

8,100 Students Take Oath At 42nd Matriculation Ceremony

By Otikor Samuel

A total of 8,100 candidates who have secured admission into various degree programmes of the University for the 2020/2021 academic session, have taken the Matriculation Oath at the 42nd Matriculation ceremony held on Friday, September 3, 2021.

In his speech, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, stated that Matriculation ceremony offers the opportunity for candidates who meet stringent entry requirements to be officially admitted into the University for the pursuit of their chosen courses of

study. "The ceremony is usually a two-part event comprising an oath-taking exercise and signing of the Matriculation Register in the various faculties by students," the Vice Chancellor disclosed.

Professor Georgewill, who was presiding over the first matriculation under his watch, disclosed that out of the 9,531 candidates offered admission into the University for the 2020/2021 session, a total of 8,100 of them were confirmed duly registered to participate in the Matriculation Ceremony. He enjoined the freshers to commit themselves to their studies to enable them graduate within the period of residency.

"We are matriculating you at a time when the University is repositioning itself as a globally relevant and locally competitive Institution. We have made our mark and it is your turn to make yours for the world to see. It is therefore, necessary to note that the major reason you have been sent here is to study, study hard and to study even harder," the Vice Chancellor

said.

Advising the students to be consistent at lectures, Professor Georgewill further said: "Do not just read to pass your exams, but to understand the concepts of the courses for application in real life situations. Take advantage of our rich library resources to boost your academic abilities. Do not be in a hurry to make friends. As newly-admitted students, you must understand that friends you make on campus could either make or mar you. Shun all forms of social vices like cultism and drug abuse. Many lives and careers have been cut short because of these vices." He urged them to be true to themselves in course of their stay in the University, advising them against disappointing God and their parents or guardians.

"Young ladies are very susceptible at this stage of their lives. Life at this stage offers you many choices that could lead you to the way of either destruction or preservation. Should you decide to clad yourself with indecent dressing and revel in endless partying; should you decide to be habitually absent from classes and depend on photocopied notes from your fellow students to play catch-ups; should you decide to patronise trending fashion, make-ups and photography, then you will weep when it is time to reap the harvest," the Vice Chancellor advised female students.

He enjoined the students to avail themselves of the platform provided by the Student Union to learn the rudiments of leadership, social organisation and networking skills, warning them against engaging in student union activities as a full-time business.



VC, Prof Georgewill addressing the matriculants

Senate Elects Council Member, New DVC, Others ...Approves New Progs, Students' Results

By Otikor Samuel and Humphrey Ogu

Senate of the University has elected Professor Gordian Obute of the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology in the Faculty of Science as its representative in the Governing Council. Senate also elected Professor Kingsley Owete of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities as the new Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic).

Professor Obute replaced Professor Clifford Ofurum who was elected the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration) at the last Meeting of Senate, while Professor Owete's election followed the sudden demise of Professor Andrew Efemini, who was elected the 7th Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) of the University.

Obute polled a total of 132 votes to defeat his co-contestant, Professor Johnson Okpako who scored 76 votes. Professor Aniefiok Udouo who was nominated alongside Professor Owete for the position of Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) declared his support for the hitherto Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, paving way for the election of Professor Owete with a total of 198 votes.

Senate also elected Professors Tamunobelema Orunaboka and Gabriel Ogbonna as its Representatives on the Joint Council and Senate Selection Board (JCSSB) for the appointment of a substantive Registrar and a University Librarian. The elections of the officers formed part of the major highlights of the 460th Senate Meeting held at the Senate Chamber inside Senate Building, University Park, on Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

Senate approved the establishment of Doctoral degree programmes in Agricultural Economics (Resources and Environmental Economics); Animal Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology; Pasture and Range Management; and Livestock Production and Management. It also approved the establishment of Master of Science degree programmes in Aquaculture, and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management, as well as Postgraduate Diploma in Aquaculture and Fisheries in the Faculty of Agriculture.

The 460th Senate approved the commencement of Master of Engineering and Doctoral degree programmes in Electronic Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering. It



460th Senate in Session

considered and approved Postgraduate Diploma, Master of Science and Doctoral degree programmes in Petroleum Geosciences to be domiciled in the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG). Senate granted independent status to the CPG to run as an autonomous Centre from the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS).

Senate deliberated and approved the proposal for inclusion of coursework and new courses to the existing Doctoral degree programme run in the Department of Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Technology in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The august body approved the commencement of Master of Science and Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work in the Faculty of Social Sciences. Senate approved with modifications the decisions of the Committee of Proverbs and Deans on the Harmonisation of 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 Academic Calendar. It ratified and approved results and recommendations from the Faculties of Science, Education, Engineering, Agriculture, College of Health Sciences and School of Graduate Studies.

Earlier, Chairman of Senate and Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill announced some appointments including the deaths of some members of

the august body. Those who passed on were: Professor Andrew Efemini who was posthumously recognised by the Governing Council as the 7th Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Professor John Ojule and Professor Charles Oyegun. Senate observed a minute's silence to honour them.

The Chairman announced that a Special Convocation in honour of late Professor Samuel Ndubuisi would hold on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at the Convocation Arena. He also announced that the 21st Valedictory Lecture entitled, "Mentorship: A Game Changer for the University" would be delivered by Professor Anthony Ibe of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Time is 10:00 am.

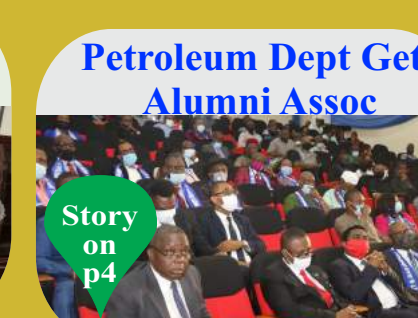
Professor Georgewill announced that Professor Abdulrazzaq Kilani of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies would deliver the 173rd Inaugural Lecture entitled: "The Dialogue of Monotheism and the Struggle to Surrender" on Thursday, September 16, 2021.



UniPort Trains Host Communities' Youths



VC Hosts Obio-Akpor Legislative Leader



Petroleum Dept Gets Alumni Assoc



VC Receives Choba Police Command

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NCDMB, NLNG, UniPort Conclude Tripartite Agreement On Gas Refining, Petrochemical Centre

By Sam Kpenu



The University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Company (NLNG), has concluded a tripartite agreement for the remodelling of a Centre for Gas

Refining and Petrochemical at the University.

The Centre, when completed would solve the challenges surrounding the refining of crude oil products and would bring to the barest minimum,

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172nd Inaugural Prioritise Training Of Surgeons, Jebbin Tasks Stakeholders

By Humphrey Ogu

Federal and State governments should as a matter of priority invest in facilities and infrastructure that are necessary for training of Surgeons in Nigeria." A Professor of Surgery in the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, Nze Jebbin, made the call while delivering the 172nd Inaugural Lecture at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Thursday, August 26, 2021.

Jebbin, whose Lecture was entitled "The General Surgeon: Jack of All Trades, Master of All," observed that general surgeons are trained to perform a wide range of operations. "The General Surgeon is an operating physician trained to excel

academically and professionally. His operative domains traverse the length, breadth and depth of the human body," he said.

Explaining that in managing the patients, the Surgeon may have to exhibit high profile skill in complex decision making, the Inaugural Lecturer, noted that: "The spectrum of diseases

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Entrepreneurship Centre Trains 40 Host Communities Youths On ICT

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By Humphrey Ogu

No fewer than 40 young men and women from the University of Port Harcourt's host communities participated in a week-long ICT Capacity Building Workshop aimed at making them self-employed and self-sustaining. The Workshop, which commenced on Monday, August 30 and ended on Friday, September 3, 2021, held at the Entrepreneurship Centre. Declaring the Workshop open, Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, noted that the workshop was in line with the entrepreneurial and community service mandates of the University. "This workshop is important to us as a University. We place premium on our host communities that is why I and the two Deputy Vice Chancellors are here. I wish to thank the participants for responding to the call by the Centre," the Vice Chancellor said. In their separate goodwill messages, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Clifford Ofurum, and his counterpart in charge of Research and Development, Professor Iyeopu Siminialayi, congratulated the participants on their selection for the Workshop, urging them to make good use of the opportunity given them to acquire digital skills. Others who gave goodwill messages include Dean,



VC, Prof Georgewill (centre), flanked by DVCs (Admin), Prof Ofurum (right), (R&D), Prof Siminialayi, Centre Director, Prof Ogbuji (3rd right) and others

Faculty of Management Sciences, Professor Leyira Micah, Acting Dean, Student Affairs, Dr Chima Wokocha and the Acting Head, Department of Finance and Banking, Dr Samuel Ogunbiyi all of who congratulated the participants, expressing hope that the training would empower them to be self-sufficient. Earlier in his address, Director, University of Port Harcourt Entrepreneurship Centre, Professor Chinedu Ogbuji, welcomed guests to the opening ceremony, stating that the workshop was part of the corporate social responsibility of the University. Meanwhile beneficiaries of the training have hailed the ICT Capacity Building initiative. Exchanging views with a UniPort News Staff Writer after the

training, Akandu Ikechi from Omuoko Aluu, and Prince Uba from Choba expressed appreciation to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Georgewill and Director of the Centre, Professor Ogbuji for the opportunities given to them to acquire digital skills. They called on the Vice Chancellor and the Director to sustain the programme, appealing that the devices promised them as starter packs be made available to enable them put the skills acquired to use. The participants were trained in Introduction to Computer Basics, Digital Marketing, Web Development, Graphic Design, and Online Creative Fashion and Designing.

MWAN Felicitates With Georgewill On VCship Appointment ...Appoints VC Chairman Of MWAN Week 2021

By Sunny Dada

The Rivers State Branch of the Medical Women Association of Nigeria (MWAN), has felicitated with Professor Owunari Georgewill on his appointment as the 9th Vice Chancellor of the University. The felicitation was conveyed to Professor Georgewill when the President of the body, Dr Vetty Agala led a three-man delegation to him at the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room on Monday, August 23, 2021. Dr Agala, who expressed joy over the appointment of Georgewill as the Vice

Chancellor of the University, further extended a letter inviting the Vice Chancellor to chair the forthcoming MWAN Week 2021, which she disclosed was slated for October 19, 2021. The President of MWAN informed her host that MWAN Week is an annual event. This year's theme is: *Women in Leadership Making a Difference*. The delegation used the opportunity to solicit the support of the University towards a successful hosting of the programme. In his response, the Vice Chancellor who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Clifford Ofurum,

welcomed the delegation to the University. He commended members of the Association for their service to humanity, assuring them that the Vice Chancellor who was unavoidably absent due to other official engagements would grace the event and also look into their request for possible support. Also, in attendance at the visit were: Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Iyeopu Siminialayi, the President-elect of MWAN, Dr Omosivie Maduka, Chairperson, Local Organising Committee of MWAN Week 2021, Dr Obelebra Adebisi. Highlight of the visit was the official presentation of the copy of the 2021 MWAN Week programme brochure to the Vice Chancellor.



DVC (Admin), Prof Ofurum (2nd right), DVC (R&D), Prof Siminialayi (2nd left), and Drs Agala (centre), Maduka (right), and Adebisi (left)

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GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

Professor Walter Ihejirika, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, appointed *Interim Dean of the Faculty*, effective August 19, 2021. Professor Laetitia Onyegebu, Faculty of Computing, appointed *Interim Dean of the Faculty*, effective August 19, 2021. Professor Orikomaba Obunge, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Interim Dean of the Faculty*, effective August 19, 2021. Professor Kennedy Wariso, Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Interim Dean of the Faculty*, effective August 19, 2021. Professor Edwinah Amah, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Director, Graduate School of Economics and Management (GSEM)*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on August 10, 2023. Dr Simeon Nenbee, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Assistant Director, Graduate School of Economics and Management (GSEM)*. The two-year appointment which takes immediate effect, will terminate on August 16, 2023. Professor Harold Nwosu, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Director, Offshore Technology Institute (OTI)*, effective October 23, 2021 to October 22, 2023. Professor Ngozi Iheanacho, Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Director, Academic Planning, Research and Control Unit*, effective September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2023. Dr Garrick Orij, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Faculty of Science, appointed *Assistant Director, Academic Planning, Research and Control Unit*, effective September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2023. Dr Chukwumeka Nwafor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Acting Director, Centre for Geotechnical and Coastal Engineering Research*, effective August 18, 2021 to August 17, 2023. Dr Francis Ikebude, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, appointed *Assistant Director, Centre for Geotechnical and Coastal Engineering Research*, effective August 18, 2021 to August 17, 2023. Dr Nkoyo Nuen, Department of Chemical Pathology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Assistant Director, Ashgrove Academy*, effective August 16, 2021 to August 15, 2023. Professor Fidelis Allen, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Head of the Department*, effective August 9, 2021 to August 8, 2023.

Allen Takes Over As HoD, Pol Admin

By Otikor Samuel

Professor Fidelis Allen has taken over as Head of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences. Professor Allen took over from Dr Timothy Nte in a ceremony held at the Departmental Seminar Room, on Thursday, August 19, 2021. The letter conveying the appointment of Professor Allen which was signed by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, stated that the two-year appointment commenced on August 9, 2021 and would terminate on August 8, 2023. In his handover note, Dr Nte,



Prof Allen (right) taking over from Dr Nte

recalled that he was appointed Acting Head of the Department on June 16, 2019. He commended Management of the University and his colleagues for supporting him to succeed in office, listing some remarkable achievements during his tenure to include the NUC accreditation of Political Science, an exercise which the Department scored 98 per cent to emerge one of the best in the country. Dr Nte added that the NUC Resource Verification exercise for the demerging of Public Administration scaled through with flying colours, marking the commencement of Public Administration at the Undergraduate level. The immediate past Acting Head of Department disclosed that the Department under his watch hosted an international conference in collaboration with the University of Romania, for which the *Journal of Political Science and Administrative Studies* was established. "The Department moved to its new location and a well-furnished Seminar Room was created for Postgraduate students. The Department has very huge sums of money in the coffers of the Faculty. My administration was applauded by the Senate of the University for clearing and being up-to-date

with the Degree Results of the Department. I am highly indebted to all of you for your kindness, care, support and cooperation," he added.

In his acceptance speech, new Head of the Department, Professor Allen, commended his predecessor for his successes in office. He pledged to consolidate on the performance of Dr Nte to attain the vision of the founding fathers of the Department.

"I am delighted taking over the leadership of the Department from Dr Nte. I will do my best to build on what he has done. From the records, it is obvious that he did his best for the Department. I am glad that senior academics and other colleagues have pledged their support for my administration. Collectively, we will take our Department to an enviable height," Professor Allen said.

Among others, Professors Emenike Ndu, Johnson Nna, Henry Alapiki, Omenihu Nwaorgu and Innocent Barikor took turns to chart pathways for the growth of the Department. They evaluated some of the past events that played out in the Department, proffering practical solutions to tackle the numerous challenges facing the Department.

Choba Command Pledges To Sustain Partnership With UniPort

By Sam Kpenu

Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill has assured the Choba Area Command of the Nigeria Police Force of continued support for the sustenance of peace on Campus. Professor Georgewill gave the assurance when the Area Commander, Stephen Akunade accompanied by top officials of the

Command visited him on Thursday, August 26, 2021, in his office. The Vice Chancellor commended the Command for recording an appreciable success in crime control and prevention despite its obvious handicaps, especially in the areas of logistics and communication gadgets. "It is on this premise, that I must commend the courage and gallantry of the Law Enforcement Agents in checking the

unwholesome activities of these undesirable elements," he said.

Professor Georgewill said, his administration would spare no efforts in providing logistics for the Command to enable it provide qualitative service which he said was the hallmark of his administration. "As a responsive administration, we are determined to render assistance to you to ensure a crime-free campus," he stated.

Responding, the Area Commander, Stephen Akunade, disclosed that the Command is working to ensure the institution is crime free. He said they were in his office to congratulate Professor Georgewill on his well-deserved victory and his subsequent assumption of office as the 9th Vice Chancellor of the University.

"To whom much is given it is said, much is expected. We pray to God to give you grace to reinforce your commitment and dedication to duty in view of the critical role you are expected to play. We promise to support you," Okunade said.



VC, Prof Georgewill (centre), flanked by Area Commander, Okunade (left), UniPort CSO, CSP Sunday Osarollo (2nd right) and other senior Police Officers

Jebbin Tasks Stakeholders On Surgeon Training

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that falls into the ambit of General Surgeon is broad: the knowledge base is deep and the responsibility to the patient (or client) can be quite challenging.”

He recommended that: “General Surgeons should be given encouragement as sub-specialisation tends to limit broad-based practice, the country cannot do without, especially in the sub-urban and rural areas.”

Emphasising the need for improved infrastructural development of health facilities and provision of cutting-edge training of surgeons, Jebbin pointed out that “the deplorable state of facilities in almost all teaching hospitals in the country is a cause for concern and contributing to brain drain as doctors leave the country in droves, not only for greener

pastures, but also for better specialist training.” He called on Governments at all levels to make conscious efforts to reverse brain drain by improving welfare of doctors in the country and providing a conducive environment for professional practice.

On his contributions to scholarship, Jebbin, who in collaboration with a colleague, Professor Fyनेface Ogan, developed Ogan-Jebbin Surgical Drain, said that his general surgical training and practice, made him undertake researches spanning virtually the length and breadth of General Surgery.

He listed acute appendicitis, phaeochromocytoma, colorectal cancer, acute abdomen, carcinoma of the breast, gunshot injuries, abdominal injuries, typhoid perforation, spinal anaesthesia and peri-operative complications as some of the cases he handled in practice, in addition to engaging in

several community services.

Speaking after the Lecture, Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, who commended the Inaugural Lecturer for a well-delivered Lecture, described Professor Jebbin as a big masquerade in his area of specialisation. He noted that the Inaugural Lecturer has really danced like a big masquerade. “Through his lecture, Professor Jebbin has shown us that General Surgery is profound. He is indeed a jack of all trades, master of all,” the Vice Chancellor said.

Meanwhile, the 173rd Inaugural Lecture entitled: “The Dialogue of Monotheism and the Struggle to Surrender,” would be delivered by Professor Abdulrazaq Kilani of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanity on Thursday, September 16, 2021.



172nd Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Jebbin (arrowed), flanked by VC, Prof Georgewill, DVCs (Admin), Prof Clifford Ofurum, (R&D), Prof Iyeeopu Siminiyalayi, Ag Provost, CHS, Prof Angela Frank-Briggs (left), Ag Registrar, Mrs Joyce Tamuno (right) and others

Expert Proffer Solutions To Climate Change

By Sam Kpenu

Foremost International Environmentalist and Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow, Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development, Kansas City, United States of America,

industries and multinationals which spew or emit carbon monoxide in the air and water without recourse to set environmental standards,” Adegoke stated.

He said, it was in our best interest to reduce human activities that threaten the environment such as gas

flaring and emission from industrial plants, recommending aggressive agro-forestation such as deliberate tree planting. Professor Adegoke further added that “deforestation could accelerate climate change because plants help in carbon sequestration to slow or reverse long-term removal from the atmospheric Co₂ pollution to mitigate or reverse global warming.”

He disclosed that University of Port Harcourt is adequately positioned to become a focal point of scholarship for generating solutions to the blunt ravages of climate change impacts on the Niger Delta. Speaking earlier, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, represented by the Acting Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Angela Frank-Briggs stressed the importance of the sustenance of the environment, adding that the earth is sick as a result of polluted water and global warming and that it was our responsibility to heal it.

“The importance of our environment to the sustenance of life on this planet cannot be overemphasized. My administration will continue to embark on scholarly researches that will address environmental issues for the attainment of sustainable development for all,” he said.



INRES Director, Prof Aduabobo Hart, (arrowed), flanked by Ag Provost, CHS, Prof Angela Frank-Briggs, Prof Adegoke (left), Dean, Faculty of Science, Prof Essien (right) and others

Professor Jimmy Adegoke says Climate Change poses an existential threat to the Niger Delta and the Communities along the Coastal line across Nigeria.

Professor Adegoke who was delivering a symposium on the topic: *Minimising Vulnerabilities of Coastal Cities in Africa through Adaptation to Climate Change*, on August 18, 2021 at the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology Auditorium, said a change in earth's climate could have far reaching consequences on human existence. Such negative effects according to him, include regional extremes in weather which could result in unprecedented drought and rainfalls, famine and increase in tropical disease, forest fires, strong wind and rising sea levels which could submerge islands and wash away coastal communities.

“The communities are threatened, a situation which is made more glaring when viewed against the background of the presence of

STOP PRESS Council Confirms DVCs Appointments

The Governing Council at its 176th Meeting held on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, has confirmed the election of Professor Clifford Ofurum of the Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences and Professor Iyeeopu Siminiyalayi of the Department of Pharmacology, College of Health Sciences as Deputy Vice Chancellors (Administration) and (Research and Development), respectively. The Acting Registrar and Secretary to Council, Mrs Joyce Tamuno, in separate letters dated Thursday, August 19, 2021 which were addressed to the new Deputy Vice Chancellors and made available to *UniPort News*, disclosed that the two-year appointment commenced on Thursday, August 19, 2021.

UniPort To Partner Others On Refining Centre

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DVC (Admin), Prof Ofurum (6th right) flanked by DVC (R&D), Prof Siminiyalayi, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof Oghonna Joel, IPS Director, Prof Dulu Appah (right) and representatives of NCDMB and NLNG

issues of local/artisanal refineries whose activities had impacted negatively on the environment that has led to the emergence of soot.

Addressing the delegation shortly before leaving for Abuja, at the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room on Monday, August 23, 2021, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, said he was very delighted to welcome the Project into the University, saying that UniPort was willing to provide logistics that would enhance the smooth take off of the project.

The Vice Chancellor said, “Let me on behalf of the Council, Senate, Staff and students welcome you, our

distinguished guests to the University of Port Harcourt. Your presence here today attests to your collective resolve to identify with the yearnings and aspirations of the University. The strategic importance of the LNG Plant and outdoor Modular LNG Plant and Laboratory for Mechanical and Chemical Research to the University, Rivers State and the Niger Delta cannot be over-emphasised. This is why my administration decided to support this project and when completed, will be a Centre of Excellence and link to the outside world.”

Speaking separately, the team leaders of NCDMB and NLNG, Patrick Obah and Charles Epelle, said the

essence of the visit was to conclude the implementation process of the remodeling of the Centre for Gas refining and Petro-chemical into a world-class LNG Research and Technology Solution Centre for NLNG operations and other Gas-based Companies. The project, according to them would cost about 50 Million US Dollars.

Others on the entourage were: Professor Donbebe Warikasi, Dr Ademola Kaka, Abdulmalik Hallilu, Jonathan Njoku and Blessing Kenneth for the NCDMB, while Felix Jamala, Michael Ajayi and Arize Akpuokwe represented the NLNG.

Again, UniPort Harvests TETFund Institution-Based Research Grants

By Sam Kpenu

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), has just awarded about 50 Million naira grants or twenty-seven (27) Institution-Based Research (IBR) projects in the University of Port Harcourt.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, who handed the letter of approval and disbursement of funds for the research projects, on July 14, 2021, to the Acting Director of the Directorate of Academic Planning, Research and Control, Dr Desmond Nbeta, commended him for the good work he is doing and expressed appreciation to TETFund for remaining committed to research and development which is one of the University's main goals.

In an interview with a *UniPort News* correspondent, the Acting Director of the Unit, stated that he was highly impressed by the rising level of involvement of academic staff of the University in research activities.

He also remarked that the significantly high number of proposals that were approved by TETFund are an indication that more researchers in the University are becoming better skilled in the art of writing grantable proposals.

He further hinted that the call for submission of proposals for the National Research Fund (NRF) grants would soon be announced by TETFund and urged colleagues to prepare to grab the opportunity even as they develop.



Prof Georgewill, VC

Obio-Akpor Legislators To Regulate Trading At Choba Junction

By Otikor Samuel

Leader of the Obio-Akpor Legislative Council, Hon Prince Achor, has promised that lawmakers in the Local Government would enact laws to regulate trading at the Choba junction of the East-West Road to provide sanity for road users along the affected area.

The Leader of the local assembly made the promise in response to a request by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, when he and some members of the Legislative Council paid a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor on Monday, August 23, 2021.

“We will certainly address your request. Presently, there is a motion on the floor of the House to regulate activities of tricycle. So, the House will

also act on the issue of illegal trading at the Choba junction,” the Leader assured the Vice Chancellor.

Earlier, Hon Achor said he led some of his Principal Officers to request the Vice Chancellor to assist in raising a transparent list of indigent graduate students from Obio-Akpor Local Government Area in the University to benefit from a scholarship scheme initiated by the Chairman of the Local Government Area, Hon George Ariolu.

Responding, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Georgewill, promised to assist the Local Government to achieve its purpose of awarding scholarship to deserving graduate students of Obio-Akpor origin.



VC, Prof Georgewill (centre), flanked by DVC (Admin), Prof Ofurum, Chief Whip, Obio-Akpor Legislative Assembly, Hon Edisson Amadi (right), Leader of the Assembly, Hon Achor and the Deputy Leader, Hon Jennifer Erina (left)

Georgewill To Rebrand UPWA

By Sam Kpenu

President, University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), Dr Udeme Georgewill has promised to leverage on already existing gains of the Association by building a formidable Women Association through harnessing individual and collective potentials for the growth and sustainability of the Association.

Dr Georgewill, who made the remark during her Inaugural Address to the Association on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at the UPWA Auditorium, said this would be done by working in close collaboration with all stakeholders to ensure that the potentials of the women are tapped for greater output and productivity. “I will ensure that the schools under my watch grow to a Centre of Excellence. Since I took over, I embarked on familiarisation tour to Faculties and Centres to meet our women to drum up support. My Administration is committed to ensuring proper welfare for its members. The UPWA President also announced that UPWA Group of Schools which started as a Daycare

Centre/Crèche under late Gladys Cookey, wife of the 2nd Vice Chancellor has since blossomed into Nursery, Primary and an International Secondary School, noting that in order to reposition the schools to meet global best practices, some Committees have been set up for the reactivation and revitalisation of the school. “Professor Anthonia Nwanekezi is to head Curriculum Review Committee, Committee on Review of Rules and Regulations is headed by Mrs Rita Iwu while Staff Audit/Verification Committee will be led by Professor Mary Iwundu,” she stated. Dr Georgewill, who said the Association is to set up Female Students Indigent Fund Scheme (FSIFS) to assist female Students in the University from poor background complete their studies, said that a committee is being set up to work out the modalities. She also said her administration would embark on educational programmes that would look into how to secure multiple streams of incomes for the women while health programmes like physical fitness and health walk would be a periodic feature of the womenfolk.



UPWA President, Dr Georgewill

Pet Eng Inaugurates Alumni Association

By Sunny Dada

It was a sweet home coming for the Alumni who could not hide their excitement of re-union with former course mates and lecturers. The quality of the roll call of guests and resource persons aptly demonstrated the importance of the event as the bigwigs who have become worthy ambassadors of the Department and the University gathered to draw a new blueprint for the re-emergence of the Department.

The event which held on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at the IPS Auditorium, did not lack supply in knowledge and humour as guests were treated to new learning that highlighted the need for the redirection of the Department and the University at large.

The Resource Persons who spoke as keynote speakers and panellists also did justice to the theme of the event which was titled: “*Petroleum Engineering in the 21st Century and Beyond, Role of Alumni Association.*” One significant point of convergence from both keynote speakers and panellists was the need for the University to re-engineer the Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering to conform to new global realities.

They all agreed that even though petroleum engineers would remain relevant in the drive towards renewable energy, there was need to have a blend of digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI) expertise theory and practice. They also agreed that there was need for the review of the curriculum to include energy courses that would prepare Undergraduates for better industry experience.

The event which was declared opened by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, also had in attendance the 7th Vice Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka. In his remark, Professor Georgewill commended the initiative and urged the organisers to link the alumni

association of the Department to the national alumni body. He said it was imperative for alumni to always give back to the society, noting that government does not have the resources to provide for all the needs of the university. The Vice Chancellor promised the organisers that the University would give all the needed support to the alumni as they strive to improve the wellbeing of the University. In his address, the Acting Head of Department, Dr Joseph Amieibibama, expressed worry that the global campaign against fossil fuel represents a major threat to the future of petroleum engineering as a career. To address the threat, Dr Amieibibama argued that there was need for the University to consider the renaming of the department to conform and reflect the new global drive towards renewable energy.

He further appealed to Management of the University to engage the senior academics in the Department nearing retirement, to step up the training of their younger colleagues in order to avoid brain drain. He also said the approval of a new Undergraduate degree programme called ‘Energy Resources Engineering’ has become imperative if the university must achieve its entrepreneurial objectives.

In his keynote address titled: “*The role of Alumni to bridge the gap between university and industry,*” Professor Joseph Ajienka who dedicated his address to late Professor Chi U. Ikoku, did a road show of the achievements of the Department and the University for the past years. He also highlighted the need for alumni to be proud of their alma mater.

The 7th Vice Chancellor argued that the University which has made progress by producing some notable individuals with significant achievements in various career paths, stated that University of Port Harcourt, has also transited from being a teaching and research institution to an entrepreneurial University.

Professor Ajienka who challenged the alumni to leverage on the knowledge economy, encouraged them to establish businesses that will be mutually beneficial to the alumni and the University at large.

Also speaking, another keynote speaker, Dr Felix Amieyefori, who spoke on the topic: “*Petroleum Engineering in the 21st Century and Beyond,*” stated that the continuous evolution of the future of petroleum engineering has made it imperative for students of Petroleum Engineering to be adequately prepared for the transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy in order not to be left behind.

Dr Amieyefori, who said recent research has shown that petroleum engineers would still be relevant in the new energy transition, insisted that it would be dangerous to continue to study petroleum engineering with a 19th century model. “We can no longer study petroleum engineering in the old way; a lot of universities are switching, and we must also switch. Petroleum engineering courses must be mixed with energy courses,” he said.

Dr Amieyefori also challenged the participants to be digital engineers with a mix of Artificial Intelligence (AI), noting that with the COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, it has become increasingly difficult for human mobilisation to drilling sites.

Earlier, in his remark, the Dean of the Faculty, Professor Ogbonnaya Joel, called for a change in the operational frameworks guiding teaching and learning of petroleum engineering in the University and Nigeria. He said this has become necessary if the University must cope with the current global trend in energy transition. He however informed that the department of petroleum engineering was ready for the transition, stating that the faculty ranks as one of the best in Africa.

Welcoming guests to the event, the Dean wondered why it took so long to inaugurate the alumni. He said most of the landmark projects in the university were gotten through the department, hence the need to reposition it for greater productivity.

The event later went into panel discussions with focus on academia-industry relationship, the need for digitisation, decarbonisation, machine learning and energy transition. Members of the panel include: Dr Stella Okene (Group CEO Stellos Energy Group); Dr Esuru Rita Okoroafor (Post-Doctoral Student Stanford University); Dr Vincent Nwabueze (Manager, Ogoni Restoration Project, SHELL); Lawrence Osakwe (Operations Division Manager, Nigeria Agip Oil Company, PH); Ezine Nnebocha (Schlumberger).

Highlights of the event were the official inauguration of the Steering Committee of the Alumni and the unveiling of the ‘Alumni projects’ by the Chairman of the Steering Committee, Mr ThankGod Egbu. The projects are: Edu 4.0; Digital Technology Lab; and Digital Capacity Development.

Some of the guests on the list of roll call included: Registrar, Mrs Joyce Tamuno and Director of University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Professor Chukwudi Onyeaso.



VC, Prof Georgewill (arrowed), flanked by Acting Registrar, Mrs Tamuno (right), 7th VC, Prof Ajienka (left) and others

STOP PRESS Siminialayi Heads Series C'ttee

The Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Research and Development, Professor Iyeopu Siminialayi, has been appointed Chairman, Vice Chancellor's Community Education Lecture Series Planning Committee. The Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, in a letter he personally signed and dated August 18, 2021, disclosed that the terms of reference of the Committee include to: decide topic for monthly lectures and the format for presentation, decide monthly lecturer in line with the subject matter, ensure that the topics chosen will reflect the yearnings of the people and stimulate intellectualism on campus. The Committee is to compile the lectures into a book for annual publication. Members of the Committee are Professors Chijioke Nwauche, Best Ordinioha and Olufemi Adesope. Others are Drs Pedro Emem-Chioma, Sylvia Etim, Peter Emejuru, Iroko Yahere, Chikwugwo Paul, Chioma Chikere, Elsie Hamadina, Baridisi Isaac, Ezemoh Olumide, Tochukwu Nnadiukwu, Ipeghan Oturaku, Judipat Obiora and Mr Emeka Amehi. Rebecca Bassey from the Registry Department is the Secretary of the Committee.

Chaplains To Head Annual Thanksgiving Seervice

Henceforth, the Chaplains of the Chapel of the Annunciation and Our Saviour's Chapel would be responsible for the planning and conduct of the annual Thanksgiving Service of the University. This was the decision of Management of the University which was made public in a statement dated August 17, 2021, and signed by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill.

“In recognition of the spiritual role of a chaplaincy in the University, the University Management has decided that, henceforth, the University Annual Thanksgiving Service should be the responsibility of the two Chaplaincies: Chapel of Annunciation and Our Saviour's Chapel. “To this end, the 2021 University Annual Thanksgiving Service shall be planned and executed by the two Chaplains in the University of Port Harcourt by the second week of December, preferably on Wednesday. The Venue of the Thanksgiving shall be the University Convocation Arena for the benefit of Staff and Students of the University,” the statement pointed out.

Training Prog On Degree Results Computation For HoDs, Others Ends Successfully

By Sunny Dada

A one-day training programme on Degree Result Computation organised by Management for Heads of Department, Examination Officers, Level Advisers and new Academic Staff, has ended successfully.

The training which was held on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, was to amongst other things enhance the capacity of participants to respond effectively to emerging issues in computation of degree results and provide information on new relevant guidelines as stipulated in the academic policy of the university.

Declaring the training opened, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Clifford Ofurum, informed participants that the essence of the programme was to “evaluate, assess and examine the result computation practices in a bid to strengthen the processes and instil necessary internal control mechanism that would increase efficiency.”

In a paper read on his behalf by Professor Ofurum, the Vice Chancellor, stated that there was need for the University to improve the result computation process in order to make it more interactive and less cumbersome. The Vice Chancellor said: “it is no longer fashionable, neither is it in our University's interest that our graduates would miss opportunities because of delays in transcripts.” He emphasised that the best practice is for both results and transcript preparations to be online and in real-time.

While acknowledging the unique challenges faced by academics, he however, expressed hope that the training would equip participants with new tools and concepts that will add value to the present result computation system and also contribute to the success story of the university at large.

In his presentation, the Chairman, Degree Result Verification Committee (DRVC), Professor Ganiyu Adekola, observed that due to the new appointments of HoDs, Examination Officers and Academic Staff, degree result computation has been characterised by unnecessary delays and avoidable errors. He stated that the training was aimed at exposing participants to the guidelines on degree result computation in line with the academic policy of the university.

While expressing hope that the training will lead to faster processing time for degree results approval, the Chairman, DRVC, however, stated that Senate will no longer tolerate the practice where students graduate and wait for months for their results.

In a separate presentation, the Director, Academic

Affairs, Dr Agatha Ataga, appealed to participants to always show commitment to the welfare of students. She stated that many of the challenges faced by students were avoidable if they had received proper guidance from their Departments. She urged HoDs to always keep a copy of the University's *Statement of Academic Policy* in their offices to guide them.

On students' temporary withdrawal from academic activities, the Director of Academic Affairs stated that students can only apply for withdrawal on the grounds of health challenges, financial constraints and late registration. She further stated that no student can proceed on deferment, withdrawal, intra and inter-faculty transfer without approval of their applications by relevant Units. She, however, added that the current deadline for deferment is August 31, 2021.

While urging HoDs to always maintain copies of students' personal files in their Departments, Dr Ataga regretted that the National Universities Commission (NUC) reported that personal files of students were not available during accreditation of programmes in some Departments.

The training which was commended by participants, addressed core areas of challenges in the result computation system such as: spreadsheet structure and format, entering credit units and quality points, registration and over-registration, replacing “F” score with “P” score, waiver of two (2) failed courses, abscondment and terminologies. Others are temporary withdrawal, 2018/2019 amnesty for students, master mark sheet (structure, formation and arrangements), foot notes, duration of submission and processing of degree results and part time degree results.



Prof Owete, DVC (Acad)

VC Pledges To Support IPPR Unit For More Efficiency

By Otikor Samuel

In a bid to consolidate on its critical role of promoting the good image of the University, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Owunari Georgewill, has promised his administration's commitment to support the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit to deliver on its mandate to the University.

Professor Georgewill made the promise at the Vice Chancellor's Committee Room when the Chairman, Dr Christopher Ochonogor led other members of the Editorial Board of *UniPort News* and *Unique UniPort* on a courtesy visit on the Vice Chancellor and Publisher on Thursday, August 19, 2021.

“I am always glad when I see the stories in *UniPort News*. The weekly update I do is just to brief the

University community on major events that involve the office of the Vice Chancellor. Your Unit does the detailed information dissemination. That is why I don't delay in processing any request I see coming from the IPPR Unit. This administration will continue to support the Unit because you contribute tremendously in the enlightenment of members of the University community. In this administration, staff are advised to say something whenever they see anything because when they say something, action will be taken for the overall growth of the University,” the Publisher said, directing the Editorial Board to return to fortnight publication of *UniPort News*.

Earlier, in their separate speeches, Chairman of the Editorial Board, Dr Ochonogor, Editorial Adviser, Dr Baridisi Isaac and Editor, Sam Kpenu, congratulated the Vice Chancellor on his appointment. They commended him for the innovation of weekly update to the University community.

“We came to congratulate you on your appointment as the 9th Vice Chancellor. We know that you will raise the bar for the growth of the University, so we came to familiarise ourselves as image makers to ensure that we continue to project the University in the positive light,” the Chairman said.



Publisher, *UniPort News*, Prof Georgewill (centre), flanked by Chairman, Dr Ochonogor, Editor, Kpenu (left) Editorial Adviser, Dr Isaac (right) and other members of the Editorial Board