

March 2021

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 14



**PENTECOST
UNIVERSITY**
TRANSFORMATION AND SERVICE

”

National Development rests on a vibrant young generation who are trained to love their country and gain competitive skills with good morals.

Our contribution at Pentecost University to this, is to give all the 3 to our graduates in the most purposeful manner.



REV. PROF. KWABENA
AGYAPONG-KODUA
VICE-CHANCELLOR

f t i y @Pentvars

#wordonwed

UniversityA+



The Vice-Chancellor of Pentecost University, Prof. Kwabena Agyapong-Kodua has charged tertiary institutions to stimulate problem-solving forms of learning in their institutions. He made the charge in an interview on Pent TV on Monday 15th March 2021, hosted by JB Danquah.

In the interview that touched on many issues, Prof. Agyapong-Kodua said tertiary education primarily exists to offer research-based solutions to human problems. He, therefore, asked managements of Universities and other tertiary level institutions to strategically transition their students from mere understanding to how-to-use fundamentals that were learned at basic levels.

He said, “a properly structured educational system focuses on teaching students fundamental stuff such as basic alpha-numeric skills at the basic level; but when they move on, their teaching and learning should be linking these fundamentals to real problems and their solutions.”

The young and respected academic lamented that the situation is different in Ghana and Africa. He said, “unfortunately, tertiary level in Ghana and most developing countries is more like advanced

PROBLEM-SOLVING SHOULD BE THE HALLMARK OF TERTIARY EDUCATION- VC

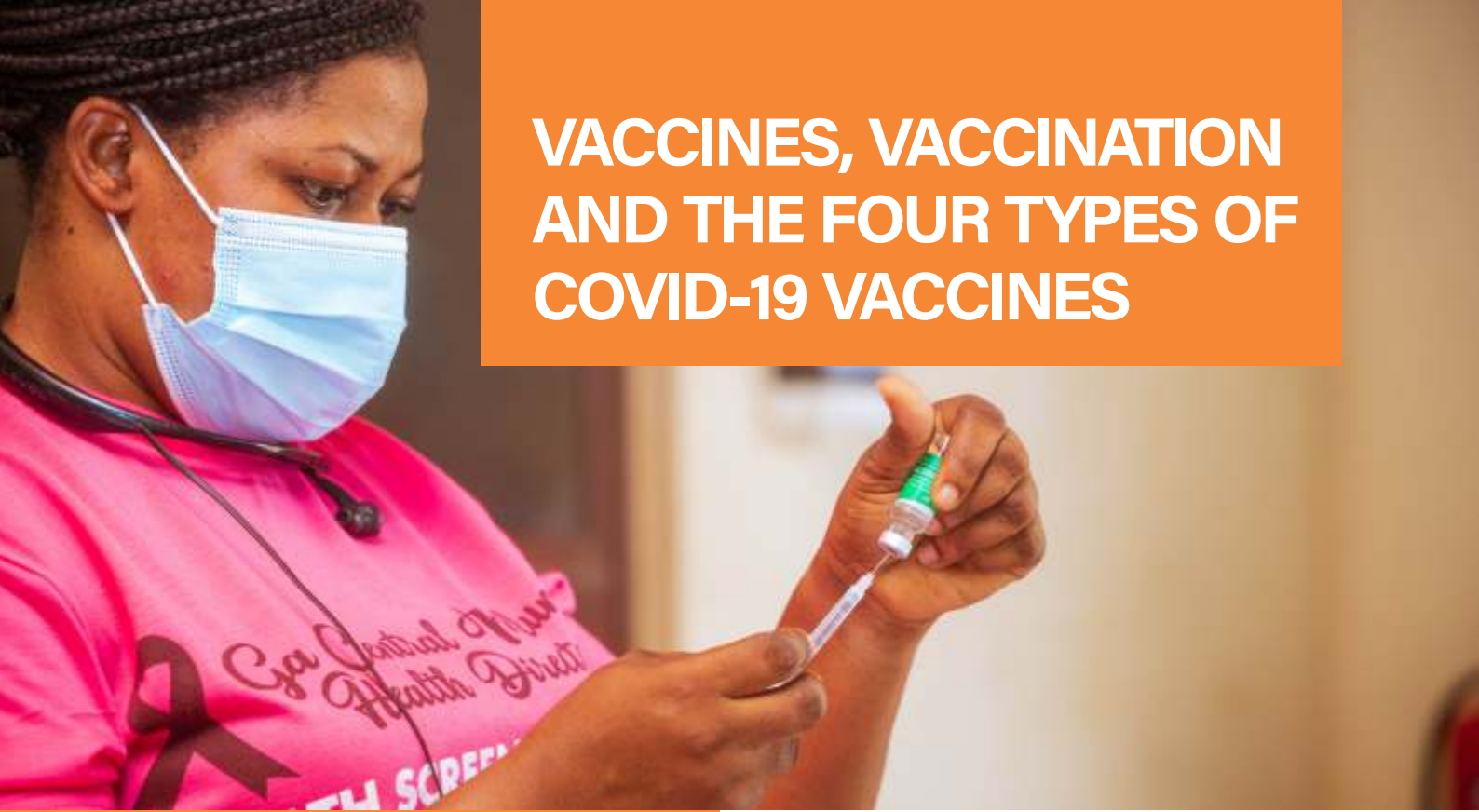
secondary education; which adds very little to the fundamentals the students learned at the basic level.” He attributed this to minimal resources and colonial history that formed the basis of these institutions.

He, therefore, admonished the universities to resource themselves through competitive research grants acquisition, government support, etc, to boost solution-oriented teaching and learning.

Commenting further, Prof. Agyapong-Kodua said training problem-solving graduates is not restricted to any academic discipline. “Let me add this that every academic discipline be it in arts, natural or social science has profound solutions to real-life problems; what is required is a teaching and learning model that will link the learning to solutions.” He, therefore, called on governments and industries in all fields to engage tertiary institutions for research-based solutions.

Prof. Kwabena Agyapong-Kodua is an accomplished scholar in Advanced System Engineering and a member of the Royal Institute of Engineering, UK. He has consulted for the UK government, Rolls Royce, IBM, and other global firms.

He was appointed VC of Pentecost University in June 2020. He has since rolled out a University A+ agenda that seeks to transform PU into a distinguished research-driven university that solves



VACCINES, VACCINATION AND THE FOUR TYPES OF COVID-19 VACCINES

Mr. Arthur-Mensah, Mr. Adu-Gyamfi & Dr. Abigail Kyei. Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Pentecost University.

The control of COVID-19 has seen vaccine development move at record speed with more than 170 different vaccines in trials. But how are these vaccines prepared and how will they protect us against the disease? Before we delve into that, let us understand what vaccines and their related procedures are.

Vaccines

Vaccines are products that help the immune system combat invading disease-causing microorganisms of the body (Coelho, 2020). They are scientifically prepared biological formulations that provide protection to the body from certain diseases (Tortora, Funke & Case, 2019).

Vaccines can be administered via;

- Oral route – administered through the mouth
- Intranasal route – administered through the nose
- Subcutaneous route – Injected into an area just beneath the skin
- Intramuscular route – injected into the

muscles

- Intradermal route – injected into layers of the skin (CDC, 2021).

Vaccination

Vaccination is the act of receiving a vaccine as protection against contracting certain particular diseases (WHO, 2021).

The principle of vaccines and vaccination

Vaccines contain suspensions of weakened, killed, fragmented, toxins of microorganisms or antibodies to certain microorganisms (Brunson, 2020). Vaccines train the immune system to detect and fight diseases-causing microorganisms. Vaccines and vaccination teach the immune system to “destroy” and “remember” diseases-causing microorganisms (see Figure 1). This act begins the process of immunization/immunity to that particular disease or diseases (CDC, 2021).

Vaccination is the safest, simple and effective method of protecting people from certain harmful diseases before they come into contact with them. Unlike most medicines, which treat and/or cure diseases, vaccines prevent diseases.



Figure 1: How vaccines work
Source: Brunson, (2020).

THE FOUR MAJOR TYPES OF COVID-19 VACCINES

There are more vaccine candidates simultaneously in the pipeline for COVID-19 than ever before for an infectious disease.

All of them are trying to achieve the same thing; immunity to the virus. They do so by stimulating an immune response to an antigen, a molecule found on the virus. In the case of COVID-19, the antigen is typically the characteristic spike protein (S protein) found on the surface of the virus, which it normally uses to help it invade human cells (see Figure 2).

There are four categories of COVID-19 vaccines in clinical trials. They include; whole virus, protein subunit, nucleic acid (RNA and DNA) and viral vector (Gavi, 2021).

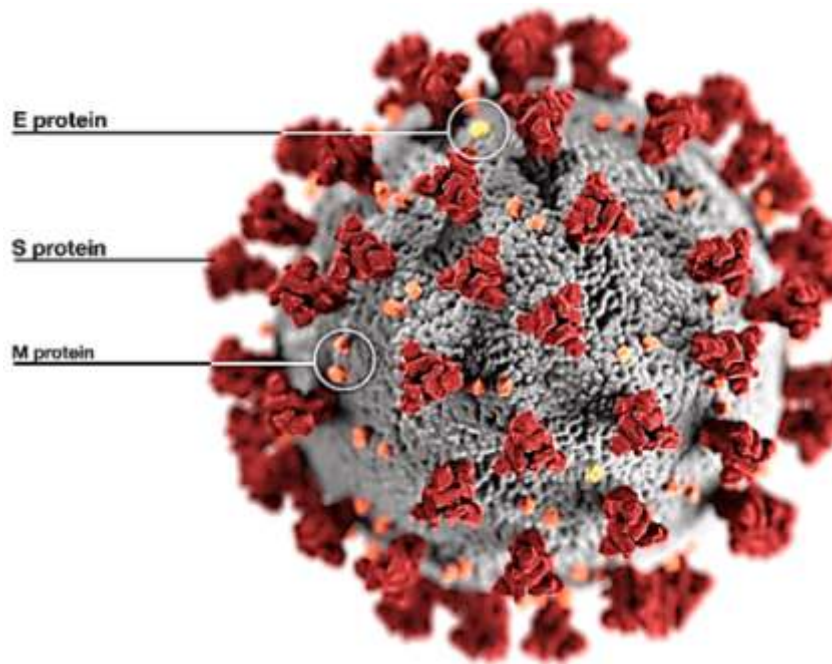


Figure 2: SARS CoV 2 (Causative agent of COVID-19)

Source: Coelho, 2020.

WHOLE VIRUS

Whole virus vaccines use a weakened (attenuated) or deactivated form of the virus that causes a disease to trigger protective immunity to it. There are two types of whole virus vaccines. Live attenuated vaccines use a weakened form of the virus, which can still grow and replicate, but does not cause illness. Inactivated vaccines contain viruses whose genetic material has been destroyed by heat, chemicals or radiation so that they cannot infect cells and replicate, but can still trigger an immune response.

PROTEIN SUBUNITS (FRAGMENTS OF MICROBES)

Rather than injecting a whole virus to trigger an immune response, subunit vaccines (sometimes called acellular vaccines) contain purified pieces of it, which have been specially selected for their ability to stimulate immune cells. Because these fragments are incapable of causing disease, subunit vaccines are considered very safe. There are several types: protein subunit vaccines contain specific isolated proteins from viral or bacterial pathogens; polysaccharide vaccines contain chains of sugar molecules (polysaccharides) found in the cell walls of some bacteria; conjugate subunit vaccines bind a polysaccharide chain to a carrier protein to try and boost the immune response. However, the immune response might be weak.

NUCLEIC ACIDS

Nucleic acid vaccines use genetic material from a disease-causing virus or bacterium to stimulate an immune response against it. Depending on the vaccine, the genetic material could be DNA or RNA; in both cases it provides the instructions for making a specific protein from the pathogen, which the immune system will recognise as foreign (an antigen). Once injected into host cells, this genetic material is read by the cell's own protein-making machinery and used to manufacture antigens, which then trigger an immune response. Since the antigens are produced using the body's own cells and in large quantities, the immune reaction is strong.

VIRAL VECTORS

Viral vector-based vaccines differ from most conventional vaccines in that they don't actually contain antigens, but rather use the body's own cells to produce them. They do this by using a modified virus (the vector) to deliver genetic code for antigen, in the case of COVID-19, spike proteins found on the surface of the virus, into human cells. By infecting cells and instructing them to make large amounts of antigen, which then trigger an immune response, the vaccine mimics what happens during natural infection with certain pathogens, especially viruses. This has the advantage of triggering a strong cellular immune response by T cells as well the production of antibodies by B cells.

Vaccines are the new tool in the fight against COVID-19 and it is hugely encouraging to see so many vaccines proving successful and going into development. Working as quickly as they can, scientists from across the world are collaborating and innovating to bring us treatments and vaccines that will collectively save lives and end this pandemic.

However, but for the foreseeable future we must continue wearing face protection, practicing hand hygiene, practicing respiratory hygiene and ensuring physical distancing and all the other specific COVID-19 safety protocols. Being vaccinated does not mean that we can throw caution to the wind and put ourselves and others at risk, we must continue to live safe.

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Click to download PDF: Vaccines, Vaccination and the four types of COVID-19 Vaccines (1)

PENTECOST UNIVERSITY WELCOMES CoP WOMEN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR



The International Women's Ministry Director of The Church of Pentecost, Mrs. Philomena Mireku has asked ladies of Pentecost University to support the Vision 2023 of the Church. She made the call during a working visit to the University on Wednesday 17th March 2021. The visit was the first time that a ministry director of the Church has paid a working visit to the University.

According to Mrs. Mireku, the purpose of her visit was to share the mandate and new vision of the Women's Ministry with female staff (Pentvars Ladies Club) and students of the University as well as to solicit their support.

Referencing Titus 1:2-3, she said the Vision 2023 and the Constitution of The Church of Pentecost have put a magnanimous and clear mandate on the Women's Ministry; to play a strategic role in the welfare and spiritual growth of women, children, and the whole Church. This she said "calls for a broader collaboration with

stakeholders like Pentecost University."

She also shared aspects of the draft new vision document of her Ministry with the highlight on seven "Strategic Priorities;" one of which is "to facilitate the economic empowerment of women and young ladies in the Church, especially in deprived areas."

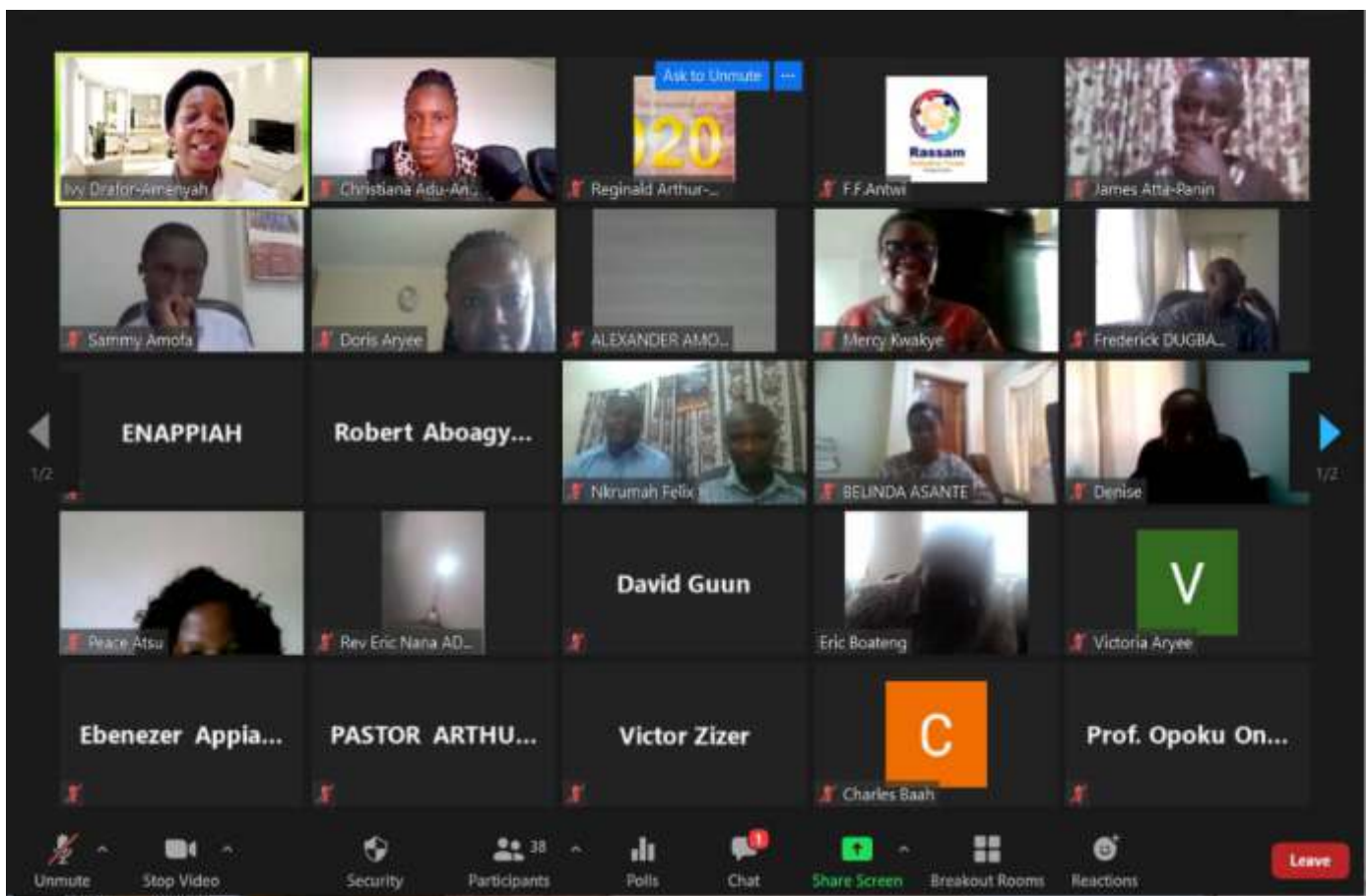
She, therefore, asked for inputs from members of the Pentvars Ladies to improve the vision document. She said, "Pentecost University being the intellectual wing of the Church, you understand the pressing issues of young women, children, and the Church; we, therefore, implore you to study the draft vision document and contribute to its development."

The Women's Director who was accompanied by her deputy Mrs. Vivian Amfoh also donated an amount of ten thousand Ghana cedis (GHS 10,000) to the Church of Pentecost Chairman Education Foundation (COPCEF).

Commenting on the meeting, the president of Pentvars Ladies Club, Mrs. Lydia Andoh-Quainoo described the visit as both honorable and progressive". She said, "this is the first time a woman of her standing in the Church visited and sought our ideas for the ministry. So, I think it is both an honor to us and a progressive move by the director." On her part, the Head of Department of Nursing and Midwifery assured Mrs. Mireku that the ladies at Pentecost University will study the document intellectually and contribute to it."

The Registrar of the University Mr. Amoani thanked the women leaders for their visit on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor. He assured them that the University and its experts are available to contribute in any means possible to the new vision of the Women's Ministry and the general improvement of women.





FIRST IDEATION WORKSHOP HELD SUCCESSFULLY

Pentecost University has held its first Idea Generation Workshop. The Virtual Workshop dubbed “Ideation Workshop 2021” was held on Thursday 18th March 2021. It was coordinated by the Research, Innovation, and Consultancy Center (RICC) of the University.

According to the Director of RICC, Rev. Prof. Ivy Drafor-Amenyah, the objective of the workshop was to generate a lot of ideas around specific real-life problems in society, develop some of them into projects, and possibly have an idea bank from which we can draw in future. “If you can have the right ideas, you can solve many problems around the world’, she added.

In his opening address, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Kwabena Agyapong-Kodua thanked the RICC for organizing the workshop. He further demonstrated how simple ideas could result in extraordinary inventions and

therefore encouraged staff to put forward in the deliberations. Prof. Agyapong-Kodua said, “God created the universe by speaking ideas such as let there be this, let there be that.” He added that “this gives ideas so much power that those who are intentional about generating and refining ideas rule the world.”

On his part, the founding Rector of the then Pentecost University College, Aps. Prof. Opoku Onyinah enumerated how simple ideas bore extraordinary fruits in his corporate life and ministry. He cited the transitioning of Pentecost Bible College to a university and certain structures he instituted with simple ideas in The Church of Pentecost when he was Chairman. Participants were fully engaged throughout the process of the well-organized Workshop.



SRC SUPPORTS STREET LIGHTING ON CAMPUS

The Students Representative Council (SRC) of Pentecost University, under the leadership of Mr. Joshua Danser, has acquired 20 units of street lighting bulbs for the University. In a brief ceremony today, Mrs. Vera A. Ohui, a Level 400 weekend student handed over the items on behalf of the students to Management.

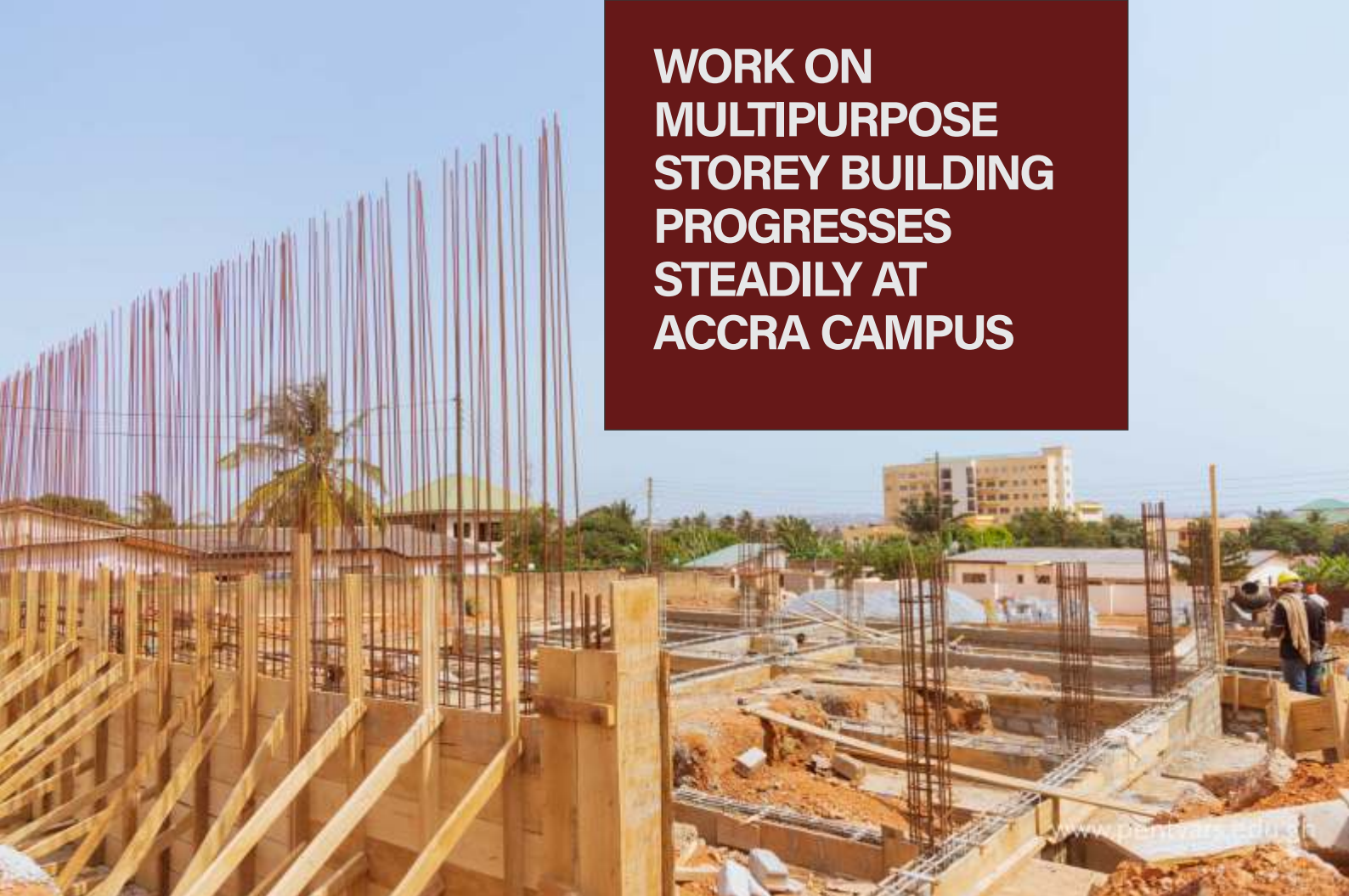
In his remark, the SRC President, Mr. Danser said the donation was a form of contribution from the student body in support of the on-going transformation on campus. He said the objective was to help brighten certain areas around the University to enhance security and ambiance. He added that "it was also an effort to demonstrate a critical tenet of the University A+ vision; for PU students to acquire and cultivate intuitive problem-solving mentalities.

Commenting further, Mr. Danser said, the SRC sees itself as an active partner and will contribute its part to transforming the University. He said, "we have seen massive transformation on-going on campus, such as multipurpose structures

being built, but there are still some needs; but, instead of complaining and petitioning Management, we decided to seek support from the corporate world to meet those needs". "By the grace of God, we got it." ... he concluded.

The Dean of Students Affairs, Rev. Jonathan Kofie who received the items on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor thanked the students for the gesture. He said, "on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Agyapong-Kodua, I must say, we are moved by this gesture and wish to thank you." He added that "Management is also impressed that you caught the vision of the University A+ agenda to be solution-oriented students."

On his part, the Estate Development Manager of the University, Mr. Charles Tetteh said the lights have come at a crucial time that the University is expanding; and they will be put to good use. The SRC was supported by the Fernando Group of Companies.



WORK ON MULTIPURPOSE STOREY BUILDING PROGRESSES STEADILY AT ACCRA CAMPUS

Work on a four-story multipurpose building on the Pentecost University campus is progressing steadily. The basement of the work which started in January 2021 is almost complete.

According to the Estate Development Manager of the University, Mr. Charles Narh Tetteh, it is expected that the first phase will be completed by end of April 2021.

In a working visit to the construction site, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kwabena Agyapong-Kodua expressed satisfaction at the revised time and work schedules and added that he cannot wait to see the building in full use for research, teaching, workshops, ideas incubation, and new project catapults.

Commenting further, the VC said the project is a strategic investment by The Church of Pentecost that will propel the University A+ vision in the context of possessing the nations agenda.

He added that it was going to serve multi-purposes for the University. "When completed, this project will be home to many initiatives including new horizons of research in advanced educational models; lecture and syndicate theatres; offices and innovation rooms among others." ...Prof. Agyapong-Kodua said.

Pentecost University increased enrolment in the first 2020/2021 admissions window by 118%. This project is one of many that are earmarked to proactively meet infrastructural demand that may arise; as the University plans to increase student enrolment in their second admission season and subsequent years.



PENTECOST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SHORTLISTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS US\$1M STARTUP AWARD

The Hult Prize Foundation announced that Team SEMFA, a startup impact enterprise founded by Obed Nana Appiah, Comfort Degbor, and Mavis Sallas Mensah has been shortlisted for the 2021 Hult Prize US\$1M Challenge regional final round. In partnership with the United Nations Office of Partnerships, the Hult Prize Foundation organizes the world's largest startup program aimed at social impact and offers a grand startup prize of US\$1,000,000 awarded by President Bill Clinton at the United Nations Headquarters on an annual basis.

Team SEMFA has beaten the odds, outperforming a record number of 350,000 program participants who began the journey

this past fall. "It's an amazing experience being selected for the next round and we truly believe our idea can and will change the world," said Obed Nana Appiah, Team lead for SEMFA.

The team is now preparing for the next stage where they will travel to the Hult Impact Summit – Austria, Vienna (Virtual). This coming spring, where they will pitch for a coveted spot in the Hult Prize Global Accelerator – a best-in-class program, regularly ranking as the world's number one accelerator for social impact. "It is fascinating to see like-minded young entrepreneurs, representing 121 countries, coming together around the same mission.

The Hult Impact Summits will celebrate the youth-driven impact and showcase thousands of SDGs aligned businesses addressing the UN-issued Hult Prize Food for Good Challenge,” said Hamdi Ben El Elmi, Hult Prize Foundation Global Head of Programs. This year’s 2021 Hult Prize Challenge asks entrepreneurs to rethink food and build the foundations of a venture that will create jobs, stimulate economies, reimagine supply chains and improve the overall outcome for 10,000,000 people by 2030.

Team SEMFA does that by using innovative ways to store, preserve and promote the consumption of natural foods while providing economic incentives for farmers and you can follow their journey to impact by visiting <https://semfa.whats.bz>

Hult Prize Impact Summits have a history of

being life-changing experiences for attendees and bring together a community of people with an outlook of changing the world through business. Events are open to college and university students, industry professionals, academic leaders, and non-profit/government executives. Planned programming includes professional networking mixers, social events, inspirational keynote speeches, workshops, and the headline activity of the summit – the regional final demo day of the million-dollar Hult Prize Challenge.

More than 200 short-listed entrepreneurs will be pitching startups that solve this year’s UN-issued food challenge. At stake for one lucky team is a golden ticket invitation to attend the award-winning Hult Prize Accelerator program getting them one step closer to winning US\$1,000,000 in startup capital.

ABOUT THE HULT PRIZE FOUNDATION

The Hult Prize Foundation is the market leader in action-based learning, impact education, and large-scale job creation for youth. Founded in 2009 by impact pioneer, Ahmad Ashkar, the Hult Prize Foundation transforms how young people envision their own possibilities as leaders of change in the world around them. With a network of 3,000 university chapters and international headquarters located on five continents, the organization has been a global force supporting youth everywhere who seek to build their capacities in the world of entrepreneurship and to connect to the world of business.

Through a flagship one-million-dollar global entrepreneurship prize, the Hult Prize Foundation has helped launch thousands of startups that actively solve UN SDGs and create new jobs across 121 countries. In partnership with the United Nations Office of Partnerships, EF Education First, and the Hult International Business School, the Hult Prize has brought impact-focused programs and events to millions of people, creating a pathway for youth everywhere to take action to build a better world.

To learn more about the Hult Prize Foundation and how to get involved, visit <https://www.hultprize.org>



PENTECOST UNIVERSITY STUDENT WINS NATIONAL FRANCOPHONIE AWARD

A level 200 student of Pentecost University, Mr. Joseph Someh emerged second in the 2020 national Francophonie French Quiz Competition. Mr. Someh, a Communication student at the University received a smart mobile phone and reading materials as prizes for his performance.

He picked up his award at the Ministry of Education on Tuesday 23th March 2021 in the company of his lecturer and Coordinator of the Pentecost University Language Center Mrs. Peace Atsu and other well-wishers.

In presenting the prize, Mr. Tchitchi Kondo-Ayiga, Coordinator, Francophonie Affairs Secretariat, at the Ministry of Education congratulated Pentecost University and Mr. Someh in particular on the achievement. He added that the quiz is organized annually to enrich and revive the spirit of the study of the French language among Ghanaians.

Commenting on the award, Mr. Someh said he was humbled. He further thanked Pentecost University for creating a conducive

environment for him to study and learn French at the same time. He added that the award has ignited confidence that spurs him to compete for other national and international accolades. Mr. Someh said, "to win a national award is very humbling but gives me the confidence to aim higher." He further encouraged students to take advantage of the PU Language Center and learn French to make them internationally competitive. He said "following the inception of the African Continental Free Trade Area and other global issues, it is imperative that every Ghanaian youth learns French in order to be globally competitive."

On her part, Mrs. Peace Atsu who coached Mr. Someh for the competition expressed satisfaction with his performance. She said they put in a lot of effort which has "paid off in a grand style". Mrs. Atsu said, "it is gratifying to see Mr. Someh emerge for an award at the national level; God indeed rewarded our efforts."



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ENVIRONMENTAL CARE CLUB HOLDS CLEAN-UP ENVIRONMENT ON CAMPUS

At the dawn of 6th March, 2021, the Vice-Chancellor of Pentecost University, Prof. Kwabena Agyapong-Kodua joined the Environmental Care Club on campus for a clean-up exercise. The exercise aimed at cleaning the University and the immediate community was highly patronized.

In view of that, gutters, overgrown weeds, streets were cleared and cleaned.

The Environmental Care Club is an Eco-friendly student organization on Pentecost University campus. It is aimed at instilling volunteerism and community service to its members.



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PENTECOST UNIVERSITY STAFF RECEIVE COVID-19 VACCINATION

Staff of Pentecost took the Covid-19 vaccination on campus on 4th March 28, 2021.

Mr. Amos Kevin-Annan a member of staff and renowned Counselor and Life Coach in sharing his experience asked for more education and tolerance on the diverging views on vaccination. He urged everyone who gets the opportunity to take the jab to do so. He further urged people to desist from spreading unexamined opinions and myths about the vaccines as thou they are facts.

At the same time, Mr. Kevin-Annan asked people to stop antagonizing others who are genuinely uninformed or anxious about the vaccination. Instead, "we should work on getting everyone to be confident in the exercise."... he concluded.

ABE, WEST AFRICA DIRECTOR VISITS PENTECOST UNIVERSITY

The Director of Association of Business Executive (ABE), West Africa, Mr. Tony Atagamen paid a working visit to Pentecost University on 4th March 2021. He came along with the Mr. Kodzo Keazor the Director of ABE, Ghana.

According to Mr. Atagamen the visit is in line with ABE's workings to regularly engage key institutional partners such as PU. He further praised the PU center for producing top ABE performers at the international level. Mr. Atagamen said "in fact, PU is the most outstanding ABE institutional partner in West Africa; in terms of numbers and performance; as such it is recognized as one of the most outstanding center globally." He went ahead and praised the PU Management and ABE team for the achievements.

Prof. Kwabena Agyapong-Kodua the Vice-Chancellor of Pentecost University who received the ABE delegates, thanked the two gentlemen for their visit. He assured that "ABE is central to the University A+ agenda and that there are plans to recruit more

students to the programme." He added, "the drive is to make ABE an attractive programme to all so that it is not viewed as an alternative programme for unsuccessful University applicants. Students must freely apply to ABE even if they are qualified to study in main stream University programmes, because ABE is also a suitable professional qualification."

The visit coincided with Covid-19 vaccination in the University and they took the jabs. According to Mr. Atagamen, they bumped into the on-going vaccination and took advantage to vaccinate ourselves." He expressed joy that "there could not have been a better time to visit."

The Association of Business Executives (ABE) is a renowned UK professional certification body with institutional partners across the world. In 2019, Mr. Augustine Antwi Boasiako, the ABE Director at Pentecost University was appointed to its International Advisory Board.

PU COVID-19 PROTOCOLS GUIDE

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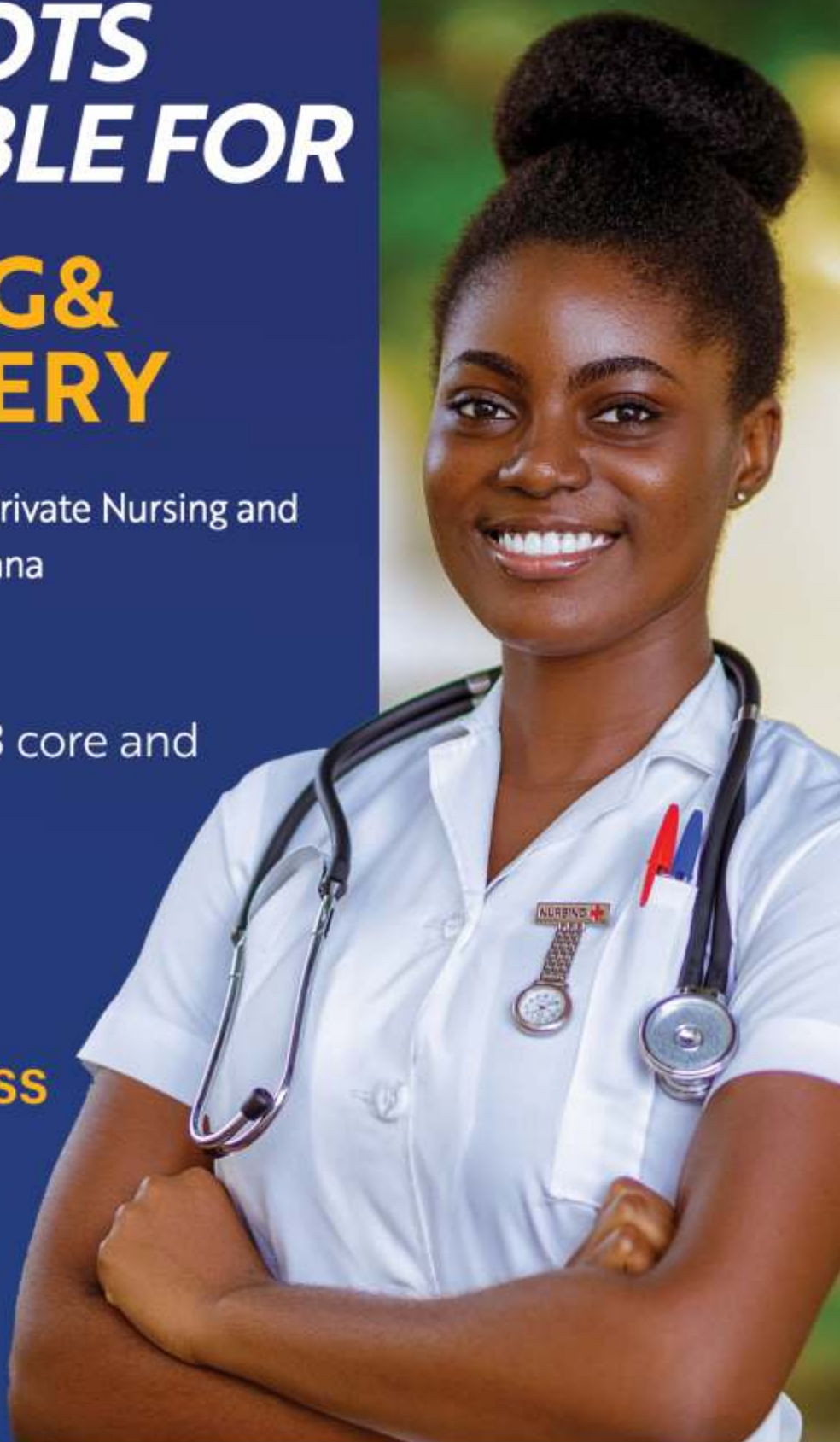
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