

**A Lecture Delivered by Emeka Jude Okonkwo, National President
Godfrey Okoye University Alumni Association (GOUAA) at the
Students' Unity Week, at Goodluck Ebele Jonathan Convocation
Arena, Godfrey Okoye University Enugu, on the 13th June 2018.**

Theme:

**“Discover, Refine, and Unleash your Talents for Greatness and
Competitiveness in your World: Message for Go-University
Students”**

1. “Everyone has talent(s). What is rare is the courage to follow it to the dark places where it leads.” Erica Jong

If you have been thinking that there is no talent(s) in you, and as such, remained in such false philosophy, you are indeed wrong! The reason is every existential being has talent(s) in him or her. A talent is like a natural commodity, which God bestowed in all His living creatures. A commodity that does not attract buyers will of course become obsolete in the warehouse, and it is thereafter, wasted. This is a typical case of what talent(s) does in human lives.

Exploring your talent(s) is marvelous. It is indeed, wonderful. In short, it is superb-bein or what the Germans will call, wunderbar. It is worthy to note that, talent(s) alone is not an end to success; rather, it is just a medium to success. If talents were to be an end to success, nobody would want to enroll in a university or any other academic institutions. Understandably, Go-University students are not only talented but also innovative. Talent goes in tandem with education. Education helps in discovering; refining and unleashing already discovered talents for greatness and competitiveness. Your presence in Go-University is indeed paramount to your talent exploration. Go-University is an institution where education is garnished, decorated and even embellished with moral, cultural, religious, and epistemological elements that are necessary for students' formation. I am aware that, this fantastic philosophy is a brainchild of our dear vice Chancellor, Very Rev. Fr. Prof. Christian Anieke.

At this juncton, it is important we underscore the meaning of the word “talent” and how we could discover, refine, and unleash our talents for greatness and competitiveness in the world.

What is Talent?

Talent, according to Oxford advanced learner's dictionary (eight edition), is “a natural ability to do something well.”

“Anything worth doing is worth doing well.” **Socrates.**

In **discovering** your talents, it is important you ask yourself these pertinent questions:

- Are my good at anything?
- Do I want to be good at anything?
- Do I have passion for doing anything?

If yes, that “**thing**” could be your talent. Talent(s) takes various forms; it could be research and development, swimming, singing, acting, decorating, tailoring, hairdressing, leadership, entrepreneurship, writing etc. This list could go on and on but lets not include eating of indomie and missing of VC’s roll calls. Funny indeed!

Lets not misinterpret talent(s) as hobby. Unlike hobbies, talents could provide sources of income when used judiciously. Your hobbies could be your talent(s). If you want to discover your talent(s), remind yourself of your hobbies. Identify the activities in which you are naturally good at. Identify the things that fill you with passion. “True happiness involves the full use of one’s power and talents.” **John W. Gardner**

Refining your talents simply means, selecting from those talents you are naturally gifted and naturally good at. This requires more of intrapersonal communication. Refining your talents make you stronger and more professional. I say to you, God does not give human beings finished products. He gives us raw materials. He gives us raw gold; we must refine it. He gives us raw oil; we must refine it. He gives us raw talent(s); we must refine it. Most people do not know this raw truth. Even intelligence needs refinement.

Unleashing your talents is as important as discovering and refining your talents. This is where you convert your talents into greatness. The benefits for unleashing your talents may include:

1. **It makes you an icon in your talent areas.**
2. **People can benefit from your talents.**
3. **Other people lives may change because of your talents.**
4. **You can earn a living with your talents.**
5. **It leads to more satisfying life.**
6. **You earn a living with your talent.**
7. **It makes you leave a lasting impression to people.**
8. **It leads to faster growth and development, and**
9. **It shows appreciation to the Giver (God).**

To truly discover, refine and unleash your talent(s), you must always say no to excuses. Do not say there is no time to explore your talents. The best time is now. No human being has extra time; we only create time to do that which we deemed important. Develop your potential without fear of failure. I tell you, “**fear**” is an

acronym, which means, **False Evidence Against Reality**. Every superstar was once an amateur. Begin from there.

“Live your life in such a way that, when you stand before God at the end of your life, you would hope that you would not have a single bit of talent(s) left, and could say, I used everything you gave me.” **Erma Bombeck**.

2. If Go-University graduates could succeed, you can succeed as well. The name of Go-University has been written in gold on the face of the world. Graduates of Go-University have made marks in different areas of endeavours. For instance, Ms. Julieth Onyiba got an award for having the overall best thesis or what you might call project at the prestigious Bowie State University, USA; this is a talent in **R & D** (Research and Development).

Also, some of our alumna emerged winners at different beauty pargets. We have the likes of Queen Mercy Ndubuisse and Queen Catherine. I call this, beauty with ako-nu-che.

In the area of creativity, we have the likes of Mr. Onwukwe Chibuikem, Ms. Linda Umezurike, Mr. Iyeh Kennedy, Ms. Amanda Okoli, Mr. Chinedu Anthony just to mention a few.

In academics, we have the likes of Mr. Anthony Nwobodo, Mr. Micheal Okoro, Mr. Enemona Adamu, Mrs. Victoria Unachukwu, Mr. Miracle Okechukwu, and Mr. Francis Ugwu, amongst others.

In politics, talented members of the Alumni include: Hon. John Okoye, Hon. Odoh Micheal, and Hon. Eneoko Ifeanyi just to mention a few.

Dear students, these talents would not have materialized without the substantial assistance of Go-University. The success stories of each of us cannot be completed without mentioning our alma mater.

3. In conclusion, every human being conceived carries with him or her that innate ability that is uniquely his or hers. It is like a fingerprint. Lots of people may carry the same ability but the way we use ours will make us unique. Our talents are like diamonds. We need to explore them. Nobody can explore them for us.

I will say to you dear students, you have all it takes to discover, refine, and unleash your talents. The environment you are in is very conducive. You are studying and living in a highly hygienic environment. Do not allow Go-University to graduate you if you never explored your God giving talents. I wish you a successful students' week as you go on with the rest of the events.

I thank the organizers of this event for recognizing GOUAA and in particular giving us the opportunity to deliver this lecture.

Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen, my dear Vice Chancellor and the entire management of Go-University, on behalf of the members of GOUAA, I thank you for this great privilege and honour.

Thanks for your audience and may God continue to bless Go-University.