

## UniPort Hosts 96<sup>th</sup> CULNU Meeting

The Committee of University Librarians of Nigeria Universities (CULNU) assembled in the University last week for its 96<sup>th</sup> bi-annual meeting. The three-day event which had in attendance Librarians from both private, state and federal universities in the country, held at the Ebitimi-Banigo Auditorium, University Park, reports *Ethel Timi-Johnson*.

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## Side Bar

Prof Victor Dapper of the Dept of Health Physiology, College of Health Sciences delivers the 113<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture this Thursday. Time is 3:00pm. Details next week.  
~Editor



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## V-C Inaugurates CELTRAS Governing Board

By Otiok Samuel

Efforts aimed at strengthening partnerships with industry players and professional bodies has received a major boost with the inauguration of the Board of Governors for the Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS), penultimate Wednesday. The landmark event attracted experts and other interested stakeholders from government and maritime sectors into the Governing Board of CELTRAS. Speaking before inaugurating the Board, Vice-

Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who briefed the Board members on the institutional profile of the University, pleaded with them to contribute their wealth of experience towards advancement of the Centre which he

described as applying the multidisciplinary approach to learning. The Vice-Chancellor informed them that the Centre has the advantage of training industry-ready professionals to man the transport sub-sector within the stipulated residency period as the programme was designed in a way which ensures that the academic calendar is not interrupted by industrial action, urging members of the Board to also contribute industry knowledge in teaching and

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Ms Nnadi (4<sup>th</sup> right) flanked by Dean, SSLT, Prof Awi-Waadu (4<sup>th</sup> left) other staff of the University and Mr Idu (1<sup>st</sup> right)

**A** Senior Medical Laboratory Scientist in the Department of Human Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences, Miss Henrietta Nnadi, has been elected a Fellow of the Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (FISLT) at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference of the Nigerian Institute which held at the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State between 29<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2014.

Briefing *UniPort Weekly* Correspondents, last Tuesday on her return from the Conference which had, *The Laboratory: Foundation for National Science, Technology and Innovation System* as its theme, Miss Nnadi said President of the Nigerian Institute of Science Laboratory Technology, Dr. Adamu Samalla, presented the award to her.

According to Miss Nnadi, who is Treasurer of the University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the National Association of Academic Technologists, 12 other beneficiaries were conferred with the Fellowship of ISLT in various areas of specialization.

"I am pleased to inform you that the Council has approved the recommendation of the Institute's Panel that examined your thesis earlier presented entitled: *Determination of Blood Electrolytes in Health and Selected Disease States in Port Harcourt City, Rivers State*, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for election as a Fellow of the Institute.

## Nnadi, UniPort Staff, Elected NISLT Fellow

By Otokor Samuel and Humphrey Ogu

Accordingly, you are elected as a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (FISLT) with effect from 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2014. I hereby on behalf of the Council and Management send you our sincere congratulations on this achievement and look forward to your cooperation with our Institute at all times," read part of the letter signed by Registrar of the Council, Dr. Igbohalo Ighobane.

A visibly-delighted Miss Nnadi, who recalled that her participation in an earlier Workshop of the Institute with the theme: *"Scientific Research Methods, Qualitative Research and Data Management"*, sponsored by the University motivated her to write a proposal under the supervision of Professor Augustine Uwakwe of the Department of Biochemistry, disclosing that she was invited by the Institute to defend the Thesis last December which resulted in her election into Fellowship of the august body.

The newly-elected Fellow of NISLT with Physiology/Pharmacology as area of specialization

thanked the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, for approving her participation in the Workshop that added impetus to her passion as a researcher. She also expressed gratitude to Professors Blessing Didia, Victor Dapper, Anthony Ataga, Uwakwe and Dr. Agatha Ataga, Mr. Matthew Idu, Mrs. Felicia Okoko and Dean, School of Science Laboratory Technology, Professor Grace Awi-Waadu for their contributions to her career progression.

Nnadi, an Associate Member and Special Fellow Candidate by Dissertation on Hematology and Blood Group Serology with Medical Laboratory Council of Nigeria (MLCN), is also a Doctoral Candidate with interest in Hematology.

The new Fellow, whose other research interest centres on cardiovascular physiology, advised her colleagues to avail themselves of some of the laboratory equipment made available by the University to carry out quality research in line with the present administration's passion about driving its vision of Entrepreneurial University where knowledge is capitalized for the benefit of humanity.

## UniPort Student Shines At PHBF Essay Competition

By Humphrey Ogu

**A** Third Year student of the Department of Educational Management in the Faculty of Education, Grace Livingstone, has emerged overall winner of the National Essay Competition organised by the UNESCO-Port Harcourt World Book Capital project at the just-concluded Port Harcourt Book Festival held at the Hotel Presidential from Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 to Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2014.

Livingstone, who took the first prize in the keenly-contested competition which had over 460 entrants, carted away an educational grant of N500, 000, a laptop, and a collection of books, while the second winner, Eremipaghino Ogunuara, a student of Office Technology at the Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, and third place winner, Precious Uzazuor of the Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Benin, went home with an educational grant of N300, 000 and N200,

000, respectively, in addition to a laptop, and a collection of books on various subjects.

Exchanging views with *UniPort Weekly* in the newsroom of the Information, Publications and Public Relations (IPPR) Unit, Livingstone expressed delight that she emerged the overall winner in the competition that drew entrants from different parts of the country. She recalled that a friend informed her of the call for essays by the Port Harcourt World Book Capital, adding that the topic was *Possibilities for Nigeria at 1900* with a stipulated 1,200 minimum and 1,500 maximum word count.

"Although this is the first prize I have won in an essay competition, it is actually my second time of entering for an essay competition," she revealed, attributing her win to wide reading. Livingstone, who applied to study English in the University with the hope of switching over to Law programme, disclosed plans to study Law on completion of the current degree programme.

"After failed attempt to secure admission into the Law degree programme, I chose English Studies in UniPort because I heard the University was planning to start a Law programme."

But here, I am studying Educational Management. I would certainly go back to my passion. I hope to study Law and protect the rights of women and the oppressed in society. That has been my passion right from my days in secondary school. I am passionate about counselling women on many issues that affect them," Livingstone said.

"At the Port Harcourt Book Festival, one of the African 39 Authors said: 'If you do a lot of reading, you can't escape writing'. My advice to my fellow students is that they should read wide, not just the books or subjects in the curriculum. Even if you are not sure of winning a competition, don't be afraid to try. I read a lot of novels, especially crime and detective stories. Although, I have cut down on reading books that are not part of my course curriculum for some time now," she said, advising fellow student to read widely to enable them keep abreast of information in this era of knowledge and globalisation.

*UniPort Weekly* gathered that the English Language Teachers Association of Nigeria (ELTAN) collaborated with Rainbow Book Club on the assessment of the essays that determined the winners.



L-R: Festival Director, Mrs Koko Kalango, Overall Winner, Ms Livingstone and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize winners

### EDITORIAL BOARD

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# UniPort Hosts 96<sup>th</sup> CULNU Meeting

Welcoming delegates to what he described as the maiden meeting of CULNU in the University, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, expressed optimism that UniPort would benefit from the gathering to improve its own Library. The Vice-Chancellor, who pointed out that the concept of Libraries had evolved following new trends in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), tasked Librarians on the need to ensure that university libraries become ICT-compliant to make their services available to a wider audience.

Describing the Library as the core of the University system, Professor Ajienka pointed out that the focus has moved from building a central library to developing Faculty and Departmental Libraries that would offer users easy access to reading and reference materials. An elated Vice-Chancellor also announced the establishment of a Department of Library and Information Science in the University. "You have very important roles to play in ensuring that academics in your universities publish in reputable journals, while also checking plagiarism that has the capacity to destroy the university system and scholarship," he told the gathering.

In his remarks, CULNU Chairman, Professor Innocent Ekoja, said that papers presented at the bi-annual meeting were carefully chosen to update Librarians on current trends in their practice and how to perform assignments more satisfactorily. "As we all know, CULNU came into being in pursuit of a better university library system in particular and a better university system generally in Nigeria. We have never deviated from this ideal in our over half a decade of existence," the Chairman said. He called on the various universities to continue to invest heavily in Library development, pledging the readiness of CULNU to put its 50-year experience at the disposal of any institution that may need same.



2<sup>nd</sup> L-R: University Librarian, Dr Nwodo, Provost CGS, Prof Konyia, CULNU President, Prof Ekoja, Secretary, Mrs Chijoke, Chairperson UniPort Library Committee, Prof Bene Willie Abbey and others

In a Keynote Address on *ICT, Copyright Protection and Library Development in Nigeria*, Dean of the Faculty of Law, UniPort, Professor Kaniye Ebeke, described as threesome the relationship between copyrights protection, library services and development. He opined that the relationship was enhanced through the application of ICT, which he described as a tool and complementary resource base for improved and balanced library collection.

Professor Ebeke submitted that the emergence of and utilization of ICT information handling and processing has afforded libraries opportunities to harness information resources without restriction. "Librarians are to serve as advocates for individual users of copyrighted materials by ensuring that their institutions have unlimited

access to available collection to aid research, teaching and learning," he emphasised.

Earlier, CULNU Executive led by his Chairman, Professor Ekoja, Secretary, Mrs. Mary Chijoke, Treasurer, Dr. Norbert Agbanu, Public Relations Officer, Professor Ahmed Balarabe, and Chairman of the Nigerian Universities Librarians (NULIB), Dr Benedict Oladele, had paid a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor at the Senate building. At the meeting, University Librarian, Dr Obiageli Nwodo, thanked Management of the University for supporting the Library, singling out the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, for commendation for allocating huge sums of money for the development of the Library. She also expressed gratitude to the Management for supporting her bid to host CULNU conference in UniPort.

## Music Dept Marks St Cecilia, All Saints Days

By Humphrey Ogu

It was a festival of captivating tunes at the University Arts Theatre—*The CRAB*, penultimate Sunday, as music lovers gathered to listen to melodies at a concert organised by the Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, to mark Saint Cecilia and All Saints Day. Welcoming guests to the concert organised in collaboration with *De Vivace Chorale*, Owerri,

Head, Department of Music, Professor Onyee Nwankpa, described Saint Cecilia as a patroness of music, who devoted her life to singing to promote love and peace among people and to glorify God.

Represented by Dr. Isaac Ibude of the Department of Music, Nwankpa noted that Saint Cecilia Day was actually 22<sup>nd</sup> November, while the first Sunday of the 11<sup>th</sup> month is commemorated as All Saints Day, pointing out that the Department decided to

mark the both events on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2014, hoping that the concert would remind people of the need to live at peace, love and render service to God and humanity.

In his remark, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who expressed delight at the performance, said: "On behalf of the University, I wish to thank *UniPort Concert Chorus* and our friends from Owerri for a very fulfilling evening. This performance is a testimony to the fact that music is growing in the University of Port Harcourt and I do hope that it would continue to grow from strength to strength in the years ahead."

The Vice-Chancellor, who expressed hope that the Department of Music has the potential of replicating the feat recorded by the Department of Theatre and Film Studies in the Nigerian home movie industry known as *Nollywood*, described the voice as the most powerful instrument for changing society. He charged the Department and all who are in the business of musical performance to harness the potential and talents of youth for the betterment of society.

Also speaking on behalf of the Head of Department, Mrs. Doris Ofili of the Department of Music, who thanked the audience for gracing the concert, commended the *De Vivace Chorale* of Owerri for participating in the concert, promising a bigger and better outing next year.

A major highlight of the memorable evening was a joint performance of *Ode on St Cecilia's Day* by *UniPort Concert Chorus* and *De Vivace Chorale*. There were also solo performances by both choirs. The event also attracted some Principal Officers, senior academics, non-teaching staff and students of the University.



A Scene from the Concert

# Biochemistry Dept Ends Proposal Writing W'shop



3<sup>rd</sup> (left) on the front row, HoD, Prof Wegwu flanked by Resource Persons and staff of the Department after the Workshop

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**A**s a way of facilitating grants acquisition to aid quality research activities, the Department of Biochemistry in collaboration with the Centre for Research Management (CREM) and the World Bank African Centre of Excellence for Oilfield Chemicals Research organized a Proposal Writing Workshop for teaching staff of the Department, penultimate Monday at the Emerald Energy Institute.

Addressing participants, Head of the Biochemistry Department, Professor Matthew Wegwu, disclosed that the Workshop was aimed at providing an avenue for cross-fertilization of ideas in critical areas of proposal writing. "The idea is to update ourselves on cognitive skills for conduct of research and writing skills for writing research grants proposal," he added. Director of the World Bank African Centre of Excellence for Oilfield Chemical Research, Professor Oghonna Joel, noted that the Centre

has a mandate to develop Faculties among teaching relevant staff of the University. Professor Joel, who described the Workshop as a train-the-trainer programme for academic staff, added that for the fourth time running, the Centre has trained over 20 staff from several Faculties on Entrepreneurship, Presentation Skills and Research Methodologies. The Workshop covered such topics as *Critical Thinking and The Art and Craft of Writing Successful Proposals*.

**T**he Entrepreneurial University of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, received a boost, penultimate Friday as young entrepreneurs, including Alumni of the University stormed the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, venue of the maiden *Entrepreneurial Forum* with the theme: *"Igniting Potentials and Possibilities"*, hosted by the Entrepreneurial Centre in concert with VTB Consulting Ltd.

In his welcome address titled: *"Innovation, Commercialization, Entrepreneurship (ICE)"*, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, who praised the young Entrepreneurs for competing favourably to change their world as employers of labour through the development of business and project ideas, charged students of the University to avail themselves of the privileged information they gathered from the forum to better their lot.

"Let me thank the Keynote Speaker, Mr. Asawo Ibifuro who is Managing Director of CINFORES Ltd., for finding time to be here today to share his wealth of experience with our students and staff. Mr. Ibifuro is an example of the entrepreneurial spirit that we need to cultivate in this University and Nigeria at large. He is articulate, confident and has passion to succeed, which are some of the qualities young people need today if they hope to compete and succeed in a knowledge economy."

"In my Inaugural Address to Senate and Congregation as Vice-Chancellor in July, 2010, I projected a vision of

## V-C Tasks Students On Creativity At Young Entrepreneurs' Forum

By Oikar Samuel

the University of Port Harcourt as a world-class Entrepreneurial University renowned for its creativity, innovation, productivity and scholarship. I invited the University Community to join me on this crucial mission to motivate and reawaken enthusiasm for productive work and commitment to excellence in teaching, research, continuing education, capacity-building and community service," Professor Ajienka recalled.

Speaking further, the Vice-Chancellor said: "I have been refocusing the vision of the University on the path of Sustainable Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship. I have been branding the University as an Entrepreneurial University. In the Global Knowledge Economy, those who generate new knowledge could banish poverty because knowledge is wealth. Universities thrive on entrepreneurial culture," commending staff and students of the University for responding to his vision of a new up-building in the direction of blending classroom theory with entrepreneurship.

"The effort of the University of Port Harcourt aimed at internalizing the culture of entrepreneurship is yielding better proceeds. Our ENACTUS team recently demonstrated this emerging entrepreneurial drive by donating locally-fabricated ovens to fish traders in one of our host communities. I, therefore, congratulate the students on this rare feat and hope they would perfect and commercialize the fabrication," the Vice-Chancellor said, disclosing that the University has established a patent and copyright office to facilitate registration and protection of intellectual property and product rights of researchers.

"Today, the *Ivory Tower* concept of the University has given way to a new marriage of convenience between *town and gown*, in which the academia proffers practical solutions to societal problems. In today's world, the knowledge base of the academia is part of the infrastructural base of the society," he added.

Earlier, Acting Director of the Entrepreneurial Centre, Dr. Prince Nwakanna, who disclosed that the Forum was targeted at Students, Staff and Alumni, described entrepreneurial education as the product of the rapidly changing economic climate aimed at tackling unemployment in the country.

"The Entrepreneurial Centre, although an outcome of the Federal Government's policy initiative under the leadership of President Goodluck Jonathan, is a deliberate strategy to address the challenge of youth unemployment, particularly graduate youth unemployment in Nigeria. Making our graduates not merely employable, but new venture creators that will provide viable job opportunities for Nigerians is the core aim for setting up the Entrepreneurial Centre," Dr. Nwakanna said, promising that budding entrepreneurs and visionary talents would be mobilized to represent the University at the Annual National Entrepreneurship Week which is a platform of the National Universities Commission (NUC) to promote entrepreneurship in Nigerian universities.

The Forum which featured testimonies of young entrepreneurs, included discussions around the subject and had an Alumni of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology and Managing Director, CINFORES Ltd. Mr. Ibifuro; Managing Director, House of Tara, Mrs. Tara Durotoye; Chief Executive Officer, Centure Energy Services Ltd, Mr. Ken Etere; an Alumni of Human Anatomy, UniPort, Joyce Daniel and Chief Executive Officer, VTB Consulting, Mr. Victor Briggs as Guest Speakers.



V-C, Prof. Ajienka flanked on his right by Director, IPS, Prof Mike Onyekonwu and Ag. Director, Entrepreneurial Centre, Dr Nwakanna and others

# Nwafor Emerges PSN National President

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

**A**t the just-concluded Regional Teaching and Research Workshop of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS) and the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Conference of the Physiological Society of Nigeria (PSN) which held last October in Lagos, Head of the Department of Human Physiology, Professor Arthur Nwafor emerged as the National President of the Society.

Briefing a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent, penultimate Monday, Nwafor disclosed that

Nigeria would be hosting the Africa Association of Physiological Sciences in 2016, while the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference would hold in the University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus in 2015. Elaborating on his vision as President-elect, Nwafor noted that teaching and learning of Physiology would be facilitated through collaboration with allied bodies within and outside the country, including the establishment of a *Physiology Week*—an outreach targeted at Secondary Schools

across the nation.

"As a non-profit organization, PSN is committed to promoting interaction and dissemination of research information among Scientists in Physiological Sciences and related fields," Nwafor said, revealing that the Society's *Journal of Nigerian Physiological Sciences* was rated among the best as adjudged by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities and IETFund.

Promising that the Department and University would gain national and international recognition following his emergence as President of PSN, Nwafor pointed out that he would also facilitate exchange and linkages programme among staff and students at the graduate and postgraduate levels, in addition to promoting local and international collaborations with allied bodies. "We would be able to take our research samples to any part of the world and also order relevant equipment to aid teaching, research and learning," he said. Before his appointment as President, Nwafor had served the Society as Financial Secretary and Vice-President, respectively.

Prof Nwafor

## UniPort To Mark African University Day Wednesday

By Williams Wodi

**T**his year's Association of African University Day will be marked on Wednesday under the theme: *How Can African Universities Enhance Capacity for Job Creation?* To mark the day, the AAU has invited member universities to organize an event on the theme of this year's celebration.

In Ghana where the organization has its headquarters, AAU plans to assemble higher institutions and other stakeholders at the All Nations University, Koforidua to discuss the way forward for universities in a changing knowledge economy through a public lecture. The panel will focus attention on the unemployment situation facing young people, who are vulnerable to changing economic conditions on the continent.

The 2014 African University Day will evaluate

the role of higher education in promoting graduate employability and how to enhance capacity for job creation, with a view to expanding the pool of skilled professionals entering the workplace. The AAU recognizes a strong correlation between higher education in the knowledge economy and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth through human capital development and technology diffusion.

The AAU said African universities cannot survive unless they seek institutional linkages with governments and the private sector stakeholders to create a development virtual circle. The celebration will also focus on the interactions that exist between higher institutions and society to achieve sustainable development, especially how academic institutions can influence development strategies at the national and global levels. It will also assess how to regulate mass admissions and still maintain quality service delivery without worsening social inequalities, especially sub-Saharan Africa's educational

specificities that must be taken into account. The celebration will also address practical work-related skill-building and on-the-job experience through affording opportunity for students to engage in internships or apprenticeships to help create critical bridges from school to work.

The AAU urged universities and other stakeholders to devise practical means that would create jobs, stressing that the African University Day celebration would be the best platform to ventilate the initiatives. The African University Day is held on November 12 every year, to enable member institutions commemorate the Day with various activities. The University of Port Harcourt is expected to participate in the 2014 celebration of the African University Day with a series of interviews to be granted to the mass media by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka. The interviews will focus on the theme of this year's celebration.

## STOP PRESS

**I**nstitute of Niger Delta Studies holds its 3<sup>rd</sup> Niger Delta History Week between Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. Highlights of the Week would include a Public Lecture to be delivered by Founder of the Songhai International Centre, Porto Novo, Benin Republic, Dr. Godfrey Nzamujo and Symposium. Time is 9:00am each day.



Prof Etienne Ehile, AAU Sec-Gen



Prof Ajenka, V-C

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# NIMASA D-G Heads CELTRAS Board



V-C, Prof. Ajienka (arrowed), Chairman, Board of Governors, CELTRAS, Mr. Akpobolokemi (4<sup>th</sup> right front row), other members of the Board and Senior Officers of UniPort

supervising students at the Centre.

Professor Ajienka congratulated Chairman of the Board, Mr. Patrick Akpobolokemi, for accepting to lead the Board and also for his recent re-appointment as Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) by the Federal Government.

"I will like to congratulate you for readily accepting to serve on this Board. This Centre is a new one run in partnership with the industry and professional bodies. From our experience, using the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) model of collaborating with industry, we had to search around the whole country to select those with the requisite experience to guide activities of the Centre," he said, commending an external member of the Board and Assistant Corps Marshall, Federal Road Safety Corps, Dr. Kayode Olagunji for accepting to teach at the Centre.

In his acceptance speech, pioneer Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr. Akpobolokemi, pledged to bring his experience in NIMASA to bear in the task of providing professional advice to guide activities of the Centre, adding that other faculties and Institutes in the University stand the chance of benefitting from the input of professional bodies on the Board.

Mr. Akpobolokemi, who also briefed the Institution on the programmes and policies of NIMASA, promised to turn Nigeria from a maritime environment to a maritime nation during his tenure in office.

Earlier, Director of the Centre, Professor Osi Akpohomeh, who recalled that CELTRAS was established to train qualified personnel to enhance proper planning, coordination and efficient management of logistics and transport activities in both public and private sectors of the economy, said: "The mission of CELTRAS is to produce qualified professionals in logistics and transport planning and management, especially for the Nigerian and African economy in particular and the world in general," adding that the idea is to provide adequate knowledge and practical skills for understanding and solving logistics and transport problems in Nigeria, as well as generate international support in funding for intellectual exchanges through conveyances, seminars and publications.

"The Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS) is tender-footed having been established in 2012 – only two years ago. Growth and mobility are attributes of the tender age and so

CELTRAS is growing. The Centre started with 16 Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) and two Master of Science (M.Sc) degree students in the 2012/2013 session. I am glad to inform us that the PGD students have completed their programme and graduated. In the current session (2013/2014), we registered 14 PGDs, 18 M.Sc and two PhD candidates," he disclosed.

A member of the Board and Group Manager, Director, DELMAR Petroleum Ltd, Dr. Austin Odili, announced the donation of an operational vehicle to ease mobility at the Centre.

Other members of the Board are: Managing Director, Ports and Terminal Operators (Nig.) Ltd, Mrs. Lizzie Ovbude; Representative of the Minister of Transport, Paul Ndibe; Representative of the Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Transport, Rivers State, Mr. Wilkinson George; Dr. Iwawase Vashima, Provost, College of Graduate Studies, Professor Roseline Konyia; Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Henry Abiphi, Acting Executive Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Dr. Ngodi Odu and Director of the Centre, Professor Akpohomeh.

## NUC Panel Ends Accreditation To Educ Faculty

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As part of its visit to the University, the Accreditation Panel to the Faculty of Education has concluded its assignment with positive evaluation of programmes offered in the Faculty. The Panel was constituted by the National Universities Commission (NUC) as part of the move to strengthen the institutional capacity of the University to better serve its growing clientele.

The Panel members had earlier paid a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka last Monday to acquaint him with the operational

modalities of its important assignment.

The Panel consisted of four team members the leadership of a senior academic. They were: Professors Boniface Nworgu, (Education C Panel), Nancy Agbe, (Education B Panel), Catherine Oreb, (Education A Panel) and Jerry Buhari (Environmental Science C Panel).

Receiving the team members in his office, the Vice-Chancellor expressed gratitude to them for accepting to take on the important national assignment, which he said would move the university system forward as envisaged by the NUC and the Federal Government. Professor Ajienka, who reiterated Management's determination to ensure completion of all

developmental projects in the University, assured the Accreditation Panel that most of the projects were near completion. He also assured them that various phases of the Faculty of Education building under construction at the University's Permanent Site would enhance quality service delivery on completion.

"We are not afraid of accreditation because it would help us strengthen our capacity to deliver quality service to our stakeholders. Without such periodic accreditation exercises that enable us engage in self-examination, the situation would have been worse than it is today and it is our hope that each visiting Panel would be objective in advising us on how we can strengthen our educational system and move forward with other nations," the Vice-Chancellor told his guests.

Responding on behalf of the team, Professor Nancy Agbe, disclosed that the Panel was in the University to evaluate programmes offered by the Faculty of Education with a view to bringing them in line with what obtains in other parts of the world. "We are here to look at what you are doing and to ensure that academic programmes offered in the University are strengthened to meet global benchmarks. The goal is to ensure that Nigerian students from this University meet global standards on graduation with the right skills to fit into the educational hierarchy," she said, soliciting Management's support to ensure that the exercise went on as planned as part of the strategy to reposition the university system.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Ndaka, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, Registrar, Mrs. Matilda Nnodim, Bursar, Mr. Vitalis Alizie, Dean, Faculty of Education, Professor Lawrence Igwe, and other teaching staff from the Faculty were on hand to welcome the team.

Following the successful three-day accreditation exercise that evaluated teaching and non-teaching personnel, facilities, infrastructure and curricula, amongst others, the Panel members departed the University last Wednesday, after an Exit Meeting with authorities of the University in the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room.



V-C, Prof. Ajienka in a roundtable discussion with NUC Panel members on accreditation and Senior Officers of the University

## GUIDEPOST

## PROFESSORIAL PROMOTION

**Dr. Ufof Asibong-Ibe**, Department of Mathematics/Statistics, Faculty of Physical Science & Information Technology, College of Natural & Applied Sciences, promoted *Professor of Mathematics*, effective 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2011.

**Dr. Nze Jebbin**, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Professor of Surgery*, effective 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2011.

**Dr. Rollings Jamabo**, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Professor of Surgery*, effective 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2011.

**Dr. Andrew Efemini**, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Professor of Philosophy of Development*, effective 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.

**Dr. Lucky Akaruse**, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Professor of Philosophy*, effective 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.

**Dr. Bridget Nwanze**, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Professor of Painting*, effective 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.

**Dr. Jeremiah Udom**, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Science & Information Technology, College of Natural & Applied Sciences, promoted *Professor of Geology*, effective 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2012.

**Dr. Orikomaba Obunge**, Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Professor of Medical Microbiology*, effective 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2012.

## READERSHIP PROMOTION

**Dr. Rosemary Ugwu**, Department of Paediatrics & Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2011.

**Dr. Abiodun Arighede**, Department of Restorative Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2011.

**Dr. Prince Mmom**, Department of Geography & Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, promoted to the rank of *Reader*, effective 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

## Doctoral Examination – What Works?

By Terence Lovat

Last week I gave a talk to members of the Society for Research into Higher Education in London. The talk was titled “Consistency and Disjunction between the Assumptions about and Reality of the Doctorate: Examining the examination process and the question of the viva”.

It reports on findings of three Australian Research Council funded projects concerned with doctoral examination, conducted with colleagues Professor Sid Bourke and project leader Professor Allyson Holbrook. The first project began in 2003 and the final one is in the wash-up stage.

The first two projects focussed mainly on the Australian doctoral examination process that, unlike most Western-based processes, does not include a viva of any kind.

The thesis is sent out to two or three external examiners – that is, external to the home university – who write individual reports together with a recommendation chosen from between four to nine options, including ‘pass without corrections’ at one end and ‘fail’ at the other end.

The recommendations and reports are then dealt with through an internal university process of calibrating a final result, one that does not involve the candidate other than in exceptional cases. The final decision-making body is normally a centralised committee made up of faculty or school representatives and chaired by a senior academic – a dean of graduate studies, pro vice-chancellor for research etc.

The investigations have uncovered a number of issues that have potential to challenge the current practice.

They include the non-standard ways in which Australian universities organise the process, the idiosyncratic ways in which examiners respond to the task of examination and the lack of opportunity for examiners to moderate their individual reports and calibrate them for a group report, as would be the norm where a viva is included as part of the process.

Even with the absence of such moderation, on the whole the findings indicated a high level of consistency between examiners on a given thesis. Other issues that were indirectly appraised concern the greater difficulty of finding suitable examiners as

the PhD has transformed from being an elite degree to a more mainstream one and the issue of satisfactory closure for candidates when they are unable to respond in person to examiner comments and feedback.

The range of issues gave rise to some interest in investigating the viva, a move that New Zealand has recently made. Previously, New Zealand followed the Australian process.

As a result, the latest ARC project focussed on the viva, especially as it functions in the United Kingdom and New Zealand to see if it clearly makes a difference and might address some of the issues of concern in the Australian process. UK and New Zealand examiners have been interviewed, together with Australian examiners who had experience of the viva and so could make comparisons.

Viva – Good or bad?

Results were mixed, with most UK examiners suggesting that the viva is a good thing to do, especially in terms of providing for candidate closure and satisfaction.

Most believed it was a far more preferable process to the Australian one,

some even suggesting they would refuse to examine for an Australian PhD because they could not imagine a process functioning without a viva. This comment related both to the need for examiner moderation and calibration and the desirability of candidates experiencing closure.

In other words, the initial reading of the thesis tended to be definitive, in the same way as is the case necessarily in the Australian process. A small number of UK examiners actually noted some problems in the viva process, owing mainly to that added difficulty of assembling adequate panels where extra time and travel were involved. As with Australian findings, this problem has been exacerbated by the far greater number of PhD completions compared with the past.

Some spoke of the delays that this can cause in finalising results and a small number actually felt that a move to the Australian process might relieve some of this pressure.

On the one hand, a definitive and publicly available report would be required from each examiner while, on the other hand, the viva would offer the opportunity for discussion between examiners with a view to any necessary moderation and/or calibration, as well as allowing candidates the opportunity to experience a more complete sense of closure.

Culled from *World University News*

**Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau**  
Minister of Education

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 09 TO SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2014

DATE	TEMPERATURE mm (°C)	HUMIDITY LO (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 09 NOV, 2014	33.0 25.0	71	E	10.2	6:18 18:13	Thunderstorm expected. Break of sun anticipated late. Warm day predicted.
MONDAY, 10 NOV, 2014	33.0 23.0	75	NE	2.2	6:18 18:13	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. More cloud than sun anticipated.
TUESDAY, 11 NOV, 2014	33.0 24.0	76	E	5.8	6:18 18:13	A few rain showers expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
WEDNESDAY 12 NOV, 2014	33.0 24.0	74	NE	4.2	6:19 18:13	Thunderstorm expected with occurrences of broken clouds. Day expected being hot.
THURSDAY, 13 NOV, 2014	33.0 24.0	76	NE	3.8	6:19 18:13	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
FRIDAY, 14 NOV, 2014	31.0 23.0	75	N	4.5	6:19 18:14	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecast.
SATURDAY 15 NOV, 2014	30.0 24.0	73	E	6.7	6:19 18:14	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.

DR GLADYS EMEKHE  
ACTING HOD

DR PRINCE MMOM  
AG. DIRECTOR, (CDRMOIS)

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# CGS Orientation 2014

The College of Graduate Studies (CGS) held an Orientation exercise for Fresh Students for the 2013/14 academic session on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Pictures below as captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** show highlights of the event:



Provost, CGS, Prof Roseline Konya welcoming participants to the exercise



Dignitaries on the High table rise for UniPort Anthem



Staff and Graduate Students join in the Anthem



Ace soloist, Precious Omaku leads the Anthem



Director, Academic Affairs, Mrs. Dorcas Otto presenting a Paper on Academic Policies on Graduate Programmes



Unis. Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo also presenting a Paper



Prof Ofurum speaking on Entrepreneurship and Graduate Education



Mr. Derejaka Abi speaking on E-learning and Turn-in software



Provost, CGS, Prof Konya and Dean, GSN/AMS, Prof Gregory Aworin in a tete-a-tete



R-L: Profs Ifeanchio and Clifford Ofurum in a chat with College Secretary, Dr Agatha Ataga



A cross-section of staff and students



A scene from a playlet during the event



A group photograph of Management of the College, Senior Staff and Graduate Students after the Orientation