

Senate Holds Session For Investiture Of New Emeriti Professors

By Otikor Samuel



L-R: Emeriti Profs Enaohwo, Willie Abbey and Eheazu

Senate of the University has held a special session for the investiture of three new Emeriti Professors. They are Bene Willie Abbey of the Department of Biochemistry in the Faculty of Science, John Enaohwo of Department of Educational Management and Benjamin Eheazu, Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education, both in the Faculty of Education. The 463rd Senate held on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at the Senate Chamber inside Senate Building, University Park. The investiture of

the trio brought the total number of Emeriti Professors in the University to nine. Presenting his address at the 3rd Deans of Faculties of Science, Investiture, Chairman of Senate and Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, disclosed that the recipients met the requirements set up by Senate for the conferment of Emeritus Professor on deserving members of the august body. The Chairman noted that Emeritus Professorship "is an honour that a Professor receives after he has served about 15 years in the University before retirement. In essence, the Emeritus Professor is one who has spent quality time over a decade in the rank of professor before retirement. There are several other requirements such as obtaining research fellowships and awards, notable publications beyond the professorial promotion, delivery of outstanding lectures such as the

inaugural or other public lectures and the presentation of a valedictory lecture among others." Deans of Faculties of Science, Professor Eka Essien and Professor Education, Professor Tamunobelema Orunaboka read the citations of the recipients at the special session which was attended by some past Vice Chancellors and Emeriti Professors Ebiegheri Alagoa and Otonti Nduka. Speaking on behalf of others, Emeritus Professor Willie Abbey, commended the authorities for recognising their contributions to the growth of the University by honouring them. "We are elated for the honour bestowed on us in our lifetime for services we rendered dutifully without any bias or inkling about the future outcome. Indeed, this appointment confirms the popular saying that hard work pays," she said, encouraging staff to always put in their best for the growth of the University.

176th Inaugural Ironkwe Identifies Panacea For Affordable, Safe Animal Production

By Humphrey Ogu



176th Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Ironkwe (left) handing over a copy of the lecture to DVC (Admin), Prof Ofurum

Professor Monica Ironkwe of the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, has identified the use of non-conventional feedstuffs and natural feed additives as panacea for affordable and safe animal production in Nigeria. Ironkwe made this observation while delivering the 176th Inaugural Lecture at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, October 28, 2021.

Ironkwe, who spoke on the topic, "Non-Conventional Feedstuffs and Natural Feed Additives: Panaceas for Affordable and Safe Animal Production," stressed the importance of using non-conventional feedstuffs, natural additives and plant additives to achieve affordable and safe animal productions, adding that "Animal protein is important for the younger ones to build up their immunity and the elderly to repair worn out tissues.

"Unconventional feedstuffs are residues of the conventional feedstuffs. These can be used wholly or partially to replace or supplement the conventional feedstuffs since they attract cheaper prices, when they are used in feeding poultry. It will reduce their feeding

cost," the Inaugural Lecturer explained, emphasising the need to improve the scientific knowledge and researches for utilising these low cost, locally available unconventional feedstuffs. On the factors militating against successful agricultural production in Nigeria, the 176th Inaugural Lecturer observed that "the best known way of feeding poultry has always been through the use of expensive conventional feedstuffs (maize, wheat, soybean, groundnut, etc) and antibiotics (growth promoters), pointing out that the situation has made animal production to be very expensive. She also noted that farmers/herders conflict has led to low production of conventional feedstuffs. "These challenges have led to little or no production of these feedstuffs for animals and foodstuffs for human beings. Nigeria has resorted to the importation of these food crops. However, this is not without adverse effects on the economy," she explained. Ironkwe who also identified areas the Faculty of Agriculture Farm requires urgent attention, stated that "it needs to be completely fenced to secure the animals and their keepers, prevent hoodlums and cattle rustlers from going to

steal them. The structures in the farm are obsolete and dilapidated and need renovation or replacement. Animal science laboratory should be well-equipped for simple analysis. There is urgent need to employ technologists to take our students on practicals." In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, who spoke through the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Clifford Ofurum, thanked Professor Ironkwe for delivering the lecture and for identifying areas Management needs to come in to make the Faculty of Agriculture Farm more viable. "The Inaugural Lecturer noted that rural-urban migration is the bane of Agriculture in Nigeria. She also recommended the return to Agriculture as the nation's mainstay and revival of laudable programmes such as Operation Feed the Nation, School-to-Land and so on," he said, expressing the willingness of Management to look into the recommendations made and address the issues within available resources. Meanwhile, the 177th Inaugural Lecture entitled, "Paediatric HIV, Totally Preventable: Challenges of Management—Are We Equal to the Task?" will be delivered by Professor Rosemary Ugwu of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, on Thursday, November 11, 2021.

NMCN Inducts 75 Nurses In UniPort

By Otikor Samuel

A total of 75 new Nurses trained in the Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences of the University, have been issued temporary license for professional practice by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN) at

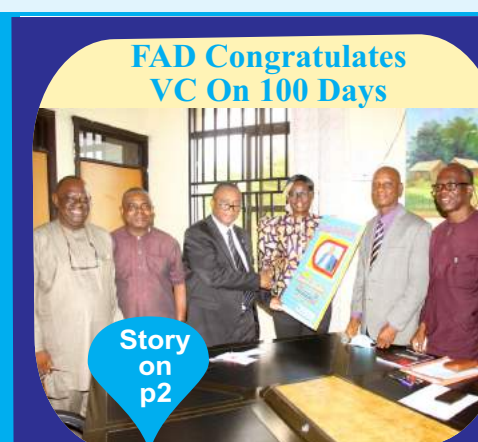
the 4th Induction ceremony. The event took place at ACE-PUTOR Auditorium, University Park, on Tuesday, October 26, 2021.

Speaking before she administered the Oath on the Inductees, Director of Nursing and Head of Education Department, Mrs Margaret Eze, who stood in for the

Registrar and Secretary, Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria, Faruk Abubakar, congratulated the new Inductees for their success in the professional examination which qualified them for the induction.

"Dear inductees, your success at the professional examination has qualified you for registration and licensure by the

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Class '91 Provides Toilet Facility

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Director of Nursing, NMCN, Mrs Eze administering the Oath on the Inductees

UniPort, AICI Sign MoU On Affiliation

By Humphrey Ogu



Students of Adam Igbudu Christian Institute, (AICI) Emevor, Delta State now have the privilege of graduating with a University of Port Harcourt degree. This follows the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the affiliation of the Institute to the University with effect from 2021/2022 academic session. The historic signing of MoU took place at the Office of the Vice Chancellor on Thursday, October 28, 2021. Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari

Georgewill and the Acting Registrar, Mrs Joyce Tamuno, signed on behalf of the University, while the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration) Professor Clifford Ofurum, his counterpart in charge of Academic Affairs, Professor Kingsley Owete, Bursar, Dr Felicia Ayuwo, Director, Local Affiliations, Professor Gideon Abu, Director of Academic Affairs, Dr Agatha Ataga and the Principal Assistant Registrar at the Legal Unit, Mrs Nwira Mbanefo witnessed the MoU signing.

On their part, the Rector, Professor Bernard Itebiye and the Acting Registrar, Mr Abel Umukoro signed for the Institute, while a representative of the Governing Council, Dr Anthony Pessu, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Joseph Enwusa, witnessed the signing. Others who also witnessed the event were the Bursar, Mr Unuiv Oveva, Head, Department of Educational Management, Mrs Rachel Ogbizo and Secretary to the Rector.



FAD Dept Congratulates VC On 100 Days In Office

By Humphrey Ogu

The Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of Humanities, has congratulated the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, on his assumption of office and his achievements in the first 100 days in office. Leading a five-man delegation on a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor in the Committee Room on Thursday, October 28, 2021, Head of the Department, Professor Pamela Cyril-Egware presented a giant-size Congratulatory Card and Flower Vase to their host.

Cyril-Egware, who also presented copies of a book of articles and virtual exhibitions of Staff of the Department entitled, *Together: Redefined: Creativity in the Face Covid-19*, said: "we wish to thank the University Management for providing us with a near befitting accommodation for our studios, Museum/Gallery and staff offices." She appealed for more support in the area of furnishing of staff offices, recruitment of lecturing and technical staff in sculpture, graphic/animation, ceramics, textiles and fashion.



VC, Prof Georgewill receiving the Card from Dr Cyril-Egware (middle), while Prof Agberia, Chukuegu (right) Peters and Ubogu (left) watch in admiration

Fawehinmi Bags Fellowship Award

By Sam Kpenu

A former Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi has been elected a Foundation Fellow of the Academy of Medicine Specialties of Nigeria. The event which held on July 29, 2021 at the Banquet Hall of the Radisson Blu Hotel, Ikeja Lagos, had in attendance

eminent personalities in Nigeria. The Chairman Board of Trustees, Dr Sonny Kuku and the President of the Academy, Professor Oladapo Ashiru, in a letter congratulated Professor Fawehinmi for his outstanding achievements, contributions and commitment to service on matters of significance to health.

Addressing Fawehinmi, the letter

read: "I wish to inform you of your election as a foundation Fellow of the Academy of Medicine specialties of Nigeria. The Academy is merit-based and shall be persons qualified to practice medicine, Dentistry or non-Medical practitioners in other related sciences."

Expert Speaks On Nigeria's Financial Problem

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

An expert in the Department of Finance and Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, Professor Ikechukwu Nnamdi, has listed ways aimed at tackling Nigeria's financial problems. Delivering the 22nd Public Lecture of the Faculty which held on Thursday, October 14, 2021, Professor Nnamdi disclosed that the lecture was motivated by the need to examine the extent to which specific economic and financial developments in Nigeria have altered the perception of Western theories in finance, as well as analyse the contributions of Nigerian scholars to controversies in finance.

"This Lecture on *Finance in Nigeria's*

Dynamic Environment: Our Relevance, Advocacies and Methodologies highlights observed dynamics in Nigeria's economy and lost opportunities arising from the recent economic depression and need to chart an independent course for the nation," he stated, stressing the failure of the government and Nigeria's development banks to massively embrace the extensive finance of mechanised cultivation of agricultural products for industrial support. Professor Nnamdi submitted that Nigerian scholars have remained aloof to domestic financial dynamics by seeking explanations and strategic policy solutions to financial and economic problems from recovered Western theories. He recommended that finance

scholars and policy makers intensify search for indigenous theoretical frameworks and solutions to local financial problems affecting the country. In his address, the representative of the Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Clifford Ofurum, commended the Faculty of Management Sciences for keeping the flag flying and sustaining the Lecture series which he said, was initiated by the erstwhile Dean, Professor Emeka Okereke. Welcoming guests, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Godwin Umoh, explained that the Public Lecture Series has become an established academic tradition in the Faculty. He promised to consolidate on the achievements of his predecessors in moving the Faculty to greater heights.



DVC (Admin), Prof Ofurum (6th left), DVC (Acad), Prof Owete (7th right), DVC (R&D), Prof Siminalayi (4th left) and guests after the Lecture

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The leadership of United Football Club (UFC) UniPort, paid a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill on Wednesday, September 6, 2021 at the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room. Speaking on behalf of the delegation, the Team Manager, Dr Hamilton Oporum told the Vice Chancellor that they were in his office to congratulate him on his appointment as the 9th Vice Chancellor of the University.

"We were supposed to be the first to pay you a courtesy call shortly after your appointment, but due to situations beyond our control, we have made it today, and we hope you will understand with us. Equally, too, we are here to show our loyalty to you and to assure you that we are going to work hand-in-hand with you for the common goal of our institution," the Team Leader said.

Dr Oporum informed the Vice Chancellor that the Club has represented the University at Ilorin and Kaduna, as well as took part in the All Federal Civil Servants Games in

VC Receives UniPort Football Club

By Sam Kpenu

Nigeria, stating that the Club had further raised the glowing profile of the Institution in university games.

"We want to inform you that we want to play a novelty match to celebrate your victory. We also want to inform you too that our team will play with the Rivers State University in UniPort and we are appealing for your support," he added.

Reacting, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Georgewill welcomed the leadership of the UFC and assured them of his readiness to support the vision of the Club.

Describing sports as a veritable instrument for cohesion and development, the Vice Chancellor disclosed that he is a sports lover.

He added that it was sports that also helped to project him to the limelight.

"My administration will partner UFC. Thank you for coming together to form the Club. Submit details of your plans for the



VC, Prof Georgewill and members of United Football Club

novelty match to the Management," the Vice Chancellor stated. A major highlight of the visit was the investiture of the Vice Chancellor as the Grand Patron of the United Football Club, UniPort.

Class '91 Provides Toilet Facility For UDSS Girls

By Otiakor Samuel



Engr Onowu (left), UDSS Principal, Mr Weleria (right) and a Staff cutting the tape to unveil the facility

In the spirit of giving back to their alma mater which moulded them to become useful members of the society, former students of the University Demonstration Secondary School under the aegis of Class 1991, have built a four-unit toilet facility to the School. The handing over ceremony took place on Tuesday, October 19, 2021.

Speaking before handing over the project to the Management of UDSS, President of the Class, Engr Azubuike Onowu, stated that the four-unit toilet meant for female students in the junior secondary section was part of the contributions of the Class to the School which had prepared them ahead of the challenges of life.

"This is a way of giving back to the School that made us many years ago. The

training we had here was very useful in guiding us on our career path. Let me on behalf of my class thank the Management of the School for sustaining the good work. It is said that the reward for hard work is more work, so I will wish to charge the leadership of the School to continue in the good work," the President said, commending all those who contributed to the success of the project.

In his speech, the Principal, Mr Fidelis Weleria, showered praises on the ex-students for the provision of a new toilet facility for the students. He used the opportunity to introduce Class 2003 that coincidentally visited the School to donate a mobile football goal post with net. The Principal informed the former students that the Alumni office has been equipped for use, enjoining them to make good use of the office space to attract more ex-students to donate to their alma mater.

Dean, CNES Director Heap Encomiums On Briggs, As Nwosu Now Heads OTI

By Otiakor Samuel

Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Professor Roland Uhumwangho and Acting Director, Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies, Dr Benson Eyibumwam, have showered encomiums on Dr Tobinson Briggs for his excellent stewardship as Acting Director, Offshore Technology Institute (OTI).

Dr Briggs handed over the Directorship of the Institute to Professor Harold Nwosu of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at a brief handover ceremony witnessed by the Dean, staff of the Institute and others at the Board Room of OTI on Friday, October 22, 2021. In his opening speech, the new Dean of the Faculty, Professor Uhumwangho commended Dr Briggs for doing a proper hand over to his successor, describing such act as laudable as it would afford the new helmsman an opportunity to start on a good footing. The Dean disclosed that he would soon embark on familiarisation visit to acquaint himself with the workings of the Departments, Centres and Units under the Faculty of Engineering.

Speaking before handing over to his successor, Dr Briggs, who gave the background of the



Prof Nwosu (right) taking over from Dr Briggs

Institute, commended the 7th Vice Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka for establishing the OTI in 2011 with the appointment of Professor John Okoli as pioneer Director.

Dr Briggs stated that the Institute has successfully graduated six sets of students who are currently working in various reputable companies, while others have gone ahead to enrol on doctorate degree programmes. He listed some of his

achievements in office to include a collaboration with Q-Slog and Homik Engineering, introduction of e-learning, organisation of seminars to foster industry-academic relationship, renovation of the OTI Canteen and securing membership status with the Oil and Gas Trainers' Association of Nigeria (OGTAN).

Others included the establishment of Applied Mathematics Studio, procurement of pneumatic equipment for Mechatronic Engineering programme, solar power supply, laboratory equipment by SNEPCo, acquisition of land for the permanent site of the Institute, provision of HiAce bus and the commencement of a Master of Science in Energy Access and Renewable Technology programme. He commended staff of the Institute for supporting him to succeed.

In his response, the new Director, Professor Nwosu, who described his appointment as a surprise, lauded the Vice Chancellor for his choice. He acknowledged the many achievements of his predecessor, expressing optimism to consolidate on the success story of the Institute. Professor Nwosu solicited the support of staff of the Institute to enable him succeed in office.

NMCN Inducts 75 Nurses...

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Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria. By your licensure, you are legally covered to practise nursing in Nigeria. You can also present your credentials anywhere in the world, if you have any cause to do so. By taking an Oath, you have made a decision to become a member of the noble nursing profession. From this day forward, you will be addressed as a Registered Nurse," the Director of Nursing said. The Head of Education Department added that the issuance of license would qualify the Inductees to proceed on a one-year internship, after which they would be eligible to obtain the permanent license. She enjoined the new Nurses to respect the Oath of Nursing profession by adhering to the provisions of code of ethics.

"Remember to place the patient or client in the centre of all you do in your professional practice. Uphold the virtues of integrity and honesty. Your attitude to patients will make or mar you as a professional nurse. Your best evaluators or assessors as professionals remain

your patients. Please care for your patients with utmost empathy, respect, commitment and love. You are now accountable for your actions and inactions, misconducts and/or malpractice," she cautioned the new Nurses. Welcoming guests to the Induction, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, who restated the critical role played by Nurses in saving lives, averred that hardly would any adult deny encountering the services of a Nurse in a lifetime.

"I welcome all guests, particularly parents and guardians who put in their resources in the training of the Inductees during their period of residency. Here, in the University, we take Nursing Science very seriously because it is a profession that also has to do with saving lives," the Vice Chancellor said.

In her address, the Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Angela Frank-Briggs, disclosed that the ceremony was the fourth Induction of the Department aimed at marking the official issuance of licence to the new Nurses

to practise.

"Our Department of Nursing Science has grown in leaps and bounds since it commenced academic activities in the 2005/2006 academic session. From 51 inductees last year, we are inducting 75 Nurses this year. In acknowledgement of the fantastic work our Nursing Science Department is doing, it was adjudged 'the Best Performing Department of Nursing' for the November 2019 Professional Examination for (Foreign Trained) General Nurses by no less a body than the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria. The Registrar of the Nursing and Midwifery Council has also graciously increased the admission quota into our BSc Nursing Science programme from 50 to 100 students from the last academic session," the Provost disclosed.

The Induction Lecture was delivered by Professor Prisca Adejumo of the Department of Nursing, University of Ibadan, while Mrs Margaret Dan-Patrick was the Nurse Elder. Highlights of the event included presentation of prizes and awards to deserving students by some donors and valedictory speech by the Best Graduating Student, Foby Mary Nmeri.

Senate Resuscitates Dean's List, Approves Demerging Of Agric Econs

By Otikor Samuel

In an effort aimed at revamping academic excellence and competitiveness among students, Senate of the University has resuscitated the Dean's List to encourage students who score a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 4.0. This follows a presentation by the Chairman of Senate and Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill on the floor of the august body at the 464th Meeting held on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at the Senate Chamber, University Park.

The Vice Chancellor stated that the practice of encouraging students by enlisting the brilliant ones on Dean's List was a common tradition within the first decade of the commencement of academic activities in the University.

Following a presentation by the Senate Committee on Academic Policies and Programmes (SCAPP), Senate approved a proposal for demerging the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension in the Faculty of Agriculture. With the demerging, it would now be Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management and Department of Agricultural Extension and Development Studies. Senate approved results from the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences and Pharmaceutical Sciences. It also ratified results executively approved by the Vice Chancellor.

The 464th Senate approved a proposal submitted by the School of Graduate Studies to commence a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Science Laboratory Technology. It also approved the proposal for change of course title from Environmental Technology and Management (ETM) to Environmental Technology and Safety (ETS). The course is domiciled in the Centre for Occupational Health, Safety and Environment.

The apex academic decision-making body, however, rejected the request for Senate to reconsider the report of the Committee on revitalisation of the School of Graduate Studies, Centres, Institutes and CCE programmes. Senate directed the School to implement all recommendations of the Committee which it had approved at its 454th Meeting.

Senate approved the passionate appeal for the rescission of the order of expulsion of Okwusi, Manfred Gogo and Amua, Harcourt Ikechukwu of the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities. The august body



464th Senate in session

granted the request by the Department of Medical Biochemistry in the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences for the change of course code from BCH to MBCH.

The academic body stepped down deliberation on the application to grant amnesty to Undergraduates of College of Continuing Education Study Centre in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State until more details of the status of the applicants are made available to Senate. It also stepped down the request for expansion of Certificate and Pre-Degree Programme due to the absence of the Assistant Director who made the request.

Senate also stepped down discussions on the proposal for the establishment of an Institute of Forensic Sciences and commencement of Master of Science degree programmes in Forensic Sciences and Forensic Odontology. It directed the Acting University Librarian to follow the proper channel in his application for the introduction of the Use of Library and Study Skills as a University-wide GST Subject.

Earlier in his briefing, Chairman of Senate, Professor Georgewill informed the august body that Management was satisfied with the level of compliance of Faculties that submitted their outstanding results for executive approval as directed by Senate.

UniPort, AICI Seal Pact On Religious Studies, Edu Progs

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Commenting on the significance of the MoU signing, Vice Chancellor, Professor Georgewill said it marked the beginning of a journey towards providing access to quality education offered in the University. He expressed joy that a plan that was initiated some time ago, has finally been actualised. The Vice Chancellor assured the Institute of the

University's commitment to proper supervision of the quality of education given to the students of the Institute.

On his part, the Rector of the Institute, Professor Bernard Itebiye said: "We have been looking forward to this for a very long time. The University of Port Harcourt is a very prestigious institution that everyone would like to do business with. We are happy that our Institute is

now affiliated to UniPort."

Also speaking, Professor Abu said: "It is a very welcome moment. We desire to promote and expand the reach of UniPort. This affiliation is one of such avenues. To us, it is a very good opportunity to provide community service and to network with the Institute for the benefit of the students who desire the standard of education available in UniPort.

Fisheries Expert Highlights Potentials Of Shell Fish

By Sam Kpenu



VC, Prof Georgewill (7th left), Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof Ibisime Etela (5th left) and the participants

The contributions of fisheries to the nation's socio-economic wellbeing are enormous, when considered against the backdrop of employment creation, income generation, provision of valuable animal protein and foreign exchange earnings through exportation of shrimps, smoked fish and live ornamental fishes.

This was the position of the Vice President, Quality Control, Atlantic Shrimpers Ltd, Lagos, Mrs Ben Okonkwo, in her keynote address at the 36th General Meeting and Conference of Fisheries Society of Nigeria (FISON) which held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Tuesday, October 27, 2021.

Okonkwo in her address entitled, "Shell Fish Aquaculture in Nigeria: The Untapped Gold," said Nigeria has one of the world's most sourced after shrimps, just as the country earns huge foreign exchange from the sales.

Speaking on the importance of these aquatic assets, the Fellow of the Fisheries Society of Nigeria said, "Global demand for shrimps is increasing in volume and prices by the day, therefore, farming

is an excellent option to boost the production, and this would mean a lot of foreign exchange gain for the country, if the gap between demand and supply can be bridged."

Declaring the conference open, the Vice Chancellor, University of Port Harcourt, Professor Owunari Georgewill welcomed the delegates to the conference, and commended the FISON leadership for choosing UniPort as host for the event. He assured other professional bodies and organisations of the University's willingness to collaborate with them in building the knowledge and capacity of members of the University community.

Speaking earlier, the National President of the Fisheries Society of Nigeria, Dr Adegoke Agbabiaka said that as a body, FISON has recommended a number of transformational programmes and projects to the government, which according to him include, the

establishment of National Aquaculture Technology Transfer Centres, Demonstration Fish Farms, National Accelerated Fish Production Programme, Brood Stock Development, and capacity building in the areas of New Products Development and the National Fish Hatchers Development Projects.

Agbabiaka expressed confidence that the Fisheries Institute of Nigeria Bill (FINBill), currently before the National Assembly will be passed when the Senate reconvenes plenary on November 9, 2021.

The theme of this year's General Meeting and Conference of the Fisheries Society of Nigeria is, "Fisheries and Aquaculture in Nigeria: Veritable Tools for Food Security and Wealth Creation amidst Covid-19 Pandemic."

Oxford University Names Gomba Global South Visiting Professor

By Humphrey Ogu

The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), Humanities Division, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, has named Dr Obari Gomba of the Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, as the 2021 Global South Visiting Professor.

A multiple awarding winning Poet and Playwright, and Honorary Fellow in Writing of the University of Iowa,

USA, Gomba, who is the Associate Dean, Faculty of Humanities in the University of Port Harcourt, teaches Creative Writing and Literature in the Department of English Studies.

Exchanging views with from his Office in Oxford, Gomba, who described TORCH as a hub for multi-disciplinary research projects and research engagement in Humanities at the University of Oxford, confirmed that "The

TORCH 'Global South' Education emerged as Visiting Professorships is a Global Scientist of the Year flagship scheme that in a competition organised supports Visiting Professors by the International from the Global South for a Achievements Research minimum of one term in the Centre (IARC) in academic year in Oxford." Montreal, Canada.

While in Oxford, Gomba would be engaging in research and delivering of public lectures. Gomba's appointment came barely three weeks after Professor Peter Kpolovie of the Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling in the Faculty of



Dr Gomba

Georgewill's Scorecard In 100 Days

By Sam Kpenu

It is one hundred days already, since the 9th Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Abraham Georgewill took over the mantle of leadership on July 13th, 2021, yet it seems like just yesterday. I remember, July 14th when we trooped out to Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium to witness the 9th Vice Chancellor's Inaugural Address that was well attended by staff and stakeholders of the University.

The saying that every era of human history has its flashpoints is better understood in the context of the quality leadership that is development-driven which Professor Georgewill has provided for the Institution in the last one hundred days in the saddle of leadership. The ascendancy of Professor Georgewill to the position of Vice Chancellor has given currency to sociologists' perception that man is the greatest agent of change in the universe. Believing that change is the only permanent phenomenon in life, Professor Georgewill has conceptualised change in the contest of a functional transformation of the University which is anchored on the mandate of teaching, research and community service.

It was Benjamin Franklyn who once said that "an individual must either do something worth writing or write something worth reading...." In what could be described as a renaissance of sort, Professor Georgewill has changed the narratives through his well-articulated policies. His concept of a "More Prosperous UniPort" has released a breath of clean air for all stakeholders. This is visible in his "Week in Retrospect" and "Welcome to a New Week" in the University which has made the University more visible and has kept staff, students and stakeholders well informed of the happenings.

To consolidate on the core mandate of the University, the Vice Chancellor reintroduced the office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Development) headed by Professor Iyeopu Siminialayi to drive the research processes of the University with a mandate to bring the University to the spotlight in university rankings and true to his words, the Office has not rested on its oars.

On education, the Vice Chancellor paid charges of several indigent students who could not pay their school charges and extended the deadline for the closure of the fee portal three times to give room to those who did not have the money to pay. This has earned him accolades and admiration even from the most ardent critics of his administration.

Not only that, the Vice Chancellor recently attracted a partnership to the Centre for Gas Refining and Petrochemical

from the Nigeria Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the Nigeria Liquified Natural Gas (NLNG) which would cost over two billion naira and other projects from TETFund, NEEDS Assessment among other interventions.

Since Professor Georgewill assumed duties, the University has not been the same again. This is because of his purposeful leadership and all-inclusive governance which he has brought to the front burner of his administration and has impacted on all sectors of the Institution. For example, in order to revitalise and reactivate the Lulu Briggs Health Centre, he set up a special committee headed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration) to ensure that the fortune of the Health Centre is turned around for the better and ensure the availability of drugs at the Centre at all times.

Wealth creation being a panacea for institutional development, Professor Georgewill has put in place programmes to boost internally generated revenue by reinvigorating relevant arms. He established the office of UniPort Business Manager.

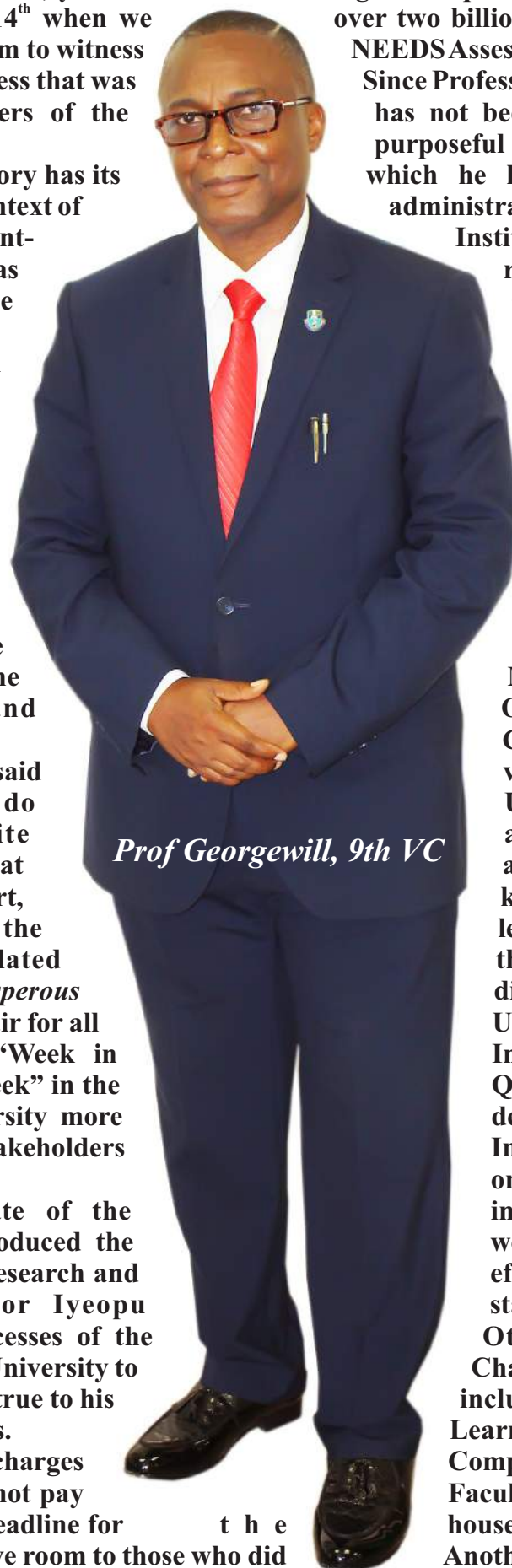
On information management, the Vice Chancellor sees information management as very crucial in the development of the University, hence, the need to keep the academic community abreast with the policies and programmes of his administration. In keeping with this knowledge, the Georgewill-led administration has vigorously harnessed the information machinery for good by directing Provost, Deans to weekly update the University on their activities to enhance the Institution's visibility.

Quite aware of the import of manpower development for the overall development of the Institution, Prof Georgewill has within the first one hundred days, worked vigorously at improving the skills and capacities of the workforce for maximum performance towards effective service delivery to both students and stakeholders.

Other major achievements of the Vice Chancellor during the period under review include the creation of new Faculties and Learning centres which include: Faculties of Computing with three Departments as well at the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies that houses four Departments.

Another milestone is the harvest of TETFund's Institution-Based Research activities for staff of the University, to mention just but a few.

With this impressive take off, one can only hope for the best for the University.



Prof Georgewill, 9th VC

NISON Seeks Better Approaches To Nematode Mgt At 5th Confab

By Sunny Dada

The 5th Biennial Conference of the Nigerian Society of Nematologists (NISON) has ended with calls on practitioners and government to adopt research-based approaches to nematode management and agricultural policies in Nigeria. The hybrid conference with the theme: "Nematodes Management and Sustainable Agriculture" was hosted by the University of Port Harcourt between October 18 and 19, 2021.

In his keynote address on the theme of the Conference, Professor Charles Ononuju of the Department of Plant Health Management, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State, decried that plant-parasitic nematodes remain the major threat to agricultural production and food security in Nigeria. Defining sustainable agriculture "as a type of agriculture that focuses on producing long-term crops while having minimal effects on the environment," Professor Ononuju stated that "future agriculture and rural development will be influenced by increasing food demand of 8.3 billion people which is expected to increase the world population by the year 2030."

He revealed that the increasing demands for global food sufficiency represent a major challenge for stakeholders at all levels, adding that "the major task or challenge for researchers, agro-industries, farmers and government at all levels is how to achieve food sufficiency in a sustainable manner in order to achieve food security."

Welcome the participants to the University, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, thanked the leadership of NISON for the choice of the University of Port Harcourt as the first university in the South-South to host the conference. The Vice Chancellor emphasised that the experience of COVID-19 is a wake-up call on the nation to prioritise disease control.

"You can imagine what will happen if COVID-19 affected animals the way it affected humans," the Vice Chancellor remarked, stating that apart from the



VC, Prof Georgewill (seated centre) and the leadership of NISON

threat posed by nematodes, the increasing security threat to farmers should also be treated as a nematode. He challenged the participants to come up with fruitful deliberations that can lead to far-reaching reforms in the agricultural sector.

On his part, the President of NISON, Professor Oke Adekunle, disclosed that the 5th biennial conference could not hold in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the 5th biennial conference was carefully put together to respond to the myriad of challenges faced by the agricultural sector. He also stated that if the nation must secure its future, there is need to give adequate attention to all sectors of food production.

Earlier in his opening remark, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee (LOC), Professor Aminanyanaba Asimiea, informed participants that the event which was the first to be hosted by a University in the South-South, was put together to set the pace for productive thinking in the management of nematode.

Professor Asimiea who applauded the increasing national dialogue on the promotion of agriculture in Nigeria, however, regretted that there were no much engagements and discussions to tackle diseases that affect crops. He said: "there is so much conversation about agriculture, but there is hardly any conversation about diseases that affect crops."

He therefore, used the occasion to call on participants to ensure that they take advantage of the conference to draw attention of critical stakeholders to the need for a concerted effort to address the challenges posed by nematodes to food security.

The conference which also featured paper presentations and syndicate sessions, was attended by participants drawn from both national and international landscape. The leadership of NISON earlier paid a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor in his office.

Udoudo Emphasises Need For Professionalism In PR Practice

By Humphrey Ogu



Prof Udoudo (centre), UniPort News Editorial Chair, Dr Chris Ochonogor (4th right) and members of NIPRESA

Head, Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Institute of Public Communication Studies, Relations Students Association (NIPRESA) paid him a courtesy visit in his office on Friday, October 22, 2021.

Addressing the NIPRESA team, Professor Udoudo, who expressed

appreciation for the visit, described Public Relations as one of the most misunderstood disciplines in Nigeria. "Public Relations is very vast. No organisation can do without Public relations. It is not like advertising where you advertise a product you want to sell. Every organisation that knows the value of relationships, must make a deliberate effort to have a Public Relations Department," he said. He observed that the approval of the commencement of Degree programmes in Public Relations, Journalism and Broadcasting and Film Studies in the new Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, will give room for proper specialisation. "You have chosen the right path. Public Relations is now a distinct Department in this University, so you study and graduate with a degree in the discipline. I want to encourage all of you to specialise in Public Relations whenever you come back for your Master's. PR experts are very good administrators. I congratulate all of you and I wish you well in your studies and career choice," the Head Department said.

Speaking earlier, President of NIPRESA, Obinna Aneke, who led the delegation, lauded Professor Udoudo on his achievements as the Head of the Department. He said they were in his office to present the leadership of NIPRESA to the Head of the Department and to solicit his support for the Association. "We are here to request your approval of the use of the Lecture Room in the Department of LCS for our meetings. We also wish to solicit your support in securing Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium as venue for NIPRESA Conference in the University," he said, adding that participants would be drawn from Rivers State University, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education amongst others.

Other members of the delegation included the Public Relations Officer, Wilson Fieberesima, Financial Secretary, David Chubuzor, Welfare Officer, Angela Paschal, Ikwoke Bethel, Ginikachi Obilor and Oluchukwu Onuorah.