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Multinational oil giant, TOTAL E&P, has reiterated support for the accelerated development of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) and the University of Port Harcourt in the areas of advanced training, research and development,

reports **Mercy Adeniji**

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Side Bar

Professor Nwando Akani of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, delivers the 130th Inaugural lecture this Thursday. Details next week.

-Editor

37th Matriculation

V-C Advises Fresh Students On Good Conduct, As 9,945 Take Matriculation Oath

By Obinna Nwodin

A total of 9,945 newly-admitted students into the various Undergraduate programmes took the *Matriculation Oath* of the University of Port Harcourt for the 2015/16 academic session.

Addressing the new students during the 37th Matriculation Ceremony held at the Convocation Arena, University Park, last Thursday, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, described the event as a "welcome ceremony for all duly admitted fresh students, who would thereafter be entitled to all the privileges and restraints that the University offers all students," advising them to conduct themselves in a manner befitting of their new status as Undergraduates.

He said, "You must, however, note that every privilege, every great opportunity, demands serious responsibility from each beneficiary. No society can exist without adhering to some rules and

regulations that guide the conduct of its members," adding that such rules and regulations are not meant to be punitive, but are rather designed to ensure that every member of a given society could understand and adjust to the "dos" and "don'ts" that guide its conduct.

The Vice-Chancellor, who advised them to shun such distasteful practices as membership of cult groups,

examination malpractice, prostitution, fighting, stealing, indecent dressing and disobedience to lawful orders, amongst other vices, warned that those who may choose to follow their own rules of engagement will inevitably face the sanctions specified in the rules book. "Other students who may choose to engage in truancy, a life of wild partying and use of hard drugs, will soon realize

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UniPort Made Me What I am Today - Ace Comedian, Ogbolosingha

By Humphrey Ogu

Ace Comedian, Dancer, Broadcaster and high profile Master of Ceremonies, Michael Ogbolosingha, has attributed his success in Nigeria's bustling entertainment industry and politics to the quality training he received from the University of Port Harcourt under the tutelage of some of the best hands in the business.

Exchanging views with a Correspondent of UniPort Weekly in our News Room on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, Ogbolosingha, who commenced his memorable adventure into the theatre when he enrolled into a Certificate in Theatre Arts (CTA) programme in 1987 under the late theatre icon, Professor Olu Rotimi, recalled that in his primary school days, pupils who failed to submit their home work were made to dance around the class as a punishment. Rather than see the dancing episodes as punitive measures, the future ace Comedian enjoyed the exercise and even craved for more dance which brewed in his blood in the creeds of Yemogun.

"I readily offered to dance, even after submitting my assignment to the class teacher as required. As a kid, I had this uncanny knack for making people laugh, even if I did not realise that I was going to make a living from trading in humour at the time," he told our Correspondent.

"Everybody has a calling and the earlier one discovers his, the better. I can say I discovered mine quite early in life and the cheer also discovered and gave me the platform to perform and exhibit my latent potentials in comedy and dance. I must add that I love the theatre because it has been so kind to me. Theatre gave me my first breath of life, it made me what I am today and I cannot envisage a life without the theatre," he explained.

"As a secondary school leaver, I used to visit the then Rivers State Council for Arts and Culture located at Boney Street to see one Iyabo Duda, who later became Director of the Bayelsa State Council for Arts and Culture. I watched his inspired interpretation of roles in plays and I was so inspired by his professionalism that it triggered off



Ogbolosingha

my desire to go into the performing arts. I have not regretted my decision for one second," the pioneer humour merchant reflected.

Ogbolosingha, who was appointed an Artist-in-Residence in the University after his First Degree programme, disclosed that Professor Henry Bell-Gam's famous play, *Orishun*, made so much impression on him and actually took him to Sheffield, England, during the tenure of Professor Kelsey Harrison as Vice-Chancellor in the mid-1990s.

"UniPort trained me to communicate and express myself freely and skillfully. The University gave me confidence and infused me with the 'can-do' spirit and passion that drives me on to greater exploits on and off the stage today. The multi-talented dramatist, playwright, teacher and mentor, Olu Rotimi, brought out the discipline in me, while Bell-Gam gave me the platform to work as a Business Manager. It was from him that I learnt how to keep proper records, the principles accountability and punctuality in the line of duty," he noted.

As one of the pioneers of stand-up comedy in Nigeria,

alongside Yibo Koko, who is also an alumnus of Uniport UniPort, including comedy masters, Alhaja, amongst others, Ogbolosingha, who mentioned the late Ikenna Ekechukwu as one of his mentors, observed that comedy is not for over-eager folks, as erroneously believed in some quarters. "There is a serious academic angle in comedy practice that most Comedians do not seem to appreciate. Comedy does just mean jumping onto the stage to crack a joke. Jokes are like pieces of literary works. They must be properly thought through and have depth to elicit laughter from the audience. The only challenge real Comedian face is that there is no way of patterning jokes, which is responsible for quack Comedians using jokes created by others as if it is theirs without acknowledging the original source," he said.

"It takes a lot of time and preparation to make it in comedy. It is not easy to make people laugh; it requires talent and grace. For instance, I grew before I step onto the stage to perform and I don't go for shows without knowing the audience. I usually customise my jokes to make them suitable to specific audiences. You cannot tell the same joke to every audience. I engage in proper research to prepare for my performances and that is what differentiates a professional Comedian from the numerous quacks that ply the trade today," he explained, disclosing that he had mentored a lot of young Comedians, who have made names for themselves.

Ogbolosingha was dramatically embraced by former President Obasanjo Obaforja after performing for him during a State visit to Bayelsa State, following which the ace Comedian conferred on the himself the hilarious title "EF" (meaning, Embraced President). The Comedian, who also performed for an international audience under the auspices of UNESCO in Paris, France, amongst numerous other high profile audiences, attributed his success in politics to the popularity he earned through trading in humour, adding that he left Venues Municipal Council as Mayor much better than he met it. Who knows where the wind of comedy and fortune would blow the pioneer Comedian-in-Chief.

Gbarakoro, Oriakpono Deliver AEB Dept' Seminar

By Ethel Tini-Johnson

Two budding scholars in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology (AEB), Faculty of Science, Drs. Tunibike Gbarakoro and Obimata Oriakpono, were Lead Presenters at the Fourth Departmental Seminar series which held last Tuesday.

In his presentation on the *Impact of Spent Mushroom Substrate on Soil Micro arthropods in Spent Automobile Lubricant Habitat-Type at the University Farm, University of Port Harcourt*, Gbarakoro listed the advantages of spent mushroom substrate to include increase in species richness and abundance, enhancement of species, recovery of vertical depth ranges, provision of nutrients for biodegrading Micro arthropods and reduction in hydrocarbon contaminants. He disclosed that the study was undertaken to determine the status of fertilization-enhanced soil ecosystem recovery from spent automobile lubricant contaminants.

"Micro arthropods play key roles in the soil and these include decomposition and mineralization of dead organic matter, enhancement of soil fertility, regulation of microbial populations and indicators of soil health," the Lecturer said, adding that soil Micro arthropods also contributed immensely to recovery of oil polluted ecosystems.

He disclosed that one of the objectives of the research was to study bioremediation which occurred without human intervention other than monitoring often called natural attenuation, explaining that the process relied on natural conditions and behavior of soil microorganisms that are indigenous to the soil. Gbarakoro further added that Nigeria accounted for more than 87 million litres of spent lubricants annually, regretting that attention was yet to be focused on how such waste product was being disposed off.

In his own presentation on the *Comet Assay: An*

Invaluable Tool for Modern Toxicology Evaluation, Dr. Oriakpono described the Comet Assay as a sensitive method for measuring DNA strand breaks in individual eukaryotic cells which could be applied to plant cells, worms, apes, fishes, reptiles and mammals, amongst other species.

Disclosing that the Comet Assay provided him an opportunity to test toxins to ensure that they had no effect on organisms, he noted that it had also proven to be highly effective in general toxicity assessment. Oriakpono, recommended that personal care

and outside the Department, "The seminar series provides as a veritable platform for informed interaction and knowledge-sharing, collaboration and networking amongst scholars in the Department, and it is what research and development are truly about. At the end of such quality interactive processes, we go home better informed and richer in knowledge," she stated.

The seminar which was round-off with an interactive session had in attendance a pioneer academic in the Department, Emeritus Professor Samuel Okiewe.



Staff and graduate students of the Department after the Seminar

products should undergo genotoxicity testing to ensure their safety, advising that food products be screened for genotoxic and carcinogenic effects, as was the case in advanced countries. "Industries should integrate genotoxic testing for commonly used chemicals to ensure occupational and health safety of workers," he suggested.

Describing the Departmental Seminar series as a legacy that should be sustained, the Head of Department, Professor Flora Ndaka, commended Emeritus Professor Samuel Okiewe for his abiding interest in the mentorship of younger academics in

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9,945 Take Matriculation Oath

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A cross-section of Matriculants

that the University has no place for unserious students," he stated, adding that "we do not dash out degrees to students; each student must work very hard to earn his or her grade. Once you take the Matriculation Oath, you will be required to prove yourself in character and learning at the end of the day."

The Vice-Chancellor assured them of the preparedness of the authorities of the University to provide them an enabling environment to carry out their legitimate activities. "On our part, we have a responsibility to guarantee our students an enabling environment to pursue their legitimate aspirations, especially their academic aspirations, which is the primary purpose for your presence in the University," adding that "if you did the right thing, you would be

celebrated and applauded right up to the rostrum where you will be covered in honour and glory, while those who play by their own rules would be chased to the end of the world and throw the books at you at every turn."

He told them to concentrate on their main reason for coming to the University, adding that the numerous attractions of the University were capable of distracting them from pursuing their dream. "I wish to assure you that Port Harcourt is a beautiful city with an alluring verve that can sweep you off your feet on first encounter. If you decide to follow the bright city lights at the expense of your studies, then you will live to regret your wrong-headed choice for the rest of your life," he advised them.

A breakdown of the figure is as follows: Faculty of Humanities, 1534; Faculty of Social Science, 1034; Faculty of Science, 1883; Faculty of Education, 1453; Faculty of Engineering, 798; Faculty of Management Sciences, 1331; Faculty of Agriculture, 802; Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 205, SSLE-T-E, 519, while the College of Health Sciences has 386.

Fumigators Want Access To Offices

By Williams Wodi

Following the fumigation of offices in the Senate building last February, the Health Services Department has made a passionate appeal to staff whose offices were not accessed for the exercise to make them available in the next round of fumigation.

The Department, in a statement signed by its Environment and Health Officer, Mr. Hejzenah Amadi, said that the integrated vector and pest control services carried out at the Senate building lasted the whole day, explaining that the

intensive war against rodents covered the offices of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Establishments, Housing, Council and Academic Units. The statements regretted that Units such as Audit, Stores, Information and Public Relations, Exams and Records, Security, Permits, SPATS and Junior Staff Office, could not be accessed due to the fact that the exercise took place on a Saturday, advising that such offices should be made available in the next round of the fumigation exercise.

The Health Services Department observed that the Senate building was heavily infested with rodents and

cockroaches that posed health risks to staff, students and other visitors to the building, regretting that some staff do not properly dispose of refuse generated in their offices, thus creating a conducive breeding ground for rodents and cockroaches.

Mr. Amadi also called for regular fumigation of the Senate building and other offices in the University to safeguard them from invasion by rodents, cockroaches and insects, advising staff to always wrap their left-over rubbish in polythene bags before disposing them into available waste bins. A new date for the continuation of the exercise will be communicated to staff in the affected offices.

UniPort NIM Honours Uwaga On Successful Tenure Completion

By Olorun Samuel

Following the successful completion of his tenure as National President, the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM) treated Dr. Nelson Uwaga of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences to an evening of music and laughter on Friday, March 11, 2016.

In her opening speech at the occasion which held in Delta Park, Chairperson of the Chapter, Mrs. Flora Iyagba, cheered praises on Dr. Uwaga for committing himself to the growth of the Institute and support for the UniPort Chapter of the body during his tenure, urging him to continue to give his best to build human capital development in the University and the rest of the country. "We are proud of Dr. Uwaga for the various achievements he recorded as National President of the Institute. We thank God for seeing him through his very successful tenure and this modest reception is our own little way of appreciating his service to his fatherland and the UniPort Chapter of NIM. Even though we did not make the gathering big, the most important thing is that our hearts are filled with joy for the quality services rendered to NIM by Dr. Uwaga," she said.

Mrs. Iyagba also commended the immediate past Vice-Chancellor and Fellow of the Institute, Professor Joseph Ajikola, for his contributions towards the successful hosting of the immediate past President of the Institute. In his response, a visibly delighted Dr. Uwaga, who recalled the circumstances surrounding his presence in the University as an Adjunct Lecturer in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, expressed gratitude to the leadership of the Institute in the University and specifically to Professor Ajikola for the honour done him.

"Let me confess that in the last five years, I have never had a quality evening such as this one. I will cherish this evening for a very long time. My only regret is that my wife did not accompany me to witness what happened here this evening. It is not about money or stupendous wealth, but being around good people like these gives me joy. I think we need periodic time-out such as this one, especially considering the present hard times the country



Immediate past National President, Dr. Uwaga (9' left), Chairperson, UniPort NIM, Mrs. Iyagba (9' right) flanked by former National Treasurer, Mr. Ogburn (9' 7' V-C, Prof. Ajikola (9' left), other Fellows and EXCO members of NIM

is passing through. We need to relax the mind, soul and body after our hectic daily routines as a way of regaining our balance," Dr. Uwaga said.

The immediate past National President, who expressed gratitude to the Chapter and the 7th Vice-Chancellor, described Professor Ajikola as a good administrator, disclosing that it was the former Vice-Chancellor who brought him to the University in furtherance of his drive for a robust University-industry partnership in the Pharmaceutical Sciences.

"NIM UniPort made me proud as its rapid growth in the few years of its establishment transformed it into the envy of other Chapters. I congratulate you once again on your award as the Best Chapter," Uwaga remarked, stating that he got enormous encouragement from members of the Chapter during his Presidency.

Also speaking, immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajikola, expressed optimism that the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of NIM would continue to make itself visible in the University and the country, expressing gratitude to the leadership of the Institute for providing the NIM Lounge at the Ekibiti Banjo Auditorium.

"NIM has come to stay in the University and I am proud of the speed it has attained within this short period of its existence. Of course, these feats would not have been possible if not for the quality leadership exhibited by Mrs. Flora Iyagba and her team of dedicated members. She is leading the Institute in an excellent position and I am always proud of her because she carries out any assignment given to her with passion and uncommon commitment," Professor Ajikola said.

The lead goodwill message was presented by former National Treasurer of the Institute, Mr. Grant Ogburn, who expressed continued confidence in Dr. Uwaga as a champion of human capacity development and great mentor of people. Others, who presented goodwill messages included Professor Vincent Ikenyere, Dr. Ngweni Odo and former Barut, Mr. Mark Roman. Also present at the occasion was Chairman of the Rivers State Branch of NIM, Mr. Austin Odo and NUC Scholar, Professor Chidi Eke. Special musical renditions from students of the Department of Music and comic relief by the Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Jones Anyawo of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, set the time for what turned out to be a very refreshing weekend for all those in attendance.

UniPort Neuroscience Group Marks Global Brain Awareness Week

By Ethel Tini-Johnson

A part of activities marking this year's Global Brain Awareness Week observed between Monday, 14th and Sunday 20th March, 2016, the University of Port Harcourt Neuroscience Group organized an enlightenment campaign for Senior Secondary classes at the University of Port Harcourt Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS).

The campaign was mounted to create awareness about the functions of the brain, ways to develop it to its full capacity and how to safeguard this delicate part of the human body from being damaged through substance abuse or accident, including exposing young scientists to careers in Neuroscience.

Delivering a presentation on the theme of the Brain Awareness Week: *Your Brain, Your Life and Your Future*, Coordinator of the group, Dr. Chima Orlin of the Department of Human Anatomy in the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, disclosed that the campaign was aimed at educating the students on the effects of drugs abuse on the brain. She also said that the Awareness Week enabled the group to stress the importance of healthy brain development and the possibility of generating interest amongst the students on the possibility of taking up careers in Neuroscience. "We want to create awareness on the need for healthy brain development, career opportunities in brain studies and the need for people to avoid damaging their brains, because when the brain is affected, individuals cannot function effectively," she explained.

Dr. Orlin, who noted that the brains of high school students aged between 14 and 18 were still at the developmental stage and were highly susceptible to environmental toxins such as lead, warned the



The Neuroscience Group in a group photograph with staff and students of UDSS

students against drug abuse, alcoholism and smoking. "There are serious health problems occasioned by mental disorders, impaired memory, reduced attention and breakdown of the central nervous system," she said, advising the students to get adequate exercise, rest, sleep, practice good reading habits and consume vegetables, as a way of aiding proper brain development.

In their separate presentations, Drs. Anthoni Enjilior and Ebere Wogu spoke on *Neurobiology and Developing Careers in Neuroscience*. Advocating the need to prevent brain damage, Dr. Enjilior noted that there was no pharmacological intervention to neurotoxicity, while Dr. Wogu listed Neurochemistry, Neuroanatomy, Neuroradiology, Neurosurgery and

Neurophysiology, as some of the available career opportunities in the study of Neuroscience.

In his contribution, Head Teacher of UDSS, Mr. Ituen Ekara, commended members of the UniPort Neuroscience Group for creating awareness about the importance of the brain, urging them to consider replicating the presentations for the benefit of younger students of the School. A major highlight of the awareness campaign was an exhibition of the brain by Dr. Emeka Oduwaka. The Neuroscience Group was inaugurated in 2013, through the pioneering effort of Professor Amadi Ihuma of the University of Warri and in South Africa. Membership of the group cuts across the Faculties of Pharmaceutical Sciences, including Basic Medical Sciences and Clinical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences.

UPWA To Partner More UniPort Host Communities' Women

By Mercy Adeniji

President of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) and Wife of the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Joy Lale, has reiterated the Association's resolve to increase support for women associations in the University's host communities.

Mrs. Lale, who gave the assurance when she received a delegation of Alakabha Women Group, which paid her a courtesy visit on Thursday, March 10, 2016, commended the women for their show of appreciation. "We hope to do more to uplift women from the University's host communities, especially the

widows, who need more support to cope with their situation. One of the ways in which we sought to identify with these women was to visit them during the last Christmas as part of the UPWA Week," she said.

"While our outreach programme was not meant for women whose spouses are alive, we felt that we should identify with all the women to give them a sense of belonging. We also visited widows from Choba and Alau communities and gave them gifts that enabled them feel that they were part of the Christmas celebrations. The whole idea was to make the women feel loved and cared for by public-spirited individuals and groups. We also wanted them to know that the University of Port Harcourt Women Association would stand in solidarity with them at all times," Mrs. Lale.

"During our visit to Alakabha community, we were told about the plight of two of the widows who had nobody to care for them. So, when the women made a passionate plea for assistance for the indigent widows, we felt it was necessary for us to do something for them and by God's grace, we got it done. Whenever there is an opportunity, we would do our best to help our fellow women in dire need," she promised.

In her contribution, Mrs. Millicent Worlu, who spoke on behalf of the beneficiaries, recalled that sometimes last year, the women of Alakabha received a letter from UPWA, indicating interest to visit the community women.

"This is the first time a Vice-Chancellor's wife was visiting the women of Alakabha community and we felt it was a golden opportunity for us to let her know what we have been feeling for the past several years. We are very happy that we got a listening ear and we have started seeing results that had eluded us for so long. During our first meeting in the New Year, the women agreed that we should come and express our gratitude to UPWA for remembering Alakabha Women and for making our Christmas very merry. Within the first five weeks of our request, we discovered that two of our women had been offered employment in the University, courtesy of UPWA.

Presenting some items which include tubers of yam, fish, oil and salt as a token of their appreciation to the UPWA President, one of the women leaders, Mrs. Worlu said: "With a little token as is the tradition of Ikwere women, we just want to say that we are grateful and happy for what the Association did for us," appealing for more partnership and employment opportunities for indigent women from the University's host communities.

The visiting delegation also included Mrs. Angelina Njoku and Mrs. Stella Enyi. Other members of UPWA present at the occasion included Professor Florence Nduka, Dr. Caroline Nnabuo, Mrs. Cecilia Agamagu and Mrs. Florence Ogo.



UPWA President, Mrs. Lale (centre, front), flanked by some EXCO members of the Association and the Alakabha women

RMH Ends Free HIV Screening in UniPort

By Mercy Adeniji



A staff of RS Ministry of Health, Mr. Rennar (centre) screening students

The Rivers State Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the O. B. Lahu-Briggs Health Centre, has ended a week-long mobile outreach programme for HIV Counselling and testing, as part of efforts aimed at sensitizing staff and students of University on the need for regular screening to detect the deadly Human Immunodeficiency Virus, an infectious agent that results in Acquired Immune

Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Speaking on the exercise with a Correspondent of *UniPort Weekly* on Friday, March 4, 2016, one of the facilitators, Mr. Emeth Rennar, disclosed that the outreach was a contribution of the Rivers State Ministry of Health towards effective control of the deadly disease that has no known cure. "This is a community outreach called

Anti-Retroviral Therapy Outreach (CARTE), through which we go to communities and schools to test people for HIV/AIDS and also enlighten them on how to safeguard themselves from the deadly scourge. We also send them that test positive for counselling to ensure they commence treatment immediately. We have 10 teams covering Odo/Akpo Local Government Area and the Rivers State Government makes provision for

the drugs which are distributed freely to persons leaving with the virus," she told our Correspondent.

In her contribution, Mrs. Ifeoma Ofarum of the Lahu-Briggs Health Centre, disclosed that the whole essence of the mobile outreach was to create better awareness about the disease and encourage people to come forward for voluntary testing. "Right now, the spread of HIV is still on the increase as there are people who are not aware that they may be living with the virus. Some out of fear do not even bother to check their HIV status, while others do not believe they have it or that the virus even exists. So, the best way to avoid it is to ensure that you keep away from reckless behaviours that could expose you to the virus."

"You could also contract HIV by cutting yourself with a razor blade or any sharp object that is not sterilized," she disclosed, observing that some people erroneously believe that the virus could be contracted only through sexual intercourse with an infected partner. Our position remains that the best way to stay safe from contracting the virus is total abstinence and ensuring that subjects are properly sterilized before me."

Mrs. Ofarum revealed that "some people still find it difficult to prevent them themselves at the nearest health facility to be tested for the virus, explaining that the outreach was commendable effort by the Rivers Ministry of Health to reach out to each people, especially in gateway Local Government Areas such as Tai, Eleme and Odo-Akpo. The Ministry is working with a Non-Governmental known as Family Health Insurance 360 (FHIS) with the stated aim of covering more areas. We mapped out eight service points to increase awareness amongst staff and students of the University and we are glad that the sensitization effort was successful."

416th Senate (Extra-ordinary)

Senate Approves Revised Academic Policy

...Direct Entry To Commence In 2016/2017 Session

By Obinna Nwodin

As part of efforts aimed at conforming to the current realities in academic practice, the Senate of the University of Port Harcourt has approved the revised General Regulations and Statement of Academic Policies of the Institution. Also, Senate has approved the long-expected Direct Entry Mode of admission into the University.

This decision was taken at the 416th (Extra-ordinary) Meeting of the august body held at the Senate Chambers, last Wednesday, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nduma Lale, who presided over the Meeting, recalled that at the 416th Regular Meeting of the highest academic policy making body held in February, it was unanimously agreed that an Extra-ordinary Meeting be convened to consider the document, given its importance in the overall academic direction of the University. This was after Chairman of the Committee, Professor Regius Ogui, made a spirited presentation on the revised academic policy of the University on the floor of Senate.

Members of Senate took a clause-by-clause review of the items on the document, making robust contributions and applying line item vote on some of the recommendations. The approved document addressed the general academic statement and policies of the University which included: Academic Objectives, Requirements for Matriculation, Degree Structures, General Objectives of Courses, Categories of Courses, Guidelines for Course System and Instruction, General Requirements for the Award of Degree, Criteria for Graduating Students, Academic Advisors, Registration of Courses, Auditing of Courses, Change of Degree Programme and Inter-University Transfer.

Other items deliberated on were: Time Table, Teaching, Grading System, Computation of Grade Point Average, Continuation, Probation and Withdrawal, Permanent Withdrawal, Classification of Degrees, Examination Malpractices, Results, External Moderation of Degree Examination, Procedure for Change of Results, Procedure for the Review of Scripts of Aggrieved Students, Procedure for Investigation of Examination Malpractices, Punishment for Examination Malpractices, as well as Membership of Secret Societies/Cults.

Also contributing to the heated deliberations, 5th Vice-

Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, commended Senate for the extensive work on the document, aimed at bringing the University's Statement of Academic Policies in sync with current trends, stating that the document reflected Senate's drive towards academic excellence. Briggs, who stated that the document would determine the new direction of the University, advised that the new vision should go beyond national growth to emphasize human capital development.

Professor Lale, who on behalf of Senate, expressed gratitude to Professor Ogui and her Committee for a wonderful work, also disclosed that the new policy would come into immediate effect to give teeth to the academic direction of the University.

Senate also considered the Report of the Committee on Implementation of Direct Entry as a Mode of Admission into the University, after which it was presented by a member of the Committee, Professor

Samuel Atokoye, on behalf of its Chairman, Professor Steve Okhoda. The Report outlined programmes in the various Faculties and the requirements for gaining admission into such programmes. Senate, thereafter, directed that the Report should be in tandem with the approvals made in the Statement of Academic Policies, while the effective date for approval of the Direct Entry Mode of Admission was pegged at the 2016/2017 Academic Session. Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor had announced the re-

election of Professor Lawrence Igwe as Dean of the Faculty of Education, as well as the election of Professor Chikinde Nwachukwu as Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences. He also announced the formal appointment of Dr. Johnson Briggs as Acting Director of the Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPITTO) and the 6th Valedictory Lecture to be delivered by Professor Benjamin Ekeoma of the Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education on Thursday, April 31, 2016 at the Ekhini Runjo Auditorium, University Park.

Professor Lale also appealed to Deans and Heads of Department to expedite action on all outstanding degree results to enable the authorities get the results ready for early mobilization of graduating students for the National Youth Service Corps scheme.



Senate in session

TOTAL Pledges Support For IPS

Cont'd from p1

Briefing Management of the University on the essence of a visit by a delegation from the Lagos office of TOTAL on Thursday, March 10, 2016, Chairman of the Education Partnership Steering Committee, Dr. Kingsley Ojoh, commended the University for sustaining the partnership, pledging that his company was desirous of sustaining it. "It has been a wonderful journey that started in IPS, a brain child of TOTAL and NNPC Joint Venture which started in 2005.

"The TOTAL-University Partnership Programme was originally aimed at training and retaining experts in three carefully selected institutions in locations, namely: Port Harcourt, Lagos and Abuja. We signed partnership agreements with Unifair, Abiaja University of Science and Technology (AUST) and Lagos Business School. These partnerships were meant to serve our major interest in the downstream sector of the business. Of the three agreements, only the one with the University of Port Harcourt is currently operational on account of the economic meltdown facing the country as a result of low oil price. The sustenance of the Unifair programme is a testimony of your demonstrated capacity in oil and gas studies.

"This shows you have much to be commended to the partnership with Unifair which we are determined to sustain, irrespective of the difficulties we are facing as a result of dwindling oil prices. It is also interesting to note that our Head Office in Paris has shown more than passing interest in what we are doing here. So, our visit is to reiterate the partnership that TOTAL will continue to sustain this mutually beneficial partnership. We acknowledge the changes that have been made and we expect that these changes would reposition the Institute for better service delivery.

In his response, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Eke, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndaba Lale, commended TOTAL for choosing the University, assuring the company of Management's determination to take the partnership to a higher level of activity to justify continued sponsorship of the IPS initiative. "Out of the three institutions you mentioned, we are very proud to state that the University of

Port Harcourt has emerged as an only institution that survived, despite the current squeeze in the oil business. Over here, we were getting worried as to how we would continue with some of these programmes being supported by the oil industry and other firms. However, we know what they are passing through in these hard times.

"Everybody is aware of what is going on in the oil industry today as a result of the collapse of global oil prices. The fear has always been there, but it is heart-warming to hear that TOTAL's sponsorship of IPS and support for the University will continue. It is good that you came to bring us to the same page as to what you want the partnership to achieve, because the essence of research is to qualify research that can bring about solutions to problems through industrial application," he said.

"We have abundant human resources in the University; all we need is for industry people to partners us in charting joint directions for research that would be of benefit to both parties. We guarantee that many problems in Nigeria would be solved through this partnership," he assured the delegation.

Also speaking, Director of IPS, Professor Daba Appah, expressed gratitude to TOTAL for sustaining the partnership, promising that the Institute would continue to justify the huge resources expended on running the programme, especially in these lean times. "Based on the Memorandum of Understanding and partnership agreement that gave birth to the TOTAL-IPS Research, a new Steering Committee has been set up, which is expected to expand our activities to include education and Science, School programme. A major part of this interaction is for



Dr. Ojoh (Admin), Prof. Eke (3rd left) flanked by Chairman, Steering Committee, Dr. Appah (left), outgoing Dr. C (4th), Prof. Eke, Unifair Librarian, Dr. Susan Umecover, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Alabi (right, front row), other members of the Ctee and some Senior Staff of the University

the new Steering Committee to give an direction on new areas of research and development. As you are aware, some of us are new on the job and would continue to compare notes with schedule officers in TOTAL, for the smooth running of the Institute. The most important thing is that we are open to new ideas that would bring relevant and save cost in the training of world-class graduates for the oil and gas industry.

In her contribution, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Maureen Ekeke, expressed gratitude to the Management of TOTAL for its continued support to IPS, assuring it that the Institute would continue to justify the reason for which it was established. She also promised that the Faculty would continue to support the Institute to achieve the dream of its founders to train industry-ready graduates.

Other members of the Steering Committee are Engineer Vincent Nwadi, Mr. Anoma Anika and Dr. James Eke. Also present were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Alabi, University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umecover, Executive Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Professor Henry Akpiki and Deputy Director of IPS and Coordinator of the Postgraduate Diploma Programme in Petroleum Technology, Dr. Basile Oji.

Lale, Past V-Cs, Guest Speaker Ekeale's Mentorship

By Othman Sammel

Vice-Chancellor, University of Abia, Professor Michael Adika, 2nd Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Sylvanus Cooker, 5th Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nini Briggs and sitting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndaba Lale, were among distinguished guests, who cheered enthusiastically on the immediate past Dean of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor Okeke Udeala for his pioneering effort towards the advancement of knowledge in the pharmaceutical sciences and his leadership style.

Presenting a Keynote Address entitled: *Professor Okeke Udeala: A Pharmacist Par Excellence*, at a 50th-anniversary ceremony organized by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, last Tuesday, Professor Adika, described his former teacher as a colossus and father of Pharmaceutical and Pharmaceutical Technology in Nigeria, stating that the pioneer Dean of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences had paid his dues in the advancement of knowledge in his field of study.

The University of Abia Vice-Chancellor praised out that Professor Udeala had supervised over ten Doctorate candidates who are now professors and inspired many other young academics, averring that Udeala's exploits in pharmaceutical technology had assisted many of his students to generate

research interest which accounted for major breakthroughs in the specialization.

"Professor Udeala has worked on several Nigerian natural products, ranging from *Avicennia gossypifolia* to *Avicennia ferox*. He was the first to produce leucogen from bitter kola. If we can follow his golden footsteps, many problems in Nigeria today would have been solved," the Keynote Speaker said, stating that Udeala's works stood out in knowledge generation, creativity, originality and versatility in building local capacity and mentoring younger scholars.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lale, endorsed Professor Udeala for pioneering the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences with utmost sense of commitment and humility. "It is a pleasure for me to witness this impressive ceremony organized by the Faculty to mark the formal disengagement of Professor Udeala who was engaged by the University in 2005 with a challenging task to pioneer the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in maturity. He did a great job by building the Faculty from scratch to where it is now. But just as the Bible makes reference to a time for everything under the earth, this is the right time to end an excellent career here. So, let me on behalf of the Governing Council, Senate, Staff and the entire Students of the University, thank Professor Udeala for his quality services to the University, and wish him the very best of the balance of his career," the Vice-Chancellor said.

In his speech as Chairman of the occasion, 5th Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Briggs, reminded the audience of the excellent service record of Professor Udeala and the solid foundation he laid for the growth of the new Faculty. "The emergence of the University is scholarship and transfer of knowledge. We do not produce or give money as the University, but we propagate knowledge and scholarship that

develop the minds of young people and prepare them to take up challenging national assignments. Professor Udeala has played his part and we are gathered here today to enable his part and present students celebrate him," the Chairman of the ceremony said.

The 2nd Vice-Chancellor, Professor Cooker, who was also on hand to bid the pioneer Dean farewell, expressed delight over the establishment of the Faculty as an allied discipline in the study of medicine in the University. He appealed to Professor Udeala to keep up the good work by contributing his wealth of knowledge to the growth of the Faculty even as he retires from active service. Earlier, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Kio Abia, who recounted the efforts of Professor Udeala as pioneer Dean from January 31, 2005, said the Faculty started with little basic infrastructure on ground. He congratulated the pioneer Dean for starting at a temporary one-block apartment from where he moved the Faculty to the new state-of-the-art complex at the Permanent Site of the University. The Dean also expressed satisfaction that the Faculty was able to secure accreditation for its programmes, saying that the ceremony was a modest way of showing appreciation to Professor Udeala for his relentless effort to uplift the study of pharmaceutical sciences in the University.

In his Valedictory Address entitled: *Education - 'How' leads 'What'*, Professor Udeala, who recalled his humble beginning in a family with no formal Western education, said he transferred his services to the University of Port Harcourt in 2005 through an act of providence.

If met the then Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nini D. Briggs and he was happy to meet me because according to him, he had made several attempts to track me. So, providence brought me to University to start the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. I am overwhelmed, yet not surprised by this act of love. I believe that I have made friends in my ten years in this University and I am grateful to all of you," Professor Udeala said.

He advised staff and students to strengthen the relationship existing between them to improve on the quality of pharmacy education in the University. "The journey we have been on has become more dispiriting. There has to be a positive change to pharmaceutical formulation to reinforce quality education," he said, stating that students who inculcate the habit of active observation can do well in research.

Highlights of the ceremony were presentation of gifts, goodwill messages and a playlet, which highlighted Professor Udeala's good qualities, by students of the Faculty.



V-C, Prof. Lale (second) flanked by Dr. C (Admin), Prof. Eke, 2nd V-C, Prof. Cooker, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Ono (left), pioneer Dean of Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Prof. Udeala, his wife, Keynote Speaker and 1st V-C Unifair, Prof. Adika, 2nd V-C, Emeritus Prof. Briggs, Prof. Eke Ekeke and others

GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Dr. Gabriel Okadiya, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Associate Dean of the Faculty*, effective March 25, 2016 to March 24, 2018.

Dr. Edem David, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Faculty of Sciences, appointed *Focal Officer of the UNESCO-NMC Chair Programme on Mathematics (Algebra)*, the appointment, which takes immediate effect, is until further notice.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor N.H. Ukoine, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture, granted one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective January 14, 2016 to January 13, 2017.

Professor Paul Nwafor, Department of Experimental Pharmacy and Toxicology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective April 2, 2016 to April 1, 2017.

Dr. Samuel Amae, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, granted one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective March 3, 2016 to March 2, 2017.

Dr. Helen Olor, Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective February 7, 2016 to February 6, 2017.

Mrs. Margaret Daw-Patrick, Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective June 2, 2016 to June 1, 2017.

Mr. Vincent Wokom, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Sciences, granted one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective April 21, 2016 to April 20, 2017.

STUDY LEAVE

Mr. Chikodi Omi, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted a three-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him pursue a Doctorate degree programme in Environmental Engineering at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, effective February 27,

Law Dean Advocates Improved Intellectual Property Rights At Nimenibo Lecture

By Humphrey Ogo

As Nigeria's economic fortunes continue to spiral downwards following the fall in oil price in the international market, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Ibibia Worika, has stressed the need for Nigeria to explore and exploit the huge investment opportunities in the intellectual property rights of her citizens. Delivering the 2nd Sir Clement Nimenibo Memorial Lecture entitled: "Copyright and Choral Music Production and Performance in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects", at the Amara Reader Lecture Theatre, on Saturday, March 12, 2016, Worika said that the Nigerian film and music industry have a huge potential of contributing to the development of the nation's economy.

"After the rebasing of the country's Gross Domestic Product, it became obvious that the film and music industry have contributed immeasurably to Nigeria being rated as the largest economy in Africa. The country's entertainment and music industry grew by 19.3 per cent in 2014 to reach \$4 billion. By 2015, it is estimated that the market will more than double with an estimated total revenue of US\$8.1 billion, with Internet and TV advertising and subscription being the key drivers," he revealed. Worika, who described copyright as "a non-regenerable and negative right which the creator of an original work such as choral music production and performances has against the whole world, usually for the duration of his life and some years afterwards," explained that it prevents unauthorised reproduction of such works without the express permission of the original copyright owner.

"Emergent trends in IT, intangibility of intellectual property, lack of, or inadequate policy and legal framework, including the vested issue of compliance enforcement have combined in varying degrees to the increasing rate of copyright theft, production of fake, substandard and unlicensed products, including music in Nigeria," he explained, calling for vigorous enforcement of copyright laws to encourage artists to continue to bring out their best for the benefit of society. Speaking through the Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Enemegweng, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndoka Lake, noted that protecting the copyright of artists, who have worked hard to compose and perform music will go a long way to encourage hard work and creativity in the country.

Enemegweng, who conveyed the apologies of the

Vice-Chancellor to the organisers for his unavoidable absence said: "Music is a recipe, in good time, we are very happy that we use music to express our joy and soothe our mood. Similarly, in times of sorrow, we use music to comfort ourselves and also in worship. Music is so significant in human affairs that no one can do without it. It is enjoyed in every society and every generation." In his opening remarks, Chairman of the session and Rector of the Oil and Gas Polytechnic, Bonnes, Professor Elijah Iyagba, commended the Nimenibo family for immortalising the name of their late father through an endowment in the Department of Music, describing music as a therapy and food for the soul that is patronised by every generation.

"In addition to this lecture and concert, the family of the late Sir Nimenibo also instituted a Professorial Chair with a view to supporting research in music. Today's lecture is very typical because it has to do with copyright laws to which most Nigerians—especially upcoming musicians—pay very little attention. Piracy has made it nearly impossible for musicians to reap a fortune from their musical compositions and performances," Iyagba added.

Earlier in his welcome address, Head of the Department of Music, Professor Olaye Nwankpa, who described Sir Nimenibo as an ace administrator, classical music enthusiast and collector, teacher, soldier, mentor, ballroom dancer, photographer, historian, librarian, philanthropist and lover of African culture, promised that there would be a substantive Occupant of the Nimenibo Professorial Chair to drive research by the next edition of the lecture series.

"In the Niger Delta of Nigeria today, aspects of composing and performing choral music have reached a standard we may refer to as the golden age as instrumental accompaniments demonstrate a high degree of independence and idiomatic expressions," Nwankpa said.

Responding on behalf of the Nimenibo family, Chief Eze Ogbulefu said: "This started as a simple gesture when the family felt it should present our father's musical library to the Department of Music to aid research and academic activities in the University. We are happy to hear that the Department has graduated its first batch of students. We are here to represent the entire family and we want to thank everyone who contributed in making the 2nd lecture in the series a resounding success."

The 2nd Nimenibo Lecture, which marked the 3rd Concert in the series, also featured musical renditions by UniPort Concert Chorus, amongst others.

STOP PRESS

WAUG GAMES MASCOT/LOGO

The Local Organising Committee for the West African University Games to be hosted this year by the University of Port Harcourt invites interested staff, students and other stakeholders to make entries for the design of a Games MASCOT and Logo for the competition. A statement dated March 7, 2016 and signed by Chairman of the Committee and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, directed interested persons to submit their entries to his office on the third floor of the Senate building, University Park within six weeks from the date of this publication.

Ibe Heads Committee On Personnel Audit

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, has been appointed Chairman, Committee on Personnel Audit. The appointment which takes immediate effect is until the completion of his assignment. Other members of the Committee are as follows: Professor Chikolpe Amakozom, Dr. Peter Kpohor, Dr. Letem Akintola, Dr. Dakuor Charles-Graeville, Messrs Godfred Okode, Stephen Ekob, Samuel Ogbuho, Chibuike Ego, Egolet Tamasso, Mrs. Priscilla Herbert, Mrs. Elizabeth Ndolicho and Dr. Iyke Akle.

The Committee's Terms of Reference (ToR), includes the following: to verify the actual number of staff (Academic, Administrative and Technical) on ground in the various Faculties, Departments, Institutes, Centres and Units. The Committee is also empowered to establish minimum benchmarks for the various categories of staff in the University to achieve the University's core mandate in line with the National University's Commission's accreditation criteria in mind.



Mr William Nimenibo (1st left), Chief Ogbulefu, Prof. Worika and Iyagba, Mrs Ogbulefu, Prof. Enemegweng, Nwankpa and others after the Lecture. Inset: late Sir Nimenibo

2ND DIETE-KOKI MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences held the 2nd Professor Kenneth Diete-Koki Memorial Lecture on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. The Lecture entitled: "Leveraging Drug Utilisation Research, Disease Registries, Social and Environmental Factors for Effective Healthcare Delivery in Nigeria," was delivered by Dr. John Vincent, a Senior Director at Pfizer Incorporated, United States. Pictures below by **MITCHELEBI-EKIYOR** captured major highlights of the event:



Provost, College of Health Sciences, Prof. Christine Mato (right) welcoming V-C, Prof. Ndawa Late



Immediate past Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Prof. Iyempe Siminteleky welcoming guests to the event



Provost, CHS, Prof. Mato reading her address



V-C, Prof. Late making opening remarks



Prof. Georgevill Owasari reading citation on the Guest Lecturer



Guest Lecturer, Dr. John Vincent presenting the Memorial Lecture



V-C (right) presenting a plaque to the Guest Lecturer



Precious Omaku of the Dept of Music entertaining guests



V-C (right) presenting former Faculty Dean's award to Prof. Nelson Brambalta



V-C (right) presenting former Faculty Dean's award to Prof. Omatayo Ehong



Prof. Late, presenting an award to former Dean of the Faculty and incoming DVC (Acad), Prof. Hakeem Fawehinmi



V-C and children of the late Prof. Kenneth Diete-Koki



A group photograph of guests with Officers of the University