

MDCN Inducts 53 New Doctors, 6 Dental Surgeons

A total of 53 new Medical Doctors and 6 Dental Surgeons trained by the College of Health Sciences, were inducted into the profession by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria during the 36th Swearing-in Ceremony held on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, report *Mercy Adeniji and Obubekereba Wakoma*.

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Side Bar

The Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences made a presentation to the University last Thursday. Details next week.

~Editor



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118th Inaugural

Ekekwe Lists Recipe For Good Governance

By *Humphrey Ogu*

Issues bordering on how to better the lot of the people in keeping with the fundamental tenets of democracy formed the main thrust of the 118th Inaugural Lecture delivered by Professor of Political Science, Eme Ekekwe at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, March 26, 2015.

Delivering the Lecture entitled: *Between Power, Parties and Principalities: Where are the People?*, Professor Ekekwe, who is of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences, took a swipe at the insensitivity of the political class, stressing the need to create a system in which leaders would not only be accountable to the people, but also ensure their happiness and welfare.

"Politics and the exercise of political power call for the finest minds; for men and women who are passionate about justice and about the welfare of all under their authority. Those who must engage in it ask for and receive the trust of their fellow men (and women) and they swear to do justice to all manner of people,"

Ekekwe observed, regretting that "by their conduct in office, at least, in Nigeria, one can see that they had no intention of respecting the oath they took.

"It seems to me that the **m**is**p**er**c**eption and **m**is**u**nderstanding of what political power or politics is, have arisen from two facts. The first is that moral and intellectual Lilliputians have taken over the political space

for much too long and have been conducting politics according to their limited ability. Thus, people can no longer tell mechanics apart from the mad man. The second is that, whether consciously or not, politics has come to be aligned to parochial interests that parade as universal ones," the Inaugural Lecturer submitted, calling for a return to people-centred politics.

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IPS Celebrates UniPort At 40

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UniPort Anniversary C'ttee Invites Essay Entries

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A fifth year student in the Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Darlington Blessing, has won the Justina Ejelonu Scholarship Award instituted by Nursing World Nigeria (NWN) in memory of the Nigerian Nurse who died of the Ebola Virus Disease last year.

Speaking with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent on Friday, March 20, 2015, Acting Head of the Department of Nursing Science, Dr. Abigail Horsfall, who lauded Nursing World Nigeria for the scholarship initiative, congratulated Darlington for emerging winner of the award, describing the scheme as a source of motivation to students of Nursing in the country.

Explaining the procedure for selecting the winner, Dr. Horsfall said: "I came to know about the scholarship scheme after the students had applied and the onus of screening the applicants fell on me. After going through the list, I discovered that three out of the five have already graduated, while two were still students. We interacted with the students to know who was more qualified for the scholarship and also looked at their Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA).

On her part, the winner, Miss Darlington, said: "I feel excited that I won the scholarship. I heard about it through a friend, who helped me to submit the application, because I was in the village then and had no access to the Internet."

Also speaking, the Director of Nursing World Nigeria, Mrs. Jennifer Emelue, said that her organisation is the first Nigerian online Nursing Forum that provides information, research and training to Nurses with over 40,000 people accessing its website, adding that the scholarship also aims to encourage students of Nursing to use online resources for their research.

"The first person we lost to the Ebola

UniPort Nursing Student Wins Justina Ejelonu Scholarship

By Humphrey Ogu

Virus Disease in the country was a Nurse, but Nigerians only remember the Doctor that died after; nobody seems to remember the Nurse. We feel that people should always remember her on account of the huge sacrifice she made at that decisive moment in the history of Nigeria. We, therefore, launched a foundation in her name to encourage other Nurses and caregivers to emulate her bravery and spirit of sacrifice," she

disclosed, regretting that only five candidates from UniPort registered with their HoD.

Emelue, who disclosed that her organisation had published a journal, said that proceeds from its sale would be channelled to support the funds, calling on public-spirited individuals and corporate bodies to sponsor the scheme to enable Nursing World Nigeria increase the number of scholarships awarded and the net worth of the scholarship, which is currently N50,000.



L-R: Mrs. Emelue, Darlington and HoD Nursing, Dr. Horsfall

I Had Sleepless Nights Of Reading ~SSLT Valedictorian

Miss Dike Precious Elechi, is the overall Best Graduating Student in the School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT), 2012/2013 Session, who carted home five of fourteen coveted prizes on offer at the 4th Oath Taking/Induction Ceremony. Our Intern, Obubekbara Wokoma sought to know how she performed the magic:

Genius, they say is 90 percent perspiration and only 10 percent inspiration. Hard work is the sure route to success in every endeavour

we choose to undertake. Miss Precious Dike cuts the image of a 20-go girl with the universal

tool kit to solve every challenge thrown at her as an Undergraduate Student and now a Graduated of the University of Port Harcourt under the SSLT programme.

Speaking on what motivated her to aim for the top, Miss Dike said: "We were admitted into the University at a time when people had little or no respect for SSLT students. Rather than feeling sorry for myself for failing to study Medicine and Surgery as I had originally wished, I decided to turn the situation into an opportunity to make a difference in my life. I got motivated by my Lecturers, who patiently and diligently guided me to reach my ultimate goal," the budding technologist recalled.

The Valedictorian, who attributed her success to God and extra commitment to her studies, revealed that "It was sleepless nights of reading, research and prayers due to crowded academic activities," explaining that "sometimes, before you come to terms with the concepts of the course, the Semester examinations is just by the corner, so I had to totally commit myself to learning. It is highly competitive; for any person to pass through SSLT, he or she must certainly work hard to succeed."

Miss Dike, who won four prizes, including SSLT Prize for Best Graduating Student (BGS) and Valedictorian, SSLT Prize for Best Graduate in

Microbiology, Professor Anthony Atuga's Prize for Best Graduate in Industrial Safety, Mrs. Dorcas Otto's Prize for the Best Female Graduate in SSLT, noted that her success story will not be complete without acknowledging her wonderful colleagues and praying family.

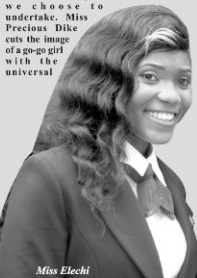
She appealed to younger colleagues not to underestimate the knowledge and practical experience they will acquire from the SSLT programme, but rather guide it jealously as it would help complete a new chapter in their lives. Miss Dike said that "It is an honour to be among the impeccable, great and newest technologists trained in the SSLT Programme, University of Port Harcourt," promising that they were ready to display their skills in the wider society.

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Miss Elechi

Con'd from p1

Administering the *Physician's Oath* on behalf of the Council, outgoing Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Chris Akan, advised the new doctors to always abide by the rules of the International Code of Ethics, stating that "before doctors are inducted into the profession, it is our responsibility to avail them the opportunity to understand the duties and what is expected of them."

Emphasizing the duties of a doctor to the new inductees, Professor Akan urged them to always maintain the highest standards of professional conduct, adding, "If you don't abide by the *Physician's Oath*, you would be subjected to scrutiny and be made to face severe disciplinary action. "As you practice, don't forget to be receptive to scientific advances in the Medical profession, because it is a profession that demands continuous education by practitioners. You must let your conscience and conduct guide you at all times, even when you are not being watched" he advised the newly-certified doctors.

According to the Provost, an induction ceremony is designed to mark an official seal for Medical students, who have successfully concluded their stipulated training programme and have been found worthy, both in character and learning and are deemed fit to practise the profession. "I congratulate the incoming Provost, Professor Christy Mato for stepping into my shoes to lead the College. I use this opportunity to appeal to public-spirited individuals and groups to support the College to enable it continue to give quality training to our students."

In his welcome address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, commended the new doctors for working so hard to qualify for the induction. "It is important that graduates should savour the moment because it is not easy to pass through the Medical School in this University. When the students are writing examinations, their parents and siblings are also writing the same examination in a manner of speaking," he said.

"The tension they go through is transmitted to everybody in the family. The endurance test these people went through to qualify as doctors is common knowledge and I congratulate them for their determination to succeed in their chosen career in the face of daunting odds. It is our hope that these new doctors will represent the University properly in their Medical practice," he added.

"We have some of the best physicians and lecturers in

MDCN Inducts New Doctors, Dental Surgeons



Principal Officers of the University, staff of the College of Health Sciences and the Inductees

our Medical School, who ensure that new doctors receive proper training that should stand them out anywhere in the world. We are confident that these new entrants into the profession will practice with utmost dedication and respect for the sanctity of human life," Professor Ajienka advised the new doctors, congratulating their parents for supporting them through Medical School, especially in these lean times.

The Vice-Chancellor said: "We have just elected a new Provost in the person of Professor Christie Mato and we know that she is equipped to take over the baton from the outgoing Provost. Our College has grown from its humble beginnings to become one of the leading Medical Schools in the country today. We are starting a new Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences and with the consultations we are already holding with relevant stakeholders, we hope to also carve out a Faculty of Nursing in the College. Once we succeed in establishing the new Faculties, we would have expanded the scope of our medical training in this University."

Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee (CMAC), Dr. Tobin West, who represented the Chief Medical Director of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Professor Aaron Ojale, congratulated the new inductees, welcoming them to the Medical profession with an admission to abide by the rules and regulations governing their practice.

"Let me remind you that this is a noble profession and you must always have this at the back of your minds as you receive your professional license. You must do everything within your professional competence to save the lives of patients entrusted to your care at all times. You must also do nothing that would erode the confidence of patients and society at large in your capacity as doctors."

In his contribution, Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Professor Opuho da Lilly Tariak, who commended the new doctors for their hard work and determination to succeed, expressed gratitude to Management of the University for ensuring that the College of Health Sciences secured accreditation from relevant professional regulatory bodies.

Highlights of the event were introduction of the incoming Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Mato, presentation of provisional licenses to the new doctors and receipt of cash donations from the Commissioner of Women Affairs and Social Development in Abia State, Mrs. Bridget Nwaejike and her husband.

Also present at the ceremony were the President of the Society of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians of Nigeria (SOGON), Professor Brian Adimora and newly-appointed Provost of the School of Medicine, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Professor Raphael Oruamabo, amongst other dignitaries.

Akaranta Speaks On Donald Ekong Professorial Chair



Prof Akaranta

By Mercy Adeniji

Chair Occupant, Donald Ekong Chair of Oil Field Chemistry and Science Communication, Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta has revealed that the primary assignment of the chair is to conduct research and apply for grants Nationally and Internationally. Professor Akaranta, who made this disclosure in *UNIPOINT Weekly*, on Monday, March 16, 2015, stated that University management endowed this chair in honour of the First Vice-Chancellor, Late Professor Donald Ekong, who was a renowned chemist. According to Professor Akaranta, the late Professor Ekong supervised the PhD Thesis of Professor Ayteghbami Spiff, who was the then first female PhD Student in Chemistry in the whole of Niger Delta and like every other Professorial Chair, the chair is meant to conduct research. The Chair Occupant, who was the pioneer Director Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit (ELPU), said that "as the Chair occupant, an meant to use the name of the chair to look and apply for research grants Nationally, Internationally and also occasionally organize public lectures in honour of the Chair. Through these public lectures the Chair would help to maintain the legacies of Late Professor Donald Ekong.

"The University really selected Oil Field Chemistry because we are in the Oil and Gas host of Nigeria, if

not the Professor Donald Ekong who was a renowned Organic Chemist, so people were asking why the chair was not endowed in Organic Chemistry or Chemistry, rather than Oil field chemistry. In Oil Field chemistry, you still have to use the knowledge of organic chemistry, so University management did not make any mistake with this because this is where the Chair can really make an impact and contribute to the economy by carrying out research that will benefit the Oil and Gas industry," the Chair Occupant stated. He added that "if you get a research grant from a company through the chair, then the result of the grant must benefit the company and once this is done, then collaboration has been established."

Citing a Public Lecture delivered on Monday, February 9, 2015 titled: "Thinking, Research and Communication in Development of Science and Indigenous Knowledge", the Chair Occupant recalled that the lecture was given to activate the Science Communication component of the Chair. This Chair has two components, one is Oil Field Chemistry and the other is Science Communication.

Professor Akaranta, who was also a one-time Director, Centre for Research Management and currently Director, Science Institute said the main reason why he was given the appointment was to ensure that all the 12 Professorial chairs in the College of Natural and Applied Science benefit from his wealth of experience in seeking and writing of grants.



Director IPS, Prof Onyekonwu (arrowed) flanked by Directors of Centres under IPS, staff of the Institute, students and participants

IPS Celebrates UniPort At 40 With Exhibition, Public Lecture

By Obinna Nwodim

in boosting closer ties between town and gown. He said that the universities could also play a major role by developing customized technology to solve the problems facing indigenous companies and raising expertise for the oil and gas sector.

The Lecturer, who gave an overview of the Entrepreneurial strides of SEPLAT, said that the PPP-strategy would be beneficial to both the industry and institutions such as the University of Port Harcourt through collaborations on research that would be mutually beneficial.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, praised the contributions of IPS and its affiliate Centres to the University and national content research.

"IPS has contributed much to the national economy which is heavily depended on oil and gas through quality manpower development. The Institute has added value through education and research since it was established as a collaborative graduate programme between the University of Port Harcourt and IFP School in France," he said, describing the partnership as the right direction to go in the Institute's contribution to national development and the rest of Africa. He commended the growth chart of IPS which has resulted in the emergence of new Centres from the Institute.

In his presentation, Director of the Institute, Professor Mike Onyekonwu, who enumerated

the achievements so far recorded, stated that IPS had trained competent and industry-ready workforce since it was established in 2003 in collaboration with IFP School, Paris, France. "We have been able to stem brain drain; we have also built capacity, contributed to Nigerian content development, saved cost of retraining graduates, and internationalized higher education at home, thus, saving Nigeria hard currency," Professor Onyekonwu disclosed, commending the Centres under the expansive IPS for graduating students within the stipulated timeline.

In his remarks, Dean of the Graduate School of Engineering Technology, Professor Adewale Dosunmu, who described the School as a clearing house for the proper organization of the academic programmes of the Centre, assured stakeholders of the best in quality service delivery.

Presentations were made by the Director of the Centre for Occupational Health, Safety and Environment, Professor Ify Nwaogazie; Director, Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals, Professor Godwin Igwe; Director, Offshore Technology Institute, Professor John Okoli; Director, Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum, Energy Economics, Policy and Strategic Studies, who was represented by the Head of Administration, Mrs. Ekwi John-Adegbesan; Acting Director, Centre for Petroleum Geosciences, Dr. Francis Beka, as well as Director of the Centre for Petroleum Research and Training Professor Joel Ogbonna.

Centres under the ever expanding umbrella of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) took turns to highlight their activities, achievements and programmes as the Institute joined in the ongoing celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the University. There was also a Public Lecture held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium as part of the event, which also featured an exhibition that chronicled the history and achievements of the IPS.

Directors of the various Centres, who made presentations at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Monday, reeled out the uniqueness of their programmes and the contributions they have made within the very short period of their existence.

At the Public Lecture on Tuesday, entitled: *Private-Public Partnership: The Role of an Entrepreneurial University*, by Managing Director/CEO SEPLAT Petroleum Development Company Plc, Dr. Austin Avuru, acknowledged that the Institute of Petroleum Studies as a commendable example of Private-Public Partnership in the Nigerian educational sector since its establishment.

He praised IPS for producing world-class graduates that have made high impact in the complex oil and gas industry, adding that more partners in the PPP were needed in the educational sector to energize the symbiotic relationship between town and gown. "The essence of knowledge is to solve human problems and overcome obstacles that hinder socio-economic growth," Dr. Avuru told IPS students, advising them to look out for opportunities that would enable them create jobs for themselves and others.

Dr. Avuru, who was represented by a Board Member of SEPLAT, Dr. Mason Oghenejubo, noted that universities have a major role to play

CPRT Calls For Abstracts

...Holds Int'l Conference June 22

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As head of its first International Conference on Oilfield Chemistry and Flow Assurance scheduled to hold from 22nd to 24th June, 2015, the Centre for Petroleum Research and Training, Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) in partnership with the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, has called for submission of abstracts for publication on or before Friday, April 10, 2015.

Information on the Conference which was obtained by *UniPort Weekly* indicates that submission of full papers would end on the Friday, April 24, while early bird registration ends on April 30, 2015, respectively. "The Conference would feature a rich multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary programme on technical and

corporate paper presentations, panel discussions by industry experts and exhibition by companies," the letter stated, revealing that the Conference subthemes would include Upstream, Midstream and Downstream Operations; Environmental studies; Oilfield Chemicals and Nanotechnology and Flow Assurance.

The letter further states that the Centre in collaboration with the World Bank African Centre of Excellence for Oilfield Chemicals Research and the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) would hold the event at the Emerald Energy Institute.

"For more information, contact our website at: www.cpruniport.org, Call Professors Suny Iyuke and Ogbonna Joel on +234 8124113668, +234 8037099211," the letter reads.



Prof. Ogbonna Joel

Celebrating UniPort At 40 in College Of Health Sciences

By Obinna Nwodin

On the establishment of the University of Port Harcourt in 1975, both the National Universities Commission Working Party on Medical Education and the Report of the Academic Planning Group in the NUC recommended establishment of the Colleges of Medicine in



Late Prof Francis-Ogiriki

the Second Generation Universities at the time. The College established in the University of Port Harcourt was slated to have the first intake of students into the emergent Department of Medicine in the 1979/1980 academic session. At inception, the College was originally envisioned to train physicians, dentists, nurses and other professional cadres in degree and non-degree programmes and relate such training programmes to the national policies on health in order to provide comprehensive health care to the community through curative, preventive treatment of diseases and promotion of health care in rural and urban communities, amongst others. Since that modest beginning, the College has continued to grow in leaps and bounds in the actualization of the stated objectives.

It is heartening to note that at 40, the College has recorded appreciable achievements with distinguished scholars and renowned medical practitioners in various spheres of medicine, who are making waves in diverse specializations. Distinguished Scholars such as Theodore Francis-Ogiriki, Kenneth Diéte-Koki, Kelsey Harrison, Abiyi Obusofor, Edwin Elechi, all of blessed memory, laid a solid foundation for quality medical education in the new College. Others, who are still making contributions to the growth of the College include Christian Anah, Nsirim Ndaka, Nimi Briggs, Raphael Oramabao, Osaretin Oda, Anelie Ihekwa, Blessing Dida, Ndu and Felicia Eke, Chris Akani, Rollings Jamaabo, John Kimala, Aaron Ojoku, Oseikhena Ejike, Victor Wakwe, Patrick Igbohi, Christie Mwa. The list, as the reader would imagine is endless. These seasoned medical educators have trained and continue to train and mentor a new generation of younger colleagues, who are well-motivated and holding their own in the College.

The College took off at the Choba Park Campus with some modest structures that were enough to discourage even the most determined optimist at the time. At inception, the College was to have six schools, namely: School of Medical Sciences; School of Public Health; School of Pharmaceutical Sciences; School of Nursing Sciences; School of Professional and Allied Medicine to train Radiographers, Laboratory Technologists, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Dietitians, etc. as well as the School of Dentistry. Today, the College would be forgiven to gloat over its very impressive record of achievements as it strives to accomplish the vision of its founding fathers to bring quality health care closer to the people of the Niger Delta.

In September 1979, the late Professor Francis-Ogiriki was appointed pioneer Provost of the College with a modest enrolment of 33 students enrolled into the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and 22 into the Basic Medical Sciences programmes. Francis-Ogiriki joined the emergent College from the newly-established Federal University of Technology, Owerri, where he was

doing a commendable pioneering job. He was reverently referred to as "Baba" by his younger colleagues and students at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, where he held sway as a globally-cited authority in Physiology.

The College has continued to increase its intake and graduation of qualified medical doctors. These doctors have contributed to the health needs of not only Nigerians, but other parts of the world. Records abound to prove that medical doctors produced from the College have excelled in different parts of the world, where they practise their profession with distinction. According to the outgoing Provost, Professor Chris Akani, the College has produced medical graduates working within and outside the shores of Nigeria, and making commendable marks in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and other parts of the world. He said that graduates of the College are adjudged to be thorough-bred and well grounded in their profession.

It is important to state that the College has been able to grow its own numbers. This is the mark of a successful system that has an in-built mechanism for self-regulation. Some former students who passed through the College and remained in academics have grown to become professors in their own right. Some others have become distinguished health administrators. For instance, the current Chief Medical Director of the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, Dr. Thomas Agan; Chief Medical Director, Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital, Dr. Onyaye Kuntu-Olowu; Nigeria-East African Region Medical Director of Pfizer



Prof Akani

Specialties, Dr. Kodjo Soroh, Special Assistant to the President on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Dr. Precious Gbenoel, current Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Professor Iyechi Siminlayi, amongst others, are products of the College-making waves in their specializations. The level of excellence in the training of students in the College has also resulted in many of its graduates receiving the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Presidential Merit Award.

"The College parades a retinue of specialists in different areas of medical sciences who are working with multinational institutions in medicine research, disease tracking, public health and medical outreach," amongst others, disclosed Professor Akani.

It is worthy of note that the College of Health Sciences which still remains as one of the best in Nigeria was adjudged the best Medical School in the country in 2003. That year, it was commissioned by the National Universities Commission to review the curricular for Medical Schools in Nigeria.

At 40, the College boasts of two Emeriti Professors-Emeritus Professor Kelsey Harrison and Nimi Briggs. Coincidentally, both were former Vice-Chancellors of the University. While the former served as 3rd Vice-Chancellor, the latter served as 8th Vice-Chancellor. This is no mean feat for a College that commenced on modest note. With two satellite rural posting facilities located at K-Dere in Gokana and Obuama in Degema Local Government Areas for the training of Medical, Dental and Nursing students, the College has been able to extend some level of health outreach to these communities and continue to collect useful



Late Prof Diéte-Koki

data about the pattern of diseases in the Niger Delta communities.

Professor Akani disclosed that programmes in the College have grown in scope with introduction of the Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences which will take off this year, a new Department of Medical Biochemistry; including new Master's degree programmes in Sports Medicine, Immunology and Surgery. He also said that the Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree programme run in the College is gaining wide acceptance with higher subscription rates from suitably qualified candidates. The Provost disclosed that the Port Harcourt School of Public Health which is expected to accommodate the yearning needs of those who wish to undertake the Executive Master's degree in Public Health would soon come on stream.

Currently, the College mounts robust clinical services at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, where most of the clinical researches are carried out. Unfortunately, the College is still shadowed in the single structure of Ofirima complex, but there is hope that the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences would soon relocate to the new TETFund-sponsored building nearing completion.

There is no doubt that the College of Health Sciences has stood tall as one of the flagship Colleges in the University. It has made some modest, but impressive impact in the overall success of the University within the last 40 years and as it begins another journey into the next 40 years, it is well-positioned to achieve even more with right kind support from the University and other stakeholders in its affairs. The Provost believes that it is "poised to build an enviable College that will compete favourably with world-class medical schools with expanded programmes; where research would be made to meet the communities and where our practice would aptly answer the quest for medical tourism abroad," the outgoing Provost believes that the dreams of the founding fathers would be actualized through public-private partnership with local and international pharmaceutical and medical Engineering organizations, including medical schools and research institutions.



Prof Harrison

Ekeke Charges Political Leaders On Governance



Inaugural Lecturer Prof. Ekeke (arrowed), Profs, Provosts of Colleges and Deans of Faculty before the Lecture

Cont'd from p1

He submitted that contrary to the received wisdom that power corrupts, power does not corrupt. According to him, the saying is a misinterpretation of Lord Acton's observation that "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely", noting that "to hold that power corrupts is equivalent to saying that electricity kills.

Whether it (power) simply corrupts or tends to do so, the fact of the matter is that it is bad men and women who corrupt power; bad men and women corrupt power absolutely: power, *qua* power, does not and cannot corrupt anybody or anything," Ekeke pointed out, noting that, "The view is commonly held that politics, by which is meant the exercise of political power, is a dirty game," a view, he dismissed as very erroneous.

"It seems to me that politics, properly conceptualized, has to be one of the most important callings or vocations that any individual can undertake; to help in shaping the conditions for the fulfillment of the human potential for the individual and the collective. Given how important politics is, it follows that enormous responsibility attaches to it," he noted.

"Politics should not be taken lightly, without the honest will to serve, to use the power at one's disposal for the common good. It should not be a paying profession as such, although those who engage in it full time must be adequately provided for," he suggested.

Ekeke, who is Occupant of the Claude Ake Chair in Political Economy, frowned at the cost of governance in Nigeria, calling for the downward review of the salaries and allowances of legislators by 60 per cent to conserve

funds for other critical national needs. "It should be a crime for any legislator to hold or operate a foreign account. Let them repatriate their accounts and help boost the Nigerian economy," he demanded from politicians.

"There is urgent need to demystify the federal government and make Abuja less of a political magnet. Specifically, the right to all the resources within their jurisdiction should be returned to the States. The federal centre should be left to manage the nation's customs and excise, external relations and foreign policy, the armed forces, as well as the police, prisons and currency," Ekeke, who is the immediate past Head of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies recommended.

He advocated that "Each state should retain, at least, 60 per cent of the revenue it generates from all sources in its territory, including oil and gas, while it returns 40 per cent to the centre. Such an allocation formula, he suggested, should make states keen to develop the minerals they have and to depend less on monthly disbursements from Abuja.

Ekeke, who called for accelerated amendments of relevant sections of the Constitution, recommended "a single six-year term for the President and Governors, proportional representation in elective bodies at all levels for parties that win, at least, five per cent of the popular vote, independent candidacy, retaining local government councils to administer urban areas, but scrapping them in the rural areas."

The Inaugural Lecturer, who noted that no Nigerian government since 1960 had been able to fight corruption because of the vested interest of the political class,

regretted that "existing anti-corruption agencies have been tools of the government of the day to be deployed or reined in according to the fancy of the powers that be," adding that there is absolute need to make those agencies truly independent to battle corrupt practices.

"In order to attract the right calibre of persons into politics, anyone running for office as Local Government Chairman, State Governor, Legislator at the State and Federal levels, must have held a verifiable paid job either in the private or public sector for, at least, three years or must have been self-employed for six years," he recommended, adding that "if a former Governor wants to vie for a seat in the Senate, he or she would have waited, at least, four years after his or her tenure as Governor."

In his speech, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenkwa, commended Professor Ekeke for a well-delivered lecture, describing him as a seasoned scholar, who had stood the test of time. He expressed joy that the Inaugural Lecturer brought back his many years of industry experience to bear on his academic work, commending him for the quality of his research.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that "this is a very critical period in the history of this country and this lecture is our gift to deepen democracy, as we exercise our franchise in the general election. It is obvious that our democracy is deepening and when people talk about the dividends of democracy, they seem not to see beyond physical infrastructure which government is bound to provide. The real dividends of democracy are the freedoms we enjoy such as freedom of association, speech, religion and all those inalienable gifts that we take for granted in a democratic setting," he reminded the audience.

Students' Union Exco Honours Nduka, Joe

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

In recognition of their distinguished services to the University and contributions to students' welfare,

the Executive of the Students' Union, last Friday, conferred Awards of Excellence on the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, (Administration) and (Academic), Professors Ethelbert Nduka and Igbo Joe, respectively, as an encouragement for them to do more.

Handing out the Awards at separate, but impressive ceremonies, President of the Union, Felix Nwizua,

commended Professors Nduka and Joe for contributing immensely to the overall success and achievements recorded by the outgoing Executive of the Union, describing them as worthy role models that deserved to be encouraged in recognition of the personal sacrifices they have been making to take the University to greater heights.

"This is our little way of showing appreciation to our amiable Deputy Vice-Chancellors for their concern for students' welfare and the development of the University. We have watched them over the years as

they went beyond the call of duty to ensure that the University achieved its stated institutional objectives and it is important that we convey our collective gratitude to them for their immense contributions to the development of our University," the President stated.

Responding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Nduka, who expressed surprise for the honour, thanked the Executive for the recognizing him with the Award. He advised them on the need to continuously exhibit exemplary leadership even as they prepare to hand over the baton of leadership to another Executive that would emerge after the impending elections.

"We are working towards addressing all the challenges affecting the students and our hope is that such challenges will be a thing of the past with the innovations we are putting in place to address them," Professor Nduka assured the students. He admonished them to shun vices and other anti-social behaviours that could jeopardize their studies in the University and future careers.

In his separate response, a visibly-elated Professor Joe praised the student leaders for demonstrating high leadership qualities, pledging Management's resolve to continuously support the Students' Union to achieve the aims and objectives for which the body was established. Describing the students as important stakeholders in the University, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor called for collective efforts aimed at facilitating development in the University.

"I am happy that you see yourselves as an integral part of the University system, working towards its progress, even as you pursue your studies," he stated, reiterating that their participation in student unionism would hopefully pave way for greater leadership responsibilities in future.



L-R: Profs. Nduka and Joe receiving their awards from the Student Leaders

GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Christie Mato, Department of Anaesthesiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, appointed *Provost*, College of Health Sciences. The appointment is for four years, effective April 13, 2015 to April 15, 2019.

Dr. O.N. Nwaogwagwu, Department of Agricultural Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective October 2, 2014 to August 22, 2016.

Professor Godwin Udom, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Sciences and Information Technology, appointed *Head of Department*, effective March 30, 2015 to March 31, 2017.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Chukwunonye Ojinnaka, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Science, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective June 16, 2015 to June 15, 2016.

Dr. E. E. Williams, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective February 29, 2015 to February 28, 2016.

RESUMPTION OF DUTY FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Professor John Ewu-Efeator, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology, assumes duty from *Leave of Absence*, effective April 1, 2015.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Dr. Emeka Nkoro, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, elevated from *Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II*, effective January 28, 2015.

CONVERSION

Mr. Osai Nnodin, Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum and Energy Economics, Policy and Strategies, elevated from *Accountant I to Lecturer II*, effective January 16, 2015.

STUDY LEAVE

Miss Caroline Sawari, Department of Petroleum Engineering, Faculty of Process and Systems Engineering, granted a 2-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable her pursue the Master's degree programme in Petroleum Engineering, at the University of Benin, Edo State, effective May, 2014 to April, 2016.

Miss Mary Udoakang, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted a 9-month *Study Leave with Pay* to enable her pursue her Master's degree programme in Library and Information Science at the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, effective March 1, 2015 to November 30, 2015.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Dr. Gift Worlu, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Leave of Absence*, effective March 4, 2015 to May 31, 2015.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 05 – SATURDAY 11, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI (°C)	LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (mm/gm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 05 APRIL 2015	36.0	25.0	54	NE	-	6:31 18:41	Morning clouds expected.
MONDAY, 06 APRIL 2015	34.0	25.0	59	NE	3.3	6:31 18:41	Thunder storms expected late in the day. More clouds than sun forecast.
TUESDAY 07 APRIL 2015	35.0	25.0	53	NE	-	6:30 18:41	Partly sunny day anticipated.
WEDNESDAY 08 APRIL 2015	37.0	26.0	49	N	8.5	6:31 18:41	Thunder storms expected early in the day. Partly sunny forecast.
THURSDAY 09 APRIL 2015	36.0	26.0	68	N	6.2	6:31 18:41	Thunder storms expected early in the day. Partly sunny day expected.
FRIDAY 10 APRIL 2015	36.0	25.0	67	N	2.0	6:30 18:40	Thunder storms expected. Partly sunny day expected.
SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2015	36.0	25.0	68	N	6.9	6:30 18:40	Thunder storms expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day forecast.

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD

Dr Prince Mmom
Ag. Director, (CDRMS)

UniPort Anniversary C'ttee
Invites Essay Entries, Others

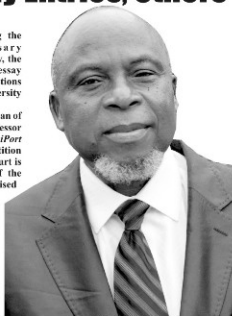
By Humphrey Ogu

As part of activities marking the ongoing 40th Anniversary Celebrations of the University, the Central Committee has invited essay entries, visual arts and musical productions from interested members of the University community and the alumni.

A letter of invitation signed by Chairman of the 40th Anniversary Committee, Professor Tony Arinze and made available to *UniPort Weekly* read in part: "An essay competition to mark the University of Port Harcourt is open to all students and alumni of the University. Winners will be recognised and rewarded at the University's grand finale in June, 2015."

The letter which listed *The Role of the University of Port Harcourt in National Development, The 21st Century University: UniPort and Entrepreneurial Option and The University of Port Harcourt: Challenges and Possibilities*, as topics for the competition, emphasised that "Only students and alumni of the University of Port Harcourt are eligible to participate and entries should be between 1,200 and 1,500 words, typeset in double space in Times New Romans font 12, must be original and previously unpublished.

"The copyright for each entry will be assigned to the University of Port Harcourt. The decision of the judges will be final. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The University reserves the right to publish winning essays in print or electronically for purposes of education and publicity," the statement said, advising interested persons to send their entries to



Prof Arinze

uniport40.essay@uniport.edu.ng or before Friday, April 24, 2015 with "UNIPORT 40th ANNIVERSARY ESSAY" marked as the subject.

"Each entry must have one-page indicating the details of the candidates as follows: Title of essay, name of candidate, address of candidate, phone number, email, state of origin, date of birth, gender, Department/period of studentship in UniPort and essay's word count," it further stated.

The visual art competition, which has *Making Unique UniPort More Unique*, its topic is open to registered third and fourth-year Undergraduate students of the Department of Fine Arts and Design. Interested entrants are advised to submit two-dimensional, 3ft by 4ft, three-dimensional 2ft by 3ft, relief 2ft by 3ft. The Pamela Cyril-Egware and Dr. Sam Onwuakpa on or before Friday, April 24, 2015.

Our Error

In our edition 223, Vol. 23, we reported that the presentation on *The Role of Guidance And Counselling in the life of the Student* was presented by Dr. Rosemary Ekechukwu. The presentation was made by Mrs. Loveth Jeremiah. The error is highly regretted.

~Editor

SERVICORNER

A reward system is:

- The deliberate use of Resources in a process designed to encourage people to put effort in organizational objectives.
- Reorganization System intended to emphasize organization appreciation for employees who have achieved a high level of accomplishment and competence that may not necessarily fit into defined objectives of the organization.
- Prizes/thanking employees.
- Celebrating accomplishments, efforts, and commitments.

Heads of Colleges/Faculties/units should encourage their staff by practicing the reward system, to enhance efficient service delivery

SERVICORNER is here to make things right!!

You can reach us via: servicorner@uniport.edu.ng; 08033400064, 07038650174, 080663358445, 08034211712, and 081555303412

2015 FOUNDERS' DAY CEREMONY

The 2015 Founders' Day Celebration of the University held between Friday, February 1, to February 6, 2015 with a series of Public Lectures held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. Three distinguished scholars delivered lectures on various topics to mark the event. Our Cameramen, **HEADMAN ALU** and **MITCHEL EBI EKIYOR** captured the event:



V-C, Prof. Joseph Ajienka, making his opening remarks



Managing Director, Emerald Energy Services Limited, Dr. Jude Amaefule, speaking at the 1st Lecture



Prof. Bridget Nwanze, reading a Citation on the 1st Speaker, Prof. John Villadsen



Prof. Villadsen delivering his Lecture



University Librarian, Dr. Obiangeli Nwodo, decorating Prof. Villadsen with University Muffler



Dean, School of Science Laboratory Technology, Prof. Grace Awi-Waudu reading a Citation on 2nd Speaker, Prof. Onyewuchi Akaranta



Prof. Akaranta delivering his Lecture



V-C, Prof. Ajienka, (R) receiving a copy of the Lecture from Prof. Akaranta



Prof. Emmanuel Emescula reading a Citation on 3rd Speaker, Prof. Victor Kiri



Prof. Kiri delivering his Lecture



A cross-section of guests at the Lecture



Dean, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Prof. Oloka Udoala, making a contribution after Prof. Akaranta's Lecture



Group photograph of V-C, Prof. Ajienka, Senior Officers of the University after Prof. Akaranta's Lecture