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.....*Raising Generational Leaders*

**An Address Delivered by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A.O. Olorunnisola, at the
Matriculation Ceremony for 4th Set of Students of Dominion University on Tuesday
February 21, 2023**

Protocols

The Chancellor
Members of the Board of Trustees
The Pro-Chancellor & Members of the Governing Council
The Principal Officers
Deans of Faculties
Heads of Departments and Units
Parents of the Matriculants of Today
The Matriculants (Daystars)
Invited Guests
Gentlemen of the Press
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

I am delighted to welcome you all to this orientation programme for the 4th matriculation ceremony of Dominion University, Ibadan. Today, we are officially welcoming 266 matriculants (*Daystars*) who are following in the footsteps of *the Pace Setters*, *the Light Bearers* and *the Eagles* (cohort names for students admitted at different levels in Dominion University). The *Daystars* are made up of 143 male (representing 53.8%) and 123 female (representing 46.2%) students, drawn from the 21 of the 36 States (i.e., 58% of the States) of the Nigerian Federation, who have been duly admitted into the eleven academic programmes in our Faculty of Arts, Social and Management Sciences and Faculty of Computing and Applied Sciences. The enrolment for this academic session is 96% higher greater than the 136 students (*the Eagles*) that matriculated last year. Also, given the cultural diversity in our staff and student population, Dominion University is, by no means, a parochial/provincial university. We are living up to the billings of a budding world class university - one that brings people together from a range of different cultures and backgrounds to tackle shared global challenges. This is no mean feat for a four-year old university. It is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our sight. All thanks to our God of increase!

A day star is a poetic word for the sun; another word for the morning star. It is literally the "light-bringer". Light is one of the most universal and fundamental symbols. It is the spiritual and the divine, it is illumination and intelligence. It is the source of goodness and the ultimate reality. Generally speaking, light serves as a symbol of life, happiness, prosperity, and, in a wider sense, of perfect being. As a symbol of life, light can also serve as a symbol of immortality. Little wonder that Jesus said Christians are the light of the world. May you be light indeed in Dominion University (DU).

Why Pursue a Degree Programme in a University Today?

Many young people in Nigeria today jokingly and sometimes seriously refer to university education as a scam. There was a story trending in the social media about a year ago of a graduate of a public university here in Oyo State who attempted to return his certificate to his alma mater on account of the fact that he couldn't secure a good job several years after graduation. This young man's experience, notwithstanding, down playing the role of university education in the 21st century, a century predicated on knowledge, is one of the biggest and most unfortunate mistakes one can make. A university is generally regarded as a factory for knowledge generation, application and dissemination; and a grooming institution for future leaders. With more and more careers requiring advanced education, a university degree is critical to success in today's workforce. Research indicates that earning a degree can have a significant impact on the life of a graduate. It also has the potential of helping the graduate to positively impact his/her family and the world. Our goal in DU is to produce Godly graduates who have acquired high-level competence not only in the subject matter of study, but also in entrepreneurship and other important marketable skills including effective oral and written communication, computer literacy, critical thinking, inter-personal relationship, time management, information seeking/management, and emotional intelligence, among others. We seek to produce job creators and not just job seekers.

Imbibing the Dominion University Culture

Culture is an umbrella term for the set of patterns of human activity within a community or social group and encompasses the social behaviour, institutions, and norms found in human societies, as well as the codes of manners, dress, language, and habits of the individuals in these groups. Dominion University has its own culture. Some of the cultural norms for students include the following:

a. Dress Code

Dressing adds value to a person's personality, self-confidence and self-worth. Dress code is, therefore, one of the unique aspects of our university that students must imbibe. We require all students to be formally dressed during office hours, i.e., from 8 am to 4 pm every working day. This means both male and female students should wear suits, ties, shirts, smart skirt and blouse, gown, and appropriate shoes. No student shall be allowed to wear casual clothing like jeans, simple blouses and boots during this stipulated period. Dominion University attaches great importance to modest dressing. Hence, unnecessary exposure of body parts by male and particularly female students alike- on campus, off campus or on social media platforms- shall not be tolerated. There are penalties for improper dressing and members of staff have been informed to ensure strict compliance with this rule.

b. Lady-like and Gentlemanly Behaviour

All students Dominion University are expected to be of good behaviour. Indecent and disorderly behaviour including but not limited to fighting, use of threat of violence of any kind, vandalism, insubordination, disorderly assembly, un-authorized use of university or private property, pilfering, stealing, stalking, driving and keeping vehicles on campus, etc, are frowned at and culprits shall face appropriate penalty as stipulated in the students' handbook.

c. Focus on Academic Activities

The academic activities expected of you as students of DU include, but are not limited to:

- attending classes for direct interaction between you and your lecturers;
- participating in study groups;
- submitting academic assignments as and when due; and

- taking examinations

Please note that pursuing a degree programme in DU demands a significant commitment of your time and energy.

d. Volunteerism

Volunteerism is the act of contributing free labour to conduct community service. Volunteers help change the lives of those in their community as a social responsibility rather than receiving a financial reward. Being a volunteer has lots of benefits. It can bring meaning and purpose to the volunteer's life, while increasing his/her self-esteem and wellbeing. Volunteering can relieve stress and alleviate symptoms of depression. Volunteerism also teaches life skills. Early in life the youngsters who engage in volunteerism begin to learn to love, to help and to share. They learn about team work, leadership, and how to be more accountable to self, others and society. They get a training ground to utilize some things taught in school and also a platform for discovering themselves. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development, socialization, and fun. Unfortunately, the culture of volunteerism in Yoruba and other Nigerian cultures is dying. Everybody now seems to, as it were, live for himself or herself alone. Gone are the days when people joyfully participated physically in community development activities. We are now in the era of '*cash and carry*'. Everything is for a fee; nothing goes for nothing! It has even got to a stage that 'something must go for nothing'. To revive this dying culture in our youths, we promote volunteerism in DU. We encourage our students to donate time and energy towards a greater cause.

e. Marketability and Entrepreneurial Skills Acquisition

Apart from academic studies, DU encourages students to participate in various activities that can promote marketability and self-employment. For example, we encourage students to register for various types of certification and professional registration programmes such as ICAN to enhance their marketability in the job market. We also operate a Work study programme that provides opportunity for interested students to earn some money through part-time jobs. The programme is designed to (i) inculcate in students good work ethics (ii) provide an opportunity for them to acquire work experience that may be related to the type of career they wish to pursue on graduation; and (iii) provide opportunities for students to acquire a variety of skills. Students participating in the work study programme may be assigned jobs in any unit of the university and may be moved from one unit to another when necessary. These may include the library, offices, the clinic, residential area, the chapel, laboratories, studios, etc. All job assignments are on campus. There are no job assignments off campus for now. For a student to participate in the programme, he/she must submit an application in writing and complete the contract form.

We also promote entrepreneurship. Essentially, entrepreneurship is the process of developing, organizing, and running a new business to generate profit while taking on financial risk. An entrepreneur is an individual who identifies a need in the marketplace and works to fulfill it. In other words, an entrepreneur is a person who perceives an opportunity and creates an organisation to pursue it. Research has shown that (1) Small businesses create most of the jobs in Nigeria and many other countries, and (2) Entrepreneurs were at the conception and birth of new products and services that have transformed the global economy in the last 45 years. Many of the rich people today started their enterprises young. For example,

- One of the most revolutionary entrepreneurial ideas was Fred Smith's notion to deliver packages overnight anywhere in the United States. Smith identified a need for shippers to

have a system designed specifically for airfreight that could accommodate time-sensitive shipments such as medicines, computer parts, and electronics in a term paper that he wrote as a Yale undergraduate. Smith's professor did not think much of the idea and gave it a C. Undaunted, Smith founded his company, Federal Express (FedEx) in 1971, and it began operating in 1973. Today FedEx has the world's largest all-cargo air fleet.

- Michael Dell (Founder of Dell Computers), while still a student at the University of Texas, Austin, USA in 1984, began selling IBM-compatible computers built from stock components that he marketed directly to customers. By concentrating on direct sales of customized products, Dell became the largest manufacturer of personal computers in the world.
- Aliko Dangote is not just the most successful entrepreneur in Nigeria, he is the most successful in Africa. He has constantly dominated the business world in Nigeria and in Africa. Aliko Dangote started from selling sweets in primary school to building the biggest conglomerate in Africa.

Currently DU promotes students' engagement in agri-business and waste conversion to wealth. We also promote student participation in *Enactus* which stands for (EN)Entrepreneurial, (ACT) action made by (us) students around the world. *Enactus* engages students in entrepreneurial projects to solve the social problems that are facing their communities. Every interested student is free to participate in these voluntary activities.

Academic mobility refers to students and teachers in higher education moving to another institution inside or outside of their own country to study or teach for a limited time, while student mobility refers to the process whereby a person enrolls at an academic institution across a national border for part or all of one's education. It enhances personal and intellectual maturity – through inculcating flexibility, resilience, cross-cultural communication skills, the ability to adapt to new circumstances and to deal constructively with differences. DU also pays attention to academic mobility. For example, two of our very bright 300 Level students (a male and a female) and two academic staff (a male and a female) will be travelling to Greece in March and April 2023 respectively on an academic exchange programme. The two students will be spending a semester at The Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, also referred to simply as the Panteion University, Athens, Greece. The Panteion University was founded in 1927. It is the oldest university of Social and Political Sciences in Greece.

Conclusion

I congratulate and welcome the *Daystars* to Dominion University! May the memory of this great occasion remain joyous for you and your parents for many years to come. I urge you all to take full advantage of the golden opportunity of the sound all round training that DU offers.

Prof. A.O. Olorunnisola, *FNSE, FNIM, FMSN, FNIEE*
Vice-Chancellor
February 21, 2023