The need to take into consideration issues of space transformation in any planning process took centre stage when Professor Samuel Arokoyu of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management delivered the 127th Inaugural Lecture of the University of Port Harcourt at the Ebitimi Auditorium, last Thursday. Also, sequel to the frequent conflicts arising from migration from one settlement to another, Arokoyu, who is a Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, argued that incidents of migration should not be a divisive process, but one of cultural homogenization and integration.

The Inaugural Lecturer, who spoke on the topic: The Audacity of Space Transformation Planning, said that once a space is created, those who created it would live with it, adding that: “The space you create today will determine what happens to you tomorrow.” He further stated that...
FRSC Drills UniPort Drivers On Defensive Driving Skills

By Obinna Nnodim

In a bid to enhance the safety and performance of drivers in the University of Port Harcourt, the Protocol and Logistics Unit of the Vice-Chancellor’s Office organized a two-day training for them on defensive driving techniques at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, between Thursday 22 and Friday, 23 October, 2015. The intensive training exposed the participants to the intricacies of defensive driving, security awareness and how to read road signs. The University’s mission is to add value to the performance of the drivers in carrying out their jobs, advise them on taking seriously the knowledge they acquired from the exercise, expressing delight that drivers were finally able to take time off their hectic duty schedules to learn new techniques that would enhance their driving skills.

"As you conclude this important training exercise today, the University expects you to see positive changes in your driving pattern and general conduct. It is expected that you will translate all the good examples you have learned in the classroom into good road habits. Expect to see drivers who are alert on the stirring; drivers who are security conscious, who can read road signs and be defensive when faced with reckless road users," the Vice-Chancellor admonished the drivers, assuring them that such training would be a regular feature of their driving career in the University. In his remarks, Deputy Corp Commander of the Rivers State Sector of the FRSC, Mr. Joseph Udoabah, disclosed that “participants were taken through basic medical tests, including their eye sight and blood pressure, while the lectures focused on defensive driving, highway code, proper use of roads, managing drivers’ health, legal issues, speed limit, road safety standardization scheme, as well as First Aid administration in emergency situations.” He expressed optimism that with the quality of training received by the drivers, the University would witness a change in the driving culture of participants and productivity level.

At the closing ceremony of the workshop, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, commended the Protocol and Logistics Unit for mounting the programme, hoping that the training would enable the drivers update their driving skills. He noted that if such trainings continued on a larger scale, driving would be safe and pleasurable exercise on Nigerian roads with reduced accident rates.

In a keynote address, Visiting Scholar to the University, Professor Vincent Idemor, who described the importance of good health in driving, listed necessary skills a driver must acquire before taking to the road. According to him, before an individual goes behind the stirring, he or she must be healthy and be ready to abide by simple routines that would ensure safety on the road. In their separate goodwill messages, Deputy Vice-

through basic medical tests, including their eye sight and blood pressure, while the lectures focused on defensive driving, highway code, proper use of roads, managing drivers’ health, legal issues, speed limit, road safety standardization scheme, as well as First Aid administration in emergency situations.” He expressed optimism that with the quality of training received by the drivers, the University would witness a change in the driving culture of participants and productivity level.

At the closing ceremony of the workshop, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, commended the Protocol and Logistics Unit for mounting the programme, hoping that the training would enable the drivers update their driving skills. He noted that if such trainings continued on a larger scale, driving would be safe and pleasurable exercise on Nigerian roads with reduced accident rates.

In a keynote address, Visiting Scholar to the University, Professor Vincent Idemor, who described the importance of good health in driving, listed necessary skills a driver must acquire before taking to the road. According to him, before an individual goes behind the stirring, he or she must be healthy and be ready to abide by simple routines that would ensure safety on the road. In their separate goodwill messages, Deputy Vice-

CCDCD Announces Sale Of Form

By Mercy Adeniji

Weekly, disclosed that “the programme is aimed at equipping graduates with the necessary skills to develop a strong interdisciplinary foundation in social, legal and political concepts of disability and communication disorders. It is also a vital tool in providing services in learning opportunities for agencies, service providers, Governmental and Non-governmental organisations. The programme is also aimed at maximizing the potential abilities in special education and to build up the manpower capacity of personnel with basic academic requirements who are specialized in related education in Nigeria,” the statement disclosed. On the admission requirements, the Registrar said admission into the programme is open to graduates of the Humanities, Education, Social Sciences and Health Sciences and other related disciplines with a minimum of Second Class Honours (Lower Division). “The programme will run with the University’s School of Graduate Studies Curriculum for the 2015/2016 session. It is a Part-Time programme that would run for 12 Calendar months. During the period, students shall be expected to practical case history with children with disabilities and communication disorders in directed field work.”

Mrs. Nnodim further directed interested candidates to obtain the application form from the Centre's office located at the International Students' Centre, along Abuja Drive, University Park. “It can also be uploaded at the Centre’s email: ccddc@unicport.edu.ng or candidates should visit the University of Port Harcourt website www.unicport.edu.ng with a non-refundable application fee of N20,000 (Twenty thousand naira), only in certified Bank Draft made payable to the Centre for Children with Developmental and Communication Disorder (CCDCD). Payment can also be made directly into the Centre's Account Number (5210033175), Fidelity Bank Nigeria Plc, UniPort Branch or UniPort/Choba Microfinance Bank, through Account Number (0152831058), University of Port Harcourt, Choba.”

The Bank Draft or Teller can be presented at the Centre's office or scanned and forwarded via the above-mentioned email /website as evidence of payment. “The sale of application form started on Monday, August 3. For further enquires, prospective candidates should contact the Administrative Secretary, call the Director on 08034913668 or 08033092885. At the end of the programme, successful students shall receive the Postgraduate Diploma to be awarded by the Senate of the University,” the statement said.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Call: 08033093371
Cont'd from p1

Speaking on behalf of the visiting team, Head of Media Relations, Mrs. Anne-Marie Bukau, who disclosed that the project supervision visit was to reconcile the hydracarbon giant formally meet the new Vice-Chancellor and also assess final preparations for commissioning the signature project, said the construction of the complex which was documented in a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the partners in June 2014, was part of the company’s University Support Programme initiative aimed at growing local expertise in gas technology.

"Basically, we are here to meet the new Vice-Chancellor and "deepen the Corporate Social Responsibility effort of the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas aimed at improving research and scholarship through our popular University Support Programme initiative. Using the National Universities Commission (NUC) ranking, we identified the University of Port Harcourt, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, University of Ibadan, University of Benin, University of Maiduguri and Ahmadu Bello University from different regions of the country for these landmark projects that are aimed at building institutional capacity in our specialisation. We are so far pleased with the results of these partnerships and the level of cooperation we have received from participating universities," Mrs. Bukau said, expressing satisfaction with the level of work already accomplished at the site located behind Emerald Energy Institute.

"The building is a collaborative effort between our companies and the University. Our is just to provide funding and the right operational environment; it is the University that made the choice of materials and we are highly impressed with what we have seen on ground. We have been assured that the equipment would arrive on October 30, while installation would be concluded before the commissioning on November 30. Once the facility is commissioned, it will be used for the right kind of expertise to make it fully operational to achieve the purpose for which it was established," she added.

Responding, a visibly enthused Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndoma Eba, who thanked NLNG for the recognition accorded the University through siting the project here, stated that the University would continue to do everything that is within its powers to ensure sustainability of the blossoming partnership. The Vice-Chancellor expressed happiness over the partnership, promising the NLNG Management that requisite expertise exists in the University to turn the facility into a centre of excellence in gas technology within the shortest possible timeframe.

"We consider ourselves very lucky to have been chosen for such a strategic partnership. We know that the hydracarbon industry is a very technologically-complex enterprise that requires a properly trained workforce. On our part, we promise to safeguard the sensitive equipment that would be mounted in the complex for purposes of training high impact personnel that would reduce the country’s dependence on expatriates and huge foreign exchange drain," Professor Lale told the delegation.

In his brief, Deputy Director of the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals, Dr. Kuyego Odusola, who averred that the commissioning date was agreed upon by the Technical Committee that oversees the project implementation in the six participating universities, disclosed that the Governor of Rivers State, universities in the Niger Delta and technical partners are expected to grace the event which is expected to serve as a regional centre of excellence in gas engineering.

It would be recalled that the General Manager, External Relations of NLNG, Dr. Kodo Eresia-Eka in a statement obtained by this publication, dated March 19, 2014 had said that: "NLNG will spend N340 million ($2million) in each university for the construction of modern engineering laboratories that would be equipped with cutting-edge technology at the University of Ibadan, University of Ilorin, University of Port Harcourt, University of Maiduguri, Ahmadu Bello University and University of Nigeria, Nsukka in a project titled: "NLNG University Support Programme (USP)."

The General Manager had disclosed then that the six universities were selected based on their established track record of performances in the various geo-political zones as reflected in the rankings of the National Universities Commission (NUC) and other international bodies, adding that the participating institutions were also selected for their contributions to local capacity development which paved way for grooming notable Nigerians.

The statement further reiterated that educational intervention was a primary focus of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of NLNG, adding that the USP was not only to enhance the quality of education to improve the nation’s human resources base, but also to provide opportunities for the students to be able to contact their potential employers in future.

"The statement further reiterated that educational intervention was a primary focus of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of NLNG, adding that the USP was not only to enhance the quality of education to improve the nation’s human resources base, but also to provide opportunities for the students to be able to contact their potential employers in future."

Ex-UDSS Students Donate To Alma Mater

By Otitor Samuel

Library equipment, including cartons of books, five book shelves, five reading tables and 70 chairs, estimated at about half a million naira were donated to their Alma Mater by the 1995 class of ex-students of the University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS) at a brief ceremony, Speaking at the Morning Assembly that marked the grand finale of a weeklong series of events on Friday, October 23, 2015, former Head Girl, Mrs. Aya Akhimien, who spoke on Reviving the Reading Culture in Nigerian Children, said the donation was part of the group’s effort to inculcate the habit of reading and the spirit of giving amongst the students.

"The scarcity of books, together with the prohibitive cost of acquiring available reading materials has also contributed to the steady decline in the reading culture amongst students in Nigerian schools today. Aside from textbooks which are readily available, other recreational books that expose students to a whole variety of topics are in very short supply," she lamented, stating that the donation was aimed at partially addressing the dearth of reading materials at the disposal of the current students of the school that gave the ex-students a head start in the academy.

Some of the equipment donated by the ex-students

UDSS Principal, Mr. Ogechi, Vice-Principal (Academic), Mr. Godwin Wall, Vice-Chairman, PTA, Dr. Ojekudo (9th, 10th and 12’th), Ex-Head Girl, Mrs. Akhimien (6’th left) and the 1995 class after the donation

Mr. Akhimien, who is now a practising Lawyer, admonished parents, religious groups, organizations and companies to join the crusade to revive the reading culture amongst young people, advising Government to sanction schools that operate without proper library facilities.

Another ex-student, Mr. Solomon Akere, who is now a successful Lagos-based Management Consultant, spoke to the students on how to effectively combine their studies and also explore their natural potentials through entrepreneurship in a competitive global market.

"Have a role model; somebody whose lifestyle influences you. It could be someone you don’t know, but if the qualities meet acceptable standards and influence you, such a person could be your role model," Mr. Akere told the students, advising them to study very hard to prepare themselves for tougher challenges in future.

In this response, Principal of the School, Mr. Aneke Ogechi, also showered praises on the ex-students for donating to their Alma Mater, expressing part of the ex-students’ committee’s intention to motivate the students to aspire to be like them on leaving the UDSS. He promised to convey the kind gesture to parents during the next meeting of the PTA of UDSS.
Revisiting Lale’s One Hundred Days In Office

By Williams Wodi

In just one hundred days, those who were used to the pursuit of主线 living and disruptive activities appear to have signed a pact of silence as Lale increasingly points to a new direction in official conduct. A new administration has come to town and everybody is compelled to take notice. As a leader, he happily decided to measure his progress against the relative strength and weaknesses of his subordinates and even insignificant critics. Professor Lale has been able to get his subordinates to gauge at their own reflections to see their shortcomings. It was of colossal importance that the new bulletin moved to the right direction with intense clarity of vision from the very onset of his administration.

The career of the current Vice-Chancellor is replete with uncommon academic accomplishments, leadership, and mentorship. His teenage genius in the storge village of Agbada in Ekiti, Eleme, was to make a visible intellectual excellence and aptitude living. Weary of the toil, stress of farm labour and persistent existence that cooled the lot of his rustic community, Professor Lale burst the midnight calm that took him to the top of the intellectual circuit. He realized quite early in life that it was not how much one had to one’s pocket, but how much one had in one’s head that mattered. Close to four decades later, Lale presides over one of Nigeria’s elite institutions with the stated vision of building and bequeathing a world class university. He is credited in pioneering the Faculty of Agriculture into which he recruited scholars from all over the country on their measure of merit alone. He has covered himself in glory in thirty-three years of unbroken commitment to the academia with plenty acres to show for his effort on all fronts. “I knew that the job was going to be a very challenging one like most organizations, but I have been very lucky to receive cooperation from every quarter in a community of diverse opinions and interests. I did not expect everybody to be on my side,” he said in a revealing interview that gave him away as an insurmountable optimist and a master of human nature. The executive pressures a Vice-Chancellor faces in the line of duty is complete with perspiration like that of a long distance runner.

Already working himself to exhaustion in just one hundred days, Professor Lale would do well to protect his health in the face of the strain and stress that ravage the body on the executive seat. Managing energy is one of the secrets of longevity and triumph exit down the road. The daily drudgery of filing that small table is an endurance test for the most energetic leader. As Lale made the transition from the classroom to the executive office, he came face-to-face with the shenanigans that trouble the once tranquil carriers of the academic. In one hundred days, he has come to terms with the centrifugal forces which he is increasingly turning to positive ends for the good of the University.

 Battling to change official creed set Lale on a collision course with vested interest in the early days of his administration, but he ploughed on with mafia courage and the soul of a Pentecostal minister with impressive results to show. So far, he has masterfully daged the bullet of intellectual intrigue which are a part of our robust university community and human nature. After all, God was smart enough to desire the creation of man the sixth day on account of his trademark capacity to mess up things, even in the pristine Garden of Eden.

The ongoing reforms, which we hope would be a force for good, have called into question the virtues of a blunted institutional bureaucracy that almost bogged down the system. The completion of the ongoing overhaul is expected to reposition the University to pursue its stated ambition of becoming a world class centre of academic excellence with Lale firmly on the driver’s seat. His tenure appears to be focused on high value innovations that are expected to transform Uniport into a first choice destination for talented students and teachers with high returns to society.

“We are beginning to deepen the academic culture by restructuring and rationalising some academic units for greater efficiency. We have re-engineered the partial college system back to the Faculty system to achieve coherency and better coordination of academic activities. We successfully introduced the Direct Entry mode of admission into the University. Senate has become more vibrant with improved attendance, while post-grads are being put to round house high impact performances. We are raising a new forward-looking generation of young leaders to secure the future of the University. We have awarded contract for the construction of public toilets which I promised on assumption of office,” he said, regretting that the Treasury Single Account (TSA) has become a major obstacle race in his administration’s drive for quality service delivery. Indeed, the onslaught TSA is the craziest manifestation of the infamous ‘dead hand of bureaucracy’ in the current dispensation.

Once he took office, Lale toured hostels, the host communities and organized a highly-patronized Parents’ Forum that is expected to drive aspects of institutional development. He started policing contractors to complete projects initiated by his predecessor and appointed a new Director who is already rehearsing, marketing and networking the University of Port Harcourt Foundation. He hosted the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea which resulted in the award of eight scholarships, promise of internship and employment prospects by Narae Nigeria Limited. Flood control measures are currently ongoing at the Permanent Site of the University through an integrated drainage system. A proactive security plan has resulted in the acquisition and deployment of cutting-edge technology that has enhanced surveillance, putting criminal elements on the back foot.

“I have excellent working ties with the Unions and students because they can see that I am running a transparent system that can be easily accessed by anybody at short notice. We have also improved access to quality and prompt healthcare delivery through faculty updates and human patient engagement. We have completed the new Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences building and the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals (CGRP). The 2016 budget makes provision for new buildings for the College of Health Sciences, School of Graduate Studies and a new University Bookshop. A magnificent Business District will soon rise at the Choba Park under a Public-Private Partnership agreement with everyday supermarket to give us a memorable shopping experience,” the Vice-Chancellor disclosed.

Expressing general satisfaction with what has been achieved in one hundred days; Professor Lale attributed the feat to God’s guidance and cooperation from the University community which is responding to purposeful leadership that is not mounted on a high horse.

“The Governing Council is in agreement with our vision and if we continue like this, we will actualize our dream of building a wholesome and prosperous University as declared in my campaign manifesto. I am quite gratified to everybody that has so far worked in concert to build a new Uniport. The achievements of these one hundred days show that what we envisioned is possible,” the Vice-Chancellor said with a measure of self-assurance that is sure to last him the distance. His parting words: “I am very humbled and honoured to serve as the 8th Vice-Chancellor of this unique University, a university of responsibility and urgency. We expect Lale to stand on the podium and cover himself in a blaze of glory at the end of his tour of duty."
Arokooyu Lists Gains Of Spatial Transformation

Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Arokooyu (6” left), flanked by DV-D (Admin) Prof Ihe (right) and other Professors and Deans before the lecture

Music Dept Ends Centenary Church Music Confab

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Scholars and lovers of music gathered in the University to participate in a historic Centenary Church Music Conference organized by the Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities to mark 100 Years of Church Music in Nigeria that spanned between 1914 and 2014. Delivering the keynote address at the well- patronized event, Professor Richard Okofo of the Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu State, disclosed that Church Music in Nigeria has improved tremendously following the introduction of Christianity, listing some factors that militated against the effective growth of Church Music in Nigeria.

"The inability of performers to harness the potentials of melodic instruments to achieve better results, heavy instrumentations as a result of the combination of the keyboard, synthesizers, hand and traditional instruments, lack of proper training and poor interpretation of the pieces rendered," were some of the factors that hindered the flourishing of early Church Music, the Guest Speaker told the gathering. Regrettting that music was one of the disciplines easily eroded by amateurs, Professor Okofo, however, submitted that the mode of instruction, the involvement of various Church groups, the use of vibrant and instrumental music, hastily-convened music festivals and competitions, the use of electronic media such as television and radio, contributed to the quality of modern Church Music in the country.

"Seminars and workshops would also facilitate musical knowledge of Church Choir Masters, thus raising the standard of performances by the Choruses," he posited, calling for the exploration of new ways to enhance the music, which catered to the spiritual upliftment of the congregation and lovers of good music. Lead paper presenter, Professor Inibobong Udoide of the Department of Philosophy in the Faculty of Humanities, spoke on 100 years of Church Music In Nigeria: A Review of the Features of Inculturation, describing "inculturation" as the groundwork of all Christian Missionary and evangelizing activities in the country and a tool for analysing and studying the development and evolution of Church Music in the past 100 years. "The last phase of Church Music in Nigeria is characterised by incarnational Inculturation, wherein the musical forms emanated and is still emanating from the indigenous cultures of the people," he explained. Representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Igho Joe, who pledged Management’s continued support to make the Department a Centre of Excellence in African and Nigerian music, commended the Department of Music for portraying music as a serious subject with intellectual components, unlike the popular misconception that music cannot be taught. In their separate addresses, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Head of the Department of Music, Professors John Enemwugwu and Onyew Nwankpa, expressed hope that the outcome of the Conference would contribute to continuous advancement of Church Music in Nigeria.
By Mercy Adeniji

In a bid to facilitate quality service delivery among staff of the University of Port Harcourt, the Staff Training and Development Unit (STADU), organized a three-day capacity training workshop for staff of the Registry Department, last Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, respectively, at the Basic Studies Unit, University Park.

Declaring open the well-attended workshop, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nduwa Lale, who commended the Registrar and STADU Unit for organizing the training sessions, disclosed that it was aimed at building workers capacity for effective service delivery in a changing work environment.

"God uses human beings to help each of us to grow in our private and public life. To succeed in life, you need some identifiable skills and other human beings along the way. Again, you need social intelligence to move up your career line and this is not taught in schools; it is done during seminars such as this one and other informal interactive processes that increase your stock of knowledge on daily basis," he said, expressing optimism that the training would be very valuable to the trainees.

Reminding participants that enhanced productivity can only come through dedication and team spirit, the Vice-Chancellor said that "dishonest staff and those who cannot get along with their colleagues in the line of duty not do find it easy to progress as doors usually close in their faces. They are transferred from one office to another and the whole University gets to know them until they are finally transferred out of the University."

Also speaking, Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Ndonim, commended Management for approving funds for the training, expressing gratitude to the STADU Unit for organizing the event for Registry staff.

Mrs. Ndon, who was represented by the Director of Personnel Affairs, Dr. Dakor Charles-Granville, said: "When our immediate past Registrar, Mr. Messiah Oyigie returned from Sabbatical Leave, we delivering a paper entitled: Work as the Essence of Man, Dr. Godwin Ndene of the Department of Sociology, for describing, in a very important manner to mankind, advising those who were lucky to secure jobs in this period of unemployment to guard them jealously as their growth, progress and social prestige depend on such jobs and how they performed them.

Dr. Ndene listed obedience to rules and regulations governing the University, such as "keeping official secrets, respect for the statutory rights of staff and students, not aiding and abetting examination malpractice or engaging in dubious transactions that would hurt the image and reputation of the University, as some of the work ethics that guide the University, stressing the need for staff to manage change and improve communication flow to aid enhanced productivity.

Junior Staff Officer, Mrs. Elizabeth Jediokoko, who spoke at the Human Resource Management, Performance Appraisal, Motivation and Stress Management, identified planning, staffing, employee development and retention and maintenance culture as the four major aspects of human resource management, advising staff to do what they have to do when they have to do it and work by the rules.

On performance appraisal, Mrs. Jediokoko described it as an important step in the success which an individual or organisation has achieved in performing assigned tasks over a period of time. When this exercise is properly carried out, it helps the organisation measure, measure whatever something is going in workers' delivery of their duties.

In her contribution, Dr. Celestina Johnson, who spoke at the University as a System of Cooperative Workplace, described self-management as the attitude of employees towards their training and career development. "It is the state of mind that determines what extent employees are willing to take their self-development into their own hands," she told the participants.

Also present at the event were STADU Officer, Dr. Fidelis Janaka and the University of Port Harcourt Branch Chairman of the Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU), Mrs. Beauty Igwe.