



UniPort Produces First Nigerian -Trained Nuclear Engineers

As the country makes giant strides to become one of the industrialized countries of the world by 2020, the University of Port Harcourt has produced six Nuclear Engineers ever to be trained in Nigeria, reports Obinna Nwodin.

More on pg 3

Side Bar

A One-day sensitization workshop on the 2nd Strategic Plan of the University 2014-2019, organized by the University of Port Harcourt Foundation held last Tuesday. Details next week. -Editor



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Maxwell Gives Recipe For Grooming Geniuses ...Endows Chair In Thinking

By Humphrey Ogu

Contrary to the common belief that most children are dullards from birth, renowned Professor of Thinking, William Maxwell, has declared that all humans are born with some genius potential, which could either be nurtured or lost due to neglect.

Maxwell, who is of the University of Advancing Technology, Tempe, Arizona, USA, made the assertion at the first public proclamation of the "Genius Principle" at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Monday, announcing plans to give 10 per cent of the royalty from his patent on thinking to fund research in thinking in the University of Port Harcourt. Making the proclamation in a public lecture, Maxwell

explained that the Principle, which he developed with Drew Ferguson, states that "At conception all humans are potentials geniuses in some domain and that genius is time-sensitive, environment-sensitive and mentor-sensitive."

The Second Professor of Thinking world dwide noted that "geniuses flower in a n

environment of love. Wherever you find love you will likely see geniuses. Genius does not thrive in homes without internal democracy," noting that intelligence is a function of the soil on which a child grows.

Maxwell, who performed two fascinating experiments that promptly identified potential geniuses from the University Demonstration Primary and Secondary Schools, described the Genius Principle simply as the deliberate nurturing of humans at their tender ages to discover their full potentials, warning that distraction also adversely affects the grooming of geniuses.

Cont'd on p6



Story on p2

Pension Commission Mounts Campaign On CPS



Story on p3

UniPort Opens Pre-Qualification Bids



Story on p4

Theatre, Fine Arts, Win Dean's Cup



Story on p5

ODEL Takes Sensitization Campaign To CNAS



Read UniPort Weekly Online at www.uniport.edu.ng

New Doctors, Dentists, Speak On Experience In Medical School

A total of 45 new Medical Doctors and 5 Dental Surgeons from the College of Health Sciences were inducted into the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria. The swearing-in Ceremony was for the 2nd Batch of Dental Surgeons and 34th Batch of Medical Doctors at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, penultimate Wednesday. Some of the Doctors and Dental Surgeons shared their experiences with UniPort Weekly, reports MERCY ADENIJI.

Best Graduating Student, who is a Dentist, Dr. Claude Obiajuwa, expressed gratitude to authorities of the University, teachers in the College and their parents for the support given to them throughout the years of their sojourn in the College, as they were able to scale through the hurdle with much persistence and perseverance. Dr. Obiajuwa thanked Management of the University for providing them an enabling environment for their practical training.

Also speaking, Dr. Chichi Okafor, a Dental Surgeon, disclosed that her experience in the Dental School was good; "There were tough times though, because to start with, we did not have enough senior colleagues to learn from, but the few we had were able to encourage us. Again, our Lecturers were really nice to us, they were able to take us one on one coaching, unlike what it was when we were with our Medical Colleagues and it was a good experience".

Dr. Okafor, who went home with some prizes, expressed gratitude to the University, her family, friends and well-wishers, who stood by her all through her stay in the school. She called on the upcoming Dental Surgeons to take their studies seriously and know why they are in the Dental school and do their best. "I had a lot of medical friends and it really took me time to adjust, so when we shifted to the dental school, it took quite some time to adjust,



Dr. Obiajuwa, RGS

Dr. Okafor

Dr. Oghoribo

Dr. Olobua

but I was glad because as time went on, I picked up and had to read so that I could pass and I am glad I did".

Dr. Chiduba Oghoribo, a Medical Student disclosed that Medical School has been tough and challenging, recalling that he came into school through the Basic programme. "We were over 1,000, but only 101 of us made it to the Medical School. The most difficult year in Medical School was in Year Four, it was very difficult, especially Pharmacology, which made me loose one year, but I am grateful to God, because I am a Doctor today. I want to also thank my Lecturers, who taught us and gave us all the training we needed

to succeed; we pledged with them to always keep up the good work."

In his contribution, another Medical Doctor, Dr. Anthony Olobua disclosed that to the best of his knowledge, the memory has not been very easy, stating that, "this was because, I had a dual understanding of Medical School. I came into the University primarily for B.Sc (Bachelor of Science) Anatomy in 2004, did Basic and gained Admission into Anatomy. Along the line, I made a Second Class (Upper Division), so I switched over to Medicine and Surgery and did my MBBS Examinations".

He explained that B.Sc. Anatomy is nothing to compare with what he saw in MBBS. "In Anatomy, we were focused on scoring 2nd, because we needed to switch over to Medicine and Surgery, so we were reading to pass. We were more interested in making good grades than knowing what the course was all about. The experience in Anatomy was a bit mild, but in MBBS, it was not easy, although we had wonderful Lecturers and well-wishers, who kept on encouraging us, especially when we needed their shoulders to rest on. They picked us up when we fell and gave us hope to rise up again, we are indeed grateful to them."

NIMI BRIGGS AT 70

The University Community is hereby invited to a Lecture and launching of the Book Nimi Briggs At 70: Selected Writings and Address (2006-2013) to mark the 70th Birthday of Emeritus Professor Nimi Dinkpa Briggs, OON. The event would be held under the distinguished Chairmanship of Emeritus Professor Tekena Tamuno, CON.

The Lecture will hold on Saturday, 1st March, 2014 at 10:00am at the Ebitimi Auditorium, University Park.

Contact: Professor John Ikimalo and Dr Ngugi Odu.

Pension Commission Mounts Campaign On CPS

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As part of efforts aimed at sensitizing personnel of Federal Government organizations within the South-South zone on the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS), staff of the National Pension Commission (NPC) mounted an enlightenment campaign in the University last Thursday.

Speaking at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, which served as venue of the event, Pension Officer, Mrs Ifeoma Ibe, said the campaign was aimed at clarifying issues affecting staff pension and retirement benefits. "We addressed issues affecting retirees in the CPS between July 2004 and June 2007, programme withdrawal and Annuity Plan, growth in pensions contributions, double registration of Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs) by employees and unfunding of retirement savings account of employees", she noted.

Head of Benefits Insurance Department, Abuja, Mr Tunde Phillips, who described the CPS as

mandatory for employees of Federal Government parastatals and private organizations with five or more employees, said that the contributions are remitted into portable individual Retirement Savings Account (RSA). He stressed the advantages of voluntary individual contributions to the pension fund, withdrawal of benefits on retirement, growth in retiree fund and role of PFAs.

Also speaking, Head, Contributions Remittance Department, Tiji Alifu, regretted limited public awareness on the workings of the new CPS. "Issues such as multiple registration of Pension Fund Administrators and challenges of multiple Retirement Savings Accounts pose difficulty to retirees claiming their benefits on retirement", he pointed out, emphasizing the roles of individuals and organizations in aiding the NPC compute accurate data that would facilitate the process of paying retirees.

Head of South-South zonal office of the National Pension Commission, Calabar, Mr Kehinde Awotunde was also present at the event.



L-R: Messrs Awotunde, Phillips, Alifu and Polycarp Anyanwu

UniPort Serves As Event Partner On Int'l Confab

The University of Port Harcourt has been named an event partner for an international conference on Bounds of Ethics in a Globalized World which held in Bangalore, India, from 6th to 9th January, 2014. The international conference which attracted participants from thirty seven countries of the world had a large delegation from UniPort, as well as a good degree of participation by those who attended the conference from the University.

Leader of the UniPort delegation, Dr. Jelia Fiamon of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, presented a paper titled: *Moral Re-engineering a Pivot for National Development: the case of Nigeria*. Others in attendance included: Professor Christopher Ejike (Chairman ICPC), Mrs Flora Iyagba (Secretary (ICPC), Professor Boniface Nwige, Dr Enock Osumajuru and Dr Caroline Mboya. Papers were also presented by other members of the UniPort delegation.

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UniPort Produces First Nigerian -Trained Nuclear Engineers



Prof Kuye

Cont'd from p1

Breaking the cheering news in *UniPort Weekly*, last Monday, Director of the Centre for Nuclear Studies, Professor Ayodele Kuye, said that the historic feat was sequel to the approval by Senate of the University at its 395th Meeting held on the 29th January, 2014, stressing that results of the remaining seven Engineers would be approved at the next Senate meeting. He said that the programme was carried out in collaboration with the University of Maiduguri, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife-Ife, and the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria with sponsorship from the National Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC).

The collaborating universities, the Director disclosed came together to develop a curriculum for Nuclear Science and Engineering at the Master's Degree level, after which they were mandated to run the programme by NAEC, pointing out that as at today, only the University of Port Harcourt has been able to admit and

graduate students in Nuclear Engineering.

The Director stated that the programme which was designed to last for 15 months had the students spending a month on registration in the University, after which they proceeded to the Research Centre provided by NAEC in Sheda, Abuja for six months and thereafter returned to do courses related to the programme and their projects. He said that the resource persons which came from all over the world were drawn from the 3 collaborating universities, NAEC and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Professor Kuye stated that the welcome development was imperative in the transformation agenda of President Goodluck Jonathan's administration, noting that the attempt by the Federal Government to diversify the energy sector of which Nuclear Energy is paramount, will be given a major boost by the input of the newly-trained Nuclear Engineers.

"This will go a long way to improve the country's energy needs as the training of the required manpower in Nuclear Engineering would add impetus in the drive for uninterrupted electricity supply in the country," he stated.

The Director also disclosed that the Centre was already working out a Doctoral degree programme at the Departmental level as part of efforts to spread the benefits of the new programme in Nuclear Engineering. "Now that we have the Bachelor of Engineering programme approved by the Senate of the University, we are moving forward to the Doctoral level. To do this, I have already started talking to some universities abroad on possible areas of collaboration," he stated.

On the quality of the Nuclear Engineers, Professor Kuye said that "the beauty of the programme is that the facilities for the project were locally based; it is, however, gladdening to note that out of the 6 projects, we have 3

published in internationally reputed journals, 2 others are awaiting publication too. If they are good for such publications, it means that the quality of graduates is also high."

STOP PRESS

ODU JOINS NIM COUNCIL

Director of the University Advancement Centre (UAC) now University of Port Harcourt Foundation (UPHF), Dr Nguzi Odu has been co-opted into the Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM). She has been nominated to serve as a member of Council for a period of two years, 2013-2015. In a letter sent to *UniPort Weekly* stating that in line with the NIM Vision which is to be the source and symbol of management excellence, the Institute has been re-positioned to be a veritable change agent in Nigeria's strategic transformation within its mandate in the establishment Act No 14 of September, 2003. This process demand constituting a team of visionary, competent, focused and goal-driven people. The Council has also been re-positioned for this role.

EMMANUEL EGBOGAH AUDITORIUM

This is to inform the University Community that the Emerald Energy Institute now has a comfortable Auditorium called the *Emmanuel Egbogah Auditorium*. It has a capacity to accommodate about one hundred and twenty persons for any social gathering or academic ceremonies. For more inquiries contact staff of the Institute Giftor Ledanu



Emmanuel Egbogah Auditorium

UniPort Opens Pre-Qualification Tenders

By Humphrey Ogu

Following the invitation of pre-qualification published in national dailies and the *Federal Tenders' Journal (FTJ)*, and as way of ensuring transparency in the bidding process for various categories of contracts, the University of Port Harcourt opened biddings from prospective contractors for diverse projects, last Monday.

The bidding process, which took place at the Senate Chambers, had scores of prospective contractors in attendance, with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, some Principal Officers and senior staff of the University as well as representative of TETfund and some professional bodies in attendance.

Some of the bids considered include Procurement of 2831No. of Various Titles of Text Books, ICT Infrastructure and Equipment Networking with Wireless, Procurement of 60 Units of 6-Seater each and 248 Armless Chairs Library Reading Carrels,

Construction of Academic Staff Offices for Faculty of Law, Construction of Academic Staff Offices for Dame Patience Jonathan Centre, Construction of Faculty of Education Building, Phase II, amongst others.

Addressing the Contractors before the Department of Physical Planning and Development (DPPD) opened the bidding process, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka urged them to ensure that due process was followed in the exercise, inviting them to consider themselves as stakeholders in the affairs of the University.

"This phase is simply to identify your papers before turning them over to our Consultants to sort out those Contractors that meet the minimum requirements for qualification to execute the various projects. Our expectation is that those Contractors, who are successful in the bidding process, would endeavour to do quality jobs within the stipulated timelines for such job schedules to qualify you to bid successfully next time," the Vice-Chancellor said.



DPPD staff opening tenders

STUDENT UNION HOLDS ELECTION FRIDAY

The Student Union holds its elections into its Executive on Friday, February 28, 2014. An Election Timetable signed by Chairman of the Electoral Commission, Jonah Adokiye; Secretary, Ngeribo Godkwa and Adele Alex, stated that Security Screening would take place on Monday, February 24, 2014, while Orientation for aspirants and students and publication of names of qualified candidates are billed for Tuesday February 25, 2014 and Wednesday, February 26, 2014, respectively. The Timetable further stated that Manifesto Night and Elections proper are scheduled for Thursday, February 27 and Friday, February 28, 2014, respectively.

Theatre, Fine Arts, Win Dean's Cup



Dr-C (Admin) Prof Ndimele in a group photograph with Dean, Humanities, Prof Ndimele, HoD, English Studies, Prof Nkem Okoh, Prof Marshall Escenjanor and FAD and LCS team

In a bid to promote the spirit of sportsmanship amongst students of the Faculty of Humanities, as well as enhance their physical development, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has commended the Students for their commitment to excellence in academics and sporting activities. The Vice-Chancellor, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, made the commendation, during the Grand Finale of the Dean's cup competition held at the University Sports Complex, penultimate Wednesday. "It has been a very exciting afternoon and the University feels very proud to be associated with this event coming from our Faculty of Humanities," the Vice-Chancellor's representative said. He expressed optimism that other Faculties in the University would key into such innovative ideas to keep the students positively busy at all times. Professor Ajienka called on government at all levels to fashion out deliberate policies to promote sports in various institutions to identify and encourage young talents. He further congratulated the Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimele and Lecturers of the various Departments for putting up a wonderful tournament to encourage the spirit of sportsmanship among the students, appealing to those who won prizes to keep it up, while advising Departments that did not win anything this time to work hard.

Commending the students, Registrar of the University, Mrs Matilda Nnodin, revealed that she was a product of the Faculty of Humanities from the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies. "I am very happy and I want to express my joy and gratitude to those of you who opted to have sound mind in sound bodies by participating in this very laudable event. I congratulate you and urge other Faculties to borrow a leaf from the Faculty of Humanities. You have been pace-setters and I hope you would prove yourself to be the champion that will record great exploits for this University," she stressed, adding that she was also very happy when she saw one of the girls from the team that lost weeping; what happens is that when you fail an examination, you try again.

"I love the spirit of sportsmanship you all put up today, I know you have your studies to face, for the sacrifice and time you spent, you made the event successful, I know you would all pass in flying colours, because I know you have rested your minds and you are now well prepared to absorb academics, which is your primary reason for coming to the University," the Registrar said, urging them to keep the flag flying.

Expressing satisfaction with the success of the event, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Ndimele, disclosed that he was glad that the two-week long tournament finally came to an end. He commended Management of the University, sponsors of the event, staff and students for finding out time to ensure that the event was successful. "We want to thank the sponsors of the various awards and say bravo to the winners of the day and to the losers, we say try again next year."

By Mercy Adeniji

Professor Ndimele, recalled that in a bid to encourage the true spirit of sportsmanship amongst the students, the Faculty decided to put up sports as part of students academic work, promising that by next year, more sporting activities would be added to the sports meet to encourage others who can do other sporting activities to participate.

Chairman of the event, A Lecturer in the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Mr Charles Mene, said the event was put up because a sound body must always live in a sound mind and

sport is what the Faculty is one of the ways of promoting bath. "We want to encourage the students to continue soaring high, so that if there is the Vice-Chancellor's cup, we want the Faculty of Humanities to be at the top. We also put up the event to promote unity amongst our students, just like the Olympics that promotes peace amongst countries of the World, we titled ours as *FHES4 Olympics 2014* and this event has brought about unity amongst the students. Last year, the Faculty also organised the first Dean's cup competition and it was wonderful."

Highlight of the event was a football match by students of the Department of Fine Arts and Design versus Linguistics and Communication Studies, as Fine Art emerged best in the female category with three goals to nothing. While Department of Theatre Arts emerged Champions of the 2014 Dean's Cup Sports Meet, Other Activities included track and field in which the Department of English Studies emerged winners in the 100, 200 and 1500 metres race in the female category. English Studies also won the 100 and 200 metre race in the male category, while Department of Theatre Arts won the relay for the 1500 metres in the male category. Other awards presented were for Best Valuable Goal Keeper, Best Goal Keeper, Most Well-Behaved Team, Fastest Runner, Best Sport Commentator and Highest Goal scorer, respectively.

V-C Reiterates Importance Of Partnering Professional Bodies

By Obinna Nwodin

Authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have reiterated the importance attached to partnerships with professional bodies and the industry.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, made the assertion, when he received a delegation from the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN) led by its President, in his office, last Monday.

Professor Ajienka said that this was necessary because it enabled the Institution assess the quality of its output through the feedback received from the partnering professional organizations and institutions.

The Vice-Chancellor, who said that the University had valuable experience in working with professional bodies, commended ANAN for its efforts in improving the accounting profession. He disclosed that the University employed qualified accountants registered with the two accounting regulating bodies in Nigeria working harmoniously to give value to the system, adding that the Department of Accounting in the University has qualified academic staff that are well-equipped to trained competent accountants.

Earlier in his Address, President of ANAN, Alhaji Sakirudeen Labode, disclosed that the body which was established in 1979 has done a lot in the improvement of the quality of accountants in Nigeria. He said that ANAN started out by establishing the Nigeria College of Accountancy with qualifications of Bachelors

degree or Higher National Diploma in Accounting as entry qualification, pointing out that with the level of intellectual content derived from the programme, the trainees were able to contribute to the growth of the corporate world, serving at diverse managerial levels of the economy.

Alhaji Labode said that both ANAN and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) complement each other in ensuring efficiency in the practice of accounting, noting that at present members do not only serve in the public sector, but also the private sector. He commended authorities of the University for their support to the Association, hoping that other professional bodies would continue to collaborate for the mutual benefits of their organizations and the larger society. The ANAN President disclosed that the body will donate accounting books for the Library, as well as an Accounting Laboratory for the training of students of the University.



V-C, Prof Ajienka handing over some UniPort publications to ANAN President, Alhaji Labode

Plans to establish a multidisciplinary Institute of Natural Medicine

(INM) in the University of Port Harcourt have reached advanced stages. When fully operational, the proposed Institute on Natural Medicine is expected to undertake research and train requisite manpower in natural medicine to tackle some of the diseases that currently defy orthodox clinical procedures.

This was the outcome of a presentation by the Committee set up to explore the possibility of setting up such an Institute at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room, Senate Building, last Thursday.

Presenting the Report, Chairman of the Committee, Professor Iainobong Udoimen of the Department of Philosophy, described the idea of establishing the proposed Institute as a very innovative and forward-looking one, noting that Universities in America, Malaysia, China and even back home in Nigeria, have since been reaping the boundless benefits of such Institutes that investigate and harness the potentials of natural plants and associated properties for the benefit of mankind, especially with breath-taking advances in biotechnology.

"The establishment of the Institute is critical to the success of the collaboration between the University and PAXIERIALS Clinic and Research Laboratories, Ewu, Edo State," Udoimen, who is also Chairman of the University's Local Accreditation Committee said, hoping that Senate of the University would favourably consider the possibility of establishing such an important Institute to empower the collaborating Centres to commence quality research.

Parts of the terms of reference of the Committee were to determine the benefits of a collaboration with PAXIERIALS Clinic and Research Laboratories located in Ewu, Edo State, and to determine the roles expected of both partners, as well as determine the nature

C'ttee On Natural Medicine Institute Turns In Report



V-C, Prof. Ajienka (centre) and members of the Committee

By Humphrey Ogu

and form of the certificate(s) to be issued to graduates of the proposed Institute.

Responding, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, thanked members of the Committee for their commitment to the job, noting that the proposal for the establishment of the institute would be presented to Senate of the University for consideration and possible approval at its next sitting.

The Vice-Chancellor, who stressed the need for the University to set up a self-sustaining multidisciplinary Institute, said certificate programmes would be handled by the University's College of Continuing Education (CCE), while the graduate programme would be managed by the College of Graduate Studies (CGS), following Senate consideration and adoption of the Report.

He noted that when established, the Institute would be opened to further collaborations with other industries and academic institutions to widen its scope of activities. "I am looking forward to a time when every professor in

the University would be carrying out quality research with graduate students and attracting grants to mount research programmes," adding that "such active research endeavours would be documented by the University for academic and commercial purposes."

Also speaking, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Professor Ethelbert Ndaka, commended members of the Committee for doing a thorough job, expressing hope that "the proposed Institute would be a milestone achievement in the University, especially as there is currently no such Institutes amongst Universities in the Niger Delta."

Other members of the Committee include the Dean, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor Okeke Udeala; Director, Centre for Phytomedicine and Malaria Research, Professor Onyiah Ebong; Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Professor Ben Ndulue; Professor Kio Abo of the Department of Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy; Professor Florence Ndaka of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology and the Secretary, Mrs Caroline Iru.

ODEL Takes Sensitization Campaign To CNAS



Director, ODEL, Prof. Dike (arrowed) Provost CNAS, Prof. Frank-Peterside (flanked to his left) and other participants at the event

By Obinna Nwodin

As part of efforts aimed at sensitizing stakeholders on the Open and Distance Learning Programme in the University, the Centre has taken its campaign to the College of Natural and Applied Sciences (CNAS). The sensitization programme was to enlighten stakeholders on the requirements for adopting the Nigeria Virtual University (AVU) 12 Modules in Mathematics; 15

Modules in Physics; 12 Modules in Chemistry; 7 Modules in Biology; 4 Modules in ICT Basic Skills; 4 Modules in ICT Integration in Science subjects as alternative e-learning resources materials to enhance teaching and learning.

Addressing participants at the common room of the College penultimate Thursday, Director of the Centre, Professor Hyacinth Dike, who spoke on the Implication of UniPort's Platinum Membership of Africa Virtual

University (AVU), explained the modalities adopted to ensure that the Institution participated effectively in the programme, stressing the need to extend quality education to different Nigerians, irrespective of territorial constraints, resulted in the establishment of the ODEL Centre by the University, adding that the activities of the Centre had a two-pronged approach: the College of Continuing Education programme and the AVU Modules for Education Science.

Professor Dike disclosed that in 2012, UniPort became a Platinum Member of AVU, which entitled the Institution to a development laboratory; a delivery laboratory, data centre and administrative offices. He also stated that the University participated in the AVU Capacity Enhancement (ACEP) Workshop, a train-the-trainer workshop to enhance adoption, stressing that the Workshop highlighted Open Educational Resources (OER), Creative Commons that is replacing copyright laws; Massive Open Online Course; Shareable Content Open Resource Model and Mapping Educational Specialist Know-how.

In his speech, Provost of the College, Professor Naama Frank-Peterside, who thanked the Centre for its effort in enlightening the stakeholders on the implementation of the programme in the College, expressed the readiness of the participants to key into the programme.

The event which was interactive attracted all levels of academic staff in the College.

As a reward for performing brilliantly on a project titled: System Calculator, Joseph Ameh, a fourth year student of the Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Physical Sciences and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, has emerged best IT student for 2013/14 year.

Receiving a brand new HP Pavilion Laptop from the Management of Integral Computing and Research Centre, Choba, where he had a six-month Industrial Training under the platform of the Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES), Ameh said the award would spur him to greatness in his chosen career-Computer Science and Information Technology.

Managing Director of the company, Mr. Egebe Ita, said that the company which provides Industrial Training opportunities for students in programming and software development named Ameh the best IT student for 2013, following an excellent project presentation he made as a trainee. "We decided to reward him because he

UniPort Computer Science Student Carts Away Best IT Award

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

distinguished himself as the best among others," he added.

Director of the SIWES Unit, Professor Regina Ogburn, commended the student for not disappointing the University during his internship in the company, stressing the need for students to remain good ambassadors of the University at all times and in all places and circumstances.

Representative of the Head, Department of Computer Science, Peter Iwoforika, thanked the student for bringing pride and honour to the Department, adding that Lecturers find fulfillment and motivation to give their best when students excel in their career pursuit.



Ameh receiving a laptop from SIWES Director, Prof. Ogburn, while Staff of Integral Computing and Research Centre look on

Maxwell Gives Recipe For Grooming Geniuses



Prof Maxwell flanked by his former pupils (R-L) RSUST V-C, Prof Fakae, Barr Okocha, V-C, Prof Ajekina and Barr Wali

Cont'd from p1

"We have to look for real, not superstitious causes to explain genius...All humans at conception are potential geniuses in some domains," Professor Maxwell submitted, calling family love and mother-father mentoring as a good strategy to cultivate geniuses. In his remarks, Chairman of the occasion, Onase Okocha, observed that "it is intriguing to know that thinking has become a specialised discipline that could boast of professors," noting that Nigeria would be a

better place if its citizens take thinking seriously. Okocha, who is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria and former President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), expressed satisfaction with the lecture, recalling his experience as a student of Government Comprehensive Secondary School, (GCSN) Barokoli, where he was privileged to have been taught by Professor Maxwell over four decades ago. In his speech, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajekina, who is also an alumnus of GCSN, Barokoli, recounted his experience under the tutelage of Professor Maxwell about 43 years ago, attributing his career success and the achievements of his fellow old boys to

their encounter with Professor Maxwell early in life. "We are happy that we were taught by Dr Maxwell as he was then known. He encouraged me to participate in the debating society. It is amazing that one could become a professor of thinking. Thinking makes a man," he remarked.

"We, his former students will contribute to a Professor Maxwell Chair in Early Child Education. I wish to commend Professor Maxwell for accepting to return to Port Harcourt and allow our paths to cross once

more and for his willingness to contribute towards the establishment of a Chair in Thinking," the Vice-Chancellor said, lauding Professor Clifford Oforun of the Department of Accounting for facilitating the coming of Professor Maxwell to the University. Other former students of GCSN, who recounted their experiences while studying under the renowned Professor of Thinking, included Vice-Chancellor, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Professor Barinome Fakae and current President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Okere Wali (SAN), both of who spoke highly of their erstwhile teacher, stressed the importance of including thinking in the curriculum of Nigerian schools and universities as a means of charting a direction for the country.

Absurdity Chasing Greater Absurdity

The winter games taking place in Sochi, Russia, took off with great spectacle. But the breathtaking opening ceremony did not totally hide the controversy that preceded the games. Russia elicited the anger of many so-called civilised nations and athletes because it had passed a law showing zero tolerance for homosexuality and same sex marriage, and warning those who would come to Sochi to parade their lesbian/homosexual credentials to stay away. People's sexual orientation was once a private matter. Now, denoting the toga of human rights and individual freedom, it has come of age in international relations. Here, as in many areas of our knowledge, willful ignorance is ruling.

Anchoring the issue on the concept of human rights and individual freedom confers on it a certain degree of sanctity and respectability. For this reason few want to be seen on the wrong side. But in so anchoring the issue, we make the more fundamental questions. One is not aware that its proponents have shown just what is human about homosexuality or that rights are at stake. There is absolutely nothing human, in the true sense of that word, about homosexuality or lesbianism. This being the case, it may be better to speak of licence and indulgence instead of right or freedom. We have tended to assume that any and everything for which there is a demand is good by definition, and that those who demand it have a right to do so. By the same token, we have assumed away much that defines the human being, beyond the physical appearance. And to be sure, we have been woolly in our thoughts about the interface between rights and obligations. One should believe that our obligation to ensure the survival of the human race and to keep the natural balance without which all of us are doomed, over-rides our right to indulge our fancies.

If we bother to properly understand what or who the human being is, the matter becomes clearer. One area in which I think creationists and evolutionists would agree is that the human being as such comes in only two genders: male and female. They would also agree that the human being is very different from the animal, never mind they will disagree on the basis of that difference. None would disagree that the human being is superior to the animal.

Despite these areas of agreement, we cannot say that either party understands the true essence of the human being, and therefore the differences between the female and the male. We trivialise these

differences by limiting them to the obvious physiological and psychological elements. The fundamental fact is that the human being is essentially spiritual. Thus relations between them must be anchored on the law of balance, which law is evident everywhere in nature. Until we accept this we will continue to err. We have made a virtue of not seriously considering the human being as essentially spiritual because it sits uncomfortably with what we would rather do. Our natural science and social sciences have long believed that we should not accept this fact because the locus of our inquiry is the material world. But this ontological position is grossly misleading and it seems to be the basis of our abysmal failure in matters of the family, economics and politics.

The female or the male gender is each only a part of the human species. As such, each plays a complementary (neither superior nor inferior) role to the other, to the

mutual benefit of both. As past species, they are subject to the law by which opposites attract: the male is naturally attracted to the female, and vice versa. By this law past species strive to become whole. So any question of a man "marrying" another man is a travesty of nature.

The movement in support of same sex marriage would not be so bad if only it were an offence against morality. But the matter is more serious than that; it actually points to some developmental deformity. It is the product of overworked imagination and is not supported by anything in Nature. Not even the animals, which are supposedly inferior to the human being have descended that low. As if things were not bad enough, those who have won the right (7) for same sex marriage now seek to be allowed to adopt children. Absurdity is indeed chasing greater absurdity!

Some will argue that this bizarre form of behaviour has long existed in different societies, which may well be true. But this is an ad hoc defence. Falsehood does not become truth simply because it has long been held. Nor are the proponents of that behaviour helped by the increasing numbers of people who think it should be an acceptable practice. Few among us would accept that the sun rises in the West and sets in the North simply because millions of people believe it to be so. Majorities may have their place in matters of opinion, but facts and the truth stand inviolable even if and when democratic arithmetic does not support them. Unfortunately, we live in an age in which just democratic arithmetic has taken hold and must be uncritically deployed in support of the desire for acceptability, influence and power.

Nothing said here should mean that governments should visit the death penalty or other forms of persecution on homosexuals or lesbians. Two wrongs do not make a right. Lesbian and homosexuals should be protected by the state to the same degree it does normal people. Those who are afflicted with that particular malformation cast themselves in the mould of martyrs when they face persecution and, for that reason, earn undeserved sympathy. They and society generally could benefit from banishing the issue from the public space as well as following up with teaching of the physical and spiritual consequences of that practice. In this matter, the work is clearly cut out for philosophers and theologians. But whether they in turn understand the real issues is another matter altogether.



Prof Ekeke

GUIDEPOST

PROMOTION

Dr Chima Onyiah, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2013.

Dr C. A. Gbanador, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr H.G. Wirls, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2013.

Dr E. Okenini, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2013.

Dr Alfredi Wurlu, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2013.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Dr Sinyesofori Brown, Department of Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 28th January, 2013 to 27th January, 2015.

Mr Tams Kio, Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 23rd January, 2013 to 22nd January, 2015.

Mr Charles Mezie-Okoye, Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 2nd June, 2014 to 1st June, 2015.

RESUMPTION FROM SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Victor Wukwe, Department of Chemical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, resumed duty after an extended Sabbatical Leave.

Dr Rahotunde Nuga, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, resumed duty after a one year Sabbatical Leave.

Dr Peter Edem, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of Humanities, resumed duty after a one year Sabbatical Leave.

STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY

Mrs Ewe Asagun, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted a Four-year Study Leave with Pay to enable her pursue a professional Doctorate Degree in Global Public Health at the Monash University, Malaysia.

Mrs Linda Famulid, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a two-year Study Leave with Pay to enable her utilize a scholarship Award through the INTRA-ACP (SHARE) Scheme to undertake Master of Science Programme in Agricultural Economics at Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique.

CHANGE OF NAME

Mrs Ihuoma Gloria Olorunsola, Former Miss Ihuoma Gloria Oji of the Examination and Records Unit now wishes to be known and addressed as *Mrs Ihuoma Gloria Olorunsola*. All documents bearing her former name remain valid.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT
WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23-SATURDAY, MARCH 01, 2014

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI (°C)	TEMPERATURE LO (°C)	HUMIDITY Y (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (GMT)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 09 FEB. 2014	34.0	26.0	63	E	7.6	6:45 - 6:45	Thunder storms expected early in the day. More sun than clouds. Hot day expected.
MONDAY 10/FEB. 2014	35.0	26.0	64	E	6.8	6:45 - 6:45	Widely scattered thunder storms expected. More cloud than sun expected.
TUESDAY 11/FEB. 2014	36.0	25.0	61	NE	2.2	6:45 - 6:45	Thunder storms expected late in the day. More sun than clouds expected. Hot day anticipated.
WEDNESDAY 12/FEB. 2014	35.0	25.0	62	E	-	6:44 - 6:45	More sun than clouds forecasted. Warm day expected.
THURSDAY 13/FEB. 2014	35.0	26.0	64	E	5.8	6:44 - 6:45	Thunder storms expected late in the day. More sun than clouds. Day anticipated being mostly warm.
FRIDAY 14/FEB. 2014	35.0	25.0	65	NE	3.2	6:44 - 6:45	Thunder storms expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
SATURDAY 15, FEB. 2014	35.0	25.0	64	NE	3.8	6:44 - 6:45	Thunder storms expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.

SANDRA MWABUPO
OFFICER IN CHARGE

PROF SAMUEL AKOROYU
DIRECTOR, (ICDRMS)

Astronauts Demystify Big Bang Theory

Cont'd from last edition

After the Big Bang from the gases hydrogen and helium. Gas is the raw material used to form stars. These giant clouds of gas and dust contract and eventually the gas is so compact that the pressure heats the matter so that glowing gas balls are formed, new stars are born. The stars are collected in galaxies, the first of which are a kind of baby galaxies. As long as there is gas in the galaxy, new stars are being formed. Also, a new map developed by astronomers charts the size, composition, and location of more than

100,000 asteroids throughout the solar system, and shows that rogue asteroids are actually more common than previously thought. Particularly in the solar system's main asteroid belt-between Mars and Jupiter-the researchers found a compositionally diverse mix of asteroids. The map was published in *Nature*.

To get an idea of how the early solar system may have formed, scientists often look to asteroids. These relics of rock and dust represent what today's planets may have been before they differentiated into bodies of core, mantle and crust.

In the 1980s, scientists' view of the solar system's asteroids was essentially static: Asteroids that formed near the sun remained the same; those that formed further out stayed on the outskirts. But in the last decade, astronomers have detected asteroids with compositions unexpected for their locations in space. These that looked like they formed in warmer environments were found further out in the solar system, and vice versa. Scientists considered these objects to be anomalous "rogue" asteroids.

But now, a new map developed by researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Paris Observatory charts the size, composition, and location of more than 100,000 asteroids throughout the solar system, and shows that rogue asteroids are actually more common than previously thought. Particularly in the solar system's main asteroid belt-between Mars and Jupiter-the researchers found a compositionally diverse mix of asteroids.

The new asteroid map suggests that the early solar system may have undergone dramatic changes before the planets assumed their current alignment. For instance, Jupiter may have drifted closer to the sun, dragging with it a host of asteroids that originally formed in the colder edges of the solar system, before moving back out to its current position. Jupiter's migration may have simultaneously knocked around more close-in asteroids, scattering them outward.

"It's like Jupiter bowled a strike through the asteroid belt" says Francesca DeMeo, who did much of the mapping as a postdoctoral fellow in MIT's Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences. "Everything that was there moves, so you have this melting pot of material coming from all over the solar system". DeMeo says the new map will help theories flesh out such theories of how the solar system She and Benoit Carry

evolved early in its history. The Paris Observatory have published details of the map in *Nature*.

To create a comprehensive asteroid map, the researchers first analyzed data from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, which uses a large telescope in New Mexico to take in spectral images of hundreds of thousands of galaxies. Included in the survey is data from more than 100,000 asteroids in the solar system. DeMeo grouped these asteroids by size, location, and composition. She defined this last category by asteroids' origin-whether in a warmer or colder environment - a characteristic that can be determined by whether an asteroid's surface is more reflective at redder or bluer wavelengths.

To be concluded next week

SERVICOM CORNER

SERVICOM Unit was inaugurated on the 18th of September 2013.

APPROVAL OF SERVICOM CHARTER IN UNIPORT

The SERVICOM Charter was produced by the SERVICOM Unit of the University and approved by the University Senate on 29th January, 2014.

ABOUT US

Prompt and quality service delivery is vital for the survival and sustenance of any business organization/institution. This is what SERVICOM is all about.

SERVICOM, in a broad perspective implies Service Compact with all Nigerians. SERVICOM was infused into Nigerian Service Delivery System due to perceived decline in service delivery. Certain observations were made which led to the introduction of SERVICOM in Nigeria. These include:

- Bribery and Corruption
- Inefficiency
- Dereliction of duty
- Discipline and decency in the civil service has been crippled.

Watch out for more details about SERVICOM!!

3rd Founders' Day Lecture

The 3rd Founders' Day Lecture of the University was held on Thursday, 6th February, 2014 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. The Lecture which was titled: *The Role of SWFs as a Tool for Economic Development*, was delivered by the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority, Mr Uche Orji. Pictures below show highlights of the events as captured by our Cameraman **HEADMANALU**.



Guest Speakers, Mr Uche Orji, Governing Council Member, Dr Nelson Okonji, V-C, Prof Joseph Ajinkya and Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs (Cutting the exhibition tape)



University Curator, Dr Bridget Nwance explaining the exhibition to V-C, Professor Ajinkya and other guests



A cross-section of guests at the high table stand for UniPort and Nigerian National Anthems



Mr Orji and his mother, Madam Orji, acknowledging their recognition



Director, UniPort Foundation, Dr Ngaji Odu, reading a citation on Mr Orji



Mr Orji delivering the Lecture



V-E, Dean, Education, Prof Ebi Rita Isenuta-Ejorh, Present, College of Health Sciences, Prof Chris Akani, Prof Nwanneke Ukaigwe and Prof Blessing Dibia



A cross-section of guests at the Lecture



Some students of the UniPort Concert Chorus



Dr C.RLD, Prof Bene Willie Abbey presenting a plaque to Mr Orji



Dr Odu decorating Madam Orji with University muffer



Emeritus Professor Briggs making his closing remarks



Prof Mark Awikpo chairing a Master Class on Sustainable Development after the Lecture