

I Will Stop Encroachment On UniPort Lands, Pledges Rivers CP

R espite may finally come to the University of Port Harcourt over the incessant encroachment on lands allocated to the institution by the Federal Government in and around the institution. The respite is coming on the heels of a promise by the Rivers State Police Command to stop further encroachments on the university lands with immediate effect, reports *Oluoma Nwosor*.

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Side Bar

Prof Igwezu Siminielaiy of the Department of Pharmacology delivers the 109th Inaugural Lecture this Wednesday at 3:00pm. Details next week.

~Editor



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UniPort Gets First Continental Athletic Training Centre

By Williams Wodi
(With agency report)

Following a long wait, the hard work and networking by authorities of the University of Port Harcourt has finally paid off as the Athletic Federation of Nigeria has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with the Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) to establish a High Performance Training Centre at the main Campus of the University. The Training Centre, which is the first of its kind in Africa, is in fulfilment of a partnership entered on behalf of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). The MoU to set up the Centre is one of the gains of the just-concluded 2014 African Athletics Championships held in the North African city of Marrakech, Morocco. A statement released on behalf of



Dr Lamine Diack, IAAF President

Prof Ajilenka, V-C

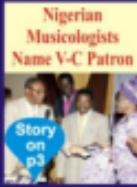
the collaborating partners by Spokesman of AFN, Olukayode Thomas, indicated that the President of CAA, Hamad Kalkaba, revealed that CAA and the IAAF teamed up to establish the High Performance Training Centre at the University of Port Harcourt to afford athletes a rare

opportunity to combine their training with academic pursuit. Kalkaba, who spoke during the signing ceremony of the important MoU, described the epoch-making event as a dream come true, stating that some strong African countries in athletics, such as Nigeria and

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Nigerian Musicologists Name V-C Patron



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UniPort Debaters Shine At Int'l Event



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SPDC Happy With UniPort Over Shell-Aret Adams Chair

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V-C, Experts, Advise Staff, Students On Ebola

By Obinna Nwodim

Against the backdrop of palpable fears generated by the outbreak of the dreaded Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have taken proactive measures to sensitize staff and students on the scourge that is ravaging some West African countries, including Nigeria. The latest in the series of the sensitization programmes on the disease took place yesterday Friday at the Ebirim Banigo Auditorium, University Park under the auspices of the College of Health Sciences.

Addressing the capacity-filled Auditorium, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajieksa, who described the times as very challenging, said that as a University Community, there was need to bring in experts in the field to enlighten staff and students on what the virus was all about, as well as the necessary steps to prevent the scourge from spreading from person to person.

He said that rapid response measures were initiated by the authorities because of the absence of a cure for the virus, insisting that the best way to avoid contracting it was through prevention measures that necessitated the sensitization programme. The Vice-Chancellor thanked all those who have shown concern for the health and welfare of staff and students, disclosing that "Management has set up a Committee of experts in various disciplines to see what we can do to continue to enlighten staff and students about the dangers posed to our health by the virus."

In his remarks, Provost, College of Health



V-C, Prof. Ajieksa (4th right) flanked on his left by Provost, CHS, Prof. Akasi and the lead presenters and Registrar, Mrs. Nwodim, Dr. C. (Admin), Prof. Nwadike, Dr. Maduka, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Nwodo and Dr. Obonge (right)

Sciences, Professor Chris Akasi, said that the College deemed the enlightenment programme necessary due to the dangerous dimension Ebola was taking and the number of persons so far infected and affected by the scourge. He said that "we need to know about the Ebola virus, the fears and the scares, as well as some of the necessary lifestyle changes that must be made by individuals in order to prevent the disease from spreading further in parts of the country."

Four presentations were made at the event. Dr Sunday Chinyere of the Department of Internal Medicine spoke on *Ebola: The Fears and Stare*; Dr Temitayo Awopeju of the Department of Medical Microbiology spoke on *Medical Diagnosis of Ebola Virus*; Dr Onosimie Maduka of the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine (PSM) addressed participants on *Prevention and Control Measures*, while Dr Ovukomahe Obonge of the Department of Medical Microbiology, concluded the exercise with a presentation titled, *Ebola Outbreak: Basic Take-*

House Points

Participants were advised to maintain individual and environmental hygiene through regular washing of hands with clean running water and soap, as well as avoiding eating fruit bats and other primates, bush meat, which are said to harbour the virus, amongst other measures. The lively event featured a question and answer session.

Already, the Committee on the containment of the Ebola virus has swung into action with the enlightenment of members of the University Community. The Committee has designed mega banners with information on ways to prevent the deadly disease placed at strategic points in the University.

It would be recalled that following the outbreak of the Ebola virus, serious concerns have been raised about the health of individuals in public institutions where human interactions and contacts are deemed inevitable.

It was few minutes away from 9:00am last Wednesday when Focal Officer of SERVICOM Unit, Professor Tony Arinze and Chartered Desk Officer, Mrs. Peace Stowe, stormed the Information, Publications and Public Relations (IPPR) Unit for reasons that could not be immediately fathomed by curious staff of the Unit. Staff of the Unit were settling down to continue with the processes of producing this week's edition of the UniPort Weekly, when the unexpected 'visitors' came calling, moving straight to the office of the Deputy Registrar in charge of the Unit, Williams Wodi, clutching something that was not clearly visible.

No staff would see Professor Arinze at that time of the day without suspecting that he was there to

SERVICOM Unit Decorates IPPR Staff For Diligence

By Ottikor Samuel

monitor the almighty "Attendance Register" in the discharge of his quality assurance mandate. The Focal Officer, however, dispelled the lingering suspicion, when he disclosed that his mission to the Unit was to show appreciation of the SERVICOM Unit in respect of the contributions of the Deputy Registrar and his team in what he described as diligent discharge of services to the University by IPPR, especially the effective dissemination of information to the University Community and the outside world through the prompt publication of *UniPort Weekly*, *Unique UniPort* and other publications by the Unit.

Speaking before decorating Wodi, who is also the Public Relations Officer of the University, Professor Arinze pointed out that: "The services rendered by the IPPR Unit are crucial to the institutional growth of the University. We have watched closely the performance of this Unit and, therefore, wish to appreciate your commitment in informing the University Community about the transformational efforts of the Vice-

Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajieksa. We have also observed that your Unit is very proactive in defending the image of the University at all times.

"On behalf of the National Coordinator, I hereby decorate you with this SERVICOM Medal as a token of our appreciation of your services and equally urge you to continue the good work of promoting the activities of the present administration which has done so much to deliver on the core mandate of the University of Port Harcourt," Professor Arinze added.

Responding, the Deputy Registrar, who expressed surprise about the honour, stated that: "We came to work early as usual; unaware of this decoration and so you caught us by surprise. We thank you for this medal and for identifying us for recognition. Initially, it was a difficult task combining all what we do here and meeting weekly deadlines, but we have adjusted to the routine, so this recognition will spur us to continue to work harder by continuing to deliver on our mandate." Senior Assistant Registrar and Associate Editor, Obinna Nwodim and few other staff witnessed the brief decoration ceremony.



Prof. Arinze (right) in a warm handshake with Deputy Registrar (Information), Wodi after the decoration

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I Will Stop Encroachment On UniPort Lands, Rivers CP



R/S Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ogunasaki (in uniform) flanked by Pro-Chancellor, Engr. Gesi and V-C, Prof. Ajenka and other members of the Governing Council

Cont'd from p1

This was the outcome of the outcome of a visit by the State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Tunde Ogunasaki, when he led a large contingent of his top line officers to pay a familiarisation visit to the University, last Wednesday. Mr. Ogunasaki, who assured that the Command would ensure that it puts a stop to further encroachment into the boundaries of the University, said that the Rivers State Police Command was putting in place programmes and strategies to reduce crime in the State, appealing to authorities of the University to make available experts from the University as resource persons at workshops and seminars mounted by the Command. He said that the situation he met on ground showed that there was peace in the University environment, adding that his Command would do whatever within its powers to reduce crime in the State, promising to safeguard lives and property in and around the University at all times.

Welcoming the Commissioner, the Pro-Chancellor, Engineer Gesi Asasamuel, who commended Mr. Ogunasaki and his personnel over their effective policing of the State since his deployment here, said that encroachment into lands belonging to the University was

a serious problem militating against the accelerated development of the Institution. The Chairman of Council made a passionate appeal to the Police Commissioner to urgently come to the aid of the University to enable it dislodge the land speculators, who he said were apparently operating in connivance with some unscrupulous persons within the University's host communities.

He regretted reports of the unwholesome activities of land speculators in the University, which has resulted in the loss of about 52% of the original land area surveyed and allocated to the University in 1975. The Pro-Chancellor said that the University was a serious academic environment, which necessitated adequate maintenance of law and order. He appealed to the Commissioner to continue to respond to the needs of the University, particularly in times of distress to enable staff and students carry out their core mandate in an unfettered learning environment. Turning to complaints made by authorities of the University over incessant encroachment on University lands, CP Ogunasaki warned all such persons to stay off the University, promising that his Command will identify those involved and handle their cases in line with

existing laws. "We are not going to fold our hands and watch land speculators take over lands that have been statutorily allocated to the University by the Federal Government; we will take immediate remedial measures to ensure that all those, who illegally encroached on such lands are dealt with according to law. I have gone round and seen the alarming extent of encroachment and I can assure the University that all those involved will be fished out and dealt with in line with powers available to the Rivers State Police Command; the sanctity of University lands must be respected and enforced at all times and the land speculators will hear from us very soon," he assured authorities of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor, who authorised the Commissioner and his entourage to search the proposed site for the new Police Station and residential area for the personnel along Alua Road, pleaded with the Commissioner to save the University from land speculators, who he said had taken their business right into the Campus.

"As I speak, we no longer have access to land for developmental purposes in this University. The encroachment is so aggressive that we now fear that clashes may soon erupt between some staff of the University and land speculators, who are on the prowl all over the place. We cannot continue like this. In other institutions, the encroachment is at the border, while we are compelled to battle the land grabbers right inside the University with the potentials for crisis without notice," a visibly worried Vice-Chancellor told the Commissioner, calling for urgent measures to reverse the trend.

On the Commissioner's entourage were the Deputy Commissioner (Operations), Mr. Clement Adofia; Area Commander, Port Harcourt, Mr. Aliyu Garba; Commander Counter-Terrorism Unit, Rasaq Oseni; immediate past Divisional Police Officer (Cobea); Mrs. Philo Dan-Jumbo and her successor, Mr Preye Egbe, amongst others.

In recognition of his commitment to the development of the arts, especially music education in Nigeria, the Association of Nigerian Musicologists (ANIM) has named the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka patron of the Association.

Making the presentation at the 12th Annual National Conference held at the New Theatre and Film Studies Lecture Hall, last Monday, President of the Association, Dr Femi Adeleji, cited the Vice-Chancellor's unremitting support for the Department of Music in the University as motivation for the honour bestowed on him.

He said: "You have been giving support to the Department of Music, especially the building of a Department of Music complex of international standard and we appreciate your effort in that direction. The honour is our little way of showing appreciation for your continued support to the development of Music in the University and Nigeria."

Adeleji, who recalled that the Conference, which had "Rhythms in African Music: Identity, Creativity and Industry" as its theme and originally slated for last year, observed that there is a gap between foreign-based musicologists and their home-based counterparts, calling for more research and networking to close such gaps. In his speech, the Vice-Chancellor, who acknowledged that although he is a petroleum engineer by profession, his soul was in the arts, adding that he wholeheartedly accepted the honour to be a Patron of the Association. He thanked the Association for considering him fit for the honour.

Professor Ajenka disclosed that the wish of the current administration was to work towards the growth of the music industry by training students that would graduate with entrepreneurial skills in the discipline, which would distinguish them as accomplished composers and performers in the industry.

"Our wish as in a University is to produce a galaxy of music stars, just as we have been able to produce a galaxy of movie stars that dominate Nollywood today. Musicians are very happy people and our Department of Music is a happy Department too," he stated, adding that on completion of the departmental building now under construction, Music would join the Departments of English Studies and Petroleum Engineering as those with their own buildings.

Ajenka, who performed the formal unveiling of a book titled: *African Musicology: Past, Present and Future*—f

Nigerian Musicologists Name V-C Patron At Confab

By Humphrey Ogu



L-R: Dean, Humanities, Prof. Unemegwu, Head, Music, Prof. Nwankwo, V-C, Prof. Ajenka, President ANIM, Dr. Adeleji, Dr. Isaac Ifeadi and DV-C (Adviser), Prof. Nsukala

Festschrift For Moseunola Ajenka Omohiyi-Oblakir, edited by Charles Adefue et al, noted that the best way to preserve knowledge was to put it in a book, pledging to purchase some copies of the book for use in the University.

Earlier in his speech, Chairman of the occasion, and Director of South-South Operations, DAAR Communications Plc, Barri Peresengu, who observed that the Rhythms of African Music are very deep, said that the Department of Music in the University had contributed to the growth of music in Rivers State and its environs.

Delivering the Keynote Address titled, "Contemplating African Rhythms: Creativity and the Politics of Identity Construction," Dr. Bode Orenjia of Miami Holyoke College, Massachusetts, USA, stated that "In gravitating theories about African music, the critical question should always be whether or not such theories are reflective of the ways local practitioners and bearers of the music, feel,

conceive and create their music."

Represented by the Chairman, Conference Planning Committee, Dr. AdieOluwa Okanade of the University of Port Harcourt, Omenala recommended that "Concepts and theories of African music need to be ethnographically grounded."

The Conference, which drew participants from various academic institutions around the country, received goodwill messages from the Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Unemegwu; Head of Department of Music, Professor Oyene Nwankwo and Chief Operating Officer, Olympia Company Limited, Mr. Chikwe Nwankwo, who expressed his firm's willingness to collaborate with the Department and ANIM in the growth of the music industry. Other highlights of the event included performances by the Osigbo Dance of Choba, as well as traditional and classical musical performances by students of the Department of Music.

Again, V-C Appeals To Contractors On Debts

By Otikor Samuel

With administration of funds, the present administration of the University would certainly defray all outstanding debts to Contractors to free the next leadership of the burden of grappling with such responsibility on assumption of office. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, gave the assurance while addressing a delegation of UniPort Contractors' Welfare Association in his Committee Room, penultimate Friday.

Professor Ajenka, who reiterated his earlier promise to pay the Contractors in installments until the debts are finally disposed of before the completion of his

tenure, regretted the situation, which he partly blamed on the repeated disruption of academic activities, assuring the delegation that his administration would continue with the payment arrangements at the end of the month as agreed with the Contractors.

"We have agreed to pay part of the money on a quarterly basis; just exercise a little more patience as payment of debts was provided for in our budget for this year. I hope to defray most of the debts before I complete my tenure and not to transfer debt to the next administration even though, I know that government is a continuous process. The major challenge before us is paucity of funds; the amount

involved is way beyond my salary. These are not personal debts; they were placed on my table as I assumed office in 2010, but I had to take responsibility because they were incurred in the name of the University.

"We receive only N16.7 million monthly grants from the Federal Government, but we spend about N100 million to run the University per month. We are saddled with the responsibility of sourcing the huge difference to keep the system afloat. We have cut down cost tremendously to enable us manage the situation," Professor Ajenka said.

The Vice-Chancellor, however, frowned at what he described as the resort to unwarranted expression of grievances through the electronic and print media to blackmail the University. "It is a betrayal of trust for you to write to the Governing Council of the University, accusing us of awarding contracts against the Procurement Act; when we knew that we had no money to pay Contractors and going to the mass media to blackmail us. Don't make it look as if it is a personal thing; we regret the situation we now find ourselves and we promised to be paying on quarterly basis which we have started doing. We will collate what we have at the end of this month and pay the ones we can meet up now and then hopefully pay up subsequently before I leave office," he emphasized.

Earlier, Chairman of the Association, Mr. Collins Amadi, who briefed the Vice-Chancellor on the plight of the Contractors, pleaded for prompt resolution of the impasse, regretting that most of the Contractors had incurred personal losses while the debts lingered. He urged the University to pay up for jobs that were successfully delivered to enable the Contractors meet their personal obligations to their creditors and families.

The meeting which ended in a lighter mood, also had the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Eliezer Ndaka; Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Alesi and Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wadi and his counterpart in charge of the Vice-Chancellor's Office, Mr. Kolney Makale, in attendance.



F-C, Prof Ajenka (clockwise), Principal and Senior Officers of the University (left) and the Contractors (right)

Again, the University of Port Harcourt Debate Club has emerged tops at an International Debate Competition held between 30th July and 4th August, 2014 in Cotonou, Benin Republic.

Briefing *UniPort Weekly* on the team's exploits, Team Leader of the Club, Peter Akus, recalled that the debate at Cotonou was organized by a Non-Governmental Organization, known as *Impact-Africa International*, while the Ghana Tertiary Debate Championship was organized by the Debate Ghana Association, a body comprising all Tertiary Institutions in Ghana and also involving several countries in West Africa, held at the Islamic University, East Legon.

Akus, who is a student in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the event, stating that the University took the first position during the debate held at Cotonou and also produced the Most Eloquent Debater. "The debate was held at Novotel Beach Hotel, Benin Republic, while the format was based on the American Presidential System of Debate, also known as Lincoln Douglas," he told our Correspondents.

The Team Leader further recalled that UniPort Debate Team had earlier represented the University at the Ghana Tertiary Debate Championship last July. "The University was represented by two teams, Team A known as Alade, and Team B known as Tivon. A total of 37 countries participated at the competition. UniPort Team A made it to the semi-finals, while Team B got to the quarter finals before it crashed out," Akus disclosed, adding that he personally won the position of 9th Best Debater.

According to Akus, the whole essence of the Debating Club is to encourage lovers of debate to freely come around and join the group, noting that they brainstorm and discuss topical issues concerning the country.

Also speaking, Jewel Ike-Obisha, a student of the

UniPort Debaters Shine At Int'l Event

By Mercy Adeniji and Humphrey Ogu

Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, who participated in the Public Speaking segment of the Ghana Tertiary Debate Championship made it to the semi-finals.

Corroborating the view of the team leader, Oseyekachi Oseye, a student of Medicine and Surgery, said the Club is open to students, who love debate, explaining that during their training sessions, they learn how to answer questions properly and initiate counter

arguments in a proper debating manner. "We learn all these skills before we go for various competitions," he said, calling on students of the University to feel free to join the Club to enable them understand how to handle issues in the proper way, especially through dialogue, rather than taking laws into their own hands.

The students further expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka; Chairman Debate Committee, Professor Ishemacher Akakura and other members of the Committee for supporting and properly guiding the Club.



Some UniPort Debate Club members, Akus, Ike-Obisha and Oseye (right)

I Had A Successful Tenure ~Prof Ekekwe

By Mercy Adeniji

The immediate past Head, Department of Political and Administrative Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Emeka Ekekwe, has expressed satisfaction over his successful tenure as Head for two years, stating that he was able to achieve some of his stated objectives with the assistance of his wonderful

colleagues, administrative staff and students.

Professor Ekekwe, who recalled his experience while in office, said the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Dean appoints very senior academics as Heads of Department. "I have completed my two-year tenure and my successor has also been appointed in the person of Dr Chisnay Mac-Ogono. Looking back, I think I had a very successful tenure. From my personal point of view, I think I also succeeded in what I set out to accomplish in the Department within the time available," the former Head said with a visible measure of satisfaction.

According to Professor Ekekwe, the Head of any institution or organization takes full responsibility for any success or failure during his or her tenure, but it is also recognized that the Head works with colleagues and other members of the public to attain organizational goals. "In my own case, I enjoyed very strong support from the Vice-Chancellor, who gave me the responsibility, and also from my Dean, Professor Henry Alapiki and other colleagues," he said.

Professor Ekekwe, who is the Occupant, Claude Ake Professorial Chair of Political Economy, revealed that he and his colleagues were able to continue the process of reshaping the Department and through the efforts of the Dean, they were able to make recommendations on the Course Content and Structure of a new Department to be carved out of the present one, noting that once this is approved by Senate of the University, "we would have a Department of Public Administration and the Department of Political Science to enable us focus more on the core subject areas in the two options."

Professor Ekekwe, who doubles as Director, Claude Ake School of Government, noted that another thing he was able to accomplish during his tenure was the restructuring of the Graduate programme of the Department in keeping with the National Universities Commission (NUC) guideline, explaining that recently-admitted students were currently running the new NUC-approved programme. "What this means is that we have totally reworked the entire programmes to conform to prevailing trends around the world," he told our Correspondent.

Prof Ekekwe

Preparatory to the formal commissioning of facilities installed at the Shell-Aret Adams Chair in Petroleum Engineering in the University of Port Harcourt, representatives of the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), were in the University, penultimate Tuesday, to inspect the equipment meant for use by the Chair to enhance its operations.

Speaking with UniPort Weekly shortly after the meeting, the Head, University Liaison of SPDC, Professor Anthony Chukwu, who disclosed that the delegation was in the University to carry out an audit of activities embarked upon by the Chair endowed by the Company, stated that the multinational oil giant has deployed equipment valued at N45 million to enhance research at the Shell-Aret Adams Chair, expressing delight at the delivery of high quality research activities and prudent use of funds by the Chair Occupant, Professor Adewale Dosemelu, who spear-headed the famous OPTIWELL software research.

He disclosed that the equipment would be commissioned in the University on Thursday, August 28, 2014, adding that the Nigerian National Petroleum Commission (NNPC), which is a major Joint Venture Partner of Shell and the Mass Media would be among stakeholders invited to the groundbreaking commissioning ceremony.

"Through the Shell-Aret Adams Chair, we have funded an important research project and invested in development activities that are of mutual-benefit to SPDC and the University. The OPTIWELL software is one of the benefits to Shell's well-drilling processes and we are extremely pleased with the outcome of the research. We are very happy with this development that proves what positive results that could be reaped from University-Industry partnership," he said, revealing that plans are underway to initiate a legal agreement and obtain a patent to harvest the full benefits of

Speaking on the challenges he faced in the line of duty, the outgoing Head of Department identified the problem of managing students as a major headache faced by his administration. "We need to keep working the administrative processes to make them student-friendly. We need to create mechanisms in the Departments to harness input from our students and give them a certain kind of voice and sense of community. The Head of any Department is first and foremost the leader in certain academic directions and for me that includes making it possible for students to take pride in that discipline," he noted.

"Everyone sees Political Sciences as so vital and lucrative as a subject. So the greatest challenge I faced in office was to begin to make students understand the capacity of the discipline to help in shaping society. This means we must engage ourselves and the public in debate about important issues to enable us build consensus," he added. Professor Ekekwe further revealed that while in office, he tried to encourage students to know their rights and obligations in the Department so that they are not easily intimidated by the authorities, especially when such authorities have not clearly communicated their objectives to them. He was also of the view that students must understand their obligations toward the growth of the University. "I also insisted that in doing that, students must follow the laid-down rules in order not to infringe on the terms of their admission. As I see it, our primary role is to begin to teach ourselves and our students to be positive. We should practise what we preach, so for any leader, this would always be a major challenge," he submitted.

The immediate past HoD expressed gratitude to those who worked with him to ensure that he succeeded, stating that as he steps aside, he had more work to do as Chair Occupant and Director. He explained that to occupy a Chair, it means that a lot has to be done in terms of research, seminars and workshops. "I must acknowledge the strong effort from my colleagues and I certainly hope that my successor succeeds better than I did. He would always have my support and anything I or anyone else can do to support him, we should assist him to succeed, because the only way to go is up. We all have a joint objective in ensuring that the Department is taken to a new height," the former HoD said.

SPDC Happy With UniPort Over Shell-Aret Adams Chair

By Humphrey Ogu

OPTIWELL software, which cuts drilling cost, saves time and optimizes production for SPDC.

"We run a wide range of programmes with universities, especially University. For instance, we ran a Summer Session, Internship for Postgraduate Students and offer placements for Lecturers on Sabbatical Leave from universities. We also provide opportunities for Final Year Students to compete with their peers around the globe by designing fuel-efficient engines through a programme known as Shell Eco-marathon," he explained.

Also speaking, Chair Occupant, Professor Dosemelu, said the meeting afforded both parties—the University and

SPDC—an opportunity to evaluate what has been achieved so far, assess the challenges and proffer the way forward to enhance the contribution of UniPort to the crude oil production processes of Shell through the development of the OPTIWELL software, expressing satisfaction that the Company was very pleased with the achievement of the Chair within the period of its endowment.

Other members of the Shell delegation included: Senior Research Advisor, University Liaison, Professor Emmanuel Ukpeler; Research and Development (R&D) Advisor, SPDC; Stanley Harcourt, and Sustainability Assurance and Evaluation, SDRR of the Company in Nigeria, Mrs Stella Emeke-Okoli.



L-R: Prof. Ukpeler, Chukwu, V-C, Prof. Ajieka, Mrs. Stella Emeke-Okoli, Prof. Dosemelu and Stanley Harcourt

UniPort Gets Continental Athletic Centre

Cont'd from p1

South Africa, must come to the assistance of other smaller nations on the Continent to help them excel in sporting activities.

"This has been our dream for so long, but I thank God that the dream is now a reality," Kaikabu said.

hoping that the Universities and athletes in the West African sub-Region would benefit maximally from the UniPort Centre.

The Nigerian Government was represented at the MoU signing ceremony by an Embassy official in Morocco, Lawal Bappak. Also present at the historic occasion were President of the Athletic



Dr. Asuagweje, Director, Health Services Dept



Ogba, AFN President



Kaikabu, CAA President

Federation of Nigeria (AFN), Solomon Ogha, the Director of Sports in UniPort, Dr. Ken Asuagweje, the AFN Technical Director, Navy Commodore Onasiseye Neslama and the Special Assistant to the Director-General of the National Sports Commission (NSC), Mary Onyeali, as well as Hawa Kuku-Akinyemi, who is a Director at the NSC.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation, Akinyemi expressed gratitude to the IAAF and CAA for establishing the Centre in Nigeria, promising that everything possible would be done to make it functional within the shortest possible time. Akinyemi, who signed on behalf of Nigeria, said she was one hundred per cent sure that the Centre will be a success because in its infancy, it had already produced potential world beaters such as Ese Brume, who won gold at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and at the Marrakech 2014 Africa Athletics Championships; and Divine Oduduru, winner of silver medal in the 200 metre at the IAAF World Junior Championships in Oregon, USA, last month.

Akinyemi also appealed to the IAAF and CAA to send qualified personnel to the emergent Centre to help train athletes and officials. The Centre, which is the first of its kind in Africa, is nearing completion at the University Park.

It would be recalled that the University of Port Harcourt had dominated the Nigerian Universities Games Association (NUGA) and the West African Universities Games (WAUG) competitions, resulting in some admirers renaming the University as UniSports!

NSBS, Others, Donate To Biochemistry, As New HoD Outlines Vision

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The 2012/13 Executive of the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Nigerian Society of Biochemistry Students (NSBS), an Alumnus and Final Year students, have donated several items as part of their contributions towards the growth of the Department. Items donated included: a 2.2kW power generating set and computer set and three sets of electrophoresis machines to aid research.

Making the donation penultimate Thursday in the Office of the Head of Department, Wisdom Gibson and Oloma Osumwana on behalf of the students,

stated that the items were donated to boost academic and research activities in the Department. Meanwhile, the new Head of Department, Professor Matthew Wegwu, who expressed satisfaction at the high level of commitment exhibited by staff and students of the Department, has disclosed his vision for the Department following his appointment.

He noted that while the Department was working towards ensuring that all programmes complied with the National Universities Commission (NUC) Basic Minimum Academic Standards (BMAS), two additional courses, *Introductory Biochemistry* and *Forensic Biochemistry*, have been introduced for the benefit of students. "The Department has acquired a brand new Amino Acid Analyzer and two UV Spectrophotometers as part of efforts aimed at equipping the Laboratory

and discouraging the use of private laboratories for research by students," he added.

Professor Wegwu, who disclosed that the overall goal was to build a viable Biochemistry Department that would compete favourably with those outside the country, announced plans by the Department to institute a Sickle Cell Research Foundation in honour of late Professor Gabriel Ekeke, who produced the famous sickle cell drug known as *Cidril*, which was recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO), adding that a Board of Trustees would be constituted on the inaugural day to celebrate the achievements of the renowned scientist.

"The idea is to resurrect Professor Ekeke in the Department of Biochemistry. We cannot watch his works die", he pointed out, stressing the need to harness the Department's four areas of strength: Medical, Nutritional, Environmental and Industrial Biochemistry into different research teams and cells for the benefit of society.

STOP PRESS

NUC ADVISES VARSITIES ON EBOLA

As a result of the spread of the dreaded Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the country and the high rate of students and staff mobility around campuses of higher learning in the country, the National Universities Commission (NUC), has advised universities to take proactive measures against the scourge by curtailing all non-essential travels. Executive Secretary of the Commission, Professor Julius Okojie, in a Memo to Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, dated 7th August, 2014 and made available to this Weekly, also urged universities to restrict movement of students from other parts of West Africa studying in Nigeria. "Nigerian students, especially language and exchange students, due to commerce studies in other African countries should be advised to postpone their resumption until further notice; visitors identified to have come into the Campus from affected areas must be duly screened for the virus before being admitted into the Campus; pay close attention to sanitation and the cleanliness of their immediate environment on Campus," Professor Okojie advised, adding that individual universities may wish to take other precautionary measures to ensure safety on their Campuses.



New Head, Biochemistry, Prof. Wegwu (arrowed) with some of the donors and items

GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Elizabeth Okeke, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, re-appointed **Director, Patience Jonathan Centre for Gender and Women Development Studies (PJC-GNDS)**, effective 28th July, 2014 to 26th July, 2016.

Professor Enwerie Akporodje, Department of Geology, College of Natural & Applied Sciences, re-appointed **Director, Institute for Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES)**, effective 24th March, 2014 to 25th March, 2016.

Professor C.A. Nwauche, Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Basic Medical Sciences, appointed **Assistant Director, Centre for Malaria Research and Phyto-medicine (CMRAP)**. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 12th August, 2016.

Professor Femi Shaka, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed **Head of Department**. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 15th August, 2016.

Dr Andrew Ejemini, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, appointed **Acting Dean, Student Affairs Department**. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 19th August, 2016.

Dr I.J. Oturukwu, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Processing & Energy Systems Engineering, College of Engineering, appointed **Acting Director, School of Basic Studies**. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 15th August, 2016.

Dr Ejike Ugwu, Centre for Occupational Health, Safety & Environment (COHSE), Institute of Petroleum Studies, appointed **Coordinator**. The one-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 12th August, 2015.

Dr Bismarck Kombo, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, re-appointed **Head of Department**, effective 9th May, 2014 to 10th May, 2016.

Dr C.U. Mac-Ogono, Department of Political & Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed **Acting Head of Department**. The two-year appointment, which takes immediate effect, terminates on 12th August, 2016.

Dr Abigail Horfall, Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed **Acting Head of Department**. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 12th August, 2016.

-- BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES --

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS VERDICT ON UNILORIN STUDENTS' RESULT

The Supreme Court has awarded an additional cost of N200,000 in favour of an ex-student of the University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Stephen Akinola. The Appeal Court had earlier allowed the claim of N12 million as damages occasioned by the withholding of his result by the University following his participation in a student union protest. Delivering the lead judgment, Justice Mary Peter-Odili frowned at what she described as insubordination of

the University to the intervention by the Federal Government that pleaded for mercy on behalf of the student.

US TOPS SHANGHAI VARSITY RANKINGS, CHINA ON RISE

American universities have again outstripped more than 1,250 other higher education institutions around the world in the annual Shanghai Jiao Tong listing of the global top 500 universities. And for the 12th year running, Harvard was placed number one.

UNIVERSITIES ADJUST PLANS IN FACE OF EBOLA CRISIS

American universities are suspending programmes in West Africa in the light of the Ebola outbreak, and taking measures to ensure that no one comes back to campus with the disease, writes Karen Weisraeth for USA Today.

On 31 July, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention warned Americans against non-essential travel to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone

Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau
Minister of Education

because of Ebola. The disease has sickened more than 1,700 in those countries and claimed more than 960 lives.

Since then, several universities have announced that they would not send their students to the region. New York University issued a statement saying that it would not send students to its programme in Ghana for the autumn. Ghana has not had any cases of Ebola, but it sits between the West African nations at the centre of the outbreak – Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia – and Nigeria, which has seen at least 10 cases since a sick American travelled there and died last month.

Full report on the USA Today site

ACCOUNTING STUDENT EMERGES LANDMARK VARSITY BGS

A 21 year-old graduate of Accounting, Roselyn Hermans-Efenuku, emerged the Best Graduating Student (BGS) of Landmark University, Omu-Aran, Kwara State with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 4.98 on a five-point scale. The Best Graduating Student, who recalled that she laid a solid foundation right from her first year in a competitive 5.0/5.0 with four other students in her Department, said the least grade she had was 4.84.

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DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 24-SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2014

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (hrs) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 24 AUG, 2014	30.0 31.8	87	E	3.6	6:27 18:41	Thunderstorms expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm-day expected.
MONDAY, 25 AUG, 2014	32.0 34.8	72	E	18.8	6:27 18:41	Heavy rain expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
TUESDAY, 26 AUG, 2014	30.0 33.8	77	NE	8.4	6:27 18:41	Thunderstorms expected early in the day. More cloud than sun anticipated.
WEDNESDAY, 27 AUG, 2014	30.0 33.8	75	NE	11	6:28 18:48	Thunderstorms expected early in the day. More cloud than sun anticipated. Warm day expected.
THURSDAY, 28 AUG, 2014	29.0 33.8	69	E	2.4	6:28 18:48	Thunderstorms expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day predicted.
FRIDAY, 29 AUG, 2014	30.0 33.8	77	NE	12.8	6:28 18:39	A few rain showers anticipated. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
SATURDAY, 30 AUG, 2014	30.0 32.8	80	NE	7.9	6:28 18:38	A few thunderstorms expected with partly cloudy and warm day predicted.

DR GLADYS ENEMEKE
ACTING HOD

PROF SAMUEL AROKOTU
DIRECTOR, ICDRMS

INDS Public Lecture

The Institute of Niger Delta Studies organised a Public Lecture delivered by Dr Temitope Oriola, a Lecturer in Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Alberta, Canada on Wednesday, 6th August, 2014 at the International Students' Centre, University Park. Pictures show highlights of the event as captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**.



Director, Special Projects, Prof Matthew Nwogwu, who represented V-C, Prof Joseph Ajekola welcoming Dr Oriola



Members of the Hostelitory standing for UniPort Anthem



Chairman of the event, Emeritus Prof Ebiegbosi Alegba (right) and Guest Lecturer, Dr Oriola



Emeritus Prof. Alegba making his opening remarks



V-C's representative, Prof Nwogwu presenting his address



Dr Babatunde Nnaji reading a citation on the Guest Lecturer



Guest Lecturer, Dr Oriola delivering addressing the audience



Director, INDS, Prof Abi Derefaika making a speech



Dr Andrew Efemini making a contribution after the Lecture



Guest Lecturer presenting a copy of his book to Prof Derefaika



L-R: Prof Derefaika, Administrative Officer, Mrs Aja and Dean, Humanities, Prof John Enenwegwu (front row)



Cross-section of participants at the event



A group photograph of Senior Officers of the University and other guests