

# UniPort Weekly

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## UNIMAID Alumni Association Honours Lale

In recognition of his outstanding exploits in the academia and sterling leadership qualities, the Bayelsa Chapter of the University of Maiduguri Alumni Association has conferred an Award of Excellence on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, reports *Obinna Nwodin*

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## Side Bar CDRMDS BOARD

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale inaugurated the Governing Board of the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies last Wednesday.

Details next week.

~Editor

## Governor Wike, Minister Praise NLNG On Engineering Lab Project

By Othor Samuel

Governor of Rivers State, Chief Nyesom Wike, has praised the University for its commitment to quality teaching and research in oil and gas that has placed it in a pole position in engineering education in the South-South and earned it a grant for the establishment of the NLNG Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals (CGRP) Building. He expressed optimism that the new Centre would

transform research in gas, petroleum refining and allied industrial products in the Gulf of Guinea. The Governor spoke through the Deputy Governor, Dr. Ipalibo Harry Banigo at the commissioning ceremony of the NLNG Centre at the IPS Park along the East West Road on Friday, April 1, 2016.

"This is a great achievement for the University community in carving out a niche for itself in petroleum and gas

engineering in the country. The bigger picture is that Rivers State is the bedrock of the oil and gas industry in Nigeria. We pioneered this industry because of our vast reserves of crude oil and natural gas. We are home to the highest number of oil and gas producers in the country, as well as the chief oil refinery city in the country. It is only natural that we be the best in engineering education in this industry.

"This Centre goes to consolidate our position in the country as the custodian of knowledge and technology in the oil and gas sector. The implications of this are far-reaching. First, University of Port Harcourt will go into history as the only university that has a modular refinery in the country," the Governor said, expressing hope that experts in the hydrocarbon industry would avail themselves of the cutting-edge facility and equipment in the Centre to embark on research that would proffer solutions to the growing local demand for energy to power industrialisation, transportation and electricity supply.

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# After Matriculation Comes Examination

By Humphrey Ogu

more attention to their studies and put socialisation on a low ration.

The relationship between matriculation and the undergraduate programme is like that which exists between wedding and marriage. Where one ends is where the other begins. The real degree programme starts when the matriculation ends. Matriculation is

Ceremony is far more important. You must look beyond the fanfare of today and aim to graduate in flying colours and make your parents proud," he admonished them.

"It is my hope and I believe the hope of your parents that we will all gather again at the end of your prescribed course of study to celebrate your academic exploits. People will always stand up for genuine champions. We are waiting to stand up for you. So, go all out and prove yourselves as true champions," the Vice-Chancellor advised the new students.

"The University is a very different environment from your Secondary School experience. Here, nobody will tell you when to sleep; nobody will wake you up; nobody will tell you to attend classes; nobody will urge you to go to the Library or Laboratory. Nobody will advise you on which clubs to join or what dress code to observe. You are the Captain of your own destiny; but remember this—there will be a time of reckoning for each student and a consequence for the choices

you may decide to make as from today," he advised them. These well-thought pieces of advice need no further explanation.

In the last couple of years, the social media has constituted a major source of distraction to most students. New students therefore need to get their priorities right from the word go. Distracting as it may seem, the social media also presents good learning resources to serious-minded students. Whether it has a positive or negative impact on the life of students is a matter of usage. In other words, it is how one uses Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and WhatsApp and other mobile applications that makes the difference. They could be used for research and learning or to while away time. It is just a matter of choice.

Success or failure is also matter of choice. Students must choose wisely! Playtime is over now and it is now time for me to convey my very best wishes to all first year students in their forthcoming examinations. Welcome to the moment of truth!

There is no doubt that securing admission into the university has recently become a herculean task. Candidates are first of all subjected to the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME), administered by the Joint Admissions Matriculation Board (JAMB), then further subjected to screening tests by the various universities to ascertain their eligibility for admission.

Then follows the challenge of 'carrying capacities' which specifies the number of students to be admitted in compliance with a directive from the National Universities Commissions (NUC), aimed at ensuring that universities do not admit beyond the installed facilities and the number of teaching personnel on ground. This means that sometimes, even qualified candidates could be denied admission because the departments they subscribed to have no place for them. Hence, an otherwise qualified candidate could lose the opportunity of enrolling into a choice course as a result of the NUC's policy on 'carrying capacity'.

The above scenario explains why those who are opportune to wear the matriculation gowns as bona fide students in the disciplines of their choice celebrate their journey into the Ivory Towers. Justifiable as such celebrations may be, it is disturbing to note that most fresh students regard a Matriculation Ceremony, which is just the first step in their academic journey as an end, rather than a means to an end that does not require all the pomp and ceremony.

Beyond the unnecessary waste of time and squandering of scarce resource, matriculation ceremonies are often followed by examinations, which is a very serious business. Excessive ceremonies in the name of matriculation can rightly be described as a misplaced priority. Academics should take precedence over other activities on campus. This is not to suggest that students should not have a social life. No! After all, every student is expected to live and work among people in society after graduation. However, they only need to pay



A cross-section of Matriculants at the last matriculation ceremony

the wedding ceremony and the programme itself is the marriage proper. Every new student, who wishes to start his or her undergraduate journey with the right step, needs to be guided by this fact at all times.

Presenting the 31<sup>st</sup> Matriculation Ceremony address entitled *Matriculation is Good; Convocation is Better*, at the Convocation Arena on Thursday, March 17, 2016, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, warned the students against indulging in antisocial behaviours. "Such distasteful practices as membership of cult groups, examination malpractices, prostitution, fighting, stealing, indecent dressing and disobedience to lawful order, can only lead you to early exit from the University and bring tears and shame to your families," he added.

"I wish to advise the Matriculating Students to seize this rare opportunity with both hands so that they do not fritter it away on the altar of frivolities that are out of sync with serious academic pursuit. As the theme of this address indicates, a Matriculation Ceremony is a big event that is worth celebrating; but a Convocation

## Rock Base Int'l School Visits UniPort Fire Service Unit

By Mercy Adeniji

Seventy students from Rock Base International School, Choba, Port Harcourt, received first hand drill from the officers and men of the Fire Service Unit, as part of their familiarisation visit the University of Port Harcourt.

The trip afforded a rare insight of the operational structure of the Fire Service Unit to the students drawn from the Senior Secondary Classes SSI-SS3. It was part of an educational tour aimed at understanding the complex processes involved in fighting fire outbreaks.

The excited students who were accompanied by their teachers were at the operational base of the Fire Service Unit last February. Briefing a Correspondent of *UniPort Weekly* on the facility tour on Monday, April 4, 2016, Acting Officer-in-Charge of the Fire Service Unit, Mr. Livinus Wali, who received the students, commended

the School for choosing to visit the Unit. "During the excursion, a total of seventy students who were on the entourage, were drilled on the use of fire extinguishers and other basic fire-fighting equipment.

We gave them a lecture titled: *The Impact of Fire and Safety Awareness in Primary and Secondary Schools*. It was an impressive exploratory exercise as the students became acquainted with the chemistry of combustion and the need to install fire extinguishers in residential

buildings, industrial establishment and even inside vehicles to combat fire outbreaks," the Fire Chief told our Correspondent.

Mr. Wali demonstrated that the students were given practical demonstration on how to operate fire extinguishers with the application of P.A.S.S., which is an acronym that reminds the fire extinguisher user to Pull in the lock pin from its place, Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire, Squeeze the handles together and Sweep from side-to-side at the base of the flame and put off the fire with the Asbestos Fire Blanket (AFB).

The Officer-in-Charge appealed to staff and Students of the University to feel free to promptly call the Fire Service Emergency Numbers: 08056247147, 07069367433.



Students of Rock Base Int'l School, instructors, and Staff of the Fire Service Unit

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# UNIMAID Alumni Association Honours Lale

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Presenting the Award during a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor on Friday, April 1, 2016, Chairman of the Association, Dr. Ibeheru Ikuli, said that the gesture was in recognition of Professor Lale's outstanding achievements as a product of the University of Maiduguri, as well as encouraging him to keep up the good works that has positively projected the image of their *Alma Mater*.

"With your appointment as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, the image of UNIMAID has been taken to a higher pedestal and we are all pleased that one of us is flying the flag of our *Alma Mater* very high. We are very proud of our own. You are a worthy role model that students of our University would be proud to emulate," he told Professor Lale, adding that even though other Alumni of the University occupied various position of authority, the position of Vice-Chancellor was not only unique, but sensitive. The Chairman said that the Association was set up not only to enable Alumni to interact amongst themselves, but also to render services that would help the society develop. He enumerated a number of activities embarked upon by the Association, while soliciting support from Professor Lale to further energise the activities of the Association.

In his response, the Vice-Chancellor expressed gratitude to members of the Chapter for recognising his modest achievements, describing the award bestowed on him as very significant because it

reminded him of their days in school. "Those days were days when we did not know what the future had in stock for us as students. We studied our books and took everything very seriously. I am happy to note that many of us made it to the finish line and are being celebrated today by our beloved *Alma Mater* and society at large," the Vice-Chancellor told the delegation, advising them to continue to exhibit the

virtues of hard work, consistency and determination in order to make impact in their various professions. In his remarks, a member of the delegation, Mr. Perry Asamu, who also graduated the same year with the Vice-Chancellor, expressed confidence in the ability of Professor Lale to move the University of Port Harcourt to greater heights, promising that the Association would always stand by him.



V-C, Prof. Lale (5th left), Chairman of the Association, Dr. Ikuli (5th right), some Principal Officers of the University and other EXCO Members of the Association

## V-C, Provost, Deans Brainstorm On Graduate Programmes ...As Ghana Varsity Team Visits Friday

By Otiok Samuel

A part of efforts aimed at streamlining graduate programmes and making them more attractive to students and other stakeholders, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale and the Committee of Provost and Deans held a consultative forum at the Board Room of the School of Graduate Studies, last Tuesday.

Also, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Regina Ogali, has announced that a team from the University of Ghana under the aegis of University of Ghana Pan-African Doctoral Academy (UG-PADA) would visit the University this Friday to interact with doctoral candidates, urging faculties and departments to make their candidates available for the interaction.

Describing as unacceptable a situation in which most Lecturers who teach at Centres and Institutes comply strictly to their Calendars and Time-Table, but handle conventional graduate programmes in their own departments with levity, the Vice-Chancellor warned that, henceforth, any cogent and verifiable report by graduate students bordering on unnecessary delays in the completion of their programmes would be treated in

accordance with extant laws governing the terms of employment of such Lecturers.

"People are disappointed when our Master's degree programmes take four years to complete due to unnecessary delays in the Department. This unwholesome practice is unacceptable and must be corrected immediately if we are to continue attracting talented graduate students to this University. I don't see any justifiable reason whatsoever why some Lecturers who teach graduate programme within the stipulated timeframe at the Centres and Institutes turn around to delay the same programme beyond the stipulated time in their departments. The University has laws and those who do not want to abide by such tenets would be made to face punitive measures," the Vice-Chancellor warned.

Professor Lale, who directed that there should be mid-term presentations to assess the performance of graduate students, stated that those on various Master's degree programmes should be made to make presentations, six months into their programme, while candidates for the Doctor of Philosophy degree should face the Departmental Graduate Committee after 18 months of residency, stating that students who could not justify their admission at that

stage should be shown the way out, while serious-minded ones should be made to complete the programme during the balance of their residency period. He warned departments running graduate programmes to ensure strict compliance to the new directives.

The Committee also directed departments to strictly comply with the Time-Table provided by the School of Graduate Studies to ensure timely processes of admission, registration, lecture periods and graduation of students.

It also sounded loud and clear that "Any student caught engaging in any form of examination malpractice or plagiarism would be decisively dealt with by the School of Graduate Studies. Graduate research must pass through anti-plagiarism test and clearance issued before final defence by candidates."

Following a presentation by Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Ogali on the manner in which most departments concurrently run their Part-Time and Full-Time studies, the Committee declared: "It is totally unacceptable for departments to incorporate Part-Time Students into their Full-Time programmes without creating distinct Time-Tables to cover each mode of study. This problem is from the Department, not with the students, some of who are our staff. Our staff need to develop, but not at the expense of their statutory services to the University. Staff wishing to improve themselves must enroll into Part-Time programmes to ensure that they do not short-change the University." The Committee directed the Dean of the School to set up a body to fine-tune strategies for running the two modes of study on different templates.

On agreeing with the sharing formula from money realised from sale of forms, the Vice-Chancellor asked the Dean of School of Graduate Studies to apply for the release of the money for disbursement, promising to treat the paper as soon as it got to his table.

The Committee also restated the need to evaluate the performance of all Lecturers who teach graduate programmes, which according to members, was a policy already approved by the Senate of the University.

In her presentation, Director of Centre for Research Management and Development (CEREMAD), Professor Alice Nte, spoke on *Standard Operating Procedures* and the need for Departments to engage in multidisciplinary research. She further expressed the need for researchers to forward their abridged Curriculum Vitae with their publication titles for documentation by her Centre.



V-C, Prof. Lale (arrowed) flanked by Dean, SGS, Prof. Ogali (left), other Deans and Provost of College of Health Sciences after the meeting

# V-C Charges New Student Leaders On Responsible Unionism

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, last Monday met members of the newly-inaugurated Executive Council of the Students' Union of the University, congratulating them for emerging victorious at the polls.

Commending the students for comporting themselves during the entire electioneering process that brought them to office, Professor Lale stressed the need for them to see the opportunity to serve as a veritable platform to drive their future ambitions on graduation from the University, adding that "in addition to empowering you with requisite knowledge about how organisations work, membership of the Students' Union would also afford you an opportunity to learn valuable leadership and interpersonal communication skills that would come handy in the larger society."

"You have an opportunity to create a solid impression on student unionism and leaving an enduring legacy by ensuring a peaceful tenure that would emphasise regular dialogue with the University Management."

You can be rest assured that our doors would always be open to meet and interact with you on issues of concern to your followers. Serving in the Students' Union Executive should be a good training ground for all of you. Some of the big names in politics started like you," the Vice-Chancellor told them.

He reaffirmed Management's commitment to students' welfare within available resources, urging the students to use the platform to project what they would do if and when they decide to join the larger political arena. Reminding the student leaders that their tenure was time-bound, Professor Lale advised them to resist the

temptation of being carried away by the allure and perquisites of office, warning that those found to have overreached themselves would be dealt with in accordance with the rules and regulations governing students' unionism in the University.

Stressing the need for the new Executive to provide open, transparent and democratic leadership, Professor Lale declared: "From the look of innocence on your faces, I am led to conclude that you are responsible men and women and it is my hope that you would give unblemished leadership to the students who trusted you with the

assuring Management that there would be no tenure elongation for the members."

"Following an official mandate to conduct elections to fill vacant positions in the Students' Union Executive, we recorded a free, open and fair exercise that produced those that have been sworn-in to serve the Union. So far, they have been of good conduct with a promise to handover to their successors at the end of their tenure," the Acting Dean informed the Vice-Chancellor, reminding the students that Management would be compelled to set up an Interim Executive body if they tried to stay longer than necessary in office.

In his speech, President of the Union, Ephraim Inno-Anaeje, who lauded the University Management for providing the Executive an opportunity to serve the Institution, declared the willingness of his members to run an open door policy that would not alienate those who voted them into office. "We are responsible leaders and our collective vision is not only to champion the welfare of students, but to also join Management in efforts aimed at moving the University forward through responsible unionism. We promise to abide by our constitution and also bridge the communication gap between Management and the students at all times," Inno-Anaeje added.

Members of the Executive include Vice-President, Queen-Blessing Agui; Secretary, Kpema Nkasi; Assistant Secretary, Nnamaka Agwunobi; Financial Secretary, Victoria Amesi; Treasurer, Linda Akinkinsin; Director of Information, Baringo Monima; Director of Welfare, Felix Anams; Director of Transport, Eze Ndoku; Director of Socials, ThankGod Okoro; Director of Sports, Mary Tenu and Provost, Victor Orlaka.

Others are: Senate President, PraiseGod Chukwu; Deputy Senate President, Ali Dickson; Chief Judge, Naomi Okoroh; Deputy Chief Judge, Sampson Ukoba, while Etiong Okon, Destiny Nyosom and Jane Frances Okonkwo are Judges.



V-C, Prof Lale (middle, front row) flanked by Registrar, Mrs. Otto, S' Union President, Inno-Anaeje, Unis. Librarian, Dr. Umecozor (right), D1-C's Admin, Prof/Dr. Akad, Prof Fawehinmi, Bursar, Mr. Aliezi (left), Ag. Dean, S' Affairs, Dr. Ekpenyong and the new EXCO members

leadership of their Union."

He commended the Acting Dean of Students' Affairs, Dr. Otto Ekpenyong, for conducting peaceful and credible elections for the students, advising the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to come to the University to learn how to conduct free and fair elections that are rancour-free.

Presenting the Students' Union Executive to the Vice-Chancellor and other members of Management that were present at the meeting, Dr. Ekpenyong disclosed that the newly-elected Executive had already been inaugurated and would serve for the 2015/2016 academic session,

## CCOS, NAWOJ, NPWA Advocate Gender Equality At 2016 Int'l Women's Day

By Mercy Adeniji

The Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies (CCGS), in collaboration with University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA) and Rivers State Chapter of the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), joined their counterparts in other parts of the world to mark the 2016 International Women's Day.

Declaring open the event with the theme: *Planet 50-50 by 2050: Step it up for Gender Equality*, held on Thursday, March 31, 2016, at the Centre's temporary building at the University Park, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakem Fawehinmi, commended the Centre and women organisations for joining forces to commemorate the Day.

"The theme for this year's celebration is very timely because in recent times, there have been moves to empower women and improve gender equality, not just by passing legislation, but also by ensuring that women are carried along the scheme of things. As we all know, women are very committed in whatever they do and in any position they hold in society. I think women should be appropriately placed in relevant positions to enable them make meaningful contributions to the development of society," Professor Fawehinmi told the gathering.

Speaking on the theme: *'Breaking the Barriers to Women Empowerment for Gender Equality in Nigeria'*, Guest Speaker, Dr. Julie Umukoro commended the Centre and participating women groups for the appropriate choice of topic for this year's celebration.

"Everyone who is a stakeholder is called upon to take action towards accelerating gender parity on the part of women whose pace of acceleration has remained at a small speed in comparison to the deer-like movement of their male counterparts. I join in promoting the theme of this year's campaign, pledging for parity by drawing attention to the numerous barriers to female empowerment and gender parity in Nigeria and

particularly in the power structure of the University of Port Harcourt."

The Guest Lecturer listed oppression by the State, within the family and in Civil Society, as some of the major barriers to female empowerment, lauding the government of former President Goodluck Jonathan and the erstwhile administration of Professor Joseph Ajenika, as eras in which women were carried along to serve as their male counterparts. She appealed to the government of President Mohammed Buhari and the current administration of Professor Ndowa Lale to emulate the past government in the empowerment of women to unleash their full potentials.

In her paper, President of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), Mrs. Joy Lale, described the International Women's Day as a time to reflect on the progress made by women, including the courage and determination exhibited by ordinary women in the history of their countries and communities. "It is the responsibility of each of us, irrespective of our gender, to act in our capacities to break all barriers to women's professional development," the UPWA President told the gathering, describing gender equality as the key to sustainable development as employing the knowledge and expertise of men and women would lead to accelerated national development.

Justifying gender equality, Mrs. Lale revealed that it would not only empower women to overcome poverty and live productive lives, but will better the lives of children, families and the country at large. "Gender equality is not only morally right, it is pivotal to human progress and sustainable development," she declared.

In his contribution, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Fidelis Allen, said that the theme for the celebration was derived from the 2016 International Women's Day. "This theme makes a loud on government across the world to take action in order to tackle

problems that make it difficult for women and girls to become the best they ought to be. There are diverse ways to set it up as the theme for this year's celebration and I declare. In other words, move towards gender equality may take the form of political, economic, legal, cultural and social empowerment to accomplish," he said.

"In my view, empowerment means removing barriers that prevent women and girls from realising their full potentials as critical elements of the development process at all levels of society," he submitted, citing some of the pains women go through because of some unwholesome practices in many societies. He called on government at all levels to provide women and girls with more political and economic opportunities as a strategy for tackling the problems they face.

Delivering a paper entitled: *Role of Mass Media and Empowerment of Women*, Chairman of the Rivers State Chapter of NAWOJ, Mrs. Lilian Okonkwo, lauded the Mass Media for playing a vital role in drawing attention to the plight of women in a patriarchal society, advising women to support and care for each other, if they hope to break the imposed barriers.

Others, who spoke at the event, included the General Manager of Radio Nigeria Creek FM, Yenagaya, Bayelsa State, Mrs. Gina Daka-Osika, General Manager, Wave 91.7 FM, Iy Oyebebe and Director of Publications of The Tide newspaper, Mrs. Juliet Njiwor, amongst others.



DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (5th left), Ag. Centre Director, Dr. Allen, UPWA President, Mrs. Joy Lale (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> right) and other guest



# V-C Assures UniPort Contractors Of Commitment To Welfare

By Obinna Nwodin

**C**ontractors executing various projects in the University—especially those working on maintenance jobs—have been reassured of Management's resolve to seek after their welfare as a motivation for timely and quality job delivery. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, gave the assurance when he received the Executive Committee of UniPort Contractors Welfare Association at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room on Tuesday, March 29, 2016.

Professor Lale, who commended them for remaining on the side of civility and dialogue in spite of the difficulties they encountered with prompt payment of their outstanding bills, described them as responsible people who must be appreciated for the services they rendered to the University.

"We think about your welfare all the time and we are working hard to reduce the length of time it takes us to pay your outstanding bills to enable you meet your own obligations and help us move the University forward," he told them, advising the contractors to also think of ways to make meaningful contributions to the development of the University to justify the economic benefits they derive from the system. He said that their request for an office space would provide an avenue for such contribution, assuring them that the authorities would be willing to allocate a piece of land to them to build their secretariat.

Professor Lale, who explained the difficult financial situation of the University, declared: "We are reaching out to people to help us overcome the dire situation we are in at the moment and we can

count on you as dependable partners in this regard." On security, the Vice-Chancellor said that the issue was assuming a frightening dimension, assuring them that the authorities would do everything possible to address the situation in concert with law enforcement agencies.

Earlier in his address, Chairman of the Association, Mr. Collins Amadi, expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for positively responding to the Association's position on the modalities for contract awards by the Works and Services Department. He also expressed gratitude to Management for affording the Association an opportunity to make meaningful contributions to the development of the University, expressing hope that the established channels of communication between the University and its contractors would

remain open to iron out mutually beneficial issues.

He also appealed to Management to fine-tune ways of paying the contractors without allowing the debts to pile up as was the case in the past. Mr. Amadi who highlighted a number of issues faced by the contractors, also appealed that their members should be considered for the bigger contract jobs that were usually awarded from outside the University.

In his speech, Bursar of the University, Mr. Vitalis Alizie, thanked the Vice-Chancellor for granting audience to the contractors, informing them that the seeming delays in quarterly payment of bills was traceable to the implementation of the Treasury Single Account (TSA). He further disclosed that his office was already processing their papers for payment of outstanding bills for the first quarter of 2016.



V-C, Prof Lale (3rd left), Chairman of the Contractors, Mr. Amadi (3rd right), some Principal Officers and members of the Welfare Association

# CCDCD Ends Orientation For Pioneer PG Students

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**T**he Centre for Child Development and Communication Disorders (CCDCD), has ended an orientation exercise for its pioneer students, who were admitted to undertake the Postgraduate Diploma programme in Disability Studies and Communication Therapy.

Speaking at the event which held last Monday at the International Students' Centre, University Park, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, noted that the orientation exercise marked the formal commencement of lectures for the pioneer students. He commended them for carving out a niche for themselves and following an

unusual career path in an area that has witnessed increased global awareness of communication disorders such as autism due to major technological advancements that has led to proper diagnosis ailments in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"As worthy pioneers, you are part of the mandate to drive development in this complex area of specialisation and the society would appreciate you when you put the skills and knowledge you would acquire from this Centre into use for the management of children with developmental and communication disorders," Professor Fawehinmi told the students, urging them to contribute towards moving the Centre to greater heights.

Describing CCDCD as a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary educational, interactive, therapeutic

and research Centre, devoted to providing compassionate and specialized services to children living with developmental and communication disorders, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Angela Frank-Briggs, noted that the postgraduate programme being run by the Centre was aimed at igniting interest in disability and communication disorders in a society where such matters were usually approached through a combination of superstition and lukewarm attitude, especially by close family members.

"Through the programmes we have designed at the Centre, we hope to create a change in our conception of the formative realities of life. Even though a few are beginning to assume their rightful places in other nations, people living with disabilities continue to have very limited opportunities that have prevented them from exploring their full potentials," she said, adding that the Centre was determined to empower such persons to grow, develop and evolve their full potentials, by giving them a happy childhood, and a quality of life that would be filled with dignity and integrity.

In their separate speeches, Directors of the Centre for Research Management and Development, Professor Alice Nte, Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit (ELPU), Professor Abo Akakuru and Assistant Director of CCDCD, Dr. Christie Omega, expressed delight at the commencement of specialized academic programmes at the Centre, commending Management of the University for its foresight in establishing the Centre. The trio commended the students for seeking to acquire relevant skills and knowledge needed to impact the society meaningfully on general disabilities and communication disorders, especially in early childhood, urging them to be committed to their studies.

Representative of the graduate students, Sandra Omukoro, commended the University Management for the opportunity afforded them to enroll into the programme, promising that as pioneer students of the Centre, they would not betray the confidence reposed in them by the University.



DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (seated 3rd left) flanked by Ag Centre Director, Dr. Frank-Briggs, Asst. Director, Dr. Omega, Director, ELPU, Prof Akakuru (right), Director, CEREMAD, Prof Nte, Prof Nwanneke-Nwanne (left) with lecturers and the students.

# Wike, Minister Praise NLNG On CSR

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"The Governing Council of the University has a great responsibility to meet the expectations of the government and people of Rivers State and Nigeria at large. The Council must transform this centre to a Centre of Excellence recognised world-wide as the epicentre of modern energy research. I wish to commend Nigeria LNG Limited for this initiative and partnership. The State Government recognises NLNG's interventions in the education sector through its scholarship programmes, namely the post-primary which is targeted at Rivers State secondary school students, the Undergraduate Scholarship scheme, as well as the Overseas Postgraduate scholarship," Governor Wike stated.

In his remarks, Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Ogonnaya Osu, commended the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) Limited for its University Support Programme initiative aimed at advancing engineering education in Nigeria. Professor Jidele Bala, who read the Minister's address, expressed gratitude to NLNG for contributing to the development of Science and Technology in the country.

"As the Minister of Science and Technology of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I feel a sense of fulfillment that a support of this nature to Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is being provided by a corporate organization like the Nigeria LNG Ltd at this point in time. On behalf of the Government and People of Nigeria, I thank Nigeria LNG Ltd for supporting the development of Science, Technology and Innovation through building and equipping Engineering Laboratories across the country at a cost of US\$12 million. This is an indication that Nigeria LNG Ltd is not only here to make money for its shareholders, but also to teach our youths and future generations how to make money and grow the economy through STI. This is commendable and worthy of emulation by other corporate organisations," the Minister said, urging the University to make good use of the facility to advance research, scholarship and innovation.

Dr. Osu, who was one-time Acting Head of Department of Chemical Engineering in the University, assured the authorities that the Federal Government would do all within its powers to promote science and technology, stating that the

National Research and Innovation Council which he chairs was another effort by government aimed at implementing the National Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy.

In his address, Managing Director of NLNG, Babu Omonwa, said the Company decided to partner the universities in order to contribute to educational growth and overall development of the country, stating that some advanced countries such as Japan, India and Singapore turned their potentials into reality on the basis of knowledge provided by science and technology. The Managing Director further revealed that the facility which houses the state-of-the-art laboratory equipped with a modular refinery was the first of its kind in any educational institution in sub-Saharan Africa, adding that a Professorial

Earlier, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lulu, who disclosed that the Centre for Gas, Refining and Petrochemicals (CGRP) was established as a Postgraduate Institute five years ago to foster viable collaborations with renowned industries and institutions, explained that: "The Centre aims to meet the needs of the petroleum industry through total commitment to excellence in training, applied research, continuing education and capacity building. The Centre seeks to facilitate the Nigeria Local Content Development Initiative and also propagate a culture of excellence in sustained learning, leadership and research in the Gulf of Guinea."

In his goodwill message, 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajekina, during whose tenure the Centre was established in the University, lauded

NLNG for the initiative and partnership with the University. He also eulogised the 5<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, for initiating the Institute of Petroleum Studies, which other centres now emulate in their bid to foster partnership with professional bodies and industry players.

Others, who presented goodwill messages were pioneer Director of

RS/Dep. Gov. Dr. Harry Barigbo (middle) flanked by VC, Prof. Lulu (left), and Vice-Chancellor Emeritus, Prof. Nimi Briggs (right). Management team of NLNG, Officials of Federal and State Govts and other dignitaries

Chair has been endowed to coordinate academic and research undertakings at the Centre.

On the choice of UniPort for the South-South zone, Omonwa pointed out that: "University of Port Harcourt is the Centre of Excellence in Petroleum Engineering and Petroleum Geosciences. University of Port Harcourt's Institute of Petroleum Studies won the World Bank African Centre of Excellence grant in Offshore Chemicals Research and has the highest number of professors in Petroleum Engineering and Petroleum Geosciences in Africa. These facilities will hopefully attract fresh research talents to the University and unleash creativity in research and development and potentially boost the University's global ranking."

CGRP, Professor Godwin Igwe, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Maureen Ekebi, Deputy Managing Director of NLNG, Mr. Ba Iyanya, Also present were the General Manager, External Relations of NLNG, Dr. Kudo Erosia-Eke, 5<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Briggs, some members of the Board of Directors of NLNG, Principal and Senior Officers of UniPort and officials of the Federal and State governments.

Other beneficiaries of the NLNG's University Support Programmes are University of Nigeria Nsukka, University of Ibadan, University of Lagos, Ahmadu Bello University and University of Ife.

## Towards Improved Campus Security

By Humphrey Ogu

There appears to be a rising crime wave in Nigeria today. No thanks to the worsening economic situation in the country. The upsurge in criminal activities such as petty theft, armed robbery, kidnapping and unexplained killings, calls for intensified security strategies to contain the threat. The criminals are getting more and more sophisticated and emboldened by the day. No wonder put into force this new security strategy. Being part of the larger society, the university community is not spared this worrisome social malaise that is reminiscent of the Hobbesian social jungle where life was nasty, brutish and short. It is rather ironic that most people view the assertion: 'security is everybody's business', as a hackneyed phrase or an empty statement these days. If anything, that axiom deserves to be treated as an important article of faith, because everybody—without exception—is at risk of becoming directly or indirectly a victim of insecurity or crime. Granted that there are people whose duty it is to guard the campus; nevertheless, it belongs on everyone to contribute their quota to the business of policing the environment by reporting suspicious faces and movements around the campus to security personnel. This way, everybody gains and nobody loses. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace, teamwork is highly prized. Working in the same organisation means that the staff have the same goals—that of the organisation.

It also means that staff should take their job descriptions seriously. This seems not to be the case here. More often than not, security issues are accorded the priority they deserve, especially by staff and students. Perception affects performance. The perception of security as the exclusive preserve of a certain unit has been disastrous on all fronts, to put it rather mildly.

Recent occurrence suggests that thieves have invaded the Campus and we are now living at their mercy. Their

nefarious activities could be felt everywhere on this Campus and it seems that available security measures are obviously not enough to contain them. The banking areas, the space in front of the sporting complex, Faculty buildings and business centres are their choice operational locations. They have become so brazen in their operations that it may be safe to assume that the Security Unit and the combined effort of Security Contractors have been progressively overwhelmed by the activities of the thieves, who cart away valuables. They break into cars, melt windcreens at will, snatch bags from helpless victims and create a general atmosphere of insecurity on this campus without let.

We are indeed at the mercy of freely marauding campus thieves these days and nothing appears to be in place to deter them from their chosen part. Sadly, the security personnel that should checkmate their excesses appear to be fully preoccupied with their mundane pursuits that have nothing to do with campus security. Most of them are busy, chasing after business and transport operators for personal gains, while others simply look on, obviously overwhelmed by the sordid situation. In the last one month alone, three motorcycles have disappeared from this campus without trace. Nobody has been able to explain why the security personnel that should protect Delta Park has

wholly relocated to the East/West Road junction and along Alau Road to chase traders—a job for Obio/Akpor Local Government and the Nigeria Police.

Last Monday, the staff in charge of circulation of UniPort Weekly, Mr. Lovedy Uzazu, was robbed of his official motorcycle at the Ofirima Building Complex, a supposedly secure zone in the centre of the University! This robbery took place in broad daylight and right before the prying eyes of the private security company that was charged with responsibility of securing the entire University Park.

The motorcycle was locked and there were security personnel and students there at the time. The rate of robbery, yet, nobody noticed the thief who disappeared into thin air with his loot. Everybody minded his or her business. Nobody saw security as his or her business. We also need to find out if the personnel, dogs and equipment declared when each Security Contractor got the job are still on ground and covering every beat. There should be an assessment on this score, as there is no friendship in the jungle.

Perhaps, the time has come to install security cameras in strategic positions to prevent such crimes. The security personnel at the gate also need to improve on their jobs through effective administration of vehicle tracking tallies to check such embarrassing thefts. Nobody has explained why the tally system cannot be administered in this University to ensure that thieves do not drive stolen cars or motorcycles through the gates. The Security Contractors should be dismissed if they cannot secure their beats. Everybody has a stake in the security of lives and property in this University and its environs and we should all treat the matter with the seriousness it deserves. Yet, the buck stops at the Security Unit.

Lt. Col. Reginald Igwe (rtd), CSO

## GUIDEPOST

## APPOINTMENT

**Mr. Toby James**, School of General Studies, appointed *Acting Director, Campus Environmental Beautification and Sanitation (CEBAS) Unit*. The two-year appointment, which took effect from April 1, 2016, will terminate on March 31, 2018.

## RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT

**Professor Bama Oruwari**, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a one-year *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective March 6, 2016 to March 5, 2017.

**Dr. Ignatius Iwegbue**, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective January 11, 2016 to January 10, 2017.

## EXTENSION OF SERVICE

**Professor Chidi Ibe**, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, granted a one-year *Extension of Service* as NUC LEAD Scholar, effective February 15, 2016 to February 14, 2017.

## SABBATICAL LEAVE

**Professor Ify Nwaogazie**, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, proceeded on *Sabbatical Leave* to Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nkpolo-Oroworuko, Port Harcourt, effective January 4, 2016 to January 3, 2017.

## REVIEW STATUS

**Miss Emem Onon**, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Review of Status from Graduate Assistant to Assistant Lecturer*, effective December 11, 2014.

**Mrs. Linda Famulisi**, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Review of Status from Graduate Assistant to Assistant Lecturer*, effective December 25, 2015.

## STUDY LEAVE

**Mr. Peter Ameyedo**, Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, granted a two-year *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him undertake a Master's Degree programme in Music at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, effective February 29, 2016 to February 28, 2018.

**Mr. Laud Ochei**, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, granted a one-year *Extension of Study Leave with Pay* to enable him conclude his studies at the Robert Gordon University, United Kingdom, effective January 2, 2016 to January 1, 2017.

## RESIGNATION

**Dr. Eze Okubakodi**, Department of Anaesthesiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, resigned from the services of the University, effective October 31, 2015.

## VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT

**Mr. Florence Omyezua**, Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education, Faculty of Education, retired from the services of the University, effective April 1, 2016.

## REINSTATEMENT

**Nurim, Rejoice (U2011/2574050)**, Department of Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, *reinstated to academic programme* after serving her suspension in the First Semester of 2014/15 academic session.

**Johnwill, Dabibi Moses (U2011/5520031)**, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, *reinstated to academic programme* after serving his suspension in the Second Semester of 2014/15 academic session.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**MRS. PEACE AMADI**, Former Miss Peace Elijah of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies now wishes to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. Peace Amadi. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

CampusMetro  
Google Commences Android Training  
For UniPort Staff, Others

By Humphrey Ogu

As a way of keeping up with emerging trends in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) world, the Google Development Group (GDG) Port Harcourt has commenced training for staff, students and others stakeholders on the Android Development Skills at Cafe Two, Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC) on Friday, April 1, 2016.

Speaking with a Correspondent of *UniPort Weekly* during the commencement of the training, President, GDG-PH leader, Gino Osahon, who described the exercise as GDG Port Harcourt Android for Beginners Study Jams, said it was organised in partnership with Java User Group Port Harcourt, under the sponsorship of Google International, *Edcity USA* and the ICTC Unit of the University.

Osahon, who noted that the training was

expected to last for five weeks, disclosed that after the first day, which ended last Friday, the rest of the programme will take place on Saturdays to enable staff and students of the University attend.

"We hope to equip local developers in Port Harcourt with Android Development Skills that will enable them build apps that would solve local problems. Our target audiences are staff and students of UniPort, as well as developers in Port Harcourt," he disclosed.

Osahon was joined as a facilitator at the training by Imanuyachi Amadi of Java User Group Port Harcourt.



Osahon (standing) and other facilitators

## UniPort To Host NPSA Confab June

By Obinna Nwodin

Arrangements have reached advanced stages for the hosting of the 39<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Nigeria Political Science Association (NPSA) scheduled to be hosted between June 27 and 28, 2016 by the Department of Political and Administrative Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The Conference which has the theme: *Elections, Security Challenges and African Development*, will attract over 1,000 political scientists and sundry stakeholders from all over Nigeria and other African countries.

Speaking with a Correspondent of *UniPort Weekly* on the coming

event, Head of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Professor Nwa Johnson, said that the Conference theme would explore nagging issues that border, not only on the development of Nigeria, but other African states.

He further disclosed that many scholars have already made submissions on the various sub-themes, to be presented during the Conference. He also disclosed that



Prof. Johnson, HdD

Governors of Rivers State, Chief Nyesom Wike, who is also an Alumnus of the Department and Adams Oshimhole of Idho State, have indicated interest in participating at the historic gathering of political scientists.

## QAQC/SERVICOM Course Evaluation Begins Today

By Williams Wodi

Plans have been concluded to commence the 2015/2016 Course Evaluation exercise by the Quality Assurance and Quality Control/SERVICOM Unit of the Vice-Chancellor's Office. Information at the disposal of *UniPort Weekly* indicated that the exercise will be kick-started during the First Semester Examination which commences this morning at the College of Health Sciences and all Faculties.

A statement dated March 21, 2016 and issued by Acting Director of the Unit, Dr. Ikechukwu Agbagwa, disclosed that Evaluation Forms and Questionnaires would be administered to randomly selected students during the first ten minutes preceding each examination. It would be recalled that the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale notified the Senate of plans to introduce Course Evaluation aimed at ascertaining the degree of compliance with stipulated guidelines for course delivery in the University in line with global best practices.

Dr. Agbagwa said that "the process is essentially aimed at determining the effectiveness of Lecturers in realizing

set goals in each course," assuring them that the outcome would not be used to victimise any Lecturer in the University. The statement further requested the Provost and Deans to "ensure that all Time-Tables (Departmental and Faculty) are submitted to the QAQC/SERVICOM Unit before the commencement of the First Semester Examinations," urging them to also ensure that Investigators, Supervisors and Examiners were notified of the plan to facilitate the exercise.

Meanwhile, the Registrar, Mrs. Dureas Otu, has restated that only Full-Time Undergraduate Students, who paid their charges and registered their courses online for the 2015/16 academic session, would be eligible to write the First Semester Examination.

The Registrar, who pointed out that provisions to write the examinations were made for only *bona fide* students, averred that the First Semester examinations will commence on Monday, April 11, and end on Friday, April 29, 2016.

"I am, therefore, directed to remind all *bona fide* students to print out their online Course Registration Slip from their Student Portal and present same at their respective examination venues," she added.



Dr. Agbagwa

## Farewell Ceremony For Udeala

**T**he Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences organised a Send-forth ceremony to mark the formal disengagement of the pioneer Dean of the Faculty, Professor Oleka Udeala on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. The ceremony which was attended by four past and serving Vice-Chancellors was chaired by the 5<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs. Highlights of the event as captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** are shown



Dignitaries rise for the National and UniPort Anthems



8<sup>th</sup> V-C, Prof Ndowa Lale (left) welcoming 5<sup>th</sup> V-C, Emeritus Prof Briggs



Prof Lale in a handshake with 2<sup>nd</sup> V-C, Prof Sylvanus Cooley (right), while Emeritus Prof Briggs watches in admiration



Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto exchanging pleasantries with Prof Udeala



V-C (3<sup>rd</sup> left) in a warm handshake with Prof Udeala, while DV-C (Admin), Prof Anthony looks on



V-C making his opening remarks



2<sup>nd</sup> V-C, Prof Cooley (right) in a handshake with 5<sup>th</sup> V-C, Emeritus Prof Briggs



Pioneer Dean of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Prof. Udeala speaking



Prof Orish Orisakwe (left) reading citation on Keynote Speaker and V-C, University of Abuja, Prof Michael Adikwu



Keynote Speaker, Prof Adikwu delivering his lecture



A cross-section of the audience at the event



Some Principal, Senior Officers and guests with Udeala (middle, front row)



A group photograph of staff of the Faculty and guests