



Six Foreign Students Join INRES Orientation Programme

As part of the vision of the University of Port Harcourt to internationalize its programmes at home, the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainability, (INRES) has concluded an orientation exercise for the third batch of students admitted into the Master of Science programme. Six foreign students from several African countries were amongst candidates that participated in the exercise that attracted guests from all over the country, reports *Obinna Nwodin*.

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Side Bar

Faculty of Dentistry kicked-off the 40th Anniversary celebration with the 2nd Dentistry week. Details next week. ~Editor



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116th Inaugural

Akani Lists Obstacles To Childbirth In Nigeria

By Humphrey Ogo

In view of the multiple challenges associated with childbirth in many developing nations, distinguished Gynaecologist in the University, Professor Chris Akani, has called for concerted efforts to ensure safe child delivery in Nigeria. Delivering the 116th Inaugural

Lecture entitled: *Rightbirth as Birthright: A Reflection to Act Right*, at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium last Thursday, Akani, who is of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences, declared: "We have learnt that when we do things contrary to the right frame, we set the stage for avoidable complications. When we

fail to protect, respect and defend the rights of women, things go wrong... We need to commit the right resources, right funding and right personnel that will help to prevent wrong outcomes with catastrophic consequences for all concerned."

"My submission is that it is the birthright of everyone on this planet

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SCIENTIFIC INNOVATIONS



Science Has Great News for People Who Read Actual Books

By Rachel Grate

It's no secret that reading is good for you. Just six minutes of reading is enough to reduce stress by 68%, and numerous studies have shown that reading keeps your brain functioning effectively as you age. One study even found that elderly individuals who read regularly are 2.5 times less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease than their peers who do not read. But not all forms of reading are created equal.

The debate between paper books and e-readers has been vicious since the first Kindle came out in 2007. Most arguments have been about the sentimental versus the practical, between people who prefer how paper pages feel in their hands and people who argue for the practicality of e-readers. But now science has weighed in, and the studies are on the side of paper books.

Reading in print helps with comprehension. A 2014 study found that readers of a short mystery story on a Kindle were significantly worse at remembering the order of events than those who read the same story in paperback. Lead researcher Anne Mangen of Norway's Stavanger University concluded that "the haptic and tactile feedback of a Kindle does not provide the same support for mental reconstruction of a story as a print pocket book does."

Our brains were not designed for reading, but have adapted and created new circuits to understand letters and texts. The brain reads by constructing a mental representation of the text based on the placement of the page in the book and the word on the page.

The tactile experience of a book aids this process, from the thickness of the pages in your hands as you progress through the story to the placement of a word on the page. Mangen hypothesizes that the difference for Kindle readers "might have something to do with the fact that the fixity of a text on paper, and this very gradual unfolding of paper as you progress through a story is some kind of sensory offload, supporting the visual sense of progress when you're reading."

While e-readers try to recreate the sensation of turning pages and pagination, the screen is limited to one ephemeral virtual page. Surveys about the

use of e-readers suggest that this affects a reader's serendipity and sense of control. The inability to flip back to previous pages or control the text physically, either through making written notes or bending pages, limits one's sensory experience and thus reduces long-term memory of the text.

Reading long sentences without links is a skill you need—but can lose if you don't practice.

Reading long, literary sentences sans links and distractions is actually a serious skill that you lose if you don't use it. Before the Internet, the brain read in a linear fashion, taking advantage of sensory details to remember where key information was in the book by layout.

As we increasingly read on screens, our reading habits have adapted to skim text rather than really absorb the meaning. A 2006 study found that people read on screens in an "F" pattern, reading the entire top line but then only scanning through the text along the left side of the page. This sort of nonlinear reading reduces comprehension and actually makes it more difficult to focus the next time you sit down with a longer piece of text. Tufts University neuroscientist Maryanne Wolf worries that "the superficial way we read during the day is affecting us when we have to read with more in-depth processing." Individuals are increasingly finding it difficult to sit down and immerse themselves in a novel. As a result, some researchers and literature-lovers have started a "slow reading" movement, as a way to counteract their difficulty making it through a book.

Reading in a slow, focused, undistracted way is good for your brain.

Slow-reading advocates recommend at least 30 to 45 minutes of daily reading away from the distractions of modern technology. By doing so, the brain can reengage with linear reading. The benefits of making slow reading a regular habit are numerous, reducing stress and improving your ability to concentrate.

Regular reading also increases empathy, especially when reading a print book. One study discovered that individuals who read an upsetting short story



Dr. Abdul Bulama
Minister of Science and Technology

on an iPad were and experienced less transportation and immersion than those who read on paper.

Reading an old-fashioned novel is also linked to improving sleep. When many of us spend our days in front of screens, it can be hard to signal to our body that it's time to sleep. By reading a paper book about an hour before bed, your brain enters a new zone, distinct from that enacted by reading on an e-reader.

Three-quarters of Americans 18 and older report reading at least one book in the past year, a number which has fallen, and e-books currently make up between 1% of all book sales. In this increasingly Twitter- and TV-centric world, it's the regular readers, the ones who take a break from technology to pick up a paper book, who have a serious advantage on the rest of us.

<http://mic.com/articles/29408/science-has-great-news-for-people-who-read-actual-books>

UniPort, Institute Train Scientists On Nuclear Security

By Otiok Samuel

Engineers, Scientists and Technicians drawn from reputable organizations across the country, assembled at the Thermal Hydraulic Laboratory, Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies for a week-long training on Nuclear Security. The training which was organized under the auspices of the Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies, University of Port Harcourt in collaboration with the Nigerian Chapter of the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management, took place between 12th and 16th January, 2015.

Director of the Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies, Professor Ayodele Kuye, disclosed that the trainees

were drawn from the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission, Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Law enforcement agencies and the oil and gas industries, adding that topics for the training covered basic nuclear physics, introduction to nuclear security, safety standards in nuclear facility, introduction to cyber security, insider threats and human reliability.

"The Workshop is intended to create awareness for Engineers, Scientists, Technical and Non-Technical personnel on Nuclear Security and the necessary safety measures to adopt, while handling or coming in contact with nuclear materials or radioactive sources," Professor Kuye, who was also Chairman of

the Local Organizing Committee said.

In his opening speech, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who commended the organizers for the choice of the University for the Workshop, informed the guests that his administration placed premium on quality training that would introduce staff to current trends that would enable them to deliver world-class service to clients.

Professor Ajienka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Efelbert Ndika, praised the Centre for matching its mandate with action by graduating pioneer Nuclear Engineers and engaging in rewarding collaborations with experts in the field.

Some of the resource persons who facilitated the training were Professors Kuye, Adewale Dosunmu, Sunday Jonah, Drs. Rose Onoja, Akinjide Akinola and Mr. Adamu Abdul.



Director, Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies, Prof Kuye (arrowed), resource persons and other participants after the opening ceremony

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Six Foreign Students Join INRES Orientation Programme



Dr. Igali (arrowed), V-C, Prof Ajienka flanked to his right, as well as INRES Students and other Senior Officers of the University

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Addressing the students, Chairman of the Governing Board of INRES, Dr. Godkowns Igali, who thanked authorities of the University for its support for the Institute, described the success story as a celebration of doggedness and hard work by the Director and his team. He said that more still needed to be done to ensure that the Institute operated at its full capacity, expressing hope that 2015 would mark a significant milestone in the activities of INRES with the foundation stone-laying for its permanent site by the middle of the year, as well as hosting of the 'Deltas-in-Africa Conference' in October. Dr. Igali, who is also a distinguished Alumnus of the University, congratulated the new students on their admission into the University, reminding them that they have become part of a University he described as one of the leading tertiary institutions in the world.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, stated that the authorities were impressed with the activities of the Institute, commending the Governing Board for giving it the proper leadership it desired. According to the Vice-Chancellor, it was only the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) that had capacity to graduate students within the stipulated academic period, stressing that there was need to continue improvements on service-delivery to students. Also speaking, Director-General of the Directorate for

Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA), Mr. Shuaib Suleiman, said that the programme was very dear to the agency, on account of its potential for promoting co-operation and integration on the Continent. He added that it was based on the progress recorded by INRES that the Directorate was encouraged to provide grants for the programme from the Nigerian Technical Cooperation Fund (NTCF).

Mr. Suleiman, who was represented by the Assistant Director of Programme Management Department, Margaret Aonka, said that "with the array of erudite resource persons on ground, INRES has the appropriate course content and we at DTCA have no doubt that the programme will actualize the purpose for which it was established."

In his contribution, Country Director of the African Development Bank (ADB), Dr. Ousmane Dore, said that the orientation ceremony was special because it represented a further boost to the integration efforts on the Continent. He commended the Federal Government for its commitment to the advancement of Africa through the provision of funds for capacity building on the continent.

Dr. Dore, who was represented by Principal Education Specialist of ADB, Mrs. Bolu Olayoye, expressed hope that the students will attain the required level of proficiency at the end of the programme to enable them contribute to the overall development of Africa.

In his presentation, Director of the Institute, Professor Enuak Akpokoje, who gave a run-down of the activities of INRES since it was established in November 2012, said it is determined to be a world-class Centre of Excellence for inter, trans and multi-disciplinary graduate education, applied research and capacity building in natural resources, environment and sustainable development. Professor Akpokoje disclosed that INRES was poised to produce competent indigenous manpower, capable of developing and implementing integrated, multi-disciplinary and sustainable solutions to developmental, environmental and natural resource management.

Also speaking, the Charge d'Affaires of Rwanda, Protogene Nsumungumuri, commended authorities of the University for introducing the programme, expressing optimism that it would go a long way to improve capacity on the African continent. Responding on behalf of their colleagues, Samba Balle from the Gambia and Embet Bekele from Kenya, pledged to take the programmes seriously, hoping that at the end of it all, they would be able to contribute to the sustainable development of their countries. The event also featured the unveiling of a publication of the Institute by Dr. Igali and presentation of souvenir to special guests by Acting Executive Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Dr. Nguzi Odu.

As stakeholders roll out the drums to celebrate the many landmark achievements and robust academic activities recorded by the University in the last 40 years, it is imperative to remind staff and students that the milestone celebration is expected to chart the way forward for this unique citadel of learning. This is pertinent when viewed against the backdrop of the humble beginnings of the University in 1975 in the central business district of Port Harcourt. Those who witnessed the take-off of the University from its modest Aba Road office to an emergent Trade School in Choba community will appreciate that the University has recorded giant strides in the last 40 years. This is the reason we are celebrating the vision of the founding fathers that now shines in the stars as the University's Anthem boldly proclaims to the world.

Between Monday January 26, and Friday, 30th, the Faculty of Dentistry led the celebrations with medical outreach programmes and an international workshop for its staff and students. It was at the opening ceremony that the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, officially declared the 40th anniversary open. With the celebration theme: *Making unique UniPort more*

40th Anniversary Begins In style Dentistry Takes Lead

By Obinna Nwodin

Unique, all hands should be on deck to ensure that the stated aims and objectives of the anniversary are achieved. The celebrations offer us a golden opportunity to reflect on the past, evaluate where we are and chart a pathway for the future. The celebration also affords us an opportunity to showcase our achievements in the past forty years. There is no department in this University that does not have one thing or the other to showcase for its existence in the last 40 years. In just 40 years, Unique UniPort has become a first choice destination for world-class scholars and talented students, who are part of a select community of curious researchers.

The likes of Claude Ake, Willfried Feuser, Bruce Powell, Gerald Moore, Ola Rotimi, Kay Williamson, Ikenna Nzimiro, William Oglonwa, Ebegberi Alagoo, Charles Nnolim, Chidi Maduka, Julius Onohuonwe, Sunday Anozie, Francis Onofeghara, Chi Ikoka, Dietrich Cooke, Francis Theodor-Ogriki, Alphonso Aunsim, Otonof Nduka, Kelsey Harrison, Nini Briggs, Robin Horton, Mark Antigan, just to mention a few, are iconic intellectual brand names we can celebrate during the ongoing anniversary. These men and women occupied huge scholarly spaces at one time or the other here and made their marks in their respective fields. We would not be wrong if we ascribe the solid foundation on which the University currently stands to their admirable pioneering efforts. The depth of their intellectualism is the crest wave on which we ride today.

Today, the University is branded as an Entrepreneurial University with landmark achievements to showcase to the world. As highlighted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, in a presentation to members of Senate at the 40th Senate meeting last Wednesday, recent achievements are anchored on the University's growing partnership with the Port Harcourt Book

Festival, contributing to designating Port Harcourt as the UNESCO World Book Capital in 2014; the 1st University to establish a Foundation; establishment of the UniPort Business School, Claude Ake School of Government, Port Harcourt School of Public Health, Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS); Bamanga Tukur Institute for International Trade, Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainability (INRES), Emerald Energy Institute, Offshore Technology Institute, African Centre of Excellence in Oil Chemicals Research, amongst others. There are also the Expert-in-Residence and Writers-in-Residence schemes—the first of their kind in any university in Nigeria.

What about the international collaborations and partnerships the University entered into with highly reputable institutions and organizations around the world. The *town and gown* relationship has increased over the years, resulting in significant recognition and engagement of intellectual resources from the University by the Industry. Its contributions can be seen in the quality of graduates it has produced over the years—ranging from politicians, diplomats, captains of industry, certainties university administrators, academics, amongst others.

In forty years, the University of Port Harcourt has given Nigeria a President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the world's most populous black nation, two state Governors and the Managing Director of major banks, amongst others. Indeed, we should climb to the highest peak on the mountain to blow our trumpet. From the least staff to the Vice-Chancellor, it is a thing of pride that we are all part of this unique celebration and indeed no one should be left behind. Hurry, Unique UniPort is 40!

"Subsequent features would highlight, in specific terms, areas in which the University has excelled in the past forty years. Stay with us."



Mgt Faculty Mounts Workshop On Academic Excellence

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Efforts aimed at encouraging academic excellence and cultivating research culture received a major boost last Tuesday, as the Faculty of Management Sciences organized a one-day workshop for its teaching staff and graduate students. Addressing participants at the opening ceremony, representative of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bese Willie Abhey, who described the workshop as timely, described the theme: *Cultivating Research Culture for Academic Excellence*, as very topical. She pointed out that quality research transcended mere publishing for promotion, to providing practical solutions to life challenges.

"Research is not just about publishing, but impacting society in a meaningful way. There is a need to engage in practical research which adds value to human life, rather than allowing research findings to gather dust on the shelf which has been the practice over the years."

Professor Willie Abhey stressed, emphasizing Management's commitment to encouraging research and innovation among academics in the University. She commended the Faculty of Management Sciences for holding the workshop, advising other Faculties to emulate the good example, which she said would sharpen the capacity of participants to contribute quality research to students and younger Faculty members in search of role models as they grow in the profession.



Staff and students of the Faculty after the Workshop

In his remarks, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Emeka Okerke, who described the workshop as a foundation training on research writing and presentation skills for graduate students, advised them on the need to be original in their research work. Advising the students on the need to take the event seriously, Professor Okerke expressed hope that at the end of the training, staff and students of the Faculty would be in a strong position to add value to the system.

Chairman, Publications and Academic Committee, Dr Barina Nwinea, commended the Dean of the Faculty for constituting the Committee which is saddled with the responsibility to nurture and promote academic excellence. "In line with the mandate of the Committee,

the Faculty would hold monthly seminars for graduate students; there will also be an annual conference in October and five public lectures to be facilitated by each Department in the Faculty this year. The Department of Accounting will anchor the first in the series in March," he disclosed.

Topics covered at the one-day workshop included: *Writing for Journal Publications* by Professor Chinda Eziro, *Basic Elements of Research Project Writing* by Dr. Constant Ekeke, *Research Data Management Process* by Dr. Seyi Awaio and *Writing Abstracts, Keywords, Conclusions and Basic Referencing in Research* by Dr. Barina Nwinea.

EEL Graduates Pioneer Students

By Humphrey Ogu

The Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum, Energy Economics, Policy and Strategic Studies, made history on Friday, January 23, 2015 with the graduation of 19 pioneer Master's degree students at the Emmanuel Egbagah Auditorium, along the East-West Road.

Speaking at the maiden graduation ceremony of the Institute, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Joseph, narrated the story surrounding the establishment of the Institute, recalling that it was the 5th Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs' vision that motivated Dr. Emmanuel Egbagah to commit himself to donating a building that now houses the Emerald Energy Institute.

The Vice-Chancellor, who is the Emmanuel Egbagah Chair in Petroleum Engineering, noted that most of the Professors of Petroleum Engineering in Nigeria currently were trained by Dr. Egbagah as pioneer Lecturers at the University of Ibadan, saying, "Once upon a time, it was only the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) that graduated students in 12 months; then the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainability followed suit. Today, Emerald Energy Institute has done it and we are very proud of this important achievement. This means that it is also possible for other graduate programmes in the University to do the same."

On his part, Dr. Egbagah, who is also Chairman of the Governing Board of the Institute, congratulated the graduating students for passing out as pioneer students of the Institute, advising them to become worthy ambassadors of the University at all times.

"I am very delighted to know that my idea of establishing a flagship Institute that engages in policy analysis of the oil and gas industry has become a reality

today with the graduation of the first batch of students on the programme. I hope that the Institute will find its feet in a competitive operational environment that requires only the very best. I hope that the Institute will blossom into a centre of excellence that people from all over the world would be proud to associate with," he said.

The philanthropist, who expressed happiness at the performance of his former students at Ibadan, praised them for the value they had added to the petroleum and gas industry, urging the graduating students to adopt them as worthy role models as they step into the industry.

"They say that Nigerian universities are not doing well, because these products cannot sell in the global market. I am happy to announce that my products are not only attractive, they are in high demand all over the world," he announced to the gathering.

Dr. Egbagah, who noted that the establishment of the Institute was borne out of a crying need to close the knowledge gap created by lack of an energy policy direction and non-availability of a centre to train the requisite manpower in energy economics and policy in the country, said: "This is the only energy policy training centre in Africa. For those of you who are Trailblazers, I congratulate you on the successful completion of your training here and I hope that you will grow your nettle wherever you may find yourself."

In his address, Director of the Institute, Professor Oluwalanle Ilodare, who congratulated the graduating students, said: "The vision of EEL is to become an inimitable international institute of excellence in petroleum and energy economics, management, policy research, and strategic studies in Africa. Its mission is to provide skilled professionals and managers for the petroleum and energy industries and regulatory and policy institutions in Nigeria and the Gulf of Guinea

countries."

Professor Ilodare who is the Chirista and Emmanuel Egbagah Distinguished Professor in the University, explained that the vision and mission of the Emerald Energy Institute are being accomplished through commitment to excellence in training, applied economics and policy research, continuing education, staff development and professional training.

"Certainly, these Trailblazers, who I can attest for, completed this journey in flying colours, despite all the challenges and constraints, and they shall never be the same again. They have read wide and wild. They have come to terms with the fact that the production of natural resources in itself does not develop a nation, but national development comes faster and with effective and equitable utilization of such endowed resources," he stated.

Delivering his Valedictory Speech, the Best Graduating Student, Ebenezer Obidi, who expressed satisfaction at the quality of training the students received at the Institute, pledged to forge a sustainable relationship with his Alma Mater, adding that he and his colleagues will continue to make the Institute and the University of Port Harcourt proud.

"We are energy and petroleum economists and policy strategists and we are ready to make a difference in the nation's economy through application of the specialized skills we have acquired here," he promised.

Former Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, Registrar, Mrs. Modupe Nwodin and Dean of the Graduate School of Engineering and Technology, Professor Adewale Dosunmu, also spoke at the ceremony, charging the students to be goodwill ambassadors of the Institute and the University.

Major highlights of the ceremony were the presentation of awards to students who distinguished themselves in their studies; the induction of a one-time Group General Manager of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC), Dr.

Joseph Eliah as a Fellow of the Institute, induction of the graduating students as members of the Institute and professional bodies.

The ceremony was witnessed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Ndaka, some members of the Institute's Academic Committee and Dr. Ginhah Otunye Ginhah, who represented the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Engineer Ernest Nwaga.



Director EEL, Prof Ilodare (4th from right), V-C, Prof. Ajenka, Dr. Egbagah and wife, Chirista and the graduating students

Senate Decides On Collegiate System Next Month

...Approves Revised Academic Calendar

By Obinna Nwodin

As concerns mount over the increasing running cost and bloated bureaucracy associated with the new Collegiate System, Senate of the University has deferred final decision on the matter to an Extra-ordinary Meeting scheduled for next month.

This position was taken at its 403rd Meeting held last Wednesday at the Senate Chambers, after the presentation of a detailed Report by the Committee chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe. The Report recommended a three-tier Collegiate System aimed at reducing bureaucracy and saving cost in the era of dwindling statutory allocations.

Senate members resolved to study the Report, which they described as historic and central to the orderly development of the academic programmes of the University. Part of the recommendations of the Report suggested the establishment of two Colleges in the interim; namely: the Colleges of Humanities and Engineering, which apparently met the stringent criteria for the emergence of a College. The Report also recommended that if the newly-established College of Natural and Applied Natural Sciences (CNAS) desired to retain its present status, it should collapse all Departments into two Faculties, warning that until it did so, the CNAS should revert to *status quo ante*. The College had earlier written to the Committee, requesting to be left the way it is at the moment.

Senate also approved the revised 2013/2014 second Semester Calendar, as well as the 2014/2015 First Semester Calendar, which slated the Matriculation and Convocation Ceremonies for April 16 and June 13, 2015, respectively. The Revised Calendar which was presented by Professor Joe indicated that Monday, January 26 to Friday, January 30, 2015, was for Revision, while Tuesday, February 10 to Tuesday, February 24, 2015 was slated for Second Semester Examinations.

Earlier, Chairman of Senate, Professor Joseph Ajienka, presented a summary of a statistical breakdown by the University Statistician and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, on poor attendance at Senate meetings. He regretted that the startling revelation was indicative of how seriously the business of academic policy making was viewed in the University by some Senate members.

The Vice-Chancellor also made a power-point presentation on the celebration of the 40th

anniversary of the Institution. Tagged *UniPort at 40—Landmark Projects and Celebration that define our uniqueness*, he disclosed that the theme of the celebration was: *Making Unique UniPort more Unique*. Professor Ajienka stated that the University had so much to celebrate after 40 years of robust academic activities and continuous engagement with society, encouraging every Department to join the celebration with activities that defined its uniqueness in the last 40 years.

"The process will set the tone for the University as it looks forward to the next 40 years. It is important for every Department, Faculty and College, including Centres and Institutes to key into the 40th anniversary celebration. It is a huge opportunity that we should utilize to raise funds for the building of iconic projects in this University. Luckily for us, the University enjoys quite a lot of goodwill at the moment and we need to leverage on this goodwill to develop our infrastructure and enhance our contacts, both locally and globally," he told Senate members.

Professor Ajienka also disclosed that the University would appoint its 8th Vice-Chancellor

The Chairman also informed Senate that the University has received the report of its institutional evaluation by SERVICOM officials from the Federal Capital Territory, requesting the University SERVICOM Focal Officer, Professor Tony Arinze, to prepare a report to formally brief Senate at the next meeting on the University's performance. He also announced that the Founders' Day would hold on Monday, February 9, 2015, with the Occupant of the Donald Ekong Professorial Chair of Oilfield Chemistry and Science Communication and Director of the emergent Science Institute, Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta, as the Anniversary Lecturer. Professor Akaranta is billed to speak on the topic: *Thinking, Research and Communication (TRAC) in Development of Science and Indigenous knowledge*. The Vice-Chancellor also introduced newly appointed Professors, Heads of Department and Deans of Faculty on the floor of Senate.

Professor Ajienka announced the death of some members and a senior officer of the University.

They are: Former Director of the defunct University Advancement Centre (UAC), Professor Mbuk Ebo ng, Professor C. C. Opara of the College of Engineering, Professor Doris Uchenna of the College of Health Sciences, as well as former Director of Works, Engineer Isaac Oragwu. A minute's silence was observed in their honour.

Senate considered the 13th Report of the Certificate Verification

Committee as presented by its Chairman, Professor Mike Monanu, who also presented a summary of the entire report of his Committee since it was established.

The highest academic policy-making body also deliberated on the Report of a three-member Committee on the Guidelines for Mobilization for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) scheme. The Report was presented on behalf of the Chairman, by Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Professor Andrew Efeimi, who also presented the Report of the Students' Disciplinary Committee.

Senate considered and approved results from the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Education; Colleges of Engineering, Health Sciences, as well as Graduate Studies. A request for the confirmation of External Examiners was also approved for the Departments of Finance and Banking, and Linguistics and Communication Studies, which had one of its proposed External Examiners rejected by Senate. Emeritus Professor Samuel Okwelu was also in attendance.



Senate in session

soon, stressing the need for Senate to elect two members each into the *Search and Selection Committees*. The Vice-Chancellor, who announced the formal disengagement of Professor Mark Anikpo of the Department of Sociology from the services of the University following a glittering academic record, pleaded with Provosts and Deans to notify the Academic Office of impending official disengagement of members in order to set the necessary machinery in motion early enough to accord them their due honour. He also thanked all those who made the recent accreditation exercise by the National Universities Commission (NUC) last December a successful one, noting that although the task was very demanding, there were lessons to be learnt from the exercise. Professor Ajienka requested the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) to compile a report on the conduct of the exercise to formally brief Senate on the difficulties encountered in the process, appealing to members who participated in similar accreditation exercises in other institutions to share such experience with the University.

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Akani Lists Obstacles To Childbirth In Nigeria

to be born right [right birth] and it is the collective responsibility of individuals, communities and governments to ensure not only that it is possible, but that the minimum facilities and skilled personnel to promote, produce, protect and preserve good health are equitably and generously distributed in these communities," he said, citing grim statistics on maternal

mortality and morbidity in Nigeria from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other authorities to drive home the need for urgent action to stem the tide. Akani, who is Provost of the College of Health Sciences, observed that "rights stand as a shield against threats and intrusions and assert *prima facie* claims. The whole point about rights is that they restrain communities or governments from acting at the expense of individuals. In this case, the child-bearing woman."

The one-time Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, relied on grim statistics on stillbirths, perinatal and maternal mortality among booked and un-booked patients, disclosing that "women in developed countries have long forgotten what maternal mortality is, while their sisters in developing countries have come to accept difficult birth processes as a matter of faith."

Citing the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Akani noted that: "The risk of a woman dying as a result of pregnancy or childbirth during her lifetime is about one in every 15 in Nigeria, as opposed to one in every 5,000 in developed countries. Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is 800 per 100,000 live births, while neonatal mortality is 48 per 1,000 live births with wide variations between regions. In Nigeria, an estimated 52, 900 women and another estimated 250,000 new born die from easily preventable pregnancy-related complications annually. Only about 40 per cent of deliveries are conducted by skilled personnel."

Akani observed that while doctors laboured in the hospitals to keep pregnant women alive, things have been going wrong outside the setting as if labour and childbirth have become a curse and a self-sacrificial exercise, regretting that majority of women patronise the services of Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs), which often results in complications and avoidable

deaths.

"There was a need to find an answer to why women were dying during childbirth. And so we were able to determine for the first time in the history of our practice, the various harmful determinants for Obstetrics outcome in our local setting. Our studies, therefore, afforded us the opportunity to determine the magnitude and contributions of our parallel competitors to birth complications. We reviewed the activities of TBAs and their unspeakable abuse of women's rights in the form of mutilating their genital tracts during childbirth," he disclosed.

"My study on TBAs showed that knowledge of hand-washing was 10 per cent, glove use three per cent, while knowledge of HIV was only five per cent. These are detrimental to babies, mothers and, of course, the caregivers themselves," he revealed, adding that "a key contribution in this area was capacity-building through training of TBAs on the reduction of harmful practices that complicate childbirth and identification of danger signs in pregnancy and childbirth for prompt referral where necessary."

Akani, who is a lead Consultant to international agencies, including the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Global AIDS Initiative in Nigeria (GAIN), Family Health International and the University of Columbia, cited several researches and capacity-building projects he successfully initiated and completed in his area of specialization, adding that "in my career, I have supervised over 20 fellowship dissertations and mentored numerous postgraduate fellows, who are now practising as Consultant Obstetricians and Gynaecologists within and outside the country."

The Inaugural Lecturer, who made several

recommendations to government and other stakeholders in the healthcare industry on how to reverse the sordid situation, said: "Now that we appreciate the sovereign right of mothers, let us forbid the wrong acts, act right that our births will go right."

Commenting on the Lecture, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, praised Professor Akani for drawing attention to a very important subject that contributes to high maternal mortality and morbidity in Nigeria. "Women need not go through all the harrowing experiences that were explained to us by the Inaugural Lecturer and it is the duty of all stakeholders to ensure that the recommendations made by Professor Akani are speedily implemented to lessen the burden of child-bearing and maternal morbidity in this country." He congratulated the Lecturer for a well-delivered lecture, noting that frontline Gynaecologists such as Emeritus Professor Nini Briggs and his colleagues have been campaigning tirelessly for the rights of women to safe motherhood with tangible results, calling on other interested stakeholders to join the crusade to save women and their babies from avoidable deaths.

The Vice-Chancellor, who described a university as an important place where knowledge is generated for the benefit of society, announced that the University had already commenced the celebration of its 40th Anniversary. "The Faculty of Dentistry kicked off the celebration last Monday with its 2nd Dentistry Day lecture and workshops. We are happy that Professor Akani has delivered the 116th Inaugural Lecture as part of the anniversary. Every Inaugural Lecture delivered during the period of the celebration and other landmark activities would be considered as part of the 40th Anniversary of the University," he announced to the audience.

UniPort To Partner SPE Nigeria

By Obinna Nwodin

Authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have pledged to co-operate with the society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) to help build the needed capacity in the profession. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, gave the assurance when he received a delegation of the SPE Nigeria Council in his office on 23rd January,

2015. Professor Ajienka, who expressed delight that the University had the largest student section in SPE, noted that the Institution was willing to co-operate with professional bodies that would show commitment in its dealings with the authorities.

Earlier in his speech, leader of the delegation and 2015 SPE Nigeria Council Chairman, Engineer Emeka Ene, who disclosed that SPE Nigeria commenced in 1973 with the Lagos Section,

currently has over 3,182 paid members with a Council of five sections and 31 SPE Student Chapters.

Engineer Ene, who noted that the University had the largest Student Chapter of SPE, said it has also contributed the highest number of Technical Papers and membership contributions to SPE from 2005 to 2014. He said that the development was a testimony of the contributions of the Institution to knowledge.

The Council Chairman also disclosed that the Council proposed the building of an SPE building in the Institution. According to him, the University of Port Harcourt will be better served by presenting an oil and gas museum centre to increase the relevance of the University to the wider community. He appealed for support from the authorities to enable the Council host the 2015 Students' Technical Conference Exhibition (STCE).

In his speech, Dean of the Graduate School of Engineering and Technology, Professor Adewale Dosunmu, who thanked the SPE for the visit, pledged the commitment of the authorities to the success of SPE.



V-C, Prof. Ajienka (arrowed), flanked to his right by Engineer Ene and his left by Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nwodin with SPE Officials and Senior Officers of the University

GUIDEPOST

READERSHIP PROMOTION

Dr. Peter Kpolovie, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Reader*, effective 25th July, 2012.

Dr. Fidelis Allen, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Reader*, effective 3rd December, 2013.

APPOINTMENT

Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed *Chair Occupant*, *Donald Ekong Professorial Chair of Oil Field Chemistry and Science Communication*. The appointment which takes immediate effect will last until further notice.

Dr. Victor Ossia, Department of Mechatronics Engineering, Faculty of Production, Power Systems and Communication Engineering, College of Engineering, appointed *Assistant Director, Offshore Technology Institute*. The two-year appointment which took effect from 11th December, 2014 terminates on 12th December, 2016.

PROMOTION

Dr. John Obineke, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Julia Awajusak, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Jones Odili, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Matthew Ogali, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Edmund Obomaru, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Mr. Emmanuel Wonah, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2014.

Mrs. Scholastica Ugwu, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Assistant Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2013.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Henry Bell-Gam, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, Faculty of Humanities, on a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to *Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumoluamun, Port Harcourt*, effective 6th October, 2014 to 5th October, 2015.

Dr. Ibisime Etela, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, on a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to *Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Port Harcourt*, effective 5th January, 2015 to 31st December, 2015.

SUSPENSION FROM DUTY

Professor John Agberia, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of Humanities, *suspended from duty with half pay*. The suspension which took effect from December, 2014 remains in force until the Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee (SSDC) concludes investigation of alleged misconduct against him.

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

LASUTH Performs First Hearing Restoration Surgery

The Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) has performed the first hearing restoration surgery in the country without input from foreign doctors. The feat was recorded by a team of indigenous Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) experts, according to LASUTH Chief Medical Director, Professor Wale Oke.

Oke said this was the first time cochlear surgeries would be performed by indigenous surgeons. The CMD, represented by the hospital's Director of Clinical Services and Training (DCST), Dr. Ayode Adedokun, said the ENT Department performed the corrective surgery on a doctor and a pastor with severe hearing impairments.

Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau
Minister of Education

House Committee Commends UNILAG, Urges More Commitment

Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Education, Aminu Sulaiman, has lauded the management of University of Lagos (UNILAG) for its tremendous academic and infrastructural success.

Aminu, who spoke during the Committee's recent visit to the school as part of its oversight function, also charged authorities of the School to step up efforts in their quest to remain a top class university. He said the visit was very imperative as members have at different times in the past observed fraud in budget implementation by either the ministries or government agencies, adding that most of the discoveries were usually in the areas of poor budget performance, non-

release of approved funds by the ministries and poor implementation of approved projects.

AUN Admits New Students For Spring 2015 Session

The American University of Nigeria (AUN), Yola, last week, admitted 125 students into the School. The new students drawn from different countries in Africa and Europe included the 12 Chibok girls that escaped from the camp of the deadly Boko Haram Islamic sect. The University authorities awarded full scholarship to the 12 to study courses of their choice in the University.

Speaking at the ceremony, President of the School, Dr. Margee Ensign, blamed the massive poverty and under-development in Nigeria and other African countries on poor quality education and the less attention given to women

education. Ensign said the only effective way to fight poverty is not providing jobs that cannot feed the worker's families, but by providing quality education that can enable the graduates provide jobs instead of seeking jobs.

New DV-C For UI

Professor Gbemisola Oke of the Department of Periodontology and Community Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Medicine of the University of Ibadan (UI), has been elected as the institution's seventh Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). The Director of Public Communications, Olatunji Oladejo, said the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor replaced Professor Idowu Olayinka, whose tenure ended on December 16, last year. He said Oke who, was former Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, is the second woman to occupy the position.

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DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 01 - SATURDAY, 07 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI (°C)	TEMPERATURE LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (mm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 01 FEB, 2015	35.0	24.0	56	NE	-	6:48 18:43	Partly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
MONDAY, 2 FEB, 2015	34.0	24.0	59	NE	-	6:48 18:43	More sun than clouds expected.
TUESDAY, 3 FEB, 2015	35.0	24.0	58	NE	2.3	6:48 18:44	Thunderstorm expected late in day. Morning cloud expected.
WEDNESDAY 4 FEB, 2015	35.0	24.0	46	NE	2.5	6:48 18:44	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
THURSDAY, 5 FEB, 2015	36.0	24.0	48	NE	2.1	6:48 18:44	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
FRIDAY, 6 FEB, 2015	35.0	25.0	45	NE	-	6:48 18:44	More sun than clouds expected.
SATURDAY, 7 FEB, 2015	35.0	25.0	47	NE	5.6	6:48 18:44	Isolated thunderstorm expected. More cloud than sun forecasted.

Dr Gladys Emenike
ACTING HO

Dr Prince Mmom
AG. Director, (CDRMD)

LAW FACULTY GET-TOGETHER

The Faculty of Law had a get-together at the Amatu Braide Lecture Hall on Friday, December 19, 2014 to mark the end of year activities. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** captured scenes from the event that featured dance and drama performances by students of the Department of Theatre and Film Studies.



V-C, Prof Joseph Ajenku, addressing the gathering



Dean, Faculty of Law, Prof Kanyiye Ebeke welcoming guests



Prof Ajenku, DV-C (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Nduka, CSO, Lt. Col. Reginald Isiguzo (rtd) & other guests



A cross-section of guests



A cross-section of guests



Scenes from a drama sketch performed by Theatre and Film Studies students



Theatre and Film Studies students thrilling the audience with a dance



Prof Ajenku, DV-C (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Nduka, CSO, & other guests being served