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Deceased Staff's Wife Donates To GEM Dept

Barely two years after the demise of Dr. Pedro Afesehi of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management in the Faculty of Social Sciences, his widow, Mrs. Hadiza Nosa-Afesehi, has donated the entire library stock of her late husband to his erstwhile Department, reports *Okor Samuel*.

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Side Bar Disaster Risk Reduction Confab

The maiden Regional Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction holds from 30th to 31st October, 2016 at the Ebifimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park.

Details Next Week

~Editor

UniPort To Partner Alliance Francaise On Language Training

By Obinna Nwodin

The authorities of the University have expressed willingness to partner Alliance Francaise in the effective teaching of the French language to students and other interested staff of the University. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, gave the assurance when he received a two-member delegation from the organisation in his office on Friday, September 30, 2016. Professor Lale, who stated that the University was delighted over the partnership, said that the opportunity of being bi-lingual held out immense benefits to staff and students who may wish to expand their network and pool of experience beyond Nigeria. "We are surrounded by French-speaking countries in the West African sub-region and it is only proper that Nigerians should make that extra effort to acquire bi-lingual competences that can confer added advantage on them in the areas of employment, diplomatic and cultural

exchanges. Acquisition of bi-lingual skills can reduce the level of unemployment we currently face in this country because,

those who can speak another international language are in a far better position to explore job opportunities beyond their own countries. Let me assure you that we will do everything possible to ensure that this partnership works out well to the

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Freshers End Sports Tourney Organised By Students' Union

By Otiokor Samuel

The Directorate of Sports of the Students' Union has concluded a Sports Tournament for Year One Students in the various Faculties. A total of ten faculties participated in the tournament which held between September 20 and 24, 2016 in the three Parks of the University.

Making the disclosure in a chat with our Sports Correspondent, Director of Sports in the Union, Mary Tenu-Michael, said the tournament was aimed at introducing the new students to sporting activities in the University and creating awareness about the widely-acknowledged sporting exploits of Indomitable Team UniPort at both national and continental competitions.

"The tournament was tagged *Road to WAUG* and it was meant to create awareness of the existence of Team UniPort and its commendable achievements over the years. We also wanted to create avenues to harness talented student-athletes, and bring them and the sporting community together. Since the University is preparing to host the next edition of the West African University Games, we also wanted to get the fresh students into the right mind-set that would motivate them to participate in the games scheduled for April, 2017," she disclosed.

The event which had Director of the Sports Institute, Professor Kon Anagweje, Acting Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Dr. Ota Ekpenyong and Coach, Dr. Victor Ogunleke in attendance, featured football, athletics, table tennis and tennis.

Lukeuma Adiba and Amos Michael of the Faculty of Social Sciences emerged the winners of the table tennis and tennis events. Glory Patrick, also of the same Faculty won the 100 metres race in the female category, while Keoghema Oguma of the Faculty of

Management Sciences won the race in the male category.

Similarly, Abiodun Akpan of the Faculty of Education and Keoghema Oguma emerged winners of the female and male categories in the 400 metres race, respectively.

In a brief remarks, the Director of Sports, Professor Anagweje commended the Health Services Department and Security Unit, amongst other

stakeholders, for their commitment to the success of the tournament, appealing to the new students to take serious interest in sporting activities in addition to their academic work in the University.



Dean, Student Affairs, Dr. Ekpenyong presenting prizes to one of the winners.
Inset: Student Union Director of Sports, Miss Tenu-Michael

Researchers from the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology in the Faculty of Science, have stressed the need for the restoration of mangroves and promotion of integrated coastal and ocean management to ensure sustainable development.

This was the outcome of the latest Departmental Seminar series which held at the AEB Seminar Room, University Park on Wednesday, September 28, 2016. In his presentation, entitled, *Coastal Ecological War between Mangroves and Nipa Palm in the Niger Delta: A Case of Survival of the Fittest*, Dr. Ambrose Nwumba, posited that preliminary studies indicate that nipa palms have innate conditions for invasion and are winking the war against the mangroves in the Niger Delta.

He briefed invasion through chemical and physical control mechanisms, including species-based control, using experimental and modelling research to determine the most effective strategies and invasion prevention through identifying and regulating invasion pathways as effective management strategies to end the ecological war between nipa palms and the mangroves in the region.

Dr. Nwumba also stressed the need for urgent restoration of mangroves to be carried out in the

Researchers Focus On Environmental Issues At Latest AEB Seminar Series

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

affected areas within the Niger Delta, adding: "Nipa palms should be removed from mangrove areas, using swamp bulldozers, while their seeds should be picked or seedlings uprooted to prevent them from further replicating and threatening the fragile mangrove systems of the Niger Delta," he recommended.

In his own presentation, Dr. Daniel Ubiwe warned that with 72 per cent of the planet covered by oceans and seas, representing 95 per cent of the biosphere, sustainable development would remain a myth without proper research and management of the expansive Niger Delta coastline. In the paper entitled, *Advancing Ocean Science and Management in Nigeria: Advocacy for a Blue Economy to Ameliorating our Current Economic Quagmire*, called for the implementation of the Food and Agricultural Organization's International Plan of Action to eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

"61 per cent of the world's total economic output comes from areas within 100 kilometres from the coast. We have not harnessed the abundant potentials of our waters well enough. This is so because government has not come up with a framework to fully utilise our waters," Dr. Ubiwe stated, stressing the need to advance ocean science through proper research to fully harness and sustainably manage ocean resources, using the blue economic principles to tackle the current economic crisis in the country.

In her remarks, Acting Head of the Department, Dr. Althea Nwuzie, described the seminar series as an academic culture that ought to be replicated by other Departments in the University, expressing gratitude to her predecessor, Professor Florence Ndumu for initiating the series and also promising to sustain it.

"I also wish to convey my heartfelt appreciation to Emerita Professor Samuel Okwiri for his continued presence at the series and mentorship of younger academics in the Department and the entire Faculty," the Acting Head of Department stated, regretting that graduate students of the Department are yet to understand the importance of the exercises that covers all aspects of the discipline.



Emerita Prof Okwiri (3rd from left), Ag. HOD, Dr. Nwuzie (4th), the presenters, immediate past HOD, Prof Florence Ndumu and Prof Umagwe (right) after the event

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Making the donation, Mrs. Nosa-Aifesehi said she was driven to make the donation in furtherance of her late husband's deep passion to impart knowledge to the future generation. "The books include reading and research materials he used during his Undergraduate days, including Master's and Doctoral degree programmes. He was a voracious reader as his erstwhile colleagues have testified and I am pleased to make his books available for wider readership. During his lifetime, my husband had many books in different fields, so these three cartons contain over 100 books," she said, expressing satisfaction with the step she took to donate her late husband's books to his last constituency which he cherished so much before his demise in 2014, "the donor said.

Receiving the books, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Okechukwu Omechuku, praised Mrs. Aifesehi for making the donation to the Department, assuring her that they would be put to proper use for the benefit of staff, students and other stakeholders. He extolled the good qualities of Dr. Aifesehi, who he said was his schoolmate, describing him as a voracious reader and a true scholar who would be sorely missed in the Faculty and University for his dedication to the academics.

"There was a project we were about working on before his sudden demise. I want to thank you for the bold step you have taken to immortalise your late husband's name in this Faculty and University. These books will help the Department and other related disciplines in building sound scholarship amongst staff and students," the Dean said, promising that the Faculty would closely monitor the judicious use of the books.

Deceased Staff's Wife Donates To GEN Dept

In his speech, Acting Head of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Dr. Vincent Well, described the donation of the library stock of his late colleague to the Department as the first of its kind, promising that the Department would designate a special room in the Library for the books to immortalise the name of the deceased staff. He disclosed that the unexpected demise of Dr. Aifesehi had continued to create a huge vacuum in the field of Hydrology and Wetland Management in the Department, showering praises on his widow for the donation. Dr. Well also recalled that his late colleague left a good legacy behind in the

Department, the Faculty and the University at large.

"Your late husband contributed immensely to the growth of the Department by imparting knowledge to students and displayed a high degree of team spirit that motivated him to staff and students. We miss him dearly as a former colleague and through-bred scholar whose expertise has been difficult to replicate in the Department. We are grateful that you took this bold step to donate his valuable books to us. May God bless and continue to keep you and the rest of the family he left behind," the Acting HOD told Mrs. Aifesehi.



Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Omechuku (5' right) flanked by Mrs. Aifesehi (left), Associate Dean, Dr. Joel Umeadigbo, Ag. HOD, GENM, Dr. Well (right) and others. Inset: Two cartons of books

UniPort Takes Pole Position At 2016 CSN Int'l Confab, Exhibition

By Humphrey Ogu

The University of Port Harcourt exhibited its trademark uniqueness by harvesting virtually all the major prizes on offer at the 29th Annual International Conference, Exhibition, Workshop and General Meeting of the Chemical Society of Nigeria (CSN) tagged "Garden City 2016."

The well-attended event which held at the Law Auditorium of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology between September 18 and 23, 2016, had: "The Role of Hydrocarbons and the Application of Chemistry in the Emerging Trend of Global Energy Innovation" as its theme, with participants drawn from every state of the federation and outside Nigeria.

Briffing UniPort Weekly in her office on the outstanding performance of the University contingent to the Conference on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, Head of the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Professor Cheryl Obianor, expressed joy that her Department did not only participate actively, with two staff, Dr. Kadun Okoroayegbe-Oredibe and MHEMEST Ikem-Emanyi serving as Chairmen of the Local Organizing Committee and Welfare/Accommodation Sub-Committee, respectively, but researchers from the Department also distinguished themselves at the international gathering of Chemists by cutting away the first, second and third prizes in their order, lowering competitors from other universities to go home empty-handed. Professor Obianor, who is the President of CSN, disclosed that a paper entitled: "Adsorption of Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOCs) in Aqueous Solution Using Carbonized and Surface-Modified Carbons Produced from Nipa Palm (Nypa Frutescens Wurmb) Leaves", presented by Pwawura Adewole, Augustus Abia and Ayibaceni Spiff won first position in the paper presentation category.

"On the product exhibition category, *Ukaleke Mango Wine*, which I produced won the first prize, while a laboratory technology, *Skeneza Ukwandu* and a technician, Chikena Agbawokwa from the Department won the second position with the exhibition of

Aluminate sulphate commonly called *Aluminate* from empty milk drink can (Aluminate waste). This research is from a waste-to-wealth project that I supervised. With this result, we hope to have a place where empty cans of drink would be deposited to enable us produce more alum. This can be used for treatment of water, dyeing of fabrics and paper production," she said, disclosing plans to incorporate skills into the undergraduate programme to assist students of the Department become self-reliant on graduation.

Professor Obianor further disclosed that the third position went to a Senior Lecturer in the Department, Dr. Abiodun James, who exhibited *JABOL Liquid Soap* she produced, explaining that the product was unique because of its economical use for domestic washing. The President of the Society disclosed plans to produce shampoo and other products in future.

She attributed the first, second and third prizes won in the product exhibition category to skilful presentation of the equations behind the products. "Anybody can produce anything, but only professional Chemists can

provide equation of the reactant and the product. As Chemists, we did not just exhibit our products, we also showed professionalism by demonstrating the equations of everything we exhibited from reactant to the product," the CSN President explained.

"As if we had to be left out, a Doctoral degree candidate, Huhoro Akpan, jointly supervised by Professor Regina Ogi and Okechika Akeagbata, won the second position in the IUPAC Poster Prize category. The uniqueness of the certificate is that it was sponsored by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and it gives the winners free access to IUPAC magazines for one year," she said, disclosing that her request to the President of IUPAC, Professor Natalia Tarasova, during a conference in South Korea last year to support CSN gave rise to the Prize. The Head of Department also expressed satisfaction that sustained growing and mentorship given to students of the Department was finally paying off handsomely as was exemplified by their spectacular performance at the just-concluded CSN Conference at RSUST.



Prof. Obianor (5' left) flanked by Mr. Uchevuna, Dr. James and Mr. Agbawokwa (right), Mr. Akpan, and Dr. Ikem-Emanyi (left)

V-C Inaugurates C'ttee To Partner Galilee College On Regional Varsity W'Shop

By Othor Samuel

Following a pact with the leadership of Galilee International Management Institute (GIMI)—a subsidiary of the famous Galilee College in Israel, to partner the University of Port Harcourt on human capacity development, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nwora Lala, has inaugurated a high-powered seven-member Committee charged with the onerous task of organizing a regional workshop on management of higher education and human resource development at the Federal Capital Territory.

The high profile workshop scheduled for the second week of December, is expected to attract participants from universities and research institutions in West, East and Southern African countries in dire need of 21st Century tertiary institutions management skills. All the resource personnel will come from Galilee College, while UniPort will facilitate the workshop. Inaugurating the Committee at the Committee Room on Wednesday, September 28, 2016, the Vice-Chancellor charged the members to be very proactive in ensuring that a workshop of such international standard was organized in Abuja in December 2016 to give direction to the management of higher education and build human capacity in delivering quality services to clients in the critical educational

sector.

"With the current global economic crisis faced by universities in and outside Nigeria, interested stakeholders may not be favourably disposed to travelling outside the country to participate in such a high profile workshop, but I am delighted to note that this workshop will provide a rare opportunity right at our doorstep through our partnership agreement with Galilee College. It is an opportunity that will spice up our international visibility and also rake in some dividends to the University. It will also give us valuable experience in organizing international

conferences and of course boost our Internally Generated Revenue (IGR)," the Vice-Chancellor told the Committee members.

He named the Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit, Dr. Ikemkwe Agbagwa as Chairman of the Organizing Committee, while Dr. Gift Wieria will serve as Secretary. Other members of the Committee are: Drs. Kiligwe Aaron, Mima Oghuana, Mrs. Moen Owade, Mrs. Chiewa Chikinda and Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wode.

In his acceptance speech, Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Agbagwa commended the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lala for finding him and other members worthy to serve on the Committee, promising that they would do all that is within their powers to ensure the success of the regional workshop to the admiration and satisfaction of all participants and resource persons.



V-C, Prof Lala (seated 3rd left) flanked by Chairman of the C'ttee, Dr. Agbagwa, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Susan Umunwa, DVC (Acad), Prof Ikemkwe Agbagwa (right), DVC (Admin), Prof Anthony Iba, Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Oke (left) and other members of the C'ttee standing

The Rural Sociological Association of Nigeria (RuSAN), has inaugurated the Rivers State Chapter of the Association to be domiciled in the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Port Harcourt.

Performing the inauguration ceremony on Thursday, September 29, 2016, at the Faculty of Agriculture building, University Park, President of the Association, Professor Adesola Ladefo, charged members of the newly-inaugurated State Chapter to promote the Association's ideals among professionals engaged in research and development activities aimed at improving the livelihood of rural dwellers. He commended members of the Association in Rivers State for taking the lead among several other States to inaugurate a Chapter, expressing hope that the development would impact positively on the lives of rural people.

"This inauguration is not just accidental event, it is but indicative of unity, leadership traits and love for RuSAN's philosophy by the facilitators of this Chapter. I would like to encourage our members in this Chapter to deploy their professional skills and intellect to attain better life for our rural folk who are in dire need of a better standard of living," he noted.

Representative of the Vice-Chancellor and

RuSAN Inaugurates State Chapter in UniPort

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Executive Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Professor Henry Alapiki, emphasized the crucial role of the Association in the development of the country, disclosing that about 70 per cent of Africans live in the rural areas. "Any development that is not kinged on rural dwellers cannot succeed. This is a well-placed professional body with a mandate to facilitate and accelerate the pace of rural development in this part of the country. You have to make yourself relevant by focusing on contemporary issues that matter to rural dwellers as key players in any developmental effort," Professor Alapiki said, assuring the Association of the support of the University Management.

In her address, Rivers State Commissioner of Agriculture, Mrs. Olanina Jacka, who was represented by Dr. Adolphus Nwaka, stressed the importance of agriculture in the face of a dwindling economy. The Commissioner said that agriculture was becoming the mainstream of the nation's economy in the face of declining oil revenue, urging

the experts to play their part as the nation sought to diversify its economy away from oil. Charging the Association to design functional programmes that would be extended to rural dwellers, the Commissioner pledged the willingness of her Ministry to partner RuSAN on such training programmes and extension services that would produce genuine agricultural entrepreneurs that would join hands with experts to boost food security in Rivers State.

In their presentations on the theme of the inauguration: *Empowering the Rural Population for Sustainable Livelihood*, pioneer President of the Association, Professor Ekang Ekhong and Provost of the Federal College of Agriculture, Ishiagu in Ebonyi State, Professor Justina Mgbada, represented by Dr. Solomon Ogunlumba, regretted that despite the significant contribution of agriculture to the Nigerian economy, the critical sector was yet to receive proper attention with a good percentage of farmers still disconnected from the national economic realm.

In her contribution, newly inaugurated State Coordinator of RuSAN, Dr. Chikwike Ihigwe-Oki, expressed the willingness of the



President of RuSAN, Prof Ladefo (seated centre) flanked by Prof Alapiki (right), Guest Speakers and RuSAN Executive

Two Senior Lecturers of the Department of Fine Arts and Design in the Faculty of Humanities, Dr. Nke Uboegbu and Margaret Ajiginni, have described their experience-sharing trip to Ghana for an arts exhibition as very fulfilling and rewarding to them and their host staff and students.

Reliving their experience in Ghana to our Correspondent at the *UniPort Weekly Newswire* in the Senate Building last Tuesday, the duo who recently returned from the arts exhibition that held at the Great Hall Foyes, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi between September 22 and 23, 2016, disclosed that the exhibition was jointly organised in concert with their colleagues, Dr. Vincent Okafor of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

"We were invited to showcase our work with students and our counterparts in Ghana, so we accepted the offer and it went off handsomely because our trip availed us an opportunity to compare notes with colleagues in both institutions. It was quite an interesting experience and I must commend Dr. Vincent Okafor of the Department of Integrated Rural Art and Industry, as well as staff and students of the Faculty of Art for turning out *en masse* to grace the memorable event. Over 30 pieces of paintings, including 23 solo and 12 joint exhibitions were displayed at the event," Dr. Uboegbu of the Painting Unit in the Department of Fine Arts and Design of the University of Port Harcourt said.

"My exhibition of contemporary paintings entitled: *Enkagbe*, meaning 'unity', is an exploration of experiential forces and images of the people of the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, guided by their ideologies and lifestyles. I exhibited about 20 works with different forms and styles that gave prominence and harmony in the polity in spite of ethnic diversity of the peoples involved. The paintings were exhibited using acrylic and mixed media with most of the structural composition as multi-images of figurative forms," Dr. Uboegbu explained, pointing out that the students noted that some of the forms in his work looked like *Akwaaba* figure in the Ghanaian context.

Also speaking, Dr. Ajiginni of the Textile Unit of the same Department, disclosed that she featured in both solo and joint exhibitions with Dr. Uboegbu, explaining that her works were inspired by socio-cultural and economic happenings in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

"I used cultural draft as a convention and tool of notation to graphically represent the appearance

Uboegbu, Ajiginni Get Rave Reviews At Ghana Exhibition

By Otiok Samuel

and mechanics of weaving, using both the two-shaft and four-shaft looms to create male traditional attire to forge common boundaries within the different tribes of the Niger Delta. I employed the language of lines, yarns, motifs and excellent colour combination to create infinite design possibilities to enhance male traditional wears with the title, *Body Rhetoric: Male Dress Culture in the Niger Delta*. The inspiration for this work is the rich cultural ensemble that the Niger Delta region of Nigeria is endowed with. I employed different techniques and mixed media to imbue character, creativity and artistic richness and I am pleased to say that everybody who saw the exhibition adjudged it as a huge success."

She further pointed out that the Ghanaian students were happy with the opportunity afforded them to

expose themselves to the two-shaft and four-shaft loom techniques at the exhibition. "The students are used to broad looms; they are not conversant with the two-shaft and four-shaft loom. They are also not conversant with the Batik technique. I really had to explain it over and over for them to gain the knowledge. So, these were new experience for them and an opportunity for me to share my expertise with students outside Nigeria. From the experience I garnered there, I observed that even though they may have better structures in Ghanaian universities, it was very obvious that we are on a higher academic pedestal in this country, despite how we try to run ourselves down. In all, we were well-received by our Ghanaian counterparts and students and I am glad to state that our trip was a memorable experience that we will cherish for some time," she told our Correspondent.



Dr. Ajiginni

Dr. Uboegbu

Tunisian Commences AIESEC Professional Internship Programme

By Ethel Tmti-Johnson

A Tunisian Intern, Mohammed Amine Ben Hiba, from the Higher Institute of Computer Science and a graduate of

Computer Science of the Faculty of Science, has arrived the University as part of the AIESEC UniPort Professional Internship Programme.

Disclosing that he would be handling Information Technology classes at the Norwegian School in Port Harcourt for a year, Hiba promised to put in hundred per cent of his effort at teaching the students to appreciate the importance of Information Technology. "In addition to teaching at the school and gaining professional experience in my area of specialization, I am excited at the opportunity to experience a totally new lifestyle and environment from the one I left behind in Tunisia. I intentionally applied to undertake this Professional Internship programme in Nigeria and particularly in Port Harcourt as a cooling period after graduating from university back home. I applied to go to other countries too, but

Nigeria beckoned and here I am to experience what this country can offer me for this one year. I am impressed by what I have so far seen in the University of Port Harcourt and I am very happy to be here. I like the fact that the University is green, rather than the usual concrete all over the place."

Receiving the Intern at the Information, Publications and Public Relations (IPPR) Unit, Deputy Registrar in charge of the Unit, Williams Wodi, listed the functions of the Unit to include information dissemination, media relations and officiating at University events, amongst other functions.

President of AIESEC in UniPort, Vivian Atuchukwu, who accompanied the Intern on the visit to the IPPR Unit, disclosed that the student organization provides two types of Internship programmes for members, namely, professional and volunteer Internship.



AIESEC Intern, Hiba and UniPort Chapter President, Miss Vivian Atuchukwu

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mutual benefit of Alliance Française and the University of Port Harcourt," the Vice-Chancellor told his guests.

In her remarks, Director of Alliance Française in Rivers State, Madame Helene Gueneau-Okotun, stated that the cultural organisation teaches French, in addition to engaging in other linguistic and cultural cooperation activities in the State.

"Alliance Française is desirous of taking the already

existing relationship with the University of Port Harcourt to a higher level as part of our commitment to the proper teaching of the French language here. The establishment of a French Language Centre in collaboration with the University would afford the two organisations

mutual benefits as it would afford staff and students, including other stakeholders in the University community and its environs a good opportunity to learn French language the French way," the Director said at the meeting. She promised that Alliance Française would train teachers in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures on how to teach French for effective communication purposes, requesting full support from the University for a smooth take-off of the proposed programme.

Earlier in his remarks, facilitator of the project and Director of the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit (ELPU), Professor Ikechukwu Akakuru, disclosed that when fully operational, the proposed UniPort/Alliance Française French Language Centre would teach communicative French to children, adults and chief executives, adding that

UniPort To Partner Alliance Française

preparation for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that would give statutory teeth and legal backing to the initiative has reached advanced stages.

Madame Gueneau-Okotun was accompanied on the visit by the organisation's Director of Studies, Pauline Yamé.



V-C, Prof Late (seated centre) flanked by Madame Gueneau-Okotun (3rd right), Principal, Senior Officers and Pauline Yamé (standing 2nd left)

Stop Press

BAN ON TRADING IN OFFICES

Management of the University has slammed a blanket ban on all forms of trading in the offices and within the premises during working hours. A statement dated September 19, 2016 and signed by the Registrar, Mrs. Darcas Odo, charged Heads of Department, Unit and Centres to ensure that their staff are not engaged in the unwholesome practice which is against Public Service Rules. The Chief Security Officer was directed to monitor and bring offenders to book as a deterrent to others. "As you are aware, by the Public Service rules, staff are prohibited from hawking merchandise or engaging in any other form of trading in their offices or within the premises during working hours. Management views these acts of misconduct with seriousness and hereby advised staff who engage in such activities to discontinue the practice forthwith. Any staff found engaging in hawking merchandise in the office premises and/or use their offices for trading activities will be made to face stern disciplinary action," the statement read in part.

Isidore Okpewho Vanishing Of A Meteor

Taure Ojide speaks for us in his "Dirge" on death when he asserts that "No one foresees the Iroko tree ever falling even in a hurricane." The end of Professor Isidore Okpewho's pilgrimage on earth resonates with the full significance of the thoughtful assertion by Ojide. In fact, a meteor has vanished from the literary firmament. Okpewho dazzlingly shone through the universe with his attributes of endearing personality, precocious literary scholarship and inspiring creativity in fiction.

My numerous interactions with him in the United States of America and Nigeria, especially during conferences and conversations in his office at the University of Ibadan, revealed that he was a distinctive character in interpersonal relations. Witty, affable, patient, persevering and level-headed, Okpewho radiated a personality embodying a humanism that was necessary for combating the distasteful racial, ethnic and religious bigotry that is virtually wrecking the foundation of harmonious and peaceful co-existence among the various peoples of the globe.

His oracular authority in the scholarship of oral literature gracefully dramatizes the necessity for diligence, tolerance, rigour of

analysis and perspicacity of mind in handling issues in scholarship. Of significance is Okpewho's firm grasp of the comparative methodology of scholarship which enabled him to effectively interpret facts cutting across various national literatures by subtly bringing out the similarities and differences characterizing the archetypal patterns of

relationships inherent in many of the features of the literatures he focused upon. Most memorable is his gallant defence of the integrity of African civilization often misunderstood or even denigrated by some myopic European scholars.

Okpewho's outstanding intellectual versatility is fully displayed in his accomplishments as a novelist and a teacher of creative writing. It is rare for scholars to become writers and writers to become critics. But his celebrated novels and mentorship in creative writing have successfully elevated this literary giant to the status of an author-critic which is a rare combination.

His legacy in Nigerian/African literary scholarship and literature in English may be said to lie in his penchant for intellectual probity and passion for the integrity of knowledge-two attributes promoting values which will enable most Nigerians/Africans to live peacefully together as members of a well-integrated family across the prevailing ethnic, religious and social divides.

Professor Isidore Okpewho will be sorely missed in the global literary community. May his soul rest in perfect peace!



Late Okpewho

Chidi T. Maduka, FNAL, retired as a Professor of Comparative Literature in the Department of English Studies, University of Port Harcourt

Tribute

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Joyce Akamawor, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, appointed *Chairman, Governing Board, University Democratic Primary School*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on September 15, 2018. Other members of the Board are: Professors Lawrence Igwe, Nkashari Nwa, Samuel Okworo, Gerda Obote, Drs. Faith Men-Amah, Midele Jaha, K. R. Okonkwo; Messrs Ngoma Nwaka, Hman Kwashi, N. A. Princewill; Mrs. Josephine Keme, Miss Chionora Oghalhi and two representatives from the Rivers State Ministry of Education.

Dr. Prince Mwan, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, reappointed *Acting Director, Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies*. The two-year appointment which took effect from September 13, 2016 will terminate on September 12, 2018.

Dr. Kaine Okoroaye-Orohio, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, appointed *Associate Dean of the Faculty*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect will terminate on September 7, 2018.

Dr. Lucky Udoe, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Acting Director, Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies*. The two-year appointment which took effect from October 1, 2016 will terminate on September 30, 2018.

Miss Stella Anum, offered *Temporary Appointment as Data Processing Officer*, effective on assumption of duty.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Professor Blomley Didi, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted a *one-year Leave of Absence* to enable him serve as Vice-Chancellor, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, effective June 23, 2016 to June 22, 2018.

EXTENSION OF STAY

Professor Vincent Idigbo, Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted a *one-year Extension of Stay as NUCLEAD Scholar*, effective July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

EXTENSION OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Dr. Samuel Udoabio, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Dentistry, granted a *one-year Extension of Leave of Absence*, effective September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017.

HIGHER DEGREE

Dr. Mervyn Nwagwu, Department of Mathematics/Statistics, Faculty of Science, completed her Doctoral degree programme in Sciences, College of Health Sciences, now where to be known, called and addressed as *Mrs. Queen Ada Woleh Maruoko*. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

CHANGE OF NAME

MRS. QUEEN ADA WOLEH MARUOKO, Former Miss Queen A. Helhria of the Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, now where to be known, called and addressed as *Mrs. Queen Ada Woleh Maruoko*. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

RESIGNATION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr. Bartholomew Nwanneke, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, resigned his appointment with the University, effective December 1, 2015.

Dr. Chinyere Wadsworth, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, undergoing process of resignation of appointment with the University.

NOT A LAUGHING MATTER

Noah's Ark Sinks At Exams & Records

A staff of the University revelled in the busy holiday that marked the nation's 54th Independence Day celebration last Monday.



The gory scene

man-made (sorry technical leak) is one of the public conveniences at the Pensions and Welfare Office caused a disastrous 'flood' that destroyed vital documents at the Examinations and Records Office Annex on the Ground Floor behind the Senate Building.

When work resumed on Tuesday, it turned out that even Noah's Ark could not have remained afloat the deluge that submerged the entire space. To access the storage area, ladies needed to wear short skirts, while men needed to fold their trousers well above knee level. More pathetic was that over 100 students' files were damaged by the flood. It was a sorry sight to behold. *UniPort Weekly* captured the ugly scene for our readers and wishes to lend its voice to the advice to staff to cultivate the habit of switching off all electrical appliances and checking water taps before leaving the office. It is not a laughing matter too!

WE-Africa Lab Appoints Arokoyu Member

By Obinna Nwodin

In recognition of his contributions to his academic discipline, Professor Samuel Arokoyu has been selected to participate in the WE-Africa Lab initiative, an alliance of like-minded scholars and practitioners, who share a common concern about how to ameliorate the current socio-economic conditions on the continent. The group members are willing to work together to promote a transition to a well-being based economy and livelihood in African countries.

A letter conveying the appointment which was made available to *UniPort Weekly*, described the programme as an action-research network which aims to consolidate the evidence for change, while focusing on building a new economy and promoting alternative development policies for the continent. Professor Arokoyu, who is also Associate Dean of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), stated that through the programme, he "would be part of a One Year Dialogue Process with about 25 other leaders and change agents from Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, Ethiopia, South Africa and Zimbabwe," amongst other participants, adding that the core interventions of the process will take place between November, 2016 and December, 2017, during which the Lab is expected to stimulate critical thinking and innovative practices for the achievement of

social, political and economic transformation of Africa.

According to him, the organizations convening the programme are WE-Africa Network, the Global Leadership Academy and African Centre for Green Economy.



Prof. Arokoyu

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY
WEATHER FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDING AREAS
FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER, 09 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2016.

DATE	TEMPERATURE IN LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	RELATIVE HUMIDITY (mm) (mm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 09 OCTOBER 2016	31.0 25.0	71	WFW	3.1	618 621	Thunderstorms and a mostly cloudy disposition.
MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2016	31.0 25.0	70	WFW	6.7	618 620	Thunderstorms late and mostly cloudy disposition.
TUESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2016	31.0 25.0	70	FW	-	618 620	Thunderstorms late and mostly cloudy disposition.
WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2016	31.0 25.0	69	WFW	-	618 619	Thunderstorms late and mostly cloudy disposition.
THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER 2016	31.0 25.0	71	FW	-	618 619	Thunderstorms early and mostly cloudy disposition.
FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER 2016	31.0 25.0	68	E	2.1	617 618	Thunderstorms with a partly sunny cloudy disposition.
SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER 2016	31.0 25.0	69	FW	12.3	617 618	Thunderstorms with a mostly cloudy disposition.

DR. VERA WELLS
AG. ROD.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY & ENV. MGT.

DR. PRINCE C. NIMOM
AG. ASSISTANT
(COMMOD.)

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6th Eghogah Legacy Lecture Series

The 6th Emmanuel Eghogah Legacy Lecture Series took place at the Emerald Energy Institute, IPS Park on Wednesday, September 21, 2016. The event which had the theme: "Managing Petroleum Revenue Under Volatile Price Dynamics," attracted distinguished personalities from the oil and gas industry. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU**, was on hand to capture highlights of the event:



7th Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Ajinkia in a handshake with the representative of Anambra State Governor, Prof. Joe Ibe



Benefactor of EEL, Dr. Eghogah (left) being welcomed by DVC (Admin), Prof. Anthony Ibe, who represented the V-C, Prof. Nilsa Lale



Dr. Eghogah, welcoming Prof. Akinle



Director, Emerald Energy Institute, Prof. Wani Ilesare reading his welcome address



Prof. Ibe delivering the address on behalf of V-C, Prof. Lale



Prof. Akinle making the Chairman's opening remarks



Egbolet speaker, Dr. Timothy Oke, making his presentation



Deputy Director, EEL, Dr. Chikoko Nwaezezu also speaking



A frontal view of the High table



5th Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Prof. Nini Briggs (right) and 7th Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ajinkia



A cross-section of participants at the event



Dr. Eghogah cutting his 75th anniversary cake while other guests watch with admiration



Group photograph of participants after the opening ceremony