

ANCHOR

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...assuring effectiveness, keeping the promise

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OUR VISION

A driving force for transforming Babcock University into a center of excellence through assuring institutional effectiveness.

OUR MISSION

To Uphold Babcock University as a center of excellence, through quality development and management of personnel and materials in teaching and learning, research, and spirituality.

OUR CORE VALUES

Trust in God

Integrity

Persistence

Excellence

Diligence

Service

Loyalty to Seventh-day

Adventist Heritage

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EDITORIAL

A Fresh Start with Faith and Resilience!!

The beginning of a new year often unfolds as a canvas of aspirations, laden with prospects, plans, promises, and resolutions. At Babcock University, this season is marked by a collective journey of purpose and progress which is embodied in the annual colloquium, an event designed to prepare faculty and staff for a year of impactful service. The colloquium, held from January 8-11, 2025 with the theme *“Faith and Resilience: Navigating the Challenges of Our Time,”* serves as a timely reminder of the importance of unwavering faith and resilience amidst life’s uncertainties. It is also a call to anchor our trust firmly in the Lord Jesus Christ, even as we navigate the complexities of today’s world. This year’s colloquium was not just a meeting of minds,

but a celebration of shared values and strengthened commitments, offering a platform for reflective discussions, strategic planning, and spiritual renewal, ensuring that every faculty and staff member is em-

powered to face the year with courage and clarity.

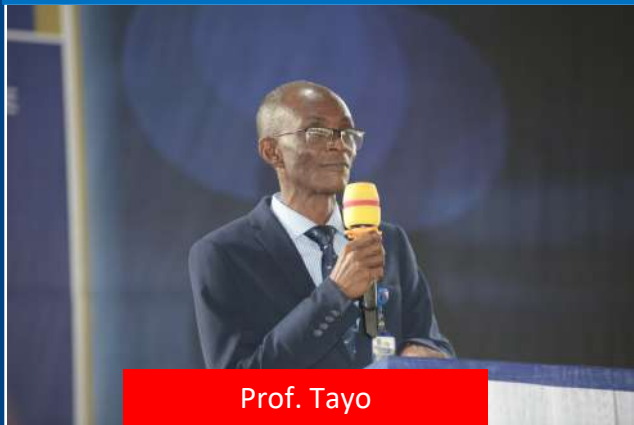
This edition of the *Anchor Newsletter* captures the highlights and insights from the 2025 colloquium. Let the stories within these pages re-



Constance C. Nwosu, PhD (AVP, IE)

kindle your spirits, reaffirm your faith, and reignite your resilience for the year ahead.

WARM WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR



Prof. Tayo

who earned promotions, particularly, those that attained professorial ranks. In addition, he introduced the newly appointed deans and heads of departments. The President/Vice Chancellor also led a moment of silence and prayer in memory of departed colleagues. Concluding his address, he prayed for the staff and faculty, charging them to lead with simplicity, integrity, and accountability.

With a nod from the President/Vice Chancellor, Dr. Abiola Makinde, Director, Human Resources, extended a heartfelt welcome to both returning and new employees, encouraging them to embrace a productive year ahead.

To deepen the sense of community, Prof. Ademola Tayo, President/Vice Chancellor, addressed the assembly. He warmly welcomed the faculty and staff to a new year of abundance and celebrated the achievements of faculty and staff members



Dr. Makinde

Editorial Team

Prof. C.C. Nwosu Editor-in-chief

Sandra Ikegwuruka Editor

HEARING THE LORD SPEAKS.....

There is no better way to start a program than to begin by hearing from God. On the opening day of the colloquium, Prof. Efe Ehioghae, Associate Vice President for Spiritual Life, and University Pastor, delivered a devotional titled ***"Strength in Adversity: Finding Faith When Life is Tough."*** Drawing from 2 Kings 6:28-29 (NIV), he reflected on the harrowing tale of famine and human desperation, emphasizing God's unchanging faithfulness in difficult times. Prof. Ehioghae reminded the audience that even amidst adversity, God's sufficiency and provision remain steadfast. He encouraged attendees to embrace the following key virtues in the New Year:

- **Humility and selflessness** by prioritizing the needs of others.
- **Problem-solving mindset** by facing challenges with a solution-oriented approach.
- **Authenticity** by demonstrating God's love and character through actions and relationships.

Concluding with a message of hope, in 2 Corinthians 9:8: *"God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"*, Prof. Ehioghae assured the assembly of God's guidance and blessings in the year ahead and prayed for continued divine provision and protection.



Prof. Ehioghae



Prof. Odunaike

On the second day of the event, Prof. Dorcas Odunaike, Provost of Iperu Campus and Dean of the School of Law and Security Studies, presented a devotional titled ***"The Role of Community in Strengthening Faith."*** Focusing on Isaiah 43:2, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, and Job 15-17, Prof. Odunaike emphasized the importance of faith and resilience in overcoming life's challenges. She highlighted that true resilience is grounded in divine wisdom and scripture, not merely human effort. Biblical figures like Apostle Paul and Job were cited as exemplary models of resilience and faith: Paul's unwavering focus on spiritual battles and dependence on God demonstrated the power of faith during trials, while Job's story underscored the value of community support in navigating adversity. Prof. Odunaike provided practical guidance for fostering resilience and strengthening faith within a community as

1. **Sharing Burdens:** Drawing inspiration from Job's friends, she stressed the importance of companionship and mutual support during tough times.
2. **Prayer:** She described prayer as a vital source of peace, strength, and an opportunity to entrust challenges to God.
3. **Living Faith:** Acts 2:44-47 served as a reminder to cultivate faithfulness and to be dependable friends who uplift others.

In her conclusion, she encouraged attendees to cherish the gift of community, offer support to one another, and embody compassion, presence, and non-judgmental attitude towards one another. She called on everyone to strive to be sources of comfort and strength for those in need.

UNLOCKING ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION



Prof. Amanze

In a presentation titled *“The Transformative Power of Adventist Education in Our Present-Day Economy”*, Prof. Philemon Amanze, Senior Vice President for Academics, highlighted the profound impact of Adventist education on individuals and society. He defined economy as the effective and efficient management of resources at various levels, from households to institutions and nations, and emphasized that commitment to transformative education is key to empowering communities and driving positive change. He explained that Babcock University operates under the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy of education, which is God-centered, Bible-based, and service-oriented. Unlike secular models that exclude God, the institution integrates faith with learning, fostering a transformative approach that prepares students to choose right, and trust God totally. This approach inte-

grates the mental, physical, spiritual, and social dimensions of human growth, following Christ’s example of balanced development as described in Luke 2:52. He also elaborated on the core pillars of Adventist education:

a) **Restoring the Image of God:** Adventist education seeks to transform lives through Christ, as education and redemption are interconnected. b) **Whole-Person Development:** Designing programs intentionally addressing spiritual, intellectual, physical, and social goals, students are prepared not only for service in this world, but for eternal joy and service in the life to come. c) **Holy Spirit-Filled Educators:** Teachers are viewed as divine instruments, committed to guiding students with a biblical worldview and acting as mentors who model Christ-like principles. d) **Education for Eternity:** Adventist education moves beyond preparing students for careers to shaping them as candidates for heaven, with a focus on transformational character development. e) **Every Truth is God’s Truth:** The Bible is central to the curriculum, informing all subjects and instilling moral and ethical values in students. In addition, Prof. Amanze emphasized the critical role of Adventist graduates in addressing societal issues such as corruption, moral decay, and spiritual decline. By producing leaders, counselors, and professionals guided by the fear of God, Adventist education can contribute significantly to the moral and economic prosperity of Nigeria and beyond. He concluded by urging all educators to seek to transform lives through the practical application of the core pillars of Adventist education, and living a Christ-like life, which is the greatest example.

NAVIGATING RESEARCH AS THE PINNACLE OF GROWTH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Prof. Akindele Olupelumi Adebisi, an Adjunct Professor of Research & Methods at RIIC, Babcock University, and President of the International Epidemiological Association, delivered a lecture on *“Navigating Research, Learning, and Personal Growth in Higher Institutions.”* He framed his discussion around 2 Timothy 2:5, emphasizing that academic and personal aspirations must align with institutional goals, to ensure holistic development. He highlighted that universities have a responsibility to maintain visibility and enhance their rankings, a task requiring the collective effort of all members of the institution. To achieve this, he outlined key principles such as **Strategic Positioning**, which calls for individuals to proactively position themselves for success by identifying societal problems and developing solutions; **Collaboration and Team Growth**, which presents effective teamwork as fostering progress, thus, understanding that both personal and team strengths are essential; **Finding One’s Voice**, ensuring that personal and professional growth align with passion, societal needs, conscience, and skillsets; **Integrity in Research**



Prof. Adebisi

and Learning, which inculcates integrity in our work. Drawing from the **Singapore Statement on Research Integrity**,

Prof. Adebisi

stressed the importance of honesty, accountability, fairness, and responsible stewardship in academic research. Additionally, he emphasized that institutions should provide regulatory frameworks, guidance, and support, but individuals must actively engage with these structures to ensure compliance and productivity. Prof. Adebisi concluded by advocating for research that not only addresses societal challenges but also enhances the reputation of the university while amplifying the researchers' impact.

PANELISTS SPEAK ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES



A cross-section of the panelists

The colloquium also featured panel discussions on pertinent issues. The first of these focused on **“Psychological and Emotional Resilience: Challenges of our Time and Mental Health Issues”**, ably led by a seasoned psychiatrist, Dr. Oluwatoyin Fasesan, lecturer/honorary consultant, Department of Internal Medicine, Ben Carson (Snr.) College of Medical Sciences (BCCHMS). Other members of the panelists are Dr.

Promisen Nwaka, a clinical psychologist at Babcock University Teaching Hospital (BUTH), Dr. Benjamin Ako, the Chief Male Hall Administrator, Dr. Mercy Francis-Odi, the Chief Female Hall Administrator, and Dr. Bidemi Anwawane, Assistant Director, Student Support Centre.

Leading the discussion, Dr. Fasesan decried the global rise in mental health challenges, emphasizing the devastating impacts on individuals, families, and communities. She identified factors, such as economic and political stressors, as key contributors to this growing crisis. She stressed that

mental health is a universal right and integral to overall health, underscoring that “there is no health without mental health.” Mental health issues, including suicide, are preventable, yet stigma and misconceptions persist. Panelists debunked common myths, such as the idea that mental illness is a sign of weakness or that it is contagious. The discussion also explored the connection between spirituality and mental well-being, noting that faith and obedience to God can enhance resilience. Workplace mental health was another key focus, with panelists advocating for supportive environments to reduce stress and boost productivity. Toxic work conditions, they argued, can undermine mental health, while practices like recreation, healthy eating, self-care, and setting realistic goals can foster resilience. The panel concluded by urging collective action to promote mental health, challenge stigma, and ensure access to affordable and responsive care. By fostering a more compassionate society, we can help everyone realize their right to mental well-being.

PANELISTS SPEAK ON SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT INSTITUTION

In line with the theme of the colloquium, the second panel focused on **“Building a Sustainable and Resilient Institution in the Face of Economic Volatility through Systems Thinking-based Institutional Resource Management”**. The members of the panelists are: Prof. Chibueze A. Ogbonna (Dean, School of Environmental Sciences- Panel Lead), Prof. Barnabas Mandong (Chief Medical Director, BUTH) Prof. Grace O. Tayo (Director, Research, Innovation & International Cooperation) Prof. Adelere Adeniran (AVP, Works & Physical Planning) Prof. John Sotunsa (Provost, BCCHMS), Prof. Olutayo Sokunbi (Ag. Provost, College of Postgraduate Studies) Dr. Oladipo Adebawajo, (AVP, Financial Administration) and Mr. Abiodun Odunaike (Director, Strategic Procurement Services).

Prof. Ogbonna opened the discussion by defining resilience as the ability to proactively and resourcefully adapt to change in an inclusive and sustainable way. He highlighted the four domains of resilience as spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental and key components such as energy, future focus, inner drive, flexible thinking, and strong relationships. He also emphasized the importance of systems thinking, which involves understanding and addressing



A cross-section of the panelists

complex issues by considering the relationships and interdependencies within an organization.

The panelists shared practical examples of how systems thinking has been integrated into their respective departments to navigate challenges effectively. Benefits cited included improved collaboration, enhanced resource management, reduced costs and wastage, and the delivery of high-quality services. Specific successes highlighted include increased student enrollment and retention, maintenance of a conducive learning environment, and implementation of state-of-the-art medical care.

Embedding Entrepreneurship: A Catalyst for Innovation in Research, Teaching, and Collaboration



Dr. Ajibade

Dr. Ayodeji Ajibade, Director, Babcock Entrepreneurship Development Centre (BEDC), emphasized the need for Babcock University to evolve into an entrepreneurial university that nurtures innovation, equips graduates with practical skills, and fosters financial independence. He defined an entrepreneurial university as one that **commercializes research findings, drives innovation, engages with industry and the community, and contributes to economic development.** He highlighted BEDC's initiatives, including the **Mindset-shift for Academic Development in Entrepreneurship (MADE), Babcock Entrepre-**

neurship Week, and the Innovation Challenge. He also showcased the success of two alumni, **Chinazom Arinze (CEO of Autogirl) and Israel Kehinde (CEO of Lockbook),** as examples of BU graduates excelling in entrepreneurship. To integrate entrepreneurship into the university's core mission, he proposed the following strategies:

1. Strengthening Industry Collaboration: Faculties should actively partner with industries to bridge the gap between academia and real-world applications.

2. Establishing Departmental Consultancy Units: Departments could offer consultancy services on industry projects, involving students to enhance their practical experience. The revenue generated could be shared among the university, faculty, and students.

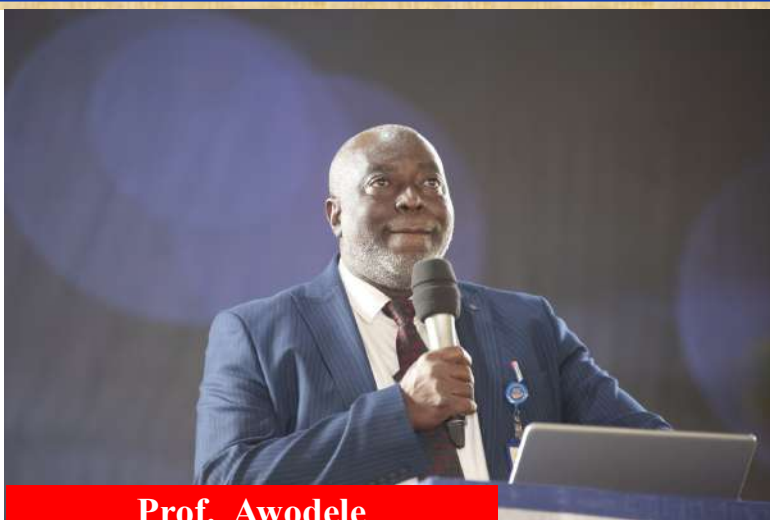
3. Redefining Academic Income Models: Lecturers should supplement their earnings through consultancy engagements, aligning their expertise with industry needs. This model could help address salary disparities between academia and the corporate sector.

Dr. Ajibade concluded by urging the administration to **rethink and reimagine their approach to integrating entrepreneurship into teaching, research, and collaboration.** By doing so, the university can position itself as **true 21st-century entrepreneurial university** that prepare graduates for dynamic and competitive economic landscapes.

The Role of DAP in Academic Excellence and University Rankings

The Department of Academic Planning (DAP) also had a presentation encapsulating on "the university ranking", and overview of the activities of the department. It was anchored by Prof. Oludele Awodele, the Director of DAP. According to him, DAP serves as the backbone of a university's academic operations, ensuring compliance, quality, and innovation. It also ensures that all the academic programs align with global best practices (International, national and denominational accrediting bodies). Regarding university rankings, Prof. Awodele explained their significant influence on institutional reputation, policy formulation, and decision-making. He listed several globally recognized ranking bodies, including: Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) University World Ranking, Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), National Universities Commission (NUC) Ranking, etc.

To enhance Babcock University's ranking, he advocated for : Support for DAP Initiatives, Active Engagement in Research and Faculty Development , Align Institutional Goals with Global Standards.



Prof. Awodele

Prof. Awodele stated that by implementing these strategies, Babcock University can enhance its global visibility, attract top talent, and improve its overall academic standing.

Safeguarding Data, Strengthening Trust: Babcock University Leads the Way...



Mr. Chukwu

Technology and Development Service (ITDS) under the leadership of Prof. Olugbenga Idowu anchored a session on "**The Importance of Data Protection and Security**", which featured Mr. Chukwuemeka Chukwu, Chief Data Protection Officer & Information Security Management System Manager at InfoAssure, Lagos.

Mr. Chukwu emphasised that as a top-tier academic institution, Babcock University manages vast amounts of sensitive personal data, making compliance with the **Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDPA)** a necessity. The Act provides a robust legal framework to uphold privacy, promote responsible data practices, and mitigate risks. Aligning with NDPA not only protects students, staff, and stakeholders but also reinforces the university's core values of excellence, integrity, and service. He also acknowledged the

In an era of rising cyber threats, data leaks, and security challenges, proactive data protection is no longer optional, it is essential. Recognizing this, the Office of Information

fact that Babcock University has been at the forefront of implementing this act in their data management. According to him, by prioritizing data security, the university strengthens its reputation as a forward-thinking institution committed to ethical data management. In doing so, it sets a standard for academic excellence while ensuring a safer digital future for all.

Engaging Breakout Session: Unlocking Insights & Collaboration

The colloquium also featured a special breakout session for the hardworking staff of Babcock Transport & Safety Management Authority, (BTSMA) and Babcock University Campuses Landscape Environmental Amelioration Network (BU CLEAN) including horticulture, grounds, and sanitation workers, as well as drivers. The session was packed with valuable insights on road safety, environmental sustainability, and public health.

Mastering Defensive Driving

In his session on Defensive Driving Techniques, J.O. Akinboboye, Deputy Route Commander (DRC), RS2.24 Ogere, emphasized that defensive driving is more than just following traffic rules, it is about staying alert, anticipating dangers, and making proactive decisions to avoid collisions. The tips for defensive driving are to stay alert and focused, expect the unexpected, keep a safe-following distance and maintain a steady speed. Always check your vehicle before any journey using the FRSC "WOFT" checklist; W – Water, O – Oil, F – Fanbelt, T – Tyres. His final advice "You might be the only sane driver on the road, always drive defensively!"

Sustaining Greenery and Aesthetics

Dr. Shobo Bolatito, a horticulturist and lecturer at the School of Agriculture and Industrial Technology (AIT), spoke on preserving environmental beauty. She encouraged horticulture workers to take pride in their work, as their efforts enhance both the ecosystem and the aesthetic appeal of Babcock University.

Cleanliness: The Best Preventive Measure

In her talk on "Navigating the Challenges of Our Time", Prof. Motunrayo Olanrewaju, from the Department of Public Health, highlighted cleanliness as a fundamental pillar of healthy living. She urged sanitation workers to be deliberate and diligent in their duties, as maintaining hygiene plays a crucial role in preventing diseases.

From safe roads to green spaces and clean environments, every staff member contributes to a safer, healthier, and more beautiful community.



Snapshot from the Break-out session

Fun, Food & Learning: A Colloquium to Remember!

Beyond insightful presentations and thought-provoking discussions, the colloquium was packed with exciting social activities, making it an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

Music is Life!

The Musical Team set the stage on fire with soul-stirring performances, including spectacular acts from "The Chord", and standout individual artists like **Chigozie Emos**. Their melodies added a vibrant rhythm to the event, leaving the audience energized and entertained.



D Ayanlowo & Dr. Lawal

Stomach Clinic – Because Good Food Matters!

The sub-committee on welfare ensured that no one went home hungry, serving up healthy, delicious meals throughout the colloquium. Hydration was a top priority, with sufficient supply of water to keep everyone refreshed and fueled for the day's activities.

Edutainment: Learning with a Fun Twist!

A quiz and debate session brought an interactive element to the event, with staff and faculty competing to answer questions based on the presentations. Quick thinkers and attentive listeners walked away with exciting gifts and incentives, making learning both engaging and rewarding.



Participants at the Edutainment

Presentation of IFL and IFS Certificates

The faculty and staff that successfully completed the workshops on Integration of Faith in Learning (IFL) and Integration of Faith in Service (IFS) were awarded their certificates. They also received presidential handshakes from Prof. Tayo Ademola and Prof. Philemon Amanze. The workshop was facilitated by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness headed by Prof. Constance Nwosu.

The Sum of it All...

The colloquium sub-committee on Editorial and Publication provided a detailed summary of all presentations and activities during the colloquium, including the recommendations.

Sportainment.....

The sub-committee on Social and Sports added a touch of fun to the event by organizing various short and engaging exercises, ensuring it wasn't all work alone.



Participants at the Sportainment



IFS & IFL Recipients

A Time Out with Principal Officers: Reflections & Roadmap for the Future

At a special gathering with principal officers, key achievements from the past year were reviewed, and strategic plans for the future were unveiled, it was anchored by Prof. David Alao, the Chief of Staff to the Vice Chancellor. Dr. Sunday Audu, Vice President of Student Development, highlighted major milestones, including the donation of two ambulance vehicles to BUTH, the completion of two new hostels, and ongoing renovations. He also commended BUSA for its unwavering support.. On financial matters, Dr. Folorunsho Akande, Vice President, Financial Administration, affirmed the institution's commitment to timely and consistent salary and loan payments. Representing the Senior Vice President, Management, Services Prof. Olugbenga Idowu shared updates on technological advancements, such as the adoption of Biomedical Records at BUTH and the introduction of multifunctional student ID cards. He also acknowledged the Marketing and Com-

munication department's relentless efforts in boosting student enrollment. Addressing academic progress, Prof. Philemon Amanze, Senior Vice President, Academics, emphasized BU's strong

performance in accreditation, faculty development, and effective classroom management.

Prof. Tayo Ademola, President/Vice Chancellor concluded the session by acknowledging the institution's significant growth and outlining major projects set for completion before the end of the administration, including:

- **Expansion of the EAH building/lecture halls**
- **New Horizon building and School of Engineering complex**



Prof. Alao

- **Upgrade of Gamaliel Hall at Iperu Campus to a two-story structure**
- **160-capacity CIBN Hall for Banking and Finance students**

Beyond infrastructure, he emphasized financial prudence, waste management, wealth creation, and the importance of integrity and honesty. He urged everyone to embrace a simple, ethical lifestyle while rejecting all forms of fraud and dishonesty.



A cross-section of the principal officers

From left: Dr. Audu, Dr. Akande, Prof. Ademola, Prof. Amanze and Prof. Idowu

Behold the Climax of the Colloquium: A Moment of Renewed Hope!

The recent colloquium wrapped up on a high note, leaving hearts uplifted and spirits strengthened. An inspiring sermon on faith and perseverance set the tone, reminding us to trust in God's unwavering presence through life's challenges. Reflecting on the event's key discussions, Prof. Tayo Ademola, the Vice-Chancellor (VC) expressed deep gratitude to the AVP/IE, Prof. C.C. Nwosu, and the dedicated steering organizing committee and the sub-committees for their efforts. Acknowledging the uncertainties of today's world, economic shifts, conflicts, and health crises, he reassured everyone with a profound message of hope: **"LOOK UP, STAND FIRM, WALK THROUGH, AND PRAISE THE LORD"** Drawing from Exodus 14, he emphasized that just as God guided the Israelites, He continues to walk with us through every storm. The service concluded with a powerful prayer from



The Officiating Ministers

Prof. Tayo, a call to sanctification in homes and prayer of consecration by Prof. James Makinde.

As we embrace this new season, may we step forward with unwavering faith, stand firm in the face of trials, and keep our hearts lifted in praise. Here's to a purposeful and fulfilling 2025!



Prof. Makinde



BU Choir

PICTURE PANORAMA



Some participants at the Amphitheatre



A cross-section of the participants during the stretch break



Chigozie Emos performing a vocal piece



The participants listen keenly at the break-out session BBS Auditorium A

PICTURE PANORAMA



A cross-section of faculty and staff during the prayer session



Faculty and staff at the Amphitheatre during the panel discussion