

Covenant University Alumni Association (CUALA) Gets UK Chapter

Barely eight years after its formation, the United Kingdom Chapter of Covenant University Alumni Association (CUALA), has been launched. The launch, which took place in London, was geared towards galvanizing the spread of graduates of Covenant University across Europe towards making the University brand more renowned and organized.

The event, which attracted over ninety (90) Covenant University alumni across London and Scotland, was also targeted at helping the alumni build a more robust Covenant University network, as well as situate adequately their professional calling, and above all receive guidance on their career and professional life.



Oath Taking by the New UK Chapter Officers by Chairman BOT, CUALA

The Registrar, Covenant University Mr. Muyiwa Fadugba, stated that the event was an eye-catching one for him and his entourage to the event. According to him, most of the Eagles (graduates of Covenant University) in the UK are working in the banking, brokerage, telecoms, Information Communication Technology (ICT) sectors amongst others in the British economy. He said CUALA platform could be used to help nurture the existing collaboration with some UK based tertiary institutions to deliver maximally for Covenant University.

He stated that the occasion was also meant to educate CU Alumni on the immigration rules of their host country, how to work within the confines of the stipulated immigration laws of their host, how to maximize their stay and opportunities the host can avail them and the need for them to seek out a role for themselves back home.



Reginald Bassey and Akin Odedina sharing thoughts

Mr. Fadugba, who is currently the Chair Board of Trustees (BoT) of the association, noted that among the successes of the launch, was the connection of the Eagles to players in different industry in the UK and how they can take experiences gathered from their assignment and apply them at home, in Nigeria, to help develop the nation.

Those elected to serve, as pioneer Executives of the UK chapter are Mr. Edmund Nwosu of Lloyds Bank, a 2008 graduate of Electrical and Information Engineering (EIE) as the Coordinator. Another 2008 graduate, Mr. Abudullahi Bello, a CCIE holder who works for the National Health Service in the UK, would

support him as Deputy Coordinator. The Financial Secretary is Gbemi Oni, a staff of Royal Bank of Scotland.

Others are Mr. Shina Gbadegeshin, a 2007 graduate of EIE, who now works with British Telecoms, would serve as the General Secretary. The Welfare Coordinator is Ebi, a Chartered Accountant and currently working with the Royal Bank of Scotland, while Mr. Koye Sobo, another 2007 graduate of EIE was appointed the Chaplain of the association.

The Resident Pastor of Living Faith Church International, European Headquarters, Pastor David Oyedepo (Jnr.), was also on ground to encourage the Eagles on the need to overcome the challenges of life through the power of association.

According to him, for them to get the best from the networks they are connected to, they must be transparent and consistent in all of their endeavours. He submitted that isolation was not God's intention for man, but association, leveraging on each other's strength to get the very best.

The Chair BoT of CUALA and members of the association also visited Birmingham City University and some other universities in the UK, which have Covenant University Eagles as postgraduate students, to see how they were faring and how 'Eagle friendly' those institutions are.

Mr. Fadugba asserted that products of Covenant University are prized commodities that need to be cherished and cared for. He hinted that from time to time, there would be need for appraisals on existing relationships and collaborations to ensure that CU Eagles are getting the very best of treatment, wherever they are.

He also noted that the University Management would be assessing the possibility of driving her internationalization policy by using the CUALA platform, especially to get more international student into the Covenant University.

According to him, *"One of the feedback we got from our Alumni members there is that, they would serve as our country representatives in the United Kingdom, help to conduct entrance examination, help conduct interviews so as to increase the rate of foreign students coming to Covenant University."*

Currently, the CUALA have formalized chapters in Ota, Lagos, Abuja and UK, while the United States of America chapter is yet to be formalized.

Some of the executives on the trip with the Chair BoT of CUALA were Vice President, Corporate Communications, Mr. Reginald Bassey, Vice President, Business and Finance, Mr. Stanley Okafor and Vice President, Careers, Mr. Taiwo Oyekoya.

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