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V-C Commends Sandwich Students On Mature Conduct

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has commended members of the Sandwich Students' Association for conducting themselves in a mature and responsible manner. He assured them that Management would do everything within its powers to uplift the Post-NCE Programme to position it to deliver quality education to students, reports *Mercy Adeniji*.

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Side Bar 153RD INAUGURAL

Professor Prince Mmom of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, delivers the 153rd Inaugural Lecture on Thursday, September 27, 2018 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Time is 3:00pm Details next edition

~Editor

Pro-Chancellor Tasks DPPD On Contract Supervision, Monitoring

Pro-Chancellor, Prof Jibo (centre) flanked by Council Members, Principal and Senior Officers after the inspection tour

By Otikor Samuel

Concerned about shoddy jobs and undue delays by some contractors handling projects in the University, the Pro-Chancellor, Professor Mvendaga Jibo, has directed the Deputy Director in charge of the Department of Physical Planning and Development (DPPD), Mr. Michael Ubom, to closely supervise and monitor every phase of ongoing projects. The Council Chairman insisted that his directive was anchored on the need to ensure that each contractor strictly complied to specifications contained in each contractual obligation to get value for money.

The Pro-Chancellor handed down the directive when he led other Council members, Principal Officers and some senior officers on another round of inspection of ongoing projects on Wednesday, September 12, 2018. Professor Jibo also emphasised the need for architects to consider the meteorological conditions of the Niger Delta while designing projects for the University.

"Contractors should not be bigger than the University. They must ensure that job specifications are implemented to the letter and this can only be achieved if the

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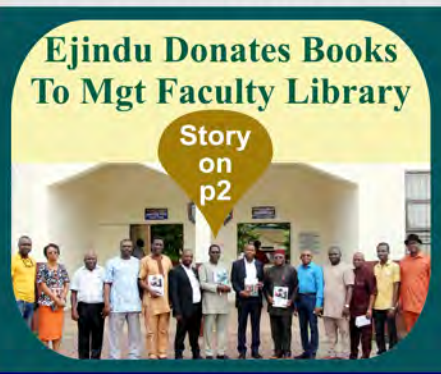

NLA Confers Best Practice Award On Mmecha

Mrs. Mnecha

By Williams Wodi

In recognition of her dedication to duty and excellence in Library Science in Nigeria, Mrs. Juliet Alex-Mnecha of the Department of Library and Information Science in the Faculty of Education, has continued to harvest awards at the state and national levels.

The latest award was conferred on Mrs. Mnecha by the Nigerian Library Association (NLA), at its 56th Conference and Annual General Meeting which held between 23rd and 26th July, 2018. The gathering held at the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library in Abeokuta, Ogun State, where the award recipient was praised for her immense contributions to the advancement of library practice. Mrs. Mnecha was conferred with the Dr. Victoria Okojie Award for Advocacy and Promotion of Library Services in 2017.

Similarly, the Rivers State Chapter of the Association honoured Mrs. Mnecha with the Professor Blessing Ahiauzu Best Practising Librarian award in the State for 2017.

A letter signed by Chairman of the Rivers State Chapter of the Nigerian Library Association, Chief Godbless Okede, said the Chapter award was in recognition of Mrs. Mnecha's "level of participation and sustenance of Librarianship in Rivers State."

The Chapter Chairman advised Mrs. Mnecha to intensify efforts aimed at placing Library Science on a higher pedestal at the state and national levels to justify the award.

Stop Press

Wegwu Heads Sports Institute Board

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has appointed Professor Matthew Wegwu of the Department of Biochemistry in the Faculty of Science Chairman of the Academic Board of the Sports Institute. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on September 2, 2020. Other members of the Board are, Professors Christie Mato, Ken Anugweje, Patrick Eghwrudjakpor, Johnson Okpako and Walter Ihejirika. Other members include Drs. Chukwuemeka Agi, Elfrida Aikins, Victor Ogunleye, Gabriel Oladipo, Vincent Adiela and Joyce Olorunfemi, while Mr. Kwamina Orukotan of the School of General Studies is Secretary of the Board.

Parents' Forum Meeting

The University of Port Harcourt Parents' Forum (UPHPF) invites parents, guardians and other stakeholders to its general meeting holding on Tuesday, September 25, 2018. A statement dated September 14, 2018 signed by the Administrative Secretary, Mrs. Doiye Alale and made available to *UniPort News*, disclosed that the meeting would hold at the main auditorium of the School of Basic Studies, University Park. Time is 10:00am.

Registration For 2018/19 Session

As registration exercise for Returning Students is billed to commence on Monday, November 19, 2018, the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, has instructed online service provider, Cinfores Limited to upload fee schedule and set up the platform for payment of charges and registration of courses. The Registrar in the statement dated September 12, 2018 and signed on her behalf by the Deputy Registrar (Academic), Dr. Agatha Ataga, added that information on hostel accommodation for Returning Final Year Students on the basis of first come, first served, would also be available online for the affected students.

Redeployment

The redeployment of Mrs. Mammy Otonnah and Mrs. Nkechi Barinua-Mina as new Faculty Officer for the Faculty of Law and Academic Office, respectively, will now take effect from January 7, 2019. A statement dated September 14, 2018 and signed by the SPATS Officer, Mr. Job Borgbara, requested the affected Principal Assistant Registrars to disregard the initial effective date of resumption earlier fixed for Thursday, August 16, 2018.

Ejindu Donates Books To Mgt Faculty Library

By Mercy Adeniji

A total of 350 books in various specialisations and instructional materials have been donated to the Faculty of Management Sciences Library by an ex-student of the Department of Marketing, Dr. Morah Ejindu.

Receiving the books on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Barisua Nwinee, who was represented by a visibly enthused Associate Dean, Dr. Ikechukwu Nnamdi, expressed gratitude to Dr. Ejindu for making the donation to his erstwhile Faculty.

"This kind of gesture is rare amongst our ex-students, most of who hardly return to give back something to the system that made them what they are today. If one percent of the students we have graduated can do what Dr. Ejindu has done, this University will lack nothing. This is a highly commendable gesture that is worthy of emulation by other students of this University. We can only wish Dr. Ejindu the best in all his endeavours. We wish to assure him that the students and staff will benefit immensely from the books as reference materials in our research," the Associate Dean said.

Presenting the books, Dr. Ejindu who currently lectures at the University of Westminster in the United Kingdom, expressed happiness to be back in his *alma mater*, describing it as a great honour since his graduation. The donor recalled that while he was in UniPort, he struggled to find good books and the only resort at the time was the then World Bank Library, now *Donald Ekong Library,* which was not really opened to everyone as students were only allowed to use the library for about four hours in a day.

"Even then, we were not allowed to take any book out and it was quite a challenge for me since I needed to make references from the materials. When I travelled abroad to study, I began to enjoy the resources there in the form of new textbooks and current reference materials from around the world and I began to see the difference. I then began to think about how to give back to my *alma mater* to enable it support the next generation, because I want students of the University to have unfettered access to quality books and other instructional materials that I did not get," he said.

Dr. Ejindu stated that he mobilised his colleagues at the University of Westminster to support his initiative to donate books to his *alma mater* back home. "I am very happy that they bought into my initiative and started contributing to the collection even beyond my modest expectation. I am enthused at the opportunity to give back to my *alma mater* which is really dear to me. The foundation of knowledge is in books, so I encourage students and staff to use these books to enhance their scope of knowledge and research. I am so excited to meet my wonderful lecturers and I appreciate them for their warm reception," the donor said.

In his contribution, a former Dean of the Faculty, Professor Sylva Kalu, recalled that Dr. Ejindu was his student and a one-time Departmental President of Marketing Students' Association. "He was quite an intelligent young man and when he learnt that I was still in the system, he began to communicate with me and promised to give back to the institution that gave him a head start. As teachers, we are happy when our graduates do very well, and it is our duty to encourage them. I appreciate Dr. Ejindu for his kind gesture and urge other graduates of the Faculty and University to emulate his kind gesture," Professor Kalu said.

Dr. Ejindu (arrowed) and other staff of the Faculty during the donation

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V-C Commends Sandwich Students

V-C, Prof Lale (seated 3rd right) flanked by Univ. Librarian, Dr Umeozor, President, Sandwich Students' Assoc., Mr Nuka (right), Registrar, Mrs Otto, DV-C (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi, Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof Orunaboka (seated left), Acting Director, Post-NCE programme, Dr Kpee (standing right) and others

Cont'd from Page 1

Professor Lale made the commendation when the leadership of the Post-NCE Sandwich Students Association paid him a courtesy visit in the Committee Room on Thursday, September 6, 2018.

"We welcome our Sandwich Students to this academic session and wish you the best of your stay here. We hold our Sandwich students in very high esteem because of the mature and responsible manner in which they conduct their affairs. If all our students were to conduct themselves in like manner, we will have nothing to worry about as administrators. Sandwich students know why they are here and they go about their business within the rules and regulations of the University," the Vice-Chancellor said.

He further commended the Faculty of Education, Student Affairs Department and the Certificate Verification Committee for supporting the Sandwich programme, charging them to continue with the good work. Professor Lale, however, regretted that the commendable initiative for the building of a permanent hostel for Sandwich students has not been realised due to the reckless action of a few of their erstwhile colleagues who are currently under close scrutiny. He assured the students that Management would do everything it can to support the project.

In their separate contributions, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Tamunobelema Orunaboka, Acting Director of Post-NCE, Dr. Gospel Kpee and Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Edward Imo, commended Management for affording them the opportunity to serve the students in various capacities. "We thank Management for showing interest in the Post-NCE programme of the University. It has become a tradition for Sandwich Students to have an opportunity to meet and interact with Management of the University at the beginning of each new Semester," the Dean said.

In his contribution, President of the University of Port Harcourt Sandwich Students' Association, Mr. Philip Nuka, expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for his outstanding leadership style that has taken the University to new heights. He also praised Management for tackling all forms of social vices in the University and inculcating the spirit of oneness, peace and unity among staff and students.

"We thank you for approving the ten per cent reduction in Sandwich school fees and other charges across board, approval of the construction of a permanent hostel for Sandwich students, approval of the Post-NCE office building and re-appointment of our amiable Director, Dr Kpee," the President told the Vice-Chancellor. He appealed to Management to assist the Association recover funds allegedly misappropriated by the erstwhile Executive to enable the current leadership complete the hostel project.

Also present at the visit were the Deputy Vice-Chancellors Administration and Academic, Professors Regina Ogali and Hakeem Fawehinmi, the University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor, Dr. Adekola Ganiyu and other leaders of the Association.

No Admission, Job Quota For Groups, V-C Tells Host Communities

By Otikor Samuel and Mercy Adeniji

As various groups in the University's host communities continue to clamour for preferential admission, employment and contract quotas, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has sounded it loud and clear that no specific provision was made in the *University Act* for such purposes on behalf of host communities. Quite on the contrary, Professor Lale informed those making such demands, that the University Management had severally bent over backwards to carry along its host communities in line with its corporate social responsibility and in recognition of their contributions to peaceful co-existence in the neighbourhood.

Professor Lale made the clarification when he separately received the leadership of Akpor Central Development Committee and the Community Development Committee of Alakahia on Wednesday, September 5, 2018. The Vice-Chancellor frowned at ill-advised media appearance by the leadership of Akpor Central Development Committee to issue threats against the University, stressing that commencing a relationship on a rancorous note would not benefit anybody. He reminded the group that the University had been a blessing to the host communities since its inception in 1975.

"Let me correct the erroneous impression that there is any quota system for admission, employment or contract set aside for any host community. The Federal Government has not told us that there is any quota system for employment or admission for any individual or group, but the University had been accommodating its host communities over the years by making concessions to them where applicable without waiting to be threatened or issued demand notices. As it stands today, Management is not totally in charge of admitting students or employing staff into the University. We can only recommend admission of candidates to the Registrar of JAMB, who also has to work on some established criteria before offering provisional admission to prospective candidates.

V-C, Prof Lale (seated centre) flanked by Mr Orlu (right), Principal, Senior Officers and other members of the Committee

"It is also not true that apart from the late Chief Security Officer, that there had been no Senior Officers from Akpor holding high offices in the University. You should have done proper background checks before making such an outlandish claim. For instance, the Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, who is the closest officer to the Vice-Chancellor is your son. We have a good number of Akpor indigenes as Deans, Directors and other important positions," the Vice-Chancellor disclosed. He added that the University would not subscribe to the demand of the group to raise a parallel admission or employment list from the groups that could portray it as polarising the communities which have established traditional channels of communication with the University.

Earlier, Chairman of the Akpor Central Development Committee, Mr. Ben Orlu, said the body was formed on July 28, 2017 to promote the welfare of Akpor Kingdom through close engagement with corporate bodies operating in the area.

"We are here to solicit the cooperation of the Vice-Chancellor on admission of our wards into the University. We don't want to stand by the sideline and watch good things pass us by. We need our children to go to school. Also, the University has employed persons from the host communities, but as a committee, we want more employment opportunities to be given to the kingdom through a quota system," he stated.

Similarly, the leadership of the Alakahia Community Development Committee had requested that the University provide employment and admission opportunities to indigenes of the community. The Committee in an address read by its Secretary, Mr. Enyi Leonard, urged the University to introduce a scholarship scheme for Alakahia indigenes. The community also demanded to be allocated shops and contract concessions in the University, amongst other items on the CDC's list.

V-C, Prof Lale (5th right) flanked by DV-C (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi, Area Commander, Mr. Daoor, CSO, Mr Sunday Osarollo, SAV-C, Mr Kingsley Wogwu (right), DV-C (Admini), Prof Ogali, Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, Univ. Librarian, Dr Susan Umeozor, DPO, Mr Kayode, Prof Chinedu Chukueggu and Deputy Registrar (Info), Williams Wodi (left) in a group photograph

UniPort Donates Power Plant To Aluu Police Station

By Otikor Samuel

As a way of reciprocating the kind gesture of the Nigeria Police in securing lives and property of staff and students in and outside the campus, the Management of the University has donated a 10 KVA electricity generating plant and its accessories to the Aluu Police station.

In a brief remark before handing over the plant to the Police on Friday, September 7, 2018 in front of the Senate building, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, said the donation was in furtherance of the mutual relationship existing between the University and the Police which has brought calm to the neighbourhood.

"Time there was when our staff were routinely kidnapped, while students lived in constant fear of being attacked and robbed by criminal elements that operated around the University. Today, the Police and other security outfits have played a major role in bringing calm to our neighbourhood. This donation is our modest way of thanking the Police and also encouraging you to do more," the Vice-Chancellor said.

Receiving the donation, the Area Commander in charge of Choba Area Command, Mr. Pat Daoor, commended the University for the kind gesture. He pledged continued support of the Police to secure lives and property on campus. "Our excellent relationship has been further reinforced by this kind gesture for which we are very grateful to the University Management. We will continue to partner the University to ensure that lives and property are protected to enable you carry out your function of teaching and research. If you have any security challenges, please do not hesitate to call us," the Area Commander assured the Vice-Chancellor.

Also speaking, the Divisional Police Officer in charge of Aluu Police Station, Mr. Ajayi Kayode, whose station is the direct beneficiary of the donation, expressed gratitude to the University for the gesture. The DPO showered encomiums on the Vice-Chancellor for the warm reception accorded him on arrival, promising that his Division would continue to assist in crime detection and prevention in and around the University.

Yishau Donates His Book To UniPort

By Mercy Adeniji

As part of efforts aimed at encouraging reading habit among students, an Associate Editor with *The Nation* newspaper and award-winning journalist, Mr. Olukorede Yishau, has donated 50 copies of his latest novel to the University.

Making the donation through the Deputy Registrar in charge of Information, Williams Wodi, the South-South Bureau Chief of *The Nation* newspaper, Bisi Olaniyi, disclosed that Mr. Yishau decided to donate 50 copies of his latest novel to make it widely available to students, lecturers and the general readers in the University, especially those in English Studies, Linguistics and Communication Studies and the University Library.

"Apart from those in English, the donor specifically requested that copies of the book should be sent to the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, especially those in Communication option, with copies deposited at the University Library. The donor's aim is to deepen knowledge and promote reading habit among students of this University," Olaniyi said.

Receiving the books in his office last Tuesday, Wodi expressed gratitude to Mr. Yishau on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale for the donation. "I wish to thank Mr. Yishau for donating 50 copies of his book to the University of Port Harcourt, which is far away from his workplace in Lagos. Universities in other parts of the world grow through support from individuals and public-spirited organisations, and it is our hope that people in privileged position will rise to the challenge of assisting higher institutions to grow beyond government allocations. This is not the first time *The Nation* newspaper is donating to the University. This goes to show that people who occupy Editorial and managerial positions in that newspaper are not just concerned with their practice; they are also concerned about what goes on in higher institutions in Nigeria," he said.

Wodi told Olaniyi to convey the gratitude of the Vice-Chancellor to Mr. Yishau for donating the book entitled: *In the Name of our Father*, urging others to emulate his philanthropic gesture. He promised to distribute the book in line with the directive of the author.

Deputy Registrar (Info), Wodi receiving copies of the book from Olaniyi

Ogali Hails Biochem Students For Sweeping Prizes At NSBMB Confab

A visibly enthused Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Regina Ogali, has showered praises on students of the Department of Biochemistry in the Faculty of Science for carting away all four prizes on offer at the just-concluded two-day conference organised by the South-South Zone of the Nigerian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the University. The event held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium between September 13 and 14, 2018.

Expressing joy when she received a delegation led by the Acting Head of the Department, Dr. Benjamin Amadi that was in her office to present the prizes, Professor Ogali expressed satisfaction with the exploits of the students at the competitive stages of the conference, saying that Management was proud of the award winners.

By Otikor Samuel

"I am happy that you encouraged your students to participate in the activities of the Society during the last conference. This is a way of exposing them to scholarship and networking with their colleagues in other institutions. It further means that you are not just preparing the students to acquire certificates, but you are also training them to apply themselves to useful ends on graduation. It is a thing of joy to know that our students cleared all the prizes on offer in their category at the conference. I will convey this cheering news to the Vice-Chancellor," she promised the delegation.

Earlier in their separate speeches, Acting Head of Department, Dr. Amadi and a member of the Local Organising Committee, Dr. Eucharia Nwaichi, disclosed that the UniPort team beat four other institutions to cart away all prizes on offer, in addition to three other prizes instituted by some officers of the Society.

"We had participants from over eight institutions, but five participated in the quiz competitions. They are Madonna University, University of Calabar, Ken Saro Wiwa Polytechnic, Niger Delta University and University of Port Harcourt. University of Calabar and University of Port Harcourt tied at the initial stage, but we won the contest at the final stage. The emergence of the University as winner of the zonal competition qualifies it for the next phase of the competition at the forthcoming national conference of the Society," Dr. Nwaichi told the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Glory Edo, Ndukwem Idika and Princess Onavwose participated in the quiz competition, Udueva Uyoyo won the Professor Patrick Ebong Award for the *Best Postgraduate Student Paper Presenter in Ethnomedicine*, Bernard Akpoji won the Professor Friday Uboh Award for the *Best Postgraduate Paper Presenter in Toxicology*, while Glory Edo emerged winner of the *Zonal Coordinator's Award for the Overall Undergraduate Students' Paper Presenter.*

DV-C (Admin), Prof Ogali (5th right) flanked by Lecturers and the prize winners

Law Diploma Students Exhibit Products

By Mercy Adeniji

Efforts aimed at blending core legal training with entrepreneurial skills have received a major boost as students of the Diploma programme of the Faculty of Law exhibited their products.

Speaking during the exhibition held on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at the Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies (CCGS), University Park, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Lucky Worika, congratulated the staff and the facilitator, Dr. Edwinah Amah, for their commitment and dedication in ensuring that the students also received valuable hands-on skills they could fall back on graduation.

"This is another phase of your life, I am glad to see your entrepreneurial skills during the period. I can assure you that you will not remain the same way you came into University of Port Harcourt. Be confident, hold your heads high and never despair in any situation. There may be delays, but ultimately with every little step, you will surely arrive at your final destination. At the end of your stay here, I know you will be glad you came to University of Port Harcourt for your diploma programme," Professor Worika told the students.

Also speaking, facilitator of the entrepreneurship course and immediate past Acting Head of the Department of Management Sciences, Dr. Edwinah Amah, expressed gratitude to the Dean and his team for their commitment to the success of the students. "The essence of the course was to enable students graduate with hands-on skills, rather than waiting for scarce white-collar jobs. I am so excited that what they learnt has been turned into something. It does not mean that as a professional in a certain field, students can't acquire skills in other fields. I want them to remember that it is excellence that will make way for them in whatever they do," she told the participants.

Speaking on the side line, Deputy Coordinator of the programme and Acting Head of Department of Jurisprudence and International Law, Dr. Uzuazo Etemire, disclosed that the exhibition was presented by the outgoing second year Diploma students as part of their entrepreneurship course. "The essence of this course, especially the practical aspects, is to ensure that the students graduate with some skills which they can go on to develop to earn an income and be self-reliant," he noted. Dr. Etemire disclosed that the students acquired skills in the production of bags, beads, paints, leather and Ankara, including installation of CCTV, computer appreciation training, poultry/farming, catering, soap making and make-up.

Highpoint of the exhibition was a thanksgiving session that marked the end of a successful academic year.

Some of the Diploma Law students displaying their products

NDDC Chair Trains Field Officers On Modalities For Malaria Elimination

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Niger Delta Development Commission Professorial Research Chair on Malaria Elimination and Phytomedicine has successfully rolled out the first phase of its malaria research project on pregnant women and under-five children in Rivers State.

Chair Occupant, Professor Chijioke Nwauche, gave a brief presentation on the research project entitled: *Malaria Parasiteamia and Survey of Plasmodium Species among Pregnant Women and Under-Five Children in the Niger Delta*, at the Roll-out Ceremony and Field Officers' Workshop which held at the Conference Hall of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital last Monday. Professor Nwauche disclosed that one of the objectives of the Chair was to establish the prevalence of plasmodium infection among pregnant women and under-five children in the Niger Delta.

Other objectives, according to the Chair Occupant, were to determine the plasmodium species, as well as establish the anti-malaria drug resistant molecular markers for plasmodium infection among pregnant women and under-five children in the focus area. He noted that the study sites in Rivers State comprised the UPTH, Rivers State University Teaching Hospital, Ahoada, Abua, Eleme and Bori General Hospitals.

"The NDDC Professorial Chair focuses on control and malaria elimination in Nigeria amongst vulnerable groups, especially pregnant women and children. We are also seeking alternative approaches to malaria control and elimination, including studying the interaction of blood groups and malaria for probable anti-malaria drug and vaccine development, including novel strategies towards an integrated vector management," he disclosed.

In separate speeches, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale and Chairman of the Governing Board of the Chair, Professor Florence Nduka, reiterated the importance of the research project and its contribution to the national strategic plan on malaria elimination. "We are happy that the Chair in partnership with the NDDC is working in line with the University core activity areas namely; research, teaching and community service," the Vice-Chancellor's representative said.

Also, representative of the NDDC, Dr. Claribel Abam restated the Commission's resolve to support the health and wellbeing of the Niger Delta people. She further disclosed that the partnership with the University through the NDDC Professorial Chair on Malaria Elimination and Phytomedicine was aimed at supporting the possible elimination of the malaria scourge in the region and beyond.

In her contribution, Dr. Obianma Onya, who represented the Chief Medical Director of UPTH, Professor Henry Ugboma, pleaded for more partnership with the NDDC to rid the hospital of mosquitos that spread the malaria parasite. "We appeal to the NDDC Chair to consider undertaking basic research on malaria infestation in UPTH for the benefit of patients and clients that patronise the facility," Dr. Onya said.

It would be recalled that the Chair recently organised a 10-day malaria microscopy training at which two staff of the University, Helen Onoja of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology and Ignatius Nduka of the O. B. Lulu-Briggs Health Centre, emerged as third level Microscopists, out of 20 participants drawn from Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Delta States.

Goodwill message was delivered by the Chief Medical Director of Rivers State Hospital Management Board, Dr. Kenneth Okagua, who spoke through Dr. Nengi Alazigha, while the Chief Medical Director of Rivers State University Teaching Hospital, Dr. Friday Aaron, delivered his own goodwill message through Dr. Dango Kalio.

A group photograph of the V-C's representative, Prof Fewehinmi (6th right) and other participants

Pro-Chancellor Tasks DPPD On Contract Supervision

One of the Contractors briefing the Pro-Chancellor and other Council members

Cont'd from Page 1

Department of Physical Planning and Development closely monitors every stage of project implementation to ensure that contractors do not deliver low quality jobs to the University," the Pro-Chancellor stressed.

"The University must get value for its money because it is not free money. The responsibility of contractors is to execute each job according to specification without cutting corners or giving unnecessary excuses. You don't need to argue when the contract has been already signed by all parties," added a Member of Council, Mr. Bello Salihu, while admonishing some of the contractors.

Professor Jibo, however, showered praises on contractors handling staff quarter projects at New Ghana-Ama and Ali Cape Verde for doing quality jobs. He further directed Mr. Ubom to ensure timely payment to the contractors as they progress according to the job specifications and agreed milestone.

Projects inspected included a TETFund Hostel, Faculty of Education Auditorium (Phase 3), Security Lodges and Staff residential accommodation.

Other Council Members who joined the Pro-Chancellor on the tour were: Mr. Joseph Fafi, Mrs. Mary Uwemedimo, Professors Anele Ihekwaba, Femi Shaka and Okechuku Onuchuku. Others were Deputy Vice-Chancellors in charge of Administration, Professor Regina Ogali, Academic, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto and University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor, among others.

Biochemists Brainstorm On National Development At Zonal Confab

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Issues bothering on the role of Biochemists and Molecular Biologists and their contributions to national development formed the main thrust of the 3rd South-South Zonal Annual Scientific Conference of the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NSBMB). The well-patronised event held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park on Thursday, September 13 and Friday, September 14, 2018.

Delivering the keynote address entitled: *Rethinking Research in Nigeria*, Professor Nyerhovwo Tonukari of Delta State University, Abraka, emphasised the need for academics to refocus and rethink research to enable them make meaningful contributions to national development.

"Commercialisation of research output should be given a priority in addition to introducing challenging researches where stakeholders, scientists, policy makers and industries can identify real problems that need to be tackled," he advised. Professor Tonukari recommended the establishment of strong research collaborations that would afford scientists platforms to collaborate and solve specific problems, including creating products and services that would promote the economy. He advised Biochemists to join Chambers of Commerce and Industry in their localities to enable them deepen their knowledge in terms of application of research findings.

Decrying a pathetic situation in which the country depended on mass importation of goods and services that could be sourced locally, the keynote speaker suggested that grants could be given to a consortium of collaborating scientists from different fields and universities to solve specific problems and create novel products.

"Biochemists can work with Agricultural Biotechnologists to develop herbicide-resistant cassava. Nigeria can easily triple its cassava production if we have herbicide-resistant cassava that will save a lot of labour. Several universities and research institutes have most of the required equipment and some of us have the skills. All that is required is to boost, harness experts, provide consumables and a deadline," Professor Tonukari submitted.

In their separate addresses, Conference Chairman and Zonal Coordinator, Professors Patrick Ebong and Friday Uboh, expressed delight that the conference afforded Biochemists and other life scientists within and outside the zone an opportunity to interact, learn and network towards the advancement of research. Calling on senior academics to rise to the responsibility of mentoring younger ones, Professor Uboh commended the University Management and participants for a successful outing. "At the end of the conference, it is expected that we would have made positive contributions to national development through various collaborative research proposals," Professor Ebong remarked.

Representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Regina Ogali described the theme of the conference: *Biochemistry and Molecular Biology as Veritable Tools for Sustainable Development*, as central to the acclaimed role of Biochemists and Molecular Biologists to the improvement in the quality of life.

"Here in the University, we are proud of our modest contributions to this fascinating field of inquiry. As Biochemists and Molecular Biologists, you must be familiar with the research of globally-acclaimed scholar, Professor Gabriel Ekeke, which led to the discovery and patenting of *ciklavit*, a dietary supplement for the management of sickle cell anaemia," she remarked. Professor Ogali congratulated the Department of Biochemistry for organising the conference aimed at providing better insight into the importance of biochemical processes in human life and living.

Highpoints of the two-day conference included plenary and scientific sessions, zonal interactive forum, poster presentations and awards.

DV-C (Admin), Prof Ogali (5th right) flanked by Profs Ebong, DV-C (Acad), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi (right), Uboh (left) and others

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Dr. Helen Imafidor, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, reappointed *Acting Director, Community Service Programme.* The two-year re-appointment which takes retroactive effect from August 16, 2018, will terminate on August 15, 2020.

Dr. Sofiri Joab-Peterside, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Acting Director, Claude Ake School of Government.* The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on August 15, 2020.

PROMOTION

Dr. Ezon-Ebidor Edibamonde, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr. Fortune Amah-Tariah, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr. Joyce Olorunfemi, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr. Eneikedo Igbigbi, Department of Haematology, Blood Transfusion and Immunology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr. Caroline Iyalla, Department of Haematology, Blood Transfusion and Immunology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr. Ibinabo Oboro, Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr. John Chukwumati, Department of Crop and Social Science, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr. Sunday Omovbude, Department of Crop and Social Science, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr. Justin Akankali, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr. Barikpoa Uedeme-Naa, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr. Sylvanus Nwafili, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr. Atanda Lamidi, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr. Otokini George, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr. Uzoma Chima, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr. Sunday Odunlami, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr. Emodi Izukanne, Department of Agriculture Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2017.

CHANGE OF NAME

MRS. CHIOMA JOY OKONKWO. Former Miss Chioma Joy Okereke of the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. Chioma Joy Okonkwo. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

MRS. ACHESEOMIE DATUBO DON-PEDRO. Former Miss Acheseomie Tekena Ibiene of the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. Acheseomie Datubo Don-Pedro. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

ICAN Elects Ayuwo New PH Chairman

By Otikor Samuel

The Port Harcourt and District Society of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), has elected the Deputy Bursar in charge of the Treasury Unit of the Bursary Department of the University of Port Harcourt, Dr. Felicia Ayuwo as its 26th Chairman. The new Chapter Chairman and her Executive Council were inaugurated at a well-attended investiture ceremony which held at the King David Event Centre in Port Harcourt on Sunday, August 26, 2018.

In her inaugural address, Dr. Ayuwo expressed hope that with the support of members, the new Executive would take the Port Harcourt Chapter of the Institute to greater heights. She also stressed the need to intensify awareness campaign among the younger generation on available opportunities in the foremost accounting professional body in Nigeria.

The Deputy Bursar, who qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 2001, was elevated to the status of ICAN Fellow in 2013. She is a member of the Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM) and Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN).

Dr. Ayuwo

Stop Press

Ataga Heads New Biotech Centre

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has appointed Professor Anthony Ataga of the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology in the Faculty of Science as Director of the new Regional Centre for Biotechnology and Bioresources Research (RCBBR). The new Centre came into being as a result of a recent merger of the erstwhile Regional Centre for Biotechnology and Biofuel Research and the Regional Centre for Bioresources Conservation and Development, as directed by the Senate of the University at its 438th Meeting on Friday, June 29, 2018. The two-year appointment which took effect from August 16, 2018, would terminate on August 15, 2020.

Senate Expels Okocha

In exercise of its academic regulatory powers, Senate has expelled Francis Okocha of the Department of Accounting in the Faculty of Management Sciences from the University. The decision was taken at its 438th Meeting which held on Friday, June 29, 2018. A letter dated July 24, 2018, signed by the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto and made available to *UniPort News*, disclosed that Mr. Okocha was expelled for scoring a similarity index of 58.5% in the *plagscan* result of his anti-plagiarism test, more so, as a whopping 39.6% was copied from a single source.

"After an exhaustive deliberation of the report which found you guilty of gross misconduct as defined in Section 24B of the *General Regulations and Statement of Academic Policies*, and in line with Section 25.1 of the same Regulation, Senate decided that you Okocha, Francis (G2013/MSc/ACT/PT/704) be expelled from the University of Port Harcourt with effect from Friday, 29th June 2018 for gross misconduct. By the above decision of Senate, you are hereby expelled from the University of Port Harcourt…for the aforementioned gross misconduct," part of the letter read.

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WISEcrack
Nothing stinks like a pile of unpublished writing
SYLVIA PLATH

Anybody Who Is Not IT Literate Is An Illiterate, Declares Nwachukwu At Valedictory

12th Valedictory Lecturer, Prof Nwachukwu (3rd right) flanked by DV-C (Admin), Prof Ogali, Dean, Faculty of Science, Prof Ephraim Chukwuocha (right), DV-C (Acad), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor and Deputy Registrar (Acad), Dr Agatha Ataga before the Lecture

By Otikor Samuel

Professor Enoch Nwachukwu of the Department of Computer Science in the Faculty of Science has stated that anyone who is not computer literate in the age of Information Technology should consider himself an illiterate. Professor Nwachukwu dropped the bombshell while delivering the 12th Valedictory Lecture of the University of Port Harcourt at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium last Tuesday.

He averred that no nation could afford to ignore Information Technology which he described as a critical tool that creates knowledge which in turn drives national development, "When people are educated, they are easy to rule but difficult to deceive. In addition, an educated person has more potentials to contribute to national development than an uneducated person. If the Nigerian masses are to be effectively educated, Information Technology will have to be the tool to use," Professor Nwachukwu advised.

Professor Nwachukwu, who pioneered the Computer Science Department in the University, charged tertiary institutions in Nigeria to invest in Information Technology for purposes of mounting effective security surveillance on their campuses and drive research that would accelerate development. He also recommended exposure of teenagers to IT-based knowledge to enable them effectively explore opportunities in the sector during their productive stage in life.

In the lecture entitled, *Information Technology: A Veritable Tool for National Development*, Professor Nwachukwu submitted that *millennials* and *netizens* are citizens born in the late 1980s with exposure to the Internet, and those who access online services from their homes, workplaces, schools and other locations. He said that such people are better placed to effectively deploy Information Technology for personal and national development.

He further argued that the huge sums of money currently being expended on security with limited positive result could be channelled into installation and maintenance of Close Circuit Television and IT-based monitoring systems to tighten security and attracting investors into the country.

"Security is critically important for national development. Individuals, property and information must be secure. What criminals fear most are monitoring and detection of their fraudulent acts. With the availability of Internet of Things (IoT), where gadgets can be connected and controlled via the Internet, you can use your smart phone to monitor not only your property but also individuals. If you add the capabilities of Global Positioning System (GPS), you can visually monitor anything from anywhere," Professor Nwachukwu stated, adding that electricity supply could be generated from batteries or solar power to mount security surveillance.

Reminiscing on his academic journey to the peak of his career, Professor Nwachukwu who would formally bow out of the University on December 5, 2018, recalled that his love for education forced his father to convince the headmaster to enrol him into primary school at a very tender age.

"I remember with nostalgia that from my 2nd year at Government Secondary School Owerri, until I finished Higher School, I was a School Scholar in which all expenses were paid, including my haircut. Federal Government scholarship and awards took care of the rest of my education from first degree at the then University of Ife to my Ph.D at the Victoria University of Manchester (OWEN)," he disclosed.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Regina Ogali, who conveyed the Vice-Chancellor's goodwill message to the Valedictory Lecturer, expressed gratitude to him for pioneering computer education and application in the University.

"We are all convinced that Information Technology is very key to national development. I am happy that the Valedictory Lecturer told our colleagues that those who are not computer literate in today's learning environment are illiterate. There is very little we can achieve in research and teaching today without fully embracing Information Technology. We thank Professor Nwachukwu for his services to the University and we wish him the best as he bows out of service. We pray that he would continue to promote the ideals of computer literacy even in retirement," she stated.

New Academic Session To Resume November 12, Registration To End January

By Otikor Samuel

Resumption of the University for the First Semester of 2018/19 academic session has been fixed for Monday, November 12 with pre-resumption registration for fresh students. The pre-resumption registration exercise would last until Friday, November 16, 2018, while both fresh and returning students are expected to arrive on campus on Sunday, November 18, preparatory for the commencement of lectures on November 26. Meanwhile, registration of Returning Students will commence on Monday, November 19, 2018.

Prof Fawehinmi, DV-C, Academic

Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, made the disclosure in a statement conveying the approved Academic Calendar for the 2018/2019 session, which was made available to *UniPort News*.

According to the calendar, the University would close on Friday, December 21 and resume on Saturday, January 5, 2019 to enable both staff and student observe the Christmas Break.

Orientation exercise for fresh students is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2019, while Friday, January 25 would mark the end of registration for all students. The 40th Matriculation Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, paving way for First Semester examinations that would commence from March 18 to April 12. The combined 32nd Convocation Ceremony has been scheduled for Saturday, March 30, 2019.

Lectures for the Second Semester will begin on April 29 and end on July 26, 2019, while *Students' Union Week* which would feature election, is to hold between Monday, July 29 and Saturday, August 3, 2019. The Second Semester Examinations are to take place between Monday, August 12 and Friday, September 6, 2019. Also, Sandwich programme for the academic session would hold from Monday, July 1 to September 21, 2019. Meanwhile, registration for students who would choose the second instalment plan would end on Friday, May 31, 2019.

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