

## Access Bank Boss, Wigwe, Lifts UniPort With Donations

When Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Chris Akani wrote letters, soliciting institutional support from the Group Managing Director of Access Bank Plc, Dr. Herbert Wigwe, little did he anticipate that his modest request would result in a bountiful harvest from the public-spirited top banker, reports *Williams Wodi*. [More on p3](#)

## Side Bar

Faculty of Agriculture joins its counterparts around the globe to mark World Food Day October 15.

Details next week.

~Editor



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## V-C Tasks Law Students On Good Conduct

### ...As 230 Diploma Students Commence Class Today

By Otiok Samuel

**A**head of commencement of full academic activities for its Diploma of Law programme today, the Faculty of Law organized a two-day Orientation exercise for the 230 newly-admitted students and younger Lecturers of the emergent Faculty at the temporary site located at the Emerald Energy Institute Auditorium along the East/West Road.

Speaking at the opening session of the two-day event held last Thursday and Friday, Vice-

Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who charged the students to exhibit the highest level of integrity in line with the requirements of the legal profession, expressed satisfaction with the measures initiated so far by the pioneer Dean, Professor Kaniye Ebeke and his team of dedicated staff aimed at fulfilling the aspirations of the University in establishing the Faculty of Law.

The Vice-Chancellor advised the newly-admitted students to be studious and always uphold the high reputation of the University at all times as worthy ambassadors of

the Institution, promising that the administration will do everything possible to develop a befitting Faculty of Law that would compete favourably with its peers in and outside the country.

Professor Ajienka, who spoke through the Director, College of Continuing Education (CCE), Professor Steve Okodudu, further praised the collaboration between CCE and the Faculty of Law, which facilitated the commencement of the Diploma programme that is being midwifed by the College.

In his welcome address, Dean of the

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More Graduate Students To Benefit From Birmingham MoU

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Nwaichi Sensitises Community On Research Benefits

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Home Ownership Scheme Gets Caretaker C'ttee

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# 2014 CGS Orientation

## V-C Wants More Graduate Students To Benefit From Birmingham MoU

By Otokor Samuel

**V**ice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, has praised the College of Graduate Studies for initiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Birmingham that was signed last year, which recently paved the way for a Doctorate degree Candidate, Rachael Akpiti, who is working on the *Genotoxic Impacts of Pollutants (Heavy metals, hydrocarbons, organochlorines)* on Marine Sponges in the Niger Delta to commence an exchange programme at the Birmingham University in the United Kingdom.

Professor Ajienka, who spoke through the Provost of the College, Professor Roseline Konya, stated that his administration placed much premium on research that would meet entrepreneurial standards in the knowledge economy, charging the College as the seat of research to sustain efforts aimed at driving quality research in the University and beyond.

The Vice-Chancellor, who further commended Management of the College for its developmental strides which have repositioned it to stand out in the comity of other Postgraduate Schools and Colleges in the country, urged more Graduate Students to avail themselves of the opportunity of the MoU with University of Birmingham and other available exchange programmes to get international exposure and wider knowledge in their specific disciplines.

In her contribution, Professor Konya, who stressed the importance of the Orientation exercise as a forum to get the students acquainted with activities and policies of the College, expressed satisfaction with the cooperation of the students on the new policy of



Provost, CGS, Prof Konya (arrowed) flanked by some staff of the College, Senior Staff and some Graduate Students

registration for programmes in the College.

"The new policy is working. You don't get your admission letter except you pay fees and for the current session, we got almost 90% registration of candidates offered admission which had never happened before now," the Provost said, advising Returning Students who were still overstaying on their programmes to make judicious use of the window of grace which would finally end with the 2013/14 academic session. "Don't hesitate to come to us if your Supervisor is giving you problems," she advised them, assuring Graduate Students that an institutional mechanism has been put in place to regulate the timeframe between enrolment into programmes and graduation from the College.

Professor Konya recalled some of the fees recorded in the College, including the recognition of Best Theses Award of the Nigerian Universities Doctoral Theses Award Scheme (NUTDAS) organized under the auspices of the National Universities Commission (NEC) for three Doctoral Candidates from the College.

"We are an award-winning College; we are proud of our Doctoral Theses that won awards in three categories last year. At the College of Graduate Studies which is the seat of research in the University, we lay emphasis on originality of research; we scrutinize Theses very well to ensure that an act of plagiarism scales through our eagle eyes. We have Turn-it-in device at the Donald Ekong Library, to ensure that you credit your source appropriately," Professor Konya remarked.

The Orientation which was well-attended by Deans of Graduate Schools, staff of the College and some Senior Officers of the University, featured presentations by the University Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwoda, on *Use of Library to Enhance Quality Research*; Director, University of Port Harcourt Business School, Professor Clifford Oforun, lectured on *Entrepreneurship and Graduate Education*; Director, Academic Affairs, Mrs. Dorcas Otin, delivered a paper on *Academic Policies on Graduate Programme*, while Mr. Derelaka Abi spoke on *E-Learning and Turn-it-in software*.

## Authors, Scholars, Advise Students On Writing, Publishing

By Humphrey Ogu

**T**he South-South Conference of Students of English and Literature held in the University, penultimate Friday with established writers and literary scholars advising the students on

successful writing and publishing techniques.

The two-day event, which had *Language, Literature and Gender in the Development of Niger Delta*, as its theme, drew participants from universities in the Niger Delta States, featuring paper presentations, interaction with authors and a courtesy visit on famous novelist and playwright, Dr. Elechi Amadi and award presentation to deserving authors and lecturers.

Speaking during the courtesy call at his Abu country home in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State, Amadi, who is a reclusive Writer-in-Residence in the University, charged the students and others interested in honing their craft to read widely and use literature as a tool for entertainment and relaxation, rather than an avenue for criticising societal ills.

Delivering a Keynote Address titled: *The Impact of Women on the Growth and Development of the Niger Delta*, Author and Literary Scholar, Dr. Margaret Nwagwu of the Department of

English Studies, noted that "women must be united in order to achieve their goals in the developmental agenda of the Niger Delta; they must support, encourage and be their sister's keeper," she submitted, adding that by so doing, they can break the glass ceilings placed on them by a male-dominated society by availing all the obstacles that stand in the way of expending their creative energies, through full participation in the developmental processes of the region.

On his part, another lecturer in the Department of English Studies, Mazi Eze, spoke on *The Role of the Literary Artist in the Development of the Niger Delta*, stressing the need for writers to be committed to their craft and development of society.

Writers, who featured in the interactive session alongside Dr. Nwagwu included award-winning fiction writer and author of *Sarah House* and *Dead Man Walking*, Henry Ajigbo, author of *Tomorrow Dies Yesterday*, Chinike Garriks, prolific poet and author of *Ascent Stone and Length of Eyes*, Obari Gamba, all of who shared their experiences and related useful tips aimed at assisting the intending writers.



Dr. Amadi (center) flanked by some of the students at his residence

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In his request letter, Professor Akani stressed the need for corporate Nigeria to come to the aid of the University to enable it discharge its core mandate to the nation through the training of skilled health personnel to man the nation's fledgling health sector. The assistance packages were sought in two critical areas: a request for two 40-seat buses to be used in conveying students in rural posting and medical outreaches and endowment of a Professorial Chair on Safe Motherhood in Obstetrics and Gynaecology aimed at reducing child and maternal mortality.

Not only did the humble banker promptly respond to the requests, he surpassed the greatest expectation of the University of Port Harcourt by committing himself to the donation of two buses as requested and also the establishment of a Professorial Chair in his name. In separate letters conveying his responses to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, Dr. Wigwe expressed pride in what he described as "the leadership qualities and rare entrepreneurial ability which you and your team have displayed in the management of our prestigious University of Port Harcourt." Expressing his delight at being honoured with a Professorial Chair by authorities of the University, the ace banker said he was "extremely impressed at the efforts the University is making to ensure continuous improvements in the quality of maternal and child health in spite of the difficulty in obtaining funding to support efficient running of the University," Dr. Wigwe pledged to

## Access Bank Boss, Wigwe, Lifts UniPort With Donations

support the new Professorial Chair to the tune of N7.5m on an annual basis.

He also donated two buses "to be utilized by students and the University Community for rural postings, community health projects, field work experience, as well as health outreach programmes," promising that the buses would be delivered within two weeks.

In a letter of gratitude to the donor for his philanthropic spirit, the Vice-Chancellor expressed deep appreciation to Dr. Wigwe for what he described as "wonderful contributions to the advancement of knowledge in the University of Port Harcourt," pointing out that the donations would definitely contribute to teaching, research and community service in the Institution, especially in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Professor Ajienka used the opportunity to call on other public-spirited individuals and groups to

come to the support of the University as it grapples with developmental challenges, reminding them that their wards would definitely receive quality education in a conducive learning environment.



Dr Wigwe

Prof Akani

## UPHF Thrills Kids At Children's Park To Mark Independence

*By Otiakor Samuel*

**B**arely nine days after the commissioning of the *Seinye Lulu-Briggs Children's Park*, children of staff and others from outside the University joined their counterparts and compatriots elsewhere to mark Nigeria's 54<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary which was first marked on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1960 at the Tafawa Bealewa Square (TBS), Lagos.

The event which was organized penultimate Wednesday under the auspices of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation (UPHF) with its Acting Director, Dr Nguzi Odu, as the rallying point, also had the Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, Dean, Faculty of Law, Professor

Kaniye Ekeku, Deputy Registrar (Information), Williams Wodi and some staff in attendance.

Speaking before the commencement of the event, Registrar, Mrs. Nnodim, who emphasized the need for young people to complement intellectual activities with fanfare for wholesome development of the mind, reiterated her earlier remarks that the Park would contribute towards harvesting future stars.

The Registrar, who again lauded the initiative by the benefactor to provide an amusement park for children on Campus, stressed the need for parents to bring their wards to the Park to get themselves refreshed with the numerous play equipment and services available there, stating that exercises at the Park would contribute to

balancing physical fitness and academic activities.

In her remarks, Acting Director, UPHF, Dr. Odu, said the event was in line with the dictum of the benefactor, Chief Seinye Lulu-Briggs to "let the children play," in order for them not to miss their childhood years, promising that regular events would be organized for the children at the Park in line with the vision of its founder.

"We want to make the Park lively; more equipment will be installed to give the children a treat on regular basis. The Foundation will work out modalities with the Management to ensure that regular activities are organized for children," Dr. Odu said, expressing satisfaction with the level of attendance and activities at Independence Day Party, which she described as exciting for the children and their parents.

A parent, Mrs. Joyce Aminikpo, who relived her experience at the Park, said it was a nice place for children and their parents to have fun. "It is an educating and interesting environment where children from diverse background can interact and have fun. I had great fun at the Park on Independence Day and I hope the trend will be sustained by Management of the Park. We are all happy and I want to specifically thank the organizers and hope that they will continue to organize events of this sort to make our children happy," Mrs. Aminikpo said.



Ag Director, UPHF, Dr Odu dancing with some of the kids at the Park

**D**e. Eucharis Nwaichi of the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, has sensitised the people of Akala Olu Community in Abiodun West Local Government Area of Rivers State on the implications and benefits of her team's research in the Community. Briefing *UniPort Weekly* after a town-hall meeting with the oil-bearing community at the Palace of the Paramount Ruler, last Wednesday, Nwaichi, who received the 2013 UNESCO *L'Oréal Award*, explained that the enlightenment programme was aimed at fulfilling her Corporate Social

## Nwaichi Sensitises Community On Research Benefits

By Humphrey Ogu

exposure to oil spill and the importance of cleaning up polluted sites in time, said that "they now know what to do when there is an oil spill and the need to avoid farming on or consuming produce from such

low calcium level. The implication of this is that water penetration into the soil is impaired leading to pockets of floods all around the polluted area," she urged host communities to use locally-generated organic manure instead of inorganic fertilizer.

On the choice of Akala Olu Community, Nwaichi said that there was an oil spill in the Community five days before her team commenced the research project, stating that such research is best carried out where there is fresh spill to facilitate its characterisation.

She recalled that after successful completion of the first phase of the research and presentation of her report, the International Selection Committee for UNESCO



Nwaichi (arrowed) in a group photograph with some members of the community and her research team

Responsibility to the community where she was carrying out a research as part her UNESCO *L'Oréal International Fellowship*.

"As part of our objective of carrying Community along in the research process, my team briefed the Paramount Ruler of Akala Olu Community in Abiodun West Local Government Area, Chief Abraham Emmanuel and his Council of Chiefs on our research findings and made recommendations aimed at ameliorating the identified environmental problems facing the Community as a result of years of oil exploration," she said, disclosing that her presentation at the town-hall meeting was titled: *Implications of Crude Oil Spill on Agricultural Soil: Is Management and Remediation Possible?*

Nwaichi, who noted that the Community had become better informed about the social, health and environmental hazards associated with

contaminated soil. We also encouraged them to support researchers when they come to carry out studies in the Community."

Nwaichi, who frowned at a situation where people in oil-bearing communities conceal cases of oil spill to enable them pursue litigation, stressed the importance of reporting every incident of oil spill to relevant agencies, warning that "litigation alone doesn't help anybody. Cases of oil spill should be reported immediately, rather than pursuing litigations that are mostly driven by pecuniary gains, which portends danger for posterity; people should not sacrifice the future on the altar of momentary monetary gains today."

Nwaichi, who observed that "with phytoremediation, we are able to recover part of the crude-oil contaminating the environment," said that "from the studies, we saw high levels of chloride and salinity in the soil which is related to

*L'Oréal* wrote to renew her Fellowship, citing high quality research. "The project involves an assessment of crude-oil pollution in the Niger Delta. I am working with my Graduate and Undergraduate students, whose degrees would be based on different aspects of the project we are carrying out," she disclosed.

Meanwhile, speaking through the Secretary to the Council of Chiefs, Chief Asa Amadi, the people of Akala Olu expressed gratitude to Dr. Nwaichi for carrying out the research and enlightening its subjects, promising to heed her advice by having a better relationship with future researchers and corporate bodies that may wish to do business on their land. He conceded that prior to the enlightenment programme, the people pursued compensation, without giving a thought to the implication of a polluted environment on their health and sources of livelihood.

## UniPort Staff Relieves Research Leave Experience

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**O**ut of the lucky number selected for the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Post-Doctoral Fellow in 2011 and Advanced Research Training in 2012, Dr. Olatayo Adedokun of the Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture has relieved her research experience as the only fellow with double placements at the Biosciences Eastern and Central Africa (BecA-ILRI) Hubs, Nairobi, Kenya and the University of Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. While at BecA-ILRI Hub, Dr. Adedokun disclosed that she undertook research training on Molecular Characteristics of Indigenous mushrooms in Nigeria. "The background to the study is that Nigeria has diverse species of mushrooms. Even though mushrooms could be identified, using diverse parameters, including physical features and

chemical composition, it could also be identified, using the molecular method. About 70 species of mushrooms were studied in six months," she said, stressing that from the study, it was deduced that mushrooms from six States in the Niger Delta have the same genetic composition.

"At the University of Free State, South Africa, I did a preliminary work on the use of indigenous mushrooms on Biological Control of Fungal Diseases," Dr. Adedokun remarked, adding that back in the University, efforts are in top gear to form a functional partnership between the Regional Centre for Biotechnology and BecA-ILRI Hub, Nairobi, Kenya to take the research to another level. "BecA is a world class facility and we are desirous of initiating a mutually-beneficial partnership between the two institutions", she pointed out, promising to embark on a knowledge-sharing exercise for the benefit of colleagues and students of the Department of Crop and Soil Science.



Dr. Adedokun

**A**s awareness on the outbreak of the dreaded Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West African countries continues to grow, public health practitioners attached to the Rivers State Ebola Emergency Operation Centre organized a detailed training session for caregivers in the University's Health Services Department, penultimate Thursday.

Briefing a Correspondent of *UniPort Weekly* on the outcome of the training, last Thursday, Dr. Ken Unuadi of the Health Services Department, said the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Kathy Uche and members of her team took the workers through current trends on practical demonstrations, pre and post session, question and answer and an interactive session, emphasizing the need to maintain best practices for prevention of infections amongst patients and health workers alike.

The Lead Speaker, according to Dr. Unuadi, noted that the University was a key stakeholder in the fight against Ebola, praising medical personnel from the University who contributed towards containing the deadly disease by making themselves available at the critical period when tension and fear gripped the nation, following the importation of the dreaded virus by a Diplomat attached to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), late Mr. Patrick Sawyer and the subsequent death of eight Nigerians from Ebola.

Dr. Unuadi quoted Director of the University Health Services Department, Dr. Ken Angweje, as commending the efforts of the Rivers State Government and particularly, its Ebola Emergency Operation Centre for containing the dreaded epidemic, calling for more symbiotic action to ensure that the dreaded disease does not rear its ugly head again in the State. Unuadi, who is

## State Ebola Centre Trains Health Services Dept Staff

By Orikor Samuel

Secretary of the University of Port Harcourt Committee on Ebola Virus Epidemic Awareness, stated that the



training session which targeted trained cleaners, nurses, pharmacists and laboratory scientists, provided more professional insight on preventive measures and safety practices against the virus.

Some staff of the Health Services Dept at the training

## UniPort Home Ownership Scheme Gets Caretaker C'ttee

By Williams Wodi

**F**ollowing years of protracted disagreements between Management of the University of Port Harcourt Home Ownership Scheme and the General Congress, a new Caretaker Committee has been constituted to take over administration of the Scheme, pending when a substantive Management Committee would be elected to succeed the interim body.

The new 7-member Caretaker Committee is headed by Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Henry Alapiki. Other members of the interim Management Committee are: Professor Bhitamun Amigbo, Dr. Andrew Obafemi, Mr. Kwamina Orahokan, Dr. Joy Othun and Dr. Antonio Okigwu, amongst others.

Addressing participants of the Scheme at the Ebitimi Banjo Auditorium last Wednesday, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajikola, thanked the General Congress for blithely participating in the project without showing enough interest in the way and manner it was to be administered, expressing gratitude to the out-going Management Committee for the sacrifices it made in the process of serving others in the Scheme to achieve the dreams of staff who wished to own homes.

"Leadership is a very great responsibility which takes a lot of time, energy and personal sacrifice to achieve. It is very easy for followers to call leaders all sorts of names, but only those in the driver's seat know that leadership is not something to be taken lightly. It is far easier to criticize than to take responsibility as a leader," the Vice-Chancellor said, urging participants to chart a way forward, rather than engaging in fruitless blame game that would lead nowhere.

Recalling that several meetings were called to brainstorm

on the way forward when it became obvious that there were serious procedural matters that needed to be addressed, the Vice-Chancellor advised Congress to support the new Caretaker Committee as it seeks to find a way out of the situation. "I was very happy when we acquired the land for purposes of developing a modern estate for staff participating in the Housing Scheme, but nobody envisaged the friction relationship that resulted from the implementation process," a visibly distraught Professor Ajikola told the Congress, expressing hope that things would not be allowed to deteriorate any further with the new development.

He reminded Congress that a loan facility guaranteed by Management of the University would have to be repaid by all available means, irrespective of who was in charge, describing the Housing Scheme as a noble project that staff voluntarily embraced to serve their best interest. The Vice-Chancellor warned that people's integrity should not be dragged to the mud on account of a well-intentioned Scheme that was meant to solve a felt problem amongst the participants, assuring all stakeholders that the University Management would always protect their genuine interests in respect of the Scheme.

Giving an account of his Stewardship, former Chairman of the Housing Scheme, Dr. Andrew Efinimi, expressed displeasure over what he described as gross misinformation being peddled about by some participants of the Scheme, which he said was his personal brainchild aimed at providing decent housing accommodation for staff of the University, regretting that lapses identified in the process of implementing the Scheme were completely unforeseen by his team.

"We commenced the Scheme in 2006, but full activities began in 2007. Even then, we were faced with how to set up

a legitimate platform to successfully implement the Scheme to the satisfaction of all the stakeholders. Our intention then was not to buy land and share to participants, but to develop a modern estate with state-of-the-art amenities for all residents, Dr. Efinimi explained, stressing that he acted in good conscience and not out of pecuniary interest.

He further explained that the initial payment by participants of the Scheme did not include perimeter and plot survey, beacon laying, delineation, multiple bush clearing, legal fees, engagement of developers and security amongst other unforeseen expenditures. Dr. Efinimi said that the Management Committee settled for the development of common facilities and other social amenities to ensure that everything in the estate was built to the stipulated standard, disclosing that a property developer known as METRODEV had entered into an agreement with the Management Committee to facilitate development of facilities in the estate.

"I regret the way a number of issues were handled and if given another chance, I will do them differently," Dr. Efinimi conceded, appealing for continued support to achieve the laudable purpose for which the Housing Scheme was set up by the dissolved Management Committee.

Constituting the new Caretaker Committee, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Edebert Ndaka, called for peace and support for the Alapiki-led Committee, advising participants of the Scheme to work in concert to realize the objective for which it was set up. He pledged the support of the University Management in efforts aimed at achieving the aims of the Scheme, advising participants not to cast aspersions on each other in the process of seeking a way forward.

In his own contribution, the new Caretaker Committee Chairman, Professor Alapiki, expressed gratitude to participants of the Scheme for saddling him with the responsibility of presiding over the interim Committee, pledging to work selflessly towards achieving the purpose for which founders of the Scheme conceived it. He also thanked them for their patience as the Scheme dragged on over the years without tangible movement on the project, promising that everything possible would be done by his Committee to realize the next phase of the Scheme.

Thanking the former Committee members for their strides while in office, Professor Alapiki dispelled apprehensions about possible collapse of the Housing Scheme, pointing out that "any leadership that lacks a well-laid out succession plan should be regarded as a failure and so we need your unflinching support to succeed in our onerous assignment, which I hope will be a brief stint, preparatory to the election of a proper Management Committee to continue development of the Housing Scheme."



V-C, Prof. Ajikola (4' right), some Senior Officers and defunct EXCO members on the high table



Group photograph of Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Ebeku (arrowed) Director, CCE, Prof. Okobundu (on his left) other dignitaries and the students

Cont'd from p1

## V-C Tasks Law Students On Good Conduct

Faculty, Professor Kaniye Ebeku, who recalled that Senate of the University approved establishment of the Faculty at its 337<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Meeting in February, 2008, regretted that no further action took place until 2010, the University advertised for recruitment of academic staff of various ranks and later appointed him as pioneer Dean last year to nurture the Faculty.

"I am pleased to be in a position to address this important gathering today. This event is the commencement of a 2-day orientation programme for students admitted into the Diploma in Law programme of the University of Port Harcourt, which is jointly run by the College of Continuing Education in collaboration with the Faculty of Law," Professor Ebeku remarked, describing the maiden orientation programme as a landmark development in the University.

"Successful graduates of the Diploma in Law programme will be admitted as direct entry candidates into the 200-Level of the LLB programme which would hopefully commence in

the next academic session after obtaining the necessary approval from the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Council of Legal Education (CLE). For those who may be worried about the commencement of the LLB programme, let me assure you that the Faculty of Law, working with important University officers and organs, is vigorously pursuing relevant processes for obtaining the approval of the NUC and the CLE," the Dean promised.

He thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his unflinching commitment towards effective commencement of legal studies in the University, stating that "apart from pursuing the construction of a multi-purpose Faculty of Law Building (which is ongoing), he approved part of the Emerald Energy Institute Building as a temporary take-off site of the Faculty of Law. He approved recommendations for appointment of law lecturers of various ranks without delay and has furnished the staff offices in a way equalled by only a few Nigerian Law Faculties."

He assured Management that the new Faculty with its crop of dedicated lecturers would deliver world-class teaching services, expressing confidence that the Faculty would stand out as unique among Nigerian Law Faculties in and outside Nigeria.

Highpoints of the Orientation programme included special prayers by the Chaplains of *Our Saviour Chapel* (OSC), Rev. Canon Saturday Ntete and *Chapel of The Annunciation*, Rev. Fr. Patrick Eluke, as well as talk-shop on Bursary Services/Payment of Fees by Mr. Dominic Nwike, Use of Library/e-Learning by Mr. Emmanuel Ovwuchi, Student and Security Services by Mr. Gerald Okeke, Academic Affairs and University Policy by Mr. Goodluck Okezie, Code of Conduct and Examination Malpractices by Dr. Adedamola Oyeasoo and Importance of Guidance and Counseling by Mrs. Rita Odidi. The Dean and Professor Lucky Worika spoke on *Tips for Studying Law*, while Dean, Faculty of Education, Professor Lawrence Igwe, spoke on *Tips for Teaching Law and Teaching Techniques*.

## UniPort Staff Wins Prize

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) School on Insect Neuroscience and *Drosophila* Neurogenetics

organized by Teaching Research in Neuroscience for Development in Africa (TREND), has ended in the East African city of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with Dr. Aline Noutcha of the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences carting away the top prize at the end of the 3-week event.

The course was sponsored by IBRO, the Company of Biologists, Ad Instruments and Cambridge Africa and hosted this year by the Department of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation, University of Dar es Salaam. Twenty African scientists took part in the training at which four Nigerian universities were represented. Giving further insight on the programme, Dr. Noutcha disclosed that at the end of the intensive 3-week training, three module-specific prizes were presented to participants from universities in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda that excelled in specific modules. The overall best performance was presented to Dr. Noutcha in recognition of her demonstration of research excellence and leadership to the admiration of other participants.

The UniPort Staff, who merited a scholarship that covered the course fee, accommodation and international travel, emerged as the TREND student of the year 2014, winning the overall best performance at the well-patronized event. Briefing UniPort Weekly on her return from Tanzania, the prize-winning scholar noted that "the most striking peculiarity at the training was that young faculty from five continents of the world dedicated their time and resources to disseminate their research findings, tools and techniques to African

scientists as part of the objective of developing science on the continent."

Commenting on the importance of the course, Dr. Noutcha disclosed that "in addition to being vectors of infectious diseases, insects are beneficial to human health. They can now be used as tools and models to study and conduct research into human genetic diseases such as Alzheimer, Epilepsy, Stroke and Parkinson, amongst others. The insect models go through the disease process, thus facilitating human understanding of such diseases, enabling scientists to make inferences to humans through experimental and clinical trials. This is a novel approach to achieving good health in humans and animals alike; the 70% gene homology between humans and insects enables scientists to practise gene therapy at a relatively cheap cost."

According to the prize-winning researcher, in addition to using cheap models as insects rather than rodents or other vertebrates, the IBRO School encouraged biologists to embark on amateur engineering by using Open Source resources to assemble needed experimental kits that are not readily affordable in resource-limited settings. This approach, she submitted, would hopefully solve the perennial shortage of equipment in African Laboratories and Schools. In the words of Dr. Noutcha, "Open Source revives the genius in scientists to recover everything and reuse it to either learn its maintenance or fundamental basis of gene cloning, neurophysiology and the physics of neural signals."

*\*Editor's note:*

This story is republished because of some mix up in the initial publication which is highly regretted.



Dr. Noutcha

# GUIDEPOST

## APPOINTMENT

**Professor F.O. Chukwura**, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Process and Energy Systems, College of Engineering, appointed *Director, Science and Engineering*, effective 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014 to 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

**Dr. Tablosun Briggs**, Department of Mechatronic Engineering, Faculty of Production, Power Systems and Communication Engineering, College of Engineering, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014 to 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

**Dr. Benson O. Erhuwamwa**, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Process and Energy Systems, College of Engineering, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014 to 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

**Dr. Chloma Daisy Oyele**, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Co-ordinator, General Studies (GES) 103 (Nigerian Peoples and Culture)*, effective 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014 to 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

**Dr. O.B. Braimah**, Department of Preventive Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*, effective 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 to 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.

**Patience Nwamba**, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Process and Energy Systems, College of Engineering, appointed *Co-ordinator, Post-HND Programme*, effective 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014 to 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

**Mr. G. Ajabugo**, Department of Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Production, Power Systems and Communication Engineering, College of Engineering, appointed *Co-ordinator, Masters in Environmental Engineering Technology Programme*, effective 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 to 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

## RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

**Professor F. C. Ohi**, Department of Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, granted *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment as Professor*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2015.

**Mr. Godwin Nwaikie**, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Production, Power Systems and Communication Engineering, College of Engineering, granted *Renewal of Adjunct Appointment*, effective 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 to 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.

## PROMOTION

**Professor Charles Opara**, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Process and Energy Systems, College of Engineering, promoted to the rank of Professor, effective 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2011.

## UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR SECOND SEMESTER, 2013/2014 SESSION FOR REGULAR PROGRAMMES

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2014

(i) All Students Arrive (Returning Students and First Year Students of 2013/2014 Session)

(ii) SIWES (October, 2014 – March, 2015)

Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 – Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 (Saturdays Inclusive)

Lectures for All Students

Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014 – Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2015

Christmas Break

Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 – Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2015

Students Union Week: Cultural Activities/Professional Exhibitions

Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 – Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2015

Lectures continue

Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 – Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2015

Revision

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2015 – Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

Second Semester Examinations

\* First Year Students of 2014/2015 Session will commence Registration from 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 to 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2015.

Signed:

Prof. A. L. Joe

Deputy Vice-Chancellor [Academic]

## STADU Plans Staff Training

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Staff Training and Development Unit and the

Committee headed by Professor Samuel Ejezie of the Department of Civil Engineering in the College of Engineering, has concluded plans to mount refresher courses and extra-mural programmes for staff as a way of boosting capacity-building and enhanced productivity in the University.

Briefing a Correspondent of UniPort Weekly on the initiative, last Thursday at the STADU Unit situated in the Basic Studies Building, University Park, Training



Prof. Ejezie

Ikechika-Jahka

Officer, Fidelis Ikechika-Jahka, disclosed that the proposed training was necessitated by the need to keep staff abreast of evolving attitudes, methods and practices required for competitive global relevance in the management of the University. "Well-trained administrative staff are better-equipped and operationally ready to handle variety of workplace responsibilities in a timely manner," he added, reiterating the University's commitment to train and develop staff for the advancement of the University.

The Training Officer, who noted that the Unit has also recommended the establishment of in-service training programmes for non-teaching staff to hold, at least, twice a year, added that the trainings were being proposed to meet the varied needs of the various professional groups and cadres of the non-teaching workforce of the University. "We are also working towards initiating extra-mural classes for staff who intend to further their education on the job, following increasing awareness that there are boundless opportunities for self-improvement in the university system," Ikechika-Jahka stated, calling on all Departments and Units in the University to partner STADU with a view to facilitating trainings and enhancing productivity in the University for the benefit of all stakeholders.

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12-SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2014

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (mm) (gmt)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 17 OCT. 2014	31.8/25.0	78	E	25.0	6:18 18:19	Partly sunny partly cloudy expected. Warm day forecast.
MONDAY, 18 OCT. 2014	31.8 24.0	78	E	9.8	6:18 18:19	Rain showers expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day anticipated.
TUESDAY, 19 OCT. 2014	27.0 24.0	92	NE	13.0	6:17 18:18	A few rain showers anticipated. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
WEDNESDAY 20 OCT 2014	32.0/25.0	72	E	9.3	6:17 18:23	Isolated thunder storms expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecast.
THURSDAY 21 OCT 2014	31.8/25.0	73	E	2.3	6:17 18:18	Thunderstorms expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
FRIDAY 22 OCT 2014	31.8/25.0	88	N	9.4	6:17 18:17	Few thunderstorms expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
SATURDAY 23 OCT 2014	36.8/25.0	78	NE	7.8	6:17 18:17	Thunderstorms expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy.

DR GLADYS EMOIKE  
ACTING HMO

DR PRINCE MINOM  
AG. DIRECTOR

## PJC-GWDS National Workshop

**T**he Patience Jonathan Centre for Gender and Women Development Studies (PJC-GWDS), University of Port Harcourt, organized a two-day national Workshop on Gender Equality for Sustainable National Peace and Security between 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 at the Centre, University Park. **MITCHELL EKIYOR-EBI** captured pictorial highpoints of the event.



Dignitaries at the event



Representative of the V-C and DVC, (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Ndaka speaking



Keynote Speaker and Chairman of the event, Lucius Nwosu (SAN) delivering his address



Centre Director, Prof Elizabeth Okeke



A view of women organizations at the Workshop



Wife of the V-C and President, University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), Mrs Mercy Ajemka



President, Shell Women's Network, Port Harcourt, Mrs Chisoma Okeke presenting the Lead Paper



Barry Nwosu flanked by Mrs Ajemka (right) and Chaleperem UniPort, ASUA, Prof Anthonia Okereke (left), unveiling the Centre's Journal (JOGWOD)



Cross-sections of participants



UniPort Cultural Troupe thrills participants with a performance



Dr Esther Abere of PJC-GWDS giving the Vote of Thanks



Resource Persons and other dignitaries in a group photograph