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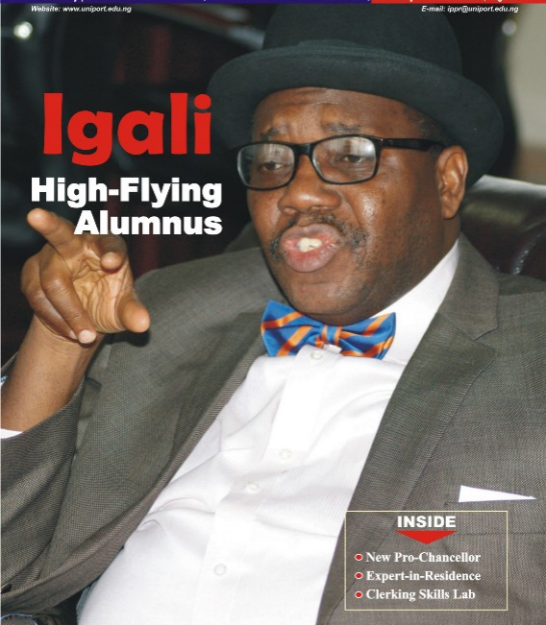
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Igali

High-Flying Alumnus



INSIDE

- New Pro-Chancellor
- Expert-in-Residence
- Clerking Skills Lab

UniPort taught me love of knowledge —Wariboko

The usual refrain about Julius Caesar's military success goes thus: he came, he saw, he conquered. For Professor Nimi Wariboko's glittering academic success, it should go thus: he came, he saw, UniPort conquered. What he saw, heard, and learned at the University of Port Harcourt from 1980-1984 conquered and flushed out from him all hindrances to the pure love of knowledge, multidisciplinary lifelong learning, and practical application of knowledge to societal problems, reports WILLIAMS WODI.

Professor Nimi Wariboko's "defeat" in Unique UniPort has allowed him to avoid the Waterloo of professional career, academic endeavours, and social life. As a student in the Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, young Nimi came face-to-face with some of the finest scholars that ever walked the hallowed corridors of the academia. He was open-minded, self-motivated and eager to learn. He graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Economics in 1984 and has since added four other degrees, including an MBA degree in Finance/Accounting from Columbia University, New York and Ph.D (with distinction) in Ethics from the prestigious Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton. Today, Wariboko is a full Professor, occupying an endowed Chair at America's oldest Seminary and the main thrust of his research is *economic ethics*. The harvest has been bountiful indeed. He has authored 14 well-received books and co-edited three others.

"Three manuscripts are at various stages of the peer review process; so I think that before December 2014, I would have 20

books to my name. One of the manuscripts under review is entitled, *Economics in Spirit and Truth: A Moral Philosophy of Finance* and is currently being reviewed by the prestigious Columbia University Press. It examines the moral and philosophical basis of economic theories and equations". Wariboko told *UNIQUE UniPort*. His books and essays range from economics, accounting, finance, strategy, political theory, philosophy, and theology to ethics. He is a consummate multidisciplinary scholar and a gift to UniPort.

Wariboko has quickly become one of the most original and creative thinkers in the world. "For instance, on October 22, 2009, *The Guardian* newspaper carried a story about the celebration of my 1998 excellent application of the transaction cost theory to the economic history of the Niger Delta. The 2009 Nobel Prize in Economics was given to two American pioneers of the theory; but scholars in several countries also commended me for my path-breaking and cutting-edge extension of the theory to African history eleven years earlier", he said. Translation: Wariboko's

transactional economic theory influenced the 2009 Nobel Prize in Economics!

Wariboko was an investment banker both in Nigeria and United States. He has served as strategy consultant to



"Wariboko has quickly become one of the most original and creative thinkers in the world."

the Governments of Nigeria and the United States, the Central Bank of Nigeria, corporations, and banks. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to scholarship and promotion of brand UniPort, the

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka appointed Wariboko a *Global Ambassador* of the University of Port Harcourt. He is married to Wapaemi (*nee Spiff*), a 1986 graduate of Unique

UniPort. They have three children ranging from ages 11 to 20 years. Unique UniPort truly runs in their DNA! All of them!



Hon Ike Chinwo, National President, UNI-PORT Alumni Association

Chinwo Passionate about Alumni Association

By Williams Wodi

It was a carnival atmosphere of sorts that joggled memories. President of the Rivers State Branch of the Association, Engineer Sampson Ngerabara, was sentenced to the task of serving as Electoral Committee Chairman. Nobody expected anything less from a seasoned technocrat and former Works Commissioner in Rivers State, who discharged his mandate with the admirable zeal of a Catholic Mass Servant.

A visibly-impressed Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, himself a distinguished Alumnus, restated the importance of a strong Alumni Association that would continue to champion the accelerated development of the University. "All over the world, Alumni Associations are known to champion the development of their *Alma Mater*. You have done very well already and we expect you to do more to lift your University to global reckoning", Professor Ajenka told them.

New National President, Honourable Ike Chinwo, unfolded a ten-point agenda for the service year, which called for commitment from Alumni to enable his Executive deliver its electoral promises. "The new leadership will drive towards full digitization of membership, increase our networking capacity, resuscitate redundant chapters and encourage new ones, honour Alumni high-flyers, contribute more to the development of our *Alma Mater* and complete our new National Secretariat", Chinwo, a former Member of the House of Representative, promised.

In a Keynote Address, titled: "*The Role of Alumni Associations in the Development of their Alma Mater*", a distinguished 1984 Alumnus and Vice-Chancellor of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Professor Hilary Edoga, urged members to promote the good image of their *Alma Mater*, network with each other, act as role models to students and younger Alumni and contribute to the overall development of the University.

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

There you have it. The next time you sit next to a UniPort graduate, don't call him a noisy neighbour; just recognize his uniqueness which is a global franchise that cannot be denominated in any hard currency. U-N-I-Q-U-E UniPort!

"Why do UniPort Alumni make so much noise?", a frustrated housewife once asked her husband over a well-appointed dinner the family gave to a group of visiting Alumni friends at Abuja. "It is because we are the only unique University in the world; can you beat that, darling?", the man replied with a sense of invidious triumphalism. "Since they arrived here, I haven't heard any other thing but U-N-I-Q-U-E UniPort. What is really so special about a university that is much younger than my great *Alma Mater*?", Madam pressed on.

"Our uniqueness defies conventional description my dear; it is only in UniPort that you are trained across disciplines that equip you to question orthodoxy". A loquacious guest even annoyed our hostess all the more by suggesting that she considers taking up even a one week refresher course from UniPort to bring her impressive curriculum vitae to full circle. What impudence! Although the pioneer class graduated only in 1981, members of the University of Port Harcourt Alumni Association can look back with pride at the iconic global brand that their *Alma Mater* has become over the years.

When the Association held her Annual General Meeting at the expansive Atlantic Hall of Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt on Saturday, 16th February, 2013, an atmosphere of eager anticipation enveloped the arena, as candidates campaigned without bitterness to become part of the new National Executive as a veritable platform to render selfless service. Everybody agreed that the Interim Executive headed by Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimele, had served its course well and had to give way to a democratically-elected national leadership.

Testimonial of a research-intensive University

On assumption of office in 2010, the Professor Joseph Ajenka-led Administration instituted an Annual Research Fair to create an avenue for academics and students to showcase their research work, as well as afford industry players an opportunity to capitalize knowledge from the University. In this report, **OBINNA NWODIM** highlights the gains and challenges of the 2nd Annual UniPort Research Fair and Conference.

The Second Annual Research Fair and Conference of the University was a revelation of sorts. The event which had the theme, "Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Action Path to National Development", showcased innovative research projects by staff, students, industry players and sister institutions. The Fair highlighted innovations and creative efforts of the various Colleges, Faculties, Institutes and Centres; and afforded them opportunity for networking and collaborative ventures among researchers, as well as a forum for the industry to identify research outputs that may require further development, mass

production and commercialization. The annual event has succeeded in putting academics on their toes as they are now expected to showcase one new discovery or the other at the next Research Fair. This is against the old habit of embarking on research works which end up on the shelf after being used to attain promotion to the Professoriate. The Research Fair also afforded the authorities an opportunity to identify and separate productive academic staff from their non-productive counterparts. The 2013 Research Fair was very special because it attracted participants from other institutions, agencies and private organizations outside the

University. This welcome development shows that the once aloof industry is beginning to come to terms with the need to partner the University in mutually-beneficial ventures. Both parties need each other to advance the frontiers of knowledge for the

The annual event has succeeded in putting academics on their toes as they are now expected to showcase one new discovery or the other at the next Research Fair. This is against the old habit of embarking on research works which end up on the shelf after being used to attain promotion to the Professoriate.



Prof Willie Abbey



Prof Avwiri
Chairman, Research Fair Committee

benefit of humanity.

With this positive development, the stage is now set for researchers to come up with ground-breaking findings that would be applied to solve the numerous problems facing the society. It is hoped that now that the Fair has come to stay, it would attract increased participation from the private sector aimed at boosting the research profile of Nigerian universities and thus bringing them better ranking from global rating agencies.



Enter genomic medicine

*Professor Vincent Idemiyor is a foremost Pharmacist and disease control expert, who is very passionate about quality research in the University of Port Harcourt, where he is an NUC LEADS Scholar and Illinois University, where he is a resident Scholar. Idemiyor's groundbreaking research in Malaria and HIV/AIDS and his latest foray into Genomic Medicine are the toast of clinicians and scientists in search of customized healthcare delivery against the backdrop of emergent diseases, reports **WILLIAMS WODI***

If you are searching for a consummate scientist, who knows his onions when it comes to finding clinical solutions to the many emergent diseases ravaging humanity today, then look no further than Vincent Idemiyor, a world renowned Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and acknowledged authority on malaria and HIV/AIDS, amongst other ailments. In a recent well-received article titled, "Genomic Medicine: Health Care Issues and the Unresolved Ethical and Social Dilemmas", Idemiyor takes the next

quantum leap in the application of genomic medicine as a functional intervention mechanism against emergent diseases that pillory mankind today.

This National Universities Commission (NUC) LEADS Scholar to the University of Port Harcourt, is a major voice in the emergent area of genomic medicine, which is exciting clinicians and scientists around the world.

Rivers State-born Idemiyor, who is a Visiting Scholar from the Department of Medicine, University of Illinois, Chicago, strongly believes that genomic medicine is the way forward in efforts aimed at tackling most of the single genes that cause diseases in the human body, noting that the perception of experts about this complex mechanism is evolving by the day.

"This has led to the understanding of the pathophysiological basis of common diseases. Genomic Medicine continues to contribute to the understanding of the molecular basis of disease. Medicine has strived to achieve the goal of tailoring interventions

to individual variations in risk and treatment responses. Advances in genomics will facilitate the process", Idemiyor disclosed, adding that efforts are on to utilize genomic information to classify individuals according to their disease susceptibility or response to a pathologic treatment with a view to providing targeted interventions to individual patients. By investigating the genetic profile of individuals, Idemiyor said, medical professionals would be in a position to select patients and use information obtained to plan a more effective treatment regime for beneficiaries in line with their body functions. Professor Idemiyor's groundbreaking study seeks to "illustrate how genomic medicine can facilitate the provision of molecular diagnostic methods that improve drug therapy".

The avid researcher also examined the social and ethical challenges that genomics information may pose to clinicians and scientists—especially on ethnic and racial groups. Genomic medicine promises to be the future of patient management. Idemiyor is, indeed, a gift to the clinical and scientific community!



Prof Idemiyor

Rivers State-born Idemiyor, who is a Visiting Scholar from the Department of Medicine, University of Illinois, Chicago, strongly believes that genomic medicine is the way forward in efforts aimed at tackling most of the single genes that cause disease in the human body.



Dr Stanley

Harnessing sclerotia

An Environmental Microbiologist, Researcher and Consultant, Dr Herbert Stanley, is undertaking a groundbreaking research aimed at producing *Sclerotia* in commercial quantities for its nutritional and medicinal values. *Sclerotia* which is known in some communities as 'esu' or 'usu', is mostly found in tropical rain forest soil, reports OTIKOR SAMUEL.

The *Sclerotium* is spherical in nature, dark brown on the outside and white inside. Mostly found in *pleurotus tuberregium* which is a species of mushroom, the *Sclerotium*, when soaked in water for some hours would shed off the dark brownish colour and expose the whitish inner tissue, which can substitute in part or whole for the melon seeds, serving as food and medicine across much of Africa.

Dr Stanley said that the product is used as medicine against mal-nutritional, anaemic and antibacterial illnesses; manage cancer, as well as forms part of the ingredients for embalming corpses. If properly harnessed, this wonder product could also be used to treat some cardiovascular complications, including high blood pressure, asthma, cough, headache, stomach ailments, cold and fever and smallpox, adding that it is also rich in vitamin, mineral, protein and carbohydrate, but low in fat. Talk about a one-in-all wonder drug that should not be allowed to gather dust on the shelf!

"Following discovery of the nutritional and medicinal values of *Sclerotia*, we will be collaborating with the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and College of Health Sciences to explore its abundant natural resource to produce refined drugs and food supplements," Dr Stanley said, adding that the research team would take advantage of availability of appropriate facilities at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital to test the viability of the findings.

Fasusi, UniPort graduate, pioneers bio-electricity project

A 2012 Graduate of Environmental Engineering in the College of Engineering, Mr Olayinka Fasusi has commenced a research project in collaboration with the Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB), aimed at generating electricity through waste products. Director of the Centre, Professor Bosa Okoli and Dr Herbert Stanley of the Department of Microbiology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, are lead researchers driving the project which received rave reviews during the Second Annual Research Fair of the University held at the Donald Ekong Library last April, reports OTIKOR SAMUEL.

Dr Stanley and Mr Fasusi, disclosed that the research aims at utilizing crude oil polluted sediment enriched with snail shells and domestic waste water to generate electricity for municipal consumption through Microbial Fuel Cell Technology, stating that Microbial Fuel Cell (MFC), a device that uses microorganisms to generate electrical current through the oxidation of organic materials could serve as an alternative source of generating electricity for commercial use.

"Crude oil-polluted sediment can be used as an alternative energy source in an environmentally-friendly manner to generate electricity for municipal consumption and other uses. With a modest grant of about N10 million, electricity could be generated in commercial quantity in a sustainable manner to cater for the needs of the University and its environs," the duo further disclosed, adding that the technology which is renewable and reliable could also be used for bioremediation and treatment of other biodegradable organic wastes", Stanley told a UNIQUE UniPort Correspondent.





CPG: Redefining Geosciences under a worthy pioneer

*The popular aphorism that nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm holds true of the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG) in the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS). With a pioneering graduate set that recorded a 100 per cent employment success in the already saturated labour market; the resounding excellence of this new Centre attests to its viability, reports **ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON***

An excellence-driven Oil and Gas centre under the prestigious Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG), was established in 2011 to bridge the yawning skills gap of students in the geosciences and prepare them to contribute to the critical petroleum and gas sector in the country and beyond. Without any doubt, it could be said that this unique Centre of

Excellence in hydrocarbon studies, has exceeded its pioneering mandate with a clear record of distinction that has confirmed its pioneer Alumni as distinguished and knowledgeable Geoscientists in theory and practice. The pioneer graduates have so far gained employment in high-profile organizations in the country and beyond as a testimony to the quality training they received at the Centre.

Aside from providing high-quality education in Geosciences that prepares graduates and academic fellows of the Centre for successful and rewarding professional careers, the 12 calendar-month modular course system adopted by the Centre incorporates extensive field practice, laboratory and classroom sessions, which provide a broad-based experience to students.

While ensuring the development of local content and capacity-building for the petroleum industry, Director of the Centre, Professor John Etu-Efeotor, whose unflinching passion and numerous achievements remains a record to beat, said that lectures are delivered by top class university faculty and industry experts. He added that the overall

goal of the Centre is to groom professionals, who would contribute to the development of the country's critical hydrocarbon industry, giving the globally benchmarked training they receive under some of the best hands in the business of petroleum geosciences.

What do you expect from a Harvard-trained Director, who had literally sequestered the *Best Lecturer Award* from IPS to himself for the ninth year running! Professor Etu-Efeotor is not just a gift to the Geosciences; he is the quintessential teacher of teachers in that rare field of specialization. His name is on the lips of every student, with whom his golden path crosses in the field or classroom.

"Our students are trained to undertake multinational project development and management; they also possess skills and values needed for corporate leadership in the challenging operational oil and gas environment. They are trained to international standards to compete favourably with their counterparts on a global scale", a delighted Etu-Efeotor said, promising to make the Centre a reference point in hydrocarbon studies in the Gulf of Guinea.

So when next you are searching for seasoned Petroleum Geoscientists, who are worth their certificates, look no further than CPG—a unique Centre of Excellence located in Unique UNIPORT. Here's a toast to the rise and rise of the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences!



Director CPG,
Prof Etu-Efeotor

University-Industry Partnership



The Total E&P example

In 2010, MacArthur Foundation of Chicago initiated a get-together between the University and its Friends at ARISTOHOUSE, Port Harcourt, aimed at bridging the gap between the University and Industry in the march towards a symbiotic town and gown relationship. Multinational oil giant, TOTAL E&P, accepted to sponsor the Institute of Petroleum Studies in UNIPORT, while the IFP School, Paris, France offered institutional support. Eleven years on, the partnership continues to wax stronger, reports **OBINNA NWODIM**.

Universities the world over excel through collaborations with industry partners in their bid to capitalize knowledge. The geographical location of the University of Port Harcourt in the oil and gas hub is of strategic advantage in the development of capacity to run the industry. The presence of several multinational oil giants opens unlimited opportunities for the building of a world-class centre of excellence in hydrocarbon studies and management. Happily, Total E&P bought into the vision of the University administration, which resulted in the birth of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) – a collaborative venture between the University and the famous IFP School, Paris, France with robust financial support from the multinational oil giant. The mission of the Institute is to meet the needs of the petroleum industry

through commitment to excellence in training, applied research, continuing education and capacity-building. The IPS philosophy centres on inculcating a culture of excellence in learning, leadership, internationalisation at home and professionalism, as well as advancement and propagation of knowledge in the petroleum industry. The application of the modular course system of teaching with a mix of academics and experienced industry practitioners has so far produced the right kind of professionals for an industry that depends on highly-skilled manpower to sustain its operation. The Institute which started with a Master's degree programme in Petroleum Engineering and Project Development, has added a Postgraduate programme in Petroleum Technology under TOTAL's Sustainable Development initiative, as well as an industry-driven

Doctoral degree programme that essentially targets IPS graduates.

Other Centres under the iconic IPS brand include: Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG), Centre for Occupational Health, Safety and Environment (COHSE), Emerald Energy Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (EII), Institute of Engineering Technology Management and Innovation (METI), Offshore Technology Institute (OTI) and the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals (CGRP). To properly coordinate its ever-expanding scope of activities, IPS now has an Advisory Board comprising seasoned industry experts and academics to guide its affairs.

Work has reached advanced stage on Phase II of the IPS building along the East/West Road. When completed, the extension is expected to comprise laboratories, more classrooms, an auditorium and office spaces. The Institute can then expand its scope of activities, including an opportunity to increase student intake into its main programmes. The efforts of such committed pioneers like Emmanuel Chiejina, Alek Musa, John Adede, Anthony Abolarin, Tony Akpan, Deji Bashorun and Vincent Nnadi, who served on the Governing Board of the Institute at various times will always be remembered. Also, the pioneer Director, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who nurtured the dream from the Institute's formative stages to maturity, before becoming Vice-Chancellor, will always have a secure place in the IPS Hall of Fame and the petroleum industry.

Total E&P has proved over the years to be a valued and reliable Friend of the University. The TOTAL partnership is worth preserving as a worthy example of university-industry collaboration.



V-C, Prof Ajienka and Offin-Ononkwo



Egbogah

Another first with Expert -in- Residence initiative

*The University of Port Harcourt joined the league of established universities such as Oxford and Cambridge in launching an Expert-in-Residence programme aimed at attracting distinguished professionals and accomplished role models to interact with scholars and students with a view to building their careers and organizational skills. **OBINNA NWODIM**, who was at the first in the series by renowned Petroleum Engineer and Statesman, Dr Emmanuel Egbogah reviews the landmark programme.*

A part from the Writers-in-Residence in the Art Village, the *Expert-In-Residence* initiative by the Professor Joseph Ajenka-led administration is a bold initiative aimed at drawing from the experiences of distinguished professionals in the public and private sectors in mentoring younger professionals and improving the culture of academic excellence and career development in the University. To achieve this objective, Professor Ajenka announced the appointment of distinguished Scholar and pioneer Petroleum Engineer, Dr. Emmanuel Egbogah, OON, as the first *Expert-in-Residence* in the University. Just months after the appointment, Dr Egbogah flagged off the programme with a week-long series of activity at the Institute of Petroleum Studies and the rest of the University. He also promised to make it an annual event to help younger Nigerians in the art of building their careers. The event also featured the 2nd Chi Ikoku Chair Lecture in Petroleum Engineering at which the distinguished Scholar interacted with scholars and students of the University. The programme ended with a *Roundtable* on the Nigerian Content Development Initiative chaired by the 5th Vice-Chancellor of the University, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, who applauded the initiative.

During the opening ceremony, Dr Egbogah, who



was a former Special Adviser to the President on Petroleum Matters, said that an *Expert-in-Residence* is usually an experienced master of the discipline, who is ready to make available his or her vast pool of experience to younger professionals and students with the aim of assisting them improve their prospects as they prepare to face other challenges of life. Such an approach, according

to Dr. Egbogah, was usually of immense benefits to individual scholars, students and institutions. The annual event promises not only to be a rewarding experience, but exciting in the years to come. The *Expert-in-Residence* programme of the present administration can only get bigger and better.



From the
EDITOR'S DESK



Reaching out to our "Publics"

The challenge of connecting with the University's various "publics"—especially in low-bandwidth countries such as Nigeria, could be a daunting task for even the most determined Public Relations practitioners in this information age. Efforts aimed at communicating the official policy direction of an institution to its target audiences and end-users such as Students, Staff, Alumni, Government and Friends of the University can be facilitated through an important communication channel like the UNIQUE UniPort magazine.

In this information age, University Public Relations practitioners must devise the most practical, efficient and cost-effective means of communicating the activities of their institutions to their various publics, which could in turn help shape their direction. Regular information dissemination can assist each institution to highlight its latest research findings and emphasize their relevance to stakeholders in the affairs of the University.

In this repackaged edition of the UNIQUE UniPort quarterly magazine, we focus on some cutting-edge research findings from Departments and Institutes, other landmark activities in the University and also pay attention to outstanding staff, who have brought attention and honour to the University. We also present Professor Joseph Ajenka's Report Card as he clocks three years in office as the 7th Vice-Chancellor of the University. His approach to leadership has been powerful, practical and most intense in the application of his vision.

In this dispensation, the University Administration has proved to have depth, capacity, confidence and competence in conception, strategy and delivery of the Vice-Chancellor's Blueprint at his Inaugural Address on 12th July, 2010.

We hope you will enjoy this edition.

Happy reading, folks!

WILLIAMS WODI



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Celebrated English Poet, Lord Byron, once attributed to Don Juan, his Spanish Knight in shining armour, the following inimitable lines about words:

*But words are things, and a small drop of ink,
Falling, like dew, upon a thought, produces
That which makes thousands, perhaps
millions, think.*

Physicist and Mathematician-turned creative genius, Elechi Amadi took the literary world by storm with publication of his acclaimed novel: *The Concubine* in 1966. That landmark novel coincided with Nigeria's first military coup and the build up to the thirty-month Civil War that nearly tore the nation apart. Amadi has fully mobilized words to make people think about themselves, their environment and their place in a seemingly inscrutable universe.

Having voluntarily retired as a Captain from the Nigerian Army just before the War, Amadi has since devoted his life and career to education and creative writing. The literary harvest has been bountiful indeed. Having survived the war which nearly took his life at several twists and turns, Amadi has firmly

Having voluntarily retired as a Captain from the Nigerian Army just before the War, Amadi has since devoted his life and career to education and creative writing. The literary harvest has been bountiful indeed. Having survived the war which nearly took his life at several twists and turns, Amadi has firmly established himself as a celebrated icon of belle letters in the finest tradition. Critics may not have accorded him all the literary acclaim that he richly deserves, but Amadi's genius will certainly endure through the ages!



Elechi Amadi's maiden outing as Writer-in-Residence

*Elechi Amadi took the literary world by storm with publication of *The Concubine*, which some Critics regard as the authentic African Novel with an entirely village setting. This Educationist, Soldier, Playwright, Surveyor, Civil Servant, Culture Ambassador and Statesman, is unarguably amongst great personalities that humanity is gifted with only once in a lifetime. There was a general chorus of approval when the University appointed Amadi Writer-in-Residence. WILLIAMS WOOD, who was at the maiden Residency outing now reports.*

established himself as a celebrated icon of belle letters in the finest tradition. Critics may not have accorded him all the literary acclaim that he richly deserves, but Amadi's genius will certainly endure through the ages!

As a soldier, tutor, principal, civil commissioner and statesman, this literary genius has continued to keep faith with the Arts that brought him so much fame and a little fortune too. Not a man to be found on the fringes with his awesome creative talent, Amadi established the famous Elechi Amadi School of Creative Writing at the

Science, Rumolu dedicated to nurturing the creative talents of younger writers, who look up to him for guidance. Amadi's vision is anchored on his drive to train the next generation of creative writers, especially in the Short Story genre, where Nigerian and African writers have done very little.

It did not come as a surprise, when the arts loving Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, appointed Elechi Amadi among three pioneer Writers-in-Residence in the University of Port Harcourt on account of their globally-acknowledged creative exploits. The celebrated Poet, Gabriel Okara and Novelist, Ifeanyi Aniako, make up the creative trio, now resident in UnIPort. Before his appointment, Amadi had been a non-remunerated intellectual midwife of sorts to innumerable students and staff of the University eager to drink from his boundless fountain of knowledge. Not done with being consulted at his country home in Mbodo, Aluu, Amadi activated his Residence Chair last March at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium with a bountiful harvest of eight short

stories. The impressive collection was a product of students of the Elechi Amadi School of Creative Writing.

Describing the collection as a source of joy to him, the literary icon said that the harvest of short stories from his Writing School partially answers the question: Can creative writing be taught in a formal classroom setting? Said he, "The potential writer, must of course, possess some talent that could be cultivated in a formal training session. Modern writing calls for much more than mere ability to tell good stories. I am very impressed by the enthusiasm of the Vice-Chancellor in the promotion of the Arts and it is my hope that younger writers would take up the challenge thrown at them by Professor Ajenka."

As a Children's rhyme goes: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me". Elechi Amadi has greatly enriched all of us! We are still waiting for that science fiction novel from the great writer.



Meet Field Marshall of Straw Art



*Dr Marshall Enenanjor is currently Acting Head, Department of Fine Arts and Design with specialization in General Arts, Graphic Design, Art Vocational Education, Instructional Design, Illustration and Print Making, Photography, Straw Art and Glass Tint. He pioneered straw art design in Nigeria and also mentored other artists to embrace it. Associate Editor, **OBINNA NWODIM**, beams his searchlight on the history and development of this new art form that is becoming increasingly popular.*

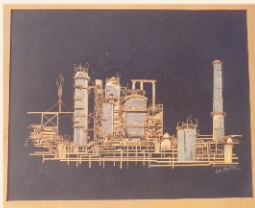
He designed the famous UNIPORT 2004 NUGA Games Mascot and Games Logo, as well as the winning Logo for the Rev D.O. Ockiya College of Theology and Management Sciences, as well as design of the Logo, Crest and Mace of Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State. He also won 1st position in the Art Category at the National Universities Commission Research Development Fair (NURESDEF) hosted by the

University of Nigeria, Nsukka in 2011. To him, the idea of pioneering the Straw Art technique is to avoid waste in the use of materials. How did it all begin?

"I developed the Straw Art technique in 1983, while I was a Graphic Design Lecturer in the School of Technology, Kano, through inspiration from an artwork I saw at the home of a colleague, who read Architecture in Russia. This artwork was a

jigsaw composition made of a combination of prominent architectural structures in a Russian City. The material in the Russian model was bigger in size, enough to accommodate a shape covering a dimension of one inch square.

"It also came in different tonal values of brilliant yellow and brown to deep brown with a natural lustre, if kept dust-free. The artwork was more of a collage made from their local



material, most probably, plant product in its natural state. I frantically searched for an equivalent material locally and after several efforts and experiments; I found straw to be a most suitable material in terms of availability and ease of manipulation. Where one piece of shape is put on the Russian model with one flat tone, in straw art multiple bits of straw could be used, which allows for rendering different tonal values to create a three dimensional effect, showing light, shade and depth in the same size of images in the Russian model", Dr. Marshall Enenanjor said.

On the raw material used to develop Straw Art, he stated that "the straw material is a product of *pennisellum* sp., a wild weed that grows in the savannah grassland of Northern Nigeria and sparingly in the South. Its use has increased as a raw material for design. This medium is now used to achieve almost all forms of two-dimensional art representation, namely: Landscape, Seascape, Abstract and Graphic Design such as logo, greeting cards and other write-ups".



Enenanjor



Dr Enenanjor believes that although there are more fallow grounds waiting to be explored in the emergent Straw Art design technique, he still has an eye on his original calling—Graphic Design.



Prof Okoh: Director, Artsville

Artsville electrifies the stage!

When Professor Joseph Ajienka assumed the mantle of leadership as Vice-Chancellor in July 2010, he did not mince words about his commitment to exploit the abundant talents and expertise in the University to sustain its leading role in the entertainment world. Our Correspondent, HUMPHREY OGU, writes on the establishment of the Institute of Arts and Culture and the journey so far.

Leveraging on the University's leading role in training of performing artistes, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, established the Institute of Arts and Culture (Arts Village) to further consolidate on Institution's dominance of the Nigerian Home Movie Industry—*Nollywood*. Establishment of the Arts Village was a deliberate bold step to boost the capacity of the University to effectively harness its potential to maintain its acknowledged position as a one-stop shop in the business of producing requisite manpower for the fast-growing *Nollywood*. The Institute has continued to thrill lovers of drama with very entertaining performances that have received rave reviews from theatre goers on Campus. For instance, the Arts Village

now regularly holds a monthly *Senate Performance*, at which members of Senate of the University are treated to drama performances, poetry reading sessions, dance and musical concerts after each Senate meeting. This is often done in conjunction with *UNIPORT Concert Chorus*, the Departments of Music and Theatre Arts.

There are also Command Performances during Convocation Ceremonies and at other public events in and outside the University. Worthy of mention is the play, *"Who is Afraid of Job Interview"*, specifically created to prepare young graduates for job interviews on graduation. What is more! This play, written by pioneer Director of the Institute and prolific Playwright, Professor Julie Okoh of the

Department of Theatre Arts, has recently been transformed from a stage drama to a screenplay, produced and directed by popular *Nollywood* filmmaker and distinguished Alumnus of the University, Lancelot Imasuen.

Last August, University of Port Harcourt-trained movie stars and entertainment gurus had a reunion in their *Alma Mater*, with the likes of Ejike Asiegbu, Bobmanuel Udokwu, Hilda Dokubo, Bimbo Manuel, Francis Duru, Monalisa Chinda, Michael Ogbolosingha and Julius Agwu, amongst others in attendance.

Dramatic performances and musical concerts have become regular features on Campus these days, as it is the case in European and America universities.

The Institute of Niger Delta Studies (INDS) is living true to its core mandate of preserving the authentic Niger Delta Identity through international conferences, seminars and exhibitions, aimed at enhancing the quality of life of the people of the Niger Delta. The Institute has continued to attract seasoned scholars from within and outside the region to focus attention on the region's developmental challenges, reports **MERCYADENIJI**.



Derefaka, exhibiting works from INDS

The Institute of Niger Delta Studies which was established in June 2011 as a research institute to document, promote and undertake research into various aspects of life in the Niger Delta, organised the maiden edition of the *Niger Delta History Week* aimed at promoting the cultural heritage of the region, last year.

The Institute announced its arrival in grand style with a public lecture titled: "Local, National and Global Impacts of Oil on Niger Delta History since 1807". The lecture was delivered by a famous historian and former Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Emeritus Professor Tekena Tamuno, who advised Nigerian leaders to look ahead of derivation and concentrate on issues that would create value for the people, especially the provision of quality education to the younger generation.

The 2nd *Niger Delta History Week* which held in March, 2013, was organized in collaboration with the Professor Bassey Andah Foundation, titled: "Entrepreneurship Development: The Key to Economic Growth and Freedom. Dr Olumide Ajayi, who was the Keynote Speaker, stressed the need to incorporate entrepreneurship training into the

INDS Reinventing N'Delta Identity

Nigerian educational system and curriculum to equip graduates to set up their own businesses upon completion of their studies. Highlight of the event was launching of the resuscitated *Journal of Niger Delta Studies*, first published in 1976 with famous Ecclesiastical Historian, Professor Godwin Tasie as Editor.

As part of its mandate to collaborate with similar institutes and foundations, the Institute also organized two Public Lectures in the series, in collaboration with the Onyoma Research Centre, Department of Fine Arts and Design and History and Diplomatic Studies. The First Lecture titled: "The Two worlds of Nigerian Artist and Photographer J. A Green", was in honour of foremost Nigerian professional pioneer Photographer, Jonathan Adagogo Green, from Bonny Local Government Area of Rivers State. The Lecture was delivered by a Professor of Art History at the Skidmore College, New York, Professor Lisa Aronson, who advised that research work on the late Icon should address the impact of his work on the local people.

The Second Lecture titled: "Monuments in Cloth", presented by a Consulting Curator of African and Oceanic Art at the Fitchburg Art Museum, Professor Jean Borgatti, focused on the role of Cloths in commemorating events and celebration of personages in Africa.

The Institute is not just about mounting talk-shops, a Postgraduate student, Mrs Nneka Duruoma, is currently working on *Elaeis Guineensis* (Oil Palm tree), according to the Director of the Institute, Professor Abi Derefaka. "The research focuses on production of items such as basket, brush, decorated inflorescence, decorated balls, molded Plaster of Paris, which is a perfect substitute for ceiling board, framed drawing, painted bunch and rope used for making hats and bags, all from oil palm", Duruoma noted.



Tamuno



Ajayi



Aronson



Borgatti

Nollywood, Artsville

Ola Rotimi's dreams come true

Late Professor Emmanuel Gladstone Olawale Rotimi was born on 13th April, 1938 in Sapele, Delta State. He had his early education at Saint Cyprian's Primary School Ebute-Metta, Lagos and Methodist Boys High School Broad Street, Lagos respectively, before taking the world of theatre and playwriting by storm at OAU and UNI-PORT, reports FRIDAY NWAFOR, who trained under the literary icon.

Ola Rotimi belonged to the class of iconic pioneering Theatre Artists and Art Educators in Nigeria and beyond. He was awarded a Federal Government Scholarship that enabled him to obtain the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Boston University, USA, in 1959 and a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) from Yale University School of Drama, where he became a Rockefeller Foundation Scholar in Playwriting and Dramatic Literature. Armed with the right education, training, experience and motivation, Rotimi took the Nigerian Theatre by storm. He was a passionate teacher and dramatist, who electrified the classroom and the stage to the admiration of students and audiences alike.

The acronym of the UniPort Theatre, *The CRAB* means "Creative Review of Artistic Books", which became the preferred name for the famous theatre that sits majestically at the Delta Park Campus. The history of the thriving Nigerian Home Video Film Industry (*Nollywood*), cannot be completely written without mentioning *The CRAB* and Ola Rotimi. Graduates of the Department, who trained directly under Rotimi and those he mentored occupy the

commanding heights of the entertainment industry today.

In 1985, the Department undertook a tour of Nigerian Universities with Ola Rotimi's award-winning play, *Hopes of the Living Dead*. The movement of the Federal Capital to Abuja in 1988 also witnessed the performance of Rotimi's *Grip Am*—an adaptation of Durujaye's *Gbe-ku-De*. UniPort had the only Troupe from Nigeria at the World Universities Cultural Festival in Sheffield, England in 1991 with her famous play titled: *Orukoro* by Henry Leopold Bell-Gam of the Department of Theatre Arts.

The roll-call of graduates of the Department in the Video Film Industry, broadcasting and Print media is endless. Just to mention but a few: Doye Agama, Bimbo Manuel, Daniel Wilson, Ohuegbu Chukwu (Jnr), Nlumanze Mabel, Hilda Dokubo, Naze Emeka, Lady Josephine Dietspiff (Nee Akporero), Bob-Manuel Odokwu, Iweka Echenini Iweka, Dokubo Sobifaa, Ejike Asiegbu, Okereke Sanctus, Yibo Koko, Chibuike Vincent, Gogo John, Kanavura Lekien, Charles Okafor, Njoku Ezenwa, Njemanze Anne, Otoro Patrick, Okparaekocha James, Basorge Tariah, Juliet Ibeh, Victor Osuagwu, Francis Duru, Iyowuna Obomanu. Others are Mesia Oruene-Hart, Emeka Ihejorfor, Julius Agwu, Cathrine Effiong, Millicent Jack, Arthur Wille-

Pepple, Michael Ogundu, Patrick Nwagbo, Eyinnaya Nwachukwu, Aguwuom Ikenna, Jack Moses, Rita Nwaturuocha, Thelma Harcourt-Jack, Monalisa Chinda, Tonia Nwosu, Charles Inoje, Uche Obaseki (Nee Akaonwu), Lancelot Imasuen, Wariboko Alaso, Gift Uwame, Osademe Joseph, Chituga Nna, Michael Ogolo, Michael Ogbolsingha, Dudafa Ineye, Jaja Adafe, Kpodoso Dele, Igbanobo Saki, Irisoanga Goodluck, Oshearama Kester, Earlice Osaretin and Nwabueze Kester, among other celebrated stage icons.

Some other graduates from the Department have taken to lecturing in the same Department and elsewhere. They include: Prof. Asigbo Alexander, Dr. John Yeseibo, Dr. Clive Krama, Dr. Friday Nwafor, Dr. Faith Ken-Aminikpo, Dr. Emily Godspresence, Dr. Christine Odi, Dr. Akikisofari Sunday, Columbus Irisoanga, Nwachuku Dike, Nkechi Bature-Uzor (Nee Asiegbu), Margaret Ukwu, Usen

Armed with the right education, training, experience and motivation, Rotimi took the Nigerian Theatre by storm. He was a passionate teacher and dramatist, who electrified the classroom and the stage to the admiration of students and audiences alike.



Master Craftsman

Ime, Owuye Somlari, Fyeface Harold, Edward Imo, Ovunda Ihunwo, Edum Sunday, Enita Godfrey, Otete Emmanuel, Ihekumere Joyce, Tugbokorowel Martins, Okome Greene, Agha Charles, Nwosu Emeka, Agugesi Kenneth, Emenike Azunwo, and Jasper Tekena, amongst others.

Since her play *Mask* passed through Rotimi's scrutiny, Professor Julie Okoh's pen has continued to flow with creativity. Okoh is presently the Director of the University of Port Harcourt Institute of Arts and Culture, where she is pioneering a resident Troupe originally planned by Rotimi.

Ola Rotimi's works, artistic children and grand children have continued to make waves in the entertainment industry in Nigeria and far beyond. Surely, wherever he is now, Rotimi will be smiling and probably saying: "ride on guys, after all, you drank from my cup". The show must go on, Prof!

Meet Eze Nwafor, Mr Pacemaker

Many Nigerians troop to Europe, North America and lately India in search of quality healthcare, a development that is now known as medical tourism. Insertion of Pacemaker is one of the reasons for such medical trips. Consultant Cardiologist, Dr CHIBUIKE EZE NWAFOR, says that with more support, most medical complications that take privileged Nigerians abroad can be conveniently handled by Specialists at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH). He spoke with HUMPHREY OGU on his groundbreaking medical feat and related matters.



Pacemaker

Dr Chibuike Eze Nwafor is an interviewer's delight any day. He exudes palpable confidence and enthusiasm that confirms the mastery of his profession, especially if the subject-matter is the deep recesses of the human heart.

Describing the heart as an electro-mechanical machine, Dr Nwafor says that heart block—a situation in which the electrical impulse generation and conduction in the heart is obstructed—is one of the complications of hypertension. "The electrical impulse in the heart arises from a structure called sino-atrial node (S-A node)—a situation where the electrical impulse that controls all the other events in the heart originate under normal circumstances.

"The current arising from the S-A node through the complex network of connections when somebody has hypertension for a long time and heart block arises as part of the complications, what happens is that the generating plant would be unable to produce the required current; or it could be producing the impulse at a very low rate which we describe as bradycardia," he points out.

"The normal heart rate is from 60 to 100 every minute. That means that the current should arise from the S-A node to the ventricular muscle 60 to 100 times every minute in an average human being. If it is less than 60, we refer to that as bradycardia, and if it is more than 100 in an average human being; we refer to that as tachycardia. It

could also happen that it doesn't generate at all. In such instances, there could be erratic impulse generation," he explains.

Nwafor observes: "If the heart rate is very, very low, blood supply to the brain will be very inefficient and that could cause loss of consciousness. So, when such a situation occurs, the Cardiologist would have to provide an alternative plan for the heart—an artificial generator of sorts to produce the electrical current required to drive normal contraction

of the heart. In such cases, you insert a pacemaker that would drive all activities in the heart," adding that pacemaker is required in instances where the atrioventricular node is not working to full capacity.

"We have successfully done it on four patients. The first procedure was performed on September 14, 2012, while the most recent one was done in May 2013, and the patients are doing perfectly well. They came in and the Pacemaker was implanted on the same day. We observed them in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) overnight and by the next day, they went home. None of the four patients stayed more than 24 hours here," Nwafor discloses with a visible sense of satisfaction.

Prior to insertion of the Pacemaker, patients were not able to perform their normal activities, they got tired easily, he says, stating that patients often experience easy fatigability, swollen legs, occasional loss of consciousness, because blood flow to the brain did not take place as it should; some patients develop

convulsion, as if they were suffering from epilepsy.

"People don't know that these things are available and can be done here. They are reluctant to accept change. When they have a mindset that these things are best done outside the country, no matter what you tell them, they are unlikely to have confidence in the competence of Nigerian Doctors," the Fellow of Cardiovascular Medicine noted.

"I believe we can help patients with cardiovascular complications and we have so far demonstrated the skill at the UPTH. We have been able to break that jinx with the four cases. Two of the patients are outside the country right now," Nwafor disclosed, expressing hope that open heart surgery is also possible when heart-lung machines are available.

"The Cardiovascular team, under the leadership of Professor Osaretin Odia is actually growing," Dr Nwafor observed, stressing the need to have a Cardiac-catheterisation Laboratory to facilitate more interventional cardiac procedures at UPTH.



Cardiologist



Human heart



Prof Anochie: Centre Director

Cognisant of the need to equip Medical Doctors, Nurses, Dentists and allied health professionals with the requisite skills, the University of Port Harcourt teamed up with US-based MacArthur Foundation to set up an ultra-modern Clinical Skills Clerking Centre, to boost manpower development in the health sector. In so doing, the University's top-rated Medical School blazed the trail in medical education as even Accreditation teams and professional regulatory bodies

admit that facilities available at the Centre are alien to medical education in this part of the world. By facilitating hands-on clinical experience for students and practitioners, the collaborating parties have transformed the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital into a one-stop shop for training clinically-ready Doctors and allied health professionals in Nigeria. Known as *MacArthur Clinical Skills Laboratory*, the facility has an Operational Committee and a

Grooming Skilled Clinicians

*University of Port Harcourt
In collaboration with
MacArthur Foundation of
Chicago, USA, set up a state-
of-the-art digital capturing
centre to groom Clinicians in
the art of Clerking patients at
the University of Port
Harcourt Teaching Hospital
(UPTH). Our Correspondent,
HUMPHREY OGU, who
visited the Centre writes on
his findings.*

Management Board with a Chairman and Membership comprising all Deans of Faculty and Heads of Department in the College of Health Sciences.

Conducting our Correspondent round the at facility at UPTH, Director of the Centre, Professor Ifeoma Anochie, noted that establishment of the Digital Capturing Centre is aimed at educating Medical Students and Resident Doctors on the various skills that would facilitate their practice in line with prevailing global trends.

"The Clinical Skills Clerking

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Demonstration Class



A Message from the Vice-Chancellor



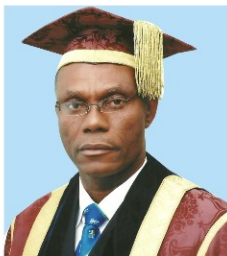
Recognizing the Power of information

In this age of information that is powered by the ever-evolving complex network of Information Technology (IT), individuals and institutions must brand and market their products and services to their diverse clientele as a means of drawing attention to what they do. Those who fail to recognize the ever-expanding power and utilitarian value of information run the risk of being consigned to the margins of the emergent knowledge economy that is driven by the powerful forces of globalization, from which we have no escape route.

The University of Port Harcourt offers Students and Scholars a unique experience that is evident in our quality research, teaching and community service which sets us apart from other universities in Nigeria. Part of our drive to emphasize our uniqueness and become a truly Entrepreneurial University is to make relevant information readily available to various stakeholders in the affairs of the University to enable them have a better understanding of what we do, with a view to bringing them to our side.

It is my belief that regular publication and circulation of the UNIQUE UniPort magazine, represents an important avenue of drawing attention to the activities of the University in and outside the country. In its repackaged form, the magazine would draw readers' attention to important research breakthroughs and profile the achievements of outstanding scholars and administrators that abound in the University of Port Harcourt.

As scholars and students strive toward academic excellence in an increasingly enabling environment, the repackaged UNIQUE UniPort magazine would bring to a wider public our efforts aimed at proffering



practical solutions to societal problems and capitalizing knowledge.

In the final analysis, our desire is to build a truly global University with a competitive local edge. In Unique UniPort, the force and power of quality liberal education in all branches of learning stands us out from the rest.

The magazine will be adjudged to be successful if it periodically highlights the capacity of the University to train adventurous, innovative and creative students and research-intensive scholars, with the 'can-do' spirit in line with our Motto: Enlightenment for Self-Reliance.

I am pleased to place the current edition of UNIQUE UniPort at your reach in the hope that you would enjoy reading and contributing to it. It is part of what makes UniPort truly unique.

JOSEPH A. AJIENKA, FNAE
Vice-Chancellor



Some equipment in the centre

cont'd on p28

Laboratory is a new innovation that is not common in this part of the world. We started as a Clerking Skills Centre; we are now gradually evolving into Clinical Skills, which would incorporate all the skills in different aspects of medicine," she said, describing clerking as the act of information gathering about a patient's medical condition and utilising such information to achieve a better clinical outcome.

Anochie decried a situation in which most students do not have proper interaction with patients, blaming the deficiency on inadequate exposure of students to various clinical clerking skills during routine teaching. She pointed out that the facility was designed to bridge the observed knowledge-gap in clinical procedures. "The Laboratory is established to bridge this gap, thus allowing students access to those critical skills that they may not

have Simulator Laboratories in the developed world where clerking is done with *mannequins*. The idea is for students to see these skills the way they are in an actual hospital ward. Teachers are often not able to transfer such skills in the ward because of increasing student numbers that exceed available spaces for effective acquisition of requisite clinical skills. In the developed world, Doctors are not allowed to transit to the ward level without first acquiring the appropriate clinical skills. They have to develop and demonstrate proficiency in the procedure before they are allowed to come into contact with patients," the Director said.

"Out of about 80 skills available for acquisition by Medical Doctors, Dentists and Nurses; we are currently focusing on only 40 for now. We record the skills; while students watch the video clips to

enable them learn and hopefully become proficient in clinical procedures. We also take them to the Laboratory, where they observe the actual clerking skills by experts, following which they are expected to demonstrate what they have learnt. We use patients and record the procedures for them to watch. We have self-directed learning of the skills and when a student thinks he has learnt enough, we then demonstrate with actual patients. With that they will do better as Doctors when they get in touch with real patients.

The Director disclosed that the e-learning process at the Centre is managed by Graduate Assistants from the Department of Educational Technology and Curriculum Studies. "We have the requisite manpower and we are now generating the checklist, but our major challenge is power supply on which the entire function is dependent."

acquire from a typical hospital setting. They would be exposed to learning such important skills here and become conversant with what is obtainable in a virtual clinical clerking environment. "In this Centre, we expose learners to digital clerking procedures, while they now



Some staff of the centre and UNIQUE UniPort Correspondent, Humphrey Ogu

Ugiomoh

Bound to excellence

Teaching is a passion that runs in the blood of its practitioners. Professor Frank Ugiomoh of the Department of Fine Art and Design is in that category as he has demonstrated enviable qualities as an outstanding teacher and mentor in and outside the classroom. No wonder he was one of the recipients of the 2013 THISDAY Outstanding Teachers and Lifetime Achievement Award, reports OBINNA NWODIM.

Professor Frank Ugiomoh was recently recognized and rewarded as "a powerful scholar, teacher and for being trustworthy" by the equally powerful and influential *THISDAY* newspaper. In so doing, *THISDAY* was actually telling us our story about a thorough-bred Scholar, with several golden feathers to his already overcrowded cap.

Ugiomoh, who on Graduation from the University of Benin in 1980, began his academic career in 1982 at the College of Education, Agbor, before transferring his services to the University of Port Harcourt in 1987 as an Assistant Lecturer. A passionate teacher, arts practitioner and mentor, Ugiomoh obtained a Master of Arts degree in Visual Arts from the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan. In 2000, he obtained another Master of Arts degree and followed by a Doctoral degree in Philosophy of History and Aesthetics in 2003 from the University of Port Harcourt. He rose through the ranks to become a Professor of Art History and Theory in October, 2010.

The scholar of Art History has over sixty publications in both local and international journals of repute and chapters in books. He holds the following editorial positions: Consulting Editor: *Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Arts*, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; *Critical Interventions*, *Journal of African and Visual Culture*, University of California, Santa Cruz, and a member of *AACHRON Publications*, University of California, Santa Barbara. He is also the Founding Editor of *African Studio: Journal of Creative Practice*.

Professor Ugiomoh, who is a 2006 recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Grant for Research in



Prof Ugiomoh

Comparative Ethnography at the Rock Art Research Institute, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, is a noted authority in Historiography and Methods of Art History, Aesthetics and Art Theory. He is a member and Fellow of the Pan African Circle of Artists (FPACA), Society of Nigerian Artists, Nigeria Society for Education through Art, Nigeria Field Society, International

Council for Art Criticism, Association of Wangboje School of Creative Artists (AWanSCA) and African Design Roundtable. His exemplary conduct and impact of his services to his students are evident in his ability to positively transform his students, who were instrumental for his nomination for the *THISDAY* Awards as an Outstanding Teacher and Mentor.

Ogolo

wins SPE award on

Nanotechnology



Ogolo

Naomi Ogolo is a Doctoral Candidate and Research Assistant in the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), whose current research on Nanoparticles emerged the overall winner at the recent Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) African Regional Students' Paper Contest. Ogolo is in the forefront of innovative research that is applauded everywhere, reports **ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON**

The 11th Students' Technical Conference and Exhibition organized by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE, Africa Region) at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), last May, provided just the right atmosphere for Miss Naomi Ogolo, a Doctoral Student and Research Assistant at the famous Institute of Petroleum

Studies (IPS) to shoot for the stars, as her research work on "The Trapping Capacity of Nanofluids on Migrating Fines in Sand", emerged overall winner of the SPE Africa Regional Students' Paper Contest. All eyes were on the fragile-looking lady from the IPS for her gripping exploits in the emergent field of Nano technology!

The sky isn't yet the limit for Ogolo, who would be eligible to represent the entire African continent at another Paper Contest in Louisiana, United States of America, later this year, while another Award would be presented to her at the forthcoming SPE Nigerian Annual International Conference and Exhibition (NAICE). All the bundle of honours being heaped on Naomi go to testify to the quality of her research and power of technological innovation in an educational system that is usually derided as not offering much to young people these days. Naomi is a living proof that quality research is well and alive in Unique UniPort!

"I contested alongside Postgraduate Students from the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, University of Ibadan and the African University of Science and Technology, Abuja, to emerge overall winner of the contest. The Paper I presented at the event centred on an experiment I conducted on control of migrant fines in oil wells", Ogolo said without raising her shoulders in celebration of her spectacular feat. "With that experiment, I was able to identify the most effective Nanoparticles that have the capacity to trap migrating fines, thus preventing them from further migration. This is very important to the operation of the oil and gas industry", she added in a voice that was moderated by humility. See you at the top, Lady Nanoparticles!

Nwaichi wins UNESCO L'Oreal award

Dr Eucharia Nwaichi received all her tertiary education from the University of Port Harcourt, where she currently lectures in the Department of Biochemistry. Following her research in phyto-remediation—the use of plants to clean up contaminated environments, she was nominated for the prestigious L'Oreal Award in Paris, France, reports HUMPHREY OGU.



Dr Nwaichi

Dr Eucharia Nwaichi of the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, who was among 15 female scientists that received the 2013 UNESCO L'Oreal Award conferred on outstanding women in science held in Paris, France, last March, said she hopes to carry the research that gave her the award further, using locally-available species to effect remediation of oil-polluted soil in the Niger Delta. "The Fellowship is usually advertised and experienced researchers from all over the world are required to make nominations of women in science, whose research contributions are adjudged to be of immense value to society. A candidate has to be nominated by an experienced scientist, based on the quality of her research, its contributions to the emancipation of science and relevance to industry," the budding Scholar told our Correspondent.

"The coveted Prize actually advertised us and publicised our research to a wider audience. The ceremony was a weeklong event that climaxed in the actual award which took place on 28th March, 2013,"

Nwaichi told *UNIQUE UniPort*, describing her experience in Paris as very exciting and memorable, as scientists from different fields and countries came together to work for the advancement of science and technology.

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

"We were able to learn how to use effective networking that we established during our interaction processes in Paris. The organisers established a webpage of the 15 award recipients, and they promised to link us to some of the Laureates that gave us lectures at the event. We hope to utilise this networking to establish an effective collaboration to source funding and seek access to facilities to further our researches in our various countries," a visibly delighted Nwaichi explained.



Nwaichi and other awardees



Fine Art students

*The Department of Fine Art and Design in the Faculty of Humanities is one Department that has continued to produce highly-skilled graduates, who exhibit their awesome creative skills in line with the entrepreneurial vision of the present administration. Associate Editor, **OBINNA NWODIM** & Correspondent, **MERCY ADENIJI**, captured the creative ingenuity of some of the students.*



NO



SMOKING

Creativity is a special gift from Mother Nature and those who are endowed with the creative instinct should thank their stars for being richly endowed. Creativity is in abundance in the Department of Fine Art and Design. A visit to the Department, would confirm the fact that students and lecturers are always pregnant with great creative ideas. They are sculpturing, painting, drawing, moulding, dying or weaving away like the Weaver Bird!

The Vice-Chancellor's vision of an Entrepreneurial University

is recording giant strides in that Department, where students and graduates are fully engaged in innovation and creativity, applying their entrepreneurial skills to productive ends to general applause. Students admitted into the Faculty are made to acquire foundational knowledge through exposure to compulsory Faculty Courses, after which they branch off to their preferred areas of interest.

Students are introduced to Drawing, Textiles Design, Graphics, Ceramics,





showcase SKILLS

Sculpture, Art History and Painting, amongst others.

They are made to repeat the process in their Second Year. In the Third Year, the students are guided to branch-off properly into their preferred areas of specialization. At this level, the innate talents in them begin to blossom under the guidance of their dedicated Lecturers. No doubt, these students apply their creative skills to become self-reliant on graduation. With this level of creativity, they do not need to seek paid employment, but can become employers of labour on their own terms. This is the true meaning of building an Entrepreneurial University.

Joy Wowhuruche, who is in Fourth Year, specializes in Ceramics. She developed the

interest in her Second Year. Joy is optimistic that she can be self-reliant after her study.

"Without seeking paid employment, I can start up something in Ceramics and be successful. I need to learn more about Ceramics, because it is a wide area of specialization", she added.

Brown Dodd, another Fourth Year Student, specializes in Painting. Before he gained admission into the University, Dodd discovered his passion for painting. The University afforded him the opportunity to nurture his latent skills. "I love colours and that is why I chose painting and the University helped me to sharpen my skills in that area. It is very lucrative as people appreciate painting works", he said.



Afagha



Hart



Oshkure

Their classmate, Gibson Hart, who specializes in Graphics, developed passion for designing from childhood, as he grew up in an environment, where everyone engaged in drawing. "I have benefited a lot from my studies here and I hope it would help me to become self-reliant on graduation. I intend to

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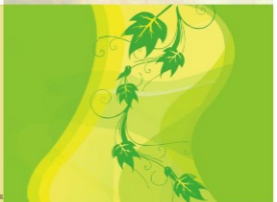


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establish my own studio and complement it with interior decoration and painting; while learning more about graphics”.

Ejovwoke Oshkure is another student, who hopes to specialize in Graphic Design. “I came into the Department and discovered that I have a passion for Graphics. I admire beautiful things a lot. After my study, I intend to further my education and learn how to use the latest Graphics Software, which I intend to put into practice”, he said.

Another Final Year Student, Opudo Afagha, also displayed her work during this year's Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) and also at the 2nd University of Port Harcourt Research fair. Miss Afagha, who did her Industrial Training (IT) in Lagos, Osun and Abia States, said: “I learnt different tie and dye techniques and screen printing, bead-making and how to make my own polymag.”



UNIORT, UMaT

deepen exchange programme

As part of a five-year exchange programme, the third batch of staff and students of University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa, Ghana were received by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, last June with a charge to gain from the practical demonstrations and field trips by experts in the academia and industry, our Correspondent, OTIKOR SAMUEL reports.

Speaking at a Cocktail Reception in honour of the visiting Ghanaian delegation, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajenka, who was represented by the Provost, College of Engineering, Professor Dulu Appah, advised the students to justify the essence of the exchange programme by making excellent use of the rare opportunity offered them to build their career prospects, reiterating that the University of Port Harcourt is a leading institution in the oil and gas sector in the country and the Gulf of Guinea.

"The University of Port Harcourt is a foremost institution in Petroleum

clients. He further informed them that the restructuring of the former Faculty of Engineering into a College with three Faculties and availability of experienced Lecturers would enhance service delivery in the University's numerous stakeholders. Professor Ajenka, who conveyed goodwill wishes from authorities of the University of Port Harcourt to UMaT, urged them to strengthen the collaboration through the increased mentorship and collaboration offered by the University in the last three years of the programme.

Also speaking, Director, Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit (ELPU), Professor John Otaigbe,

Engineering in Nigeria and one of the best in oil and gas training in the world," the Vice-Chancellor told his guests, assuring them that the University would continue to provide the best for its students and other

reassured the guests that the University would continue to do its best to deliver on the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding as signed by both institutions, expressing delight that the programme was running for the third year in line with vision of its initiators.

Responding, the Head, Department of Petroleum Engineering at UMaT, Dr Peter Eshun, who commended UniPort for the superlative training of students of his institution, disclosed that 25 students and four Lecturers accompanied them on the 2013 exchange programme. He expressed satisfaction with the choice of the University of Port Harcourt for the exchange programme in view of what he described as the University's numerous partnerships with other reputable institutions aimed at delivering robust teaching, research and quality service. The Ghanaian delegation has since returned home after successfully completing its tour of duty in UniPort.



A cross section of UMaT students, staff and officials of UniPort



Diack

UniPort gets IAAF high performance centre

As a fitting reward for the many exploits of Team UNIPORT at national and continental university sporting fiestas, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), has adopted the University of Port Harcourt as a High Performance Centre (HPC) for the English-speaking West African sub-region, including Cameroon, just as the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) and Foundation Internationale Olympafrica, signed Memoranda of Understanding aimed at transforming the University into a Centre of Excellence in Sports, reports OTIKOR SAMUEL

The Germans have an adage that says: "Skill wins favour". The dominance of Team UniPort in sporting competitions within and outside the country has attracted attention from national and international sports regulatory and administrative bodies. The University has so far capitalized on the favourable rating of such agencies to sign partnership agreements that have the potentials to further improve the University's profile in future sporting competitions. The University of Port Harcourt has gradually transformed into an iconic Sporting School that is now acknowledged around the world as a high performance centre in its own right.

The partnership agreements are due recognitions and reward for years of uninterrupted superlative performances in sporting competitions by dedicated athletes and their handlers, who have made winning an article of faith. Such is the unrivalled dominance of Team UniPort that the University's fame in sports is now resonating far and wide to the admiration of discerning sports administrators, who are willing to reward the unending stream of achievements.

For instance, the Nigeria Olympic Committee and Foundation Internationale Olympafrica, visited the University last August to seal the partnerships aimed at promoting sports and building capacity for proper sports management in the University. President of NOC, Mr Sani Ndanusu, was represented by the Secretary, Mr Popoola Afolayan, while the Foundation Internationale Olympafrica, had its Executive Director, Mr Thierno Diack and Olympic Gold Medalist in

Wrestling, Dr Daniel Igali, in attendance to give teeth to the separate partnership agreements.

Olympic Gold Medalist, Dr Igali, offered to sponsor an Academy to be known as Dr Daniel Igali Wrestling Academy to train potential wrestlers in collaboration with relevant international agencies. At the 33rd Olympiad in London, last year, IAAF announced plans to build a High Performance Centre in the University of Port Harcourt—the first of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa.

When the various partnership agreements are fully implemented, the University of Port Harcourt would become a sporting centre of excellence to beat at local and international fiestas. With state-of-the-art facilities that are properly maintained by a crop of dedicated administrators, it only means that the sporting profile of the University would continue to rise beyond the rafters in the coming years.

The sporting prowess of Team UniPort did not just drop from the skies. If the University Community is now used to

victory runs at sporting competitions, it is to the eternal credit of the likes of Dr Ken Anugweje, Director of Sports and Professor Mark Anikpo, Chairman of the Sports Complex Management Committee, who have admirably managed available facilities since the 2004 Nigeria University Games Association (NUGA), hosted by the University.

Mention must also be made of the erstwhile Dean of Student Affairs and current Director of Special Projects in the Office of the Vice-chancellor, Professor Matthew Wegwu for his unwavering commitment to the success of Team UniPort. Credit also goes to a team of dedicated Coaches, successive Deans of Student Affairs and the determination of the athletes themselves to remain on top! These welcome developments are also a result of the unwavering support of a sports-loving Administration under successive Vice-Chancellors—especially Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs and the incumbent—Professor Joseph Ajenika, who is the Number One Fan of Team UniPort.



Trail-blazing debut of film and journal

Scenes from the premiere of the video film titled: "Who is Afraid of Job Interview?" and presentation of the maiden edition of *OJA: Journal of Arts & Culture* by the Institute of Arts and Culture (aka Artsville) as captured by **HEADMAN ALU**.



L-R: Prof Julie Okoh, Prof Itamuno Amingo; Representative of Trend Media City, Karada Wilson; V-C, Prof Joseph Ajienka, Writers-In Residence: Drs. Elechi Amadi, Gabriel Okara and Book Reviewer, Seyifia Koroyi; unveiling copies of the Journal, Screenplay & VCD



Director Artsville, Professor Okoh, displaying a copy of the video CD



D-V-C (RSD), Professor Bene Willie Abbe, displaying a copy of the OJA Journal



V-C, Prof Ajienka and Film Director, Lancelot Imasuen



Mr Adiala Onyedibia and Film Director, Lancelot Imasuen



Ag. HOD, Theatre Arts, Dr Julie Umukoro



Engr Asamaowei

Behold! A new Pro-Chancellor

The Federal Government reconstituted the Governing Councils of Federal Universities last April. Engineer Gesi Asamaowei, who was appointed Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council of the University of Port Harcourt, has since mounted the saddle, with several meetings and wide consultations, reports OTIKOR SAMUEL

He is a complete gentleman, who exudes a managerial gait. He is also a successful business magnate and frontline opinion leader in the South-South region of Nigeria, who is not loud and aggressive. Chief (Engineer) Gesi Asamaowei, the new Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council of the University of Port Harcourt, strikes you on first encounter like a visionary leader, who believes in collective leadership that was reminiscent of the General Murtala Mohammed era. He is both a man of contemplation and action on the same platform, given to few words in the line of duty.

He took over from Rev (Dr) Walter Eneji, who acted as Chairman of the Governing Council following dissolution of the erstwhile Governing Councils by the Federal Government.



Pro-Chancellor, Engr Asamaowei (right) and V-C, Prof Ajenka



UniPort Senate Building

My mission here as Pro-Chancellor is to ensure that by the time we are done, there will be no other university like the University of Port Harcourt in the country in terms of infrastructural and academic development. We have the will and motivation to achieve that feat with your cooperation.

From all indications, Engineer Asamaowei is on a mission to transform the University into a world-class centre of academic excellence that is focused on its core mandate of teaching, research and community service. Just after his appointment and inauguration, the new Chairman of Council undertook an unscheduled facility visit to the University to see things for himself without the usual protocol that is characteristic of public office holders. He re-echoed his unwavering commitment to pursue the clear objectives he and other Members of the new Council set for themselves at an interactive session with staff of the University on Monday, 3rd June, 2013 at the expansive Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. The interface with a cross-section of staff of the University, kick-started the 139th Meeting of the Governing Council, with a full programme line-up that kept Council Members busy on all fronts. The Pro-Chancellor used the opportunity to reassure staff of the total commitment of the Governing Council to seek after their welfare on his watch, calling for enhanced productivity and cooperation to enable him deliver on his mandate from the Federal Government.

"My mission here as Pro-Chancellor is to ensure that by the time we are done, there will be no other university like the University of Port Harcourt in the country in terms of infrastructural and academic development. We have the will and motivation to achieve that feat with your cooperation," the Pro-Chancellor assured staff, students and stakeholders in the affairs of the Institution.

The Meeting of the new Council had all the external and internal members in attendance. External members are: Mrs. Joyce Boderick-Bozimo, Alhaji Mohammed Iyigye, Barrister Okechukwu Ajunwa, Dr Nelson Olaniji, Mrs. Olumufumilayo Brown (representing Federal Ministry of Education) and King Amalate Turner (representing Convocation). Professors Ebi Bio Awotua-Efebo, Anthony Ibe, Regina Ogali and John Ikimalo, represent Senate, while Professor Owunari Georgewill and Mrs. Dorcas Otto, represent Congregation on the new Council.

Engr Asamaowei

Ajienka's score card at 3

The making of an ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITY

*On 12th July 2013, Professor Joseph Ajienka clocked exactly three years as the 7th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt; having mounted the saddle on 12th July, 2010. An atmosphere of eager anticipation swept through the Institution at the inception of the Administration, based on his giant strides as pioneer Director of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS). It was just a matter of time before his transformation agenda also swept through the entire University. Thirty-six months on, Associate Editor, **OBINNA NWODIM** looks back at the vision and milestone achievements of the Ajienka-led Administration.*

At the expansive Senate Chambers of the University that memorable Monday morning on 12th July, 2010, Professor Joseph Ajienka rolled out an impressive and well-received Blueprint of what the University Community was to expect from his incoming Administration in the next five years. The landmark *inaugural Address* titled: *Actualizing the Unique UniPort of our Dream*, was interrupted by continuous applause from an appreciative audience.

Three years down the line and still counting, Professor Ajienka, who transformed a little known Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) into a world-class training centre for high-level manpower in the Oil and Gas sector, was as good as his words on his first day in office. He promised to rebuild the academic structures to make them globally competitive, as well as upgrade the human capital and quality of instruction to students to bring them in line with what obtains in a 21st Century University environment. That morning, Professor Ajienka promised to accelerate the Institution's research capabilities aimed at repositioning it to be counted among the best in Africa.

He unfolded his vision of an Entrepreneurial University where research meets enterprise at a Technology Park aimed at commercializing research outputs for the benefit of society. Three years in office, Professor Ajienka has been

Prof Ajienka

able to give the University a new sense of direction with his Entrepreneurial vision anchored on capitalizing knowledge. His emphasis on innovation, research and development gave birth to the Office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor solely in charge of Research and Development. The Office has lived up to expectation with the advancement of research activities and coordination of partnerships between the industry and allied agencies.

The Administration has developed Guidelines and Framework for establishing Research Centre and restructured the College of Graduate Studies to be more research-oriented. The former Faculty of Science has demerged into three new Faculties under a new College of Natural and Applied Sciences. Over 27 Professorial Chairs are now functional in various disciplines, thus, boosting the research capabilities of the University.

The Administration has given fresh impetus to the much talked about symbiotic relationship between towns and gown through robust partnerships that bring mutual institutional benefits to all stakeholders. The University has signed more Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with research institutions and universities in and outside Nigeria under the Ajienka-led Administration, more than all other administrations put together.

The Administration also established an Arts Village and a Technology Park to help boost creativity and innovation. The research drive of the Administration has yielded several breakthroughs, especially in the Sciences and Engineering. For instance, a team led by renowned Chemical Engineer, Professor Ayo Kuye, successfully designed, fabricated and installed a flash dryer for the production of high-quality cassava flour at Godaligo Farm, Obudu in Cross River State. The Institute of Agricultural Research and Development (IAR&D) developed off-season cropping methods for yam, vegetables and spices and a novel technique for yam multiplication; the PTDF Chair in Gas Engineering designed and fabricated equipment for the evaluation of efficiency of gas burners used in furnaces; the Centre for Marine Pollution Monitoring and Seafood Safety completed the reconstruction of Pollution History of Heavy Metals in the Niger Delta, dating back to 1940. The toxic effect of Oil and Gas pollution on health in the Niger Delta was documented by Professor Owunari Georgewill of the Department of Pharmacology in the College of Health Sciences; Dr Andrew Efiuse won a grant for Phase II of the high-yielding rice project under the auspices of the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

The IPS has also developed several important software packages under the IPS Software Solution (ISS). During the period, the Donald Ekong University Library received library furniture and donation of books from Nigeria and abroad. With a dedicated power generating set and full internet connectivity, the University Library commissioned its automation project, which now places it amongst the best in Nigeria.

Through funding from the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), the Administration has initiated numerous infrastructural projects aimed at enhancing quality service delivery and boost academic activities. Such projects as the Central Office Complex, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Power Systems Engineering, Central Instruments Laboratory, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, Elechi Amadi Faculty of Humanities, Patience Jonathan Centre for Gender Studies, Bamanga Tukor Centre for



Prof Ajienka, V-C

International Trade and Development, Central Bank of Nigeria Centre of Excellence in Management and Economics, Niger Delta Development Commission Building, Lecture Theatres, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences and Faculty of Law, are at various stages of completion.

Away from brick and mortar issues, the Administration successfully enhanced the capacity of the University to deliver quality services to its ever-increasing clientele. In a deliberate effort aimed at quality assurance in teaching and research, the Administration downsized admissions into various programmes—especially in the professional courses that attract stringent regulation from relevant agencies. More Institutes and Centres were also established to drive research in relevant disciplines in line with the Vice-Chancellor's vision to transform the University into a research-intensive Centre of Excellence. Also, Advisory Boards have been inaugurated for some Institutes and Centres to drive their activities along the lines of best operational practices.

The University has also maintained its supremacy in sports not only in Nigeria, but also in the West African sub-Region. In recognition of its rising profile in sporting activities and administration, the University has become a Centre of Excellence in Sports with its recent designation as a High Performance Centre by the International Associations of Athletics Federation (IAAF), OlympAfrica and the Nigeria Olympic Commission (NOC). An objective assessment shows that Professor Ajienka is steadily working towards the fulfilment of the blueprint outlined in his Inaugural Address on 12th July, 2010. We are optimistic that the remaining two years of his memorable tenure will seal these achievements to the approval of all stakeholders in the affairs of the University.

Boladei Igali

A high-flying Alumnus

Ambassador Godknows Boladei Igali, OON was among the privileged pioneer students, who secured admission into the newly-established University of Port Harcourt in 1977. He graduated in flying colours from the then Department of History in 1981. Igali has since proved his mettle in a competitive society with several firsts. The University is proud of Igali's achievements as he continues to fly high the flag of his Alma Mater. Associate Editor, **OBINNA NWODIM**, highlights the glittering achievements of this distinguished Alumnus and technocrat.

Dr Boladei Igali, who currently serves as Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Power, holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Political and International Studies from the University of Venezuela and a Master of Science degree in International Law and Diplomacy from the University of Lagos. An accomplished career diplomat, a public servant and administrator, who continues to serve the nation meritoriously in various capacities, Dr. Igali has served as Secretary to over ten Economic Missions abroad, several UN and ECOWAS commissions. He also served as the Nigerian Consulate-General to Cameroon and Envoy to the Scandinavian countries of Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway.

The seasoned Diplomat was Secretary to the Bayelsa State Government (2005-2007) and Permanent Secretary in several Ministries, including the Federal

Ministry of Water Resources (2010-2012). This distinguished Alumnus has received several national and international awards, including the National Honour of *Officer of the Order of the Niger*, OON.

Igali has repeatedly demonstrated his belief that Alumni should contribute to the development of their *Alma Mater* by attracting legacy projects to the University, without drawing attention to himself. As Chairman of the newly-inaugurated Board of Directors, he recently donated a Toyota Hilux Van to the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainability (INRES) to enhance the smooth functioning of the Institute. The gene of a truly Unique University Alumnus runs in Dr. Igali's veins as everything he does in his services to the nation has always been unique. This is an outstanding product of a unique University indeed. Only God knows where next his exceptional skills would take Igali.



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Igali