



MOUNTAIN TOP UNIVERSITY (MTU)

Kilometre 12, Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Prayer City, Ogun State

A monthly publication of the Editorial and Media Unit

MOUNTAIN TOP UNIVERSITY FINISHED SECOND AT THE AFRICA FINAL ROUND OF IBA, 2020

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Mountain Top University IBA Team :

L-R: Oladele-Taiwo Timilehin, Agbonjaru David, Onimisi Thankgod, Omishakin Solomon A, and Biodun-Herbert Adeyemi David

Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG).

Listed here are the total scores received by each of the seven finalists in the sub-regional round decided in Lagos on the 12th of March, 2020.

1. Mountain Top University - 248
2. Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University - 208
3. University of Lagos - 202
4. University of Nigeria Nsukka - 202
5. Obafemi Awolowo University - 152
6. Ekiti State University - 132
7. Federal University of Petroleum Resources - 101

Mountain Top University, Ibafo, Ogun State and Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Uli, Anambra State, having taken 1st and 2nd place respectively, progressed to the African Region Final stage along with Suez University, Egypt and Universite Kasdi Merbah Ouargla, Algeria, who emerged first and second respectively from the North African sub region.

The African Region Final was coordinated from Cairo, Egypt on the 29th of April 2020 through recorded video presentations, questions and answers by WebEx. The table below shows that Suez University, Egypt came 1st with 7 points ahead of Mountain Top University in 2nd position. It is noteworthy to mention that this is the first appearance at the IBA for Mountain Top University. It is expected that universities coming for the competition feature five students, out of which only two are expected to be undergraduates. However, MTU went with all their five-member team being undergraduate students in their 400 level. Undoubtedly, Geosciences Department, Mountain Top University has proven by this feat that they have what it takes to compete with their counterparts in other parts of the world. We give God all the glory. MTU – Empowered to Excel.

The last has not been heard about the Department of Geosciences and their winning beats. Some weeks ago, we brought you news that the department made the university proud by emerging first in the sub regional round of the ongoing 2020 edition of the Imperial Barrel Award (IBA), organised by the American

A Table Showing the Result of the IBA - Africa Final Stage

Finalist	JUDGE 1	JUDGE 2	JUDGE 3	JUDGE 4	TOTAL SCORE	POSITION
SUEZ UNIVERSITY	74	79	66	75	294	1st
MOUNTAIN TOP UNIVERSITY	72	73	69	73	287	2nd
UNIVERSITÉ KASDI MERBAH OUAR-GLA	73	66	65	72	276	3rd
CHUKWUEMEKA ODUMEGWU OJUKWU UNIVERSITY	75	63	56	61	255	4th

ONLINE CLASSES: QUALITY ASSURANCE PERSPECTIVE

Time and seasons come and go but the earth has continued to exist until such a time as our creator decides otherwise. The only thing that is constant in life is change. And as human beings, we are gifted with a special characteristics called ‘adaptability’. This helps us to adjust to changing times and seasons. The ability to cope with or manage an unexpected situation separates men from boys and truly defines an organisation that is focused and a leadership that is visionary. That is the story of Mountain Top University.

At the onset of the online classes about four weeks ago, due to closure of schools and restriction of vehicular and human movement within Ogun and Lagos States, as measures to stop the spread of COVID-19, there were a lot of doubts and concerns from various

quarters about its management, effectiveness and sustainability. As part of our efforts to chronicle our collective experiences at this period, we at the Editorial and Media Unit decided to present the experiences and perspectives of different sectors – Quality Assurance, Lecturers and Students – about the online classes.

In my quest to capture the experiences of the Quality Assurance (QA) team under the able Chairmanship of Dr Oladele John Akinyomi (Ag Dean, CHMS), I scheduled an online interview with him. Few minutes to our stipulated time, I gave him a call and I heard the most amazing thing since we started this online learning. He said he was driving to locate a spot with good internet reception around his neighbourhood. Dr Akinyomi made me understand that he had to leave his house in search of a loca-

tion with good internet reception in order to ensure he made our appointment and on time too. To me, that was inspiring – a pure show of humility, commitment and responsibility.

During our discussion, he explained that at the onset of the online classes, there were several hitches ranging from connection issues, low participation among students and lecturers, class control issues, data subscription issues among others. However, according to him, the issue of low student participation was addressed by asking the Heads of Department to link up with the class representatives in order to create Whatsapp groups for the various student levels and departments/programmes and it has really boosted students’ attendance to classes.

On the issue of network connectivity and data subscription, the

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Chairman QA explained that individuals had to sort out what worked for them. Some had to change their service provider, while others had to move to a different data plan with higher capacity. He agreed that there were challenges which included some of the issues already mentioned – data consumption, connectivity issues but the programme is marching forward strongly.

On the way forward, Dr Akinyomi

maintained that the online classes will continue pending when the lockdown is over and full academic activities resume on campus. He equally explained that practical classes are left out for now till the university resumes fully. For other lectures that are mainly theoretical, classes are expected to be in full gear and only revisions may be done before examinations, when the university resumes full operations.

The Chairman, Quality Assurance, expressed his appreciation to all staff who are taking part in the online classes, while hoping for the best.

We also say a big thank you Sir for the time and resources spent in granting us this interview. Let's all hope for a better outcome for our online classes.

WORDS ON MARBLES

“Jesus said unto him, if thou canst believe, ALL THINGS are POSSIBLE to him that believeth” - Mark 9:23 (KJV)

MTU VIRTUAL LEARNING: STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE

MTU virtual classes commenced on the 6th of April, 2020 and was heralded with mixed feelings and speculations from both academic staff and students on its workability, adaptability, and effectiveness.

Many MTU students welcomed the new development with jubilation and excitement, while others were speculating because of the anticipated problem. Three students were asked to share their experiences since the past four weeks and they have these to say...

"Most times, I am unable to hear clearly, no direct contact like it's done in physical class, network

failure, logging in and out can be a problem too because I get distracted. It's data consuming, no enough room for explanation and question. Specifically, not having direct contact with students and teachers is the core problem". 400 level CHMS student.

"It's data sucking. But that gives us an edge over other institutions that have not been able to utilize this opportunity. Moreover, I have gained a whole lot in this programme. I am also using this medium to suggest to the management if we can have the lectures in the evenings (6-7pm or 7-8pm)". 200 level CHMS student.

Another 400 level student com-

plained of network issues but appreciated the fact that the lecturers accommodate questions and answer promptly during classes. He also emphasized that he has gained a lot despite the network fluctuations and appealed to the management to see if there is anything that can be done to address the issue of network fluctuations.

The observations and comments made by the students attest to the fact that the school management has taken a very wise step by using online method of teaching to address the gaping issues confronting our educational system in this COVID-19 era.

ONLINE LECTURES: LECTURERS' TEACHING EXPERIENCES

The era of COVID-19 will be remembered for many years across the world. For many people, it leaves an unpleasant memory for causing death, anguish, global economic collapse, and many other forms of negativities. Indeed, it will be inappropriate to describe COVID-19 in any other way besides using negative expressions. However, amid all the negativities, there are reasons to smile because it has not been all doom and gloom for the era which already occupies a dark patch in global history.

In Nigeria, the outbreak of the dreaded virus inevitably witnessed a nation-wide lockdown that affected all aspects of our lives, crippled businesses, religious activities, and all institutions of learning. However, as the saying goes, necessity is the mother of invention. This accounts for the many ingenious schemes devised by humanity to ensure that life makes good progress in the face of the rampaging virus.

Following the outbreak of the virus, all universities in Nigeria were shut down, both private and public. Parents and all stakeholders in the education sector groaned over what they saw as blight in the academic progress of students. In the face of the malaise, Nigeria's minister for education directed all universities across the country to teach the students through online channels but unfortunately, not all universities could comply with the directive due to an acute lack of the necessary ICT facilities. How-

ever, a few universities, especially the upwardly mobile ones, were able to comply and Mountain Top University is one of them. Even before the directive from the education minister, the Vice-Chancellor of the Mountain Top University already gave the directive and with a world-class ICT facility, it was very easy and seamless to embark on the exercise. While students and lecturers have duly complied with the directive and enjoyed the experience, it has not been smooth sailing, given that there is no perfection within human order. A survey in Mountain Top University shows that 100% of lecturers in the university complied with the directive to teach the students through zoom online channel. However, while the exercise has been a success, these lecturers have also encountered problems and challenges in the discharge of their duties.

The first problem encountered by lecturers is the high cost of data to facilitate the lectures. The zoom channel through which the lectures are given is connected via the internet and requires internet data to run. Most lecturers in the university have lectures every day and each period can last up to 2 hours or more. In this way, a high volume of data is consumed during teaching. So far, lecturers have spent various sums of money in purchasing data, and considering that these expenses are unplanned, it becomes difficult for these lecturers to cope.

Another major challenge encountered by lecturers in the ongoing

online teaching is the availability of electricity. The erratic nature of power supply all over Nigeria is common knowledge. Owing to this, lecturers resort to the use of power generating sets with the attendant cost implications. It requires petrol and oil to power these generating sets and these cost money. Most times, even with the money, a lecturer may find it difficult to buy these items due to the nation-wide lockdown. In a situation like this, it becomes difficult to keep pace with the lectures, and sometimes, lectures were postponed as a result.

There is also the inevitable challenge posed by connection problems. Besides the epileptic and fluctuating services by Nigeria's telecommunication companies, most lecturers live in places where there are poor reception or no telecommunication connections. Some lecturers have had to walk or move some miles to a relation's or friend's house to have a good connection for teaching. These are the challenges that MTU lecturers have faced in the discharge of their duties (online lectures) during the COVID-19 era. While the last problem is beyond the purview of the university management or anybody for that matter, the first and second challenges can be looked into and some kind of support provided to the lecturers to take care of these challenges. This will help ensure sustainability and all round effectiveness of the online classes.

STAFF BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

DATE	NAME	DEPARTMENT/POSITION
May 2nd	Emmanuel Olufemi Oyewole	Registrar
May 2nd	Prof. (Mrs) Olubunmi Abiola Magbagbeolu	Biological Sciences
May 4th	Dr. Ayodamope Stephen Oluranti	Music
May 10th	Abimbola Abosede Joshua	Accounting and Finance
May 11th	Ikeoluwa Olanike Kolawole	Biological Sciences
May 12th	Dr Ibidapo Olawole Akinyemi	Computer Science & Mathematics
May 14th	Kayode Adeyemi Tijani	ICT
May 15th	Oluwayemisi Eunice Oloyede	Library
May 17th	Dr Nelly Acha Ndukwe	Chemical Sciences
May 20th	Olajire Samson Olanrere	Chemical Sciences
May 20th	Taiwo Foluke Akinyaju	Biological Sciences
May 21st	Alexander Enebi Attah	Business Administration
May 28th	Dr Promise Okeadigwu Adiele	Languages
May 28th	Dr Funmilayo Abibat Kasali	Computer Science and Mathematics
May 30th	Afolabi Owolabi Ishola	Human Resources
May 31st	Anthony Isreal	Registry

OUR MISSION

The mission of Mountain Top University is the provision of excellent facilities for the training of

men and women in various academic, professional and vocational disciplines in an atmosphere that will enhance the simultaneous development of their spiritual, mental and physical faculties, in order to produce morally upright and academically sound graduates with specialised skills and value systems, who will be independent, invariably self-employable and who will be able to impact positively on the development (be it in leadership, academic, public and the industrial sectors) of their communities, the Nigerian society and the global community at large

OUR VISION

The Mountain Top University is envisioned as a dynamic centre of academic excellence in the liberal tradition for the production of top-rate, morally sound graduates of distinctions who will be globally competitive for outstanding impact on the Nigerian societal and global development.

CORE VALUES

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Skill

EDITORIAL AND MEDIA UNIT MEMBERS

- Dr. (Mrs) Chinyere A. Mbaka (Chairperson)
- Dr. (Mrs) Tolulope O. Oladejo
- Dr. Olusegun I. Ogunsuyi
- Dr. Promise O. Adiele