DOI: https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/gjpas.v31i2.1

GLOBAL JOURNAL OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES SPECIAL ISSUE VOL. 31, 2025: 123-131
IN HONOUR OF PROFESSOR BARTH NWOYE EKWUEME ON HIS RETIREMENT
COPYRIGHT© BACHUDO SCIENCE CO. LTD PRINTED IN NIGERIA ISSN 1118 – 0579, e-ISSN: 2992 - 4464
www.globaljournalseries.com.ng, Email: globaljournalseries@gmail.com

MOTIVATION AND PASSION FOR LECTURING (1982-2024) VALEDICTORY LECTURE

BARTH NWOYE EKWUEME

(Received 7 November 2024; Revision Accepted 5 December 2024)

ABSTRACT

Life as an academician is one of the most fulfilling on earth. However, motivation is necessary for one to accept to be a lecturer. Successful academicians are those whose priority in life is not acquisition of wealth but imparting of knowledge on others, research and dissemination of research findings through publications and conferences. The author was motivated to become a lecturer by **Prof. Anthony Chukwuma Onyeagocha** his mentor and academic father. He encouraged him to accept this profession through prophecies that were eventually fulfilled and strict teaching which made him imbibe the virtues of integrity, passion, hard work and determination to succeed. As a result, the author rose, in spite of obstacles, from Assistant lecturer in 1982 to Professor in 1994. Humility and commitment to the ideals of thorough academicians led to this success and enabled him in his turn to mentor and produce academicians who are also Professors. One year after been promoted Professor, the author established Global Journal Series to help young academics to climb fast to the top of the academic ladder. He learned from his supervisor never to be harsh or to oppress any student under his care. The prayers of these students and the Grace of God enabled the author to attend 67 learned conferences during which he presented papers visiting every continent of the world. He capped it with 121 publications including 25 books before his retirement on 5th November 2024 after forty two years, eight months of meritorious service to the academia in University of Calabar, Nigeria and other Universities where he served as Professor on sabbatical leave.

KEYWORDS: Motivation, Passion, Humility, Integrity, Global Journal Series, Publications, conferences.

INTRODUCTION

As I bow out after 42 years of lecturing in the university system, I strongly feel the responsibility to share my experiences as an academician for the benefit of future generations. How did this journey start? How did the journey go? And how is it ending? These questions form the basis of this valedictory lecture where I will share the story of my career and experiences in the academia.

Motivation:

I was admitted to study Geology in University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) in 1974. Upon arriving at the Department, I met a 32 year old Youngman, six feet tall, who had just returned from the United States of America (USA) after studying there for 14 years. His name was Dr. Anthony Chukwuma Onyeagocha (1942-1987) (fondly referred to as Tony) (Ekwueme, 2023).

I admired his simplicity and intellectual acumen. He taught me petrology, a fundamental branch of geology. Though lecturers were not among the rich geologists compared to those in oil companies, their pay then took them home. At that time the exchange rate was 76kobo to I USD dollar. Not many students were excited by the field of Petrology at that time, and even now, but Dr. Onyeagocha took special interest in me. Then I was one of the four students who went with him to map Akwanga, his research area, as part of our B.Sc. thesis project. At the end of B.Sc programme, Dr. Onyeagocha called me, gave me the theses of four of us who went with him to Akwanga and asked me to draft an article from them to be submitted for consideration for publication in our professional Journal, Journal of Mining and Geology. He told me that if I joined academia, publications are necessary to rise through the ranks. Infact, I learnt of the dictum “publish or perish” from him.

Barth Nwoye Ekwueme: Department of Geology, University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria

There was opposition from both my classmates and my family to join academia. Already we had been interviewed by ministries and oil companies for lucrative jobs. Hence, my classmates openly opposed the idea of their best graduating student joining academia. To my family, they could not understand how I could sentence myself to poverty by becoming a lecturer.

Prof. Ekwueme receiving Hutchison young Scientist Award in Washington, Dc (1989)

Dr. Onyeagocha however, persisted telling me that one good article published in a reputable journal was more than **One Million Naira.** No body believed him. He prophesized that if I joined academia, he was sure that one day the world would stand up for me. The prophecy came through on 13th July, 1989 when the International Union of Geological Sciences **(IUGS)** honoured me with Hutchison Young Scientist Award as one of the three most promising young Scientists in the world in Washington, D.C. USA (Ekwueme 2007). With pressure from Dr. Onyeagocha and his wife Chii, I registered for M.Phil. degree programme under Tony's supervision in 1979. The supervision was thorough and Tony did all he could to make me successful. He ensured I taught part-time in a secondary school and he secured a German Exchange (**DAAD)** scholarship for me. I built my first house in my village from rebate from the scholarship while doing my M.Phil programme.

On completion of the Master's programme Tony called me and told me that he wanted me to do my Ph.D geological mapping and research in a virgin area: **the Oban Massif.** He argued that wild life and thick forest had hindered the geological exploration of the Oban massif and that it will give me a lot of mileage if I mapped there.

He again prophesized that he was sure that I would conquer the area geologically. His second prophesy came through in 2019 when the Federal Government of Nigeria published a compendium of my work in the Oban massif in the Nigerian Geological Survey Agency bulletin No. 55 (Ekwueme and Okoro 2019) to mark 100 years of the establishment of the Agency. The bulletin was the second in this part of Nigeria, the first was by Raeburn (1927). It was launched during the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society conference in Enugu in March 2019. Following the advice of Tony, I applied to University of Calabar for the position of Assistant Lecturer in January 1982. That time Tony had a supporter from my family, my late grandmother **MARIA Onuh**, who though not literate, was educated. I got a response

from the Head of Department of Geology that I was needed to fill the vacancy created by the departure of one of the British lecturers Dr. Kemp. However, on arrival at Calabar, the Head of Department (Dr. Rahman) a foreigner, was skeptical that a young and brilliant Nigerian would accept to be a lecturer. He did not do much to encourage me but collected my credentials. I had to come back to Calabar on February 17th 1982 and the Head of Department was surprised to see me. It was clear he did not follow up my application after my last visit. He therefore, took me to the Dean of Science also a foreigner. I was asked to wait outside. As they were discussing I heard the Dean urging the Head of Department to wait for a Ph.D holder, that he would regret employing a Master's degree holder when a Ph.D holder applied. The Head of Department assured the Dean that I would do the work well. He reluctantly recommended me to the Vice-chancellor. I drew a lesson from that incident, the requisite qualification for lectureship is a Ph.D. Master's degree holders are only being tolerated.

As soon as the Dean recommended me, the Head of Department went to the Vice-chancellor's office. He came out with the approval of my application. With that I was assigned a room in the Guest house and given free food, free accommodation and free health care. With the appointment then approved, I went to Nsukka and brought my wife to visit. There was only one lecturer from my area (Nsukka) in Unical that time. My wife and I visited his family at the staff village. On arrival, the wife of the lecturer recognized my wife as the baby she carried at Enugu. The man and the wife urged me to reject the appointment wondering how I could leave oil company job to join academia and sentence myself to perpetual poverty. They seemed to be correct because as a part-time tutor at Nsukka with a B.Sc. degree I earned monthly salary of ₦400 as I was also paid Science teachers' allowance. But the first pay slip I received from Unical bursary showed that I earned ₦320 even with a Master's degree. In spite of this I refused to quit academia telling the couple that my interest in life is to impart knowledge on others not to acquire riches (Ekwueme, 2002).

Lecturing: In my undergraduate and postgraduate studies, I was lectured not taught. My lecturers were not good in teaching. They were only lecturing. In lecturing, the lecturer reads out or copies out notes with no explanations. The students have to read books and journals to understand what was covered during lectures. In teaching, the teacher uses his or her skills and teaching aids to impart knowledge on the students. The teacher asks questions and answers questions asked by students.

Indeed, he or she explains and is happy that the students understand what is taught. In lecturing the lecturer cares less, he or she only delivers the lecture, no questions, no explanations. A student who asks questions risks a failure in the course by some lecturers

My arrival in Geology Department was a sort of relief to my Head of Department who also specialized in one of my disciplines-Mineralogy. He was taught by a renowned Mineralogist Prof. Mackenzie of University of Manchester, U.K. He was more interested in administering the Department than lecturing. As a result, he handed over most of his courses to me. My first lecture was delivered on 24th February, 1982. I interacted with the students and I found that they were taught not lectured.

That was the beginning of my challenges. As I said earlier, in UNN we were lectured not taught. I soon discovered that I was deficient in knowledge of some of the courses I was assigned to teach. I quickly tried to make up by joining the students in their classes during lectures. There was no surprise as I was very young and many on campus doubted that I was a lecturer rather than a student. In addition to joining the students in their lectures in my area of discipline, I went privately to the Head of Department to teach me aspects of Mineralogy, Optical Mineralogy and Crystallography. In the area of Petrology, the course was assigned to a part-time lecturer Dr. Rahaman of Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife. I joined the students in his lectures in Petrology. For structural geology I joined the students in the lectures delivered by my colleague Dr. Michael Oden. This humble disposition paid off as I became more knowledgeable and more confident in my courses and in teaching them. Since, I learnt in a hard way, I was able to write books and publish articles in my area of specialization. The impetus to write books came in 1987 when Dr. Onyeagocha died. University of Nigeria Nsukka wished that I transferred my service to Geology Department, UNN located partly in my home town Orba. When I refused to transfer my service, the Department engaged me as part-time lecturer. The time to teach at UNN was limited. I used to teach and follow up with dictation of notes. The students made a request that to enjoy my lectures more I should put them in writing as books. That led to the publication of “An Essay Approach to Igneous Petrology” (Ekwueme 1993a) and An Essay Approach to Metamorphic Petrology (Ekwueme 1993b) by University of Calabar Press and “Crystallography and Mineralogy including Optics” (1994). Students of UNN happily patronized the books which demystified this dreaded area of geology, Mineralogy and Petrology. The story at UNICAL was different as some colleagues attacked the books and dissuaded students from patronizing them (read: Surviving the Intrigues) (Ekwueme 2014). The Passion to lecture and teach was very high in me that I did not lobby or wish to be distracted by appointments.

To this end, I applied for sabbatical leave as a lecturer one in Unical to Ondo State University Ado-Ekiti (OSUA) now Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti. The University offered me a position of senior lecturer on sabbatical in 1988. There, the students enjoyed my teaching. The push by UNN for my transfer intensified. To retain me I was given an accelerated promotion to the post of senior lecturer by UNICAL.

One of my students at OSUA became a Head of Department at Afe Babalola University Ado-Ekiti and in 2015 requested that I come and teach Mineralogy and Petrology there. Before then I had gone on sabbatical to University of Port-Harcourt, Kogi State University and Enugu State University of Science and Technology. These visits were possible because of my passion for teaching. My books were read in all

Passion for Lecturing and Teaching Across Nigerian Universities

Universities in Nigeria that offer geology and in some Universities, abroad. That brought fame and encouragement to me. I had a stand at NMGS conferences where lecturers and students bought my books (Ekwueme 2007). As of today, seven laboratory Geology Manuals have been added to enhance the quality of teaching.

Research: I fell in love with field Geology in my first year in the University. It is in the field (bush) that geology is understood, appreciated and admired. A good geologist prefers to be in the bush (field) than in the classroom. My interest in field geology increased as I did my B.Sc., M.Phil. and Ph.D theses mapping. The projects were majorly geological field mapping of rocks in the area of study. Geological mapping is the art of tracing the contact (boundary) relationship of rocks in an area. Geological maps contain rock types and structures in the area. Without geological maps no other geological investigation can be carried out in an area. Field mapping is the first and the most important exercise by a geologist. It is on the basis of the results of geological mapping that samples are collected for Geophysical, Geochemical, Mineralogical, Structural, Geochronological Analyses. The Department of Geology Unical was and remains the best equipped and best staffed in Nigeria.

Dr. Rahaman as Head of Department made the University to purchase polarizing microscopes including Olympus Microscopes that use natural light for study in the absence of electricity, X-ray diffractometer and X-ray fluorescence spectrometer (XRD/XRF), Atomic Absorption spectrometer (AAS) and even electron microprobe microanalyzer spectrometer were all available in the Department when I assumed duty in 1982. There were camp beds, motorcycles, compasses, radios etc for field mapping. No other Department of Geology in Nigeria had such array of equipment. Unfortunately owing to epileptic nature of electricity supply, lack of technical know-how and administrative will to maintain them some of these equipment were put out of use.

I realized that the Department of Geology UNICAL had been allocating parts of the Oban massif to students for their B. Sc. Project mapping. Lecturers were supervising them. However, publications on Oban Massif were scanty. Raeburn (1927) did a pioneer study of the rocks. Rahaman *et al.* (1981) organized the NMGS conference on Oban Massif. Dr. Rahaman of Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife gave me a draft of the pioneer work of Taft, Golden and Mullan (1979) and took me on a ride in his Toyota crown car from Calabar to Cameroon border via Orem, Akor to Ekang in 1982. We stopped and studied the rocks as we travelled. He encouraged me to work hard and publish on Oban Massif Geology. By then the place was labelled undifferentiated basement in the Geological map of Nigeria meaning that due to small-scale mapping (1:2000,000) the details of the rocks are not shown. My duty was to differentiate the basement rocks.

Dr. Onyeagocha came to field-check my mapping in 1983. I started mapping the rocks from Ikot Okpora. The mapping covered Ikot Ana, Betem, Iwuru, Uyanga, Akamkpa and Oban the western part of the massif. Tony was interested in discovering areas having the typical Barrovian facies sequence of rocks as reported in Scottish Highland (my B.Sc. thesis) and in mapping of area southeast of Lokoja (my M.Phil thesis). He hoped we find the Barrovian Facies sequence in Oban massif. We did as published in Ekwueme and Onyeagocaha (1985). Since my supervisor was interested in my study area and knew that the publications would enhance his promotion to Professoral rank (He was promoted Professor before his death in 1987), he encouraged me to work harder. The encouragement was however, diluted by the Head of Department. I was going through the maps and B.Sc thesis projects on Oban massif by students who had graduated in the Department of Geology Unical when the Head of Department came to me and enquired what I was doing. As I was explaining to him, he seized the maps and thesis projects and ordered me never to work on the rocks of Oban massif claiming that it was his research area. He queried me how Dr. Onyeagocha would have felt if someone went to work on rocks of Akwanga area. I was speechless and reported the incident to my supervisor. Surprisingly, he advised me to obey the Head of Department arguing that he held the key to my success or failure in the programme. I refused to accept my supervisor's advice and reported the matter to some lecturers in the Department. They were not happy and pointed out that the Head of Department had published nothing on Oban massif rocks for the past seven years he had been in Unical. As the Head of Department went on biannual leave, Mr. E. E. Ukpong whom he handed over to act for him called me, made available the departmental Landover and a driver and told me to go about my field mapping. I did and that resulted in more than 100 publications, 65 learned conferences, production of Nine Ph.D holders some of them Professors in an area of specialization which is dreaded by students of geology and my supervisor had the privilege of producing only myself. I extended my field mapping to the Obudu Plateau. I produced five Ph.D holders on rock of Obudu Plateau. I published and presented more than 30 articles on rocks of Obudu Plateau in learned conferences and published them in reputable journals. I also organized the first International Geological Field Conference on Oban Obudu area (IGFC 001) in 2005.

After basic field mapping of an area comes the analyses of samples collected. Journals no longer publish results of only basic geological mapping. As of the time I completed mapping of the Oban massif rocks there was no reliable equipment to analyse my rocks, geochemically. Geochemical, geochronological and mineralogical data were needed to write an acceptable thesis entitled "Petrology, geochemistry and Rb-Sr geochronology of Uwet area, Oban Massif Southeastern Nigeria" (Ekwueme, 1985). The best approach would have been to travel to laboratories abroad that have equipment from which these data could be obtained. I had no fellowship or grants to travel. The next option was to send the samples abroad and pay for the analyses. Even though I had Unical senate grants for the programme, the money was not sufficient to pay for the analyses. I sought collaborations with colleagues abroad who had the equipment. Luckily some responded positively. They include Prof. S. W. Williams a visiting Professor and Dean Faculty of Agriculture Unical who collected samples of my rocks on 13th September 1983 and requested the Illinois Geological survey Department USA to do the geochemical analysis. Dr. Mitchell Caen-Vachette of laboratoire Geochronologie, Universite-de Clermont Ferrand, France did the Isotopic analysis of rocks from which the first age data of Oban massif rocks were obtained through the Rb-Sr method (Ekwueme *et al.* 1988, 1991).

Dr. Onyeagocha invited Prof. Bernard Evans his Ph.D major supervisor at University of Washington, Seattle, USA, to come and examine my Ph.D thesis. He was the best in Mineralogy in the world. He came, examined and passed the thesis on 26th November 1985.

The Ph.D degree represents the pinnacle of an academic career. My supervisor instructed me to draft articles from my Ph.D thesis for submission to journals. I drafted seven articles and submitted them to him. After reviewing and correcting them he advised on which journals to target. We focused mostly on internationally reputable ones. While the review process was rigorous, it was often delayed. We did not know about Scopus, Web of Science or Google scholar but we did all we could to publish in reputable journals in our field of specialization. Today we find many of those articles listed in Scopus database and cited widely in Google scholar. We did not pay money to get them published.

One thing my supervisor insisted on was the presentation of each article in a learned conference where it was criticized and discussed before submission to journals. That practice led to my attendance of many learned conferences especially all NMGS conferences from 1984 to 2019 during which I won some awards. For example, we submitted an article from the thesis entitled: "Rb-Sr geochronology of Uwet area Oban massif southeastern Nigeria" for presentation at 1986 NMGS conference in Port-Harcourt. I presented the paper and it won the second position of the maiden NMGS/ELF oil company award. Two other articles from the Ph.D thesis were submitted to Geological Society of America Bulletin for publication. They were reviewed but rejected. Shortly after, an American Professor named David Dallmeyer of University of Georgia sent me a telex requesting that even though the two papers were rejected, he would still like me to attend and present them at International Geological Correlation Program (IGCP233) conference he was organizing in Nouakchott Mauritania in 1988. I told him I had no fund to attend but he offered me USD800 to cover my airfare, accommodation and feeding at the conference. That was my first conference abroad. I met scholars from different parts of the world.

As I was travelling, I carried some of my rock samples and during the conference tea breaks interacted with participants telling them of dearth of analytical facilities in Nigeria. Some collected samples, analyzed them and I co-authored articles arising from the data with them. Also, many of the participants considered my presentation good and invited me to the conferences they organized under various IGCP projects. That was how I attended many learned conferences abroad, met renowned scholars in my area of specialization and co-authored articles with them (Ekwueme 2007). That enhanced my growth and ensured my rapid promotion to Professoral rank after 12years of my assumption of duty in Unical. It also brought me fame and honour.

For instance, I visited a colleague in March 1988 and on his side-table I saw a brochure on 29th International Geological Congress (IGC). I did not know anything about IGC, so I borrowed the brochure and read it. I learnt that IGC is like it is Geology Olympiad held every four years, organized by International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) an umbrella association of Geologists all over the world. The IGC is attended by about 10,000 geologists from every part of the world including Nigeria. The IGC for 1989 was held in Washington, D.C; USA. It advertised for Geohost Grants to assist those from developing countries with grants to attend. Selection was based on quality of papers to be presented at the IGC. I drafted an article from my Ph.D thesis entitled: "Tectonothermal Evolution of the Oban Massif, Southeastern Nigeria" and submitted it to the organizing committee (Ekwueme 1989). Later I received a letter saying that 450 applicants were assessed and grants given to some. The committee then selected the best three who were less than 35 years old for maiden Hutchison young Scientist Award. Prof. William Hutchison was the immediate past president of IUGS and passed on before the IGC. IUGS decided to immortalize him by instituting the award. Three geologists were chosen for the maiden award: one from Poland, another from Argentina and myself from Nigeria. I was given the award on 13th July, 1989 in the presence of many renowned geologists including Prof. C. A. Kogbe the President of Geological Society of Africa. That was the first and the only Nigerian to be so honoured by IUGS till date to my knowledge.

While attending the IGC I carried rock samples. There, I met Prof. Bernard Evans the External Examiner of my Ph.D thesis. After sharing our sorrows on the death of Prof. A. C. Onyeagocha in 1987, he asked whether I needed any help. I told him I had rock samples for analysis. He called Dr. Sorena Sorensen of Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC to collect the samples from me and analyze them probono. She did and sent geochemical data with which I drafted three articles. I submitted one for the Dyke swarm conference in Adelaide, another to Isotope geology conference in Canberra and the third to Archaean Geology conference in Perth all in Australia in 1990. The papers were accepted for presentation but I had no funds to attend. I devoted my May devotion 1990 to Our Blessed Mother Virgin Mary requesting her to intercede for me by making it possible for me to attend the conferences in Australia. On 31st May 1990, I received a telex from Dr. Susan Ho telling me that Quantas, Australian Airline had offered me a free return air ticket to and from Australia. I took off and presented my papers at Adelaide, Canberra and Perth (Ekwueme 2007). I made more contacts for instance, Prof. Alfred Kroner of University of Mainz Germany who offered to analyze cartons of my Oban massif rocks isotopically using the zircon evaporation method (Ekwueme, 2007).

While at USA I also met Prof. Jan Kramers of University of Zimbabwe Mount Pleasant, Harare. He told me that the Third world Academy of Sciences had offered me grant to attend the Archaean-Proterozoic Transition conference he was organizing in September, 1989. I participated in the Field conference which lasted two weeks. During the conference I met geologists from Botswana and South Africa. They discovered that I was not sponsored by my University while they had plenty of funds from their institutions' sponsorship. They showed great kindness to me and wished to invite me to the conferences they planned to organize in their countries. Jackie an Afrikaan showed the greatest interest in me. I was surprised because apartheid was at its peak then and Nigeria was one of the frontline countries fighting apartheid. Jackie told me there was no difference between him and I. He told me also that he read Chinua Achebe's **Things Fall Apart** and he enjoyed the section that talked of Kolanut. I brought out a kolanut and showed him. He was excited. I called him to join me in praying with the Kolanut. I prayed thanking God for the gift of life and requesting him to cement my friendship with Jackie. I broke the nut and convinced him to eat a lobe.

One year after Jackie urged his University, Rand Afrikaans University, Johannesburg to invite me to the Limpopo field conference 1990 paying fully for my participation. I carried two bunches of Kolanut given to me by my uncle Augustine Agbo while attending the conference. Twenty best brains in the area of Petrology from all over the world participated in the conference. After a barbercue on the evening of 29th June 1990, I brought out the bunches of Kolanut and in the ritual of breaking them requested representatives from the Eight countries: USA, China, UK, Germany, Taiwan South Africa and Botswana to take a Kolanut, each.

They held the nuts as I prayed that it should be the last time I would be the only black man attending such a conference and that apartheid should be overthrown. By 1994, Nelson Mandela was released from prison, apartheid was overthrown and he was elected the first black president of South Africa. For more on my exploits, fame and rewards through conference attendance the reader is referred to my book "My Travel Reminiscences" (Ekwueme 2007). Suffice it to add that in the journey through my academic career I have visited every continent presenting papers in most of the 65 learned conferences I attended. These conferences contributed immensely to my success in my career.

PUBLICATIONS

I have a flair for writing and reading. These are my hobbies and I am either reading or writing or doing both. Before I started my academic career, Tony had already made it known to me that for one to rise in this career one must publish or perish. Hence by 1982 I already had a journal publication (Ekwueme and Onyeagocha 1982). As I began my academic career I realized that for the promotion of academic staff the promotion committees quickly rush to the section on publications to determine the fate of the candidates. Those who spent most of their time teaching or doing administrative work stagnated in their status.

To publish in the field of geology, one has to do fieldwork, collect samples, analyze the samples and interpret data. I am a field-oriented geologist and I love fieldwork. However, to get quality data to make articles acceptable in a reputable journal requires costly and reliable equipment which were not available locally. My attendance at learned conferences enabled me to meet colleagues abroad and collaborate with them in publications. I did the fieldwork while they did the laboratory analyses.

I made sure that I had enough papers to go for the next promotion before it was advertised. I had double the number of articles required for promotion to any position. I am perhaps the only person who recommended himself for the post of professorship and got promoted in 1994 against the wishes of my Head of Department and Dean of my faculty (Ekwueme, 2014). I had problems with some colleagues because from beginning I rejected the notion of Please put my name (PPMN). To be a co-author in any of my articles one must be able to point out one's contribution in the article. Some of the articles I submitted to foreign journals were rejected and described as only good for local consumption. Nevertheless, they were normally returned with useful comments and corrections. I made use of these suggestions to rewrite those articles and till date I have no unpublished manuscripts.

I was versatile in my publications. Articles were published in my area of specialization but I wrote books and articles of general interest.

I acted as a Newspaper columnist and later published all the articles as a book **"Science Insight".** I wrote books on history, marriage, societal behaviour, my autobiography. These books numbering 25 were all published by kindle publishers and are sold in Amazon (barthekwueme@amazon.com). The articles can be found in Google Scholar, Scopus and Web of Science. The books enhanced my survival in academia as they were patronized both at home and abroad. From the proceeds I awarded scholarship to a number of indigent students for secondary and University education. **The African Journal Online** publishes and promotes Global Journal Series which I established in 1995. The journal was established one year after my promotion to the rank of Professor with the aim of giving younger academics the ladder to climb to the peak of their career.

The Council of Science Editors awarded me a scholarship in 2006 to attend and present a paper on Science Publishing in Africa at Tampa Florida USA because of the strides I was making with the Global Journal Series. (Ekwueme, 2007).

RESULTS /FRUITS AND LEGACIES

Administration: I have never been good in lobbying or telling stories to defame others. Rather, I always spoke truth to power. Perhaps that resulted in my not been given appointments both in the University and outside. Nevertheless, my performance in teaching, research and publications led to very few appointments such as Ag Head of Department of Geology 1993-1995. My students were the pillar of my successful tenure (Ekwueme, 2014). My effort to be Dean of Faculty of Science did not materialize after three attempts 1999, 2002 and 2004. Even though I was told that I won the election of 1999, manipulations and intrigues deprived me of the position (see Ekwueme 2014: Surviving the Intrigues).

My appointment as Ag Director of Unicalcons in 2010 was a surprise to me and many people. I did not know how it came about just after my thanksgiving service for surviving eye surgery. I read later in the minutes that I was appointed based on integrity. The then Vice-chancellor said on the day of my inauguration that he did not know me from Adam and someone recommended me to him. I later discovered that my establishment and the success I made of Global Journal Series, greatly contributed to the recommendation.

In these few assignments I have the feeling that I performed creditably shunning and fighting corruption and psycophancy. As Head of Department, I introduced programmes and innovations that ensured that Geology Department Unical was recognized and respected. For instance, the introduction of special projects into the B.Sc. thesis programme of the Department paved the way for the department for the first time ever to clinch the coveted Mobil oil company prize for the best B.Sc thesis assessed in and presented at NMGS conference in Benin-city 1996. I also attracted to Calabar the 31st NMGS conference 1995 during which I was presented NMGS/ELF Award. The postgraduate Diploma in Applied Geology was introduced by me and attracted graduates from other disciplines such as physics, chemistry, engineering. They were given opportunity to get knowledge of geological exploration and exploitation disciplines.

My performance as Director of Unicalcons was also creditable. I revived the dormant establishment. Verification of data of the oil company staff were handled appropriately and I generated substantial amount of funds both in Naira and dollar. The Domiciliary account was kept as a buffer for the company. I did not make withdrawals from the account throughout my tenure. I was handed over the non-performing Unical water factory and comatose University of Calabar Printing Press in 2012 to revive. I did and in the month of July 2012 returned a turnover of One Million Naira using one vehicle. In addition, I registered the bottled water and paid off the debt owed to NAFDAC with my own money. The water factory made progress and profits but I insisted the money realized should be paid into the company account. Money also came from verifications of data of staff of institutions. Identity card machine was purchased for the company and funds were realized from students identity card production.

The printing press was revived. I requested the then Vice-chancellor to approve a request that all materials for printing by the Heads of Departments be done by the Unical Printing Press. With that approval money poured into the account of the press and withdrawal was strictly monitored. The welfare of staff was paramount and the peanuts they were paid considered inadequate. I then initiated the motion that absorbed them as permanent staff of the University. My strictness and refusal to share money angered the power that was then. As a Rev. Father was blessing and unveiling the bottled water produced by Unicalcons the Council was meeting on 2nd August, 2012. Little did I know that everything had been perfected for my removal as Director. Though some members of council wondered why I should be removed from office after such eloquent performance, they could not prevent my getting a letter terminating my appointment on 9th August, 2012. My efforts to get the statutory 10% of funds given to Directors of Unicalcons for the jobs they executed during their tenure were blocked. I was told that only Council could approve the payment. I pursued the matter with three pro-chancellors who were chairmen of Councils between 2012 and 2020. None approved payment but on 24th February, 2020 I received a letter from the Registrar stating that it is the University management not Council that should consider my request, give approval and pay me. Till date I have not been paid. As I bow out from active service in the University having paid my debt, I pray that the university should reciprocate. My prayer therefore is that as I transit into retirement and haven fully paid my dues that mine be paid, carefully reviewing my performance as Director of UNICALCONS and service to this great institution

(ii) AWARDS AND HONOURS

My performance as a lecturer has led to recognition with a number of academic, religious and tradition/cultural awards/honours some of which are listed below:

ACADEMIC

i. For excellent papers presented at NMGS conferences 1984 to 2010 NMGS/ Total prizes 1986 (Port Harcent) 1995 (Calabar) 2009 (Owerri)

ii. As one of the three most promising young Scientists: Hutchison Young Scientist award 1989 (Washington D.C. USA)

iii. 37th Inaugural lecturer of University of Calabar 19th December 2006

iv. As the best Hard Rock Petrologist in Africa: NMGS/AMNI Petroleum Prof. M. O. Oyawoye Award 2009 (Owerri 2009)

v. In recognition of outstanding contribution to human capital Development and Advancement: Faculty of Physical Sciences University of Calabar Award 2021

vi. German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) scholarship 1980-1981

vii. Cari Duisberg Gesellschaft fellowship (Heidelbera 1991-1992)

viii. International Scholarship by Council of Science Editors 2006 for exceptional strides with Global Journal Series

ix. Fellow, Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society 2017

x. Fellow, Geological Society of London (2016)

xi. Fellow, Nigerian Society of Economic Geologists 2022

xii. Trustee, Nigerian Society of Economic Geologists 2022.

RELIGIOUS AWARDS

i. Jerusalem Pilgrim 2008

ii. St. John's Cross Seminary Nsukka Award (2015) for keeping the flag of the Seminary flying

iii. Nna Okwukwe (Father of Faith) OHACWO Orba Nsukka (1998)

iv. Diamond Appreciation Award ACCMO Calabar Archdiocese (2021)

v. Distinguished Merit Award Calabar Provincial Council of Catholic Men's organization Port Harcourt (2022)

CULTURAL

Chief Okwadike 1 of Orba Udenu LGA Engu State 1998

FRUITS AND LEGACIES

i. Founder and Editor-in-chief Global Journal Series 1995 to date

ii. Supervision of students.

B.Sc more than	100
PGDAP	5
M.Sc.	6
Ph.D	9

iii. The sweetest and greatest fruit is Prof. Cecilia Olunwa Ekwueme, Pioneer Dean, Faculty of Science Education Unical (2024 to date)
last Dean of Faculty of Education, Unical, (2021)
Pioneer Dean of Vocational and Science Education, Unical (2021-2024)
Pioneer Head of Department of Science Education (2015-2017)
Dean Faculty of Science Education Unical.
Professor of Mathematics Education (2016 till date).
She has produced 35 M.Ed and 21 Ph.D holders in her field Mathematics Education.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The success of this 42-year old journey must be attributed to the grace of the Almighty God. He has always been with me and answered all my prayers. To him be the glory. I thank my parents Matthew and Cordelia, my grandmother Maria Onuh and my Uncle Augustine Agbo all late for sending me and maintaining me in my primary and secondary schools. The Catholic Church made it possible for me to get secondary education in the Seminary. I will remain internally grateful to the church. Mr. Silas Ngonebu, Mr. Nicholas Eze and Dr. Romanus Ezugwu facilitated my admission to read geology at University of Nigeria Nsukka. Prof. Anthony Onyeagocha taught me Petrology. I thank him for been an inspiring teacher and kind mentor to me.

I thank all my colleagues at University of Calabar. They were supportive and encouraging. Mr. B. D. Bassey and Mr. E. E. Ukpong contributed immensely to my survival in Geology Department Unical. My numerous professional colleagues in Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS) and in International Geological Correlation Projects supported me in my research, field work and conferences. I am grateful to them.

Without a stable and conducive environment this journey would have been very tedious. Prof. Cecilia Olunwa Ekwueme created the stable and conducive environment that made my academic career to flourish. Our children and grandchildren (the Kwemzies) are exceptional in their care and encouragement. I am grateful to the authorities of University of Calabar for giving me the opportunity to be a lecturer and supporting me these 42 years.

The Dean, Faculty of Physical Sciences Unical Prof. Ekaete I. Enang and the Head, Department of Geology, Unical Prof. Anthony N. Ugbaja as well as all the staff of the Faculty and Department who gave me the platform to present this valedictory lecture. I am immensely grateful to them. I thank Dr. Emmanuel Etim Okon for editing the special issue of Global Journal of Pure and Applied Sciences to mark this auspicious event I thank Esther Isaiah Peter for typesetting the manuscript and Emmanuel Eno for the computer work. Professors C. A. Adamu and C. O. Ekwueme painstakingly reviewed this manuscript and made suggestions which greatly improved the initial draft of this lecture. I am grateful to them.

REFERENCES

Barrow, G. 1893. On intrusion of muscovite-biotite gneiss in the southeastern Highlands of Scotland and its accompanying metamorphism. Qtr. J. Geol. Soc. London, 49:330-358.

Barrow, G. 1912. On the geology of lower Dee-side and the southern Highland Border. Proceed. Geol. Assoc. 23:274-290.

Ekwueme, B. N., 1985. Petrology, Geochemistry and Rb-Sr Geochronology of Metamorphosed rocks of Uwet area, southeastern Nigeria. Unpubl. Ph.D Thesis, Univ. Nigeria, Nsukka, 176pp.

Ekwueme, B. N. 1989. Tectonothermal Evolution of Oban Massif, Nigeria. Proceed. 28th International Geological congress. Washington D.C. USA Abstract Vol. 1, P. 439-440.

Ekwueme, B. N. 1993a. An Easy Approch to Igneous Petrology, Univ. Calabar Press, Nigeria. 217pp

Ekwueme, B. N. 1993b. An Easy Approach to Metamorphic Petrology. Univ. Calabar Press, Nigeria, 169pp.

Ekwueme, B. N. 1994. Elementary Crystallography and Mineralogy (including Optics). Univ. Calabar Press, Nigeria, 290pp

Ekwueme, B. N. 2002. The Face of Destiny. Bachudo Science Co. Ltd. Calabar, 215pp

Ekwueme, B. N. 2007. My Travel Reminiscences. Bachudo Science Co. Ltd; Calabar, 137pp

Ekwueme, B. N. 2023. Points of Emphasis in Nigerian Geology and the outstanding contributions of Professor Anthony Chukwuma Onyeagocha (1942-1987). Global J. Pure and Applied Sci 29:215-219

Ekwueme, B. N. and Okoro, A. U., 2019. Geology of the Oban Massif: Explanation of 1:250,000 sheet 80 (Oban). Nigerian. Geol. Survey Bull. No.55, 180pp.

Ekwueme B. N. and Onyeagocha, A. C., 1982. The pre-Pan-African structural features in northcentral Nigeria. Nigerian J. Min. Geol. 19(2):74-77.

Ekwueme B. N. and Onyeagocha, A. C., 1985. Metamorphic Isogrds of Uwet area, southeastern Nigeria. J. Afr. Earth Sci: 3(4): 443-454.

Ekwueme, B. N., Caen Vachette, M. and Onyeagocha, A. C., 1988. Rb-Sr ages of schists in the metasedimentary belts in southeast Lokoja and their implications for the Precambrian Evolution of Central Nigeria. J. Afr. Earth Sci. 7(1): 127-131.

Ekwueme, B. N., Caen-Vachette, M. and Onyeagocha, A. C., 1991. Isotopic ages from the Oban Massif and Southeast Lokoja: implication for the crustal evolution of the Nigerian basement complex. J. Afr. Earth Sci. 12:489-503

Rahman, A.M.S., Ukpong, E. E. and Azmatullah, M., 1981. Geology of Parts of the Oban Massif, Southeastern Nigeria. J. Min. Geol. 18(1): 60-65.

Raeburn, C., 1927. Tinstone of Calabar district. Geol. Surv. Nigeria Bull. 11:72-78