

Emerald Energy Institute Trains NCDMB Staff

The Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum Policy, Economics and Strategic Studies, has again recorded another major breakthrough with the commencement of a staff training programme for senior personnel of the Yenagoa-based Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), reports **Humphrey Ogu**.

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Side Bar

The Cardinal Rex Lawson Chair holds its maiden International Highlife Music Conference at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium from Wednesday 21st to Friday 23rd January, 2015. Details next week.
~Editor



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US Envoy To Visit UniPort On Voters' Education Friday

By Otiakor Samuel

Barring any last minute change of plan, the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. James Entwistle, is expected to lead top officials of the US Embassy to the University of Port Harcourt this Friday to interact with students, staff and other stakeholders on the need for credible and violence-free polls in next month's General Election. The forum is being facilitated by the *American Corner* inside the Donald Ekong Library complex at the University Park. Making the disclosure to *UniPort Weekly* when he paid a visit to the newsroom, last Tuesday, Coordinator of the Rivers and Bayelsa States Chapter of the Fulbright Alumni Association of Nigeria, Professor Femi Shaka, said the Consul-General at the US Embassy, Mr. Jeffery Hawkins Jr., who represented the Ambassador at the relocation and opening ceremony of the *American Corner* in the University last March, would also be on the entourage. Professor Shaka, who disclosed that the interactive forum would address participants on a spectrum of electoral matters, including the need to secure the

Permanent Voter Card (PVC) and the criteria for judging electable public office holders, urged youths within and outside the University Community to grace the forum, which he said would hold at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium.

"The American Embassy wants to offer the youths a platform to voice out their views on the way forward for the country, rather than allowing themselves to be contracted by politicians to unleash violence on perceived opponents of their sponsors. The interaction would afford them a rare opportunity to identify politicians who have implementable programmes for the youths, rather than wasting their time and energy on political contractors who have nothing to offer them, despite the wind of words on offer on the campaign circuit.

This interaction is coming against the backdrop of disturbing reports of pre-election violence in parts of the country that are sending ominous signals of what may happen during the elections proper.

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Mr. Entwistle



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INRES' Global Consortium On Niger Delta

By Obinna Nwodin

With the setting up of a Global Consortium on the Niger Delta, the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainability (INRES) in the University of Port Harcourt, is poised to achieve the dream for which it was established. The emergent Consortium, which is an interdisciplinary approach to finding enduring solutions to the myriad of problems affecting the Niger Delta region, is composed of relevant institutes in the University, and those of sister universities in the South-South region.

Partners and stakeholders in the emergent Global Consortium are drawn from the University of Port Harcourt, Federal Government, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs); State Governments, Niger Delta communities, Energy Industry Stakeholders, as well as Non-governmental and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). The primary objective of academic and research centres is to proffer solutions to problems affecting the environment and society at large. Against this backdrop, INRES can be said to be achieving its mandate despite the paucity of funds to run its activities. The peculiar situation of the Niger Delta shows that an interdisciplinary approach which integrates the physical sciences, economics and culture is essential for understanding the dynamics of change in the region.

The focus of the Consortium is Coastline Change

Analysis; Assessment of Effects of Oil and Gas-related activities on the Niger Delta Environment; Niger Delta Air Quality Assessment Study; Determination of microbial community in soil and water samples; Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI); Mapping of the Niger Delta Area; Niger Delta Sea-Level Scenario Modelling; Flooding Vulnerability Assessment; Social Vulnerability Modelling. Social Vulnerability Assessment. This move is important as the natural environment of the Niger Delta is undergoing a cumulative process of transformation, driven by natural forces and human use of environmental space and resources.

This is a welcome development as the Institute is doing very well under the able leadership of Professor Enuife Akpokodje, who has perfected the new vision of INRES. The forward-looking Board of Directors led by a distinguished alumnus of the University and benefactor, Dr. Godknows Igali and distinguished climate change scientist and Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow at the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Jimmy Adegoke of the University of Missouri, Kansas City, United States of America, is shaping the new direction of INRES as it continues to seek remedial measures to the environmental problems bedeviling the Niger Delta region.

Over the years, the Niger Delta region has been on the front burner of environmental issues which is chiefly characterized by crude oil exploration and exploitation. Environmental



Prof Akpokodje

degradation, destruction of the ecosystem, poverty and conflict have characterized the Niger Delta environment over the years.

It is hoped that with the emergent Global Consortium, the University of Port Harcourt, through the activities of INRES, would be making groundbreaking contributions to the sustainable development of the Niger Delta region in particular and Nigeria in general.

UniPort Students Protest Colleague's Killing By Hit-And-Run Driver

By Otokor Samuel

Students of the University under the aegis of the Students' Union, last Thursday, stormed the Senate Building to protest the killing of their colleague at a section of the busy East/West Road reportedly by a hit-and-run driver.

The dead student was identified as Mr. Charles Oyenewu of the Department of Educational Management (Accounting Option) in the Faculty of Education.

Presenting a protest letter conveying the death of the student to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ethelbert Nduka in front of the Senate Building at the University Park, a visibly angry President of the Students' Union, Felix Nwizua, disclosed that Mr. Oyenewu was killed on January 1 this year and was buried on January 9, 2015.

"As a Union, we have decided to carry out a procession in honour of our fallen comrade and

also use the rally as an opportunity to sensitize commercial and private car owners on how to comport themselves as they ply the roads within the vicinity of the University to avoid accidents like the one that claimed the life of our colleague," part of the letter, which was jointly signed by President, Mr. Nwizua and Secretary, Godspower Azunda, read.

The Union requested the University Management to sensitize users of the East/West Road on the need to regulate their speed limit within the University environment. The students also appealed to Management to contact relevant government authorities to mount signposts indicating approved speed limits within the vicinity of the Institution. The students further suggested construction of speed breakers from Choba Bridge to the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), construction of pedestrian bridges at Choba and Alakshia junctions and the University main gate to safeguard the lives of pedestrians using the

route. The students requested the Management to prevail on the Federal Road Safety Commission to ensure safety of road users within the University and its host communities which accommodate most staff and students.

Also speaking, Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Professor Andrew Efeimi, stressed the need for Management to tackle traffic-related matters on the East/West Road, recalling that some staff and students of the University had sustained injuries and even died due to vehicular accidents involving unscrupulous drivers along the busy junction. Responding, Professor Nduka, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, sympathized with the students on the untimely demise of Mr. Oyenewu on New Year's day, describing the incident as a huge loss to the University and parents of the late student. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, who described the loss as painful, commended the students for comporting themselves during the procession which took off from the Student Affairs Department in Choba Park to the University Park, assuring them that Management would look into the disturbing rate of road accidents along the University stretch of the highway.



President, Student Union, Mr. Nwizua (2nd right) speaking before handing over the letter to the Management through DV-C, (Admim)

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Welcoming the trainees at the opening ceremony of the workshop at the expansive Emmanuel Egbogah Auditorium of the Emerald Energy Institute (EEI), last Tuesday, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, lauded NCDMB for prioritizing staff development and believing in the University's capability to deliver cutting-edge training for its staff, assuring the organization of providing a world-class training.

The Vice-Chancellor, who spoke through Professor Bene Willie Abbey, noted that regular training programmes were instrumental to motivating staff to give of their very best to organizational growth.

"You are going to benefit a lot from this programme because we have competent hands to mount globally benchmarked training in the University of Port Harcourt. Local content issues, especially as they relate to the oil and gas industry, should be of paramount interest to major players in the critical sector which is the mainstay of the national economy at the moment. As you participate in this training, I advise you to take it very seriously and apply the knowledge gained to enhance your productive capacity," he told the participants.

On his part, Director of the Institute, Professor Wumi Iledare, who commended Dr. Chijioke Nwaozuru for his role in facilitating the mounting of the training programme in the Institute, thanked his staff and the management of NCDMB for their efforts in making the workshop possible in line with the vision and mission of the Institute, which recently concluded a twelve-month Master of Science degree programme for its pioneer students.

"Our trailblazers, 27 pioneer students, are graduating next week and we have approval to run globally benchmarked modular graduate programmes that meet industry needs. We are not competing with universities in Nigeria; but with our counterparts abroad in terms of quality and

Emerald Energy Institute Trains NCDMB Staff



Director, EEI, Prof Iledare (arrowed) flanked by Representative of the V-C, Prof Willie Abbey (5th right), GM, HIR NCDMB, Mr Tuedon (4th right) Dean, GSET, Prof Dosunmu (5th left), Deputy Director, EEL, Prof Ekeke, some of the trainees (behind) and Senior Officers of the University

methodology. We also run a flexible Master's degree programme for workers who do not have time to run full time programmes," he disclosed.

Also speaking, General Manager in charge of Human Resources, Mr. Nelson Tuedon, who represented the Executive Secretary of the NCDMB, Engineer Earnest Nwapa, expressed optimism that the training will mark the beginning of a long relationship that would be mutually beneficial to both institutions.

"NCDMB has been in existence for about four years now and we hope to see the impact of this training in the job performance of the trainees as they return to work. This is the beginning of a partnership that would last for a long time. We will be sending the next batch of our staff for training in April and May," he promised, advising the trainees to open their hearts to learn new ways of delivering quality service to the organization.

Others who spoke at the reception of the trainees

included Director of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), Professor Mike Onyekonwu, Deputy Director of EEL, Professor Ene Ekeke, Occupant of the Shell Ader-Adam Chair in Petroleum Engineering and Dean of the Graduate School of Advanced Engineering and Technology, Professor Adewale Dosunmu, Director of the Centre for Oilfield Chemicals Research, Professor Oghonna Joel and Dr. Nwaozuru of EEL.

Also on the NCDMB team, which comprised 11 senior officers, was the Manager in charge of Learning and Development, Ada Ohaeri. The event featured a guided tour to IPS led by the Deputy Registrar in charge of Information in the University, Williams Wodi. The opening ceremony was rounded off with a well-applauded duet performed by the incomparable Precious Omuku and Ihechi Achom of the Department of Music in the Faculty of Humanities.

V-C Inaugurates C'ttee On Funding Staff Housing

By Obinna Nwodin

Efforts aimed at promoting staff welfare through improved Housing Policy in the University of Port Harcourt received a major boost last December with the inauguration of a Committee on Alternative Funding for the development of Staff Housing by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka.

Inaugurating the Committee, Professor Ajienka, who acknowledged what he described as the challenges facing staff seeking accommodation, said that the administration

wished that 50 per cent of staff was accommodated on Campus. He said that with the success story so far recorded by the Housing Committee, the Administration deemed it necessary to initiate proactive measures aimed at pursuing an aggressive policy that would frontally address the accommodation needs of staff of the University.

Acknowledging that funding was a major obstacle against the administration's stated desire to provide decent accommodation to staff on Campus, the Vice-Chancellor expressed gratitude to the Housing Committee for what has so far been achieved during his tenure. "We

have high hopes that members of the Committee will come up with innovative ideas that would bring about, at least, 50 per cent accommodation for staff who may wish to reside on Campus in the next two years," he stated, assuring staff that his administration would work within available resources to ease the accommodation deficit on Campus.

In his acceptance speech, Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mark Roman, who thanked the Vice-Chancellor for the confidence reposed in the members, described the initiative as a laudable one that would be pursued with renewed vigour. Roman, who was a former Bursar in the University, described the initiative as an indication of the seriousness of the University Management about staff welfare, especially in the areas of housing, security and transportation. He said that the Committee would do its best to justify the confidence reposed in the members to serve the University in that capacity.

Other members of the Committee are: Mrs. Bridget Nzimiro of the Student Affairs Department as Vice-Chairman; Professor Steve Okoduwa of the College of Continuing Education, Mr. Ohari Osaro of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Mr. Emmanuel Omajile of the UniPort Alumni Association and Mr. Godpower Obah who represents the Bursar, while Mr. Samuel Ohwondah is to serve as Secretary.



V-C, Prof Ajienka (centre) flanked by V-C (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Ndaka (2nd right), Chairman, Committee on Alternative Funding for Staff Housing, Mr. Roman, his Housing C'ttee counterpart, Prof Frank Sikoki and some members of the newly-inaugurated C'ttee

Finance Dept Set To Commence DBA programme



Dr. Nwince, Outgoing Acting HoD

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Following approval of a proposal by Senate of the University, the Department of Finance and Banking in the Faculty of Management Sciences, has disclosed plans to commence a new Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) programme in the next academic session. The new DBA programme will target graduates of Management Sciences, who may wish to take their professional studies to the terminal degree level, without facing discrimination.

This cheering news was broken to a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent, last Monday, by the out-going Acting Head of Department, Dr. Barisua Nwince, while giving account of his stewardship. He disclosed that the Department introduced some innovations that were aimed at assisting graduate students streamline their programmes and complete their studies in record time. "I am glad to note that our model has been adopted by the entire Faculty to facilitate the graduation of students, who have met all the requirements stipulated by Senate of the University," he stated.

"During the period under review, we produced two new editions of the Departmental Journal, *The Nigerian Journal of Finance Research* and proceeds from the sale of the Journal are intended as seed money to facilitate research activities in the Department," Dr. Nwince disclosed, adding that his tenure also witnessed the establishment of a functional e-library that now facilitates research work amongst staff and students.

Disclosing that the Department graduated the highest number of graduate students on his watch, Dr. Nwince pointed out that his tenure also produced a First Class graduate which was the first of its kind since the inception of the Department. "We successfully concluded an accreditation exercise for both Undergraduate and Graduate programmes offered in the Department," he stressed; noting that staff welfare was also strengthened to accommodate varied needs of staff during his tenure.

"There are plans to institutionalize an Annual Public Lecture Series in the Department and we also hope to build a data base of all alumni of the Department and a comprehensive review of the academic content of the Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers (ACIB) programme in line with current realities," Dr. Nwince said, calling for support for his successor to move the Department to greater heights.

Etela Lists Highpoints As IARD Helmsman

By Humphrey Ogu

Contrary to the belief in some quarters that the Institute of Agricultural Research and Development (IARD) was no longer relevant as a result of the emergence of the Faculty of Agriculture in the University, outgoing Acting Director of the Institute, Dr. Ibisime Etela, has described IARD as a very important research unit that has the core mandate to link the University to other agricultural research institutes in Nigeria and abroad.

Speaking with *UniPort Weekly* last Tuesday, Etela observed that the Institute and the Departments are complimentary in their functions, pointing out that "the Departments under the leadership of the Dean, serves as the academic arm of the Faculty of Agriculture, while the Institute is the research arm of the Faculty."

"The Faculty can only run and coordinate the non-NUC programmes effectively through the Institute. That is why Management recently approved some short courses, professional diploma and certificate programmes domiciled in the Institute, which would also provide the needed support to the Faculty," he explained.

"The Institute is the best platform for the development of agribusiness in the Faculty since it has greater latitude to secure large grants from donors, who are often more confident in funding Institutes and Centres for better service delivery than the conventional Departmental system," he added, recalling that the Institute was already undergoing re-organization and rebranding when he took over from Professor Ebere Erundu.

Etela, who disclosed that he initiated collaborations and secured institutional membership of relevant agricultural and agribusiness-based organizations during his tenure, also listed proactive sourcing for research funding and fellowships, capacity building and other institutional development activities as some of the achievements of his tenure as Acting

Director of IARD. He also disclosed that the Institute developed and secured approval for certificate, professional diploma programmes and short courses, which would soon be advertised to suitably qualified candidates.

On other achievements, Dr. Etela cited a €3,400 grant by UNIFAR/FAO/CTA that supported four staff for an online "Innovative Collaboration for Development (ICfD)" e-learning course which took place between 4th March and 3rd May, 2013, and another €3,600 grant of 217 pairs of book donation from the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), The Netherlands and publication of the maiden edition of the Institute's newsletter—IARD Agrofornation.

"During my tenure, IARD entered membership of the Platform for African-European Partnerships on Agricultural Research for Development (PAEPARD), FARA Secretariat, Ghana and that of the African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE), Nairobi, Kenya. We signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, Nigeria and entered a cooperation agreement with the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), The Netherlands," he disclosed.

"We also entered an MoU with the Food for All International (FFAI), Port Harcourt, and facilitated a 3-day training workshop for three staff of the Faculty of Agriculture and staff of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni on *Proposal Writing, Grants, Contracts, Database Management, Project Administration and Intellectual Property (IP)* at IITA, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria," Etela explained, acknowledging that more needed to be done to ensure that ongoing projects are completed.

"I would like to prevail on all staff to

extend their full support to my successor, Dr. Babatunde Nuga, whom I believe would take the Institute to greater heights. I wish him the best of luck as he settles down to pilot the affairs of the Institute and I appreciate staff of the Faculty of Agriculture for their support, and I hope that they would also support my successor," he said.

The out-going Director regretted that the Yam Feel-sett Technology, which was developed by the late Professor Ndubisi Igwilo, has so far not enjoyed further development due to lack of funding for the research, expressing hope that as the Institute's drive for increased funding receives attention, such pending issues would be resolved.



Dr. Etela

Acting Head of the Department of Educational Management in the Faculty of Education, Dr. Nath Abraham, has been elected Editor-in-Chief of the publications

NAEAP Elects Edu Mgt HoD Editor-in-Chief

By Otiok Samuel



Dr. Abraham



Dr. Kpee

of the Nigerian Association for Educational Administration and Planning (NAEAP). Similarly, Coordinator of the Post-NCE and Sandwich programmes, Dr. Gospel Kpee, was elected Vice-President of the Association. They were both elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association that held last October at the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. In a congratulatory letter dated 3rd November, 2014 which was addressed to the Acting Head of Department and obtained by this publication, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, expressed satisfaction with his election, stating that: "Your election is definitely in recognition of your visibility and contributions in that

Association and your several years of teaching and research in Educational Management and Planning. This election is also a shared honour as it has portrayed the University in a good light." Speaking with our Correspondent, Dr. Abraham said he defeated two other contestants at the election which held on 16th October, 2014, as part of the major highlights of the Annual General Meeting. The AGM held between 14th and 17th October at the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja. "I will be in charge of all the publications of NAEAP which include the journal, books of reading and those on topical issues. During my tenure, I will ensure quality peer review of all articles and publish only the best. I will also see to

it that all our publications are uploaded unto the Internet to sustain the website of the Association," he said.

On how the University of Port Harcourt could benefit from his tenure, Dr. Abraham said that the new position would afford him additional opportunity to mentor younger colleagues and graduate students of the Department in the art of publishing research outcomes.

"Through the organization of in-house workshops and a conference which the Department is planning for the first quarter of 2015, the younger colleagues and graduate students will be exposed to the art of academic paper writing and publication. Our Department has a culture of ensuring that graduate students attend conferences and workshops where they present papers. The Abuja NAEAP gathering was one of such opportunities that benefited graduate students of the Department. At the Abuja Conference, we went with about 40 persons, out of which 30 were graduate students on Master's and doctoral programmes, who presented papers and also had the privilege of exchanging ideas with senior academics from other universities in the country," the Acting Head of Department disclosed, expressing optimism that the upcoming workshops and conference would empower the students and doctoral candidates to write good papers.

"The publications of the Association are enormous and I also intend liaising with the Managing Director of the University Press for the production of our journals, books of reading and other publications during my tenure as Editor-in-Chief," he added.

Other members of staff who attended the conference were Professor Chinyerem Madumere-Obike, Drs. Kpee, Chinezie Uche, Uzoma Nwogu, Sunday Afangideh, Lesi Kaegon and Lekia Nwika.

AIIESEC Unfolds 2015 Project Pink

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

A global student-run organization in the University, AIIESEC, last Monday, held a Press Conference at the International Student Centre, University Park, as part of activities to kick-off this year's edition of its Project Pink.

Speaking during the Conference, Project Director, Miss Susan Timothy, disclosed that the project is aimed at creating awareness on breast and cervical cancers that result in women high mortality rate, adding that it would also focus on ways of protecting women against the ailments, in addition to the provision of social and medical aids to affected persons. She disclosed that Project Pink would target selected communities in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area and the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nkpolu, Port Harcourt. Disclosing that AIIESEC would partner Elpis Sapphire Foundation in Port Harcourt in providing prosthetic brassiere to affected women in the State, Miss Timothy added that the Foundation would also provide support groups for patients suffering from breast and cervical cancers and survivors, while a non-governmental organization, Preventive Healthcare Initiative (PHI) would partner AIIESEC through the

provision of training opportunities for the organization's Interns and Students. "We are soliciting support from our partners to enable us reach a wider audience this year," she pleaded, listing Projects Book Recycling, French and IT as future activities that would be embarked upon in this service year.

Local Committee President, Emelia Nwielaghi and Local Committee Vice-President for Incoming Local Community Development Programme (IGCDP), Nestor Iningba, took turns to brief participants on the activities of AIIESEC which is currently present in over 1,900

universities across 110 countries of the world. Already, three Interns: Emmanuel Ashley and Salmata Braimah of the University of Ghana, Legon, and N'dri wa sege Kouakou of University Felix Houphouët Boigny in Cote d'Ivoire are already in the University of Port Harcourt as part of the Project Pink team. "We are passionate about creating a better world and a cancer-free society," the trio disclosed, calling on public-spirited individuals and organizations to join the human army marching against the scourge of cancer. Project Pink is expected to end in February.



Leaders of AIIESEC and some partners in a group photograph after the briefing

US Ambassador Visits UniPort On Voters' Education

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Remember the President has repeatedly said that his ambition is not worth the blood of any Nigerian; yet we recorded unremitting acts of violence in Okrika, Rivers State, where the Secretariat of the All Progressives Congress (APC) was reportedly bombed and in Jos, Plateau State, where branded campaign buses of the Peoples Democratic Party were burnt. These acts of political intolerance are mostly perpetuated by youths, who are trying to find their identity through condemnable electoral violence. So the concern of the Embassy is to address the innermost concerns of the youths on electoral matters, with a view to persuading them to see the big picture that is far beyond momentary benefits," the Coordinator said, disclosing that the advance team would visit the University this Wednesday to fine-tune arrangements for the parley.

Professor Shaka, who is also the Head of Department of Theatre and Film Studies in the Faculty of Humanities, availed himself the opportunity of the media parley to present nine books donated to the Department by a South African writer, Nape à Motana, who was in the University last December as a keynote speaker at a workshop organized by the Department.



Prof Ajenka, V-C



Prof Shaka
Coordinator, FAAN, R/S & Bayelsa States

Red Cross Partners Students In Capacity Building

By Otokor Samuel

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has so far trained 50 students of the University of Port Harcourt on basic emergency skills. The train-the-trainer exercise which lasted for three days was carried out in collaboration with the Port Harcourt University Medical Students Association (PUMSA). It featured presentation of certificates of participation to the trainees after following the training exercise.

Exchanging views with the Editor of *UniPort Weekly* during a visit to the University, last December, Head of the sub-delegation for Niger Delta at the International Committee of the Red Cross, Dorsa Nazemi-Salman, disclosed that the 50

students were trained on First Aid treatment procedures in emergency situations. She added that the trainees would in turn train other students to empower them with basic knowledge that has equipped them to enable respond to emergency situations.

Nazemi-Salman, who further disclosed that the Society would monitor the extent of acquisition and application of the skills acquired by the trainees, also stated that health projects of the Red Cross would be scaled up in hospitals this year to assist people affected by armed conflict and violence, especially in an election year.

"In the Southern part of the country, we have been organizing community training programmes and collaborating with security agencies to enhance their performance capabilities. We also observed

that universities will be a good source of collaboration and that is the reason we are in the University of Port Harcourt. We will repeat this special training in Abuja and will also organize seminars and training sessions in some schools in such specializations as Social Science, Politics and Journalism. We will also deliver specific lectures on International Humanitarian Law, that means we will also partner the new Law programme of the University," Nazemi-Salman said, promising that the two institutions will work out modalities for the proposed partnership.

Giving the background to the establishment of the Society, the leader of the delegation recalled that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, were active in the country during the Civil War that raged between 1967 and 1970, revealing that the Red Cross established permanent presence in Nigeria in 1998 with the vision of striving to meet the basic needs of people affected by armed conflict and violence, particularly in the Northeast, North Central and the Niger Delta regions.

"The Society works closely with government health facilities to strengthen the capacity of existing health structures to deliver quality healthcare facilities to the people, providing training for Nigerian surgeons and supplies that would enable them treat people with gun-related injuries. The ICRC also helps the Nigerian Red Cross to increase its emergency response capability, through training and equipping volunteers to provide first aid and portable drinking water during such emergencies. The two organizations together provide first aid training to communities in violence-prone areas, as well as distribute food, clothing materials and basic household items to people displaced by armed conflict and violence in Nigeria," she said.



Head, sub-delegation, ICRC, Nazemi-Salman (middle) flanked by President of PUMSA, Ikenna Okorie (4' left) and others after the training

GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Dr. Margaret Nutsuko, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The two-year appointment which took effect from 5th January, 2015 terminates on 6th January, 2017.

PROMOTION

Dr. Ikenna Kamala, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Michael Nwala, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Isaac Tamunobelema, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Obani Gomba, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Stephen Anuradi, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Omeh Ngwoke, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Vincent Obobolo, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Mrs. Perpetua Asiegbu, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Mr. Tambari Dick, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Mr. Oyele Olu, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Mr. Ene Igbofa, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Mrs. Margaret Udo, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Mr. Aniefok Okon, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Mr. Joseph Ahaotu, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Mr. Julius Akani, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Mr. Beynard Iroham, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Mrs. Konye Ikems, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective 1st October, 2014.

SCIENTIFIC INNOVATIONS

A mind-boggling revolution is going on in creativity and innovation. The application of science is taking the world to uncharted territory and what was thought to be unthinkable just a few years back is now being taken for granted on this breath-taking journey. Today, the 'mysterious' is what science is yet to unravel. Beginning from this edition, *UniPort Weekly* will run a new series to be known as "Scientific Innovations" aimed at creating awareness on the emergent trends in science and technology.

Don't Let Artificial Intelligence Take Over, Top Scientists Warn

By Tanya Lewis

Artificial intelligence has the potential to make lives easier by understanding human desires or driving people's cars, but if it were uncontrolled, the technology could pose a serious threat to society. Now, Stephen Hawking, Elon Musk and dozens of other top scientists and technology leaders have signed a letter warning of the potential dangers of developing artificial intelligence (AI). In addition to heavyweights like Hawking and Musk, prominent physicist and billionaire founder of SpaceX and Tesla Motors, the letter was signed by top researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Google and other top institutions.

The letter touts the benefits of AI, but also warns of the possible risks.

"Because of the great potential of AI, it is important to research how to reap its benefits while avoiding potential pitfalls," reads the letter, which was published online Sunday (Jan. 11) by the Future of Life Institute, a volunteer organization focused on mitigating existential threats to humanity. In other words, the letter states, "Our AI systems must do what we want them to do." [5 Reasons to Fear Robots]

From speech recognition to self-driving vehicles, progress in AI is likely to have an increasing impact on humanity, the letter states. "The potential benefits are huge...The eradication of disease and poverty are not unfathomable," the letters say.

The statement goes on to stress that research in AI should focus not only on making AI more capable, but also on its benefits to society. Until now, AI research has focused primarily on "neutral" purposes, not beneficial ones, the authors say.

The letter refers to a document listing research priorities for AI, which include dealing with the impact of AI on employment, ensuring the ethical behavior of autonomous machines and weapons, and maintaining appropriate control over AI. It's not the first time Hawking, Musk and others

have warned about the dangers of artificial intelligence. In December 2014, Hawking said the development of AI could "spell the end of the human race."

Last October, he told an audience at MIT that AI is humanity's "biggest existential threat." Earlier in 2014, Musk, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and actor Ashton Kutcher jointly invested \$40 million in Vicarious PFC, an AI company that is working to create an artificial brain. The co-founders of Vicarious, Dilip George and Scott Phoenix, were also among those who signed the open letter.

Others who signed the letter include Peter Norvig, director of research at Google; Martin Rees, professor emeritus of cosmology and astrophysics at the University of Cambridge; Vernor Vinge, professor emeritus of computer science at San Diego State University; Frank Wilczek, Nobel laureate and physics professor at MIT; and many others.

<http://www.livescience.com/49419-artificial-intelligence-dangers-letter.html>



Dr. Abdul Bulamu
Minister of Science and Technology

Stop Press

CEBAS Warns Against Burning On Campus

The Campus Environmental Beautification and Sanitation (CEBAS) Unit has again advised members of the University Community against any form of burning on Campus. A Memo signed by Acting Director of CEBAS, Mr. Okerie Ochuba, read in part: "The ban on any form of burning on Campus is still in force, especially in this haramattan period, when a flicker of light could result in fire outbreaks and bring untold harm to members of the University community."

"We request Provosts, Deans, Heads of Departments and Units, Business Operators, Campus Residents and everybody to encourage those who handle wastes in their areas to bring them to designated refuse points for proper evacuation," the Memo said, noting that CEBAS and the Fire Service Department, have had to grapple with avoidable fire outbreaks in recent times.

Echoing the concern of the CEBAS Unit, Acting Head of the Fire Service Unit, Mr. Livinus Wali, has warned against storing fuel and other combustible materials within residential quarters as a precaution against fire outbreaks. He advised residents to be vigilant to detect potential fire hazards, urging those who wish to light fires to ensure that such infernos can be contained and controlled within the specified area.

In case of fire outbreak, contact the Fire Service Unit with the following emergency numbers: 07069496938 and 08075848347.

2015 ACU TRAVEL GRANT

Travel Grants amounting to £2000 is now available for early career academics, who have not travelled outside their home countries to attend a conference in any commonwealth country, between June and December, 2015. Interested staff should contact the Centre for Research Management at the College of Graduate Studies, University Park. Deadline: Friday, 6th February, 2015.

SERVICOM CORNER

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- You can reach us via:
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 08034211712 and 08155303412

CHS Induction

*A total of 142 new Medical Doctors and five Dental Surgeons from the College of Health Sciences were inducted into the Medical Profession at the 35th Induction ceremony of the College at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, 4th December, 2014. Pictures below show highlights of the event as captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMANALU**:*



Provost, College of Health Sciences, Prof Chris Akani, delivering a welcome address



V-C Prof Joseph Ajienka, addressing the gathering



Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Prof Iyebu Siminalayi, also speaking



Medical Elder of the Day, Dr Ayibatonye Oweil, advising the new Doctors



The new Doctors taking the Physicians' Oath



A cross-section of new Doctors taking a bow



V-C Prof Ajienka, CMD, UPth, Prof Aaron Ojile and former Provost, CHS, Prof Owaretin Odia, during the ceremony



Prof Ajienka, shaking hands with a newly-inducted Doctor, while Prof Ojile looks on



A cross-section of parents, guardians and well-wishers



Best Graduating Student in Dental Surgery, Dr Evi Adoloh affirming the Physicians' Oath



Best Graduating Student in Medicine, Dr. Nkechi Shedrack, delivering her Valedictory Speech



Representative of Healthline Limited presenting a cash prize to Drs. Shedrack and Evi



A group photograph of V-C, Prof Ajienka, Senior Officers of the University and the new Doctors