

## Confab On 100 Years Of Education In Nigeria Ends In UniPort

Against the backdrop of the nation's centenary celebration, the Faculty of Education has ended a three-day Conference on 100 Years of Education in Nigeria. The three-day Conference which drew participants from across the country held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park between 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2014, reports *Ethel Timi-Johnson*.

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### Side Bar

Dept of Theatre & Film Studies held a variety show at The CRAB last Friday. Details next week. ~Editor



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**P**rofessor Datonye Dapper of the Department of Human Physiology in the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, has stressed the importance of regular blood test as a way of checking sicknesses, boosting human health and ensuring wellbeing and longevity, stating that "our diet, our environment and even the process of aging all produce substances that can be found in our blood."

Delivering the 113<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture on the topic, *Your Life: Your Blood*, at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last

## 113 Inaugural

## Dapper Advocates Regular Blood Test For Healthy Living

By Humphrey Ogu

Thursday, Dapper noted that "there are several tests that if done regularly,

preferably annually, will be of immense assistance to your doctors to help you achieve optimum health and prevent serious health problems. Preventive medicine, we say, is better than curative medicine; it is also much less expensive.

"Your blood is also a very fair reflection of your health status and general well-being, this is because almost all toxic and non-toxic products of metabolic and absorptive processes must necessarily find their way into the blood prior to excretion by the kidneys, detoxification by the liver or transport to all parts of the body," he explained.

Citing notable authorities in the discipline, Dapper, who described Physiology as basically the study of body function and its attempts to explain the physical and chemical factors responsible for the origin, development and progression of life, said: "Physiology

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# That Stakeholders Summit On Education

By Obinna Nwodin

Recently, stakeholders in the educational sector comprising the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT), Non-Academic Staff Union of Universities (NASU), as well as the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), in collaboration with Nigerian students, Federal and State Ministries of Education, Civil Society Organizations, Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, Committee of Pro-Chancellors, Community-Based Organizations and the Nigeria Labour Congress, organized the Nigeria Education Summit in Abuja.

The event was a response to the dwindling quality of education in the system, with a view to proffering ways to address them. The Summit which lasted for five days was used to highlight the problems facing the educational sub-sector. That the system needs complete turn-around is no longer news as stakeholders have raised



**Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau**  
Minister of Education

Nigerian education sector must also be re-conceptualized in a manner that would make it capable of performing transformative functions for the nation at large.

The Summit also agreed that the fundamental problems bedeviling the educational system in Nigeria is that it is located within a philosophical and political economic system which emphasizes personal self-enrichment and self-aggrandizement, instead of emphasizing on knowledge acquisition geared towards securing the public good. It is also important to note that the Nigerian educational system and policies have failed to change with the tide of events in the world. Our educational system has the same philosophy and objectives which it had about 50 years ago, while a lot has changed and is still changing.

Conditions that have made their educational system to conform to the changing times are the ones that have actually made significant progress that the world can see. The Summit also acknowledged that Nigeria's current philosophy of education does not address the realities, identities, values, customs and aspirations of the Nigerian people. Consequently, the Summit further noted that the current educational

system is characterized by chronic underfunding, bad leadership, infrastructural decay, poor conditions of learning and service, promotion of mediocrity, shortage of personnel and entrenchment of orthodoxy, parochialism and chauvinism. In view of these, the Summit resolved to produce a Charter on liberating education that will reflect the aspirations, culture, values and realities of the Nigerian people within the context of a dynamic world.

The Charter would be based on a philosophy of education geared towards public good, national development and equity in place of the existing policy which promotes self-enrichment and personal aggrandizement. It also rejected the on-going systematic privatization of education and selling off of public educational institutions, noting that education is a public good and should not be left in the hands of private individuals who are driven solely by profit motives.

Furthermore, the Summit resolved that on no account should public funds such as TETFund and PTDF, amongst others, be used to fund private educational institutions and associated enterprises, while condemning corruption, lack of professionalism, poor and opportunistic leadership, unethical conduct and behaviours that impinge on the learning environment and the integrity of teaching and research. It called on all members and branches of unions in the educational sector to rid the Sector of such ills.

The position of these stakeholders is a positive step in the right direction, which if logically pursued would yield positive results in the Nigerian educational system. This is against the backdrop that similar ideas and suggestions on the way forward have been made in the past, but nothing has come out of them. If there is one thing that is necessary at this point in time, it is revolutionizing the Nigerian educational system. It is time to act.



**Prof Julius Okojie**  
Executive Secretary, NUC

concern over the consequences posed by the situation. We recall the days when graduates from the Nigerian tertiary institutions were compared or even rated better than their counterparts in other parts of the world. This was the golden era of the Nigerian educational system. As time went on, things changed and the system began to fall apart.

Today, it is obvious that the system is in a state of decay. Many have asked when, where and why did the system go wrong. The Summit observed that 54 years after political independence, Nigeria continues to grapple with the challenges of transformation and development whereas other countries in its league have largely overcome the initial problems of transforming their socio-economic and political environments, the Nigerian state appears to be spiralling downhill each day. It is obvious that the quality of our educational system determines, to a large extent, the progress that would be made in the future.

In other words, our greatness lies in developing the important education sector. This is more important in a highly competitive world where the quest for knowledge has brought about intense competition in science and technology. It is in this regard that there is the need to declare a state of emergency in the education sector with urgent and radical action to address the identified ills. The Conference agreed that the



**Dr Nasir Fagge**  
President, ASUU



**Prof Joseph Ajenka**  
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# Faculty Ends Confab On 100 Years Of Education In Nigeria

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Welcoming dignitaries to the University last Tuesday, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, lauded the Faculty of Education for attracting seasoned Educationists to the University in a bid to re-structuring Nigeria's educational system as a tool for sustainable development.

Describing the Faculty as the core of the University system, he noted that the Centre for Higher Education Studies and the Open and Distance Learning Centre (ODEL) domiciled in the Faculty were established to advance issues of higher education in the University.

Chairman of the event and former Dean of the Faculty, Professor Ebi Bio Awotua-Efebo, who noted that the Conference would proffer solutions that would enable stakeholders re-define the nation's educational system, added that the preference of western education to traditional or indigenous education could be blamed for the drop in the quality of instruction available in the country today.

Also speaking, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Lawrence Igwe, disclosed that the need for educationists to articulate the successes and challenges facing education in Nigeria in the period under review prompted the Faculty to organize the Conference. "Within this period a number of legislations, policies and commissions were set up to review the development of education in Nigeria. At the end of the Conference we would be able to review these policies, constitutional provisions as educationists. It is also hoped that the Action Point of the Conference would strengthen the nation's educational system and national unity,"



Guest Speakers: Profs Osokoya, Omolewa and Obanya

he remarked.

In a Keynote Address entitled: *Righting the Wrongs of the Nation's Education System*, Emeritus Professor Pal Obanya of the Institute of Education, University of Ibadan, posited that the way forward for Nigeria was retracing educational steps in specific directions which include creating and sustaining an enabling environment for educational policy development and ensuring meaningful and equitable access to education.

The International Education Strategists listed enhancement of relevance and quality in the system, provision of quality teachers for quality learning, efficient management of education service delivery and effectively channeling of financial resources to positively impact on the system as strategies for revamping the nation's educational system. "The idea is for the government to shift from merely spending on education to genuinely investing in education," he submitted.

Former Nigeria's Permanent Delegate and Ambassador to UNESCO, Emeritus Professor Michael Omolewa and Pioneer President, History of Education Society of Nigeria, Professor Israel Osokoya, presented Lead Papers on *100 years of Education: Formal and Non-Formal Education and Professionalization of Teacher Education*, respectively.

Other Lead Papers presented at the Conference included *100 Years of Education: Policy Issues; Science, Information and Communication Technology; Colonial and Post-Colonial Education Development; Issues of Reform; Environmental Education; and the Legal Implications of Vice-Chancellor's Role, A Trend Analysis*. Highpoints of the Conference were award of service plaques to past and serving Vice-Chancellors and Deans of the Faculty of Education in the University and cutting of a Centenary Cake to mark the development of education in Nigeria.

In keeping with its long-standing tradition of assisting partnering radio stations that relay its programmes, global media giant, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has donated a Digital Recorder (Zoom H5N) and accessories to the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies to assist it in the running of *Radio UniPort* (Unique FM). The donation was made through the BBC's international charity organ known as BBC Media Action.

Making the presentation on behalf of the Country Representative of BBC Media Action, penultimate Thursday, Head of External Relations, Aro

## BBC Donates To UniPort Radio

By Otiakor Samuel

Leonard, said the donation was in line with an existing partnership understanding with the radio station based on the Global Grant Project, explaining that Radio UniPort partners the BBC Media Action in relaying some of its programmes to the University Community.

"The equipment is being provided to assist your station in producing governance-related

programming. It is intended to complement the ongoing training relationship we have with your Radio UniPort," the Country Director said in a statement read by his representative, disclosing that the Media Action is the international charity arm of the BBC which is funded by several donor agencies, including the Department for International Development (DFID). Responding to the gesture, Acting Head, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Dr. Virginia Onumajuru, thanked the global media giant for the donation, pointing out that the equipment would enhance radio programming in the station. Dr. Onumajuru, who also stood in for the Chairman, Board of Radio UniPort, Mr. Adiele Onyedibia, expressed optimism that the station which was currently off-air would spring back to life very soon.

In his reaction, a Lecturer in the Department, Mr. Moses Asak, who had been teaching students the rudiments of radio and television production, said the equipment would assist in practical sessions, stressing that practical teaching of programming serves as a template for students to learn how to produce quality radio and television programming. He also commended BBC Media Action for the gesture, promising that the equipment would be put to teaching modern skills required for graduates of Mass Communication to excel in the line of duty.

Also on hand to receive the august visitor were the immediate past Acting Head of Department, Dr. Walter Ihejirika and staff of the Radio station.



Ag. HoD Onumajuru (displaying the equipment), flanked by Mr. Asak (2<sup>nd</sup> left), BBC representative, Mr. Leonard, Dr. Ihejirika, Studio Manager, Sammy Kpena (right) and other staff

# CELTRAS Board Member Redeems Vehicle Pledge

By Otokor Samuel

Barely two weeks after announcing the donation of an operational vehicle to the Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS) during inauguration of the Board of Governors of the Centre, Group Managing Director of Delta Marine

Shipping Company Ltd, Dr. Austin Odili, has redeemed his promise to donate a brand new vehicle. Handing over a brand new Toyota Hilux to the University in front of the Senate Building last Tuesday, Group Head, Administration and Business Development of Delta Marine Shipping Company Ltd, Mr. Matthew Ossal, who represented the Group

Managing Director, said the donation was in fulfillment of his boss' promise about two weeks ago to the Centre.

Mr. Ossal, who disclosed that Delta Marine Shipping Company Ltd. is the parent company of the Delmar Petroleum Company Limited, revealed that the donation was done through Delta Marine Shipping Company. The Group Head of Administration pledged his boss' continued commitment to identifying with the University as it implements its entrepreneurial drive.

Receiving the vehicle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Ndaka thanked the group for prompt delivery of the vehicle as promised. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, who stated that universities all over the world are now run with the participation of private sector and industry players, urged the company to continue to identify with the University through its affiliate companies. He assured the donor that the Centre would fully utilize the vehicle for the purpose it was donated.

Director of the Centre, Professor Osi Akpoghombe, also expressed gratitude to Dr. Odili and his group for promptly redeeming his promise to the Centre, promising that the vehicle would be used to advancing the work of the Centre.



DV-C (Admin), Prof Ndaka (4<sup>th</sup> left) flanked by Centre Director, Prof Akpoghombe (4<sup>th</sup> right), representatives of the donor, Messrs Ossal and Imah Esentia (5<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> left) and some Senior Staff of the University

A series of efforts aimed at repositioning the University of Port Harcourt as a Centre of Excellence in Creative Writing, the Institution now has a *Writer's Guild*, which was inaugurated at the New Theatre Lecture Hall at the University Park, last Tuesday.

In the same vein, the Institute of Arts and Culture held a two-day Creative Writing Workshop with a Poetry Workshop directed by Poet Laureate and Writer-in-Residence, Dr. Gabriel Okara and a Drama Workshop directed by Messrs Adiele Onyibidha and Miesoinma Minima of the Departments of Theatre and Film Studies and Foreign Languages and Literatures, respectively.

Inaugurating the new Guild, former National President of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), Dr. Wale Okediran, lauded the University for its commitment to the promotion of literature, describing Port Harcourt as very important city in the area of literature and culture.

"It is not a minor development that Port Harcourt was named the UNESCO World Book Capital for 2014. As a body of Writers, you are expected to work in collaboration with other groups that promote literature. You have ANA and Rainbow Book Club in this City. There should be no conflict in your organisation of programmes, if you have proper coordination of your activities. In the Federal Capital Territory, for instance, there are up to six Writers' Associations. Stagger your programmes to avoid hosting similar programmes at the same time, thereby competing for the same audience," he advised the Guild.

"Don't let the challenges of funding to deter you. You are Writers, and Writers are expected to be credible and transparent people, who should use their contacts to reach out to funding agencies for support of their programmes. Writers are not politicians, but they are leading lights in society. There should be room for change of leadership from time to time to avoid a set of officers perpetuating themselves in office," the Founder of Ebedi International Writers Residency in Iseyin, Oyo State, added.

## UniPort Gets Writers' Guild, As Artsville Ends Writing Workshop

By Humphrey Ogu

Okediran, who also delivered a Keynote Address titled: "Creativity and Residency Programmes: The Ebedi Experience," described "creative writing as an art of sorts—the art of making things up. It is writing done in a way that is not academic or technical, but still attracts an audience. Though the definition is rather loose, creative writing can for most part be considered as any writing that is original and self expressive."

He identified three main types of residency programmes, namely: Self-directed, where Residents work on their own; Instructional or Structured Residency where Residents are exposed to Workshop and Resource Persons and Mixed Residency, where Residents are loosely monitored such as is the case in Ebedi.

Welcoming guests to the two-day event, which had "Tradition and Innovation in Creative Writing" as its theme, Director of the Institute of Arts and Culture, UniPort, Professor Juliana Okoh, expressed delight at the realisation of two very important events—Inauguration of UniPort Writers' Guild and the Creative Writing Workshop, noting that "since the establishment of the Arts Village, the Vice-Chancellor has continued to support writing and other arts-related activities. We wish to thank him for his immense support and we promise to justify the confidence reposed in us."

Earlier in his Opening Remarks as Chairman of the occasion, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, expressed gratitude to the Institute of Arts and Culture for inviting him to chair the event, pointing out that Writers engage in thinking before converting their thoughts into stories.

"I am sure that with this kind of programmes in the

University, we are in for a harvest. I think that our students are fortunate enough to have all this happening in their time as students. My advice is that they should keep their eyes open and learn from the established Writers, who I believe are ready to share their vast pool of experience with budding Writers. You might be the next Wole Soyinka, Chinua Achebe or Elechi Amadi," he told the students, pledging to support the activities of the Institute and the new Guild.

In his Address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who conceded that he benefited a lot from the programme, said: "We are happy that this University is gradually becoming a centre of excellence in Creative Writing. I hope that those of us here will draw from the fountain of knowledge of our distinguished Writers such as Dr. Okara and Dr. Okediran," disclosing that he cherished the sections of his Library that houses books by Writers from the University system.

Also speaking, Special Guest of Honour, Mr. Paul Worika, who described Theatre as one of the best places to find discipline, stated that the University had all it takes to shine like a thousand stars in the creative world. "It is my belief that this would materialise if we remove jealousy and pettiness in our approach to mentoring younger Writers to unleash their creative potentials. Established Writers should mentor the younger ones to guarantee the future of Nigeria's limitless creative industry," he advised.

The event which featured a *Roundtable on Engendering a Viable Residency Programme* with Mr. Onyibidha as Moderator, Seyifa Koroye as Rapporteur, Drs. Okara, Okediran, Margaret Nutsoku of the Department of English Studies and Mr. Ihuoma Anaele of ANA as discussants, also had a Poetry Reading session by Professor Omolara Ogunbiye, Drs. Ben Ejirofor, Julie Umuokoro and Mr. Humphrey Ogu, amongst others.



V-C, Prof Ajienka (3<sup>rd</sup> right seated), 5<sup>th</sup> V-C, Emeritus Prof Briggs, Dr Okara (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> left seated), Guild members (standing) and others

# Onyeguzoro Wins Students' Entrepreneurship Competition

By Humphrey Ogu

A Third-Year Student of the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Chibuzor Onyeguzoro, has won the Second Students' Entrepreneurship Competition of the Faculty of Agriculture which took place at the Old Library Complex, Choba Park, penultimate Thursday.

Organised by the Intra-Faculty Bio-Enterprise and Agribusiness Committee, the competition featured eleven contestants drawn from various Departments. Contestants prepared proposals detailing their business ideas and made Power Point presentations explaining such proposals to a receptive audience, comprising senior officers of the University, staff and students and members of the Committee, who assessed them to determine the viability of each proposal.

With 310 points, Onyeguzoro beat ten other contenders to emerge overall winner of the competition with a proposal titled: "Forestpreneurship and Packaging of *Vitellaria paradoxa* for National Development; Shea Butter Moisturising Cream in Oredo LGA, Benin City, Edo State," winning N50,000 for his effort.

## UniPort Staff Relives Colorado Art Experience

By Othor Samuel



Dr. Peters

A Senior Lecturer in the Department of Fine Arts and Design in the Faculty of Humanities, Dr. Edem Peters, has described his participation in a four-day Conference organized by the Colorado Art Education Association in the United States of America as thought-provoking and inspiring. Dr. Peters, who made the observation in a report dated 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 and addressed to the Research and Development Unit, which was obtained by this Correspondent, disclosed that the Conference focused on the importance of arts in society. The Conference held between 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 at Beaver Run Resort, Breckenridge, Colorado.

Peters, who is a specialist in Ceramics further stated that the Conference opened a new vista of knowledge to him due to series of both practical and theoretical demonstrations by art educators, art therapists and psychologists. The Conference, according to him, also featured workshops with a line of activities.

"The gains from the Colorado workshops are numerous. I exchanged ideas with individuals and organizations on current trends in my area of discipline. For instance, I had access to samples of glazes for ceramics production," Dr. Peters said, soliciting more opportunities to be given staff to attend international Conferences to sharpen their knowledge on best global practices.



Representative of the V-C, Prof Willie Abbey (4<sup>th</sup> right front row), members of the C'ttee and Senior Officers of the Faculty of Agriculture

The Second and Third positions went to Wesley Omoiboy of the Department of Animal Science and Chinedu Wall of the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, who scored 297 and 282, winning N30,000 and N20,000, respectively, while the other eight contenders went home with consolation prizes.

Announcing the winners, Professor Alex Monsi of the Department of Animal Science, who noted that all those that took part in the competition could not emerge winners at once, urged those who did not win to take solace in the fact that they were able to showcase their business ideas at the competition. He also advised participants to work harder to improve on their proposal writing and presentation skills to enable them win in future.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who spoke through Professor Bene Willie Abbey, commended the Faculty for promoting entrepreneurship in keeping with the vision of the current administration, stating that in view of the difficulties encountered by graduates in securing white collar jobs, entrepreneurship was the way to go in a knowledge economy.

"As an entrepreneurial University, we are committed to producing graduates, who will not only be self-employed in these days of rising unemployment, but young entrepreneurs who will also be employers of labour," the Vice-Chancellor pointed out, urging students to rise up to the challenge of creating opportunities for self-employment in a competitive environment that required imaginative thinking.

Welcoming guests to the event, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Ekanem Wokoma, said that the competition was conceived to inculcate the spirit of entrepreneurship amongst students in the Faculty of Agriculture that would enable them become self-reliant on graduation.

Professor Wokoma, who was represented by the Associate Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Olufemi Adesope, noted that the purpose of the competition was to groom young entrepreneurs who are equipped to recognise the business side of Agriculture.

"In line with the entrepreneurial vision of the Professor Ajienka-led administration, this competition is aimed at producing Agricultural Entrepreneurs who will become employers of labour on graduation. The idea is to give winners starter packs and a token that would enable them engage in any business endeavour of their choice. You will recall that the Faculty held writing workshops aimed at training staff and students on writing viable business proposals that can be capitalized and commercialized to create wealth," the Dean said.

Also speaking, Chairman of the Intra-Faculty Bio-Enterprise and Agribusiness Committee, Dr. Leton Akinnola, expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Directors of Institute of Niger Delta Studies, Centre for Research Management, Institute of Agricultural Research and Development, Entrepreneurial Centre, Port Harcourt Business School, Deputy Registrar (Information), staff and students of the Faculty for the roles they played in making the event successful.

## Certified Geographers End Career Fair In UniPort

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The South-South Zone of the Institute of Certified Geographers of Nigeria (ICGN) domiciled in the Department of Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences, held a mandatory Geo-professional Career Training for students, penultimate Friday at the Conference Hall of the International Students' Centre, University Park.

The training, which had the theme: *From Gown to Town as a Professional Geographer*, featured knowledgeable Guest Speakers from the Industry, who spoke on such sub-themes as *Geographers' Professional Niche in the Oil and Gas Industry*, *Public Service*, *Professional Consultancy Potentials of a Geographer*, *Professional Relevance of a Geographer and Being Professionally Relevant as a Geographer in the Oil and Gas Industry*.

Immediate past Director, Centre for Disaster and Risk Management (CDRM), Professor Samuel Arokoyu, noted that the training provided an avenue for the students to

chart a way forward as professional Geographers on graduation, as well as opportunity to be inducted as members of the Institute. "Knowledge is taking a new dimension and to remain relevant in the knowledge-driven economy, you have to distinguish yourself through continuous professional training," he told the students. Professor Arokoyu disclosed that the Career Training would also provide an avenue for students to appreciate the contributions of Geographers to the development of the Nation.

South-South Zonal Coordinator of ICGN, Mr. Victor Sunday, who disclosed that the training provided a platform for interaction between the students and major industry players, added that the Institute was established to promote professionalism among its members by preparing them to take on the emergent challenges in the industry. He encouraged the students to embark on professional networking as a way of enhancing their knowledge of the discipline and keeping abreast with current trends in the broad field of Geography.



Prof Arokoyu (5<sup>th</sup> left), the trainers and trainees in a group photograph

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is a vast subject that includes Human Physiology, a branch that attempts to explain the cellular and molecular mechanism that ensures the maintenance of human life and our continued survival as individuals and evolution as a distinct modern species: *Homo sapiens*.

"Blood is the bright red body fluid that fills and flows in our heart and blood vessels. It is pumped by the heart and flows through our arteries, arterioles and capillaries to all peripheral tissues and returns to the heart through the venues and veins," the Inaugural Lecturer explained, adding that "blood ensures the supply of oxygen and nutrients to all tissues in the body and removal of the waste products of metabolism from these same tissues to the organs of excretion mainly the kidneys and the lungs from where they are removed from the body."

Dapper, who is a Blood Physiologist, submitted that the functions of blood can generally be divided into three parts, namely: protective, regulatory and transportation, stressing the importance of intake of balanced diet to ensure that the blood is able to optimally perform its functions. He also advocated regular exercise and reduced intake of alcohol and salt as panacea to a healthy lifestyle. "Monitor your blood pressure, weight, and Body Mass Index regularly and make out time to rest and engage in leisure activities," he advised the public.

"The bulk of my research over the years have been on blood physiology; though my research activities have spanned many areas in the physiological and medical sciences," Dapper disclosed, citing a research he carried out with other scholars to determine the effects of cigarette on some haemorrhological parameters in

## Dapper Advocates Regular Blood Test For Healthy Living



Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Dapper (arrowed), V-C, Prof Ajienka (right), some Principal Officers and Professors before the Lecture

apparently healthy Nigerian smokers.

"Our results showed that smokers have higher values of haematocrit, whole blood relative viscosity and significantly higher values of erythrocyte sedimentation rate of non-smokers, confirming suggestions that combined effects of these changes were enhanced susceptibility to intravascular thrombosis due to possible enhancement of coagulation with higher cardiovascular risk to Nigerian smokers," he explained. As a way of encouraging scholarship and research in Human Physiology, Dapper, who was a one-time Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, called for the establishment of a Centre for Blood Research in the University to tackle the many blood-related ailments that bedevil Nigerians today. He also recommended the introduction of a Postdoctoral scheme for junior academics in the University to assist them further master the requisite skills required in the field of Blood Physiology, announcing the endowment of the *William Davenport Memorial Prize for Best Graduating Student*

in Human Physiology.

Commenting on the Lecture, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who noted that Professors think on behalf of and for the wellbeing of society, lauded Professor Dapper for mounting free blood tests before the Lecture, endowing a prize for the Best Graduating Student in Human Physiology and for his recommendations aimed at encouraging a healthy lifestyle amongst the populace.

"In this University, we recommend that staff should go to the Health Centre for medical check-ups on their birthdays, but some staff erroneously assumed that we are using the policy to generate data that would lead to their early retirement from work. The recommendations made by the Inaugural Lecturer have not only justified the policy, but has also confirmed the importance of regular medical check-ups in the maintenance of good health and longevity amongst staff of the University."

## Songhai Farm Director Tasks African Leaders On Socio-Economic Dev

By Obinna Nwodin

As governments in other climes continue to adopt measures to improve the living standards of their citizenry, Africa's poverty has been traced to the inability of governments on the continent to internally generate requisite capacity to build the appropriate institutions and structures that will enable them produce the social values, goods and services that would address the needs and desires of their people.

This assertion was made by Director of the Songhai Centre of Excellence, Benin Republic, Dr. Godfrey Nzamujo, while speaking as Guest Lecturer at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Niger Delta History Week organized by the Institute of Niger Delta Studies in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture, last Tuesday.

Dr. Nzamujo, whose Lecture was entitled: *The Third Industrial Revolution and the Accompanying Socio-Economic System as an Opportunity for Africa to*

*Leapfrog its Development Process and Tackle the Triple Challenge of Poverty/Food Security, Unemployment and Environmental Degradation: Agriculture as a take-off and an Example in the New Paradigm*, stated that "passive consumerism, shallow and piecemeal solutions and the quick adoption of other peoples' experiences, solutions, systems of production and values have become cheap substitutes for doing the hard work of growing up and developing native competences and processes that would guarantee sustainable, broad-based and inclusive growth on the African continent." The innovative agriculturist said that most solutions to solving the socio-economic problems in Africa seem to be piecemeal and symptomatic therapies that hardly work, regretting that "we are operating from mechanistic paradigm developed centuries ago. In the best cases, these solutions are simply Band-Aid measures. In most cases however, they end up creating more problems."



V-C, Prof Ajienka (arrowed) flanked by Director, Songhai Centre of Excellence, Dr Nzamujo (right), Prof Francis Sikoki (left) and others

The Visiting Professor to the University, who said that the socio-economic situation will get worse if we continue to navigate the same old map, noted that "solutions to our problems today can no longer be found in our present attitude and logic." He highlighted the process and operations of the Songhai Initiative, pointing out the importance of learning how to harness environmental capital that would turn the rural sector around to become productive, efficient and remunerative. According to him, this approach will help tackle the unemployment problem and considerably slow down the massive exodus from rural areas to already over-populated urban regions of the country.

In his remarks, Chairman of the session and Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who commended the Institute and Faculty of Agriculture for the collaborative venture, stressed the importance of developing synergy amongst stakeholders in the critical sector to ensure food production. He described agriculture as very important to the development of society and commended the Guest Lecturer for not only sharing his knowledge, but also applying them for the benefit of society.

In their separate goodwill messages, Special Guest of Honour and member of the University Governing Council, King Amalate Turner, represented by his Special Assistant on Investments, Khafah Pat Omu, Friend of the University, Chief Seinye Lulu Briggs, represented by Mrs. Julia Jackson, former Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jos, Professor Godwin Tasi and Special Adviser to the Bayelsa State Governor on Agriculture, Mr. Roger Osho, stressed the importance of repositioning agriculture for the development of the economy and pledged support to the organizers.

Also speaking, Director of the Institute, Professor Abi Derfak, who thanked authorities of the University and other stakeholders for their support and encouragement, appealed for more support to the Institute to enable it realize the objective for which it was established.

Major highlights of the event were presentation of the *Agriculture Entrepreneurship Awards* to 10 outstanding proposals from students of the Faculty of Agriculture by the Dean, Professor Ekanem Wokoma, exhibition, launching of the *Journal of Niger Delta Studies*, Volume 3, No. 2, as well as a symposium on the theme, *Paradigm Shift in the Agriculture Sector in the Niger Delta: Poverty Reduction and Youth Development*.

## GUIDEPOST

## Dental Students Hold PUDSA Week

## PROMOTION

*Dr. Friday Nwafor*, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

*Mrs. Ihuoma Olorunsola*, Exams and Records Unit, Registry Department, promoted *Personal Secretary I*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

## APPOINTMENT

*Miss Stella Ogbogo*, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, offered *Temporary Appointment as Assistant Lecturer*, effective on assumption of duty.

## RENEWAL OF STATUS

*Dr. Omorotomwan Omokheyeke*, Centre for Marine Pollution Monitoring and Seafood Safety, granted *Review of Status* from Research Fellow to Research Fellow II, effective 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.

## RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

*Professor B.A. Fabara*, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2014 to 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2015.

*Professor P. Aleye-Wokoma*, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2014 to 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.

## ADJUNCT APPOINTMENT

*Dr. Adaba Ibim*, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Adjunct Appointment as Senior Lecturer* in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences.

*Dr. Nene Jamabo*, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Adjunct Appointment as Senior Lecturer* in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences.

*Dr. Nenibarini Zabney*, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Adjunct Appointment as Senior Lecturer* in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences.

## STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY

*Mr. Otokang Thomas*, Department of Physics, Faculty of Physical Science & Information Technology, granted *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him pursue a Doctorate Degree programme in Nuclear Science and Technology, at the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom, effective 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2018.

By Otokang Samuel

Dental students under the aegis of Port Harcourt University Dental Students Association (PUDSA) held their *Health Week 2014* with a Rally and Awareness Campaign in the University Community on good oral health care between 27<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2014.

The event which was declared open by the Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Chris Akani, had a Consultant, Community Dentistry at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Dr. Bashiru Braimah, as Keynote Speaker. He spoke on the theme, "Dentistry as a Profession: The Prospects and Challenges." Briefing UniPort Weekly last Monday after the week-long event, President of PUDSA, Ukaegbu Enyinnaya, said the event also afforded PUDSA members an opportunity to celebrate the feat they recorded as overall winners of the first National Dental Competition organized by the National Association of Dental Students (NADS),

last August.

PUDSA President, who commended the Provost, Professor Akani for his continued encouragement and support for the Association, restated the commitment of his Executive to sustain community services through outreach programmes, disclosing that the Association had recently carried out dental outreach programme to Markets in Choba and Aluu Communities and the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Camp in Rivers State.

"We will continue to create awareness and emphasize the need for good oral hygiene amongst the people, especially rural dwellers. We will do this under the supervision of our Doctors and Consultants," Enyinnaya pledged, soliciting assistance to enable the Association effectively tackle the numerous challenges posed to the populace by poor dental health.

The Health Week which commenced with a Rally, also featured a symposium, public lecture, free dental screening, debate, quiz and essay competition.



PUDSA members at the opening rally

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT  
WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 TO SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2014

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI (°C)	TEMPERATURE LO	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 16 NOV, 2014	33.0	25.0	73	NE	19.8	6:20 18:14	Thunderstorm expected. Partly sunny and warm day expected.
MONDAY, 17 NOV, 2014	33.0	25.0	76	E	22.8	6:20 18:14	Thunderstorm expected. Partly sunny and warm day forecasted.
TUESDAY 18 NOV, 2014	30.0	24.0	84	N	13.9	6:20 18:14	Thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day anticipated.
WEDNESDAY 19 NOV, 2014	32.0	24.0	74	E	3.4	6:21 18:14	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected
THURSDAY 20 NOV, 2014	32.0	23.0	75	N	5.1	6:21 18:14	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Partly sunny and warm day expected.
FRIDAY 21 NOV, 2014	32.0	24.0	72	N	2.3	6:21 18:14	Thunderstorm expected early with occurrences of broken clouds. Day expected being hot.
SATURDAY 22 NOV, 2014	36.0	23.0	72	E	4.8	6:22 18:15	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Partly sunny and warm day forecasted.

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### 3<sup>RD</sup> Registry Day Celebration

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Registry Day Celebration held on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 amidst fanfare. It featured a well received Public Lecture Titled: "Professionalism and Effectiveness: A Sine Qua Non for University Administrators in Present-Day Nigeria," delivered by an astute administrator, Mr. David Suowari and presentation of award to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka. Pictures below as captured by our Cameraman, HEADMAN ALU show highlights of the event.



Deputy Registrar and College Secretary, CCE, Mr. Ejikeme Ichendu (left) welcoming Keynote Speaker, Mr. David Suowari



V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenka making opening remarks



Chairman of the occasion, Emeritus Prof Emmanuel Anosike speaking



Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim welcoming guests and Registry Staff to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Registry Day



5<sup>th</sup> V-C, Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs giving goodwill message



Senior Asst. Registrar, Mrs. Otami Akubom reading citation on the Keynote Speaker



Keynote Speaker, Mr. Suowari presenting his Paper



Emeritus Prof Anosike in a warm handshake with Mr. Suowari after the presentation



Univ Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo decorating the Keynote Speaker with customized UniPort Muffler



Dignitaries cutting the Registry Day Cake



Some of the Registrars of sister institutions and their representatives



A group photograph of guests with the Registrar (arrowed)