IPS Has Positively Influenced UniPort - Ajienka

After eleven uninterrupted years of committing itself to a culture of excellence in the training of world-class Petroleum Engineers for the oil and gas industry, the Institute of Petroleum Studies, University of Port Harcourt, has made significant contributions in securing the future of the industry far beyond Nigeria, reports Obinna Nwodim.

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Side Bar
Prof Ademola Dahunsi of the Department of Petroleum Engineering, College of Engineering, delivers the 115th Inaugural Lecture this Thursday. Details next week.
~ Editor

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Kalu Relives Tenure As Dean
Medical Librarians End Training In UniPort
Team UniPort Clears Medals At Naval Swimming Contest
Senate Approves New Programmes

114th Inaugural

Ways of preserving food to ensure maximum safety and prevent illnesses associated with consumption of contaminated food was the main thrust of the 114th Inaugural Lecture delivered by Professor Bernard Efiuvwevwere Tasks Government On Food Safety

By Humphrey Ogu

Efiuvwevwere of the Department of Microbiology in the Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences at the Ehitiimi Banigo Auditorium, last Thursday. Efiuvwevwere, whose lecture was entitled: Microorganisms and Quest for Food Safety: Prospects and Challenges,” said: “Food safety is a major focus in Food Microbiology and it describes handling, preparation, processing and storage of food in ways that prevent foodborne illnesses and food poisoning,” pointing out that it also involves safety measures that emphasize “tracking” the movement of food items between the market and consumers.

“Food preservation entails the manipulation of intrinsic factors such as pH, nutrient content, oxidation-reduction potential and extrinsic parameters that affect microbial growth and microbial dynamics in food ecosystems,” the Professor of Microbiology explained, defining food spoilage as the alteration of quality characteristics due to enzymatic and

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Read UniPort Weekly Online at www.uniport.edu.ng
Kalu Relives Tenure As Dean

By Williams Wodi

L eadership throws up challenges that task even the most innovative geniuses. To accept to lead is to lay oneself open to the scrutiny of followers and independent observers alike. Leaders are known to have faltered and yielded to institutional pressures in the exercise of the statutory powers entrusted to their care in critical moments of history. Good leaders need abundance of wisdom and understanding to function at their optimal best.

Professor Sylvia Kalu, who has just ended his tour of duty as Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences is a classic example of a leader that was and continues to be totally committed to the success of his Faculty, even under very difficult circumstances. Kalu took office at a challenging period in the Faculty that took off with graduate programmes at the Choba Park Campus of the University in those pioneering days.

Four years later, he recalls that his greatest impact as Dean was human capital development and staff welfare. How did he achieve his ambitious target? For instance, in 2010 when he took office as Dean, there were only four Professors and nine Senior Lecturers in the entire Faculty. There were just a few Lecturers I and II and some Graduate Assistants that drank from the fountain of the elders. For a Faculty that wishes to attain optimal student-lecturer ratio, that statistical data simply mocked at the stated institutional effort to deliver quality education to diverse stakeholders and secure accreditation from apex academic and professional regulatory bodies.

Let us put some sense of scale to this situation: In October, 2014, when Professor Kalu left office, the parlous staff-students mix altered in the positive direction to the admiration of stakeholders in the affairs of the Faculty. After his statutory four-year tenure as Dean, the Faculty of Management Sciences recorded a quantum leap in human capital development by adding two new Professors and one Reader to the intellectual pool. The former Dean was not yet done; two Senior Lecturers are currently awaiting confirmation from the Central Appointments and Promotions Committee (A&PC) to enable them join the Professoriate, while one Candidate is waiting to join the rank of Readers. The good news is continuing; three other Senior Lecturers are still being processed by the Central A&PC for the position of Professor and Reader, respectively.

As Professor Kalu closed the door to the Dean's office behind him and handed over the keys to his successor, the Faculty could boast of a princely harvest of thirty Senior Lecturers as against the paltry nine he inherited in 2010. Who says miracles are no longer possible in our time? “Except those employed in the last two years, all the Academic Staff in the Faculty were summarily promoted during my tenure, while otherwise promoted staff were confirmed to retirement age in appropriate cases,” a visibly delighted Kalu told a UniPort Weekly Correspondent, expressing hope that the good run would continue under the leadership of his successor.

He listed the Port Harcourt Business School, the new Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism, the Central Bank of Nigeria Centre of Excellence (CBNCE) Foundation, a robust Staff Development programme, a Faculty Journal and excellent Faculty working relationships, clearing the backlog of Doctoral Candidates, introduction of the Doctor of Business Administration programme. Conference attendance and successful accreditation of Graduate programmes, as some of the verifiable achievements that an outgoing Dean should modestly boast about.

“I thank the University and my colleagues for affording me a golden opportunity to serve twice as Dean and for their support that helped move our dear Faculty to greater height,” Professor Kalu said, appealing that the same support be extended to his successor, Professor Emeka Okereke as he casts about to move the Faculty to the next level.

A Decade After Onyekonwu Relives IPS Journey

As the famous Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), clocks eleven years with graduation of the 11th set of Master of Science degree students in Petroleum Engineering, last Thursday, Director of the Institute, Professor Mike Onyekonwu, chronicled the journey so far in a Media Briefing at the IPS Park, Correspondent, OTHIKOR SAMUEL covered the event for UniPort Weekly.

A s part of events lined up for the 11th Anniversary/Inauguration of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), a Media Briefing was organized to mark the event which held on Thursday, November 20, 2014. Director of the Institute, Professor Mike Onyekonwu, who was instrumental in the establishment of the Institute, said his tenure had been one of the best in the history of the institution.

He added that the institute had been well supported by students, alumni and friends, with the support provided leading to the successful completion of the first batch of students.

Onyekonwu, who was recently appointed as a member of the University of Calabar Senate, said he was ready to submit to the University any documents that may be required to facilitate the achievement of the institute's goals.

Onyekonwu also expressed gratitude to the students and their parents for their support, adding that the institute would continue to work towards achieving its goals.

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UniPort as one of its host communities, even when the company is not prospecting for oil in the University. This is Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) at its very best which we recommend to other corporate organizations and public spirited individuals,” Professor Onyekonwu said.

He pledged to continue to promote the seven elements of the Institute’s core values anchored on excellence, integrity, commitment, effective communication, respect, transparency and team work, in addition to projecting the mission statement, philosophy and vision of the Institute.

On the future of IPS, the Director said: “The future is very bright for IPS as it doggedly pursues its vision, mission and mandate of building capacity for the oil and gas industry. The Institute is still working towards attracting more foreign students to its fold. Already, about six of such foreign students have been admitted and are already pursuing programmes in the Institute.

We are also projecting an annual grant of over 15 million naira from donor agencies and five million naira annual giving by alumni of the IPS. The Institute has so far registered five patents with relevant government agencies. Some Doctoral Candidates have already completed their prescribed course of studies in the Institute. With expansion work proceeding apace at the IPS Park, we are hopeful that four new laboratories, an Auditorium and many offices and classroom spaces would soon be ready for use, while efforts are on to recruit more Research Professors and increase student enrolment.”
Cont’d from p1

Through the initiative and leadership of Professor Joseph Ajienka, made this declaration while delivering the 11th Anniversary Lecture of the Institute, at the Edible Banjo Auditorium, University Park, last Thursday.

Professor Ajienka, who spoke on the theme: Celebrating NNPC-TOTAL E&P Legacy in Sustainable Development: A Case Study of the Institute of Petroleum Studies, University of Port Harcourt, stated that the Institute has been an attractive brand in the Nigeria University System. According to him, the Institute has contributed to the development of the country by addressing issues relevant to the strategic national objectives of the oil and gas industry, pointing out that universities can contribute to national development through training of competent manpower that would replace experienced hands that are retiring from the complex hydrocarbon industry.

“We must be prepared for this inevitability. Change, as well as engage in quality research and development, capacity building and professional certification, cost-effective management of operations, as well as improving productivity and profitability, which are major impacts of the Institute on Sustainable Development,” the Anniversary Lecturer said.

Professor Ajienka, who noted that sustainable development was about securing the future of an organization through efficient crew change and succession planning, stated that facilities and technology that would achieve sustainable development must be available, accessible and affordable, identifying the University's sustainable development as environmental sustainability, social sustainability, cultural diversity, as well as economic sustainability.

The Anniversary Lecturer, who is also the Emmanuel Egbegah Chair in Petroleum Engineering, disclosed that a major strength of the Institute was its robust collaborations it has initiated over the years, pointing out that there was need to strengthen global partnerships for development. He said that to make significant impact for growth and development, there was a need to identify new ways to do things rather than holding on to traditional ways of thinking.

Professor Ajienka stated that the Institute has risen from its humble beginnings to become a World Bank/AU African Centre of Excellence in Oilfield Chemicals Research that has contributed immensely to human capacity development. According to him, the development of IPS is very crucial to the development of the oil and gas industry in Nigeria and Africa. Professor Ajienka described IPS as a brand that has positively influenced the development of the University, IPP School, France and similar institutions, adding that it is a worthy brand that needs to be celebrated and perpetuated.

In his speech, Chairman of the occasion and Pro-Chancellor of the University, Engineer Gazi Asamolu, said: “We are not only celebrating internationalization of higher education at home, but also a celebration of sustainability of academic excellence for Africa,” adding that IPS has become not only a pride to the University, but a model in the African educational system.

Engineer Asamolu, who is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Institute, added: “At a time when oil companies drastically reduced their budget and suspended important projects because of the uncertainty in the oil business climate, NNPC-TOTAL E&P Joint Venture not only kept IPS expenses as a top priority, but embarked on Phase II building project at the Institute.”

In her address, Executive Director, in charge of Human Resources and Corporate Affairs, TOTAL Upstream Companies in Nigeria and Chairman of the Governing Board of the Institute, Mrs. Edith Olfokonwo, described IPS as an example of how the partnership between government and the organized private sector, specifically the oil and gas sector is helping to build the capacities of youths through the provision of world-class education. She said that “the fruitful experience explains how dream and determination can change the world. The consistent success of IPS in producing world-class graduates in Petroleum Engineering and Project Development for eleven years running can be attributed to the foundation of excellence laid by the founding fathers of the Institute.”

In her remarks, Managing Director Total E&P Nigeria Limited, Elisabeth Proust, represented by Executive General Manager in Charge of Technical Services Directorate of Deep Water. Director of TOTAL in Nigeria, Mr. Musa Ahmada, said that the partnership between TOTAL and IPS was worth celebrating and emulating, describing the founding fathers of the Institute as “true visionaries.”

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Medical Librarians End Training In UniPort

By Humphrey Ogu

Barely three weeks after the Committee of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities sold its 9th Bi-annual Meeting in the University of Port Harcourt, Medical Librarians of Nigeria (MLA-NG) converged at the American Corner in the Donald Ekong Library last week for its Workshop and Annual General Meeting aimed at enhancing efficiency and methods of work.

Declaring the weeklong Workshop open, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who commended the Librarians, Dr. Allah Gumi Nwodo, for being able to attract two very important national meetings to the University within a month, observed that “any organization that focuses attention on staff training, change to enhance productivity and guarantee satisfaction of clients and stakeholders should be trained properly to do their jobs effectively.”

The Vice-Chancellor, who charged Librarians to be at the forefront in the war against plagiarism in research, said: “As an Entrepreneurial University, we believe that research should attract money to the researcher and the institution, and have positive impact on society,” stressing the need for students to embrace Library and Information Science because of their importance and the huge opportunities they offer practitioners in the new knowledge economy.

In his opening remarks, Chairman of the occasion and Deputy Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Owuari Geregewi, observed that healthcare professionals need to have information on current research findings that would enable them keep abreast of current happenings in the profession, which he described as critical to effective information storage and dissemination in this digital age.

Delivering the Keynote Speech on the topic: Evidence-Based Medicine for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Dr. Allah Gumi Nwodo, described the Millennium Development Goals Exchange Fellow, Professor Vincent Idemor, defined Evidence-Based Medicine as “the integration of the best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values,” adding that it “reflects a systematic approach to clinical problem solving.”

Idemor, who is a Visiting Professor to the University, described the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as “the world’s time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions,” noting that MDG 5, 4 and 6 focus on health, namely: Improvement of Infant Mortality, Reduction of Child Mortality and combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases that ravage populations in Africa. Explaining the critical role of research in achieving effective healthcare, Idemor observed that the days of relying on past evidence without relevant knowledge of current trends in healthcare research are long gone, emphasizing the importance of teamwork and collaboration between healthcare professionals and Medical Librarians to achieve effective results.

Earlier in her welcome address, University Librarian, Dr. Nwodo, stressed the need for the Association to continue the invaluable services in enhancing medical research practices and the leaders of their respective institutions, expressing hope that the training would add value chain to participants and the institutions they represent.

Earlier in her address, Chairman of the MLA-NG, Dr. Uju Nwadoro-Orizu, described the 2014 MLA-NG training and AGM as a weeklong intensive training in Medical Librarianship, that involved 12 main courses, three bonus courses, a written examination and issuance of Certificate of Participation. “I am looking at the surge in health information generation overload, the evolving use of ICT in medical practice, the low health literacy rates in Nigeria and the inequitable and drudging systems, it was thought urgent to organise the training,” she said.

“The urgency was amplified by the recent outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and the obvious lessons left in its trail for the entire health sector, including Medical Librarians, who are health information managers,” she added, listing medical informatics, mass gathering medicine, health literacy, consumer health information resources, amongst others as major areas of focus in the training.

Also speaking, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Mr. Gumi Nwodo, said that as the 2014 World Book Capital, Port Harcourt had a robust book and information culture which every practising Librarian should embrace. Chairman of the Rivers State Chapter of the Nigeria Library Association, Mrs. Glory Edet commended the University of Port Harcourt for accepting to host the event, expressing gratitude to others who contributed to the success of the Workshop and AGM.
Team UniPort Clears Medals At Naval Swimming Contest

...As IPS Master's Students Defeat PGDPT Counterparts

By Otior Samuel

Irrepressible Team UniPort again showed its sporting prowess when it beat seven military contingents to emerge overall best team in the invited Clubs category at a swimming contest organized by the Nigerian Naval Training Command on Saturday, November 15, 2014 at the Naval Base in Onne, Eleme Local Government Area. Presenting the trophies and cash prizes won in the male and female categories to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka at the Sports Complex, University Park, last Monday, Director of Sports, Dr. Ken Anugweje, who described the competition as an internal contest among different commands of the Nigerian Navy with the Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Usman Jibrin and Commanders of Naval Commands in attendance, disclosed that Team UniPort featured as one of the invited Clubs. The Director of Sports further disclosed that the swimming contest featured series of relays which the University won, adding that athletes that represented the University were mostly new team members preparing to take over from the outgoing stars. He also presented a souvenir from the organizers to the Vice-Chancellor, obviously in appreciation of the University's widely-acknowledged exploits in the sporting arena over the years.

Teams that participated in the invited Club category, according to Dr. Anugweje were: Western Naval Command, Lagos; Nigerian Airforce; Naval Headquarters; Navy Sailing Club; Headquarters Logistics Command; Headquarters Central Naval Command and the Nigerian Army. Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, congratulated the new athletes for maintaining the standard of sports in the University, expressing delight that the athletes were also disciplined as they were all seated before 3:00pm originally scheduled for the Novelty Football Match between students on the M.Sc. and Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Technology programmes of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS). Addressing students of IPS after taking the kick-off, the Vice-Chancellor said that the football match was a way of inculcating the spirit of team building in them, emphasizing that team work was an indispensable component in the hydrocarbon industry. Professor Ajienka, who urged the outgoing students of the Institute to develop the virtues of team spirit in their future careers congratulated the M.Sc. Class for winning the very competitive match, recalling that the PGDPT Class defeated the M.Sc. students last year with a 2-1 margin. At the end of hostilities, the M.Sc. students defeated their PGDPT counterparts by a lone goal to cart away this year's trophy as part of activities lined up to celebrate the 11th Anniversary/Inception of the Institute.

Student Entrepreneurship

The Agric Faculty Example

By Obinna Nwodin

The Intra-Faculty Bioentreprise and Agribusiness Committee of the Faculty of Agriculture recently organized its 2nd Agricultural Students Entrepreneurship Competition. The aim of the competition was to develop requisite skills amongst students that would enable them create value chains for themselves and society. After all, universities are meant to identify and solve the problems of society. The Competition which held at Choba Park on 6th November, 2014 received 15 proposals from students, out of which eleven scaled through the initial screening stages. Ten of the students presented their proposals to a Panel of judges that assessed them accordingly. For instance, winner of the competition presented a proposal on Forepresurent and Packaging of Hypertibia Paradoxa for National Development: Shea Butter Moisturizing Cream in Orodo Local Government, Renin City, Eda State. The first runner-up presented a proposal on small production and value added small products, while the second runner-up proposed the production and marketing of bee products.

The students presented very brilliant business ideas that impressed the Panel of judges and gave added fillip to the drive for self-employment on graduation. The next challenge is for budding student entrepreneurs to continue to fine-tune their proposals and seek sponsors to actualize them to create wealth for themselves and society.

With such brilliant ideas, students do not need to roam the streets looking for jobs on graduation as they are already potential millionaires who would not only make money for themselves, but help others become self-employed. It is advisable for other Faculties and Colleges to follow the laudable steps of the Faculty of Agriculture by stimulating the intellectual and entrepreneurship abilities of their students. Government agencies, corporate bodies, public-spirited individuals and even investors can seize the opportunity to encourage these potential entrepreneurs by financing their proposals and nurturing them to full-scale commercial entities. If this scheme is duplicated in Colleges and Faculties in the University, the purpose of establishing a truly Entrepreneurial University would have been achieved.

Participants at the event
Senate Approves New Programmes, Results, Names New Arts Theatre After Amatu Braide

By Obinna Nwodin

anybody in any part of the world," the Vice-Chancellor reminded his colleagues. He also stressed the need for pre-inaugural citations not to exceed a page to retain the seriousness of the exercise and concentrate attention on the Lecture.

On the combined proposal for the Faculty of Humanities and Law on one hand, as well as the Faculty of Education on the other hand to transform into Colleges, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, said that a Senate Committee headed by him was still working on the proposals, promising to submit its final Report at the next Senate Meeting.

On the 2013/2014 Academic Calendar, Senate resolved that the modified academic calendar be reviewed to accommodate Final Year Students who would be eligible for the National Youths Service Corps (NYSC) in the next mobilization exercise.

The Vice-Chancellor directed all schedule officers to henceforth be handled at the Department, while Senate would develop guidelines for clearing eligible students. It also received another presentation from Professor Efemini on the use of mobile phones by students during examinations, pointing out that the development now poses serious security challenges to Invigilators. After considering the matter, Senate directed that mobile phones be prohibited henceforth from all examinations venues, warning that infringement of the order would constitute an act of examination malpractice.

Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Safety and Environment (HSE), Professor Uwurie Akpodokuje, drew the attention of Senate to the parlous state of public toilets and conveniences in the University. After due deliberation, Senate directed that the toilets in the various Colleges and Faculties converted to other uses should be recovered and rehabilitated for proper use by staff, students and visitors to the University.

Professor Samuel Obiwa of the Faculty of Education was unanimously elected Senate Representative on the Governing Board of the University Demonstration

paucity of requisite manpower. Another proposal for the re-designation and reclassification of some programmes earlier approved in the then Department of Petroleum Engineering to be coordinated by the Emerald Energy Institute was approved by Senate. Also, a Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) programme in Religious and Cultural Studies in the Faculty of Humanities was approved by Senate.

Senate also approved a proposal from the Faculty of Humanities for the naming of the new Arts Theatre Lecture Hall located at the Permanent Site of the University after the late multi-talented Choreographer, Daniel and actress, Amatu Braide who distinguished herself in the then Department of Theatre Arts under the tutelage of theatre Icon Olumotun. The report of a Committee under the chairmanship of Professor Abi Dereku, which was presented by Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Erunmgwe, established merit in the proposal to name the building "Amatu Braide New Theatre Lecture Hall." Earlier, Professor Ajienka had expressed worry over the equality of Inaugural Lectures delivered in the University, stressing the need for urgent improvements to conform to acceptable global best practice.

Inaugural Lectures are not Seminars that could be written and delivered without sensitivity to the audience and depth of thinking. The fact is that they are uploaded on the Internet and could be accessed by students anywhere. Hence, the Senate must ensure that students are adequately prepared for the NYSC mobilization, urging them to do it efficiently so that graduates of the University will be adequately mobilized. He warned that authorities of the NYSC would not wait for any university.

Senate noted that action has been taken on the 'Overstay Policy in the College of Graduate Studies as Heads of Department have been duly communicated. Dean of the Graduate School of Arts, Education and Social Sciences, Professor Ifeunoch, briefed Senate that examinations and seminars have been put in place to accommodate affected students who overstayed their Residency period in the College.

On the proposal by the College of Physical Education, Mosogar in Delta State to seek affiliation to the University, Senate noted the information that Chairman of the Local Affiliations Committee, Professor Insoni Udofor, was expected to liaise with the National Universities Commission (NUC) to carry out resource verification before the affiliation would be finally approved.

Senate also approved Report of the Students' Discipline Committee as presented by Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Professor Andrew Efemini, as well as ratification of executedally approved results to facilitate mobilization of graduates of the University for the NYSC scheme. Under the new dispensation, NYSC mobilization matters would be handled at the Department, while Senate would develop guidelines for clearing eligible students. It also received another presentation from Professor Efemini on the use of mobile phones by students during examinations, pointing out that the development now poses serious security challenges to Invigilators. After considering the matter, Senate directed that mobile phones be prohibited henceforth from all examinations venues, warning that infringement of the order would constitute an act of examination malpractice.

Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Safety and Environment (HSE), Professor Uwurie Akpodokuje, drew the attention of Senate to the parlous state of public toilets and conveniences in the University. After due deliberation, Senate directed that the toilets in the various Colleges and Faculties converted to other uses should be recovered and rehabilitated for proper use by staff, students and visitors to the University.

Professor Samuel Obiwa of the Faculty of Education was unanimously elected Senate Representative on the Governing Board of the University Demonstration.
microbial attacks on food, thereby making it dangerous for consumption.

The Inaugural Lecturer, who noted that the rationale for food preservation is primarily to prevent or minimize the growth of pathogenic and spoilage microorganisms and preserve the quality attributes of food, listed drying, smoking, use of low and high temperatures, food additives, food fermentation, food radiation, amongst others, as preservation methods against food poisoning.

He recommended the establishment of a Centre for Food Quality and Safety (CFQS) to carry out research activities on all foods that are popular and peculiar to the Niger Delta region, as well as to collate necessary data that would enable the region become the reference point for national and international organizations. “The Centre will become the data base for accessibility of existing scientific information due to dearth of statistics on food borne illnesses such as pathogens of greatest concern and their associated foods,” he explained, warning that people who eat expired food risk contacting diseases that could kill them over time. The Professor of Microbiology stressed the need for the construction and equipment of a microbiological culture collection centre to help preserve most isolated microorganisms and exploit their applications for research activities in the various sub-disciplines of Microbiology and related areas of focus. “I therefore wish to emphasize that greater awareness and provision of state-of-the-art facilities for food microbiological research be accorded priority to enhance food safety and minimize incidents of food-borne diseases,” he added.

Efiuvwevwere, who is the immediate past Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), also called for a Food Safety Day in the University to raise awareness among staff, students and the public and help minimize the recurring incidents of food-borne diseases. He advocated the introduction of food microbiology into the medical and paramedical curriculum of tertiary institutions to enable students acquire more knowledge that would help reduce food borne diseases among consumers.

The Inaugural Lecturer, whose contributions to knowledge spans several sub-disciplines and decades of food preservation and safety, listed microbial quality of fresh produce, use of various preservation strategies, use of low temperature storage of tomato fruits, preservation of seafood, using the combination of low temperature and preservatives, amongst others, as some of the research activities he engaged in as aimed at enhancing human knowledge in Food Microbiology.

In his closing remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, thanked the Inaugural Lecturer for what he described as a wonderful lecture that has drawn attention to the hazards of consuming poisoned food. “This lecture is very important, because it addressed issues of food safety and poisoning among consumers in Nigeria. Christmas is drawing near and we need to be careful about the quality of food we eat during the season,” he advised, lamenting that people have dropped their guards since Nigeria was declared free of the dreaded Ebola Virus Disease. Responding to the Inaugural Lecturer’s call for the establishment of a Centre for Food Quality and Safety, the Vice-Chancellor charged Professor Efiuvwevwere to seek grants from donor agencies to ensure the fulfillment of his desire.

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**NISLT Inspection Team Visits UniPort**

By Otikor Samuel

A four-member team on inspection of laboratories, reagents and laboratory personnel in universities in the South-South region under the auspices of the Nigerian Institute of Science Laboratory Technologists (NISLT) were in the University of Port Harcourt last Monday on a two-day assessment tour: Briefing the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka on their mission, leader of the delegation, Dr. Emmanuel Oshomoh, who stated that his team was given the mandate to assess facilities on ground, as well as areas of strengths and weaknesses with a view to recommending same to the appropriate ministries, promised to make available a draft copy of his team’s report to the University.

The Team Leader explained that the exercise was not intended to witch-hunt any university, stating that those with poor facilities stand the chance of benefitting from the exercise as grants would be provided to enable them update their facilities.

Dr. Oshomoh, who further disclosed that the overall aim of the exercise was to meet the requirements of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification in line with its strategic plan of ensuring that products and services are safe, reliable and of good quality, said that the assessment would cover laboratories of the School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT) and Central Instruments Laboratory (CIL).

Responding, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajenka, informed members of the Team that the University had begun ISO certification training of staff in line with emerging global best practices, stating that with the modalities put in place by Management, all staff of the University would undergo the training.

“The equipment we have can be deployed to running a commercial laboratory. In the area of training, we have worked out modalities to train everybody in the University; while some will be trained within the country, others will be trained outside Nigeria,” the Vice-Chancellor assured the delegation.

Provost, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Professor Naenna Frank-Peterside, who led Dean of the SSLT, Professor Grace Awi-Waadu and other Senior staff of the College on the courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor, also assured the Team of the preparedness of the College to cooperate with its members to provide the necessary information on areas of assessment.

Other members of the NISLT Visit/Inspection of Laboratories Team were Chukwu Godwin, Adebayo Williams and Didi Azubuike.
Stellenbosch Varsity Appoints Ahiamadu Research Associate

By Williams Wodi

In recognition of his proven specialized expertise in the Discipline Group Old and New Testament, the Faculty of Theology of Stellenbosch University, South Africa, has appointed Dr. Amadi Ahiamadu of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities a Research Associate.

The three-year appointment which will terminate on December 31, 2017, will provide a platform for Dr. Ahiamadu to get involved in relevant research programmes under the auspices of Stellenbosch University and its affiliate institutions.

A statement signed by Chief Director in charge of Strategic Initiatives and Human Resources at Stellenbosch, Professor T.J de Coning, disclosed that the appointment would allow Dr. Ahiamadu to use the University Library and give him access to its vast electronic collections. “It also provides you with a publication address. The acceptance of this appointment commits you to inform the University of Stellenbosch of all publications submitted during the course of your appointment,” the statement said.

The statement further urged him to cite Stellenbosch University as an affiliation address or co-affiliation address for publications that result from his use of the Institution’s library and its vast collections. “After three years, a research associate may apply for re-appointment for a further period, depending on the level of their research activities,” the appointment letter stated, looking forward to a period of fruitful cooperation with Dr. Ahiamadu in his new capacity.

Stellenbosch University is a leading and predominantly white public research institution that takes its name from the town of Stellenbosch, where it is located on a vast estate of land. The University has a student population of 27,000 students and over 3,000 staff was founded in 1886. It is one of South Africa’s leading universities.

IPS Has Positively Influenced UniPort ~ Ajienka

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In his remarks, Director of the Institute, Professor Mike Onyekonwu, said that the IPS brand has created a successful model for viable industry-university relationship which was lacking in Nigeria, adding that the Institute has continued to grow by attracting more participants to the ever expanding IPS umbrella.

In his address, the Valeidctorian, Chiguzie Dibiaqugwu, who thanked all who made their stay in the Institute successful, urged his successors to continue in the tradition of excellence established in the Institute.

The event featured the induction of some distinguished industry professionals as Fellows of the Institute, presentation of NRPE Certificate, as well as Prizes to the graduates. Those inducted as Fellows of the Institute were: the Pro-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Engineer Gini Asamawah, Group Managing Director, NNPC, Dr. Joseph Dahn, Elisabeth Proust, Executive Director, Port Harcourt Dist, TOTAL E&P, Patrick Ngene, Chairman, SEPLAT Limited, Dr A.B. Ojiajor, as well as Chair Occupant of the Shell-Adams Professorial Chair Professor Adewale Dosunmu.

A total of 22 graduates were awarded the Master of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering, and Project Development, while another 20 were awarded Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Technology in Petroluem Technology (PGDPT). The weeklong activity that preceded the Anniversary Induction Ceremony included a Technical Exhibition, Noveltly Football Match, and Exhibition/Career Fair, amongst others.

STOP PRESS

PUMSA Holds Awareness Campaign On Life Skills

The Port Harcourt University Medical Students Association (PUMSA) in concert with the International Federation of the Red Cross Movement holds an awareness campaign tagged: *“In Case of Emergency: Basic Life Skills that Saves Lives.”* The event which is billed to hold at Ebitiimi Banigo Auditorium on Tuesday, 2nd December, 2014, would train participants on how to handle emergency cases such as fire break, auto crash, stamped, suffocation, severe asthmatic attacks and lots more. Time is 10:00am.

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CELTRAS Governing Board Inauguration

The Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS) pulled top industry players in the maritime sub-sector to the University on 29th October, 2014, for the inauguration of its Board of Governors. Our Cameraman, HEADMAN ALU captured the events as shown in pictorial highlights below: