

Osibanjo Calls For Proper Chemical Mgt At Spiff Legacy Lecture

Effects of improper management of toxic chemicals on human health due to insufficient manpower and knowledge gap, low awareness amongst the populace, lack of political will on the part of policy-makers and inadequate funding for research on relevant areas, formed the main thrust of the first Legacy Lecture organized by the Professor Ayebaemi Spiff Chair in Environmental Chemistry reports *Otikor Samuel*.

More on pg 3

Side Bar

Professor Obi Kempika of the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education delivered the 103rd Inaugural Lecture last Thursday. Details next week -Editor

UNI PORT Weekly

Vol. 13, No. 7

April 15 - April 22, 2013

ISSN: 3790-3790

For Information and Enlightenment

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

V-C Tasks Alumni On Development Of Alma Mater



Story on p3



Story on p4

UNI PORT Lecturer Gets UNESCO L'Oreal Award

Globacom Pledges Upgrade Of UNI PORT Internet Services



Story on p5

Asamowel Heads UNI PORT Governing Council



Story on p6

It was an outpouring of encomiums and testimonies of distinguished careers in the academia by colleagues and associates at the 3rd Valedictory Senate Session in honour of Professors Ayebaemi Spiff of the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry and Stella Ibe of the Department of Microbiology, both of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences. The well-attended event held last Wednesday at the expansive Senate Chambers, University Park. Speaking at the event, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, described both honourees as "amazons of brain and beauty; women of inestimable value, examples of womanhood who combined family life and academic careers with exemplary zeal", adding that they are "virtuous women of uncommon intelligence, character and charisma, an ever

Encomiums As Spiff, Ibe, Bow Out In Style

By Obinna Nwodin

youthful generations". He acknowledged that many generations of students and younger academics have benefited from their scholarship and wise counsel while on the services of the University. The Vice-Chancellor said that "on first contact, Professor Ayebaemi Spiff and Professor Stella Ibe "excite love, interest and admiration",

adding that "they are very unique women of great accomplishments with ready-made smiles for everybody with whom their paths crossed. Their family pedigrees, quality of upbringing and training prepared them for life in the academia where they truly belonged on graduation". Wishing the two accomplished women a well-deserved rest after a life of distinguished service to the University and

Cont'd on p6



Read UNI PORT Weekly Online at www.uniport.edu.ng

Reuniting Behind A Seductive Brand

By Williams Wodi

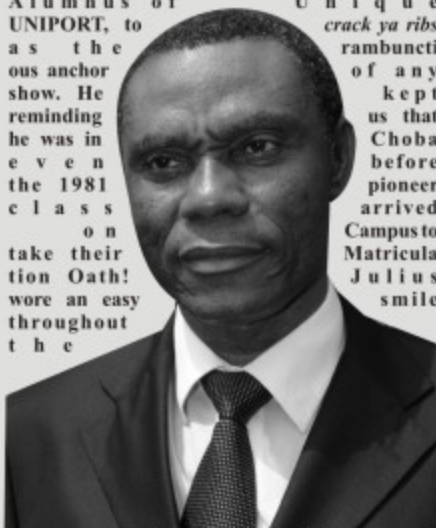
There is something special in a shared sense of belonging and connections—especially peer group-like. Nothing can bring better pleasure than uniting behind a collective cause. The commendable spirit of identifying with the iconic University of Port Harcourt brand was evidently on the march again—this time, more sophisticated and better branded by the organizers. The 1986-88 Alumni class members, who took a long and dusty route to self-actualization were clearly intent on showing off their newly-found status to their peers at the 2013 reunion—old pals style!

Guests arrived propelled by a spirit of eager anticipation at the majestic Hotel Presidential premises, venue of the Alumni Reunion. On arrival, each class member signed a waiting register laid out on an ornate table strategically located at the foyer of the Banquet Hall on the first floor. The line of enthusiastic Alumni snaked down the expansive corridor right into the heavily decorated venue of the reunion, where a mosaic of lighting effects outlined the entire building.

The reunion had all the glamour and glitz of a Hollywood show, as guests had to catwalk into the hall through a red carpet that terminated at a secluded corner of the foyer where they spoke to a waiting television crew. The VIP interview sessions were instantly relayed back into the hall for effect. Inside, corporate and traditional wears competed for attention, as ladies in flashy sequin earrings and fire-engine red fingernail polish and Brazilian wigs showed off their new class since after leaving UNIPORT twenty-five years ago. Old

Alumnus of UNIPORT, to as the ous anchor show. He reminding he was in even the 1981 class on take their tion Oath! wore an easy throughout the

Unique crack ya ribs rambuncti of any kept us that Choba before pioneer arrived Campusto Matricula Julius smile

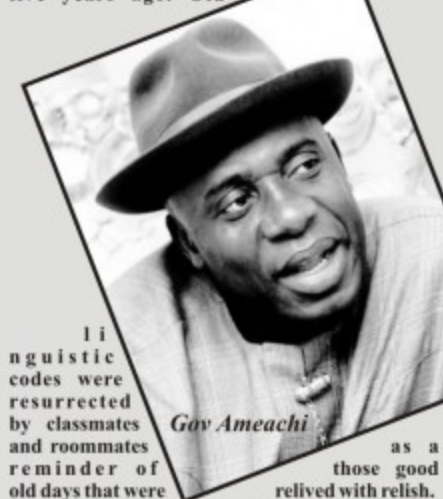


Prof Ajenka, V-C

University. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who expressed gratitude to the organizers for bringing everybody under one roof, described the Alumni as a powerful force for development. "I wish to publicly thank Governor Chibuike Ameachi for his support for the University. Great universities are built by supportive Alumni. UNIPORT is known for quality graduates that have made us proud in many walks of life", Ajenka said, recalling that the tradition of a robust Student Union politics prepared some of the Alumni for life in the larger society.

Governor Ameachi, who graduated in 1987, pledged continued support for the University, disclosing that he had fully mobilized the contractor building the *Elechi Amadi Faculty of Humanities*, and endowed a new *Claude Ake Chair in Political Science*. He also spoke of plans to build a new Convocation Arena, including protection of the University land that is being encroached upon by speculators. Governor Ameachi, ex-Governor Timipre Sylva and Mazi Alex Otti were honoured by the Alumni for their contributions to the development of their *Alma Mater*. Everybody approved of the choice in a country that is awash with cloned awards.

The move to redefine the UNIPORT identity evidently raised new philanthropic warriors intent on advancing the cause of their *Alma Mater*. As the evening wore on, it was evident that a new



Gov Ameachi



Ex-Gov Sylva



Dr Otti

linguistic codes were resurrected by classmates and roommates as a reminder of those good old days that were relived with relish. The reunion, the brainchild of two restless 1987 Class members, Soala Iyalla and Ben-Willie Owuapu, attracted some of the proudest and most accomplished Alumni of the 1986-88 classes. The organizers were, indeed, a gift to the Alumni that evening. When almighty Power Holding Company of Nigeria struck before the programme commenced, a hilarious chorus of mockery echoed through the hall—just as was the case in the hostels twenty-five years ago! The Reunion had been long on the drawing board before the duo stylishly pulled it off in grand style to a general chorus of approval. A roll-up stand that read "The Bank that's transformed to serve you better", gave away Diamond Bank as the sponsor of the evening. Trust the Bank's Group Managing Director, Mazi (Dr) Alex Otti, to be found on the side of every good cause. Old School music that was in vogue at the time the group members were in UNIPORT punctuated the evening.

Trust Julius "the Genius" Agwu, himself a 1997

reunion to the delight of his numerous fans. Rap idols, *NigerRaw* and *Port Harcourt First Son Duncan Mighty*, were on hand to spice up the evening with music.

One of the bumptious chaperons of the memorable evening, Soala, who spoke on the reason for the reunion, called for "a new attitude towards UNIPORT". Without waxing sententious, he called on successful Alumni to spare a thought for their colleagues of modest means, who were not aboard the speeding express train. He advised the group not to retreat from the challenges facing their *Alma Mater* as they revel in their personal accomplishments. Everybody got the message and pledged to turn a new leaf. Amanyanabo of Okpoama, King Ebitimi Banigo, who chaired the occasion, waxed eloquent on the need for successful Alumni to give back to their *Alma Mater*, expressing delight over the progress UNIPORT has recorded in its short existence. "The quality education you received is reflected in the success of Alumni of the University which ranks tops amongst comparable institutions in Nigeria", the monarch told the group, calling on them to ensure accelerated development of the

seductive brand emerged to nominal battlefront of giving back to the University. It was clear that a new vocabulary of support also emerged at the gathering that attracted the high and mighty. No amount of soaring eloquence could compensate for the great significance of the 2013 reunion—a challenge to other Classes, Departments, Faculties and Colleges. It was a night to remember!

EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof Joseph Ajenka	- Publisher	Photography
Dr Eme Ekekw	- Editorial Chair	Headman Ali
Austen Sado	- Editorial Adviser	Mitchell Ekiyor
Williams Wodi	- Editor	
Obinna Nwodim	- Associate Editor	
Correspondents	Secretary	
Mercy Adeniji	Gladys Amadi (Mrs)	
Osokor Samuel	Graphics	
Humphrey Ogu	Chika King-James (Mrs)	
Ethel Timi-Johnson		

Call: 08033093371

Cont'd from p1

Osibanjo Calls For Proper Chemical Mgt



V-C, Prof Ajenka (arrowed) flanked by Profs Spiff (right), Osibanjo (left), Provost,

CNAS, Prof Nnenna Frank-Peterside, DV-C (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Nduka and other dignitaries after the Lecture

Delivering the maiden Lecture titled, "Sound Chemicals Management: Key to Sustainable Development in Nigeria", at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, last Wednesday, the Guest Lecturer, Professor Oladele Osibanjo, pointed out that though some chemicals play significant roles to improve maternal health, reduce child mortality and ensure food security, they could also pose hazards to humans when not properly used for the benefit of mankind.

"None of us can survive on earth without chemicals as they provide important benefits with uses in many areas such as agriculture, medicine, industrial manufacturing, energy extraction and generation, public health and disease vector control," the Professor of Analytical and Environmental Chemistry said, observing that when chemicals are not properly handled, they could result in global pollution with negative effects on human health and the ecosystems.

Osibanjo further disclosed that more than 43 million chemical substances are available for commercial purposes, regretting that only about 250,000 of such chemicals are subject to regulatory and inventory systems as people with little or no knowledge of the operational effects of harmful chemicals abuse and misuse the products, thus endangering human health and the

environment. "Improper management of toxic chemicals may leave a legacy of environmental pollution, contaminated sites, health problems, including uncommon diseases, conflict and threat to security," he added.

The former National President of Chemical Society of Nigeria (CSN) called on stakeholders, including the Government, industry practitioners, agencies, researchers and Non-governmental organisations to formulate, implement, supervise and strictly comply with extant laws to ensure a safer and friendly environment for all, as well as put in measures to transform chemical pollution to sustainable chemical use through the life cycle approach.

In his speech, Chairman of the event and former Minister of Science and Technology, Professor Turner Isoun, who advised stakeholders in the educational sector to domesticate the concept of western education to reflect African values in terms of quality, access and relevance, congratulated Professor Spiff for not only retiring hale and hearty from active service, but also celebrating her 70th Birthday, charging the celebrant to continue to add to the body of knowledge by initiating more research to solve problems in society.

Professor Isoun, who is also Pro-Chancellor of Niger Delta

University (NDU), Bayelsa State, praised the University for its numerous exploits in research, teaching, community service and other activities such as sports, advising academics to work towards ensuring that their research solve problems and create wealth for the populace. "Move from theoretical research to innovation and creativity to create job for the people," he stressed.

Speaking as Chief Host, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, commended the Bayelsa State Government for endowing a Chair to honour one of the foremost teachers in the University. Describing Professor Spiff as a 'Matriarch of the University of Port Harcourt', the Vice-Chancellor promised to institute a Fellowship for young female researchers in recognition of the good legacies of Professor Spiff.

In her Valedictory Speech, Professor Spiff thanked the Vice-Chancellor, the Bayelsa State Government, her former colleagues in the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences and the Chair Occupant, Professor Michael Horsfall for the honour done her.

Goodwill message was presented by the Chair Occupant, Professor Michael Horsfall, while a book titled: "Principles of Environmental Pollution, Toxicology & Waste Management," which was co-authored with Prof Spiff and reviewed by Professor Yilukur Lohdip was presented. Endowment of a prize for the Best Graduating Female Student in Chemistry and presentation of a portrait of Prof Spiff by some female Professors in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences were some of the highlights of the event.

V-C Tasks Alumni On Development Of Alma Mater

By Obinna Nwodin

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, has made a passionate plea to the Alumni Association to take more than a passing interest in the development of their *Alma Mater*, stressing that great universities were built by proud Alumni, who invest their time and resources to transform them into enduring brands that society can identify with and support.

Professor Ajenka made the assertion when the newly-elected national officers of the University of Port Harcourt Alumni Association paid him a courtesy visit in his office, last Friday.

The Vice-Chancellor, who congratulated the new officers on their well-deserved election, said that there was a lot the Alumni could do to enhance the growth and development of their beloved *Alma Mater*. "There is quite a lot that we can do together for this University. It is not only about the money that Alumni can give to the University. Sometimes, donation of books, equipping of classrooms and endowment of Professorial Chairs are other areas that Alumni can assist the University to grow", the Vice-Chancellor stated, adding that the authorities would appreciate efforts aimed at improving service delivery by the University.

Professor Ajenka, who disclosed plans to set up an Alumni Museum, where memorable pictures and artefacts sourced from Alumni would be preserved for posterity, challenged the newly-elected Executive to commence work on the Alumni Centre. He stressed the need for members of the Alumni Association to make the University more unique in their own peculiar ways.

Earlier in his speech, new National President of the Association, Chief Ike Chinwo, described the visit as the first major outing of the Executive after it was elected on 15th February, 2013. He said that the new Executive was poised to inject more vigour into the activities of the Association for the development of the University. Said he, "universities, all over the world are developed not by governments, other agencies, but by their worthy Alumni, who invest their resources and volunteer services to make them great institutions that people want to associate with. Our mission is to identify areas of collaboration so that the dreams of the founding fathers of the University can be sustained for future generations."

Chief Chinwo spoke of the solid educational foundation graduates of the University received and promised that the Executive would champion the interest of their *Alma Mater* at all times. "There are some programmes that made the University unique. We think that such

programmes should be revived. The foundation we had here was rich enough and that is what we stand on today. On our own part, we promise that at all times, if we are called upon to do anything, we shall do it in the interest of the University", he assured the Vice-chancellor.

The National President said that the new Executive intended to reach out to individuals and groups within the Alumni Association to collaborate with it for better results. He enumerated some challenges faced by the Association, hoping that they would be addressed to enable the Secretariat function more effectively during his tenure.

Also Speaking, Acting Director of the University Advancement Centre (UAC), Dr Ngozi Odu, who stressed the need to live a legacy in the University, assured all stakeholders that the Centre would give its best to assist the new Executive to succeed.

Other members of the new Executive present at the meeting were: Chief Edward Ngene, 1st Vice-President; Mr Don Nwabueze, 2nd Vice-President; Mr Frank Aghara, Assistant Secretary; Mrs Waaka Wilcox, Treasurer; Chief Yusuf Aminu, Financial Secretary; Mr Chris Orji, Public Relations Officer; Chief Rasaki Olorunsola, Provost; Mr Paul Bassey, Organizing Secretary, Mr Tony Nwakile, Editor-in-Chief, and Mr Uduak Ewitat, Ex-Officio.



V-C, Prof Ajenka (arrowed), flanked by new National President of the Alumni Association, Chief Chinwo (right), DV-C (R&D), Prof Bene Willie-Abbey (left), Executive Committee members and some Senior Officers of the University. Immediate past Interim President, Prof Ozo-Mekuri Ndimelie (2nd right)

Biometric Attendance Registration Not A Witch-Hunt ~Wabali, CSO

Contrary to the mixed feelings that greeted the introduction of a Biometric Man-Hour and Attendance Management System (BMAM), Director (Personnel Affairs), Mr Roland Wabali, has sounded it loud and clear that the electronic attendance monitoring exercise is aimed at making the workforce responsive to the workplace for overall productivity in the University.

Similarly, Chief Security Officer, Lt Col Reginald Isiguzo (rtd) urged every staff to embrace the electronic signing system, rather than holding on to the age-long book form which would inevitably be phased out with the evolving digitalization in a new world of computers, describing attempts to label the system as a witch-hunting of staff as totally untenable, the CSO said: "We can only witch-hunt ghost workers not genuine and diligent staff who are putting in their best to the advancement of the University." He added that dedicated workers have absolutely nothing to fear from the new biometric system which was well-advertised before its introduction.

The clarifications became necessary following protests of the project by the Executive of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), which wrote to distance its members from the Biometric Attendance recently introduced in the Senate Building.

The duo, who made the remarks in separate interviews with this Correspondent last Thursday, advised staff in the Senate Building to comply with the directive on resumption and closure from work to assist Management check laxity, truancy and absenteeism, stating that taking of attendance is principally targeted at administrative staff, whose job schedules mostly revolve around the offices, unlike teaching staff, who are either in the classroom, laboratory, library or conferences to properly equip themselves to transfer knowledge to students. They pointed out that there cannot be any comparison between the two categories of staff in terms of their mode of statutory operations.

By Otikor Samuel

Responding to question on why only staff of the Senate Building are subjected to the exercise, Mr Wabali responded: "We are using the Senate Building as a pilot scheme for the Attendance Management System; if it works out successfully as envisaged, we will extend it to the Units, Departments, Faculties, Centres and Institutes to include all staff of the University." The CSO added that "the Senate Building is not only the administration hub of the University; it also accommodates a large number of staff which makes it the ideal location to kick-start the process. The experience gained in the Senate Building pilot scheme will guide us to effectively mount the system in other areas of the University. I don't think there is any staff who does not support the idea of attaining enhanced productivity in the University, neither is there any genuine Union official who is opposed to checking lateness, truancy and absenteeism from work. After all, a labourer is deserving of his pay only if he or she puts in an honest day's work." On the initial technical hitch experienced in registering some staff, the duo said that the contracting firm handling the project is always available to attend

to any mechanical inefficiency in the process, assuring staff that more service points would be mounted at both foyers of the Senate Building to ease registration.

"There are bound to be initial difficulties, but we are correcting them to ease the process. Staff should, therefore, endeavour to register both at the Biometric point and equally sign the Attendance Register in their offices to enable Heads of Department and Unit identify those who report to work at the stipulated time on daily basis," the Director of Personnel Affairs added.



UNIORT Lecturer Gets UNESCO L'Oreal Award

By Humphrey Ogu

A budding scholar in the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Dr Eucharia Nwaichi, was among 15 female scientists that received the 2013 UNESCO L'Oreal Award for outstanding women in science held in Paris, France last month.

Briefing UNIORT Weekly on her return from the trip, where she was honoured as an International Fellow for the UNESCO L'Oreal 2013, Nwaichi disclosed that the recipients were selected from over 15, 000 nominees from across the globe by an international jury constituted by the organizers to screen prospective applications.

"The Fellowship is usually advertised and experienced

researchers from all over the world are required to make nominations of women in science, whose contributions in their field of studies are adjudged to be of immense use to society. A candidate had to be nominated by an experienced scientist, based on the quality of his or her research and its impact to the emancipation of science and its relevance to industry," she said.

"We were actually advertised and our research widely publicised to encourage us to greater productivity and also to motivate other younger researchers. It was a week-long event which culminated with the award on 28th March, 2013," Nwaichi said, describing her experience in Paris as very exciting as scientists from different fields and countries worked together for the advancement of science and technology.

"It was significant that the award ceremony took place

at the oldest University in Paris—Sorbonne University, where the first female Nobel Laureate, Marie Curie, studied and presented her Inaugural Lecture. We were challenged not to achieve less than Curie. We were also taken through scientific presentations on how to communicate our findings to policymakers in government to enable them understand why they should sponsor research endeavours," she noted.

Nwaichi, who received all her tertiary education from the University of Port Harcourt, said: "My award stemmed from my research in *phyto-remediation*—the use of plants to clean up contaminated environments. I hope to carry this research further, using locally-available species for cost effectiveness to effect remediation of oil-polluted soil in the Niger Delta region. This post-doctoral programme would be sponsored by the UNESCO-L'Oreal Foundation as part of the award.

"We were able to learn how to use effective networking that we have established at the Paris gathering. We have a webpage of the 15 awardees, and the organizers of the event promised to link us to some of the Laureates that gave us lectures. We will be able to utilise this networking to establish an effective collaboration for funding and access to state-of-the-art facilities to further our researches," she explained.

Dr Nwaichi, who was the only Nigerian among the 15 International Fellows, advised aspiring scientists to work hard and be resolute in their ambitions to attain their goals in life. "If I can make it, younger students, who work hard can also make it and even surpass what we have done. You don't give up in science. You don't stop boarding planes because one had crashed. If you get into the laboratory, like a woman who cooked and the food gets burnt, you don't stop cooking, you start all over again. That is the spirit behind every great scientific breakthrough," the award recipient declared. Nwaichi, who described the selection process as free and fair, observed that women have been proven to be more patient in terms of research, urging young researchers, who wish to be recognised to go into areas they are passionate about to enable them excel. She disclosed that her passion for the Niger Delta came when she was on industrial attachment at Eleme Petrochemical Company as a student.



Dr Nwaichi (in African attire) in a group photograph with other awardees

Globacom Pledges Upgrade Of UNIPORT Internet Services

Telecommunications giant, Globacom Limited has offered to deploy its state-of-the-art equipment that would enable the University Community have unimpeded access to real-time data and voice services as part of the firm's contributions to improving tertiary education in Nigeria.

The company's position was made known through its Head of Postpaid Business Group, Mr Lanre Akinremi, who led a two-man delegation on a courtesy call to the Management of the University, last Monday at the Vice-

By Mercy Adeniji & Williams Wodi

"Globacom is not just a Global System of Mobile Telecommunication (GSM) company; it is the second largest national carrier in this country and is proudly Nigeria. Globacom is at the forefront of innovative services and we are the first to introduce per second billing tariff to Nigeria and the 2.5G network among other innovations that stand us out from the others," Mr Akinremi noted, adding that Globacom was desirous of

becoming a one-stop solutions company for all telephone services required to facilitate learning and administrative functions in the University.

Responding, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, thanked the delegation for keying into the vision of the University aimed at spreading the Internet cloud all over the Campus, stating that Management was desirous of partnering companies that can render quality services at competitive rates. He disclosed that the Library, Administrative building, residential areas, student hotels and classrooms were in urgent need of Internet connectivity.

Professor Ajienka told the delegation that the University was yet to benefit optimally from the GLO brand, pointing out that users in the University were no longer satisfied with the poor services that had persisted on the networks in recent times. He charged telecommunication

companies to make improvements on their networks if they hoped to continue enjoying patronage from their clients. "We have been discussing with different companies and we hope that you would look at the available options and provide quality services that would enable your company to capture the huge market that exists in this University", he disclosed.

Also present during the visit were the Globacom Corporate Sales Manager, Mr Uzo Anene, some Principal Officers of the University, including the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development) Professor Bene Willie-Abbey and Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim.



R-L: DV-C (Admin), Prof Nduka, Registrar, Mrs Nnodim, Head of Postpaid Biz Group (Globacom), Mr Akinremi, V-C, Prof Ajienka, Corporate Sales Manager (Globacom), Mr Anene, DV-Cs (R&D) and (Acad), Prof Willie-Abbey and Joe

Chancellor's Committee Room.

Mr Akinremi disclosed that Globacom was desirous of providing the whole University Community a one-stop solution on Information Communication and Technology (ICT) to cover both voice and data services. "On the voice aspect, we are looking at providing staff, students and the entire neighbourhood, our Close User Group (CUG) that would grant users toll-free access on our Virtual Private Network (VPN)", Mr Akinremi said, promising that GLO was ready and willing to improve Internet access to users on Campus at affordable rates. He added that the company planned to provide the University with data network that would provide it access to the GLO Internet facilities at strategic locations such as the Senate building, Library, residential areas, student hostels and classrooms to make learning easier as the global community moves towards e-learning.

CPG Holds Orientation For New Intakes

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As part of efforts aimed at exposing new intakes to the rudiments of its Postgraduate degree programme, the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG) in the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) organized a week-long orientation exercise which included a detailed programme introduction and guided tour of the University.

Addressing the students penultimate Monday at the Tertiary Education Trust Fund Petroleum and Gas Engineering Building, University Park, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, congratulated the students for gaining admission into the prestigious Postgraduate programme in Petroleum Geosciences of the University. "Count yourselves very lucky to be admitted to study in the Institute of Petroleum Studies given its reputation in the country and the quality of training it offers prospective clients", he remarked. Emphasizing the country's need for seasoned Petroleum Geoscientists, Dean, Graduate School of Engineering and Technology, Professor Adewale

Dosumnu, advised the students to remain focused and committed to get the best out of the programme. "The petroleum industry is in dire need of high calibre professionals like you. Avoid distractions during the duration of your programme so that you can graduate and contribute your quota to the development of the country's critical petroleum industry, especially with the quality of training that you will receive here under the tutelage of some of the best lecturers in the field", the Dean told the students.

Director of the Centre, Professor John Etu-Efeotor, who described the programme as an intensive twelve-month academic programme, added that in addition to classroom teaching, there would be practical sessions to enable them bridge the gap between theory and practice. "Be prepared for a very intensive programme, there is no room for unserious students here as you would soon find out", he said.

Goodwill messages were presented by the Director of IPS, Professor Mike Onyekonwu and Assistant Director of CPG, Dr Francis Beka. The week-long activity was rounded-off with a guided tour of the University coordinated by the CPG Administrative Officer, Charity Agorom.



Director, IPS, Prof Onyekonwu (in suit), Director, CPG, Prof Etu-Efeotor (in safari), Deputy Director, Dr Beka (1st right), staff and Graduate Students of the Centre

PASSAGES

PROFESSOR JOSIAH DAGOGO ATEMIE

The death has been announced of Professor Josiah Dagogo Atemie of the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences. Professor Atemie, who died on 18th January, was laid to rest last Saturday in his home town, Ogu in Ogu/Bolo Local Government Area of Rivers State.



Late Prof Atemie

PROFESSOR PATIENCE NGOZI MANILLA

The death has been announced of Professor Patience Ngozi Manilla. She was aged 60 years. Until her demise, she was a Professor in the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences. Professor Manilla, who died on 28th February, 2013 was laid to rest on 5th April, 2013 at the Port Harcourt Cemetery, Rivers State.



Late Prof Manilla

Encomiums As Spiff, Ibe, Bow Out In Style

Cont'd from p1

humanity, Professor Ajienka hoped that they would continue to associate with the University even in retirement.

In his speech, former Dean, Faculty of Science, Professor Chukwunonye Ojinnaka, who was a contemporary of Professor Spiff in their days at the University of Ibadan, described her as an accomplished academic, who pioneered the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry.

Professor Michael Oti of the Department of Geology described Professor Spiff as an epitome of humility and friendliness, praising her exemplary work in the advancement of science and the University. He added that her contributions to Faculty Board meetings were always of great value, stressing that the College owed her profound gratitude for the worthy legacy she left behind. Professor Gideon Okpokwasili of the Department of Microbiology, described Professor Ibe as a worthy role model, who taught him at the University of Lagos. He said that her exemplary conduct motivated many students to study Microbiology and take to academics as a profession, pointing out that she was a great asset who



Profs Spiff (left) and Ibe (2nd right) and their spouses

stabilized the Department to achieve results. Former Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Professor Ndu Eke, also described Professor Ibe as a

pleasant lady, who was always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone who came her way, wishing her a blissful life in retirement.

In their separate responses, the Valedictorians expressed gratitude for the honour done them, expressing willingness to do their best for the continued growth of the University even as they retire from the University.

The event featured presentation of plaques and decoration with the University Muffler, reading of their citations by Provost, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Professor Nnenna Frank-Peterside, as well as musical renditions by the UNIPORT Concert Chorus.

Chief Gesi Asamowel, has been appointed Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of the University of Port Harcourt. The appointment followed the recent reconstitution of the Governing Councils of some Federal Universities last week by the Federal Government. Chairmen and members of Governing Councils of 21 Federal universities were inaugurated last Tuesday in Abuja. Other members of the reconstituted Governing Council of the University of Port Harcourt are: Mrs Joyce Bozimo; Alhaji Mohammed Iyimga; Dr Nelson Olaniyi; and Mr Okey Ajunwa. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, led some Principal Officers of the University to the inauguration in Abuja to witness the inauguration. Read more details on the new Council in our subsequent editions.

ASAMOWEI HEADS UNIPORT GOVERNING COUNCIL



New Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council, Chief Asamowel (Centre) flanked by V-C, Prof Ajienka (left) other members of Council and some Principal Officers after Inauguration

STOP PRESS

THE 2ND RESEARCH FAIR

The 2nd UNIPORT Research Fair and Conference will hold from Tuesday, 23rd to Thursday, 25th April, 2013 at the Donald Ekong Library, University Park.

Opening Ceremony holds on Wednesday, 24th April at 11.00am at the Ebilimi Banjo Auditorium. Members of the University Community are encouraged to participate at the Fair.

Celebrations galore! That aptly described what

took place on Campus penultimate Friday, when fresh students took their Matriculation Oath. The students, who were at the centre of it all, ate, drank and danced, amidst alluring music and engaged in other pastimes that make a Matriculation Ceremony memorable. It was a large-scale fiesta!

Why should a student spend so much time and resources celebrating admission into an undergraduate programme on the scale we witnessed that Friday? This celebration wouldn't have made anyone raise an eyebrow, but given the difficulties candidates face these days in their bid to secure admission into Nigerian universities, anyone familiar with the demand-and-supply ratio of the Nigerian university admission would understand why those who eventually scale the stringent admission hurdles go wild with joy on their Matriculation day.

But does that justify the elaborate parties, backslapping and clinking of glasses that followed the Matriculation Ceremony? Did the fresh students really need to invite well-wishers to bring masquerades from their villages to mark the landmark event? Did they need to organise church services or parties or waste hard-earned funds to celebrate their success? Maybe, yes; maybe no!

The truth is that admission into the University is not an end in itself, and should not be seen as such. It is just a first step on a journey of a thousand kilometres that is bound to exact a huge toll along the way. It is a journey that requires a lot of dedication, hard work, self-discipline, patience and sacrifice. The reason anyone is in the university is to learn, and learning can only be achieved when the student is ready to devote time to study. Every fresh student is assumed to have passed through the secondary level of education, and so the

After Matriculation: What Next?

By Humphrey Ogu

university is a familiar terrain. Or is it? That notwithstanding, they are now in a new environment. University education has its challenges. Those who see the university as the next class in Secondary School are not likely to sit up to tackle the challenges associated with their new environment, where students are expected to make good use of the library in solving their academic problems. University education is a rigorous exercise that has to be faced with all sense of seriousness. The bitter truth is that it is not all who participated in the Matriculation fiesta that would be at the Convocation Ceremony. Some may not complete their studies, owing to a variety of reasons. Others may graduate at the top of their class, while others still will come out with

unimpressive grades.

Unemployment still remains a major challenge facing the Nigerian nation

today. It is difficult for graduates with good degrees to secure employment, and much more so for those with poor grades. It, therefore, behoves the fresh students to buckle up, be on their marks as the race to success or failure began right there at the Matriculation Ceremony. Never mind the parties. As in a marathon race, those who fail to start with others will never end with them; they will still be running when the last shot signifying the end of the completion would be heard.

The students, who have just matriculated have a choice: either to squander their time or use it wisely. There is, unfortunately, no middle ground in this matter!

So, after the celebrations what next? Pinging on BlackBerry phones? Chatting on Facebook? WhatsApp? 2go, etc? Or settling down to business—studying? Whatever the case, it's a matter of choice. What a privilege and a huge challenge.



Cross-section of Matriculants taking the Oath

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Dr Clifford Ofurum, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Acting Director*, University of Port Harcourt Business School, effective 5th April, 2013.

PENSIONABLE APPOINTMENT

Mr Chimenem Wigwe, Department of Agric Economics & Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Pensionable Appointment*, effective 28th February, 2013.

Mrs Linda Famulisi, Department of Agric Economics & Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Pensionable Appointment*, effective 28th February, 2013.

Mr Chima Uche, Department of Agric Economics & Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Pensionable Appointment*, effective 28th February, 2013.

Mr Solomon Tamunobelem, Department of Crop & Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Pensionable Appointment*, effective 28th February, 2013.

Mr Humphrey Benneth, Department of Crop & Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Pensionable Appointment*, effective 28th February, 2013.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor E.S Akama, Department of Religious & Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 16th May, 2013 to 15th May, 2014.

Professor Mark Anikpo, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 30th April, 2013 to 29th May, 2014.

STUDY LEAVE

Miss Winnie Ajiduah, Department of Physics, Faculty of Physical Science & Info Tech, proceeds on *Study Leave with Pay* to pursue a Postgraduate degree at Heriot-Watt University, United Kingdom, effective 30th November 2013 to 1st May 2017.

Mr Henry Dick, Department of Physics, Faculty of Physical Science & Info Tech, proceeds on *Study Leave with Pay* to pursue a Postgraduate degree at the Keele University, United Kingdom, effective 1st January 2013 to 31st December, 2016.

Mr Genuine Saturday, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, proceeds on *Study Leave with Pay* to pursue a Postgraduate degree at the Cranfield University, United Kingdom, effective 1st February 2013 to 2nd January, 2016.

Mr Uduma Idika, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management, proceeds on *Study Leave with Pay* to pursue a Master's degree at University of Newcastle Business School, United Kingdom, effective 1st January 2013 to 31st December, 2016.

PROMOTION

Mrs Eugenia Amadi, Department of Environmental Biology, promoted *Laboratory Supervisor*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Mr Gospel Deakor, Sports Management Complex, promoted *Senior Swimming Pool Attendant*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Mr Mbakwe Amesi, Sports Management Complex, promoted *Senior Swimming Pool Attendant*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Mr Nkemakolam Orji, Sports Management Complex, promoted *Senior Swimming Pool Attendant*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Mr Sotonye Dakor, Sports Management Complex, promoted *Senior Swimming Pool Attendant*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Mrs Priscilla Herbert, Library Department, promoted *Chief Porter*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Parents, Freshers, Speak On 34th Matriculation Ceremony

Out of the numerous applicants who sat for the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) and Post-Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (PUTME) for the 2012/2013 Academic Session, only 4,380 candidates met the stringent entry requirements into the University. In this interview, some parents and Matriculants speak on the euphoria of being admitted into the University of Port Harcourt, reports MERCYADENIJI.

The 34th Matriculation Ceremony of the University of Port Harcourt held penultimate Friday amidst merry-making and backslapping amongst the lucky few, who were adjudged fit to be conferred with the status of *bona fide* students of Unique UNIPOINT. UNIPOINT Weekly sought the views of some parents and the animated matriculants on the significance of the day that was celebrated with pomp and ceremony.

A staff of the Bursary Department, Dr Felicia Ayuwu, congratulated the students and expressed joy over the admission of her daughter into the University.

"As a parent, it is a thing of joy to witness one's child being officially welcomed as a *bona fide* student of the University. I have always advised my daughter to study hard so that at the end of her studies, she would be found worthy both in character and in learning," she said.

Dr Ayuwu, who is also the Deputy Bursar (Treasury), appealed to the students to shun all negative tendencies that could destroy their future. She further advised them to allow the fear of God to rule their actions, stating that it is one thing to matriculate and quite another to convolve. "The fresh students should build a career for themselves and learn to manage their time well," she advised them.

Another Staff, Mrs Gold Wali of the Security Unit said, "I was excited as my daughter was among the fresh students, who took the *Matriculation Oath*. "Many students wanted to be celebrated, but due to some reasons, they were not. My advice as a parent is for them to study hard, hopefully they would be celebrated one day", she said, charging the students to always abide by the rules and regulations of the University, stay focused and make their parents and the University proud on their graduation day.

Queen Amadi of the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education said, "I am happy to be part of those

admitted into Unique UNIPOINT. I chose this University because I believe it has a lot to offer students by equipping us with the right skills to face the challenges of the future". Amadi, who was admitted into the University through the Certificate programme, expressed optimism that she would come out with good grades if she studied hard.

Gogo Esau of the Department of Civil Engineering, College of Engineering, said: "I am proud to be admitted into this great citadel of learning, as prominent persons such as the President of Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Goodluck Jonathan, among other worthy Alumni, passed through this University that has a conducive learning environment to bring out the best in us."

On what he hopes to achieve, Mr Esau said, "I want to come out with First Class because those who score First Class are celebrated by the University and society, so I want to be celebrated on my graduation".

Ihechi Anumiheoma explained that she chose University of Port Harcourt because the institution is unique for academic excellence. Miss Anumiheoma, who is of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, disclosed that she gained admission through the Certificate programme, stating that the programme has afforded her an opportunity to meet new friends and also learn new things. She said: "At the end of my stay here, I want to gain self-confidence in all I do, improve my social life and be academically fit to face future challenges", appealing to her fellow students to make their parents and the University proud by being found worthy both in character and learning on graduation.

Mr Franklin Ezebekwe of the Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, expressed happiness for becoming a *bona fide* student of the University of Port Harcourt. He promised to make his family and society proud on graduation. "I hope by the time I graduate from UNIPOINT, I would have perfected my knowledge of Economics and be a better citizen such as Mazi (Dr) Alex Otti of Diamond Bank and other distinguished Alumni from the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Mr Ezebekwe observed that while the University was different from the Secondary School setting, students should endeavour to dress properly. He appealed to authorities of the University to prescribe a dress code for each Faculty, "as most student do not appear to differentiate between what clothes are meant for party and those meant for lectures".



Dr Ayuwu



Esau



Anumiheoma



Amadi



Ezebekwe

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 14 APR, 2013	35.0 26.0	60	NE	6.3	6:26 6:39	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Day expected to be mostly cloudy and hot.
MONDAY, 15 APR 2013	33.0 26.0	71	NE	19.8	6:25 6:39	Heavy rainfall expected. Day expected to be mostly cloudy and hot. Planning your day with the rain in mind is recommended.
TUESDAY 16 APR, 2013	34.0 26.0	61	NE	6.5	6:25 6:39	Thunderstorm expected. Intermittent break of sun anticipated. Day is expected to be hot.
WEDNESDAY 17 APR, 2013	33.0 25.0	55	N	-	6:25 6:38	Partly sunny and warm day predicted.
THURSDAY 18 APR, 2013	33.0 25.0	54	NE	3.7	6:24 6:38	Thunderstorm expected late. Partly sunny and warm day forecasted.
FRIDAY 19 APR, 2013	32.0 25.0	58	NE	6.0	6:24 6:38	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Partly sunny and warm day predicted.
SATURDAY 20 APR, 2013	32.0 25.0	55	N	3.5	6:24 6:38	Widely scattered thunderstorm expected. Partly sunny and warm day expected.

African Composers' Summit

As part of efforts to reposition African traditional music, the Department of Music in collaboration with the Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC) organised the African maiden Composers' Summit last February. Below are some of the scenes at the event which drew participants from the academia within and outside the country as captured by **HEADMAN ALU**. Additional pictures from Department of Music.



V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenka, welcoming 92-year-old Emeritus Prof Kwabena Nketia



V-C, Prof Ajenka welcoming Prof Okon Uya

Prof Ajenka, Nketia, Rev Sis Prof Cordelia Achike & Dr Kalu Achinevu



V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenka making a speech



Prof Dan Agu presenting the lead paper



Emeritus Prof Nketia addressing the gathering



Prof Ajenka & Nketia



Prof Ajenka & Uya



HOD Music, Prof Onyee Nwanke, Emeritus Prof Ebegberi Alagou, DG, CBAAC, Prof Tunde Babawale, Prof Ajenka, Uya and Dr Mercku with others



Emeritus Prof Alagou & Prof Babawale



Nketia flanked by DV-C (Adwin), Prof Ethelbert Ndaka & DV-C (R&D), Prof Rene Willie-Abbey, University Librarian, Dr Obiageli Nwodo, Prof Nwanke, Director, Personal Affairs, Mr Roland Wabali and other guests



UNIPORT Concert Chorus performing



A cross section of participants