

Minister Tasks OTI Graduands On Nation-building, As V-C Stresses Character

By Letom Nnen

The Minister of State for Education, Honourable Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, has tasked graduands of the Offshore Technology Institute (OTI) to utilise the skills and knowledge they acquired from their training to

enhance the development of the country. The Minister gave the charge at the maiden graduation/award-giving ceremony of the Institute, which held at the auditorium of the Institute of Petroleum Studies on Friday,

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Issues bordering on the prevention and management of foot ulcers in diabetics formed the main thrust of the 167th Inaugural Lecture delivered by Professor Chioma Unachukwu of the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences. The well-patronised lecture, which held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, January 30, 2020 was entitled, "The Burden of the Foot in Diabetes: A Preventable Agony."

Observing that prevention is the key to reducing the burden of the Diabetic Foot Ulcers (DFU), Professor Unachukwu stated that approximately 85 per cent of diabetes-related amputations are preventable. "The high cost of treating diabetic foot ulcers argues for the need for better treatment strategies and preventive measures. Nowadays, the aim is to prevent than to treat foot ulcers. The prevention of foot ulcers is thus an important component of diabetes management," she emphasised.

Professor Unachukwu who blamed the poor management of diabetes for the progression of diabetic ulcers amongst Nigerians, warned of the grave danger associated with the debilitating condition if not detected and managed by qualified medical personnel. "In view of the double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases in a resource-limited setting like ours, there is an urgent need to curb the scourge of diabetes and its complications." She called for properly structured and extensive footcare education in Nigeria within the framework of a multidisciplinary team to manage the rising scourge.

"DFU is very high in Nigeria and the identified gaps include poverty, ignorance

167th Inaugural Unachukwu Advocates Preventive Measures Against Diabetic Foot Ulcers

By Humphrey Ogu

and low level of footcare knowledge and high patronage of unorthodox medicine, late hospital presentation and the various myths and misconceptions, amongst others. This is a clarion call for action in terms of advocacy, promotion of awareness and public health

policies that would empower health personnel to prevent the agony of DFU," the 167th Inaugural Lecturer told the audience.

Professor Unachukwu, who is a Fellow of the American College of Endocrinologists, identified lack of awareness of the need for footcare among patients, their relatives and healthcare providers due to the obvious gaps in diabetes education, lack of

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VC, Others Task Fresh Students



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NTI Hails UniPort Partnership



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Mgt Tasks Newly Admitted CELTRAS Students



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EEI Ends Orientation For New Intakes



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STAFF OF THE MONTH (February-March, 2020)

Dr Bourdillon Omijeh

*Once you're in a fight,
Don't spare yourself.
Give it everything you've got*

RUSSIAN ADAGE

Director of the Centre for Information and Telecommunication Engineering (CITE), Dr Bourdillon Omijeh, looked quite upbeat and uncontrollably triumphant as he sandwiched himself between the eminent personalities that graced the official commissioning of the newly completed building designated as the Information Communication Technology and Incubation Park. There was an air of gravity, poise, a sense of accomplishment and personal satisfaction around him. And why not?

To Dr Omijeh, everything on his sight is an inviting target to aim at in his search for success. He operates on a clear system of filter, control and supervision without being obtrusive. Dr Omijeh's success story is anchored on a life dedicated to distinguished service without concentrating his abundant energy on the pursuit of frivolities and fleeting privileges that pull down many young professionals these days. Since he was appointed to the job through a combination of circumstances that worked in his favour, Dr Omijeh has exhibited near-theatrical demonstration of competence and turbo-performance that has brought him to limelight and won over his critics.

Exuding missionary zeal and unflagging force of energy, Dr Omijeh has suavely transcended the seething frustrations that bog down some of his colleagues in the high position of responsibility entrusted on his capable shoulders by the University Management. It is to his eternal credit that the Vice Chancellor did not have to look beyond the immediate environment to seek a replacement for the departing pioneer Director of CITE, Professor Monima Briggs. He has stretched the meaning of industry-academia partnership to its elastic limits by attracting telecommunication giants known for their malicious,

response to proposals from intellectual in Nigeria. Dr Omijeh's success is a fitting monument to his persistence, dedication and capacity to network and shatter the artificial barriers erected by industry players to scuttle partnership with the academia.

Dr Omijeh's unyielding tenacity resulted in the donation, construction and commissioning of a storey building that now houses his Centre. He even brought the Honourable Minister of Communication and Digital Economy, Dr Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami, who was on hand to personally commission the new telecommunication hub in the University on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at an impressive ceremony that attracted who is who in the telecoms industry and sundry stakeholders. Also, in attendance was the new



Dr Omijeh, Ag. CITE Director

Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), which donated the building during the tenure of the Minister at the Agency. It is on record that Dr Omijeh's close monitoring prowess resulted in the commissioning of the project in less than nine months; a rare feat that is characteristic of project delivery in Nigeria!

No perilous disaster has so far hit Dr Omijeh's established reputation and integrity in the line of duty, mainly because he has refrained from exercising power over his subordinates in a self-glorious way. He has benumbed sceptics with a performance that is admired everywhere without drawing unnecessary attention to himself. As a good team-player and vector of new ideas, Dr Omijeh has indoctrinated his staff on goal-maximising and innovative thinking. Under his watch, CITE has attracted highly talented students and reduced the transactional cost of doing business. Whereas the Centre was searching for students in the past, most of the programmes on offer are already over-subscribed under Dr Omijeh's magic touch. Yet, he does not apply crude coercion methods to get things done his own way. There is steel in Dr Omijeh's eyes when he wants a task accomplished, even when he maintains a certain air of mystery about him without exuding a fatalistic attitude to life and living.

A perfect picture of self-organisation and personal discipline, Dr Omijeh runs on a vast reserve of energy and enthusiasm that attract the patronage of industry partners who trust his judgment and have confidence in his ability to get things done. Despite the success story he has recorded as Acting Director of CITE, Dr Omijeh is still surging with unreserved enthusiasm to attract more developmental projects and industry partnerships to the Centre. Several industry partners and governmental agencies are lining up to benefit CITE under Dr Omijeh's watch and it is certain that the Centre will go places with him in charge. The Russians were right in the quote above; because it is on record that Dr Omijeh has given this job that came to him by happenstance everything he has got.

It is for his persistence, dogged determination to succeed and ability to manage the Centre that the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa E. S. Lale, has declared DR BOURDILLON OMIJEH AS STAFF OF THE MONTHS OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 2020. Congratulations to the creative and innovative telecommunication and digital guru. Unique UniPort hands you on every measure of merit!

Ex-NAEMS EXCO Donates PAS To Dept

By Otikor Samuel

The 2018/2019 Executive Committee of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the National Association of Educational Management Students (NAEMS), has donated a Public Address System, White Board Markers and other teaching aids to the Department of Educational Management and Planning.

Handing over the items to the Head of Department, Chikwado Mmadunzezim, said the gesture was to

facilitate learning for their junior colleagues. "During our time in the Department, it was difficult for us to hear what our lecturers were saying in class. This was due to the size of the classrooms and the absence of public address systems. So, this gesture was to bridge that gap and make learning pleasurable for our colleagues who are still in the Department," Mmadunzezim said.

Receiving the items in her office on Monday, February 3, 2020, the Head of Department, Professor Chinyerem Mmadunzezim, thanked the students, most of who are graduating with the outgoing set for making the

donation.

"I am very pleased that the immediate past Executive of NAEMS recognised the fact that some of our classrooms are very large, and lecturers are made to strain their voices for students to understand what is being said. So, we are very grateful to the Executive for this donation and I wish to assure you that the items would be deployed to enhance teaching," the Head of Department observed.

Also speaking, former and immediate past Heads of Department, Professors Samuel Oluwuo and Nath Abraham, heaped praises on the students for donating such valuable items that are needed in the Department. They expressed hope that the donation would benefit the current students in the Department.

The students who made the presentation on behalf of their colleagues were Christopher Deezua, Saviour Idungafa and Augustine Udechukwu.



HoD, Prof Mmadunzezim (3rd left), Profs Abraham and Oluwuo and the students

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January 31, 2020.

Speaking before handing out awards to the Best Graduating Student, Jane Ozi who specialised in Subsea Engineering option and other awardees, Honourable Nwajiuba commended the Acting Director, Dr Tobinson Briggs, Management of the University and the Industry partners for the quality of programmes the students were exposed to at the Institute. The Minister recalled that during his tenure as Chairman of TETFund Board of Trustees, he was worried at some point over the amount of money spent on the University until Dr Briggs briefed him on what they were doing at the Institute.

"I became interested and decided to come and see what is going on here and to determine areas the Ministry of Education can collaborate with the Institute to advance this important initiative. The Minister expressed satisfaction with the numerous achievements recorded by the Management of the University under the leadership of Professor Ndowa Lale.

"Let me seize this opportunity to congratulate the students on their accomplishments, as well as the University leadership for this remarkable achievement. It is worthy of mention that this noble achievement did not come on a platter of gold, but is the result of hard work, sacrifice, endurance and painstaking efforts on all sides. I am also convinced that the graduates are industry-tailored to meet the needs of the oil and gas industry. I charge the graduands to utilise their skills and competencies in the development of the Nigerian oil and gas sector and themselves," the Honourable Minister said. He restated the Federal Government's commitment to quality tertiary education in Nigeria.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, congratulated the graduands, leadership of OTI and the Industry partners on the graduation ceremony, advising them to translate the knowledge and skills they have acquired in impacting the industry. "We join you to savour your accomplishments on this programme, but you must prepare to make the transition from the classroom to the industry and the larger society. You should be ready to meet and interact with new people beyond your profession. If you make new friends, it would open you up to new career opportunities. I can bet

Minister Tasks OTI Graduands

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you that you did not learn everything you needed in the classroom and in practical field sessions. While competition is good for you as a motivating factor, you must learn to move at your own pace without engaging in cut-throat competition with your professional colleagues. Remember that character and integrity will count at every turn in your career," Professor Lale advised them.

In their remarks, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Ogbonna Joel and Acting Director of OTI, Dr Briggs, congratulated the students on their graduation, commending Management and the Industry partners for their valued input. Professor Joel expressed satisfaction with the many achievements of the Faculty, while the Acting Director had earlier explained that the Institute currently runs three graduate programmes in Pipeline, Offshore and

Subsea Engineering. "The Institute would soon commence a Master of Science degree programme in *Energy Access and Renewable Energy Technology*," Dr Briggs, who had earlier conducted the Minister on a facility tour of the temporary site, attributed the success of the Institute to the premium placed on discipline and hard work.

Goodwill messages also poured in from the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Anthonia Okerengwo, Engineering Manager of TechnipFMC, Jonathan Ogbekhilu, who represented the Country Manager, Tayo Akinkunmi and other Industry Partners. The 7th Vice Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka who initiated the programme, and pioneer Director of OTI, Professor John Okoli, also delivered goodwill messages at the event. The Honourable Minister had earlier paid a courtesy visit on the Vice chancellor at the Governing Council Chambers.



Minister of State for Education, Hon Nwajiuba (7th right), flanked by VC, Prof Lale, DVC (Acad), Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi, Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto (right), DVC (Admin), Prof Regina Ogali, Bursar, Dr Felicia Ayuwo, and others. Inset: A cross section of OTI graduands

VC, Registrar, Others Task Fresh Students On Proper Conduct At Orientation

Newly admitted candidates into various undergraduate programmes for the 2019/2020 academic session have been warned against involvement in acts capable of derailing their future career prospects. The advice was handed down by different speakers during this year's orientation exercise which held last Tuesday at the Convocation Arena.

In his opening remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, admonished the candidates to make good use of the opportunity offered them by the University to shape their future, warning that those who make wrong choices would live to regret it for the rest of their lives. He enjoined the entrants to set the right priorities for themselves if they wish to have a smooth sail through the University.

"I know your parents and friends are highly delighted that you have finally secured admission into Unique UniPort, but that is not where it ends. Some of you may have written the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination more than once before getting here; so, this is a rare privilege that you must seize with both hands. It is important that you keep the

.Mgt Extends Registration Date

By Otikor Samuel

mind of your parents at rest by doing only the right things while you are here, the only reason you are here is to obtain the golden fleece that will set your future career on the right path. So, you must invest your time on your studies and not on frivolities. Don't allow yourself to be distracted and don't distract others. Don't involve yourself in cult-related activities that would bring you misery. Don't cheat during examinations because if you are caught, it is summary expulsion," the Vice Chancellor admonished them. Professor Lale approved extension of date to enable the candidates fully pay their charges and register courses at the designated offices, assuring them that the University would do all that is within its powers to protect and guide them aright.

Earlier, the Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto, had told the candidates that the exercise marked the beginning of formalising their status as *bona fide* students of the University. "You are the first set of students we are admitting in the new decade and we are happy to receive you into our fold. But to be full students of this University, you must pay your charges and complete all the registration formalities which will earn you Matriculation Numbers and other privileges. It is only when you are assigned Matriculation Numbers that you will become *bona fide*

students of the University," the Registrar told them.

She emphasised the need for the candidates to have proper knowledge of the extant rules governing the University, urging them to obtain and digest the contents of the *Sexual Harassment Policy* document of the University to be abreast of how to handle such issues.

The Bursar, Dr Felicia Ayuwo made a presentation on *Bursary Services and Students*, the University Librarian, Dr Susan Umeozor represented by Dr Glory Edet, spoke on *The Uses of the Library and E-Learning*. The Dean, Student Affairs Department, Dr Otu Ekpennyong talked on *The Role of Student Affairs Department in the Life of Students*, the Chief Security Officer, Mr Sunday Osarollo spoke on *The Student and Security*, while Mrs Ifeoma Ofurum who represented Acting Director of the Health Services Department, Dr Chinwe Ezirim, spoke on *Health Services to Students*.

Other presentations were on *Dress and Moral Code* by Wife of the Vice Chancellor and President of the University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), Mrs Joy Lale, *Rules and Regulations Governing the Conduct of Students in Academic Matters* by the Deputy Registrar (Academic Office), Dr Agatha Ataga, *Prize Winning Opportunities in the University* by Chairman of the Senate Committee on Prizes, Professor Chukwudi Onyeaso and *The Importance of Guidance and Counselling in the Life of a Student* by the Director of Staff-Student Counselling Centre, Mrs Matilda Nnodim.

Secretary of the Professional Ethics Committee, Dr Lucky Ajor spoke on behalf of the Chairman, Professor Nnenna Frank-Peterside on the *Code of Conduct for Students, Examination Malpractice and Related Matters*, while Mr Hanson Aniefiok spoke on *Services at the ICTC* on behalf of his Director, Professor Chidiebere Ugwu. Acting Director of the Entrepreneurship Centre, Dr William Olori, spoke on the *Benefits of Entrepreneurship*, while Mrs Chidiebere Achalu spoke on *The Role of Students in Campus Cleanliness on behalf of the Acting Director of CEBAS*, Mr Jones Toby. The orientation exercise was attended by Deans, Faculty and other Senior Officers, including the National Secretary of University of Port Harcourt Alumni Association, Mr William Ule.



VC, Prof Lale addressing the freshers

As part of efforts aimed at sustaining the existing collaboration between the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES) and the Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Management of both institutions met on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 to review and strengthen the Memorandum of Understanding.

Receiving the three-member DTCA delegation on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, told them that the University had requisite experience in running high profile partnerships and international linkages. Pledging the University Management's commitment to sustaining the partnership, Professor Fawehinmi pleaded with DTCA to renew the MoU which, he said, has contributed to the sponsorship and training of students from other African countries.

"It is my hope that the MoU would be renewed to enable INRES continue with the excellent work it is doing to raise requisite manpower to manage the continent's endangered natural resources. Management will fully support renewal of the MoU and provide the enabling and administrative platforms for it to thrive. We are prepared to play our part in sustaining this viable partnership that has not only trained students from other parts of the continent; but has also renewed cultural contacts and friendships amongst students from diverse backgrounds on the continent," he added.

Acting Director General of DTCA, Adamu Mahmud, noted that the Directorate has sponsored eight students on the INRES graduate programme through support from the Nigerian Technical Cooperation Fund (NTCF). He also disclosed that his agency has collaborated in co-hosting conferences and workshops organised by INRES. "Let me congratulate the leadership of INRES and Management of the University for



DVC (Acad), Prof Fawehinmi (3rd right), flanked by Ag DTCA DG, Mahmud, Registrar, Mrs Dorcas Otto (left), Bursar, Dr Felicia Ayuwo and others

UniPort, DTCA To Review MoU

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

focusing attention on the core mandate of the Institute here. This feat is in furtherance of the true spirit of Pan-Africanism. The success story of INRES is the beginning of other collaborative initiatives aimed at promoting African solidarity through manpower development," Mahmud remarked. He expressed optimism that the collaborative engagement would be sustained on all sides in the interest of the African continent. Earlier, the Acting Director of INRES, Dr Vincent Weli had

recalled that the MoU was signed in 2013 to train students from African countries. "Our hope is that the MoU would be renewed to enable continue our task of building institutional capacity in the management of Africa's vast natural resources. I wish to express our collective gratitude to DTCA for this important partnership that brings young academics together to learn how to save their countries' natural resources," Dr Weli said. Also on the DTCA entourage were the Head of Programmes Management, Bello Adejoh and Assistant Director of Programmes, Kerin Yilme.

Etela Elected Agric Faculty Dean, As Godwin-Egein Bows Out

By Mercy Adeniji

Following his election and formal appointment, Professor Ibisime Etela of the Department of Animal Science has assumed office as new Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. He succeeds Professor Monday Godwin-Egein, who handed over the affairs of the Faculty to him in a modest ceremony at the Faculty Board Room on Thursday, January 30, 2020.

Professor Etela expressed joy at the smooth change of baton in the Faculty, stating that having served his Department, Faculty and the University in various capacities, he was ready and willing to lead the Faculty into its next phase of development in a changing knowledge ecosystem. "I believe we can work as a highly motivated team to drive the vision and mission of the Faculty of Agriculture as enshrined in the University's Strategic Plan document. I consider myself a highly favoured leader by assuming office without opposition, which I can attribute to the confidence reposed in me by my colleagues in the Faculty. To this end, I promise to uphold this trust by standing on the solid foundation laid by my worthy predecessor in the 15-year old Faculty which is gradually coming of age. I promise to act with a deep sense of personal responsibility and accountability in office," Professor Etela said.

"There is need for the Faculty to be restructured to meet the current realities of the Nigerian educational system and, indeed, global best practice in agricultural education through quality research and training of

students," he said. The new Dean listed staff welfare, academic development, improved farm infrastructure, research and development, as some major priority areas he intends to tackle with unflagging zeal and energy. He promised to rule the Faculty on a business footing and improve staff-students' relationship. Professor Etela also promised that the Faculty would continue to strive for excellence in teaching, research and enterprise to sustain agribusiness and agripreneurship on his watch.

"I am counting on the full support of my colleagues to accomplish this onerous task before me, knowing that to whom much is given, much is also expected. Teamwork shall be my watchword because we can accomplish much more together," Professor Etela said. He expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale for ratifying his election by issuing him an appointment letter that cemented his position as Dean.

Earlier, Professor Godwin-Egein had recalled that he assumed office on January 30, 2018 with the terms of reference spelt out in his letter of appointment. "The terms of reference were met to the best of my ability and within the budget constraint I faced in office. Within the period under review, we set up Committees to handle several aspects of the operational structure of the Faculty and I went ahead to implement their recommendations. Two Departments received accreditation, while the new Department of Food,

Nutrition and Home Science is awaiting resource verification from the National Universities Commission. To drive interdisciplinary research, the Faculty has forged collaborations with sister Faculties to mount short duration courses and industrial training, amongst others," Professor Godwin-Egein disclosed.

Decorating the new Dean with his instruments of office, Professor Godwin-Egein expressed satisfaction with the emergence of his successor, pledging to support him to succeed. "I wish you the very best as you take over the mantle of leadership of our beloved Faculty. I shall always be available to assist you to succeed in your challenging assignment as Dean," he promised.



Prof Godwin-Egein decorating Prof Etela



DVC (Admin), Prof Ogali (5th left), other Principal and Senior of the University and NTI officials

NTI Praises UniPort Partnership

By Letom Nnen

The Management of the National Teachers' Institute (NTI), Kaduna, has commended the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale and the Management of the University for their unflinching support for the Institute following the affiliation agreement.

Speaking on behalf of the Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of NTI, Professor Garba Azare during a familiarisation visit to the University on Thursday, January 23, 2020, NTI Acting Director in charge of Academic Services Department, Dr Chizoba Umerah, praised the Management of the University for approving the affiliation, promising that the Institute would do its best to adhere to the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties.

"So far, the University has been very accommodating and is doing more for the successful implementation of the programme. This is evident in the prompt release of the 2017 and 2018 students' results, the appointment of a Coordinator for the PGDE programme in the South-South in the person of Dr Abdulrahman Yusuf, including the allocation of befitting offices in the new TETFund building," she said. Dr Umerah further commended UniPort for being the first institution to accept the affiliation modalities approved by the NUC. She also appealed for the release of certificates to the students.

Earlier, the South-South PGDE Coordinator of NTI, Dr Yusuf, had told the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, who stood in for the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, that the visit was organised to get the programme Coordinators from the zone acquainted with the operational strategies of the University and discuss how to promote teacher education in Nigeria.

Welcoming the eight-member delegation, Professor Ogali assured the Institute of the University's readiness to continue to support its legitimate activities. She noted that the affiliation with the University would enhance the competences of the students with their full-time counterparts in the University. She assured them of Management's commitment to the growth of the Institute, further stressing that the University has what it takes to effectively run the programme.

"If we train the students properly, we would be assured of quality intake into the University, which would in turn result in quality teachers. Let me assure you that we would do whatever it takes to ensure that the South-South region of the NTI meets the NUC minimum benchmark," Professor Ogali told the delegation.

Other Coordinators present at the visit included the South-South Zonal Coordinators, Mrs Celina Ogbejele, Orumwense James (Edo), Abdullahi Sule (Akwa Ibom), Nicholas Temitayo (Bayelsa), Chinenye Eddeh (Cross River), Aniegbunem Ifeoma (Delta), and Gamaliel Dogo who coordinates River State.