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Michigan-Flint Varsity Seeks Partnership With UniPort

In a bid to forge closer ties that would bring about mutually beneficial collaborative ventures, the authorities of the University of Port Harcourt and Michigan-Flint University in the United States have agreed to explore areas of institutional cooperation.

This was the outcome of an exploratory meeting between Management of the University and representatives of Michigan-Flint University at the Vice-Chancellors Committee Room on Wednesday, April 17, 2017, *reports Obinna Nwodim*.

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Side Bar

3RD TANURE OJAIDE INT'L CONFAB

The 3rd Tanure Ojaide International Conference held at the Auditorium of the Elechi Amadi Faculty of Humanities Building from Wednesday, May 2 to Friday, May 4, 2018. Details next edition

~Editor

Reps C'ttee Ends Oversight To UniPort, Other S'South Fed Institutions

By Otikor Samuel

Pursuant to its watchdog role in tertiary institutions and Inter-University Centres, the House of Representatives Committee on Education and Services, on Tuesday, April 24, 2019 visited the University of Port Harcourt in continuation of *Oversight Function* which started late last year. The Committee members led by their chairman, Hon Aminu Suleiman, were received by the Vice-Chancellor and other Principal Officers of the University at the Governing Council Chambers. The delegation thereafter proceeded to the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room to scrutinise the University's books for evidence of compliance with approved financial regulations.

Speaking on behalf of the House Committee, its Chairman, Hon Suleiman, dispelled speculations that its mission was to lay blame or find faults with the running of the University. "We are not an inquisition panel with a hidden motive to indict the Management or any officer of the University. The essence of our visit is to further collaborate with you, and objectively discuss the challenges you face and holistically engage ourselves on how to run an efficient system that would deliver quality education to our children. The intention is not to witch-hunt anybody, but to apply an eagle eye to what is happening in the educational sector to ensure quality and access for our children," the Committee Chairman said.

"Sometimes at the Plenary Sessions, we are forced to defend the reports presented to us as if we are the Bursars of these institutions. So, we need thorough explanation; the report should speak for itself even if we are not there to defend it," the Chairman said, advising that the University should strictly observe the Federal Character Principle in the recruitment of staff. Hon Suleiman, however, commended the University for practising gender parity in its top echelon.

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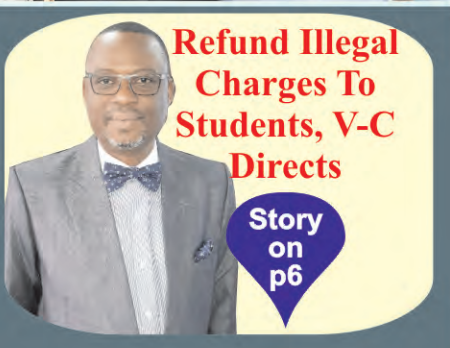

We Must Rescue Nigeria's University System ~*Emenyonu*

Foremost Literary Critic and Africa's Cultural Ambassador, Professor Ernest Emenyonu of the Department of Africana Studies at Michigan-Flint University in the United States, was part of a two-member delegation that was in the University to areas of collaboration. Emenyonu spoke on the side line to Editor, WILLIAMS WODI and Correspondent, HUMPHREY OGU on ways to rescue university education in Nigeria and other issues.

Consummate critic and convener of the rested University of Calabar Literary Series, Ernest Emenyonu, left Nigeria over a decade ago for the United States of America, where he is currently a Professor in the Department of Africana Studies at Michigan-Flint University. He had earlier served as Provost of the Alvan Ikoku College of Education and lectured at the Department of English and Literary Studies of the University of Calabar.

Ordinarily, Professor Emenyonu should be counted among the growing list of Nigerian scholars who left and continue to leave in search of greener pastures and a conducive working environment. This famous cultural worker does not, however, want to be associated with the brain drain phenomenon that has taken Nigeria's priced brains to other climes.

"No, no. I am in touch with home and fully engaged with happenings in the Nigerian university system. This is my fifth visit to Nigeria this year alone and I continue to assess professorship candidates for Nigerian universities. To ensure that I am always here in Nigeria, my library was transferred down to my village. I always tell my children that we have a *house* in the United States, but a *home* in Nigeria. When Ibrahim Babangida was Military President in the mid-1980s, one of the very few good things he did was to work out something with the American Government that granted dual citizenship to accomplished Nigerian scholars," he told *UniPort News*. Professor Emenyonu conceded that some Nigerians who travelled to foreign countries deliberately decided never to return home again, stressing that people built those places they were running to at the expense of their own country.

So, how does he see the Nigeria university system today? "There are certain anomalies in the Nigerian educational system that should be rectified to get it back on its feet. One of such things is sorting, in which a student takes an examination and is compelled to pay the lecturer to be awarded high marks he or she did not merit. Such a distasteful practice discourages hardworking students. It is rather unfortunate that some lecturers are out to exploit students to live a big life without investing their intellect to justify the money they make," Professor Emenyonu regretted. He also listed the bastardisation of academics to the extent that some students who obtained the First-Class degree no longer earned it and can barely express themselves. The renowned critic cited plagiarism and imposition of sub-standard textbooks on students as other aberrations currently bedeviling the Nigerian university system.

Emenyonu emphasised the need for a change of mindset and the current ways of doing things in the university system to rescue it from mediocrity, warning that Nigeria cannot make any headway without a good educational system that offers quality training to students. Alluding to Chinua Achebe's *The Trouble with Nigeria*, Emenyonu said: "In addition to the leadership question, the problem of Nigeria is a rapidly declining educational system that needs to be urgently remedied. The problem is not just limited to a poor reward system, but also changing how things are done here to reflect global best practice," he said.

Emenyonu

Lamenting that most libraries in Nigerian universities are out of date, Professor Emenyonu said: "We must make current books and journals available to students in Nigerian universities. I can't think of any university in Nigeria where all the students have access to laptops to carry out their research and surf the Internet for current information that would enrich their research. Our libraries are ill-equipped. Something has to be done about the poor infrastructure in our universities to create an enabling environment for research and learning." He attributed the decay in the educational system to prolonged military intervention in the governance of the country and their anti-intellectual disposition that triggered the brain drain phenomenon.

Professor Emenyonu, who currently serves as Editor of the famous *African Literature Today* series, scored Nigerian literature high, expressing delight that the country has continued to lead Africa in creative writing.

"I am very impressed with the quality of entries for the NLNG-sponsored Nigerian Prize for Literature for 2017. There is nothing wrong with self-publication as such, provided you follow the right processes to publish your work. If you want to self-publish your work, be humble enough to give it to some other knowledgeable colleagues to read before going to press to minimise errors associated with writers who claim to know everything," he said.

Stop Press

Poor NIN Enrolment

Staff and Students who are yet to enrol in the National Identification Number (NIN) registration exercise under the auspices of the Department of National Civic Registration, Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, have been advised to avail themselves of the direct service provided by the University to do so.

Those affected have been advised to take advantage of the proximity of the registration centre in the University to do so without further delay at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. The advice was contained in a statement dated April 20, 2018 and signed on behalf of the Registrar by the Director of Personnel Affairs, Dr. Dakoru Charles-Granville. The statement charged fresh students to actively participate in the exercise.

"It has been observed that many members of staff and students are yet to enrol in the National Identification Number exercise at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium meant to bring the service directly to the University community. All members of staff and students, especially the new students are by this memo, advised to seize this opportunity to enrol in the exercise to avoid closure of the branch on account of low patronage," Dr. Charles-Granville stated.

Senate Rusticates Izuagie, Monsi, Gambo

By Otikor Samuel

Following the conclusion of investigations into allegations of misconduct separately levelled against them, three students of the University have been rusticated for one academic session in each case. The students involved are Ete Martins Izuagie (Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling), Tombari Godson Monsi (Department of Crop and Soil Science) and Promise Sunday Gambo (Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension).

Mrs. Otto, Registrar

The Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, made this known in a statement dated April 11, 2018 and made available to *UniPort News*. She disclosed that the affected students were rusticated for proven cases of incitement to protest, examination malpractice and assault, respectively. The statement further said that Senate slammed the rustication order on the trio after thorough investigation into separate allegations against them.

"At its 436th Meeting (Extraordinary) held on Wednesday, March 28, 2018, Senate received and considered the Report of the Student Disciplinary and Related Matters Committee, which investigated the allegation of incitement to protest levelled against you. After a thorough deliberation on the Report which found you guilty of misconduct, Senate decided that you, Izuagie, Ete Martins (U2014/2574295), be rusticated from the University of Port Harcourt for one academic session (2017/2018 Academic Session).

"By the above decision of Senate, you are hereby rusticated from the University of Port Harcourt for the 2017/2018 session for the aforementioned misconduct," part of the letter to Mr. Izuagie read.

Mr. Monsi of the Department of Crop and Soil Science was rusticated for reportedly engaging in examination malpractice in PHY 101.1 (Mechanics and Properties of Matter), during the First Semester Examination for the 2016/2017 session, while Mr. Gambo was rusticated for reportedly assaulting two Nurses at the O. B. Lulu-Briggs Health Services Centre.

The charge against him read thus: "Senate observed from the Report that on September 1, 2017, you physically assaulted two Nurses at the Lulu-Briggs Health Services Centre. Senate noted that fighting under any circumstance amounted to misconduct and a violation of your *Matriculation Pledge*. Consequently, Senate decided that you, Gambo, Promise Sunday (U2016/5015055) be rusticated from the University of Port Harcourt for the 2017/2018 Academic Session," the letter read in part. It further pointed out that any academic activities the three rusticated students had already participated in within the session had been summarily nullified.

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Michigan-Flint Varsity Seeks Partnership With UniPort

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Welcoming the visiting delegation, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, assured the visiting delegation that the University of Port Harcourt was open to functional collaborations with institutions from all over the world as part of its vision of internationalising higher education at home. He further told the team that the University's strength was in oil and gas, medical sciences, as well as sports. "The proposed collaboration with Michigan-Flint would afford us an opportunity to remedy our areas of deficiency while enriching your programmes. As a first step, we need to ascertain the areas of strength of Michigan-Flint University to help guide exploratory talks that would drive the proposed collaborations", the Vice-Chancellor pointed out.

Earlier, a former Provost of the Alvan Ikoku College of Education and foremost literary critic, Professor Ernest Emenyonu, said that the Michigan-Flint University was desirous of forging international collaborations that would enrich its programmes. He said that the globalised nature of knowledge today made it imperative for higher institutions of learning to closely collaborate on areas of mutual interest.

In her remarks, Global Outreach Coordinator of the University, Katherine Colpaert, said that Michigan-Flint University had a robust population of Nigerian students. She further added that her university was looking forward to the commencement of such partnership with the University of Port Harcourt.

V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed) flanked by DV-C (Admin), Prof Regina Ogali (left), Colpaert and Prof Emenyonu (right)

Prof Enaohwo

NAEAP Confers Fellowship On Enaohwo

The Nigerian Association of Educational Administration and Planning (NAEAP), has conferred its Fellowship Award on Professor John Enaohwo of the Department of Educational Management. The award was conferred on Professor Enaohwo at the 36th Annual National Conference of the Association which held in Enugu in October 2017.

The award recipient served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) University of Port Harcourt and Vice-Chancellor of Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State. The award was given in recognition of Professor Enaohwo's contributions to the advancement of Education in Nigeria and proven leadership qualities.

Experts List Measures To Alleviate Soot In R'State

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

A Climatologist and Air Pollution Meteorologist in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Dr. Vincent Weli, has attributed the current soot emission plaguing Port Harcourt City and its environs to what he described as incomplete combustion activities by operators of illegal artisanal 'refineries' that dot the creeks of Rivers State. He called for the declaration of a state of emergency to frontally address the life-threatening air pollution in the Rivers State.

Similarly, a Public Health Physician in the University of Port Harcourt, Dr. Omosivie Maduka, has warned of dire health implications of the lingering soot in the atmosphere, stressing that it could lead to respiratory and cardiovascular complications in the long run.

Dr. Weli who is Acting Head of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, spoke while exchanging views with a *UniPort News* Correspondent. He attributed the raging soot to the heating up of the air which he said altered atmospheric stability and endangered human life on an unprecedented scale. He disclosed that the situation also instigated large-scale circulations and cloud *albedo* by changing the hygroscopicity of cloud condensation nuclei or long stretches of thick clouds in the atmosphere.

"Soot prevents heat from escaping the earth surface. Once this happens, the ability of the cloud to emit radiation is vastly reduced. The heat transmitted back to the earth from the atmosphere is a major cause of the ongoing heat wave that residents of Port Harcourt and its environs are currently experiencing," he said. He appealed to relevant government and corporate authorities to stop artisanal refining because of impending deaths that may result from inhaling the soot over time.

Dr. Weli identified the South-East part of Port Harcourt City as the most affected area because of the wind direction, saying that the soot was usually heavier in the morning and evening hours when the temperature was low to discourage disposal of the particles. "There is an urgent need to address the activities of illegal artisanal refineries through granting of licenses to operators to enhance effective monitoring and control of such activities," Dr. Weli recommended.

Dr. Maduka who is also a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, College of Health Sciences, said that very tiny soot particles can be deposited in the lungs and cause inflammation. The inflammatory process could lead to resistance in the blood vessels, causing the heart to work harder to pump blood. This situation may result to elevated blood pressure and cardiovascular diseases that could lead to stroke and possible heart attack.

"It affects the respiratory system, especially the smaller particles which can pass through the nostrils into the lungs tissues. They cause irritation and inflammation of the lung tissues, leading to allergic reactions such as asthmatic attacks and other chronic respiratory diseases that could reduce the capacity of the lungs to hold air," Dr. Maduka noted, adding that if the situation persisted over time, it could result in increased hospitalisation, high death rates and other long-term effects while the most vulnerable and affected would be children below five years and elderly people above 65 years.

Dr. Weli

Dr. Maduka

Stop Press
Lectures Resume Today

Lectures resumed this morning for the Second Semester of the 2017/2018 academic session. Students returned to the campus yesterday, Sunday, May 6, 2018. According to the Academic Calendar for Full-Time and Sandwich Programmes issued by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, students are expected to return to their classrooms for the commencement of lectures today.

Professor Fawehinmi further revealed that the Students' Union Week is slated to hold between Monday, July 30 and Saturday, August 4, 2018. The Students Week will feature cultural activities and Students Union Election. The Second Semester Examinations are expected to hold from Monday 13, to Friday 31, August, while the Long Vacation will cover a period of two weeks from Monday 3, to Saturday, 15 September, 2018. Meanwhile, registration for the second instalment payment of outstanding charges will end on Friday, June 15, 2018, while the Sandwich Programme will commence on Monday, July 2 and end on Saturday, September 22, 2018.

RAESON CONFAB

Experts Brainstorm On Nigeria's Power Challenges

By Humphrey Ogu

Ways of tackling Nigeria's power production and distribution challenges formed the main thrust of the 8th Annual and International Conference of the Renewable and Alternative Energy Society of Nigeria (RAESON) which held in the University from Wednesday, April 25 to Friday, April 28, 2018.

The conference which had: "Renewable Energy for Stable Power Supply and Environmental Sustainability" as its theme, attracted participants and experts from the Physical and Biological Sciences, as well as Engineering and allied fields in various universities around the country.

In his welcome address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, expressed joy that RAESON chose UniPort for such an important gathering of experts. The Vice-Chancellor, who was represented by the Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Professor Ikechukwu Agbagwa, described renewable energy as a topical issue that has been engaging the attention of scientists and other stakeholders.

"It is unfortunate that we are still depending on non-renewable energy for domestic and industrial use in Nigeria. We need to look at renewable energy, which we have in abundance from the biological to its physical forms. We often hold conferences and proffer fantastic solutions, poor implementation has remained a major problem," he observed. Professor Agbagwa urged participants to ensure that the outcome of the conference did not end up as a mere academic exercise, but to form the basis of workable solutions to Nigeria's daunting energy generation and distribution challenges.

In his opening remarks, President of RAESON, Professor Chidi Akujor, bemoaned the adverse impact of poor electricity supply to Nigerians. "The challenge of inadequate power supply has affected sustenance of the nation's industry infrastructure." He blamed Nigeria's parlous electricity infrastructure for the relocation of major industrial establishments to neighbouring countries with negative impact on national industrial output.

"As scientists, we have come together under the umbrella of RAESON, a forum dedicated to the exchange of ideas and research information amongst experts. The society encourages collaboration among scientists, policymakers, and creates awareness through workshops and conferences," he told the gathering.

Delivering the keynote speech on, "The Role of Renewable Energy in Achieving Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Target in Nigeria: Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to Paris Climate Change Agreement", Dr. Anthony Anuforom, called for closer collaboration between government agencies, experts and policy makers to reverse the declining electricity supply in Nigeria.

Dr. Anuforom, who was the immediate past Director-General of the Nigerian Metrological Agency (NiMet), said: "The relevant agencies should intensify efforts towards closer monitoring of the sources, concentration and trajectory of soot in the atmosphere."

The event which commenced with a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, also featured conferment of Fellowships on Dr. Anuforom, Vice-Chancellor of Arthur Jarvis University, Calabar, Professor Julian Osuji, Professor Francis Sikoki and RAESON Financial Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. Chinyere Madu.

V-C, Prof Lale (seated centre) flanked by RAESON President, Prof Akujor (left), DV-C (Admin), Prof Ogali, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor (right), other Senior Officers of the University and members of RAESON

We Are Committed To Students' Welfare, Mgt Reassures NANS

...Election To Hold Second Semester

By Obinna Nwodim

The Management of the University of Port Harcourt has reiterated its total commitment to the promotion of the welfare of students of the University. Management also promised to organise election into the Students' Union Executive at the end of the Second Semester.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, gave the assurance when he received some officials of Zone B of the National Association of Nigerian Students at the Committee Room on Tuesday, April 17, 2018.

"Nothing has changed in the manner we relate to our students and I can assure NANS that the views of students and welfare would remain uppermost in whatever we do here, bearing in mind that students are major stakeholders in the affairs of the University," the Vice-Chancellor told the delegation.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, who represented the Vice-Chancellor at the meeting said: "Without the students, we do not have any business in the University. We wish to reiterate the administration's resolve to continue to ensure a peaceful and conducive environment for academic activities. We need the cooperation of NANS in Zone B to continue to foster peace in this University," the Deputy Vice-Chancellor said.

As a Management, we have always followed due process in our engagement with students at all levels, and I can declare without fear of contradiction that we have been even-handed in addressing proven cases of misconduct as part of our determination to promote discipline on campus. The Students' Union election which was wilfully aborted by the students themselves will take place at the end of the Second Semester," Professor Ogali assured the NANS delegation.

In his remarks, the NANS Zonal Coordinator, Mr. Godson Okereke, said that members were in the University to familiarise themselves with the Management of one of their constituencies. He assured the authorities of the cooperation of NANS in promoting peace on campus. Mr. Okereke commended the leadership approach of the administration and attention paid to the welfare of students.

"We are willing to partner the Management of UniPort in ensuring peace on campus. This University is the hub of tertiary institutions in the South-South and we are committed to its stability and growth. The largest number of stakeholders in NANS are here and we shall take the University as our main base. We shall ensure peace and tranquillity on this campus," he assured.

Also speaking, Registrar of the University, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, thanked the NANS officials for identifying with Management's vision of building an Entrepreneurial University with capacity to train globally competitive students.

Earlier in his remarks, Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr. Otu Ekpenyong, had described the NANS Zone B Coordinator as a peace-loving student leader. "He has assured me that his tenure would witness all-round peace in universities in the South-South Zone and I believe him. I have also assured the student leaders of cooperation in the pursuit of their activities in this University," the Dean said.

DV-C (Admin), Prof Ogali (4th left) flanked by NANS Zonal Coordinator, Mr. Okereke, Registrar, Mrs. Otto (right) and Ag. Dean, S'Affairs, Dr. Ekpenyong, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor (left) and other student leaders

I'm Grateful To My Colleagues For Helping Me Succeed As HoD ~*Amasiatu*

By Mercy Adeniji

Following the successful completion of his two-year tenure as 10th Head of the Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Professor Athanasius Amasiatu, has described his experience as very rewarding, attributing it to the grace of God, support from his colleagues and students of the Department.

Professor Amasiatu, who spoke to a *UniPort News* Correspondent on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, recalled that he set out "to make the Department become one big family that operated on excellent interpersonal relationships between staff, students and other stakeholders. "Under my watch, students easily accessed their results, interacted freely with their Course Advisers and enjoyed welfare packages. I built a good image for the Department by rebranding it. We held monthly Departmental Board Meetings and established an excellent staff welfare scheme that is a reference model for other Department in the Faculty of Education. We also produced a *Departmental Handbook (2016-2019)* and implemented an equitable course allocation system that accommodated every interest. I can say that I achieved most of the objectives I set out for myself on assumption of office," the immediate past HoD told our Correspondent.

Professor Amasiatu expressed delight that the installation and commissioning of the Human Performance Fitness Centre with modern equipment through the NUC accreditation exercise in April 2017 happened in his tenure. "The Department organised the first ever fitness and wellness programme for the Faculty tagged: *Walk for Life* which has since received official approval to cover all staff of the University. We graduated 15 PhDs and 40 Master's degrees in Education during my tenure. We also secured full accreditation for the two programmes; namely, Human Kinetics and Health Education options for the next five years through collective effort, particularly from one of us who wilfully gave financial support. I am happy to announce that all the equipment installed in time for the accreditation exercise are in perfect working condition. A few of them still require more office space for their installation," he disclosed.

Professor Amasiatu expressed gratitude to Management of the University, immediate Past Dean of the Faculty, Professor Lawrence Igwe, Academic and Non-Teaching Staff of the Department for supporting him to succeed in office.

He also congratulated the new Acting Head of Department, Dr. Golda Ekenedo, for her appointment, promising that he would continue to support her to uphold what was achieved during his tenure. "I pledge my unalloyed support to assist her whenever I am called upon to do so and I urge staff of the Department to also give Dr. Ekenedo the same support I enjoyed while in office," Professor Amasiatu appealed.

Prof Amasiatu (right) handing over to Dr. Ekenedo

Centre Director, Prof Udom (3rd left) flanked by Mr. Brume, Mr. Oyedipe, Mr. Ben-Collins (right), Mrs. Ukonu and Mr. Oti (left)

CPG Trains Personnel On Cutting-Edge Technology Use

By Otikor Samuel

In order to fully acquaint themselves with the use of newly acquired cutting-edge *Terra X-Ray Diffractometer* and *Particle Size Analysette* equipment purchased by the University, the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG), has trained its technologists on their effective use.

Briefing our Correspondent on the outcome of a three-day hands-on technical training held between March 26 and 28, 2018, Director of the Centre, Professor Godwin Udom, described the training as very successful, stating that the version of *Particle Size Analysette* purchased by the University was not yet available in any Nigerian university.

Meanwhile, the Director in a report to the Vice-Chancellor dated April 6, 2018, confirmed receipt of the equipment from Olympus MEA Dubai through ISCON Scientific Nigeria Limited. He added that training had already been conducted for two staff in Dubai before the second leg of the training mounted in the University by Jose Brume from Olympus USA's Boston Office.

"We use this medium to thank you, Sir, for approving purchase of the equipment and for giving the Centre an opportunity to train its staff on the use and operations of the Terra XRD equipment," the Director said in his report to the Vice-Chancellor, adding that the Centre would be willing to train other staff of the University.

Professor Udom further stated that the new equipment would be available to students at all levels in geosciences, adding that plans were underway to deploy the equipment for consultancy purposes with a view to generating funds for its maintenance.

Participants at the training were included Professor Udom, Mr. Diepiriye Okujagu, Mr. Emeka Ben-Collins, Mr. Chizam Oti, Mrs. Onyinyechi Ukonu and Mr. Emmanuel Oyedipe.

Senate Goes Tough On Erring Theses Supervisors

By Otikor Samuel

Following a litany of complaints by some graduate students of unnecessary delays by insensitive supervisors, the Senate of the University has outlined stiff sanctions against any supervisor who may be fingered in such unacademic acts.

Prof Lale, V-C

Conveying the position of Senate on the issue to affected academic staff, Deputy Registrar (Academic), Dr. Agatha Ataga, who issued a statement to that effect on behalf of the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, said the new measures were put in place to ensure that graduate students no longer suffer undue delays on their programmes occasioned by the carefree attitude of some lecturers.

In the statement dated April 11, 2018, the Registrar, said that Senate approved the new measures at its 436th Meeting (Extraordinary) held on Wednesday, March 28, 2018, warning that the apex academic regulatory body intends to punish erring academics to restore sanity to the graduate programme. She explained that the sanctions were consequent upon a proposal from the Board of the School of Graduate Studies, aimed at infusing a sense of purpose and urgency in the supervision of graduate students.

Senate directed that any lecturer who fails to submit results to the Departmental Graduate Studies Committee five weeks after each Semester examination, as well as fails to supervise or shows lackadaisical attitude towards supervision of students' dissertations or theses will be queried by the Dean of the Faculty.

"After a second query, a formal report should be made by the Dean of Faculty to the Board of the School of Graduate Studies through the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. The Board will consider the report and take an appropriate decision. Based on the decision of the Board of the School of Graduate Studies, a letter of warning/caution should be written to the Lecturer in question.

"Further infringements by the same Lecturer should be reported officially to the Chairman of Senate for appropriate sanctions, as may be approved by the Senate of the University or as may be contained in the statute books of the University," the statement said.

Senate advised Lecturers teaching at the graduate level to diligently commit themselves towards ensuring timely supervision of students' theses and dissertations to escape the stipulated sanctions.

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Reps C'ttee Ends Oversight To UniPort

V-C, Prof Lale, Chairman, House C'ttee on Education and Services, Hon. Suleiman (clockwise) flanked by House C'ttee members (right), Principal and Senior Officers of the University (left)

Welcoming the delegation, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, apologised for the late submission of the University's report to the Committee as directed, blaming the delay on the three-month strike action embarked upon by the Non-teaching unions in the university system. He told the Committee that the University Management received little allocation from the Federal Government as overhead cost, whereas it spent much more on municipal services and other expenditures that keep the system afloat. Professor Lale stated that such a troubling scenario left the University to depend more on Internally-Generated Revenue (IGR), appealing to the Committee to use its good office to intervene on behalf of the universities.

The Vice-Chancellor noted the observations made by members of the Committee, promising to make the needed corrections on the final report to be forwarded to them in Abuja.

The Committee members also took presentations from other tertiary institutions in the South-South, which came to meet them in the University. The three-day interactive forum ended on Thursday.

Other members of the Committee on the Oversight Function included Jarigbe Jarigbe (Deputy Chairman), Ayorinde Olabode, Abban Tajudeen, Salihu Bashir, Dyegh John, Molle Ibrahim, Mohammed Rano, Mu'azu Lawal and Ben Nwankwo.

Refund Illegal Charges To Students, V-C Directs HoDs

By Otikor Samuel

In his resolve to ensure strict compliance with the payment of only charges that are approved by Senate of the University, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has directed an immediate end to the collection of unapproved charges from students by some Departments and Faculties. The Vice-Chancellor, accordingly, directed Departments and Faculties that had collected such unapproved payments to refund the affected students with immediate effect. He warned of unpleasant consequences in the event of failure by the affected Heads of Department and Deans of Faculty to fully comply with the directive

The Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Professor Ikechukwu Agbagwa, conveyed the Vice-Chancellor's position in a statement dated April 24, 2018 and made available to *UniPort News*. He reminded staff engaged in the collection of illegal levies that such an act constituted gross misconduct as contained in page 8, subsection 1(vi) of the Regulations Governing Staff Conditions of Service (2015).

"The attention of the Vice-Chancellor has been drawn to the rising spate of illegal charges levied on Undergraduate and Graduate Students of the University. Such levies come under different guises and sub-heads like *Result Upload Fee, Departmental Clearance Fee, Course Registration Fee,* etc., for Undergraduates, and *Internal Defence Fee, Departmental Defence Fee, Faculty Defence, Transportation Fee, Accommodation* and *Entertainment Fee,* etc., for Graduate Students. There are also several cases of unauthorised and compulsory sale of books through departmental back channels against the Senate directive on the issue," the statement pointed out.

Professor Agbagwa stated that the Vice-Chancellor has vehemently condemned the practice, directing that all such illegal levies outside the statutorily approved payments in the ongoing 2017/2018 academic session should be immediately refunded to the affected students. The statement further directed that forthwith, no student should be subjected to payment of such unapproved charges.

Prof Lale, V-C

COHSE Marks World Safety Day With Rally

By Mercy Adeniji

As part of efforts aimed at ensuring safety in the workplace and end child labour, the Centre for Occupational Health, Safety and Environment (COHSE), joined the rest of the global community to mark this year's *World Safety Day* with a rally on the theme: *Improving the Safety and Health of Younger Workers.*

Speaking during the fire drill, Director of the Centre, Professor Tambari Leton, commended the students for turning out *en masse* to participate in the milestone event.

"Safety is so important to productivity and that is why the Centre has consistently focused attention on keeping our staff and students safe in the learning environment. We are committed to building a reference Centre that is dedicated to research and development that would benefit the larger society, but we take safety issues very seriously because it impacts the overall wellbeing of workers.

I am happy that the Batch 8 students initiated the idea of celebrating our achievements so far and also marking the *World Safety Day*. We agreed with them and from this year onwards, we promise that the Centre will celebrate *World Safety, Health* and *Environment Day* in the workplace, because workers of all ages have a right to safe and healthy work environment," Professor Leton said.

He cited the International Labour Organization (ILO), which revealed that 541 million young workers aged between 15-24 years, account for more than 15 per cent of the world's labour force. Professor Leton disclosed that "in certain regions of the world, young workers suffer up to 40 per cent higher rates of non-fatal occupational injuries than adult workers above the age of 25. Such high rates of work-rated injuries are attributed to various risk factors that are specific to young workers who are often unaware of their rights as employees, including their occupational safety and health responsibilities," the Director said. He urged the graduate students to enlighten people about the need to work and live in a safe environment and communicate in a safe way in the workplace.

In a side line interview, Batch 8 Course Representative and Chairman of the Steering Committee for the celebration, Mr. Johnpaul Braide, said: "The essence of the *World Safety Day* is to improve occupational safety and health, enhance productivity by reducing the number of interruptions in the manufacturing processes, reduce absenteeism, decrease the number of accidents and improve workplace efficiency. Employers and workers have responsibilities and rights in relation to the workplace. The aim of the rally is to create awareness and eliminate most workplace-related accidents, injuries and diseases."

A major highpoint of the awareness campaign was a walk in the three Parks of the University and the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital premises.

COHSE Director, Prof Leton (arrowed), with staff and students of the Centre before the rally

GUIDE POST

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

Ms. Philomina Kika, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective January 29, 2016.

RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT

Professor Olorunfemi Eseyin, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective January 2, 2018 to January 1, 2019.

Professor Mfoniso Umoren, Department of Mathematics/Statistics, Faculty of Science, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective January 15, 2018 to January 14, 2019.

Professor Allwell Muzan, Faculty of Law, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective January 20, 2018 to January 19, 2019.

Professor Cyril Usifoh, Department of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective February 28, 2018 to February 27, 2019.

Professor Otoabasi Akpan, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective November 12, 2018 to November 11, 2019.

Dr. Wilfred Obonga, Department of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment* as *Senior Lecturer*, effective December 17, 2017 to November 16, 2018.

Dr. Godwin Okon, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year *Renewal of Part-Time Teaching Appointment*, effective January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

Dr. Emmanuel Obuah, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective June 10, 2018 to June 9, 2019.

Dr. Henrietta Otokunefor, Library Department, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective December 26, 2017 to December 25, 2018.

REINSTATEMENT

Mr. Augustus Aiseuebeogun, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, reinstated as *Lecturer I* with immediate effect.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Atei Okorobia, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Arts, Akwa Ibom State University, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, effective January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

Mrs. Flora Iyagba, Deputy Registrar, Claude Ake School of Government, proceeds on a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Port Harcourt, effective December 18, 2017 to December 17, 2018.

HIGHER DEGREE

Dr. Salem Ochala Ejeba, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, successfully completed his *PhD Degree in Linguistics*, effective April 28, 2017.

TRANSFER OF SERVICE

Dr. Sunday Michael Sam, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, granted *Transfer of Service* to the Akwa Ibom State University, Ikot Akpaden, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

CHANGE OF NAME

DR. EMMANUEL CHINEDU MACALEX-ACHINULO. Former Emmanuel Chinedu Achinulo of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Dr. Emmanuel Chinedu Macalex-Achinulo. All documents bearing his former name remain valid.

STOP PRESS

146TH INAUGURAL LECTURE

Professor Daye Seleye-Fubara of the Department of Anatomic Pathology, Faculty Basic Medical Science, delivers the 146th Inaugural Lecture entitled: "Speaking for the Dead to Protect the Living" on Thursday May 10, 2018 at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Time is 3.00pm. You are all cordially invited.

Inductees, Parents Relive Experience At PCN Induction

80 Pharmacists trained by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences were licenced by the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria to practise the noble profession. As the newly-inducted Pharmacists prepare to ingress into the profession, Correspondent,* MERCY ADENIJI, *spoke to them and some parents on their experience while it lasted:

CHIEF EZE CHUKWUEMEKA EZE, Parent

I am so excited to be the parent of one of the inductees today. I am also grateful to God who made this day possible. This is a great feat, because five years studying Pharmacy was not easy for my daughter Eunice Chukwuemeka. We owe everything to God who made it possible for us to witness this historic event.

MR. SAMUEL DAMBANI, Parent

I give all the glory to God for the wisdom he gave my daughter, Deborah Tambari Dambani to emerge as the Best Graduating Student at the 7th Induction ceremony. We thank God for His mercies and for seeing my daughter this far. She believes in God and we are exceedingly happy that God has honoured and crowned her hard work with resounding success today.

ENGR. HARRY GODDEY, Parent

I am so excited that my daughter is one of the best in her class. I congratulate her and all the inductees, because they have done well. I commend the Management and staff of the University of Port Harcourt for giving the students quality training and encouraging them to work hard. I pray for more grace for the University to continue training the younger ones in the various fields of specialisation.

ROSE NGEREMAA, Parent

I am so happy today that my son successfully graduated and is being inducted today. I did not know that God would do it for me and I owe him a lorry-load of gratitude. I pray God to also make other parents to rejoice over their children as he has made me to rejoice today.

TAMBARI DEBORAH DAMBANI, OVERALL BGS

I am very grateful to God because it is amazing to be the Best Graduating Student in a class of superbrains. I am also grateful to my parents for their support and prayers throughout my days as a student of this University. I have always survived by their prayers and advice. Studying Pharmacy was not easy, but it was worth it at the end. I promise to continue to make my parents and UniPort proud wherever I may be. My advice to younger colleagues is to work very hard to come out in flying colours. It can be done with focus, commitment and God.

PRECIOUS HARRY (BGS, Pharmacology & Toxicology)

I am so excited to be one of the Inductees today. I received an award as the Best Graduating Student in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology and also from the Department of Pharmaceutical and Medical Chemistry. Pharmacy is a very challenging course, but you have to work hard to pull through. Receiving an award is added honour. I hope to further in my area of specialisation which is Hospital and Industrial Pharmacy. I advise my colleagues to be hardworking, focused and committed to the reason they are in the profession.

EVELYN ETETE

I feel so special to be an Inductee today. This is the day I have been expecting and I am grateful to God for making this day a reality for me. I urge my younger colleagues to remain focused and always believe in themselves, even when the world is against them. I am also grateful to my parents for their love and support throughout my studies. I appreciate them for believing in me and I am glad that I finally put smiles on their faces today.

CHUKWUDUM OKEKE

I am so excited to be inducted into the Pharmacy profession today. My youthful dream has now come to reality. My gratitude also goes to my parents, most especially my loving mother, who has been there for me. I appreciate her for her prayers and love. To staff of the Faculty and Management of the University, I am grateful for the quality training I received here and I promise never to disappoint you all.

LELESI THANKGOD

I am so happy because it took a long while to get to where I am today. Like the saying goes, when the going gets tough, it takes only the tough to get going. I owe it all to God who made this accomplishment possible. I also owe my gratitude to my beloved mother, who did so much for me. From the depth of my heart, I say thank you mum. I appreciate every one of my lecturers, who taught and gave us all the necessary guidance we needed to get to where we are today.

New Pharmacists Receive PCN Licences

Cont'd from backpage

laying a solid foundation which his successors were building upon.

"These graduands can look back with a deep sense of pride, satisfaction and a sense of personal accomplishment as they prepare to ingress into the Pharmacy profession that is undergoing great changes in line with emerging global trends. They have received the best training that is available in the profession anywhere and I can confidently confirm to their parents, guardians and well-wishers that they are ready, willing and able to compete with the very best anywhere in the world," the Vice-Chancellor assured the gathering.

In his address, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor Ogbonna Okorie, admonished the inductees to: "go and live in a manner worthy of a true Pharmacist. I want to advise you first to serve as our branches wherever you go in the society. Secondly, there is a need to be part of a formidable alumni not only of the University, but of this tender Faculty. Be a good ambassador and reach out on our behalf."

Rivers State Chairman of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, Mr. Wale Oladigbolu, conveyed his goodwill message through Dr. Karin Ekpe. The Chairman also presented some token to the Valedictorian, Miss Deborah Dambani for her hard work.

In her Valedictory Address, Miss Dambani commended the University Management for providing a conducive learning environment for students to excel, disclosing that her parents and other successful Pharmacists motivated her to reach for the stars.

Other major highlights of the ceremony were presentation of awards to Miss Dambani, who also topped her class in Pharmaceutical Microbiology and Biotechnology. Other subject award winners included Abigail Eneje (Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy), Joy Oduenyi (Clinical Pharmacy and Management), Chijioke Chukwuekem (Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Technology), Precious Harry (Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology and Pharmaceutical Medical Chemistry).

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WISEcrack

We must let go of the life we have planned, so as to accept the one that is waiting for us

JOSEPH CAMPBELL

145th Inaugural

Industrialisation Is Key To Nigeria's Economic Development ~Ohale

Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Ohale (left) handing over a copy of the Lecture to DV-C (Admin), Prof Ogali, while representative of the Registrar, Dr. Agatha Ataga looks on

By Obinna Nwodim

Professor Lawrence Ohale of the Department of Economics in the Faculty of Social Sciences, has identified industrialisation of the local economy, reducing the cost of governance, strong commitment to technological development, as well as a holistic war against corruption as the panacea to the developmental challenges facing Nigeria.

Professor Ohale made the recommendations while delivering the 145th Inaugural Lecture of the University of Port Harcourt at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, April 19, 2018.

Ohale whose Lecture was entitled, "Poverty in the midst of Plenty: The Paradox of Nigeria's Development," took a swipe at the current economic policies that have run the country aground in the midst of plenty. "Industrialisation holds the key to the development of Nigeria's economy and the reduction of poverty," the Inaugural Lecturer submitted. He added that efforts aimed at industrialising the country should centre on building capacity in the various sectors of the economy to produce the goods and services required for local consumption and export to generate foreign exchange.

Lamenting that Nigeria's economy was currently languishing in utter hopelessness, despair and a state of melancholy, the Inaugural Lecturer argued that the bi-cameral legislature being practised in the country was a luxury that a developing country such as Nigeria could no longer afford. He upbraided the current legislative and executive arms of government as very expensive, inefficient and divisive to lead the country to true democratic practice and economic prosperity.

Professor Ohale, who once served as Associate Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, highlighted the role of developing nations in attaining growth, arguing that Nigeria was richly endowed with enormous human and natural resources that could address her current developmental crises.

"Nigeria is a resource-rich country. There are few countries in Africa and indeed the world, whose resource endowments can compare with that of Nigeria," Professor Ohale said, adding that there was no state that did not have enough natural resources to make meaningful contributions to the economy of the country. He regretted that despite the country's rich resource pool, it was a paradox that there was so much poverty in the midst of plenty which he described as a ticking time bomb. The exploitation of the country's abundant resources, according to Professor Ohale, was seriously hindered by lack of technological knowhow, regretting that what was so far exploited depended largely on foreign technology.

The Inaugural Lecturer said that Nigeria has witnessed different development paradigms, philosophies and all kinds of policies which have been implemented with the stated purpose of moving the country forward. He identified public sector-led development strategy and private sector-driven initiatives as two paradigms implemented in Nigeria since it attained Independence.

Professor Ohale also identified "misconception of what constitutes development, lack of appropriate policy direction and vision, poor quality leadership, Abdulistic nature of Nigeria's capitalist economy and corruption, as well as ethical gaps and poor reward system," as factors responsible for the endemic poverty in the midst of plenty in Nigeria.

The Inaugural Lecturer said that Nigeria needed strong leadership and a clear economic blueprint to dig it out of its present economic quagmire. "If we are to overcome this paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty, we have to change our way of life and our ways of doing government business," he declared, adding that if the economy was not placed on the right footing, nothing will work in the country.

In her remarks, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, commended the Inaugural Lecturer for drawing attention to the parlous state of the country's economy. "We all agree with the Inaugural Lecturer that the economy of Nigeria is currently not where we all want it to be in terms of policy conception and implementation, but we must remain optimistic and hopeful of better days ahead of us. Despite the gloomy picture he painted in the lecture, we cannot give up on Nigeria which is the only country we have," Professor Ogali said.

80 New Pharmacists Receive PCN Licences To Practise

By Otikor Samuel

A total of 80 new Pharmacists trained by the University have been inducted and licensed by the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) to practise the profession. The 7th Induction and Oath-Taking Ceremony took place at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Friday, April 27, 2018.

Addressing the inductees at the well-attended ceremony, Registrar of PCN, Mr. Elijah Mohammed, sounded it loud and clear that the Council would not tolerate indolence as lapses in professional practice could cause the life of a patient.

"As Pharmacists, you are expected to get yourselves acquainted with the Code of Professional Ethics which prescribes your professional and moral responsibilities to the patient, pharmacist colleagues, other health professionals, your employers and the general public, among others. Strict compliance to the code of ethics is indispensable in the practice of pharmacy profession," the PCN Registrar warned the new entrants.

Mr. Mohammed spoke of the limitless opportunities available to graduates of Pharmacy, notifying the inductees that: "The Pharm D. (Doctor of Pharmacy) programme, as approved by the National Universities Commission is receiving support from the Senates of all approved universities and their Faculties of Pharmacy or Pharmaceutical Sciences." The Registrar solicited support from the Vice-Chancellors to ensure early commencement of the programme in UniPort. He disclosed that the PCN was working very hard to ensure that the Pharm D. degree becomes the minimum requirement for the practice of Pharmacists in Nigeria.

In his keynote address entitled: *Building Blocks for a Successful Pharmacy Career*, a member of the Governing Board of the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Professor Charles Esimone, enjoined the newly inducted Pharmacists to live a purposeful life for them to excel in the profession. The building blocks required for a successful pharmacy career, according to Professor Esimone included: knowledge, discipline, creativity, integrity, skills, character and conviction.

"Your hunt for knowledge does not end after graduation. Unfortunately, for most Pharmacists, it ends. Bear in mind that five years after graduation, without continuous reading for more information and better understanding of the concepts of your profession, the brain begins to shrink. You forget literarily everything and become a drug counter. That is the reason why the PCN in its wisdom instituted the Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD) programme which every Pharmacist must enrol in after five years of graduation," Professor Esimone stated.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, said that the University of Port Harcourt was committed to high standards in its pharmaceutical training programme. He showered praises on the pioneer Dean, Professor Oleka Udeala for

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A cross-section of the inductees taking the Oath

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