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Convocation To Elect Rep Into Council



In conformity with the University Act as amended, regarding the full constitution of the Governing Council, a statutory body known as Convocation met last Monday to work out modalities for the election of its representative into the Governing Council of the University of Port Harcourt, reports *Obinna Nwodim*.

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Side Bar 31ST CONVOCATION

The 31st Convocation Ceremony holds this Friday and Saturday at the Convocation Arena. There will be restriction of vehicular movement and security checks at designated points. Staff are therefore advised to wear their Identity Cards for easy identification. Friday is also declared Lecture Free Day.
~Editor

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Mgt Tasks Interim S'Union Executive On Purposeful Leadership

By Obinna Nwodim

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowaale, has advised the newly-inaugurated Interim Executive Committee of the Students' Union to be committed to due process and embrace the right approach to issues in its activities. Professor Ale gave the charge when he received the new student leaders in the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room, on Thursday, March 9, 2017. Professor Ale, congratulated the members on their selection to serve in the new positions, urging them to approach

their duties with care and a sense of purpose. "Every quantum leap in life comes with challenges, responsibilities and risks. I advise you to utilise this rare opportunity given you to right the wrongs of the past by your predecessors in office. Let me assure you that I don't have any interest whatsoever in Students' Union politics or who emerges as your leaders. I only charge you to be purposeful in your leadership style and less combative in advertising your grievances on issues concerning students' welfare. Dialogue should be your watchword. "I do not have any interest in what

students may wish to do in their Union; neither does any member of the Management. From what I can see so far, you were carefully selected to serve your colleagues, and I am confident that you would give purposeful leadership to the generality of students who rightly look up to you for quality representation." He decried the fact that in the last ten years, Students' Unionism had been hijacked by a vocal clique that did not care about the opinions and feelings of the generality of the students they were supposed to lead. "I charge this new Interim Leadership to ensure that it calls Congress on a regular basis to enable ordinary students ventilate issues that concern them," he advised.
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MDCN Inducts 52 Medics, 14 Dental Surgeons In UniPort

By Humphrey Ogu

The manpower needs of the nation's fledgling health sector received yet another boost on Friday, March 10, 2017 when 52 newly-qualified Medical Doctors and 14 Dental Surgeons trained by the College of Health Sciences received their operational licences from the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN).

Administering the *Physicians' Oath* on the new Medical Doctors and Dental Surgeons at the 39th Induction Ceremony held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, Acting Registrar of MDCN, Dr. Tajudeen Sanusi, charged them to abide by the Oath they swore to by rededicating themselves to saving lives.

"People often say that we in MDCN are very strict, but the truth is that medical practice involves human lives. Losing the lives of patients is inevitable, but it should not happen as a result of negligence on the part of the doctor. You must be very diligent in handling your patients. A badly trained doctor constitutes danger to the public. The best doctors are those that seek to know what they don't know. When you get to your limit, you must refer the patient to other colleagues with expertise in the area," he admonished the new entrants into the profession.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, said: "The main purpose of our gathering here this morning is to induct these successful graduands who have met all the stringent conditions specified by the Senate of this University for purposes of awarding them the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degrees," expressing gratitude to MDCN for a rewarding partnership over the years.

Speaking as the *Medical Elder* of the Day, Deputy Governor of Rivers State, Dr. Ipalibo Harry Banigo, congratulated authorities of the University of Port Harcourt for training the doctors, charging the newly-qualified Medical Doctors and Dental Surgeons to prove the skills they acquired from the University through service to their patients.



A cross-section of the new Doctors and Dental Surgeons taking their Final Bows

"Suffice it to say that for you, the journey has just begun. Strive to be the best wherever you may find yourself and you must make personal sacrifices. I urge you to evoke compassion in the practice of medicine. Give yourself time to develop your skills and aspire to the zenith of your profession," she advised the inductees. She disclosed that the Rivers State Government planned to partner the College of Health Sciences, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital and other stakeholders on how to reduce infant and maternal mortality through effective Primary Health.

On her part, Provost of the College, Professor Christie Mato, called on public-spirited individuals and corporate organisations to donate to the College and the University of Port Harcourt to deliver quality service to the public.

"We need buses to facilitate Rural Postings in K-Dere and Degema; can you give us one? Can you donate a building? We need furniture, photocopiers, desktop computers, air conditioners, laptops; can you donate consumables for dental training—artificial teeth etc. We need 100KVA generators, the list is endless. You certainly can give us something. Our account details are College of Health Sciences, U&C Account Number: 1528000040," she appealed.

In his contribution, Chief Medical Director of UPTH, Professor Aaron Ojule, noted that the resource gap for running a teaching hospital was widening by the day,

saying that time had come for everyone to join forces with government to support the hospital. "To our graduating students, I want to say that your decisions must be in the best interest of the patient. It is important for society to take care of your welfare to enable you discharge your responsibilities, but you must first make the necessary sacrifices by putting your patient first," he urged them.

Also speaking, Rivers State Branch Chairman of the Nigerian Medical Association, Dr. Datonye Alasia, commended the College for growing the number of Medical and Dental Surgeons in the country, stressing the need for the College to train many more doctors to meet the World Health Organisation's standard for doctor-patient ratio of one to 150.

In their separate Valedictory Speeches, Best Graduating Student in Dental Surgery, Dr. Vivian Ogwuegbu and her counterpart in Medicine and Surgery, Dr. Onyedikachi Onyeaso, expressed joy to God, their parents, colleagues, the College, Faculties and the University for their successful induction, promising to be good ambassadors of the University in their professional practices.

The 39th Induction/Oath-Taking Ceremony also featured presentation of prizes to the best students in various subjects, most of which were carted away by Dr. Ogwuegbu, while Dr. Onyeaso received the Integrity Prize instituted by the proprietor of CITA International Schools, Peggy Adukeh.

Student World

Amasiatu Focuses Attention On Dental Approach To Age Estimation

Valentine Amasiatu is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences, with bias for Forensic Anatomy. Amasiatu who had earlier obtained his Bachelor and Master's degree from the same Department shares his research interest with Correspondent, ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON.

The desire to do something different, unique and forensic in nature prompted Amasiatu to undertake a study on: *Age Estimation in*

Children, Adolescents and Adult Nigerians: A Dental Approach and Forensic Implications. "Data is scarce in ontodology or use of teeth to derive certain information. This research, therefore, seeks to fill that gap by providing reliable data that would be specific to Nigerians, using certain dental parameters," he said.

"Morphological, radiological and biochemical, Kim's scoring system, Dirmejian method and Williem's system are known methods that have been used in the past to estimate age, using dental parameters. This research would evaluate these different methods to determine which of them best suits the Nigerian population with a view to possibly modifying the method and making it better," he submitted. The researcher described the teeth as very important in forensic research, especially in post-mortem usage to reach critical conclusions.

Disclosing that individuals born in war-torn zones, victims of natural disasters, missing persons, persons not certain of their dates of birth or those who falsify their ages, could have their ages determined using certain dental parameters, Amasiatu noted. He expressed hope that the outcome of his research would address these issues and more and even aid medical professionals in drug administration.

"Sporting organizations, the Civil Service and others, who need to authenticate the age of athletes and their employees, would find this research useful. It would also be of help in the search for missing persons in the event

of natural disasters," he further revealed.

"Anatomically, almost every human part decays soon after death. The teeth are usually strong and the last to decay. It is possible to tell the age range of individuals by subjecting their teeth to forensic analysis. This is helpful in solving mystery cases involving missing, abandoned or dead persons," he said. Amasiatu who stated that consistent use of radiograph, exposure to x-rays through the use of orthopantomogram and the need for ethical clearance, especially for living individuals could pose challenges for the research, pointed out that the challenges would only reduce the sample size, adding that the larger the sample, the better the result.

Watch out for this focused researcher who is on a mission to prove something!



Amasiatu

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Briefing members of Convocation at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, said that the statutes of the University provided for a body known as Convocation made up of all graduates of the University, teachers in the University, as well as those with degrees from other recognised universities working in the University of Port Harcourt.

For the last group of persons, the Vice-Chancellor disclosed that they were required to formally apply for membership of Convocation and pay the prescribed fee before being admitted as members, adding that the Convocation played a major role in the development of each institution. Professor Lale cited the University of Lagos where alumni erected magnificent buildings for their *alma mater*. "The idea of alumni coming together is to help build the University and not to form political or economic interest blocs. The body is expected to mobilise alumni and other stakeholders for the accelerated development of the University," he told the gathering.

On a motion moved by the National President of the Alumni Association, Mr. Sampson Ngerebara, Convocation voted to cede the position of its representative on the Governing Council exclusively to the Association, with a caveat that the election of such a person must take place on the floor of Convocation and not at a meeting of the Association in line with the

Convocation To Elect Rep Into Council



A cross-section of participants at the Convocation Meeting

enabling Act.

On another motion moved by the Executive Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Professor Henry Alapiki, and supported by the Director of the University of Port Harcourt Business School, Professor Okechuku Onuchuku, members of Convocation resolved to reschedule the election of a representation to Council, citing the scanty attendance at the gathering that included the

immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka and Principal Officers of the University. The meeting rose after further resolving that all alumni of the University, whether they formally registered with the Alumni Association or not, would be eligible to vote and be voted for in the rescheduled election into the Governing Council, even as the Vice-Chancellor appealed to all alumni to identify with the Association.

V-C Commends NAFK For Advancing Knowledge

By Mercy Adeniji

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has commended the National Association for the Advancement of Knowledge (NAFAK) for its multidisciplinary approach aimed at driving and advancing knowledge among disciplines.

Professor Lale made the commendation when he received the Executive members of the Association last Tuesday at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room, University Park. The visit kicked off the Association's 19th Annual National Conference which was hosted in the University from Monday, March 13 to Friday, March 17, 2017, at the Amatu Braide Lecture Hall, University Park.

The Vice-Chancellor said: "The advanced countries began with promotion of knowledge in a holistic manner and they still live on the established foundation of the same philosophy. And that is why the economies of these countries are mostly knowledge-driven. It is in this respect that this Association should be taken seriously in the generation and dissemination of knowledge in which we are still lagging far behind."

He commended the Association for doing a great job in promoting knowledge, adding: "We thank you for your insight and wish your Association well and also wish that your stay in the city of Port Harcourt would be a memorable one."

Speaking earlier, President of the Association, Professor John Tabotndip, praised the authorities of the University for keeping the environment clean and welcoming. "I admired your environment as I came into the Campus and it means that your staff are working hard. This is an Association that is ever seeking the advancement of knowledge, which is the preserve of a university setting. Our mandate is to develop the mind to become fully functional and productive. It is only then that this country can begin to move forward and realize its full potentials," the President said.

Professor Tabotndip said: "This country needs knowledge and if you look back, the makers of early civilisations were the ones that started driving development and any nation that does not take knowledge seriously is just wasting time and resources and is going nowhere. What do we have to offer as a nation and how do we harness our abundant resources to develop the human brain," he asked, adding that such weighty questions coincided with the theme of this year's national conference which was: *Education in Nigeria for Value Re-orientation, Poverty Eradication and National Development*.

In his remarks, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Dr. Gospel Kpee, expressed gratitude to Management of the University for affording the group an opportunity to pay it a courtesy call, despite the short notice. The Association donated some books and journals

namely; *Knowledge Review; A Multidisciplinary Journal, Academic Excellence, African Education Indices and Academic Discourse in International Journal*, to the University.

Also present during the visit were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor, Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Professor Henry Alapiki and his counterpart in the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Professor Ikechukwu Agbagwa.

Other members of the Association present at the occasion were: Professors Bryon Madnewesi, John Undie, Tim Agbagharoma, Dr. Princewill Egwuasi, Mr. Emmanuel Nnalado and Mrs. Grace Ajah.

Delivering a keynote address entitled: *Education in Nigeria for Value Re-orientation, Poverty Alleviation and National Development*, Professor John Undie of the Department of Educational Administration and Planning at the University of Calabar, called for restructuring of the educational sector to accelerate the process of national development.

"We must invest substantially in capacity building for no educational system can rise above the quality of its teachers," Professor Undie warned, expressing hope that recommendations from the conference would help to draw attention to the deficiencies in the nation's educational system.

The keynote speaker stressed: "We must strive to establish a functional link between our educational institutions and the world of work. We must teach integrity education to our citizens. We must make Nigeria great through the educational sector by inculcating desirable values needed for national development, particularly modern science and technology. Our value system must be dynamic to meet the challenges of the time."

The Lead paper was presented by Professor Keziah Achonye, of the Department of Curriculum Studies/Instructional Technology at the Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt.



V-C, Prof Lale (seated centre) flanked by DV-C (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Umeozor, Prof Madnewesi (right), President of the Association, Prof Tabotndip, Registrar, Mrs Otto, Bursar, Mr Vitalis Aliezi and others

SSANU Fetes 9 Retiring Staff



Chairman, UniPort SSANU, Mr. Syder (arrowed), SSANU EXCO, Staff and the retirees

By Mercy Adeniji

In recognition of their contributions to the University spanning over three decades, Chairman of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), Mr. Bikume Syder, led other members of his Executive to accord a rousing send-forth reception to some retiring staff of the University who distinguished themselves in service.

Speaking at the reception which took place on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at the former Council Room in Delta Park, Mr. Syder said: "As a Union, we believe that by the grace of God, our retiring senior colleagues were individually able to spend the period in the meritorious service to this University. It became imperative that upon retirement, we should join them to thank God for guiding them through their hectic public service career. From last year till February, 2017, some of our very talented members retired honourably from

the services of the University without any blemish on their service record. As a Union, we felt we should bring our retiring senior colleagues together to express our collective gratitude to them for the immense sacrifices they made to sustain this University. We plead with them to heartily accept the entitlements and modest packages the Union has for them in recognition of their immense contributions to the growth of this University. We also implore them to keep in touch with us even as they take their well-deserved rest from daily toil.

"These men and women have done a lot of good to the University, right from its humble beginnings when there was little or no infrastructural development. Today, we have moved from this modest former Council Room to a new expansive Senate Building at the University Park. What it means is that the University has grown and it must be noted that our retiring colleagues played major roles in this success story that some may be tempted to take for granted. That is why we decided to celebrate them in the open to thank them

for their glittering service record," the Branch Chairman disclosed.

In their separate speeches on behalf of other retirees, former Acting Director of CEBAS, Mr. Okezie Ochuba and Mrs. Caroline Amaike, commended the SSANU Branch Executive for honouring them. Mr Okezie charged members of SSANU to continue to serve the University in a diligent manner so that they too could be celebrated at their point of retirement, which would reach every staff at some point.

In her contribution, Mrs. Amaike expressed gratitude to God for sparing their lives while in the service of the University. She advised the staff they were leaving behind to "hold on, be focused and humble, persevere, work hard and be tolerant as the only path to career progression."

Other recipients of the entitlements and packages were: Mr James Williams, Mrs. Pleasant Oriji, Messrs Jimmy Akpan, Richard Sikpi, Friday Wobi, Adiele Chidi, who converted to the academic cadre and Benjamin Osulem.

Following the successful completion of his tenure as pioneer Director, Professor Augustus Gbosi of the Department of Economics has finally bowed out as Director of the Institute of International Trade and Development (IITD) which he founded.

Speaking at a brief hand-over ceremony which took place at the Institute in Delta Park, last Monday, Professor Gbosi, who enumerated the key roles played by some actors in the establishment of the Institute on April 11, 2011, showered praises on them for the roles they played in the establishment of the Institute.

"The whole idea was nurtured when one of my former students, Dr. Gbenga Obideyi and Director of Trade at the ECOWAS Commission asked me to submit a proposal to ECOWAS for the establishment of a Centre for Trade and Development in the University of Port Harcourt. I immediately drafted a proposal which was tabled before the 7th Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph A. Ajenka. He looked at it and directed that I should go back to my colleagues in the Department of Economics and present a formal proposal," Professor Gbosi recalled.

"With the assistance of Dr. Obideyi, the short proposal was presented by former Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Anthony Arinze to the Commissioner for Trade, Tariffs and Tourism at the ECOWAS Commission. After Professor Arinze's presentation, I was asked to lead the discussion on the operational structure of the proposed Centre. After my short speech, the Commissioner was convinced and suggested that the Centre should be called *West African Centre for Trade and Development (WACTAD)*," Professor Gbosi further disclosed.

Kalu Assumes Office, Gbosi Bows Out As Trade Institute Director

By Otikor Samuel

It was after then that Dr. Nelson Olatunji introduced Professor Gbosi to Dr. Bamanga Tukur, who was President of the *African Business Round-Table*, necessitating the establishment of the defunct Bamanga Tukur Institute. "In attendance at the meeting were former Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, Professor Augustus Gbosi and Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta. After our presentations, Dr. Tukur was highly impressed, and expressed readiness to partner the University on the initiative. He also promised to endow a Chair in International Trade in the Department of Economics, which was never funded as envisaged," Professor Gbosi regretted.

Presenting his report that covered 2011 to March 2017, Professor Gbosi, explained that despite the false start, the Institute laid its foundation in 2011, averring that: "2011 was spent on sending proposals to various international trade and development agencies. The administrative office of the Institute was based in my personal office in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University Park."

In 2012, the Institute produced the maiden edition of the *African Journal of International Trade and Development*, relocated to its

temporary office at the former Academic Office in Delta Park and participated in capacity building sessions within and outside the country. It was also in 2012 that Senate approved the Master of Science degree programme for the Institute.

"The pioneer M.Sc students commenced lectures in April, 2013 with an initial intake of 18 candidates. I attended and chaired a session of an International Conference on Global Business and Trade held in Detroit, Michigan, USA in July," Professor Gbosi disclosed, further adding that Dr. Nye Tom-Ekine was appointed Assistant Director of the Institute.

Major events that took place in 2014 included the completion of programme by the pioneer and second batch students, purchase of Toyota salon car, production of a book entitled: *Global Trade Politics and Development Finance* and signing of a joint Memorandum of Understanding with the Minister of Education and the United Nations.

In 2015, two batches of students numbering 36 graduated from the programme, while the proposal for a Doctoral degree programme in Trade and Development Finance was approved in August of that year by Senate of the University.

According to the erstwhile Director, the maiden public lecture of the Institute held on October 21, 2016 with the theme: *Trade Negotiations and Development in Africa* and was delivered by a Consultant with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Dr. Olumuyiwa Alaba.

The Institute has moved from its former office to a 12-room complex previously in Delta Park. In all, a total of 72 students had enrolled into the Master of Science degree programme with 44 already graduated, while 12 candidates enrolled into the Doctoral programme.

"One of our graduates is now working with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), two are working with the Nigerian Export Promotion Council and another two are working with some big banks in Nigeria," Professor Gbosi said.

Taking over the leadership, the new Director, Professor Sylva Kalu, showered praises on his predecessor for laying a solid foundation for the Institute. "It is not easy to start something, so I want to thank Professor Gbosi for laying a good foundation for the Institute. I will call on him from time to time to assist with his expertise and also give us good insight on the Institute," the new Director said.

Professor Kalu promised to take the Institute to the next level by embarking on improved partnerships with local and international trade organisations, government agencies, private sector and other academic institutions. He expressed readiness to put in place proactive measures to improve enrolment in programmes run by the Institute.

"I will operate on the principles of openness, professionalism and transparency in my approach to teaching, research and administration," the new Director promised.



Prof Kalu (left) taking over from Prof Gbosi

German Company Donates To Mechatronic Dept

By Otikor Samuel

FESTO, a Lagos-based German firm, has donated a pneumatic device for the simulation of automation to the Department of Mechatronic Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering. According to the donor, the

device delivered on Friday, March 3, 2017 to the Department was presently valued at N7 million. Unveiling the device at the Mechatronic Laboratory on Friday, March 10, 2017, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Maureen Etebu, expressed gratitude to the company for filling an important gap

through the donation, which she said would go a long way in assisting students in the Faculty carry out the practical aspects of their training.

"This is one of the best things that happened under my watch as Dean. The machine is very important, but would have been difficult to purchase on our own. Receiving it on the platter of gold makes me really happy. Even though the machine is donated to the Department of Mechatronic Engineering, our students in the Faculty and others in Physics and related disciplines will find it useful in their practical sessions," Professor Etebu observed, describing the gesture as the opening of a new frontier in Mechatronic study in the University.

The Dean conveyed the gratitude of the Faculty to the donor, promising that the equipment would be put to good use. She further charged students to handle it with extra care in order to prolong its lifespan.

Also speaking, Acting Head of the Department of Mechatronic Engineering, Dr. Tobinson Briggs, expressed happiness over the donation, recalling his encounter with the company on the heels of developing the curriculum for the study of Mechatronics in Nigerian universities with the National Universities Commission.

"This equipment is coming at a time when our students are in their Third Year of study and it would help to expose them to more practical and laboratory training. I feel great receiving the equipment on behalf of the Department and I thank FESTO for this kind gesture and for promoting Mechatronic technology in Nigeria," Dr. Briggs said.



Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof Etebu (right) and Ag. HoD, Dr Briggs inspecting the new device at the Mechatronic Lab

Ways of reclaiming the original potentials of indigenous musical arts and resisting modernist exocentric ideologies and fashions that repress and replace original African cultural intellect and virtues, formed the main thrust of the 3rd Sir Clement Nimenibo Memorial Lecture and Concert hosted by the Department of Music.

Delivering the lecture entitled: *Reclaiming and Re-enacting the Humanity Virtues of Musical Arts Heritage for a Sublime Posterity* at the Orpheus Recital Hall of the Department, last Tuesday, Professor Meki Nzewi, noted that genuine reclamation of the African musical heritage entailed cognitive research, discernment and the advancement of art.

"Re-enactment of authoritative African Indigenous Knowledge System (IKS) is critical in culture-sensitized modern classroom education sites. Proactive IKS will combat the overwhelming cultural amnesia and mimic mentality besieging and bastardising modernist African life orientation," he explained. He added that cultural musical arts socialisation could purge and curtail the psychical injuries inflicted on the populace by modernity gadgets and lifestyles.

Professor Nzewi declared: "Indigenous musical arts were a divine agency functionally conceived and applied to overseeing morality canons and societal management. In the modernist age of humanity, the musical arts have become stripped of their original proactive conceptualisations as divine overseers of sublime society systems, and split into micro-specialisations for vacuous entertainment business and ego-frivolities, which lack healing interactivity and societal function." He dismissed the emergent trend as sheer entertainment that was capable of mind-diverting pursuits.

OUR ERROR

In the last editor of *UniPort Weekly*, we erroneously referred to the Chairman of the local Branch of the University Secretarial Staff Association, Mr. Sunday Aweka as "her" instead of "he" in the part of the story that concerned his group. The error is regretted. Editor

Nzewi Advocates Return To Indigenous Musical Arts

By Humphrey Ogu

Nzewi, who is a Professor of African Music-Theory and Practice, hailed the establishment of the Sir Clement F. Nimenibo Research Chair in recognition of his remarkable love of music, which was being sustained by his family for the benefit of posterity. He expressed hope that the Chair would focus on purposive African scholarship by eschewing such distasteful cultural orientation that mark the current musical arts of the education curricula.

In his address, immediate past Head of Department of Music and Supervising Occupant of the Sir Clement F. Nimenibo Chair of Music and Research, Professor Onyee Nwankpa, who represented the Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka, stressed the need to appoint a substantive Occupant for the Chair to drive research activities as a way of fulfilling the objective for setting it up.

"The First Sir Clement Nimenibo Memorial Lecture and Concert, was delivered by Emeritus Professor Laz Ekwueme, while the Second edition was delivered by the Acting Dean, Faculty of Law, Professor Lucky Worika. We are looking forward to compiling the first three lectures into a reference book that would be presented at the next edition of

the lecture," Professor Nwankpa disclosed.

Welcoming guests to the event, Acting Head of the Department, Dr. Adeoluwa Okunade, expressed appreciation to the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, for his support towards the growth of the Department, Professor Nwankpa for laying a solid foundation, the Nimenibo family for their commitment to the Chair and all who contributed to the success of the latest in the lecture series.

Also speaking, a representative of the Nimenibo family, Mrs. Ibifuro Egbulefu, expressed gratitude to the University of Port Harcourt for keeping the memory of their father alive through the lecture and concert series. She recalled that her late father was very observant and loved to make people smile. She also rendered a song that reminded her of her late father's love for seeing people laugh.

The event, which featured performances by *UniPort Trado-Dance Troupe* (UTDMT) and *UniPort Concert Chorus* (UCC), also had Professor Ajienka, Engineer William Nimenibo and senior academics from the Department in attendance.



Prof Nzewi (arrowed) flanked on the left by Engineer Nimenibo, Prof Nwankpa and on the right by Mrs Egbulefu, Dr. Okunade, Dr. Marie Agatha Oza, Dr. Ngozi Okonkwo and others

Mgt Tasks Interim S'Union Executive On Leadership

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The Vice-Chancellor also charged the new leadership not to yield to manipulation by selfish individuals who may wish to use them to satisfy their selfish interest, advising them to stick to the legitimate welfare needs of the students in their new positions.

In his speech, the new Interim President of the Union, Mr. Obinali Wondikom, expressed gratitude to the Management for finding his members worthy to serve the students, assuring the Vice-Chancellor of their commitment to the lofty ideals of the Lale-led administration. He said that the Executive Committee made up of tried and tested leaders in various capacities would work tirelessly to serve the student population to the best of their abilities.

Mr. Wondikom said that the new Executive Committee would work on the revision of the Union's Constitution, with a view to streamlining the channels of communication between the students and Management of the University to check potential areas of conflict. He assured Management that all the Union's finances would be used to serve the interest of the students. The new helmsman said that "a situation in which the Union's activities were carried out outside the University by some previous Executives would be stopped. Henceforth, we will ensure that we bring the Union back to the Campus, where it

rightly belongs as envisaged by its founding fathers."

Earlier in his remarks, Acting Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr. Otu Ekpeyong, expressed gratitude to Management for constituting the Interim body, recalling that the move was necessitated by the botched election late last year. "The stakeholders resolved that given recent happenings on Campus, which resulted in the postponement of the poll, an Interim Executive was the only means of giving students some form of representation, pending when normalcy would be

restored to necessitate elections into the Union's Executive," he disclosed.

Other members of the new Interim Executive are: Chidinma Eren, Vice-President; Ekerebari Wunih, Secretary; Obiageri Agbai, Financial Secretary; Job Jacob, Treasurer; Kelly Amadin, Provost and Festus Akpan, Director of Transport. Others include: Judith Aniefuna, Director of Sports; Ogbugo Amadi, Director of Socials; Osaro Valentine, Director of Information, as well as Bright Okougkha, Director of Welfare.



V-C, Prof Lale (seated centre), some Principal and Senior Officers (left) and the new Student Union leaders

Nwaichi Ends Training On GCCE, Chemical Safety

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

A Senior Lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, Dr. Eucharia Nwaichi, has ended a well-attended Step-Down Training on Global Chemists Code of Ethics, Chemical Safety and Security.

Briefing participants before the commencement of the training, which held at the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals Auditorium, NLNG Building, last Wednesday, Dr. Nwaichi, disclosed that the Global Chemists Code of Ethics (GCCE) was aimed at ensuring that chemical practitioners and allied professionals become passionate advocates of safe and secure application of chemistry for the benefit of humankind and preservation of the fragile environment for future generations.

"Chemical practitioners have a duty to promote a positive perception, public understanding and appreciation of chemistry, while practitioners should provide professional inputs and opinions to government and other decision makers regarding industrial, environmental and other issues associated with chemicals," she said.

"The GCCE has five major sections which cover

environment, research, scientific writing and publishing, including safety and security. It has key elements which border on accountability, oversight functions, exchange of information, awareness, engagement and ethics amongst others, as well as guidelines for use by the academia, industry and for export control," Dr. Nwaichi said at the opening ceremony. She further stated that policy makers and chemistry professionals could encourage ethical research practices and adopt internationally recognised standards for chemical safety and security."

Emphasising the importance of chemical safety and security, Dr. Nwaichi, pointed out that chemical storage and security would specifically support the ability of scientists to operate without restrictions to travel, collaborate or otherwise have meaningful discourse. "Daily commitment from all experts and other individuals in an institution is required for effective safety and security programme. It is important for individuals to work together to eliminate the risk of exposure to hazardous materials and conditions in the laboratory," she further told the participants.

In his address, representative of the Vice-Chancellor

and Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor Gordon Obute, commended Dr. Nwaichi for her sustained effort at organising the training for purposes of experience-sharing, following sponsored international trainings in her area of specialisation. "This is a loud call for chemistry teachers and other professionals to practise the subject with responsibility," he said, calling on other staff, who benefit from such global exposures to emulate her example through experience-sharing workshops on their return.

QA/QC Institutes Reward System For Diligent Staff

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit (QAQC) and SERVICOM, has instituted a reward system for outstanding academic and non-teaching staff of the University.

Director of the Unit, Professor Ikechukwu Agbagwa, who made the disclosure, said that the reward system was part of the Unit's plan to encourage dedication to duty, efficiency and hard work amongst staff.

"The criteria for selection shall include: punctuality, ability to complete assigned duties within record time, dedication and creativity, amongst others. QAQC/SERVICOM shall source information on each staff through SERVICOM Representatives and Unit Heads. There shall be an End-of-Year award which will be based on the overall best in each category," the Director said. He also disclosed that a semester-based reward system was being planned for academic staff through information gathered from "Lecture Evaluation Forms."

"The rewards would include, but not limited to a "Congratulatory Letter" signed by the Vice-Chancellor and Registrar, a "Handshake" with the Vice-Chancellor, "Group Photograph" with all monthly recipients to be published in the *UniPort Weekly* and an enlarged photograph of the awardee to be displayed at a strategic location in the recipient's place of deployment for the succeeding month," Professor Agbagwa stated.



Dr. Nwaichi (arrowed) and participants after the event

GUIDE POST

READERSHIP PROMOTION

Dr. Chimezie Ogugbue, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective September 23, 2014.

Dr. Abiye Ibiene, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective September 23, 2014.

Dr. Yehuwa Chad-Umoren, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective September 23, 2014.

Dr. Gospel Kpee, Department of Educational Management and Planning, Faculty of Education, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective December 13, 2014.

Dr. Chidiebere Ugwu, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective October 1, 2015.

Dr. Chinenye Awujo, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective October 1, 2015.

APPOINTMENT

Dr. Hamilton Oporum, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on March 2, 2019.

Dr. Judipat Obiora, Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism, Faculty of Management Sciences, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which takes effect from March 14, 2017 will terminate on March 13, 2019.

Dr. Benjamin Nyewusira, Department of Educational Foundation, Faculty of Education, appointed *Assistant Director, College of Continuing Education (Certificate Programme)*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect from March 14, 2017 will terminate on March 13, 2019.

Dr. Sunny Igwe, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Co-ordinator of General Studies (GES 300) Entrepreneurial Development Programme*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect from March 4, 2017 will terminate on March 3, 2019.

Dr. Adeoluwa Okunade, Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect from March 8, 2017 will terminate March 7, 2019.

STATUTORY RETIREMENT

Professor Donald Anyanwu, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Science to proceed on a three-month *Pre-Retirement Leave* on March 29, 2017, preparatory to *Statutory Retirement from Service*, effective June 20, 2017.

Professor Christopher Ejizu, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, to proceed on a three-month *Pre-Retirement Leave* on May 10, 2017, preparatory to *Statutory Retirement from Service*, effective August 10, 2017.

Professor John Okoli, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering to proceed on a three-month *Pre-Retirement Leave* on August 18, 2017, preparatory to *Statutory Retirement from Service* on November 18, 2017.

Professor Adonye Orugbani, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, to proceed on a three-month *Pre-Retirement Leave* on August 18, 2017, preparatory to *Statutory Retirement from Service* on November 18, 2017.

Specialist Calls For Regular Eye Check At World Glaucoma Day



Some staff undergoing eye checks

By Mercy Adeniji

The Rivers/Bayelsa States Chapter of the Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria joined the rest of the world to mark this year's *Glaucoma Week* with a call on people to go for regular eye checks for early diagnosis of the disease that often leads to blindness.

Speaking during a free screening exercise with the theme: *Beat Invisible Glaucoma*, which held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium from March 12 to 18, 2017, a Consultant Ophthalmologist and Glaucoma Specialist, Dr. Elizabeth Awoyesoku, revealed that the essence of the *Glaucoma Week* was to create more awareness about the deadly disease that could lead to blindness and to remind those already diagnosed with glaucoma about the need to continue treatment and follow up doctor's appointment.

"Glaucoma gradually damages the optic nerve in the eyes and may result in total loss of vision. It is often called the silent thief of sight because of its slow onset and progression, causing permanent loss of vision with very few or no early warning signs," Dr. Awoyesoku warned.

On the causes of glaucoma, the Specialist said that it was frequently caused by a build-up of pressure inside the eyes

called *Intraocular Pressure (IOP)*. "Normally the eye fluid circulates through the front chamber of the eyes to nourish and protect eye structures. The fluid then flows out through a drainage canal situated in the angle of the front part of the eyes. If the drainage canal becomes blocked, pressure builds up inside the eyes and damages the optic nerve, which is responsible for transmitting images to the brain. Once the optic nerve cannot regenerate, the resulting damage leads to permanent loss of vision," the Ophthalmologist disclosed.

"If a person is getting older from forty and above, he or she is likely to have the disease which could be hereditary or attributed to pressure in the eyes. Research has shown that black people are likely to be more predisposed to the disease. Glaucoma is also common in people that are hypertensive and diabetic and if a person has had an eye surgery, injuries in the eyes resulting from a slap or blow called secondary glaucoma, such a person is likely to develop the disease and if nothing is done, it could lead to blindness. If the disease is diagnosed on time, progression could be halted and it could be controlled with specialised medication for life. All glaucoma treatments are aimed at lowering eyes pressure and medical and laser therapy, including surgery," she said.

NOT A LAUGHING MATTER

Coca Cola Company Killing Us Softly!

For 9 years, a civil law case has been raging against the Coca Cola Bottling Company, manufacturers of *Fanta* and *Sprite*, that impacts directly on our health and lives. Let me try and paraphrase it, so una no go sleep off.

The story outline: one Dr. Fijabi, had in 2007, bought about N12 million worth of *Fanta* and *Sprite* drinks from Coca Cola Ltd and exported same to the United Kingdom for commercial transaction. Once they arrived in England, the Health and Safety regulations authorities tested the products and found them to contain "poisonous levels of Benzoic Acid and Sunset additives" and were, therefore, declared "unfit for human consumption."

The whole export consignment was consequently destroyed, whereupon Dr. Fijabi sued Coca Cola for negligence, breach of duty of care to its customers, and loss of earnings.

Now comes the interesting part: The almighty Coca Cola only offered one defence in Her Majesty's Crown Court: "Mr. Fijabi did not tell us he was going to export the *Fanta* and *Sprite* to England. The products were only manufactured 'FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION.' What? For local consumption?

So, the Coca Cola Bottling Company is telling us that if it knew that the *Fanta* and *Sprite* were to be exported to England, it would not have added so much poisonous acid to them! So, it is normal to serially poison the people of Nigeria for profit purposes?

That is the official courtroom statement of Coca Cola Bottling Company of Nigeria. Last Wednesday, Justice Adedayo Oyeboji of the Lagos High Court, was 'crying' when he gave judgement against Coca Cola, declaring the company as callous and grossly negligent in Nigeria. He cursed NAFDAC for failing to carry out proper laboratory checks on 'minerals' produced in Nigeria.

Cancer was listed as one of the ailments that the present *Fanta*

and *Sprite* can cause, especially if taken with Vitamin C tablets. The Judge, therefore, ordered Coca Cola to henceforth add a **WRITTEN WARNING** on *Fanta* and *Sprite* bottles: "This product must not be taken with Vitamin C." Once again, Oyinbo has come to our rescue!

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6TH FOUNDERS' DAY LECTURE

As part of events to mark the 31st Convocation Ceremony of the University of Port Harcourt, the Founders' Day Lecture was delivered by Professor Frank Ugiomoh on February 6th, 2017 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** captured highlights of the event:



Dignitaries on the high table rise for UniPort and National Anthems



DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe, representing V-C, Prof Ndowa Lale welcoming guests



Prof Omenihu Nwaorgu reading the citation on the Lecturer



Prof Ugiomoh delivering the Lecture



Prof Ugiomoh handing over a copy of the Lecture to DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe



A cross-section of participants at the event



R-L: Former DV-C (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Nduka, Profs Femi Shaka and Lucky Odokuma



L-R: 7th Vice-Chancellor, Prof Joseph Ajiienka, one-time DV-C (Admin), Prof Mark Anikpo and Emeritus Prof Samuel Okiwelu



DV-C (Acad), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi (left), University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor



Prof Ibe (R) and Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto



Former Dean, Social Sciences, Prof Willy Okowa (R) and Director UPBS, Prof Okey Onuchuku



Prof I.S Nzenneri (R) and Prof Gregory Kemjika



A group Photograph of Professor Ugiomoh , Principal and other Senior Officers after the Lecture