Side Bar

School of Graduate Studies organized an Orientation Exercise for Graduate Students last Wednesday. Details next week -Editor

UNIPORT, TOTAL, Inaugurate Educational Partnership C'ttee

TOTAL E&P and University of Port Harcourt have inaugurated a Steering Committee on Education to drive their joint institutional strategy of making globally bench-marked education available to staff and students of the University, as well as expertise available *report* ***Obinna Nwodim and Williams Wodi*** *More on p3*

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87th Inaugural

Microbes Critical In Environmental Bioremediation -Odokuma

By Humphrey Ogu

Despite being generally considered as dreaded agents of disease and destruction, microorganisms- especially *bacteria* and *fungi*-have been described as very critical in efforts aimed at tackling environmental pollution by experts. This was the verdict of Environmental and Petroleum Microbiologist in the Department of Microbiology, Professor Lucky Odokuma, while delivering the 87th Inaugural Lecture of the University at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium last Thursday.

Odokuma, whose Lecture was titled: "*The Genius in the Microbe: An Indispensable Tool for the Management of Xenobiotic-Mediated Environmental Flux*", said that the roles of microorganisms in terrestrial and aquatic pollution cannot be over-emphasized by experts and laymen alike in that critical area of enquiry. "Biodegradation, is responsible for the ultimate removal of pollutants such as spilled crude oil from the environment," he explained.

Odokuma, who defined bioremediation as the use of microorganisms-especially *bacteria* and *fungi*-metabolic processes such as biodegradation, bioaccumulation, biofermentation and bioadsorption to

Cont'd on p6

Senior Staff Club President Returns

Story on p2

V-C Appoints Bell-Gam Dean, S'Affairs

Story on p3

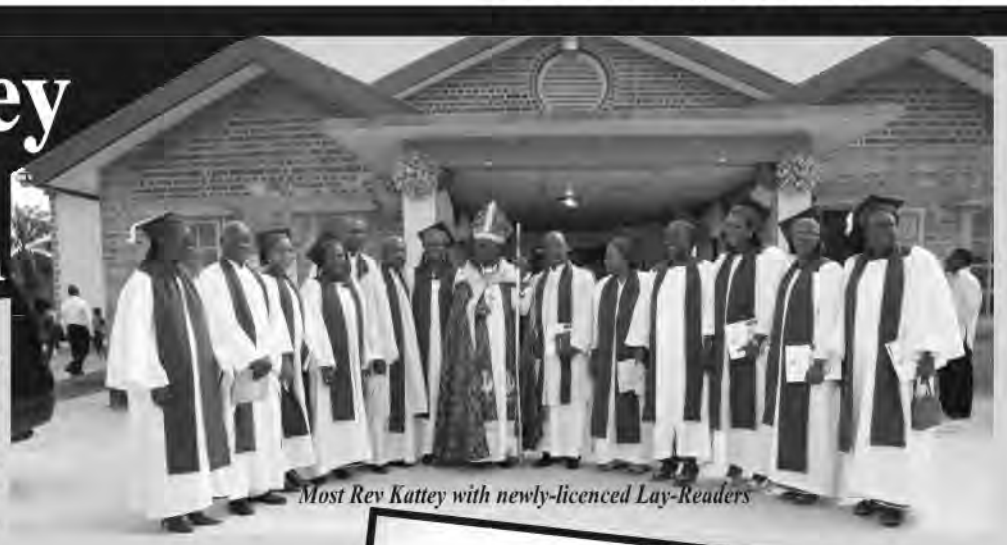
Dosunmu Unveils Plans For More Int'l Collaborations

Story on p4

IARD Fetes Igwilo On Retirement

Story on p5

Archbishop Kattey Dedicates St Nicholas Church


Most Rev Kattey with newly-licenced Lay-Readers

The Archbishop of Niger Delta Ecclesiastical Province and Lord Bishop of Diocese of Niger Delta North, His Grace, Most Rev Ignatius Kattey, JP, paid a one-day Arch-Episcopal visit to St. Nicholas Anglican Church, Aluu-UNIPORT last Sunday to dedicate the new Church Auditorium and Multi-purpose Hall, amongst other Pastoral activities, reports WILLIAMS WODI

There was a palpable atmosphere of eager anticipation penultimate Sunday at the expansive premises of St Nicholas Anglican Church, Aluu-UNIPORT, as the Clergy, Laity and Congregation lined the route, singing and dancing to soul-lifting tunes as they waited for the arrival of the Chief Shepherd of the Province. The Congregation had every reason to be apprehensive about the impending visit as it had been aborted by a grand conspiracy of circumstances on April 15, 2012 when the Episcopal Visit was originally scheduled.

Bedecked in their alluring white colours, the prayer warriors in the Congregation invented an imaginary wailing wall where they supplicated to God to make the Episcopal Visit a reality this time around. The singing, dancing and prayers were eventually answered at about 11.00am, when the Archbishop's black Ford jeep came into view. And without much preamble, the dedication ceremony commenced with a Choir-led Procession that circled the Church three times in the Anglican tradition, before a visibly delighted Archbishop proceeded to consecrate the Baptismal Font, Lectern, Pulpit, Prayer Desks, Choir Stall, Sacrarum Step and Holy Bible. Most Rev Kattey also performed a special ceremony to seal up the Deed of Dedication of the new Church and also declared it open for the worship of God by the faithful.

As part of the Episcopal Visit, Archbishop Kattey also confirmed 66 Candidates as Communicants, admitted 11 into the Mother's Union and nine into the fold of the Women's Guild; 15 took the *Oath* as members of Men's Christian Association, while 13 were licensed as Lay Readers in the Church of Nigeria Anglican Communion. Chancellor of Diocese of Niger Delta North, Justice Biobele Georgewill was on hand to oversee the solemn ceremony. It was, indeed, a practised art in the hallowed tradition of the Anglican Church.

In a deeply reflective Sermon titled: *"How close is God to you?"*, Most Rev Kattey charged the faithful to put their trust in God. Taking his references from Psalms 84, 120 and 135, the Archbishop told the Congregation that "It is not easy to serve God because those who are committed to true worship must be prepared to make painful sacrifices that will attract His attention. But there are true Christians who are always in the house of God rendering quality and selfless service without expecting praises or reward from their Priests". Warning the faithful not to lock God out of their life, Kattey stressed the need for steadfastness in the service of God. "It is in the house of God that we can receive love and blessings; but we cannot receive if we reduce ourselves into mere church-goers. We must be prepared to experience the presence of God in our lives as justification for our presence in the Church", the Archbishop advised the Congregation.

Rev Canon Orji, His Grace and Chaplain, Rev Chujor and Verger, Mr John Ogbonnaya

Former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sylvanus Cookey and Vicar of St Nicholas Church, Rev Canon Ben Orji, recalled the humble beginning of the Parish in 1956 as a worship centre for Lepers. The new Church, formally known as St Luke, was, according to them, reactivated in 1988 on the directive of late Bishop Samuel Elenwo with Retired Venerable (Dr) Sunday Nwachukwu as pioneer Vicar. Venerable Bayo Odukoya is remembered fot raising the spiritual tone of the Church, while Venerable (Professor) Wellington Wotobe-Weneka is credited with championing the bold decision to commence the present Church Auditorium in 2003.

A long list of 27 members was cited as "Pillars of the Church" for their invaluable contributions towards realization of the new project that included dedication of a Multi-purpose Hall. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka at a reception in honour of the Archbishop at the Pro-Chancellor's Lodge, praised him for his continue
d interest in the affairs of the Church and University, urging the Church to continue to guide students in the path of righteousness and moral rectitude. "The University will always be partners in progress with the Church to achieve its core mandate; and we are also pleased to know that the Church is planning some developmental projects that would be of benefit to our students".

In his response, Most Rev Kattey expressed gratitude to authorities of the University for the warm reception accorded him and his entourage, appealing to the authorities to carry the students along as they seek places of worship that would take them away from the moral and material corruption of the world. "I understand the reason why the University banned the use of classrooms for religious purposes, but they are our children who need direction to enable them achieve their objective in the University. We should assist them to go in the right direction in their impressionable years through provision of a place of worship for students who do not belong to the statutorily recognized denominations on Campus". He also disclosed plans by the Parish to construct student hostels that would reduce the pressure on accommodation in the University and its environs.

Senior Staff Club Election

President Returned Unopposed

By Otikor Samuel

A new Executive Council has been elected to run the affairs of the Senior Staff Club for the next two years. It is headed by incumbent President, Dr Tamuno Orunaboka, who was returned unopposed by popular acclamation. Dr Orunaboka, it would be recalled won the *Best President of Senior Staff Club Award* at the last Merit Award Night organized by the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit of the Vice-Chancellor's Office.

Other members of the new EXCO constituted penultimate Wednesday are: Mr Ekanem Ekanem, who was elected Vice-President, while Orukotan Kwamina was elected Secretary-General. Olakanwi William won the post of Treasurer, while Nwile Godspower was returned unopposed as Financial Secretary.

President, Dr Orunaboka (centre) and other members of the Exco

The result which was signed by Chairman of the Electoral Committee, Professor Owunari Georgewill and made available to *UNIPORT Weekly*, disclosed that Gbaranee Waribor, Ihunwo Ovunda and Agha Patrick were elected Bar Secretary, Social Secretary and Sports Secretary, respectively. Professor Georgewill expressed satisfaction with the conduct of the poll, commending voters for conducting themselves in a civilized manner throughout the exercise.

Addressing Congress shortly after being sworn-in, the President, Dr Orunaboka, disclosed that his new administration would focus on two key projects; namely creating a state-of-the-art Car Park for Club members and building a 16-room Guest House subject to approval by Congress.

The President also stated that he would introduce measures aimed at generating dividends to members, promising to ensure prudent financial management that would make it difficult for any member to misappropriate fund. He further revealed plans to build a Refreshment Suya Bar to house a suya spot, roasted plantain, pepper soap and barbecue outlets.

Dr Orunaboka called on all Senior Staff to patronize the Club, stating that the Club provides a variety of food, drinks and room for relaxation, contrary to misconceptions that it is a spot for drinking and gossip.

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Cont'd from p1

4th from right: Dr Ojoh, V-C, Prof Ajienka, Registrar, Mrs Nnodim, DV-C (Acad), Prof Joe, Senior Officers from UNIPORT and TOTAL

UNIPORT, TOTAL, Inaugurate Educational Partnership C'ttee

to the industry. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at achieving the terms of the partnership agreement had earlier been signed by both parties as proof of their commitment to realizing the project. Inauguration of the new Committee last Wednesday, finally gave teeth to the MoU aimed at ushering in a new era of educational and technological progress to the University and end benefits to TOTAL.

Speaking at the milestone ceremony, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, expressed delight over the partnership with TOTAL, noting that the University was moving in the direction of public-private partnership in line with its entrepreneurial vision. According to him, the success of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) programme has created a situation where all newly-established Centres desire to adopt the IPS Model.

Professor Ajienka, who gave a run-down of the major milestones recorded by the University over the years, said that with the record achievements of the Institution in the area of sports, the University's Institute of Sports could support TOTAL in the area of sports development. He used the opportunity to, once again, thank the company for donating a 650 KVA power generating plant, which he said, had been allocated to the University Library to boost its services.

The Vice-Chancellor recalled his request on the need to start a Geosciences programme in the University, disclosing that with a grant from MacArthur Foundation and MONIPULO Limited, the programme has commenced, hoping that it will grow to an enviable height with the support of TOTAL E&P. He announced commencement of the Health, Safety and Environment School and a partnership agreement with University of Dundee in Petroleum Economics and Strategic Studies. He also disclosed that the Centre for Occupational Health and Safety would soon graduate its pioneer students, assuring potential stakeholders that such programmes have a very strong quality control component in the tradition of academic excellence of the University.

"I have to stress the need for TOTAL to invest in hostel accommodation for students of IPS to sustain the quality of academic excellence that is already in operation", Professor Ajienka said, disclosing that all partnership programmes run by the University would henceforth be coordinated under the emergent School of Advanced Engineering Technology (SAET), with Professor Adewale Dosunmu as pioneer Dean. According to him, this new arrangement will make it possible for IPS to remain with the original partners in line with its commencing blueprint. "All that remains to be done now is for TOTAL to transform the Director of IPS into Occupant of a TOTAL Chair in Petroleum Engineering to finally give its laudable achievements in the University a proper seal of approval", the Vice-Chancellor said, promising that the Administration would continue to justify the huge investment of TOTAL in the intellectual development of the University.

Chairman of the Steering Committee, Dr Kingsley Ojoh, disclosed that TOTAL's educational initiative in Nigeria covers Pan African University, Abuja and Lagos Business School, adding that his company was de-emphasizing development of facilities in favour of intellectual content as part of the overall vision to build capacity in the Nigerian educational system. Dr Ojoh, who is Executive Director in charge of Geosciences and Reservoir Engineering in TOTAL, assured the University of his company's willingness to source expertise on its behalf to assist in specialized research, with a view to "developing skills and local content, broad access to knowledge and partnership networks that would be of mutual benefit to TOTAL and the University".

In a presentation, the Executive General Manger in charge of Corporate Services, Mr Vincent Nnadi, said that TOTAL was interested in partnering stable, dynamic, national and regional institutions that are engaged in research work in the company's area of expertise with clear industry orientation. Describing TOTAL as an international network in progress, Mr Nnadi said that the new educational initiative of his company was aimed at challenging the academic community to partner the industry in producing global players, in line with the company's desire to serve as the regional hub for excellence in Petroleum Engineering.

"We want to strengthen teachers and students to benefit from international experts, including the development of employee competence", he said, disclosing that the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the University and TOTAL had a three-year lifespan with a realistic action plan that would ensure efficiency to the partners.

Members of the new Steering Committee include Professors Mike Onyekonwu, Adewale Dosunmu and Dr Ngozi Odu, who would also serve as Secretary on the University side, while TOTAL nominated Dr Ojo, Mr Nnadi, Dr James Edet (Manager, Planning and Retraining), Mr Sam Nkwo (Manager, Training and Development), Mr Cyprian Ojum (Deputy General Manager, Sustainable Development) and Sotoye Bristol to the Committee.

Committee On UNIPORT Alumni Association Turns In Report

By Otikor Samuel

A Committee set up by Management to investigate crisis that rocked the leadership of UNIPORT Alumni Association submitted its report to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka last Tuesday.

Prof Otaigbe, C'ttee Chairman

Submitting the Report, Chairman of the Committee, Professor John Otaigbe, who disclosed that it made far-reaching findings and recommendations that would assist the University to reposition the Association for better productivity, praised the Vice-Chancellor for the opportunity offered them to serve.

Receiving the Report, Professor Ajienka, who expressed worry over the recent ugly development in UNIPORT Alumni Association, stressed the strategic role of Alumni Association in driving the development of any university, promising that Management would carefully study the recommendations of the Committee with a view to implementing them for the growth of the University.

Other Members of the Committee were: Dr Matthew Wegwu, Mr Eric Aboneni, Mr Boniface Woko and Mr Jones Toby of the Vice-Chancellor's Office, who served as Secretary.

V-C Appoints Bell-Gam Dean, S'Affairs

As Odia Heads Research Ethics Committee

By Otikor Samuel

A new Dean has been appointed to oversee the Student Affairs Department of the University for the next two years. He is Professor Henry Bell-Gam of the Department of Theatre Arts, Faculty of Humanities. Professor Bell-Gam takes over from Dr Matthew Wegwu. Also, Dr Ethelbert Kari and Dr Gloria Emenike were appointed new Associate Deans of Student Affairs.

Separate letters conveying the appointments dated June 11, 2012 and signed by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, said their appointments which are for two years, respectively, take immediate effect and terminate on June 15, 2014.

Until his appointment, Professor Bell-Gam was Head, Department of Theatre Arts, while Dr Kari, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies is also Assistant Director, School of General Studies. Dr Emenike lectures in the Department of Geography & Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences.

In a related development, Professor Osaretin Odia, has been appointed Chairman, Research Ethics Committee to maintain ethical standards, review proposals for scientific investigation, promote the dignity, rights and safety of individuals involved in scientific inquiries, ensure that the proposed study is scientifically valid and justifiable, as well as take adequate steps to prevent physical and psychological harm to researchers.

Members of the Committee include: Professors Blessing Didia, Alice Nte, Samuel Arokoyu, Nnenna Frank-Peterside, Anthony Okpani, Iyeopu Siminialayi, Boniface Nwigwe and Ebenezer Onyeike. Others are: Dr Grace Awi-Waadu, Dr Oluseye Babatunde, and Mrs Selinah Inko-Tariah. Mrs Otami Akubom is to serve as Secretary.

Prof Odia, Chairman, Research Ethics C'ttee

V-C Tasks Renewable Energy Experts On Electricity Supply

By Obinna Nwodim

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has stressed the need for academics to always apply their intellect in a manner that contributes to finding solutions to the problems facing the larger society, saying that the current crisis in stable electricity supply should serve as a wake-up call for researchers in renewable energy in Nigeria.

Professor Ajienka made this assertion when he received a delegation from the Rivers State Branch of Renewable and Alternative Energy Society of Nigeria, (REASON) in his office, last Monday.

Professor Ajienka, who expressed the preparedness of the University to support the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the Society, said that regular power supply was a major challenge that needed to be tackled if Nigeria hoped to join the league of developed nations, noting that "if we are able to find urgent and lasting solution to the problem of epileptic electricity supply in this country, that would be a wonderful development that would impact positively on all aspects of our national life". He commended the initiative being championed by the Faculty of Science in solar energy technology aimed at boosting power supply in the Faculty.

In his remark, Chairman of the Association, Dr. Chibuonwu Eze, said that the body was in the University to seek support from authorities of UNIPORT on the forthcoming AGM of the Association, disclosing that it was the first time the event would be hosted in Port Harcourt.

Earlier in his remark, a member of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), Professor So-ongo Teme, who gave background information to the formation of the Society, disclosed that paying close attention to renewable energy matters in Nigeria started seriously in 2004, adding that it had become a major area of focus in most countries of the world. Teme said that the Association was formed at the Federal University of Technology (FUTO), Owerri, noting that the University of Port Harcourt, as well as Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST) were founding members of the Association.

Also speaking, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, thanked the delegation for the visit, pointing out that renewable energy would be the driving force for development in the future. "Any society that fails to embrace the usefulness of renewable energy stands the risk of being left out in the quest for development in a world that is increasingly being confronted with dwindling natural resources", Nduka said.

Also present at the visit were: Professor Julian Osuji, Vice-Chairman, Dr. W.A. Iyama, Secretary, Princess Gloria Akiri, Treasurer, Mr. Adekunle Sofolabo, Public Relations Officer, Professors Israel Owate and Nnenna Frank-Peterside; and Dean, Faculty of Science, Professor Oamen Abumere, who is a Member, Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

Speaking to *UNIPORT Weekly*, Chairman of the body, Dr. Eze stressed the need for policy-makers to embrace new trends in renewable energy development, pointing out that alternative and renewable energy resources have the advantage of reducing environmental degradation to the barest minimum. He said that the Society had engaged in sensitization of the public on the benefits of renewable energy, adding that it was now time to implement the action plan. He noted that alternative energy resources provide energy, as well as reduce environmental pollution that is conducive to good health.

In his contribution, Vice-Chairman of the Society, Professor Julian Osuji, appealed to Government at all levels to fund research in renewable energy through the provision of an enabling environment and funding of conferences to serve as fora for nurturing new ideas, as well as launching a campaign for proper waste dispose. Professor Osuji also canvassed for necessary infrastructure to harness the benefits of biological waste.

V-C, Prof Ajienka (centre) and officials of Rivers/Bayelsa Chapter of the Society

Dosunmu Unveils Plans For More Int'l Collaborations

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Dean, School of Advanced Engineering Technology (SAET), Professor Adewale Dosunmu, has disclosed plans to establish more international collaborations and industry partnerships to give the emergent School word-class rating in line with the Entrepreneurial vision of the University.

The Dean, who made the disclosure last Tuesday, while speaking with a *UNIPORT Weekly* Correspondent, cited the partnership between the Institute of Engineering Technology Innovation and the University of Pretoria, South Africa and the collaboration between the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) with the IFP School, France, as bold moves by the University to earn international recognition for the School of Advanced Engineering Technology.

Dosunmu noted that the School which houses the IPS, METI, Institute of Offshore Technology and the Centres for Nuclear Energy Studies, Petroleum Geosciences, and Occupational Health, Safety and Environment, also enjoys robust industry partnership. "The School moderates activities of the Centres and Institutes to ensure that they meet global standards", he said, adding that the focus is now on producing industry-ready graduates, who are up-to-date with industry requirements and can tackle daily industry challenges in the line of duty.

Prof Dosunmu, Dean, SAET

"This programme operates on a different template; it is entirely different from the regular University programme", Dosunmu pointed out, disclosing that it runs a Professional Master's Degree programme with Lecturers drawn from experienced professionals from the industry and seasoned academics from the University. He stated that the overall goal is to give the School high visibility at the global level in terms of quality of graduates produced while making it a centre of excellence in research and development.

NAAT Elects Ogbegbe S'South Coordinator

By Mercy Don-Baridam

Chairman of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT), Mr Ambrose Ogbegbe, has emerged South-South Coordinator of the Association in an election held last month at Ambrose Ali University, Ekpoma, Edo State.

Speaking with *UNIPORT Weekly* last Monday, Mr Ogbegbe disclosed that having served as Zonal Secretary for two consecutive tenures and exposed to the activities of the Union, he decided to vie for the position at the national level.

Mr Ogbegbe disclosed that unionism in the University involves staff welfare, adding that with his new position as Zonal Coordinator, he would spread the tentacles of the Union, promising to carry his members in the zone along in the scheme of things.

"This position has elevated me not just as the Branch Chairman of the University, but also as the pioneer Zonal Coordinator of NAAT. I promised, in my manifesto that all modalities would be followed to ensure we have periodic joint meetings of South-South and South-East zones to protect our common interest through delegate conferences", Ogbegbe said.

Expressing gratitude to Management of the University for approving the hazard allowance for staff, Ogbegbe appealed for payment of the outstanding arrears and assist in the provision of protective wears to enable his members carry out their duties effectively in relative safety.

Mr Ogbegbe

Itsekiri Cultural Troupe *(inset): Prisca Enyi*

Music Dept Debuts Faculty Performance Series

By Humphrey Ogu

As a way of showcasing the rich musical talents in the University and the Niger Delta, as well as engendering the culture of *Choral Evenings* in the University, the Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, held a concert featuring Professor Onyee Nwankpa and Tuoyo Esimagbele, amongst other guest groups, penultimate Tuesday.

Briefing *UNIPORT Weekly* on the event, Professor Nwakpa, who is also Head of the Department, said the essence of the concert was to showcase some of the classic performances available in the University and Niger Delta, adding that "we wanted to provide an environment for people to enjoy beautiful music by established musicians, and we thought that as a prelude, myself and Mr Tuoyo Esimagbele should kick off a process that would hopefully continue to present a Faculty Performance Series."

He added that "apart from UNIPORT Concert Chorus, we had two guest groups: *Itsekiri Cultural Troupe* and *the New World Orchestra Band*, both from Warri, Delta State. One of the artistes we featured was Prisca Enyi, also known as *the Nightingale*, whom we describe as *Lyric Coloratura Soprano Singer* from the Lagos Museum.

According to him, after taking a degree in Business Administration, Enyi, who performed *Oratorios* of the Great Masters and received "The Best Opera Singer" award, further trained at the MUSON Diploma School of Music and the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (ABRSM) London and now pays her bills through music," describing her voice as "so tender, so lyrical, but so powerful. She interprets her music in an emotionally impactful way."

Nwankpa said that such concerts would be held regularly to afford music lovers opportunity to relax and listen to good music, hinting that Precious Omoku would feature in the next edition of the performance slated for 25th June, 2012.

IARD Fetes Igwilo On Retirement

Humphrey Ogu & Mercy Don-Baridam

It was a blaze of praises as speaker after speaker paid glowing tributes to pioneer Director, Institute of Agricultural Research and Development (IARD), Professor Ndubuisi Igwilo, at a send-off ceremony organized in his honour at the Faculty of Agriculture Conference Room, Choba Park , penultimate Thursday.

Speaking at the event, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Love Akonye, expressed gratitude to Management of the Institute and other members of staff, who in one way or the other worked with the retiring Professor during his active days in the University.

Akonye, who described Professor Igwilo as an accomplished scholar and great achiever, commended him for his commitment to the Faculty over the years, assuring him that the Institute would not forget him for mentoring younger academics and students. "You had a brilliant career here and also left your bold foot-print in the sands of time. As you retire, you are going with your life, your dignity intact and other things you have obtained while in service", she said.

Also speaking, Director of the Institute, Professor Ebere Erondu, who recounted the achievements of Professor Igwilo in research and administration, noted that he made tremendous contributions towards development of the Institute and the emergence of the Faculty of Agriculture.

Responding, Professor Igwilo commended staff and students for working closely with him throughout his service years, especially Professor Anthony Agumagu, who he described as a wonderful adviser and friend.

Giving a brief history of the Institute, the retiring Professor disclosed that it was approved by the Federal Government at the inception of the University and has come to stay, hoping that it would grow and even record greater achievements than the Faculty.

He expressed satisfaction over the quality of research work carried out by staff, explaining that, "In research, we face difficulties, because many people do not appreciate what we are doing and even when we make breakthroughs, people who are in a position to promote such research outcomes are more interested in importing even inferior versions of such products from outside just to make profit. They are usually not keen on patronizing what is produced locally," he lamented, warning that no nation ever makes progress with insensitive leaders who lack interest in research, creativity and innovation.

He appealed to staff engaged in research work to continue to strive harder, rather than being discouraged by the situation. "Whatever limitations you may face, don't give up; things you can buy with your money buy and keep working and if you don't have a laboratory, move your research to the farm and begin to think", he said, charging the Institute to take its position as a research centre and not to be carried away by what others are doing, even as he stressed the need for it to grow to the next level of activity as envisioned by its founding fathers at inception.

Prof Igwilo

Professor Igwilo called on staff to be diligent and hard-working so as to continue to get the attention of the public in what they are doing in the Institute.

Goodwill messages were delivered by other dignitaries, including Professor Agumagu and Acting Head, Department of Agric Economics and Extension, Dr Olufemi Adesope, amongst others. Highlight of the event was presentation of gifts to Professor Igwilo.

AIESEC Inducts 60 New Members

By Otikor Samuel

Of the 110 applications submitted for membership of AIESEC, an international platform for young people to explore and develop their leadership potentials, a total of 60 applicants sailed through and were inducted in the first week of June at the International Students' Centre, University Park.

Briefing *UNIPORT Weekly* after the induction, a Member of the Organizing Committee, Loveday Osiv, said the inductees were made to pass through a rigorous screening process as part of the statutory requirements for membership, adding that a number of activities, including awareness campaign and training were put together for the new intake.

In his welcome speech, President, Local Committee of AIESEC, Port Harcourt, Babatunde Ekundayo, congratulated the inductees for emerging successful in a competitive screening process, pointing out that not pursuing vision with vigour is primarily responsible for failure in the life of some young persons. AIESEC, he said, is committed to addressing the minds of young people on how to fully utilize their God-given potentials for the good of society.

Chairman, Board of Advisers, Prof Mark Anikpo (5th from right), Local Committee President, Mr Ekundayo and Vice-Presidents of AIESEC

"AIESEC in Port Harcourt is the threshold of achievements. The feeling right now is that all our strategic investments in the network will bear fruit this year. Our pipelines are full: members are ready and willing to experience the membership programme, a long-term plan till 2015 is already underway," the President disclosed.

He recalled that "For 64 years globally and for 51 years in Nigeria, AIESEC has been championing the cause of youth leadership. The vision of our organization, *'Peace and fulfillment of human kinds' potential'*, is still as relevant as it was in 1948. The world desperately needs responsible, ethical and moral leaders, vibrant economies, open world trade, a unifying global plan/agenda, democratic and corporate governance that is accountable and most importantly, a motivated generation of sustainable potential successors to further actualize and reach our ambitions. This is the commitment of AIESEC to the world through its ideals, vision and initiatives."

Microbes Critical In Environmental Bioremediation

Cont'd from p1

remove pollutants from the environment, cited a collaborative research he carried out in 2003, which showed that "the advantages of bioremediation option include inexpensive equipment, environmentally-friendly nature of the process and simplicity."

Defining corrosion as the deterioration of a material by reaction to its environment, he said most cases of corrosion have been reported as chemical or physicochemical corrosion, regretting that there is a growing misconception that pipeline failure is as a result of human sabotage alone. He noted that "microbial corrosion could lead to pipeline rupture".

Odokuma, whose research activities cover a wide-range of areas in Petroleum Microbiology, disclosed that "we have developed a protocol beginning with primary producers such as unicellular *algae*, *cynanobacteria* and *chemoautotrophic* bacteria. This procedure is definitely more representative of a natural aquatic system.

"Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) refers to assessment of the impacts of a project on the biophysical (ecology), health, social and economic environments," he pointed out, adding that "in Nigeria, the EIA is a statutory requirement for all categories of Petroleum Exploration and Production (E&P) projects, as well as some non-oil and gas projects. It is mandatory by various legislations, which include the Petroleum Act of 1969 and EIA Act no 86 of 1992."

He noted that EIA process requires a multidisciplinary approach and involves consultants in various specializations such as community stakeholders, Non-Governmental Organizations and regulatory agencies, including Federal and State Ministries of Environment, amongst others, regretting that "there is a growing dissent on the use of EIA as its influence on development decisions is limited".

Stressing the need for a stronger foundation of EIA practice through training for practitioners, guidance on EIA practice and continued research, Odokuma stated that "it is not just for projects of large corporations such as oil and gas conglomerates or large Telecommunication firms. Government projects should also be subjected to EIA studies".

He disclosed that his future research would include carrying-capacity, in which he hopes to focus on population sizes that can live in an environment without doing such an environment any harm; development of biocorrosion models, that could be employed in the prediction and quantification of biocorrosion rates in brackish and freshwater systems in the Niger Delta, in addition to subjecting the developed biodegradation models to more scenarios to aid their improvement.

Other areas of future research focus, according to him, would include climate change/global warming; biomass energy and microbial mats.

As a way of checking the menace of global warming, which some experts believe to be responsible for climate change, Odokuma advocated use of biofuel in line with the National Environmental Economic and Development Study (NEEDS) objectives for climate change in Nigeria, defining biofuels as those gases from organisms which may either be liquid or gas.

He cited one of his recent collaborative research engagements, which generated biogas from municipal waste as a deliberate effort aimed at developing biofuel. According to him, the next stage of the research is to convert chemical energy from gas into electric energy that could be used as a source of electricity in homes.

In his remark, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, expressed joy that the Inaugural Lecturer was 100 per cent a product of the University of Port Harcourt. "From the definition of an Inaugural Lecture which he adapted to his needs, Professor Odokuma has given us summaries of his contributions to knowledge and informed us of his future research plans, especially in exploring the beneficial effects of microorganisms to humans and the environment.

Professor Ajienka praised the 87th Inaugural Lecturer for emphasizing collaborative research endeavours in his rise to the Professoriate, a practice the Vice-Chancellor described as the hallmark of a thorough-bred academic. According to him, Professor Odokuma and his mentor, Professor Gideon Okpakwasili, have advanced knowledge in the area of Environmental and Petroleum Microbiology, expressing gratitude to Okpokwasili for mentoring younger academics.

He also thanked the Faculty of Science and Department of Microbiology for creating an environment that is conducive for research and teaching, citing Odokuma as a worthy beneficiary of the spirit of collaborative research that exist in the Faculty. He also congratulated the Inaugural Lecturer for creditably acquitting himself as Professor in his chosen area of specialization.

Inaugural Lecturer (3rd from left) and other Professors

UNIPORT Is Due For Creative Writing Programme -Ilagha

By Humphrey Ogu

An *Alumnus* of the University and prolific writer, Nengi Ilagha, has said that mounting creative writing programme would benefit the University a great deal in terms of producing great writers that would put it on the global literary map, stating that it is the way to go in the world of today.

Ilagha, who was in the University to donate copies of some of his books to the Institution, told *UNIPORT Weekly* that "it is a very big omission that there is no creative writing programme in the University as we speak. The Department of English Studies is old enough to run a full-fledged creative writing programme."

He noted that an aspiring writer can sit in a classroom and be guided on the use of language, tenses, grammar, but beyond that, the onus lies on the writer himself. "If I had to fall back to what I was taught in the classroom, I wouldn't be a writer today. You have to have a flair for writing; you have to have a personal passion; you need to recognize the urge inside you to express yourself. That urge must rule you in your sleeping and wakening moments," Ilagha explained.

According to him, attending a creative writing workshop is necessary. It helps when we have workshops for aspiring writers to come together to share their passion, ask and answer questions such as: how do you write? When is your best time to write? What are the subjects that interest you? It is necessary for a coterie of writers to come together and compare notes, it's like what the Bible says about iron sharpening iron.

"What you get in creative wring classes is hands-on experience. You know that you are there to develop your capability as a creative writer. They don't give you assignment to go and talk about the theory of writing or other technicalities of the creative processes. The bottom-line is that even the course work has to do with creative writing, it's an interactive process," Ilagha pointed out.

Ilagha, whose poetry collection, *January Gestures* made the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) shortlist in 2009, disclosed that "I'm not just a writer; I'm also a publisher of books. And in the short period I stayed in the UK, I tried to see how I can take charge of these two assignments, as a writer and publisher. It gave me room to meet and interact with writers, attend workshops and learn one or two things about the craft of writing"

The Poet observed that "It is not as if there is a fine line between what it means to be a writer here and what it means to be a writer in the UK. It is just that the absence of the economics of publishing in Nigeria is particularly not encouraging, that is why a lot of our writers look out for an international market; so in a way, that holds true for me as well.

Ilagha, who traced the origin of his journey into the literary world, said "it all began from the Department of English Studies in this University; I had no idea that one day, I'd be referred to as a Nigerian writer, adding that "It boils down to ones' realization of the fact that if you put your mind to what you are doing and follow your dream. It is bound to come to pass. If you are sufficiently dogged in the pursuit of your dreams, one day you would arrive at your dream destination," I may not be Chinua Achebe or Wole Soyinka, but I will try and do my very best to see how I can belong to a school of writers.

Ilagha

GUIDEPOST

PROFESSORIAL PROMOTION

Dr John Ikimalo, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology,* effective May 4, 2010.

Dr Henry Alapiki, Department of Political & Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Professor of Political Science,* effective May 4, 2010.

Dr Darlington Iwarimie-Jaja, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Professor of Sociology,* effective May 4, 2010.

PROMOTION

Dr Vaduneme Oriji, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer,* effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Ekea Udensi, Department of Crop & Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer,* effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Stanley Okoroafor, Department of History & Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Senior Lecturer,* effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Folasade Ajayi, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer,* effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Chukwuemeka Ehirim, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, promoted *Senior Lecturer,* effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Chukwuemeka Agi, Department of Radiology, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer,* effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Benjamin Onu, Department of Religious & Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I,* effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Francis Onwuka, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer I,* effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Favour Vincent-Akpu, Department of Animal & Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer I,* effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Beatrice Nyege, Department of Mental Health, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I,* effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Lawrence Chuku, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer I,* effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Adaba Ibim, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer I,* effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Godfrey Woke, Department of Animal & Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer I,* effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Brilliant Agaviezor, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer I,* effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Obiaocha Nwaogwugwu, Department of Agricultural Economics & Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer I,* effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Omokewu Emujakporue, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer I,* effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Adekunle Sofolabo, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer I,* effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Vincent Weli, Department of Geography & Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Science, promoted *Lecturer I,* effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Tambeke Gbarakoro, Department of Animal & Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer II,* effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Chidi Obi, Department of Pure & Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer II,* effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Egesi Ndukauba, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer I,* effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Emmanuel Wonah, Department of Political & Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Science, promoted *Lecturer II,* effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Godson Iwuoha, Department of Pure & Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer II,* effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Ozioma Achugasim, Department of Pure & Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer II,* effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Barikpoa Uedeme-Naa, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer II,* effective October 1, 2011.

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BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

31,500 CANDIDATES JOSTLE FOR ADMISSION AT FUNAAB

Of the 3,500 carrying capacity of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), over 31,000 candidates jostled for spaces through its Post-Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination penultimate week. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Olusola Oyewole, who recalled that about 22,000 candidates, had sat for the screening last year, attributed the rapid increase in the number to what he described as the growing quality in human and infrastructural development of the institution, as well as strict compliance to its academic calendar.

Prof Rufa'i, Minister of Education

BABCOOK BGS GRADUATES WITH 4.92

A 20-year-old graduating Law Student, Gilbert Oladehinbo, emerged the *Best Graduating Student* of Babcook University, Ogun State, with a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 4.92 on a five-point scale. The *Valedictorian*, who won other awards such as the Senior Vice-President's, School Dean's and Outstanding Achievement Awards, had a handshake with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kayode Makinde and Professor Benjamin Carson, who is famous as the first to separate Siamese twins.

EKSU EMBARKS ON BIOMETRIC EXERCISE FOR STUDENTS

Ekiti State University (EKSU), has embarked on biometric data collation of its students on Part-Time programme. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Oladipo Aina, said the exercise is aimed at ascertaining eligible students with a view to sanitizing the system. The Management advised students to register within the stipulated timeframe or risk losing their studentship.

IBBUL VARSITY TO COMMENCE MARITIME STUDIES

Academic activities will commence next session in the Institute of Maritime Studies to be hosted by the Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida University, Lapai (IBBUL) in partnership with the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) and the Niger State Government. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ibrahim Kolo, who disclosed this while receiving a delegation from NIMASA on inspection of the project site, said the University has met some of the requirements stipulated by the agency.

UNILORIN EMBRACES E-VOTING FOR S'UNION ELECTION

Election into the Students' Union of University of Ilorin (UNILORIN) turned out to be successful and devoid of irregularities following the use of *electronic-voting* system. Abdulmalik Aremu of the Faculty of Science emerged winner in an election where voting process was decentralized in the 12 Faculties with security operatives on ground.

AAUA MATRICULATES 2,930 FRESHERS

A total of 2,930 fresh students have taken the *Matriculation Oath* for the 2011/2012 academic session for the Adekunle Ajasin University, Ondo State. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Femi Mimiko, who expressed satisfaction with the merit-driven admission policy of the University, warned the students against acts of misconduct that could result in rustication, disclosing that out of the 24,600 candidates who applied for admission and 16,750 that were selected for Post-UTME, only 2,930 finally got admission.

-Compiled by Otikor Samuel

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WISE*crack*

There is nothing which we receive with so much reluctance as advice

JOSEPH ADDISON

33RD MATRICULATION CEREMONY

The 33rd Matriculation Ceremony of the University took place on Thursday, 31st May, 2012 at the Convocation Arena. The event featured administration of Matriculation Oath on the fresh students. Pictures capture highlights of the event

Pix: Headman Alu

Provost, College of Health Sciences, Prof Chris Akani, Director Personnel Affairs, Mr Roland Wabali and DV-C (Academic), Prof Igho Joe during the procession

Director, Personnel Affairs, Mr Wabali, representing the Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim

L-R, Dean, Humanities, Prof Ozo-mekuri Ndimele, Dean, Social Sciences, Prof Charles Oyegun, Dean, Science, Prof Oamen Abumere and Dean, Education, Prof Ebi Bio Awotua-Efebo

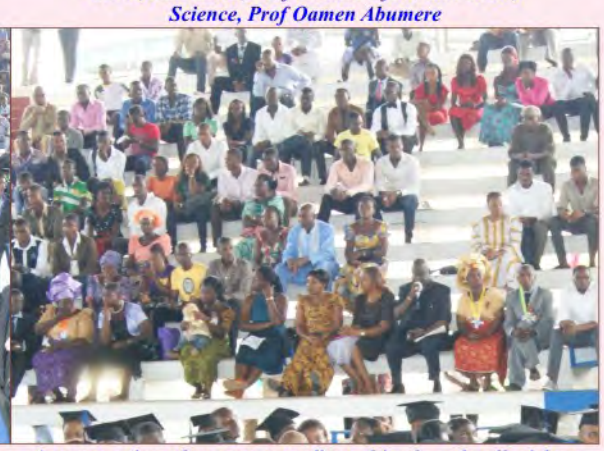
DV-C (Academic), Prof Igho Joe presenting the Vice-Chancellor's address to the Matriculants

Representative of the V-C, Prof Joe administering the Matriculation Oath on the students

Dean, Education, Prof Awotua-Efebo and Dean, Science, Prof Oamen Abumere

Some Matriculants at the event

Matriculants from the Faculty of Management Sciences



A cross section of parents, guardians, friends and well-wishers of the Matriculants

A cross section of Matriculants from the Faculty of Education

Jubilant Matriculants celebrating their admission into the University

DV-C (Acadmic), Prof Igho Joe leading the recession at the end of the event

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