



MOUNTAIN TOP UNIVERSITY (MTU)

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

A monthly publication of the Editorial and Media Unit

MTU HOLDS HER FIRST VIRTUAL MID-SEMESTER TESTS SUCCESSFULLY

The stories behind the scene

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We are all aware that the mid-semester tests for the second semester, 2019/2020 academic session took place from the 13th to 26th of June, 2020. The tests were conducted online due to

the COVID-19 induced forced closure of all universities in the country. It was the first time the University conducted tests virtually. Amidst the cheers from different quarters that greeted the success of the tests, it is also time for introspection. This piece attempts to chronicle the activities that led to the successful conduct of the first mid-semester test – the planning, the coordination, the challenges, and prospects for future tests. The opinions of various key players who were instrumental to the success of the virtual test were sampled and are presented below.

Dr Ibidapo O. Akinyemi - Ag. Head, Computer Science and Mathematics

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Elijah Ayolabi, discussed the idea of the Online Test with the Head of the Department of Computer Science and Mathematics, Dr Ibidapo O. Olawole. Consequent upon this, a pilot test was conducted using CSC 204 (Foundation of Sequential Programming) on Tuesday, 12th May 2020 at noon to demonstrate the possibility of the Online Test. This was monitored by Mr Jeremiah A. Balogun, Dr Ibidapo O. Akinyemi and the Vice-Chancellor. The Online Test was conducted via the use of the Google Forms as a Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) format consisting of 30 questions, scheduled to hold for 15 minutes. The students received notification for

the test from Google Classroom via their official e-mail addresses which directed them to the Google Form where their respective Tests were done and submitted upon completion. The invigilation was conducted

“...MTU has significantly led other Universities in Nigeria in the use of online tools for lectures. Also, MTU has successfully used the same online platform to assess students, though not without challenges. The challenges were strategically handled by our Vice-Chancellor and his team.”

-Ag Dean, Students' Affairs

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ed via the use of the zoom software through which students were monitored via the video-feed provided by their webcam. The students' microphones were turned off to maintain decorum while important information and notices were given via the chat sessions.

Having admitted the performance of the pilot test satisfactory by the Vice-Chancellor, an agreement was reached that the first online test should be conducted for students' assessment in MTU. On this note, the Vice-Chancellor directed the Head of the Department of Computer Science and Mathematics to organize training for all academic staff on the appreciation of Google Classroom and Google Form. The training was conducted for all academic staff on Monday 18th 2020 and anchored by Mr Jeremiah Balogun. Necessary skills needed to create Google Forms for assessment and schedules via Google Classroom were taught.

After the training, the first online test assessment began on 13th June 2020 with the University general courses. The Head of the Department of Computer Science and Mathematics coordinated all the courses in his Department and equally served as a member of the monitoring team for the conduct of the entire online tests. At the Department of Computer Science and Mathematics, the HOD delegated Dr F. A. Kasali and Mr J. A. Balogun to prepare the Online Test forms and schedules for all the Computer Science courses while Dr M. O. Adewole handled

Mathematics courses with the assistance of Mr A. Onifade and Mr M. O. Okone.

Interestingly, the entire team of the Department of Computer Science and Mathematics also acted as members of the Online Test monitoring team to ensure smooth conduct across all departments in the two Colleges. To the glory of God, the Online Test I scheduled for the second semester, 2019/2020 academic session was a success. Being the first time, there were some hitches such as network connectivity challenges hindering some students and staff at certain times, epileptic power supply which affected quite a lot of the academic staff who worked to put all the courses on Google form, among others.

To overcome these challenges, proper measures should be taken to ensure that all students join the zoom platform for adequate monitoring and more staff should also join the quality assurance team in monitoring the courses and take proper attendance to checkmate zoom defaulters. Lecturers still need more training on how to use the google form and google classroom for the conduct of online tests. They should also do the needful to put their questions in the google form and add their HODs as collaborators for effective editing and scheduling on google classroom.

Dr Oluranti – Sub-Dean, CHMS

As the Sub-Dean for CHMS, I anchored the mid-semester online test for CHMS together with the VC, CHMS Dean, and HODs. Pre-test

activities included two major steps:

1.) Scheduling the actual Computer-Based Tests (CBT) via Google Classroom and sending the invitation to students to take the CBT. This was carried out by the back-end office of the VC.

2.) Scheduling virtual test attendance through ZOOM to facilitate monitoring and verification of students' identity.

While the back-end office of the VC was responsible for the first step, I was responsible for the second step for all CHMS CBTs. Having harvested CBT information (number of test candidates, the time required for the test, course lecturer(s) et al) from HODs, ZOOM invitations were generated for individual tests and disseminated through the office of the DSA to students and HODs and course lecturers. While I hosted all CBTs on ZOOM, the Dean and the HODs/course lecturers of courses joined to monitor and verify students' identity.

Being the first MTU virtual-test for students, a handful of challenges were encountered. Some of the problems were solved hands-on as I served as the 'hub' for CHMS to whom HODs and course lecturers made prompt reports of issues to. These reports were directed to the Dean and the VC's back office for a quick resolution. The major challenges encountered include the following:

1.) Internet network issues for both academic staff and students,

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making access to Google Classroom and ZOOM difficult.

2.) There were end-user problems with some students in terms of familiarity (using laptops or mobile phone) with the software-based testing through Google Classroom and ZOOM.

3.) The inability of the ICT in-house software, Premier, to generate course enrolment information with students' e-mails in one database query. The list of ALL registered students per course was more or less generated 'manually' with requests to HODs and Course lecturers to source enrolment information for students electing a course or carrying over a course. As a result, some students were not captured and did not receive a test invitation.

While the testing system is at the mercy of ISPs for internet access, the VC has endorsed training for students to be well-trained to use the online testing system. ICT has taken pro-active steps to expand the functionality of the in-house software.

Dr Olanipekun Ojo – Acting Head, Business Administration.

The 2019/2020 second semester continuous assessment Test 1 slated for June 13th-June 26th, 2020 has come and gone and it was successful. To God be the glory!

However, it is important to have a post-mortem review of this nascent experience in the following phases:

Contribution: I joined others to

set MCQ questions for all my courses. Questions from the academic staff (full time & Adjuncts) in my department were also coordinated, vetted, and sent to the VC's office. Questions were either isolated or appropriately tagged for clarity and smoothness of pooling in cases where we had participants across levels/departments or programmes as the case may be. Earlier on, with the support of ICT, I gathered all the names and e-mail addresses of all the students in my department. This was deployed accordingly to provide test invitation details when required.

Thereafter, I got involved in daily online zoom invitation sharing, invigilation, and reporting. I not only made an appearance for my courses but ALL courses in my department. We equally took time to report issues, complaints, and petitions passed through the HOD to the Sub-Dean. With the above modest roles, I contributed to the success of Test 1.

Challenges:

- ◆ Inadequacy of tools – i.e telephones with limited operating system/non Android
- ◆ Inadequately secured examination environment, 'SEE'. – Necessary to guarantee visible self-discipline on the part of the students
- ◆ Unfamiliarity with device use. This was noticed on both ends (Lecturers/Students)
- ◆ Technical issues – camera monitoring, submission timing
- ◆ Data access: accessibility to data by the generality of students

Overall Assessment and the Way Forward:

My overall experience and assessment of Test 1 were simply insightful and awesome. I must confess that the associated excitement attached to online novelty and flexibility was not limited to the students alone. As a lecturer, I shared it. It was simply encouraging and brought some fun to the learning curve. Thumbs up to MTU Management for this giant stride. Nothing is more commendable! All said and done, there are more benefits than obstacles. But as always, there will always be room for improvements.

Let us improve on our 'SEE' i.e. having a Secure Examination Environment. It is critical to enforce Zoom attendance. At some stage during the last test exercise, some students realized that they didn't have to come on zoom to write their tests. In some instances, they did not bother to reconnect when timed out before the end of the test. Put differently, some students wrote their tests without supervision. This explains why the 15-minute max limit remains a changer to forestall indiscipline.

- Management can look at the possibility of providing data for the generality of students for the period of the test. It promises to be a big relief to take this huge responsibility off the students' neck. There were instances whereby students ran out of data just at the point of submission.
- I recommend that we carry out

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a perception survey on our students so that we can pick lessons from their perspective.

- Training and more training for lecturers to further enhance our becoming e-tutors.
- Support, however defined, should be provided for lecturers at the preparation as well as the executive stage.
- Support, but this time around, technical support should be provided for students throughout the test period. Emphasis should be on devices and timing.

Dr Moses Abiala – Acting Dean, Students' Affairs

Towards the end of March this year and up till now, Nigeria's educational system has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, some Nigerian Universities continued their academic activities and Mountain Top University was one of them. Under the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Elijah Ayolabi, the university embraced the online lecture approach. The MTU Mass Communication and Music Departments created jingles to keep the students, parents, and the world at large aware of Covid-19 preventive strategies through maintaining a hygienic lifestyle. Also, the MTU Telegram was continuously used to communicate and update both students and parents on online lectures.

To the glory of God, MTU has led other Universities in Nigeria in the use of online tools for lectures.

Also, MTU has successfully used the same online platform to assess students, though not without challenges. The challenges were handled by the Vice-Chancellor and his team. To maintain quality assurance and respond to the challenges, the VC, on daily basis, monitored the online lectures and provided solutions to issues faced by students.

The fact remains that we do not want our students to spend a longer time than necessary on their academic programme due to Covid-19. During the lockdown, messages were sent to students on scholarships, essay competitions, and other awards. I am happy to announce that some of our students have won various awards from different organizations. Specifically, one of them was selected by the World Literacy Foundation, an organization in Melbourne, Australia, as an ambassador of education.

Finally, I wish to tell all Nigerian students, especially MTU students, to utilize this COVID-19 lockdown to add value to themselves academically, morally, spiritually, and socially. Thank you.

Mrs Soyinka – Head, Monitoring Team for COVID-19 Online Classes

My contribution: The Mid-Semester Test commenced on Saturday, 13th June 2020. My team, Monitoring Team worked behind the scene to facilitate the administration of the test alongside ICT, Computer Science staff and lectur-

ers-in-charge. We checked and properly verified the identity of students using their students' ID card. Anomalies, unusual occurrences, and problems observed were reported with suggested solutions. A major part of what the Monitoring Team did was to monitor students during the test period, watching out for unusual behaviour and cheating.

My Overall Experience and the Challenges: I am convinced that the Test was generally successful. Of course, there were hitches at the beginning which was understandable being the University's first attempt at conducting an online test, but the challenges were quickly resolved. Most of the challenges observed were technical. The students were quick to adapt to writing tests in a virtual environment, hence, the majority were observed to be co-operative. I think that we will achieve more if we can synchronize the back end with the virtual test centres.

The Way forward: I will say we should keep evolving. The conduct of real-time test and examination online is relatively new. So apart from learning from others who have also done it before, a major way forward is to evaluate and assess the Mid-Semester Test using different measurable parameters. The result can guide decisions with regards to the conduct of future tests and possibly online examinations.

GETTING MORE THAN EXPECTED

Text: 2 Kings 4: 1-7.

References: JOHN 16:33, 1 COR.15:58, 1 COR.1:27.

Praise the Lord! What we are considering here is the expectation of anyone who delights in fortune and appreciates answers to fervent prayers. It is the testimony of a heart that desires breakthroughs. Getting more than expected is the expression of what is popularly referred to as a breakthrough. The famous story that we read in the text is very interesting. The widow had challenges, sought a solution, received divine instructions, carried out the instructions, and finally got a fantastic result.

This is a symbolic representation of a believer's life. The journey of life is full of ups and downs. The Lord has revealed Himself by telling us that in life, we shall have tribulations but we should be cheerful for he has overcome the world for us. The widow in the text sought a solution to her problems via her spiritual father, the mentor of her late husband. Thank God for her life. Many would have changed their faith after the demise of their spouses or broken away at the time of challenges but the woman remained faithful, loyal, and committed to serving the God of her husband. Hence, 1 Cor.15:58. She acted according to the scripture in Matt.7:7.

The prophet inquired from her 'what do you have in the house?' she said "nothing except a pot of oil". She never thought that the little oil could bring solutions to the problem threatening her household. The man of God gave an instruction (verses 3&4) and the woman obeyed. Something transformed the little drops of oil into an ocean of wealth. What is that? Obedience! Prompt obedience to God is the true foundation of divine prosperity.

Let me ask you - what is that thing in your life that you never considered as a great instrument? What is that gift in you crying for expression? What talent in you is left untapped? What natural endowment in you is yet to be developed? What skills in you have you despised? Listen to me; you might not be aware that you carry a gold mine! Don't blame yourself though, God asked Moses "what is in thy hand"? Moses said "a rod". Who would have believed that a shepherd's rod would eventually become a fountain of signs and wonders? Surely, God uses foolish things of this world to confound the wise (1 Cor.1:27). I decree into your life today that, every good thing deposited in your life to bring about divine transformation shall find expression in the mighty name of Je-

sus! The woman obeyed and with her sons carried out the prophetic instructions. All the borrowed vessels were filled. Testimony followed. I know you will wish the same opportunity for yourself. The one who brought about the filling of those vessels is here. He is the same that multiplied the five loaves of bread and two fishes to feed over five thousand people. The vessels symbolically represent people that you positively impact in life. As many as you come across in life and willingly impact positively, your kind acts will automatically lead to your enlargement. Don't forget, success is not measured by accumulation but by contribution.

Summarily, to get more than expected in life, pay attention to these: 1. Surrender your life to Jesus. 2. Be regenerated and possess the mind of Christ. 3. Be addicted to praises and study the word of God. 4. Pray that your hidden/latent gifts and talents should all manifest. 5. Purge yourself of selfishness and go out to impact lives. 6. Live a holy life and remain connected. 7. Pray always.

Thank you and God bless.

Pastor Olumide Adesina

AMAECHI, A MICROBIOLOGY STUDENT OF MTU WINS DOUBLE

Victoria Chinenyenwa Amaechi, a 200 level Microbiology student of our great institution has made her friends, family and the university proud by winning the 20GB Data Challenge organized by CampusLab Nigeria. She also went ahead to clinch the coveted honour of an Ambassador of the World Literacy Foundation (WLF).

The 20GB Data challenge was announced by the CampusLabs Nigeria (a community college where a community of entrepreneurs on Nigerian campuses are built) in May, 2020. The aim was to award 100 Nigerian undergraduates with 20GB data to encourage them to continue improving themselves through constant learning in the Covid-19 lockdown period. The only requirement was a one-minute video describing how you will best apply this data to improve your learning from home.

Explaining how she emerged as one of the winners, Amaechi said, "I uploaded my video stating how the data will enhance my participation in the online classes organized by my university. My video was assessed and I was one of winners of the 20GB data challenge".



Victoria AMAECHI, 200L Microbiology student, Mountain Top University

In another wonderful moment, Amaechi was successfully appointed in June 22, 2020 as one of the Ambassadors of World Literacy Foundation (WLF) all over the world. World Literacy Foundation is a global not-for profit organization that promotes education as a basic human right and works to lift young people out of poverty through literacy. It was founded in Melbourne, Australia in 2003 by Andrew Kay. Their motto is: Knowing how to read and write can break the cycle of poverty.

Every year, applications are open for interested persons who are passionate about education and desire to advocate for literacy wherever they find themselves. The Ambassadors of the WLF are expected to



create an awareness of the importance of education and literacy as a way out of poverty. They are also expected to encourage people to contribute financially to the promotion of education through the WLF website (www.worldliteracyfoundation.org/donate/)

www.aprendeleyendo.com)

Amaechi summed her excitement at the double awards in these words:

"I was so delighted when I got the 20GB data. It encouraged me more in my search for more information on the internet which helped me to participate fully in the online classes and do my assignments. It also eased the financial burden of buying data for my parents. Becoming an ambassador of the World literacy foundation is considered a rare privilege by me. It has evoked in me a burning desire to advocate for literacy by taking advantage of the social media platform to emphasize the need of education and literacy in our society. I have also decided to practically contribute to the develop-

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ment of education especially among the less privileged. I hope to achieve this by donating free exercise books, novels and textbooks to pupils and students es-

pecially those in the Public schools and Rural areas. Any assistance from interested persons and organizations towards the achievement of my goal will be

highly appreciated”.

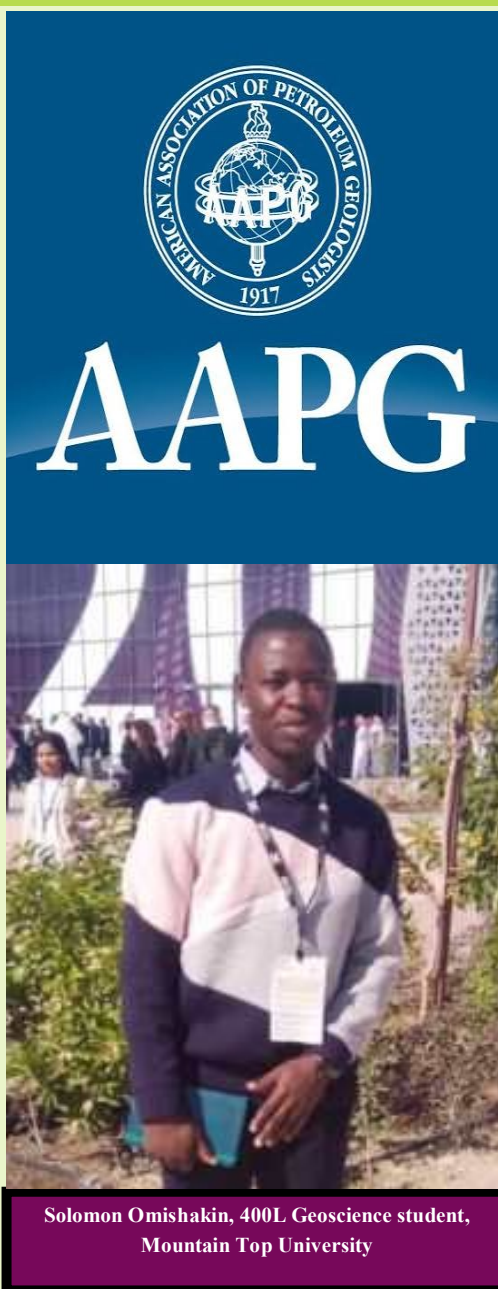
We congratulate and wish her well in her future endeavours.

OMISHAKIN WINS THE AAPG 2020 L. AUSTIN WEEKS' UNDERGRADUATE GRANT

- another colourful feather to MTU Geosciences Department's Hat

A final year student in the Department of Geosciences, Mountain Top University, Solomon Omishakin has made it as one of the recipients of the AAPG 2020 L. Austin Weeks' Undergraduate Grant. This grant is one of the most sought after by Undergraduate Geosciences students around the world, thus making it quite competitive.

The AAPG Foundation's L. Austin Weeks' Undergraduate Grant program annually awards deserving undergraduate level Geosciences students and student-led Geosciences associations with \$500 grants. Over \$85,000 is granted in funds to Geosciences students and student associations annually. The selection is primarily based on the ingenuity of the application which is what is expressed in the "Intended Use" section of the application. Other factors considered are grades and also quality of reference letters amongst other things.



Solomon Omishakin, 400L Geoscience student, Mountain Top University

Omishakin was able to secure this same grant for the Mountain Top University Geosciences Students'

Society in 2018. His application for 2019 was late and so was denied. For this year's application, he did his homework well and it paid off to the Glory of God. Talk of resilience and consistency. It is on record that Mr Solomon Omishakin is not new to the world of awards/grants. Mid-January this year 2020, he attended the International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC) in Saudi Arabia, fully sponsored by AAPG/SEG/SPE.

Expressing his joy and excitement over the recent grant, Solomon shared a reply he got on a LinkedIn post he made about the grant. The comment was from Mr. Jonathan P. Allen, one of the reviewers of the Grant applications. He said, "Congrats Solomon! As a reviewer for these grants, I'll offer that the high quality of your application was what resulted in you receiving one of the grants. Great job!". Solomon acknowledges that he did not achieve this feat on his

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own alone but with the help and support of his lecturers and class mates. He says a big thank you to Professor Elijah Ayolabi who, in his words, “is ever willing to support at every time. I even remember when he will be sending mails to remind me and my colleagues about applying for the Grant on time. And I will like to reiterate that cou-

pled with his renowned personality in the Geosciences field, the quality of his recommendation letters are second to none”.

In his closing statement, Omishakin revealed to us that the grant will be used to fund his research project which is in the engineering Geosciences as he stated in the Intended Use on the Grant application. He concluded

with the famous quote, "You can be anything you want to be irrespective of colour, gender or geographical location, as long as you have passion and determination. It has worked for me and I think it will work for anyone else”.

What more can we say? Congratulations Solomon.

ELSEVIER HOLDS A POWERFUL WEBINAR IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MOUNTAIN TOP UNIVERSITY

Elsevier, in partnership with Mountain Top University, held its first ever webinar in the field of Geosciences titled “Supporting Geological Research and Education using Geofacets”. The webinar took place on the 30th of June and was chaired by the Vice Chancellor of Mountain Top University, Prof. Elijah Ayolabi.

Elsevier is one of the largest publishers of scientific, technical and medical content in the world today. They developed a software for geoscientists called Geofacets, one of the largest, most comprehensive online solution designed for geoscientists to navigate their intricate world virtually. The essence of the webinar was to teach researchers and students on how to use Geofacets to support geo-

logical research and education.

The webinar was well attended by staff and students of Mountain Top University and other participants from around the world. In his welcome note, Prof. Ayolabi noted the current mass move towards virtual learning and research in the world today. He noted that the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic has made this trend even more obvious and necessary for the survival of all sectors of the society at this time. He said, “in order to survive the pandemic, the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) applications and gadgets came in handy and online schooling, online transactions and e-governance became the new normal. That has since redefined how things are done in the world going forward”.

One of the participants at the webi-

nar, Dr John Stephen Kayode, who hooked on from Malaysia has these kind words to say, “I want to congratulate Prof. E.A. Ayolabi, VC, MTU, for hosting this great presentation today. I hooked on from Malaysia and I’m so excited and impressed, seeing this first of its kind presentation coming from a very young University like MTU. Please keep the tempo going as the light must not go dim”. I am sure that many other participants at the webinar felt the same way and took some lessons home to further their learning and research in the field of Geosciences.

The webinar was indeed a huge success and another mile stone in the success story of Mountain Top University.

TITBITS**WORDS ON
MARBLE**

*“My people
are destroyed
for lack of
knowledge”
Hosea 4:6a
(KJV)*

*“The greatest
tragedy in life
is not death,
but a life
without a
purpose”
- Myles
Munroe*

From the Vice— Chancellor’s office

- ♦ We are getting ready for the second test
- ♦ Training on Google and LMS continues
- ♦ Online workshop for ICT staff by Association Of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU) to take place
- ♦ Online workshop on quality assurance by Association of African Universities (AAU) to take place
- ♦ We are getting ready for possible resumption
- ♦ Online lectures continue

From the Registrar’s office

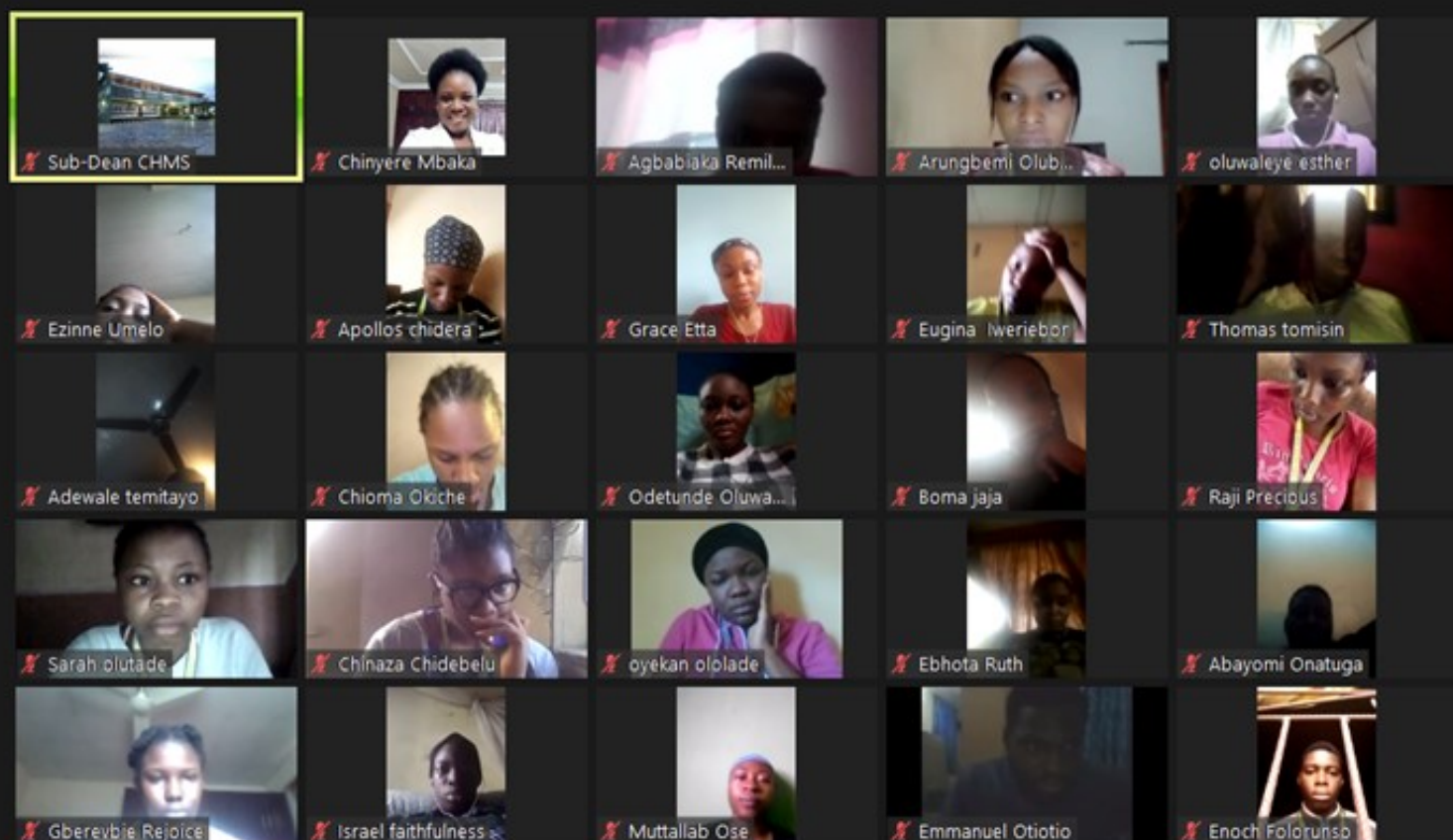
- ♦ Principal officers in the university resumed duties on May 11th 2020.
- ♦ Registry staff and Students’ Affairs Unit continue to give counsel to students about their online academic activities.
- ♦ Academic Affairs Unit of the Registry continues to support Quality Assurance Committee to monitor online classes and Tests.
- ♦ Corporate prayer for the safety of the university and the country from COVID-19 to commence in July, 2020.

PHOTO NEWS



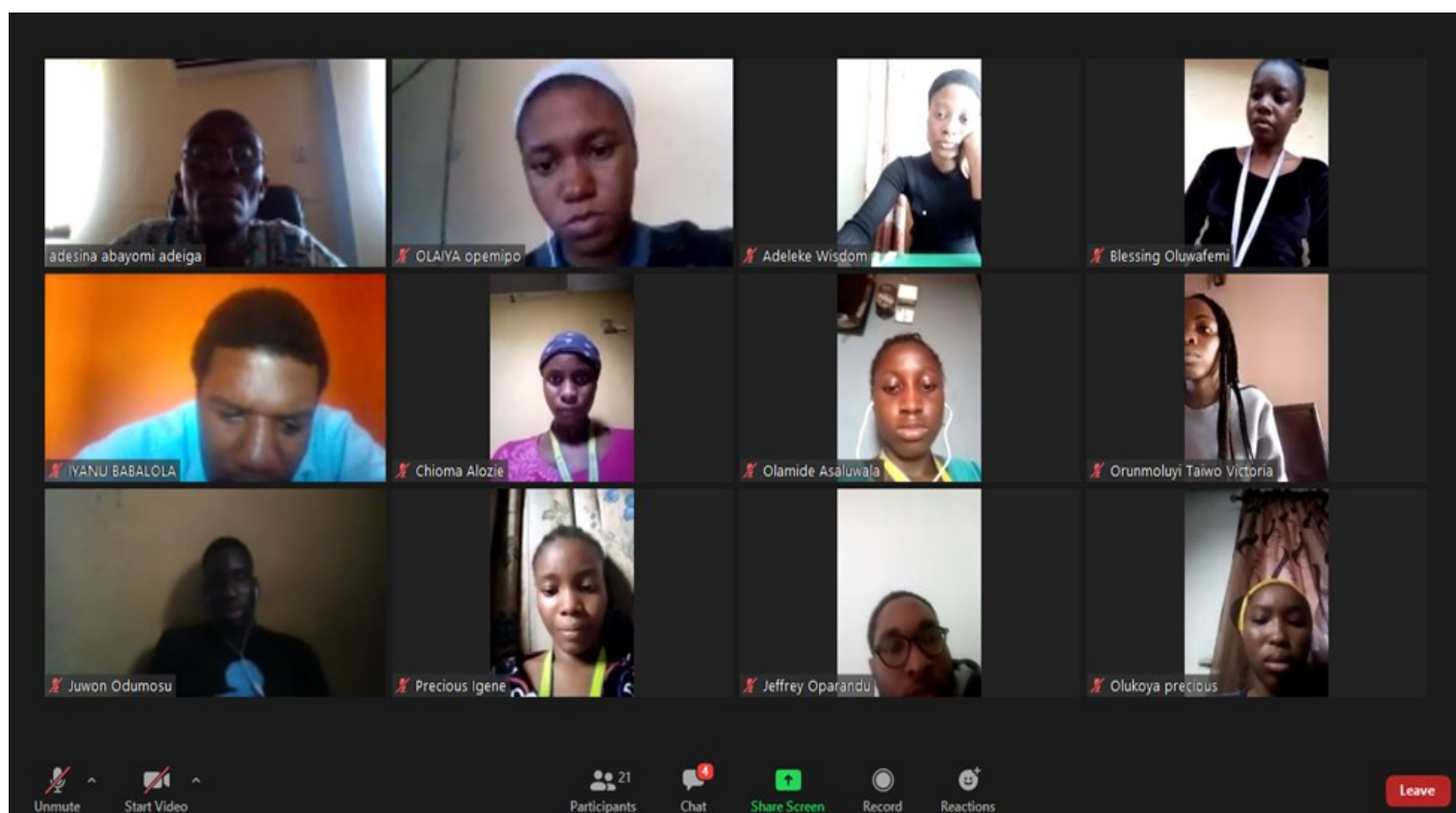
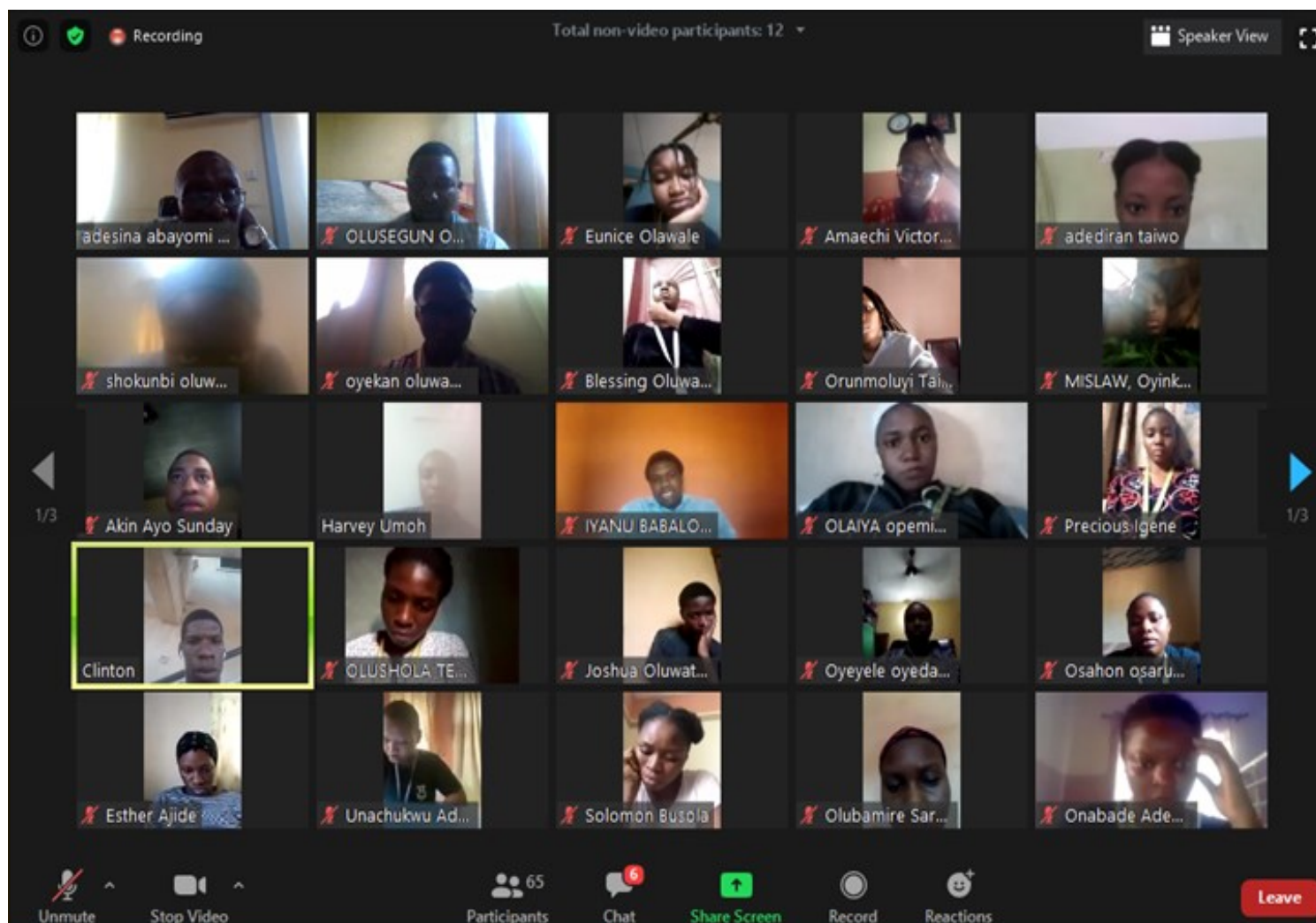
MTU ONLINE MID -SEMESTER TEST IN PICTURE

EMPOWERED TO EXCEL!



MTU ONLINE MID - SEMESTER TEST IN PICTURE

EMPOWERED TO EXCEL!



MTU ONLINE MID - SEMESTER TEST IN PICTURE

EMPOWERED TO EXCEL!

STAFF BIRTHDAYS FOR JULY

| DATE | NAME | DEPARTMENT/POSITION |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| July 1 st | Oluwabori Emmanuel Ojo | Students' Affairs |
| July 1 st | Abimbola Toyin Joda | Registry/CHMS |
| July 2 nd | Olumide Michael Tanimowo | Chaplaincy |
| July 3 rd | Olugbemiga Akinkunle Akindeji | ICT |
| July 5 th | Michael Olajide Okunubi | Geosciences |
| July 6 th | Dr Patience Ajirioghene Erigbe | Business Administration |
| July 6 th | Wilson Omoniyi | Registry |
| July 7 th | Dr Mufutau Oluwakemi Oriola | Mass Communication |
| July 8 th | Dr. Opeyemi Oluwayemisi Ayodele | Biological Sciences |
| July 16 th | Tolulope Posi Hunkuten | Students' Affairs |
| July 17 th | Dr Kenneth Udeh | Mass Communication |
| July 27 th | Modupe Deborah Amidu | Food Science and Technology |
| July 29 th | Tosin Segun Ogunbiyi | Biological Sciences |
| July 29 th | Mary Adeyinka Osagie | Biological Sciences |
| July 30 th | Olufunmilayo Folasade Ademola | Students' Affairs |

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| | OUR MISSION | |
| OUR VISION | <i>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</i> | CORE VALUES • Excellence • Integrity • Skill |
| <i>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.</i> | | EDITORIAL AND MEDIA UNIT MEMBERS • Dr. (Mrs) Chinyere A. Mbaka (Chairperson) • Dr. (Mrs) Tolulope O. Oladejo • Dr. Olusegun I. Ogunsuyi • Dr. Promise O. Adiele |