



Anosike Endows Professorial Chair in Biochemistry

Former Biochemist and former Deputy Vice-Chancellor in the University of Port Harcourt, Emeritus Professor Emmanuel Anosike has endowed a Professorial Chair in Biochemistry Research. *reports Obinna Nwodin.* *More on pg 3*

Side Bar

ASUU UniPort returns Prof Anthonia Okerengwo as Chairman. *Details Next week*

-Editor



UniPort Weekly

Vol. 18, No. 6

April 21 - April 28, 2014

ISSN: 1796-1805

For Information and Enlightenment

A Publication of the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

By Obinna Nwodin

Authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have expressed willingness to partner the Department for International Development (DFID) in the area of conflict resolution.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, made the assertion when he received a delegation from the Agency on a Courtesy Visit in his office, last Tuesday.

Professor Ajenka said that "the University is ready to partner your Agency, particularly in the areas of early warning signals and response system in conflict." According to him, the Institution has always had a focus on this area given to peculiar nature of the environment. "The Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies in the University of Port Harcourt is one of the oldest in the country. When it was established, the situation in the Niger Delta had not degenerated to the level that we currently find it now, he stated" adding that "with the calibre of staff in the Faculty of Social Sciences and College of Engineering, we should be able to contribute to the sustainable development and conflict resolution in our environment."

In his address leader of the delegation and Conflict Adviser, DFID Nigeria, Dan Shelvey, said that the programme is aimed at addressing conflict and looking the

Cont'd on p6

UniPort To Partner DFID ON Conflict Resolution



Again, NASU Empowers Families Of Deceased Colleagues



Story on p3



Education Faculty Unveils New Plan

Story on p4

NIFES Donates Books To UniPort



Story on p5

Music Dept Marks World Voice Day With Concert, Symposium



Story on p6



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

The Benefits Of NLNG Grant On Research

Recently the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Company (NLNG) announced its University Support Programme in which six federal universities would benefit from a N2 billion grant. The benefiting universities are: University of Ibadan; University of Ilorin; University of Port Harcourt; University of Maiduguri; Ahmadu Bello University and University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The grant is expected to be deployed to research and scholarship, particularly in engineering education. We are told that each of the benefiting universities would spend N340 million for the construction of modern engineering laboratories, equipped with cutting-edge equipment. It is also part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of the company and the first of its kind by the company to the tertiary educational system in Nigeria.

This is a welcome development particularly as it comes at a time when the hue and cry of decay of infrastructure in our universities has turned in the sound of a broken record. Few months ago, academic activities in public universities grounded to a halt as a result of the demand by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) to the Federal Government to inject more funds for the improvement of the quality of education in the system.

This gesture by the NLNG is also coming at a time when the Professor Joseph Ajenka-led administration in the University of Port Harcourt is engaged in robust public private partnerships. In the last three and half years, the administration has not spared efforts in bridging the town and gown relationship for mutual benefits, through the signing of various Memoranda of Understanding (MoU). The Vice-Chancellor has always maintained the principle of give and take in such collaborations, which is the fact that the University should not be the only one to receive, but that it should also give back to its partners. This is what it should be. It is heart-



Dr. Kado Ereshe-Eke
GM, External Relations



Prof. Ajenka, VC

By Obinna Nwodin

warming because no university can survive without the support of the private sector, particularly oil and gas companies such as the NLNG. It is instructive that in the long run; this initiative is bound to benefit the oil and gas sector, particularly the NLNG.

As a matter of fact, the need for the private sector to play a formidable role in the infrastructural development of universities cannot be overemphasized. The relationship between the two sectors makes this imperative. It is the quality of graduates produced by these institutions that run the private sector and when the quality is poor, it inevitably affects the overall performance of the sector. It is not that there is no quality manpower to impact the needed knowledge to the students, but

rather the poor facilities for research and conducive learning has been the bane of educational development in Nigeria. It is in this regard that we call on other corporate bodies to emulate the initiative of NLNG. If this continues, there is no doubt that in a few years to come, Nigerian universities would take better position in the world universities rankings than what presently is.

For the University of Port Harcourt, the gesture is most heart-warming. It is worthy of note that engineering is a strong area of competence of the institution, particularly, Petroleum and Gas engineering. The College of Engineering is staffed with adequate manpower for effective teaching and research, but over the years have suffered the lack of research facilities. We cannot wait to see the project commence and the expected manifest.

STUDENT WORLD

I'm Not Studying Soil Science By Mistake ~Ike-Obioha

Jewel Ike-Obioha is a Year Two student in the Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, who hopes to qualify as a Soil Analyst and also distinguish herself in public speaking. She spoke with HUMPHREY OGU on her career choice and other issues

As a student in the Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, one is tempted to expect Jewel Ike-Obioha to limit interest to the boost food production in country, but her dream is not the business of ing, harvesting and

storage of food.

"I want to specialise in Soil Science. With a degree in Soil Science, I can work as a soil analyst anywhere in the world. I should be able to work in oil companies such as Chevron, Shell or building and construction industry," she says, lamenting that Agriculture is a broad field that is underutilised in this part of the world.

"Although I had wanted to study medicine, but I must say that I like to be a very flexible versatile person. I am not the kind of person that would insist on studying Medicine or nothing else. After all, some people study medicine without going into medical practice. I can say, without fear or favour, that I didn't get into Soil Science by mistake," Ike-Obioha discloses.

Despite her inclination towards Soil Science, Ike-Obioha is very passionate about public speaking and intends to be Nigerian Ambassador to the United Nations in future. "In the next ten years, I should be working with the United Nations in one of its rescue missions. I should be flying the flag of the UN as Nigeria's Ambassador to the United Nations," she says.

Ike-Obioha, who participated in the Ghana International Models United Nations

(GIMUN V) General Assembly recently, discloses further that: "Public speaking is my passion. That is why I joined UniPort Debating Club. Passion is something that is inborn," adding that her involvement in her extracurricular activities would also help in positioning her for excellence in Soil Science career.

Ike-Obioha, who prefers living off-campus, says "I prefer using online resources to visiting the University library. I always use my modem to go online and get current materials on soil science and other vital information. Hence, I interlinked my phone with my computer to enable me read on the go."



Ike-Obioha

EDITORIAL BOARD

Prof. Joseph Ajenka	- Publisher	Secretary	Photographer
Prof. Ene Ekeke	- Editorial Chair	Obiora Anet (N/A)	Hasibullah Ali
Austin Sado	- Editorial Advisor	Sadika	Mitchell Ekoyor
Williams Wodi	- Editor	Obinna Nwodin	Chika Kog-Jarawa (N/A)
Obinna Nwodin	- Acting Editor	Correspondents	
Mervin Adeniji		Obiora Anet	
Obiora Anet		Humphrey Ogu	
Humphrey Ogu		Ethel Tim-Johnson	

Call: 08033093371

Cont'd from p1

Anosike Endows Professorial Chair in Biochemistry

This was the outcome of a Trust Deed signed at the Vice-Chancellor's office, last Friday.

Speaking at the event, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienika, who thanked Professor Anosike and his family for the endowment, said that the essence of the research initiative was to have a research team around the Chair Occupant engage in researches that would be of significant value to society. According to him, the initiative of establishing more Professorial Chairs in the University is to enable professors engage research teams working with them to produce results that would be useful to the advancement of society.

"We want to publish and have patents through our research activities. We are just doing this to give it name, the focus is to get in more serious and be able to attract further grants for researches. It is important that our colleagues must understand this," adding that "we need to use the platform to apply for grants, national and international." He advised the Chair Occupant to ensure that the Benefactor must have annual report of activities of the Chair.

In his remark, Professor Anosike who expressed pleasure in the formalization of the process, stated that



V-C, Prof. Ajienika (3' right) Jba Benefactor, Emeritus Prof. Anosike, Prof. Mike Monanu (DV-C Admin), Prof. Ezeabasi Ndoka (3', 2' and 1' left), Prof. Oyejide Aaranta and Mr. Kingsley Wogu (2' and 1' right)

his desire was to see that the venture succeeded.

Also speaking, Chair Occupant, Professor Mike Monanu, who thanked the Benefactor for the

confidence in nominating him for appointment to the Chair said that he would work to justify the confidence reposed him.

Again, NASU Empowers Families Of Deceased Colleagues

In continuation of its special intervention to assist bereaved families of their deceased colleagues, the University of Port Harcourt branch of the Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institution (NASU), has provided the sum of N100,000 each to more ten families, penultimate

By Otiakor Samuel

Friday.

In his remarks, Branch Chairman of NASU, Mr. Benson Young, said the intervention was a way of identifying with the affected families to lessen the

financial burden on them, advising the beneficiaries to invest the token in meaningful small scale business to generate income that could assist them fend for themselves.

Mr. Young, who was recuperating from the severe injuries inflicted on him by unknown gunman at the wee hours of 15th August last year, thanked God for sparing his life from the gruesome attack, promising his Executive Committee's resolve to continue to assist family members of their deceased colleagues.

In their separate speeches, Assistant Secretary, Mr. Kingsway Oyo and Treasurer, Mr. George Nwobueze, recalled that the welfare package for family members of deceased colleagues started in 2011, assuring members of NASU that the present Executive Council would continue to identify with them in times of need. They praised the administration of Mr. Young for being sensitive to the plight of members, expressing their continued support for his administration.

Reacting to the gesture, a beneficiary, Mr. Ordu Nyabuchi, who is also a staff of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), thanked the Union for not only identifying with them during their period of grief, but for also providing them with the token, pledging that his family would judiciously utilize it.



Some NASU Officials and Beneficiaries of the welfare package posed for a group photograph

Gains Of The Chicoco Radio, UniPort Partnership

HUMPHREY OGU writes on the gains of the proposed partnerships between the University and Orla Waterfront-based Chicoco Radio

The recent proposal by Chicoco Radio – a floating radio station built with and for residents of Port Harcourt waterfront communities in Nigeria is a very welcome development, which deserves commendation. The apparent enthusiasm of Chicoco Radio in collaborating with the University on building the capacity of staff at the UniPort Radio (Unique FM), as well as on provision of hands-on experience for students who intend to specialise in broadcasting is very heart-warming, especially now that acquisition of degrees without commensurate practical skills is no longer fashionable.

"Chicoco Radio, an initiative of an international media organisation – Collaborative Media Advocacy Platform (CMAP), is run by highly experienced media professionals, including a former staff of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), London, Ana Bualdo, who is now Director of Audio Programmes at Chicoco Radio.

CMAP, a project of University of Reckhampton, London and a UN-HABITAT partner, collaborates with common people to protect their rights and heritage. Other CMAP project partners include Amnesty International, Cities Alliance, United States Institute for Peace and Kings College London. CMAP also shares skills and technologies to allow communities in the Niger Delta record their

experiences, tell their own stories and change their lives.

Chicoco Radio is excited about developing a partnership with UniPort. This partnership would see encounter and exchange between students and community members," says Director of CMAP, Michael Uwemedimo, adding that students would become actively involved in community development projects, community members would also participate in University programmes.

The Director explains: "These exchanges present significant opportunities for curriculum development,

as well as increasing critical engagement between academic activity and civil society. Chicoco Radio would make available state-of-the-art learning and production facilities and capacity to UniPort. This would lead to the development of a co-production and co-broadcasting agreement with the university."

When fully implemented, the Chicoco Radio-UniPort partnership would be of immense benefit to the University as it would expose students to cutting-edge facilities and media skills that would prepare them for the job market, particularly in this era of globalization and knowledge-based economy. It is therefore imperative that the proposed partnership be translated to a real partnership to enable the target beneficiaries reap its full benefits.



R-L: V-C, Prof. Ajienika, Director of Programmes, Chicoco Radio, Bonaldo and CMAP Director, Uwemedimo

Education Faculty Unveils New Plan

By Mercy Adeniji

Barely two months into his appointment as Dean, Faculty of Education, Professor Lawrence Igwe has started repositioning the Faculty in an effort aimed at sustaining quality service delivery to meet the requirements laid down for the forth-coming accreditation exercise by the National Universities Commission (NUC). Professor Igwe who made the disclosure in an interview with *UniPort Weekly* in his office, last Monday stated that education was going through a transformation phase and the Faculty of Education was working in line to meet up with the global progress in education.

"The Faculty is trying to respond to the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT), in teaching and learning and also respond to student centred approach to issues, because we are trying to leave the traditional ways to follow the modern method of handling things," he disclosed. On the vision of the Faculty, Professor Igwe said the Faculty was working hard to ensure it conforms to the modern method of using ICT for teaching and learning, so the Faculty can be globally relevant. "We have also set up committees to follow this up. We also want to get a collaborative synergy between staff and students and go into collaboration with Professors, Lecturers and new staff so as to get new ideas because we are here for the students. We are getting everyone involved because the older professors need to mentor the students and the younger Lecturers. In the Faculty, we now have suggestion boxes, where people can write and air their view on issues bothering them," he stated. He said the Faculty hoped to look at staff professional continuous development, because things have changed. "Today, we are in the world of ICT; you see that we have the digital native and immigrants. We cannot teach our students in the analogue way anymore, so this administration wants to focus on professional development of teachers so that they can be able to meet up with the demands of the 21st century. We are already doing that because we have our ICT Laboratories and our teachers and students are already beginning to respond to that trend."

"We want to raise the bar of our programmes to put in new courses and train teachers that



Associate Dean
Dr Olele

New Dean, Faculty of Education
Prof Igwe

would take care of our primary and secondary school children. We are also trying to transform our courses and remove obsolete courses and introduce new ones," he said.

Professor Igwe, who was former Director of Academic Planning Unit, said that having served as Director for some years and is very passionate about planning, he would bring his wealth of experience to bear on his new position as Dean, recalling that while in office as Director, all the institutional programmes of the University received accreditation. "So now that I am in the Faculty of Education, that wealth of experience would be brought to bear and the Faculty would benefit immensely, promising that all the Departments to undergo accreditation would receive accreditation."

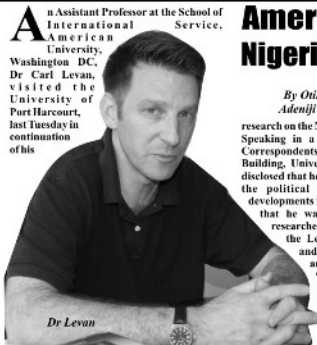
Professor Igwe expressed gratitude to Management for giving him an opportunity to

serve and also for the support given the Faculty over the years, appealing for continued support by providing them with more classrooms, ICT infrastructure and ensure that our offices are connected with internet facilities.

Also speaking, Associate Dean, Dr Clara Olele said that in the Faculty, "we are student-friendly, we want to look at the relationship between us and the students, we are also looking at the environment in which we are learning as the environment is a factor in education and if you expose individuals to the rights environment, they would respond more effectively. So we want to work collectively as a team to create an enabling environment for everyone."

She expressed gratitude to management for giving her the opportunity to serve, promising to put in her best to ensure she works hand-in-hand with the Dean and other staff of the Faculty.

An Assistant Professor at the School of International Service, American University, Washington DC, Dr Carl Levan, visited the University of Port Harcourt, last Tuesday in continuation of his



Dr Levan

American Don Visits UniPort For Nigerian Political System Research

By Otokor Samuel, Mercy Adeniji and Friday Marcus

research on the Nigerian political system.

Speaking in a chat with *UniPort Weekly* Correspondents in the Newsroom, Senate Building, University Park, Dr Levan, who disclosed that he was in Rivers State to study the political system, particularly the developments in the state legislature, stated that he was collaborating with other researchers in Kwara State to study the Legislative system in Nigeria and provincial legislative politics around Africa.

"I am studying the political parties here in Rivers State. I realized that Rivers State will be an important place to study some of the challenges that state level

politics face when it is trying to be independent in the federal system; hence, Rivers is one place where I think Nigeria Federalism is tested. So I am trying to understand the perspective of the situation to gain insight. I am a political scientist and anywhere I go in Nigeria, I like visiting a university," the researcher said, expressing readiness to partner the University in areas bordering on foreign policy and Nigerian international relations.

Dr Levan recalled that a workshop that attracted scholars from within and outside including South Africa, Kenya, Ethiopia was held in Kwara State last January to deliberate and tackle grey areas in African politics. "We had a seminar in January in Kwara State and now we are focused on publishing the book. Maybe after the book, we may want to present the findings and discuss them," he added.

As part of its contribution towards encouraging reading among university students, the National Executive of the Nigeria Fellowship of Evangelical Students (NIFES) has donated 20 cartons of books to the University.

Receiving members of the team, in the Vice-Chancellor's Committee room, last Thursday, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, expressed gratitude to the Author of the books, describing the gesture as very commendable. "We want to thank you for the interest you have shown on how we can work together for the good of the University. We had set up a committee to cut down the number of fellowship centres, which prevented people from studying and with the assistance of that Committee we were able to manage the fellowship fellowship centres", he recalled.

"As a University, we would want to partner with you, as long as our students are willing and committed to this type of change. We hope that with this kind of collaboration with NIFES, our students would benefit from this enlightenment initiative", he said, pointing out that the issue of entrepreneurship was a central focus of his administration. "We are hoping that we can have a student centre where students can engage in activities without distracting others from reading in the classrooms, so we are looking for people who would build us a Student centre", he disclosed.

Leader of the team and National Director, Nigeria Fellowship of Evangelical Students (NIFES), Mr Bala Usman, who said that they were in the University to see how they can partner it, said that the donation was a gesture from the author, Mr Nsa Yakubu, which is aimed at encouraging the habit of motivating students to read wide to add to their knowledge and promote academic excellence and also enrich the University Library. Mr Usman said, "NIFES has a vision of empowering and educating these young students in the Nigeria tertiary institutions to be transformers of their communities beginning from their families and the campuses where they find themselves. We exist in 434 campuses across the nation and we are passionate in bringing young men and women to the knowledge of Christ, so that they can become Christ-like and transformers where ever they find themselves," he disclosed.

NIFES Donates Books To UniPort



V-C, Prof. Ajienka (5th right) flanked by National Director of NIFES, Mr Usman, (right), Rev Paramallam (left), other Senior Officers of UniPort and NIFES

By Mercy Adeniji and Friday Marcus

He noted that the tertiary institution is the centre for idea sharing knowledge exchange and development of human resources for everybody to bring about national transformation. "We believe that the leadership of the institution have their role while we have a moral responsibility to partner you to see that young men and women are made to have the right values that would mean well for every community," he said.

Usman disclosed that the Fellowship believes in pure academic excellence and promotes zero-tolerance on examination malpractice which is a major challenge in our educational system today and they wish to offer our services and contributions to this centre of excellence.

In his contribution, International Fellowship of Evangelical Students English and Portuguese Speaking Africa (IFES ESPA), Reverend Gideon Paramallam, said that IFES ESPA was aimed at encouraging young researchers and connecting them with the older ones to see that they contribute their quota and ideas. We are also committed to transforming the world with kingdom values. We want to partner the University to make the Campus what it is meant to be."

In her speech, University Librarian, Dr Obiageli

Nwoda commended NIFES the donation, promising to deploy the books for proper use amongst staff and students in the Library.

Other members of the delegation were: Patrons of NIFES: Professors Bosa Okoli and John Okoli, Jay Obioma, NIFES Training Secretary, Ikenna Oyeogiri and NIFES UniPort President, Itony Ogana.

Books donated were: *Nigerian Law on Taxation, 2007, Vol. IV* and *Nigerian Laws on Taxation and Public Finance Vol. I*.

Anugweje Alerts Varsity Community On Ebola Virus

By Friday Marcus

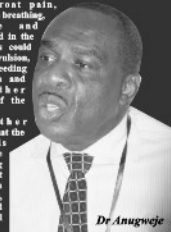
Members of the University have been advised to take precautionary measures against Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), a disease which has invaded West Africa with establishing case in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

According to a memo made available to UniPort Weekly, Director, Health Services Department, Dr Ken Anugweje, confirmed that the disease is not in Nigeria at the moment.

Dr Anugweje, who explained that the disease is caused by Ebola Virus, said people get infected when they have direct contact with the blood, excretion and body fluid of infected human beings or animals; such as bats, monkey, gorillas, dogs, pigs, stressing that the consumption of infected animal is a known means of transmission.

The Director noted that the Virus begins with sudden onset of feeling unwell accompanied by fever, chills, joints and muscle pain followed by nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea, cough, chest pain, throat pain, difficulty in breathing, headache and fatigue; and in the later stages could cause convulsion, rashes, bleeding under skin and from other opening of the body.

He further disclosed that the disease is preventable by avoiding direct contact with body fluids, human and animal wastes.



Dr Anugweje

NMGS Hails CPG Students At 50th Confab

By Otokor Samuel

Students from the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG) in the renowned Institute of Petroleum Studies were

commended for presenting landmark technical papers during a week-long Conference of the Nigeria Mining and Geoscience Society (NMGS) in Benin, Edo State, last month.

Briefing UniPort Weekly on arrival from the Conference, Leader of the team, Mr Acera Jones, said the UniPort team made an impressive representation, disclosing that the assessors were very pleased with the CPG students. "Seven students from CPG: Nkanga, Ufuanabasi Imeh; Uwalaka Anthony Ugochukwu; Lawrence, Chukwudi Akubue; Ogechi, Confidence Abarany; Amakwe, Oluchi Vivian; Ige, Michael Olutunde and Rex Ome presented highly commendable technical Papers," Mr Jones revealed.

According to him, the presentations which covered different areas in Petroleum Geosciences including Geomechanics and Artificial Intelligence, Reservoir Characterization and Management, Geoscience Modeling, Integrated Petrophysics and Reservoir Hydraulics were greeted with praises by the NMGS.

Mr Jones said the performance of the students was a testimony of quality teaching and research orientation infused on the students by crop of experienced academics in the College of Engineering and IPS.



Mr Jones

UniPort To Partner DFID ON Conflict Resolution



V-C, Prof Ajienka (Centre), Senior Officers of the University and the DFID delegation

Cont'd from p1

economic issues resulting to conflict. Earlier Programme Manager, Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme, Dr Ukoha Ukiwo, said that the Programme sought opportunities around the country for policy and research in conflict management, disclosing that it was currently working on 8 states in the country. Dr Ukoha, who is also a Lecturer in the Department

of Political and Administrative Studies in the University, said that the NSRP was looking for opportunity to expand its activities, adding that it is already consulting with stakeholders on areas of interest. "We have started discussing with the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Centre for Ethnic and Conflict Studies (CENTECS) on the Amnesty programme and we are eager to see what areas of partnership with the University," he stated. In his speech, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Henry Alapiki, who said he was delighted over the emergent

partnership expressed hope that it would yield fruitful benefits for the development of the society. Other members of the delegation include: James Sayer, Head of Office, Risk Management Office, DFID; Awa Ikura, Collator/Analyst, Risk Management Office, DFID Nigeria; Wynfred Achu, Programme Officer, Monitoring and Evaluation, Niger Delta office, NSRP; Patrick Naughton, Niger Delta Coordinator, NSRP and Majidang Sidang, Programme Manager, Security and Governance, NSRP.

Music Dept Marks World Voice Day With Concert, Symposium

By Humphrey Ogu

Ways of harnessing the potentials of the human voice to engender peace in society was the thrust of series of activities put together by the Department of Music to mark World Voice Day 2014 at the Ehimba Banjo Auditorium, last Wednesday. Welcoming guests to the event, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka commended the Head, Department of Music for making it possible for the University to be selected as one of the centres to mark World Voice Day in 2014, stating that the theme of the celebration: "Voices for Peace" was very apt in view of the crises plaguing Nigeria and other parts of the world.

The Vice-Chancellor, who spoke through the Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Professor Ozo-Mekuri Ndileke, recalled that the alumni of Department of Theatre Arts ruled the Nigerian music industry—Nollywood, expressing hope that products of the Department of Music would also rule the Nigerian music industry in future.

Delivering the keynote address entitled: "Man, His Voice and Peace", Pioneer Director of Rivers State Council for Arts and Culture, Paul Wurika, stressed the need for humans to always use their voices in promote peace and positive development. "Man should ensure that he speaks peace and glorify God." In his remarks, Chairman of the occasion, Lawrence Jumbo, who noted

that music is a creative discipline, charged students to make best use of the opportunity afforded by the Department of Music to carve a niche for themselves.

"If you want excel in life work hard, avoid pride and use your voice positively. Put your life to what you are doing and people would talk of your achievement in future." Also speaking, Head, Department of Music, Professor Onyiah Nwaka, who disclosed that the World Voice Day is a day set aside to celebrate human voice, said: "Human voice is the most delicate tool created and given to man by God. It could be used for good or evil. Our aim here today is to use it to use for peace not only here in Nigeria, but in the world at large. We want to use our voices to say let the maiming end, let us have peace and harmony so that we can develop our God-given potentials and make progress in Nigeria," adding that we have to use our voices in speech, musical and drama performances to appeal to the perpetrators of the heathenly acts to stop the killing of innocent people."

Speaking on "Vocal Techniques for the Performer", Dr Vera Okoronkwo of Nwafor Orizu College of

Education, Noughba Anambra State, urged music students to engage in regular voice exercise to enable them excel in their chosen profession. "There are basic techniques and information you need to do well in music performance. You must do your voice exercise before getting in time for performance. Whether you are voice major or minor, you must do the exercise and engage in the right practices, if you hope to perform for enlightened audiences. You must work on your pronunciations, know your consonants and vowels," she advised.

On his part, Peace Building Technical Advisor, Fund for Peace (FFP), Washington DC, USA, Michael Genszler, stressed the importance of using the human voice as a tool for peace building in societies, especially in the Niger Delta, which is the immediate environment, where World Voice Day is taking place, advising that students and youths should be agents of peace, through music and other forms of expressions.

Highlights of the event included the presentation of a poem entitled: "She Is Her Voice", by University poet, Professor Martin Bestman, symposium on peace, the use and care for voice, by experts, as well as drama, choral concerts and cultural performances by best choir—UniPort Concert Chorus and guest choirs, theatre and cultural troupes drawn from within and outside the state.



Members of UniPort Concert Chorus Performing

GUIDEPOST

APPOINTMENT

Professor A. W. Obanime, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Head of Department*, effective 20th February, 2014 to 22 February, 2016.

Professor Arthur Nwafor, Department of Human Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Head of Department*, effective 20th February, 2014 to 22 February, 2016.

Professor K. A. Abo, Department of Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, appointed *Director, Institute of Natural Medicine*, effective 7th April, 2014 to 8th April, 2014.

Professor John Agberia, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Head of Department*, effective 5th May, 2014 to 6th May, 2016.

Dr E. J. Olotu, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective 7th April, 2014 to 8th April, 2016.

Dr Gospel Kpee, Department of Educational Management and Planning, Faculty of Education, re-appointed *Co-ordinator, Post-NCE Sandwich Programme*, effective 24th March, 2014 to 25th March, 2016.

Engr R.E.I Kadana, Department of Petroleum Engineering, Faculty of Process and Energy Systems, College of Engineering, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective 8th April, 2014 to 9th April, 2015.

NOTIFICATION OF PHD RESULT

Isaac Ihude, Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, has completed the Doctor of Philosophy programme in Ethnomusicology of the University of Ibadan.

SUSPENSION FROM PROGRAMME

Bigwa, Ukaegbunem Chuks, (U2006/3030212) Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Process and Energy Systems, College of Engineering, suspended from the University for one academic session having being found guilty of gross misconduct.

Bank Approves US\$150 Million For Excellence Centres

By *Munyorozi Makoni*

The World Bank's board of executive directors on 15 April approved US\$150 million to fund 19 university-based centres of excellence in seven countries in West and Central Africa. The bulk of the funding will go to universities in Nigeria, which won 10 of the centres.

The centres will develop high-level training and research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics – STEM – disciplines, as well as in agriculture and health.

The Africa Centers of Excellence – ACE – project was formally launched at the Association of African Universities' conference of rectors, vice-chancellors and presidents in Libreville, Gabon, last year.

Starting in West and Central Africa the initiative aims to promote regional scientific specialisation, to help deliver quality training and research and to meet a growing need for high-level STEM skills.

It will be financed through the International Development Association, the World Bank Group's fund for the poorest countries.

The 19 centres were selected from a total of 52 applications from the region. The government of Nigeria will get US\$70 million, Ghana US\$24 million and Senegal US\$16 million. Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Togo will each get US\$8 million.

The Gambia, a non-ACE hosting country participating in the project, will receive US\$2 million credit and a US\$1 million grant to access training for students, academics and civil servants via the 19ACE centres.

The Association of African Universities has received a US\$5 million grant from the World Bank to coordinate and manage knowledge sharing among the centres.

Makhtar Diop, World Bank vice-president for Africa, said in a statement that supporting the pioneering centres would be another step in building and nurturing specialised world-class higher education institutions on the continent.

"I can think of no better way to grow African economies, create jobs and support research in Africa, than educating young graduates with expertise in high-demand areas such as chemical engineering, crop science and the control of infectious diseases," he said.

The World Bank document outlining the



Supervising Minister of Education
Nyesom Wike

project said that higher education in West and Central Africa had been a low priority for the past two decades.

Africa was burdened with a serious shortage of skilled workers in fast-growing sectors such as extractive industries, energy, water and infrastructure, as well as in the fields of health and telecommunications.

Too few skilled workers in Africa's extractive industries, including oil and minerals, had led to Africa exporting jobs as these materials were processed elsewhere in the world.

The World Bank said the ACE project offered a regionally integrated way to increase high quality research and development services, expand higher education and raise the quality of tertiary programmes, which would help tackle Africa's challenges in an efficient and economical way given limited public budgets.

The bank said that in 33 low-income African countries there had been a decline in per-student expenditure from US\$6,800 in 1980 to US\$981 in 2010.

Peter Materu, World Bank education manager for West and Central Africa, said in a statement that the ACE project was a win-win initiative that would provide opportunities for young people to achieve their aspirations without leaving Africa.

"Students in West and Central Africa urgently need high quality science and technology programmes to compete in their own regional job market as well as the global economy, but not a single university from this part of Africa features in rankings of the world's top 500 universities," said Materu.

*Called from World University News

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 20-SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI (°C)	TEMPERATURE LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (mm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 20 April, 2014	34.0	26.0	66	NE	-	6.29 6.40	Partly cloudy and extremely hot day anticipated.
MONDAY, 21 April, 2014	33.0	26.0	62	N	-	6.29 6.40	More sun than cloud forecasted. Warm day expected.
TUESDAY, 22 April, 2014	32.0	25.0	68	N	5.8	6.28 6.40	Isolated thunderstorm expected. Partly sunny and warm day expected.
WEDNESDAY, 23 April, 2014	32.0	25.0	67	N	6.4	6.28 6.39	Thunderstorms expected early in the day. Partly sunny and warm day forecasted.
THURSDAY, 24 April, 2014	31.0	24.0	77	NE	12.7	6.27 6.39	Thunderstorms expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
FRIDAY, 25 April, 2014	32.0	25.0	69	N	4.5	6.27 6.39	Widely scattered thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
SATURDAY, 26 April, 2014	32.0	25.0	65	N	3.2	6.27 6.39	Thunderstorms expected early in the day. Partly sunny and warm day predicted.

SERVICOM CORNER NOTICE TO UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

ATTENTION: DEANS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

Notice is hereby given, that one among other functions of the **SERVICOM Marshals and SERVICOM Brigades** is to monitor the attendance register and rule at 8.30am.

Please co-operate in the interest of promoting efficient service delivery system in our great university.

Police Area Commander's Visit

In response to the request by authorities of the University of Port Harcourt for the police to site a Divisional Police Headquarters in the University, Rivers State Police Commissioner, Mr Tunde Ogunsakin, directed the Police the Port Harcourt Area Commander, Mr Aliyu Garba to visit the University on Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Pictures show highlights of the event as captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMANALU**.



DF-C (Admin), Prof Enobert Nduka, welcoming the Area Commander and his team to the University



Director, Physical Planning, Engineer Collins Amietubodie, also welcoming the Area Commander



Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Mr Aliyu Garba, and other members of his team at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee room



DF-C (Admin), Prof Nduka, representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Joseph Alesha, addressing the Police team



A view of UniPort Officers and the Police team at the meeting



Prof Nduka presenting some publications of the University to the Area Commander



L-R: Director Academic Planning, Dr Peter Kpaleku, Sd-C, Mr Kingsley Wanya, Assistant CSO, Mr John Ogburnu and CSO, Lt Col Reginald Ekeke (rtd)



Senior Officers of the University and the Police team in a group photograph



CSO, Lt Col Ekeke (rtd), leading the Police team to the proposed residential area for the Police officers



The Police team on arrival at the residential quarters for the officers



The Area Commander stressing a point during the inspection



A view of the proposed Police residential quarters and site of the stadium