

# UniPort Weekly

Vol. 26, Edition 267 March 7 - March 14, 2016

ISSN: 1522-2225

A Publication of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

## V-C Inaugurates local Accreditation C'ttee



Story on p2

## Ordinioha Lists Diabetes Control Measures



Story on p4

## Oxford Varsity Press Appoints Akpokodje



Story on p5

## Library Science Dept Begins Lectures



Story on p7

## UniPort, Songhai Centre To Sign New MoU To Strengthen Agro Research



As the call for diversification of the Nigerian economy intensifies in the face of dwindling oil revenue, authorities of the University and the Songhai Regional Centre for Excellence have reiterated their resolve to strengthen and sustain existing ties in agricultural research, reports *Obinna Nwodin*

More on p3

## Side Bar

**Daewoo E and C Limited awarded Scholarship to eight uniPort Students last Friday.**  
Details next week  
~Editor

## We Are Very Proud Of UniPort's Achievements ~ Gov Wike

By Williams Wodi

Governor Nyesom Wike has described his *Alma Mater*, the University of Port Harcourt as a "great University that has produced very important people who are making valuable contributions to nation-building. It is also on record that the University of Port Harcourt has produced three governors and the immediate past President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We are very proud of the University that has recorded so many achievements in so short a timeframe."

Speaking when the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, led the Management team of the University on a courtesy visit to him in Government House, last Tuesday, Governor Wike assured the delegation that the Rivers State Government will continue to support the Institution to attain its full potentials, pointing out that children from the State study in the University.

Said he "Our children school in the University of Port Harcourt; so, we have a duty to continue our support for the University to achieve the purpose for which it was established. On my part, I will continue to treat UniPort as a priority case because that is the University that gave me

a solid academic foundation and I am very grateful and proud of my association with it. Whatever happens to UniPort happens to me and I shall always strive to preserve the image and integrity of the University in whatever I do in and out of office."

Expressing surprise that the new buildings for the Faculties of Social Sciences and Law were yet to be completed and put to use, Governor Wike promised to pay an unscheduled visit to

see the projects for himself with a view to ascertaining why they were yet to be completed by the Contractor. He disclosed that the Faculty of Law complex was to include customized hostels for male and female students, revealing that funding for both projects were approved by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund.

On the endowment he made in memory of his intellectual icon and teacher, Professor Claude Ake and another for late Dr. Obi

Wali, the Governor promised to revisit the endowments to ascertain their true status. "I need to find out if the funds pledged for the two Professorial Chairs have been redeemed by the



More on p6

## V-C Inaugurates New Local Accreditations Committee

By Obinna Nwodin

**A**uthorities of the University have inaugurated the newly re-constituted University-wide Local Accreditations Committee with a charge to members to redouble efforts aimed at pointing out potential obstacles to securing full accreditation for all programmes offered by the University.

Performing the inauguration on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, said that "the essence of setting up the Committee is to prepare the various Departments well ahead of accreditation exercises carried out by both the National Universities Commission (NUC) and other professional regulatory bodies. The reason for setting up the Committee is to discourage last minute rushes during accreditation exercises which are not usually the best for us and the system," adding that the duty of the Committee was to prompt the various Departments ahead of such exercises to ensure that everything was put in place before the arrival of external accreditation teams to the University.

Professor Lale, who reminded members of the Committee that their responsibility was a very big and challenging task, restated that it was not just to point out deficiencies in each programme, but also to alert Management on what to do before each accreditation exercises. He assured the new Committee members that the authorities



DV-C (Admin), Prof. Ibe (centre) flanked by DV-C (Academic), Prof. Igbo Joe, Univ. Librarian Dr. Susan Umeozor (right), Chairman of the C'ttee, Prof Osuji, Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, Bursar, Mr Vitalis Alieji and other members of the C'ttee

would do everything within available resources to put the right facilities in place, expressing confidence in the ability of members of the Committee to justify the confidence reposed in them.

In his acceptance speech, new Chairman of the Committee, Professor Julian Osuji, thanked Management for finding them worthy to serve the University in such a sensitive position, pledging that members of the Committee would discharge their duties creditably and to the very best of their abilities. Professor Osuji expressed delight that the Committee comprised of diligent and hardworking members, appealing to the authorities to give members the needed tools to

achieve the goals for which it was established.

Other members of the Committee are: Professor Oghonna Joel (Faculty of Engineering), Professor Ekanem Wokoma (Faculty of Agriculture), Professor Iyegbu Siminialayi (Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences), Professor Femi Shaka (Faculty of Humanities), Professor Samuel Oluwuo (Faculty of Education), Professor Barine Nwince (Faculty of Management Sciences), Dr. Peter Kpolovie, Acting Director of Academic Planning, as well as Dr. Philip Aziagba of the Library Department, while the Registrar is expected to nominate a Secretary to the Committee.

## STUDENT WORLD

**H**ilary Eke's passion for science began quite early in life. This is attributable to the influence of his father, whom he said was a science and mathematics teacher, industrial chemist and lecturer. He recalled that his father, late Chief Hilary Oghonna Eke, wanted all his children to study the sciences and went ahead to encourage them in that direction from childhood.

On successful completion of his secondary education, Hilary's dream was to become an Engineer. To actualise this dream, he enrolled into a diploma programme at the Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana-Afikpo in Ebonyi State, where he briefly studied Civil Engineering before considering a change of career.

Spurred by a burning desire to heed what he saw as an ecclesiastical calling then, Eke enrolled for the Bachelor of Philosophy (BPhil) degree at the Pontifical Urbaniana University, Rome and later obtained another Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Political Philosophy from the University of Port Harcourt. He thereafter earned the Master of Arts degree in Philosophy, specialising in Epistemology. With his eyes firmly fixed on taking up a career in the academia, Eke embarked on a doctoral degree research in Philosophy of Science. He is currently concluding a Thesis entitled: *Carl Gustav Hempel on Scientific Explanation: a Critique*, supervised by Professor Andrew Efemini.

Eke, who taught courses in Philosophy of Science in the Department, disclosed that his research is aimed at engendering a radical approach to scientific study in Nigerian institutions of higher learning. "Science inquiry in our institutions of higher learning seems to have adopted a method of studying the subject as

## Science Without Philosophy Is Empty ~Eke

**HILARY EKE, a Doctoral Degree Candidate in the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, is working on improving how science is studied in Nigerian institutions of higher learning. He told our Correspondent, HUMPHREY OGU that there is no science without philosophy.**

**dogm** a. The involvement of philosophy in the study of science will create avenue for radicalisation of scientific study at all levels. When scientific dogma is subjected to the rigorous scrutiny of philosophy, science becomes more purified," he explained, stressing the need for teachers to give room for creativity and innovation. Instead of being dogmatic in teaching the sciences, Eke, who



currently teaches in the General Studies Unit of Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana-Afikpo, Ebonyi State, noted that "Philosophy is the only discipline that reflects on itself and other disciplines. So, as someone who has a strong interest in the sciences, I decided to reflect my philosophical investigations on science. It may interest you to note that I was a core science student in my secondary school days and even in my early days in the tertiary institution before I finally delved into philosophy." Disclosing that his research methodology was based on the critical analysis of the original texts of Hempel and commentaries of philosophy of science scholars, Eke said: "I can state without fear of

contradiction that science without philosophy is empty. This is because every scientific breakthrough has been a product of deep philosophical thinking, which is what Thomas Kuhn calls *normal science*. If one does not think critically and reflect on normal science, then one cannot make a paradigm shift in the study of science.

"There are asymmetrical relations in explanations, including causal and context-dependent relations. My finding is that Hempel based his explanatory theory on epistemological grounds, but scientific explanation is not limited to epistemology only," Eke disclosed, adding that "the practical end of my research work is to inculcate in the Nigerian students and scientists, a radical approach to scientific investigation. The theoretical end is to provide a good avenue to fairly discuss the theories of scientific explanations as propounded by Carl Hempel.

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof Ndowa Lale	- Publisher	Photography
Prof Eke Ekeke	- Editorial Chair	Headman Akir
Dr. Austin Sado	- Editorial Adviser	Mitchell Ekyor
Williams Wodi	- Editor	
Obinna Nwodin	- Associate Editor	
Correspondents	Secretary	Graphic
Marcus Adeniji	Grace Amadi (Mrs)	Chika King-James (Mrs)
Ofior Samuel		
Humphrey Ogu		
Ethel Tim-Johnson		

Call: 08033093371



# UniPort, Songhai Centre To Sign New MoU

Cont'd from p1

This was the outcome of a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor by founder of the Songhai Regional Centre of Excellence in Agriculture, Professor Godfrey Nzamujo on Thursday, February 25, 2016.

Professor Nzamujo, who is also a Visiting Professor to the University, disclosed that the visit was to enable him touch base and assess the state of research and development currently going on in the Faculty of Agriculture. He expressed delight with the quality of staff in the Faculty, noting that the new challenge was to properly equip researchers and students to meet with the current realities in the agricultural sector with a view to energizing it for greater productivity.

Nzamujo, who is also a Catholic Priest, said that "the new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed between the Songhai Centre and the University was aimed at repositioning the University to be a power house in making agriculture a weapon of mass construction in the wake of the economic meltdown that was occasioned by the decline in oil revenue accruable to the nation. This means that we have to do business in an unusual manner to make agriculture bring in the needed development that the country deserves." The foremost Agriculturist stated that the focus was to examine the challenges, as well as what could be done to make the Faculty a virile place that would make meaningful contributions to the economic transformation of the country.

Professor Nzamujo restated his desire to collaborate with the University to create an enabling environment that would help students



DV-C (Admin), Prof. Ibe (3rd left, front) flanked by Prof Nzamujo (right), Univ. Librarian Dr. Susan Umeozor, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof Eber Erundu (left) and others

become functional and skilled leaders, restating the importance of proffering practical solutions to the decline of the oil sector. "It is time to link theory to practice and make students functional partners that can incubate strong new ideas that would steer us in a new direction," he declared, expressing hope that the University would brace itself to play a major role in the development of agriculture.

In his speech, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, at the occasion, reassured his guest of continued collaboration with Songhai Farm, commending him for the zeal and passion with which he was pursuing his vision of feeding sub-Saharan Africa. He said that the new Agreement would enable students of the University be in tune with the vision of creating a new value for agricultural practice, assuring Professor Nzamujo that authorities of the University would do everything within their powers to make the partnership succeed.

"We are happy that you are very passionate about developing the huge agricultural potentials of Nigeria and we wholly agree with you that there needs to be a change in the way we practise agriculture if we hope to feed our people. It is an important message that should be taken to every part of this country, especially to our young people, who must be given new incentives that would make agriculture attractive and profitable once again," he said.

In his remark, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Eber Erundu, expressed gratitude to Professor Nzamujo for his contributions towards the growth and development of the Faculty, assuring him that the Faculty would properly utilize the opportunity provided by the partnership to empower its staff and students to champion the new direction in agricultural practice.

It would be recalled that the subsisting Agreement which is coming to an end was signed between the partners in 2008.

## V-C Pledges Support For NUPA

By Mercy Adeniji

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has reiterated Management's continued support for the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Nigeria Universities Pensioners' Association (NUPA).

Professor Lale gave the assurance when he received a delegation of the Association on a courtesy call to his office last Monday, commending the members of the Association for their show of loyalty to his administration. He expressed gratitude to members of the Association on behalf of Management for their evident contributions to the development of the University in their active days and for their continued interest in its future direction.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Anthony Ibe, who represented the Vice-Chancellor at the occasion, promised that the four items listed by the Association would be passed

on to the Vice-Chancellor accordingly, but urged the Executive of the body to articulate its demands properly for easy reference and possible action by Management. "We are going to pass on the message and it is our wish that your retirement would not be a stressful one after you have put in your best years for the development of the University. Retirement is something people should eagerly look forward to and it should not become a moment of anxiety and stress, because all of us who are working today will inevitably retire some day and would expect to be paid all our entitlements without having to be tossed from one office to another," Professor Ibe said.

Chairman of the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the Nigeria Universities Pensioners' Association (NUPA), Mr John Wonne, disclosed that the Association was in the University to congratulate the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lale, on his appointment and also to brief him about the activities of the body.

"We are grateful to your predecessors for accommodating and

carrying us along in the scheme of things. We are happy to announce that previous administrations treated us very well, financially, socially, otherwise and we expect the new Vice-Chancellor and his team to do the same to give us a sense of belonging in the system we toiled very hard to build in our active days. The Bursary Department has been very supportive in terms of when Pensioners are faced with one challenge or the other and we are very appreciative of such interest in our welfare," he said, adding that "now that we are no longer dealing directly with the University, but with the Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate (PTAD) at Abuja, it has become a little cumbersome for the authorities to expeditiously address our need. It was far easier when we were dealing directly with the University. It takes us more time to get a listening ear from Abuja these days, but we will continue to do our best to secure our interest as retirees, because it is our right."

Speaking while articulating its demand, Chairman of the Association, Mr. Wonne, recalled that the body had earlier sent a Memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor, adding: "We want the Administration to look into some of the issues we raised in the letter. We have 252 of our NUPA Pensioners, who were not paid their entitlements in 2009, meaning that we still have arrears dating back to 2013. We want our entitlements to be paid as at when due and we also want Management to assist us in ensuring that nine of our members are verified and paid their entitlements as retired staff who helped in building the University." The Chairman also called for the employment of qualified children of his members, including sorting out the problem with members who bank with the U&C Microfinance Bank, Choba.

Other members of the Executive that accompanied the Chairman on the visit included the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Jonathan Nwobugo, Mr. Ezumoh Igwiloh, Secretary, Mr. Magnus Okogbule, Assistant Secretary, Mr. Uche Nlerum, Public Relations Officer, Pastor Godwin Akpan, Financial Secretary, Dame Julie Owkhonda, Treasurer and Lady Leticia Ogali, Ex-Officio.



DV-C (Admin), Prof. Ibe (3rd left, front) flanked by DV-C (Acad), Prof Joe (right), Univ. Librarian, Dr. Umeozor, Chairman of NUPA, Mr. Wonne (left), some Senior Officers of the University and other EXCO members of NUPA

# Ordinioha Lists Diabetes Control Measures

By Humphrey Ogu

**A** Consultant in Preventive and Social Medicine at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Dr. Best Ordinioha, has stressed the importance of making deliberate efforts towards prevention and management of diabetes, which he said is on the rise in Nigeria.

Exchanging views with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent last Monday, Dr. Ordinioha, who noted that Nigeria had the highest number of persons living with diabetes in sub-Saharan Africa, called on persons living with the ailment to enrol in a six-week training on Diabetes Self-Management programme mounted by a Port Harcourt-based Non-governmental organisation, PPH Consult, explaining that relatives of patients can also attend the programme on behalf of their diabetic relations.

He urged persons living with diabetes or their relations to avail themselves of the rare opportunity to learn how they can become their own 'doctors', advising interested persons to call: 08185765946, 07068062372, 08050458929 or 08085601355, visit [www.methuselahprojects.com.ng](http://www.methuselahprojects.com.ng) or email PPH Consult at [pphtrainings@gmail.com](mailto:pphtrainings@gmail.com) for more information.

Dr. Ordinioha emphasised the need for a paradigm shift in the management of diabetes, explaining that the new programme "involves teaching the patients what to do, how to do them and when to do them to achieve maximum health benefits. Under the new plan, the patients are the main care providers, who report at the hospital for regular medical check-ups every three months with documented records of what they have done at home. The doctor reviews the records and when



Dr. Ordinioha

a patient fails, it is because the patient fails to play his part, and not because of the failure of drugs.

"Unfortunately acute care model in the care of patients is still being practised in Nigeria. In acute care model, a patient gets sick at home and only goes to hospital for treatment. This model has been found to be ineffective and quite dangerous. That is why we recommend chronic care model, which is very effective for the control and management of diabetes, hypertension and other chronic diseases," Dr. Ordinioha pointed out.

He observed that "no food is inherently bad for diabetic patients. Even food that are said to be fast in releasing their sugar can be slowed to the level that they can be good for diabetic patients during preparation or eating," explaining that adding more fibre and oil to

garri during the preparation stage will slow down the release of sugar.

"If you add oil to food, it will certainly lower the glycaemic index by slowing down the release of sugar content. Extra soup also slows down the absorption of sugar in garri because soup thickeners contain soluble that slows the release of sugar," he said.

Dr. Ordinioha, who noted that quantity of food consumed introduces glycaemic load to the body, said: "taking a lot of carbohydrates at a go tends to increase blood sugar. The body is better able to deal with small quantities and no matter what foods you eat, if you eat high quantities, then they will not be good for a diabetic patient. Although plantain contains lower glycaemic index, but if you eat too much plantain flour it will still raise the blood sugar," pointing out that "the glycaemic index of tropical fruits are higher than those of the temperate region.

Describing sugar as the only fuel the brain uses to function properly, Dr. Ordinioha, said: "If sugar is not supplied to the brain, the diabetic patient is likely to go into hypoglycaemic coma due to the inability of the brain to get sugar," recommending that "the meal of a diabetic patient should contain at least 45 per cent carbohydrates, which should be the complex form of carbohydrates from whole grain fruits," advising diabetic patients to keep sugar or sweet drinks handy to avoid a sudden descent into hypoglycaemic coma.

On what a diabetic should eat, Dr. Ordinioha, who co-authored *101 Ways to Live a Long Life With Diabetes Mellitus*, with Dr. Seyi Brisibe of Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital, Okolobiri, Bayelsa State, said: "Everything done in the care of diabetes is a balancing act; it should neither be too high nor too low."

## SCIENTIFIC INNOVATIONS

## 30-Million-Year-Old Fossilized Flowers May Be Toxic —Scientists

**D**elicate, though possibly deadly, flowers trapped in amber for some 30 million years have been discovered, scientists report.

The fossilized plants are asterids, which make up about one-third of the world's flowering plants. About 80,000 species fall under this taxonomic clade, including coffee trees, tomato plants, mint, basil and tobacco. Despite the ubiquity of asterids today, no fossilized examples of the plants have been found until now, the researchers say.

The two flower specimens, which have been named *Strychnos electri*, belong to the same genus as poisonous plants that have been used to make lethal, paralyzing substances like strychnine and curare.

"Species of the genus *Strychnos* are almost all toxic in some way," George Poinar Jr., an amber expert at Oregon State University, said in a statement.

"Each plant has its own alkaloids with varying effects. Some are more toxic than others, and it may be that they were successful because their poisons offered some defense against herbivores."

Scientists have identified about 200 species of *Strychnos* plants. One of the most famous representatives of this genus might be *Strychnos nux-vomica*, from which strychnine is derived. Strychnine has been used in rat poison, but it has also cropped up as a weapon in Agatha Christie novels, and Norman Bates used the poison to kill his mother in Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho." Strychnine poisoning was even proposed as a possible cause of Alexander the Great's death.

Curare—which contains the toxin tubocurarine, extracted from the plant *Strychnos toxifera*—has a storied history as well. Hunters in South America used the poison to make paralyzing blow darts (witnessed as early as the 16th century by the English explorer Sir Walter Raleigh). More recently, safe doses of the poison have been used in



Dr. Ogonnaya Onu  
Minister of science and Technology

medicine as a muscle relaxer.

It's not clear how toxic (if at all) the newly discovered *Strychnos electri* was. These two new flowers became entombed in sticky tree resin in a steamy tropical forest in what is today the Cordillera Septentrional mountain range in the Dominican Republic some 20 million to 30 million years ago.

Amber, which is hardened tree resin, is an important source of knowledge about tiny prehistoric life on Earth. In Dominican amber in particular, scientists have discovered species of wasps, locusts, ticks, blood-sucking flies and beetles suspended in time.

The new flower findings were reported on February 15, 2016 in the journal *Nature Plants*.

Report by Megan Gannon, Live Science Contributor

## Stop Press 416<sup>TH</sup> SENATE MEETING

**T**he 416<sup>th</sup> Extra-ordinary Meeting of Senate of the University has been scheduled to hold on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at the Senate Chambers, University Park. A statement dated March 2, 2016 and signed by the Deputy Registrar (Academic), Dr. Agatha Ataga, disclosed that the Meeting which will commence at 10:00 am, will basically discuss the reports of the Committee on the Review of Statement of Academic Policies of the University and the Committee on Implementation of Direct Entry Admission. The statement appealed to Members of Senate to endeavour to read through the reports which had earlier been forwarded electronically to enable them make wide-ranging inputs at the Meeting.

# Heat Wave Worries Climate Expert

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

An expert and Acting Head of Department of Geography and Environmental Management in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Gloria Emenike, has attributed the heat wave and unusually hot weather currently experienced across the country to the effects of climate change.

Dr. Emenike, who spoke on the phenomenon while exchanging views with a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent last Tuesday, disclosed that heat waves form when high pressure above the surface of the earth, from about 10,000 to 25,000 feet strengthens and remains over a region for several days and up to several weeks. "This situation allows the atmosphere to act as a cap and a trapping mechanism to accumulate more heat. It is this trapped heat that generates the heat wave that we are currently experiencing across the country," she explained.

"In a place like the University of Port Harcourt that is usually humid, the combination of high temperatures and humidity becomes rather markedly felt as has been the case in the last two weeks. The abnormal temperature conditions may not be unconnected to the mounting discussions about the effects of climate change in many circles," Dr. Emenike remarked, adding that the effect of the ongoing heat wave in the country could be suffered by people of all age brackets.

"Some people are more vulnerable to the effects of searing heat wave. This group of

people include the sick, very young, elderly and overweight. Another group that is also more vulnerable to the effects of heat wave is the urban dwellers," the Acting Head of Department of Geography and Environmental Studies submitted, pointing out that the effects of current heat wave vary from heat exhaustion which manifests with symptoms that include vomiting, diarrhoea, headache and nausea, to heat rash and cramps which could be itchy and uncomfortable.

Listing measures aimed at managing the effects of current heat wave, Dr. Emenike suggested that individuals drink sufficient fluids such as water or fruit juices, get adequate rest, stay in a cool environment and remain rehydrated, including fuelling

of electrolytes, which are necessary for muscle and other body functions, avoid strenuous activities, such as exercising during the heat wave.



Dr. Emenike

## Stop Press 37<sup>th</sup> MATRICULATION CEREMONY

Duly registered Fresh Students for the 2015/16 academic session are informed that the 37<sup>th</sup> Matriculation Ceremony of the University holds on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at the Convocation Arena. Time is 9:00 am.

All Matriculating Students are expected to be seated at 8:30 am. They are also advised to print out a copy of the *Matriculation Pledge* online which they will sign after taking the *Oath* at the Convocation Arena and return to the College Secretary or Faculty Officer of their respective Colleges or Faculties. A statement dated February 24, 2016 and signed by the Deputy Registrar (Academic), Dr. Agatha Ataga, further directed Full-Time Students to proceed to their College, Faculty or School with receipt of payment of all approved Charges to collect their academic outfits, starting from Thursday, March 10, while Part-Time Students should contact the Secretary of the College of Continuing Education for the schedule of the date of collection and returning of academic outfits. "Please note that a refund of N1, 000.00 shall be made to you at the College/Faculty/School Finance Office, on return of the outfit in good condition on the stipulated date," Dr. Ataga said, warning the students to return the outfit not later than the close of work on Wednesday, March 23, 2016.

## Oxford Varsity Press Appoints Akpokodje Contributory Author

By Otiok Samuel



Prof. Akpokodje

Director of the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES), Professor Enuvie Akpokodje, has been appointed a Contributory Author by Oxford University Press to contribute an article on *Delta Environmental Sedimentology* for a special collection of *Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of Environmental Sciences*.

An online message by the Associate Editor, Lee Oglesby to Professor Akpokodje, dated Thursday, February 18, 2016 and obtained by *UniPort Weekly*, disclosed that "the Oxford Research Encyclopaedia (ORE) is a web-based reference that supports and promotes research with overview articles on essential topics of interest, incorporating the physical science of environments on Earth with the social science of human interaction with them," adding that articles for publication which are peer-reviewed and published online, are

carefully selected from trusted experts.

"I write to you from Oxford University Press at the recommendation of Professor Rodney Stevens, a Senior Editor for the *Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of Environmental Science*. Professor Stevens suggested that you would be an ideal author for an article on the subject of *Delta Environmental Sedimentology* for the encyclopaedia's foundational collection. On behalf of the Press and the editors of this collection, I invite you to join us as a Contributory Author," the Associate Editor wrote, revealing that the project is led by Hank Shugart as Editor-in-Chief with contributions from a team of renowned advisory and senior editors.

In his letter informing the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale of the invitation given to him to serve as a Contributory Author, Professor Akpokodje thanked the Oxford University Press for the opportunity, pledging to do his best to bring more honour to the University of Port Harcourt through quality research and development.



## Gov. Wike Pledges Support For UniPort

Cont'd from p1

Rivers State Government, because I am not in the habit of making empty promises," he told the delegation. He also expressed disappointment that the Faculty of Humanities building was yet to be delivered to the University, promising to find out what was holding the job awarded by the immediate past government.

Earlier in his address, the Vice-Chancellor had congratulated Chief Wike on his success at the Governorship election and his recent victory at the Supreme Court, pledging the loyalty of

the University to his government. "Your success is our success and you can be rest assured of our total support as you finally settle down to deliver the dividends of democracy to Rivers people. God has done all that needs to be done for you in your moments of travail. It is now your turn to show gratitude to God through quality service to the people," Professor Lale told the Governor.

Expressing gratitude to the Governor for his support for the success of the recent Resource Verification of the Faculty of Law, the Vice-Chancellor disclosed that admission of students into the programme

would commence in the 2016/2017 academic session. He appealed to Governor Wike to prevail on the Contractor handling the project to speedily complete it in time for the final accreditation exercise by the National Universities Commission and other regulatory agencies.

"We want to thank you for the timely completion of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology building, which has already been put to use. It is our hope that construction work would soon be completed on the Faculties of Law and Social Sciences buildings to create an enabling environment for our students. We also wish to appeal to you to remember the Faculty of Humanities project where work has since stopped for inexplicable reasons. It is our hope that the affected Contractors would resume and complete work at the various sites, including the Model Primary School initiated by the past administration," Professor Lale said.

On the Vice-Chancellor's entourage were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliezi, University Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor, newly-elected Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, immediate past Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, Director of Special Projects in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Matthew Wegwu and Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogwu.



Gov Wike (5th right, front) flanked by V-C, Prof Lale (centre), Principal and some Senior Officers of UniPort and R/S Gov't officials

## IPS Announces Sale Of Form

By Mercy Adeniji

The Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), has announced sale of form for admission into its Centre for Oil and Gas Technology for the Master of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering and Project Development programme for the 2016/2017 academic session. A statement made available to *UniPort Weekly* by the Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, disclosed that admission is now open to suitably qualified candidates from sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. Successful students shall receive the Masters'

degree jointly by IFP School, and the University Harcourt, Nigeria. duration of the programme shall be (12) calendar of intensive full-time Students may be t o progr.

awarded France of Port The programme twelve months study, exposed

ammes presented with Associate Environment Practitioners (AEP) and certification by NREP, USA. Candidates must possess a minimum of Bachelor's degree Second Class Honours (Upper Division) in any branch of Engineering. Consideration may be given to sponsored company staff with a minimum of five years relevant Upstream Petroleum experience with Second Class Honours (Lower Division), but with CGPA greater than 3.0 on a scale of 5.0.

Application is strictly online at [www.ipsng.org/apply](http://www.ipsng.org/apply), and a non-refundable fee of Twenty thousand naira (20,000) will be required to be paid online to start the application procedure. Completed hard copy application form must be returned to the Director, Institute of Petroleum Studies on or before Friday, April 15, 2016. A very competitive aptitude test holds on Wednesday, April 27, 2016.



Mrs. Otto, Registrar

## Stop Press 2<sup>ND</sup> NIMENIBO MEMORIAL CONCERT

The Department of Music in the Faculty of Humanities announces the 2<sup>ND</sup> Sir Clement Fimie Nimenibo's Memorial Lecture and Concert scheduled to hold on Saturday, March 12, 2016. A statement dated March 1, 2016 and signed by the Head of Department, Professor Onyee Nwankpa, gave the theme of the event as: *The Impact of Copyright on Choral Music Production and Performance in Nigeria*, adding that the Lecture which will be delivered by the Acting Dean, Faculty of Law, Professor Ibibia Worika, will hold at the Amatu Braide Lecture Hall at 12:00 noon. The University community and interested members of the public are invited to attend.

## Stop Press Medical Response C'ttee

Acting Director of the Health Services Department, Dr. Chinwe Ezirim, has been appointed Chairman of the Emergency Medical Intervention (EMI) Committee charged with the responsibility of tackling epidemic outbreaks on Campus. A letter dated February 15, 2016 and personally signed by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, disclosed that the appointment which took immediate effect would last until further notice. Other members of the Committee are Professor Vincent Idemiyor, Drs. Best Ordinioha, Glory Amadi, Dinebari Badey, Datonye Alasia, Aline Noutcha, Messrs Obinna Nwodin, Okzie Ochuba, Reginald Isiguzo and Mrs. Florence Ogwo, while Dr. Kenneth Umeadi will serve the Committee as Secretary.

## GUIDEPOST

## APPOINTMENT

**Dr. Tobinson Briggs**, Department of Mechatronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Acting Director, Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO)*. The two-year appointment which took immediate effect will terminate on February 15, 2018.

**Mrs. Immaculate Ejike**, Bursary Department, granted *Pensionable Appointment as Accountant II*, effective January 6, 2014.

## RESUMPTION OF DUTY

**Professor Leo Osuji**, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, resumed duty from *Sabbatical Leave*, effective February 1, 2016.

## ASSUMPTION OF DUTY

**Mr. Friday Wubi**, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year Renewal of Contract Appointment as *Senior Secretarial Assistant*, effective March 12, 2016 to March 11, 2017.

**Mrs. Grace Iboje**, University Demonstration Primary School, granted *Pensionable Appointment as Master I*, effective December 15, 2015.

**Tom Obong**, Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, granted a one-year Renewal of Contract Appointment as *Orchestra and String Instructor*, effective May 13, 2016 to May 12, 2017.

## SABBATICAL LEAVE

**Professor Enoch Nwachukwu**, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, proceeds on *Sabbatical Leave* to the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nkpulu-Oroworukwo, effective February 24, 2016 to February 23, 2017.

## VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT

**Dr. Ibilola Orupabo**, Department of Chemical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted *Voluntary Retirement*, effective June 1, 2016.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**MRS. NIABARI LEDORNU NDAM**. Former Miss Niabari Baridam of the School of Graduate Studies now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. Niabari Ledornu Ndam. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

**MRS. NNAA GRACE L. NEEDU**. Former Miss Ikara Grace Legbo of the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. Nnaa Grace L. Needu. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

## STOP PRESS

## CMRAP Journal: Call For Article

The Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine (CMRAP), invites researchers, including medical and allied health practitioners and Postgraduate Students with innovative and original articles on pre-clinical and clinical studies on malaria and related diseases to submit them for publication in the maiden edition of *Journal of Malaria and Phytomedicine (JMP)*.

A statement made available to *UniPort Weekly* further disclosed that "JMP also publishes scientific findings on the efficacy, safety and mechanism of action of plant extracts with anti-malarial potential," calling on interested persons to forward their articles immediately for consideration and possible publication in the *Journal*, which would be launched on Monday, May 16, 2016. "Research papers and short notes should follow the structure of Abstract, Introduction, Methodology, Results and Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgements, Competing Interests, Authors' Contributions, Consent (where applicable), Ethical approval (where applicable), and References plus figures and/or tables."

Manuscripts should be submitted online as an e-mail attachment in PDF format to the editorial office at [editorial@cmrapjournal.com](mailto:editorial@cmrapjournal.com) or [jmp@cmrapjournal.com](mailto:jmp@cmrapjournal.com), or contact the editorial office at the Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine.

## Students Upbeat, As Library Science Dept Starts Lectures

By Otikor Samuel



The emergent Department of Library and Information Science (LIS) in the Faculty of Education, has commenced academic activities with 37 pioneer students enrolled for the 2015/16 session. The Department is temporarily domiciled in the Donald Ekong Library Complex, University Park.

Acting Head of Department, Dr. Henrietta Otokunefor, had last November, disclosed that a total of 89 candidates were offered provisional admission, out of which 37 of them took up the offer. She stated that 14 teaching staff, who are specialists in such areas as Library Automation, Application of ICTs in Library and Information Science, Special Libraries, Library Management, Cataloguing and Classification, Reference and Preservation, Library Administration, Bibliometrics, Community Informatics, Academic Libraries and Librarianship, and User Studies Information Dissemination were already on ground, including three non-teaching staff.

Our Correspondent, who returned to the Department last Monday to follow up the development, reported that the Acting Head of Department, Dr. Otokunefor, pledged her accelerated and academic commitment to infrastructural growth of the Department in readiness for resource verification exercise by the National Universities Commission and other relevant regulatory agencies.

She disclosed that restructuring work was already ongoing at the Donald Ekong Library Complex to provide more suitable spaces for staff and students, expressing hope that the Academic Planning Unit would work out modalities to invite the regulatory bodies very soon for resource verification.

Meanwhile, the pioneer students have expressed happiness with the Department for introducing the Information Science component that would expose them to advanced computer technology.

"In this University, the Library Department is science-based, meaning that for one to be qualified for admission, one must possess the required credit in relevant science subjects at the Ordinary Level. This is the only Library and Information Science programme in the country that is IT-compliant right from the first year. The idea is to train our students to gain advanced knowledge in computer technology that will make them self-reliant on graduation. With the grant from MacArthur Foundation, we want all

of them to obtain professional certification such as A++ to enable them acquire pattern recognition skills that can be applied in most programming languages," Dr. Otokunefor said, adding that Library studies had gone beyond the traditional notion of arranging books in the conventional Library.

Course Representative, Samuel Egbo, who conceded that all the students previously applied for courses in Engineering, said they came to like the new course. "I had little knowledge about the course when I was offered provisional admission, but I came to accept it when I learnt of the career prospects. There are two aspects of the course; it is either I become a full-time Librarian or an Information Scientist on graduation," he said.

On the relationship existing between the staff and students, Egbo disclosed that "the Lecturers have been very good; they are intelligent, diligent and punctual. They also teach very well. We have computers for our practical sessions on information technology and cataloguing. Our e-library standard and up-to-date and so the 37 of us are enjoying the Department."

Treasure the same line of thought when she said: "I had d to study Mechatronic Engineering because I love drawings and calculations, as well as working on robotics, but I had a deficiency in one of the core subjects. I may still need another degree in Mechatronics, but I am very comfortable with Library and Information Science. I am also happy to be one of the pioneer students of the new Department."

"I feel great because my set is getting the best of attention from Lecturers since it is a new programme. The Lecturers are best to make it the course chose had applied to Petroleum or Engineering, with all sincerity have no whatso being offered admission to study Library Science," said Uduoma Orie.

For Prince Aminokwe, who wanted to study Science, the Science n e w has contributed his dream true.

With informat ion we hope to the course of our studies, a graduate of Library and Science Information can work anywhere as a graduate of Computer Science. The good thing is that Computer Scientists are needed in every part of the world and with falling oil prices; I have no regret whatsoever studying Library and Information Science," he told our Correspondent.

Information Science certificate obtain in the course of our studies, a graduate of Library and Science Information can work anywhere as a graduate of Computer Science. The good thing is that Computer Scientists are needed in every part of the world and with falling oil prices; I have no regret whatsoever studying Library and Information Science," he told our Correspondent.



## UniPort Partners Navy On Leadership Training

**T**he University of Port Harcourt signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nigerian Navy to train selected officers on leadership capacity at the Nigerian Navy Basic Training School, Onne last month. Our Cameraman, **MITCHEL EBI-EKIYOR**, was on hand to capture pictorial highlights of the event as shown below:



Commandant, Nigerian Navy Basic Training School, Onne, Commodore Peter Onaji (thanking the Cameraman), exchanging pleasantries with the UniPort team



Officials of UniPort and the Navy rise for National Anthem



Commodore Onaji welcoming guests to the School



Flag Officer Commanding, Naval Training Command, Rear Admiral Adeniyi Osinowo, reading his address



Representative of the V-C and DV-C (Administration), Prof Ibe, speaking



Professor Ibe signing the MoU, while others watch



Prof Ibe and Admiral Osinowo, pose for a photograph with a copy of the new Training agreement



One of the Naval Officers presenting a goodwill message



L-R: DV-C (Administration), Professor Ibe, Registrar, Mrs. Olu and Director of Claudy Ake School of Government, Professor Ene Ekeke



A cross-section of the Naval Officers participating in the training at the signing ceremony



Principal and Senior Officers of UniPort and the Nigerian Navy after signing the MoU



A group photograph of participants after the signing ceremony