

UI, UNIPORT, NOSDRA, Others, Team Up To Fight Oil Spill With Kenaf

Strict compliance with relevant policies regulating oil and gas operations to ensure transparency in the implementation of environmental laws was among major recommendations designed to cushion the harmful effects at the maiden Kenaf Workshop hosted by University of Port Harcourt, last week. Also, prompt bioremediation of impacted communities have been advocated as alternative means of cleaning up impacted areas in the Niger Delta region, reports *Otikor Samuel*. *More on pg 3*

Side Bar

91 Doctors and 5 Pioneer Dentists took the Physician's Oath last Friday as part of their Induction Ceremony. Details next week -Editor

UNIPORT Weekly

Vol. 12, No. 2

December 3 - 10, 2012

ISSN: 5696-5759

For Information and Enlightenment

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



IPS To Induct Batch 9 Wednesday

Story on p2



Rivers Govt Hails Sporting Partnership With UNIPORT

Story on p3



UNIPORT, Police, Communities, Team Up On Neighbourhood Security

Story on p4



Wabali Emerges UNIPORT ANUPA Chairman

Story on p5

In view of rising cases of religious crises, especially the incessant violent attacks on Christians by the dreaded *Boko Haram* sect, which had resulted in wanton destruction of lives and property in parts of northern Nigeria, Professor Wellington Wotogbe-Weneka of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies has recommended ways of creating religious harmony to foster national development in the country.

Delivering the 98th Inaugural Lecture titled: *"Religion: Modern Denigrators and Rehabilitators in National Development"*, at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Thursday, Professor Wotogbe-Weneka, stressed the need for various religious groups to establish mutual

By Humphrey Ogu

understanding, stating that "Religious leaders should intensify efforts in making their followers appreciate and promote the positive elements of all Religions, while discouraging the negative elements.

"At the back of every religious quest is the promotion of peace and tolerance, justice, forgiveness, good neighbourliness, respect for human life, mutual understanding, and respect for one another," he observed, adding that "Christians and Muslims in Nigeria should realize that apart from the fact that every Nigerian is a citizen of one nation, every person is also a child of God, no matter his or her

Cont'd on p6

98th Inaugural Wotogbe-Weneka Outlines Role Of Religion In National Dev



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

Gains Of Host Communities' Youth Empowerment Scheme



Participants during one of the training sessions

By Obinna Nwodin

Recently, authorities of the University organized a 4-day training programme for women and youths of host communities on agro-business ventures. The move was in line with the vision of the Professor Joseph Ajenka-led administration on empowerment of people in the areas; as well as improvement in their standard of living people. Participants came from the various host communities of the University, who desired to acquire requisite skills aimed at improving their economic fortunes, and also enable them contribute to the economic growth of the area. The training, which was the first phase of the programme, commenced with an agro-business workshop, at which participants were trained on

various skills in poultry, farming, fisheries, horticulture and vegetable production. It also involved both practical and theoretical knowledge in the operational modalities in the sector.

No doubt, the establishment of the University in its current site has made positive impact on the people of these host communities. Apart from the significant manpower development which the University has undoubtedly made in the host communities, the presence of the University has also created opportunities for youths from these host communities to gain admission into various programmes. The increase in economic activities as a result of the influx of people into the host communities is another gain that they continue to enjoy.

During the opening ceremony of the workshop, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, assured that the major objective of the training was to take the relationship between the University and its host

communities to a higher level. There is no reason why the host communities should not benefit maximally from their relationship with the Institution. The just-concluded training is another indication of the robust symbiotic relationship between the University and its host communities. All over the world, universities and their host communities exist and cooperate to gain mutual benefits. Professor Ajenka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, said that the training was the beginning of a series of collaborations between the University and its host communities, which would impact greatly on the lives of the people, promising a follow up exercise to evaluate the application of knowledge gained from the training exercise.

Early in the life of the Ajenka-led administration, the Vice-Chancellor did not hide the intention of his administration to make a difference in the lives of people in the host communities. This culminated in the setting up of a Committee chaired by Professor Blessing Didia to liaise with the host communities to fashion out ways of mobilizing the expertise in the University to improve on the economic well-being of the people. Today, we have this initiative facilitated by the Director of Special Duties Unit in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Matthew Wegwu.

According to Professor Wegwu, the first phase of the training programme would be followed by subsequent training in such areas as computer training, fabrication, glassblowing, welding, as well as other small-scale enterprises that would enable beneficiaries fend for themselves on graduation.

This initiative aimed at boosting the relationship between the University and its host communities is coming at a time when the Institution is still recovering from the shock of the gruesome murder of four students at Omuokiri, one of the host communities of the University. It is hoped that the recently-concluded training programme would go a long way in boosting the University-host communities' relationship, which would in turn pave way for improved service delivery and economic well-being for indigenes and residents of affected communities.

IPS To Induct Batch 9 Wednesday

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

All is now set for the induction of the 9th Batch of the Master of Science (M.Sc) Petroleum Engineering and Project Development and 4th Batch of the Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) in Petroleum Engineering graduating sets of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), University of Port Harcourt this Wednesday at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park.

Highpoint of the ceremony which kicked-off with a month-long career fair is a lecture titled: "Issues on Oil and Gas Industry in Nigeria", to be delivered by the Group Managing Director (GMD) of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Engineer Andrew Yakubu. A Novelty football match, as well as technical/art exhibitions, have also been lined up as part of activities that would culminate in the induction proper.

Briefing UNIPORT Weekly last Tuesday, Director of the Institute, Professor Mike Onyekonwu, said: "This year's induction would also feature conferment of Fellowship on outstanding individuals, who have distinguished themselves and contributed to the growth of Nigeria's oil and gas industry. They are the GMD, NNPC, Engineer Andrew Yakubu, Staff of IFF School, Paris, France, Bruno Darde and Director, Human Resources and Corporate Affairs, TEPNG, Mrs Edith Ofili.

"Others to be honoured for their meritorious services to the Institute include, Chairman, Petroleum Engineering and Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN), Emeka Ene, Managing Director, BG Technical Limited, Engineer Geoff Onuoha, Executive Director, Human Resources, btl, Mr Udom Inoye, General OML Upgrade Total E&P, Kayode Akiole, Accountant Clement Ehiozo and active Officer IPS, Ms Grace Professor Onyekonwu said, that Mr Ewelike Alaekwe and Sunday Nsidihe, emerged as best graduating students in the M.Sc and P.G.D programmes, respectively.



Prof Onyekonwu

STUDENT WORLD

Graduate Studies In UNIPORT Is Business-like, Nwankwo

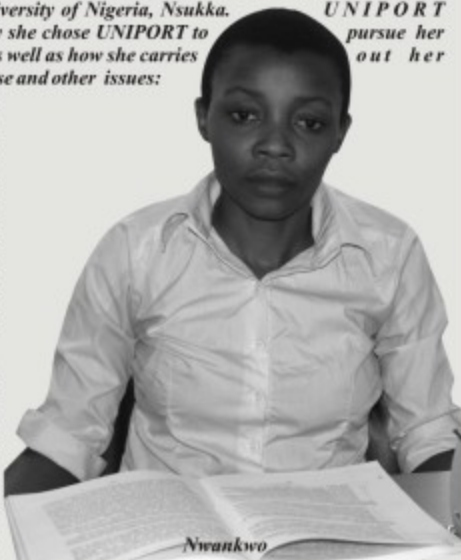
Chinemerem Nwankwo, is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political and Administrative Studies. She had her first and second degrees from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Weekly caught up with her and engaged her on why she chose UNIPORT to pursue her doctoral degree, her experiences in the Institution, as well as how she carries out her programme. She spoke to OBINNANWODIM on these and other issues:

After so many years at Nsukka, Chinemerem Nwankwo she decides to make a change for a different study environment. She explains thus: "I was looking for a University where I would really work hard and someone told me that UNIPORT is one of the toughest schools around, and that was why I opted for it. What I saw confirmed what I was told. I had to write both written and oral examinations before I was admitted. I confirmed how serious the programme is". She believes that the standard of the programme is high, while Lecturers are men and women of integrity, disciplined and easy-going in the line of duty.

On her study habit, she said that due to the epileptic nature of power supply, she does most of her work that require the use of computer at night, while she reads her books in the day. "I barely use the Library because, the few times I was there, I could not find most of the texts I needed and so I prefer to stay in my room and read. I complement this situation with my being member of Centre for American Studies at the University of Nigeria. I go to Nsukka to source current materials and come back to UNIPORT to continue my work. She also asserts that Internet access is poor and affects academic work, especially at the hostel. With this situation, she relies on the Internet to complement her research work. On how she spends her leisure, she says, "I do not really go out. In the evenings, I go to watch football in the field. At weekends, I stay at the hostel common room to watch the Premiership, because I am a football lover. When I get tired, I play computer games".

There you go...the next time you are looking for a serious-minded doctoral candidate with an eye for quality research and structured management, look no further than Nwankwo; a businesslike lady in a Businesslike Entrepreneurial University.



Nwankwo

EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof Joseph Ajenka	- Publisher	
Dr Ene Ekeke	- Editorial Chair	
Austen Sado	- Editorial Adviser	
Williams Wodi	- Editor	
Obinna Nwodim	- Associate Editor	
Correspondents	Secretariat	Photography
Mercy Don-Bandam	Gladys Amadi (Mrs)	Headman Ali
Okor Samuel	Graphics	Mitchell Ekiyor
Humphrey Ogu	Chika King-James (Mrs)	
Ethel Timi-Johnson		

Call: 08033093371

Cont'd from p1

UI, UNIPORT, NOSDRA, Others, Team Up To Fight Oil Spill With Kenaf



Participants at the two-day Workshop

This observation was part of submissions made at a two-day Stakeholders' Workshop organized by the United States Alumni Engagement Innovation Team with the theme: "Clean the Spills: Going Green in the Niger Delta" at the International Students' Centre.

Presenting the Keynote Address at the Workshop jointly organized with the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), Institute of Agricultural Research and Training, Ibadan, the University of Ibadan and the Department of Crop and Soil Science of University of Port Harcourt, Director, Oil Field Assessment Department of NOSDRA Mr Idris Musa, who commended the organizers for proffering indigenous solutions to countering oil spills in the Niger delta, advocated rapid socio-economic development of host communities to gain their confidence and restore their natural environment.

The Keynote Speaker, who identified equipment failure, accidental discharge, human error, wellhead blowout, vandalism, illegal refining and bunkering, as major causes of oil spills in the Niger Delta, lamented the devastating impact of spills in the disruption of the fragile ecosystem, calling for transparency and due process to keep the environment safe for inhabitants of the region.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, urged participants to avail themselves of the opportunity

provided by the Workshop to produce, conserve and utilize Kenaf for the cleaning of oil spills in affected areas. Professor Ajienka, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, lauded organizers of the Workshop for proffering practical solutions to the environmental problems bedeviling the region.

"This Workshop fits into the mission of the United States Alumni Engagement Innovation Team to develop functional sustainable strategies that would drive research and innovation in the area of using local plants with no threat to the environment for the cleaning up of oil spills", the Vice-Chancellor said, expressing hope that the Workshop would provide participants with better knowledge on how to develop community-integrated and stakeholder-based strategies for cleaning of polluted sites, using Kenaf.

Earlier in her address, Leader of the 2011 Alumni Engagement Innovation Team, Dr Morufat Balogun, who recalled that the grant for the project was won from a competitive proposal from over 600 interest groups, disclosed that the Team which initially comprised 10 Alumni now has 41 members.

"We have conserved more than 50 Nigerian collections of Kenaf, and will at this Workshop bring together

stakeholders in Kenaf production/utilization, demonstrate the use of Kenaf in cleaning oil spills and brainstorm on how to develop community-integrated, stakeholder-based strategy for cleaning the polluted environment of the Niger Delta, using Kenaf", Dr Balogun said, calling for the use of local plants such as Kenaf to facilitate the process without harming the fragile ecosystem of the Niger Delta.

Minister of Health, Professor Onyebuchi Chukwu, represented by Director, Chemicals & Climate Change, Department of Public Health in the Federal Ministry of Health, Mr Chris Ojembe, who led some Chief Medical Directors; Dr Olajumoke Fayinminnu, who stood in for the DV-C (Academic) of University of Ibadan, Director, Institute of Agricultural Research and Training, Ibadan, Professor Benjamin Ogunbodede and Director-General of NOSDRA, Sir Peter Idabor, presented goodwill messages at the occasion.

Participants also included representatives from the Rivers State Ministry of Environment, Departments of Crop and Soil Science, Crop Protection & Environmental Biology and related fields from the University. The Team later visited some oil spill impacted sites in the Ogoni axis of Rivers State.

Rivers Govt Hails Sporting Partnership With UNIPORT

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Rivers State Government last Friday commended authorities of the University of Port Harcourt on the provision of excellent sporting facilities that have enabled the Institution win successive sporting fiestas at both the Nigerian Universities Games Association (NUGA) and West African Universities Games (WAUG) levels, consecutively. The University was also commended for its excellent camping facilities and hostel accommodation that enabled *Team Rivers* athletes to prepare adequately ahead of the National Sports Festival currently going on in Lagos State.

Chairman, *Team Rivers* Participation Committee and Deputy Governor, Engineer Tele Ikuru, who made the commendation at an exit meeting of the contingent

from the University, applauded the authorities for hosting the athletes and allowing them use of sporting facilities for the duration of the training. "UNIPORT had always supported the efforts of the State Government in uplifting sports. Our success story would be incomplete without you", Ikuru said, urging the athletes to justify the resources invested in their training by winning a resounding victory at the National Sports Festival in Lagos.

"You have spent several months in camp here at the University preparing for the sports festival. Ensure that you exhibit a high level of discipline unknown in the history of Nigerian sports", the Deputy Governor advised the Team, pleading with them to conquer with a convincing gap that would make the nation stand still for the State at the end of the games.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who remarked that the University had consistently won the Nigerian Universities Games (NUGA) and West African Universities Games (WAUG), described the University as a Centre of Excellence in sports. The Vice-Chancellor, who expressed delight over the

dedication and high level of preparedness of the Team, congratulated the Rivers State Government for investing heavily in sports and youth development.

Member of *Team Rivers* Participation Committee, Sir Daobi Harry, lauded the University for providing training sites for the athletes. "We believe that the winning spirit of the University will follow us to the sports festival in Lagos".

Speaking on behalf of the athletes, Miss Mimi Siri, commended the Rivers State Government and the University for the Partnership and use of facilities, promising that the athletes would perform better than they did at the last sports festival hosted by the State.

Team Rivers contingent departed the University last Saturday for Lagos State ahead of the opening ceremony of the 2012 National Sports Festival tagged: *Eko 2012*. Commissioner of Sports, Honorable Fred Igwe and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Sports, Mrs Tade Adamu, were amongst top Government officials who accompanied the Deputy Governor on the visit.

Also present were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim and Director of Sports, Dr Ken Anugweje, amongst other top university functionaries.



R-L: D V-C, (R&D), Prof Willie-Abbey, Permanent Secretary, R/S Min of Sports, Tade Adamu, V-C, Prof Ajienka, Dep Gov of R/S, Engr Tele Ikuru, Commissioner of Sports, Mr Fred Igwe and others

UNIPORT, Police, Communities, Collaborate On Neighbourhood Security



CSO, Lt Col Isiguzo (right) consulting with a staff of the Security Unit, DPO, Choba, Mr Ibezim (standing) and PSO, Mr John Ogbonnaya

By Mercy Don-Baridam

Arrangements are underway to establish a working committee to drive a neighbourhood security partnership aimed at safeguarding lives and property of staff and students in the University's host communities. The UNIPORT/Neighbourhood Security Committee which is aimed at forestalling a recurrence of the cruel killing of four students at Omuokiri, Aluu, would meet on monthly basis to review the security situation in and around the University. This was contained in a communiqué dated 22nd November, 2012 issued by the Chief Security

Officer Lt. Col. Reginald Isiguzo (rtd), stating that "communities that have vigilantes should ensure that they are properly registered, while students arrested for minor infringements or involving in criminal acts should be handed over to the CSO for further action, while funding of the UNIPORT/Neighbourhood Security Committee would be the responsibility of the University", the communiqué said.

The communiqué further stated that major landlords in the neighbourhood communities should be contacted to financially support the initiative and called on the Rivers State Commissioner of Police to establish a Divisional

threats.

Also speaking, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) Choba, Mr. Joseph Ibezim, called for cooperation from all stakeholders, promising to work hand-in-hand with the University Management and host communities to ensure peaceful co-existence. Ibezim decried poor transportation system and bad road network, wrong attitude to issues and delayed information from victims of crime as some of the challenges facing the Police in the discharge of their duties.

It would be recalled that the first meeting was held with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka and other Principal Officers of the University last month.

Commonwealth Scholar, Bolaji Babatunde, has won an International Foundation for Science (IFS) grant worth \$12,000 for investigation of pollution trends in the Niger Delta. Babatunde, who is also Technical Assistant to the National Coordinator of the Centre for Marine Pollution Monitoring and Seafood Safety, University of Port Harcourt, said that the grant would enable the Centre investigate the radioactivity content of surface water sediment and seafood in the Bonny River.

According to him, the essence of the project is determination of the effective radiological dose due to consumption of sea food in the Niger Delta, adding that the overall goal is to ascertain seafood safety in the region and evaluate public health issues associated with consumption of seafood. Babatunde said that the grant is for the purchase of minor equipment such as 6 Point Hot Plate with Magnetic Stirrer, Analytical Balance with a sensitivity of 0.00001g, as well as consumables such as acids for digestion of samples. He disclosed that the radio nuclide responsible for cancer include radim-226, lad-210, polonium-210, amongst others, adding that they have been considered the most toxic natural occurring radio active elements in the environment.

Dr Babatunde, who said that he was introduced to IFS during his stay in the UK, as a Commonwealth scholar working on completion of on-going project in the Niger Delta, said that "We have succeeded in

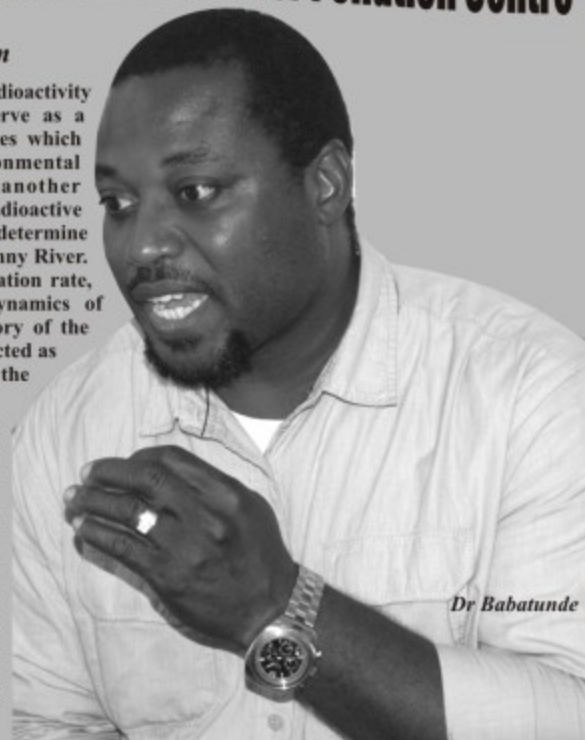
Commonwealth Scholar Wins Grant For Pollution Centre

By Obinna Nwodin

developing the baseline data for radioactivity in the Bonny River. This can serve as a template to measure future changes which may be associated with environmental perturbation", adding that "another objective is to use the result of radioactive analysis in nuclear techniques to determine biogeochemical processes in the Bonny River. He said that this include sedimentation rate, primary productivity and the dynamics of contaminants. Thus pollution history of the entire Niger Delta can be reconstructed as far back as one hundred years, using the model.

Babatunde advised his colleagues to devote quality time to research to attract grant opportunities for those with serious research proposals.

The Centre which was established as a result of the technical collaboration of the Federal Ministry of Environment and the International Atomic Energy Agency is expected to develop human capacity in the use of nuclear techniques in pollution monitoring, with Professor Francis Sikoki as National Co-ordinator.



Dr Babatunde



Prof Ogundipe

Ogundipe Joins NLNG Literary Prize Judges

By Humphrey Ogu

Foremost Literary Critic and Writer, Professor Omolara Ogundipe of the Department of English Studies, has joined the distinguished panel of judges for the 2013 edition of the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) Prize for Literature. The Panel will focus on the poetry genre next year.

Ogundipe, whose teaching experience spanned various aspects of Literature, including English Studies, Comparative Literature, Writing, Gender and Cultural Studies in Universities across the world, disclosed this to *UNIPOINT Weekly*, last Tuesday.

The Feminist Critic, who propounded the theory of STIWANISM—Social Transformation in Africa Including Women, expressed delight on her appointment as a judge of the prestigious literary competition, describing it as an honour and privilege that would afford her an opportunity to re-enter into the literary and cultural life of Nigeria.

On her assessment of creative writing in the country, Professor Ogundipe observed that many new writers are emerging with quality works, expressing delight that the younger generation of Nigerian writers is doing very well. This, she said, is in addition to the contributions of Diasporan writers of Nigerian stock, who had won prizes.

NLNG Literary Prize, one of the most prestigious literary competitions in Africa with \$100,000 prize money, is an annual contest introduced in 2005, with each year dedicated to a specific genre. Among the genres covered by the prize, include prose-fiction, children literature, drama and poetry. The 2012 edition of the Prize was won by Chika Unigwe. It would be recalled that the Department of English Studies has been associated with the best coterie of literary scholars and critics, including Professors Charles Nnolim, Chidi Maduka, Helen Chukwuma, Chidi Ikonne and a host of others. Ogundipe is the latest literary icon to join the Department, which also parades budding scholars of note.

Meanwhile, Professor Ogundipe has described the University of Port Harcourt as an institution with an array of Professors, who are intellectually active, citing regular Inaugural Lectures held fortnightly to buttress her case.

Visiting Scholar Lauds UNIPOINT, WAHO, Orisakwe, On Research

By Mercy Don-Baridam

Visiting Scholar, Dr Moustapha Ouedraogo, has praised the University Management for receiving him and partnering his University. He expressed gratitude to his host University for the warm reception he received from the University, Faculty of Pharmacy and also the West Africa Health Organization (WAHO) for funding his trip.

Dr Ouedraogo who made the remark while exchanging views with *UNIPOINT Weekly* last Monday, mentioned Professor Ebere Orisakwe as the first person he contacted while looking for a host Laboratory. "When I was looking for a host laboratory, I found the name of

from what is done in his University and country among others. He noted that in his country, the labs are funded by government and embassies, explaining that the topics treated and the laboratories are different from theirs.

He further disclosed that there was a Faculty-wide Seminar, where academic staff and technical staff were in attendance and the topic of the Seminar was "Omics Methods for assessing genotoxicity of Herbal Medicine". I have also worked with Professor Orisakwe's PhD student, who had generated a lot of data; I assisted in helping to interpret the data and also taught her how to



Visiting Scholar, Dr Ouedraogo (left) and Prof Orisakwe

Professor Orisakwe; I went further to see the kind of work he had done and discovered he had done many works in the area of toxicology, so I contacted him and he accepted to work with me."

The Scholar disclosed that the partnership is the beginning of collaboration and interaction between the two Universities and laboratories in West Africa.

On his area of research, He said his interest is on Environmental pollution and the toxicological assessment of plants. "I am into partnership with Professor Orisakwe and our work is titled, "Modern Environmental Health Hazards, A comparative systematic review of Nigeria and Burkina Faso".

On new findings in the University, Dr Ouedraogo, who doubles as a Pharmacist revealed that during his stay in the University, he learnt that things are done differently

use the statistical software to analyze data", he disclosed. In his contribution, Professor Orisakwe said a lot of work is currently being done by him and other scholars, as plans are underway to produce a joint Journal publication on the systematic review of the project in collaboration with Dr Ouedraogo.

He stressed the need to educate people on the dangers of environmental hazards such as lead and cadmium, which are common toxicants in Nigeria, while arsenic and mercury are common toxicants in Burkina Faso.

Professor Orisakwe further disclosed that one of his collaborators Professor Judith Zelliof will be visiting his Laboratory in the University in February 2013, expressing gratitude to Management of the University for approving her visit which he hoped would be of mutual benefit to both institutions.

Wabali Emerges UNIPOINT ANUPA Chairman

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Following his election as Chairman of the University of Port Harcourt branch of the Association of Nigerian Universities Professional Administrators (ANUPA), Director, Personnel Affairs, Mr Roland Wabali, has disclosed plans to reawaken the Association to make it the envy of others, while lifting it to greater heights.

Speaking with *UNIPOINT Weekly* last Wednesday, Wabali promised to make the branch relevant at the national level. "We will create ample awareness for this branch at the national level and also work closely with our colleagues in other universities to cross-fertilize ideas and knowledge on how to move the university system forward", he said.

On service delivery, the Chairman assured members of regular training programmes, describing human resource as the greatest asset of any establishment. "A trained workforce functions optimally, so members should expect regular training programmes that would equip them to become efficient and effective administrators, who would contribute positively to the development of the University", he stressed.

Others elected include: Vice-Chairman, Mrs Agatha Ataga, Secretary, Mr Kelsey Makele, Assistant Secretary, Mr Promise Adonee, Treasurer, Mrs Florence



Mr Wabali

Iyagba, Financial Secretary, Mrs Elizabeth Ndiokho, Public Relations Officer, Mr Obinna Nwodin, Training Officer, Mrs Bridget Nzimiro, Legal Adviser, Mr Eric Aboneni, Ex-Officio Member, Mr David Amadi.

Cont'd from p1

Wotogbe-Wenka Outlines Role Of Religion In Nation Building



Inaugural Lecturer Prof Wotogbe-Wenka (arrowed), some Professors and Principal Officers before the Lecture

religious inclinations.

"The various killings of fellow human beings going on in the name of religion like the one perpetrated by the *Boko Haram* sect, killing for traditional religious rituals and all sorts of blood spilling, arising from irrational fanaticism characteristic of various religions being practised in Nigeria should be stopped, because there is nothing religious about them," the Inaugural Lecturer noted, calling on the Federal Government to establish a regulatory agency to check abuse of constitutional provisions on religious practices in the country.

Describing religion as "the recognition on the part of man of a controlling superhuman power entitled to one's obedience and reverence," Wotogbe-Wenka, who explained that "classical denigrators of Religion are those who see Religion as a useless phenomenon that has nothing to offer man and the world and as such, should be eliminated from the face of the earth," citing Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud among the classical denigrators of Religion.

Wotogbe-Wenka, who noted that Religious Studies is not the same as theology, lamented that "modern denigrators still persist because the religious practitioners have regrettably practised Religion, especially in our Nigerian society in ways that betray the essential ethos of what Religions stand for in terms of national development."

The modern rehabilitators of Religion, according to him, are people who are not discouraged by the activities of those 'religious people', who have painted Religion in bad light by their proven activities, adding that "they are

active participants in religious affairs, either as members of one religious group or the other or as religious leaders in their own religious tradition from which category one can have all those we call sacred specialists such as priests, imam and gurus, who perform some basic sacerdotal functions, as well as serve as intermediaries between the worshippers and their objects of worship."

Pointing out that "the modern rehabilitators of Religion see Religion as germane to spiritual, political and social life of any society," Wotogbe-Wenka, who cited Ademolahun, stated that "Religion can serve as a springboard for the inculcation and improvement of ethical values which are fundamental to political development, productivity and nation-building".

Recounting various religious crises that have culminated in loss of lives and property in the country over the years, the Professor of African and Comparative Religion, said that "...recent onslaught has become regular occurrences in most states in the northern parts of Nigeria with a preponderance of Muslim population." He regretted that some unprincipled politicians have used Religion as a pawn to achieve their nefarious aims of fomenting trouble to become relevant among their unwary and ignorant fellow adherents of their own religion.

Wotogbe-Wenka, who noted that "the government's overemphasis on scientific and technological education at the expense of Arts education is not helping matters for the spiritual development of this nation," conceded that while scientific discoveries and invention have helped humanity, the government of the day need to bear in mind that humanity would have balanced development only

when both science and arts subjects like religion combine to make the needed impact in society, insisting that Religion and Science must be understood to compliment each other.

"Efforts should be made to teach Nigerians, especially the youths, the basic knowledge of the two major religions in the country," he advocated, recommending that a course in Inter-Faith Studies should be made compulsory for all students at the tertiary and lower levels of the country's educational system.

"There is now commercialization of Religion with the multiplication of churches, mosques, prayer houses and all sorts of religious strands with equally multiplication of 'fake' men of God, prophets, imams, priests, without corresponding multiplication of morality in the Nigerian society," he bemoaned, stressing that countless religious crusades and revivals go on every day with flamboyant outward displays by some powerful men of God, yet in practical terms, the thinking of the masses of this country is characterized by immorality and irreligiosity.

Commenting on the Lecture, Vice-Chancellor Professor Joseph Ajenka, observed that "Religion is one thing that touches almost everyone in any society." Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, the Vice-Chancellor commended the Inaugural Lecturer for enlightening the audience on how Religion could contribute to national development, stressing that Nigerians needed to return to the true tenets of faith to ensure national unity and societal growth.

"Professor Wotogbe-Wenka has given us a brilliant talk on what religion is all about and also told us who religious denigrators and rehabilitators are in the progression of human history," he said, urging the audience to read the lecture text and learn more about religion and its role in national development.

Stressing the need for society to focus on the positive contributions of religion to human development, the Vice-Chancellor charged the audience to be tolerant and accommodating of other faiths, observing that "religious intolerance is not being perpetrated by Moslems alone it is also found among Christians, who look down on fellow Christians of different denominations in their attempt to position their own brand of worship".

As a way of showing appreciation to the University for investing in them to be useful members of society, pioneer Pharmacists inducted last month, paid a commendation visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka in his office, penultimate Friday.

The new Pharmacists, who were led on the visit by Visiting Scholar to the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science, Professor Vincent Idemiyor, said the visit was aimed at expressing gratitude to the University for years of dedication to service to ensure accreditation of the Faculty by the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) and National Universities Commission (NUC), which culminated in the successful induction of the pioneer batches.

"The journey was not easy from the onset; some of our colleagues dropped out from the programme. About 50 of us started as pioneer students, but only 11 completed the programme, while up to 100 started for the Second Batch but 21 of them graduated", Mr Agozin Goodway, one of the new Pharmacists said, commending Lecturers in the Faculty for imparting knowledge to them.

"We have some of the best set of Lecturers and equipment for the study of Pharmacy in the



V-C, Prof Ajenka (centre) flanked by two of the new Pharmacists

Pioneer Pharmacists Commend V-C, Dean, Others On Induction

By Otikor Samuel

country; we had more Professors than other universities when we started and we are proud of them. Going through the University of Port

Harcourt is a unique opportunity and that was why we came to express our happiness and gratitude to the administration", the pioneer graduands of the Faculty added.

Also speaking, Mr Odoh Jamine, who singled out Professor Idemiyor as one of his mentors, disclosed that he would like to specialize in the discipline to contribute to the development of the branch of medicine, appealing to Management to consolidate on its success story in the Faculty.

The newly-graduated Pharmacists also expressed gratitude to the pioneer Dean and father of the Faculty, Professor Oleka Udeala, for going far beyond the call of duty to kick-start the programme and also working tirelessly to ensure their successful graduation, promising to make him and other Lecturers proud in their professional practice.

Earlier in his speech, Professor Idemiyor described the Induction as a landmark achievement, especially as it was organized on a day Mr Barack Obama was re-elected as President of the United States. Professor Idemiyor, who also lectures in the University of Illinois in Chicago, said he would always remember the day for the two events.

GUIDEPOST

PROFESSORIAL PROMOTION

Dr Gilbert Adogbor, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Professor of Economics*, effective 20th June, 2011.

PROMOTION

Dr Hope Kagbo, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Jonah Aprioku, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Kennedy Wariso, Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Margaret-Mary Mezie-Okoye, Department of Preventive & Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Bliss Moore, Department of Preventive & Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Anyalachi Woyike, Department of Human Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Sunday Ojeka, Department of Human Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Onyebuchi Obia, Department of Human Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Prisca Gobo, Department of History & Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Mfon Ekpootu, Department of History & Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Fortune Amah-Tariah, Department of Human Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Chibuike Obiandu, Department of Human Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Yusuf Abdulrahman, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr Orluchukwu Joseph, Department of Crop & Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, confirmed *Staff*, effective 19th October, 2011.

Ologhagbe Adienbo, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 14th November, 2007.

Mr Adekemi Alagah, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 5th May, 2010.

Mrs Zeldia Efe-Omojewe, Department of Agricultural Economics & Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, confirmed *Staff*, effective 1st April, 2011.

Mr Gift Worlu, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 28th May, 2011.

ASSUMPTION OF DUTY

Dr Bright Ighodaro, Department of Anaesthesiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, assumes duty as *Lecturer I*, effective 15th October, 2011.

STUDY LEAVE

Dr Adedayo Adio, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, proceeds on a two-year *Study Leave with Pay*, effective 1st January, 2013 to 1st January, 2015.

EXTENSION OF STAY

Professor Vincent Idemiyor, Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Extension of Stay as LEADS Scholar*, from January to June, 2013.

RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT

Dr Godwin Okon, Department of Linguistics & Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Renewal of Part-Time Teaching Appointment*, effective 1st January, 2012 to 31st December, 2012.

HIV/AIDS ALERT

HIV/AIDS is real. Protect yourself.

Avoid a reckless lifestyle that can expose you to infection.

APHRC Invites Research Fellowship Applications



Prof John Otaigbe, Director ELPU

The African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) in partnership with International Development Research Centre (IDRC), is calling for application for the sixth African Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowships (ADDRF).

A Memo signed by Programme Officer, Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit (ELPU), Ogheneriere Roberts and made available to *UNIPOINT Weekly*, stated that the programme targets doctoral candidates with strong commitment to a career in training and research.

"The overall goal of the ADDRf programme is to support the training and retention of highly-skilled, locally-trained scholars in research and academic positions across the region" the Memo said, stressing that the Fellowship will primarily focus on research.

"To be eligible, applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of a sub-Saharan African country; be undertaking doctoral training at a recognized African university; have completed all pre-dissertation requirements; provide a detailed time-frame for completing their dissertation; have a research topic that has been approved by their doctoral dissertation committee, as well as the official body overseeing ethical review of the research protocol; and be able to complete their dissertation within 24 months of the commencement of the Fellowship," it stipulated.

By Humphrey Ogu

Eligible fields of studies, according to the Memo, include: Health Sector Analysis, Health Management and Organization, Healthcare Financing (including Health Insurance), Quality of Care, Human Resources for Health, Health Programme Evaluation, Health Equity, Cost-effectiveness of Healthcare Programmes, Community Participation in Health Policy, Health Information, Education and Communication, Pharmaceutical Policy, Economic Policy and Health, Health Information Systems, Health Services Utilization and Accessibility, Health Inequalities in Urban Areas, and Reproductive Health of Marginalized Urban Communities.

The statement advised interested scholars to visit ELPU at the International Students' Centre, University Park, for more information, disclosing that the deadline for submission of completed application is January 7, 2013.

STOP PRESS
VICE-CHANCELLOR'S
CHILDREN PARTY

The 2012 Vice-Chancellor's Children Party holds Monday, 10th December. Interests members of staff who wish to feature their wards are advised to collect *Admit Cards* at UPWA Office, International Daycare Centre along Aluu Drive, University Park. *Admit Cards* are available from 26th November, to 8th December, 2012 for children between the ages of 3 to 14 years. Only pupils with *Admit Cards* and School Uniform would be allowed into the party.

AGRICULTURE DAY

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, on behalf of the Faculty of Agriculture, invites the general public to the 1st Agriculture Day Celebration with the theme: "Agricultural Cooperatives - Key to Feeding the World". The event holds on Monday, 10th December, 2012 at the Convocation Arena, University Park. Time is 9:00am. Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Professor Nimbe Adedipe is to deliver the Keynote Address, while Chairman of Obio/Akpor Local Government Area, Hon Timothy Nsirim, will be Special Guest of Honour.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY
WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDING AREAS FOR FRIDAY NOVEMBER
30 - FRIDAY DECEMBER 07, 2012.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (MM)	SUNSET AND SUNRISE (AM) (PM)	SUMMARY
FRIDAY, 30, NOV. 2012	32.2 25.0	74	NE	2.3	6:25 6:17	Widely scattered thunder storms. Morning clouds expected. Day predicted to be hot. Chances of rain is very minimal.
SATURDAY 01, DEC. 2012	33.9 24.4	79	NE	5.1	6:26 6:17	Thunder storms expected later in the day. Afternoon clouds. Hot day anticipated. Chances of rain is 58%.
SUNDAY 02 DEC 2012	33.9 24.4	71	N	7.9	6:26 6:18	Thunder storms expected. Most of the day expected to be cloudy and hot. Chances of rain is 74%.
MONDAY 03, DEC 2012	33.9 24.4	69	E	5.8	6:26 6:18	Thunder storms predicted to occur later in the day. More clouds than sun. Residents of the city and environs should expect a hot day.
TUESDAY 04, DEC. 2012	33.3 23.3	79	NE	-	6:27 6:18	More clouds than sun. Warm day expected. No rain is expected.
WEDNESDAY 05 DEC. 2012	32.8 23.3	68	NE	2.3	6:27 6:18	Thunder storms expected early in the day. More clouds than sun. Warm day expected. Possibility of rain is 28%.
THURSDAY 06 DEC. 2012	33.3 23.3	68	NE	2.6	6:27 6:19	Thunder storms predicted early in the day. The day is expected to be sunny and warm. Chances of rain is 37%.
FRIDAY 07, DEC 2012	33.9 23.9	69	NE	3.8	6:28 6:19	Early thunder storms forecasted. Partly sunny and warm day anticipated.

Prepared by Wepke V. O

Approved by Prof Samuel Arokoyu

Courtesy: Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies (CDRMDs)

UNI^{PORT} HOSTS 10TH ANATOMICAL CONFERENCE

The Anatomical Society of Nigeria (ASN) held its 10th Scientific Conference and Annual General Meeting at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park on 14th November, 2012. UNI^{PORT} Weekly Cameraman, **HEADMAN** ALU captured high points of the event.



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, giving the Welcome Address



Keynote Speaker, Professor Amadi Ihunwo of the University of Witwatersrand



Chairman of the occasion, Senator Magnus Abe, making a speech



Guest of Honour & Rivers State Commissioner of Health, Dr Samson Parker addressing the Conference



V-C, Prof Ajiienka, Senator Abe and Dr Parker in a tete-a-tete



Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi



Profs Ihunwo, Fawehinmi and D V-C, (R&D) Prof Bene Willie-Abbey



Wife of High Chief O. B Lulu-Briggs, Mrs Siyenye Briggs (right) in a chat with a guest



Dr Parker with his former Lecturer Professor Nelson Brambiefia in a chat



Chairman, Local Organizing Committee, Dr Alaba Udoaka



Cross-section of participants at the Conference



Prof Fawehinmi, Dr Parker and V-C, Prof Ajiienka exchanging pleasantries



Dignitaries and participants in a group photograph