

29th Convocation Edition

UNIQUEUNIORT

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6,938 Graduate
@ 29th
Convocation
149 Ph.Ds

Honorary Degree Awardees



Dangote



Tamuno



Diack



Shyllon



Contents

Unleashing Our 'Can-Do' Spirit!

Entrepreneurial University! That is the new buzzword that has seized the imagination of staff and students of the University of Port Harcourt under the current dispensation. Welcome to an Entrepreneurial University on a mission to prove that a Nigerian University can do things differently through collective focus, determination and team-spirit—all powered by that 'can-do' spirit that has accomplished many milestones in recorded history.

UNIQUE UNIPORT has become a very recognizable national and continental brand that diverse stakeholders are very proud to associate with today. The present Administration headed by Professor Joseph Ajenka, is focused on its vision to serve as a reference model to other Universities in the country and beyond.

Increasingly, the dynamic blueprint espoused by the Administration now serves as an organizational compass that has become a source of motivation to staff, students, alumni and sundry stakeholders in the affairs of the University. Now approaching his mid-term in the exalted office, Professor Ajenka approaches his mandate with professionalism, commitment and global best practices, while guiding the Institution to retain a competitive local edge in the comity of universities.

Ajenka has restructured the former Faculty of Science into a College of Natural and Applied Sciences, while the former School of Graduate Studies (SGS) has been reconfigured into a brand new College of Graduate Studies with four Schools. New Centres, Institutes and Research Centres are now operational in the University. The Administration has since commenced operating the Directorate System in the Registry.

In this edition, we serve you such sizzling stories as research findings from the various Faculties, activities of the Administration and Governing Council, partnerships, community service, induction ceremonies and new programmes, and more!

As we roll out the drums and clink glasses to celebrate the rise and rise of the University, the 29th Convocation Ceremony offers us yet another opportunity to reassess our learning curve on this entrepreneurial mission; a mission of hope and continuity. Please read on...#

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Honoris Causa Fits!

Billionaire business mogul, Aliko Dangote and three accomplished personalities will receive Honorary Doctorate Degrees today from Unique UNIPORT, reports WILLIAMS WODI



Dangote

A major highlight of today's Convocation Ceremony is the conferment of the University's prestigious Honorary Doctorate Degree on four distinguished personalities, who are widely adjudged to have contributed in quantifiable concrete terms to the advancement of humanity in their chosen fields of endeavour.

Alhaji (Dr) Aliko Dangote is a business mogul, whose tentacles spread to diverse ventures that almost beat the spider's web in their complexity. Dangote's vast business empire covers such areas as cement, sugar, noodles, salt, oil and gas, construction, flower mill, shipping, amongst others. His philanthropic spirit remains unrivalled in this part of the world. In recognition of his great

accomplishments in his personal career and the larger society, Alhaji Dangote was awarded the second highest national honour of *Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger* (GCON) by the Federal Government last year. He will be conferred with the Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*).

Ace historian, foremost educationist and former Vice-Chancellor of University of Ibadan, Emeritus Professor Tekena Tamuno, remains a quintessential gentleman and thoroughbred academic, who is neither loud nor aggressive in his silent crusade for a better society. A great administrator, statesman and one of the leading lights of this generation, Tamuno has stood out as a reliable bridge builder and an ascetic in a society that is driven by

the twin hedonistic tendencies of graft and obscene lifestyle. He will be conferred with the Doctor of Letters (*Honoris Causa*).

Monaco-based Dr Lamine Diack is President of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and a champion of grassroots sports development spanning decades on six continents. A citizen of Senegal and the world, Diack transformed an amorphous association into an easily identifiable global brand that has continued to build careers and bring personal fortune to great athletes. Under his exemplary leadership of IAAF, the body has facilitated the rise of such great stars as Jamaican-born Usaine Bolt and company. He will receive the Doctor of Science, (*Honoris Causa*).

Last, but certainly not the least, is Patron-Saint of the Arts, Prince (Engineer) Yemisi Adedoyin Shyllon, who single-handedly drew attention to the vast collection of Nigeria's visual art works. Not just given to mouthing the import of visual arts as historic relics, the *Prince of Arts* has an impressive collection of art works to open a museum in his private residence in Lagos.

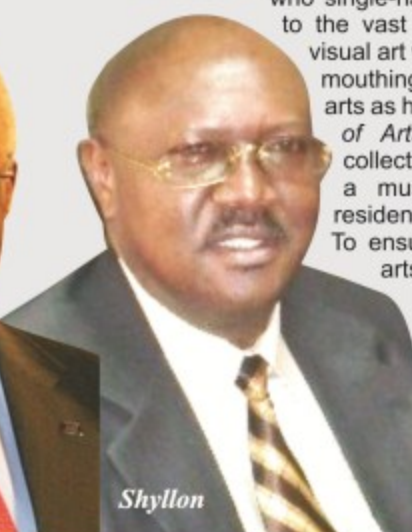
To ensure the survival of the arts, he has endowed a Professorial Chair in Visual Arts in the University of Port Harcourt. He will receive the Doctor of Letters (*Honoris Causa*).#



Tamuno



Diack



Shyllon

Chancellor Hails Host Communities

Chancellor of the University calls for continued peaceful co-existence with host communities, especially following the gruesome murder of four students at Omuokiri, Aluu last October, reports WILLIAMS WODI.



His Majesty, Dr De Wheno Aholu Menu Toyi 1

Visibly impressed by the peaceful co-existence between the University and its host communities, even after the gruesome murder of four students by an irate mob at Omuokiri, Aluu in Ikwerre Local Government Area, Chancellor of the University, His Majesty, Dr De Wheno Aholu Menu Toyi 1, has urged all parties to intensify efforts aimed at sustaining the peace as a panacea to accelerated development.

In a message he read at the 29th Convocation Ceremony, the Oba of Badagry said that sustaining the peace would promote growth and development in the University's neighbourhood, pointing out that the regrettable Omuokiri incident underscored the need for increased mutual trust and increased security in the area. "I am very pleased to note that peace has finally returned to the community, while students and staff are also back to their homes. I wish to thank the Rivers State Government for the effort it has made to secure lives and property of residents and indigenes of Omuokiri", the Chancellor said, commending traditional

rulers in the area for their role in resolving the crisis.

The Oba also commiserated all those displaced as a result of the devastating flood that ravaged parts of Rivers and Bayelsa States, commending individuals and organizations that mobilized relief materials to reduce the sufferings of victims of the disaster.

The royal father commended what he described as the accelerated development of the University under the current administration, attributing the feat to the "collective desire of staff and students to build a reputable university that is worthy of emulation". He also praised the cordial working relationship between the Management and the Governing Council that had enabled the University to pursue development.

Turning to the Graduands, the Chancellor congratulated them for successfully concluding their programmes, advising them to become active members of the University Alumni Family as they go into the larger society.#

6,938 Join Unique Graduates

A total of 6,938 Graduands will receive the Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate Degrees of the University of Port Harcourt at the 29th Convocation. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who made this disclosure, also spoke on the state of the University, report OTIKOR SAMUEL and WILLIAMS WODI

In his State of the University Address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, lamented the lukewarm attitude of parents and guardians to the payment of some form of charges for their wards in tertiary institutions within the country, expressing dissatisfaction over the preference for universities outside the country and outrageous fees Nigerian parents are willing to pay to foreign institutions, while Nigerian universities battle to raise funds to survive. He appealed to Government to consider imposing some form of charges to save public universities in the country from collapse.

Meanwhile, another female student of the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counseling, Faculty of Education, Miss Stella Ogbogo, with Matriculation Number U2008/2574284, emerged the *Best Graduating Student* with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 4.83 on a five-point scale in addition to 19 other First Class graduands.

Professor Ajienka further disclosed that Faculty of Humanities produced a total of 468 graduands from eight Departments, Faculty of Social Sciences turned out 197 from four Departments, the Faculty of Biological Sciences graduated 112 from two Departments, and Chemical Sciences turned out 142 also from two Departments, while Physical Sciences and Information Technology turned out 219 from three Departments.

"The School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT) produced a total of 309 graduands from seven options; Faculty of Education produced a total of 527 graduands from six Departments, Faculty of Engineering turned out a total of 242 from five Departments, Faculty of Management Sciences produced 172 graduands from four Departments, while the Faculty of Agriculture graduated a total of 84 from four Departments," the Vice-Chancellor revealed, adding that 351 graduands are billed for graduation from five Departments in the College of Health Sciences, including 208 Medical Doctors.

A further breakdown of the figures showed that 5,208 graduands would receive First



Prof Ajienka, V-C

Degrees, 1,581 would be awarded the Master's Degree in various specializations, while 149 candidates will be conferred with the Doctor of Philosophy Degree. "A total of 1,648 students will also receive the University's Certificates from 12 Departments in the Faculties of Humanities and Education. Out of the number, 461 scored Distinction, 649 scored Credit, 350 scored Merit, while 188 obtained Pass," Professor Ajienka added.

On research and developmental initiatives, the Vice-Chancellor disclosed that the University had successfully concluded a Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) with industry experts and scholars aimed at determining its areas of strength and weaknesses, explaining that the new Research and Development Strategic Plan is anchored on measurable Performance Key Indicators (PKIs), which is part of the drive towards attaining the status of a world-class Entrepreneurial University.

"We have since intensified our

partnerships with key industry players in such strategic areas as oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, African medicine, technology and engineering, hospitality management and sports, amongst other specializations, to actualize the vision," the Vice-Chancellor said, stating that with the addition of three new Chairs, the University now has a total of 27 Professorial Chairs to drive quality research in highly-specialized fields.

"As I have stated at other fora, the idea of an Entrepreneurial University is not to train artisans or business men and women. The entire concept is aimed at capitalizing knowledge in such a manner that products of our research can be deployed to solve problems in the larger society. It is only that truly symbiotic relationship between research and the needs of industry that would rekindle confidence in our activities as a University," Professor Ajienka explained, recalling that the *Brain Gain* programme has witnessed bountiful harvest as experts from the Diaspora continue to share their valuable pool of experience in diverse specializations.

Professor Ajienka, who thanked stakeholders for their contributions towards the advancement of the University, restated his call on the Federal Government to address the issue of land compensation to sustain the existing relationship between the University and host communities, expressing delight over the accreditation of programmes such as Medicine and Surgery, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dentistry, Science Laboratory Technology, Geography and Environmental Management and Nursing by the various regulatory bodies.

The Vice-Chancellor announced the transformation of the former Faculty of Science to a new College of Natural and Applied Sciences (CNAS) with the Faculties of Biological, Chemical and Physical Sciences & Information Technology. Similarly, the former School of Graduate Studies is now College of Graduate Studies (CGS). The new College is headed by a Provost, while Deans are in charge of the new four Schools. #

.20 First Class

.5,208 First Degree

.1,581 Masters

.149 Ph.Ds

...As V-C Tasks Parents On Fees

Passion

For Quality Education



If you are looking for a woman driven by passion for quality education at all levels, then look no further than Fidelia Ngozi Obasi, a Professor of Educational Management in the Faculty of Education, reports WILLIAMS WODI

Professor Fidelia Obasi is a perfect eye-turner any day. On first encounter with this accomplished educationist, you may be forgiven to think that she is either a model or *Nollywood* star. Perish the thought! Just get closer and you come face-to-face with a great innovator that exudes the confidence of someone with the universal tool-kit to solve the myriad of problems that currently bedevil the Nigerian educational system at all levels. Not satisfied with the rot that now bestrides the critical sector, Professor Obasi decided to set up her own Primary and Secondary Schools to show Nigerian educational planners and pretentious private proprietors how to do it.

"As long as we continue to read scripts written by others, Nigeria's educational system may get even worse than it is now. There is so much inherent discordance in our policy conception and implementation", she warns, regretting that "what is playing out in the university system today is the neglect of Primary and Post-Primary education for many years".

Where is the Inspectorate Division of the Ministry of

Education that should statutorily monitor minimum quality benchmarks?, she asks. Professor Obasi is implacably angry that incompetent and profit-driven proprietors of private schools simply bribe their way through the supervisory system, while public schools continue to suffer from poor motivation and supervision at the detriment of young Nigerians. Her answer to the morass into which the lower levels of education have fallen was to establish the *Brainfield* Group of Schools, "to give young Nigerian children the opportunity to obtain a sound foundation in their formative years". The Schools are brain development factories indeed!

This passionate educationist has identified examination malpractice, poor remuneration and motivation of teachers, a hostile learning environment, incessant strike actions, low self-esteem by graduates, who cannot compete on a global scale and the resultant brain drain of talented Nigerian youths, as factors that require urgent remedial measures to save the critical sector from total collapse.

"Unable to secure jobs, these poor quality graduates return to seek shelter in the already highly dysfunctional university system as postgraduate students, and also pretend their way into the hallowed corridors of the academia to become 'lecturers', thus perpetuating the vicious cycle of intellectual mediocrity", Obasi laments.

The way out is for Government to silence its "talking drum that lacks rhythm or meaning and do more than it is doing at the moment", Professor Obasi advises, calling for urgent implementation and rigorous monitoring of the process. "As a starting point, the university curricula should be totally redesigned to embrace entrepreneurial principles of practical skills that would turn out self-reliant graduates; while corruption and policy somersaults must be tackled headlong", pointing out that "the standard of our educational system is the fulcrum of sustainable economic and social development".

Her parting words: "No country can grow beyond the standards of its human capital". Need we add more?#



Prof Obasi

Choba Gets

Amaechi's Model School



R-L: Pro-Chancellor, Walter Eneji, Gov Dickson and Prof Ajiienka

Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi's proposed Model Secondary School triggers an admixture of joy and anxiety in Choba Community, as Gov Dickson pledges more support for UNIPORT, reports WILLIAMS WODI.

When the Acting Pro-Chancellor, Rev Walter Eneji led a powerful delegation of the University's Governing Council on a Courtesy Call on Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi on Wednesday, 12th December, 2012, little did he expect the good news that awaited him at the tail end of the now memorable visit to Government House, Port Harcourt.

After the official part of the visit at which the Chairman of Council profusely thanked the Governor for his abiding interest in the accelerated growth of his *Alma Mater*, Rt Hon Amaechi announced plans by his administration commence construction work on a new Model Secondary School to be sited on the University's side of the East/West Road! While the Pro-Chancellor and other Council Members tried to digest the good news, Governor Amaechi promptly introduced officials of Zenith Bank, who he disclosed were charged with responsibility for actualizing the multi-billion naira project within the stipulated deadline.

The Pro-Chancellor requested Governor Amaechi to assist the University in addressing the knotty issue of access to land, now being encroached upon by some

members of the University's host communities. With the gruesome murder of four students of the University on his mind, the Chairman of Council also entered a passionate plea for proactive security coverage of the University and its environs to safeguard lives and property. The Governor took note of the request, but insisted that the Federal Government should drop opposition to State Police to enable the States better protect lives and property in their domains. In a Media Briefing that coincided with the Omuokiri incident on 5th October, 2012, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, had highlighted the pressure the University had come under as a result of non-payment of compensation to the University's host communities. He repeated the sordid situation to Governor Amaechi, who promised to take up the matter with the Federal Government at the earliest opportunity.

Preparatory to the commencement of construction work on a 21 hectre land mass at the current location of the Ultimate Motor Park along the East/West Road, the University had so far communicated the decision of Government to business operators at the proposed site.

Extensive consultations have been held with Choba Community and business owners, during which the issue of appropriate compensation was given priority attention. The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) is facilitating the realization of the project. The Administration is also considering developing a Mini Motor Park opposite the current one that would give way to the Model School. As is to be expected, business operators on the land earmarked for the project are understandably jittery over their impending dislocation from the site, but it is a widely accepted fact that the common weal must take precedence over the interest of individuals or groups.

Council had earlier paid a similar visit on the Governor of Bayelsa State, Chief Seriake Dickson last August, to thank the Government and good People of that State for initiating construction work on the College of Graduate Studies building, including other assistance packages. Council also called for enhanced partnership in terms of capacity-building for tertiary institutions located in Bayelsa State and more exchange programmes between scholars and students.#



Mrs Nnodim, Registrar

Maiden Registry Day

The maiden Registry Day celebration served as a platform to create awareness on the critical role of the Registry in the attainment of the overall objectives of the University. Our Correspondent **OBINNA NWODIM** reports.

The Registry is the central conveyor-belt of every university. Staff, who are privileged to work in this strategic arm of the university are expected to approach their job schedules with utmost professionalism and uncommon commitment. But they need to undergo regular training and exposure to operational best practices. So, when the Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, decided to organize the maiden Registry Day in the University, she probably was unmindful of the ripple effects of the laudable programme that drew distinguished guest from far and near.

Speaking as Guest Lecturer at the event, a former Registrar of the University of Ibadan, Mrs Mojisola Ladipo, advised career administrators in Nigerian universities to be proactive in order not to lose relevance in the face of a changing system.

Ladipo, who spoke on the theme, "The Registry as the Lifeline of the University: Past, Present and Future", said that Career Administrators in Nigerian

universities need to be at the forefront of the re-invention of their Departments by embracing professionalism and specialization through certification, just like accountants, journalists or nurses, adding that "Units of the Registry, such as the Human Resource Directorate, must become specialist units, staffed by professional HR practitioners to add value to the Registry".

She advised administrators to wake up to the realities of contemporary times as the future of the university system depended on them, adding that "The only way to be relevant and indispensable is to be efficient, effective and committed to their statutory duties, seeking new knowledge in their areas of responsibility, and adding value to the mission of their institutions".

In his remarks, Chairman of the occasion and 5th Vice-Chancellor of the University, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, stressed the importance of the Registry Department in the overall functioning of university, pointing out that his administration would not

have succeeded without support from staff of the Registry Department.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Professor Ethelbert Nduka, noted that the Registry Department was very important in the functioning of any university system, calling on staff to redouble efforts aimed at enhanced productivity if they wished to remain relevant.

Earlier in her welcome address, Registrar, Mrs Nnodim, who said that the University is blessed with quality staff in its administrative cadre, said that the retreat was meant for Registry staff to take stock of their functions, adding that "it is intended to build a bridge of unending interaction, knowledge-sharing and mentoring process between administrative staff in and out of service". She promised that the Registry Day celebration would become an annual event on the University's administrative calendar. #



A Cross-Section of participants

Rex Lawson Memorial Concert

42 years after his demise, the University of Port Harcourt organized a musical concert in memory of late Highlife Maestro, Cardinal Erekosima Jim Lawson at the Convocation Arena on Thursday, 17th January, 2013. **OBINNA NWODIM** reports.



Members of the Band performing . Inset: King Sunny Brown

The event which was the maiden Memorial Concert in honour of Cardinal Rex Jim Lawson by the University of Port Harcourt had the surviving members of the Band, King Sunny Brown the trumpeter and Chief Anthony Odili, the Conga instrument drummer, do what they know how to do best, as they lured guests to the dancing floor with their performances.

Speaking at the event, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who described the event as wonderful said that "it was not an accident that great musicians like Rex Lawson and his colleagues were born in this part of the world, they had a mission to make people happy". He commended the Department of Music for its efforts in promoting the image of the University, disclosing the intention of his administration to make the University a Centre of Excellence in Music.

Also speaking, 5th Vice-Chancellor of the University, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, who lauded the innovation and creativity exhibited by late Rex Lawson said that it was such innovations for which a University should be known. He commended Professor Ajenka for his interest in promoting the Arts.

In their separate speeches, Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, Director, Institute of Education and former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Joseph Okoh, Chair Occupant, Harcourt

Whyte Chair in Music, Dr Kanu Achinevu, as well as Professor Omolara Ogundipe, remembered with nostalgia the soothing effects of the music of Rex Lawson in the 1960's and 70's.

Also speaking, Chairman of the event and Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimele, who described the Faculty as the heart beat of the University, said that the late Cardinal Rex Lawson was the hero of highlife music, which made his music evergreen.

Earlier in his welcome address, Head Department of Music, Professor Onyee Nwankpa, had disclosed plans to organize a Rex Lawson Garden City International Highlife Festival in July, 2013.

The event which featured performance of the late highlife king's music also featured his children: Victoria, Christiana and grandchild, Adokiye.

Late Jim Lawson died on 16th January 1971 in a ghastly motor accident in Benin after a playing tour. #



Rex Lawson

PONTIFICATING Wisdom

From The Seat Of



It all started last May with the 85th Inaugural Lecture titled: *"Blood Sacrifice—How Saving?"*, presented by a Consultant Hemaetologist at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Professor Oseikhuemen Ejele, who described blood transfusion as a key part of modern healthcare, urging individuals to imbibe the culture of blood donation to save lives as it is the practice in developed countries.

Professor Boniface Nwigwe of the Department of Philosophy in the 86th Inaugural Lecture titled: *"Language, Truth and Reality: A Philosophical Investigation of the Notion of Meaning"*, last May, disclosed that "All that is of interest to me, is that experience seems to show that the mind and language are inseparably bound together to the extent that some thinkers like Noam Chomsky and others believe that man is essentially a syntactical animal."

The 87th Inaugural Lecture titled: *"The Genius in the Microbe: an Indispensable Tools for the Management of Xenobiotic-Mediated Environmental Flux"*, was delivered by Professor Lucky Odokuma of the Department of Microbiology, last June. Odokuma disclosed that microorganisms, especially bacteria and fungi are critical in environmental remediation.

"Biotechnology as facilitated by molecular genetics has many benefits, which include reduction of poverty, hunger, disease and death," declared the 88th Inaugural Lecturer, Professor Julian Osuji of the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, whose Lecture was titled: *"Molecular Genetics: The Soul of Biotechnology in the War against Hunger, Poverty and Diseases"*, last June.

This was followed by the 89th Inaugural Lecture delivered by Professor Nicholas Oforka of the Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry, last July.

Unlike chieftaincy titles conferred on individuals by virtue of age or socio-economic status as is the case in the traditional setting, Professorship is earned through hard work, especially through research and contributions to knowledge. In this report, HUMPHREY OGU, brings to your reading delights summaries of scholarly contributions by Professors from various Departments at their Inaugural Lectures.

Titled: *"Man, Materials and Civilization"*, Oforka's Lecture focused on the contribution of Material Chemistry to human existence, stating that "Materials are all about us; they are engraved in our existence."

Professor John Okoli of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, who delivered the 90th Inaugural Lecture titled: *"Production—It's All About National Destiny, Bondage or Freedom"*, noted that in the 21st Century, the wealth of nation is no longer determined by mere possession of natural resources, but largely by the technological capacity to add value to them, recommending "the establishment of metal and wood workshops to train youths on simple workshop practices and processes at the primary and secondary levels."

Ways of tackling infant mortality and morbidity in developing nations was the main thrust of the 91st Inaugural Lecture titled: *"Child Survival In Resource-Limited Settings: The Issues, Challenges and Way Forward"*, delivered by renowned Paediatrician,

Professor Alice Nte last August. "Globally, the immediate causes of under five deaths have remained infections (64%), malnutrition (down from 54% to about one third) and newborn deaths, both from hospital and community level data in developed and developing countries," she pointed out.

Delivering the 92nd Inaugural Lecture captioned: *"On African Art and Identity Blogging: A Historical Perspective"*, Professor Frank Ugiomoh of the Department of Fine Art and Design, observed that African Art works "are bits and pieces that define who we are, what we have been and what we will be," pointing out that "the knowledge of the past reposed in art is of immense value as we live by the day in anticipation of the future." He declared that African works of art are not fetish as claimed by European visitors to the continent.

In the 93rd Inaugural Lecture titled *"Crude Oil: Sweet and Sour—Efforts at Mitigating the Toxic Effects"*, last



Inaugural Lecture Series Cont'd



September, Professor Owunari Georgewill of the Department of Pharmacology, pointed out the hazardous impact of oil exploration in the Niger Delta on human health, stating that in spite of the fortunes that accrued to Nigeria, it also endangers the lives of indigenes of the oil-bearing communities in the Niger Delta.

Professor Osi Akpoghameh of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences in the 94th Inaugural Lecture titled: *"The Terror of Transport and the Transportation of Terror"*, last September, noted that "transportation is a leading source of terror to man and his environment by causing death, injury, economic waste and social dislocations, as well as a major cause of climate change," adding that "there is need to adequately fund the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and the Nigerian Police as a way of strengthening these institutions to tackle the complex problem of traffic safety."

In the 95th Inaugural Lecture titled: *"Towards Feminist Theatre in Nigeria"*, delivered, last September, Professor Julie Okoh of the Department of Theatre Arts, stressed the need for gender equality in Nigeria. "Nigeria is still basically rooted in patriarchal social structure. And as such, violation of women's basic human rights is

prevalent. It is a stark reality that affects a percentage of women across the country and it cuts across boundaries of age, culture, religion, wealth and geography. It takes place in homes, schools, workplaces, markets, religious circles and on the streets," she lamented.

The Importance of conservation of biodiversity was the main thrust of the 96th Inaugural Lecture titled: *"Biological Biodiversity: Incredible Generosity, Incredible Responsibility"*, delivered by Professor Benjamin Ndukwu of the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, last November. Ndukwu, who noted that "biodiversity provides everything humans need to survive: food, fresh air, clean water, clothing, medicine and material for shelter," said: "the richer the diversity of life, the greater the opportunity for medical discoveries, economic development and adaptive responses to such new challenges as climate change."

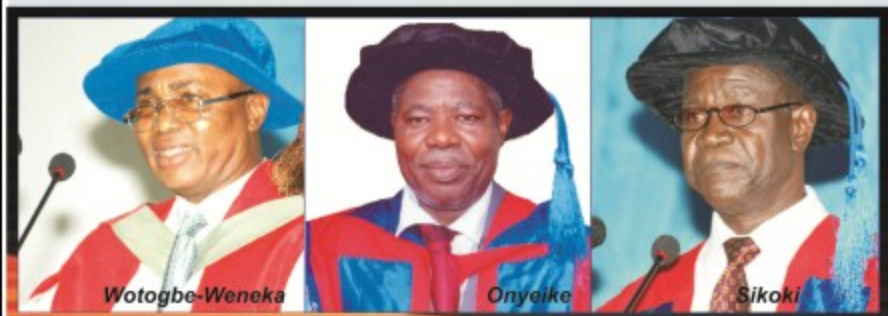
Delivering the 97th Inaugural Lecture titled: *"Of Synergies: Linking Literature, Language and English in Nigeria"*, Professor Nkem Okoh, of the Department of English Studies observed that Oral Literature is of critical importance to society, stressing that it is not inferior to the written form as erroneously believed by some literary scholars. "Oral Literature displays great didactic potential, which

should be duly channelled to the benefit of our society; still, not much attention has been paid to the possibility of exploiting the exuberance and potentials of African oral literature. It is indeed a literature that is still grossly underrated and untapped," he pointed out.

Professor Wellington Wotogbe-Weneka of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies recommended ways of creating religious harmony to foster national development in the country, at the 98th Inaugural Lecture titled: *"Religion: Modern Denigrators and Rehabilitators in National Development"*, stressing the need for various religious groups to establish mutual understanding. "Religious leaders should intensify efforts in making their followers appreciate and promote the positive elements of all Religions, while discouraging the negative elements that results in disunity."

The 99th Inaugural Lecture titled: *"Food Nutrition and Toxicology: Is Your Life in Your Hands?"* was delivered by Professor Eugene Onyeike of the Department of Biochemistry, last December. Stressing the need to establish food regulatory bodies in every State to ensure that the right type of foods are consumed, Onyeike called on Federal and State Governments to evolve measures aimed at helping the populace to manage their lifestyle and prevent disorders occasioned by malnutrition.

The period under review was rightly ended with number 100 in the series. Delivered by Professor Francis Sikoki of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, the Lecture which had *"Fish in Nigerian Waters: No Place To Hide"* as its title, recommended ways of minimizing toxicity in fish species and protecting the marine environment from pollution to prevent the extinction of various species of fishes. #





Tackling A Rising Scourge

Incidents of mental illness have been on the increase of late. This is so in many developing countries, including Nigeria. Sadly, this ugly development has been worsened by inadequate health facilities to tackle the scourge. Owing to ignorance, most people in developing nations often attribute mental illness to spiritual attacks, ancestral curses and *wages of sins*, amongst others. But notable Psychiatrist, Professor Princewill Stanley, has said that mental illness does not result from any of these. What, then, is responsible for the rising cases of mental disorder in Nigeria?

Possible causes of mental disorder include stress, socio-economic crises, vagrancy—a state where the individual who is even working cannot afford quality and decent housing and abuse of substances, such as illicit drugs, he said, emphasizing the need for relations of mentally sick persons to send such patients to the appropriate health facilities for clinical attention and possible rehabilitation.

In view of the growing population of lunatics on the streets of urban centres in the country, it has become imperative to check the incident. An Expert in Mental Health at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Professor Princewill Stanley spoke with our Correspondent, HUMPHREY OGU on the rising epidemic.

"Most youths today roam the streets in search of jobs and at times, these jobs have no form or shape and cannot guarantee satisfactory and sustainable livelihood. Lack of jobs that suit the capability of the individual and even when they get the jobs, they are not commensurate with the acquired skills can lead to mental disorders," Professor Stanley explained, adding that individuals, who lack sufficient rest have the tendency of being mentally ill too.

"Exposure to illicit substances and drugs such as caffeine, nicotine, alcohol, cocaine, cannabis, amongst others can be very dangerous to the health of an individual. When a person takes over 300 milligram of caffeine on a daily bases, he or she has the tendency to be mentally ill, which can lead to restlessness, anxiety, depression, inability to concentrate and amnesia", he observed, stressing that prevention is better than cure.

"The world-wide accepted prevalence

is about 5 to 7% for depression, but in recent times, the reported prevalence rate in the Niger Delta is 10 to 13%. For anxiety, it is almost 7% and the major primary psychotic disorder is also on the increase, occasioned by the use of mind-bending substances, particularly cannabis. Overall, there is a visible increase in the prevalence of mental disorders", the mental health expert disclosed.

Professor Stanley, who noted that the ideal Psychiatrist-patient ratio is one to 150 patients, regretted that what currently obtains in the country is one Psychiatrist to over 500 patients, making a strong case for free a medical scheme for the mentally ill. He, however, expressed satisfaction with the manpower growth in the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health at UPTH aimed at tackling the scourge.

Professor Stanley called on stakeholders in the health sector, especially governments, to provide the necessary facilities to cater for the needs of the mentally ill, pointing out that everyone is vulnerable to the disorder. "We are all vulnerable to mental disorder. The predisposing factors include familial aggregation, childhood brain trauma, and an individual's ability to absorb stress. My advice is that people should learn to be contented, avoid harmful chemical substances and take on only the responsibility they can handle," he said. #

Additional reports from our Interns: HENRIETA OTONNAH, JULIET NNAMDI, OGHENETJEJIRI ODUBU & ADEOLA OJO



Stanley



UNIPORT Donates To Flood Victims

*In pursuit of the community service component of its core mandate, the University of Port Harcourt, through relevant Departments and Schedule Officers undertook special interventions to assist persons displaced by flood that hit some States last year. Our Correspondents, **OTIKOR SAMUEL** and **MERCY ADENIJI** followed the development and report:*

The community service component which complements teaching and research as core mandates of the University of Port Harcourt was brought to the fore late last year, when the Institution joined other public-spirited individuals and groups to donate to victims of flood in Rivers and Bayelsa States. In addition to the distribution of items such as foodstuffs, beddings, toiletries and clothing to the affected persons, the University through the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES), in partnership with the Stanley

Lawson Chair on Environmental Geology and the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies (CDRMDs), organized a post-impact assessment conference to evaluate the causes of the disaster in an effort aimed at tackling environmental challenges to avoid recurrence of the disaster.

Medical Students of the University under the platform of Port Harcourt University Medical and Dental Students Association (PUMDSA), also embarked on a medical outreach programme to some of the impacted communities as part of their own contribution to reduce the sufferings of the flood victims.

Earlier in his message to members of staff and students in respect of the disaster, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka had pointed out that: "The calamity of the flood disaster is taking a toll on our people. It is a state of emergency we all must rise up to. Let us offer our hands and hearts of love to the suffering victims. Let us share in the suffering of others. Like the Good Samaritan and the widow who offered her mite, let us be good Nigerians and indeed, good human beings and offer our UNIPORT mite".

Expressing delight with the University, Bayelsa State Commissioner of Information and Orientation, Mr Markson Fefegha, Mayor of Yenagoa Local Government Area, Hon Mike Ogbolosingha, Chairman, Abua/Odual, Hon Udi Odum, Chairman of Flood Committee in Ahoada East, Mr Justice Uhor, as well as the displaced persons in Ahoada West and Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Areas, all praised the authorities of University of Port Harcourt for being the first Nigerian University to take proactive measures towards ameliorating their plight.

The latest donation went to Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State. The relief was jointly coordinated by the office of the Dean, Student Affairs, Professor Henry Bell-Gam and Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit. #



Participants at a post-flood confab



Medics, Pioneer Dental Surgeons

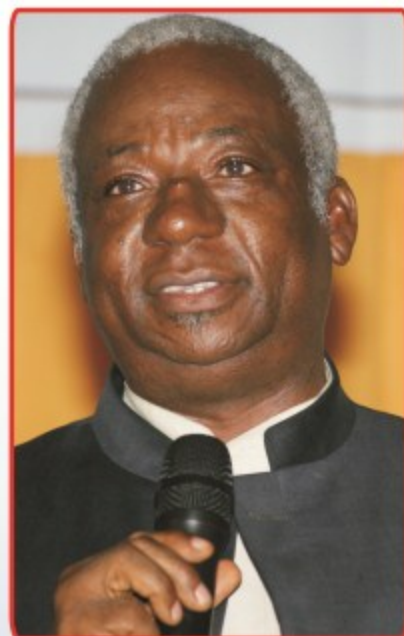
Five Pioneer Dental Surgeons from the Faculty of Dentistry and 91 newly-qualified Medical Doctors from the Department of Medicine, College of Health Sciences took the Physicians' Oath administered by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, last December, reports OBINNA NWODIM.

Addressing the Inductees, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Aijenka, who congratulated the new Doctors for believing in themselves and their capacity to pull through one of the most difficult phases of their lives, advised them to be good ambassadors of their *Alma Mater*. He also charged them to strive towards diligence and excellence in rendering service to humanity in their professional practice.

Professor Aijenka, who was represented by the Provost of the College, Professor Chris Akani, said: "You must ensure that the best operational industry practices are maintained at all times as you step into the Medical profession. I charge you to engage in continuous professional training to bring your practice up-to-date with global benchmarks, which define the new knowledge society that has no room for stagnation. It is very important that you take your knowledge of Medicine beyond general practice." The Vice-Chancellor, who disclosed that construction work on the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences building has commenced, expressed hope that "when completed, more Medical Doctors would be trained to fill the knowledge gap occasioned by the acute shortage of relevant personnel in the country's critical health sector,

as admission quota into the programme would correspondingly increase".

In his welcome address, Professor Akani, who described the event as historic, thanked authorities of the University for their commitment to



Akani, Provost, CHS

quality medical training in the University. He also thanked the Board of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Chief Medical Director and the Hospital community for their support and contributions to the training of the new Doctors. He advised the new Dental Surgeons "to be worthy ambassadors of the new Faculty of Dentistry by showing good conduct and character in professional practice".

In his speech, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, Professor Ambrose Obiechina, disclosed that the Inductees occupied a special position in the annals of the University as the first set of Dental Surgeons", noting that "it is very important for you to remember that you are ambassadors of the University and that the quality of your service and professional behaviour will reflect on the acceptability and reputation of Dental Surgeons from the University of Port Harcourt".

Speaking on behalf of the Inductees, the Valedictorian, Dr Ibaranyanakey Dickson, who described the journey through the Medical School as an interesting blend of emotions and hard work, expressed gratitude to Almighty God for His faithfulness to them, especially in their trying moments as students.#

Akonye's Research Insight

What are your research activities?

My research is multi-dimensional. I am into environmental, as well as nutritional research. As a Plant Physiologist, I am also into functional research with regards to plants. These are the broad areas. Now with environmental research, I focus mostly on oil pollution and stress-related factors such as water, temperature and nutrients stress on plants and relate my findings to their impact on human existence.

The functional research relate to the mechanisms and activities of the plants and their ability to function. The nutritional research relate to some aspects of toxicology in which case I study the accumulation or control of toxic substances in plants.

What are the results of your research?

I have worked with cassava, which is the fulcrum of subsistence existence of families, especially in Southern Nigeria and my findings show that environmental stress generally increases cyanide toxicity which is mainly due to lowered linamarase enzyme activity. These enzymes, which break down the lynamarin, release cyanide gas. When this enzyme is low, the lynamarin is high. In every environmental stress condition I have studied, I have noticed that the cyanide content is high. The leaves contain the highest quantity, while the roots and tubers have the lowest amounts of lynamarin. That is why we need to regulate the environment to be less stressful so that the tubers will not be highly toxic. There is, therefore, need for proper processing of cassava.

What other research findings have you made?

The results of my research in bio-remediation of polluted environment shows that we need to discover a lot of plants that are important in bio-remediation, especially the legumes. We also discovered that if crops have to be planted in polluted environments, there is need for soil enhancement by way of amendments. Such amendments that have been discovered to be innocuous, using fertilizer as benchmark, are saw dust, ruminant waste and some species of bacteria like *pseudomonas*.

In my functional research, I worked on the invasion of *Nypha Palm* in the creeks. The result shows that the plant is able to function and invade the environment due to some metabolites that it possesses and their secretions into the environment (allelopathy). That is why the *Nypha Palm* has been spreading and displacing the mangroves.

What is your evaluation of food

Professor Love Akonye is a Plant Physiologist engaged in environmental and nutritional research. She is currently Dean, Faculty of Agriculture. In this interview with OBINNA NWODIM, she disclosed her research focus to UNIQUE UNIORT.

production in Nigeria?

Food production in Nigeria is mostly agrarian and subsistence. Live-stock production is minimal. That is why availability of protein nutrition is low and the demand is higher.

How do you think that this should be improved?

The population involved in food production is an ageing population, comprising mostly women with crude implements. This has been the bane of agriculture in the country. The farm input is limited, making productivity low. The acreage for farm activities is also limited to the ability of the farmer to cultivate. Farming is also dependent on the weather. From this narration, we can predict the level of our agricultural development. Also, when farmers produce, their products are affected by marketability, which is a function of government policy. In times of high harvest, we need to process the excess so that they are not wasted.

What are the contributions of your Faculty to food sustainability?

We are involved in the primary vision of the University, which is capacity-building in agriculture. Each member of staff is involved in one serious research or the other. The Faculty is one of the Faculties in the University involved in a lot of research, conferences, grants and fellowship awards.

In addition, we also have a Faculty Research Unit which emanated from the University Inter-Faculty Competition. The Faculty Entrepreneurial Project entails making of cassava chips at the local setting. The prize to the student who initiated the concept was one hundred thousand Naira, while the Faculty was given a prize money of N1.5 million. We also took first position at the Maiden University Annual Research Fair. Other activities in the Faculty include the celebration of the World Food Day tagged *Agric Day*. We have also trained women and youths in the University's host communities. It is hoped that the training will empower them to be gainfully employed, as well as improve the relationship between the University and

its host communities.

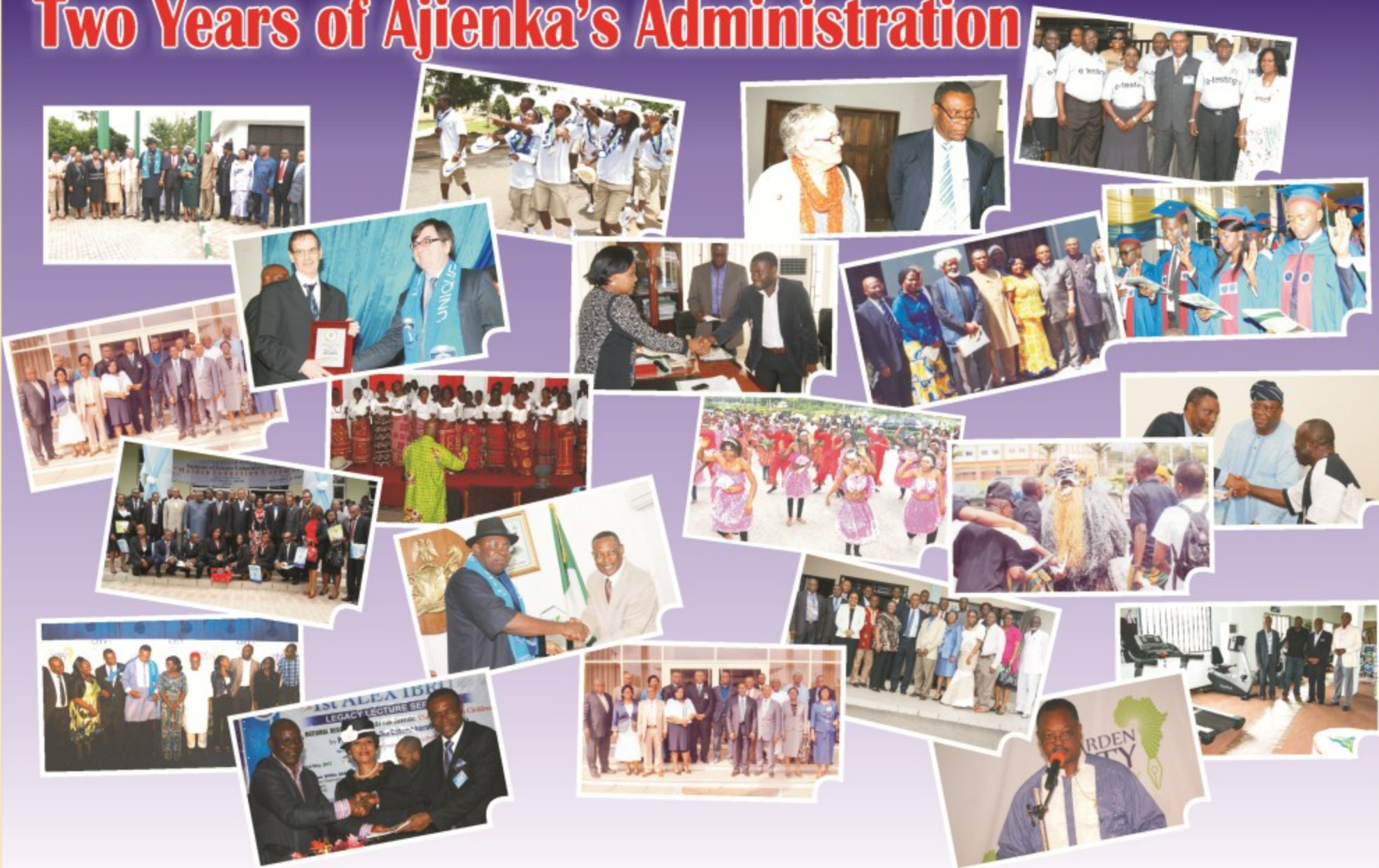
We also have plans to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency (RSSDA) in agricultural development. We are also collaborating with international partners such as Regional University Forum for capacity-building in agriculture. They are partnering us to train our staff in agriculture and agriculture-related departments in higher education at the Master's and Doctorate degree levels.

What is the future direction of the Faculty?

It is our desire to be the best Faculty in terms of productivity in the University and beyond. We want to make the practice of agriculture to be attractive. We want to motivate people to realize that agriculture is a noble profession. Our Faculty is poised to make agriculture an attractive profession. #



Akonye



Patience Jonathan

Gender Centre Kicks-Off March

*Few years after First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dame Patience Jonathan proposed a Centre for Women and Gender Development Studies in the University at the 27th Convocation Ceremony, the Centre is finally coming on stream, reports **ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON***



Dame (Dr) Jonathan

Always a pace-setter, the University has again set the trend with establishment of the Centre for Gender and Women Development Studies. The Centre which would complement the efforts of stakeholders to achieve equal representation of the womenfolk in all sectors of the Nigerian economy, according to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor



Okeke

Joseph Ajiienka, would also facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

With its formal inauguration next month, it is expected that the Centre would commence full-time postgraduate (Masters and Postgraduate Diploma) in the 2012/2013 academic session, employing a flexible study schedule favourable to workers and regular students. Graduates with good first degree in the Social Sciences, Humanities, Arts and Health Sciences are eligible to apply for admission.

Given its multi-disciplinary approach, teaching staff of the Centre would be drawn from collaborating Faculties, Departments, College of Health Sciences and the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH). Located in a temporary office complex annex to the Faculty of Management Sciences, University Park.

Other activities of the Centre according to the Director, Professor Elizabeth Okeke, include undertaking research, guidance counseling and addressing women and child health issues. She also identified collaboration with institutions, government at all levels and non-governmental organizations as part of efforts targeted at developing the women folk.

As part of its mandate, the Centre would proffer solutions to developmental challenges facing women such as illiteracy, poverty, violence, human trafficking, gender inequality, amongst other problems that plague the human population in developing economies such as Nigeria.#

Varsity-Industry Partnership



Department of Geology recently proved its mettle by tackling challenges facing Chevron Nigerian Limited and typical of University-Industry partnership, the multinational oil giant, invited the Department to solve another technical problem, HUMPHREYOGU reports.

Apparently impressed by the performance of scholars from the Department of Geology in the first phase of the study they undertook on behalf of Chevron Nigeria Limited, the multinational oil giant has again selected the Department for the second phase of the project, thus confirming the availability of quality manpower in the University of Port Harcourt to tackle industry problems.

A Letter signed by Manager, ESRS of the company, M. Duke and made available to UNIQUE UNIPOINT partly read: "We are pleased to

inform you that your Department has been selected for the 2012 Joint Industry/University Special Study Spatial/Temporal Porosity Variation in OMLs 86 & 88, using data from Funiwa Deep 1A, Akuku-1, Pennington-29, & Oriri-1wells.

"Your selection is based on the successful and satisfactory delivery of Phase 1 of this study for our Western Asset Area (OML90) and your demonstrated technical capability and your proposal of October 17, 2012," the letter pointed out.

Explaining the importance of the study to our Correspondent Professors Michael Oti and Levi Amajor, who led the project team, said that the hydrocarbons reside in the pores of the rocks, pointing out that a good rock must have porosity. The company, however, found out that some of the rocks did not have such properties; a situation they noted necessitated the invitation of the Department to participate in the first phase, attributing the extension of the study to the success recorded in the previous exercise.

The Dons said the success recorded in the study has shown that Nigerian scholars have the expertise to solve most technical problems bedeviling the industry, disclosing that the study package

is valued at \$200,000 US dollars. Director, Institute of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainable Development (INRES), Professor Enuvie Akpokodje was also part of the project team.

Also speaking, Acting Head of Department, Dr Akaha Tse, recalled that "Chevron sent letters to all Geology Departments in Nigerian universities and based on our proposal, we were selected out of 13 institutions that responded to the invitation," adding that the study which aimed at tackling production challenges of the company in one of its fields was valued at \$96,000.

Meanwhile, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, has congratulated the Department on its success in the first phase of the study, which earned the trust of the oil giant, to extend the study. Professor Ajenka, whose congratulatory message was conveyed in a letter signed by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, described the breakthrough as a clear example of industry-academia synergy, which he said was in line with the entrepreneurial vision of his administration to build a world-class university that can capitalize.



Akpokodje

"Who Is Afraid Of Job Interview?" Hits Big Screen



Okoh

Veteran Film Director and UNIPOINT Alumnus, Lancelot Imasuen, was in the University a couple of weeks ago to shoot a made-in-the CRAB movie—"Who is Afraid of Job interview?" written by Julie Okoh. Our Correspondent, HUMPHREY OGU, cornered the distinguished CRABITE, who spoke on issues concerning the movie industry, theatre and the acting profession. The excerpts:

Challenges of shooting the movie

One of the challenges of shooting the play is adapting the cast from stage to screen. The Theatre Arts Department is mainly based on stage acting; screen acting is a different ball game altogether. It is all about talent and understanding the techniques of screen acting, adapting the script to fit the screen and most times, screen acting is so snappy. Stage and screen acting are the same, but very different media of expression, so the techniques are different. Adapting people who were used to acting plays on stage to the screen and tailoring the script to the screen is a challenge. Another challenge is the issue of time. If we had time on our hands, we could do better, but time is not on our side and the movie must be ready in time for the 29th Convocation Ceremony of the University.

Challenge of sourcing the cast

Getting the actors and actresses was not much of a challenge because those who previously played it on stage had the opportunity to play their roles. Some of them had graduated and were called back to participate in the movie. There are three external persons, who featured in the movie, that were not part of those who acted the original play on stage. We have Mr Ovundah Ihunwo, a Lecturer and also a graduate from the Department. Mr Perez Egbi, a Nigerian-born US-based actor, played the role of an executive of the company in charge of interviews. We brought him in to act alongside Ovundah, whose role was to be played by a student, but since it is going outside the box, we had to settle for someone with a good physical body build, because we do not know where this work will be watched. Another character, Mina Johnson, was brought from the Nollywood industry, who acted as Secretary.

Shooting a movie in your Alma Mater

I am a CRABITE and we had our reunion sometime last year. I feel greatly honoured and proud that I was

opportune to train here. Having gone out and succeeded in the Nollywood Film Industry, I'm being called upon as a worthy Ambassador of the University to come and handle the first film that the University is commissioning. Beyond any financial gain, I feel extremely honoured because it is not just a Departmental thing, but a University-wide project endorsed by the Senate. It does not get bigger than that.

Contributions to the emergent Film Studies Programme

I have been briefed by the Director of the Institute of Arts and Culture, Professor Julie Okoh and we had a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor. We are very available and looking forward to contributing our quota intellectually to the development of such Institute as a fallout from the exploits of the CRABITES in the Nigerian movie industry. I have already decided to come in from time to time depending on the demand and share my practical expertise; what I call practicalising the theoretical. Being able to practicalise the theories is the hallmark for those who want to learn and impart knowledge.

Theatre Practice then and now in UNIPOINT

Quite frankly, we have become some sort of light because by the time we studied Theatre Arts, nobody was there for us to look up to, but today, our generation has been able to bring forth a

different image in the entertainment industry. Twice, the University has honoured us and it is so gratifying. We are now role models for students and budding practitioners.

Advice to your fellow practitioners

My advice is that we are no longer joking. Before now, we used to be the Department of play-play. There are now characters that have been reshaped to the sphere of the Nigerian society. This kind of play, for instance, will go a long way to reshape the mind of an average graduate towards getting the best. I advise students of Theatre Arts to take their studies seriously because whatever they want to be starts with the steps they take today.

A word for the University management

When I was opportune to meet with the Vice-Chancellor, I saw a very vibrant Nigerian, who is thinking outside the box. You know, most times, Vice-Chancellors could be too academic, but here is a man, who is willing to explore and open up the box to create opportunities and an environment for arts to thrive. One only hopes that the patronage enjoyed by the arts outlives the current administration. When you talk about survival, you talk about the means to carry on and the cash to do that so the University would continue. When this present Vice-Chancellor's tenure elapses, there should be continuity in this direction. #



Imasuen



AVU Launches Multinational Project in UNIPORT

*In a bid to increase access to quality education, the African Virtual University (AVU) has launched the AVU Multinational Project 2 in the University of Port Harcourt. The event took place at the Information Communication Technology Centre (ICTC), University Park, recently, reports **OBINNA NWODIM**.*

Speaking during an interactive session with curriculum developers, Heads of Unit, Directors and Information Technology staff, Rector of AVU, Dr Bakary Diallo, said that "over the past decade, Africa has experienced unparalleled growth, putting the continent on a pedestal to become the next growth frontier", regretting however that "while there is so much optimism surrounding Africa's growth, the continent appears to be lagging behind in training the necessary human resources to match its rosy growth prospects". He said that although the number of students enrolling into tertiary institutions has increased, the proportions remain dismally low, with only 6% of school leavers in sub-Saharan Africa gaining admission into tertiary institutions.

Dr Diallo, who said that AVU is a Pan-African Inter-governmental Organization established to significantly increase access to quality higher education and training through the innovative use of Information Communication Technology (ICT), added that fifteen African governments have so far signed the Charter to become AVU members. He disclosed that the AVU has established the widest e-learning network of 53 tertiary institutions in more than 30 countries, which transcends language barriers in Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone Africa. In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka expressed willingness of the authorities to avail the Institution of the opportunity to reach out to the increasing number of candidates, who seek quality education through the Open Distance

Learning (ODL) programme. Professor Ajenka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, said that the importance attached to the programme informed the decision of the University to become a Platinum member of the organisation.

In his remarks, Director, College of Continuing Education (CCE), Professor Steve Okodudu, expressed satisfaction that the programme was coming at a time when the National Universities Commission (NUC), had started moving against Part-Time programmes in the country, expressing optimism that the concept would be a good replacement for the Part-Time programme. #

A Great Pioneer Gets Photography School

*Applause trailed the announcement by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka of the proposed School of Photography to train manpower in the use of hi-technology photography and cinematography, reports **ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON***

When the Institute of Niger Delta Studies and Onyoma Research Centre collaborated with the Departments of History & Diplomatic Studies and Fine Arts & Design, in a Public Lecture to honour pioneer Nigerian Photographer, Mr Jonathan Green, little did they realize that they were paving way for the establishment

ent of a School of Photography, which is being described as a laudable project by the Professor Joseph Ajenka-led administration.

Applauding efforts by the Institute to celebrate the works of the late Photographer, who hailed from Bonny Local Government Area of Rivers State, the Vice-Chancellor hoped that the move would contribute to the advancement of the University in visual arts.

Giving a detailed account of the works of the celebrated Photographer, Professor of Art History at the Skidmore College, New York, Lisa Aronson, said that late Green's photographs were discovered in Archives in America and Britain. She also disclosed a collaborative research initiative with Emeritus Professor Ebiegberi Alagoa of the Department of

History and Diplomatic Studies to document the works of Mr Green.

Former Pro-Chancellor of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Professor Godwin Tasie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, Director of the Institute, Professor Abi Derefaka, Acting Head, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Dr Marshall Eneajor, were among dignitaries that spoke at the event. #



Adagogo Green



Aronson



Made-In-CRAB

Nollywood Stars Return Home

CRABITES, UNIPORT-trained movie stars, film producers and directors, comedians and other key players in the entertainment industry staged a rousing homecoming to rekindle interest in Theatre Arts, reports HUMPHREY OGU

Are members of Actors' Guild of Nigeria having a convention in UNIPORT? Is the University hosting a conference of comedians? Is there a stakeholders' meeting of film directors and producers in Port Harcourt today? Is the African Movie Academy Awards (AMAA) taking place in the Garde

nCity? These and many more were questions on the lips of many, who had the privilege of sighting the crème-de-la-crème of artistes that traced their roots to the CRAB—Department of Theatre Arts, last August. But the convergence of these entertainment stars, who graduated from the Department of Theatre Arts, had nothing to do with the above conjectures. Rather, it was the homecoming of UNIPORT-trained movie stars, film producers,

directors, poets, artistes, comedians and other key players in the entertainment industry to act as role models to the younger ones still honing their skill in the University.

The three-day event, which featured bonfire and variety night, carnival, drama performances, paraded such distinguished stars as Ejike Asiegbo, Bobmanuel Udokwu, Victor Osuagwu, Francis Duru, Patrick Ito, Hilda Dokubo, Monalisa Chinda, Rita Dominic, and noted film director, Charles Inojie, as well as ace comedians: Michael Ogbolosinga, who is Mayor of Yenagoa City Council, Iyowuna Obamanu, Julius Agwu, Michael Ogolo, popular musician, Muma Gee, the first made-in-the CRAB Professor, Alex Asigbo of Nnamdi Azikiwe Univeristy, Awka and poet, Sophia Obi-Apoko, amongst others.

"We will be requesting that you allocate a space for us to give life to the dream we have of a new theatre. We intend to institute an Annual Lecture in honour of our late father in the Arts, Professor Ola Rotimi;





we have also held several discussions on the practicality of holding this event every year," the President, Association of Graduates of Theatre Arts, Bimbo Manuel, who decried the poor state of the CRAB, disclosed, lauding the Vice-Chancellor for his commitment to the Arts.

Pledging the Association's determination to restore the University to its former glory as a leading ground for the training of theatre practitioners for the entertainment industry, the President solicited the support of major stakeholders to actualize the lofty dream.

His words: "We hope to go back to our pioneering and commanding position in the entertainment industry. We have pledged to be available to the University to do whatever it is within our powers to

achieve that feat.

We will stand firm in the protection of that vision and mission. We are committed to making things better and are willing to work in synergy with the University and the Department to rekindle quality theatre training in our Alma Mater."

Responding, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who noted that a University is as good as its Alumni, extolled the contributions of the made-in-the-CRAB film stars: "Shortly after the 28th Convocation Ceremony last April, we received a letter from the National Film Institute, requesting us to establish a Department of Film Studies, and also indicating interest to collaborate with us. Again, the Chairman of Trend TV visited the University and declared UNIPORT a leader in the

entertainment industry. His firm has just signed an MoU to collaborate with us on communications and media arts." Attributing the collaborative interest of stakeholders in the industry to the quality of skills and professionalism exhibited by ex-students of Theatre Arts in Nollywood and elsewhere, the Vice-Chancellor said: "All this is happening because of you. Because of you, we have received a lot of accolades. That is why this University is now a Centre of Excellence in the Arts. It is because of you that people are looking in our direction; because of you, we have established an Arts Village, in Delta Park, where people would practise the Arts. We are training people, but they don't have where to go and practise. We need an avenue for the young people to practise."#





Ag Director UAC, Dr Odu



New Vision, New Mandate

*The University Advancement Centre (UAC), established in 2004, under the auspices of the MacArthur Foundation of Chicago, is working hard to ensure that its activities are in line with the advertised Entrepreneurial Vision of the present administration, reports **MERCY ADENIJI***

University is alumni-driven outside, the Centre is leaving no stone unturned as it continues to partner organizations, groups and individuals to give back to their Alma Mater. "As worthy and appreciative Alumni, we should learn to cultivate the noble habit of giving back something to the University that gave us intellectual and social identity. It behooves on Alumni to give back to the University in their own little way to show appreciation to the Institution that has made a difference in our lives and equipped us to face the challenges of life", she said, noting that when this is done, donors would be adding value to the University, themselves and the degrees they acquired.

Dr Odu, who was a one-time Commissioner of Education, said the vision of the Centre is to be an agent of change which would serve as a catalyst in promoting partnerships and internationalization of the University. She stated further that the Centre is building a pool of supporters for the University by creating an environment that would foster the spirit of philanthropy and strengthen lifelong relationship of the Alumni and other stakeholders with the University and also ensure immediate and future financial viability of the University.

According to the Director, this quarter, the Centre plans to hold launch-time meetings with academic and non-teaching staff of the University to sensitize them on how to relate with students. The Centre also plans an Alumni Shop, where the University would be branded through souvenirs. "Plans are underway to launch the second phase of the Capital Campaign, reactivate some Lecture series, at which Alumni from various fields would be invited to speak and mentor students", Dr Odu said.#

The University Advancement Centre (UAC) is already engaged in a dress rehearsal preparatory to its transformation into the University of Port Harcourt that would empower it to better discharge its statutory mandate to stakeholders. Director of the Centre, Dr Ngozi Odu, made the disclosure in a chat with our Correspondent, stating that part of the central objective of the emergent Foundation is to interface with Alumni of the Institution and other stakeholders for the accelerated development of the University. She pointed out that the University has come of age and has produced people holding key positions in the industry, academia and in the Diaspora. The Director said that the Centre wants to intensify the cultivation and sensitization of stakeholders on how to add value to the University through the habit of annual giving. She disclosed that since development of the



Participants from the host communities. Inset: Dean, Faculty of Agric., Prof Akonye

UNIORT Trains Host Communities On Agrobiz

As a way of further strengthening the bond of Town and Gown between the University of Port Harcourt and its Host Communities, as well as rekindling interest in agriculture, the University trained over 200 women and youths drawn from the various communities, reports OTIKOR SAMUEL

Declaring open a four-day programme aimed at training participants on new farming techniques to boost food production, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, recalled that the University had established a long history of mutual relationship with its host communities by engaging them in human capital development programmes in reciprocation of their gesture in providing land for the siting of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor, who stressed the need for a robust Town and Gown partnership to stimulate long-term

relationship and foster sustainable development said, "We are taking this relationship to the next level through a calculated and pragmatic approach aimed at making the women and youths in these communities to become their own bosses and employers of labour by creating an enabling environment through regular training programmes on practical agriculture.

"This training is the beginning of a series of such collaborations which we believe will impact greatly on the lives of people in our host communities", Professor Ajienka said, assuring them that there would be follow-up exercises to evaluate the application of knowledge gained from the training. #

UNIORT Celebrates Agric Day

Food experts, agricultural scientists, researchers, local farmers, staff and students gathered in the University recently to deliberate the way forward for the Nigerian economy with agriculture as a focal point. Report by ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON

The gathering which was intended to bridge the gap between the academia and local farmers was aptly described by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, as a meeting ground for the theoretical and experimental knowledge generated by the academia to find expression in food

production and income for farmers. Making a passionate appeal to food scientists to find local solutions to the scourge of food shortage, the Vice-Chancellor described it as a collective effort, advising subsistence farmers to form cooperative societies to increase their chances of accessing land,

education, financial assistance from Government and donor agencies to increase food production, security and their purchasing growth.

While various speakers at the event which was hosted by the Faculty of Agriculture,

threw their weight behind the role of cooperatives as a key to feeding the populace, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Professor Nimbe Adedipe, remarked that the Faculty of Agriculture had the wherewithal to reach remote communities through cooperatives and extension services.

With a demonstration farm to boost the entrepreneurial skills of trainees, the Faculty of Agriculture in the words of the Dean, Professor Love Akonye, has a mandate to introduce improved genetic stock, scientific ornamental fisheries and aquaculture, livestock management, cropping and farming systems in the Niger Delta. Aspiring to be ranked amongst the best Centres of Excellence in agricultural research and entrepreneurship in the country, the Faculty of Agriculture is poised to revolutionize the entire agricultural sector. #



Some of the participants

She received a First Class (Honours) in English from the University of London and started teaching as an assistant lecturer, before earning a PhD from one of the oldest universities in Europe—Leiden University in Holland. After spending several decades, doing research, publishing, giving public lectures, travelling across continents on visiting scholarships, her ship finally berthed at the University of Port Harcourt, where she now lectures in the Department of English Studies. In this interview with HUMPHREY OGU, Professor Omolara Ogundipe bares her mind on sundry issues.

Behold The Literary Matriarch!

If an international scholar is a person who had taught in several universities across the globe, then that is what Professor Ogundipe is. Apart from having held teaching positions at various institutions within and outside Nigeria, the Professor of English and Comparative Literature had been a Visiting Professor to top-notch institutions in Europe, America and Asia, such as Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, Exeter College, Oxford, Harvard and Cambridge Universities, University of Leeds, where she was a Distinguished Leverhulme Professor in 2006, including universities in Ghana.

What does she think of the University of Port Harcourt, where she currently serves as Chairperson of the Graduate Studies Committee? Professor Ogundipe's verdict is that academics in UNIPORT are very active, doing research, citing the succession of the Inaugural Lectures, which she described as very exciting. Coming from a well-travelled and distinguished international scholar of her repute, one can only consider it an affirmation of the uniqueness of UNIPORT in research and development.

Having spent several years as a Visiting Scholar to many universities overseas, one would expect Professor Ogundipe to favour wholesale adoption of American or European educational legacy. But that is not the case as she advocated home-grown contributions to world scholarship.

"We need to do more of what started

in the 1960s, which is the decolonisation of scholarship. Decolonisation of knowledge means that we have to tailor scholarship to suit our peculiar circumstances. Scholarship has to be applied to a people's milieu. We should be thinking of contributing to knowledge from our own perspective, not necessarily extending what Europeans have done. We should not look at the world through their lenses. We should believe we know more about ourselves—our country and continent," Ogundipe advised.

The literary giant called for the inclusion of African History, Political Thought, Music, Literature, amongst others in the Nigerian educational system and made compulsory for every student no matter his or her specialty, to produce well-rounded graduates as was the case in the past

when liberal education was in vogue. Ogundipe, whose other research interests include: Cultural and Gender Studies, has long distinguished herself among the literati, having propounded a feminist literary theory known as STIWANSIM—Social Transformation in Africa Including Women. It states that what African women want is not to become men, nor to act like men. It is to develop the country, using both men and women.

"We should use the energies of men and women to develop society. Women are just as able to do things as their male counterparts as partners in society. Both men and women are citizens; we are not just wives of citizens. Women are just as able and committed to the development of society as their male counterparts," she added, describing the emergent Gender Studies programme in the University as a step in the right direction.

But Gender issue or Feminist Criticism is not the only subject that interests Professor Ogundipe. She has also distinguished herself as a writer and poet; writing poetry since her undergraduate days. Only recently, she was appointed among the Panel of Judges for the 2013 edition of the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) Prize for Literature, which is one of the most distinguished literary prizes in Africa. What does she think of Creative Writing as a course of study in the University? "The English are just catching up with Americans. Americans are very practical and pragmatic. They feel that everything could be learnt; they created pedagogy for Creative Writing space. We, in Nigeria are only just beginning to think of having it. I think that we should have had creative writing a long time ago. It will be a good thing if we start it now." She lauded the appointment of Writers-in-Residence, stating that academics need to respect writers, because writing is very intellectual and writers do imaginative analysis of human experience. #



Prof Ogundipe

ces

If everything works out according to ongoing arrangements, the University of Port Harcourt and Nigerian Air Force would soon embark on the design and manufacture of local aircrafts to strengthen the Force on its operational mandate of defending the country's airspace, reports OTIKOR SAMUEL



Air Commodore Frank Ikpe receiving a souvenir from V-C, Prof Ajiienka

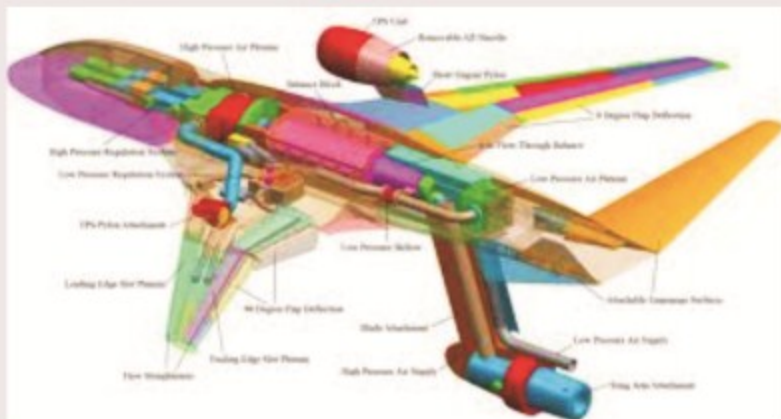
The Nigerian Air Force through its Director of Manual Standard and Evaluation Branch, Abuja, Air Commodore Frank Ikpe, has indicated interest to partner the University in the area of research and manpower development to tackle internal security challenges and ultimately leads to the manufacture of the Amebo version of aircraft. Making the disclosure during a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, Air Commodore Ikpe, who led other officers to the University, stated that the proposed partnership would cover areas such

as aerodynamics, aircraft design, avionics, robotics, guidance and control, simulation and diagnostics.

cyber security, artificial intelligence and communications and information technology, amongst other areas of interest.

"Fabrication of non-critical parts, technology acquisition through reverse engineering, development of training aids including simulators and manpower development are the short term goals of the proposed collaboration", Ikpe said, adding that the long-term goals would include manufacturing of aircraft, ground support equipment, system design and implementation and fabrication of critical parts.

The proposed partnership, according to leader of the delegation, was in consonance with the vision of the Chief of Staff, Air Marshal Alex Badeh to position the Nigerian Air Force for sustained employment of airpower to meet joint national defence imperatives, as well as provide swift response capabilities for emergencies and internal security challenges. #



No

Shortcut To Success

~Ogbogo, BGS



BGS, Ogbogo

Out of the 5,208 First Degree graduands at the 29th Convocation, Stella Ogbogo of the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, emerged as Best Graduating Student (BGS). How did she attain that feat? How does she feel about it? Our Correspondent, HUMPHREY OGU, sought answers to these questions and more...

She knew she would make a First Class right from her First Year, but icing her intellectual cake as the Best Graduating Student (BGS), was a far cry from Miss Stella Ogbogo's dream when she took the Matriculation Oath in 2008. Her journey into the First Class Hall of Fame began during the Certificate programme a year earlier, when she emerged the best in her Department; a development, she said sustained her quest for excellence in the corridors of the academia.

"I can only say that it is God, my own hard work and a dose of luck that made it so. Some students, who did well in their examinations, had missing scores. I could have had the best result and still not

emerge as BGS," she said.

"My family and the kind of friends I keep are also factors," she noted, disclosing that she had wanted to study Medicine and Surgery, but ended up in Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, because of her interest in human health and development.

"I source study materials—notes and textbooks—from my senior colleagues, and read quite ahead of the semester. By the time I began lectures in the next class, I was usually at home with the subject matter," Ogbogo disclosed, adding that there is no shortcut to success.

Describing the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe and Dr Chujor

O. Chujor as her mentors, Ogbogo revealed that they simplified Measurement and Evaluation, as well as Guidance and Counselling for her. "They not only made the subjects interesting, they made me fall in love with both courses," she added.

The Best Graduating Student, whose social life revolves around dramatic performances in her Church, advised younger colleagues, who aim at attaining excellence to adopt what she referred to as her guiding principle: "read as if there is no God and pray as if you did not read."#



First Class Honours Graduands



Dr Oghenemavwe

Breaking New

Grounds In Facial Analysis Software

A Lecturer in the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, develops a facial analysis software capable of depicting and quantifying craniofacial dimensions and facial soft tissue profile. Report by ETHEL TIMI-JOHNSON

Prior to this discovery by Dr Loveday Oghenemavwe, facial analysis needed for the formulation of treatment plan in rhinoplastic, dental and aesthetic surgical procedures was difficult, tedious and expensive. The first of its kind in Nigeria and Africa, the discovery aims at quantifying average parameters that define the soft tissue profile of the face in Nigerians aged 18 to 30 years. Motivated by the desire to break new grounds in aesthetic anatomy in the country, Dr Oghenemavwe in his research titled: "Photogrammetric

analysis of facial soft tissue profile of adult Nigerians", said that the software would aid facial reconstructive surgery, orthodontic treatment, maxillofacial surgery and forensic science that could be adopted in clinical and research. With about 4008 volunteers drawn from Yoruba, Igbo, Ijaw, Hausa and Fulani tribes of Nigeria, the researcher noted that the software was developed, using a photo-technique that uploads the picture of an individual, analyzes same to measure the parameters that could be used to determine the facial soft tissue profile of that individual.

After extensive evaluation by a team of National Universities Commission (NUC) Evaluators, the research won third place Development Category Award of Medicine and Life Sciences at the NUC Research and Development Fair

held at the University of Minna, between 8th to 12th, October, 2012.

Also at the Federal Ministry of Education National Education Innovations Exhibition held on the 19th to 21st November, 2012, the research was well commended. Published in the *Research Journal of Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology*, Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi and Daewin Infotech Resources contributed to the success of the ground-breaking work. #



Trend Media Film Academy Lands In UNIPORT



President of TMC, Engr Uzoma Udemba receiving copies of UNIPORT Weekly from V-C, Prof Ajenka



Reps of TMC, Principal Officers and other staff at a Roundtable

It is authoritative. Trend Media City is collaborating with Whistling Woods International Institute to establish a world-class film academy in the University of Port Harcourt to train budding stars that would enrich the Nollywood home video set up. The mega project is being driven by the Department of Theatre Arts. Already, a temporary site has been allocated to the company for the commencement of the project that promises to be the first of its kind in Nigeria.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, said that the proposal and opportunities presented by TMC were in tune with the vision of the University on its entrepreneurial mission, restating the willingness of the authorities to play their own part to achieve the essence of the collaboration. He said that the policy of the University was to ensure that all partnerships brought mutual benefits to interested parties. Professor Ajenka, who said that the University was engaged in various partnerships with industry and other professional bodies, stated that the Institution was the first in Nigeria to outline a clearly-stated mission to be an Entrepreneurial University. He said that to achieve the vision, research must be very active in order to add value to the society.

In his remarks, President and Chief Executive Officer of the company, Engineer Uzoma Udemba, commended the open arms with which authorities of the University embraced the proposal, expressing delight that universities were beginning to realize that doing business is part of the

University of Port Harcourt and Trend Media City (TMC), owners of Trend Cable TV, sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at actualizing a world-class film academy to train budding stars in the industry. OBINNA NWODIM reports.

system. "Universities make money for not only themselves, but for the society through such functional partnerships", he said.

In a presentation, Strategic Business Development Adviser of TMC, Philippe Vermade, said that the vision of the organization was to develop intelligent cities in Nigeria that would become creative hubs that would serve as leading centres for innovation and serve and home to the world's best talents and entrepreneurs.

Earlier in her address, Acting Director

of the University Advancement Centre (UAC) and Chairman of the Implementation Committee, Dr Ngozi Odu, assured TMC that the University was in a position to drive the project from conception to implementation stages.

Other members of the Committee are: Professor Henry Njoku, Professor Julie Okoh, Professor Emmanuel Emasealu, Dr Julie Umukoro, Dr Innocent Ohiri, Dr Tony Gyapong, Mr Adela Onyedibia, while Mrs Otami Akubom is Secretary.



Reps of TMC, Principal Officers and other staff of UNIPORT

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