

Next Edition Visit To Pro-Chancellor

The Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, led other Principal Officers on a courtesy visit to the Pro-Chancellor, Chief Andrew Uchendu ... on Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

Details next edition

WISEcrack

The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace

Mahatma Gandhi

MDCN Inducts More Newly-Qualified Doctors, Surgeon In UniPort

By Humphrey Ogu

The manpower needs of the Nigerian healthcare sector received a major boost from the University of Port Harcourt at the 46th Induction Ceremony. This follows the induction of 63 newly-qualified Medical Doctors and 11 Dental Surgeons by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Wednesday, May 10, 2021.

In his remarks, Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, congratulated the Inductees for successful completion of their programmes, and their parents for standing by their children and wards. "I cannot quantify how elated I am, standing to address you at this joyous occasion of the 46th Induction ceremony heralding the formal putting forth of the University's newly-qualified Medical Doctors and Dental Surgeons to the world," the Acting Vice Chancellor said.

"The University was established by the Federal Government of Nigeria with the core mandate of training high level manpower to drive the national economy through Teaching, Research, Innovation and

Community Service. The harvest of graduands in all disciplines of learning such as we are witnessing this today is in part a fulfilment of that inviolable charge," he noted.

Earlier in his welcome address, Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Iyepu Siminialayi, noted that 63 medical doctors and 11 dental surgeons being inducted faced a lot of challenges. "They began in the year of the Ebola endemic and are ending in the time of COVID-19 pandemic. They were asked to go home about three months to their final professional examinations and that forced break, compounded by ASUU strike lasted about a year," he said, adding that the students had to spend eight instead of the statutory six years on the programme.

In his speech, the Registrar and Secretary of the MDCN, Dr Tajudeen Sanusi, who also conducted the Swearing-in/Administering of the Physician's Pledge, congratulated the newly-qualified medical doctors and dental surgeon on their success in the professional examinations. He called on the Management of the University to provide more phantom heads and dental chairs as condition to increase admission quota in

Dentistry.

"Today is a special day in the sense that a group of young men and women are being called to service and it is service to humanity. There is no part of the world you won't see Nigerian trained medical doctors. As you leave this country, you will first of all fly the flag of Nigeria," he charged the Inductees.

On his part, Medical Elder for the Day, Professor Celestine John, advised the newly-qualified medical doctors and dental surgeons to imbibe the culture of punctuality and desist from giving appointment they can't keep. "In June 1970, when I qualified as medical doctor, we were about 20. Between then and now, a lot of things have changed, a lot have remained the same. As you begin your professional practice remember to be punctual. I wish God's guidance, luck and remember that you owe this university a lot. Go and be the vaccine of the world tomorrow," the Medical Elder said.

In his admonition, Chief Medical Director, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Professor Henry Ugboma, who was represented by the CMAC, Professor Lucky Onotai, charged the young medical doctors and dentists to be the light of their profession, imbibe the team spirit and work as team with allied medical practitioners as they go into professional practice.

Also speaking, Chairman, Rivers State Branch of Nigerian Medical Association, Professor Chizindu Alikor, who welcomed the Inductees into the profession, also presented awards to the overall Best Graduating Student in Medicine instituted by NMA in the memory of late Professor Rolling Jamabo. Daisy Amaechi emerged the overall BGS in Medicine, while Christiana Eli clinched the same position in Dental Surgery, thus being the first to get the newly-instituted Professor Ambrose Obiechina Prize in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Meanwhile, one-time Commissioner for Health in Rivers State, Dr Emi Membere-Otaji, who also presented award to the BGS in Internal Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynaecology in his name, has indicated interest in instituting a chair in Medical Entrepreneurship in the University.



AVC, Prof Okodudu, some Senior Officers and the Inductees

Again, Management of the University of Port Harcourt, has received accolades for its dutifulness and proper stewardship. This was as the National Universities Commission (NUC) showered praises on the University for properly implementing the projects under the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) Assessment.

Deputy Executive Secretary (Academics) of the NUC and Chairman of the delegation to UniPort, Dr Suleiman Ramon-Yusuf, showered the encomiums on the University after a presentation and a guided tour led by Deputy Director, Department of Physical Planning and Development (DPPD), Mr Michael Ubom, on the extent of implementation and utilisation of funds for the NEEDS projects in the University on Thursday, April 22, 2021.

"Our mission here in the University of Port Harcourt is threefold. The first of the tripod is to close the 2013 intervention projects and the two hundred million naira for staff development. The second is to monitor the extent of utilisation of 2019 intervention fund and the last task is to sensitise the University to avail itself of the provision of 30 billion naira to prepare the priority list for its projects," Dr Ramon-Yusuf disclosed.

NUC Team Lauds UniPort On NEEDS Assessment Projects

By Otikor Samuel

"We are not just here to criticise, but to also commend when things are done properly. Unlike what we saw in some universities, the photo album presented by University of Port Harcourt is well documented and properly captured the projects. UniPort is one of the best places in equipment procurement. To a great extent, we are happy with what we saw," the Deputy Executive Secretary said.

Immediate past Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali received the team on behalf of the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu. She apologised to the team for the absence of the Acting Vice Chancellor who was on an official assignment outside the state.

Others on the team were Dr Uchenna Uba, Messrs Abbas Nafaida and Theophilus Ogbor, who served as secretary of the Team.



NUC Deputy ES, Dr Ramon-Yusuf (4th left), Members of his team, Principal and Senior Officers of UniPort

Minister Promises To Complete SGS Building

By Otikor Samuel

There appears to be light at the end of the tunnel for the School of Graduate Studies building which was hitherto put on hold. The building was donated to the University by the Bayelsa State Government under the administration of Governor Timipre Sylva,

who is an alumnus of the University. It was however, abandoned after he left office.

Speaking when he paid a visit to the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu on Friday, April 30, 2021, Chief Sylva who is currently the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources assured his host that work would



More on p3



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168th Inaugural

How the study of Philosophy enhances the quality of human life was the thrust of the 168th Inaugural Lecture delivered by Professor Lucky Akaruese of the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, April 29, 2021.

Delivering the lecture entitled "But for Philosophy, What is 'Man'?" Professor Akaruese noted that his lecture "attempted to elucidate the centrality and the sine qua non role of Philosophy in the affairs of humans such that we, homo sapiens, are where we are today because some of us can philosophise." For the central role in human existence, including Philosophy's invaluable contributions to the promotion of global civilisation, development and peace, Akaruese, who cited UNESCO Director-General, Audrey Azoulay, in 2002, pointed out that "Philosophy is a valuable tool for thinking about change; but it is also an approach that promotes dialogue and tolerance."

Espousing further on the centrality of philosophy to the existence of man, the Inaugural Lecturer stated that: "We

Philosophy Is Central To Human Existence ~ Akaruese

By Humphrey Ogu

have articulated some of the positively persuasive and ubiquitous nature and role of philosophy whose subject matter and thrust remain central to human existence, including all fields of human endeavours and learning in their diverse contributions

to human civilisation and development. This also include our knowledge that through philosophical speculations we realise that the humans are inherently a self-evolving and unfolding being with unlocked

More on p6



UniPort Teams Get TETFund Grant



Story on p2

Tamuno Takes Over As Ag Registrar



Story on p3

Odia Sensitises Society On Heart Care



Story on p4

Former First Lady Visits UniPort



Story on p7



Reprieves For CCE, Graduate Progs As Senate Relaxes Stringent Requirements

PAGE 2

By Otikor Samuel



Prof Okodudu, Ag VC

In a concerted effort aimed at stemming the progressive decline in the subscription to programmes run in the School of Graduate Studies, Institutes, Centres and College of Continuing Education (CCE), Senate of the University has reviewed stringent requirements in line with the dynamics and current realities in the society.

Presenting an 11-page report at the 454th Senate Meeting held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, Chairman of the Committee on Revitalisation of School of Graduate Studies, Institutes, Centres and College of Continuing Education Programmes (CORSICCP), Professor Anthony Ibe, disclosed that the Committee was given a seven-point term of reference.

The terms of reference included to: investigate the immediate and remote cause(s) of decline in admission into graduate and CCE programmes, examine the financial standing and structure of the School of Graduate Studies in terms of income and expenditure, ascertain the global best practices and their applicability in the structure, management and running of programmes in the graduate school and CCE, learn from competing universities in Rivers State and Nigeria in general and to make recommendations on how to reposition the affected academic programmes.

Upon presentation and deliberation of the report, Senate approved far-reaching recommendations. On structure of the programme, Senate has abolished the practice of conducting Comprehensive Examination for Graduate programmes. Senate approved the provision for flexibility where students could run courses in modules.

On administration, Senate reemphasised the

position of Chairman, Departmental Graduate Committee who should coordinate the administration of graduate programmes at the Department. The august body agreed to reconsider the stopping of surcharge on late payment.

On admission, Senate has agreed that on no account should a candidate be denied admission due to observed deficiencies in the O' level which has been used earlier for the Undergraduate programmes. Senate stopped the use of any other unapproved

examination as a prerequisite for admission into graduate programme, except oral interview. The apex academic decision-making body decided that the minimum requirement for admission into the Master's degree programme is now Second Class Lower division against the initial arrangement of 3:00 CGPA, while a minimum of 3.5 on a 5-point scale is required for Doctoral programmes irrespective of the courses.

On plagiarism, Senate agreed that henceforth, plagiarism check would no longer be punitive but correctional measure. On clearance, Senate decided that students should no longer pay for Clearance form, payments for Success Letter and Statement of Result are reduced by 100% as each payment now goes for N5,000. Senate decided that owning Convocation Gown by Doctor of Philosophy degree holders should be optional with different fees for those who want to keep or return it.

On CCE, Senate decided to maintain the current payment regime. Senate recommended the use of e-learning or blended learning for students on the programmes run in the College of Continuing Education. The august body called on Management to prevail on the Unions to exempt CCE from industrial actions since it is a non-NUC programmes.

UniPort Teams Get 100m TETFund Research Grant

By Sam Kpenu

Fund (TETFund). The researchers including the immediate past Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, emerged winners of the National Research Fund (NRF) grant awarded in the 2020 cycle. In a statement, the Acting Director of Academic Planning, Research and Control Unit of the University, Dr Desmond Nbeta, said the award was coming few months after the institution won 25 TETFund Institution-Based Research (IBR) grants valued at over N40m.

"Four research teams at the University of Port Harcourt, with the immediate past Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Dr Ijeoma Vincent-Akpu, Dr Desmond Nbeta, and Dr Silvanus Ofili as principal investigators were among those that won the highly competitive research grant awarded in the 2020 cycle by TETFund," he further Institution-Based Research (IBR) grants valued at over N40m.

"Four research teams at the University of Port Harcourt, with the immediate past Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, Dr Ijeoma Vincent-Akpu, Dr Desmond Nbeta, and Dr Silvanus Ofili as principal investigators were

among those that won the highly competitive research grant awarded in the 2020 cycle by TETFund," he further disclosed.

The Acting Director congratulated the other researchers on their meritorious awards and thanked TETFund for the opportunity. He encouraged academics in the University to engage in multi-disciplinary research collaborations in and outside the University. He also emphasised the need for applicants to adhere to the set guidelines and ensure that their proposals are of the highest attainable standards in line with the expectations of the fund's screening committee.

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GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Matthew Wegwu, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, appointed Chairman, Governing Board, University of Port Harcourt Printing Press. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on April 8, 2023.

Professor Lawrence Ohale, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed Director, Institute of International Trade and Development (IITD). The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on April 5, 2023.

Professor Osi Akpogomeh, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed Director, Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS). The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on January 25, 2023.

Professor Best Ordiniho, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, re-appointed Director, University of Port Harcourt School of Public Health (UPSPH). The two-year re-appointment which takes effect from February 27, 2021, will terminate on February 26, 2023.

Dr Boniface Woko, Internal Audit Unit, appointed Acting Director of the Unit. The appointment which takes effect from March 22, 2021, will last until further notice. This supersedes earlier publication. Dr Eseosa Omorogwuwa, Department of Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed Acting Director, Institute of Engineering Technology and Innovation Management (METI). The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on January 25, 2023.

Dr Benson Eybuomwan, Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies, re-appointed Director of the Centre, effective October 16, 2020 to October 15, 2022.

Dr Richard Ideozu, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, appointed Assistant Director, Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES). The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on March 15, 2023.

Dr Ibidofo Alabere, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed Assistant Director, University of Port Harcourt School of Public Health. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on March 15, 2023.

Dr Jones Odili, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed Assistant Director, Certificate/Pre-degree Programmes, College of Continuing Education. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on February 7, 2023.

Dr Okujegu Diepiriye, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, appointed Assistant Director, Centre for Petroleum Geosciences. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on March 17, 2023.

Dr Justin Akankali, Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, appointed Assistant Director, Quality Assurance and Quality Control/SERVICOM and Feedback Focal Officer, effective November 24, 2020 to November 23, 2022. Dr Victor Aimikhe, Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed ACE-CEFOR Safeguard Officer. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on March 15, 2023.

CONTRACT APPOINTMENT
Dr Dakoru Charles-Granville,

Dr Elizabeth Nduhisi, Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, converted from Laboratory Technologist II to Lecturer I, effective March 23, 2021.

Mrs Mary Udoakang, Library Unit, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, converted from Chief Pharmacy Technician to Assistant Librarian, effective March 17, 2021.

Former First Lady Showers Encomiums On AVC, UniPort

By Otikor Samuel

Nigeria's former First Lady, Dame Patience Jonathan, has showered praises on the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu for consolidating on the growth of the University. She expressed gratitude that the University where her husband obtained his first to the terminal degrees is doing excellently well in the delivery of its core mandate.

Speaking when she paid a stop-by visit on the Acting Vice Chancellor in his office on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, the former First Lady, stated that she decided to visit the University to commend the effort of Management in growing the University. Mrs Jonathan used the opportunity to thank the Acting Vice Chancellor for the warm reception accorded her husband when he visited the University on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 to pay his last respect to his former teacher, late Emeritus Professor Samuel Okiwelu during a Special Convocation held in his honour.

Responding, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Okodudu, who was delighted with the visit, pointed out that former President Goodluck



Ag VC, Prof Okodudu handing over souvenir to Dame Jonathan

Jonathan who was nurtured in the University of Port Harcourt brought great honour to the Institution. He expressed the readiness of the University to continue to accord the former President, who is a proud alumnus, the honour he deserves.

NIAS Elects Etela Council Member

By Sam Kpenu

Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) at the 9th Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) of the Animal Science Association of Nigeria (ASAN) and Nigeria Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) which took place at Evelyn Events & Recreational Centre, Gwarimpa, Abuja.

A letter signed by the Registrar/CEO of the Institute, Professor Eustace A. Iyayi which was addressed to Professor Etela and made available to the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu stated that, Professor Etela shall serve in the 5th Council as representative of Deans for South-South Region from 17th November, 2020 to the next AGM in 2023.

NIAS as one of the parastatals of the Federal Government, established by Law through the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science Act No. 26 of 2007 as Amended 2015, has the statutory mandate for professional resource verification and accreditation of Animal Science programmes in Nigerian universities and professional Animal Science practice in Nigeria.

Meanwhile, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Okodudu, has congratulated Professor Etela on his election as a member of the Governing Board of the Nigeria Institute of Animal Science. Professor Okodudu said Etela's election into the 5th Council of NIAS was a clear recognition of his contributions to the Animal Science profession and a reward for hard work. He wished him the very best during the two-year tenure.

Abraham, Iyagba Win Congregation Council Slots

By Otikor Samuel

Director, College of Continuing Education (CCE), Professor Nath Abraham and Graduate Studies Officer, School of Graduate Studies, Mrs Flora Iyagba, have been elected to represent the Congregation in the Governing Council. Professor Abraham was elected to represent the Teaching Staff, while Mrs Iyagba represents the Administrative, Professional and Technical Staff. The election was conducted at the 68th Congregation held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium.

Announcing the results of the election, the Acting Vice Chancellor and Chief Electoral Officer, Professor Stephen Okodudu, disclosed that Professor Abraham polled a total of 461, while two other contestants, Professors Tammy Orunaboka and Edward Alikor got 381 and 88, respectively. Similarly, Mrs Iyagba polled a total of 562 to defeat Mr Job Borgbara and Mrs Elizabeth Amadi, who scored 201 and 159, respectively.

Speaking earlier, the Acting Vice Chancellor, informed Congregation that sequel to the approval by Senate, he appointed Professor Abdulrazaq Kilani as Coordinator (Academic Affairs) to oversee the office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic). He urged the winners to see their victory as a call for service, stating that being a member of Council does not attract any financial fortune.



Prof Abraham and Mrs Iyagba

Cont'd from Page 1

potentials as master of destiny and the world.”

Professor Akaruese called for the inclusion of philosophy as an academic discipline in the secondary school curricula, as a way of catching the students young and building a robust community of Philosophers in Nigeria. “Every newly-appointed head of any tertiary institution in Nigeria should prior to assumption of office undergo training in theories of ethics, which should be handled by Philosophers,” he suggested.

The Inaugural Lecturer, further recommended that the University should declare November 19, every year which is *World Philosophy Day* as UniPort Moral Rearmament Day, with Principal Officers, Heads of Departments and Units, including leaders of University-based unions and senior academics in the Department of Philosophy in attendance for a workshop to discuss any issue of moral concern to the University within the context of selected ethical theories.

Professor Akaruese who recommended that “Applied Ethics as it relates to the different disciplines should be designed and taught by qualified Moral Philosophers,” expressing dismay that lecturers in other disciplines, who may not have been thoroughly groomed in Theories of Ethics, teach in their respective

Philosophy Is Central To Human



168th Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Akaruese (arrowed), flanked by AVC, Prof Okodudu (left) and other Professors before the Lecture

disciplines.

Speaking after the Lecture, Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, who noted that “Professor Akaruese has given us a sumptuous dish from stable of Philosophy,” lauded the Inaugural Lecturer for enlightening the audience through the lecture. He also commended audience for finding time to attend and stay all through the lecture.

“Let me say that it is a well-known fact that Philosophy is the foundation of all disciplines. Every discipline has a root in Philosophy. That is

why the terminal degree in the University system is called Doctor of Philosophy. I have a Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology. This shows that we are all philosophers in our own rights. Any person who has a PhD is qualified to teach ethics,” Professor Okodudu said.

Meanwhile, the 169th Inaugural Lecture entitled “*Forests: For Rest, Forever*”, will be delivered by Professor Adedapo Aiyelaja of the Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management, Faculty of Agriculture on Thursday May 27, 2021.

AVC Seeks Support To Transform Youth-Friendly Centre

By Sam Kpenu

The Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, has called on the Institution's development partners, National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA) and ECOBANK Plc to sustain all efforts aimed

shown by the University, the developmental partners failed on their part of the bargain, thereby, denying the students the needed infrastructure for use at the centre. “The Centre should be overhauled with modern

facilities like internet, new cushions and not long benches and tables,” he said.

Speaking earlier, the Acting Director of the Youth-Friendly Centre, Dr Kelechi Okonta who decried the falling standards of the facilities at the Centre, called on its partners to live up to expectations by providing working tools like HIV/AIDS kits, counselling facilities, furniture and the rehabilitation of the Centre to enable it deliver on its core mandate of providing quality services to students. Dr Okonta noted that part of the mandate of the Centre is to provide counselling to the students in the area of use of drugs, sexuality and general issues of life, promising to revamp the Centre for greater output and productivity. Speaking separately, the Representatives of ECOBANK Nigeria and the National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA) promised to do all within their powers to live up to their parts of the bargain to ensure the growth of the Centre.



Ag VC, Prof Okodudu (centre), immediate past Ag Registrar, Dr Dakoru Charles-Granville, Staff and development partners

at building a mutually-beneficial relationship at the University of Port Harcourt Youth-Friendly Centre.

Professor Okodudu stated this while addressing the development partners who visited the Youth-Friendly Centre on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at Delta Park, University of Port Harcourt.

The Acting Vice Chancellor decried a situation in which the structure at the Centre was allowed to decay beyond imagination, wondering why it has to be so. He said the University has kept to its part of the bargain by providing a befitting accommodation, lamenting that in spite of the commitments

CORRIGENDUM

In our last edition, we inadvertently misspelt the name of late Emeritus Professor Samuel Okiwelu as “Ekiwelu.” Also, in the story with the headline “Ifeanacho, Worlu Head New Demerged Conflict, Gender Studies Centres” on page 5, we mistakenly used the picture of a Guest Lecturer to the defunct CCGS as that of Dr Gladys Worlu. We regret the embarrassment these errors must have caused the families of late Emeritus Professor Okiwelu and the Acting Director of Centre for Gender and Development Studies, Dr Worlu. We also regret any other error.

Editor

Cont'd from Page 1

soon commence on the building. The minister was in the University to deliver a keynote address at the 2nd Graduation/Awards Ceremony of the Offshore Technology Institute (OTI) at the IPS Main Auditorium.

Delivering his keynote address entitled: “*The Role of Nigeria Higher Education in Building the Nigerian Assets—Oil and Gas*,” the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, commended OTI for contributing to the training of manpower for the oil and gas sector which is the major economic life-wire of the country. He added that the oil and gas sector contributes over 80% of foreign exchange earnings of the country.

“Nigeria is blessed with abundant natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable resources. Not until recently, the Nigerian oil and gas industry has been absolutely dominated and controlled by the International Oil Companies,” Chief Sylva said, noting that the Petroleum Industry Bill when fully implemented would engender massive participation of local players in the oil and gas sector.

“The Petroleum Industry Bill has the potential to fuel massive participation of local players in the oil and gas sector of Nigeria and I believe in addition to the Nigerian Local Content Policy, that economic growth and value addition will be visible in the oil and gas sector. However, the extent to which this impacts participation of the locals depends on sustained capacity building for the oil and gas sector, which responsibility rests squarely

As OTI Graduates 14 At 2nd Awards Ceremony



Minister of State for Pet, Chief Sylva (arrowed) flanked by AVC, Prof Okodudu (left) and others

with the Nigerian Higher Education system,” he concluded.

Earlier, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Okodudu, thanked the Minister of State for gracing the graduation of 14 Master of Science students in Subsea, Pipeline and Offshore Engineering. Professor Okodudu appealed to public-spirited individuals to assist the Institute to build and relocate to a permanent site. He urged the graduates to be good ambassadors of the University.

In his address, Acting Director of the Institute, Dr

Robinson Briggs, disclosed that the Institute currently runs intensive Master of Science programmes in three fields, adding that the fourth programme in Energy Access and Renewable Technology would commence in October 2021. Dr Briggs commended the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Acting Vice Chancellor, parents and other guests for gracing the event.

The Country Manager and Managing Director of TechnipFMC Nigeria, Tayo Akinkunmi presented a Lecture entitled, “*Energy Transition: Industry Expectations from the Academia*.”

Tamuno Takes Over As New Acting Registrar

By Otikor Samuel

Immediate past College Secretary of the College of Health Sciences, Mrs Joyce Tamuno, has assumed office as the new Acting Registrar of the University. Her assumption of duty followed the statutory retirement of Dr Dakoru Charles-Granville who hitherto was the occupant of the exalted office in acting capacity. Speaking before handing over to the new

Acting Registrar in the Registrar's Office on Monday, May 10, 2021, Dr Dakoru, who expressed gratitude to God and Management for the opportunity given her to serve, commended staff of the University for supporting her administration which lasted for about four months.

Within her short time in office, she finalised arrangements for the appointments of more Directors, promotion of some senior staff on the level of Principal Assistant Registrar to

the rank of Deputy Registrar and their counterparts in the Bursary Department, as well as ongoing review of the career structure.

“Those things we have been able to achieve, we should not lose them, rather we should work collectively to achieve more. We still have more tasks ahead towards building a virile Registry Department. I am happy, fulfilled and satisfied that I am bowing out of office as Acting Registrar very strong and healthy,” she said, showering encomiums on senior administrators who assisted her to succeed.

In her response, the new Acting Registrar, Mrs Tamuno, expressed readiness to work with other senior administrators in the Registry Department to consolidate on the successes recorded by her predecessor. “I have vibrant administrators who will work closely with me to succeed in this onerous task. We need to consolidate on the achievements which Dr Dakoru recorded in her short period in office. We need to restore the glory of the Registry. My door is open, kindly come up with your ideas and suggestions on how to move the Registry forward,” she said.

In her goodwill message, 6th Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, expressed joy on what she described as the reawakening of the collective spirit of Registry Department. She stated that Dr Dakoru has written her name in gold within a very short time, appealing to all senior administrators to work harmoniously to ensure that more achievements are recorded for the Registry Department. She congratulated Mrs Tamuno on her appointment.



Mrs Tamuno (left) taking over from Dr Charles-Granville

Odia Sensitises Varsity Community On Heart Care

By Otiakor Samuel



AVC, Prof Okodudu (4th left), Prof Odia, his wife and past and present Provosts of CHS

Professor Osaretin Odia of the Department of Internal Medicine, College of Health Sciences, has outlined some early warning signs and symptoms of an ailing heart. He warned individuals to be wary of those signs if they want the heart to function optimally. Professor Odia gave the warning while delivering the 19th Valedictory Lecture entitled: *When the Heart Says Goodbye* at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Tuesday,

April 27, 2021. "The heart beats from birth to death. It beats continuously about 72 times per minute in most adults. After pumping blood, the heart relaxes allowing blood to enter the heart for the next pumping action," the Professor of Medicine and Cardiology explained. On how the heart could say goodbye, the Valedictorian revealed that "the heart gives warnings by way of signs and symptoms when its structures and functions are impaired or

affected by diseases or disorders." Some of the early warning features, according to him, are easy fatigability, cough productive of frothy sputum, swelling of the ankles, swelling of the abdomen, difficulty in breathing on exertion or at rest, chest pain and irregular pulse or heartbeat.

"In the presence of these symptoms and signs, one is advised to see a doctor. The doctor would, in all probability, advise one to see a cardiologist. The doctor/cardiologist would undertake some or all the following in order to understand the nature of the disease," he said. Professor Odia, who served as Provost, College of Health Sciences, listed establishment of the Port Harcourt Medical Journal, Centre for Medical Research and Training (CENMERT), commencement of Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy programmes as some of his modest contributions to the growth of the College under his watch.

Reacting to the Lecture, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, commended the Valedictorian for sustaining the awareness on the strategic place of the heart to human life. He showered praises on Professor Odia for serving the University meritoriously and contributing to its growth.

UniPort, SPDC Get New Occupant For Aret Adams Chair In Pet Engineering

By Sam Kpenu

The University of Port Harcourt and Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited, SPDC, operator of the SPDC Joint Venture in Rivers State have appointed Sunday Ikensikimama, a Professor of Petroleum and Gas Engineering, on a four-year term to the SPDC JV Aret Adams Professorial Chair in Petroleum Engineering. Making the announcement in a ceremony held at the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), the two organisations, said the new Occupant of the Aret Adams Professorial Chair came tops in a very keenly selection process. SPDC General Manager, External Relations, Igo Welu said, "SPDC Joint Venture endowed the Professorial Chair in honour of foremost Petroleum Engineer and former Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, Aret Adams, to highlight the company's commitment to human capital development in the Niger Delta. "Experts have said that an endowed chair is among the most important gifts to higher education. It is a vital tool to ensure excellence. As a result, SPDC continues to support

Welu, who is also the Alternate Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Aret Adams Professorial Chair, said SPDC believes that educating Nigeria's young population is critical to the success of the country. "For several decades, we have continued to invest in education in Nigeria, supporting a range of programmes that include six Professorial Chairs in Nigerian universities, scholarships to thousands of students in secondary and tertiary institutions, and two Centres of Excellence that promote the emergence of industry-ready graduates and advance collaborative researches with industry," he added.

According to Welu, SPDC will provide the needed support to Professor Ikensikimama to build on the success recorded by his predecessor, Professor Adewale Dosunmu, who occupied the Chair between 2008 and 2016 and developed the award-winning Optiwell Software for exploration activities.

The Acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Stephen Okodudu, disclosed that it took the University a while to find a suitable replacement to Professor Dosunmu. "We have done so now; and I don't

have any doubt that, surely, just like the excellent record of the first Chair Occupant, there will also be a time when Shell will applaud the current Chair's output."

The Acting Vice Chancellor who was represented at the ceremony by the immediate past Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Regina Ogali, commended SPDC and its joint venture partners for their patience while the process of appointing an ideal occupant lasted. He urged Professor Ikensikimama to work harmoniously with his colleagues and industry players to achieve the objectives outlined for the Chair. Okodudu also enjoined SPDC to consider a Centre of Excellence for the University of Port Harcourt.

Other universities that the SPDC JV has endowed Professorial Chairs in Nigeria are University of Uyo (Biodiversity and Climate Change); Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife (Geophysics); University of Nigeria, Nsukka (Environmental Management and Control); Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (Mechanical Engineering); and Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun (Lightweight Automobile Engineering).



Immediate past DVC (Admin), Prof Ogali (centre), flanked by Chair Occupant, Prof Ikensikimama and others

Senate Elects Ofurum, Iheanacho, Ifeanacho, Frank-Peterside As Representatives To Council

...Approves Coordinator For DVC(Acad) Office
...Approves Degree Results, New Programmes

By Otiakor Samuel and Sam Kpenu

Senate of the University has elected four statutory members to represent it in the Governing Council. Those elected are: Professors Clifford Ofurum, Ngozi Iheanacho, Martin Ifeanacho and Nnenna Frank-Peterside. The four representatives emerged in an election conducted as part of the agenda for the 45th Senate Meeting held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at the Senate Chamber inside Senate Building, University Park.

Speaking before the election, Chairman of Senate and Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, disclosed that nine candidates indicated interest to represent Senate as internal members of Council. Announcing the result of the election, the Chairman of Senate, who was also the Chief Electoral Officer stated that Professors Ofurum garnered 164 votes, Iheanacho polled 151, Ifeanacho had 126, while Frank-Peterside polled 125. Professors Iyeopu Siminialayi scored 109, Chukwudi Onyeano polled 108, while Olufemi Adesope and Victor Inoka got 99 and 10, respectively.

Earlier, Director of Academic Affairs, Dr Agatha Ataga, who represented the Registry in the conduct of the election, stated that a total of 276 Senate members were accredited for the election. She also announced that the rule allowed only statutory members of Senate to be voted for in the elections of internal members of the Governing Council, Boards and Committees.

For the Boards and Committees, Professors Betty-Ruth Iruho and Lucky Akaruese were elected for the Appointments and Promotions Committee (SPATS), Professors Raphael Ngochindo and Johnson Nna were elected to serve on the board of the Institute of Agriculture, Research and Development (IARD), while Professors Samuel Uzoigwe and Johnson Okpako are to serve on the boards of University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) and College of Continuing Education, respectively. Professors Christie Omego and Gabriel Oladipo are to serve on the board of University Demonstration Primary School, while Professors Clara Olele and Prince Asagba are to serve on the board of the University Demonstration Secondary School.

Meanwhile, Senate has approved a Postgraduate Diploma programme in Nursing Science, Master of Science degrees programmes in Fertility Nursing and Public Health Nursing, Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental and Petroleum Toxicology and Master of Science degree programme in Environmental and Petroleum Toxicology to be domiciled in the Africa Centre of Excellence in Public Health and Toxicological Research (ACE-PUTOR). Senate also approved the review of both Doctoral and Master of



Inset: L-R: Profs Ifeanacho, Frank-Peterside, Iheanacho and Ofurum

Science degrees programmes in Occupational Health, Safety and Environment for the Centre for Occupational Health, Safety and Environment (COHSE).

The apex academic decision-making body, gave approval to the Acting Vice Chancellor to appoint an Academic Coordinator to temporarily run the office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) pending the election of a substantive officer for the position.

Senate approved degree results for the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, Education, Engineering, Agriculture, College of Health Sciences and School of Graduate Studies. It also considered and approved requests and applications from the School of Science Laboratory Technology and Management Sciences. Senate also ratified degree results executively approved by the Acting Vice Chancellor.

The august body considered and approved Report of the Resource Verification Exercise at Federal Polytechnic Oke, Anambra, which was presented by Director, Local Affiliations and Accreditation Centre, Professor Gideon Abu. Senate lauded members of the Certificate Verification Committee for faithfully discharging their duties. Senate considered and approved the constitution of a Committee to fine-tune the recommendation of the report presented by the Chairman, Degree Results Verification Committee, Dr Ganiyu Adekola on how best to calculate the Cumulative Grade Point Average for University-wide Best Graduating Student.

Senate also considered and approved most of the recommendations of the report of the Committee on Revitalisation of School of Graduate Studies, Centres, Institutes and College of Continuing Education Programmes (CORSICCP). It deferred the constitution of

another Committee to examine the financial standing of the School of Graduate Studies in terms of income and expenditure as recommended by CORSICCP.

Senate also deferred deliberations on the report of establishment of Department of Family Medicine. It stepped down reports of the Senate Committee to Review the Report of the Visitation Panel to the Faculty of Education, Special Committee on Anti-Plagiarism and recommendations from the Senate Committee on Academic Programmes and Policies (SCAPP). The recommendations from SCAPP which were deferred for future deliberations included the establishment of a Faculty of Computing, Bachelor's degree programme in Medical Laboratory Science (BMLS), Bachelor of Science in Insurance and Actuary Science, Bachelor of Science (Education) in Agricultural Science programme and consideration of the curriculum for Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm D) programme.

Earlier in his brief, the Chairman announced some appointments in the University, pointing out that four out of the six positions of Principal Officers were vacant. He commended members of Senate and other staff for rising to the occasion of normalising the academic calendar following the setback occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic and industrial action embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities.

ACE-PUTOR Ends Symposium On COVID - 19 Dietary Remedies

By Otiakor Samuel



Coordinator, Academic Affairs, Prof Kilani (middle), flanked by Prof Akaranta, (right), Dr Ogaji (left) and others after the presentations

In line with its mandate of constant engagements in cutting-edge research to solve public health issues and improve on healthy practices, the World Bank Africa Centre of Excellence in Public Health and Toxicological Research (ACE-PUTOR), has ended a one-day symposium to create awareness on plant-based dietary remedies for the treatment of the ravaging COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses. The public symposium with the theme, "Surviving Viral Pandemics in Resource-Challenged Economies: The Place of

Plant-Based Dietary Remedies" was jointly organised with the Nutrition and Food Safety and Wholesomeness on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. In his address, the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Stephen Okodudu, who commended the organisers for the symposium, stated that consumers were becoming better informed about the beneficial effects of medicinal drugs harnessed from plants and other natural sources.

"Again, to know that this symposium is based on the emerging

evidence from doctoral researches conducted at our own ACE-PUTOR has seriously rekindled hope that Nigerian universities and research centres can rise to the challenge if given the enabling environment and properly motivated," the Acting Vice Chancellor said, in his speech read by the Academic Coordinator, Professor Abdurazaq Kilani. Earlier, the Coordinator of World Bank Africa Centres of Excellence in the University, Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta, said the symposium was in line with the research component of the core mandate of the University. He stressed the critical place of research to the growth of UniPort as an Entrepreneurial University.

The Centre Leader, Dr Daprim Ogaji, in his welcome address, stated that the presentations highlighted evidence on therapeutic potencies of different constituents of plant-based diets against respiratory viruses and coronavirus.

"The overall goal of this symposium is to raise people's consciousness on the therapeutic potencies of the constituents of common plant-based diets against viruses. It is our hope that the presentations will encourage increased cultivation and consumption of tropical plant-based foods that are rich in antiviral constituents, especially in periods of viral pandemics such as we are in now," the Centre Leader disclosed.

Dr Benson Ephraim-Emmanuel made presentations of *Food Substances and Viruses* and *Dietary Quercetin as Potential Therapy against COVID-19*, Francis Umegwuaju spoke on *Plant-derived Food Grade Substances that are Active against Respiratory Viruses*, while Joy Uba delivered a Paper on *Nutritional Remedies for COVID-19*.