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## Ogoina Tasks Care-Givers On Latest Hospital Procedures At Francis Lecture



**A**gainst the backdrop of latest research findings which estimated medical errors as the third leading cause of death in the United States of America, a Consultant Physician at the Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital, Professor Dinie Ogoina, has stressed the need for medical doctors and other care-givers to place more emphasis on the protection of patients against Healthcare-Associated Infections (HCAI), reports *Otikor Samuel*: *More on p3*

## Side Bar CLAUDE AKE LECTURE

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Lecture by the Claude Ake Professorial Chair of Political Economy took place last Thursday at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Details next week  
~Editor

### Abarikwu Donates To Biochemistry Dept



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## Ojinnaka, Oti, Maduagwu, Onyeozu Bow Out At Valedictory Senate Session

By Obinna Nwodin

**I**t was an outpouring of encomiums at the 6<sup>th</sup> Valedictory Senate Session of the University as colleagues, friends, students and well-wishers gathered to honour four retiring professors as they marked their exit from formal academic activities. The well-attended event took place last Wednesday morning at the Senate Chambers.

The retirees are: Professors Chukwunonye Ojinnaka of the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Michael Oti of the Department of Geology, both of the Faculty of Science; Professors Samuel Maduagwu of the Department of Educational Management and Planning, as well as Augustine Onyeozu of the Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education, both of the Faculty of Education.

The citations on the academic giants were read by the Deans of their respective Faculties. Professor Gideon Obute read on Professors from the Faculty of Science, while Professor Lawrence Igwe handled the citations on those who retired from the Faculty of Education. The stage was then set for the University's tributes to each of the four academic generals.

In the prologue to the tribute section, Vice-

*More on p6*



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# Okiwele's Tribute On Professor Oti

**P**rofessor Oti!!! Welcome to the club and thank you for the privilege. It gives me a unique opportunity to make a few comments on your generation in the Faculty of Science. In the late 1970s and early 80s, a group of young men and women in their early to mid-30s came from universities in six countries across four continents, armed with their PhDs to contribute to Professor Donald Ekong's vision of building a unique, first-class university. They came from Adelaide, Australia; New York, Oklahoma, Michigan, in the USA; Western Ontario, Alberta in Canada; Ibadan, Ife, Nsukka in Nigeria; Wales, London, Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Reading, Dundee, Aberdeen in the United Kingdom and finally Heidelbergberg in Germany.

I thank Professors Ekong, Francis Onofeghara, Alphonso Anasim and Wilfried Eswary for the appointments. The Faculty of Science was a melting point. These promising academics were disciplined and hardworking. There were few professors in the Faculty in the 1980s, so these committed scholars provided strong academic and administrative leadership in their various departments. They and a crop of young dynamic, expatriate staff anchored the Faculty of Science. I refer to the group as the GOLDEN GENERATION in the Faculty of Science! When they produced their first Professor in 1994, he, Professor Levi Amajor, was elected Dean. There was a succession of Deans: Profs Pius Kikano, Bosa Okoli and Chukwunonye Ojinnaka.

Sadly, a few passed on early, under tragic circumstances: Dr. Ebukanson, in Geology, Dr. Omoghai in Biochemistry, Dr. Oyetayo in Zoology and Professors C.O. Ofoya and J.K. Udonsi who died later. May their souls continue to rest in the bosom of the Lord. It is striking that in this GOLDEN GENERATION, Professor Oti was the only one whose *alma mater* was non-English. Thus, when I met him, I was amazed how a young man with English as a second language would earn the BSc, MSc and PhD in German. I had a brush with German in the late 1960s during my graduate studies at Berkeley, California. One of the requirements for the PhD was the translation of two English Entomology Abstracts into 2 foreign languages from a pool of German, French and Spanish. I chose German and French and found German to be more difficult. Professor Oti was one of the few bilingual scientists in the Faculty of Science. The number is probably in single digit. In the early 1980s, his conversations were always adorned with some German words and phrases. Surprisingly, the frequency of these adornments has reduced significantly.

On arrival, Professor Oti was in the School of Physical Sciences, while I was in the Biological Sciences. In 1982, we both served on Professor Ikenna Nzimiro's Committee on Departmentalisation. He made noteworthy contributions. In 1983, there was a merger of the 3 faculties and I was appointed Dean. His constructive contributions continued at Faculty Board Meetings and Senate.

In Senate, he did not speak frequently, but when he did, the submissions were analytical, lucid and result-oriented. His mantra was that good University governance must be anchored on strict adherence to extant laws, decrees and statutes. I recollect calling him several times after Senate meetings to commend him on his valuable contributions.

Professor Oti is a man of many parts. He is forthright and ready to tell you what you may or may not want to hear. I recollect an event on my return from a Senior African Fulbright Fellowship at Berkeley in 1985 to the Deanship of the Faculty. Professor Oti was then Acting Head of the Department of Geology and I had written an Internal Memo on the state of the Faculty. After reading through the Memo, he approached me. His words: "Prof, a sentence in this Memo could be misinterpreted." I read the Memo again, saw the point he made and thanked him. I still seek his views on some documents that I produce.

Another memorable encounter with Professor Oti was on the date of the funeral rites of his dear mother. When he called to notify me of the date, I exclaimed that I already had a longstanding commitment at Asaba on that day. All I heard over the phone was "So Prof, you won't be at my mother's burial?" Immediately after our conversation, I made frantic calls to extricate myself from my commitment at Asaba. Of course, I was at Arochukuwa, the end of the day. For Mama's funeral rites with Emeritus Professors Emmanuel Anosike and Nimi Briggs, Joseph Okoh, Obiorah Ayalola, Nelson Brumhalia, Kano Nkanginieme and a host of others.



Emeritus Prof Okiwele

Professor Oti's inspiring leadership anchored on his ability to manage human and material resources, vision and the knack to make strategic choices, etc., was demonstrated as Administrator of Sports in the University in the 1980s, headship of the Department of Geology, Chairmanship of the Boards of UniPort Investment and NUGA, etc.

It is, therefore, not surprising that these qualities were discovered when Professor Oti was in his early 20s. He was appointed Platoon Commander at that time. Those who served under him attested to his exploits in war. The narrative was that he was great on soldiers' welfare, uncompromising on discipline and surfaced on tactics. In recognition of his leadership qualities, he served as Chairman of the local Igbo Socio-cultural group, IZU UMUNNA.

Professor Oti's attributes are not restricted to his glittering career in the academia or towering achievements in leadership. On a lighter note, he has a repertoire of rib-cracking jokes with which he regaled his listeners. My recollection of his lighter side was the trip to Ilem for the burial of Professor Ogalu's dear mother. He entertained us to and fro. We were oblivious of the pains and dangers on Nigerian roads: armed robbery, pot-holed inter-state roads, numerous checkpoints, etc.

Professor, you are moving into a new dawn. The probability is high that you will be called upon for a national assignment. Please maintain the tradition of hard work, productivity, camaraderie and transparency for which you are well-known. I will end with the words of Elie Wiesel, the Holocaust survivor, who died last month at 87. A teenager wanted to know the secret of a long good life. His response was: THINK HIGHER, LIVE DEEPER.

*"Emeritus Professor Samuel Okiwele is a foremost Entomologist, great academic mentor and leader. He sent this tribute at a Senate Valedictory Session marking Professor Michael Oti's retirement from the University on Wednesday, August 31, 2016."*



Professor Oti

## AIESEC UniPort Receives Another Liberian Intern On Project Young Minds

By Mercy Adeniji

**Minds.** "This project focuses on training young people on creative Photography, Internet Management, Microsoft Office Tools and Graphic Design. My colleagues and are helping pupils in primary schools in our target area on the use of social media, graphic designs and basic computer tools. I expect that at the end of my six week stay here in Port Harcourt, we would have impacted positively on the lives of these young ones. So far, the pupils are responding very well and they have also learnt a lot from us. My advice to them is that whatever they set their minds on, they should learn and prepare themselves for their future career direction."

Lamadine, who is a Third Year student of

Architecture at the Stella Maris Polytechnic back in Liberia, expressed delight to be in Nigeria, describing the University of Port Harcourt as very big and a nice place to visit.

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**A**nother AIESEC Intern from Liberia, Emmanuel Lamadine, has arrived the University of Port Harcourt to participate in a six-week training exercise under the auspices of the International Student Organization known as Association Internationale des Etudiants Economiques et Commerciaux (AIESEC). Exchanging views with a UniPort Weekly Correspondent on Thursday, August 25, 2016, on the essence of his trip to Nigeria, Lamadine said he was in UniPort to participate in a programme called **Project Young**



Lamadine

# Ogoia Tasks Care-Givers On Hospital Procedures

Cont'd from Page 1

Professor Ogoia, who reeled out the frightening statistics while delivering the 5<sup>th</sup> Professor Theodore Ibehre Francis Memorial Lecture entitled: "Healthcare-Associated Infections: When Hospitals Fail to Protect" at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium last Tuesday, averred that complications arising from Healthcare-Associated Infections are consequent upon the sheer failure of hospitals and healthcare facilities to protect their patients and themselves in the cause of treatment. The Guest Lecturer defined Healthcare-Associated Infections as infections occurring in a patient during the process of care in an hospital or other healthcare facilities which was not present or incubating at the time of admission. He stated that such infections usually occurred days or few hours after a patient was discharged from the hospital, advising that nothing should be done to endanger the health of patients who go to the hospital for clinical attention.

"In 1999, the Institute of Medicine, USA published a report entitled: "To err is Human" revealing that 98,000 people die in US hospitals yearly as a result of largely avoidable medical errors. This high mortality rate was found to be caused due to motor vehicle accidents, breast cancers or AIDS. A more recent study published in 2016 estimated medical errors as the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of deaths in the USA. Similar reports of adverse events, including deaths during the process of patient care have been reported in various other countries of the world," Professor Ogoia said, stressing the need for medical personnel to be more careful in patient care to safeguard their lives.

The Consultant Physician noted that: "The overall prevalence of Healthcare-Associated Infections (HCAI) obtained in the studies were based on five main types of Healthcare-Associated Infections, including urinary tract infection (UTI), Surgical Site Infection (SSI), Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia (HAP), Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP) and Healthcare-Associated Bloodstream Infection (BSI). Of all HCAI, urinary tract infection is the commonest HCAI reported in developed countries, while Surgical Site Infection (SSI) is the commonest reported in developing countries," adding that the burden for Healthcare-Associated Infections is higher on patients admitted at intensive care units, burns and transplant patients and neonates.

In his welcome address, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who stood in for



Dr. C. (Academic), Prof Fawehinmi (arrowed) flanked by the Guest Lecturer, Prof Ogoia, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, Prof Chakvudi Onyango (left), Provost, College of Medical Sciences, IKUST, Prof Oramah, Provost, CHS, Prof Mato (right) and other guests after the Lecture

the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lala, described the topic of the Lecture as apt, pointing out that it came at a time when there was a resurgence of Lassa Fever virus which was believed to have been effectively tackled, together with other infectious diseases that strike fear into the populace.

The representative of the Vice-Chancellor praised guests for gathering to honour the pioneer Provost of the College of Health Sciences and Chief Medical Director of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), commending the College for immortalising Professor Francis through the Lecture series.

"It had the privilege of being a medical student while Professor Francis was in charge here and I can attest to the fact that his aura loomed large in the College of Health Sciences while we struggled to become young doctors under very trying circumstances in the new medical school. Those who directly worked with him have told us about his humility and great erudition both in the field of medicine, general education and leadership qualities. There is no doubt that the solid foundation he laid and his unparalleled mentorship of younger academics endeared Professor Francis to many. There is no doubt that Professor Francis will be happy wherever he is today to know that his younger colleagues and trainees are carrying on the tradition of medical excellence he established while he was in charge here. Were Professor Francis to be alive today, he would have been troubled by the emergence of numerous infectious diseases that epidemiologists are battling to contain," Professor Fawehinmi said.

Also speaking, Dean of the College of Health and Health Technology, Professor Ayo Adenigbo, who represented the Vice-Chancellor of Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA), Ondo State, Professor Adebiyi Daramola, recalled the solid foundation which late Professor Francis laid as pioneer Vice-Chancellor of FUTA.

"In FUTA, late Professor Theodore Francis is remembered as pioneer Vice-Chancellor, unlike here in UniPort where you know

him as pioneer Provost of the College of Health Sciences. Late Professor Francis started in a one-room apartment as his office, with 149 students in five schools, namely: Schools of Education, Agriculture, Engineering, Science and Environmental Technology. He left in 1988 after laying a solid foundation for a university that today has a population of over 18,000 students and a staff strength of 2,500. He did not complain even in the face of daunting challenges. He was a fine gentleman with great erudition and on an occasion like this, I bring you the goodwill message from FUTA that we should all live beyond ourselves," representative of FUTA Vice-Chancellor said, commending.

Earlier in her address, Provost of the College, Professor Christie Mato, who recalled the development of the College under the pioneering effort of Professor Francis, extolled his quality leadership style. She appealed to her colleagues to emulate the qualities of Professor Francis as pioneer Provost of the College.

Some other dignitaries who presented goodwill messages at the occasion included Chairman of the Occasion and Provost of the emergent College of Medical Sciences at the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Professor Raphael Oramah, 5<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of UniPort, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, Dr. Korubo Owise, former Chief Medical Director of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Dr. Eric Mangete, who received an achievement award and pioneer College Secretaries, Mrs. Letitia Aigbo, Second Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sylvester Cooker, who was also conferred with an award for the decisive role he played in the establishment of the College, Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Professor Chijioke Nwaeze received the award on his behalf.

The Memorial Lecture which had two children of the late icon, Dr. Bomo and Mr. Boye Francis in attendance, also attracted other dignitaries from all walks of life, who extolled the rare qualities of Professor Francis.

A fellow of a one year post-Doctoral Research Scholarship that was tenable in the Department of Morphology at Institute of Biological Sciences of the University of Minas Geras, Belo Horizonte in Brazil, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, Dr. Sunny Abarikwu, has channelled proceeds from his UNESCO Research Grant to the purchase of research equipment for his Department. In addition, he has also opted to offer scholarships to three graduate students pursuing their research in his area of specialisation.

On his return from Brazil, Dr. Abarikwu donated 15 pieces of Conventional and Inverter Cages for rats and mice, 1 piece of LX 400 Binocular Microscope, 1 piece of LX490 Digital Microscope (SNIP Camera), 1 piece of ELISA Micro-plate reader BIOBASE EL-10A, 1 piece of Table-top High Speed Refrigerator Centrifuge (BK THRU6K), 1 piece of Rotor for the Centrifuge (12x100ml),

## Abarikwu Donates UNESCO Grant Proceeds To Biochemistry Dept

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

including 1 piece of Double Beam Scanning UV/Vis Spectrometer (BK-D560) to his Department to enhance research work.

"The grant also covers tuition for three graduate students of the Department of Biochemistry, who are already undertaking their research work under my supervision. The research work runs for two years and is renewable if the recipients are successful in their work. The research work would investigate how endocrine disrupting compounds, such as triazine, increases the susceptibility of diseases associated with inflammation of the gonads (testes)," Dr. Abarikwu explained, adding that the grant was awarded in December 2015, based on a research proposal he submitted to UNESCO.

Disclosing that the grant would be concluded in September 2018, Dr. Abarikwu further explained that the UNESCO grant was open to African scholars and

their counterparts in other developing countries, describing the process for qualifying for the facility as highly competitive with only about 17 persons selected to participate last year.

Receiving him in his Office last Monday, a visibly-elated Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lala, commended Dr. Abarikwu for what he described as his wonderful demonstration of scholarship and mentorship, expressing optimism that the grant would be judiciously utilised to achieve the goals for which it was obtained.

"If more Lecturers engage in this kind of interface, the University would move forward on a more accelerated rate. This is what a university is about and it is my hope that our colleagues would cultivate the habit of applying for grants that would enable them engage in high impact research in their various specialisations, rather than just sitting down and complaining about everything that is not going right in the University. I am pleased that Dr. Abarikwu decided to donate the valuable equipment he purchased with part of his grant to his Department to enhance research and I hope that the instruments would be properly preserved and put to good use," he said.

"Taking on the additional responsibility of sponsoring three graduate students in the Department of Biochemistry stands you out as a good mentor and worthy role model that your colleagues should strive to emulate. Mentoring younger students would not only enhance your status as a scholar, but would also improve succession planning and increase the human resource base of the Department, the Faculty and University. It is my prayer that your contacts would attract greater grants to the University and more research opportunities for you in future," Professor Lale told Dr. Abarikwu.



1-C, Prof Lale (right), and Dr. Abarikwu

# ELTAN Brainstorms On Challenges Facing Teaching English In Nigeria

By Humphrey Ogu

In recognition of the importance of the English Language in the development of Nigeria, experts in language teaching have recommended ways of tackling challenges facing the teaching of the subject. Delegates from across the country gathered to brainstorm on the issues at the 9<sup>th</sup> National Conference of English Language Teachers Association of Nigeria (ELTAN) held at the Ken Saro-Wiwa Department of English Studies, University of Port Harcourt on Tuesday, on August 30, 2016.

Declaring the four-day conference open on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lala, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony the said: "Nigeria is a multilingual nation and the English Language happens to be the language of education and social interaction. The English Language must, therefore, be effectively taught and learnt to properly serve its function as an instrument of education, communication and national development," noting that the theme of the conference, which was "Multilingualism in Nigeria: Prospects and Challenges in Teaching and Learning English Language and Literature in English in an L-Context", was very appropriate against the backdrop of the numerous challenges facing teaching of the subject in the country.

Delivering the keynote address entitled: "Multilingualism and the Challenges of National Development", Professor Nkem Okoh noted that it was no longer fashionable to teach General English in Nigerian universities, arguing that English for Specific Purposes (ESP) remained the most productive methodological framework if the use of English course was to be effective in delivering knowledge to students, especially at the Undergraduate level.

"The universities ought to invest in ESP training. The trained ESP teacher will necessarily abandon the traditional language or teacher-centred approach for another which is student-centred. He will also first establish the needs of different learners by carrying out Needs Analysis. The trained teacher will also be conversant with communicative approaches and tasks, and no longer don the garb of sage on stage in his classroom interaction with students," he said. "It has become imperative to replace old teaching methods with newer approaches, based, for example, on Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) and ESP and English for Academic purposes, especially regarding the

Use of English course in Nigerian Universities. We have called for a shift—a movement away from teaching General English to an approach that is more focused, functional, learner-oriented and communicative. We have also emphasised that the change advocated calls for training and expertise," he stated, calling on Government, the British Council, the private sector and philanthropists to fund ELTAN to enable it discharge its onerous responsibilities to the educational sector.

Okoh, who was Head of the Department of English Studies in the University of Port Harcourt, said: "Linguistic or cultural diversity is not necessarily the cause of Nigeria's unity, cohesion and development. Rather than blame English for our afflictions, we should advocate and enthroned good governance for national development," stressing that Nigeria was in dire need of committed and sincere leadership to drive the National Policy on Education and other educational policies or forge unity and cohesion amongst the various ethnic groups. Delivering the lead paper entitled: "Teaching and Legal Frameworks in Nigeria: Matters Arising from English and Literature," a Professor of Language Education in the Department, Daniel Ogun, noted that "The present

condition of English-cum-literature pedagogy in the Nigerian education system is not satisfactory because it does not support optimum learning outcome," calling for immediate review of the English-cum-literature curriculum in Nigeria, including proper planning and implementation to achieve desirable and sustainable educational outcomes. He also demonstrated a Literary Model for Grammar Teaching (Lingmat Model) designed by him to aid teaching of language and literature.

Earlier in his remarks, the National President of ELTAN, Professor Oso-mekuri Ndimele, stated that "ELTAN is such a unique organisation that includes teachers from all levels of education—primary, secondary and tertiary. We meet once a year to brainstorm, exchange ideas and showcase our research outcomes. We are here to learn from one another and improve on our language teaching skills. The University of Port Harcourt is lucky to have hosted the conference three times," commending the University, the British Council, and Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Dr. Margaret Nutsuko and her team, for their various roles towards the successful hosting of the conference.

Also speaking, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka, who welcomed the delegates to the Faculty and University, assured them of a rewarding experience in Port Harcourt. He wished them fruitful deliberations at the plenary session and expressed optimism that the conference will come up with a policy statement that would enhance the teaching of English Language in Nigeria.



A cross-section of participants at the conference. Inset: DV-C (Admin), Prof Lala (standing) flanked on the right by Prof Molaru Ogunlana and Dr. Nutsuko and on the left by Profs Shaka and Ndimele

# My Aim Is To Rebrand Human Kinetics Dept ~Amasiatu

By Mercy Adeniji

Four months into his tenure as the new Acting Head of Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Dr. Athanasius Amasiatu has started repositioning and rebranding the Department for better

service delivery.

Exchanging views with a UniPort Weekly Correspondent in his office, last Tuesday, August 23, 2016, Dr. Amasiatu recalled that he received his letter of appointment in April, but had to travel to Brazil to participate in the meeting of the International Society of Sports Psychologists (ISSP) Management Council as part of the just-concluded Rio Olympics. The new Acting HOD stated that on his return, he had to call a meeting with staff of the Department to acquaint them with his plans to take the Department to greater heights.

"I joined the Department as a Part-Time Staff in February, 1988 and I think I am the oldest academic staff on ground today. I shared my vision with the Academic and Non-Teaching staff and I disclosed my intention to build on the established legacy of the founding father of the Department, the late Dr. Anya Njoku," he told our Correspondent. The new Acting HOD explained that he would restructure the foundation of the Department for enhanced service delivery to all stakeholders.

"I want to do everything that is right to enable me move this Department to the next level and I am counting on the support of my colleagues to accomplish the onerous task. Having been in this place since 1988, I knew how we started, so sharing my vision and mission statement with staff was a passion for me, because it is what a man needs that he markets and I want to do the right thing to reposition the Department to enable it give of its every best," Dr. Amasiatu disclosed, calling

for support from his colleagues to succeed in his tough assignment.

The Acting HOD disclosed plans to turn the Department into one big family where students would enjoy rapport with their Lecturers, stressing the need to build a good image that can market the Department and bring it outside sponsorship. "Students should be proud to belong to the Department and help it to grow. I want to rebrand Human Kinetics and Physical Education in UniPort as a viable Department that would attract increased student subscription. I also want to rebrand and market the Department to the Faculty and the entire University. We shall organise seminars and workshops on health and physical fitness tests for the Faculty and the University at large," Dr. Amasiatu said.

He also disclosed the existence of the Centre for Rehabilitative Therapy and Kinesiotherapeutic Studies aimed at assisting people with health challenges to recover their balance. "We want to encourage our students to understand both the theoretical and practical aspects of their course of study to make them rounded graduates. This Centre also serves the University and we appeal to Management to assist in properly equipping it to enable it serve more people and generate funds for the Department," he appealed.

Dr. Amasiatu further appealed to all staff and students to give him their full support to enable him take the Department to the next level.



Dr. Amasiatu

In a bid to ensure that on-going projects are completed according to specifications and stipulated timelines, the Management of the University, embarked on an inspection tour of some on-going projects funded by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) around the Campus. The inspection which took place on Thursday, August 25, 2016 gave the team a firsthand account of the level and quality of work at the various project sites.

The team which was led by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, frowned at the rate at which illegal commercial structures were springing up on Campus without due authorisation or proper supervision. Management, therefore, directed relevant agencies of the University to summarily demolish such illegal structures in both the University and Delta Parks to serve as a deterrent to land speculators.

Speaking after the exercise, Professor Ibe said that Management was worried as work on most of the project sites was slow and behind the original completion schedules. "We decided to visit the various project sites as a motivation for contractors and consultants to redouble their efforts in completing the jobs. This unscheduled inspection visit has offered Management first-hand information on the progress of work at the various sites and given us a fair idea of what is actually going on. From what we have seen on ground, a good number of contractors are doing well. Those who have some challenges appear to blame it on lack of funds and Management will do its best to ensure that the affected contractors are paid as at when due as a motivation for them to complete their projects on time," Professor Ibe said.

## Mgt Inspects Projects, Orders Demolition Of Illegal Structures On Campus

By Obinna Nwodin

Project sites visited included the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Staff Office building, Ekechi Amadi Faculty of Humanities building, TETFund Central Instruments Laboratory, Faculty of Engineering, Power Systems Engineering building, as well as a site that was hurriedly designated for the construction of a

banking hall for the First City Monument Bank outside the approved banking area along the Dan Etete Avenue.

Other projects inspected by the team were the Medical, Female Hostels and Lecture Halls funded by NEEDS. The team also inspected the NEEDS One Faculty of Education building, as well as the Faculty of Law building—all at various stages of completion.



Dr. C (Admin), Prof Ibe, leading other Management staff and schedule officers on the inspection tour

## Serving As HoD Was A Rewarding Experience For Me ~Nwuche

By Mercy Adeniji

Immediate past Acting Head of the Department of Management in the Faculty of Management Sciences, Dr. Christie Nwuche, has described her tenure in office which came to an end in July 2016, as very hectic, but a rewarding experience which she would continue to cherish.

Reviewing her performance in a chat with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent on Monday, August 29, 2016, Dr. Nwuche recalled that barely a

month after she assumed office in July 2014, she was able to secure for the Department full accreditation for its Postgraduate programme, a feat that was thought to be difficult to achieve. "It was really fire-on-the-mountain for me as we cast about to make the feat possible, but I thank God that we were able to pull through as we secured full accreditation for the Postgraduate programmes that we run in the Department.

"I would have wished to achieve the same feat for the Undergraduate programme, but we were only able to attain Interim Accreditation status for our Undergraduate programmes for obvious reasons. This sad development was as a result of our poor staff strength which was beyond the Department. Only the University Management could have authorised the recruitment of more staff to fill vacancies in the Department in time for the arrival of the accreditation team. We have not, however, lost hope as we are currently preparing very seriously for the next accreditation exercise at the Undergraduate level and it is my hope that we would secure full accreditation when the team visits us next time," she disclosed.

"My tenure was also hectic in the sense that I had to be involved in more than straight-forward academic work which is the primary duty of an academic. I had to become fully involved in administrative engagements that took much of my time and energy. The beautiful aspect of it all was that it afforded me an opportunity to meet with students beyond the familiar classroom environment and we were able to freely interact on various issues of concern to them. Another memorable aspect of my assignment as Acting Head of Department was the support I received from my colleagues, both academic and non-

teaching staff, including students.

"I am very pleased that we worked as a team under my watch to record the modest achievements I am leaving behind for my successor to build on. The staff were quite supportive even though we occasionally had to disagree on certain procedural matters as is common in every human organisation. Such moments brought out the best in all of us to the benefit of the Department. I must say I enjoyed a very warm working relationship with all my colleagues in the line of duty and I am very grateful to all of them for their collective commitment to the development of our Department," Dr. Nwuche told our Correspondent.

On her achievements in office, Dr. Nwuche disclosed that under her watch, the Department faced some serious issues concerning the processing of students' results, adding that she made frantic efforts to address the problem. "During the period under review, we had very serious issues with processing of students' results, but we were able to acquire special software that enabled us to address the problem. Working in concert with the Examinations Officer and her team, we were able to handle other related matters to the satisfaction of our students. We also made significant progress in processing results which made life a little easy for us and the students and we are hoping to continue to move the Department forward under my successor, Dr. Edwinah Amah, who is in tune with our collective vision of where we want to be.

"As I complete my tenure and vacate office, I wish to charge my colleagues to continue to exhibit passion, diligence, love and team spirit to take the Department to greater heights. I also wish to appeal to all staff and students to also give my successor, Dr. Amah, all the support she would need to enable her take the Department to where we all desire it to be. I strongly believe that with cooperation and support from all of us, Dr. Amah would succeed in her onerous assignment."



Dr. Nwuche

Cont'd from Page 1

## Ojinnaka, Oti, Maduagwu, Oyeozu Bow Out

Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, said that "the event was aimed at celebrating the finest academic tradition established by our founding fathers," describing the retirees as "accomplished academics who dedicated themselves to a life of endless search for knowledge and mentorship of younger academics."

He said that the best tribute that can be paid to the retiring professors as they prepared to quit the services of the University was to continue to champion the enduring values that defined their individual careers in their services to the academia and fatherland.

Addressing them individually, Professor Lale stated that Professor

Ojinnaka made enormous contributions to the development of the Faculty of Science and Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, including human capacity building that resulted in the rapid growth of the academic programmes offered by students. The Vice-Chancellor also praised Ojinnaka for his relentless search for herbal remedies to emergent lifestyle diseases that modern drugs were not able to address.

On Professor Oti, the Vice-Chancellor said that "he served the University meritoriously in various capacities and the best tribute we can pay him is to continue to jealously guard and promote the great ideals that he stood for while in service." He also paid glowing tribute to Professor Oti for his pioneering role in the Department of Geology and immense contributions to sports development in and outside the University.

In his tribute on Professor Maduagwu, the Vice-Chancellor said that the retiring Professor of Educational Management "served the University with admirable passion and his wealth of experience in Educational Administration was noticed by those who came in contact with him." Describing Maduagwu as a calm gentleman, who kept his eyes on the tradition of academic excellence, Professor Lale praised him for helping to lay a solid foundation for his Department and



V-C, Prof Lale (6' right), the retired Professors in academic attires and Principal Officers after the Valedictory Senate Session

mentorship of younger academics in the Faculty of Education.

Turning to Professor Oyeozu, the Vice-Chancellor expressed the University's gratitude to him for his contributions as one of the pioneer staff of the University. His quality administrative and leadership qualities added great value to the successful take-off of the University, while "his personal sacrifices in the Faculty of Education contributed immensely to the reputation of the Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education." He commended Professor Oyeozu for being the first administrative staff to successfully convert to the academic cadre, thus, blazing a trail for others to follow.

In their separate eulogies on the retirees, S' Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, foremost Entomologist and philanthropist, Emeritus Professor Samuel Oluwale, and Acting Head of the Department of Educational Management, Dr. Nath Abraham, congratulated the retirees on their meritorious services to the University, wishing them good health and continuous service to the academia and Nigeria even in retirement.

Responding on behalf of the retirees, Professor Ojinnaka,

expressed gratitude to the University community for affording them the opportunity to serve and also honouring them in retirement.

"When we arrived here from different academic routes, the challenges were daunting, while the privileges were very few and far in-between. We were propelled by our undiluted enthusiasm to be part of a great pioneering work by the first Vice-Chancellor of the University, the late Professor Donald Ekong and a crop of very eminent scholars, who insisted on the right way of doing things in those good old days. The University has come a long way since then and we are leaving at a time of great changes in the educational system and in our country. It is our hope that the modest contributions we made would be built upon by our successors in the various Faculties as envisioned by the founding fathers of the University," Professor Ojinnaka said.

The four Professors took group photographs with Principal Officers, Emeriti Professors, their wives, Provost and Deans before formally bowing out of the Senate Chambers. They were led out of the Senate Chambers by the Provost of the College of Health Sciences and Deans in a colourful recession that ended with more photograph sessions.

## V-C Tasks Alumni On Varsity Development At Bok Donation Ceremony

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has charged alumni of the University to contribute towards the advancement of their alma mater as they help accelerate its development into a world class status. He regretted that many well-to-do alumni of the University were standing by the side lines and reluctant to give back to their alma mater as was the case in other climes, reminding them of the central role expected of them to lift the institution to the next phase of its development.

The Vice-Chancellor gave the charge while receiving over 400 volumes of textbooks on various disciplines donated to the Donald Ekong Library by an alumnus of the University, Professor Ifeanyi Uzoka, who graduated from the Department of Economics in the Faculty of Social Sciences in 1990, describing the donor as a shining example for other alumni to follow.

"Professor Uzoka is a selfless man with a heart of gold, who appreciates his humble beginnings and the contributions the University made to his life and it is on this note that I express my deep appreciation on behalf of the University to him. It is only alumni with the heartbeat of the University in them that would come back like Professor Uzoka did to give back to their beloved alma mater," Professor Lale stressed, commending the representative of the donor and immediate past Director of Student Affairs Department, Mrs. Bridget Nzimiro for facilitating the donation.

Reiterating that globally renowned universities now operate like corporate organisations by forging a symbiotic institutional relationship with the private sector and public-spirited individuals, the Vice-Chancellor stressed the need for students to be treated with respect as 'customers' if their various Departments hope to get back something from them on graduation. He also advised staff of the Donald Ekong Library to ensure

that students who use the facility are well attended to as an encouragement for them to come back to replicate what Professor Uzoka had done for the University.

"If we want these students to come back as alumni to add value to the University, we must treat them with utmost respect, courtesy and professionalism in the discharge of our job descriptions in this University. I am very certain that the Department of Economics treated Professor Uzoka well while he was a student there for him to think of giving back to his alma mater," a visibly delighted Professor Lale told the 1,800 staff.

Presenting the books to the Vice-Chancellor, who was accompanied to the event by other Principal Officers, the University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umehozor, described Professor Uzoka as a passionate alumnus, who decided to return to give back to the University that trained him, adding that the books cut across all disciplines in the University, including the Health Sciences, Science, Engineering, Nursing Science, Humanities and Social Sciences.

"We are very pleased that Professor Uzoka decided to donate such a large volume of current books on various subjects to the University for use by students and researchers. I am sure he is not the richest alumnus trained by the University of Port Harcourt. He is driven by the zeal to assist his beloved alma mater to attain academic excellence. We are pleased to know that Professor Uzoka is still willing to make more book donations to the University in areas of pressing need. We hope that the facilitator, Mrs. Bridget Nzimiro, would convey the depth of our gratitude to the donor," Dr. Umehozor said.

Responding on behalf of Professor Uzoka, Mrs. Nzimiro assured Management of the University that he had commenced assembling more books to be donated to the University in due course. "I am very honoured to make this donation on behalf of Professor Uzoka, who is very passionate about the development of his beloved alma mater. This gesture is part of the donor's acknowledgement of the positive impact the University played in his life as a student," she said, hoping that the books would facilitate teaching, research and learning in the University.



V-C, Prof Lale receiving the books from the representative of the donor, Mrs. Nzimiro

## GUIDEPOST

## RESUMPTION FROM SABBATICAL LEAVE

**Professor Anthony Aigbo**, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, resumed duty after his *Sabbatical Leave* at the Edwin Clark University, effective July 1, 2016.

**Dr. Theredem Iwadi**, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Faculty of Science, resumed duty from *Sabbatical Leave*, effective June 1, 2016.

**Dr. Oluokun Asah**, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, resumed duty from *Sabbatical Leave*, effective July 19, 2016.

## STUDY LEAVE

**Mr. Charles Ibiobong**, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, granted a three-year *Study Leave with Pay*, to enable him pursue a PhD programme in Oncology at the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, effective October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2019.

## RENEWAL OF ADJUNCT APPOINTMENT

**Professor Edna Matthews-Njoku**, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Science, granted *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment as Professor*, effective May 12, 2016 to May 11, 2017.

## RESUMPTION FROM STUDY LEAVE

**Dr. Akaro Big-Akaho**, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, resumed from *Study Leave with Pay*, at the University of Glasgow, United Kingdom, effective August 8, 2016

## REVIEW OF STATUS

**Mr. Kotimi Ogunakin**, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, granted review of status from *Graduate Assistant to Lecturer II*, effective November 9, 2015.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**MRS. BARIMU AANU**, Mrs. Anna Nwibani of the School of General Studies, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. Barimu Aanu. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

## Stop Press

## Admission Screening Exercise For 2016/17 Session

Screening exercises for admission of candidates into various Undergraduate programmes of the University of Port Harcourt will hold between Wednesday, 7 and Friday, September 9, 2016. A statement dated August 26, 2016 and signed by the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Ota, directed all prospective candidates to come along with a clear copy of their Photo Cards which is obtainable online, JAMB Result Printout, and original and photocopies of Birth Certificate or Age Declaration, warning that inconsistency in name or picture on Photo Card will not be acceptable to the University and may lead to disqualification of affected candidates. "Candidates' names on their O' Level Certificates, UTME results and other registration documents must be the same," the Registrar emphasised, adding that "the respective venues will be published on the University website in due course and via SMS to candidates."

## CHD Ends Research Day Activity For Nursing Lecturers

By Humphrey Ogu

As a way of fostering a proper research culture in the Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, the Centre for Health and Development (CHD) held a well-attended Research Day activity at the Lecture Hall of the Faculty on Thursday, August 25, 2015, with a promise to sustain the partnership with visiting scholars aimed at furthering health development in the University.

Addressing the gathering which had: *Advancing Maternal New-born and Child Health through Nursing and Midwifery as its*

Department, Dr. Ijeoma Ihekwa, said that Nursing Lecturers recognise that the University and College have been very supportive of the drive towards developing the Department into a centre of excellence.

"This Research Day is the brainchild of our motivators, Professor Josephine Etowa and Dr. Babatunde, who have been working tirelessly to see that we acquire enhanced skills in nursing research and teaching. We are very pleased to note that the development of Nursing Science is also the dream of our Provost, Professor Christie Mato and our Dean, Professor Samuel Uzioigwe and we promise not to disappoint them," the Acting HoD said.

In her presentation entitled: *Fostering*



Prof Etowa (standing) making her presentation to an enthusiastic audience

theme, Acting Director of CHD, Dr. 'Seye Babatunde, recalled that the Centre had a long standing collaboration with the University of Toronto in Canada, explaining that Dr. Dan Allman of Dana LANA School of Public Health and his colleagues have been in UniPort a number of times as part of efforts aimed at advancing the programme.

"I wish to express gratitude to them for the valuable input they have been making to improve the way we do things here and for also introducing Professor Josephine Etowa of the University of Ottawa to us. She has been of immense benefit to the development of Nursing Science in the University of Port Harcourt and we cannot thank Professor Etowa enough for what she has done for us over the years. I am very delighted to note that the partnership with these visiting scholars had yielded immense benefits to the Centre and the University and we will do everything possible to nurture the partnership," he said.

In her welcome address, Acting Head of the

*Evidence-Based Nursing and Midwifery Practice*, Professor Etowa, who is the Loyer DaSilva Research Chair of Public Health Nursing at the University of Ottawa, stressed the importance of evidence-based research in Nursing and Midwifery practices as tenable in advanced societies.

"There is a need for closer collaboration between medical doctors and nurses to forge an effective working relationship that would improve healthcare service delivery in the country. There is no need for health professionals to engage in unhealthy rivalries that can only undermine their synergy and the entire health delivery system," Professor Etowa told the gathering.

Others group presentations made at the Research Day included: *Midwives and Nurses' Capacity for Health Research Productivity and Utilization: A Descriptive Study in South-South Zone of Nigeria*, delivered by Dr. Grace Robinson-Bassey; *Utilisation of Maternal New-born and Child Health (MNCH) Services Among Childbearing Women in Enugu Local Government in Rivers State: A Qualitative Case Study*, delivered by Helen Nwoko; *Postpartum Depression Experiences of Nigerian Women*, delivered by Dr. Faith Dimgu; *Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Childbearing Women in Rivers State of Nigeria: A Grounded Theory Study*, delivered by Helen Aburuma; and *Evidence Transfer and Utilization: The Experiences of Midwives and Nurses in Policy Development for Low-and Middle-Income Countries: A JBI Systematic Review*, delivered by Anwana George.

Meanwhile, papers presented at the event have been accepted for presentation at international conferences holding in Canada and United States of America at the end of this year and in 2017. Expressing gratitude to CHD for boosting the capacity of Nursing Lecturers and affording them an opportunity to interact with their counterparts elsewhere, a Lecturer in the Department, Mrs. Mina Long-John, congratulated the researchers for their valuable input, advising Nursing Students to make good use of what they learnt from the presentations.

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## WEATHER OBSERVATORY

## WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDING AREAS

## FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER, 04 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am - pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY (04 SEPT, 2016)	31.0 24.8	72	SSW	27.7	6:29 - 6:47	Thunder storms expected late in the day with late breaks of sunshine.
MONDAY (05 SEPT, 2016)	32.0 24.8	75	WSW	175.8	6:29 - 6:47	Heavy rains expected with a mostly cloudy disposition.
TUESDAY (06 SEPT, 2016)	32.0 24.8	72	WSW	88.9	6:29 - 6:47	Thunder storms expected with a mostly cloudy outlook.
WEDNESDAY (07 SEPT, 2016)	30.0 23.8	40	SW	8	6:29 - 6:47	A few thunderstorms accompanied with a mostly cloudy outlook.
THURSDAY (08 SEPT, 2016)	30.0 23.8	71	S	4.3	6:29 - 6:47	Thunder storms expected early in the day and a mostly cloudy disposition.
FRIDAY (09 SEPT, 2016)	31.0 23.8	57	SW	618.6	6:29 - 6:46	Thunder storms expected late. Mostly cloudy day predicted.
SATURDAY (10 SEPT, 2016)	30.0 23.8	47	SSW	12.6	6:29 - 6:46	Thunder storms expected followed by more clouds than sun.

DR. V.E. WELI  
AC. 0623

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENV. MGT.

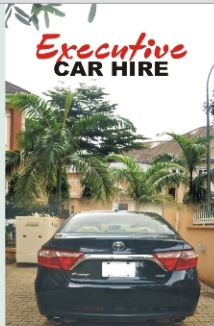
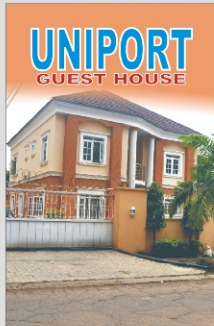
DR. PRINCE C. MMOM  
AG. DIRECTOR  
(CDRMDS)

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