

## Mgt Sciences Faculty Celebrates UniPort At 40

...As Accounting Dept Holds Public Lecture

As part of activities lined up to celebrate 40 years of academic excellence in the University, the Faculty of Management Sciences took its turn to roll out the red carpet and drums to mark the occasion, which attracted stakeholders from within and outside the University, reports *Mercy Adeniji*.

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## Side Bar

Dept of Accounting held its 1<sup>st</sup> Public Lecture titled "Enough of Theory: Lets go Entrepreneurial last Friday. Details next week. ~Editor



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## 117<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Alapiki Proffers Solutions To Terrorism In Nigeria

By Humphrey Ogu

Ways of tackling the menace of terrorism was the main thrust of the 117<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture of the University delivered by Professor Henry Alapiki of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Thursday. Delivering the Lecture entitled: The State and the Culture of Terrorism in Nigeria: Unveiling the Real Terrorists, Professor Alapiki noted that "terrorism occurs in diverse and divergent social, political and economic conditions and needs to be viewed through historical, cultural, economic, social and political lenses." Alapiki, who is Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, observed that "terrorist acts, culture and motivation may differ among groups and individuals, within and between religious and ethnic communities. Given this reality, if one takes a simplistic view of the causes and contexts of

terrorism, one is likely to be led into a simplistic and narrow view of the solutions to terrorism.

"Today, the greatest danger confronting

the world comes from failed states, which create fertile grounds for the emergence and growth of terrorism. The major features

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## SCIENTIFIC INNOVATIONS



# Meditation For A Good Night's Sleep

By Anahad O'Connor

**D**o you have chronic sleep problems? You may be able to significantly improve your ability to get a restful night of sleep by practicing a popular form of meditation, a rigorous new study shows. The findings may be particularly relevant to Americans older than 55, about half of whom have some form of sleep trouble. The research, a clinical trial published in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine, recruited about 50 older adults with moderate sleep problems and assigned them to follow one of two programs.

In one group, the adults learned behaviors that could help them develop good sleep hygiene, like establishing a regular bedtime routine and avoiding caffeine and alcohol before bed. The other group underwent a six-week program on mindfulness meditation — the nonjudgmental awareness of the thoughts and feelings drifting through one's mind — led by a certified teacher.

At the end of the yearlong study, the people who learned the mindfulness approach had

greater improvements in sleep quality and fewer symptoms of insomnia, depression and fatigue than those who received standard care.

The lead author of the study, David S. Black, said mindfulness meditation probably helped settle the brain's arousal systems. And unlike widely used sleep drugs, it does not have potentially severe side effects, said Dr. Black, an assistant professor of preventive medicine at the University of Southern California.

"Given the many health concerns pertaining to sleep aid medication use in older adults," he added, "mindfulness meditation appears to be a safe and sensible health promoting practice to improve sleep quality."

In recent years, dozens of apps have sprung up promising to train users in mindfulness techniques and other forms of meditation. But Dr. Black noted that his study looked at a structured mindfulness course led by a skilled instructor.

"As compared to attempting mindfulness practice for the first time on your own," he said, "you are likely to gain the most benefit



Dr. Abdu Bulama

Minister of Science and Technology

from a standardized course with an experienced teacher."

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/02/23/meditation-for-a-good-nights-sleep>

## Alumnae Donate To Sociology Dept

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**I**n the spirit of the University's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the University, two alumnae of the Department of Sociology in the Faculty of Social Sciences have separately donated items that would aid efficient service delivery. The duo of Mina Ogbanga and Salome Jimbes, were Doctoral Candidates in the Department.

In their separate presentations, Jimbes, who disclosed that she obtained her first degree in Political and Administrative Studies from the same Faculty in 1998, said that she decided to donate a dispenser with water cans and a fan

as her own way of contributing to the overall development of the Department that gave her identity. "This Department groomed and made us what we are today. The least we can do to say 'Thank You' is to give back something no matter how little to encourage our lecturers and students we left behind," she remarked, pledging continued support to make the Department and her *Alma Mater* the best in the country.

Disclosing that her relationship with the University started way back as a Corp Member posted to the College of Health Sciences in 1997 when she voluntarily donated her allowances and some equipment like test tubes to the Laboratory, Ogbanga

noted that as a Doctoral Candidate in the Sociology Department, she decided to donate a massive industrial photocopier and office supplies to ease administrative duties.

"The interest is to leave the Department better than we met it. We also expect younger colleagues to emulate our examples by contributing their quota so that collectively, we can build the Sociology Department of our dreams. It is also our desire to see our dear Department emerge as the best in the country," the excited alumnae remarked, adding that they were motivated by the Head of Department's disposition towards the students and capacity to reach out to Alumni/Alumnae of the Department of Sociology.

Responding, the Head of Department, Professor Chukwunenye Okereke, commended the Alumnae for promptly responding to his appeal to stakeholders to support the activities of the Department as part of the University's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. "These donations are gestures that would empower the Department to deliver quality service to our students and other stakeholders," Professor Okereke said, appealing to other Alumni and Alumnae to emulate their good examples by coming to the aid of the Department.



HoD, Prof Okereke (arrowed) assisted by Assistant Registrar, Mr. Barieeba Gbogbura receiving the donation from Mrs. Salome Jimbes (nee Nsiegbe) and her husband

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# Mgt Sciences Faculty Celebrates UniPort At 40



V-C, Prof. Ajienka (arrowed) flanked by the Dean, Prof. Okereke (to his right), Ag. HoDs and staff of the Faculty

## Cont'd from p1

Declaring open the event which held last Monday at the Faculty's parking lot, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, commended the Faculty for keying into the University's landmark celebration by organizing a week-long event. "The Faculty of Management Sciences has contributed immensely to the overall growth of the University and we are very proud of your achievements since inception. Look at the Central Bank Building that is under construction; it is going to be an iconic structure on this Campus and has a huge potential of adding value chain to the capacity of the Faculty of Management Sciences to deliver globally benchmarked education to students from diverse backgrounds."

"We congratulate you on this landmark celebration and it is our hope that you will also develop your own Strategic Plan that would engineer future growth in the Faculty to tackle the challenges of the next 40 years. Our expectation is that older Faculty members would continue to mentor younger academics and students to excel in teaching and research. Staff of the Faculty should raise worthy role models that people can look up to as pillars of support in the years ahead. "We need to expand our coast by making ourselves a more attractive brand to stakeholders in the affairs of the University. Despite the negative views of some implacable critics about the University, there are still

many people who want to get that professional management experience from the Faculty. You have a huge captive market that is yet to be fully tapped and this anniversary celebration offers you a rare opportunity to advertise your potentials to stakeholders. We want to encourage the Faculty to take advantage of available opportunities to position itself as one of the best in this University," Professor Ajienka stated.

In his welcome address, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Emeka Okereke, commended Management of the University for muting the idea of a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at which the various Faculties and Colleges would celebrate their achievements in the University.

"The Faculty has made significant progress since it was established in 1980. It started as a Graduate School of Management and today, we have five Departments. Plans have reached advanced stages to establish two more Departments, namely: Insurance and Entrepreneurship. At the moment, the proposed Department of Insurance has received provisional approval from the Senate Committee on Academic Policies and Programmes (SCAPP), while the proposed Department of Entrepreneurial Studies is still being evaluated for possible approval."

In his contribution, the Faculty Officer, Mr. Ibelema Nimegoka, disclosed that the Faculty of Management Sciences, began in 1980 as a Graduate School of Management and Business Administration

(GSMBA), offering B.A programmes with specialization in Finance and Banking, Marketing, Accounting and Management.

"The Faculty today consists of five academic Departments offering both undergraduate and graduate programmes namely: Accounting, Management, Finance and Banking, Marketing, Hospitality Management and Tourism. The Undergraduate B.Sc programme was introduced in the 1984-85 academic session. The programme is designed to prepare students to become professionals in the Management Sciences," he disclosed.

Acting Heads of Department, Accounting, Dr. Gabriel Ogbonna, Management, Dr. Christine Nwuche, Finance and Banking, Dr. Ikechukwu Nnamdi, Marketing, Dr. Chinedu Ogo and Hospitality Management and Tourism, Dr. Continwe Ekeke, gave separate accounts of the emergence of their various Departments, explaining the achievements so far recorded in terms of student population and staffing. The Faculty used the opportunity to reward 40 deserving alumni and staff for their meritorious services to the University in the last 35 years of the existence of the Faculty.

As part of the celebration, the Department of Accounting held the first Public Lecture in the series last Friday, entitled: "Enough of Theory: Lets Go Entrepreneurial," delivered by the Director of the Port Harcourt Business School, Professor Clifford Ofurum, who is also a staff of the Department.

The Faculty of Agriculture hosted a workshop organized by the Institute of Tropical Agriculture (ITA) in conjunction with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) between 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

Briefing UniPort Weekly on the workshop which held at the Faculty Board Room, the Convener, Dr. Udensi Udensi, noted that it was aimed at training State Survey Enumerators for a field project that involves gathering baseline information on the status of high quality cassava flour value chain in Rivers State.

Disclosing that the project is a collaborative research effort between the IITA and IFAD on *Enhancing the Competitiveness of High Quality Cassava Flour Value Chain in Nigeria*, Dr. Udensi, observed that the study will be conducted in six states of the Federation, namely: Oyo, Ogun, Abia, Enugu, Rivers and the Federal Capital Territory.

Dr. Udensi who also doubles as the Rivers State Coordinator of the project, pointed out that the overall objective of the research is to increase cassava yield from the current per hectare production levels, estimated at 12.5ton/ha to 20ton/ha. "It would also increase

## UniPort Hosts IITA, IFDA Workshop

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

cassava-based household incomes of involved stakeholders and contribute to employment creation and reduction in wheat import expenditure by the government," he added.

He commended the IITA Project Manager, Dr. Adebayo Abass, IITA Coordinator, Mrs. Ijeoma Ebulue and Director of Extension Services in the

Rivers State Agricultural Development Programme, Dr. Apapa Apapa, on the High Quality Cassava Flour (HQCF) Value Chain Project and their contributions to the overall success of the workshop, adding that the survey targeted small holder farmers, end users, financial institutions, farmers' associations and research institutions with the goal of increasing cassava production in Nigeria.



Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Wokoma (5<sup>th</sup> from right), Associate Dean, Dr. Adesope, Dr. Udensi and participants in a group photograph

# Celebrating UniPort At 40 In College Of Engineering

By Obinna Nwodin



Prof. Ajenka, V-C

The present College of Engineering commenced formal academic activities at the inception of the University in 1975 as a School of Engineering. The emergent School was to build capacity in various spheres of the Engineering profession—civil, electrical, and mechanical—as well as petroleum and gas. A very significant development was the setting up of the Petroleum Engineering programme. This is because of the geographical terrain where the University is located being the hub of the oil and gas industry in Nigeria and the Gulf of Guinea.

40 years after, the College would be forgiven to gloat over what it has been able to achieve during the period under review. It is beyond dispute that the College has grown to become one of the best in Nigeria. It is in the College of Engineering that the concept of capitalizing knowledge has so far played out to the admiration of stakeholders in its affairs. The College has evidently taken the entrepreneurial vision of the present administration to heart and the result is everywhere in the industry.

The solid achievements of the College are predicated on a strong foundation laid by its pioneer Dean, Professor Chi U. Ikoku of blessed memory. He displayed sound eclectic academic and administrative leadership that brought pride and dignity to the defunct Faculty of Engineering, where he held sway for close to twenty years. Ikoku, who described himself as “Jack of all trade and Master of Some,” arrived from Tulsa, Oklahoma, to set up a thriving Engineering Faculty that has stood the test of time.

Today, the College has grown in leaps and bounds, parading some of the super brains that practice in the finest academic tradition bequeathed to them by the

foresighted Professor Ikoku. Distinguished intellectuals such as Joseph Ajenka, Adewale Dosunmu, Ayanade Kaye, Mike Onyekonwu, amongst others, have brought pride and honour, not only to the College, but also to the University at large. First, we acknowledge the fact that the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the University comes from the College and so the Engineering process does not apply only in the classroom, but also to the University administration. The Department of Petroleum Engineering also boasts of having the highest number of professors of Petroleum Engineering, not only in Nigeria, but also on the African continent. This is a demonstration of the high quality professionals and academics that walk the corridors of the College. Both Professors Dosunmu and Onyekonwu, have delivered the Society of Petroleum Engineers (International) Distinguished Lecture series around the world.

The icing on the cake came when Professor Dosunmu and his team of dedicated researchers in the Department of Petroleum Engineering, discovered OPTIWELL—a drilling software that has saved the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) so much drilling cost and time. This welcome development pioneered by academics in the College, has been widely acknowledged in petroleum circles around the world. That is a meaningful contribution from the College that deserves to be celebrated as part of the University's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Through the quality academic leadership provided by the College over the years, the University was able to enter



Late Prof. Ikoku

into a number of partnerships with reputable institutions in and outside the country. Prominent amongst them is the partnership with the IFPSchool in France, which gave birth to the famous TOTAL-sponsored Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS)—an international collaborative Graduate School that runs with major input from industry and professional bodies. It is the first in the Gulf of Guinea with centres covering the upstream and downstream sectors of the oil and gas industry. The successful IPS brand has resulted in the internationalization of higher education at home, thus, saving Nigeria huge foreign exchange. The Institute has become a major signature programme that has brought about immense transformation in the way and manner conventional programmes are run in the University, particularly the graduate programmes. No wonder that the model is now being copied by other companies that seek to replicate it in other higher institutions.

Today, a number of Institutes and centres have emerged from the programme and are attracting strategic collaborations with industry players. The Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum Economics, Policy and Strategic Studies is one of them. Another one is the World Bank African Centre of Excellence (ACE) in Oilfield Chemicals Research, Offshore Technology Institute, Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals; Centre for Occupational Health, Safety and Environment, Centre for Petroleum Geosciences, amongst others, have emerged from the IPS umbrella. Another milestone achievement is the collaboration with the National Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC) which enabled the



Prof. Appah, Provost

University to produce the first Nuclear Engineers in Nigeria! This is a badge which the College wears with immense pride.

As a result of the fame of the College that now resonates to distant places, some universities and institutions outside the country are collaborating UniPort in engineering, particularly in petroleum and gas. For instance, the University of Mines and Technology (UMT), Takwa, Ghana, has over the past five years, signed an Agreement with the University on exchange programmes, which enables its students to spend time undergoing experts here on the complex operations of the oil and gas industry in Nigeria.

The University of Witwatersrand also trashed out an institutional collaboration with the University in petroleum studies, while the famous United States-based FMC Company recently signed an agreement to introduce the first underwater technology programme in the University—the first of its kind in Africa. Today, the College has strengthened its capacity to give quality academic and professional leadership to other universities in Petroleum Engineering. Given its widely-acknowledged pedigree, it is expected that the College would continue on the part of steady growth as it looks forward to the next forty years of robust research, teaching and more partnerships.

The College of Engineering currently consists of two Faculties: the Faculty of Infrastructure Systems Engineering and the Faculty of Energy Systems Engineering. There are nine Departments that cover various Engineering specializations. It is heartwarming to know that the College has made significant improvements in not only human capacity development that have brought about immense benefits to society, but has also set the stage for more technological breakthroughs as it marches forward with renewed confidence to the next 40 years.



Prof. Onyekonwu



Prof. Dosunmu

As tensions continue to mount over the appropriate modalities for the conduct of the 2015 general elections in Nigeria, Professor Okey Onuchukwu of the Department of Economics has raised alarm over the implications of a possible post-election crisis on the economy. Onuchukwu, who dropped the warning in an interview with *UniPort Weekly* in his office, last Tuesday, said that no economy will survive under a crisis situation, pointing

# Onuchukwu Warns Against Impact Of Post-Election Violence On Economy

By Obinna Nwodin

out that a possible post-election violence would certainly worsen the already battered economy. According to him, in the event of post-election crisis, there will be huge losses in man-hours, infrastructure, human capacity and the general economy, noting that it is as a result of such foreseen situation that the international community is doing everything possible to ensure that the country remains peaceful after the general elections.

"A lot of individuals and groups are preaching peace and sensitizing the citizenry on the need for peaceful elections. Political parties are preaching against violence and that is what it should be, because it is an ill-wind that will blow nobody any good," he stated, adding that in the event of any crisis in the country, the gains??? modest already recorded would be promptly erased with disastrous consequences for everybody.

He identified agriculture, trade and investment, as well as empowerment initiatives already initiated by the Federal Government, as sectors that would be adversely affected in the event of a possible post-election violence. "Nigeria is currently ranked as the largest economy in Africa with an economic base of \$559 billion and if the country experiences political violence, it will turn back the gains so far made. This is why all hands must be on deck to avoid any form of crisis in Nigeria before, during and after the elections," he told our Correspondent. Professor Onuchukwu noted that with the current free-fall in the benchmark price of oil which has drastically reduced the revenue base of the country, "we do not need

political crises to worsen the already bad situation", adding that the current situation makes it necessary for urgent steps to be taken to diversify the economy away from oil which is currently experiencing a huge glut on the global market. He blamed the falling oil price on the activities of non-OPEC actors, such as the United States and China, which are currently producing shale oil that is undermining traditional oil producing countries such as Nigeria.

Onuchukwu, who is the immediate past Head of Department, believed that the shift in the general elections originally scheduled for February 14 and April 11, 2015, has also doused the heightening tension and afforded the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to tighten loose ends that would have resulted if the elections had held as already scheduled, stating that mock testing of the contentious Card Reader Machines was an added advantage to the Commission's resolve to conduct free, fair and transparent elections.

It would be recalled that there have been heightened fears of post-election violence in the run-up to the 2015 general elections, following the acrimonious trend of campaigns by desperate politicians and their foot soldiers bent on capturing power at all cost. This has raised concern in the international community about the future of Nigeria, prompting the United Nations, United States, as well as the European Union to send envoys to interface with major political players on the need for peaceful polls in Africa's largest democracy.



Prof Onuchukwu

# Heart Failure: Experts Worry About Hypertension At Lecture In Uchenna's Memory

By Humphrey Ogu

Visibly worried experts in Cardiology and other branches of Medicine gathered at the Conference Hall of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), last Tuesday, to brainstorm on the cardiovascular complications associated with rising cases of hypertension amongst Nigerians. They called for lifestyle changes and early clinical attention as some of the remedial measures for condition.

The Lecture, which was organized by the Department of Medicine in the College of Health Sciences, was in memory of Professor Doris Uchenna of the Cardiology Unit, who died on Sunday, January 25, 2015, following a protracted illness.

Delivering the first lecture entitled: *Recent Advances in the Epidemiology of Heart Failure in Sub-Saharan Africa*, Dr. Okechukwu Ogah, reeled out frightening data of the hypertension burden in sub-continent, revealing that "10 per cent of hospital admission is due to heart failure-related cases. High Blood Pressure (HBP) is a very serious problem in Nigeria," he stated, calling for urgent remedial action to save more people from succumbing to

the disease.

Ogah, who is the Abia State Commissioner of Health, presented startling data from various parts of the world to drive home his worry about the dire consequences of hypertension, warning that hypertension-related heart failures were on the increase as a result of hereditary factors and harmful lifestyle associated with urban living. Using data from surveys he conducted and others by his colleagues elsewhere, Dr. Ogah called on relevant authorities and agencies to create an enabling environment for Cardiologists and Physicians to tackle the scourge that is implicated in the rising mortality rate in sub-Saharan Africa.

He extolled the virtues of late Professor Uchenna, who he said was in the forefront of the battle to reduce hypertension burden, especially in women, rounding off his lecture with a tribute poem entitled: *I'm Free*.

In his own lecture entitled: *Heart Diseases in Women*, Acting Head of the Department of Medicine, Dr. Maclean Akpa, noted that women were more likely to die from heart diseases than men, despite the fact that more men were susceptible to heart diseases than women. He said that pregnancy worsened the case in women, advising the womenfolk to report early to their doctors and be more open in disclosing their health challenges than most of them were doing at the moment. "Obesity is more common in women and they need to maintain normal Body Mass Index (BMI), live a physically active life and adhere to doctor's prescriptions and treatment procedures for a better outcome," he advised.

In his contribution, Chairman of the occasion and former Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Osaetin Odia, who commended the two presenters for what he described as the high quality of their lectures, emphasized that hypertension is the main cause of heart failure, adding that "women look after their spouses more than they look after themselves with disastrous consequences."

Paying tributes to the late Professor Uchenna, Odia said: "I first met her at the University of Port Harcourt teaching Hospital (UPTH) in the 1980s. She was my first student in Cardiology and I supervised her postgraduate thesis. So, she was my academic daughter," he told the gathering, charging younger colleagues to emulate her virtues of hard work, mentorship and commitment to duty.

Colleagues in the Department, who paid tribute to the



Late Prof Uchenna

late Consultant Cardiologist, included Dr. F.S. Wokoma, Dr. Chibuike Eze-Nwafor, and her former students, Drs. Sandra Ofori and Boma Oruapoh-Onya. Also present was another former Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christian Annah.

A *Service of Songs* was held in her honour last Wednesday at the Ofirina Hall Quadrangle, at which the *Exhortation* was delivered by the Chaplain of Our Saviours' Chapel (Interdenominational) Rev Canon Saturday Nhetu. A *Special Convocation* followed on Thursday at the Convocation Arena at which the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenika delivered the *Oration*. Her remains were, thereafter, taken to the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital for another tribute session by her professional colleagues. A *Commendation Service* was also held in her honour at Christ Church (Interdenominational), Forces Avenue, Port Harcourt, where she worshipped, following which her remains were taken in a motorcade to her home town, Lorji-Ezinhiite Village, Abom Mbaise in Imo State, where she was laid to rest last Saturday.



Dr. Ogah

Cont'd from p1

# Alapiki Proffers Solutions To Terrorism

of such states are corruption and bad governance. Terrorism in Nigeria has its historical roots. Its effects and intensity varies from one region to another," he explained.

**L**isting corruption, impunity, poverty and unemployment, political domination and economic marginalisation as key variables

which instigate terrorism in Nigeria, the Inaugural Lecturer argued that "the State or government is the main actor in terrorism in our society. What the government does, how it governs, its actions and inactions, will promote or curtail terrorism by groups or organisations outside government.

"A large mass of poverty-stricken unemployed youths constitute a fertile soil for recruitment of foot soldiers by terrorist organisations. There is a saying that 'Idleness is a disease'. It is further said that 'the idle mind is the devil's workshop'. Unemployment and poverty make our teeming youths vulnerable to terrorism and criminality. If we do not do something urgently, the near future portends more danger," he warned policy-makers.

Alapiki, who observed that there are numerous terrorist and militant groups in Nigeria, identified Boko Haram and the Niger Delta militants as the most deadly on account of the

casualty rate they exact, scope of operation and effects on the economy of the nation. He rolled out a long list of terrorist attacks in Nigeria, chronicling the history of terrorism around the world.

Linking military governments in Nigeria to the emergence of terrorism in the country, Alapiki said: "The emergence of military rule was the biggest setback to the growth of democracy in Nigeria. Democracy is a learning process. Military rule is the archetype of government by impunity; it governs by decrees and does not require popular approval or majority rule."

He defined state terrorism as acts of terrorism conducted by governments or terrorist groups carried out directly by, or encouraged and funded by established governments, adding: "Generally, it is terrorism practised by a government against its own people or in support of international terrorism. Dictatorship, especially military regimes,

terrorise their populations."

Reacting to the Lecture, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, described the topic of the lecture as "very topical because terrorism is a global scourge that has grown so rapidly to threaten the world in recent times. As the Lecturer rightly said, we need to win the hearts and minds of the youths, who are vulnerable to being recruited into terrorism through unrelenting propaganda on the social media."

The Vice-Chancellor, who noted that the Inaugural Lecturer had 100 per cent UniPort content, expressed satisfaction with the quality of the presentation, adding that the Lecture came at a time when the University was celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Professor Ajenka described a University as a very important place that parade academics with expertise in various disciplines.

## Rivers FAN Elects Ijeoma Chapter Scribe

By Williams Wodi

**W**hen the Council of the Forestry Association of Nigeria convened its 236<sup>th</sup> Meeting at the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, election was an important

component of the gathering which took place on October 21, 2014.

Tertiary institutions that offer Forestry and Wildlife Management in Rivers State combined to host the landmark meeting at RSUST on a common platform. For instance: they came from the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management of the University of Port Harcourt; Department of Forestry and Environment of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Department of Agricultural Sciences of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Ramuoluneni, State Ministries of Environment and Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, Onne Station, Rivers State.

Highlight of the memorable meeting was the formal inauguration of the Rivers State Chapter of the Association, which followed a meticulous planning process. Following a keenly contested election, the Acting Head of Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management in the University of Port, Dr. Henry Ijeoma, emerged as Secretary of the Rivers State Chapter of the Association.

Speaking to a Correspondent of UniPort Weekly, Dr. Ijeoma said the meeting was a policy analysis session that gathered professionals in forestry and wildlife management to articulate ways of protecting wildlife in the Niger Delta. Describing the major thrust of the Association as the management of animals in their natural habitat, the Acting HoD disclosed that "animals are highly threatened by human activity such as pollution, industrial development and sundry activities. Every animal has a 'home range'—that

is—active areas of operation for sustenance and survival. Unfortunately, human activities are narrowing the 'home range' of these animals with disastrous consequences for the endangered species and the environment.

"Animals now live in semi-confinement as a result of threats from the environment. The situation is so bad that some animals can no longer reach out in their natural habitat," he revealed, advising that people should practice environmental stewardship which is in their long term interest. Decrying the depletion of animal stock in the Niger Delta, Dr. Ijeoma observed that crocodiles were the most endangered species as a result of the high demand for their leather for commercial purposes.

On the accreditation exercise that took place in the Faculty of Agriculture, last December, the Acting HoD said he was hoping for a positive outcome, commending the administration for making funds available for the purchase of equipment and related items for the exercise. "The accreditation team praised our plantation farm and I hope it would reflect in the evaluation of our programmes in the Department. Our cane rat house is doing very well and we are striving towards commercial production. Occasionally, we advertise to sell off some of our holdings as part of our decongestion strategy," he told our Correspondent, promising that the Department has the capacity to cater for the consumption needs of the University community and its environs.

Dr. Ijeoma, who decried what he described as the unrelenting propaganda on the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), however, said that such propaganda has helped in bringing down the price of bush meat in the market.



Dr. Ijeoma

# GUIDEPOST

## RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

*Professor Nkalo Ukoima*, Department of Forestry and Wildlife, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Professor*, effective January 14, 2015 to January 13, 2016.

*Dr. Chukwueke Ekeke*, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective February 11, 2015 to February 10, 2016.

*Dr. Ignatius Iwegbue*, Department of Civil Engineering, College of Engineering, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective January 11, 2015 to January 10, 2016.

*Dr. Tova Orlin-Makele*, Department of Educational Management and Planning, Faculty of Education granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective April 3, 2015 to April 2, 2016.

*Mr. Tams Kio*, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment as Assistant Lecturer*, effective January 23, 2015 to January 22, 2016.

## REVIEW OF STATUS

*Mr. Chiedozie Ikebude*, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Infrastructural Systems Engineering, elevated from *Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II*, effective August 27, 2014.

*Mr. Chimaroke Anyanwu*, Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering, Faculty of Process and Energy Systems Engineering, elevated to *Lecturer II*, effective July 30, 2014.

## STUDY LEAVE

*Dr. Chinwoke Ifeanyi-Obi*, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, granted a 12-month *Study Leave with Pay* to enable her utilize the fellowship award by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), to undertake a research work on Climate Change and its local impacts on development at the University of South Africa (UNISA), South Africa, effective January 15, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

*Miss Mary Ezediokpu*, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Biological Science, granted a 3-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable her pursue an MPhil/ PhD in Microbiology, at the University of Salford, Manchester, United Kingdom, effective January, 2015 to January, 2018.

## CHANGE OF NAME

### MRS. CYNTHIA IFEOMA EKENNA

Former Mrs. Cynthia Ifeoma Ofoh of the Department of Pharmaceutical Pharmacy Technology, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, now wishes to be known and addressed as MRS. CYNTHIA IFEOMA EKENNA. All documents bearing her former names remain valid.

### MRS. GLORY OMONIGHO OZURU

Former Mrs. Glory Omonigho Ozuru of the Legal Unit now wishes to be known and addressed as MRS. GLORY OMONIGHO GBADA. All documents bearing her former names remain valid.

# Art Gallery To Mark UniPort 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary With Kiddies' Workshop

By Mercy Adeniji

As part of the University-wide celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the University of Port Harcourt Art Gallery has disclosed plans to organize a three-day workshop and art exhibition for 40 unique children between the ages of four to fourteen years.

A letter posted on the University's website by the Curator, Professor Bridget Nwanze and obtained by *UniPort Weekly*, stated in part: "To celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of Port Harcourt, there will be a 3-day Workshop and Art Exhibition in the months of May and June, 2015. Our children need an outlet for their emotions in the face of environmental pollution, hunger, crises and economic problems. Through this creative art experience, the children will prepare for imaginative and disciplined approaches to the solution of these problems. The proposed Workshop would stimulate their spiritual and emotional responses to their environment."

The letter further revealed that during the arts show, works across a broad spectrum, including painting, print making, sculpture, crafts and ceramics will be exhibited for public viewing. "All children deserve art opportunities to express what they dream. They truly deserve surroundings rich in expressive opportunities. When we give our children a chance to explore and develop their own creativity, we encourage their sensitivity and ability for self-expression that is a crucial part of the well-informed and well-educated person."

She added that at the end of the workshop and exhibition, the best designs will be



Prof Nwanze

selected and made into a flag to be hosted at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary closing ceremony. "This would serve to honour the children in front of their families, friends and teachers, she disclosed, urging parents to prepare their children for the event. Nwanze also disclosed that forms were already available for first 40 children at the Art Gallery located at the left wing of the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium between 10.00am to 4.00pm, Mondays to Fridays. Applications could also be downloaded from the website at [www.uniport.edu.ng](http://www.uniport.edu.ng).

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY

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

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 15 MAR 2015	32.0 25.0	73	NE	7.2	6:38:18-44	Thunderstorms expected partly sunny day anticipated.
MONDAY, 16 MAR 2015	31.8 24.0	76	NE	4.1	6:38 18:43	Thunder storms expected late in the day. Partly sunny day forecasted.
TUESDAY 17 MAR 2015	33.0 25.0	70	NE	-	6:38 18:43	More clouds than sun expected.
WEDNESDAY 18 MAR 2015	34.0 25.0	70	NE	18.6	6:37 18:43	Thunder storms expected early in the day. Partly sunny day forecasted.
THURSDAY 19 MAR 2015	34.0 25.0	65	N	-	6:37 18:43	Partly sunny day anticipated.
FRIDAY 20 MAR 2015	34.0 25.0	63	N	-	6:36 18:43	Partly sunny day forecasted.
SATURDAY 21 MAR 2015	34.0 25.0	63	N	4.0	6:39 18:43	Thunderstorms expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy day expected.

Dr Gladys Emenike  
ACTING HO

Dr Prince Mmom  
AG. Director, (CDRMS)

## PASSAGE

### Professor Doris Uchenna

The Death has been announced of Professor Doris Ihoma Uchenna. She was aged 57 years. Until her demise, she was a Consultant

Cardiologist in the Department of Medicine, Professor Uchenna, who died on Saturday, January Sunday, January 25, 2015, was laid to rest last Saturday, March 14, 2015 in her home town, Lorji-Ezinibite in Aboh Mbaise, Imo State.



Late Prof Uchenna



## EEI MAIDEN INDUCTION

The Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum Economics, Policy and Strategic Studies held its maiden Induction Ceremony at the Emmanuel Egbogah Auditorium in the Institute on Friday, January 23, 2015. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, captured highlights of the event as shown in the pictures below:



V-C, Prof Joseph Ajienka, giving his opening speech



Director, EEI, Prof Wumi Hledare welcoming guests



Chairman, EEI Governing Board, Dr. Emmanuel Egbogah, giving his address



Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs giving a goodwill message



Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim conducting the Induction



Dean, GSET, Prof Adewale Dosunmu reading a citation on Dr. Joseph Ellah



Prof Ajienka presenting a plaque to Dr. Ellah, after his induction as Fellow of EEI



Best Graduating Student, Okehi Ebewe, delivering his Valedictory Speech



Profs Hledare (3rd from left), Ajienka, Dr. Egbogah, Wife, Chirota with the graduating students



R-L: Mrs. Nnodim, Mrs. Chirota Egbogah and University Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Alije



Principal Officers and Senior Staff of UniPort, Officials of EEI in a group photograph with Dr. Egbogah and wife, Chirota and the Graduating Students