



UniPort @ 40 Adeyemi Charts Pathways To Sustainable Dev At CGS Lecture

Ways of enhancing sustainable development in developing economies, using collaborative research and the public-private partnership model, formed the crux of a Lecture delivered as a major highlight of the celebration of the University at 40th by the College of Graduate Studies at the Ebbitimi Banigo Auditorium, on Thursday, April 30, 2015, reports *Otikor Samuel*.

More on p3

Side Bar

The University Library joins the 40th Anniversary Celebration of UniPort on Monday, May 18, 2015. Details next week.
Editor



UniPort Weekly

Vol. 23, Edition 229

May 11 - May 18, 2015

ISSN: 1850-1859

For Information and Enlightenment www.uniport.edu.ng

A Publication of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Social Sciences
Marks
UniPort @ 40



Story
on
p2



Story
on
p4

UniPort To Partner
Manchester Varsity



CMRAP Wins
Ronald
Ross Award



Radio UniPort
Resumes
Broadcast

120th Inaugural

Nduka Lists Ways To Win War Against Parasites

By Humphrey Ogu

Ways of winning the war against parasites and checking their devastating effects on humans formed the main focus of the 120th Inaugural Lecture delivered by Professor Florence Nduka of the Department of Animal and

Environmental Biology in the Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences at the Ebbitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, April 30, 2015.

Nduka, whose Lecture was entitled, *Parasite Vs Host: a Cat and Mouse Game*, described parasites as single cell or multi-cellular organisms that

live on or in other organisms, stating that "parasites can be grouped into two major types: Ecto-parasites and Endo-parasites. Ecto-parasites live on the external surfaces of the skin, scalp, behind the ears, gills, amongst others, while Endo-parasites live inside the hosts in the internal organs and systems such as blood,

Cont'd on p6



Read UniPort Weekly Online at www.uniport.edu.ng

Taming Motor Park Culture On University Campuses

By Humphrey Ogu

University campuses are generally supposed to reflect the microcosm of the larger society. People from diverse backgrounds could be found on university campuses in pursuit of their aims and objectives. These people are usually attracted to the campus by its serenity and the expectation that things would be done right.

Beyond the aforementioned characteristics, a university community is not like the rest of society where anything goes. In other words, there is a great world of difference between a university community, where decorum should reign supreme and the rest of society where anything goes. Universities are culture agents and arbiters of refined taste that set the tone for the rest of society.

This explains why a typical university is often referred to as the Ivory Tower. As an institution of learning, members of the university community are expected to show finesse in the way they comport themselves in everything they do. They are expected to lead exemplary lifestyles by exhibiting high levels of discipline, ethical standards, moral values, respect for law and order and obedience to constituted authority. Against this backdrop, one expects those who are privileged to be part of such a select community to consciously cultivate a campus culture by obeying every extant rule of the university and those of the country. This includes obeying traffic rules on campus. There appears to be a consensus by some staff, students, visitors, commercial bus and taxi drivers to rubbish the approved speed limit and defying speed breakers at strategic points on campus. Worse still, students and staff are known to be guilty of this bad driving habit that has occasionally resulted in avoidable accidents.



Two cars after an accident

Sometime last week, two vehicles crashed into each other right opposite the College of Graduate Studies, as a result of reckless driving. Replicating the distasteful motor park culture is a typical example of how not to behave behind the wheels on campus. These dare devil drivers must be made to understand that campus highways are not racing tracks, where the likes of Lewis Hamilton or Sebastian Vettel test their aerodynamic skills. Patience appears to be a virtue in very short supply on Nigerian roads and this objectionable habit has been brought into university campuses with disastrous consequences. Regrettably, bad habits are easier to emulate and keep than good conduct. Hence, university people, who are supposed to be role models for the larger society, seem to have joined reckless road users, who are bent on importing such bad habits

into the hallowed precincts of the Ivory Tower.

Members of the University community are expected to make positive impacts on society by upholding a high sense of discipline, work ethics and courtesy. A situation where people who should wield positive influence continue to emulate negative tendencies from sundry soundbites in the larger society is highly condemnable, to put it mildly.

Staff and students should show that they are cultured people. That way, visitors and other road users would emulate them on how to drive on campus. This may also help in the reorientation of the society. University campuses must be respected by drivers—whether they are staff, students, business people or visitors to the campus. A university campus must stand out as a shining example of utmost decorum and exemplary conduct for the rest of society.

Social Sciences Celebrates UniPort At 40 With Lecture, Cultural Activities

By Obinna Nwodin

High impact lectures and cultural activities were the major highlights of the 40th Anniversary of the University which celebrated in the Faculty of Social Sciences. The event which also featured awards to individuals and distinguished alumni, who made significant contributions to the growth of the Faculty took place at the Convocation Arena, University Park, last Wednesday.

The first Lecture which was presented by one-time Dean of the Faculty, Professor Willy Okowa, was entitled: *The History and Foundation of the Faculty of Social Sciences*, while the second Lecture was presented by distinguished alumnus, Mr. She Drack Akalokwu entitled: *The Politics of Water and National Development in Nigeria*.

Professor Okowa, who took his audience back to the early days of the Faculty, disclosed that it began with the School System in 1977 with a total of 38 students, which rose to 118 by 1980 with 16 academic staff at inception. He said that a lot of progress has been made with over 2,000 students currently in the various programmes run by the Faculty and 81 teaching staff, including 28 professors. He called on staff and students to imbibe the culture of discipline and academic excellence, which he said were the principles of the late Professor Claude Ake, the founding father of the Faculty.

In his presentation,

Akalokwu, who highlighted the politics of water resources in Nigeria and the creation of River Basins, said that Nigeria with its expansive territory was faced with the prodigious use of nature's endowments which has inevitably resulted in scarcity. He added that the country was blessed with a large territory lined by swift flowing fresh water bodies, far beyond its share of the world's distribution of fresh water.

The former Rivers State Commissioner in the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), stated that Nigeria needed to evolve a political orientation of water diplomacy with the riparian states of the major rivers that flow into the country, calling on the United Nations to create a specialized agency for policy formulation, regulation, funding and co-ordination

of water resources among member-states of the world body.

In their separate goodwill messages, two pioneers staff of the Faculty, Professors Kinsie Okoko and Reginald Moro, who expressed tremendous pride with the developments in the Faculty, pledged continued support for the Faculty and the University wherever they may find themselves. They advised staff and students to continue to exhibit the virtues of discipline and academic excellence, adding that there was need to embrace global best practices if the Faculty hoped to keep abreast of current trends in the Social Sciences.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who was represented by Director of the Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies (CENECES), Professor Mark Anikpo, commended the enthusiasm with which staff and students of the Faculty celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the University, stating that the event brought back good memories of how it all began. He expressed delight that many of the pioneer students have matured to become important personalities now holding strategic positions in society, including Professors, Heads of Departments and even Deans. In his welcome address, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Henry Akpikpi, said that 40 years of robust academic activities in the Faculty was worth celebrating, adding that the Faculty decided to roll out the drums in what could be described as the best of all celebrations in the University. The event was preceded by a novelty football match, symposium and debate, as well as cultural activities.



Mr. Akalokwu (l) and Prof. Okowa (r) delivering their Lectures

EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof Joseph Ajienka - Publisher
Prof Emu Ekeke - Editorial Chair
Dr. Austan Sado - Editorial Adviser
Williams Wodi - Editor

Obinna Nwodin - Associate Editor

Correspondents: Mercy Aderin, Okeke Samuel, Humphrey Ogu, Ethel Timi-Johnson
Secretariat: Gladys Anad (Mrs), Chika King-James (Mrs)
Photography: Headman Ahi, Mitchell Ehijor

Call: 08033093371

Cont'd from p1

Delivering the Lecture entitled: *Public-Private Partnership in Research and Development in a Developing Economy*, General Manager, Research and Development in the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Engr. Olufemi Adeyemi, who defined Public-Private Partnership (PPP) as "any research collaboration between public and private sector entities in which partners jointly plan and execute activities with a view to accomplishing agreed-upon objectives while sharing costs, risks, and benefits incurred in the process," described such collaboration as an effective means of conducting advanced research, developing new technologies, and deploying new products for the benefit of research groups in developing countries.

The Guest Speaker said the PPP assisted government to become more inventive in creating a space outside government structure for innovation to flourish and inject a broader set of skills and talents, adding that the process provides opportunities for private companies to engage in large-scale projects.

"Less than 0.22% of GDP between 2005-2012 according to World Bank Report was spent on R&D programmes in Nigeria compared to 1.5% in other developing countries," he lamented, listing value for money, quick delivery of project, sharing of risk, increased investment, budget and financing certainty, improved service delivery and private sector growth and stability as some of the benefits of PPP.

The General Manager in charge of R&D, who listed some of the partnerships which NNPC was implementing with some organizations, including the University of Port Harcourt to develop technology, increase local content and solve industry problems, said "NNPC R&D Division is playing major roles in the realization of the R&D research clusters working with the NCDMB, IOCs, Service Companies and other stakeholders to develop a guideline which will contain a framework for managing research clusters.

He submitted that substantial funding and long standing commitment to the development of R&D, development of human capacity and provision of an enabling environment for the programme would enhance public-private partnership in a developing economy.

In their separate speeches, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who spoke through Professor Ben Willie Abbey and Chairman of Occasion, Emeritus

Adeyemi Charts Pathways To Sustainable Dev At CGS Lecture



CGS staff and students marking UniPort at 40 celebration rally. Inset: Provost CGS, Prof Konya

Professor Nimi Briggs, congratulated the College which started as the School of Graduate Studies 33 years ago for its numerous achievements, stating that the main essence of the celebration was to reflect on the milestones and challenges of the past 33 years with a view to planning for better service delivery in the years ahead.

Emeritus Professor Briggs also praised the *UniPort Concert Chorus* for rendering what he described as delightful melodies to spice up the celebration, thanking guests, especially Alumni of the College for turning out to support the celebrations.

In her address, Provost of the College, Professor Roseline Konya, who recounted activities lined up for the weeklong celebration, which included donation of refurbished Postgraduate Students' Common Rooms to some Colleges and Faculties, stated that a panel

discussion featured seasoned academics and provided opportunity for interaction with participants.

Professor Konya, who gave a background to the College Building undergoing construction, solicited support from public-spirited individuals and groups towards the completion of the project.

Other highlights of the celebration were a brief presentation on the College by Dean of the Graduate School of Natural and Applied Medical Sciences, Professor Gregory Awilri, award of certificate of recognition to some deserving persons, including the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajenka; Rivers State Governor-Elect, Chief Nyesom Wike; former Governorship Candidate, Dr. Dakuku Peterside and the Deans of the College of Graduate Studies, who passed through the College.

Agribiz Enhance Project Unveils Second Phase

By Mercy Adeniji

In continuation of its aggressive extension programme aimed at improving teaching and sensitizing stakeholders on the

relevance of agricultural science, leader of the Agribusiness Enhance Project, Dr. Olufemi Adesope, has revealed that the second phase of the project would soon take-off, disclosing that it was aimed at bringing staff, students and stakeholders in agriculture to brainstorm on how to take the sector to a higher level.

Speaking with *UniPort Weekly* in his office last Tuesday, Dr. Adesope, disclosed that "as part of the highlights of this year's programme, we want to institute an entrepreneurial fund scheme for participating students in the Faculty of Agriculture, who present feasible proposals. Such proposals would be painstakingly assessed and judged by panellists, afterwards we would give loans to successful ones and we expect them to pay back before graduation."

Dr. Adesope, who recalled that the Agribusiness Enhance Project started in late 2013, said: "We have just concluded the first year of the project and we are now entering the second year of the project which is expected to last for three and a half years. I just returned from Makele University in Ethiopia, where we had a meeting with representatives of the European Union on the possibility of supporting the project."

"As a follow-up to this project, we are planning an internship programme for students during the holidays to further enhance the entrepreneurial initiative which we have been advocating in the past

one year. The Agribusiness Enhance Project is emphatic about funding agribusiness," the Project Leader assured potential participants.

Dr. Adesope added that "we want to meet with the students, academic staff and other stakeholders who we have been sensitizing through the various workshops we mounted in the first phase of the project. Initially, we had a workshop with them. In the next few months, we want to have a combined roundtable that would involve all the stakeholders to assess the status of the project and determine how to move forward."

Emphasizing the benefits of the project which would end in 2017, Dr. Adesope said that "the Faculty is going to fund the project and make it more sustainable; we would seek partnership with our European Union partners and other sponsors. Another way it would benefit the University is that it would help in sustaining the entrepreneurial initiative that the present administration is advocating. A lot of impacts have also been made in the Faculty of Agriculture in terms of practical and mentorship skills through the workshops and it is now time to go to the next stage of the programme."

Dr. Adesope urged students of the Faculty to continue to strive and work hard to translate classroom theories into practical initiatives that would benefit them and the agricultural sector, expressing optimism that agriculture would soon take its pride of place in the country.



Dr. Adesope

METI, OTI Announce Sale of Forms For 2014/15 Session

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Institute of Engineering Technology and Innovation Management (METI) has announced the sale of forms for its graduate programmes in Engineering, Technology and Information Communication Technology Management for the 2014/2015 academic session. The programmes are part of the international co-operation between the Graduate School of Technology Management, University of Pretoria, South Africa and the University of Port Harcourt.

According to a statement made available to *UniPort Weekly*, the professional programmes aim to provide graduates with sound and sustainable management principles to engender appropriate behavioural preferences that would increase the chances of successful scientific, engineering and technology-related ventures.

"Learning would be facilitated by Lecturers from the University and the University of Pretoria, as well as experts drawn from the industry and the public service both in Nigeria and abroad," the statement disclosed.

"On completion of the programme, graduates should be able to conduct due diligence, risk and techno-economic evaluation and valuation of Scientific Engineering Technology (SET) situations, supervise and manage multidisciplinary SET projects and adopt innovative behaviour towards sustainable management of SET facilities," it stated, adding that the Master's and Doctorate degree programmes would be completed within 24 and 36 months, respectively.

Reiterating that candidates must possess a minimum of

Bachelor's Degree (Second Class Honours, Upper Division) in Engineering, Technology or any of the Physical Sciences, the statement noted that consideration may be given to sponsored employees with Second Class Honours (Lower Division) with a minimum of 3 years working experience in a supervisory position. "Information for applicants and coded application forms may be downloaded from www.uniportharcourt.edu.ng and may also be obtained from the METI Office, (08039193877) at the ETF Building, University Park. Completed Application Forms with Bank Draft must be returned to the METI Office, ETF Building University Park. Deadline for submission of application form is May 29, 2015."

In a related development, the Offshore Technology Institute (OTI), has also announced sale of form for its Master's degree programme in Pipeline, Offshore and Subsea Engineering in collaboration with FMC Technologies and Society for Underwater Technology (SUT).

"The environment in the Institute is conducive to learning; students have access to audiovisual aids, e-learning and Internet facilities. Students undergo three months internship in relevant companies, underwater training such as BOSIET/HUET and field trips," the Memo stated, adding that at the end of the programme, graduates would be able to evaluate, explore and manage offshore oil and gas fields, amongst other skills.

"Completed application form must be returned to the Director, Offshore Technology Institute, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, on or before Friday, July 10, 2015. Aptitude Test holds on Friday, July 24, 2015, while

academic activities shall commence in November, 2015," the statement read in part.



Prof John Okoli, Director OTI

UniPort To Partner Manchester Varsity On Int'l Biomedical Research

By Williams Wodi

Efforts aimed at establishing Clinical and Biomedical Research Centre in the University of Port Harcourt has received a major nudge, following an exploratory meeting between a two-man delegation from the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom and authorities of the University, at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room last Monday.

When fully operational, the unique collaborative initiative is expected to focus attention on modalities for solving clinical problems, including framing research questions around diseases and conditions that are prevalent in the local environment that would be of global application. The fundamental aim of the Centre would be to solve real clinical problems rather than investigate them for purely academic reasons.

Briefing the Vice-Chancellor on the project, team leader and Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Manchester, Dr. Jalal Miyan, disclosed that the motivation to propose the collaboration was predicated on "a palpable lack of appropriately staffed and adequately-oriented research institutions and very low research output in Nigeria," regretting that clinical problems peculiar to the West African sub-region were not commonly framed as research questions in centres in other parts of the world.

Dr. Miyan, who is an expert on Neurosciences research, assured the Vice-Chancellor that the proposed collaborative venture would draw on the expertise and

experience of clinical staff from two top UK universities with demonstrable effectiveness. "At the heart of the initiative is clinical scientific collaboration which is open to every unit and staff within the University and the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital," he revealed, suggesting that the emergent research centre should be in a position to lend expertise in teaching and learning support in the key areas of Neurosciences, Molecular Immunology, Molecular Oncology and Genetics, and Research Methodology. Elaborating on the initiative, Dr. Miyan disclosed that other areas to be covered by the partnership include Hydrocephalus, Asphyxia, Autism, Brain Cancer, Cerebral Palsy and Spasticity. He explained that foetuses were predisposed to either brain damage or brain development problems that are preventable before birth. According to him, while such disorders happen in one out of 500 all over the world, they were more prevalent in developing countries, thus, necessitating the proposed Neurosciences Laboratory in UniPort.

"Countries such as Nigeria, Pakistan and India do not practise pre-natal termination of pregnancy on account of defects in foetuses. Based on respect for this cultural peculiarity, we can now fix the condition before birth. We also discovered that folic acid which is a man-made compound can increase the chances of developing Hydrocephalus if taken throughout pregnancy," Dr. Miyan told our Correspondent.

Also speaking, Coordinator of the project in UniPort

and Clinical Research Fellow, Dr. Samuel Nwogbo, disclosed that the University of Port Harcourt was preferred on account of its capacity for leadership in running global partnership programmes. "For instance, the Vice-Chancellor replied to our email on a Saturday leadership and proof that we can identify serious-minded people can work with, and it simply shows that people in this University can be effective and that is why we are here," he said.

In his response, a visibly delighted Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, assured the visiting team that the University would run the project, which he described as a very laudable venture that would uplift research in the College of Health Sciences and UPTH.

"We have the right expertise on ground to drive the process to the satisfaction of all stakeholders and we are prepared to drive it in different directions. The commencement of this project now is an act of providence that should deepen research culture here.

We have experience in running international collaborative programmes. This development is a pointer to the fact that our College of Health Sciences needs to be active in forging global collaborations in interdisciplinary programmes. We need to set up degree programmes that deliver quality degrees within the specified residency period. Let me assure you that we have a structure you can ride on to implement

this important project in this University," Professor Ajienka told the team.

Also speaking, Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato, who expressed delight at the emergent partnership, assured the delegation from Manchester that the College has full support from the University Management to participate in the Project. She expressed hope that it would result in the intensification of quality research in the University.

Also present at the event were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, Director of Quality Assurance, Professor Tony Arinze, Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Professor Iyosun Siminialayi, Director of the Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine, Professor Chijioke Nwauche, Visiting Scholar, Professor Vincent Idemkor and Dr. Sunny Chinyone.



V-C, Prof Ajienka (arrowed) flanked on his right by Dr. Miyan, CHS Provost, Prof Mato and on his left by DV-Cs (Admin & Acad) Profs Ibe and Joe and other Senior Officials of UniPort

Celebrating Excellence In Faculty Of Law

By Obinna Nwodin

Federal Road Safety Corps, Nigeria Immigration Service and the Nigeria Armed Forces. The new Faculty is also hoping to spread its capacity building tentacles to staff of the judiciary, who do not possess legal qualifications, which could help them in discharging their duties more efficiently.

The Faculty also hopes to provide some legal knowledge and training for Local Government Administrators and other categories, both in the public and private sectors, with a view to assisting them in the efficient discharge of their duties. There are also plans to provide basic knowledge of the Law to business men and persons, who may seek some knowledge of the Law, but do not wish to take a degree in Law. Those who desire to further their education are expected to transit to the Bachelor's degree programme.

It is rather fortuitous to note that the emergent Law programme is coming to full blossom as the University is currently celebrating its 40th Anniversary. It is rather heartening that despite its short lifespan, the new Faculty has joined others in rolling out the drums in celebrating academic excellence in the finest tradition of a conventional university. Happily, the Faculty commenced academic activities on a strong footing that expected to launch the University into the comity of very distinguished institutions that produce quality legal practitioners, who would stand out in their practice.

Professor Ebeku has promised that the Faculty under his leadership would strive towards excellence in teaching and all-round satisfaction in character and learning. This weighty assurance is a testimony of the fact that the Faculty is poised to give the best in terms of service, delivery to its growing stakeholders. It is also worthy of note that in addition to the learning facilities provided in a conducive academic environment, the Faculty has a good Law Library which houses law reports, journals and text books; a *Meor Court Auditorium* with necessary infrastructure, as well as four large classrooms with minimum sitting capacity for fifty students.

The task before the young Faculty is to keep up with the pace at which the University is currently developing, that is, deepening the already established culture of academic excellence and quality in teaching and research. As the

Faculty joins its counterparts in commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the University, it is hoped that in the next 40 years, it would be able to take stock of its achievements. At that point, we shall see a 40-year old faculty that would have produced very distinguished legal luminaries, Senior Advocates of Nigeria (SANs), Judges, Magistrates and Legal Draughtsmen and Women and other Officers of very high standing. At this point in time, it is most fulfilling to note that the Faculty of Law has made significant contributions in bringing about the uniqueness of the University of Port Harcourt.



Prof Ebeku

After over three decades of robust academic activities in various disciplines, ranging from the Humanities, Education, Sciences, Medicine, Engineering, Social Sciences, amongst others, the University of Port Harcourt considered itself still deficient in one important discipline—Legal studies. Successive administrations went to great lengths to establish a thriving Law Faculty, for the effort was simply not enough to achieve the desired goal. Still, there was a compelling need to establish a Faculty of Law to bring the University into full circle.

In response to this yawning gap in its academic curricula, the University Senate at its 337th Meeting held on Wednesday, February 6, 2008, gave a final nod to the request to establish a Law Faculty after it had passed through all the statutory processes. Members of Senate in their characteristics manner echoed an overwhelming "approved" to a request for the establishment of a programme in Law in the University. By that historic action, the University of Port Harcourt joined other Law-offering institutions. Before that date, it was only the Rivers State University of Science and Technology that offered a full law degree in the State. The Senate approval signalled a flurry of activities that resulted in the commencement of law studies in the University. The University also had to meet the basic requirements set by the almighty Council of Legal Education before full commencement of the programme; including the construction of a customised Law Faculty complex.

Characteristically, the authorities did not waste time in assembling seasoned scholars in various aspects of law from all over the country and beyond to lay a solid foundation for the emergent Faculty. Professor Kanike Ebeku, who was then Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Calabar, was persuaded to transfer his services to the University to pioneer this onerous responsibility. He was also joined by another distinguished scholar with international exposure in Energy Law, Professor Lucky Worika, and others to build the Faculty. The rigorous processes involved in commencing academic activities in a programme such as Law partly necessitated the delay in actual commencement of the programme. Formal academic activities, however, took off in the 2012/2013 academic session with the pioneer Diploma set.

The programme commenced with the stated aim of providing basic knowledge and necessary skills for law enforcement agencies such as the Nigeria Police Force, Nigerian Prison Service, Nigeria Customs Service,

CPG Announces Sale Of Form

By Mercy Adeniji

The Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG) has announced sale of application form for Graduate programmes for the 2015/2016 academic session. A letter signed by Acting Director of the Centre Dr. Francis Beke and made available to *UniPort Weekly*, said that the M.Sc. programme in Petroleum Geosciences is an excellence-driven Oil and Gas sector initiative that would equip prospective students with globally benchmarked skills on graduation.

Dr. Beke disclosed that the Centre is part of the *Imamus Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS)* which runs a collaboration graduate programme between the *Centre Des Petrole et des Moteur (DIP School)*, Paris, France and the University of Port Harcourt. "CPG offers a conducive academic setting in a bold effort to encourage purposeful learning and research which also include field and operational facility visits. The programme as designed encourages team spirit among students, who live together and work in teams."

"UniPort's effort at developing the Centre is driven by the critical national and regional need to further grow the IPS Professional Master's Degree programme to provide graduates with requisite competencies and adequate skills that can deliver the Geosciences support needs of the Petroleum Industry," the Acting Director said, noting that the academic programme is jointly delivered in modules by Lecturers drawn from the University of Port Harcourt, the industry and outside Nigeria. The Acting Director explained that graduates of the programme will, among other skills, be able to "provide adequate Geosciences inputs in the evaluation and management of Oil and Gas fields, effectively adapt to the use of modern techniques in operations, development and production Geosciences, understand and know the state-of-the-art techniques in acquisition of Geosciences data, processing and interpretation, participate skillfully and

effectively interface in various Oil and Gas Field Review Programmes and Field Development Teams and professionally coordinate and supervise Well Data gathering and interpretation."

Dr. Beke disclosed that the programme shall run for 12 calendar months of intensive full-time study, disclosing that successful students shall receive a Master's degree in Petroleum Geosciences at the end of the programme. "Students who wish shall be prepared and presented for certification as Associate Environmental Professionals (AEP) by the National Registry of Environmental Professionals (NREEP), USA and the Nigerian Institute of Safety Professionals (NISIP), adding that Candidates must possess a minimum of Bachelor's degree (Second Class Honours Upper Division) in the Geosciences, Petroleum and Gas Engineering or relevant petroleum Geosciences-related field, should have completed their National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) by December, 2014. Consideration for admission may be given to sponsored company staff with a minimum of three years relevant experience with the Second Class Honours (Lower Division) degree, but with CGPA of at least 3.0 on a 5.0 scale."

"A non-refundable application fee of Twenty Thousand Naira in Certified Bank Draft made payable to the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences and applicants should either include a pre-paid FedEx envelop with the draft or collect the form in person from the Centre. The Form is also obtainable online from the IPS website and should be submitted with the Bank Draft."

The letter further stated that names of admitted Candidates will be displayed on the IPS Website www.ips.org.ng on or before Friday, November 5, 2015. Information may also be obtained by contacting Grace Monday at the IPS Office. Completed application form must be returned to the Director, Centre for Petroleum Geosciences, Institute of Petroleum Studies on or before Friday, September 11, 2015, while an aptitude test holds on October 9, 2015. Oral interview is scheduled to hold in October, 2015. Applicants may also contact Dr. Jones Acrea on e-mail wagwines16@gmail.com.

Dr. Beke

Nduka Lists Strategies Against Parasites



Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Nduka (arrowed), V-C, Prof Ajienka (to her left), Provost of Colleges, Deans and other Professors

Cont'd from p1

intestine, liver, lungs, brain, and so on.

"Parasites are defined as organisms that are metabolically dependent on another, the host. Metabolic dependence refers to the parasite's ability to obtain nutrients, shelter and transport," she explained, adding that the parasite's demand on this environment is the same for man—comfortable accommodation and good food, the chance to raise a family and enjoy the company of good friends.

"In its quest to forcefully eject the parasite, the host often behaves like an aggressive landlord faced with a stubborn tenant and at times extreme measures are needed to accomplish the task. These measures not only remove the tenant but cause harm to the landlord and his structure," she pointed out, explaining that "this task of resistance and ejection by the host and the parasite's insistence on survival constitute the game which is likened to cat and mouse and a deadly one at that."

"Parasite lifecycle is key to understanding transmission pathways which is a major component of the game and some parasites have complex life cycle patterns involving intermediate hosts and multiple asexual stages with great potential for multiplication. This is an adaptation to ensure survival of species even under adverse conditions. Understanding these complex patterns is necessary for evolving appropriate control measures to interrupt the parasite's transmission," she explained.

Nduka, who is currently Head of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, noted that six of the major diseases being tackled by the World Health Organisation over many decades are parasitic, namely: *Malaria*, *Leishmaniasis*, *Trypanosomiasis*, *Schistosomiasis*, *Onchocerciasis* and *Filariasis*. "The

others; HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis are also caused by microscopic organisms, which are parasites in a broad definition," she pointed out.

"The burden of parasitic infections has been economically estimated to cost millions of dollars yearly as captured in estimation of Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs), which is quantifying the burden of parasitic diseases in terms of morbidity and mortality and the global efforts at controlling these infections," she revealed.

"Two major parasites, *Plasmodium* (the malaria parasite) and *Schistosoma* have captured my attention over the 20 years of my academic career and provided the platform from which I have watched and participated in the game," Nduka disclosed, noting that "Malaria is a disease of global concern and since 2007, April 25 each year has been set aside as *World Malaria Day*. The themes for 2013, 2014 and 2015 have been: 'Invest in the Future: Defeat Malaria', a clarion call to all to support ongoing efforts to eradicate the deadly infection."

The Inaugural Lecturer disclosed that "Malaria is a risk to 97 per cent of Nigeria's population. The remaining three per cent of the population live in the malaria-free highlands," pointing out that, "There are an estimated 100 million malaria cases with over 300,000 deaths per year in Nigeria—equivalent to 2,000 plane crashes a year at 150 passengers per plane. This compares with 215,000 HIV/AIDS deaths annually."

Citing *Nigeria Fact Sheet 2011*, Nduka revealed that "Malaria contributes to an estimated 11 per cent of maternal mortality, Malaria accounts for 60 per cent of ovarian and 30 per cent of hepatic cancer, and among children under five years, 30 per cent of childhood deaths, 25 per cent of deaths under one year and 11 per cent maternal deaths in Nigeria."

The Inaugural Lecturer, who noted that "humans can

achieve equilibrium relationship with their parasites if they are malnourished or immune-compromised," cited *Toxoplasma*, which is acquired through eating raw or poorly cooked contaminated meat or by close contact with infected pets leading to accidental ingestion of the oocyst in the pet's faeces, disclosing that "more than 60 million men, women, and children in the US carry the *Toxoplasma* parasite, but very few have symptoms because the immune system usually keeps the parasites from causing illness."

Nduka who, observed that collaborative studies are important in changing the game in favour of the host, said: "There is need for Public and Environmental Health Practitioners, Bio-Medical Scientists, Bio-Statisticians and Clinicians to collaborate with those in the Social Sciences, Economics, Sociology, Political Science and Geography in finding the best possible points of interruption of transmission processes, evaluate the cost and effective means of intervention delivery, understand and highlight socio-cultural practices that encourage transmission, impede control and preventive measures and identify treatment-seeking behaviour."

In his speech, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who highlighted some important issues raised in the Lecture, stressed the need for public health enlightenment to sensitize people about preventable illnesses that ravage mankind. "I am happy to note that Professor Nduka is a true scholar, who has attracted international grants and consults for the World Health Organisation," he said, urging other scholars to engage in multidisciplinary research that could be capitalized in a knowledge economy.

He praised Professor Nduka for the quality and impact of her research activities over the years, declaring that "every research must create a measurable impact in the society to be reckoned with by discerning people."

CMRAP Wins Ronald Ross Research Award

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

A publication in the US-based *Journal of Public Health* put together by a team of researchers at the Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine (CMRAP), has earned the Centre and the University the 2015 Ronald Ross Research Award in Public Health.

The research team submitted an incisive article entitled: *Practice of Pre-treatment Testing for Malaria by Healthcare Providers in Port Harcourt*. Making the disclosure last Tuesday, Professor Omotayo Ebong, who recently served out her tenure as pioneer Director, noted that as a centre of excellence in malaria research and related diseases, CMRAP also promotes malaria control and better health through research and contributes to the eradication of malaria in the country.

"We have launched a series tagged: *Every day is Malaria Day* in support of the *World Malaria Day*, which is marked every April 25 with attention focused on the effects of malaria and efforts made to control the disease," she told our Correspondent.

Giving a detailed account of her stewardship as Director, Professor Ebong recalled that the Centre which was first commissioned as a Malaria Research Laboratory (MRL), has so far supported the training of over 21 teaching and non-teaching staff of the University in requisite malaria control skills. "This year's *World Malaria Day* theme 'Invest in the Future: Defeat Malaria' highlights the need for increased financial and human resources, commodities and infrastructural

investments to control and eliminate this life threatening disease," she added.

On publications, Professor Ebong noted that since 2015, the Centre had produced over 15 publications in local and international *Journals* in malaria prevention, control and treatment, phytomedicine treatment of malaria and other diseases. "The Centre also has a compendium of anti-malarial plants from the South-South and South-Eastern Nigeria," she revealed, adding that the Centre had engaged in several advocacy, communication and social mobilization programmes designed to educate the general public on current trends in malaria prevention and treatment behaviours.

"CMRAP carried out outreach programmes in three communities with the goal of creating awareness on the prevention and treatment of malaria and maintenance of a clean and healthy environment," Professor Ebong disclosed, noting that the Centre currently partners the Rivers State Ministry of Health Malaria Elimination Programme, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom and the Biotechnology Institute, University of Yaounde, Cameroon, amongst others.

"Plans are underway to commence a Basic Certificate Course in Malaria Diagnosis and Treatment, which would provide a high standard of education in clinical and laboratory diagnosis of malaria," the immediate past Director stated, adding that another training programme on the role of Phytomedicine in the treatment of malaria was currently awaiting approval of authorities of the University.



Prof Ebong

GDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Dr. J. L. Nwosa, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Sciences and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed *Coordinator, Geology and Mining Technology, School of Science Laboratory Technology programme*, effective April 8, 2015 to April 10, 2017.

Dr. Aera Jones, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Sciences and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed *Coordinator, Centre for Petroleum Geosciences in the Institute of Petroleum Studies*, effective April 20, 2015 to April 10, 2016.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Ethelbert Adaka, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Faculty of Physical Sciences and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* of the University of Agriculture, Umudike, and effective April 27, 2015 to April 26, 2016.

PROMOTION

Dr. Hope Bell-Gam, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2014.

Dr. Bolaji Odo-Odo, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2014.

Dr. Kingsley Douglas, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2014.

Dr. Paul Ichendu, Department of Paediatric and Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2014.

Dr. Augustine Okpere, Department of Paediatric and Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2014.

Dr. Enighe Ughoma, Department of Radiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2014.

Dr. Kenneth Ordu, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2014.

Dr. Israel Gwintreame, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2014.

Mr. Josiah Hart, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2014.

Mr. Eson-Ebido Edibamide, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2014.

Mr. Ihinabo Bob-Mannel, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2014.

Mr. Victor Hart, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2014.

Mr. Bruno Chinku, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2014.

Mrs. Mercy Odi, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to *Assistant Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2014.

Mrs. Mercy Ajienka, Campus Environmental Beautification and Sanitation Unit (CEBAS), Office of the Vice-Chancellor, promoted to *Chief Horticulturist*, effective October 1, 2014.

Radio UniPort Resumes Broadcast ~Dr. Onumajuru

By Obubelebara Wokoma

Radio UniPort, 88.5 Unique FM, which was knocked off air by a furious thunderstorm that damaged its transmission mast, has returned to the airwaves with a big bang! Speaking with our Internship student, Acting Head of Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Dr. Virginia Onumajuru, expressed gratitude to the University Management for supporting the Department in the provision of funds that resulted in the purchase and installation of a brand new transmitter that has enabled the station resume broadcasting. She noted that "the new Radio UniPort will not only be deployed in the training of students, but would also generate revenue for the University through placing of advertisements by clients."

Dr. Onumajuru, who noted that the station returned to the airwaves with improvements in the quality of services to the audience, said: "Unique FM is an indispensable component of the Department, because it serves as a training centre for budding broadcasters," adding that the Radio is a medium that would enable her Department to reach out to the University Community and beyond.

Also speaking, the Studio Manager, Mr. Samuel Kpenu, who was visibly enthused by the return of the station to the airwaves, thanked the Vice-

Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, for the provision of state-of-the-art equipment that would enable Radio UniPort compete favourably with other commercial stations within its broadcast territory. He disclosed that the station was currently on test transmission in line with the code of professional ethics stipulated by the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC).

"We were recently contacted by the NBC, which reminded us that since we are on test transmission, we can't do certain things for a while. That is why we are currently playing more music and doing less talk on air in compliance with the rules. We now have well-developed educational programmes that would add value to the University and its environs when we resume full broadcasting," he said.

"The station would enable us train students on practical skills that they can take to the outside world on graduation. We share students into groups and allocate convenient time to them. We teach them how to operate the console, familiarize themselves with different types of microphone, and how to write news stories that can be broadcast and lots more. The station will be open to students on industrial training," he said, adding that the programmes are structured in such a way that they don't conflict with classes for students.

*Wokoma is on Internship with UniPort Weekly



Studio Manager, Mr. Kpenu on the Console

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 10 – SATURDAY MAY 16, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (mm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 10 MAY, 2015	34.0 25.0	70	N	6.6	6:19 18:38	A few Thunder storms expected, more clouds expected.
MONDAY 11 MAY, 2015	33.0 25.0	73	N	18.9	6:19 18:38	Thunder storms expected, Partly sunny day forecast
TUESDAY 12 MAY 2015	34.0 25.0	64	N	9.3	6:19 18:38	Thunder storm expected, Partly day forecast.
WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2015	35.0 25.0	61	N	8.9	6:18 18:38	Thunder storm expected, Partly sunny day forecast.
THURSDAY 14 MAY, 2015	31.0 25.0	83	N	3.4	6:18 18:38	Widely scattered thunder storms expected. Mostly cloudy day anticipated.
FRIDAY 15 MAY, 2015	33.0 25.0	89	N	3.3	6:18 18:38	Thunder storm expected late in the day, partly sunny day forecast.
SATURDAY 16 MAY, 2015	33.0 24.0	54	N	2.5	6:19 18:39	Thunder storms expected early in the day. More clouds than sun expected.

Dr. Gladys Emenike
Acting HoD

Dr Prince Mmom
Ag. Director, (CDRMS)

SERVICOM CORNER

All Staff of Uniport and her stakeholders need to join hands to promote efficient service delivery. Please join us to promote an efficient system which will project the University to the national and international community in an excellent light and strengthen its international recognition. Both parties have a duty to play and that duty to one another cannot be neglected, abused or ignored.

SERVICOM is here to make things right!!
You can reach us via:
servicom@uniport.edu.ng; 08033400064,
07038650174, 08063358445, 08034211712,
and 08155303412

Farewell Photo Op

Professor Ethelbert Nduka completed his 4-year tenure as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) in a blaze of glory on Thursday, April 1, 2015. Following the expiration of his tenure, Professor Nduka proceeded on his well-earned Sabbatical Leave at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Umuahia in Abia State. The iconic picture in this edition captures Principal Officers of the University in a farewell pose with Professor Nduka.



From L-R: Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi, Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nwodin, immediate past Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, University Librarian, Dr. Obiangi Nwodo and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe.