

CCSU, ARAC, Train 19 Host Community Youths On Fish Smoking Skills, Others

In furtherance of its Cooperate Social Responsibility, the Central Community Service Unit (CCSU), has again joined forces with the African Regional Aquaculture Centre in Aluu to train 19 youths drawn from the University's host communities in Akpor Kingdom on modern fish smoking technology, food safety/packaging and pastry production, reports *Letcom Nwene*.

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Side Bar 163rd INAUGURAL LECTURE

Professor Matthew Wegwu of the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science delivers the 163rd Inaugural Lecture entitled: "The Power of Food" on Thursday, September 26, 2019. Details next Edition Editor

“To become rich and remain sustainably so is all about doing the right things right.” Professor of Finance, Banking and *Finametrics*, Chinedu Ezirim of the Department of Finance and Banking in the Faculty of Management Sciences, dropped this hint while delivering the 162nd Inaugural Lecture of the University at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, September 12, 2019. He insisted that the age-old habit of savings and intelligent investment would liberate individuals from financial impoverishment and misery.

In the lecture entitled: “We all can be Rich and Remain Sustainably So”, Professor Ezirim listed sustained learning, acquisition of financial intelligence and skills, as some of the necessary requirements for attaining sustainable and wealthy living. He noted that becoming rich and remaining sustainably so “is not about getting rich quick. The idea of getting or becoming rich very quickly is alien to true prosperity and riches. Patience and time are important components of attaining true riches and prosperity. It is not about pooling, betting or gambling.

“Everybody who wants financial independence in a sustainable fashion should embrace the prescriptions of financial planning, savings, investments and BIAA Model,” he said, explaining that



Ezirim Gives Recipe For Financial Success In A Recessed Economy

By Humphrey Ogu

the Biblical Investment Assets Allocation (BIAA) model, which he developed, was derived from the biblical Parable of the

Talents. Professor Ezirim's contributions to knowledge included development of the Theory of Financial Molarity, Character Assumption Behavioural Theory of Money,

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PPSN Decries Effects of Climate Change



Oriakpono, Komi Focus On Albino Rats, Shrimp Fishers



Chinese Teachers List Gains



Senate Expels More Students



Cyprus-based Varsity Proposes Joint Degree Partnership With UniPort

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By Humphrey Ogu

Cyprus-based Girne American University, (GAU), has proposed a joint degree partnership with the University of Port Harcourt to run concurrently on both campuses. Briefing the Management of the University on the proposed partnership in the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room on Monday, September 16, 2019, Executive Director of GAU Nigeria Liaison Office in Abuja, Mr Praise Folaji, disclosed that the proposed partnership would internationalise quality tertiary education in Nigeria.

He noted that many Nigerian parents crave for international certification for their children, regretting that most students were unable to fulfil their desire as a result of the economic recession that has resulted in poor exchange of the naira to the American dollar. According to Mr. Folaji, the proposed joint partnership will enable Nigerian students desirous of receiving overseas qualifications to fulfil their dreams of acquiring international education at reasonable charges.

The Cyprus-based American University representative further disclosed that graduates of the joint programmes would be issued GAU degree certificates to satisfy the yearning for international degrees amongst Nigerian youths. He disclosed that the partnership has the approval of the National Universities Commission (NUC), listing some Nigerian universities that had embraced the partnership proposal.

Earlier in his address, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, commended the Director of Exchange



VC, Prof Lale (seated centre), flanked by Mr Folaji, Dr Agatha Ataga, (left), Bursar, Dr Felicia Ayowo, Dean, SGS, Prof Anthonia Okerengwo, Director, ELP, Prof Akakuru (standing 3rd left) and others

and Linkage Programmes Unit, Professor Iheanacho Akakuru for facilitating the proposed partnership. "It is the desire of every university to internationalise its programmes, but it is important for us to properly scrutinise the Cyprus partnership proposal to satisfy both parties. We often hear of trans-border education these days, but we must do so within the confines of the University Act. The involvement of NUC is very critical to conferring credibility on the programme," he said.

The GAU representative later answered questions raised by the Deputy Registrar (Academic), Dr Agatha Ataga, who stood in for the Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto; the Bursar, Dr Felicia Ayowo, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Anthonia

Okerengwo, Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Professor Ikechukwu Agbagwa, Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi. Others who also raised concerns over the proposed partnership were the Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, Mr Kingsley Wogwu and Representative of the Legal Unit, Mrs Nwira Mbanefo, who particularly picked holes on the legality of the entire project.

After a question-and-answer session, the Vice Chancellor directed the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit to further interact with the Cyprus-based institution with a view to ironing out all the major concerns raised at the exploratory meeting.

The Parasitology and Public Health Society of Nigeria (PPSN) has ended its 43rd National Conference in the University, with an alarm over what it describes as the adverse impact of climate change on human health and other species in the devastated Nigerian environment.

Delivering the keynote address at the well-attended three-day conference which held at the main auditorium of the Institute of Petroleum Studies from Tuesday, September 10 to Friday, 13, 2019, erstwhile President of the Society, Professor Martins Asien, regretted that humans, animals and plant species bear the brunt of an altered environment that is constantly impacted by natural causes and anthropogenic activities.

Such negative activities that result in climate change include deforestation which humans undertake with the best intentions, but which have unintended outcomes that compromise the health condition of Nigerians and the environment. Professor Asien cited the use of harmful agro-chemicals, especially pesticides closely tied to agricultural practice which alter the genetic constitutions of humans, giving rise to non-diagnosis of emergent disease strains that are resistant to available drugs.

In their separate contributions, Country Director of a non-governmental organisation known as *Sight Savers*, Dr Sunday Isiyaku, and Dr Margaret Mafe of the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research presented papers on the subthemes of the conference entitled: *Elimination of Parasitic Infections Beyond the Rhetoric and Impacts of Environmental Pollution on Parasitic Diseases and their Public Health*

Climate Change

PPSN Resource Persons Decry Effects On Humans, Other Species

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Implications, respectively. They called for effective intervention mechanisms to promptly interrupt transmission of dangerous parasites that compromise human health and endanger the environment.

"Environmental pollution is of great concern as an increase in parasitic prevalence and intensity could be used in measuring the level of pollution, therefore, preventing exposure to environmental hazards is highly desirable," Dr Mafe said. She called for continued effort to significantly reduce air pollution to safeguard human health and other species in the environment. The duo also advised government regulatory agencies to put effective policies in place to rigorously enforce relevant legislation on the environment.

In his welcome address, the Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Professor Ikechukwu Agbagwa, who stood in for the Vice Chancellor at the opening ceremony, stressed the

need for proper enlightenment on the prevention of diseases that contribute to high mortality rates in the nation. "As Parasitologists, I charge you to come up with workable and cost-effective ways to tackle parasitological infections that threaten organisms and humans," the Vice Chancellor's address read in part.

National President of the Society, Professor Chinyere Ukaga, had earlier led Council Members on a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor at the Committee Room, where she disclosed that the Society as part of the conference activities celebrated 40 years of the publication of its *Journal* known as *The Nigerian Journal of Parasitology*.

"We have successfully developed a database which captures details of members with the attendant benefits of capturing their research interest. It is now easier for our Society to develop research groups across the country," she informed the Vice Chancellor, who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali.



DVC (Admin), Prof Ogali (arrowed), flanked by Prof Ukaga, DVC (Acad), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi, Bursar, Dr Felicia Ayowo, Univ Librarian, Dr Susan Umeozor (left), Council members of the Society and others

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Speaking during the graduation ceremony which held at the CCSU in Choba Park on Monday, September 16, 2019, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, congratulated the graduands on their successful acquisition of such important hands-on skills designed to give them a head-start. Professor Fawehinmi, who represented the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale at the occasion, charged them to use the knowledge they gained during the training to improve themselves and their various communities.

"I want to congratulate all of you on the critical skills you have acquired in modern fish smoking and food safety, including packaging and pastry production. It is very heart-warming to note that you successfully acquired these new skills that young people need to occupy their attention, especially in the Niger Delta region. With these newly-acquired skills, you can now preserve fish, sell it at the right time and right price. I charge you to make the best use of these skills designed to enable you stand on your own and even employ others," Professor Fawehinmi advised the trainees. He congratulated the Acting Director of CCSU, Dr Helen Imafidior and her team for successfully organising the training.

Speaking earlier, the Acting Director commended the participants for their commitment to the training programme, expressing hope that the knowledge gained would add value to their lives on a sustainable basis. "Community service transcends mere cutting of grass or picking refuse as was the case in the past. In the new technological age, we aspire to elevate human capacities through skills acquisition, which results in better standards of living, especially now that the country is facing

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DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (arrowed), flanked by Ag Director of CCSU, Dr Imafidior, some of the trainees and others

alarming rate of unemployment. We are convinced that our Resource Persons have equipped you with various skills that would help you function effectively," Dr Imafidior told them.

In their contribution, Director of the African Regional Aquaculture Centre (ARAC), Dr Ebinimi Ansa and Chief Executive Officer of Cuties Delight Ventures, Port Harcourt, Mrs Chinyere Nwoku, who served as Resource Persons, commended the CCSU for the collaboration. They expressed willingness to partner the University on such ventures in the future aimed at reducing unemployment and youth restiveness. Dr Ansa had earlier promised to introduce the participants to linkage programmes that would enable them put their newly-acquired skills into use.

Also speaking, Chairman of the Human Capacity Development Unit of the CCSU, Dr Catherine Stanley, commended the Management of the University for the importance placed on Community Service, urging the beneficiaries to be good ambassadors of their various communities.

Speaking shortly before handing over certificates and starter-packs to the 19 graduands on Monday, September 16, 2019, Deputy Vice Chancellor

(Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, charged them to put the skill they acquired to use. "I know you are far better today in terms of skills than when you started the training. Today is a day of harvest not just for you, but for your entire community, and we expect you to put these skills to use," Professor Fawehinmi said.

In her opening address, Acting Director of CCSU, Dr Helen Imafidior, commended the trainees for availing themselves of the training programme. She also commended the resource persons for giving their best to the graduands. "Today, creativity and innovation have helped to curb unemployment! We urged you to aim to improve your lives by spreading happiness to others to increase your own happiness," Dr Imafidior said.

Speaking on behalf of other trainees, Mr Henry Amadi, commended Management of the University for extending the opportunity to its host communities, urging his co-participants to ensure that the skills they acquired impact positively on their various communities. The event also featured exhibition of products made by the graduands. It was recalled that the opening ceremony held on Monday, September 9, 2019.

Oriakpono, Komi Focus On Albino Rats, Shrimp Fishers At AEB Seminar

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Two scholars from the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology in the Faculty of Science, have analysed Biomarker Response of Male Albino Rats (*Rattus Norvegicus*) on commonly consumed drinks and contributions of social networks to the living standards of shrimp fishers in selected coastal sites in Rivers State.

In the first presentation at the 18th Departmental Seminar Series which held on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, Dr Obemeca Oriakpono posited that the main objective of the research was to use biomarkers in rats to

assess the effects of three commonly patronised drinks in the country, namely; Coca-Cola, Star Beer and Ogogoro (locally brewed gin).

"My major findings indicate both positive and negative effects of consuming the drinks listed above. Most importantly, the negative benefits of daily consumption of such drinks outweigh their positive effects. The study also showed that high sodium and chloride levels were observed with significantly reduced protein level in rats that are exposed to such drinks, which may be associated with liver and kidney damage," Oriakpono said.

On his part, Dr Gentle Komi focused on the quality of life of shrimp fishers in selected coastal waters.

"Whereas shrimp is the only fishery product exported out of the country, the fishers are the poorest without access to basic social amenities for survival. This study seeks to establish how social networks impact on the living standards of shrimp fishers in coastal communities in Rivers State," Dr Gentle Komi noted. He added that the research centred on Andoni, Borikiri and Eagle Island. The researcher cited coastlines in such countries as Mexico and Bangladesh as places where strong social networks have been known to improve the living standards of fishers.

In her remarks, Acting Head of Department, Dr Ijeoma Vincent-Akpu, commended the two researchers for sharing their knowledge with colleagues and drawing attention to such important areas that may be of benefit to humans. She stressed the need for both teaching and non-teaching staff of the Department to participate fully in the Seminar series.



Ag HOD, Dr Vincent-Akpu (arrowed), flanked by Emeritus Prof Samuel Okibela, Oriakpono (right), Komi (left), and academic staff after the lecture



Univ Librarian, Dr Umecozor (6' left), flanked by Mr Onwueme (left), and Management staff of the Library

Donald Ekong Library Donates Books To Fed Poly, Bonny

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Following an approval granted by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, the leadership of the Donald Ekong Library has donated 64 volumes of books cutting across all disciplines to the Federal Polytechnic of Oil and Gas, Bonny, Rivers State.

Making the presentation on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, the University Librarian, Dr Susan Umecozor, disclosed that the donation was the outcome of an appeal for support by the receiving institution. "Let me commend the Acquisition Unit of the Library for putting the books together in a total of three cartons. We have gathered here to formally handover the books to the Acting Librarian of the Polytechnic, Mr George

Onwueme for onward transmission to his Rector, Professor Tamunolmi Abbey," she said.

In his response, the Acting Polytechnic Librarian, Mr Onwueme, conveyed the gratitude of the Rector to the University Management for responding to the book donation drive of his institution. "I want to thank the Management of the University of Port Harcourt for coming to our aid in this respect. Following the establishment of the Polytechnic in 2014, we had to reach out to source requisite available information resources. So, we embarked on massive book drive to stock our Library. This donation is one of the outcomes of the numerous appeals we made to several public-spirited individuals and organisations with a view to improving the quality of education on offer at our Polytechnic," Onwueme said.

Chinese Teachers List Gains, As Pioneer Confucius Students Commence Studies Oct

By Otiakor Samuel

Chinese Coordinator of the Confucius Teaching Point in the University, Huang Changbin and a multi-lingual, Li Don Meng, have listed the bounteous benefits available both in and outside Nigeria for students who would pass through the Teaching Point.

Speaking in an interview with a Correspondent of *UniPort News* on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, Changbin stated that just as the case with the Chinese Institute at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, in which over 300 students have qualified for scholarship to China, the Teaching Point in UniPort holds similar benefits.

"We run the programme up to Level Six, but there are scholarship opportunities after Level Four which include free training for a semester and one academic year in China. After Level Five, one can qualify for Bachelor's and then Master's degrees studies. The Chinese Government scholarship is also another opening once a candidate passes the different levels. There is also an exchange programme through the Confucius Institute Headquarters, Hanban for lecturers," the Chinese Coordinator of the Teaching Point said.

Changbin added that "language is like a bridge that connects, so this Point will promote Nigeria-China relationship. My expectation is that this centre will

produce an Ambassador to China in the nearest future. I assure our prospective candidates that there is no way they will not collect something good from us. So, I also advise students to avail themselves of the rare opportunity by properly managing their time to join the programme as our time table is flexible to accommodate them. Our lectures start at 3:00pm but the lectures can further be adjusted for students."

He noted that Chinese nationals own many companies in Africa, so understanding the language would offer opportunities to the graduates from the Teaching Point to gain job opportunities. Also speaking, Li Don Meng expressed readiness to impart knowledge of the Chinese language to students of the Teaching Point. They both described the environment as beautiful and friendly, observing that the UniPort Centre had the best facilities in the country.

Earlier, the Coordinator, Professor Chinedu Chikuegu, stated that the Teaching Point would commence academic activities in October with its pioneer students. "Hopefully, we will start lecture by the first week of October, 2019. We are targeting 120 students for the kick-off. The Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale worked so assiduously to ensure that the Teaching Point comes on board, so we are doing all within our powers to promote the idea to our people and hopefully, the centre will have more than enough students," he said.



Coordinator, Prof Chikuegu (centre), flanked by Changbin, Mrs Helen Mmehia (left), Don Meng and Mrs Gloria Osaro (right)

My Desire Is To Take PSM To Greater Heights ~Maduka

By Letom Nnen

Newly appointed Acting Head of the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine in the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences and foremost Public Health practitioner, Dr Omosivie Maduka, has commenced her predecessor, Dr Daprim Ogaji, for expanding the Department's scope of academic activities, promising to consolidate on his impressive accomplishments in office.

Dr Maduka made the promise in an interview with a Correspondent of *UniPort News* in her office on Tuesday, September 10, 2019. "Under Dr Ogaji, we commenced the School of Public Health programme which has become one of the fastest growing Schools in the University. Our Master of Science degree programme in Public Health runs for a record period of 18 months and is not interrupted by strike actions that bedevil regular programmes in the Nigerian University system. This is one of the commendable feats I would like to sustain in my tenure, in addition to ensuring that PSM remains a strong contributing partner to the advancement of the emergent World Bank Africa Centre of Excellence in Public Health and Toxicological Research (ACE-PTOR)," she said. The new Acting HoD further added that the Department would be deeply involved in research, training and mentorship of graduate students in ACE-PTOR.

Dr Maduka also revealed that the Department has commenced a newly approved Diploma in Public Health programme, explaining that PSM would engage other Departments on multidisciplinary research and ACE-PTOR on oil pollution studies in the Niger Delta and how the resulting environmental devastation affects the health and wellbeing of humans, plants and animal species. "We want to focus on translational research that would be beneficial to the academia and industry players. In the next two years, we plan to forge functional collaborations between town and gown by working closely with industry partners to provide world class research that would be beneficial to the Niger Delta region and other parts of the country."

Disclosing that the Department was already in strong partnership with industries and non-governmental organisations such as the Shell Petroleum Development Company, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, State Primary Healthcare Management Board, State Ministry of Health, World Health Organisation and UNICEF, amongst others. The new Acting Head of Department further noted that under her watch, more grants would be pursued to boost research and other activities aimed at improving the public health of Nigerians. "As a serious-minded Department involved in the training of Resident Doctors to become Consultants, we would continue to provide academic and professional training focused on developing valued professional and very critical research skills to our students," Dr Maduka added. She commended the Management of the University under the leadership of Professor Ndowa Lale for the confidence reposed in her capacity to run the Department, promising not to disappoint the Management, her colleagues and students. She also commended the Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Iyegun Siminalayi and Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Professor Patrick Eghworiakor for providing the right leadership in the College. Dr Maduka also praised staff of the Department for their hard work and total commitment to the success of the Department, appealing for the employment of more staff to fortify the Department on her watch.



Dr Maduka

Ten students comprising eight undergraduates and two doctoral candidates have been summarily expelled from their programmes by Senate for engaging in examination misconduct and cases of contumacy (stubborn refusal to obey constituted authority). The erring students who were slammed with Senate's sledge-hammer against acts that contravene the terms of their admission, included Frances John Sanyor (U2012/5010021), Reward Amobhe January (U2014/5010094) and Olinakachi Rosemary John (U2013/5010041) of the Department of Fisheries. Also expelled were Chukwudi Christian Onyegbule (U2014/4725055), David Oluokoko Adeleke (U2015/5015104) and Chidinma Elizabeth Uzigile (U2016/5015104) of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension.

Others are Christy Ohepu (U2014/2574251) of the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling in the Faculty of Education and Philomena Ifeoma Okafor (U2016/4725065) of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Senate accepted the recommendation of the Students' Disciplinary and Related Matters Committee (SDRMC) that Christy Ohepu cheated in the Second Semester Examination in the 2016/2017 academic session by hiring a mercenary to write examination for her. On her part, Miss Okafor was caught with unauthorised materials during the First Semester Examination in the 2017/2018 academic session in Course PCG 211.1 (Introduction to Organised Vegetable Drugs). The two doctoral candidates: Chinyere Edwina Nebelike (G2012/PhD/FADT/076) and Umanu Akpan Ekpe (G2012/PhD/FADT/080), both of the Department of Fine Arts and Design were similarly expunged on grounds of contumacy. The candidates were found guilty of resolutely refusing to apologise to their Supervisor, Professor Chinedu Chukuegwu, as directed by Management through separate letters issued to them by the Registrar of the University.

The expulsion of the students was part of decisions reached at the 444th Meeting (Extraordinary) of Senate, following investigations conducted by the SDRMC. The various Reports of the Committee were presented on the floor of Senate by its Chairman, Professor Antonia Okeregwu. The Extraordinary Meeting of Senate held on Friday, September 6, 2019 at the Senate Chambers, University Park. It was presided over by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lea as Chairman of Senate.

In his remarks before the commencement of proceedings, Professor Lea commended members for attending Senate after the First Semester Examinations. The Chairman read out names of members who were absent with apologies, stating that henceforth, members who may not be present at Senate Meetings should direct such apologies to either the Registrar or Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) and not to



444th Senate in session

Senate Expels 10 More Erring Students, Approves Results, New Programmes

By Otokor Samuel

him.

Professor Lale announced the appointments of Professor Angela Frank-Briggs as Deputy Provost of College of Health Sciences; Professor Patrick Eghwurijakpor as Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences; Professor Kinkunwo Anle, Chairman, Academic Board, Emerald Energy Institute and Professor Nguzi Orazulike, Director, Centre for Medical Research and Training (CENMERT). The Chairman also announced the appointments of Drs Job Onakwala, Onuofe Uche Maduka, Timothy Nte, Kulu Wusu and Kaladada Kurubo, as Acting Heads of Department of Anaesthesiology, Preventive and Social Medicine, Political and Administrative Studies, Foreign Languages and Literatures and Haematology, Blood Transfusion and Immunology, respectively.

Others included: Drs Abimbola Awopelaja, Ayanna Umanah, Onyeonnam Ekkeke, Catherine Stanley, Oladimeji Akadiri, Modupe Olowu Sorye and Ephraim Ekenwo, as Acting Heads of Department of Medical Microbiology and

Parasitology, Restorative Dentistry, Surgery, Pharmaceutical Microbiology and Biotechnology, Oral and Maxillofacial Dentistry, Preventive Dentistry and Geography and Environmental Management, in that order. The Chairman announced that the Second Semester for the 2018/2019 academic session commenced on July 9, 2019, and has been running very smoothly. He also announced Professor Oghobua Joel as winner of the deanship election in the Faculty of Engineering ahead of the expiration of the tenure of Professor Franklin Chukwuma on September 27, 2019. Professor Lale conveyed the appreciation of Senate to Dr Chilo Oparachina of the Department of Fine Arts and Design for designing and installing a big crest in the Senate Chambers. Senate endorsed the Vice Chancellor's proposal for the Registrar to write a commendation letter to Dr Oparachina. The Chairman notified Senate that the National Universities Commission (NUC) has directed universities to revert to the 5-point scale in grading students' Cumulative Grade Point Average.

Senate resolved that any professor who leaves the system before his or her statutory retirement period will not be honoured with the statutory Senate Valuedictory Service. The apex academic regulatory body also ratified a Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the National Teachers' Institute for the training and award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). Senate resolved that the new Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Education programme be domiciled in the Centre for Medical Research and Training (CENMERT), following a Report of an Ad-Hoc Committee on the Resolution of the Disagreement between the College of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Education. It directed CENMERT to revert to the original courses code if approved, stating that changes or mergers can only be effected with Senate's express approval.

The august body approved a Master of Science degree programme in Public Finance and Corporate Governance obtainable at the University of Port Harcourt Business School. Senate also approved results from the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, Education, Engineering, Management Sciences, Agriculture, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Law, School of Science Laboratory Technology, College of Health Sciences and School of Graduate Studies.

Senate approved recommendations for temporary withdrawal from studies by some students, notification of resumption of studies by others, application to write examination as first attempt and request for appointment of External Examiners in originating Departments. Senate directed the Department of Sociology to submit all outstanding results without further delay to escape imminent sanction. It also approved the inclusion of the Diploma Certificate from recognised institutions as a qualification for admission through the Direct Entry mode into Part-time programmes in the College of Continuing Education.

The Chairman heartily welcomed back the immediate past Vice Chancellor of the Rivers State University, Professor Blessing Didi, who returned to the University after his *Leave of Absence*. Senate had earlier observed a *Minute's Silence* in honour of Professor Ben Ndakwua of the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, who until his sad demise was Director of the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES) and a Member of the Governing Council.

Mgt Interacts With Unions On Earned Allowance Computation

By Otokor Samuel

Following a directive to Managements of all Federal Tertiary Institutions to engage staff Unions on the verification of Earned Allowances, preparatory to the next tranche of payment spanning between 2013 and 2016, Management of the University has met with the leaderships of the four Unions comprising the Academic Staff Union of Universities, Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, National Association of Academic Technologists and Non-Academic Staff Union. The meeting which was presided over by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, held at the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room on Thursday, September 12, 2019.

"Management called this meeting because the University received a checklist for the verification of earned allowances in Federal Tertiary Institutions from 2013 to 2016. We have a deadline to complete the computations, and return the document to Government in line with the specifications from the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation. That is basically the essence of this meeting, and Management wants all Unions to know that we have no opinion on the issue other than complying with the position of Government on the

issue. Those who have concerns should do well to contact relevant Government agencies for further clarifications on the matter," the Deputy Vice Chancellor disclosed.

Professor Ogali further stated that the main issue at hand was the computation of specified allowances in line with the checklist from the AG's office, assuring the Unions that Management would faithfully implement all the processes in line with the guidelines contained in the approved checklist.

In his reaction, UniPort Branch Chairman of ASUU, Dr Austen Sado, made it emphatically clear that his Union would only respond to the issue if it centred entirely on Earned Academic Allowances, adding that other Unions could speak on Earned Allowances. He, however, promised to first consult his Union's Congress to take a consensus position on the matter. Chairman of the UniPort Branch of SSANU, Mr Bernard Chukwu, regretted that previous disbursements of the Earned Allowances did not favour his members. He pleaded that all the Unions should be treated fairly in subsequent disbursement exercises to ensure industrial harmony on campus. In her input, NAAT Chairman, Mrs Patricia Ijeme was of the view that her Association had already commenced the computation of the 2013-2016 Earned Allowances in line with the directive from the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation, stating that NAAT had no problems with the formula adopted for the disbursement.



Some of the Union executives at the meeting

Ezirim Gives Recipe For Financial Success In A Recessed Economy

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Residency and Congregational Theory of Money, amongst other models. He explained that the BIAA Model was readily applicable to gainful financial planning with ease, without loss of value in the process of investment.

Professor Ezirim described the process of becoming and remaining sustainably rich as a function of "planting seeds that grow into money trees, the harvest of which results in abundance. It is about buying assets and more and more of assets, but buying little or no liabilities at the initial stages of life. It is all about engaging in doing the right things to make money for the right purposes through the right ways. It is all about constant savings, putting some money aside and making accumulation of such money and wealth," he emphasised.

"It is all about unlearning the wrong and inhibiting myths that characterised our belief and thinking system all through our lives. It is all about concerted financial planning; knowing that failure to plan is tantamount to failure to succeed. It is all about intelligent and wise expenditure control and



162nd Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Ezirim (arrowed), flanked by DVC (Admin), Prof Ogali, Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto (left) and others professors before the lecture

necessary financial discipline; it is all about turning savings into investments," he added.

Describing budgeting as an important aspect of financial planning, the 162nd Inaugural Lecturer noted that developing a culture of savings and investment could enrich the life of an individual for good, citing examples from the theory of compound interest. "On their own, savings and investments can grow and accumulate in the proportions they are made. They grow even more and faster when they yield returns in the form of interest, dividends, other earnings and incomes," he pointed out. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, who spoke on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, lauded the Inaugural Lecturer for an insightful lecture that

has enlightened the audience on how to legitimately attain financial freedom and remain sustainably so. "The Inaugural Lecturer has told us that becoming rich is not about buying many cars or acquiring properties in choice locations. He made the point that cultivating a savings habit is crucial to becoming rich and remaining sustainably so. On behalf of the Vice Chancellor, I want to congratulate Professor Ezirim on a very enlightening lecture."

Professor Ogali announced that the 163rd Inaugural Lecture entitled: *The Power of Food*, will be delivered by Professor Matthew Wegwu of the Department of Biochemistry in the Faculty of Science on Thursday, September 26, 2019.

The Executive of the University of Port Harcourt Sandwich Students' Association (UPSSA), has commended the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale for his continued support, including granting approval for the building of a Post-NCE Sandwich Hostel which has impacted positively on the students.

President of the Association, Mr Unengo Eskuile, who spoke on behalf of the Executive during a courtesy visit at the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room on Friday, September 13, 2019, showered praises on Management shortly before handing over the 2019/2020 *Calendar and Invitation Card* to the 2019 *Cultural Day* to the Representative of the Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali.

"We thank the Vice Chancellor and Management of the University for approving the building of a Post-NCE Sandwich Hostel, approving the remodelling of the Post-NCE Sandwich office complex at Choba Park, use of Aminu Kano Hostel, 'Block A' for holding of all our lectures, accommodation and examinations at Choba Park, including a ten percent reduction in Sandwich fees," the UPSSA President stated. Mr Eskuile appealed for more support from Management that would allow the Sandwich programme to take its pride of place in

UPSSA Commends Mgt For Completing Sandwich Hostel

By Letom Nnen

the scheme of things.

Speaking earlier, Acting Director of the Post-NCE Sandwich programme, Dr Gospel Kpee, told the Representative of the Vice Chancellor that it was the tradition of the Association to pay a courtesy visit on the administration preparatory to her *Cultural Day* celebration.

"We also want to use this opportunity to thank the Vice Chancellor for approving the *Cultural Day* event. We are happy that the Sandwich Students' Hostel has already been put into use by the students who are extremely pleased with the development," Dr Kpee said. He also commended Management for approving that all lectures and activities of Sandwich students should be confined to Choba Park to reduce the hardship they previously faced in accessing lecture venues and official accommodation, adding that the decision has also saved cost on all sides.

In her response, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, who represented the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale at the occasion, commended the UPSSA Executive and the Acting Director of the Post-NCE Unit on the giant strides recorded in the Sandwich programme. She assured them of Management's continued support to achieve the vision of the programme.

"It gladdens our hearts that the students are now using the new Sandwich hostel facility, and we are working hard to rectify all observed deficiencies in time for the arrival of the next batch of students. Management is willing to do whatever it would take to make your stay here more pleasurable. We have noted the date for your *Cultural Day* and I shall convey same to the Vice Chancellor for necessary directives," Professor Ogali assured the Association, promising that all the issues raised by the Executive would be dispositionally addressed by Management.

Also present at the courtesy visit were: Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, Mr Princewill Arhibite, who represented the Bursar, Dr Felicia Ayuwo, Associate Dean of the Students' Affairs Department, Dr Felicia Ukaigwe, and Coordinator of the Post-NCE Sandwich programme, Dr Ofonime Ndioho.



DVC (Admin), Prof Ogali (arrowed), flanked by Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, Ag Director, Post NCE Sandwich Unit, Dr Kpee, Mr Arhibite (left), UPSSA President, Mr Eskuile, DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi, Exco members of UPSSA and others

GUIDE POST

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT
Dr Peter Ekanne, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective November 13, 2017.
Mr Chris Davies, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Confirmation of Appointment*, effective April 11, 2018.

RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT
Professor Amadi Ihimoro, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Appointment as a Visiting Scholar*, effective July 3, 2019 to July 2, 2020.

Professor Hyacinth Inyama, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective May 10, 2019 to May 9, 2020.

Dr Eni Alobo, Faculty of Law, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment as Senior Lecturer*, effective June 4, 2019 to June 3, 2020.

Dr Tudor Chinah, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Appointment as a Visiting Scholar*, effective July 26, 2019 to July 25, 2020.

SABBATICAL LEAVE
Professor Anyanwuche Okorosa-Oraibe, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to the Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State, effective May 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020.

Dr Ntense Usua, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to the Department of Mass Communication, Faculty of Education and Management Sciences, University of Africa, Toru-Orua (UAT), Bayelsa State, effective August 19, 2019 to August 18, 2020.

Mr John Ennebali, Examinations and Records Office, Registry Department, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to the Federal Polytechnic of Oil and Gas, Bonny, Rivers State, effective March 4, 2019 to March 3, 2020.

STUDY LEAVE

Mr Samuel Onwukwe, Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Management, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted a three-year *Study Leave* with Pay to enable him undertake a PhD programme in Human Kinetics, Health and Safety Studies at the Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt, effective 2017/2018 to 2020/2021 academic session.

Mr Igkwe Major, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted a three-year *Study Leave* with Pay to enable him undertake a PhD programme in Engineering at the University College, London, United Kingdom, effective September 23, 2019 to August 23, 2022.

Mr Chijioke Obieke, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted a four-year *Study Leave* with Pay to enable him undertake a PhD Research Programme at the School of Engineering, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom, effective April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2023.

Mr Stanley Onyegam, Department of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted a three-year *Study Leave* with Pay to enable him undertake a PhD programme in Human Kinetics, Health and Safety Studies at the Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt, effective 2018/2019 to 2020/2021 academic session.



Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, (arrowed), flanked by Chairman, Dr Nworu (right) and other members of the C'ttee

Nworu Heads 8th Registry Day Planning C'ttee

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Graduate Studies Officer, Dr Christy Nworu, has been appointed to serve as Chairman of the 8th Registry Day Committee saddled with the responsibility of planning and organising the 2019 celebration. Inaugurating the Committee in her office on Thursday, September 12, 2019, the Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, charged members to come up with innovative ideas that would make the celebration a huge success. "On behalf of the entire Registry Department, I want to thank you for readily accepting to serve in this capacity. Giving the calibre of highly experienced persons on the Committee, I have no doubt that we will have a wonderful outing. In addition to your state terms of reference, I charge the Committee to come up with proposals that would reposition the Registry Department for optimal productivity," Mrs Otto told the members.

"We want this year's event to address critical issues that relate to our job descriptions and activities as members of the Registry

Department. Nothing stops all staff from being equally efficient and excellent in the discharge of their professional obligations to the University. I urge you to feel free to co-opt other competent staff to serve on Sub-Committees to ensure the success of the event. You are also at liberty to plan this year's Registry Day in the best ways you feel would make the Registry Department proud and feel a sense of belonging as a utility player in the University," she said. In her response, Chairman of the Committee, Dr Nworu, thanked the Registrar for appointing and inaugurating the Committee. "I wish to assure you that members of this Committee would carry out our assignment to the best of our abilities. I wish to advise my colleagues to cooperate with me to ensure that the 8th Registry Day celebration supersedes previous editions," the Chairman said. Other members of the Committee are Mr Job Borgbarga, Mrs Lilian Divine-Chiorlu, Mrs Oghenigwe Nwodim, Mrs Blessing Ideme, Mrs Mary Onukwufor, Mrs Mercy Adibe, Mrs Ethel Timi-Johnson, Mrs Priscilla Owhonda, Mr Emmanuel Nyenke, Miss Blessing Ikpengwa while Mr Godluck Okereke serves as Secretary.

Participants Brainstorm On Religion, Resource Control, Restructuring At NASR Confab

By Humphrey Ogu

Tackling the many challenges associated with religion, agitation for resource control and restructuring in Nigeria formed the main thrust of the 40th Annual Convention of Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions (NASR) which held in the University from September 17 to 18, 2019. The Conference was hosted by the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies (RCS) in the Faculty of Humanities. Welcoming participants to the University, Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, said: "I am delighted to observe that the theme of this year's conference: *Religion, Resource Control and Restructuring* in Nigeria is most appropriate to the occasion, coming at a time when religious activities have been used by some Nigerians to further polarise the country. Religion, which is known to be a very emotive issue in every society, has become a platform for agitations and expression of grievances by individuals and groups. Even those who rightly or wrongly feel marginalised in the distribution of the country's resources and other economic gains have invoked their religious beliefs or the lack of it thereof to justify their positions".

The Vice Chancellor, who was represented by the Associate Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Samuel Arokoye, warned Nigerians against hiding under religion to destabilise the country. "In Nigeria, the agitation for resource control sometimes wears a religious garb, as some of those who feel excluded in the sharing of the nation's economic fortunes have cited their religious and ethnic backgrounds as reasons for their exclusion from the social mainstream. The other word that has acquired near pejorative status is 'restructuring' which has been severely misapplied and manipulated by political gladiators to advance their pecuniary interests. Nigerians have agitated for

'restructuring' right from colonial times—resulting in several 'Constitutional Conferences' and 'Commissions of Enquiries'—into the fears of domination of minority groups by larger ethnic groups," Professor Lale added.

In his address, President of NASR, Professor Olu Alana, noted that given the theme of the 2019 conference and location of the University of Port Harcourt, the Association did not hesitate to award it the hosting right. "In the past, we struggled to source 150 abstracts for our conferences. This year, we have 174. This is the first time I am seeing so many professors and senior academics participating in our conference," he said.

Delivering the keynote speech entitled: "Religion, Resource Control and Restructuring in Nigeria", Professor Vincent Nnyokko, noted that the theme was very apt "as our country is daily threatened due to issues of religion, resource control and restructuring. Religion, resource control and restructuring are issues that confront every aspect of Nigerian life." Nnyokko, who is a former Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Uyo, described resource control as a national prerogative, observing that restructuring had become a new and most current word in the political dictionary of socio-political actors in Nigeria.

The lead paper, entitled, "Religion, Resource Control and Restructuring in Nigeria: Towards Tackling the Problem of Underdevelopment" was delivered by Professor Umar Danfulani. Other distinguished scholars who addressed the confab included former Vice Chancellor of University of Jos, Professor Godwin Tasie, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor Femi Shekan, and Acting Head of the RCS Department, Dr Ngozi Ikeanacho. The opening ceremony was preceded by a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor at the Senate building. The Secretariat also launched NASR Journal.



V.C, Prof Lale (seated center), flanked by DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi, Bursar, Dr Felicia Anyaw (right), Nat'l President, NASR, Prof Alana, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Prof Shaka and others

Gov Wike Donates N200 Million Towards Law, Humanities Faculties Completion ...As Council Pleads On Land Encroachment

By Williams Wodi

Worried by the continued delay in the completion of the Faculty of Law building, Governor Nyesom Wike has directed the immediate release of N100 million to enable the Contractor handling the project return to site to complete and hand it over for use. The Governor spoke when he received the Governing Council of the University, led by the Pro-Chancellor, Professor Mwendaga Jibo at the Executive Council Chambers of Government House. He expressed displeasure

that the building was yet to be completed and put into use all this moment, despite all the efforts he made to actualise the project as Coordinating Minister of Education. Governor Wike also approved another N100 million for the completion of work on the *Elechi Amadi Faculty of Humanities* to befit the memory of the famous author and statesman. The Governor directed the relevant Government Ministry to process and release the approved amount to the Management of the University for the immediate completion of the projects without further delay.

"I do not wish to be persuaded to come to the assistance of the University of Port Harcourt which is my *Alma Mater*. I have a duty to be part of the development of the University and that is why I recently directed that a befitting Convocation Arena be built there to replace the old one. I have so far released over N450 million towards the completion of the *Elechi Amadi Faculty of Humanities* and I am always willing and ready to assist the University because it is located here in Rivers State. I have also directed the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Power to immediately address the electricity and water needs of the new Faculty of Humanities to enable the staff and students carry out academic activities in a conducive environment.

"As for your request on land encroachment by your host communities, it is important for the University to identify its approved landmass and stick within such

development areas to checkmate the activities of land speculators. I have directed the Surveyor-General of the State to liaise with relevant organs of the University to harmonise the contentious issues concerning the land in the University." Governor Wike told his guests.

"I wish to commend the Vice Chancellor and his team for reducing cult-related activities to their barest minimum in the University. I wish to state that it is not easy to run a University as most people think. I encourage the Management to continue to battle cultism and other social vices to a standstill to enable serious-minded students to study without being threatened by hoodlums," Governor Wike said.

Earlier, the Chairman of Council, Professor Jibo had praised the Governor for his numerous assistance packages to the University, urging him not to relent in helping his beloved *Alma Mater*. "I followed the political context of office in Rivers State, and I know that it took methodical planning and great strategy for you to emerge victorious again. You are known to speak your mind in a fearless and courageous manner. As a Council, we owe Your Excellency a debt of gratitude on your numerous contributions to the infrastructural development of the University of Port Harcourt. At the end of your second tenure, it would be obvious that you came to serve and not to be served," the Pro-Chancellor said.

Also speaking, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, congratulated Governor Wike, once more, on his victory at the polls, expressing gratitude to him for his continued support for the University. "The legacies of your administration are there for all to see. Your Excellency had always come to our assistance at critical moments. I want to express our collective gratitude to you for donating a new Convocation Arena to the University and to inform you that we have handed over the site to the Contractor with an air of eager anticipation for work to commence. It is our hope that this goodwill by the Rivers State Government would continue to flow beyond my tenure," the Vice Chancellor pleaded with Governor Wike.

Other members of the delegation were Mr Bello Dukka Salihu, Hajia Lubabatu Lawal Amami, Chief Johnson Okafor, Mr Joseph Fafi, Mrs Mary Uwedemidim, Mr Chris Adikeme, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Mrs Dorcas Otis, Professor Okechuku Onuehuka, Professor Femi Shaka, Professor Florence Nduka and Dr Agatha Ataga; including the Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, Mr Kingsley Woguwa and the Head of Protocol and Logistics, Mr Peter Edozien.



Gov Wike (right), in a warm handshake with Pro-Chancellor, Prof Jibo

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale has commended the leadership of the Centre for Marine Pollution and Seaford Safety for commencing new Master's degree and Postgraduate Diploma programmes. The new programmes will focus on the Centre's core mandate of monitoring and conducting high impact research on environmental pollution and seaford safety.

Inaugurating the new programmes at the premises of the University of Port Harcourt Business School, off Sani Abacha Road, GRA on Monday, September 9, 2019, the Vice Chancellor advised the pioneer students to take their prescribed course of study very seriously. "In the increasingly interactive classroom setting today, students are the most important group in the learning process and we have a duty to provide them with an enabling environment to excel. It is not an easy thing to be pioneers, because you will be used as guinea pigs before the programme can stand on the right footing for the benefit of your successors. It is a great honour to be pioneers with all the attendant risks and exciting opportunities thereunto attached.

"This innovative modular programme promises to expose students to 21st century competencies that would be in line with global best practice. The beauty of this programme is that it is structured in an interactive manner that allows students to think freely and reach their own conclusions. Another unique feature of the programme is that students would graduate on time and be industry-ready, especially for those of you who are not yet employed or institutionally affiliated. What happens to this first set will, to a large extent, determine where the Centre would go from here," the Vice Chancellor told the students.

Earlier in his welcome address, Acting Centre Director, Dr Aminuayambu Asimika, said the occasion was designed to flag off a new programme in Environmental Studies aimed at filling the manpower needs in the relevant industries. "Most industry staff undertake specific academic training programmes that do not directly focus on the problems the Centre is configured to address. It is very important that our students' knowledge base should be broadened to fully equip them to interact with the environment on a specific

Vice Chancellor Inaugurates New PG Programmes At Centre For Marine Pollution

By Williams Wodi

schedule. This course is designed to enable students understand their physical environment, including the biotic components and how they impact on daily living. We have done everything to make this programme business-like and focused on set goals, with the aim of creating value for time and resources expended on it," Dr Asimika told the students.

It would be recalled that the National Centre for Marine Pollution Monitoring was established in the University in April, 2009 with the core mandate of implementing the International Atomic Energy Agency's Technical Cooperation projects on the environment, with emphasis

on marine pollution monitoring. The projects are jointly supported by the Federal Government and the IAEA. "The Centre's operation includes research on pollution and seaford safety monitoring, capacity building and information dissemination, with emphasis on conservation, protection and management of aquatic resources," Dr Asimika further disclosed.

Dr Uzazo Etimire, who spoke on behalf of other lecturers on the programme, promised the students the very best instructions and high impact research at the Centre. He advised them to work in synergy with the instructors to achieve the goals of the two programmes. A total of 11 students were admitted into the Master's and PGD programmes of the Centre.



V/C, Prof Lale (5th right), flanked by Ag Centre Director, Dr Asimika (left), Prof Ebi Amakoros (right), the Graduate students and others