

## US-based Nigerian Foundation Renews Partnership With UniPort



American-based Nigerian Higher Education Foundation (NHEF) has promised to offer more scholarships and specialised training opportunities to eligible students of the University of Port Harcourt, reports *Mercy Adeniji*.

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## Side Bar 158<sup>th</sup> INAUGURAL LECTURE

Professor Andrew Obafemi of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management will deliver the 158<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture entitled, "Transiting Uninhabitable Habitats to Sustainable Smart Urban: The Place of Geospatial Mapping and Technologies", on Thursday, May 30, 2019.

Time is 3:00pm.

Details next edition.

Editor

## 157<sup>th</sup> Inaugural

# Okeke Lists Measures To Close Gender Inequity In Nigeria

By Otiakor Samuel

Professor Elizabeth Okeke of the Department of Educational Foundations in the Faculty of Education has called for the establishment of a gender office in every institution to enlighten the public on the need for gender equity in Nigeria. Such a deliberate move, according to Professor Okeke, was long overdue to back up the sustained agitation by feminists for women to be fully integrated into every facet of national development. She submitted that a country in which one gender suppressed the other would neither know peace nor witness accelerated development.

Delivering the 157<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture entitled, *Education and Society: Overcoming the Gender Divide in the Nigerian Setting*, at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium last Thursday, Professor Okeke called for urgent review of existing

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### Hope Rises For FAD Accreditation



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### Law Faculty Ends Workshop For Students



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### Internal Audit Ends Workshop



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### JEF Holds Confab In UniPort



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Barring unforeseen circumstances, the Department of Fine Arts and Design appears likely to finally receive full accreditation status for its programmes. This is because, the accreditation team constituted by the National Universities Commission (NUC), has publicly praised the quality of programmes and activities offered by the Department during its recently-concluded oversight exercise.

Speaking during the Exit Meeting which took place at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room on Tuesday, April 18, 2019, leader of the team, Professor Ahmed Salisu, showered enthusiasm on Management of the University, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shaka and the Head of Department of Fine Arts and Design, Professor Florence Nduka, for giving adult leadership that resulted in proper harnessing of available resources to make a strong case before the NUC accreditation team.

The team did not, however, fail to observe some grey areas that needed urgent correction to further boost academic excellence in the Department. "I would urge the leadership not to relent because the Department needs more support to finally take its place, but we are impressed with what we have seen. We saw all the facilities and we want the Management to further support the Department in some specific areas to enable it function effectively. I can assure you that if the Department is properly funded, it could even make money for the University," Professor Salisu said.

Professor Salisu expressed gratitude to the University for its trademark hospitality, noting that the whole essence of accreditation is to ensure quality control across board. "We thank you for ensuring that the standard of the programme is maintained in the Department and let me assure you that we are not here to visit; we are here to get facts. If we find what is not right, we would point it out to improve the programme," the team leader said.

Responding, Professor Ogalil promised that Management

# This Time, NUC Accreditation Team Lauds FAD Programmes

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DVC (Admin), Prof Ogalil (arrowed) flanked by other Principal Officers of the University and members of the Accreditation team

## By Mercy Adeniji

would look into the recommendations made for the advancement of the University and the Department. "We thank you for the recommendations and observations and we promise to do whatever we can to support the Department", Professor Ogalil promised.

Earlier, while receiving the accreditation team on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndawa Lale, on Monday, April 29, 2019, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ogalil, commended the team for the visit. She stated that Management takes NUC assignments very seriously. "We know the type of

assignment you have come to perform here. When accreditation teams come here, we know it is to make things better for our own benefit. I am sure the Department of Fine Arts and Design is fully prepared for this exercise,"

Professor Ogalil told the team. Other members of the accreditation team were: Professor John Ogun of University of Benin, Professor Abdulrahman Adeyemi of University of Ilorin and Mr Henry Oshola from NUC. Also present were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Omo, Bursar, Dr Felicia Ajawa and University Librarian, Dr Susan Umoseze.

# VC Praises 32<sup>nd</sup> Convocation C'ttee On Successful Outing

## By Orikor Samuel

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndawa Lale, has commended members of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Convocation Committee for pulling off a successful event to the delight of the University community and other stakeholders. Activities that marked the Convocation Ceremony commenced on Friday, March 22 at various locations in the University and climaxed on Friday, 29 and Saturday, 30 March, 2019 with the award of First Degrees and Conferment of Higher Degrees.

Making the commendation at a post-Convocation luncheon which held at the NIM Lounge in Ebitimi Banjo Auditorium on Thursday, May 2, 2019, the Vice-Chancellor enjoined the Committee to note all observed lapses in order to improve upon subsequent Convocation Ceremonies in the University.

"I want to express our collective gratitude to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi and dutiful members of his Committee for a successful outing. I can confirm that the Committee did a brilliant job and I am very grateful for your doggedness in executing the whole exercise to the letter. Everything may not have gone perfectly well as planned, but on the whole, the Committee did a very nice job and we hope that the stress and burden would be less as we look forward to the last Convocation on my watch," the Vice-Chancellor added.

Earlier in his address, Chairman of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Convocation Committee and Deputy Vice-Chancellor

(Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, had disclosed that the post-Convocation Luncheon was packaged to appreciate the sub-Committee members for their valued contributions towards the smooth organisation of the event.

"We combined the graduation of two sets of students in the 2018/2017 and 2017/2018 sessions during the 32<sup>nd</sup> Convocation Ceremony. This team of formidable ladies and gentlemen was solely responsible for the graduation of four sets of students at the combined Convocation. I can confirm that all sub-Committee members worked strenuously to achieve our target. I also wish to acknowledge the valued contributions of staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes for the successful hosting of the Convocation."

"The Convocation Ceremony was hitch-free and there were no casualties associated with hosting the event in this University. This was due to the relentless support of the Management of the University. We want to thank the University Management ably led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndawa Lale, for providing us an enabling environment to succeed on our onerous assignment. Members of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Convocation Committee were outstanding in the discharge of their assigned duties and were alive to their responsibilities," the Committee Chairman said. Professor Fawehinmi added that although the 32<sup>nd</sup> Convocation Ceremony was a huge success, the Committee observed a few lapses that would be corrected in future exercises.

# First Semester Exams Begin Next Monday

## By Orikor Samuel

As the First Semester Examinations for the 2018/2019 academic year commence next Monday, the Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC) Unit of the Vice-Chancellor's Office has charged the Provost, Deans and Heads of Department to ensure seamless conduct of the exercise.

Director of the QAQC Unit, Professor Ikchukwu Agbagwa, in separate statements, urged Faculty and Departmental Time-table Officers to carefully study the venue allocation schedule released by the University Time-table Office to determine the capacity of the various lecture halls before designating them for examinations accordingly.

"Heads of Department and Time-table Officers should work out adequate number of invigilators for each examination based on class size and number of venues to be used. Inadequate number of invigilators shall be considered as deliberate compromise of the integrity of a particular examination. The same shall also apply to poorly invigilated examinations and invigilation with non-staff of the University," the Director pointed out. Professor Agbagwa urged Departments to promptly submit their approved time-tables to the QAQC Unit for course evaluation and examination monitoring before the close of work on Friday, May 17, 2019.



Prof Agbagwa



V-C Prof Lale (5' right) flanked by Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Omo, DVC (Acad) and Chairman, Convocation C'ttee, Prof Fawehinmi (right), DVC (Admin), Prof Regina Ogalil, Bursar, Dr Felicia Ajawa, Univ Librarian, Dr Susan Umoseze (left) and members of the 32nd Convocation C'ttee

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Speaking during a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, Chairman of the Foundation, Mr. Wale Adesun, explained that his organisation was founded by the John D and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in 2004 to advance tertiary education in Nigeria. He assured the Vice Chancellor of NHEF unwavering commitment to enhance the capacity of higher institutions in Nigeria to deliver world-class education to students.

"The idea behind this initiative is to help eligible students to be self-sustaining in their educational pursuit. The NHEF currently provides fundraising opportunity, collaboration and training support to selected partner universities in Nigeria. We are currently partnering the Ahmadu Bello University, Bayero University, University of Ibadan and University of Port Harcourt. We have lately added the University of Lagos and University of Nigeria, Nsukka. We also support these universities in the three key areas of Advancement and Development, Alumni Development and Faculty Exchange programmes and the NHEF Scholarship Programme which commenced three years ago," Mr. Adesun told the Vice Chancellor.

In her contribution, NHEF Executive Director, Miss Faridah Usman, described the NHEF scholarship scheme as a career development programme meant to address skills gap in the key sectors of the economy. Mr. Adesun further disclosed that his organisation collaborates with educational institutions to identify talented and highly-motivated Nigerian students who receive broad-ranging on-the-job training required by employers. Receiving the two-member delegation, a visibly delighted Vice Chancellor, Professor Lale, commended the NHEF for including the University on its list of beneficiaries. "I am quite excited about the career programme of this Foundation, which is very critical, giving the global unemployment rate of graduates today. It has become necessary that graduates are equipped with soft skills that

## US-based Nigerian Foundation Renews Partnership With UniPort



L-R: Exec Dir, NHEF, Miss Usman, UPHF Director, Prof Alapiki, Team Leader, Mr Adesun, staff of UniPort Foundation and some students of the University

would expose them to cope with life on graduation. Our graduates need to be trained to understand the language spoken in the industry today. We thank you for driving this partnership and I am glad that we are finally able to interface with our benefactors. Let us know when you are ready to start a Centre in this University because we have been eagerly looking forward to this partnership," Professor Lale told his guests.

Speaking earlier, Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation (UPHF), Professor Henry Alapiki, recalled that the NHEF has been very supportive in manpower development among Nigerian university students. "The essence of the visit is to create better

awareness of the organisation's activities through interface with students in their penultimate year. NHEF has been giving scholarship and internship training opportunities to Nigerian students, including our own students," Professor Alapiki disclosed.

The team later met with students at the Institute of Petroleum Studies Seminar Room to enlighten them on available scholarship opportunities. Miss Usman appealed to talented and motivated students of the University of Port Harcourt to apply for the scholarship at [www.thehef.org](http://www.thehef.org), stating that the application window which has been since April 15, 2019 would finally close on May 30, 2019.

## Law Faculty Ends Career Workshop For Pioneer Students

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Faculty of Law has ended a one-day career workshop organised for its pioneer students at the Emerald Energy Institute building on Monday, April 29, 2019. The Career Workshop was designed to broaden the knowledge pool of the students and also expose them to critical soft skills that would help them cope with life on graduation.

In her presentation entitled, *Law in a Time of Rapid Global Change: Challenges and Prospects of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Lawyer*, Head of the School of Law at Bradford University in the United Kingdom, Professor Engbo Emech, disclosed that globalisation had negative and positive consequences with complex implications for law and law professionals. "Traditional legal training is still relevant but there is a need to adapt to the pace of global changes. Emphasis should be placed on student-centred learning, use of technology, team work and relevant curriculum," she recommended.

Listing disruptive technologies, sustainability challenges with environmental and human impact from development and global security as some challenges that 21<sup>st</sup> century lawyers have to deal with, Professor Emech advised the pioneer class to chart a career path for themselves by focusing on specific areas of specialisation. She also advised them to undertake postgraduate studies in areas of their choices in addition to acquiring soft and managerial skills, team spirit, technology adaptation and networking, including advocacy abilities as necessary conditions for successful law practice.

In his address, pioneer Dean of the Faculty and Rivers State Commissioner of Water Resources, Professor Kanayo Ehekwa, commended the guest lecturer for accepting to share her wealth of experience with the pioneer students. "Our ambition is to make the University of Port Harcourt Law School a great school and the first of its kind in the state and region. There are still things we would still like to see here such as a functional e-library with functional e-resources. As pioneer students, you are

still grappling with the teething problems of the Faculty, but I want you to consider yourself the best," he charged the students.

Explaining that the world was rapidly evolving, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Lucky Worika, urged the students to consider themselves lucky to benefit from the lecture. "You have a responsibility to ensure that you put in your best at all times to succeed on this strenuous journey. Beyond academic excellence, you need to keep social contacts and interactions with colleagues to develop soft skills. Nothing should stop you from achieving your set target if you are really determined to succeed," Professor Worika advised them.

## UNAUTHORISED HANGING OF BANNERS

It has been observed that some Departments, Faculties, Colleges, including Centres and Institutes hang banners and paste posters without seeking authorisation to do so as directed by the Vice Chancellor. This is to notify all those who engage in such practices that such banners and posters would, henceforth, be pulled down and the culprits sanctioned accordingly. Notice is hereby given that all those in the habit of flouting the Vice Chancellor's directive on illegal hanging of banners and pasting of posters may be jeopardising their events, even if they may have obtained approval. Programme organisers are also advised against hanging approved banners at unauthorised locations in the University. They should also note that the Main Gate entrance into the University (Dan Etete Avenue from the IPS/AP axis) has been designated as a *banner-free zone* and on no circumstance should banners or posters be displayed there. All concerned should kindly take note and cooperate accordingly.



Cross-section of academic staff and students at the Workshop. Inset: Pioneer and current Deans, Profs Ehekwa (right) and Worika (left) flanked by Prof Emech

# Bioresources Centre Mounts Genomics Workshop For Microbiology Students



Centre Director, Prof. Ataga (seated 4<sup>th</sup> right) with the facilitators and participants

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As part of its capacity-building initiative, the Regional Centre for Biotechnology and Bioresources Research (RCBBR), has ended a workshop on practical approaches to genomics. The workshop held at the Centre's Research Laboratory located inside the Institute of Petroleum Studies Park from Monday, May 6 to Tuesday 7, 2019. Giving a brief on the importance of the workshop which targeted final-year students of the Department of

Microbiology in the Faculty of Science, Centre Director, Professor Anthony Ataga, explained that it was designed to equip participants in Molecular Biology as one of the core components of the life sciences. "There is a need to introduce our students to this critical field, because they cannot pass through the life sciences without knowledge of Molecular Biology which is applied in everything these days. The workshop would afford them the opportunity to acquire hands-on skills, using state-of-the-art facilities in extraction, genetic

diversification and analysis (Bioinformatics)," he disclosed. The Director added that the workshop would be extended to academic staff, technologists and students in other specialisations that offer the life sciences.

In her presentation on Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) for Beginners, one of the workshop facilitators, Dr. Lovina Udo, described the process as "a common tool used in medical and biological research laboratories. PCR is also used in the early stages of processing DNA for sequencing and detecting the presence and absence of a gene." Other topics covered included: Introductory Lectures on Genomics, DNA Extraction, Determination of DNA Concentration and Purity, Others are DNA

Amplification and PCR and Agarose Gel Electrophoresis. Speaking shortly after handing over certificate of participation to the students, Acting Head of the Department of Microbiology, Dr. Chimezie Ogugbo, commended Professor Ataga for mounting the workshop. He described the exercise as a collaborative programme between the Centre and the Department of Microbiology to expose final-year students to the use of equipment and techniques in Molecular Biology before their graduation from the University.

## NESREA Tasks Varsities On Environmental Stewardship

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Rivers State Coordinator of the National Environmental Standards and Regulation Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Mr. Martins Eneuwae, has called on universities to provide expert advice to government and the private sector on topical environmental matters as repositories of knowledge and expertise.

Mr. Eneuwae made the plea as Guest Lecturer at the 12<sup>th</sup> Faculty of Science seminar series on the topic: *The Place of National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) on Environmental Management in Nigeria (Niger Delta)*, which held on Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

He also urged universities to expand consultancy services and advisory programmes in environmental and sustainable development for the benefit of society. "There should be a synergy and robust relationship between government, the private sector and other stakeholders, in addition to voluntary compliance and awareness creation to safeguard the environment," Mr. Eneuwae said.

"At local and national levels, it is important to foster knowledge and awareness of the most vulnerable communities to improve down-

scaling of concerns that degrade and destroy the carrying capacity of our environment," the NESREA boss submitted. He stressed the need to strengthen regional and global corporation in experience-sharing, information transfer, and best technological practice that would ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for citizens. In his address, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, noted that the strategic location of the University in the heart of the Niger Delta placed it in a vantage position to make meaningful contributions to environmental issues affecting the Niger Delta region. He commended the Management of the Faculty for sustaining the seminar series to its 12<sup>th</sup> edition.

In his remarks, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor Ephraim Chukwuocha, disclosed that the seminar series had provided opportunity for researchers and their students to interface with industry players to showcase their findings.

"A forum like this one is a welcome opportunity for scholars to exhibit research and collaborations with the industry for purposes of driving national development and utilising local indigenous materials for the benefit of the country," the Dean remarked.



Dr. Harcourt (center) flanked by Buras, Dr. Ayawa (left), one of the Resource Persons, Mr. Nwinea (right) and others

## Internal Audit Ends Workshop On Integrated Reporting

By Letom Nnen

As part of efforts aimed at equipping Auditors in the University with modern auditing skills, the Internal Audit Department mounted a two-day workshop on integrated reporting. The event held at the ACE-CEFOR Conference Room at the Institute of Petroleum Studies Park from Wednesday, May 8 to Thursday, May 9, 2019.

The workshop entitled: *Integrated Reporting for the University Governance* was organised by the Audit Department in partnership with Network Management Consultants. Declaring upon the workshop, the University Bursar, Dr. Felicia Ayawa, commended the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Labe and the Management of the University for approving the workshop.

"This workshop is very important to you as Auditors and critical to the financial control system in the University. It is geared towards self-development of staff of the Unit to instill the checks and balance necessary for proper financial reporting in this University. I urge all the participants to utilise this rare opportunity to improve their capabilities and sharpen their skills for greater service delivery as Auditors" the Bursar said.

Delivering the lecture entitled: *Integrated Reporting for University Governance: The new thinking*, Mr. Anthony Nwinea noted that Integrated Reporting (IR) has the potential to contribute significant value to organisations, as well as effect meaningful

change for society and the environment. He identified IR as efficient and credible in checking admission procedure, documentation, life integrity and custody.

"It is useful in social lifestyle and security mapping, human resource and administration and also in revenue generation and accounting. I, therefore, advise the participants to key into the IR reporting style which seeks to incorporate more of non-financial consideration," Nwinea remarked.

Other topics covered included: *Risks Based Auditing in an Integrated Reporting Environment* by Dr. Chris Udoakang and *The Field of Integrated Reporting*, by Dr. Idemkhan Ikata, *The Processing Systems for IR Effectiveness* by Mr. Mission Franklin and *Forensic Auditing and Internal Auditing Function in Nigerian Public Tertiary Institutions: Integrated Reporting Focus by* Dr. Chimezie Ogugbo.

In his contribution, Deputy Director of the Internal Audit, Dr. Boniface Woko, who stood in for the Director, Dr. Edwin Harcourt, commended Management of the University for supporting the Workshop. "We wish to express our gratitude to the resource persons for the quality of their presentations. It is important that all staff of the Audit Department who participated in this workshop reflect on the lessons learnt from this exercise in their daily auditing activities to justify the resources and time expended to run it," Dr. Woko said at the closing ceremony.



RS Coordinator of NESREA, Mr. Eneuwae delivering his lecture while participants listen with rapt attention

## Afigbode Succeeds Akinbami As Dentistry Dean

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

respectively during his tenure, which complemented the academic staff strength of the Faculty. He called for the recruitment of more lecturers in each of the five Departments, in addition to the provision of a bigger Faculty building to accommodate the increasing staff strength and student subscription.

"I urge the Management and Government to provide increased funding for dental training. There is need for the Government to own up to its responsibility in funding the training of dental surgeons. We need more dental surgeons to reduce the doctor-patient ratio in Nigeria," he advised.

In his contribution, newly-appointed Acting Dean, Dr Afigbode, promised to continue the *Dentistry Day* celebration and Medical Outreach, in addition to developing other programmes. "We will be visiting some key departments in the Faculties of Engineering, Science and Basic Medical Sciences to explore areas of mutual research collaborations," he said. Dr Afigbode added that



Prof Akinbami (left) in a handshake with his successor, Dr Afigbode

his tenure would refocus younger academics and take students' research to a higher level on his watch.

"Staff training is very important for professional development and we intend to encourage academic and non-teaching staff to participate in conferences, seminars and workshops at national and international levels to improve their skill sets and worldview," the new Acting Dean promised. He further disclosed that plans had reached advanced stages to host the conference of Dental

He identified lack of proper accounting and transparency as serious impediments to accelerated economic development of Nigeria. Dr Ogbonna insisted that the quantum of revenue currently being generated from such activities would not lead to accelerated economic development of the country.

In his remarks, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who represented the Vice Chancellor at the Public Lecture, described the lecture topic as very relevant to Nigeria's parlous economic state today. He commended the Dean, Professor Barisua Nwinea and the Faculty of Management Sciences Research and Publications Committee for sustaining the series aimed at advancing the frontiers of knowledge through quality research and discourse.

"I want to congratulate the Dean and his colleagues for sustaining this Faculty Lecture Series to the 16<sup>th</sup> edition. It is a noble achievement that we recommend to other Faculties in this University to boost research. I call on the Faculty to continue in this established tradition, because of its capacity to raise the research tone among staff and students," Professor Fawehinmi advised the Faculty leadership. He praised Dr Ogbonna for doing justice to the topic in the first academic tradition.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Dean, Professor Nwinea, commended Dr Ogbonna for recommending viable solutions to Nigeria's economic developmental challenges. "The Public Lecture series has immensely enriched our teaching and research endeavours. Holding this lecture on a regular basis has helped in no small measure to instill the culture of research in our Faculty and we have no reason to look back," he promised. The well-attended event had in attendance, the Bursar of the University, Dr Felicia Ayuso and Professor Chijioke Nwanche of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, including senior academics and students of the Faculty.

After serving out his two-year tenure as Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, Professor Babatunde Akinbami has handed over to his successor, Dr Afigbode. The immediate past Dean expressed optimism that his successor has the capacity, expertise and candour to take the Faculty to the next level of academic and infrastructural development.

Rolling out his achievements in an interview with a *UniPort News* Correspondent, Professor Akinbami disclosed that there was no skills gap in the training of students due to availability of consumables for laboratory demonstrations. "Dental consumables in the fifth year are very expensive and so we joined forces with parents, students and other stakeholders to spread the high cost of consumables and the result was very encouraging," the former Dean disclosed. He added that one of the major strides of his administration was improving the finances of the Faculty to take care of pressing matters without waiting for the Management of the University.

"Training of dental students is very cost-effective and so we needed to look inwards and outwards to generate critically-needed funds to support our activities on my watch. Available records show that we turned out quality dental surgeons who can compete anywhere in the world, because we insisted on global best practice in our training processes. During my tenure, we initiated a fund-raising activity that enabled us to finance a robust sponsorship scheme from which indigent students benefited," Professor Akinbami explained.

He expressed optimism that the new leadership of the Faculty would continue to augment the insufficient allocations from the University. The immediate past Dean disclosed that the Faculty graduated three sets of dental surgeons under his watch, noting that the National Universities Commission accreditation exercise conducted in November 2018 resulted in full accreditation that would run up to 2023, a remarkable feat that speaks to the quality of leadership in the Faculty. Professor Akinbami further disclosed that three lecturers were recruited into the Departments of Restorative Dentistry, Oral Pathology and Child Dental Health,

## Ogbonna Identifies Steps To Nigeria's Economic Recovery

By Letom Nnen

The Federal Government has been advised to establish legislative, industrial and financial frameworks that would boost sustainable economic growth and accelerated development in Nigeria.

The advice was given by Dr Gabriel Ogbonna of the Department of Accounting while delivering the 16<sup>th</sup> Public Lecture of the Faculty of Management Sciences. The lecture entitled, *Entrepreneurial Accounting: Panacea for Nigeria's Economic Development* held at the Faculty Hall on Monday, April 29, 2019. Dr Ogbonna explained that if all the abundant natural resources were fully harnessed, Nigeria would have no problem with under-development and the kind of poverty that currently ravages its citizens. He regretted that policy-makers were yet to properly devise ways of growing the country's economy to create prosperity for citizens drifting into poverty at an alarming rate. The Public Lecturer listed such state-owned

enterprises as Nigerian Airways, Pan African Bank and Flour Mills as heartbreaking examples of previously booming public businesses that failed on account of poor management and cronyism in government circles. Dr Ogbonna, however, advised government against direct involvement in business activities, recommending instead the creation of an enabling environment for private entrepreneurs to invest and create jobs for the people.

He did not also spare those responsible for curriculum development in the critical education sector on account of their policy summersault. "Educational policy-makers should include entrepreneurship courses in the curriculum from primary to tertiary levels of education to give the beneficiaries hands-on skills, while government should invest oil revenue into agriculture to boost employment and productivity. Nigeria's economic development currently depends on petroleum operations and entrepreneurial accounting as the two major pillars that hold Nigeria's economic development," Dr Ogbonna pointed out.



DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (3<sup>rd</sup> left), flanked by Dean, Mgt Sciences, Prof Nwinea, Dr Ibanichuka (left), Dr Ogbonna (right) and others

# Okeke Lists Measures To Close Gender Inequity

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customary laws, aggressive reorientation, targeted empowerment programmes and institutional reforms as some of the ways of curbing gender inequity that result in negative consequence for society.

"In recognition of the need to incorporate everyone into development programmes, the government should press further to establish a Gender Office in every established operating institution. All existing customary laws that operate against the constitutional provisions on the maintenance of gender equality, including those related to violence against women and marital rape should be revisited immediately," the 157<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecturer submitted.

Professor Okeke identified a number of factors that promote gender bias in Nigeria to include weak legislative and constitutional frameworks, in-built societal ideologies, inadequate implementation of national gender policies, discriminatory cultural traditions, religion, illiteracy, parental preference and the outdated colonial system of education still in operation in Nigeria.

The Professor of Sociology of Education listed near total male domination of economic engagements, violence against women, low female participation in political activities, and other related socio-cultural factors as major indicators of gender divide in Nigeria. She explained that a combination of social, cultural, religious and political elements contributed to further under-exploit, under-develop and under-utilise the full potentials of women in the country.

"The country's prevailing social arrangements and some obnoxious cultural practices that still promote male supremacy and decision-making on critical issues, especially as they affect women, still pose serious challenges to societal progress, with regard to full identification and development of the full potentials of women. For instance, the men still lead in many, if not all clans and communities, without regard to the importance of unlimited assistance and pieces of advice given to them



Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Okeke (arrowed) flanked by the VC, Prof Lake (left) and other Professors before the Lecture

by their female counterparts," Professor Okeke lamented.

Decrying the current trends of women representation in the political space, Professor Okeke disclosed that out of 469 legislative positions in the country, male legislators occupied 93.8 per cent, while female legislators accounted for only 6.18 per cent. She warned that such a glaring disparity in the distribution of political power would not result in harnessing all available human resources to achieve an accelerated national development.

The 157<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecturer also bemoaned the few slots allocated to women with respect to the deputy governorship position in Nigeria. Professor Okeke further lamented that only six states currently allocated such an important political office to women without clearly defined statutory roles.

"For instance, the percentage of women currently occupying deputy governorship seats in Nigeria is only 16.7 per cent. The six states are: Osun, Lagos, Ogun, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Enugu. All these states are in Southern Nigeria," she said, pointing out under the current dispensation, no woman occupied the office of deputy governor in the entire 19 states of Northern Nigeria.

On how to correct the observed gender divide and restore balance, the 157<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecturer recommended aggressive gender education to enlighten the public. She described gender education as "essential aspects of the curriculum contents that equip males and females with the knowledge of their body constituents that necessitated their being differentiated as masculine and feminine, resulting to their role differentiation and assignment, all of which continue to affect their self-concepts, social relationships, choices and priorities, amongst other things."

Professor Okeke submitted that with gender education,

women would be bold enough to develop self-control, care for their health, defend and safeguard themselves in the company of men without much dependence. She added that proper knowledge of gender education would expose men and women to sexuality education that would bring about mutual respect for one another.

Citing one authority, the Inaugural Lecturer stated that "sexuality education aims to develop and strengthen the ability of children and young people to make conscious, satisfying, healthy and respectful choices regarding relationships, sexuality and emotional and physical health."

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lake, described the lecture as one of the most radical presentations ever made in the University. "While we are in sympathy with the women as they battle the men for equality, I must hasten to add that women are their own worst enemies when it comes to positioning themselves for privileges. I can holdly say that the competition amongst women is more contentious than that between them and men."

"Our intake over the years seems to favour the female students more as they are always on the increase. So, the demographics which the Inaugural Lecturer showed us as against the womenfolk are changing rapidly in their favour," the Vice Chancellor said. He commended Professor Okeke on her presentation, hoping that relevant government agencies would implement some of her recommendations.

He announced that Professor Andrew Obafemi of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management in the Faculty of Social Sciences, will deliver the 158<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture entitled, *Transiting Unhabitable Habitats to Sustainable Smart Urban: The Place of Geospatial Mapping and Technologies* on Thursday, May 30, 2019.

## Resource Persons Call For Robust Politics Reporting At JEF Confab

By Otokor Samuel

electorate. In carrying out their assignment of informing, educating and entertaining the public, journalists must uphold standards and abide by the time-tested ethics of their profession," the representative of the Vice Chancellor told the participants.

Delivering the keynote address, Professor Sunny Udze of the Department of Mass Communication at Enugu State University of Science and Technology, advised media practitioners to refuse to be manipulated by politicians. Professor Udze charged journalists to always serve as the voice of the electorate, urging them to uphold standards if they hope to earn the respect of society.

Also, in the lead paper, Dr Ben Nwanne spoke on *Reporting Politics in a Multi-party System in Nigeria: How have the Media Performed?* He stressed the persuasive nature of politics, urging the media to look out for politicians who avoid issues that are crucial to a better society. "Politics is known to be pervasive and inevitable in any society, hence nobody can be insulated from the struggle for power and its consequences on societal development. Therefore, reporting politics is simply a mass media imperative to let the people know who wants to rule over them, his or her antecedents, what the contending political parties are offering as manifestoes...Even after the elections, media will continue to monitor the activities of government," he said.

Earlier in their separate remarks, Acting Head of Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Dr Baridisa Isaac and Convener of the Journalism Educators' Foundation, Dr Aniefisk Udodo, commended guests who graced the event. They added that it was the Department's contribution to robust journalism practice in Nigeria. The event featured award presentation to Professor Shirley Yulifode and Drs Hysacith Orlu-Orlu and Ibitoye Abusode for their contributions to the success of the JEF.



Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Prof Shaka (5<sup>th</sup> left) flanked by JEF Convener, Dr Udodo, Prof Godwin Okon, Rivers NUJ Chair, Mr Job Stanley, Dr Nwuchukwu (left), Dr Abusode, Ag Hob, LCS, Dr Isaac, Prof Yulifode (right) and others

## GUIDE POST

## APPOINTMENT

**Dr Friday Nwofor**, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Acting Director, Institute of Arts and Culture*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on April 25, 2021.

**Dr Edward Bristol-Alagbariya**, Faculty of Law, appointed *Associate Dean of the Faculty*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on April 14, 2021.

**Dr Ovunda Ihunwo**, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, *Coordinator, Nollywood Arts and Film Production Unit*. The one-year appointment which took effect from April 25, 2019, will terminate on April 25, 2020.

**Dr Onari Asimic**, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, re-appointed *Acting Director, Centre for Marine Pollution Monitoring and Seafood Safety*. The two-year re-appointment which took effect from April 24, 2019 will terminate on April 23, 2021.

**Mrs Matilda Nnodim**, Registry Department, re-appointed *Director, University of Port Harcourt Counselling Centre*. The re-appointment which took effect from April 28, 2019 is until further notice.

**Dr Samuel Dede**, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Coordinator, Cultural, Administration and Strategic Studies Unit*. The one-year appointment which took effect from April 26, 2019, will terminate on April 25, 2020.

**Dr Chiekie Nwanwa-Nzewunwa**, Open and Distance Learning Centre, appointed *Coordinator, Photography Unit, Institute of Arts and Culture*. The one-year appointment which took effect from April 26, 2019 to April 25, 2020.

**Dr Pamela Cyril-Egware**, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Coordinator, Textile and Fashion Design in the Institute of Fine Arts and Culture*. The one-year appointment which took effect from April 26, 2019, will terminate on April 25, 2020.

## STUDY LEAVE

**Mr Menes Muzan**, Faculty of Law, granted a four-year *Study Leave with Pay* to pursue a doctoral programme in Environmental Law at the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, effective October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2022.

## GEM Regained Accreditation Status On My Watch, Says Weli

By Mercy Adeniji

If he would be remembered for nothing else, the return of full accreditation status to the Department of Geography and Environmental Management (GEM) would remain a landmark accomplishment by the immediate past Acting Head of Department, Dr Vincent Weli. Having been denied accreditation on previous occasions, all eyes were on Dr Weli to deliver and he did not disappoint.

"It is on record that before I took office, the Department had serially failed to secure accreditation status from the National Universities Commission and other regulatory agencies. I am glad to say that under my watch, we received full accreditation with 86.3 cumulative percentage last year—surpassing other Departments that previously had accreditation."

"My tenure coincided with our preparation for programmes accreditation, and I had to mobilise all available human and material resources to make the accreditation happen this time. It was like preparing for a major battle which we could not afford to lose. For a start, I acquired ten new super computers for the Geographic Information System Laboratory. We also equipped the Centre of Excellence in Weather and Hydrological Observation. Since we had very limited resources at our disposal, we used our extended contacts to attract donation of critical learning facilities from the South-South zones of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency and Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency," he disclosed.

Exchanging views with a *UniPort News* Correspondent on Thursday, May 2, 2019, the erstwhile Acting Head of Department disclosed that he achieved the targets he set for himself on assumption of office. Dr Weli recalled that he assumed office on April 7, 2016 with a mandate to raise the bar of research and teaching in the Department through robust stakeholder engagement and prudent management of scarce resources.

Dr Weli described the state-of-art Centre of Excellence as first of its kind in any Nigerian university, stating that the Weather Station has been geo-referenced by the World Meteorological Organisation and Federal Capital Territory in Abuja. "With these facilities, we can monitor hydrological movements, ocean



Dr Weli (left) presenting a copy of his handover note to Dr Ezekwe

tides and even sea level rise right from the University of Port Harcourt. I am glad that these landmark achievements were recorded under my watch as I promised on assumption of office," he told our Correspondent.

"Under my watch, so many facilities were put in place to support academic and administrative work in the Department. Today, the Department has functional GIS and Cartography Laboratories that students needed to complement their studies. We also strengthened the teaching of entrepreneurial skills to prepare our students for life outside the classroom," the immediate past Acting Head of Department added.

Dr Weli explained that he ran an open door policy that made him very accessible to staff and students while he was in charge of the Department. He expressed satisfaction with the outcome of his leadership which ended in April 2019, expressing hope that his successor, Dr Clinton Ezekwe, would build on his modest accomplishments.

He expressed gratitude to his colleagues, staff and students who supported him to succeed on the job, charging them to also give his successor all the necessary support he would need to take the Department to new heights.

## Mgt Nullifies Doris Ogbodu's Probationary Appointment

By Otiokor Samuel

For conducting herself in a manner adjudged to be contrary to the Public Service Rules, Management of the University has withdrawn the offer of the Pensionable Appointment offered to Ms Doris Ogbodu. She was until the withdrawal of her appointment, a Deputy



Ms Ogbodu

Director in the Works and Services Department. It would be recalled that Ms Ogbodu was initially appointed Deputy Director in charge of the TETFund Projects Desk and later redeployed to the Works and Services Department with effect from Monday, January 21, 2019. This action was in response to some observed operational deficiencies on Ms

Ogbodu's statutory duty schedule on the TETFund Desk.

A letter dated March 15, 2019 and signed by the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, conveyed the *Withdrawal of Pensionable Appointment* to the erstwhile Deputy Director with immediate effect. "The Management of the University has observed that at the time of your interview and employment in the University of Port Harcourt, you failed to disclose your true employment status at Delta State University, Abraka, to the effect that you had pending disciplinary cases against you in that University. You were subsequently dismissed from the services of Delta State University, Abraka."

"In the light of the above and in line with Section 20206 (a) of the Public Service Rules, 2009, I am directed by the Management of the University of Port Harcourt to inform you that your Pensionable Appointment is hereby withdrawn with effect from the date of this letter," part of the letter read.

The Registrar directed Ms Ogbodu to hand over all University property in her custody to the Director of Works and Services before leaving. She was also directed to return her *Staff Identity Card and Health Centre Registration Card* to the Director of Personnel Affairs, before leaving the University.

# PCN Inducts 87 New Pharmacists In UniPort

## VC, Registrar, PCN Task Inductees On Professional conduct

By Otiakor Samuel

A total of 87 fresh graduates who successfully completed the Bachelor of Pharmacy (B.Pharm) degree programme in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received their operational licences from the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) at the 8<sup>th</sup> Induction/Oath-taking ceremony. The event which held at the Ebitimi Banigbo Auditorium on Friday, May 3, 2019, attracted a mammoth crowd of family, friends and well-wishers, including captains of industry and the academia.

Speaking before administering the *Professional Oath* on the Inductees, the Registrar of the Council, Mr. Elijah Mohammed, congratulated the new Pharmacists for successfully completing the first phase of their training in the University. "The second phase of your pharmacy training starts with one year statutory internship programme which is compulsory for all Pharmacists in Nigeria, including those trained abroad without evidence of licensure in their countries of practice," the Council Registrar told the new Inductees. He added that the Council had institutionalised the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as a life-long programme in the third phase of pharmacy training.

"As Pharmacists, you are expected to get yourselves acquainted with the *Code of Professional Ethics* which prescribes your professional and moral responsibilities to patients, pharmacist colleagues, other health professionals, your employers and the general public, among others. Strict compliance to the *Code of Ethics* is indispensable for the practice of pharmacy profession.

"The Council frowns at professional misconduct in its entirety. So, any form of misconduct by any Pharmacist is usually investigated by the PCN Investigating Panel and if the Pharmacist has a case to answer, he or she is referred to the Disciplinary Tribunal which has the status of a Federal High Court in Nigeria," the Registrar further disclosed. He pointed out the dire consequences of flouting the extant rules governing the practice of pharmacy, commending University Senates across the country for endorsing the Pharm.D programme which has already been approved by the National Universities Commission.



VC, Prof Lale making his opening remarks

Delivering the keynote address entitled, *Pharmacy Practice: What they May not Teach You in the University*, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria and foremost industrialist, Mazi Sam Oghuabunwa, drilled the new Inductees on the real

are a lot of variables out there in the world which would determine our success or failure. My objective here has been to draw your attention to a number of them and set you thinking. The truth is:

you can be what you wish to be, but you must work hard to be what you want to be and with the grace of God you can make it," the keynote speaker told the Inductees.

In his address, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, commended all stakeholders for their service roles in the training of the new Inductees, attributing the success story of pharmacy training in the University to the commitment of successive leaderships of the Faculty, the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria and other regulatory agencies.

"In its short period of existence, the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences has established an unimpeachable signature of academic excellence and work ethic that have resonated around

the country and beyond. It is undeniably on account of the commitment of staff of the Faculty to quality assurance and quality control that the programme has become heavily over-subscribed by discerning students and their parents who recognise and appreciate what we offer clients here," the Vice Chancellor said. He also thanked the Registrar of the Council, Mr. Mohammed, the keynote speaker, Mazi Oghuabunwa and parents for gracing the 8<sup>th</sup> Induction ceremony.

In his address, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Oghonna Okorie, disclosed that the proposed Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D) programme has been submitted to the Senate Committee on Academic Programmes and Policies (SCAPP) for review before presentation to the Senate for consideration and approval.

As was the case at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Convocation of the University, two new Pharmacists, Igwe Chukwuebuka and Odegbegbo Gregory, died as *laetudictorians*. The PCN Registrar and his team had earlier on arrival, paid a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor at the Committee Room.



Mohammed, Registrar, PCN

Mazi Oghuabunwa, Keynote Speaker

practice they would encounter away from the school. He enjoined the new Pharmacists to shift attention away from mere drug prescription and administration to focus on patient-centred practice.

"The summation of the above presentation is that the mere possession of B.Pharm degree or even Pharm.D is not adequate guarantee that we shall be successful in the practice or even in the world. There



A group photograph of the Inductees with some Principal Officers, Registrar of PCN and others