

# UniPort Weekly

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## PCN Inducts 72 UniPort Graduands Into Its Fold



A total of 72 graduands trained in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences have been inducted into the profession by the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN). The well-attended Oath-Taking event took place during the 5<sup>th</sup> Induction Ceremony which held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park on Friday, January 27, 2017, reports *Otikor Samuel*. [More on p3](#)

## Side Bar 10<sup>th</sup> VALEDICTORY LECTURE

Professor Chidi Ibe of the Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, delivers the 10<sup>th</sup> Valedictory Lecture entitled: "Agricultural Practice in a Changing Climate: Beyond Infatuation to Devotion" at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium tomorrow. Details next week. ~Editor

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## New Governing Council To Meet Feb 9

...As Congregation Recalls Reps, To Elect Replacements Tomorrow

By Obinna Nwodin  
and Williams Wodi

It is now set for the maiden meeting of the new Governing Council of the University of Port Harcourt that was inaugurated by the Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu in Abuja on Wednesday, January 18, 2017. Also, the Congregation of the

University rose from the 63<sup>rd</sup> Meeting last Monday with a resolution that summarily recalled its two representatives from the Governing Council. Those recalled were: Professor Owunari Georgewill of the Department of Human Physiology and Mrs. Flora Iyagba of the Registry Department. On a motion moved by Professor Prince Mmom of the Department of Geography

and Environmental Management, Congregation also reduced the number of years its representatives can serve in Council from four to two years to enable other members have a shot at the two positions.

Inaugurating the new Governing Council members of the Universities of Port Harcourt and Obafemi Awolowo University,

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# Excluding Health Centre From Future Strikes

By Williams Wodi

*Health is beauty, and the most perfect health is the most perfect beauty*  
WILLIAM SHENSTONE

**H**ealthcare is effective and efficient if it is prompt, accessible and affordable by even those on the lowest steps of the social pile. When it has to do with healthcare, a fraction of a second can make the difference between life and death and this is putting the matter rather mildly. On health matters, we need to be truthful, not neutral to play the nice guy. This is because Greek Poet, Aeschylus who lived between 525 and 456 BC once said: "There is a limit to the best of health: disease is always a neighbor." A very bad neighbour at that! Good health, in the words of Henri Amiel, is the first liberty conferred on man by nature. Even in our increasingly utilitarian society, health is far valuable than gold, diamond platinum put together. When health is lost, everything else is in utter jeopardy.

Venerated Italian Monk, St. Benedict, reminds us that "attention should be paid to the care of the sick, so that they shall be served as if they were Christ himself." The logic is that without good health, life is empty, because a good doctor has professional capacity to snatch a dying man from the gates of hell and restore him to good health. That is why we respect and honour the physician and other caregivers in the healthcare system. We do so for the enormous sacrifices they make to nurse us back to good health even in the difficult circumstances in which they ply their ancient vocation—especially in a resource-poor setting they find themselves.

Doctors and allied healthcare practitioners must measure their professional success by the weight of empathy they feel for their patients. It is a generally accepted fact that medicare consists of three components: the disease, the patient and physician. It is predicated on unconditional love for humanity, because doctors are there to treat disease and prolong our lives.

It is not for nothing that healthcare is classified as an essential service in civilised climes, while doctors are granted free corridors to treat the wounded even in raging battlefronts. People who live in such confined communities as we find ourselves in this University community rely primarily on the O. B. Lulu-Briggs Health Centre for their medical needs and anything that bridges their access to prompt healthcare inflicts avoidable agony on many families. A split second makes all the difference as we found out in the sad story of late

Dr. David Edem. It is, therefore, repugnant to good reason for the Health Centre to be forced to join the incessant strike actions that disrupt services in the Nigerian university system.

Successive government have a large dose of the blame for creating conditions that breed most of these avoidable strike actions in diverse sectors of our national life, while the various trade unions have combined genuine and pecuniary interest as a response to the perceived insensitivity of government to the plight of workers. Shutting down the Health Centre and Demonstration Primary School; chasing doctors, patients and impressionable pupils away from these facilities is the direct equivalent of an own goal that the referee should not be allowed to stand. Have Union leaders who gleefully picket health facilities across the country ever spared a thought about what would happen if any of them fell ill while disrupting such critical services? Why should the Health Centre be the first to be closed down once a strike is declared? Who benefits from such selective shortsightedness that cost lives? Are they asking us to patronise herbal contractors that treat every ailment with the same prescription?

The healthcare system in Nigeria is already in a parlous state and nothing should be done to further give it a bloody nose under the guise of making strike action effective. It is a *bobojuice* story that does not add up. The doctor's pledge is to stand by the patient, while the union leader is committed to staff welfare. There should be no conflict of interest between healthcare and staff welfare—both of which are targeted at the same people. Let us be clear about this: stopping the doctor from performing his professional duty to the patient in the name of unionism is the direct equivalent of institutional sabotage. That is the right name to call what happens when services are disrupted by picketers.

The makers of the medical curriculum presupposed that clinical care would become this difficult to access by some vulnerable segments of society that they added preventive care and wellness to minimise our contact with disease in a society suffering from moral paralysis on all fronts. The doctors, themselves have not helped matters by embarking on strike across the country as a first-choice weapon. Nobody wants to believe that the doctors, nurses, laboratory scientists and pharmacists at the O. B. Lulu-

Briggs Health Centre are happy to walk away from their patients each time they are confronted by picketers. They must, henceforth, stand their ground when next union leaders come calling at their gate. The *Oath of Hippocrates* demands that they do so.

Italian artist, Leonardo da Vinci must have had the comatose Nigeria healthcare system in mind when he warned his fellow citizens to keep clear of the physician. We don't want to believe that Nigerian doctors like Mr. da Vinci's advice to patients. To help these vulnerable healthcare givers stand their ground, Management of the University should find a way to protect them from picketing union leaders during strikes. It is a self-inflicted injury for us to shut down our only health facility in the name of *aluta*. Even those who sin before God can be granted remission of 'sin' in the hands of a compassionate physician. This practice must stop with immediate effect!



Dr. Chinwe Ejirim, Ag. Director, Health Services Dept.

**M**anagement of the University has commended the Centre for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine (CMRP) on its partnership effort aimed at reducing mosquito infestation and tackling the scourge of malaria, using the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital as pilot project.

Receiving a delegation on the project which is to be jointly implemented by the Centre and a body known as Three Rivers Vector Control, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, expressed happiness over the initiative by the partners which is intended to bring relief and succour to patients visiting the UPTH.

"The problem of mosquitoes at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital is worrisome to all stakeholders who patronise the Hospital, so we are happy that you have taken a step in the right direction to tackle the problem from its root. It is our earnest desire that the

## V-C Commends CMRP On Mosquito Project At UPTH

By Otokor Samuel

partnership would find a lasting solution to the worrisome case of mosquitoes in the Hospital that had become so endemic," Professor Ibe said.

Also speaking, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, lauded the initiative by the Centre in partnership with the Three Rivers Vector Control. He described as ironic a situation in which patients and their families who seek medical intervention at the UPTH would come down with other ailments occasioned by the transmission of malaria from mosquito bite.

Earlier, Director of CMRAP, Professor Iyeopu Siminialayi, had disclosed that the Centre entered into the partnership to implement what he described as a priority project aimed at getting rid of mosquitoes that had

become a major source of concern to patients and their family members who patronize the UPTH.

"We are working with visiting American expert, Edward Horvath on this partnership due to his vast experience in vector control, particularly malaria. After the assessment, we will seek grants from individuals and public-spirited organisations to enable us tackle the malaria scourge at the UPTH and we also hope that the project would be extended to other places. Patients who present themselves for treatment deserve to enjoy wellness and not go down with malaria from mosquito bites," the Director said.

In his remarks, the Consultant, Mr. Horvath, disclosed that the main focus of the partnership would be to reduce mosquito infestation at the UPTH, using a scientific approach that would not cause harm to patients already patronising the Hospital. He expressed optimism that the partnership would be realised to the admiration and benefit of all stakeholders in the affairs of the Hospital.



Dr. V-C (Admin), Prof Ibe (3<sup>rd</sup> left) flanked by Mr. Horvath, Univ. Librarian, Dr. Susan Umeozor, Dr. V-C (Acad), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi (right), Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Aliczi (left) and others

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In his remarks before inducting the new members into the profession, Registrar of the Council, Mr. Elijah Mohammed, congratulated his junior colleagues on their success, praising the University Management for the quality training which the students received throughout their residency period that qualified them to practise the profession. The Registrar also commended parents and guardians for investing in their wards which has enabled the country to increase manpower in the critical allied medical field.

"You have concluded the first phase of your training and now inducted into the Council, but you must undergo the second phase of training which is your Internship placement. It is after that phase of training that you will be licensed to practise as qualified pharmacists. However, take notice that we are guided by a strict ethical code of professional conduct.

"We have moral obligations to blend into the two major components of our profession which manifest in our practice and in our products. The Council in partnership with relevant agencies is cleaning up the systemic rot in the practice and administration of drugs. You must get yourselves acquainted with our code of ethics, so that you will not have yourself to blame when you go against the statutory rules governing the Council and the profession," the Registrar added.

In his keynote address entitled: *Beyond Character and Learning: Becoming A Successful Pharmacist*, former President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN), Dr. Nelson Uwaga, told the graduands that the process of becoming a successful and fulfilled pharmacist in a hostile and competitive environment would pose another challenge for the new entrants, even after securing a degree.

The keynote Speaker listed seven attributes as stipulated in a report issued at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Health Organisation Consultative

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Group on the role of pharmacists, as standards which the new Inductees should imbibe in the administration of products and professional practice. The attributes specified the roles of a pharmacist as a care-giver, communicator, decision maker, leader, manager-entrepreneur, life-long learner and a teacher. Dr. Uwaga said, adding that team player was added as the eighth role of pharmacist.

"I charge you to go out from here, 'conquer and rule your world.' Put God first in all you do and observe His statutes. Shun the attitude of some of today's youth to get rich quick by all means and never you cheat on your employer. This has created confidence crises among investors that have really slowed investments in the economy, including the pharmaceutical sector with the resultant unemployment among pharmacists in Nigeria. Hold fast the golden values of professional integrity, transparency, responsibility, accountability, equity, fairness, efficiency and self-esteem," Uwaga, who was also a former President of the Nigerian Institute of Management told the new pharmacists.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, described the Induction ceremony as another intellectual harvest time, expressing the commitment of his administration to the steady growth of pharmaceutical training in the University.

"As you may be aware, the study of Pharmaceutical Sciences is a

relatively new addition to our academic programmes in this University, but I am pleased to announce that this young Faculty has proved beyond all shadows of doubt that it is ready, able and willing to take its place on the frontline in the training of qualified manpower for the healthcare sector," the Vice-Chancellor said, hoping that the 72 new Inductees would assuage the declining patient-to-pharmacist ratio in the country. Professor Lale charged the young pharmacists to strive towards upholding the ideals of diligence and professional excellence in service to patients and humanity, enjoining them to be worthy ambassadors of the University which has become an attractive brand name in and outside the country.

The Vice-Chancellor eulogised the 5<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs for envisioning the establishment of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and for attracting former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Professor Oleka Udeala, who he said carried out a tedious pioneering assignment of building the Faculty from scratch as Dean.

"I am pleased to announce that as promised during the last Induction Ceremony, Phase II of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences building has been completed and put to use under the Federal Government University Infrastructure Development Intervention (NEEDS II). I am very optimistic that with the completion of this building and other facilities now under construction, the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences would receive full accreditation status from such regulatory bodies as Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) and the National Universities Commission (NUC)," Professor Lale said, commending the PCN for its encouragement and partnership aimed at enforcing standards in the discipline.

Turning attention to the recent expulsion of 22 students for acts of misconduct, the Vice-Chancellor declared: "Henceforth, students who may wish to operate outside the framework of the law governing the University will have to answer for such infractions," stating that the University would only graduate those students whose conducts are satisfactory both in character and learning.

Others who spoke at the event included the Dean of the Faculty, Professor Kio Abo, Chairman, Rivers State Chapter of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, Mr. Wale Oladigbolu and Chairman, Medical Advisory Council at the UPTH, Dr. Charles Tobin-West.

Presentation of certificates and awards to deserving graduands, including the Best Graduating Student, Richard Anozia, formed the major highlights of the memorable event.



The new Inductees taking Oath

## Dentistry Faculty Marks Day With Free Oral Test, Awareness Campaign

By Mercy Adeniji

In keeping with current trends in the Dental profession, the Faculty of Dentistry in the College of Health Sciences, organised a week-long event to sensitise the public on new approaches to the management of orofacial tumours in developing countries.

Declaring open the event which held at the Amatu Braide Lecture Hall, University Park on Friday, January 27, 2017, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, commended the Faculty of Dentistry for making the Dentistry Day a regular feature of its academic calendar.

"This is the fourth Dentistry Day Celebration; a tradition that has been firmly established by staff and students of the Faculty for which they deserve commendation. This means that there is something the Faculty and society have been gaining from celebrating the event in the past four years. This is a Day you make people realise what Dentistry is all about and the need for proper oral health. I am happy that some pupils are here to learn and consider the profession as a career choice, because you cannot be talking about succession without a successor."

In his keynote address entitled: *Surgical Management of Orofacial Tumours and Challenges of Rehabilitation in Developing Countries*, Guest Speaker, Professor Ozo Obuekwe of the University of Benin, stressed the need for Dental Surgeons and other health practitioners to be abreast of recent advances in the profession. He described patient education as paramount in the improvement of their access to healthcare. Professor Obuekwe added that there was also a need for well-equipped regional centres where people can go to receive dental care.

Professor Obuekwe, who is an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon defined tumour as an abnormal mass of tissue which may be solid or fluid-filled, explaining that the dental surgeon was basically concerned about the biological behaviour of the tumour to determine if it was benign or malignant.

The Guest Lecturer further listed tobacco, alcohol and

nutritional deficiencies as some of the causes of benign tumour as they arise from accumulation of non-lethal injuries to the cells. He further disclosed that the infection could be recognised clinically as it affects the bone, jaw and salivary glands, which cause skin alteration.

Presenting a paper entitled: *Prosthetic Rehabilitation Following Surgery and Challenges in Developing Countries*, Dr. Julie Omo of the Department of Restorative Dentistry, University of Benin, stressed the need for team approach in the management of oral infections. She highlighted lack of trained personnel in maxillofacial prosthetics, high cost of treatment modalities, limited knowledge about rehabilitation among patients, government neglect of the health sector, unavailability and affordability of prosthetic materials and equipment, as some challenges militating against effective rehabilitation of patients in developing countries.

In another presentation entitled: *Childhood Malignancies:*

*Management and Social Welfare, Challenges in Developing Countries*, Professor Nwadiuto Akani of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, UniPort, regretted that cancers in children were yet to be properly recognised as important causes of childhood morbidity and mortality in developing countries. She revealed that management of cancers still posed serious challenges, ranging from poor health, late presentation due to ignorance, superstition, difficult access to drugs, scarcity of skilled personnel and well-equipped specialised centre.

Earlier in his welcome address, Acting Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Babatunde Akinbami, who also stood in for the Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Christie Mato, expressed gratitude to the Management of the University for its support. She commended the Faculty for marking the event since its inception, recalling that: "The Dentistry Day was started to create awareness and encourage research, as well as disseminate knowledge obtained from such research. The burden of cancers and maxillofacial tumours are on the increase, which is quite worrisome. This informed the choice of year's theme: *The Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Management of Orofacial Tumours: Challenges of Rehabilitation in Developing Countries*."

Highpoints of the weeklong event featured an oral health outreach/screening, sporting events/novelty football match, scientific conference and a presentation from the Sensodyn group.



DV-C (Admin), Prof Ibe (centre) flanked by Provost CHS, Prof Mato, DV-C (Acad), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi, Ag. Dean of Dentistry, Dr. Akinbami, CMAC, Dr. Charles Tobin-West (left) and Guest Speaker, Dr. Omo, immediate past Dean, Prof Chukwudi Onyeaso, Profs Obuekwe, Akani and Pioner Dean of Faculty, Prof Ambrose Obiechina

# Stakeholders Brainstorm On Developmental Challenges At IIPRDS Confab

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Issues bordering on the role of law, governance and security were the main thrust of a two-day international conference organised by the International Institute for Policy Review and Development Strategies (IIPRDS) which held in the University of Port Harcourt.

Delivering the keynote address on: *The Role and Challenges of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Enhancing Effective Public Service Performance in Nigeria: The Case of the EFCC*, the acting Chairman of the Commission, Ibrahim Magu, regretted that corruption has permeated all segments of the public sector, including the University system. He noted that the essence of the public service was for it to be a vehicle for

the delivery of good governance and guarantee the good life for the citizenry. "This involves formulating, implementing policies and delivering public goods and services to promote the security and welfare of the people," he said.

Disclosing the Commission's willingness to partner the University, IIPRDS and interested civil society groups to educate the populace on the evils of corruption and enlist their support for the anti-graft crusade, the EFCC boss, who was represented by Dr. Hakeem Bello, pointed out that corruption promotes inefficiency in the public service through ushering in insecurity, impoverishment of the populace and infrastructural decay. "Corruption harms economic growth and hinders investment. It also creates an additional burden on legitimate investors and hinders the

inflow of investments," Magu stated. He reminded the audience that fighting corruption was an expensive venture that needed support from all stakeholders, regretting that EFCC, like most agencies of government, has less than the funding it would require to prosecute the anti-corruption war.

In a keynote address on the Conference theme: *Global Perspective on Legal Issues, Security and International Development*, by Dean of the Faculty of Law, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Anambra State, Professor Solomon Ekwene, posited that a strong legal system and well-structured security machinery in all the countries of the world were conditions precedent for sustainable international development and global peace. "No amount of grants and advocacy campaign can lead to fruitful dividend in an atmosphere of civil unrest and weak government institutions in any country," he declared, stressing the need for developed countries to work towards the entrenchment of good governance.

Welcoming participants to the University, representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Okey Onuchuku, described the theme of the conference as apt, given the present economic, developmental and security crises in Nigeria. He noted that there was a strong correlation between the views. "At the end of the meeting, it is expected that you would come up with far reaching recommendations that would encourage stakeholders to ensure that the rule of law is achieved and adequate security is guaranteed to facilitate development in the country," he told the gathering.

In a chat on the side line, Coordinator of the conference, Dr. Doris Chukwu, expressed delight that the quality of presentations, the discourse and organisational structure of the event, promising that the IIPRDS would sustain the series at subsequent outings.

The two-day conference put together by IIPRDS, an accredited leading research Institute which provides a platform for independent, collaborative and institutional research, featured plenary sessions and policy briefing.



Participants after the Opening Ceremony

## ASUU, Stakeholders Seek Paradigm Shift For Africa's Dev

By Humphrey Ogu

The National Executives of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) were joined by stakeholders on African affairs at the Ebbitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, January 26, 2017, to seek a new paradigm that would move the African continent away from neo-liberalism and multi-lateral institutions to indigenous models of development. Welcoming guests to the well-attended symposium, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, noted that the topic of the symposium was relevant and timely, regretting that despite its abundant potentials, Africa had faced serious developmental challenges that had continued to impoverish its people over the decades.

"I was in primary school when I heard that Africa had great potentials. Today, I am close to retirement from the public service, yet the story has not changed as this potentially great continent remains stagnated on account of leadership crises. Rather than making strident efforts to lift their citizens out of grinding poverty and disease, most African leaders have continued to fend for themselves and their allies in power. I have confidence in the capacity of the scholars and experts who are here to speak to us and suggest a way out of this embarrassing

leadership gridlock. The problem is that we are talking to ourselves as intellectuals, while policymakers and government officials who should be the right target audience are not here to listen to us," he regretted.

Delivering the keynote speech entitled: *Neo-liberalism, Multilateral Institutions and Development Challenges in Africa: The Imperatives for a New Paradigm*, Professor Warisu Ali of the University of Jos, described neo-liberalism as a framework promoted by imperial western multi-lateral institutions and their development partners to enthrone free market forces in developing countries. He regretted that the wealth of African nations had remained in the hands of few parasitic politicians, who produce nothing, while hardworking industrialists and ordinary people have little or nothing to show for their diligence. "Africa should come up with novel approaches to the management of global economic engagements for a more inclusive development and should tap into huge prospects in cultivating and learning from China, India and other emerging economies that have adopted their own developmental models," he recommended.

Earlier in his opening remark, Chairman of the occasion, Professor Mark Anikpo, who was one-time Chairman of the UniPort Branch of ASUU, recalled that "Some of my colleagues

such as late Claude Ake and I tried to sensitise people on the dangers of neo-liberalism and Bretton Wood institutions. We were accused of teaching what we were not paid to teach. I am glad that ASUU is reviving that dream. Nigerian leaders should realise that neo-liberalism is not beneficial to Nigeria, we need a new approach," stressing the need for ASUU to make such symposia a regular feature of its activities.

In his address, ASUU National President, Professor Biodun Ogunyemi, recalled that it was in Port Harcourt in 2013 that the Union had what was known as the *Port Harcourt Declaration*. Describing ASUU as a Union of intellectuals, the President called on members to co-operate with their various Branch Executives to achieve set goals through intellectual engagement, urging them not to be discouraged by the non-payment of earned allowances by the Federal Government.

Also speaking, leading labour activist and Coordinator of a body known as the Council for Popular Education (CEPED) Dr. Dipo Fasina, noted that UniPort lecturers have been at the forefront of struggling for change in the country, urging them not to relent or retreat from the struggle. He said: "If we get the earned allowances and naira becomes too weak, we haven't achieved anything. If we get the earned allowances and our students are suffering, we have also not gained anything as they will revolt against us." Dr. Fasina urged ASUU members to look beyond the earned allowances to the broader dimension of the struggle for emancipation of the citizenry.

In their separate presentations, Professor Edet Akpakpan and Mr. Bobo Sofiri Brown observed that ASUU had a role to play in championing the cause of the masses by mobilising stakeholders to hold politicians accountable and ensure good governance.

Other speakers at the event, which drew 251 delegates from within and outside the university system, included ASUU National Vice President, Professor Emmanuel Osodeke, UniPort Branch Chairman, Dr. Austen Sado and Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Professor Frank Ugiomoh. Major highlights of the event include an interactive session and issuance of a communiqué, which observed that failure of governance in several African countries, including Nigeria, remained a major challenge to development. It also identified poverty, impunity, corruption, human rights and unemployment as factors militating against Africa's development.

The communiqué also resolved that "for Africa to overcome the socio-economic and political consequences of neo-liberalism and achieve development and progress, there is need for a paradigm shift from emerging economic orthodoxy, towards a new paradigm that is focused on the politics of development and welfare of the people."



Across-section of ASUU Members. Inset: V-C, Prof Lale flanked by Profs Anikpo (right) and ASUU National President, Prof Ogunyemi

# We Are Committed To Quality Engineering Training, UniPort Reassures COREN

By Obinna Nwodin

The authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have reassured the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) of quality training in Engineering training programmes at all times.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, gave the assurance when he received an accreditation team from COREN in his office shortly before it commenced scrutiny of the University's Engineering programmes last Monday. Professor Lale also repeated the pledge at an Exit Meeting held with the team last Wednesday.

He expressed gratitude to the accreditation team for its favourable assessment of the Engineering programme and the University, assuring COREN of his administration's willingness to upgrade the University

to an enviable status in line with his campaign manifesto for the job. "We are going to take seriously your observations on our Engineering programmes and wish to assure you that those we can deal with now, we shall deal with them right away and the others, we shall try as much as we can to handle within the limits of available resources in these lean times," the Vice-Chancellor assured the team.

Professor Lale reiterated

the importance his administration attached to the Engineering discipline, adding: "It is in our interest to comply with COREN standards and we have always maintained standards in all our programmes, because it will be a thing of joy that our products are able to perform very creditably wherever they are called upon to demonstrate what they were taught in UniPort. In the globalised knowledge society of today, students cannot be confined to local standards."

In his remarks, leader of the team, Professor Adisa Bello, told the Vice-Chancellor that his members went through the various facilities in the Faculty, which he described as fair, given the financial difficulties faced by educational institutions in Nigeria today. "The Central Library is quite okay and equipped with relevant electronic and hard copy materials for the training of Engineering students. This is commendable

and we advise that it should be extended to the Departmental Libraries in the Faculty, while equipment for teaching and practical demonstration sessions should be improved upon to give students complete experience," he advised the administration.

Earlier at a courtesy visit, Professor Adisa Bello had noted that the essence of the exercise was to maintain integrity in the courses taught in the Faculty and "ensure that we are up-to-date in Engineering training in Nigeria. Accreditation is part of the mandate of COREN and we are here to ensure that we bridge observed gaps. The whole exercise is about quality assurance and to ensure that Engineering graduates are sound and able to compete favourably with their counterparts all over the world," he stated.

In her remarks, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Maureen Etebu, expressed gratitude to both the authorities of the University and the COREN delegation for the support given to the Faculty, assuring the accreditation team that the Faculty would always do its best to live up to expectation.



V-C, Prof Lale (arrowed) flanked by Principal Officers, the accreditation team and Senior Staff of the Faculty of Engineering

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, has commended the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), for the massive infrastructural development it embarked upon at the International Daycare, Nursery and Primary School in the Gladys Cooke Resource Centre, University Park.

Professor Lale made the commendation while laying the foundation stone for a two-storey building and another four classroom facility donated by the Parent-Teacher Association of the school on Friday, January 27, 2017. He urged UPWA to continue the developmental effort it has recorded so far, promising that Management would continue to identify with the Association as it seeks to lift Montessori education and mould the character of impressionable kids in the University community and its neighbourhood. He noted that the autonomous nature of the Association made it possible for her to record such monumental achievements within stipulated deadlines without pandering to undue bureaucratic bottlenecks.

"We want to thank UPWA for doing a great job at the school which is evident in the overwhelming request for admission by parents and guardians. We want to congratulate you on your great achievements, even as

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By Ethel Timi-Johnson

we pray that the same team spirit that has prompted all your achievements would lead you to do more for UPWA and the University," he remarked.

The Vice-Chancellor also commended the PTA for supporting the activities of the Association and donating the building that he hoped would increase the school's admission capacity.

Responding, a visibly-elated UPWA President and Wife of the Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. Joy Lale, expressed gratitude to the University Management for supporting the Association in its effort to impact the University meaningfully.

"We invited the Vice-Chancellor and other top functionaries of the University to officially lay the foundation for the new buildings under construction in the school as a way of letting the Management key into what we are doing here. We pray that the building projects would continue smoothly and be ready for commissioning and use in no distant time," she said, commending UPWA benefactor, Mr. Peter Ogan for not only personally supervising the projects at no cost, but also donating towards the completion of the buildings.

In their separate speeches, PTA Chairman and Acting Head of Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Dr. Vincent Weli and the Contractor handling the project, Mr. Sam Aniemaka of Immaculate Impressions Limited, explained that the PTA building would house four classrooms, five conveniences and an office, while the two-storey building would house four classrooms and eight conveniences on each floor.

"From the inception of this administration, we have enjoyed a good relationship with UPWA and the University Management. We decided to donate this building as our own little way of keying into the dynamic vision of the UPWA President in her massive infrastructural development of this important school that caters for the basic educational needs of our children at the nursery and primary levels," Dr. Weli said, pledging continued support from the PTA to UPWA and the University.



V-C, Prof. Lale laying foundation stone of one of the buildings



Cont'd from Page 1

Ile-Ife, the Minister reminded them of their policy making and regulatory roles aimed at ensuring efficiency and prudence in the running of the two institutions. "You are expected to provide good governance and the type of leadership that will stimulate rapid growth of the universities and make them more competitive and attractive," the Minister said before inaugurating them.

Professor Mwendaga Jibo is the new Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the new UniPort Governing Council. Other members are: Mr. Joseph Fafi, Chief Johnson Chinyelugo Okafor, Hajia Lubabatu Lawal and Mr. Bello Duku Salihu. "You are appointed into these positions to replace the recently dissolved Councils of the two universities. I urge you to maintain appropriate and harmonious relationship with the Managements, Senates and other statutory organs of the universities, as well as establish the leadership and accountability responsibilities of your Vice-Chancellors and other Principal Officers," he told the incoming Council members.

The Minister reminded them that governance and management were distinct responsibilities in the university system, insisting that such distinction must be clear to all concerned to avoid friction in the system. "I urge you to work hard to support the Management and Senate of your universities to entrench an excellent academic culture based on research, innovation and quality scholarship. You are expected to govern by example—be disciplined and promote discipline, be transparent and accountable and promote transparency and accountability, work to promote and reward hard work," the Minister charged them.

At the Congregation Meeting, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, reassured staff and students of his administration's resolve to protect their welfare in line with the manifesto he unfolded at his inauguration on July 13, 2015 that promised a 'wholesome and prosperous university'.

Professor Lale who presented a powerful documentary on the just-completed renovation, recalled that his administration had been concerned with the parlous condition of the hostels which had not been renovated in the last 40 years. "We decided to embark on complete renovation of the hostels in the three Parks to give the students a new lease of life that would motivate them to strive towards academic excellence and self-esteem."

"Given the dilapidated state of the hostels prior to the

renovation exercise, there was no way we could have expected civilized conduct from any student who was compelled to inhabit such hovels," the Vice-Chancellor told Congregation. He regretted that it was not possible to extend the renovation work to all the hostels due to paucity of funds, assuring the students that the next phase of the renovation work would cover the remaining hostels."

Professor Lale, who formally informed Congregation of the constitution of a new Governing Council by the Federal Government, assured all staff that he would fulfil his promise of tabling the issue of End-of-Year package to the Council, as well as seeking a subsisting approval from the Governing Council to implement subsequent Christmas packages.

He also informed Congregation that Management had received part of the outstanding shortfall of salaries due staff, promising that they would be paid their due entitlements from the allocation. Professor Lale also assured staff that nobody would be short-changed in the process of disbursing the fund.

The Vice-Chancellor also briefed Congregation on the 32 staff housing units being constructed by his administration, disclosing that a temporary shopping mall at Choba Park

## New Governing Council To Meet Feb 9

was nearing completion by supermarket giant, the Everyday Group as a Public Private Partnership initiative aimed at giving the University community and its environs a memorable shopping experience. He also advised staff to make useful suggestions through the Suggestion Boxes provided by the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit at various strategic locations across the Campus to guide Management.

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor had informed Congregation of the loss of some members of staff since the body last met during its 62<sup>nd</sup> Meeting. He named the deceased members of staff as: Mr. Orlu Moses of the College of Continuing Education, (CCE), Yenagoa Centre, Dr. Edem David of the Department of Maths/Statistics, Dr. Augustus Elenwo of the Department of Animal Science, Dr. Julian Asodike of the Department of Educational Management and Planning, as well as Mr. Chizi Agbarasimimi of the Department of Physical Planning and Development (DPPD), following which a Minute's Silence was observed in their honour.



Minister of Education, Malam Adamu (4<sup>th</sup> right) flanked by Pro-Chancellor, Prof Jibo, V-C, Prof Lale (left), other External Members of Council and Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto (right) and Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Alije

## New Inductees Speak On Pharmaceutical Training

After five years of rigorous lectures hours, seminars and continuous assessments, a total of 72 students were inducted into the profession by the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) on Friday, January 27, 2017. The memorable event was part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Oath Taking/Induction Ceremony of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences which held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Correspondent, MERCYADENIJI, spoke to some of the Inductees.

**JUDE IKHAYEREMEOH**  
"I feel so excited to be part of this induction ceremony after all we passed through. At last, the moment is here and am grateful to God for seeing me through. Looking back, I can remember we wrote our final exams in December, 2015 and we have been looking forward to this day. I want to specialize in Clinical/Community Pharmacy. The reason is that I love to interact with my patients and I love to see smiles on their faces."

My experience and training in school was indeed very stressful as it robbed us of our leisure. One thing I learnt while in school was to be disciplined, because without discipline, you can't achieve anything. My gratitude goes to God and my family, because they supported me financially and morally."

**QUEEN KUKANG**

"I am so excited about this achievement which is the handwork of God, who made it possible for me to be a certified Pharmacist today. The journey was very challenging, but persistence and hard work saw me

through in the end. I appreciate my parents so much, because they were indeed my backbone through school. They gave me all the support I needed to come out as a Pharmacist even during my challenging moments. My area of interest is Occupational Health, Safety and Environment. I am also grateful to my Lecturers because they gave us the guidance and training we needed to graduate as thoroughbred

Pharmacists. I can't thank them enough."

**CHIAZORONYIA**

"I am very happy and grateful to God for bringing me this far in my professional career. The programme wasn't easy for me at all, but we are grateful to God that we finally made it to the finish line. While in school, we had

challenges, especially in adjusting to the changes in our programme, but with prayers and perseverance, we scaled through. My area of specialization is Industrial/Research and Clinical Pharmacy. My gratitude goes to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Onyia, who encouraged and supported me financially throughout my studies. I can now look up to the future with renewed confidence."

**OGECHI IBUDE**

"My area of interest is Herbal Medicine or Natural Product Chemistry. My gratitude goes to God and my family, especially my father, he has been my source of motivation, financially, spiritually and morally; he was there for me all through my studies, and to my mummy, whose support and prayers saw me through school. I am very grateful to them and all those who supported me."

I am grateful to God that I am being inducted into this noble profession as a certified Pharmacist. After waiting for this long, we were finally through with this phase. During my school days, I had challenges such as the sleepless nights, waiting for results and hearing that you had to re-sit a course. We thank God because it was all a learning process that has finally paid off. I



## GUIDE POST

## APPOINTMENT

*Dr. Justice Gbule*, offered *Temporary Appointment* as *Senior Lecturer* in the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, effective on assumption of duty.

## STUDY LEAVE

*Dr. Kenneth Umeadi*, Health Services Department, proceeded on a 30-month *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him undergo training as a *Supernumerary Resident Doctor* at the Department of Family Medicine, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH).

*Dr. Adaba Ibim*, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, resumed duty on January 4, 2017, after *Study Leave with Pay* at the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited, Port Harcourt.

*Mr. Benjamin Akpolili*, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, resumed duty on January 3, 2017, after *Study Leave with Pay* at the University of Ibadan.

## SABBATICAL LEAVE

*Dr. Kenneth Ordu*, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, proceeded on a one-year *Sabbatical Leave* to the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, effective January 11, 2016 to January 10, 2017.

## RETIREMENT

*Mr. Innocent Nwezenwo*, Works and Services Department, to proceed on *Statutory Retirement from Service* as *Higher Works Supervisor*, effective June 19, 2017.

## Stop Press

*Professor Henry Alapiki*, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Chairman, Panel to Investigate the Conduct of Medical Personnel at the O. B. Lulu-Briggs Health Centre* in relation to the death of *Dr. Edem E. David* of the Department of Maths/Statistics, Faculty of Science. The appointment which takes immediate effect is until the completion of the assignment. Other members of the Committee are: *Drs. Preye Fiebai, Jonah Aprioku, Chikuogwo Paul and Gift Worlu*.

## CHICKEN FOR SALE

*Faculty of Agriculture Demonstration Farm, Choba Park*, offers *Cocks and Broilers* for sale at affordable rates at the Farm which opens from Mondays to Fridays between 9:00am and 4:00pm. On Saturdays, the Farm would open from 10:00am to 1:30pm. For more details, contact the Farm Management on 08069119820

# EEL Harvests 12 Petroleum Economists, Inducts 3 Fellows At 2<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Ceremony

By Humphrey Ogu

The Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum, Energy Economics, Policy and Strategic Studies has graduated 12 Petroleum and Energy Economists at its second Induction Ceremony, which held at the main auditorium of the Institute along at the IPS Park along the East/West Road on Friday, January 27, 2017. Also, three distinguished professionals were inducted as Fellows of the Institute at the award ceremony. Declaring the ceremony open, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Ale, who was represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, recalled that the Institute was established to train indigenous manpower and build capacity in the petroleum and energy sector with a view to formulating policies in the sector. He expressed delight that the Institute has so far lived up to expectation as individuals and institutions continue to understudy the organisational and operational structure of EEL based on its glittering record of achievements.

"On behalf of the Management and staff of the University, I wish to commend our tireless benefactor, Dr. Emmanuel Egbogah, for his support towards the growth of the University through this important Institute. Dr. 'E' constructed and donated the building that houses the Institute and has continued to attract enormous goodwill to us. I also wish to congratulate the new Fellows for their well-deserved awards and the graduating students for giving good account of themselves during their residency here," Professor Fawehinmi said, urging the graduating students to be good ambassadors of the Institute and University by distinguishing themselves in the policy-making sector of the energy industry.

In his address, Chairman of the occasion, Dr. Egbogah, congratulated the graduating students and the Fellows, expressing hope that they would put the name of the Institute and University on the world energy map. "This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> graduation ceremony of this Institute, and I can confidently say that the Institute is already living up to expectations as I envisaged it at its inception. I believe that I have done something for the University, but I think the University has done more for me," Dr. Egbogah said. He promised to do more for both the Institute and the University.

Earlier in his welcome address, Director of the Institute, Professor Omowumi Iledare, noted that "EEL as an intergenerational connector is dedicated to preparing energy professionals for the type of

services that would require implementing the inevitable Petroleum Industry Bill in whatever form it finally emerges. Nigeria is where the world wants to look for petroleum, preferably refined petroleum products; we just need to sacrifice political expediency forever, abandon exultation of mediocrity, and let the rule of law reign in the oil, gas and power sector."

On his part, Deputy Director of EEL, Dr. Chijioke Nwaozuzu, lauded Dr. Emmanuel and Madam Chirota Egbogah, for their moral and financial support for the Institute, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ale, corporate bodies and all those who contributed to the growth of the Institute and the success of the graduation ceremony. "In the world of today, knowledge is not only for knowledge's sake; it is for application for the benefit of society," he reminded the graduating students.

In his Valedictory Speech, Best Graduating Student, Victor Georgeson, noted that "the use of distinguished local, regional and global academics, highly experienced industry professionals and experts in government institutions and agencies, brings in that distinct hands-on flavour in teaching and learning that makes EEL truly inimitable. I believe that the past two years of our journey have been a rewarding experience to us according to our different levels of aspirations, participation and commitment. Our choice of EEL in our quest for intellectual development and excellence is indeed a good one."

The ceremony featured the induction of Engineer Amieye-Ofori Felix, Mr. Osten Olurunsola and Professor Chidi Ibe, as Fellows of the Institute and presentation of awards to Dr. Egbogah, the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Fawehinmi, and a Member of EEL Academic Board, Professor Adewale Dosunmu for their contributions towards the growth of the Institute. It also presented awards to the Institute's Administrative Secretary, Mrs. Ekwi Adegbesan and Susan Fubara, including Victor Georgeson and Kolawole Asaolu.

Dignitaries at the event included the Director of the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), who was represented by the Deputy Director, and Zonal Operations Controller, Port Harcourt DPR Office, Mrs. Chloma Njoku and Technical Assistant to the Director, Dr. Nuhu Habib. Others were Dr. Francis Adigwe of the Senate Committee on Petroleum, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Dr. Anthony Akah, who was represented by Mrs. Pamela Akubue.



V-C, Prof. Ale (arrowed) flanked on the left by Dr. Egbogah, Mrs. Njoku, DV-C (Acad), Prof. Fawehinmi, on the right by Registrar, Mrs. Otto, Profs. Iledare, Ibe, Mr. Olurunsola Engr. Felix and others



### 13<sup>TH</sup> IPS INDUCTION CEREMONY

A total of 25 world-class Petroleum Engineers who successfully concluded their Master of Science degree programme in Petroleum Engineering and Project Development were inducted at the 13<sup>th</sup> Induction ceremony of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** captured highlights of the event as shown below:



V-C, Prof. Ndowa Lale exchanging pleasantries with 5<sup>th</sup> V-C, Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs on arrival to venue of the Induction



Dignitaries rise for anthems



Director, IPS, Prof. Dulu Appah welcoming guests to the ceremony



V-C, Prof. Lale reading his welcome address



Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Maureen Etebu making remarks



Registrar, Mrs. Dorcas Otto leading proceedings of the ceremony



Keynote Speaker, Mr. Cletus Egbuzie delivering the Induction Lecture



A cross-section of the Inductees



Prof. Lale in a warm handshake with Managing Director, TOTAL E&P Nigeria Ltd, Mr. Nicholas Terraz



Executive Director, Human Resources and Corporate Affairs of TOTAL and new Chairman of the Governing Board of IPS, Mr. Abiodun Afolabi speaking



V-C presenting award to the Best Graduating Student, Miss Princess Chinyere Offor



A cross-section of audience at the event



A group photograph of Board members and some dignitaries