



Pro-Chancellor Commissions Pharmaceutical Sciences Building, Residential Blocks

Infrastructure development in the University received a major boost as Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Engineer Gesi Asamaowei, commissioned some building projects at the Permanent Site, University Park, last Monday. The projects commissioned were the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences building and blocks of residential flats for staff, reports Obinna Nwodin.

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Side Bar

The University of Port Harcourt celebrated the 2015 African Universities Day last Thursday. Details next week ~Editor



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UniPort Gets Commonwealth Sports Centre

By Otikor Samuel

In consolidation of its rising profile as a centre of sporting excellence in Africa, plans have been concluded by the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) to set up another continental sports centre in the University in pursuit of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) EQUIP Programme aimed at providing more facilities for capacity training.

Secretary-General of the Nigeria Olympic Committee, Babatunde Popoola, who broke the cheering news in a letter dated October 14, 2015, and addressed to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, disclosed that the decision to domicile the proposed Centre in UniPort was reached at the General Assembly of the CGF held in Auckland, New Zealand in September 2015.

"We wish to inform you that at a meeting of the Commonwealth Games Federation General Assembly which took place in Auckland from 1st-2nd September, 2015, it was agreed that a meeting of the proposed CGF EQUIP programme should meet in Mauritius from 26th-27th November, 2015," read part of the letter.

Secretary-General of NOC further stated that: "The countries in Africa

that are members of the EQUIP programme are Cameroon, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone and Tanzania and all NOCs were mandated to appoint a University from their various countries that they intend to partner for the CGF EQUIP programme. In view of the

bilateral relationship that currently exists between NOC and University of Port Harcourt which serves as our Olympafrica Centre, we decided to nominate University of Port Harcourt as one of those universities in Africa for the EQUIP programme that we shall partner for the

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Newly-elected President, CGF
Louise Martin



Vice-Chancellor
Prof Lale

UK Varsity Seeks Partnership With UniPort



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British Council To Partner Conflict Centre



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NEEDS Assessment Team Tour TETFund Projects



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UniLag Alumni Rolls Out Red Carpet For Briggs



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UK Varsity Seeks Partnership With UniPort

By Marvellous Abel
and Chiemeka Adindu (Interns)

In line with the new administration's drive for world-class University status, a team of foreign collaborators from Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, United Kingdom, has proposed a partnership to strengthen Engineering Studies in the University of Port Harcourt.

Speaking during a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, last Tuesday, Regional Manager of the Africa International Office of Robert Gordon University, Mr. Jamie Hastings, described his University as one of the oldest Institutions in the United Kingdom, which hosts numerous black students, stating that they were in UniPort to seek mutually beneficial partnership.

"The aim of the visit is to explore international linkages with the University at both the Graduate and Undergraduate levels," he said, adding that the exploratory talk was necessitated by what he

described as the excellent performance of graduates from the University who underwent graduate programmes at Robert Gordon University. Mr. Hastings, who expressed hope that the visit would mark the beginning of a fruitful relationship with the University of Port Harcourt, stated that he was glad to have made the visit to the University at last to cement the relationship.

In his remarks, a member of the delegation, who is also a graduate of the University, Mr. Ibiye Iyalla, expressed optimism that the proposed partnership would yield positive results for both institutions, stating that there were numerous benefits to be derived from the collaboration. Mr. Iyalla who graduated from the Department of Electrical/Electronics Engineering,

noted that the time has come for Robert Gordon University to partner the University in diverse specializations aimed at developing the skills of students of the University.

Responding, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, expressed gratitude to the visiting delegation for their interest in the University, hoping that the partnership would provide an opportunity for both institutions to get the best from each other. He noted that the University which had a lot of experience in managing international partnerships was fully prepared for the collaboration.

Also speaking, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Maureen Etebu, expressed gratitude for the partnership proposal, assuring the delegation of full cooperation from her Faculty.



DV-C (Admin), Prof. Ibe (centre, front row) flanked by Leader of the team, Mr. Hastings, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo and Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi (left), Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Etebu, DV-C (Acad), Prof. Igbo Joe and Director, ELP, Prof. Iheanacho Akakuru

STUDENT WORLD

By the time he rounded off his secondary education at the Federal Science and Technical College, Yaba, Lagos, Emmanuel Etuk already knew what career he would like to pursue at university level. Although his parents expected him to study medicine, Etuk had his eyes firmly locked on boosting food production in Nigeria and he didn't need the expertise of a career adviser to make up his mind in that direction. "I had a natural flair for plants and agricultural science in my Secondary School days," he said with a discernible sense of self-assurance that comes from a sound understanding of his career choice.

"I chose to study Crop and Soil Science in 2009, because I had always wanted to go into

We Need Better Agric Policy In Nigeria ~Etuk

At a time when Nigerian youths with science background find it fashionable to study Medicine and Surgery or Engineering in the university, Emmanuel Etuk, uncharacteristically chose to study Crop Production in the Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture. He spoke with HUMPHREY OGU on his research project and his experience as a student:

agriculture, especially food production which should preoccupy experts and policy makers alike in this country today. I always believe that the economy of Nigeria, like the economies of some other nations, will depend on agriculture in future. Today, oil which is the mainstay of Nigeria's economy is losing its value on the volatile global market. We have more demand for food with increasing human population; hence agriculture will play a vital role in the sustenance of the nation's economy in the years ahead," Etuk explained in a tone that betrayed magisterial opinion on the subject matter.

"I chose the University of Port Harcourt for my Undergraduate studies, because it is one of the few universities that offered Crop and Soil Science as a discipline. Others have either Crop Science or Soil Science as separate courses," he disclosed, stressing the need for the incorporation of practice-based courses in the area of crop storage and preservation, processing and value addition. Etuk, who is currently concluding work on his final year project on *Phenotypic Classification of Selected Accessions of Okra in Tropical Humid Ecotype*, supervised by Professor Michael Ogburn, disclosed that his study is aimed at classifying physical characteristics of okra for easy identification. This is at a time when most of his colleagues are still sourcing research materials to commence chapter one of their projects, having wasted their time on fruitless *aluta* struggles and parties.

"I am looking at the response of okra to the climatic condition of Rivers State. I want to be able to develop primary data of the physical characteristics of the accessions cultivated under the climate of Rivers State," he explained, adding that he is studying how okra performs and how

their performances are interpreted in terms of their physical characteristics.

Etuk, whose ambition is to be a lecturer and consultant to farmers at the end of his studies, said: "I intend to go into entrepreneurship and value addition by processing agro-products into more available forms with longer shelf life. I am also interested in Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business in future."

Emphasising the importance of good agricultural policies to boost food production and build a robust economy, Etuk noted that "we need more agricultural development policies, enhance production and increase agricultural produce for local farmers that is market value-driven."

He described agriculture as a diverse field with endless opportunities, "because man must eat and agriculturalists will always be needed to feed people at any point in the historical evolution of man." Etuk, who advised younger colleagues to embrace agriculture as a discipline, urged students to start their project early enough and focus on their studies, rather than allowing themselves to be distracted by the bright lights of Campus and street life.



Etuk

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Commissioning the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences building, Engineer Asamao, who commended the Vice-Chancellor, expressed delight at the development. He observed that Professor Ndowa Lale's tenure as Vice-Chancellor has brought a new phase of luck to the University, expressing hope that such luck would continue to enable the University grow.

The Pro-Chancellor also commended the contractor for the quality and timely delivery of the project, advising that such conscientious contractors should be encouraged to deliver more quality projects to the University.

At the commissioning of the residential buildings, the Chairman of Council congratulated the Housing Committee for ensuring that more staff were accommodated on Campus, disclosing that the Council increased the budgetary allocation towards staff accommodation in the last budget exercise. Engineer Asamao stressed the need to continue the drive towards more residential buildings to reduce the perennial accommodation problem facing staff.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lale, who expressed delight over the development, pointed out that the projects which began under the dispensation of his predecessor was completed in the present dispensation due to the level of support provided by the Governing Council.

Professor Lale, who stated that the Faculty members and students would benefit from the edifice, also commended the contractor for putting up such an aesthetic building at such great speed.

At the commissioning of the residential quarters, the Vice-Chancellor noted that housing has become a major challenge to the University, adding that through effort of the Housing Committee, the University would boost the

Pro-Chancellor Commissions Pharmaceutical Sciences Building



Pro-Chancellor, Engr. Asamao (5th left) supported by V-C, Prof Lale, cutting the tape to commission the building, while DV-Cs (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe and (Academic), Prof Joe (right), Ag. Registrar, Mrs. Bridget Nzimiro and Univ. Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo and others watch

welfare of staff through campus accommodation.

Earlier, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor Oleka Udeala, who thanked the authorities of the University for putting up such a structure, pledged that the building which would enhance academic work in the Faculty would be properly utilized.

Chairman of the Housing Committee, Professor Anthony Ekine, disclosed that the project was completed through direct labour, appealing to Management of the University

to give more support to the Committee to achieve more in the provision of residential accommodation to staff.

The two-storey Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences building which was constructed by ECOO Energy and Development Technologies Limited consists of offices, lecture halls and offices for academic activities. The staff residential apartments commissioned were two blocks of three bedroom apartments and two blocks of two bedroom apartments at New Ghana-Ama.

British Council To Partner Conflict Centre In Training

By Mercy Adeniji

The Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies has expressed its willingness to partner the British Council in reaching out to counterpart universities in the United Kingdom to enhance research, training and scholarship opportunities for staff and students of the University of Port Harcourt. Briefing *UniPort Weekly* on the outcome of the visit, Acting Director of the Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies, Dr. Fidelis Allen, disclosed that the purpose of the visit was to seek areas of institutional collaboration that would be of mutual benefit to the partners. "The Regional Director of the British Council in sub-Saharan Africa, Mandy Johnson, and her team came to the University to engage in exploratory talks with us regarding collaboration in specific areas of scholarship and exchange programmes and one of the outcomes of that discussion is the space we now have to be able to forge viable partnerships in areas that can benefit the academic community here.

"We are now at the stage of identifying specific areas of collaboration, and we hope to meet the Coordinator of the British Council in Port Harcourt to discuss the way forward. "The main essence of the visit to the University of Port Harcourt was to enable the British

Council explore possible areas of intervention in the development of higher education in the next academic session.

He expressed optimism that the visit of officials of the British Council can help the University build long-term relationships in terms of exchange programmes between staff and students of the University and research agencies in the United Kingdom through the mediation of the British Council. "We also hope that the British Council would be a willing partner based on our discussions with it on how we can be part of its capacity building initiative. The Council has also expressed specific interest in the Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies and we have provided the necessary information that could facilitate future partnerships in that regard," he said.

"The British Council is the United Kingdom's International organization for cultural relations, delivering a mixed portfolio of activities in the higher education sector, including promoting collaborative research, capacity building, conferences, policy dialogue and managing a range of scholarships that would afford students an opportunity to study in the United Kingdom", Dr. Allen explained.

The Acting Director revealed that the Centre would seek to become a centre of excellence in research, training, peace and gender studies in the next five

years, in collaboration with other international organizations, governmental agencies, civil societies and public-spirited individuals seeking to understand conflict and gender issues in a wider perspective.

Stop Press

Mgt Bans Parking Of Vehicles Within Senate Building

Staff and members of the public, who have formed the habit of parking their vehicles directly in front of the Senate Building have been directed to stop the practice forthwith, reminding car owners that the space in front of the Senate building is a car-free zone.

A statement signed by the Acting Registrar, Mrs. Bridget Nzimiro, warned that henceforth, only Principal Officers and very distinguished visitors are allowed access into the security barricade enclosure of the Senate Building. Staff are by this notice advised to use the designated car park provided around the Senate Building. The directive by Management is for strict compliance by all staff.

UCACICSL Calling Cooperative Members

The Unique Choba Amiable Cooperative Investment and Credit Society Limited (UCAICSL), University of Port Harcourt, holds her 2014 Annual General Meeting as Follows:

Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2015.

Time: 10.00 am prompt

Venue: International Students' Centre, University Park.

Contact: Chairman Planning Committee on 08035531571.



Regional Director, British Council in sub-Saharan Africa, Johnson, Ag. Director, Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies, Dr. Allen (2nd right) and others

AWARD Fellow Ends Modelling Event

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

A winner of the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Fellowship, Mrs. Blessing Odogwu of the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology in the Faculty of Science, has ended a role-modelling event as a way of sharing the gains of the Fellowship with other Faculty members.

Briefing a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent on the event which held at the African Regional Aquaculture Centre (ARAC) on October 2, 2015, Odogwu, who is currently a Doctoral student at Makerere University in Uganda, noted that the role-modelling event would create a ripple effect. "As Fellows share their experience and expertise, it is hoped that in the long run, this will enable more women and young girls to follow careers in agricultural research and development," she disclosed. Explaining that the event provided an avenue to share her experience with her colleagues, Odogwu who spoke on *Empowering Women and Youth in Agricultural*

Research and Development, regretted that lack of career guidance and mentorship in agriculture, research and development (AR&D) has reduced interest among

Undergraduate students, particularly young women, to pursue careers in agriculture. "The role-modelling event aimed at sensitizing university students in the South-South region on new trends in Agriculture in Africa and the contributions of the Fellowship to the African continent," she added.

Commending AWARD for providing a platform for female Scientists in Africa to excel as agricultural research and development experts

through its mentorship and Fellowship programmes, a visibly delighted Odogwu called for concerted efforts through innovative agricultural research and development projects to boost food production in the country and the African continent.

It would be recalled that a total of 390 African female Scientists from 11 countries on the continent have so far benefitted from the prestigious Fellowship.



Former Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Love Akonye, Prof. Bosa Ikoli and others after the event. Inset: AWARD Fellow, Mrs. Odogwu

Uzodike Makes Case For German Studies In Nigerian Varsities

By Humphrey Ogu



Dr. Uzodike

Dr. Chinwendu Uzodike of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, has stressed the importance of German Studies in Nigeria, noting that the initiative has become necessary in the age of globalization.

Exchanging views with *UniPort Weekly*, Uzodike, who disclosed that she had taught German to foreigners in Germany for over 12 years, recalled that she was invited by the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, to design a degree programme in German Studies in the Department.

"I have been able to draw course outlines for German/English and German/French programmes with German as major in each of the course combinations. The programmes are designed to meet the National Universities Commission (NUC) requirements and we have also taken job employment prospects of graduates of the programme into consideration. The completed course outlines have been submitted to the Head of the Department for implementation," she said, expressing a desire to commence the programme in the next academic session.

Dr. Uzodike noted that there are plenty of opportunities for graduates of German Studies, explaining that "a graduate of Foreign Languages and Literatures with German major can work in Embassies if he or she meets the requirement to reside and work in Europe. Graduates of German Studies could also run Master's degree programmes in German universities and work as teachers of German by teaching the language to foreigners. Such graduates should be able to also function in the personnel department of companies, if exposed to international correspondence."

Uzodike, who is an alumna of UniPort, having earlier obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry, before travelling to Germany, where she earned her Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees in Intercultural German Studies from the University of Mainz.

She noted that she was welcomed to the University with open arms and is motivated to carry on by wonderful students that keep her going, blaming her inability to achieve set goals, especially commencing the German Studies programme in the University on bureaucratic bottlenecks that she expects the University to tackle very urgently.

NEEDS Assessment Team Tours TETFund Project Sites In UniPort

By Obinna Nwodin

In conforming with the regulatory processes establishing the NEEDS Assessment Scheme in Nigerian universities, the University of Port Harcourt played host to an Assessment Team that was in the Institution to inspect ongoing projects. The facility visit which lasted between Tuesday, 3 and Friday, 4 November, 2015, took the team to various project sites at the Permanent Site of the University.

Speaking during a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, leader of the delegation and Chairman of the Committee of Pro-Chancellors of Federal Universities in Nigeria, Professor Kimbe Okoko, who explained that the Committee was set up by the Federal Government to carry out the best monitoring of NEEDS Assessment projects in all Nigerian universities, pointed out that the exercise would be of immense benefits to the universities.

According to Professor Okoko, the findings of the team will enable it advise the Federal Government on the best possible ways to ensure that projects in the universities are properly funded and managed to enhance quality tertiary education. He explained that "ongoing projects assessment will enable the institutions that are

diligent with their NEEDS project implementation to speedily access the next stage of funds set aside for that purpose by Government," commending the authorities of the University of Port Harcourt for providing the Committee with the basic requirements needed to carry out its assignment in a most effective manner.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, who was represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, said that "the assessment which was a welcome development would go a long way in improving the funding of projects in Nigerian universities and it is our hope that this assessment will be a prelude to more good things to come to our University. We wish to pledge full cooperation of the

Management of the University to ensure that the NEEDS Assessment team carried out its assignment to specification to help ease the office and classroom problems facing universities in Nigeria," Professor Ibe told the visiting team.

The Committee visited various project sites funded by TETFund in the University. The projects inspected were: Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences Laboratory, Central Instruments Laboratory, Phases I and II of the Faculty of Education building, Construction of Management Sciences building Phase II, Central Staff Office building, Civil Engineering building, Faculty of Basic Sciences Laboratory and the Faculty of Agriculture. Other projects inspected included Female Hostel, Female Medical Hostel, Institute of Sports, Construction of 1.56km Access Road and Drainage, College of Health Sciences Auditorium, Renovation of Sports Complex, as well as supply and installation of two 1000KVA electricity generating sets.



DI-C (Admin), Prof. Ibe (centre), flanked by Chairman of the C'ttee of Pro-Chancellors of Fed. Universities in Nigeria, Prof. Okoko (3rd left), DI-C, (Academic), Prof. Joe, other members of the NEEDS Assessment team and Senior Officers of UniPort

UniLag Alumni Rolls Out Red Carpet For Briggs, Others

By Williams Wodi

The goodness and other countless virtues that stand Emeritus Professor Briggs out of the crowd were on song last Friday as the Alumni Association of the University of Lagos rolled out the red carpet for one of its most distinguished members. Having led a life of distinguished service in public service and in his personal life, Briggs continues to exude the confidence of a man with the universal tool-kit to solve problems. Widely acknowledged as a great pioneer on many fronts, Emeritus Professor Briggs carries on with the force of energy even in retirement from decades of distinguished medical practice and glittering public service. For a man of such high standing in society, accolades are not in short

achievers, no matter where they may hide and how long it may take to find them," Bello said on behalf of his absentee boss, who pleaded the old excuse of having diverted from the event by the weight of his office. Very few persons were impressed by the outdated alibi.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rahamon Bello, attempted to rewrite history when he claimed that UniLag was the first university in Nigeria, and before some enraged fellow from Ibadan tried to cry blue murder, the Vice-Chancellor clarified his point: "University of Lagos is the first University that was established by an Act of Parliament and so it is the nation's pride." The 'other one' (obviously referring to the University of Ibadan), was merely a University College. The prompt clarification averted a looming 'civil war' on the floor of the expansive five thousand capacity multipurpose auditorium that evening. He then went on to remind the audience that Vice-President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo and five other distinguished Alumni were honoured the previous Saturday at the same venue, pointing out that



Emeritus Prof Briggs (right) receiving his plaque

supply from individuals and corporate bodies that periodically recognize his measure of merit, and they have been coming in torrents in recent times. Those who follow the giant footprints of Emeritus Professor Briggs did not have to wait for too long before watching him mount the podium once again to be garlanded for his uncommon exploits in the service of humanity. This time, it was the University of Lagos, his *Alma Mater* that rolled out the red carpet for him to walk through to the klieg lights.

The Distinguished Alumni Award and Dinner 2015 was packaged to honour accomplished Alumni/Alumnae of the University of Lagos 'in recognition of their contributions to National Development.' The individuals so cited had very distinguished careers that held them out as worthy role models in a society that is in short supply of exemplary citizens. Like Emeritus Professor Briggs, the Distinguished Award recipients were all shining exemplars of good conduct and sacrifice on a grand scale. Briggs shared the moment of glory with eight other very distinguished Alumni, who were cited for their glittering careers and exemplary lifestyle.

The University of Lagos is a place of lasting memories for Emeritus Professor Briggs and the place of solemn remembrance is made solid by a good institutional memory. More than five decades have passed since Briggs and his fellow honourees graduated from Akoka, yet, the memories of their days as students came flooding back on this night of glory and encomiums.

The fact that the organizers commenced the event about three hours behind schedule did nothing to diminish its sheer scale, grandeur and historic import. Once the procedural hurdles were crossed, National President of the University of Lagos Alumni Association, Dr. Sonny Kuku, struck the right cord with a rousing welcome speech that raised great expectations of what the night was to offer guests who turned out from all walks of life.

It sounded like sectoral allocation of honours when Dr Kuku said: "We are honouring Alumni who have distinguished themselves in various sectors of national life and those we have selected stand out as shining lights in their specializations. We also wish to use the event to raise money to finance projects in the University." He then proceeded to remind the audience that the awardees were not selected because of the depth of their pockets.

Secretary to the State Government, Mr. Tunji Bello, who verbalized the thoughts of the Lagos State Governor, Akinwunmi Ambode as Special Guest of Honour, made it known to all guests that Mr. Governor and his representative are great Akokites and, therefore, had more than passing interest in the development of the institution as symbolized by events of the evening.

"I am very excited that university managements are increasingly recognizing the role of Alumni Associations for their remarkable contributions to the development of their *Alma Mater*. Honour will always locate great



National President of UniLag Alumni Association, Dr. Kuku (right) congratulating Emeritus Prof Briggs

universities were usually rated by their achievements. The weight of the event was not lost on the audience and especially the awardees themselves, who brimmed with gratitude and self-satisfaction. Former Ekiti State Governor, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, who chaired the event, apologized for arriving late, reminding guests that he had to extricate himself from an ongoing Presidential Retreat for Ministers-designate to make it to

Lagos. His intellectual side came to the fore as he stressed the place of Alumni Associations in the advancement of their *Alma Mater*s, expressing happiness that their role was now being taken seriously by university managements and policy makers. "Alumni Associations are the best markers of their universities and role models to students. UniLag may not be the first, but we are certainly the best in Nigeria," Fayemi said, urging graduates of Nigerian universities to identify with their *Alma Mater*.

Ace television producer, Bisi Olatito, who was conscripted on the floor to anchor the event, reminded the audience that Dr. Fayemi "dazed them and they dozed off at his Senate Ministerial Screening." Mr. Olatito's poetic license was well complemented by the sonorous music medley provided by actress-turned singer, Jennifer Eliogu and the Cruise Band led by Ivo Manifest. Emeritus Professor Briggs, who graduated from the College of Medicine in 1969, was cited for academic excellence and for making the joys and grief of others his own, including his relentless pursuit of good courses. The brief citation read by Chairman of the Award Committee, Dr. Charity Iriobe, revealed that Briggs scored Distinction and Best Student in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Paediatrics as a medical student. He also won the Janet Kirkpatrick Gold Medal, as well as the E. W. L. Thompson Prize. He was also a Commonwealth Scholar and holds the Fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

As Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt and Chairman of the Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVNU), Emeritus Professor Briggs was credited for rebranding the Association to play a central role in the development of higher education in Nigeria. Briggs was the only recipient who said nothing in response to the award. The ironic twist was that a man whose oratory served as a powerful force that shaped his world had said nothing as he received his plaque, but words were not strong enough to respond to the encomiums poured on him by the orator on that day. The National President and Chairman of the occasion touched a raw nerve when they separately eulogized one of the award recipients, late Dr. Stella Adadevoh, who sacrificed her life to save Nigeria from the Ebola scourge in 2014. Her son, Bankole Cardoso, was on hand to receive the posthumous award to the memory of his mother. "By identifying the index patient in the August, 2014 Ebola outbreak in Nigeria, she prevented a national catastrophe, left a permanent mark on society, and solidified her legacy as a courageous and patriotic heroine. Her country honours her heroic actions and remembers her in gratitude for paying the ultimate price with her life."

It was a night to remember by Emeritus Professor Briggs, who was supported by his wife and children, including Retired Justice Adolphus Karibi-Whyte, former Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Professor Peter Okebukola, immediate past Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Joseph Ajenka, Professor Celestine John, amongst other dignitaries.



A Lady Data Briggs displaying her husband's award to the admiration of family members and Alumni officials

UniPort Gets Commonwealth Sports Centre

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programme." Responding to the development, a visibly enthused Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ale, expressed gratitude to the Commonwealth for the Centre in recognition of its dominance in sporting activities and sports development. "I wish to commend the Nigeria Olympic Committee for bringing the Centre to our University; let me assure them that we will do everything possible to grow the Centre to maturity and position it as a centre of excellence in the West Africa sub-region and beyond."

In his reaction, Director of the Sports Institute, Professor Ken Anugweje, who expressed joy over the decision of the NOC to domicile the proposed Centre in the University, said the Centre which was informed by the bilateral relationship existing between the University and NOC, is designed to equip member countries with facilities and requisite manpower.

Professor Anugweje, who attributed the idea of establishing the Centre to the numerous sporting exploits of Team UniPort in both regional and continental sport meets, said the proposed Centre would add impetus to the already established ones such as the Olympafira UniPort Centre and the IAAF/CAF High Performance Centre, which are geared towards the development of sports among universities in West African.

"As the name implies, the EQUIP programme will involve in equipping each member country in sports science, sports infrastructure, sports equipment, sports business and sports knowledge. It is expected that each Centre will in turn deliver such knowledge to its country of origin," explained Professor Anugweje.



Dr C (Academic), Prof Joe, Director, Sports Institute, Prof Anugweje, Chairman, Sports Mgt C'ttee, Prof Matthew Wegwu and others, watching a mock wrestling contest at the unveiling of a light-weight Wrestling Mat at the Sports Institute last month

On the benefit of the proposed Centre to the University, the Director said: "There are many intangible things that can hardly be quantified in financial terms. That the University is enjoying a pride of place in sports in the whole world is one of the intangible benefits that we are reaping today. We have the Olympafira Centre for Nigeria, the International Association of Athletic Federation/Confederation of African Football (CAF) High Performance Centre for English-speaking West Africa and now, the Commonwealth General Federation (CGF) Centre in this University. This is

something other universities can only dream about. Globally, whenever University of Port Harcourt is mentioned, the first thing that comes to people's mind is sports."

Professor Anugweje, who further stated that other Centres in the Sports Institute are active in the training of sports enthusiasts, disclosed that some Gambians are currently training in the High Performance Centre, pointing out that athletes from Ghana and Cameroon are also expected to arrive soon to commence training. Additional report by our Intern, Chiemeka Adindu.

NAAHHT Brainstorms On Animal Production, Health Challenges

By Humphrey Ogu

Ways of tackling the numerous challenges affecting the animal production industry formed the main thrust of the 28th Annual National Conference of the Nigerian Association of Animal Health and Husbandry Technologists (NAAHHT) held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Tuesday, November 3, 2015.

Welcoming guests to the Conference, which had *Contending with Emerging Challenges in Animal Production Industry: Animal Health Practitioners' Perspective* as its theme, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Ale, who spoke through the Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Professor Regina Ogali, commended the Association for choosing to hold the Conference in UniPort, promising full support for the body as it seeks to fashion out a regulatory framework to guide its conduct.

Declaring the Conference open, Governor Nyesom Wike, noted that the Government of Rivers State was committed to the development of agriculture to boost food production and create employment opportunities in the State, calling for support from experts in the areas of research to achieve government objectives.

The Governor, who spoke through the Commissioner of Agriculture, Mrs. Onimim Jack, said: "Our administration is committed to the development of

agriculture and in line with our commitment; we are planning to establish veterinary hospitals and also intend to upgrade existing abattoirs in the state to international standards to safeguard the health of meat consumers in the State."

In his keynote address on the theme of the Conference, Professor Nnadi Wekhe, who noted that "most of the livestock diseases of economic importance are found in Africa, Near East and Asia, said: "Immunisation of animals with vaccines has been found to be very useful and economical and apparently most considered for developing countries," adding that "vaccination prevents diseases from attacking animal, so it reduces the cost of treatment since animals have been prevented from disease attack."

Wekhe stressed the need for governments to desist from appointing non-professionals as Commissioners or Ministers of Agriculture and allow professionals to man the ministries of their professions. "The challenges in the control of diseases are caused by numerous challenges, including socio-political stability of a country; access to all livestock by veterinary personnel; input of resources to supply and deliver vaccines; maintenance of effective surveillance systems to detect suspected cases at an early stage; provision of trained manpower and resources to implement disease-control strategies in the event of outbreaks," he said.

On his part, Guest Speaker, Professor Andrew Efemini,

who decried the way livestock are handled in Nigeria, noted that "professional bodies have standards and code of conducts which should always be adhered to. There should be regulation in the practice of animal husbandry and training provided to people who handle livestock to ensure that they are properly handled." He observed that with growing human population, if livestock are not taken care of, there would be food shortage in the near future. "As an association, you have ethical, political, scientific, cultural responsibilities to protect your profession and ensure the wellbeing of livestock," he said.

Earlier in his address, National President of the Association, Mr. Godfrey Osuji, disclosed that the theme of the conference was chosen to coincide with the ongoing reforms in *Animal Health and Veterinary Practice*, adding that "the Nigerian Association of Animal Health and Husbandry Technologists has through its present Executive, recorded impressive success and progress in all facets and every efforts must be made to sustain this achievement."

In her goodwill message, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Ekanem Wokoma, said: "We in the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Port Harcourt greatly commend the efforts of the Association in promoting rapid production of high quality animal protein through scientific methods and your efforts in creating a Regulatory Council to actualise your dream for a better NAAHHT and the wellbeing of Nigerians."

Also speaking, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Dr Opuda Ekine, expressed gratitude to all who made it possible for the conference to hold in the

University, hoping that the outcome would result in better public awareness of the importance of the body. The conference, which drew participants from across the nation, featured plenary and scientific sessions, a drama sketch by the Department of Theatre and Film Studies and goodwill messages from National President of the Medical and Health Workers Union of Nigeria represented by the Secretary, Mr. Silas Adamu, amongst others.



Rep of the V-C, Prof Ogali (4th right), R/S Commissioner of Agriculture, Mrs. Jack, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof Wokoma, Keynote Speaker, Prof Wekhe (middle) and others

GUIDEPOST

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Mr. Humphrey Kalio, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective February 23 2016 to February 22, 2017.

Mr. Richard Sikpi, Department of Curriculum Studies/Education Technology, Faculty of Education, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective February 27, 2016.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Dr. Ishmael Gwunirema, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to the African Heritage Research and Publications, Lagos, effective November 1, 2015.

RESUMPTION FROM SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Iniobong Udoidem, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, *Resumed Duty from Sabbatical Leave*, effective October 2, 2015.

Professor Henry Bell-Gam, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, *Resumed Duty from Sabbatical Leave*, effective October 5, 2015.

REGULARISATION OF APPOINTMENT

Mrs. Ifeoma Ekenna, Department of Pharmaceutical and Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Assistant Lecturer*, effective May 2, 2014.

Mrs. Deborah Onwusa, Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Management, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Lecturer II*, effective May 2, 2014.

Mrs. Chioma Chinaka, Department of Clinical Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Lecturer II*, effective April 22, 2014.

VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT

Mr. Eric Kegbara, Department of Works and Services, Office of the Director, granted *Statutory Retirement from Service*, effective October 30, 2015.

ADDITION OF NAME

PROFESSOR ARTHUR NWAFOR CHUMERE. Professor Arthur Nwafor of the Department of Human Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, wishes to be known, called and addressed as **PROFESSOR ARTHUR NWAFOR CHUMERE**. All former documents bearing his former name remain valid. The University of Port and the general public should take note.

Idemiyor Blames Weak Health Systems For Resurgence Of Ebola

Professor of Clinical Pharmacy, Vincent Idemiyor, has identified weak health systems, lack of licensed therapists and slow development of vaccines as some of the factors that contribute to the periodic resurgence of Ebola ever since the hemorrhagic fever was discovered in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1976, reports Correspondent, OTIKOR SAMUEL, with additional stories from Interns, MARVELLOUS ABEL, CHIEMEKA ADINDU, CYNDY HERBERT and RUKKY ORLU-MAKELE.

Professor Vincent Idemiyor is a Visiting Scholar from the University of Illinois, Chicago in the United States. Ever since he arrived in the University of Port Harcourt as a National Universities Commission Lead Scholar, Idemiyor has been tracking disease patterns and proffering solutions on how to stop them from ravaging citizens who die for lack of knowledge of preventive measures against communicable and non-communicable diseases.

The Ebola scourge that decimated countries in West Africa and triggered a health alarm in Nigeria offered Professor Idemiyor yet another opportunity to go back to the trenches to seek solutions to the dreaded disease that claimed nearly 30 lives in Nigeria while it held sway in 2014. Commending Nigerian leaders and healthcare professionals for their prompt intervention that saved the day when Ebola was on the march, Idemiyor advised African countries not to celebrate too soon about the defeat of the virus because of its ability to resurface at the slightest opportunity. The dreaded hemorrhagic fever, according to him, has the capacity to stage a comeback and infect more people with looming disastrous consequences owing to a number of factors that undermine the health system in sub-Saharan Africa. "My submission is that despite the

declaration by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that some West African countries recently affected by the scourge have attained the window period to be declared free from the virus, the disease has the capacity to stage a return."

Professor Idemiyor made the observations while briefing *UniPort Weekly* on the outcome of his presentation at the combined 38th and 39th Annual General Meeting of the West African College of Physicians held at the Sheraton Hotels, Abuja between November 2 and 6, 2015. The Clinical Pharmacist presented a paper entitled, "Ebola Viral Disease: Challenges of Therapy and Prospects of Vaccines" which formed a major highlight of the well-attended AGM.

"Ebola in West Africa has been the most tragic because it infected and killed more people than it did in other parts of the world, including the Democratic Republic of Congo from where it originated in 1976. This is due to weak health systems, paucity of skilled manpower, including the cost and time required to develop vaccines to tackle the disease. We must have very good emergency response systems to be able to contain Ebola whenever it comes back. During the most recent outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), a number of patients in the United States were successfully treated, using convalescent whole blood or plasma therapy and investigational agents. Most of these patients survived because supportive care in the United States is provided at a higher level than was the case in sub-Saharan Africa, where most of those infected died. A better healthcare system could have resulted in better outcomes in the affected countries," he explained.

The Visiting Scholar, who disclosed that he attended the AGM as a Resource Person, said that it attracted about 1,300 participants from across Africa and other parts of the world, adding that: "I have closely followed developments from 2003 when the Ebola trial started till date. The trial was titled: *Ebola Ça Suffit*, which means *Ebola: Enough is Enough*. The ongoing trial is a Ring Vaccination Trial which is one of the most successful trials in West Africa and it was done in Guinea to evaluate the efficacy and effectiveness of the vaccine during outbreaks. The trial commenced with rodents, to non-human primates and then to humans in line with best global practice in such scientific investigation."

Speaking further on other drugs that held out promises of tackling the disease, Idemiyor said: "Chloroquine, which is originally used in the treatment of malaria, was shown to be effective in the treatment of Ebola in rodents because it changes the pH of the Ebola environment and stops the movement of the virus to the next stage which is an effective control mechanism. Ebola uses an acidic media when it is in the endosome, that is, the cell. It is first transcribed before it replicates. Ebola works in an acidic environment, so chloroquine changes it from being acidic to becoming alkaline which is an unfriendly environment for Ebola to survive."

He also mentioned *rosuvastatin* as "a drug used in humans to decrease cholesterol because Ebola needs cholesterol to attack the human immune system. So, *rosuvastatin* which reduces the amount of cholesterol in the human body is thus able to fight the virus."

Professor Idemiyor, who bemoaned the absence of approved vaccines or therapeutics currently available for prevention, post-exposure, or treatment of the EVD, expressed optimism that "with the research on trial vaccines now on the third phase, the cure for the deadly virus may soon be found, but while we await clinically proven cure for the virus, we need to do everything possible to control Ebola from spreading once it breaks out in a particular location or country."



Prof Idemiyor

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT

WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 – SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 15 NOV, 2015	35.023.0	63	NE	16.6	6:18:13	Thunderstorms expected late in the day. More clouds than sun anticipated.
MONDAY, 16 NOV, 2015	33.0 23.0	71	NE	2.2	6:18:13	Thunderstorms expected late in the day. Morning clouds forecasted.
TUESDAY, 17 NOV, 2015	32.0 23.0	69	NE	2.0	6:18:13	Thunderstorms expected late in the day. More clouds than sun expected.
WEDNESDAY, 18 NOV, 2015	34.024.0	74	NE	-	6:20:13	Mostly cloudy day anticipated.
THURSDAY, 19 NOV, 2015	34.024.0	70	NE	-	6:20:13	Mostly cloudy day forecasted.
FRIDAY, 20 NOV, 2015	34.023.0	71	NE	2.2	6:21:13	Thunderstorms expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day expected.
SATURDAY, 21 NOV, 2015	34.023.0	65	NE	3.1	6:21:14	Thunder storms expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day anticipated.

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD

Dr. Prince Mmom
AG. Director, (CDRMS)

FRSC Trains UniPort Drivers

The Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) drilled drivers in the University on a two-day defensive driving techniques on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 October, 2015. The event which took place at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium also featured medical and health checks on the drivers. Our Cameraman, **MITCHEL EBI-EKIYOR** captured highlights of the event:



D V-C, (Admin) Prof Anthony Ibe (left), receiving the FRSC team during a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor



Senior Officers of the University and the FRSC team after the courtesy visit



Deputy Director, Centre for Logistics and Transport (CELTRAS) Dr. Gladys Emenike, delivering the welcome address



Visiting Scholar, Prof Vincent Idemiyor, delivering a keynote address



D V-C, (Academic) Prof Igbo Joe speaking



Mr. Joseph Udoabba, Deputy Corp Commander, Rivers State, also speaking



Facilitator of the training, Dr. Sylvester Udeorah



V-C, Prof Ndowa Lale, making a presentation to the FRSC team member



Senior Officers of the University and FRSC at the opening ceremony



A cross-section of participants at the training



V-C, Prof Lale, declaring the training closed



V-C, Prof Lale (5th right) DV-C, (Admin) Prof Ibe (4th right) and FRSC Officials



Participants in a group photograph with V-C, Senior Officers of the University and FRSC team