V-C Commissions More Housing Units For Staff

In furtherance of his determination to tackle the accommodation challenges facing staff of the University, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has commissioned additional four housing units rehabilitated by the Housing Committee headed by Professor Francis Sikoki in conjunction with the Taskforce on the Renovation and Rehabilitation of Staff Quarters headed by Dr Friday Nwafor of the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities reports Olukor Samuel. More on pg3

Side Bar

CGRP in collaboration with World Bank, African Centre Excellence and CPRT held its 3rd InPl Confab last Wednesday. Details next week

Editor

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FG Announces Scholarships For First Class Graduates

Carnegie Fellow Advocates Sustainable Dev Of N’ Delta

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Senate Approves New Affiliation

109th Inaugural

Siminialayi Highlights Effects Of Food On Humans

By Humphrey Ogu

Professor Iyeopu Siminialayi of the Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, has stressed the importance of always consuming the right kind of food in the right quantity and quality to live a healthy and longer life.

Delivering the 109th Inaugural Lecture titled, “That It May Be Well With Us: Food as Medicine and Poison”, at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Wednesday, Siminialayi, who is a Professor of Endocrine Pharmacy, defined food as any substance that can be metabolised by an animal to give energy and build tissue, identifying different types of food namely—processed food, junk food and functional food. He noted that although food could be medicinal, it could also be toxic to the body if not consumed in the right quantity and quality.

“Processed food is made from harvested crops or butchered animal products that have been put through devitalising chemical processes and infused with chemical and preservatives, making them more attractive, marketable and long shelf life products such as canned meat, canned vegetable, amongst

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Read UniPort Weekly Online at www.uniport.edu.ng
FG Announces Scholarships For First Class Graduates

By Otikor Samuel

In continuation of its intervention through the Presidential Special Scholarship Scheme for Innovation and Development (PRESIDED) for graduates with First Class Honours Degree, which was established in January, 2012, the Federal Government has called for application from suitably qualified graduates to participate in the third edition of the scheme.

Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC), Professor Julius Okojie in an electronic mail dated 21st August, 2014 and obtained by UniPort Weekly, stated that interested candidates must be graduates from the 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 academic sessions, who would complete their National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) scheme by October, 2014.

According to Professor Okojie, who is also Chairman of the PRESIDED Implementation Committee, prospective applicants must be computer-literate and not more than 30 years of age at the point of entry. They should also be ready to be bonded and to work as academic staff in any public university or research institute for a minimum period of five years on graduation.

Areas of study included: Science (Nuclear Physics, Operations Research, Industrial Chemistry, Quantitative Genetics, Biometrics and Molecular Biology), Medicine (Clinical Sciences, Dentistry, Oncology, Human Genetics, Forensic Medicine, Physiotherapy, Hepatology, Nuclear Medicine, Geriatrics and Ophthalmology), Veterinary Medicine (Veterinary Parasitology, Theriogenology and Public Health), Basic Medical Sciences (Biochemistry, Physiology, Anatomy, Medical Biochemistry, Human Nutrition, Nursing Science, Anatomic and Molecular Pathology, Biomedical Engineering, Medical Microbiology, Physiotherapy and Pharmacology) and Pharmaceutical Sciences (Drug Formulations, Natural Products, Drug design, Phytochemistry, Ethnopharmacology and Pharmaceutical Microbiology).


“In the case of Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences, candidates must have a minimum of two Distinctions in their Part

Obio/Akpor LGA Moves Against Illegal Structures On UniPort Land

By Humphrey Ogu

Following the expiration of an earlier ultimatum given to those who encroached upon the University of Port Harcourt land along the East-West Road axis, the authorities of the University and officials from the Works Department of Obio/Akpor Local Government Council are now set to demolish all illegal structures constructed on the land for business purposes.

A Letter signed on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor by the Deputy Registrar in charge of Information, Williams Wodi and addressed to Chairman of Obio/Akpor Local Government Council, Dr. Lawrence Chuku and made available to UniPort Weekly read in part: “The authorities of the University of Port Harcourt wish to urgently draw the attention of Obio/Akpor LGA to the worsening incidents of encroachment on land to which we hold Root Title Documents (RTD), as issued and gazetted by the Rivers State Government for the establishment of the University in 1975.

“Since we last made a presentation to Government on the issue, the rate of encroachment by land speculators has increased to the extent that we fear a violent clash between some staff of the University in residential areas and some people from the host communities laying claim to portions of land surveyed and handed over to the Federal Government by the Rivers State Government for purposes of establishing the University,” it said.

“The situation became so bad that we held a Media Briefing on the issue on 8th October, 2012, drawing public attention to the untenable situation in which the University now finds itself. Since we held that Press Conference, some unscrupulous elements from the University’s host communities and sundry land speculators, appear to have joined forces to stall further infrastructural development in the University through massive encroachment on our land that now leaves little or no space for infrastructural development,” it further stated.

The Letter, which revealed that the University has been compelled to enter into hard bargaining processes with relevant host communities for every metre of land that is earmarked for developmental purposes, said: “we are also compelled to correspondingly pay for economic trees and cash crops on such pieces of land before taking possession, whereas it is practicable “adding that “there is no gain saying the fact that this type of institutional relationship is not conducive for the accelerated development of the University in the short, medium and long terms.

“We are, therefore, appealing to Obio/Akpor LGA to come to our aid in this respect. No meaningful development effort can be achieved in the difficult situation in which we now find ourselves in respect of gaining access to land that was statutorily allocated for establishment of the University of Port Harcourt in 1975,” the letter said, calling on the Federal Government to pay compensation to the land owners to enable the University develop to its full potential in an atmosphere of peaceful co-existence with its host communities.

“We seem to be currently powerless in efforts aimed at stopping land speculators from grabbing land on Campus without reference to authorities of the University. Notices warning against such intrusion into University land areas are routinely ignored and removed by our host communities, on the pretext that they are yet to be paid compensation for the initial acquisition by the Rivers State Government,” the letter said.

Meanwhile, Director of Civil Engineering in Obio/Akpor Local Government Council, Mr. Solomon Adooh, has penultimate Thursday, pledged the Council’s support in helping to recover the said land, assuring the University that his office would do everything necessary to ensure that UniPort claims the said parcels of land.

Adooh, who led officials from the Works Department of Obio/Akpor Local Government Council to land located along the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital axis, last Monday, disclosed that the inspection team was directed by Chairman of the Council to ascertain the extent of the encroachment, promising that he would report his findings to authorities of the Council for further action. The delegation was conducted round the land by the Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi and Deputy Security Officer, Mr. John Ogbonnaya.
Cont’d from p1

The newly-commissioned housing units included a twin three bedroom flat and another twin two bedroom flat both located at Ghana-Ama, University Park and another located at Degema Street, respectively, including two sets of service quarters also at Delta Park.

Speaking before commissioning the newly-refurbished units penultimate Thursday, the Vice-Chancellor, who commended members of the Committee for their commitment in delivering the project, expressed optimism that accommodation challenges facing staff would gradually be overcome with the speed the Committee was proceeding with its assignment.

Professor Ajienka, who encouraged Members of the Committee to continue to discharge their duties with utmost diligence, observed some structural deficiencies be wanted the Architect from the Department of Physical Planning and Development (DPPD) to put into consideration in the design of future residential buildings.

Earlier, Chairman of the Housing Committee, Professor Sikoki, who disclosed that each of the flats was rehabilitated at moderate rates, thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his continued support for the Committee, revealing that there were marked improvements on earlier buildings, which would be reflected in future designs.

It would be recalled that a twin bedroom flat was commissioned last December to flag off the initiative of renovating staff quarters through direct labour to save cost and deliver residential accommodation to staff of the University on schedule.

Carnegie Fellow Advocates Sustainable Dev Of N' Delta

By Obinna Nwodim

A Professor of Geosciences from the University of Missouri in Kansas City, United States, Professor Jimmy Adegoke, has added his voice to the need to develop institutional capacity to address the gaps in the development of the Niger Delta Region on a sustainable basis.

Professor Adegoke gave the advice in an interview with UniPort Weekly, last Friday, noting that although Deltas all over the world were difficult to develop, some of the biggest and most beautiful cities of the world were within difficult deltaic areas that benefited from development anchored on political will and institutional capacity to do the right thing. He stressed that the case of the Niger Delta should not be an exception. People, according to the foremost Climate Scientist, had always found ways and the will to develop such difficult terrains in other parts of the world, calling for the right policy thrust, political will and support of relevant experts to tackle the problems of the Niger Delta on a large scale.

Adegoke, who was Chair of the Department of Geosciences in the University of Missouri, also stated that the effects of the 2012 floods in the Niger Delta Region was devastating and had adverse effects on the socio-economic lives of the people, describing the Region as the least developed Delta in the world. He said that it was necessary to muster a strong voice that would advocate for informed knowledge that would focus attention on rescuing the environment, noting that “since the environment provides the means for human survival, there is an urgent need to protect it from further despoliation, otherwise we are doing more harm to ourselves than we could imagine. It is in our overall interest to protect our environment for ourselves and posterity.”

The renowned Climate Scientist and one-time Executive Director of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Division, Pretoria, South Africa, said that the institutional capacity of the Nigerian Government to manage climate change-related issues was very weak, adding that “we need to take proactive steps to reduce the vulnerability of our people to these incidents.”

Professor Adegoke, who is also a Carnegie African in the Diaspora Fellow, stated that the Fellowship which is funded by the Carnegie Foundation, was aimed at supporting African universities, beginning with 6 countries, amongst which are: Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa as pioneers of the programme. He said that the idea of the programme was to enable African scholars in the Diaspora to extend their expertise to these countries and link them to any African university of their choice, adding that the programme involved graduate supervision, exchange of staff and research collaboration, part of which is the establishment of a Niger Delta Global Change Consortium (NDGCC) anchored by the University of Port Harcourt-based Institute for Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (INRES).

He said that the Consortium which is made up of different institutes and specialists from divers fields, would address environmental challenges in the Niger Delta Region. Professor Adegoke said that the collaborating partners were in the process of finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), noting that it was an opportunity to attract funds that would aid research aimed at addressing the problems of the Region.

Speaking on the 2012 UNEP Report on Ogoni, Adegoke, whose research focuses on understanding the relationships between changing land surface processes and diverse indicators of environmental change, was commended UNEP for her commissioning and funding the investigation. He, however, noted that though the investigation was carried out outside the country, Nigerian universities had the capacity and expertise to carry out such an exercise, pointing out that what may be lacking was the sophisticated laboratory equipment to conduct the analysis of samples.

He stated that the content of the report showed the depth of the situation in Nigeria. According to him, Nigeria needed to have a wider scope of the assessment of the Niger Delta Region in order to have a holistic view of the challenges bedeviling the environment. “The Nigerian Government has been slow in the implementation of the Report. The Government has not recognized the urgency of the matter; people are dying on a daily basis as a result of the acute pollution problems in the area. It is necessary that the Government does whatever that is adjudged reasonable to mitigate the environmental challenges posed on the people by the activities of multinational oil giants currently operating without regard to the lives of inhabitants of the area,” he stated, lamenting that “we have a Government that does not feel that it is accountable to the people that elected it into office.”

On the activities of INRES, Adegoke said that the Institute has taken off on a right footing, with the right standards that can proudly be applied anywhere in the world, adding that the partnerships that would stand it out are currently being put in place.

Chairman Housing C'tee, Prof Sikoki explaining a point to the V-C, Prof Ajienka (arrowed), and others
Omotor, Obideyi, Commend Bamanga Tukur Institute

By Otitor Samuel

Renowned academies in the economic and financial sectors, Professor Douglass Omotor and Dr. Gbenga Obideyi, have showered encomiums on the progressive activities recorded so far at the Bamanga Tukur Institute of International Trade and Development (BTI) in the University of Port Harcourt.

Professor Omotor, a Director of Training at the West African Institute of Economic and Financial Management (WAIFEM) and Dr. Obideyi, Director of Trade at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), who are both alumni of the University, stated that the programme run by the Institute has regional and international standards, promising to partner the Institute to enable it gain more international collaborations and expose its students to global best practices. WAIFEM is a regional Institute owned by the West African Regional Central Banks. Briefing UniPort Weekly penultimate Thursday on the latest developments in the Institute, Director of the Institute, Professor Augustus Gbosi, who coincidently supervised Professor Omotor and Dr. Obideyi for their Masters’ and Doctorate degrees in the University, stated that the duo showered the on encomiums on BTI following disclosure by its Director that the Institute would graduate its pioneer students at the next Convocation of the University, a feat they separately hailed as unprecedented and highly commendable.

In a related development, the Institute has announced sale of form for admission into the 2014/15 session. Director of the Institute, Professor Gbosi said the form which is available online or at the BTI Office at Delta Park, is obtainable on the payment of a non-refundable fee of N25,000.00 in favour of Fidelity Bank Account No. 4110029257 or U&C Microfinance Bank Account No. 1004970025. Deadline for purchase and submission of form is Friday, 7th November, 2014.

UniPort, Yokogawa, Sign MoU On Industrial Training

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Management of the University of Port Harcourt has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Yokogawa Nigeria Limited for a six-month Industrial Training programme for students in the College of Engineering.

The MoU also covers a proposed collaboration for a Master of Science (MSc) programme in Instrumentation and Process Control Engineering. Receiving the team from Yokogawa last Monday, in his Committee Room, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, lauded the Company for the partnership, tasked them on the need to be fully committed to implementing the MoU to the letter. “We want you to be involved in the training of our students and provide capacity building for staff. We can also arrange exchange programmes, short courses, including video conferencing for the benefit of both parties,” he added.

In his response, Managing Director of the Company, Kazuo Hiraki, who was accompanied by Human Development Coordinator, Inyiagu Chukwuebuka, expressed the desire of the Company to provide hands-on training on Industrial Automation to students, that would also include lectures and laboratory sessions. “Yokogawa will also provide the necessary hardware, software, trainers and facilities needed for the programme,” he said.

Director, Centre for Information and Telecommunication Engineering (CITE), Professor Monima Briggs, who spoke on the proposed Masters’ degree programme, disclosed that the course curriculum and content would be jointly developed by the University and the Company. “The programme will be handled by University lecturers and experts from related industries. We hope to establish a Human Resource Centre for Oil and Gas Industries in the area of Industrial Automation,” he said, adding that it would also comprise exposure to practical training and field trips to Yokogawa workstations.

Acting Head, Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering, Dr Bourdillon Omijeh, was also present at the event.

REDEPLOYMENT

The underlisted staff have been redeployed with effect from August, 2014.

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<td>Ch Spt. Driver</td>
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Senate Approves New Affiliation, Seeks Higher Ranking

By Obinna Nwodim

Senate of the University of Port Harcourt has approved the affiliation request made by the Delta State College of Physical Education, (COPE) Mosogar, Delta State. The decision was reached at the 401st Meeting of Senate held at the Senate Chambers, University Park, last Wednesday. Senate also raised concern over the current ranking of the University in the World University Ranking system known as 4ICU and Webometric, despite the high level of academic staff, sustained activities and researches going on in the Institution.

In a unanimous decision, at the Meeting chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, Senate approved the affiliation after the presentation of a Report by Chairman of Local Affiliations, Professor Sylvanus Udoidem. Professor Udoidem, who told Senate that on receiving the request, the Unit set up a Committee to assess the level and quality of Programmes offered by the College, added that after a thorough assessment of all the programmes, it was satisfied with what was available on ground at the College to justify the proposed affiliation.

He stated that, “The Academic Planning Unit of the University having assessed the Self-Study Forms, had testified that there were three Departments in the Faculty of Education, University of Port Harcourt, to which similar departments in COPE could affiliate; that the specified admission requirement is in keeping with JAMB requirements and that the programmes and staff disposition at COPE met Senate and National Universities Commission’s requirements,” adding that programmes given provisional approval for affiliation to the University are Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) Educational Guidance and Counselling; B.Sc Human Kinetics and Health Education, as well as B.Sc Education/Economics.

Senate also took a presentation by Acting Director of the Academic Planning Unit in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Peter Kpolovie, following which it resolved that there was an urgent need to build up information on the University on the Website to make the Institution visible in subsequent World University Ranking exercises.

It was resolved that Task Forces be set up at the Faculty and College levels to ensure that each Department made relevant information available to be uploaded on the University’s Website to create global awareness of the volume of research, teaching and community service going on in the University. Members of Senate, as well as other Academic Staff, were encouraged to ensure that their publications and research activities are uploaded on the University’s Website in compliance with specific guidelines to be met before such materials would be made accessible to audiences outside the University to create visibility and attain better ranking.

Earlier, Senate had adopted a Report on the Students’ Disciplinary Committee on examination malpractices, which was presented by the immediate past Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Professor Henry Bell-Gam. The august body decided that all students affected by the Report be treated in line with extant rules contained in the University’s Statement of Academic Policy (SAP) to serve as a deterrent to other students, who may wish to copy their bad example.

Senate also took a brief from one of its representatives in the University Governing Council, Professor Ebi Bio-Asuzu-Efeho, who clarified the reason for stepping down the confirmation of academic staff, who had passed through the due process phase to join the professoriate.

Chairman of the Senate Business Committee, Professor Anthony Ibhe, had informed members of Senate about what he described as the negative impact of withholding students’ degree results on the pretext of certificate verification, noting that it was not proper for Departments and Faculties to withhold students’ degree results on account of certificate verification, arguing that such a weighty decision rested squarely with Senate as the sole custodian of all academic policies in the University.

He also informed members that despite the abolition of the Pass Degree in the Nigerian University system, the “C” grade remained the minimum pass grade in the University, regretting that some Heads of Department (HoDs) had wrongly assumed that the minimum pass grade under the new system was a “D”.

In her presentation, Provost of the College of Graduate Studies, Professor Roseline Konya, had informed members of Senate that the College had set up an Overstay Committee, which set a final deadline of the end of the First Semester of the current academic session for affected Graduate Students to complete their programmes or risk being thrown out of the College. Responding to the new deadline, Senate directed the College of Graduate Studies to extend the timeframe available to the affected Candidates to the end of the 2013/2014 session to bring it in line with what was approved in the case of Undergraduate Students in that session.

The Provost, thereafter, appealed to Lecturers and Supervisors to promptly graduate such category of students to save them from being caught in the web of the new deadline. Addressing her at the expiration of the new timeline stipulated by Senate, all affected students would be summarily de-registered and required to pick up new admission forms to register afresh. Any student who fails to present their programmes as bona fide students of the University of Port Harcourt, Senate considered and approved the 2012/2013 degree results from the Department of English Studies (Part-Time) and Regular programme; the august body also approved the 2012/2013 Second Semester Results from the Departments of Foreign Languages and Literatures and Fine Arts and Design. Other results approved by Senate were based on recommendations from the Faculty of Social Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Faculty of Education, College of Engineering, Faculties of Management Sciences, Agriculture, Pharmaceutical Sciences, as well as Colleges of Health Sciences and Graduate Studies. Senate also approved appointment of External Examiners, as well as applications for temporary withdrawal from study by some students as presented by affected Departments.

Earlier, newly-appointed Heads of Department and an Associate Dean, as well as Representatives of the College of Health Sciences in Senate, were formally introduced to Senate. The Chairman also announced the presence of Emeritus Professor Oonitiri Nduka of the Department of Educational Foundations. A Visiting Scholar to the Department of Crop and Soil Science, Professor Michael Ogbugia, was also introduced to Senate by Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Ekanem Okomata.

Students’ Union Publicity C’tee Launches Campaign Against Posters

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

A part of efforts aimed at ensuring a clean and green UniPort, the Publicity Committee of the Students’ Union headed by the Director of Information, Iyorobo Itoro, has launched an aggressive campaign against indisciplined hoisting of banners and pasting of posters on Campus.

Briefing UniPort Weekly on the campaign penultimate Friday, Itoro who led other members of the Committee to the Information, Publications and Public Relations (IPPR) Unit of the University to seek official support for the scheme, pointed out that the Committee would also checkmate other student groups and bodies that peddle false information that cause disaffection on Campus. “The idea is to let the University Community know that we are alive to our responsibilities as the Publicity Committee of the
Siminialayi Highlights Effects Of Food On Humans

Inaugural Lecturer Prof Siminialayi (arrowed) flanked by Registrar, Mrs Nnodim, DV-C (Admin) Prof Nduka, Provost CHS and Deans

Cont'd from p1
others, he pointed out, adding that junk food is an informal term for food of little nutritional value that is made from processed food, hydrogenated fats, chemicals and preservatives, which includes anything made with white refined flour, sweet desserts, fried fast food and carbonated beverage.

Siminialayi, who is currently Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, explained that “Functional food is a natural or processed food that contains known biologically-active compounds which when taken in defined quantities and in appropriate amounts, provides a clinically-proven and documented health benefit and thus is an important means of prevention, management and treatment of chronic diseases of the modern age,” stressing the need for the consumption of functional food as part of normal diet to reduce the risk of diseases.

The Inaugural Lecturer, who noted that “food as a remedy for illness or food as medicine became popular in the mid-1970s following publications by the gastroenterologists, Walter Vogel and others, adding that “poison, on the other hand, is a substance that causes illness, injury or death if taken into the body or produced within the body.”

Citing a World Health Organisation (WHO) report published in 2003, Siminialayi said that “fruits and vegetables are particularly important in reducing the risk of cancer of the oral cavity, oesophagus, stomach and colorectum” adding that “high alcohol intake is associated with increased risk of cancer of the oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, oesophagus, liver, and breast and increased risk of stroke.”

He noted that food can be harmful because it lacks sufficient amounts of macronutrients, micronutrients or because it is too energy dense or contains chemicals that are toxic, warning that “Fast foods or junk foods are harmful because they are made from processed white flour and oils rich in trans-fat.”

“When we eat in excess of our bodies’ energy needs, the excess is stored in the fatty tissue, skeletal muscle and other sites as fat and then we become overweight and eventually obese,” he explained, adding: “When we eat the wrong kind of food, we may immediately suffer the adverse effects which may manifest as allergic reactions or acute poisoning or when foods contain harmful substances, we may over time increase our risk of suffering from cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, myocardial infarction (heart attack) and stroke.”

According to him, consumption of junk could alter brain activity in a manner similar to addictive drugs such as cocaine and heroin, leading to compulsive eating for pleasure.

According to the Inaugural Lecturer, the prevalence of both high Body Mass Index (BMI) and large waist circumference increased with age and obesity among young adults was more at the urban centres, where people tended to adopt imported lifestyles that compromise their health. He noted that obesity results from eating palatable foods with high calorie density, which are readily available in pre-packaged forms in fast food restaurants and drinking too much soft drinks and alcohol.

He also blamed increasing cases of obesity, hypertension and other cardiovascular complications on what he described as “a marked reduction in the physical activity that we used to engage in on a daily basis as a result of labour-saving technology and laziness on our part. Finally, we got here by our indulgence in sedentary lifestyle—increasingly common among children, because of the widespread availability of electronic devices in the home.”

To urgently reverse the alarming trend that is costing high medical bills and lives at an alarming rate, Professor Siminialayi recommended adoption of a nutritional plan based on the Palaeolithic or Mediterranean diet that are not rich in cholesterol that result in lifestyle diseases that currently ravage Nigerians—especially those living in the urban areas. The Inaugural Lecturer stressed the need to evolve a diet plan that included the health promoting functional foods and adopting a healthy lifestyle that would assist us prevent chronic diseases and live a healthier, longer life.

Humans, according to the Inaugural Lecturer, can get fat eating a perfectly healthy diet, pointing out that how much we eat is very important, whether it be fruits or vegetables alone or a Palaeolithic or Mediterranean type diet.

Commenting on the Lecture, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Joseph Ajienka, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Professor Esther Nduka, commended the Inaugural Lecturer for enlightening the University Community on medicinal and poisonous properties of food, pledging the University Management’s willingness to implement some of the recommendations made in the Lecture to enhance good health among staff and students.

CHD Signs MoU On HIV Prevention Programmes

By Mercy Adeniji

HIV infection by scaling up prevention intervention and to increase access to treatment, care and support services in Rivers State; while the SIDHAS project is aimed at strengthening the capacity of Youth PRO-FILE and other relevant stakeholders to effectively implement integrated community-based prevention and mitigation activities in their areas of operation. It would also increase community involvement, capacity and participation in maternal health, HIV/AIDS, Sexually-Transmitted Infections (STI) and Tuberculosis (TB), Sexual and Medical Prevention, Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), Care and Support by June, 2016.

The Acting Director described the Youth as PRO-FILE for HIV Prevention as a Non-Governmental Organization with over 17 years of experience in providing tailor-made Sexual and Reproductive Health interventions for communities, in-school and out-of-school youth in particular, stating that the organization evolved from a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation-funded project under the auspices of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and University of Port Harcourt in 1997.

He disclosed that the two projects are being implemented in six Local Government Areas in Rivers State namely: Andoni, Ogbia/Egbeda/Ndoni, Gokana, Ahoada and Eleme Local Government Areas, respectively, explaining that the MoU was signed with the Programme Coordinator, Youth PRO-FILE, Port Harcourt, Mr John Umo-Onogu.

SECURITY TIPS AGAINST TERRORISM

In view of the current security and terrorist threats in some parts of our country, the Nigeria Police Force is calling on the citizens to stay vigilant and join hands with the security agencies in making Nigeria a safer place.

In the unforeseen circumstances of a bomb blast, stay away from the blast scene. Avoid the temptation of rushing to the scene (except you work with any of the Security or Emergency Management Agencies). Remember, terrorists often detonate secondary explosives in order to harm innocent bystanders and on-lookers.

 anytime you see suspicious persons or movements within your neighbourhood to the Police or other security agencies through available means of communication.

Community Volunteers training on the SIDHAS Project in Khana, Bori. Inset: Ag. Director, Dr Babatunde

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GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT
Professor Duta Appah, College of Engineering, re-appointed Provost of the College. The two-year re-appointment terminates on 5th April, 2017.
Professor Matthew Wegwu, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural & Applied Sciences, re-appointed Director, Special Projects, Vice-Chancellor’s Office. The two-year re-appointment which takes effect from 18th June, 2014 terminates on 20th June, 2016.
Professor M.I. Godwin-Emeintr, Department of Crop & Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, appointed Director, Community Service Programme. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 15th August, 2016.
Dr O.N. Nwaogwugwu, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, appointed Coordinator of the Department. The one-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 21st August, 2015.
Dr Ganiyu Adekola, Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education, Faculty of Education, appointed Acting Head of the Department. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 22nd August, 2016.

RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT
Mrs. Roseline Efuiwee, Exams & Records Unit, Registry Department, granted a one-year Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective 24th November, 2014 to 23rd November, 2015.
Mrs. Agnes Enaohwo, Exams & Records Unit, Registry Department, granted a one-year Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective 27th November, 2014 to 26th November, 2015.
Mr. Chichi Josi, Department of Physical Planning and Development, Vice-Chancellor’s Office, granted a one-year Renewal of Contract Appointment, effective 22nd January, 2015 to 21st January, 2016.

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARIETIES

PAN-ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY TEAM UNDERSTUDIES AUN SOFTWARE
A three-member team from the Pan-Atlantic University has visited the Yola Campus of the American University of Nigeria (AUN) on a fact-finding mission aimed at studying the operations of the Open Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) module, an information management system that integrates the different departments into a single software, thus improving flexibility in management and administration system in use at the University. The Open ERP module was an innovation that was successfully launched by the trio of Daniel Harbor, Michael Njoku and Tosin Komolafe, all graduates of AUN’s globally-recognized School of Information Technology and Computing (SITC) in the Department of Computer Science.

OGUN SHUTS VARIETY OVER THREAT TO PEACE
To forestall a possible breakdown of law and order, the Ogun State Government has ordered the immediate closure of the Obalisi Onabaje University (OOU), Ago Iwoye. The Government also advised all parents whose wards are students of the University to call them to order, warning that Government will not tolerate any act capable of disturbing the peace being enjoyed by the people of the State.
The statement added that the decision to close the Institution was taken in the overall interest of peace and order, as the students have continued to issue threats, while rejecting entreaties and concessions made by the Government on their various demands concerning the recently announced reduction of School fees.

WE NEED MORE RESEARCH – LAUTECH VC

ice-Chancellor of the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso, Professor Adeniyi Gbadegesin, has stated that the best way to combat the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is for people to exercise restraint in the way they live, while researchers get more proactive in the conduct of their business. The V-C noted that it was time for researchers to venture into the study of socio-economic, as well as cultural implications of the deadly ailment on the people of Africa. Gbadegesin, who also stated that it was inexusable for any scientist or researcher to be caught unaware because Ebola has been in existence since 1976, charged the various arms of Government to commit themselves to providing necessary tools for researchers to combat the scourge.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY
FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 31-SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 06, 2014

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>TEMPERATURE</th>
<th>HUMIDITY (%)</th>
<th>WIND DIRECTION</th>
<th>RAIN (mm)</th>
<th>SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am/pm)</th>
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<td>NE</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>06:25/06:36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DR GLADYS EMEKINE
ACTING HOD

PROF SAMUEL AROKOYU
DIRECTOR, (CDRMDB)

SERVICOM CORNER
SERVICOM is a mechanism put in place to check attitudinal excesses in service delivery in our great institution.
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The University of Port Harcourt Demonstration Primary School (UDPS) held her graduation ceremony for pupils of the School on 1st August, 2014 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. The event also featured an exhibition by the pupils tagged: From Waste to Wealth and an award-winning drama titled: Say No to Child Abuse. Pictures by our Cameraman, HEADMAN ALU show highlights of the event.