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Mbanya, Kurubo List Diabetes Control Measures At MWAN Lecture



Issues bordering on effective control measures aimed at reducing cardiovascular complications for people living with diabetes and the need to create more awareness on how to manage the debilitating disease formed the main thrust of the maiden public lecture under the auspices of the Rivers State Branch of the Medical Women Association of Nigeria (MWAN), reports *Humphrey Ogu*.

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Side Bar 430TH SENATE MEETING

The 430th Extraordinary Meeting of Senate holds at the Senate Chambers, University Park, on Tuesday, February 28, 2017. Time is 10:00 a.m.
Details next week
~Editor

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NISLT Inducts 610 UniPort-Trained Laboratory Technologists

By Obinna Nwodin

The ranks of laboratory scientists grew last Tuesday, following the induction of a total of 610 Laboratory Technologists trained by the University of Port Harcourt into Associate Membership of the Nigeria Institute of Science Laboratory Technologists (NISLT).

Performing the induction ceremony, Acting Registrar/Director General and Chief Executive Officer of NISLT, Mr. Yemi Gbodegesin, charged the new Laboratory Technologists to carry out their activities in line with the standards and ethics of the profession. He commended the authorities of the University for providing an enabling environment for the training of the students. "I want to inform you that the

SLT programme demands honesty, hard work, resilience, patience, humanitarian feelings and compassion of you. As you proceed into the world to practise this noble profession, I want to implore you to maintain a high level of ethical standards," he admonished the graduands, adding: "You are also to assert yourselves and project the image of the

profession as you undertake your practice in the service of this great nation."

The Acting Director-General described being a Science Laboratory Technologist as a calling, noting that it was more than a vocation that enabled the practitioner serve the nation positively. He called on government to strengthen University/Industry partnership by providing the enabling environment for the parties to operate in a tripartite funding mechanism for research and

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NIMN Honours Lale With Fellowship Award

By Williams Wodi



V-C, Prof Lale (3rd left) flanked by Drs. Doris Godwin, Chidi Nwankpa (left), Dr. John Amue, immediate past Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, Profs Sylvia Kalu and Barisua Nwince

bestowed on Professor Lale for his immense contributions to the academia and university administration. The Institute was established by an Act of the National Assembly No. 25 of 2003 with a chartered status that confers on it the responsibility to regulate and standardise professional marketing practice through examinations, training, retraining and consultancy activities aimed at ensuring that members adopt professional approach in marketing and other related areas of the disciplines. As an Honorary Fellow, Professor Lale is expected to advocate and promote the interest of the Institute and be its brand ambassador. A visibly enthused Professor Lale expressed gratitude to the Institute for the honour done him, promising to live up to expectation. "I am very pleased to be inducted into the Honorary Fellowship of the National Institute of Marketing Nigeria and I promise to work with the leadership of the body to move it to greater heights," the Vice-Chancellor told a

Correspondent of *UniPort Weekly* in an interview.

Professor Lale was amongst nine distinguished Nigerians honoured by the Institute at its Annual Conference and Dinner Award Night. Others who accompanied the Vice-Chancellor to the investiture were the Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences, Professor Barisua Nwince, former Dean of the Faculty, Professor Sylvia Kalu, Acting Head of the Department of Marketing, Dr. John Amue and immediate past Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim. Others were Secretary of the Rivers State Branch of NIMN, Dr. Doris Godwin and another member, Dr. Chidi Nwankpa. Professor Lale was cited as a Fellow of the Entomological Society of Nigerian and also holds membership of numerous professional bodies. Lale is the Alexander von Humboldt Fellow among other such affiliations. With over 100 journal articles and book chapters cited by over 264,000 scholars across the globe as proof of the impact of his research.

It was amidst clinking of glasses, great pomp and ceremony that the National Institute of Marketing Nigeria (NIMN), conferred the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale with its prestigious Honorary Fellowship in Lagos last week.

Professor Lale, who already has several accolades to his name, was cited for distinguishing himself in academics, administration and service to humanity. In an abridged citation on him before being conferred with the award, the leadership of NIMN congratulated Professor Lale on his appointment as 8th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt.

He was cited as a Member of the Tertiary Education Tax Fund Screening and Monitoring Committee under the national Research Fund Intervention for Science, Technology and Innovation Sub-Committee from 2014 till date, as well as a former Member of the Governing Council of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt.

A Professor of Entomology, the Vice-Chancellor was also cited for his distinguished services at the Department of Crop Science in the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Maiduguri and in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology of the University of Port Harcourt. He was also a Consultant to the

Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency on Songhai Rivers Initiative between 2008 and 2014 and had also administered a number of World Bank-funded projects.

Professor Lale was cited as a Fellow of the Entomological Society of Nigerian and also holds

membership of numerous professional bodies, such as the Alexander von Humboldt Fellow among other such affiliations. He has over 100 journal articles and book chapters cited by over 264,000 scholars across the globe as proof of the impact of his research in the sciences.

According to the leadership of the NIMN, the award was



Prof Lale, V-C



Vehicles at the University Park

Towards Proper Use Of University Motor Parks

By Humphrey Ogu

There is a huge world of difference between a university campus and a typical Motor Park. The former is a tertiary institution that is dedicated to a culture of academic excellence, while the latter is populated by business operators who are driven by the profit motive. A typical Motor Park is a chaotic environment, where commuters, bus and taxi drivers, as well as touts freely relate to one another. People who find themselves on a university campus are expected to be more well-mannered than their counterparts in other places, because the campus environment should moderate behaviour.

Similarly, residents and others who do business on campus are expected to be orderly in the way they comport themselves and relate to others. Campus residents are exposed to formal education at various levels, and therefore, have the capacity to acculturate and directly influence the operational structure of Motor Parks. Quite unfortunately, this does not appear to be the case in the University of Port Harcourt at the moment.

There seems to be a massive erosion of decorum and respect for traffic rules and parking habit as some drivers have apparently converted the entire campus environment into a typical Motor Park along Rumuokoro, Mile 3 or Lagos Bus Stop in the central business district. This high level of disregard for other road users by commercial bus and taxi drivers ranges from outright over-speeding to parking indiscriminately, thereby constituting nuisance to and putting other road-users at risk.

Unfortunately, there is a growing trend in which a typical Motor Park culture is being imported into the campus of the

University of Port Harcourt. Indiscriminate parking, struggling for passengers and fighting over whose turn it is to load and other such inanities have become the 'new normal' way of commuting on campus in the full glare of everybody. This seeming conspiracy of silence ranges from security and other relevant regulatory units that have statutory responsibility to checkmate such increasingly distasteful trend that blights our collective conscience as a civilised community of scholars, administrators and students. This invasion of the campus by unruly drivers and touts is not only very appalling; it also does not befit a 21st century university campus.

As I write, the main entrance into the University Park from the East/West Road, popularly known as *Dan Etete Avenue* is a chaotic scene as stubborn taxi drivers have entirely seized the area that announces arrival into the University! Non-commercial vehicle owners can hardly drive through that entrance on daily basis, as taxi drivers form double lines and curse anybody who attempts to caution them. Pray, how did we degenerate to a point where the main entrance into the University is sequestered by touts and sundry deviant elements?

Again, how come that we have allowed the entrance into the University Park from Delta Park (Alli Cape Verde area) to be littered with commercial vehicles at the end of each business day? In saner climes, vehicles should operate from and be parked right inside the Motor Park at the end of the day, and not parked all over the campus. This ugly practice must stop forthwith if we are not to lose the beauty of this campus. Transporters must be compelled to embrace proper environmental stewardship or be forced to move their businesses to the jungle where unruly people belong.

It, therefore, behoves the authorities to rid the campus of those commercial drivers, who are yet to come to terms with the fact that there is a huge world of difference between a university campus and a typical township Motor Park. In addition, it has also become imperative to screen the vehicles used as campus shuttles. Buses and taxis that emit so much carbon which is very harmful to human health and those capable of shredding passengers' clothes should have no business plying on campus.

This is a clarion call to sanitise the places designated as Motor Parks on campus and to rein in those unruly drivers who do not know how best to relate to passengers and other road users. They must be compelled to show respect for traffic rules. This is UniPort! There should be a notable difference between bus and taxi drivers, who operate on campus and their counterparts elsewhere.

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Declaring the well-patronised lecture, which held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 open, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, lauded the medical women for organising the lecture aimed at heightening awareness about diabetes mellitus in Nigeria. "I wish to thank these women for bringing a globally-renowned authority in the person of Professor Jean-Claude Mbanya to deliver this important lecture. We are grateful to him for accepting to join forces with our women to enlighten the University community on the causes, care and how best to manage diabetes, which is gradually assuming the unenviable status of a pandemic in our country."

"I understand that diabetes is one of the commonest Non-Communicable Diseases ravaging the health of Nigerians today. I hope that at the end of this awareness campaign, we shall have learned a few more things about how to live a healthy lifestyle to reduce the risk of contracting the disease and how to care for those already living with it," Professor Lale said at the opening ceremony.

Delivering the first lecture entitled: "Legacy Effects in Diabetes—Facts or Fiction", Professor Mbanya, who was Honorary President of the International Diabetes Federation, defined Legacy Effects as "the benefits of early and strict control of cardiovascular complications or a memory (an inheritance) of a treatment given in an early phase of a disease which produces benefits long after the cessation of an intervention," stressing the need to hit hard on diabetes at the onset to achieve Legacy Effects.

In the second lecture entitled: "Optimal Diabetes Care: Strategies to Reduce Cardiovascular Events for Diabetes Patients," Mbanya, who is of the Department of Internal

Mbanya, Kurubo List Diabetes Control Measures At MWAN Lecture

Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Yaoundé 1, stated that early aggressive treatment was crucial in managing diabetes and associated complications. "It has been known that micro-vascular complications develop in the long term. Preventing these complications from progressing is a major goal in diabetes control and management," he stressed, adding that current guidelines advocate individualised treatment based on patient factors. In the third lecture entitled: "Burden of Diabetes: Need for Awareness, Care and Optimal Control," National Vice-President of the Diabetes Association of Nigerian (DAN) Dr. Ibitokemi Kurubo, declared that "diabetes is becoming a Nigerian problem and we must be willing to find a Nigerian solution to it." He added that in such developed countries as United States of America, United Kingdom and other European nations, diabetes was diagnosed in people aged 60 and above, whereas in Nigeria, younger people in their 40s had started going down with the disease. He expressed worry that the development had adverse effect on the nation's workforce, economy and total wellbeing necessitating a frontal approach at all levels.

Dr. Kurubo lamented that Nigeria was yet to effectively handle communicable diseases such as the dreaded Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) pandemic, when the Non-Communicable Diseases like diabetes and High Blood

Pressure, became rampant with attendant clinical complications. He said that all black people were at great risk, adding that the risk is higher among people with family histories of NCDs.

"In most cases, Nigerian diabetics do not present with the classical features of the ailment such as frequent urination, yet they are diabetic. It simply means that managing and preventing diabetes is becoming a major problem in the country," he pointed out, stressing the need to create more awareness through the media and other relevant means.

"We need Diabetes Ambassadors in Nigeria and we need to involve our religious leaders in the campaign against diabetes, including corporate bodies and well-meaning individuals in this advocacy. The Senator Lee Maeba Foundation is doing well in this direction and we need more public-spirited people to join this crusade," he said, calling for improved manpower training, health insurance and waivers in drug importation.

Earlier in her address, President of the Rivers State Branch of MWAN, Dr. Rosemary Ogu, gave a brief history of the Association, recounting its previous health advocacy and medical outreach programmes. She solicited support for the Association's projects. "The Rivers State Branch of

MWAN is currently focused on partnering relevant pharmaceutical firms, donor agencies, government and non-governmental organisations, to extend sensitisation, awareness, screening, diagnostic, preventive and care services," she said, expressing gratitude to institutions and public-spirited individuals that have supported MWAN programmes.

The lecture, which was preceded by free blood sugar screening, blood pressure and eye checks, as well as a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, also featured a lively Question and Answer session. Dignitaries, that graced the occasion included the 5th Vice-Chancellor of the University, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, National President of DAN, Dr. Mohammed Alkali, Principal Officers of the University, representative of Senator Lee Maeba Foundation, pharmaceutical companies and other stakeholders.



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed) flanked by MWAN Rivers State President, Dr. Rosemary Ogu and Secretary, Drs. Vetty Agala, National President of DAN President, Dr. Alkali (right), Lead Presenter, Prof Mbanya, Principal Officers and others. Inset: Dr. Kurubo

Mgt Lauds FMC Technologies On Sub-Sea Engineering Partnership

By Otokor Samuel

As the partnership between the University and Sub-sea Engineering giant, FMC Technologies, continues to produce more manpower for the maritime and offshore sub-sector, the Management of the University has expressed satisfaction with implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding. Management also commended the growing collaboration that has resulted in the on-going expansion of facilities at the Offshore Technology Institute in the University, hoping that the move would strengthen the capacity of the University to deliver quality service to the growing clients of the Institute. Management made the commendation when it received a delegation from the FMC, which was in the University on a working visit to assess the state of facilities at the Institute, on Thursday, February 16, 2017. It expressed satisfaction with the viability of the partnership aimed at lifting Sub-sea Engineering in the University, hoping that FMC and OTI would continue their commitment to the MoU.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who made the position of Management known at the meeting, lauded the OTI and FMC Technologies for keeping to the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding aimed at building local capacity to further explore the abundant resources in the Sub-sea sector. "What you are doing is quite commendable and you can count on our unalloyed support to bring this laudable initiative to fruition. It is one thing to indicate interest in a partnership, and quite another to sustain and stick to the terms of such a partnership the way FMC has done. We are an attractive brand with many centres of excellence in diverse disciplines, but we can only become more visible when our services finally reach the end users. That is why we cherish this

strategic partnership which essentially aims at exploring the unlimited opportunities that abound in the Sub-sea sector. We deeply appreciate the employment of some of our graduates and the opportunity provided by FMC for internship placement of our students. These commendable gestures would serve as added incentives to the successful implementation of this growing partnership," Professor Fawehinmi told his guests.

In his remarks, General Manager of FMC Technologies Ltd, Mr. Michael Hunt, disclosed that the partnership with OTI on Sub-sea Engineering was the first in Africa, revealing that his company so much cherished the partnership, which he hoped would continue to grow in the years ahead. "Our presence here is to review the on-going expansion work on facilities in the Institute. We came to see the progress of work done so far and also pay a courtesy visit on the Management of the University. I can assure you that we quite appreciate the opportunity to meet you with a view to evaluating the progress made so far. This visit is also a confirmation of our total commitment to the success of this

important partnership," Mr. Hunt said.

Speaking earlier, Director of the Offshore Technology Institute, Professor John Okoli, disclosed that the partnership with FMC Technologies was presently in its second phase, following the successful commencement of the programme in 2014. The Director praised the Management of FMC for its total commitment to the partnership, promising that OTI would do everything within its powers to sustain the collaboration that is first of its kind on the African continent.

The Director revealed that the Master's degree programme had been running on flexible teaching modules, with a 12-week period of intensive internship that enable the students acquire hands-on training skills. He disclosed that students were being supervised, while internship and examinations were conducted by a panel of seasoned lecturers and experts.

Mr. Hunt was accompanied on the visit by a Training Specialist at FMC Technologies, Mr. Gabriel Ogboru. Also in attendance was the Assistant Director of OTI, Dr. Chinwuba Ossia.



DV-C, (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (5th right) flanked by Univ. Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor, Director of OTI, Prof Okoli (right), Mr. Hunt, Registrar, Mrs. Oto, Head of Training at FMC, Dr. Ogboru (left) Assistant Director, OTI, Dr. Ossia and SAV-C, Mr. Kingsley Wogwu (standing)

AMDDA Demands Better Welfare Package, Pledges Support For Mgt

By Obinna Nwodin

The Association of Medical and Dental Doctors in Academics (AMDDA) has appealed to the authorities of the University to revisit the lingering demand of its members in the University to be placed at par with their colleagues at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital.

This passionate appeal was made when the National Executive Committee of the Association paid a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, at the Committee Room on Friday, February 17, 2017.

Speaking during the visit, President of the Association, Professor Musa Umar, disclosed that the group was in the University to hold its National Executive Council (NEC) Meeting. He stated that the Association was borne out of a coalition of efforts by members in various universities to come under a common platform to champion issues of common concern. The President revealed that apart from issues of welfare, the Association was also focused on partnerships that would enhance the capacity of its members to give of their best to the medical profession.

"We wish to make a passionate plea to the Vice-Chancellor to listen to the request of the local Branch of our Association to ensure that whatever is due them will be given to them without waiting for industrial dispute to address such matters," Professor Umar said at the courtesy call.

Umar, who is also Director of Academic Planning at the University of Jos, said that the Association placed much emphasis on doctors-training-doctors for enhanced productivity. "This is one of the things we expect doctors to do to sustain the quality



Prof Fawehinmi (arrowed), flanked to his right by Prof Umar, other Principal and Senior Officers of the University and AMDDA Executive Officers

of medical education in Nigeria for better clinical outcomes among," the President said. He pledged continued cooperation of members of his Association to the authorities of the University. "We wish to let the Vice-Chancellor know that we are behind him as he strives to take the University to the next level of academic and infrastructural development. We promise to give him all the necessary support that would enable his administration succeed," he stated.

Responding the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who represented the Vice-Chancellor at the occasion, assured the group that the administration had taken note of its request. He commended the body for its concerted effort aimed at bringing members of the Association together in order to press for their welfare and other interests. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor assured them that Management would always place the welfare of staff and students on the front burner. He also commended them for

introducing the Scientific Conference component to the Association's gatherings, describing the development as an important innovation for the cross-fertilization of ideas.

Also speaking, former Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Professor Iyeopu Siminialayi, expressed gratitude to the authorities of the University for their assurances of support for the administration. Professor Fawehinmi further expressed hope that issues surrounding the welfare of members of the Association would be addressed at the earliest opportunity as a motivation for them to continue to give of their best.

Earlier in his remarks, Chairman of the UniPort Branch of the Association, Professor Chike Princewill, said that the visiting delegation was in the University for the Annual Conference of the Association. He called on the administration to support the body to reposition medical education in the country.

Following his recent appointment as Director of the University of Port Harcourt Business School, outgoing Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Okechuku Onuchuku, has outlined his achievements to include presentation of a book and policy brief on *Post-Amnesty Conflict Management Framework in the Niger Delta*, at a gathering in Yenagoga, the Bayelsa State capital last November. The book was published by the Faculty with support from the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP) as part of the Presidential Amnesty

Onuchuku Gives Stewardship Account As Social Sciences Dean

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Programme (PAP).

Speaking during an interview with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent in his office last Wednesday, Professor Onuchuku noted that the Faculty also played host to a number of international conferences during his tenure as Dean. "We played host to a conference organised by the International Institute for Policy Review and Development Studies and the Nigerian Political Science Association, amongst others. We also encouraged staff to attend workshops and trainings outside the University to update themselves on current trends in their areas of specialisation," he noted.

The outgoing Dean further disclosed that some staff of the Faculty were appointed to serve in the Rivers State Government, namely himself as Chairman of the Rivers State Board on Public Procurement and Dr. Robinson Olulu from the Department of Economics, who was appointed a Commissioner in the State Electoral Commission.

Professor Onuchuku expressed satisfaction that his brief tenure as Dean moderated the behavioural pattern of staff and students, pointing out that he ensured that staff and students strictly adhered to University policies. He further disclosed that he also embarked upon other projects such as refurbishing the Dean's office, provision of vehicles for the offices of the Dean and his Associate and restoration of electricity to the Faculty building, amongst other achievements.

"We sustained and even improved upon the established Faculty Welfare Package to members of staff, and also put some important facilities into functional use, amongst others," the immediate past Dean noted, adding that the Faculty produced three Professors and one Reader, while some other Academic and Non-teaching staff were also promoted to the next rank under his watch.

Reiterating the need for his successor to sustain the excellent working relationship that already existed in the Faculty through wide consultations on critical issues, provision of academic leadership and ensuring discipline, Professor Onuchuku expressed optimism that the new Faculty building annex under construction would be put to use in the nearest future to provide more room for academic and administrative purposes.

"I am very hopeful that when the new building annex is completed and finally put into use, it would provide us with more space and enhance our capacity for enhanced service delivery to our growing clients. Let me appeal to staff and students of the Faculty to support our incoming Dean, Professor Kinikanwo Anele, as he settles down to deliver on his campaign manifesto of taking the Faculty to the next level of academic and infrastructural development. I wish my successor good luck and believe that with our collective support, he would deliver an excellent job that would make all of us proud at the end of his tenure," Professor Onuchuku said.



Prof Onuchuku

Director of the Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (COHSE), Professor Tambari Leton, has called for more detailed studies on the black soot currently affecting many parts of Rivers State to ascertain its effects on human beings and the environment.

Professor Leton disclosed that the Centre has one of the best air pollution equipment and relevant personnel to undertake such studies if contacted, regretting that government at all levels do not give Nigerian universities the opportunity to consult for them on such matter. He also lamented that parastatals such as refineries, petrochemical plants and other such agencies appear to operate above government regulatory framework, thus endangering the lives of citizens. "The State should enforce its own regulations to ensure that all companies operating here, including private and government-owned ones would be effectively monitored and erring ones appropriately sanctioned to safeguard the lives of citizens," the Director said.

Explaining that Environmental experts were more interested in Suspended Particulate Matters (SPM) like

Experts Speak On Black Soot Plaguing Rivers State

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

the black soot, Professor Leton noted that these particles were divided into 10 and 2.5 milligrams. "Particles less than 2.5 milligrams are so small that they can penetrate the lung tissues and they are the most dangerous. They contain proportionately large amounts of water and acid forming chemicals such as sulphur dioxide and trace metals. They can also penetrate into houses and cause physical damages to buildings. Plant leaves are also coated with the soot. This affects the level of photosynthesis and could result in low yield of farm produce. These plants could also be poisoned and become unfit for human consumption," the Director told our Correspondent.

Describing the black soot as a complex admixture of tiny particles and liquid droplets formed in the air from metals, acids and chemicals, Director of the Centre for Disaster Risks Management Studies (CDRMS), Professor Prince Mmom, noted that they were very tiny and usually less than 2.5mm and were usually released into the environment following incomplete combustion from vehicles, emissions from power plants, industrial boilers, oil refining, petrochemicals and general burning of hydrocarbons through unregulated flaring of gas and other hydrocarbons.

"When it gets to saturation level beyond which the system cannot hold, it begins to descend back to the surface. The soot could be attributed to too much industrial activities such as oil drilling processes, asphalt plant, or destruction of illegal refineries in the creeks of the Niger Delta in recent times. All these activities would aggravate already accumulated soot in the atmosphere," he said. Professor Mmom recommended that the Ministry of Environment and allied agencies should embark on intensive monitoring of companies operating in the State to check if the effluence and emission from their industrial activities were within tolerable limits as permitted by extant environmental laws and regulations. A Public Health specialist and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Dr. Omosivie Maduka, said the major concern of health professionals in the State was the inhalation of the black soot, which could lead to an increase in respiratory and allergic diseases such as respiratory tract infections, asthmatic attacks, bronchitis and the long-term possibilities of cancer and blood disorders. "There is an urgent need for environmental research activities to be carried out to enable experts properly identify the sources of the soot to, at least, stop further damage to the environment and humans inhaling it," she noted.



Prof Leton

Prof Mmom

Dr. Maduka

Yokogawa Renews MoU With Career Talk

By Mercy Adeniji

As part of efforts aimed at equipping undergraduate students of the Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering with professional hands-on skills needed to fit into the industry on graduation, Yokogawa Nigeria Limited has renewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with University of Port Harcourt in 2014 for another three years. The firm also donated a Single Loop Controller for the smooth-running of the Department during a Career Talk at the ETF Building, University Park, on Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

Declaring open the Career Talk entitled: *Instrumentation, Process Control and Industrial Automation*, Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Professor Ikechukwu Agbagwa, who represented the Vice-Chancellor at the occasion, commended Yokogawa Nigeria Limited for reaffirming faith in the partnership. "This MoU is aimed at training students on emerging trends in Electronics and Computer Engineering. We want to thank our collaborators for finding the University of Port Harcourt a suitable partner for such collaboration. As is to be expected, what we teach in the classroom is not always enough. Our students are fortunate to have this training opportunity at no cost to the University.

"In this time and age, training is very important because things keep changing and we must adapt to or die professionally if we choose to remain stagnant, especially in Engineering. So, it is good that you are receiving this training without paying any money," Professor Agbagwa expressed gratitude to the Director of the Centre for Information and Telecommunication, Professor Monima Briggs and his team, congratulating the Department for initiating the career talk.

In her welcome address, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Maureen Etebu, commended the Department for organising the event for the students. "Imparting knowledge means that you are positively influencing somebody for today and tomorrow. This Career Talk is in line with efforts aimed at bringing our students to speed on current trends in the field. We have

come of age since the start of the industrial revolution and most of the instruments we use in our work today are automated. That is where robotics comes in as the new frontier in Engineering practice. We cannot divorce instrumentation from process control, neither can we divorce process control from automation; so, I urge students to keep their hearts open and learn from those with knowledge of industrial automation," she stated.

In his contribution, Acting Head of Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, Dr. Bourdillion Omijeh, who presented a paper entitled: "Modelling of Engineering Students through SIWES collaboration," disclosed that the digital evolution in Information Technology has led to tremendous technological breakthroughs which have transformed the industrial mode of operations, business transactions and project implementation, especially in the oil and gas industry.

"Electronics and Computer Engineering is the bedrock of

modern inventions and digital evolution and it is a discipline that is integrated into two separate Engineering fields to meet the joint demand made by the electronics and computer industries in today's world," he said, assuring the students that the Department was desirous of producing competent electronic and computer Engineers. Speaking earlier, Managing Director of the company, Kazuo Hiraki, who was accompanied by the Human Development Coordinator, Iniya Chukwuebuka, expressed delight for the opportunity to renew the MoU, recalling that the company signed the first MoU with the University in 2014.

He disclosed that the aim was to provide training on industrial automation to students and lecturers. Handing over a copy of the new MoU, the Managing Director reiterated the company's commitment in ensuring that the content of the MoU was implemented to the letter.

Also present was the Director of the Centre for Information and Telecommunication (CITE), Professor Monima Briggs, SIWES Director, Professor Ayodeji Aiyelaja, including Staff and Students of the Department.



M/D Yokogawa, Hiraki (3rd right) flanked by Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof Etebu, Ag. HoD, Electronics/Computer Engineering, Dr. Omijeh, Director, SIWES, Prof Aiyelaja (left), Profs Agbagwa and Briggs

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development to thrive and benefit the larger society. He expressed gratitude to the University for commissioning a massive building dedicated to the SSLT.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, described the induction "as yet another unique opportunity to evaluate the progress recorded in the teaching of Science Laboratory Technology programme in this University and chart a better way forward. We are happy to note that the quality of teaching and learning in the SSLT programme has increasingly matured far beyond the modest expectations of its founders and thus deserves more institutional support from the University and NISLT." He charged the inductees to be worthy ambassadors of their *Alma Mater*

NISLT Inducts 610 Laboratory Technologists

wherever they may find themselves, and always remember the University that gave them personal and professional identity.

Earlier in her address, Dean of the School, Professor Grace Awi-Waadu, disclosed that the SSLT has produced several talented graduates who man critical positions in laboratories in the University and elsewhere. "Our graduates have made several useful innovations in the course of their training," she told the gathering, expressing gratitude to all those who made the training of the inductees a success.

Speaking on behalf of the inductees, the Valedictorian,

Miss Danny Onuchuku, thanked authorities of the University, parents and guardians as well as lecturers, for providing them with the skills they were taking to the society, promising not to disappoint the University. She added that they were extremely gratified by the experience they gained from the University, hoping that Management would continue to support the SSLT programme. Three graduands obtained the First-Class degree at the combined 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 academic sessions.

Highlights of the colourful ceremony were an Induction Lecture entitled, *Science Laboratory Education and Research: Fulcrum for National Development*, by the Director of the Centre for Oilfield Chemicals Research, Professor Ogbonna Joel, as well as award of Prizes to Best Graduating Students in the various subject areas.

Earlier, the NISLT delegation had paid a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, during which the Acting Registrar stressed the need for the authorities to include entrepreneurial education in the SLT curricula to enable students learn how to fabricate tools. Mr. Ghodegesin also appealed to Management to include a trained and licenced Technologist on the University's Procurement Committee to ensure proper products quality.



V-C, Prof Lale (middle) flanked by Ag. Registrar, NISLT, Mr. Ghodegesin, Univ Librarian, Dr. Susan Umecor, DV-C (Acad), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi (right), Dean, SSLT, Prof Awi-Waadu, DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony Ibe, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto (left) and others

SSLT Inductees Speak On Experience In UniPort

After five years of rigorous seminar presentations, laborious lecture hours, assessments, and assignments, some Inductees who recently graduated from the School of Science Laboratory Technology spoke to our Correspondent, MERCY ADENIJI, on their experience. Please read on:

CHIKA ONUCHUKU, BGS
2015/2016



"Our hard work, long hours of study and constant stress have finally paid off today as we gather to be celebrated by our parents, teachers, friends, associates and those we are leaving behind. The School has groomed us to academic maturity and positioned us to compete favourably in line with global best practice. We have been found worthy both in character and

learning and we are now ready to go into the larger society, where we are expected to prove that we are truly products of Unique UniPort.

I give glory to God for His guidance and protection throughout our stay as no death was recorded amongst us. We are also grateful to the University for achieving this major milestone."

OKPABI JONAH, INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY/PETROCHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY

"I am glad to be inducted into the NISLT today, although the journey was long and rough, but my colleagues and I were able to forge ahead through hard work and discipline to get to where we are today. When I stepped my feet on this University, I observed that students of SSLT were stereotyped as never-do-wells. To make matters worse, the vast majority of them were ashamed to be identified as students of SSLT, but with the effort of our past Dean, Professor Anthony Ataga, we now have a well-branded SSLT with brilliant students the University can boast of. As an Industrial Chemist and Petroleum Technologist, I hope to convert raw materials



into useful products in line with my training.

During these five years, I have gained a lot of experience, as I attended inaugural lecture series, workshops and seminars. I was able to publish two books and a lot of articles. I hope to contribute my own quota of knowledge acquired from this great citadel of learning to the larger society.

My appreciation goes to my lecturers and my parents for supporting and grooming me to this level of academic attainment."

JENNIFER ORDU, BIOMEDICAL TECHNOLOGY



"I felt so happy and overwhelmed when I was in school and it was as if this day would never come. I am glad it is now a dream come true. My appreciation goes to God Almighty for His guidance and protection. I had some challenges, especially, when I first arrived here; I really did not understand the school system, but as time went on, I gradually adapted to the system. One thing I wish Management would do is to help our younger colleagues, so that they can graduate at the stipulated timeframe on their programmes. It is important that students graduate within their stipulated residency period.

My gratitude also goes to my parents, especially my father for his love and encouragement.

EMMANUEL JACOB, PHYSICS/ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY, BGS 2015/2016 IN RESEARCH PROJECT



It is nice to be part of this induction ceremony, because after five years of seminar presentations, assessments and the stress involved, finally, we are through. All I can say is that it has been God all the way and I am so grateful to Him and my sponsors. I am more into graphic designs, networking and I also have my own personal business already. The school is just a starting point to start something on solid grounds and carve out an academic identity for myself.

I was so surprised to see my name on the list and I thank God for His mercies. My gratitude goes to my lecturers and my parents for their prayers, support, love and understanding throughout the programme."

JUSTIN IFEANYICHUKWU, MICROBIOLOGY TECHNOLOGY

"It is a great privilege to be among the inductees today and I give thanks to God. Five years in school wasn't easy. As an AIESEC member, it was even more challenging for me than my other colleagues, because AIESEC alone is work and academics joined together, but I was able to prioritise my time usage and make sure I had less time for fun. So, everything was basically academic work and AIESEC activities.

I appreciate my lecturers, especially Dr. Chimezie Ogugbue, who was my HoD and also our Associate Dean. I really appreciate him for being a guardian and an inspiration to us. While in school, we all had challenges at one point or the other and there were also times when exams were really tough, but we scaled through by the grace of God.

I urge my colleagues to remain focused and know they are in the school environment to study, because academics comes first, while any other thing is secondary.

KESTER EWHE, MICROBIOLOGY/TECHNOLOGY

"I feel excited and fulfilled today for being inducted into the professional fold by NISLT.

After five years, we are finally through. I am so grateful to my lecturers and parents, and I hope that after now, we will be gainfully employed to practise what we were taught in the classroom. I am ready to share my experience with the society by giving back



GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Mr. Peace Igwe, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Lecturer II*, effective January 13, 2014.

Mr. Acheseomie Sunny-Joe, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Lecturer II*, effective January 15, 2014.

Mr. Joseph Benivolio, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Graduate Assistant*, effective January 15, 2014.

Mr. Greatness Oji, Department of Finance and Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Lecturer II*, effective January 16, 2014.

Mr. Wilson Ofoegbu, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Lecturer II*, effective January 23, 2014.

Mrs. Ucheoma Asiegbu, Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Lecturer II*, effective February 3, 2014.

Mr. Macaulay Wegwu, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Lecturer II*, effective April 7, 2014.

Miss Chisom Akakuru, Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Regularisation of Appointment as Assistant Lecturer*, effective October 2, 2014.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Enuie Akpokodje, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to Delta State University, Abraka, effective February 21, 2017 to February 20, 2018.

RESUMPTION FROM S'LEAVE

Professor Andrew Efemini, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, resumed duty after *Sabbatical Leave* at Delta State University, Abraka, effective September 1, 2016.

Professor Abi Derefaka, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, resumed duty after *Sabbatical Leave* at Akwa Ibom State University, effective January 3, 2017.

Professor Stephen Okodudu, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, resumed duty after *Sabbatical Leave* at the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited, Port Harcourt, effective January 3, 2017.

Professor Chinyerem Madumere-Obike, Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, resumed duty after *Sabbatical Leave* at the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited, Port Harcourt, effective January 4, 2017.

Dr. Ishmael Gwunireama, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, resumed duty after *Sabbatical Leave*, effective October 7, 2016.

Dr. Gentle Komi, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, resumed duty after completion of Course Work for a Doctoral programme in Agricultural and Rural Innovation, effective December 6, 2016.

CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor I.P. Aleleye-Wokoma, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, ended *Contract Appointment*, effective December 31, 2016.

EXTENSION OF PAYMENT

Professor J.K. Onoh, Department of Finance and Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted a five-month *Extension of Payment* to enable him round off academic activities in the Department, effective May 6, 2016 to September 29, 2016.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Mr. Promise Enyindah, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, granted *Review of Status* from *Graduate Assistant to Lecturer II*, effective April 8, 2015.

Emerald Energy Institute Commences Admission Form Sale

By Otikor Samuel

The Emerald Energy Institute has announced sale of application form for admission into its Postgraduate Diploma programme in Petroleum and Energy Economics and Master of Science degree programmes in Petroleum Economics, Management and Policy, and Energy Economics, Management and Policy, respectively for the 2017/2018 academic session.

Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, who made the disclosure in a statement obtained by a Correspondent of *UniPort Weekly*, described the Master of Science programme as an interdisciplinary and a collaborative Postgraduate programme between the Emerald Energy Institute of the University of Port Harcourt and the International Institute for Petroleum, Energy Law and Policy (IPELP). "The programme, which is resident at IPELP, Abuja, is approved by the National Universities Commission (NUC)," the further statement added.

On admission requirements, the Registrar disclosed that: "Candidates must possess the Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, Physical Sciences, Management Sciences or Engineering. A Second-Class Honours (Upper Division) degree is required from candidates seeking admission into the MSc programme. Consideration shall be given to candidates with Second Class Honours (Lower Division) with a minimum

Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3:00 with at least three (3) years working experience in the energy industry. Candidates who fail to meet the above admission requirements may be considered for the Postgraduate Diploma option," the statement clarified.

The Registrar, advised interested candidates to obtain the form at a non-refundable fee of N25,000.00 in certified bank draft or bank transfers to Zenith Bank Plc in favour of IPELP LTD/GTE with Account Number as 1014586937. She further revealed that the application form could be downloaded online at www.iipelp.org and submitted to msc@iipelp.org or in hard copy to the Director of Academic Studies, IPELP, 4th Floor, Toyota-Elizade House, Central Business District, Abuja.

The deadline for submission of forms, according to the statement, would be March 31, 2017. "Shortlisted candidates for screening will be on the IPELP Academy website in May, 2017, while a date for screening/interview would be communicated to shortlisted candidates at a later date. The programme is scheduled to commence in September 2017," the statement concluded.

Stop Press

Addendum To Congregation Election

At the Congregation Meeting in which representatives were elected into the Governing Council, Boards and Committees of the University, as was published in the *UniPort Weekly* Edition 313, more nominations were taken on the floor of the house to fill a few vacant positions that were not contested by aspirants.

After another round of elections for that purpose, the following persons were elected to fill such vacant positions: Mr. Bikume Syder and Mrs. Joy Igwe, A & PC (SPATS), Drs. Stanley Ukwueze, Mr. Sukem Andrew, Mr. H.O. Erutor and Mr. Job Borgbara, Health and Medical Services Advisory Board, Mr. Lebari Nwidak, who now represents the Technical Staff cadre on the Junior Staff Committee, while Mr. Aribite Princewill and Mr. Promise Simeon were elected into the Council Budget Monitoring and Appeals Committees, respectively.

With this development, all vacant positions on the University's statutory Committees have now been filled as required by the enabling legislation in this respect.



Mrs. Otto, Registrar

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WEATHER OBSERVATORY WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDING AREAS FOR SUNDAY JUNE, 26 – SATURDAY, JULY 02, 2016.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY, 2017	37.0 24.0	41	SW	-	6:44 6:45	Morning clouds expected.
MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2017	36.0 23.0	58	SW	-	6:43 6:45	More sun than clouds anticipated.
TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2017	34.0 24.0	63	SW	-	6:43 6:45	Cloudy morning expected.
WEDNESDAY 01 FEBRUARY, 2017	38.0 25.0	54	SSW	-	6:43 6:45	A partly cloudy day anticipated.
THURSDAY 02 MARCH, 2017	37.0 25.0	55	S	-	6:42 6:44	More sun than clouds predicted.
FRIDAY 03 MARCH, 2017	38.0 26.0	52	SSW	2.6	6:42 6:44	Thunderstorms expected late in the day with the day expected to have more clouds than sun.
SATURDAY 04 MARCH, 2017	38.0 25.0	50	SW	-	6:42 6:44	More clouds than sun expected.

DR. V.E. WELI

AG. HOD.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENV. MGT.

PROF. PRINCE C. MMOM

AG. DIRECTOR,

(CDRMS).

VISIT TO CHANCELLOR AT GWANDU EMIRATE

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, led a four-member delegation comprising the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, Dr. Haliru Bala and Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi to pay the traditional homage on Third Chancellor of the University and Emir of the historic Gwandu Emirate in Birnin Kebbi, the capital of Kebbi State between Thursday, 2 and Sunday, February 5, 2017.

Editor, **WILLIAMS WODI**, who was on the entourage captured highlights of the memorable visit:



The Chancellor, Gen. Muhammadu Ilyasu Bashir, CFR, mni



His Majesty receiving the guests



Presenting souvenir to V-C, Prof Ndowa Lale



V-C, The Emir, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto and Dr. Haliru Bala



Prof Lale (left) and the Emir



V-C, Registrar pose with Emir's Stallion Horse



R-L: Wodi, Dr. Bala, Mrs. Otto, V-C and a guest



L-R: Dr. Bala, Mrs. Otto, V-C and Bala's wife



Senate Mao Oluabunwa (4th right), V-C, and others



Sideview of the Emir's Palace



V-C, Registrar and a guest at Labana Rice Mill



V-C and Registrar in group photograph with Palace Courtiers



V-C, Registrar in group photograph with students of Birnin Kebbi Federal University