

The winter's thawing will let the rivers, lakes, and streams rise and flow.
The beauty of the Earth will make us all feel aglow!
Farmers and gardeners will start to hoe.
And then they'll begin to sow.

On Sundays, we'll hear the various church bells ring.
Let's be grateful for the LORD, let's rejoice and sing.
If it wasn't for the Lord, we wouldn't have anything!

Have a Reflective Easter



Contact

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Your comments, suggestions and articles are welcome.



Quality Speaks

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

This Easter Edition of our newsletter is the 27th Issue. The Lenten season brings people together during the Easter festivities after many months apart on their sojourn. We in the Directorate wish to extend happy felicitations to all friends and families who will be together to celebrate the festivities. The season is one of peace and love. We wish to encourage each and everyone to extend these virtues to all neighbours with whom they interact. The reason for the season is for each one to guarantee quality life for their neighbours through charity and generosity in donating gifts and also giving wise counselling.

The Directorate wishes to remind all members of the University of our Core Values as stated in our strategic plan for the 2014 - 2018 period. These values require that each member of University of education, Winneba put in their maximum effort to help improve the various functions of the University. We have consistently made this plea to the University community and it is our wish

to continue to remind staff of their role in lifting the image of the University at all times. By our pleas we do not mean to imply that members of the University are not working hard or not putting in their best. We also recognise the least effort that each member puts in to bring UEW to the limelight. Our reminders go to reiterate the fact that quality is boundless and that there is always the possibility of polishing further our efforts. Now the University is able to organise two graduation ceremonies for all our four campuses without hitches. These successes are due to the hard work and sacrifices of every member of the University. There have been other public ceremonies such as matriculation of fresh students, public lectures, induction ceremonies and many more, which have gone on successfully. All these successes were due to the effort of individuals and groups who performed their assigned tasks dutifully. We have also observed successful organisation of semester and entrance examinations, which required re-arrangement of lecture halls to accommodate examination candidates as there are no permanent venues for such examinations. The labour and creativity put in by many

individuals and groups have helped the University to achieve great recognition by the general public and the academic communities. I wish to single out our staff and students of the School of Creative Arts and especially those of the Department of Theatre Arts. Their ruminating performances that often held their spectators spell-bound are pieces of evidence of hard work by individuals and groups that crafted the shows. We, in the Directorate are always greatly enthused about how well our actions and their realisation are implemented as the result of the many initiatives taken by our members. We pat each person on the back and say, continue with the good works.

Finally, we wish to put on record that last year, the Directorate pledged its commitment to provide an effective leadership in executing the tenets of the Strategic Plan of the University. We are, therefore, teaming up with the Strategic Plan Monitoring Committee this year to monitor and advise departments, units and sections of the University on how best they should implement aspects of the strategic plan related to them. Already notices of visits of the Strategic Plan Monitoring Committee have been circulated to all sections of the University. We entreat sectional heads and their administrative staff to start working on the strategic plan documents before the visits begin. This exercise is part of the quality assurance processes of the University – it is our preparedness to showcase improvement in our enterprises. The Directorate appreciates all your efforts and wishes to remind you that the University of Education, Winneba espouses Education for Service. So let us all use the education we have obtained through the toil of our parents and guardians to provide service for our children and grand-children. We wish all our cherished readers a HAPPY Semester.

QAD INTERACTS WITH STAFF OF RADIO WINDY BAY

By the Directorate

The Director of the Quality Assurance Directorate(QAD) interacted with the staff of Radio Windy Bay on January 10, 2017. His interaction centred on the topic: Quality Assurance: The role of the staff of Radio Windy Bay. The Director indicated that the interaction was part of the regular visitation that the Directorate made to various sections of the University to explain to staff how to maintain the momentum of the continuous improvement in the quality of the services they render to the University and sustenance of the Strategic Plans.

On continuous improvements in their work as broadcasters, the Director reminded the staff of their duty as researchers who are looking for new information to educate the community. He encouraged the staff to look beyond their workplace and pick good practices from elsewhere to supplement their operations in their different capacities as disc jockeys, announcers, anchors etc. This effort would enhance the continuous improvement in the broadcast styles of the radio station, he said. The Director also reminded the staff of the standards of the content they broadcast and advised that such contents should sustain the interest of the listening audience. He intimated that the types of presentations that staff could make that would be culturally relevant to the listening populace are those that would make the radio station a preferred one.

On relevance of radio programmes to the strategic plan, the Director asked if the radio station had anything else apart from the radio lectures. It is only when innovative programmes that would enhance the academic excellence of the University are aired that Radio Windy

Some disciples and other followers of Jesus placed their garments on the donkey so it would feel more comfortable for Jesus to sit on. Others placed their clothes on the ground so the donkey could stride on. Surely, this is a sign of reverence for Jesus Christ. However, it also made the donkey feel less pain under its feet carrying Jesus. Those who provided this cushioning were not the providers of the vehicle but they contributed in their own ways to make the journey less stressful. As part of the society, our actions and inactions affect other people. For each moment we are privileged to be alive, let us ensure that we contribute to make the world a better place for our neighbours and also for the next generation.

The crowd could not hide their appreciation for all that God had done for them so they shouted praises to Him.

They were thankful. A renowned wise man who once lived said that “a cheerful heart is good medicine” (Proverbs 17:22). If we always find reason to be cheerful and thankful, it will surely keep sicknesses away from us. We need to appreciate all the good things we have – at least you have life. Let us also give our best when at post. Even if we don’t enjoy our current jobs, let us contribute our best till we land that “ideal job”. Note that someone close by needs just that job you are complaining about; we should not let the rocks praise God when we can.

Conclusion

Indeed, a lot can be learned from the Easter story. It is my prayer that by the time we return from the Easter break, our work culture would have been boosted. Once again, we would like to wish each one of our readers a reflective and fruitful Easter holiday.

EASTER POEM

Easter Holiday

By Del Abe Jone

Easter holiday, is a celebration of the resurrection of Christ!
Jesus Christ, The Son of God, bled and died for us in a sacrifice.
This Spring day’s celebrated, generally in the month of April.
All of the bright and pretty colors, of the Easter outfits with frills.

Women and children will wear their Easter bonnets.
In the Spring, you’ll hear the various musical sonnets.
April will bring many rain showers.
That’ll bring us various beautiful flowers.

One special flower for this day is the Easter Lily.
It’s color is white, and yet snowy & milky.
The birds will sing their songs of praise.
As we begin to feel the warmth of the sun’s rays.

As we say “Goodbye” to the winter’s gloom,
The flowers and trees have already begun to bloom.
All of life’s beauty, The Lord created, for us all to share.
Spring breezes begin to flow, sending fragrances through the air.

Date for Easter

Unlike the date for Christmas which is fixed for most parts of the world as 25th December, the dates / period for the Easter on the Gregorian calendar changes yearly. This year (2017), Easter will be marked from the 14th April (Good Friday) till 17th April (Easter Monday). Saturday, 15th April will be Holy Saturday, and 16th April, Easter Sunday. Meanwhile, for 2018, Easter Sunday falls on 1st April.

The celebration

In a similar manner as the way most public holidays are observed in Ghana, people get into recreational activities – going to the beach, visiting Kwahu Hills for paragliding etc. Christians typically mark the period with church activities-camp meetings, fasting and prayer sessions, and so on. Many a time, some holiday enthusiasts over indulge in the celebration and end up causing harm to themselves, to others and sometimes, to valuable properties.

Easter is more of a religious festival so we will spend a bit of our time looking at the story behind it.

The Bible's Account

The word “Easter” may not be found in any other version of the Holy Bible, but the King James Version (KJV). Even though the KJV uses the word “Easter” in Acts 12:4, some Bible scholars argue that the word translated as Easter is the Greek word Pascha which means Passover. (www.christiananswers.net). In the light of this, most versions of the Bible use the word “Passover” in place of “Easter” in Acts 12:4.

The basic story of Easter is captured in all the four gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Matthew has the story in chapters 26, 27 and 28, while the Gospel according to Mark gives the account in chapters 15 and 16. In Luke chapters 22-24, Doctor Luke gives a good account

of the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ without leaving out Judas Iscariot's betrayal of the Saviour. John also gives his narration in chapters 17 to 20. John's account tells of the activities that went on in the garden of Gethsemane, and ends with the ascension of Jesus to heaven.

Easter Lessons and their Implications on our Work Culture

Apart from the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ dying on the cross at Calvary, other events occurred in prelude to it from which we can pick a lesson or two for our lives. This piece shall look at a few of these events:

- Release of a Colt for Jesus' Use
- Throwing of Garments on the Colt and on the Ground
- Crowd Praise God

It must be noted that the events referenced here are part of scripture and may have deeper spiritual/religious meanings than the literal ones presented here.

The Colt, that is, the young donkey in the setting of the story, was a means of transport – a vehicle. If it were in modern times, it would have been someone's car. According to Luke 19:30, no one had ever ridden it. In other words, it was a brand new car! Yet, when the disciples told the owners that the Lord needed it, they just allowed them (the disciples) to take it away to be used by the Master. This is a demonstration of selflessness. The owners of the colt were ready to support Jesus with their brand new 'car'. How many of us will actually do that? We must all learn to be selfless as we go through this Easter season. Let us muster generosity wherever we may be. Sometimes, we have to use our private vehicles, for instance, for official duties because the official car may not be available at that moment.

Bay would be seen as executing the strategic plan of the University. The Director asked the radio station to plan to assist in introducing innovative ways of presentation of lectures. Not all lecturers are going by the radio lectures so if their problems could be identified and means devised for them to mount radio lectures then Radio Windy Bay would be seen to fulfilling their corporate strategic plan. In so doing, Radio Windy Bay would be fulfilling its corporate strategic responsibility of ensuring Academic Excellence as well as providing opportunities for lecturers to improve teaching and learning. Further, the Director entreated the staff of the radio station to plan their programmes as to give air time to the University Community to disseminate research findings to educate the general public on outcomes of academic research.

The Director ended his interaction by congratulating the staff of Radio Windy Bay for the good work they have been doing for the University and the community they reach out to. He urged them to be disciples of change in UEW and endeavour to own their work place with the intent of uplifting the image of UEW.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY EDUCATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Each academic department has a responsibility of organising academic activities that would enhance their academic work. Some of these academic activities include seminars, workshops, conferences, research, community services, disseminating of information to the community, among others. The department of History Education is fulfilling its corporate responsibility

of Academic Excellence by the dissemination of their activities through a quarterly newsletter. The Department has set its focus on educating not only their students but also the immediate community and those adjoining the University and beyond. The Directorate of Quality Assurance of the University of Education is most impressed with the publication outputs of the Department of History Education and would like to broadcast some of their latest activities from the Newsletter.

The Department has piloted the Community History Writing project which is part of their curriculum. We are aware of the importance of history as the very existence of humans. History blends the present, past and future activities of the universe. Perhaps we would like to hear of the outcomes of the pilot writing project in the future and also the reactions of members of the communities in which the piloting was done. We are also informed that the Department organised a National History Day to commemorate the independence celebration of Ghana. The aim of the Ghana National History Day celebration is to generate interest in studying and researching Ghanaian history. We are happy to note that the event was widely advertised and attracted participants from 13 senior high schools in the Central Region and five public universities in Ghana. I believe the activities organised would rekindle patriotism and the sense of love of one's nation in the Ghanaian youth. The Department has organised a number of seminars for their members and the interested university community members. Further, members of the Department have visited historical monuments such as the castles, slave markets and many historical sites. It is clear that students of the Department are being imbued with qualities that would urge them on for practical history teaching in the schools after graduating. It is expected that our graduate history

teachers would see the need to blend classroom teaching with field trips, which make history concepts real to our pupils in the schools. The historical relevance of the monuments relating our past actions that our pupils would observe certainly would impact the pupils' future actions and planning. We are happy to note that the Department of History Education is in collaboration with some of the development partners such as the Embassy of the United States of America to improve on-line research capabilities of their staff and students. In a world invaded by technology, the Department could not have taken a better decision to align with institutions with flavour for technology.

The Directorate of Quality Assurance entreats all departments on all UEW campuses to similarly furnish us with the good works they are undertaking in the various spheres of their operations. It is our aim to make all departments visible by getting their activities published in our quarterly newsletter. We also invite scholarly articles from individuals who wish to be read by others. Our task is to encourage continuous improvement of activities of the departments and sustenance of the departmental strategic plans. This task can be accomplished only if departments are ready to seek assistance of the Directorate while auditing their own activities as well as announcing their successes for us to publish in our quarterly newsletter. We wish the Department of History Education more successes in their activities and future plans. Cheers.

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA - ONLINE COURSE APPRAISAL

Director, QAD

Quality Assurance in higher education involves many activities and the approaches may differ from institution to institution. The activities may be done to reform or improve the institutional framework. These activities may involve issues concerning teaching, learning, assessment of teaching and learning or any other activities done to enhance the image of the institution. Quality Assurance may, therefore, be summative or formative. By summative we mean to pass judgement as to whether the higher education institution is meeting some set goals or criteria which may be the institutions' own set targets or those set by the establishing authority. Then by formative we mean that we are assessing the higher education institutions to determine their strengths and weaknesses in order to design strategies to help address the weaknesses and sustain the strengths. This write-up is addressing what may be termed as internal quality assurance which may be done by institutions in order to evaluate the effectiveness of their operations.

The University of Education, Winneba (UEW) has been doing internal quality assurance for some time now. One of the aspects implemented by UEW's Quality Assurance Directorate on regular basis at the end of each semester is 'Course Appraisal'. Students are given the opportunity to appraise the courses they studied in the semester so as to express their satisfaction with the coverage of contents, approaches to course delivery and lecturers' demeanour during the course presentation. Also, the lecturers are given the opportunity to appraise

their students' behaviour in terms of attentiveness at lectures, attendance and presentation of assigned tasks. All these appraisals had, hitherto, been done by paper and pen responses to the appraisal questionnaires. Through the efforts of the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Department of UEW the Quality Assurance Directorate has designed an on-line process of appraising courses. Thus, from the second semester of the 2016/2017 academic year the staff of the Directorate will no longer go around with paper questionnaires to be completed by students. Each student can access the on-line questionnaire wherever they have access to the internet.

The Directorate of Quality Assurance announces the following arrangements for the online course appraisal for the current second semester:

Weeks 1- 2

Students register their courses for the semester

Week 2

Departmental Examination Officers allocate course to lecturers

Weeks 6 – 8

Quality Assurance officer populates database with current student registration information and course allocations.

Week 9

Quality Assurance Officer sets the appraisal period.

Weeks 9 – 10

Quality Assurance Officer sends emails to lecturers to remind them to inform their students about the impending appraisal.

Weeks 10 – 11

Students appraise all courses they took for the semester.

Weeks 11 – 12

Quality Assurance Officer sends report links to individual lecturers and also sends departmental reports to Heads of Department. Quality Assurance Officer compiles list of appraised against unappraised courses and disseminates the information.

With the current arrangement the Directorate counts on the good will of lecturers and students to make the new technological approach a great success. The Quality Speaks newsletter will disseminate information about how the new approach is utilised by the students. The Directorate will soon put on-line the appraisal questionnaire for lecturers so that they access the questionnaire in their portal. Let us wish ourselves, as an institution a GREAT SUCCESS in our quest to achieve a new technological feat.

A WORD ON EASTER

S.A. Tompoli

The story of Easter is a narration of the climax of the purpose of Jesus Christ coming to the world.

The Cambridge Dictionary (<http://dictionary.cambridge.org>) defines Easter as "a Christian religious holiday to celebrate Jesus Christ's return to life after he was killed". The online Oxford Dictionary gives it a more elaborate definition. It states that Easter is "the most important and oldest festival of the Christian Church, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and held (in the Western Church) between March 21 and April 25, on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the northern spring equinox".

From the Holy Bible, however, the story of Easter is the core of Christianity – the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.