



NCDB Staff End Training At Emerald Energy Institute

A four-week staff training and development programme mounted for personnel of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDB) at the Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum and Energy Economics, Policy and Strategic Studies, which commenced on Monday, January 12, 2015 came to a successful end last Tuesday, with a very impressive closing ceremony, reports *Humphrey Ogu*.

More on p3

Side Bar

Director Pfizer Specialties Ltd, Nigerian/East Africa region, Dr Kodjo Sroah, delivered the maiden Professor Kenneth Dike-Keki Memorial Lecture last Thursday. Details next week.
~Editor



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Students' Union Executive Honours V-C



Story on p2

TRCN Inducts 759 UniPort Graduate Teachers



Story on p3

V-C Inaugurates New Taskforce On Staff Quarters



Story on p4



AEB Mounts Research Seminar

Story on p6

Scholars List Pathways To Scientific Innovations At Founders' Day Lecture

By Obinna Nwodin

Ways of applying scientific research to achieve accelerated national development formed the major template of three important lectures that marked the 2015 *Founders' Day* of the University of Port Harcourt which also coincided with the Institution's 40th Anniversary Celebration.

First in the series was a Lecture entitled: "The Importance of Bio-gas Industry in Nigeria", by Professor of Chemical and Bio-Chemical Engineering, John Villadsen of the Technical University of Denmark. Professor Villadsen stressed the importance of bio-resources in solving health-related challenges.

He predicted that Biotechnology will be a key factor of development in the 21st Century, pointing out that there was a huge profit in the conversion of gas to protein for the production of animal feed. According to him, the emergent bio-industry hinged on conversion of raw

materials from agriculture into industrial chemicals, pharmaceuticals, feeds for animals and new crop variety. He expressed optimism at the great

opportunities in Nigeria, pointing out that the emergent biotechnology industry would yield benefits to the country just as it

Cont'd on p6



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**SCIENTIFIC
INNOVATIONS**


Training Birds To Aid Scientific Breakthrough

By James Gorman
SCIENCE TAKE

Humans have probably been pondering the flight of birds as long as there have been humans. And in the age of science, it would seem that every aspect of flight had been studied in order to build flying machines, from passenger airplanes to tiny robots.

But, said David Lentink, a Stanford University engineer, researchers had "never measured the aerodynamic force directly of any flying animal." Dr. Lentink and two colleagues reported last month in the journal *Interface* that they had solved the problem.

Scientists had found other ways to measure that force indirectly — by observing air flow, for example, and going through some complex calculations.

Dr. Lentink built a box big enough for a bird called a parrotlet to fly from one perch to another. It was equipped with high-speed video recorders and sensors to weigh the box every millisecond.

The sensors would register the added force of a wing beat, and by correlating video and sensor data, the researchers were able to come up with an exact measurement of the wing's force — two times the bird's

weight on the downstroke, as it turned out. The researchers tested their method against other methods to make sure it was correct.

Engineering was only one part of the experiment, Dr. Lentink said. He wanted to measure natural, unethered flight, and trained the birds with treats so they would enter the box and fly to the place he pointed at.

The birds are never touched through the whole process. "The bird actually does what it wants to do," he said.

He did the training partly because he wanted to measure free, natural flight. But, he said, "It's not only because the science gets better; I personally care about the birds."

He said in the lab, researchers played recordings of birds tweeting contentedly during the training, which has increased his appreciation for the intelligence of birds.

Successful training, he said, was very demanding — on the trainer. "It's really hard," he said, "learning the skill." What he discovered, he says, was that "you're allowing the animals to manipulate you."



Dr. Abdul Basim

Minister of Science and Technology

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/09/science/training-birds-to-aid-a-scientific-breakthrough.html>

Students' Union Executive Honours V-C

By Otikor Samuel

Ongoing Executive Council of the Students' Union has honoured the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka with an *Award of Excellence* for his support and encouragement for the Union, which has contributed to the successes recorded in the past service year.

President of the Union, Mr. Felix Nwizaa, who made the observation last Tuesday, while presenting a plaque to the Vice-Chancellor,

expressed happiness over what he described as the existing excellent relationship between authorities of the University and his Union. He said that such cordial relationship has contributed to institutional growth of the University and stability of the Union in the current service year.

"We decided to honour the Vice-Chancellor with an *Award of Excellence* to show our appreciation for the cordial relationship that existed between the students and Management during our tenure. We felt that one way

showing appreciation to him for doing exceedingly well and for his contributions to our achievements in office is to honour him in our own little way," the President said.

Also speaking, Vice-President of the Union, Miss Obele Wokoma, praised the Vice-Chancellor and other Management staff for contributing towards the successful celebration of this year's Students' Union Week. The Vice-President, who represents the Union on the 40th Anniversary Committee of the University, stated that the celebration was unprecedented in the history of the University.

In his response, Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogu, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, thanked the Executive of the Union for performing its functions within the limits of extant rules governing the University, urging the students to support a smooth transition to another set of leaders by avoiding acts that are capable of truncating credible elections into the Executive of the Union.

Meanwhile, the election of a new Executive Council which was originally scheduled for February 9th has been postponed indefinitely due to logistical challenges. A new date will be announced in due course.



Special Assistant to the V-C, Mr. Wogu (left), receiving the award on behalf of the V-C, from President, Students' Union, Mr. Nwizaa (1st right) and other students' leaders

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NCDMB Staff End Training At Emerald Energy Institute



Rep of V-C, Prof Willie Abhey, flanked by Managing Director EEL, Prof Dedure, some UniPort and NCDMB staff and the trainers

Cont'd from p1

Speaking at the Emmanuel Egbagab Auditorium, venue of the ceremony, last Tuesday, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajekia, who expressed satisfaction at the achievements being made by the Institute within its short lifespan, described the University of Port Harcourt as a leading institution in oil and gas training, not only in Nigeria, but also on the African continent. Represented by Professor Bene Willie Abhey, the Vice-Chancellor said that all programmes run by the Institute would continue to grow from strength to strength, expressing hope that the trainees would resume their duty posts with renewed vigour and efficiency. "University of Port Harcourt is truly a unique University. We are the best in petroleum training in

Nigeria and Africa. As you go out, tell people about what you like about your training, but if there is anything you don't like, whisper them to us so we can improve. The next batch of training would not only be better, but also wonderful," the Vice-Chancellor assured the trainees, expressing gratitude to the Executive Secretary of NCDMB, Engineer Ernest Nwapa, for approving the University for the training session of his staff. On his part, Director of the Institute, Professor Ononwudi Hladare, who noted that as nation can grow on account of its natural resources alone, called for proper development and utilization of the country's abundant natural and human resources. He said: "Nobody should say that Nigerians do not have capacity to develop this country. Our challenge is under-utilization of available human and material resources. If we put round pegs in round holes, we would get it right."

Hladare expressed gratitude to NCDMB for the confidence it reposed in the Institute, promising to match and even exceed their expectations at future training sessions. The Director, who congratulated the trainees for successfully completing the programme, also expressed gratitude to the benefactor of the Institute, Dr. Egbagab, and Management of the University and staff of the Institute for their roles in making the programme successful.

Also speaking, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, Engineer Nwapa, conveyed the Board's satisfaction with the quality of staff development programme through the NCDMB Director of Finance and Personnel Management, Mustapha Mamudu, stating that the training could not have been better anywhere else. "Our major mandate is to develop capacity in our drive to achieve other mandates, and there is no better place to start this programme than collaborating with the University of Port Harcourt. The training was enriching for NCDMB staff, and this is the beginning of a long and mutually-beneficial partnership between the two institutions," he assured EEL staff.

Others, who spoke at the event included Director of the Centre for Gas, Refining & Petrochemicals (CGRP), Professor Godwin Igwe; former Group General Manager, Corporate Planning and Development Division of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Dr. Joseph Ellah, and Coordinator of Academic and Continuous Education, EEL, Dr. Chijioke Nwanneza. General Manager, Human Resources, Nelson Tuedon and Manager, Learning and Development, Ada Ohaeri of NCDMB also witnessed the ceremony.

The event was used to present certificates to the trainees, honour three trainees, who distinguished themselves in the programme, Obinna Ezeobi, Ucheoma Okafor and Tarliffe Tade-Iribiwa and to formally present plaques to students, who distinguished themselves at the just-concluded Master's degree programme of the Institute.

A total of 759 new teachers trained by the Centre for Teacher Education and In-service Training in the Faculty of Education, took the Teachers Oath of Allegiance at the first Faculty-wide Induction ceremony of first degree and Postgraduate Diploma recipients in Education, which held at the Ebitimi Ilungu Auditorium, University Park, on Wednesday, February 4, 2015.

Administering the Oath on the new Inductees, Registrar of the Teachers' Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), Professor Adilwun Wokocha, commended authorities of the University for organising such a special ceremony to induct graduate teachers, expressing optimism that such a tradition would be sustained by the University. Professor Wokocha, who was represented by the Assistant Director of Professional Regulations, Mrs. Jaretta Anetep-Oghosho, charged the Inductees to treat the exercise with the highest level of commitment to professionalism, stating that "the Oath is the most statutory requirement for admission into any profession. It is, therefore, an international best practice and benchmark that every intending teacher must take before being admitted to practice the profession. Administration of the Oath symbolizes the induction of all new graduate teachers into the profession that is as long as open to non-professionals."

"Nigeria needs teachers, who will meet the expectations of the nation; teachers who will help the nation raise citizens whose performance will meet international standards," Professor Wokocha noted, stressing that "we cannot achieve the expected quality education without competent teachers and educational administrators, who are properly equipped with the right kind of knowledge, skills and effective operations of the educational system". Earlier in his welcome address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajekia, who congratulated the Inductees for seeking professional certification after graduation, noted that he was deeply touched after listening to the Anthem of the TRCN. "Teaching as the TRCN Anthem says is a noble profession that should be jealously guarded. Many people go into teaching because there are no other choice jobs, which is a very dangerous development. I want us to reflect on the statement that 'the reward of a teacher is in heaven', but many people make this statement in a mocking tone to mean that teachers are the poorest professionals. We need professional teachers we can look up to; teachers who

TRCN Inducts 759 UniPort Graduate Teachers

By Mercy Adeniji

have been found worthy both in character and in learning. As a teacher, you need to conduct yourself in such a manner that people can look up to you, rather than look down on you.

"In the University, we graduate students who are found worthy in character and learning and we expect teachers to train students with character and skills. The decay we find in the university system today originates from the poor quality of some teachers. So, if the teachers are found worthy in character, then the children will be found worthy too," he stated.

Delivering the Induction Lecture entitled: "Pedagogical Challenges of the 21st Century: Issues, Concerns and the Way Forward for the Teaching Profession in Nigeria," Director of the Nonadic Education Centre for the South-South zone and Former Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Benjamin Ekeazu, highlighted some pedagogical challenges and concerns facing teachers in the 21st Century. He stressed the need for improved development and training in pedagogy to enable teachers respond positively to the use of

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in and outside the classroom setting. He also stressed the need for capacity building among teachers to enable them effectively manage the poor learning attitude of pupils, calling for more emphasis on improvisation of instructional materials that would enrich the learning process.

Also speaking, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Lawrence Igwe, expressed gratitude to Management of the University for its support, appealing to the new Inductees to continue to apply themselves to what they have been taught. "Today, all Inductees stand as our Ambassadors and as you move into your various classrooms, you must equip yourself with two basic concepts which are the doctrine of local parents and vicarious liability."

Speaking on behalf of the Inductees, Professor Israel Okeke of the Department of Physics, thanked Management of the University and his lecturers for affording them the rare opportunity to become professional teachers, urging his colleagues to apply themselves to what they have learnt so as to make themselves better teachers.



Inductees taking the Teachers Oath of Allegiance

V-C Inaugurates New Taskforce On Staff Quarters

By Obinna Nwodin

Authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have inaugurated the re-constituted 4th Taskforce on the Renovation of Staff Quarters.

Performing the inauguration on Thursday, 5th February, 2015, at the Committee Room, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenika, who praised the Taskforce over its determination to keep to its Terms of Reference, noted that some level of independence was granted the Taskforce to enable it carry out its activities in an effective manner.

Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

(Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, the Vice-Chancellor stated that the efficiency with which the Committee carried out its assignment ensured that there was less supervision from the Housing Committee, thereby engendering confidence-building which is essential in achieving results in any organization. He expressed happiness that the University had done well in staff accommodation. While commending members of the Taskforce for a job well done, Professor Nduka insisted that there was still room for more improvements.

In his acceptance speech, Chairman of the Taskforce, Dr. Friday Nwafor, who thanked authorities of the University for the confidence reposed in the new

Task Force to serve, recalled that the 3rd Taskforce did its best in achieving its mandate. According to him, a number of residential houses were renovated and allocated to deserving staff. "The 3rd Committee was able to renovate 18 service quarters, while four are presently on-going, while not less than ten buildings have been renovated, he disclosed, commending the transformation agenda of the Professor Ajenika-led administration for the first.

Earlier in his remarks, Chairman of the Housing Committee, Professor Francis Sikoki, who congratulated members of the Taskforce on their new appointment, said that it was an indication of the importance the authorities attached to the welfare of staff. He disclosed that the University had 224 houses, stressing that the Committee was able to ensure that each house is renovated once every ten years, adding that many of the houses were in deplorable conditions with meagre resources to carry out renovation work on them.

He said that the authorities relied on the activities of the Taskforce in the utilization and management of scarce resources available for the renovation, adding that it was important to get value for any job done. "We have to exhibit professionalism in every aspect of work done and given the calibre of people appointed into the Taskforce, we have no doubt that you will justify the confidence reposed in you," he stated.



Dr. C. (Admin), Prof Nduka (arrowed) and members of the newly inaugurated Taskforce

Yes! St Valentine Was Here Last Saturday

By Williams Wodi

"Love is a temporary madness," declares English author, Louis de Bernieres. Like the volcano, love erupts and then subsides and once it subsides, the lover is compelled to make a decision outside the storm of passion. Jacob rendered a seven-year romantic service to the beautiful Rachel; yet the Bible declares that those seven years of romantic slavery "seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her" (Genesis 29:20). In *Songs of Solomon*, we read: "Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples: for I am sick of love."

It was yet another season of Valentine last Saturday and love was strong in the air as the 2015 elections are etched on our minds. You cannot run away from both as they possess the power to assail you from a distance. Many young people were sick of love and it showed everywhere on February 14. It is easier to be a lover, than become a husband or wife. Why not? Lovers spend their day in a fictional universe, saying sweet nothing that they don't mean in the deep recesses of their hearts, while marriage is a close engagement that creates periodic contempt between couples.

All through the ages, love has always been dismissed by serious-minded people as a temporary insanity that is moderated by the ceremonial passage of marriage. In another season of Valentine, love is still in the air under serious artificial conditions. Love is born when friendship collides with desire in a street corner. Love loses its pleasures once it emerges from secret places into open scrutiny and is partly what happens on *Valentine Day* amongst idealists, who believe that a few momentary embraces, kisses and promises of smearing romantic bliss will bring them happiness ever after. The romantic circle is clear: Admiration-attraction-desire-love-heartbreak, etc... And so to the question: Is *Valentine Day* a luxury or necessity amongst lovers? For the patron-saint of love, St. Valentine, the build-up to the explosion of a celebration that has taken the world by storm was necessitated by a divine intervention on the romantic estate. The story of *Valentine Day* was a typical act of defiance of medieval dictatorship by a martyrdom-seeking Priest, who insisted on allowing ordinary people to have the same mortal experience that a

wicked Emperor indulged himself and sought to deny his subjects.

In a drunken moment of royal stupor, His Majesty, Emperor Claudius had decreed that married soldiers could not be trusted to combine the onerous roles of civil dining with martial responsibilities. Claudius must not be weeping in his miserable grave for outlawing marriage amongst his troops. His childish plot to place imperial dominance over matters of the heart backfires every February 14! St. Valentine defied this monumental romantic injustice, by secretly marrying off young lovers. His reward was cruel: martyrdom of passion!

Last Saturday, February 14, we watched in either distant, admiration or a combination of both, as young starry-eyed lovers celebrated this vestige of Christian and ancient Roman tradition that has become a booming industry in the era of tasteless mercantilism. It was a day of red roses, pizza-lit dinner tables and chocolate dipped treats amongst lovers. It was a day of romantic merchandise too. Lovers sent flowers, bouquets and winding wishes

that may not have truly come from their heart. Much of it came from the pocket.

By the way, did anybody ever think of celebrating a 'datsless companionship' on *Valentine Day*? It could be a very rewarding experience. Someone needs to do something new in their romantic life! Again, all those amateurish lovers, who unilaterally postponed *Valentine Day* in anticipation of the long shadow of the Presidential Election that was originally scheduled for February 14, had themselves to blame for celebrating their lack too early. The sudden postponement of the exercise threw *Valentine Day* revellers into a quandary as they were compelled to revive their suspended budgets.

Yet, the royal defiance by St. Valentine continues to resonate through the ages to the angst of Emperor Claudius. Now that the momentary madness is over, it is time for us to take stock and determine if the whole noise was really worth it in the first place.

Let me still wish all of you a very belated Happy *Valentine Day*—whatever it meant to you while it lasted! And it came to pass.



Emperor Claudius



Valentine tree

BTI Admits Another Batch, Set To Inaugurate Board

By Onikor Samuel

The Bamanga Tekur Institute for International Trade and Development would soon inaugurate its Board of Governors with membership cutting across top industry players and professionals from trade-related disciplines within and outside the country. Also, the third batch of students numbering 30 for the Professional Master of Science degree programme in International Trade and Development has been admitted for the 2014/15 academic session.

Director of the Institute, Professor Augustus Gboei, who made these disclosures in a chat with our Correspondent in his office, last Tuesday, further disclosed that lectures for the new Graduate students would commence immediately.

Professor Gboei, who said that 10 students in the first batch of 18 had received their *Sucesso Letters* upon graduation, stated that one of them has been recommended by the Institute for an international job in the United Kingdom, adding that the 2nd batch of students was in the process of



Prof Gboei

writing and presenting theses.

The Director further disclosed that plans for partnership with the West African Institute of Financial and Economic Management (WAIFEM) on manpower development and capacity building had reached an advanced stage, stating that when fully operational, the Institute would handle the teaching component, while WAIFEM would be responsible for the financial aspect of the programme.

"The Director-General of WAIFEM, Professor Akpan Ekpo, who was a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Uyo and also a former Executive Director of the Central Bank of Nigeria, has been nominated as a member of Board of BTI which will be inaugurated in March," Professor Gboei said.

The Director added that discussion had also reached an advanced stage for the endowment of a Professorial Chair on Trade and Development by the Director of Trade of ECOWAS, Dr. Gbenga Odigbo.

Dentistry Day Spices Up 40th Anniversary Celebration

By Mercy Adeniji

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka officially declared open the commencement of activities marking the 40th Anniversary celebration of the University during the Second Dentistry Day organised by the Faculty of Dentistry.

Some staff of the Faculty, who spoke to our Correspondent, expressed satisfaction at what has been achieved so far and expressed optimism that the next 40 years will firmly position the Faculty for enhanced service delivery to stakeholders.

It was a remarkable coincidence that the 40th anniversary of the University was flagged off at the 2nd Dentistry Day celebration.

Immediate past Dean of the Faculty, Professor

Anbese Obichina, recalled that when the Faculty was about to commence formal academic activities, emphasis was placed on how to start on a very solid foundation. "This solid foundation simply meant that we should have all the Departments fully represented and also ensure that we had the minimum number of staff on ground to run each programme. Besides, we had to also ensure that the programme has acceptability from all the accrediting bodies in the country from inception, including the National Universities Commission (NUC), Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria and the West African College of Surgeons. These important accreditations were designed to guarantee that qualifications obtained by graduates from the Faculty would meet minimum global benchmark," he said.

Praising authorities of the University for the achievements recorded so far, Professor Obichina disclosed that the University has been growing in different directions since its inception. "I came to this University in 2006 and I have observed tremendous improvements in infrastructural development and it is a fitting tribute that the University is celebrating 40



Prof Obichina

Prof Oyeayo

years of continuous growth in every facet," he said, charging the authorities to remain focused with a view to taking the Institution to previously unimagined heights.

Also speaking, current Dean of the Faculty, Professor Chukwudi Oyeayo, commended the University for celebrating the many landmark achievements and robust academic activities recorded in the last 40 years, promising that the Faculty would continue to add value to the University as it looks forward to the next 40 years. He expressed gratitude to past administrations for ensuring that the Faculty was established on a sound footing, even as he showered praises on the incumbent Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, for his support for the growth of Dentistry.

"Dentistry is one of the fastest growing Faculties in the University today and we have received accreditation from the NUC and MDCN as proof of the quality of our programme and we are prepared to do more. We have also successfully graduated the third batch of students, including producing the Best Graduating Student (BGS) at the last Induction Ceremony, which are major landmarks of excellence for us and the University," he noted.

UniPort CISCO Academy Transforms Into Training Centre

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Following an impressive setting at the CISCO ITQ Summit in Lagos last December, the UniPort CISCO Academy has transformed into an Instruction Training Centre (ITC). It has been revealed. Making the disclosure last Monday, Head of the School of Information and Communication Technology, Daniel Ekpo, noted that the Academy which was previously domiciled in the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICT) is currently housed in the



Mr. Ekpo

Centre for Information and Telecommunication Engineering.

"This development will enhance the quality of instruction in the on-going postgraduate programme in Information and Telecommunication Engineering offered at the Centre," he said, noting that the CISCO Instruction Training Centre would also provide hands-on training for other students in related fields of study, including Computer Science, Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Physics.

Ekpo, who noted that the Instruction Training Centre had been upgraded to provide professional training in Networking and CISCO Network Security, disclosed that at the end of the training sessions, participants were expected to be proficient in handling CISCO equipment and IT essentials. "This is an effective way of building capacity, enhancing efficiency and productivity, amongst staff and students of the University," he stated, promising that the programme would meet global benchmarks.

Commending the Director of the Centre for Information and Telecommunication Engineering, Professor Monima Briggs for providing a generating set and inverter system to power the Centre, Ekpo pointed out that availability of power would facilitate academic work at the Instruction Training Centre. He also commended the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, for supporting the growth of skill-IT based programmes as a way of encouraging entrepreneurship in the University.

Pathways To Scientific Innovations ~By Scholars



Prof Akaranta delivering the 2nd Lecture



Prof Kiri delivering the 3rd Lecture

Cont'd from p1

has done in Denmark and other European countries. Also speaking, Managing Director of Emerald Energy Resources Limited, Dr. Jude Amaefule, who said that no country can develop without intellectual property, said that it took resources, technology and capital to create wealth. He advised the leadership class not to shy away from such reality of life today. Regretting that knowledge was not appreciated in Nigeria, Amaefule observed that Nigeria exported wealth and imported poverty.

Also speaking, Chief Executive Officer of Danish-based UNIBIO, Henrik Busch-Larsen, said that his company had concluded plans to build an industrial plant worth a hundred million dollars to create jobs and make high returns on investment and equity, noting that such a technology would not have been developed without the collaboration of UNIBIO, the industry and partnering universities. Earlier in his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienika, said the missing link between research and development in the University was the absence of academic research in the market. "We

have not been able to take the indigenous technology of our people to a level that would be acceptable on a worldwide scale. We need to patent, publish and come out with products that would be beneficial to society", he said, adding that the future lies in advances in biotechnology.

At the second Lecture entitled, "Thinking, Research and Communication in Development of Science and Indigenous Technology," Director of the Science Institute in the University, Professor Ogunyewuchi Akaranta, noted that effective communication was crucial to bridging the gap between the production of new knowledge and application of that knowledge to either practice or policy, advising indigenous scientists to recognize the need to communicate the significance of their knowledge to society.

Professor Akaranta, who regretted the inability of Nigerian scientists to develop indigenous knowledge to solve problems in their immediate environment, said that European scientists have applied their own indigenous technology and taken it to the next level. He stressed the need to ensure that indigenous technology did not die in an era when nations depended heavily on their intellectual resources to

develop their economies.

The immediate past Director of Centre for Research Management (CRM) in the University, who stated that the potential for developing research and extension system that draw on indigenous knowledge and farmers' productivity was enormous, suggested that universities should come up with feasibility studies for active research, recommending that a strategic research development plan was necessary to make progress.

"The universities can institute intercultural dialogue initiating open partnerships with other countries regionally and/or internationally. This will create a platform for exchanging ideas with a deliberate intention to learn and understand the evolution of diversity of cultures," he stated.

Reflecting on the lecture, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienika, who described the University as a very important institution that thinks for society, advised academics to be courageous enough to examine their activities with a view to reflecting on whether they were making progress or not.

The third in the series and final Founders' Day Lecture for 2015 entitled: "The Potential Value of Multi-Disciplinary Research into the Problem of Fake Drugs in Nigeria: A Realistic Pathway," was delivered by Professor Victor Kiri of the University of Limerick, Ireland, who identified the gaps in the regulatory regime for the distribution of drugs by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), suggesting the development of a protocol involving active surveillance to minimize the distribution of fake drugs in Nigeria.

Professor Kiri, who also stressed the need to apply statistical analysis to contain fake drug distribution in Nigeria, stated that "There is no mechanism from NAFDAC on how they control the movement of drugs in Nigeria and in fake drugs circulation, it is impossible to recall fake drugs from the counter in the Nigerian market." The Professor of Epidemiology suggested a multi-disciplinary approach for solving the problem.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienika, who acknowledged the gap between the volume of research generated and poor data analysis, called on scholars to form interdisciplinary research teams that should include statisticians and scholars with diverse backgrounds, rather than publishing exclusively for purposes of seeking promotion. Expressing gratitude to Professor Kiri for delivering the lecture, the Vice-Chancellor thanked those who made the Founders' Day Lecture a resounding success.

AEB Mounts Research Seminar For Staff

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

In a bid to foster collective and individual research efforts among staff, the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology (AEB) in the Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, held the maiden edition of its Staff Seminar Series on Friday, 30th January, 2015 at the College Board Room, University Park.

Describing the series as a collaborative effort with the Centre for Marine Pollution Monitoring and Seaford Safety (CMPMSS), Head of the Department, Professor Florence Ndaka, disclosed that "the idea behind the Seminar was to create a common platform for sharing individual researches and fostering collaborations among staff. It is my hope that staff of the Department would take the programme seriously as they stand to benefit from best operational practices in the discipline, both in Nigeria and abroad," she told the participants.

Delivering the first paper on *Pollution and Environmental Change in the Coastal Waters of the Niger Delta*, Director of CMPMSS, Professor Francis Sikehi, highlighted the various research activities undertaken at the Centre which dwell on pollution and environmental degradation caused by unregulated oil exploration and exploitation activities in the region and their adverse consequences on the livelihood and ecosystem integrity of the Niger Delta Basin, recommending environmental remediation and

sustainable development as keys ingredients for environmental recovery and future development.

In his own presentation, Commonwealth Scholar, Dr. Beaud Bahatunde, spoke on *Environmental Radioactivity Profiles in the Niger Delta Basin*. "The radiation dose received by consumers of seafood in this region is higher than stipulated limits by the International Commission for Radiation Protection (ICRP) and the United Nations Scientific Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) and

consumers of such seafood may become predisposed to cancer or actually have cancer already," Dr. Bahatunde added, calling for concerted effort to remediate the environment to safeguard lives and livelihood of inhabitants and residents of the Niger Delta.

Commanding the Department for the initiative, which she described as the first of its kind in the College, Provost of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Professor Naana Frank-Peterside, pledged commitment to academic excellence in the College, even as she urged other Departments to emulate the good example of staff of AEB.



Provost, UNAS, Prof Frank-Peterside



Director CMPMSS, Prof Sikehi



HoD, AEB, Prof Ndaka

GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Osi Akpoghombe, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, re-appointed **Director, Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRA-S)**. The two-year re-appointment which took effect on 19th January, 2015 terminates on 20th January, 2017.

Professor E.N. Oyeleke, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, appointed **Dean of Faculty**. The two-year appointment which took effect from 15th January, 2015 terminates on 16th January, 2017.

Professor R.C. Ndakwa, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, re-appointed **Dean of Faculty**. The two-year appointment which took effect from 15th January, 2015 terminates on 16th January, 2017.

Professor Nze Jebbia, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed **Head of Department**. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect terminates on 20th January, 2017.

Dr. E.T. Ihoma, Department of Banking and Finance, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed **Coordinator, ACT/RS, Linkage Programme**, effective 22nd January, 2015 to 23rd January, 2017.

PROMOTION

Dr. Golda Ekenedo, Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education, promoted **Senior Lecturer**, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Obiora Ezomak, Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education, promoted **Lecturer I**, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Adedamola Opeyemi, Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education, promoted **Lecturer I**, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Gloria Nwankwo, Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education, promoted **Lecturer I**, effective 1st October, 2014.

Mr. Francis Nwagwu, Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education, promoted **Lecturer II**, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Stephen Opanale, Department of Educational Management and Planning, Faculty of Education, promoted **Senior Lecturer**, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Joseph Mwenyiliwe, Department of Educational Management and Planning, Faculty of Education, promoted **Senior Lecturer**, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Caroline Ekenze, Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education, Faculty of Education, promoted **Lecturer I**, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Roy Nwobodo, Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education, Faculty of Education, promoted **Lecturer I**, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Susan Owanji, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, promoted **Senior Lecturer**, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Douglas Nwagbogu, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, promoted **Senior Lecturer**, effective 1st October, 2014.

Dr. Bright Okaziji, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, promoted **Lecturer I**, effective 1st October, 2014.

RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT

Dr. Livinus Oghodah, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, granted a one-year **Renewal of Adjunct Appointment**, effective 3rd March, 2015 to 2nd March, 2016.

Crèche Nursery/Primary Sch Visits Fisheries Dept

By Mercy Adeniji

A s a way of exposing pupils to practical experience away from their classroom setting, 35 Primary Two pupils and three of their teachers from Crèche Nursery and Primary School located at Number 118 Mgbesilara Layout, off Rumosodara, Port Harcourt, embarked on an educational tour of the Department Fisheries in the Faculty of Agriculture on Friday, February 6, 2015.

Receiving the pupils, Acting Head of the Department, Dr. Amieye Francis, commended Management of Crèche Nursery for choosing to visit the University, disclosing that the teachers had earlier proposed the excursion to enable their pupils see a live habitat in the Faculty.

Conducting the pupils round the Department, Demonstration Farm and the Wet Laboratory, Dr. Francis advised the them to make wise career decisions by choosing the University after their Primary and Secondary education, urging them to work hard to acquire knowledge that would make them useful to the society.

Speaking on the essence of their excursion,

leader of the delegation, Mrs. Tayin Ekeho, disclosed that "one of the topics to be taught in class is on habitat and so we informed our boss, who is an alumnus of the University and she gave her consent. Management of the School felt that bringing the pupils to an institution of higher learning would help them better understand the topic and we believe that the University of Port Harcourt is the best place to bring them."

In their separate views, some of the pupils: Isudare Ayanfolawa, Mamah Elizabeth, Victor Ollawa and Fatogun Anjolaalawa, said they were excited with what they saw in the Farm, noting that they learnt a lot about fish species in the habitat. The pupils promised to add what they saw to the knowledge they already have from their classroom teaching on the subject of habitat.

The pupils revealed that they visited the Department's Wet Laboratory and Aquatic Unit in the Demonstration Farm, where they saw live cat fish and fingerlings. They were also shown different pictures of aquatic habitats, video clips of the sea-shore and the marine environment.



Ag. Head, Dept of Fisheries, Dr. Amieye (arrowed) flanked by staff of the Dept, teachers and pupils

STOP PRESS

UPWA MEETING

The University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) announces its monthly general meeting holding this Wednesday, February 18th, 2015 at the Gladys Cookey Centre, University Park. Major items to be discussed include: forthcoming UPWA general election and ongoing construction of the multi-purpose hall. Time is 1:30pm. Members are advised to be punctual.

Contact: Dr. Celestina Harry, Public Relations Officer.

Call For Journal Articles

Researchers in diverse disciplines are advised to submit well-researched articles for publication in the second volume of the *International Journal of Research, Innovation and Development*, a publication of the University. Manuscripts which should be typed in 1.5 space, 12 font size of Times New Roman must not exceed 15 pages. The last date for submission of manuscripts is March 31st, 2015. Submit to: research.fair@uniport.edu.ng

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT

WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 – SATURDAY 21, 2015.

| DATE | TEMPERATURE HR (°C) | HUMIDITY LO (%) | WIND DIRECTION | RAIN (mm) | SUNRISE AND SUNSET (mm) (gmt) | SUMMARY |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| SUNDAY, 15 FEB, 2015 | 34.0 | 25.0 | 63 | N | 6:47 18:45 | Partly cloudy day forecast. |
| MONDAY, 16 FEB, 2015 | 34.0 | 24.0 | 64 | NE | 2.3 6:47 18:45 | Thunderstorm expected late in the day. More sun than clouds. |
| TUESDAY, 17 FEB, 2015 | 33.0 | 25.0 | 63 | N | 6.8 6:47 18:45 | Widely scattered thunderstorms expected. Partly cloudy day forecast. |
| WEDNESDAY 18 FEB, 2015 | 34.0 | 25.0 | 67 | E | 3.2 6:47 18:45 | Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day expected. |
| THURSDAY, 19 FEB, 2015 | 34.0 | 25.0 | 67 | NE | 5.4 6:46 18:45 | Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day anticipated. |
| FRIDAY, 20 FEB, 2015 | 34.0 | 25.0 | 66 | NE | - 6:46 18:45 | Mostly cloudy day expected. |
| SATURDAY, 21 FEB, 2015 | 34.0 | 25.0 | 64 | NE | 2.9 6:46 18:45 | Thunderstorm expected early in the day. More sun than clouds. |

Dr Gladys Emenike
ACTING MO

Dr Prince Mmomo
AG. Director (CDROMS)

SERVICOM CORNER

The purpose of the Service Charter is to re-awaken the confidence of the stakeholders and customers - students, parents, staff, contractors, host communities, governments (Federal, State and Local) towards good service delivery.

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08063358445, 08034211172,
08155303412

Canadian High Commissioner's Visit

Canadian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Ambassador Terry Calderwood, visited the University on Tuesday, December 10, 2014, where he expressed willingness of the Canadian Government to partner the University in the development of educational infrastructure to deliver quality education. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, captured pictorial highlights of the event as shown below:



V-C, Prof Joseph Ajienka, welcoming Ambassador Calderwood to the University



Ambassador Calderwood being received by CMD, UPTH, Prof Aaron Ojale



Registrar, Mrs. Manilda Nwadin, welcoming Ambassador Calderwood



Ambassador Calderwood being welcomed by University Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwudo



V-C, Prof Ajienka (left) and Ambassador Calderwood exchanging views



A view of Senior Officers of the University and the Canadian Envoy at the Council Chamber



V-C, Prof Ajienka, making a power-point presentation to the guest



Prof Ajienka presenting University souvenir to Ambassador Calderwood



Prof Ajienka making a presentation to Ambassador Harcourt Adedok



Ambassador Calderwood exchanging pleasantries with CMD, UPTH, Prof Ojale



From L-R: CMD, UPTH, Prof Ojale, Registrar, Mrs. Nwadin and DV-C (Admin), Prof Nibaka



V-C exchanging documents with Ambassador Adedok, while CMD, UPTH, Professor Ojale, looks on



A group photograph of Senior Officers of the University and the Canadian Envoy