Mathias Sendave, is now a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), the professional body that regulates and enhances the ethical standards and technical competences of accountants in Nigeria and beyond.

Mr. Sendave, who started working with AUN on September 1, 2009, became a Fellow of the Institute on April 3, 2014, at a conferment ceremony held in Lagos.

## Librarian Joins Elite Group

Library Journal has named AUN Library Director Amed Demirhan into its prestigious Movers and Shakers class of 2014 at its convention in Las Vegas, last June.

Amed was honored as “one of the people shaping the future of libraries” which earned him the induction. Widely celebrated as the driving force behind the digitalization of library resource services in AUN, Amed has also been invited to join Emerald publisher’s editorial board for “Advances in Library Administration and Organization”.

## Karin Rheeder Receives HR Award

Coordinator of Logistics, Ms. Karin Rheeder, last April received the 2014 Leadership 500 Excellence Award of the HR.Com.

HR.Com and Leadership Excellence hosts the largest global social networking and resource site for HR professionals.

Ms. Rheeder who was named co-winner - as an individual - in the same category as KPMG and Deloitte, says she’s very proud of this feat.

## Life’s Lessons from Dorsey Spencer Jr., by Vera Nwobodo

At the time of this report, it was one year, two months, and 20 days since I started working with the immediate past Executive Director of Student Engagement, Dorsey Spencer, who has since returned to his country, the United States, to face the responsibilities of fatherhood and the development of his career in student affairs career back home.

Being an introvert, I limited my interactions with him to official matters. Apparently, he knew better and thought differently; that he manifested mastery of details when the opportunity arose. When he traveled for the 2013 Spring break, he kept in touch with every member of the unit, through text messages and emails. He would draw me out to ask questions about everything. He would repeat the questions when he touched base. It felt special working with him.

His frequent questions were “why?” and “how?” This helped me to think deeply before I made any presentation, made me a little more thoughtful than I was, and on the flip side, I also learned how to ask “why?” and “how?” In fact, there is no better way to understand the deep-seated feelings of the people you interact with. He was insightful.

I came to appreciate his unapologetic habit of appreciation. Before any email is sent out to students he vetted it. For emails detailing instructions to students, if omitted, he would include “Please”. “Please” is also a common occurrence in all his emails to us (subordinates), even when he assigns tasks to us and then he says “Thank you” and commended our efforts when we performed remarkably well. Working with Dorsey just got easier because you know you are appreciated.

Here was a leader with high emotional intelligence and recognized its place in increased employee productivity.

What boss stays back after an event to clean up the venue? Dorsey! Yes, he does that. Where supervisors feel a task is too inconsequential for their detailed attention, Dorsey didn’t watch from the distance. He took additional responsibilities. He earns your respect with his humility. He led by example.

Ms. Vera Nwobodo worked as Admin Assistant to Mr. Dorsey Spencer



AUN Academy students supported by their teachers, joined the rest of the world in demanding the release of the abducted Chibok school girls, during a campus-wide demonstration in April



Wife of President Paul Kagame of Rwanda (left) chats up President Margee Ensign during a recent launch of *Confronting Genocide in Rwanda: Dehumanization, Denial, and Strategies for Prevention*, a book co-edited by Dr. Ensign.

## Adamawa Media Executives Applaud AUN's Development Feats

AUN's pioneering strides in community development and tireless coordination of relevant local groups toward peaceful coexistence were hailed as a model for other universities at a pre-Commencement get-together organized by the Office of Communications and Public Relations, on May 5, at the AUN Hotel Conference Center and Spa.

The event was hosted by President Margee Ensign and had top management staff in attendance.

There were executives and practitioners from media outfits in Adamawa State, as well as officers responsible for media relations from the state command of the Nigeria Police Force and institutions of higher learning.

Mohammed Ahmed Falata from the Adamawa Broadcasting Corporation, ABC, Yola, while patting the AUN management on the back for numerous interventions in the local community, urged it to go one step further to create programs

in the local languages so its mission, vision, and projects, could be properly understood and owned by the beneficiaries. "There is need to emphasize this so that we can publicize AUN and our community can know how relevant AUN is."

Gotel Communications Managing Director/CEO, Mr. John Chiahemen, commended President Ensign and her team for "fostering the University's role in the community." He said that Gotel was collaborating actively with AUN in terms of programming, and noted that "we would take full advantage of the dynamic youths in the University to introduce more youth programs."

The Editor of The Scope, the state-owned newspaper, Mr. Shehu Aliyu, said he had watched AUN grow since inception in 2004. He stated that AUN students have impressed him with "their involvement in community activities" regardless of their background. He said such attitude and communal endeavor

would go a long way to boost the image of the University and the support the community has for it. "Their involvement would give them (the students) a different perception of life. I see this as very positive." He lauded AUN for prioritizing attention on its "peace concept" adding that, "work has a lot of impact and we were lucky to have exploited that angle; it has attracted attention."

Also, the Police Public Relations Officer, Adamawa State command, DSP Othman Abubakar, commended AUN for instilling good conduct in its students. "The police command has not received any case of students from AUN involved in any (negative) activity; just continue to partner with us," he said.

President Ensign tasked all journalists based in Adamawa State to help to promote the AUN mission and vision of partnering in the development of its immediate communities.

## 169 Graduate From Free ICT Training

Certificates have been presented to 169 youths who participated in AUN's free ICT training. The ceremony was featured in the maiden AUN-API International Peace & Development Conference. It took place at the Aliyu Musdafa Commencement Hall, witnessed by Conference participants and members of the Yola-Jimeta community to celebrate with those who successfully completed their ICT certification training at The African Center for ICT Training & Innovation (ACIT).

ICT training is a project of AUN's Peace Through Education initiative aimed at helping at-risk youths in Adamawa State. Some of the graduates from the training were parents and teenagers. One of the participants, Ms. Chima Waziri, 23, said the ICT program was challenging but she was able to flow with the training.

Muburaka Aliyu, 16, said he will

attend the College of Legal Studies after this training, and will encourage his peers in his community to enroll. The overall best student from the program, Mr. Tijjani Ahmadu Sanusi, 32, was awarded a scholarship to further his ICT training. He said he wanted more knowledge in ICT to help him impact his community as AUN did for him. Altogether, 20 participants were awarded scholarships to further their certification in Microsoft or CISCO.

The Coordinator of the Program, Dr. Fidelis Ndeh-Che, said, "The basic ICT training creates opportunity for young people and gives them exposure and financial liberty." He added that it was AUN students who developed the curriculum, which includes the use of Internet, Microsoft Word, MS Excel, Power Point, and use of computer. Later, the trainees were tested practically to observe if they acquired the proper knowledge before handing

out certificates.

One of the trainees who excelled from the exercise, Ms. Elizabeth Chikezie, who gave a speech on behalf of other graduands, thanked AUN-API for the opportunity to learn computer use.

On behalf of the API members, who took part in the training Imam Dauda Bello urged the graduands to be useful. He acknowledged the uniqueness in the ICT learning style where parents and children study together for the purpose of education. President Ensign urged the trainees to work hard in life and be committed to developing their immediate society. She reminded them that the AUN-API conference was set out to discuss peace in Nigeria and that the youths inspired them. Therefore, learning should be part of their lifelong goal, as the API members showed.

*By Nelly Ating*

## AUN, Community Leaders Explore Rehab for Almajiri Kids

In a bid to improve lives within its immediate surroundings, AUN racked up its social responsibility commitment one notch, following a meeting with Yola community leaders on April 17, 2014, to address the needs of the almajiri children in Yola streets. The almajiri are known for daily seeking alms and menial jobs for money from passersby.

The meeting involving management staff and faculty members, as well as community leaders, was convened at the instance of President Ensign. Leaders from two wards in the Yola area - Bole and Mbamba, visited AUN to discuss this issue, and how to assist the children, who are mainly from poor backgrounds, with education and agricultural

opportunities for their well-being.

Hajia Turai Kadir, Project Coordinator of the Center for Women and Adolescent Empowerment, said the strategy to integrate the kids into the planned program was laudable, and should also address their finances and health. The Secretary-General of the Adamawa Muslim Council, Imam Dauda Bello, said the focus should be on the vulnerable, who roamed the streets seeking food and shelter with no home to return to.

Community leaders present at the meeting included the District Heads of Mbamba, Mohammed Bashir; Njoboli, Malam Mohammadu Jinjir; Bole Ward Head, Abubakar Ahmed, and Head of Rugange community, Buba Yerima.

## Model UN Ambassadors in Proud Return

AUN's six student ambassadors in Professor Lucky Imade's Model UN class made a triumphant entry into Yola on April 20, with a rare honor from the National Model United Nations Conference (NMUN) in New York.

The conference brought more than 5,000 college and university students from six continents to New York City. The conference included 20 committees as well as two additional Security Councils. AUN was represented in one. Unlike the past, this year, AUN, representing the Russian Federation, used delegates from the University of Dallas, Texas, to fill some of the void in its committees.

At the close of four days of heated simulation, the AUN team comprising Head Delegate Fatima Abdullahi, Ms. Blessing Douglas, Mr. Eugene Uwiringiyimana, Mr. Kingsley Jima, Mr. Raiyan Abdulnasir, and Mr. Ebuka Ukoh was recognized as a Distinguished Delegation by NMUN for its outstanding performance while representing the Russian Federation.

Professor Imade's joy knew no bounds. "This is one of the best delegations ever assembled since my 20-year Model UN career. What sets this delegation apart is how the delegates applied Model UN theories to real world situation in, so to speak, a "Machiavelli style."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in his message, noted that this Model UN comes at a time of opportunity and risk for the human family. "We are the first generation that can end extreme poverty - yet people and the planet face the rising pressures of a warming climate, growing inequality and exploitation from mines to fields to factory floor. The UN works every day, around the clock, across the world, to confront today's emergencies while building foundations of peace for tomorrow. We are feeding the hungry, fighting disease, and pressing for a nuclear weapon-free world.

*Reported by Ebuka Ukoh, who was a delegate*

## International Undergraduate Scholars Competition Hosted at AUN

On Saturday, April 26, AUN hosted the International Undergraduate Scholars Competition featuring the International Linguistic Association, Jatropa Researchers, and Towards Organizing Urban Cycle for Health (TOUCH).

In attendance were President Ensign, faculty and staff members, and students who came out to support the three participating teams.

The aim of this competition was to encourage AUN students to participate in international scholarly engagements that highlight the vision of the University on the global stage. The TOUCH team represented AUN in Dubai; the Jatropa team did same in Washington, DC, while the ILA will

represent the University in Paris later in the year.

The ILA group, under the supervision of Professor Hannah Mugambi, had Hephzber Obiorah, Jane Okoli, and Johnpaul Offor. They researched on the effect of verbal abuse on the people of Njoboliyo Community in Adamawa State. The project aimed at educating the people of Njoboliyo community about the negative effects of verbal abuse and how they can be avoided.

The Jatropa Research team was more of a one-man squad under the supervision of Provost Charles Reith, and the speaker was Ibrahim Radda. He presented a paper on testing the efficacy of the Jatropa Curcas to

provide biodiesel, thus fostering development and poverty alleviation in Northern Nigeria.

The TOUCH team, under the supervision of Jelena Zivkovic, had Blessing Douglas, Ahmed Aliyu, and Lucy Okonkwo. The team defended its research about using social entrepreneurship in tackling communicable diseases in urban slums. Another idea was an outreach program for the aged to deal with their fear of death.

The TOUCH team received the N15, 000 star prize, followed by the Jatropa team which took home N10, 000 and the ILA team which received N5, 000 for taking the third position.

*Reported by Nelly Ating*

# Celebrities Rock AUN

Hospitality at AUN is not for academics, diplomats and the likes alone. Celebs too had their fair share of the AUN warmth in the quarter under review.

Iyanya arrived at AUN on a Friday in late March and had dinner with some diehard fans at the AUN Club--fans willing to pay extra money to hang out with the famed artiste.

The stage of the hall was a sight to behold, as it was nicely arranged to suit the occasion. Tickets were being sold at N2,000 some days before the event, and at N3,000 on the day of the event. Those who paid N5,000 were allowed to hang out with him on the concert eve. The party took off immediately after the concert with lots of drinks, music, and fun.

Other celebs who made it to the visitors' register were Richard Mofe-Damijo (RMD) of the Nollywood fame, Olakunle Soriyan, and Professor Osam Edim Temple. The threesome spoke at the "The Next-Level Summit of the Society for Ethics & Leadership (SEAL) on



Richard Mofe-Damijo

April 4, 2014. They used the theme, "Surviving the Times If Tomorrow Comes," to inspire the dynamic youths of AUN to excel in the face of odds.

Soriyan urged students to embrace huge projects and advised them not to rely on the education they had. "There is a level of ignorance beyond

the limits education can offer. What we need is a mental revolution, people who can look at the environment and tell us what to do...teach yourself by self-improvement and by observation."

Richard Mofe-Damijo, himself a role model to youth in Nigeria, affirmed that a transformation is needed. He added that that can only take place through the development of intellectual capacity. He noted that making a difference would mean bringing to the table what others can't. "We all have a responsibility," he said, as he enjoined all to join the "growing tribe" of young Nigerians who desire change. "In the next five years, Nigerians from the ranks of you all will be millionaires."

In his introductory remarks, the President of SEAL, Ebuka Ukoh, said the conference was aimed to trigger a thought revolution that will enable the people of 2055, 2065, and 2085 to find balance and peace in a special way.

*By Parambar Benson, a Communications & Multimedia Design major.*

Iyanya on stage



## PRESIDENT ENSIGN SPEAKS AT WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, TWO RWANDA CONFERENCES

President Ensign has represented AUN at three important international conferences recently. On May 8th in Abuja she was a panelist at the World Economic Forum session entitled “New Solutions: Rethinking Education”. The objective of this session was to answer a core question: “As Africa aims to move up the value chain, how will its education systems deliver a competitive academic workforce?” The panel, which included the Vice Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, Professor Max Price and the Founder and President of the University of the People, US, Dr. Shai Peshef, focused on innovative solutions and creative approaches. President Ensign spoke about three of AUN’s innovative programs: STELLAR, STEM, and Digital Sharing.

From July 1-3, President Ensign was in Rwanda as a keynote speaker for the International Conference on Democratic Governance in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. She spoke on performance-based governance and the Rwandan model of Imihigo. On July 2-3 she was a moderator for sessions at the Women in Parliament Summit that was organized jointly by the Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP) and the Parliament of Rwanda.



President Ensign (R) with other discussants at WEFA’s session on “New Solutions: Rethinking Education” in Abuja. L-R Dr. Peter Tufano, Dean, Said Business School, Oxford University, UK; Prof. Precious Kassy Garba, University of Ibadan; Prof Max Price, Vice Chancellor, University of Cape Town, South Africa, and Dr Shai Peshef, Founder/President, University of the People, USA

## AMB. FAY: LESSONS FOR NIGERIA FROM IRISH PEACE PROCESS

Nigeria can learn conflict resolution and peace building lessons from Northern Ireland, which emerged from decades of sectarian conflict and now enjoy a new lease of inter-community harmony.

The Irish Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Paddy Fay, who delivered a keynote speech at a dinner for delegates to the International Peace and Development Conference, hosted by AUN-API in Yola on June 11, noted that while both countries do not have exact conflict scenarios, there are basic lessons to be learned from the Northern Irish peace process by peacemakers in Nigeria.

“Conflicts differ, and so what worked for Northern Ireland may not work for Nigeria but there are lessons

to be learned,” Ambassador Fay said.

The diplomat took lessons from the 1998 Good Friday Peace Agreement that ended the 30-year Northern Ireland crisis. He spoke about the importance of leadership that includes the religious leaders, political leaders, and the civil society in conflict resolution. Religious leaders have an important role to play in dialogue and peace mediation, he submitted.

Ambassador Fay further explained the importance of time in conflict resolution. Drawing from a concept of the conflict resolution popular theory known as the Ripe Moment, he said there comes a moment in conflict when everything is just right, when a leader that can be trusted by all sides emerges and when neither

side was going to win militarily. At that moment, he said, the possibility of compromise from both sides is high because the time is ripe for peace.

He enjoined Nigerian leaders to also factor in non-military strategies like development, institutional reform, as well as improved security, in their anti-terrorism repertoire.

“In the end, negotiation solves the problem, not violence. As individuals, we need to understand and respect, have an open dialogue and cooperate with our security operatives to work on our peace process, he said.

Ambassador Fay encouraged delegates to persevere. “The road won’t always be smooth but just stick with it, at the end, you’ll win.”

*By Nelly Ating*