

This Miracle called Godfrey Okoye University (Go University)!

(A Speech by the Vice Chancellor of Godfrey Okoye University on the First Foundation Day of the University, October 21, 2010)

Very Rev. Fr. Prof. Christian Anieke

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Governing Council, the Senate, the staff and students of Godfrey Okoye University, I would like to welcome you to the first Foundation Day of the miracle we have named "Godfrey Okoye University".

It may be quite unsettling to some scholars to hear the word "miracle" in relation to a university. The choice of this word is deliberate since I have no better way of describing the most fascinating phenomenon of our time. Miraculous is the birth of this university and even more miraculous is its jet-speed growth! Little wonder it is called GO University, a university that understands movement, going, as an essential ingredient of life. So you may now understand why there is always something going on at GO University!

In the last one year I can tell you there is so much to be said in so short a time about so young a university!

Academic Activities

This University, even without being listed in the official JAMB brochure of last year, took off with a total of 215 students, selected after a rigorous screening process. These pioneer students of GO University have already completed one year and are now in the second year. From the number of candidates applying to get admission into this university, I have no doubt that every available space allocated by the NUC to the university will be filled up. I think our people are beginning to realise that there is a place somewhere east of the Niger where a lot is going on in academia: GO University!

One fascinating thing about this university is not so much the number of students in so short a time as the quality of education and research in the university. With 23 professors and 18 senior lecturers, with a total of 64 members of the academic staff, our students are taught by the best brains you have in this part of the world. Besides, on the staff of the university are three former vice chancellors and five adjunct professors from universities in Europe. One interesting feature of GO University is that even those who are deeply involved in administration and funding also deliver lectures in their areas of competence, including the Vice Chancellor, the Registrar, the University Librarian, the Pro Chancellor and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. This innovation agrees with our philosophy of dialogue.

One thing that is unique about GO University is that in addition to the normal degree programme, every student of the university is expected to pass the seven modules of

ECDL/ICDL, an international examination in computer competence. So far this examination is being conducted by one of our partner universities in Austria under the supervision of an Austrian professor of Computer Science (Prof. Alois Bachinger). Plans to make our university a Nigerian centre for this examination have reached an advanced stage. Besides, in order to pass this examination which makes one computer literate, in the real sense of the word, it is obligatory for students of the university to have their personal computers. No student will graduate from this university without being computer literate and we will ask for the evidence of computer literacy; we will ask our usual question: where is the..... ?

Furthermore, we and our partner universities in Austria, in collaboration with the Austrian Government, are working hard to ensure that our university is free from the virus of slow internet services we have in this country. We hope that before the end of next year we will have the kind of internet services that are worlds apart from what we have now, so that it will be known that GO University, true to its name, has the fastest internet in Nigeria.

Research Activities

The University is involved in the following research activities:

- Biological Sciences: under the leadership of Miss Christine Ifediba, the Department of Biological Sciences with Mrs Ngozi Ndu-Nwagu as Head, is doing research on snails with much success. Miss. Ifediba has already received several awards for her project.
- Sociology: under the guidance of Rev. Sr. Dr. M. Gloria Njoku the following research projects are in progress: treatment satisfaction and health outcomes; psychology of Nigerians;' health assessment and social responsibility. Under Dr. Innocent Uzoechi a project on the history of the Institute of Ecumenical Education is rolling on.
- Chemical Sciences: A research project on "Comparative Study of the Body Mass Index of Nigeria Rural and Urban Populations" under the research leadership of Mr. R.N. Tagbo is under way

In 2009 Dr. Ndidi Ozofor of Mathematics/Computer Science Department received an award as the best teacher of Mathematics in Nigeria.

International Conferences being Organised by the University

2011: International Conference on Biotechnology under the chairmanship of Prof Emmanuel Adinna

2012: International Conference on Postcolonial Literature under the chairmanship of Rev. Prof Christian Anieke and Prof Wolfgang Zach of the University of Innsbruck

Partner universities

Our university is in partnership with the following universities:

- ◆◆◆ Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria
- ◆◆◆ University of Innsbruck, Austria
- ◆◆◆ University College of Education, Linz, Austria
- ◆◆◆ Birmingham State University, UK
- ◆◆◆ Benedictine University, USA
- */* University of Muenster, Germany
- ◆◆◆ Kepler University Linz, Austria
- ◆◆◆ Gustave Siwerth – Akademie, Germany

In the last one year the university has played host to many international scholars, including the famous Professor of Nuclear Medicine, Prof Irene Virgolini, from the Medical University of Innsbruck. I have no doubt that with the kind of exposure that our students and lecturers have, they will continue to aim at being part of global players, not just local champions. Also I have no doubt that carried on the wings of GO University, my professors and students will sell in the international market.

Projects

In the last one year, we have carried out and completed the following projects:

1. Permanent site of GO-University at Ugwuomu

- One faculty building with ten offices and two lecture halls and a library
- One Dean's Office with a conference hall
- Two students' hostels
- Two main gates with two reception halls
- 30 hectares of University Farm planted with pineapples, maize, cassava, including three big poultries, a snailery and a piggery
- Installation of 500 KVA transformer
- A Community Health Centre at Ugwuomu (with the initiative of Rev. Sr. Dr. Gloria Njoku)

Still in progress are: the administrative block, roads, water, canals and Glo-mobile telephone masts

2. Temporary site of the University:

- 3 academic blocks with 14 lecture halls/rooms and 20 staff offices
- Redesigning of the university entrance gate with walkways
- 3 female hostels with 120 self-contained rooms
- Well furnished offices with computers for the academic and non-academic staff
- Internet access in offices and strategic places on campus
- « Fully equipped science laboratories (3)
- A biological garden with a snailery
- Two water purifying machines for high quality water on campus
- Procurement of ten tricycles for easy movement of students to hostels and lectures
- Refurbishing of the Chaplaincy Church
- ® Completion of the Chaplaincy House
- Equipment of the library with over 30 thousand books and journals
- Installation of solar- powered lights
- Installation of CCTV for security on campus

Staff Development Programme

This administration continues to support members of staff for further studies within and outside the country. Plans have been concluded to send about ten members of the academic staff for studies in our partner universities overseas. Also the university is sponsoring five members of staff for PhD programmes in various universities in Nigeria. Furthermore, the university pursues ongoing training of staff through workshops, seminars and conferences.

Community Service Programmes

The university has built a health centre for the Ugwuomu Community GO University continues its programme of providing wheelchairs and movement aids to the handicapped. In the last one year we have given out about one thousand wheelchairs to the handicapped from all over Nigeria.

A lot has happened within the last one year, so fascinating and so challenging. In the light of the phenomenal progress of Go University one cannot but appreciate the word “miracle” as synonymous with our university.

Go University is Different

(A Speech Delivered By the Vice Chancellor, on the Occasion of the Foundation Day Anniversary Celebration of Godfrey Okoye University, 21 October 2011)

Very Rev. Fr. Prof. Christian Anieke

With a heart full of joy and gratitude to God for the miracle we call 'GO University', I welcome you all to this second Foundation Day Anniversary of our university. I thank especially the Visitor of the university, Most Rev. Dr. C. V. C. Onaga, for finding time amidst a thicket of Episcopal duties to attend this ceremony and for celebrating the Anniversary Mass for us. I would like to express my deep gratitude particularly to the members of the Board of Trustees, the Governing Council, the representatives of different organizations and churches, the representatives of the federal and state governments, traditional rulers and all friends of the university who have taken time to join us in celebration today.

Dear friends, ladies and gentlemen, in its two years of existence, GO University has been asking itself hard questions. One fundamental question on this second birthday is *"am I really different?" Is Godfrey Okoye University really different?* and if so, *where is the evidence?*

In answering this question, please join me as we take a small tour through the university. Let us see for ourselves whether or not we have made the cut!

Education and Research

Since the primary role of a university is teaching and research, GO University has been on a continuous quest for the best professors both within and outside the country. Today, the university has a total of **twenty-seven (27)**

of such erudite professors including:

- Prof. Adinna, E. N. (Full-time)
- Prof. Akubue, A. U. (Full-time)
- Prof. Akubuilu, C.J. C. (Adjunct)
- Prof. Amujiogu, S. (Adjunct)
- Prof. Anieke, C. (Full-time)
- Prof. Bachinger, A. (Adjunct)
- Prof. Chidobem, J. I. (Full-time)
- Prof. Chijioke, M. O. (Full-time)
- Prof. Dirinko, T. (On sabbatical)
- Prof. Ede, F. (Adjunct)
- Prof. Egudu, R. (Adjunct)
- Prof. Eze, A. E. (Full-time)
- Prof. Eze, F. C. (Full-time)
- Prof. Marire, B. N. (Adjunct)
- Prof. Ndolo, I. (Adjunct)
- Prof. Ntummy, M. A. (Adjunct)
- Prof. Nwadiakor, E.O. (Full-time)
- Prof. Nwafor, F. (Full-time)
- Prof. Obiora, I. (Full-time)
- Prof. Ogah, F. (Adjunct)

- Prof. Ogbonna, J. (Contract)
- Prof. Okafor, R. C. (Full-time)
- Prof. Onah, F. (Adjunct)
- Prof. Onyeneje, E. (Adjunct)
- Prof. Real, H. (Adjunct)
- Prof. Unegbu, R. (Adjunct)
- Prof. Zach, W. (Adjunct)

These professors have been given adequate orientation on the catholic identity of the university, its core values and its emphasis on excellence in teaching and research. They know that they must constantly provide the evidence of the excellence of the institution in the process and product of their work.

Furthermore, like the respected universities and colleges around world, our academic staff is deeply involved in different researches which can be read on our website (mvw.go-uni-enugu.net). Our zeal for research and results led us to embark on the International Conference on Biotechnology which was held between 20 - 23 July 2011, and which brought respected professors from different universities within and outside the country. As a result of that conference, DNA analysis and sequencing has become a household word among our Biochemistry and Biotechnology students. To have organized such an international conference within just two years of its existence is a clear message to the world that GO University is indeed different.

Moreover, GO University has developed a method of mentoring each student in the university for proper individual guidance and teaching. This ensures that the mind of each student is broadened and exposed to the wealth of knowledge that is available today. In the real sense of the word, he or she is *taught*. The university has also developed a method of tutoring all students in English, Mathematics and Logic, three core areas in which the students must show adequate competence before graduating. Competence in these core areas, evidence of computer literacy and deep spirituality, irrespective of what one is studying, must be the identity of our students. To ensure healthy competition among students,, we award prizes each year for good behaviour, highest CGPA and creativity. GO University students must be different!

Furthermore, to ensure a good scholarly exchange of ideas, the university collaborates with several foreign universities among which are:

- Birmingham City University, UK
- University College of Education, Linz, Austria
- Loepold-Franzens-Universitaet (University of Innsbruck), Austria
- Medizinische Universitaet (Medical University of Innsbruck), Austria
- Keplar University, Austria
- Gustav Siwerth-Akademie, Germany
- University of Muenster, Germany
- Benedictine University, USA
- University of Essex, UK (in progress)
- " University of Stellenbosch Business School, South Africa (in progress)

among others.

Physical Infrastructure

1-0 University is different because it is creating the kind of atmosphere that makes learning easy. First, we have completed our female hostel blocks (Sacred Heart Hostel) with 102 self-contained rooms and a fully air-conditioned canteen for the benefit of students. Besides, two sisters of the Daughters of Divine Love (DDL) have been posted to the hostels to live with the students, pray with them and help them in their various needs. Second, GO University has provided **six 65 KVA** generators for lecture halls and hostels to ensure that students have an adequate supply of electricity. This is in addition to the solar-powered lights we have installed at strategic locations like the lecture halls, library and offices. Third, all arrangements to begin our new programmes have been completed. All we are waiting for is the approval of the NUC, and we will commence admitting students into our Education, Mass Communication, Psychology, Philosophy, Religion, Geography and Environmental Management, Geology and Mining, Physics, Statistics and Demography, chemistry and Biology programmes. The necessary lecture halls and facilities are adequate and ready for a take-off; the Faculty of Education building has been completed, and for hands-on training for Mass Communication students, we have completed the beautiful structure that will serve as our Radio House, and by the grace of God, we will acquire the licence to begin to broadcast our community radio programmes very soon. It will of course be called "GO University Radio"! You see, our style is to get ready first, and then seek approval. The purpose of all that we have done and are doing is to create an environment that is conducive and comfortable for everyone in the university – staff, students, and all those seekers of wisdom who come knocking at the door of knowledge. As you can see, GO University is different!

GO University Ventures

GO University aspires to be self-reliant. In this regard, it is embarking on different lucrative ventures including:

- * GO University farm with cows (the GO University Cows!), poultry, piggery, snailery, palm oil (for special GO University Red Oil!), pineapple plantations, etc.
- GO University Studio
- * GO University Transport Company
- GO University Interior and Exterior Design Firm
- GO University Musical Band
- GO University Bookshop
- * GO University ICDL (International Computer Driving Licence)
- * GO University Skills Acquisition Centre

Finally, Godfrey Okoye University is very much conscious of all the prejudices and mistrust that people have towards private universities, especially in the East. This university is aware of the cloud of prejudice, suspicion, sarcasm, satirical comments and innuendo hovering over its young head. GO University's way is not to engage in an energy-sapping and futile fight against this tsunami of prejudice. Rather, guided by its fundamental question "*where is the evidence*" it is trying to show by actual proof, why it is different. After seeing the evidence in all that we have

accomplished in two short years, I am sure you will agree that GO University *really is going somewhere!* GO University *is* on the move! ***Godfrey Okoye University is Different!*** Happy birthday, my dear GO University.