



Senate Reopens UNIPORT, Ratifies Academic Calendar

One month after suspension of academic activities due to security concerns arising from the gruesome murder of four students of the University at Omuokiri, Aluu, Senate of the Institution has approved the reopening of the Institution to full academic activities, reports *Obinna Nwodin*.

More on pg 3

Side Bar

The Maiden Registry Day of the University of Port Harcourt took place last Friday at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park.

Details next week
-Editor



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96th Inaugural

Biodiversity Critical To Human Survival ~Ndukwu



By Humphrey Ogu

Importance of the conservation of biodiversity was the main thrust of the 96th Inaugural Lecture titled: "Biological Biodiversity: Incredible Generosity, Incredible Responsibility", delivered by Professor Benjamin Ndukwu of the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, penultimate Thursday.

Ndukwu, who noted that "biodiversity provides everything humans need to survive: food, fresh air, clean water, clothing, medicine and material for shelter," said: "the richer the diversity of life, the greater the opportunity for medical discoveries, economic development and adaptive responses to such new challenges as climate change."

According to him, almost all cultures have, in some way, recognized the importance that nature and its biological diversity has had upon them and the need to maintain it, regretting that power, greed, materialism, and politics have affected the precarious

Cont'd on p6

JAMB, UNIPORT, To
Partner On CBT In 2013



Story
on
p2

Microbiologist
Advocates
Mushroom
Consumption



Story
on
p3

PUMDSA Offers Medical
Aid To Flood Victims



Story
on
p4



Story
on
p5

UNIPORT Turns Out
32 Pharmacists
At Maiden Induction



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JAMB, UNIPORT To Partner On CBT In 2013



V-C, Prof. Ajenka, JAMB Registrar, Prof. Ojerinde (right), DV-C (R&D), Prof. Bene Willie-Abbey, Acting Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliet, ICTC Director, Prof. Anthony Ibe, D V-C (Admin), Prof. Ethelbert Nduka (3rd from left) and some University Staff and JAMB Officials

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

In a bid to give credibility to the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME), the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), has disclosed plans to formally commence Computer Based Testing (CBT) in conducting the examination in 2013.

JAMB Registrar, Professor Dibu Ojerinde, who led a delegation of senior management officers on a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor, last Monday at the Governing Council Chambers, University Park, listed prompt delivery of raw scores, elimination of cases of incomplete results and result black out and checking of examination malpractices as benefits of the CBT. He noted that candidates also have the options of Paper Pencil Test (PPT) and Dual -Computer and Paper Based Test (DPT). Soliciting the support of the University in the use of facilities, Professor Ojerinde, called for collaborative efforts in enlightening stakeholders on the CBT, which he said would replace the other options by 2015. "About 76 per cent of the populace are looking

forward to the CBT option, we know that the University is already doing a lot in the area of CBT and e-testing examinations, so we have come to partner you in that regard", he added.

Receiving the delegation, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, commended JAMB for the laudable innovations introduced in the conduct of public examinations, expressing delight that the CBT would further give credence to the UTME. "The University is already conducting CBT examinations, I am confident that JAMB will scale through the exercise successfully", he said.

"We will give the necessary support to actualize this project because it is a step in the right direction to revamp the educational sector. Let me congratulate you for taking public examination to a higher level", the Vice-Chancellor stated.

Responding on behalf of JAMB, Director of Test Development, Mrs. Agatha Bosini, commended the University for expressing willingness to partner JAMB in the CBT project, describing it as an effort to build both the Nigerian child and the nation.

Other members of the delegation are: Director,

Information Technologies, Mr. Olujide Adisa, Director Corporate Support Services, Mr. Sulayman Muhammad, Acting Director, Test Administration, Mrs. Mabel Agbehaku, Director Quality Assurance, Mr. John Uwandulu, Head, Psychometrics, Mr. Omokunmi Popoola, Head Insurance, Mr. Edward Mojiboye, Coordinator UTME, Mr. Francis Ojo, Deputy Director, Registrar's Office, Dr. Yusuf Lawal, Public Relations Officer, Mr. Timothy Oyedeji, amongst others.

Research Ethics Committee, University Of Port Harcourt

No doubt, the main business of any University, the world over is teaching and research. Many breakthroughs in the world today, be it in science, arts, agriculture, social sciences, etc are results of the effort of researchers. However, it is important to note that there are "Research Ethics" which must be followed or adhered to in carrying out research. These standards are established to guarantee best practices in any research endeavour. What will readily come to mind as readers go through this article are the following questions: Have we not been engaging in research in this University before now? Do we not know that there are standards? Do students not have supervisors who guide them in their research? The answers to these questions are in the affirmative.

But that is not where we are going to. In any organized society, order and coordination is very important. The vision of the current leadership of the University in setting up the Research Ethics Committee is to ensure that there is a structure that would coordinate research activities. The Research Ethics Committee was established for this purpose. Its Terms of Reference are:

- To maintain ethical standards in scientific investigations involving people
- To promote the dignity, rights and safety of the individuals so involved
- To review all proposals for planned investigations involving people
- To ensure that the proposed study is scientifically valid and justifiable and the benefits outweigh any risk of inconvenience or harm.
- To take adequate steps to prevent physical and psychological harm
- To maintain privacy by ensuring confidentiality of all personal and medical information and
- To obtain consent without any form of duress.

There is no better time to put our house in order than this time when the vision of the present administration led by Professor Joseph Ajenka is to transform the Institution to an Entrepreneurial University, where the academia is encouraged to collaborate with industry for the mutual benefit of both. Deans of Faculties, School of Graduate Studies, Provost, College of Health Sciences and Heads of Department are once again advised to ensure that research proposals in their various offices pass through the Committee for approval.

It is hoped that the establishment of this Committee would ensure that research efforts are coordinated and the quality of research improved to meet international best practices.

This article was sent in by the University of Port Harcourt Research Ethics Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Osaretin Odia.

SPOT-THE-STUDENT

I Want To Be My Own Boss ~Miss Okeke

University of Port Harcourt has come of age as the Alma Mater of distinguished alumni including, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, Governor of Rivers State, Rt Hon Chibuike Amaechi, Minister of State for Education, Barr Nyesom Wike, amongst other top individuals who have distinguished themselves in their various fields of endeavour. Our Correspondent, MERCY DON-BARIDAM, spoke with a Final Year Student in Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, Chisom Okeke, who disclosed that she is working hard to distinguish herself as an Entrepreneur someday.

Miss Chisom Okeke, a Christian, who resides off-campus, was admitted into the University through the Basic Studies programme. She chose UNIPORT because it has been her dream Institution.

"The University has well-placed Lecturers, who are disciplined and ready to impart knowledge to students and my Lecturers have done very well in this regard. In the Department of Microbiology, Lecturers are very strict and when it is time for examinations, we sit according to our Matriculation Numbers and there is no incident of malpractice," she said.

Preparatory to her entrepreneurial inclination, she disclosed that she is currently working on Mushroom with her supervisor, Dr. Herbert Stanley, as her Final Year project, expressing gratitude to him and other Lecturers, whom she said, made her stay in the University, so far, worthwhile and very beneficial.

On what her typical day is like, she explains: "I attend classes, church meetings and when I

return, I read my books," she said, noting that although she loves outings but due to her course work, her movement has been moderated.

Miss Okeke, who revealed that she goes on line most times, said she visits the Library three times a week and complements her Library attendance with class attendance, where she has the opportunity of receiving instructions from Lecturers.

She appeals to Lecturers to complete their course on time in order to give the students maximum time for revision, urging other students to continue to take their studies seriously so that there would not be any room for regrets. She advised that if students focus on their studies, before they know it, they would have successfully completed their programme.



Miss Okeke

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Cont'd from p1

The decision was taken at an Emergency Meeting of Senate held at the Senate Chambers, last Wednesday. It also approved the Amended Second Semester time-table for the 2011/2012 Academic Calendar.

Briefing members of Senate, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, recalled the incident that led to the closure of the Institution, stating that the authorities had considered reports from the security agencies and decided that it was needful for the University to re-open for full academic activities.

Based on the newly approved calendar, Revision commences on Monday, 12th November, 2012 to Friday, 16th November, 2012, while second Semester Examinations would commence on Monday, 19th November, and end on Friday, 7th December, 2012.

Wednesday, 9th January, 2013, would be Extraordinary Meeting of Senate to consider Second Semester 2011/2012 results, while Monday, 10th December, to Friday, 4th January, 2013 would be 2011/2012 Long Vacation for Regular Students. The Academic Calendar also stipulated that the

2012/2013 Academic Session would commence in January 2013.

It would be recalled that Senate had ratified Management's decision to shut-down academic activities in the University on Wednesday, 10th October, 2012, to douse the tension around the Campus and its environs.

Emergency Senate

Senate Reopens UNIPORT, Ratifies Academic Calendar



Prof Igbo Joe, D V-C (Academic)



Mrs Matilda Nnodim, Registrar

Microbiologist Advocates Mushroom Consumption

By Mercy Don-Baridam



Dr Stanley

In view of rising cases of cardiovascular diseases resulting from consumption of red meat, a Microbiologist in the University, Dr Herbert Stanley, has emphasized the need for people to cut down on meat intake and consume more of mushrooms. Dr Stanley gave the advice while

with additional vegetable of high quality and enriches the diet with high quality protein, minerals and vitamin which could be of direct benefit to the human health and fitness," Stanley stated, adding that when mushroom is prepared, it could be used for soup, stew, balls, omelette, pizza and salad.

He noted that he is currently collaborating with some Lecturers in the Faculty including Professor Eunice Nwachukwu and Drs Philip Okerentugba and Ngozi

Odu. "I am currently working with Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta in the area of research in Mushroom Science which has to do with the chemical composition of mushroom and how humanity can benefit and with Professor Bosa Okoli, we are looking at the Management of Spent Mushroom Substrate (SMS) which deals with how waste collected from mushroom could be converted to into energy production. I am also doing other research work with some Lecturers," Stanley said, appealing to Management of the University to support the Biotechnology Centre with adequate fund to facilitate them more researches.



Arrays of mushroom

speaking with UNIPORT Weekly last Monday in his office, stating that "Mushrooms, when consumed have the tendency to provide vitamins which is a good source of the B-Vitamins; it also helps in relieving depression, blood pressure, heart attack, stroke, stress and anxiety." According to him, mushrooms also contain sufficient amount of potassium and provides selenium, which is an oxidant that helps to neutralize free radicals that could harm the cells in the body. He, however, stressed the need for people to consume and cultivate only edible mushrooms to avoid the dangers of eating poisonous ones that have been contaminated because of high scale of environmental degradation within the Niger Delta region.

Stanley, who pointed out that mushrooms are a non-timber forest products, which are often found as saprophytes on soil, open fields, farmlands wood and roadsides, said that the fruiting bodies are large enough to be visible to the eyes.

"I became interested in Mushrooms research because the food value is considerably high, since it provides people

HOD Pledges Regular Training ... As Dept Holds Maiden Orientation

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As part of efforts aimed at enhancing productivity and efficiency, the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, last Wednesday, pledged continuous training and retraining of staff.

Acting Head of Department, Dr Leo Osuji, made the pledge at a 3-day Junior Laboratory Staff Orientation Workshop organized for newly-employed Laboratory Attendants and Assistants in the Department.

The Workshop which dwelt extensively on: "University regulations on staff conditions of service, Laboratory work ethics, Laboratory safety and simple measurements, Chemistry stress administration, Laboratory work routine, Introduction to laboratory apparatus and simple equipment and Preventative maintenance of laboratory equipment", according to Osuji, was put together to acquaint the new employees with their job description, as well as provide a platform for interaction between staff and management.

Osuji, who emphasized the importance of team work, advised participants to justify the confidence reposed on them. "This is not a typical government work characterized with *laissez-faire* attitude, work with your conscience and do your best to move the Department to great heights", he advised.

"This is the first in the series of training. We are anticipating that it would become a regular feature in the Department and it is hoped that all staff would benefit from the exercise which would come in phases", the Acting Head of Department said, adding that it would equip them with necessary skills to meet the demands of the job, in addition to enhancing efficient service-delivery.

One of the Resource Persons at the Workshop, Mr Okike Nwagbo who spoke on "Laboratory Regulations" warned participants against performing experiments without the use of personal safety and protective kits, knowledge of safety rules and procedures and application of same to laboratory work.



Participants, Resource Persons and some Laboratory Staff of the Dept at the Workshop. Inset: Ag HOD, Dr Osuji

Flood victims in Rivers State have continued to receive succour from the University of Port Harcourt. This time, a student association in the University, Port Harcourt University Medical and Dental Students' Association (PUMDSA) undertook a medical outreach to relief camps in parts of the State.

Briefing

PUMDSA Offers Medical Aid To Flood Victims
By Humphrey Ogu
 association in collaboration with the Final Year Class 2012, also known as the Aquilas, went on a rural medical outreach to the Relief Camp at Ula-Ehuda on Thursday, 1st November, 2012.



PUMDSA members attending to some of the victims

Recently, authorities of the University organized a Workshop for senior academic and administrative officers. This is in a bid to enhance their job efficiency in line with the policy objectives of the Professor Joseph Ajenka-led administration. The Workshop anchored by Segun Ogunkola of Global Concepts Management, Maryland, United States, was aimed at stimulating the mind of participants towards critical thinking in the realization of the overall objectives of the University.

It was also designed to make participants develop requisite skills for handling challenges, better decision-making, developing confidence in making policy decisions and administrative matters, generating innovative questions and answers in the course of policy implementation, improving the quality of administrative ideas, identifying what matters most in business challenges, how to differentiate tangible from abstract ideas, and how emotion, time, pressure, style and limited resources affect thought processes and decisions in the performance of duty. The Workshop also enabled participants to identify problems and challenges faced in the discharge of their responsibilities.

At the end of the Workshop, participants were able to apply critical thinking skills when making and implementing official policies, as well as select specific techniques that would enable them recognize assumptions, evaluate arguments or draw conclusions. Areas covered included: *Developing a Substantive Approach to Socratic Questioning Through Critical Thinking; Critical Thinking: Strategies in Decision Making; Phases of Critical Thinking and Personal Barriers in Thinking.*

Gains Of Workshop For Staff

By Obinna Nwodin

It is imperative to note that in a knowledge-driven society that is characterized by high-level competition, there is need to be abreast with global principles. Universities, all over the world, have been engaging in the aggressive search for knowledge that would make significant impact globally. Thinking differently has been identified as an important strategy to beat competitors and so frantic efforts are made to stimulate ideas that would propel organizations to greater operational efficiency.

No doubt, this training is imperative as the current administration is making giant strides in evolving an entrepreneurial institution where research and innovation meet with the industry for development. The skills acquired at the Workshop would go a long way in strengthening the capability of staff to discharge their duties more efficiently. Having acknowledged the importance of training, the authorities should not relent in their effort to train and re-train staff in order to boost their productivity. It behoves benefiting staff to utilize the skills acquired to improve productivity that would correspondingly enhance the global ranking of the University. As noted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka at the Opening Ceremony, no organization can grow and achieve its objectives without training and re-

training of its staff.

It is in this light that the administration's efforts in staff training and development should be applauded, even as the Vice-Chancellor has pledged Management's commitment to providing more training opportunities, locally, nationally and internationally. It is imperative to point out that there is no

to children and adults.

Calling on other student organizations to emulate the humanitarian example of PUMDSA, Briggs-Otto, who is the representative of the CHS in the interim Student Union Executive Committee, appealed to public-spirited individuals and organizations to support PUMDSA in its bid to extend its medical outreach to other relief camps, where drugs and medical services are needed.

He disclosed that Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Rivers State branch had in partnership with PUMDSA carried out medical outreach to Abua/Odual Local Government Area, adding that plans are on by the Association to replicate the medical outreach in relief camps in Ogbia/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. The student leader, however, cited financial handicap as a major challenge standing between PUMDSA and its plan to provide medical aids to other flood victims in the State.

The medical team, *UNIPORT Weekly* gathered, was received by His Royal Highness, Eze Peter Ihua-Maduanyi, Eze Igbo Ehuda III, other chiefs and the Medical Officer in charge of the Floods in Ahoada-East LGA, all of who commended their efforts towards easing the pains of the displaced persons.

It would be recalled the authorities of the University of Port Harcourt distributed 1000 pieces of mattress to flood victims in Rivers and Bayelsa States a fortnight ago. Meanwhile efforts are being made by the University to acquire other relief materials including food items and toiletries for onward distribution to flood victims in the two States.



V-C, Prof. Ajenka (arrowed) flanked by Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim (left) Workshop Facilitator, Mr. Segun Ogunkola (right) and participants at the Workshop on Critical Thinking

STOP PRESS

V-C'S RELIEF APPEAL

The calamity of the flood disaster is taking a toll on our people. It is a state of emergency we all must rise up to.

Let us offer our hands and hearts of love to the suffering victims. Let us share in the suffering of others.

Like the Good Samaritan and the widow who offered her mite, let us be good Nigerians and indeed good human beings and offer our Uniport mite.

Direct all donations to the Director, Health Services Department.

FREE PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING

In view of the rising cases of morbidity and mortality from prostate cancer, all male members of the University within the ages of 40 years and above have been advised to avail themselves of the free screening opportunity offered at the Department of Chemical Pathology, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) on Wednesdays and Fridays.

UNIPORT Turns Out 32 Pharmacists At Maiden Induction



Some of the newly inducted Pharmacists taking the Oath

By Otikor Samuel

A total of 32 pioneer Pharmacists in the University of Port Harcourt have been inducted into the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) at the maiden Induction Ceremony, which held at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Tuesday. The newly qualified Pharmacists comprising 11 graduates from the First Set and 21 in the Second were said to have met stringent conditions laid out by the regulatory body as prerequisite for entry into the profession in Nigeria.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who expressed joy for the triple achievements of not only inducting the pioneer students, but also securing provisional accreditations of the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria and National Universities Commission (NUC), recalled the tumultuous experience of the early years in the growth of the Faculty, expressing hope that the collaboration between the Faculty and Industry would expose graduates of the University to international best

practices in the field.

"The effort made in the acquisition of teaching and research facilities has placed the Faculty as one of the best in the country. I am particularly glad to announce that the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences has also established a Drug Information Centre (DIC) that has linkages with the United Kingdom Medicine Information Centre (UKMIC), Drug Information Centre, Kenya; Uppsalla Monitoring Centre, Sweden; World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre on Pharmaceutical Policy and Access to Medicines, Utrecht, Netherland and World Health Organisation Pharmacovigilance Centre in Ghana, among others", the Vice-Chancellor said.

"We are gathered here to induct successful graduands, who have met all the stringent conditions specified by Senate of this University for the award of the Bachelor of Pharmacy Degree (B. Pharm), and Provisional Membership of the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (MPCN). We are also here to bid them farewell after a successful sojourn as students of Unique UNIPORT",

Professor Ajienka said, praising the pioneer Dean, Professor Oleka Udeala, Professor Vincent Idemiyor, members of Academic and Advisory boards, teaching and non-teaching staff of the Faculty, as well as parents and public-spirited individuals for contributing towards the growth of the emergent Faculty. He charged the Pharmacists to be worthy ambassadors of the University in their chosen career.

In her remarks, Acting Registrar of PCN, Mrs Gloria Abumere, who congratulated the 32 newly inducted Pharmacists, informed them that they would be required to undergo a 12-month Internship training to expose them to practical knowledge to complement the theories learnt during their academic programme.

"As you take the Pharmacists Oath today, you are beginning a journey that will lead you to great heights in your life. The brighter you shine, the larger your circle of influence in your chosen area of practice. Your potentials are unlimited so also must be your goals and aspirations. There is need to keep up to date in current international best practices as highly skilled professionals" the Acting Registrar, who was represented by Dr Paul Gar advised.

"Pharmacists have the obligation in ensuring the rational use of medicines and health commodities, as well as helping patients achieve and maintain good health by optimizing the use of prescribed medication. The Pharmacist is also the professional trained to communicate risks and benefits of drug therapy to both the healthcare providers and the lay public", Mrs Abumere pointed out, adding that pharmaceutical care, which is one of the focal areas of Pharmacists, is the responsible provision of drug therapy for the purpose of achieving definite and optimal outcomes that would improve or maintain a patient's quality of life.

Earlier in his address, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Udeala, who charged the inductees to adhere strictly to ethical provisions of regulatory agencies, said that total compliance to ethical practice would be part of the responsibilities they owe the University as good ambassadors, reminding them that Pharmacists, who indulge in unethical practices, risk being sanctioned.

Highpoints of the Maiden Induction Ceremony were presentation of Provisional Certificate to the inductees, award of prizes to the Best Graduating Student and Valedictorian, Urueme Adah and BGS for Second Batch, Janet Okoro.

STOP PRESS

MDCN APPROVES CHS RE-ACCREDITATION

The Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), has conveyed its approval for the re-accreditation of College of Health Sciences following report by its team during an accreditation visit on 31st August, 2012. The Council, however, urged the University to provide some basic equipment to enable MDCN increase admission quota for the College.

AWARD OF FELLOWSHIP

Professor Godwin Igwe, Centre for Gas, Refining & Petrochemicals, Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), elected *Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers* for his numerous contribution to the development of the Society. The election was ratified at the Institute's Council meeting on 13th October, 2011. The formal investiture, according to Executive Secretary of the Institute, Engr E. E. Ubom, would take place this Saturday at Nicon Luxury Hotel, Abuja.

CONFERENCE ON ADVANCES IN OPTIMIZATION METHODS

Applications are invited from intending participants to a Conference on *Advances in Optimization Methods* scheduled for Wednesday, 14th to Friday, 16th November, 2012 at Concord Hotel, Owerri, Imo State. With sub-themes as "Optimum Experimental Design, Mathematical Programming, Modelling and Simulation and Industrial Applications" the Conference is to be jointly organized by the Department of Statistics, Imo State University and Optimization Group. Lead Papers are expected to be presented by former Minister of Education, Dr Aja Nwachukwu, Emeritus Professor Polycarp Chigbu and Professor Ike Onukogu.

Contact: Professor Ethelbert Nduka, DV-C (Admin)
UNIPORT/Chairman Organizing Committee.

UNIPORT Gets \$594,000 Grants For Software InstallationPTDF Oil & Gas Research Grant Too

By Mercy Don-Baridam

Research efforts made by Mr Nwonye Chukwunonso, a Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics has yielded fruits, attracting a \$594,000 grant from SIMIO LLC, developers of SIMIO Computer Simulation software.

A statement signed by Mr Nwonye and made available *UNIPORT Weekly* last Monday, explained that the SIMIO grant provided the University with 300 copies of the SIMIO Academic Enterprise Edition worth US \$594,000 which will be installed in University computers in the various departmental computer laboratories and the Information Communication and Technology Centre (ICTC).

He pointed out that the SIMIO, which breaks down the walls of traditional simulation software, giving users the power to rapidly build accurate 3D animated models and objectively analyze alternatives to make informed decisions faster. According to him, SIMIO is designed as the first and only simulation software to combine the modelling speed of objects with flexibility of processes, adding that it incorporates Optimization (Opt Quest) and Statistical analysis (StaFit) plugins.

"We are fast becoming a world where the use of 3D modelling and simulation is spreading into areas once only thought to be almost impossible. As University of Port Harcourt starts its new academic session, the SIMIO grant will allow us provide our staff and students with state-of-the-art simulation technology," Nwonye said.

He further stated that SIMIO Simulation software can be used in a number of departments, including but not limited to Mathematics, Statistics,



Mr Nwonye

Operations Research, Computer Science, Physics, Mechanical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Production Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Business Administration.

In a related development, Professor Ayoade Kuye of the Department of Chemical Engineering has received an award 2013 Annual Oil and Gas Research Grant of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund. This was conveyed in Memo signed by leader of the research group, Professor Kuye, stating that the award covered the sponsorship of a research titled: "Production of Bio-Oil from Lignocellulosic Biomass", adding that the sponsorship is for two years.

Biodiversity Critical To Human Survival ~Ndukwu



Inaugural Lecturer (arrowed) and Professors before the Lecture

Cont'd from p1

balance necessary for prolonged life on earth. He said that Convention on Biological Diversity had declared that at least 40 per cent of world's economy and 80 per cent of the needs of the poor are derived from biological resources.

"Genetic diversity plays a crucial role in the stability of our ecological system, and what we retrieve from it is priceless. Every species fulfills a role in the earth's biosphere and assures ecological survival. By self-regulation, biodiversity keeps the soil fertile, recycles all nutrients and cleans the air and water," Ndukwu explained, adding that many industrial and medicinal products exist because of biodiversity. "Because of its rich biodiversity, the tropical forest provides us with special medicines that can help overcome diseases. But most importantly, biodiversity provides food for humans," he pointed out.

Highlighting what he termed nature's incredible generosity, the Inaugural Lecturer, who emphasized that nature "not only provide physical, social and economic advantages, but also promotes total spiritual and psychological tranquility," said that "nature inputs and requires our greatest responsibility. We must understand the issues, the behaviour of biodiversity and subsequently collaborate with nature to ensure and insure our future survival."

"Nature hides several of the benefits of biodiversity in deep secrets. Part of our responsibilities is to discover these things and wisely exploit them for our advantages," the Professor of Plant Science and Biotechnology added.

Ndukwu explained that "biodiversity is a critical component of our natural resources; the totality of

all species of plants animals, microorganisms and the ecosystems and ecological processes which drives all natural systems." Citing the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development's definition of Biodiversity, he referred to it as "the variety and variability among the living organisms from all the terrestrial ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part, and that includes the diversity within the species between and of the ecosystem."

According to him, the ecological complexes in which variety of life forms exist are the intricate and interdependent relationships that often occur among existing organisms, including the various processes that are going on continuously in the ecosystem, whether terrestrial or aquatic. "The diverse interconnected food chains and food webs create an ecological balance in nature. The loss of any one or more species may threaten the existing ecological balance of nature leading to a great direct or potential loss to humans," he pointed out.

On his contributions to knowledge, the Inaugural Lecturer disclosed that he had in collaboration with other colleagues, established chromosome numbers and characterization in some species of plants such as *Crassocephalum bialae* and *Curcubita moschata*. This, he said, is in addition to investigating the likely impacts of dredge spoils on the ecosystems of the mangrove of the Niger Delta.

Citing other studies he carried out in various areas including, phytoextraction and phytoremediation, phytomedicine and medicinal value, rehabilitation of impacted mangrove species, Ndukwu disclosed that knowledge from such studies have been useful in sustainable management and conservation of the mangrove, especially, the rehabilitation of petroleum-related impacts. "We have also

documented wide range of medicinal plants for various geopolitical zones of Nigeria as part of the efforts at embedding this sector in our healthcare delivery system," he said.

"We have been involved in the re-vegetation and remediation of thousands of hectares and kilometers of sites impacted by oil and gas exploration and exploitation in various locations across the Niger Delta. We have also trained many young people in the region on essential steps for raising mangrove seedlings and transplanting onto impacted sites for restoration," Ndukwu added.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who observed that the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology had the highest number of professors in the University, said that the 96th Inaugural Lecture was the 6th to come from the Lecturers on ground and the 8th to come from the Department since inception.

Speaking through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, the Vice-Chancellor, who described the Inaugural Lecturer as a sound scientist, also commended Professor Bosa Okoli for producing a very sound academic in person of Professor Ndukwu, whom supervised right from his undergraduate days to his doctoral dissertation.

Congratulating the Inaugural Lecturer, for a well delivered Lecture, he said: "one thing that I find interesting about Professor Ndukwu is when he said that he personally chose to study Botany, not because he failed to secure admission elsewhere. I have come to realize that success is an integer of attitude, ability and aptitude and he integrated these three qualities," he said, stressing the need for people, who wish to succeed in their career to imbibe those qualities.

V-C Tasks Library Staff On Productivity

By Otiakor Samuel

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, has charged staff of the Donald Ekong Library to make optimal use of opportunities in the Department to improve their capacity to contribute towards the rapid growth of the University. Professor Ajenka gave the charge while declaring open a week-long Workshop on *Information and Knowledge Management for Librarians and System Administrators* at the Governing Council Chambers,

University Park, last Monday.

The Vice-Chancellor, who pointed out that before the advent of internet system, libraries were a major source of reference for research and learning, stressed the need to regularly train staff of the Library on new trends to build their capacity to deliver on their job schedules, restating his commitment to manpower development for intellectual advancement of individuals and society.

"In academics, you either publish or perish and since you are in an academic environment, you need to understand

how the environment works. If you make effective use of the library, you can even come up with publications to add to the body of knowledge" Professor Ajenka said, commending the University Librarian, Dr Obiageli Nwodo for her effort towards digitalizing the Library to operate at optimal capacity.

Also speaking, Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, who restated the importance which the present administration attached to capacity building of staff to ensure quality service delivery, said such effort had manifested through the various training and retraining programmes, advising staff of the Library Department to make judicious use of the training in order to justify the resources which the University invested in their training.

Speaking, the University Librarian, Dr Nwodo, who expressed optimism that the week-long training would impact positively on the staff to deliver quality services to the University, praised Management for approving the training for staff of the Department. She also commended Mr Segun Ogunkola, the Facilitator of the Workshop for what she described as high quality training that imparted new ideas to participants.

In his presentation, a former System Administrator in Federal University of Technology, Akure and an expert in Automation Library, Mr Ogunkola, urged Library staff to regularly seek new knowledge that would assist them to attain high performance in their duties, describing the Library as a strategic place for research and intellectual development.



Registrar, Mrs Nnodim (standing) V-C, Prof Ajenka, Resource Person, Mr Ogunkola (right), University Librarian, Dr Nwodo, Prof Tony Arinze and participants at the Opening Ceremony.

GUIDE POST

SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

Professor Oamen Abumere, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, granted *Sabbatical Leave* to Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State, effective 1st October, 2012 to 1st September, 2013.

Professor Alice Nte, Department of Paediatrics & Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, granted *Sabbatical Leave* to Shell Petroleum Development Company Nigeria Limited, Port Harcourt, effective 1st November, 2012 to 31st October, 2013.

Dr Sunday Ighovie, granted *Sabbatical Appointment* as Reader in the Department of Geography & Environmental Management, effective on assumption of duty.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr Ikechukwu Asiegbu, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 3rd September, 2003.

Dr Fyneface Akani, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 25th October, 2007.

Dr Samuel Nnamdi, Department of Finance and Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 11th November, 2007.

Dr Uwaoma Ironkwe, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 25th August, 2010.

Mrs Chinenye Alikor, Library Department, confirmed *Library Attendant*, effective 1st February, 2006.

Mr David Amadi, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Gd III (Plant Operator)*, effective 11th March, 2010.

Mr Chigemezu Ijeoma, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Gd III (Electrician)*, effective 3rd May, 2010.

Mr Franklin Okogbule, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Gd III (Plumber)*, effective 20th May, 2010.

Mr Nenubari Uebari, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Gd III (Electrician)*, effective 20th May, 2010.

Mr Irona Ndubuisi, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Gd III (Welder)*, effective 20th May, 2010.

Mr Bright Agi, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Gd III (Plumber)*, effective 20th May, 2010.

PROMOTION

Mr David Godwin, Vice-Chancellor's Office, promoted *Chief Driver*, effective 1st October, 2011.

ASSUMPTION OF DUTY

Professor Tokuibye Sokari, Institute of Niger Delta Studies, Faculty of Humanities, assumed *Contract Appointment*, effective 21st May, 2012 to 20th May, 2013.

Dr Okorigwe Sixtus, Department of Geography & Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, assumed duty as *Adjunct Staff*, effective 4th October, 2012.

Dr Moses Nwagbara, Department of Geography & Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, assumed duty as *Adjunct Staff*, effective 4th October, 2012.

STUDY LEAVE

Miss Ameze Odia, Department of Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted *Study Leave with pay*, effective 1st November, 2012 to 31st October, 2015.

Mrs Mary Udoakang, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Study Leave with pay*, effective February 2013 to March 2015.

SUSPENSION

Berege, Healthy Omoonaloor (U2009/2540271), a student of the Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, *suspended from the University* for failing to appear before the Students Disciplinary Committee to answer alleged cases of impersonation, examination malpractice and obtaining money by false pretence against him. The suspension takes effect from the 2011/2012 academic session.

AMENDED SECOND SEMESTER 2011/2012

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Monday, 12th November, 2012-Friday, 16th November, 2012

Revision

Monday, 19th November, 2012-Friday, 7th December, 2012

Second Semester Examinations

Wednesday, 9th January, 2013

Extra-ordinary Meeting of Senate to consider Second Semester 2011/2012 Results

Monday, 10th December, 2012-Friday, 4th January, 2013

2011/2012 Long Vacation (Regular Students)

ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2012/2013 SESSION FOR REGULAR AND SANDWICH PROGRAMMES

FIRST SEMESTER

Monday, 29th October, 2012 - Friday, 30th November, 2012

Pre-resumption Registration (On-line) for Fresh Students

Sunday, 2nd December, 2012 - Friday, 7th December, 2012

(i) Fresh Students Arrive (3rd December, 2012)

(ii) Fresh Students Resume (contact with Student Affairs)

(iii) Returning Students Arrive (14th January, 2013)

(iv) Registration of Fresh Students (10th December, 2012-25th January, 2013)

(Registry/College/Faculties etc.)

(v) Interactive session with Fresh Students

(vi) Registration of Returning Students (7th January, 2013-25th January, 2013)

(vii) Orientation for Fresh Students (14th February, 2013)

Monday, 28th January, 2013 - Friday, 10th May, 2013

(i) Lectures begin for Fresh Students (21st January, 2013)

(ii) Lectures begin for Returning Students (28th January, 2013)

(iii) Late Registration for All Students (End of Registration): 21st Jan.-15th Feb., 2013

(iv) Convocation Ceremony (4th-9th February, 2013)

(v) Matriculation (5th April, 2013)

(vi) Easter Break (25th March, 2013-1st April, 2013)

(vii) Lectures Resume 2nd April, 2013

(viii) End of Lectures 10th May, 2013

Monday, 13th May, 2013-Friday, 17th May, 2013

Revision

Monday, 20th May, 2013 - Friday, 7th June, 2013

First Semester Examinations

Monday, 10th June, 2013 - Friday, 14th June, 2013

First Semester Break

Wednesday, 26th June, 2013

Extra-ordinary Meeting of Senate to consider First Semester 2012/2013 Results

SECOND SEMESTER 2012/2013 SESSION

Saturday, 6th June, 2013

(i) All Students Arrive

(ii) SIWES (June 2013 - February 2014)

Monday, 10th June, 2013 - Friday, 6th September, 2013

(i) Lectures Begin for All Students (8th July, 2013)

(ii) End of Lectures (6th September, 2013)

Monday 9th September, 2013 - Saturday, 13th September, 2013

Students Union Week: Cultural Activities/Professional Exhibitions

Monday, 16th September, 2013 - Friday, 20th September, 2013

Revision

Monday, 23rd September, 2013 - Friday, 11th October, 2013

Second Semester Examinations

Wednesday, 30th October, 2013

Extra-ordinary Meeting of Senate to consider Second Semester 2012/2013 Results

Monday, 14th October, 2013 - Friday, 1st November, 2013

2012/2013 Long Vacation (Regular students)

2012 SANDWICH PROGRAMME

Monday, 29th July, 2013 - Friday, 2nd August, 2013

(i) Fresh and Returning Students Arrive (29th July, 2013)

(ii) Students Resume (contact with Student Affairs)

(iii) Registration of Fresh and Returning Students

(iv) Orientation for Fresh Students

Monday, 5th August, 2013 - Friday, 27th September, 2013

(i) Lectures Begin for All Students (5th August, 2013)

(ii) End of Lectures (27th September, 2013)

Monday, 30th September, 2013 - Friday, 4th October, 2013

Revision

Monday, 7th October, 2013 - Friday, 11th October, 2013

Examinations for All Sandwich Students

Wednesday, 30th October, 2013

Extra-ordinary meeting of Senate to consider Sandwich Programme 2012 Results

Professor A. I Joe

(D V-C, Academic)

HIV/AIDS ALERT

HIV/AIDS is real. Protect yourself.

Avoid a reckless lifestyle that can

expose you to infection.

10th Anniversary Memorial Lecture of Professor Jaiyeola Kosemani

In recognition of the contributions of late Professor Jaiyeola Kosemani to the growth of the Faculty of Education, the Faculty organised a Lecture in his memory on Tuesday, 30th October, 2012.

Below are highlights of the Lecture as captured by our cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**.



D V-C, (Academic) Prof Igbo Joe presenting Vice-Chancellor's address



Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs, welcoming the Guest Lecturer, Dr Israel Osokoya



Widow of Kosemani, Dr Christiana Kosemani, being received by Emeritus Prof Briggs



Chairman of the Occasion, Emeritus Prof Otonti Nduka



D V-C, (Academic) Prof Igbo Joe



Dr Osokoya, delivering the Lecture



Guest Lecturer, Dr Osokoya handing over copy of the Lecture to representative of the V-C, Prof Joe



Pioneer Dean of Faculty of Education; Emeritus Prof Otonti Nduka, making the Chairman's remarks



Director Nomadic Education Centre, Prof Benjamin Eheazu



Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof Ebi Awotua-Efebo speaking at the Lecture



Former V-C, Delta State University, Abraka, Prof John Enaohwo, (standing) paying tribute to the late Kosemani



Chairman, Kosemani Memorial Lecture Planning Committee, Prof Okorosanya Orubite



Director, Centre for Malaria Research & Phytomedicine, Prof Omotayo Ebong, paying tributes to the late Kosemani



Widow of the late Kosemani, (arrowed) her children, D V-C (Academic) Prof Joe, Guest Lecturer, Dr Osokoya and Senior academics after the Lecture