

Why I want to be a teacher

— AOCOED Best Graduating Student

The third of four children, 19 year-old, Nkwocha Obinna Emmanuel earned a CGPA of 4.47 to emerge the Best Graduating Student among three sets of graduating students of Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Lagos State. The Imo State indigene spoke to MOYOSORE SOLARIN.

IN what ways did your parents influence your graduating as the best student among all the three sets convocating today?

They have been my backbone, morally, financially. Like I said while delivering my convocation speech, they price far above rubies. They have been very supportive to my dreams and aspirations right as far as I can remember.

Speaking with you earlier, you mentioned that you had always wanted to be a teacher, so going to the college of education wasn't as result of an inability to secure an admission into the university. Now, this is a rare among Nigerian youth especially these days, considering that the teaching job is often thought of as a really low paying job. What influenced your love for the teaching profession?

One of my major influences are my mentors who are teachers. Mere looking at them and seeing the quality they possess inspires me to want to be like them. I want to be able to impact knowledge too, to give back to the society. These are the things that inspire me.

Are you not worried about the fact that going into the teaching profession, you will not be earning as much as your colleagues who would venture into the banking industry, petroleum industry and the likes?

For me, the most important thing is for you to succeed in your goal, to be happy and fulfilled in it. It is not about doing what everybody is doing but doing something because I have a passion for and

find fulfilment in it.

You said you never had any distractions back in school, how was that possible considering the many distractions students are faced with these days, such as internet, the opposite sex and the likes?

We are human and the best thing is to know how to curb all these shortcomings. It was not by my power anyway, but by the grace of God, I tried as much as possible not to let any of these factors distract or get into my head.

So as student, did you date?

I did not but I had friends.

Was it all work and no play for you as a student. If no, how did you spend your leisure time or you have no leisure time?

I actually had my leisure time and I spent it listening to music, I play musical instruments as well and sometimes chats with friends on the internet. I did have a social life; I just tried as much as possible to balance it with my academics. My academics is my major focus and I made sure I never lost sight of that.

So, tell me a bit about that aspect of you?

For now can we not talk about that please.

People have the notion that graduating as the best student means no social life at all. So, you could just correct that and tell us a bit about yours.

Back in school, I had a few friends with whom I attended birthday parties once in a while. I don't go randomly to the club and stuff. But I do attend birthdays or if someone is celebrating something, I attend.



Nkwocha

Your advice for those who think teaching job is a job for mediocres because of the relatively low income associated with the job?

I believe they should have a rethink about that notion; an opportunity of giving back to the society is something they should always pray for. For those that see the teaching job as a last option, I want to tell them it is a big lie because you can find joy and everything you want in it, at least that is so for me.

What was your lowest moment in school and how did you pull through?

When I got into 100 level, I had this one goal to not just pass my courses and get good grades, but also to make a good name for myself but I realised that the higher you go, the tougher it becomes. As of 100 level first semester my CGPA was 4.35 and then in 200 level, it dropped a bit, these really made me unhappy. So I had to put

in extra efforts to get my GPA back up and it surely improved.

What is the next step for you after school?

I intend to further my education by going into the university to study Mathematics Science and UNIBEN is the best of my options.

Do you think what an individual becomes in life is as a result of influences from home or a result of his position in the society?

I believe that both have their effects. The individual himself also has a part to play but in my opinion, but the family plays the major role.

Aside being best graduating student, you got five other awards, how did you feel?

I am still speechless. But I remain grateful to God, family and friends for their support. I dedicate it to them.

Elizade varsity tops economic contest

THE Elizade University Ilara-Mokin, Ondo State, has emerged first at the presentation competition, organised by the Nigerian Economics Students Association, Wesley University of Science and Technology, Ondo (WUSTO) chapter, to mark this year's Young Economic Summit.

Representatives of private universities from South West Nigeria were invited to participate in the event. Each of the representatives was given 15 minutes to make power point presentation on the topic, "The Effect of Educational Expenditure on Economic Growth in Nigeria". They were graded on their knowledge of the topic, flow of presentation, communication skills, boldness, corporate dressing and time management.

At the end of the competition, the representative of Elizade University, Mr. Oluyale Iyanu was pronounced winner. Afe Babalola University Ado-Ekiti came second while Achievers University, Owo came third.

In his modest response, Mr. Oluyale congratulated his co-contestants. He admitted the stiff competition they gave him, saying any of the contestants could have won the competition.

He attributed his excellent performance to availability of competent hands in the University. Mr. Oluyale added that students of the University were enjoying the conduciveness of the Campus. Meanwhile, the Students Consultative Forum of the university, has been inaugurated. Inaugurating the Forum, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Valentine Aletor affirmed that the need for a continued harmonious relationship between the management and the students occasioned the constitution of the Forum.

Prof. Aletor who lauded the excellent behaviour of the students since the opening of the University, urged them to continue in the path of moral and academic excellence, which the University is known for.

The Vice Chancellor warned the students not to mistake the Forum for Students' Union. He said management employed appointment process to select members of the Executive Committee of the Forum as against election that produces Students' Union leaders. He added that criteria like good academic standing, moral uprightness and leadership quality, among others were used to appoint members of the Executive Committee.

The Don called on the students to maximise their interaction with the appointed officers. He implored them to channel their opinions, observations and dissatisfactions to the Management through their officers. Prof. Aletor also advised the officers to be good models to their colleagues, saying that was the only way they could gain their respect.

In his words of encouragement to the Officers, the Registrar, Mr. Omololu Adigbenro enjoined them to listen to complaints of their colleagues. He reminded them that representation of the students was the basis for inaugurating the Forum.

Also speaking, the Acting Dean of students, Dr. Ezekiel Adeleye admonished the officers to relate closely with their colleagues so as to know their feelings. He said their appointment should not detach them from their colleagues, asserting that good leaders are those that live in the midst of their people to know their needs.

He particularly advised the Welfare Director to prepare himself for the enormous challenges. He informed him that more than 90 per cent of students' complaints would bother on welfare.

In his acceptance speech, the Chairman of the Forum, Mr. Ogundipe Peter appreciated the management of the University for its consideration of the students' need for representation. He said the Forum would strengthen the already strong relationship between Management and the students.

Mr. Ogundipe assured his colleagues of good representation. He added that their views, opinions and complaints would be regularly collated for presentation to the University Management. The Chairman urged the fellow students to feel free to express their mind to him and other members of the Executive Committee.

Other members of the Committee are Orezime Adhuzo, 200 Level, Microbiology, Vice-Chairman, Chinwe Precious, 100 Level, Economics, Secretary, James Isreal, 200 Level, English, Director of Sports, Silas Gift, 200L Business Administration, Welfare Officer 1, Damilare Owoeye, 100 Level, Accounting, Communication Officer 1, Esther Ezenwoye, 200 Level, Microbiology, Public Relations Officer, Peter Johnson, 100 Level, Applied Geophysics, Director of Socials, Iyimide Shola-Shittu, 100 Level, Automotive Engineering, Communication Officer 11 and Badmus Bolaji, 100 Level, Electrical Electronics Engineering, Welfare Officer 11.