



32nd Convocation Lecture

Onu Tasks Varsities On Industry, Government Partnership

Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Ogbonaya Onu, has advocated the Triple Helix approach to energise high impact research in the University system. The approach is predicated on a synergy between the academia, industry and government in the conception and implementation of research and development aimed at facilitating national development, reports *Ethel Timi-Johnson*.

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Side Bar MDCN ACCREDITATION

A high-powered Accreditation team led by the Registrar/Chief Executive Officer of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) was in the University last Tuesday. The team evaluated the MBBS and BDS programmes of the College of Health Sciences.

Details next edition

Editor

32nd Convocation

Buhari Restates Commitment To Quality Education

By Otokor Samuel

President Muhammadu Buhari has stated that the N20 billion which the Federal Government released recently for the education sector was a clear show of government's commitment to quality education in the country. The President expressed his preparedness to build a viable education sector that would equip products of Nigerian universities to compete favourably with their counterpart elsewhere.

President Buhari made the remarks in his address presented at the second leg of the 32nd Convocation Ceremony of the University which held on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at the Convocation Arena. The President's speech was read on his behalf by the Minister of State for Education, Professor Anthony Anwukah.

"I wish to congratulate all of you for your success in the examinations that qualified you to be part of the 32nd Convocation of this Unique University that has trained many important personalities, who are holding important positions in every walk of life," President Buhari stated. He commended parents and guardians for supporting the students all through the duration of their studies which climaxed with the Convocation Ceremony.

"There is incontrovertible evidence to prove that the Nigerian university system has

...Praises UniPort-Industry Partnerships
...As 9,452 Graduate, 106 First Class, 381 PhDs



undergone momentous transformation in the past four years of my administration and the result is there for anybody to see in the Federal universities. The Federal Government is working very hard to attain global best practices in this important sector without waiting for strike actions to remind it of its obligations. On their part, universities in

Nigeria must intensify efforts aimed at attaining research breakthroughs in the new knowledge economy that relies on brain workers to generate employment, wealth and prosperity for the people. In this day and age, research that cannot be capitalised by the industry for the benefit of people is as good as a

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Yellow House Wins Daycare Sports Meet



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Alumni President Inducts Fresh Graduates



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VC, Others Commend Valedictorians



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EEI Marks 4th Induction



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Again, Yellow House Wins Daycare Sports Meet

By Mercy Adeniji

It was déjà vu once again as Yellow House retained the first and best overall position at the 10th Annual Inter-House Sports Fiesta of the Gladys Coskey International Daycare Centre which held at the premises of the school on Friday, March 22, 2019. Addressing the pupils, their parents and teachers, the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Tammy Orunaboka, who stood in for the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Late, commended Management of the school for exposing the pupils to regular sporting activities to complement their academic work. "The annual sports festival is one of the best organised events I have ever witnessed in this University. I am also very enthused to know that parents are enthusiastic about the participation of their children in sports, thus, helping to catch them young. I suggest that in the next sports meet, the school should consider engaging professional hands from the Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education to assist in the organisation, with a view to grooming future sports men and women that would win laurels for the country," Professor Orunaboka said.

In her address, President of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), Mrs Joy Late, expressed gratitude to parents and guardians for honouring the invitation. "Your presence gives us the assurance that you are interested in the all-round development of the children. Sporting activities enhance the physical and mental development of the children. It helps to build healthy bones and muscles and increases fitness. It also improves their co-operation skills, boosts self-confidence and lowers the risk of obesity," Mrs Late stated.

Speaking earlier, Chairman of the occasion and Acting Head of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Dr Vincent Well, applauded the UPWA President and her Executive for giving the school a new identity that has transformed it into an attractive brand. He commended Management and the teachers for bringing up children with high morals and the fear of God. "Physical activities enhance intellectual capacity of learners which stimulates these



Yellow House celebrating its victory

activities in the children. We thank the parents who are the major stakeholders for ensuring that the children are well behaved," he noted. At the end of the fiercely competed event, Yellow House emerged overall winner with 76 points; Blue House got 66 points; Green House tied 64 points with Purple House,

Pink House received 62 points, White House obtained 57 points, Red House got 52 points, while Orange House garnered 48 points, respectively. The sports fiesta featured activities such as March Past, High and Long Jump, Races, Picking the Ball, Filling the Bottle, Egg Race and Dressing for School.

Convocation Elects Chris Adokeme Council Rep

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

With the recent nomination of the National President of the University of Port Harcourt Alumni Association on the platform of Convocation, the Governing Council can now be said to be fully constituted in line with the enabling Act of the University.

Mr Adokeme emerged following his election by popular acclamation on the floor of Convocation which met on March 18, 2019 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. The development followed the Vice Chancellor's brief to Convocation and affirmation by members of the statutory body to that effect. In line with decision, henceforth, whoever is the National President of the Alumni

Association, or his/her validly nominated representative should serve on the Governing Council of the University until the expiration of his or her tenure in office.

A letter signed by the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otte and dated March 21, 2019, copy of which was obtained by UniPort News, disclosed that the decision to elect Mr. Adokeme was reached at the third Meeting of Convocation which held on Monday, March 18, 2019, during which the august body decided that the National President of the Alumni Association of the University or his/her nominee would serve as the representative of Convocation while in office.

"It was decided that the representative of Convocation on Council will not be a staff of the University and that in a situation where a staff of the University becomes the National President of the Alumni Association, he/she would nominate a member of the Association to serve in his or her place," the Registrar's letter said. She added that the nominee of the National President must be an outstanding alumnus who has made significant contributions to the University and is active in the Association.

I Came Here To Be The Best

By Letom Nnen

Dr Ugochinyere Obasi Ife, who emerged as the 43rd Best Graduating Student (BGS) at the Induction Ceremony for new medical doctors and dental surgeons has disclosed that she came to the University with the stated intention of emerging as the Best Graduating Student in her discipline. The induction held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, March 7, 2019.

Exchanging views with a UniPort News Correspondent on her five-star performance, Dr Ife, who obtained a Distinction from the Faculty of Dentistry in the College of Health Sciences for the 2017/2018 academic session said: "I came here to be the best and I am very happy that I succeeded in accomplishing the goal I set for

~BGS, Dentistry

myself." She beat off stiff competition to emerge tops in Oral Biology, Oral Pathology, Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, Operative Techniques and Prosthodontics in the Faculty of Dentistry. Dr Ife expressed gratitude to God and her lecturers for guiding her to a successful career in Dentistry.

"From my year one to four, I was still taking all the courses as a medical student. I received awards in Medicine and Dentistry, which helped to place me as the overall Best Graduating Student (BGS) both in Medicine and Dentistry at the 43rd Induction Ceremony. I am humbled by the feat, which is a rarity in the College of Health Sciences," the BGS disclosed.

Dr Ife attributed her success story to total commitment to her studies, her focus on the goal, the quality of her lecturers and encouragement from her parents and colleagues. She recalled the daily pressures of campus life, experimentation with leadership roles at the early stages of her academic pursuit, among others, as some of the distractions that competed for her attention. On her choice of Dentistry, Dr Ife disclosed that she applied thrice to study medicine, but was not successful for some inexplicable reasons. Dentistry was her fallback plan, which eventually turned out to be her true calling. "I applied thrice to study medicine but could not gain admission. I did not know Dentistry to be a course one could gain direct admission to study; I thought that one would have to study medicine before you can specialise in Dentistry. Today, I know better," she disclosed.

So, what does it take to be a BGS? "Persistence, focus, personal discipline and the ability to put in extra hours to understand what is being taught in the classroom, are some of the qualities a potential BGS must have. There is also the ability to set the right priorities by striking a delicate balance between core academic matters and leisure," Dr Ife told our Correspondent.



Adokeme, National President, Alumni Association



Dr Ife, CHS BGS

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Onu Tasks Varsities On Industry, Government Partnership

University to engage in high impact research activities for the benefit of society.



Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Onu (4th left) flanked by Pro-Chancellor, Prof Jibo, V-C, Prof Lale, Member of Council, Mr Joseph Fafu, Registrar, Dr Felicia Ayuwu and University Librarian, Dr Susan Umecor (right) and DV-C (Admin), Prof Regina Ogali, Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto and DV-C (Acad), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi

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Dr Onu gave the charge while delivering the 32nd Convocation Lecture of the University entitled: "Science and Technology as a Driver of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan of a Nation," at the Ebbitini Banjo Auditorium, University Park on Thursday, March 28, 2019. The Minister posited that universities through continuous research and innovation were in a better position to convert ideas into products and services to meet the needs of society.

The Guest Lecturer, who was pioneer Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, disclosed that his Ministry has formulated policies designed to drive effective utilisation of science, technology and innovation in the country's economic recovery plan. "This is because the economic development of any nation depends largely on the effective and efficient utilisation of its natural resources. In order to achieve this, the citizens must be able to understand the laws of

nature (science) and put them into practice by devising appropriate tools (technology) to harness such laws," he said.

Disclosing that the Nigerian Economic Recovery and Growth Plan 2017 to 2020, highlighted science, technology and innovation as the transforming power for sustainable and competitive economic development, Dr. Onu, noted that Nigeria ought to be the technology hub of the African continent. "I want to call on the University of Port Harcourt to work with the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology in its drive to ensure the use of science and technology to alleviate societal problems and build a bright and prosperous future for all Nigerians," he remarked. Commending the Convocation Lecturer for charting the way forward for the University and the nation in the application of science, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, described the lecture as insightful, disclosing that the Minister's recommendations were in line with the vision of the

nations.

Earlier, Dr. Onu had led top functionaries of his Ministry, including the Director General of Science and Technology Promotion, Ekanem Udoh, Director General of Nigerian Raw Material Research and Development Council, Professor Hussaini Ibrahim, Director General of the National Board of Technology Incubation, Dr. Mohammed Jibrin and his counterpart at the National Space Research Agency, Professor Seidu Mohammed on a courtesy visit to the Governing Council and Management of the University.

The Minister was also accompanied to the University by his wife, Dr. Chinyere Onu, who was also a staff of the University before her husband became Governor of Old Abia State. Dr. Onu had earlier commissioned projects on behalf of President Muhammadu Buhari, who is Visitor to the University. He also inspected the 32nd Convocation Research Fair and Exhibition which was mounted at the Donald Ekong Central Library.

The American Corner located at the Donald Ekong Central Library and the Rivers State Chapter of the United States Government Exchange Alumni Association of Nigeria (USGEAN), joined forces to celebrate the 2019 International Women's Day. This year's celebration featured the recognition of some personalities and entities that were adjudged to have promoted women's participation in society and career advancement.

Declaring the event open, former Vice Chancellor of the defunct Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Emeritus Professor Simeon Achinewhu, congratulated the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale for being gender-friendly. He commended women in the University for achieving such feat in their various fields of endeavour. "We are greatly appreciative of career women in this University for striving towards professional excellence and I know there is far more to come. This honour is to let you know that we have given you a platform to work harder and make those who appointed you proud as you have always done," he told the female award recipients.

In his remarks, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, described this year's global theme entitled: *Better the Balance, Better the World* (Balance for Better) as very apt, considering the invaluable roles women play in societal development. "Over the years, women have been steadfast in what they stand for and their intuitiveness has been brought

USGEAN Rewards 11 At Int'l Women's Day Fiesta

By Mercy Adeniji

to bear in the preservation of our highly cherished tradition and values.

"Your decision to recognise the University as the most Gender-friendly institution of learning in Rivers State is highly commendable. I wish to express gratitude to the Rivers State Chapter of USGEAN for bringing this rare feat to the public glare and bringing people together to celebrate the accomplishments of women in the academia," Professor Fawehinmi said.

Speaking earlier, President of the Association, Professor Jellie Umukoro, said that the International Women's Day is celebrated annually on March 8. "In line with this year's theme, we decided to highlight the achievements of some women and reward some entities that promote women. Women are very good at celebrating others and we need to celebrate ourselves. God created everything in pairs and the world will be a better place if we cooperate with one another to advance our common cause," Professor Umukoro said. Goodwill messages were presented by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Lale and Rivers State Commissioner of Women Affairs, Ukel Oyaghiru. Representative of the United States Embassy and Alumni Affairs Coordinator, Deyin Apalara,

commended USGEAN for commemorating the day and rewarding some outstanding women in higher institutions.

Other major highlights of the event were the presentation of awards to some distinguished persons for their contributions. The Most Gender-friendly Higher Institution and Gender-friendly Ambassador 2019, went to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Lale; Mother is Gold 2019 award went to President of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association, Mrs Joy Lale, while Woman Chairperson of the Year 2019 and First Female Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration) went to Professor Regina Ogali. Dr Felicia Ayuwu received the Woman Chairperson of the Year 2019 and First Female Bursar.

Other categories were: Woman Champion of the Year 2019 and First Female ASU Champion which went to Professor Anthonia Okereke; Woman Champion of the Year 2019 went to Registrar of the University of Port Harcourt, Mrs Dorcas Otto, Registrar of Ignatius Ajura University of Education (IAUE) Rumuolumeni, Mrs Hope Kue-Ikoro, the Librarians of University of Port Harcourt, Dr Susan Umecor, and her counterparts at the Rivers State University, Nkpolo-Oroworuko, Dr Jennifer Igwele and IAUE, Rumuolumeni, Professor Boma Obi, respectively.



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed) flanked by his wife, Joy, former V-C, RSU, Prof Achinewhu, RS Commissioner of Women Affairs, Ukel Oyaghiru (right), Principal Officers, USGEAN R/S Chapter President, Prof Umukoro (6th left), some senior officers and awardees from UniPort and sister universities



By Ashley Welch, (AM/CBS NEWS)

A new, large study may serve up some confusing advice for egg lovers. Research from Northwestern Medicine finds that adults who ate several eggs per week and high amounts of dietary cholesterol had a significantly higher risk of cardiovascular disease and death from any cause.

"The take-home message is really about cholesterol, which happens to be high in eggs and specifically yolks," one of the authors, Norrina Allen, Ph.D., an associate professor of preventive medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, said in a statement. "As part of a healthy diet, people need to consume lower amounts of cholesterol. People who consume less cholesterol have a lower risk of heart disease."

Experts Weigh New Findings On Egg



Crates of egg

Prior to 2015, nutrition guidelines recommended eating less than 300 milligrams of dietary cholesterol per day. But that year, based on the available data at that time, the recommendations

changed, eliminating the daily limit on cholesterol and focusing instead on the reduction of foods high in saturated fats. The new research makes a strong case for bringing that limit back.

What the new study shows

Allen and her team pooled data on nearly 30,000 racially and ethnically diverse adults between 1985 and 2016. Participants were asked about their dietary habits over the last month or year in an extensive questionnaire. By the end of the follow-up period, the group had experienced 5,400 cardiovascular events and 6,132 deaths from any cause.

An analysis found that consuming 300 milligrams of dietary cholesterol per day was associated with 17 per cent higher risk of cardiovascular disease and 18 per cent higher risk of death. Eggs were then looked at specifically because they are one of the richest sources of dietary cholesterol. One large egg contains about 186 milligrams of dietary cholesterol in the yolk. The researchers found that eating three to four eggs per week was linked to a six per cent higher risk of cardiovascular disease and an eight per cent higher risk of any cause of death. The findings were published in JAMA.

Compared with previous studies, "this report is far more comprehensive, with enough data to make a strong statement that eggs and overall dietary cholesterol intake remain important in affecting the risk" of heart disease and death, Dr. Robert H. Eckel writes in an editorial published along with the study.

Why is there so much conflicting guidance on eggs? With so much conflicting evidence, it can be hard for consumers to keep track of which foods are considered healthy choices. "I can totally understand that people would be confused and frustrated," Dr. Leslie Cho, a preventive cardiologist at Cleveland Clinic, told CBS News. She notes that while the JAMA report is scientifically sound and well-done, like any study it has its limitations.

"It's a very large study with a very large number of different types of patients. These are all good things," she said. "But in general, any dietary study is fraught with difficulty because of the problem of patient recall. Do you remember what you ate last week? Because I don't. It's the same thing with patients."

Most dietary studies are also observational, making their findings less reliable. That's because unlike a randomized controlled trial that tests the safety and efficacy of a drug, it's difficult to randomly control what people eat over a long period of time, especially with a large sample size. However, though flawed, Cho says these studies are important for a better understanding of nutrition research. "In science, the way it works is we don't think of it as one study having the final word," she said. "In science, we look at the preponderance of evidence to see where the field is going."

National President Inducts Fresh Graduates Into Alumni Association ~Commends V-C

By Letom Nnen

As part of events that marked the 32nd Convocation Ceremony, fresh graduates of the University of Port Harcourt have been formally inducted into the Alumni Association. The event took place during the *Alumni Day* celebration which held on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at the Ebithini Banigo Auditorium.

Welcoming the fresh graduates, the National President, Mr Chris Adokeme, commended the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, for his support for the Association, praying God to grant the newly inducted members success in their future career endeavours.

Chairman of the occasion, Senator Emmanuel Paulker, congratulated the fresh graduates, urging them to always identify with the Alumni Association to build friendship and network on available business opportunities. "Like us, you should be proud to be counted among the Alumni of the University of Port Harcourt. It is a privilege and you should beat your chest and proclaim anywhere that you are an alumnus of the University with over 65,000-strong membership. UniPort has produced the number one citizen of this country; a feat that some of the first generation universities are yet to achieve," Senator Paulker reminded them.

Delivering the *Alumni Day Lecture* entitled: *Benefits of Entrepreneurship*, a distinguished Alumnus, Ambassador Bolade Igali, enumerated several benefits of entrepreneurship in a globalised economy, urging the new graduates to create jobs for themselves and others, rather than depending on white collar jobs. "About 70 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of developed countries is from entrepreneurship activities. Government is only a regulator and an enabler of a

conducive environment," he reminded the new graduates, encouraging them to key into agriculture as one of the most potent sectors of the economy.

Professor Julie Umukoro presented the Alumni Exchange opportunities between the Alumni Association and the United States, while another presentation was also made by Joy Michaels of African Young Entrepreneurs initiative.

The Association had earlier paid a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, where the National President commended him for graciously ceding the position of Convocation Representative in Council to the Alumni Association. Also speaking, Senator Paulker expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor for the gesture, assuring Management that the Association would continue to protect the image of the University.

In his response, the Vice Chancellor expressed gratitude to the Association for supporting and advocating for the University. "Let me assure you that we will not lower the high standards for which the University is well known. We are also pursuing infrastructural development with vigour, including high impact research and development. We will do more," Professor Lale promised the delegation.

The *Alumni Day* which coincided with the 2019 *World Theatre Day* had in attendance prominent alumni such as Professors Owunari Georgewill and Victor Dappa. Others were Nollywood stars, Bob-Mmanuel Uduku and ace producer, Opa Williams, amongst other distinguished alumni. The event also featured performances by the cultural troupe from the Department of Theatre and Film Studies. The fresh graduates were inducted into the Association by the Vice Chancellor of Niger Delta University, Professor Samuel Edumekumo.



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed) flanked by Amb. Igali, Senator Paulker (right), V-C, NDU, Prof Edumekumo, National President, UniPort Alumni Association, Mr Adokeme (left) and others

Cricket Association Donates Kits To UniPort Sports Institute

By Otokor Samuel

As a way of popularising the game of cricket in the University, the Rivers State Cricket Association has donated kits to the Sports Institute. The donation

was presentation of prizes to the overall winners and outstanding players during the recently completed event. Benvic Cricket Club emerged the overall best team, followed by Whales Cricket Club which took second place. In his remarks, Director of the Sports Institute, Professor



Director of Sports, R/S Sports Council, Mrs Hart (2nd right) handing over the kits to representatives of Team UniPort, while Prof Awugwe watches in admiration

was a major highlight of the grand finale of this year's Port Harcourt Cricket League Season which was hosted at the newly constructed Cricket Oval at the University Park on Saturday, March 23, 2019.

The event was organised by the Rivers State Cricket Association in concert with the Nigerian Cricket Federation and Pets Foundation. Other highlight of the grand finale

Ken Awugwe, commended the Rivers State Cricket Association for partnering the Nigerian Cricket Federation and Pets Foundation to mount a successful Cricket League in the University of Port Harcourt.

"In the past, we used to play under canopies to watch the competition. I am happy that this year, we are under the pavilion constructed by the University. It is worthy of note that the University of Port Harcourt had won the West African University Games for the fourth consecutive time and had also won the Nigerian University Games for the sixth consecutive time since 2006. Cricket is one of the games we want to develop in the University and the newly constructed pitch will help to promote the game. In furtherance of the effort to develop sports, we have extended admission concession to cricket. Without compromising our stringent admission requirements, we have admitted over 10 cricket players and we are expecting more of them," Professor Awugwe disclosed.

Earlier, Director of Sports, Rivers State Sports Council, Mrs Mildred Hart, had conveyed the goodwill of the Rivers State Sports Council to the Rivers State Cricket Association for its commitment to the promotion of cricket in the State. She also praised the Association for the successful hosting of the Cricket League Season. Mrs Hart lauded the University for constructing a befitting cricket pitch, expressing hope that the new cricket oval would promote passion for the game of cricket in Rivers State.

Tree Planting

VC, Others Commend Valedictorians

By Letom Nnen

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale has commended the two Valedictorians, Messrs Ezekiel Nnamdi Chukwuemeka of the Department of Economics and Daniel Chukwuemeka Amagu of the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management for their commitment to academic excellence and making the University proud.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Regina Ogali, praised the two Best Graduating Students, who jointly planted *Iroko* trees to commemorate their intellectual exploits for the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 sessions as part of activities that marked the 32nd Convocation Ceremony of the University. The Tree Planting Ceremony took place opposite the Basic Studies building, University Park on Monday, March 26, 2019.

"This is one of those functions we carry out during Convocation Ceremonies to show that there is reward for

our best brains. What they have done is an indelible legacy in this University. As rightly said, the *Iroko* tree will outlive all of us. What they have done will leave a mark of academic excellence that other students should emulate," Professor Fawehinmi stated.

Also speaking, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Prince Momon, commended the Valedictorian from his Faculty, Mr Ulebor on his achievement. He assured Management that his Faculty would continue to produce more First Class graduates. We are delighted to have produced one of the best and we want him to grow higher and higher," the Dean said.

Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Monday Godwin-Egein, also commended Mr Daniel Chukwuemeka Amagu for making the Faculty proud. "He applied to study Forestry right from the beginning and stuck to it, worked very hard at it and what we are celebrating today is the reward of the success of what he has done," he said.



Dr VC (Admin), Prof Ogali (4th left) flanked by the Valedictorians, Messrs Ulebor and Daniel, Registrar, Mrs Otto, Dr VC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi, Dean, Fac of Agriculture, Prof Godwin-Egein (right) and Dean, Fac of Social Sciences, Prof Momon, Ag Dean, Student Affairs, Dr Ekpenyong and Ag HoD, Economics, Dr Otto (left)

success. It is not easy to be the Best Graduating Student. The Tree Planting Ceremony for this year is special because two graduates will share the platform. We congratulate you for doing well and urge you to always keep the flag flying. We also commend you for refusing to be distracted. We know that there are many things that distract young people these days; but you remained focused and today we are celebrating you both. My plea is that you keep the flag flying because we will always monitor you to find out how you are doing," she admonished them.

In his remarks, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, congratulated the Valedictorians and the Departments of Economics, Forestry and Wildlife Management for producing the Best Graduating students. "I want to say that today is a very auspicious day, because, we are showcasing two of

Also in attendance were the Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, representative of the Librarian, Dr Hilda Enekele, Acting Dean of Student Affairs, Dr Otu Ekpenyong, Acting Heads of Department of Economics and Forestry and Wildlife Management, Dr Godly Otto and Dr Bakola Oyeade, Director of Works and Services, Mr Moses Nnelusum, Chief Security Officer, Mr Sunday Osarollo, including erstwhile University Horticulturist, Mr Robinson Odum, who supervised the exercise. There was also a dance performance by a cultural troupe from the Department of Theatre and Film Studies.

In their separate responses, the two BGS expressed gratitude to Management of the University, their Faculties and lecturers for making them what they turned out to be, promising that they would continue to keep the flag flying and not disappoint their *alma mater*.

Mgt Bans Commercial Motorcycles On Campus

...Directs Staff To Obtain Gate Pass

By Letom Nnen

The Management of the University has reiterated its earlier decision on the ban of commercial motorcycles on the University campus. The move came after assessing the security situation on campus and the University's neighbourhood. This follows the recurrence of the ugly trend and public nuisance caused by commercial motorcycles users on campus.

This drastic decision was taken by Management at its 187th Meeting which held on Monday, February 11, 2019. The memorandum, dated March 9, 2019 and signed on behalf of the Registrar by the Director of Personnel Affairs, Dr Dakuwa Charles-Graville, reiterated Management's decision on the ban of commercial motorcycles, also known as Okada, on campus.

"Commercial motorcycles are not allowed on the University campus. Consequently, motorcycles belonging to defaulters would be summarily impounded by the Security Unit" the letter stated in part. "Gate Pass will be issued by the Security Unit to staff who own and use their motorcycles on campus. The staff concerned will be required to present the Gate Pass to enable them access the University Gate at all times. Any staff flying motorcycle without duly authenticated Gate Pass will not be granted access into the campus," the statement warned.

"All staff using motorcycles are, therefore, directed to promptly register them with the Security Unit on or before the close of work on Wednesday, April 10, 2019," the letter further directed those concerned, warning that the date would not be extended.



Mrs Otto, Registrar

Buhari Restates Commitment To Quality Education

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more academic exercise," the President who is also the Visitor to the University observed. He enjoined the new graduates to apply what they were taught in the classroom to the growth of the society and for their own personal improvement.

The Visitor hoped endeavours on the University of Port Harcourt for leading the way in forging viable partnerships with the industry and professional bodies to assist students gain hands-on skills to complement classroom theories.

"I am happy to note that the University of Port Harcourt is in the forefront of industry collaborations in this respect. I am told that industry partners either chair or sit on the boards of institutes and centres in the University with very impressive results. This University has attracted several industry partnerships and cutting-edge research initiatives that place it on a higher pedestal. This is a step in the right direction and I urge you to keep up the trend aimed at capitalising knowledge for the benefit of researchers in the University and the industry," the President said.

In his address, Chairman of the Convocation Ceremony and Chancellor of the University, His Royal Highness, General Muhammadu Buhari (rtd), congratulated the graduates for committing themselves to rigorous studies which resulted in their successful graduation. The Chancellor, who is also Emir of Gwandu in Kebbi State, expressed gratitude to the Federal Government for providing funds for the University. The Chancellor also commended the Rivers State Government for promising to build a new Convocation Arena, expressing hope that the edifice would provide more comfort to students and guests when completed.

"In my last address to Convocation, I had a compelling reason to passionately plead to some members of our host communities to refrain from further encroachment on the land upon which the University is built. I have been told that since I made that passionate plea at the last Convocation ceremony in 2017, the situation has taken a turn for the worst. Reports reaching me indicate that land speculators have besieged the University with the attendant tension and strained relations occasioned by such forceful

encroachment beyond the properly delineated boundaries," the Chancellor lamented.

Addressing the Convocation, the Chairman of Council, Professor Mwendaga Jibu, commended stakeholders in the affairs of the University for supporting its growth. "Since we assumed office, the Council has discharged its statutory responsibilities with a sense of purpose and total commitment to the stated goals of the University. Council has placed very high premium on the welfare of staff and students of the University, because we believe that a highly motivated workforce is an institutional asset for enhanced productivity. We hope that the existing harmony on campus will be sustained and enhanced," the Council Chairman stated.

In his address at the award of First Degree and conferment of Higher Degrees, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, disclosed that a total of 9,452 graduates were harvested in both categories for the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 sessions.

For the award of First Degree and Prizes for the Undergraduate category which held on Friday, March 29, 2019, a total of 4,771 graduates were presented for the 32nd Convocation for satisfying the mandatory requirements stipulated by Senate of the University. The breakdown, according to the Vice Chancellor, revealed that 3,205 graduated during the 2016/2017 session, while 1,566 graduates were harvested for the 2017/2018 session. A further breakdown of the figure showed that a total of 106 graduates obtained the First Class honours, 1,799 got the Second Class Upper Division, 2,533 made the Second Class Lower Division, while 132 received the Third Class degrees. The figure also showed that 70 graduates

got the Bachelor of Pharmacy (B. Pharm.), 105 got the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree, while 26 received the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) degree.

In the Higher Degrees category, the Vice Chancellor disclosed that a total of 381 candidates were harvested for the Doctor of Philosophy degree, 2,971 for Master's degree and 1,329 for the Postgraduate Diploma.

The 32nd Convocation attracted dignitaries such as the Deputy Governor of Kebbi State, Col Samaila Yombe (rtd), who represented Governor Abubakar Bagudu, also in attendance were the Executive Secretaries of the National Universities Commission, Professor Abubakar Rasheed and Tertiary Education Trust Fund, Professor Elias Bogoro. Goodwill messages were presented by Vice Chancellors of sister universities and institutions.

Another major feature of the ceremony was the presentation of two Valedictory Speeches by Daniel Amazu and Ezekiel Uliho who tied as Best Graduating Students with separate Cumulative Grade Point Average of 4.92 on a five point scale. The first part of the 32nd Convocation Ceremony which held on Friday, March 29, 2019, featured award of First Degrees and Prizes to deserving graduates of the University.



Prof Fanchinnal, DV-C (Academic)

Mrs. Dorcas Otto, Registrar

Three candidates who specialised in Petroleum Economics were among 381 recipients of the Doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of Port Harcourt under the auspices of the Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum, Energy Economics, Policy and Strategic Studies. They are: Dr Amha Nduma Egha, Dr Ikhechukwu Igwe and Dr Johnson Nwojia Ukanaka.

Also, 14 students in Energy Economics, Management and Policy, and Petroleum Economics, Management and Policy, were among graduates conferred with higher degrees at the 32nd Convocation Ceremony which held on Saturday, March 30, 2019. The heavily-patronised ceremony took place at the Convocation Arena, University Park.

Performing the ceremony, Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Administration, Professor Regina Ogal, who stood in for the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, expressed delight with the bountiful harvest recorded by the Institute since Senate of the University approved its establishment in 2008.

"We are happy to note that the University of Port Harcourt is the only institution in Nigeria that produces skilled professionals in Energy Economics, Management and Policy. The Institute has been very consistent in turning out industry-

ready graduates each year and their quality speaks to the dedication of the Director and his capable team. I wish to pledge on behalf of the Vice Chancellor that the University would continue to support your drive towards academic excellence. The fact that the National Universities Commission (NUC) approved a Centre for EEI in far-away Abuja is a simple testimony of the quality of the programme and its impact in the oil and gas industry," Professor Ogal said.

The Director, Professor Wami Idedare, disclosed that the Institute which was established through the generosity of late Dr Emmanuel Egbogah, currently runs Postgraduate Diploma programmes in Petroleum and Energy Economics, Master of Science degree programmes in Petroleum Economics, Management and Policy; and Energy Economics, Management and Policy. Other graduate programmes are the Doctor of Philosophy in Petroleum Economics, Energy Economics, Management and Policy in Petroleum and Energy Economics.

Idedare, who doubles as the Chair of the Emmanuel Egbogah Distinguished Professor of Energy Economics further disclosed that a total of 17 graduates were conferred with the Institute's higher degrees, including three Doctoral candidates and 14 Master of Science degrees at the 4th Induction Ceremony. "By the end of this graduation, we would have successfully graduated 65 MSc and three doctorate degree holders who are already gainfully employed in the oil and gas industries," the highly cited Director told the gathering.

Professor Idedare restated the commitment of the Institute to develop the requisite human capacity required to shape policy on Nigeria's critical energy sector. He explained that the Institute was vested with the responsibility of formulating and implementing energy policies and regulations for effective management of natural resources in the country and sub-Saharan Africa. "This is in addition to providing a forum for energy professionals, institutions and the general public to hold robust dialogue on the future of the energy sector. The operational framework of the Emerald Energy Institute revolves around graduate education and training, applied research and publications, public education and outreach," he disclosed.

The Director, who lamented the demise of the benefactor of the Institute, Dr Emmanuel Egbogah last June, announced that his family had concluded plans to endow a Foundation at the EEI on the Petroleum Industry to promote the ideals of the late petroleum expert and teacher.

Rivers State Commissioner of Environment and a former Provost of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), Professor Roseline Konyia, was given a Special Recognition Plaque at the Induction Ceremony. She was represented by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Dr Emmanuel Urang. Also honoured in this category were a former Dean and current Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogal and incumbent Dean of SGS, Professor Anthonia Okeregwu.

One of the super brains, Gbaken Kasse, who carried away most of the prizes on offer, delivered the valedictory address to an audience that included former Vice Chancellors, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, Professor Joseph Ajienka, including former Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Research and Development, Professor Bene Willie Abbey, amongst others.



Dr-C (Admin), Prof Ogal (4th right) flanked by Prof Bene Willie Abbey, Institute Director, Prof Idedare (left), Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Dr Urang, Vice-Chancellor, Mr Kasse, World Bank Centres Coordinator, Prof Onyewechukwu Akaranta (right) and the graduates

GUIDE POST

PROMOTION

Mr Godpower Onwughuwa, Department of Biochemistry/Chemistry Technology, School of Science Laboratory Technology, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2017.

Dr Patrick Echebe, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2018.

Dr Chinoke Ifeanyi-Obi, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2018.

Dr Chiama George-Inokwura, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2018.

Dr Eneke Nkoro, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2018.

Dr Amaze Big-Alabo, Department of Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2018.

Mrs Ifeoma Mgbahurike, Department of Private Law, Faculty of Law, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2018.

Mr Kalada Nonju, Department of Private Law, Faculty of Law, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2018.

Mr Dan John, Department of Pharmaceutical Microbiology and Biotechnology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2018.

Mr Monday Ezeoma, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2018.

HIGHER DEGREE

Dr Benjamin Afolulike, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, successfully completed his Doctoral degree programme from the University of Ibadan, Oyo State, effective July 27, 2017.

Dr Jones Amoshe, Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, successfully completed his Doctoral degree programme in Music Pedagogy from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, effective June 27, 2018.

Dr Doris Ofuli, Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, successfully completed her Doctoral degree programme in Music Pedagogy from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, effective June 28, 2018.

Dr Chidi Adiele, Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, successfully completed his Doctoral degree programme in Ethnomusicology from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, effective June 27, 2018.

Dr Nelson Onyiah, Department of Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, successfully completed his Doctoral degree programme from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State.

Dr Nkechi Ezeobasi, Department of Pharmaceutical Microbiology and Biotechnology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, successfully completed her Doctoral degree programme from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State.

Mrs Patricia Gbodo, Department of Public Law, Faculty of Law, successfully completed her Master of Laws (LLM) degree programme from the Rivers State University, Nkpolu.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Fresh and Returning students who paid their charges for the 2018/2019 academic session, but did not conclude their registration were advised to use the window of grace granted by Management to complete the process. The Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, in a letter dated March 18, 2019, a copy of which was made available to UniPort News, disclosed that Management further extended the deadline for registration from the initial deadline of Friday, March 18, 2019 to April 5, 2019. The Registrar had directed students who experienced difficulty in their online registration of courses to contact the Acting Director, Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC) at the University Park.

CSU Donates Refuse Cans To CEBAS

By Mercy Adeniji

As part of its corporate social responsibility to the University community and its environs, the Community Service Unit of the University donated four disposal cans to the Campus Environmental Beautification and Sanitation Unit (CEBAS) on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at Delta Park. Handing over the cans to the Unit, Acting Director of the CSU, Dr Helen Ifaifidor, disclosed that the gesture was part of the environmental stewardship by the CSU, aimed at achieving a clean and green environment. "We thought it wise to support CEBAS in recognition of the good work the Unit is doing in beautifying the University environment. We want members of the University community to continue to practise proper waste disposal to

enhance a cleaner and healthier environment," she said, urging the CEBAS leadership to continue to strive towards a clean and green environment.

Receiving the items, Acting Director of CEBAS, Mr James Tobo, expressed gratitude to the leadership of CSU for supporting it to ensure that the University surrounding was kept clean. "This is the first time CEBAS is receiving this kind of gift from any Unit in the University and we are deeply appreciative of your kind gesture. The act of cleaning the University should not be left for Management alone. We are very happy and we wish to assure you that we are going to put the items to proper use for the benefit of the University community. We appeal to the CSU to urge students to plant trees as a way of beautifying the University and purifying the air on campus," he stated, calling on other Units to emulate the kind gesture.



Ag Directors CSU, Dr Ifaifidor and CEBAS, Mr Tobo displaying the items

Stop Press

Council Dismisses Cooley For Gross Misconduct

Ongoing efforts to restore discipline in the University has yielded more dividends with the summary dismissal of Professor Adolphus Cooley of the Department of Economics in the Faculty of Social Sciences from the services of the University. Professor Cooley was dismissed for gross misconduct, which included aiding examination malpractice and perpetrating unethical acts in the Course: ECO 402.2 (Comparative Economics).

A letter that conveyed the Council's decision dated Tuesday, March 19, 2019 and signed by the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, stated that Professor Cooley was dismissed for acts unbecoming of a public office holder charged with such a position of trust.

"The Governing Council of the University at its 168th Meeting held on Thursday, 14th March, 2019 considered the 2nd report of the Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee (SSDC) on the alleged case of serious misconduct involving two students; namely, Mr. Promise C. Unaka and Mr. Anthony C. Okafor, who will appear before the Students' Disciplinary and Related Matters Committee (SDRMC) for investigation," the statement further disclosed.

Professor Cooley now joins the growing list of staff who had their appointments terminated or were summarily dismissed from the services of the University for gross misconduct.

Journalism Foundation Confab For May 2

The Journalism Educators Foundation has announced its 3rd conference scheduled between May 1 and 4, 2019 with the opening ceremony held for May 2, at the Auditorium of the Captain Elechi Amadi Faculty of Humanities building, University Park.

A statement jointly issued by Chairperson of the Local Organising Committee (LOC), Professor Christie Omega, Secretary, Dr Chris Ochoagor and Convener, Dr Aniefiok Udondo, disclosed that the conference would be organised in concert with the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities. The conference has *Reporting Politics in a Multi-Party System* as its theme with sub-themes that cover the media, election and the political system.

The statement pointed out that Professor Sunny Udezue of the Department of Mass Communication, Ezenwa State University of Science and Technology, is expected to deliver the keynote address, while Dr Ben Nwanne of the Department of Mass Communication, Delta State University, Abiraka will present the lead paper.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale is Chief Host, while Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka and Acting Head of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Dr Baridisi Isaac are listed as host and co-host, respectively. The statement invited sister institutions and the University community to attend the conference.

Other highlights of the conference would include syndicate sessions and workshop for journalists on Friday, May 3, 2019. Interested participants are advised to contact the LOC for more information. The organisers also announced special concession in registration fee for student participants.

Bogoro Commissions TETFund Projects In UniPort

By Otokor Samuel

Completed projects sponsored by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) in the University have been commissioned by the Executive Secretary in charge of the Fund, Professor Elias Bogoro. The Executive Secretary commissioned the projects on behalf of President Muhammadu Buhari as part of activities that marked the 32nd Convocation Ceremony of the University on

Friday 29th and Saturday 30th March, 2019.

Projects commissioned were the mega circular building opposite the Senate building known as *Seven-in-One*. The building has a 1,200 capacity auditorium, 24 fully-furnished offices for academic staff, 8 classrooms, 8 lecture halls and a 600-capacity lecture theatre, amongst other features. Other projects officially opened for use included the museum, lecture hall, Department of Human Anatomy staff offices and dissecting rooms and Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences

building.

Speaking before commissioning the projects, Professor Bogoro expressed satisfaction with the level of work done at the mega circular building. "This gigantic project you call *Seven-in-One* represents the first time such a massive signature infrastructure as this will be commissioned by the TETFund in any university. I am impressed by what I have seen and I wish to commend the Contractor for a job well done. This is an infrastructure we can proudly proclaim as a TETFund project. I usually watch out for the quality of work done and finishing, and I can say that this project meets our standards at the TETFund," the Executive Secretary said.

The Executive Secretary was accompanied on the commissioning exercise by his counterpart at the NUC, Professor Abubakar Rasheed and Deputy Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Federal Character, Honourable Darlington Nwokocha, who separately praised the quality of work done on the building. Hon. Nwokocha observed: "This gigantic project is a replica of good governance. It means that both the TETFund and Management of the University are on the right track. I am happy to note that this institution has produced wonderful people, who should advocate for it to get the best in service delivery and infrastructure."

At the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, however, Professor Bogoro, expressed serious concern about the quality of job done. "I am not impressed with the finishing job done here; and I am just cutting the tape without formally commissioning the building. The Vice Chancellor should convey my serious reservations to the Contractor and direct him to improve the finishing work," he observed.



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Bogoro (4th right) flanked by NUC Scribe, Prof. Rasheed, House of Reps member, Hon. Nwokocha, the Contractor, Mr. Adams Allyn (right), V-C, Prof. Lale (left) cutting the tape. Inset: the Seven-in-One building

As part of the major activities that marked the 32nd Convocation Ceremony, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, treated graduates with First Class Honours and their counterpart who obtained Distinction from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and College of Health Sciences to an impressive dinner at the Vice Chancellor's Lodge on Wednesday, March 27, 2019.

The Vice Chancellor's Dinner with the super brains provided ample opportunity for them to wine and dine with the Vice Chancellor, his Wife, Principal Officers, Deans of Faculty, Heads of Department, their lecturers and family members in a relaxed atmosphere.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor enjoined the new graduates to cushion the theoretical aspects of their learning with soft skills and emotional intelligence that are necessary for successful careers outside the university.

"In addition to your impressive First Class Honours degrees, you need to learn other aspects of life to be more successful in your future career choices. Unfortunately, the things that make us succeed in life are not taught in the classroom. The hard skills you have acquired here will not take you very far. You need to blend them with soft skills which you must learn by interacting with people and opening your mind to the world," the Vice Chancellor charged them.

Professor Lale expressed great shock over news of the demise of two out of the 106 First Class graduates before the Convocation Dinner and their

V-C Charges First Class Graduates On Knowledge Application ...Regrets Two Deaths

By Otokor Samuel

graduation from the University. The Vice Chancellor, who regretted the unfortunate incident, sympathised with the bereaved families on their monumental losses. The names of the deceased First Class graduates were given as Inwele John-Guy Abegs of the Department of Microbiology in the Faculty of Science and Goodnews Onyekachukwu Uchechukwu of the Department of English Studies in the Faculty of Humanities. Both of them graduated in the 2016/2017 session. A Minute of Silence was

observed in honour of the two youngsters whose lives were cut short by an auto crash and leukaemia in each case.

In his speech, Chairman of the 32nd Convocation Committee and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, expressed gratitude to parents and guardians for sponsoring and supporting their wards to excel in their academic work. He called for continued support that would enable the new graduates excel in the larger society.



V-C, Prof. Lale (5th left) flanked by DV-C (Acad), Prof. Fawehinmi (left), some senior academics and First Class graduates