



## IPS Has Positively Influenced UniPort ~Ajienka

After eleven uninterrupted years of committing itself to a culture of excellence in the training of world-class Petroleum Engineers for the oil and gas industry, the Institute of Petroleum Studies, University of Port Harcourt, has made significant contributions in securing the future of the industry far beyond Nigeria, reports Obinna Nwodin.

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## Side Bar

Prof Adewale Dosunmu of the Department of Petroleum Engineering, College of Engineering, delivers the 115<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture this Thursday. Details next week. ~Editor



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## 114<sup>th</sup> Inaugural

Ways of preserving food to ensure maximum safety and prevent illnesses associated with consumption of contaminated food was the main thrust of the 114<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture delivered by Professor Bernard

## Efiuvwewere Tasks Government On Food Safety

By Humphrey Ogu

Efiuvwewere of the Department of Microbiology in the Faculty of Biological

Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Thursday.

Efiuvwewere, whose lecture was entitled: *Microorganisms and Quest for Food Safety: Prospects and Challenges*, said: "Food safety is a major focus in Food Microbiology and it describes handling, preparation, processing and storage of food in ways that prevent food-borne illnesses and food poisoning," pointing out that it also involves safety measures that emphasize "tracking" the movement of food items between the market and consumers.

"Food preservation entails the manipulation of intrinsic factors such as pH, nutrient content, oxidation-reduction potential and extrinsic parameters that affect microbial growth and microbial dynamics in food ecosystems," the Professor of Microbiology explained, defining food spoilage as the alteration of quality characteristics due to enzymatic and

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# Kalu Relives Tenure As Dean

By Williams Wodi

Leadership throws up challenges that task even the most innovative geniuses. To accept to lead is to lay oneself open to the scrutiny of followers and independent observers alike. Leaders are known to have faltered and yielded to institutional pressures in the exercise of the statutory powers entrusted to their care in critical moments of history. Good leaders need abundance of wisdom and understanding to function at their optimal best.

Professor Sylva Kalu, who has just ended his tour of duty as Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences is a classic example of a leader that was and continues to be totally committed to the success of his Faculty, even under very difficult circumstances. Kalu took office at a challenging period in the Faculty that took off with graduate programmes at the Choba Park Campus of the University in those pioneering days.

Four years later, he recalls that his greatest impact as Dean was human capital development and staff welfare. How did he achieve his ambitious target? For instance, in 2010 when he took office as Dean, there were only four Professors and nine Senior Lecturers in the entire Faculty. There were just a few Lecturers I and II and some Graduate Assistants that drank from the fountain of the elders. For a Faculty that wishes to attain optimal student-lecturer ratio, that statistical data simply mocked at the stated institutional effort to deliver quality education to diverse stakeholders and secure accreditation from apex academic and professional regulatory bodies.

Let us put some sense of scale to this situation: In October, 2014, when Professor Kalu left office, the parous staff-students mix altered in the positive

direction to the admiration of stakeholders in the affairs of the Faculty. After his statutory four-year tenure as Dean, the Faculty of Management Sciences recorded a quantum leap in human capital development by adding two new Professors and one Reader to the intellectual pool. The former Dean was not yet done; two Senior Lecturers are currently awaiting confirmation from the Central Appointments and Promotions Committee (A&PC) to enable them join the Professoriate, while one Candidate is waiting to join the rank of Readers. The good news is continuing: three other Senior Lecturers are still being processed by the Central A&PC for the position of Professor and Reader, respectively.

As Professor Kalu closed the door to the Dean's office behind him and handed over the keys to his successor, the Faculty could boast of a princely harvest of thirty Senior Lecturers as against the pultry nine he inherited in 2010. Who says miracles are no longer possible in our time? "Except those employed in the last two years, all the Academic Staff in the Faculty were summarily promoted during my tenure, while other deserving staff were reconfirmed to continue in appropriate cases," a visibly delighted Kalu told a *UniPort Weekly* Correspondent, expressing hope that the good run would continue under the leadership of his successor.

He listed the Port Harcourt Business School, the new Department of Hospitality Management and Tourism, the Central Bank of Nigeria Centre of Excellence, a robust Staff Development programme, a Faculty Journal and excellent Faculty working relationships, clearing the backlog of Doctoral Candidates, introduction of the Doctor of Business Administration programme, Conference



Prof Kalu

attendance and successful accreditation of Graduate programmes, as some of the verifiable achievements that an outgoing Dean should modestly gloat about.

"I thank the University and my colleagues for affording me a golden opportunity to serve twice as Dean and for their support that helped move our dear Faculty to greater height," Professor Kalu said, appealing that the same support be extended to his successor, Professor Emeke Okereke as he casts about to move the Faculty to the next level.

## A Decade After Onyekonwu Relives IPS Journey

As the famous Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) clocks eleven years with graduation of the 11<sup>th</sup> set of Master of Science degree students in Petroleum Engineering, last Thursday, Director of the Institute, Professor Mike Onyekonwu, chronicled the journey so far in a Media Briefing at the IPS Park. Correspondent, OTIKOR SAMUEL covered the event for *UniPort Weekly*.

As part of events lined up for the 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Induction of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), a Media Briefing was organized to mark the event which held on Thursday, November 20, 2014. Director of the Institute, Professor Onyekonwu, who traced the establishment of IPS to fusion of the rich academic traditions of the University of Port Harcourt and the IFP School, France, said the programme sponsored by the NNPC/TOTAL E&P Nigeria Limited Joint Venture, in pursuit of TOTAL's Sustainable Development Initiative (SDI) came on stream with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on November 6, 2002.

"In September, 2001, a

delegation from the IFP School visited the University with Professors Oliver Delon and Gilles Gabode, who represented the Paris-based School. The purpose of that visit was to explore areas of collaboration between the two institutions aimed at developing a joint Executive Postgraduate training programme that would lead to the award of the Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree in Petroleum Engineering and Project Development. The postgraduate programme lasts for a minimum of 12 months without any downtime. The programme is not affected by strikes or labour disputes in or outside the University," the Director said.

"Earlier documentations on the origin of IPS stated that some individuals who may be referred to as founding fathers were the brains and key players behind the conception of the lofty idea that metamorphosed into the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS). These individuals, largely members of staff of TOTAL E&P, where Mr. Alain Roux (Technical Manager and Deputy Managing Director), Mr. Georges Buresi (Chief Executive Officer), Engineers John Adede, Alek Musa, Emmanuel Chigina and Charles Ngoka, (Sustainable Development). Others are Professor Oliver Delon (IFP School), Professor Gilles Gabode (Director, Petroleum Engineering Institute of Port Harcourt, IFP School) and Professor Jean-Luc Karnik (Dean, IFP School)," the Director recalled, adding that the likes of Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, who was then Vice-Chancellor, pioneer Director of IPS, Professor Joseph Ajienka, late Professor Chi Ikoku, Professors Mubik Ebong, Iy Nwagor, Ayo Koro, current Director, Professor Mike Onyekonwu, Professor Adelewa Dosunmu, Dr. Chris Tamuno (then Registrar) and Mr. Michael Ekeh (then Bursar), amongst others, also facilitated the process on the side of the University.

With the vision of becoming the foremost International Centre of Excellence in Petroleum Engineering; Petroleum Economics, Policy and Strategy Studies in Africa and beyond, the Director said that the Institute was established as a bold effort to remedy the observed skills gap between classroom theory and the practical needs of the oil and gas industry in Nigeria, the Gulf of Guinea and beyond.

"We are pleased to note that TOTAL E&P had adopted

UniPort as one of its host communities, even when the company is not prospecting for oil in the University. This is Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) at its very best which we recommend to other corporate organizations and public-spirited individuals," Professor Onyekonwu said.

He pledged to continually promote the seven elements of the Institute's core values anchored on excellence, integrity, commitment, effective communication, respect, transparency and team work, in addition to projecting the mission statement, philosophy and vision of the Institute.

On the future of IPS, the Director said: "The future is very bright for IPS as it doggedly pursues its vision, mission and mandate of building capacity for the oil and gas industry. The Institute is still working towards attracting more foreign students to its fold. Already, about six of such foreign students have been offered course of studies in the Institute. With expansion work proceeding apace at the IPS Park, we are hopeful that four new laboratories, an auditorium and more office and classroom spaces would soon be ready for use, while efforts are on to recruit more Research Professors and increase student enrolment."

The Institute has so far registered five patents with relevant government agencies. Some Doctoral Candidates have already completed their prescribed course of studies in the Institute. With expansion work proceeding apace at the IPS Park, we are hopeful that four new laboratories, an auditorium and more office and classroom spaces would soon be ready for use, while efforts are on to recruit more Research Professors and increase student enrolment."

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Prof Onyekonwu: Director IPS

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Vice-Chancellor and pioneer Director of IPS, Professor Joseph Ajienka, made this declaration while delivering the 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lecture of the Institute, at the Elitini Banjo Auditorium, University Park, last Thursday.

Professor Ajienka, who spoke on the theme: *Celebrating NNPC-TOTAL E&P Legacy in Sustainable Development: A Case Study of the Institute of Petroleum Studies, University of Port Harcourt*, stated that the IPS has become an attractive brand in the Nigeria University System. According to him, the Institute has contributed to the development of the country by addressing issues relevant to the strategic national objectives of the oil and gas industry, pointing out that universities can contribute to national development through training of competent manpower that would replace experienced hands that are retiring from the complex hydrocarbon industry.

"We must be prepared for this inevitable Crew Change, as well as engage in quality research and development, capacity building and professional certification, cost-efficient management of operations, as well as improving productivity and profitability, which are major impacts of the Institute on Sustainable Development," the Anniversary Lecturer said.

Professor Ajienka, who noted that sustainability development has become a global phenomenon, cultural diversity, as well as economic sustainability. The Anniversary Lecturer, who is also the Emmanuel Eghogah Chair in Petroleum Engineering, disclosed that a major strength of the Institute was the robust collaborations it has initiated over the years, pointing out that there was need to secure global partnerships for growth. He said that to make significant impact for growth and development, there was a need to identify new ways to do things rather than holding on to traditional ways of thinking.

Professor Ajienka stated that the Institute has risen

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A cross-section of dignitaries after the Anniversary

from its humble beginnings to become a World Bank/AAU African Centre of Excellence in Oilfield Chemicals Research that has contributed immensely to human capacity development. According to him, the development of IPS is very crucial to the development of the oil and gas industry in Nigeria and Africa. Professor Ajienka described IPS as a brand that has positively influenced the development of the University, IFP School, France and similar institutions, adding that it is a worthy brand that needs to be celebrated and perpetuated.

In his speech, Chairman of the occasion and Pro-Chancellor of the University, Engineer Gesi Asamaowel, said: "We are not only celebrating internationalization of higher education at home, but a celebration of sustainability of academic excellence for Africa," adding that IPS has become not only a pride to the University, but a model in the African educational system.

Engineer Asamaowel, who is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Institute, added: "At a time when oil companies drastically reduced their budget and suspended important projects because of the uncertainty in the oil business climate, NNPC-TOTAL E&P Joint Venture not only kept IPS expenses as a top

priority, but embarked on Phase II building project at the Institute."

In her address, Executive Director in charge of Human Resources and Corporate Affairs, TOTAL Upstream Companies in Nigeria and Chairman of the Governing Board of the Institute, Mrs. Edith Obi-Okonkwo, described IPS as an example of how the partnership between government and the organized private sector, specifically the oil and gas sector is helping to build the capacities of youths through the provision of world-class education. She said that "the fruitful experience explains how dream and determination can change the world. The consistent success of IPS in producing world-class graduates in Petroleum Engineering and Project Development for eleven years running can be attributed to the foundation of excellence laid by the founding fathers of the Institute."

In her remarks, Managing Director Total E&P Nigeria Limited, Elisabeth Proust, represented by Executive General Manager in Charge of Technical Services Directorate of Deep Water District of TOTAL in Nigeria, Mrs. Mass Akamudu, said that the partnership between TOTAL and IPS was well celebrating and emulating, describing the founding fathers of the

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## Medical Librarians End Training in UniPort

By Humphrey Ogu

Barely three weeks after the Committee of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities held its 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in the University of Port Harcourt, the Medical Library Association of Nigeria (MLA-NG) converged at the American Corner in the Donald Ekong Library last week for its Workshop and Annual General Meeting aimed at enhancing efficiency in medical records keeping.

Declaring the weeklong Workshop open, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who congratulated the University Librarian, Dr. Oluwalagbe Nwodo, for being able to attract two very important national meetings to the University within a month, observed that "any organization that focuses attention on staff training has a chance to enhance productivity and guarantee satisfaction of clients and stakeholders. Staff should be trained properly to do their jobs effectively."

The Vice-Chancellor, who charged Librarians to be at the forefront in the war against plagiarism in research, said: "As an Entrepreneurial University, we believe that research should attract money to the researcher and the institution and also have positive impact on society," stressing the need for students to embrace

Library and Information Science because of their importance and the huge opportunities they offer practitioners in the new knowledge economy.

In his opening remarks, Chairman of the occasion and Deputy Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor Oluwalagbe Nwodo, observed that healthcare professionals need to have information on current research findings that would enable them keep abreast of current happenings in the profession, which he described as critical to effective information storage and dissemination in this digital age.

Delivering the Keynote Speech on the topic: *Evidence-Based Medicine for the Millennium Development Goals*, a 2014 Association of African Universities (AAU) Exchange Fellow, Professor Vincent Idemymor, defined Evidence-Based Medicine as "the integration of the best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values," adding that "it reflects a systematic approach to clinical problem solving."

Idemymor, who is a Visiting Professor to the University, described the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as "the world's time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions," noting that MDGs 3, 4 and 6 focus on health, namely: Improvement of Maternal Health, Reduction of Child Mortality and combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other

diseases that ravage populations in Africa.

Explaining the critical role of research in achieving effective healthcare, Idemymor observed that the days of relying on many years of experience in practice without relevant knowledge of current trends in healthcare research are long gone, emphasising the importance of teamwork and collaboration between healthcare professionals and Medical Librarians to achieve effective results.

Earlier in her welcome address, University Librarian, Dr. Nwodo, stressed the need for the Association to communicate the values of Librarians and Library Services in enhancing medical research practices with the leaders of their respective institutions, expressing hope that the training would add value chain to participants and the institutions they represent.

Earlier in her address, Chairman of the MLA-NG, Dr. Uju Nwafor-Orizu, described the 2014 MLA-NG training and AGM as a weeklong intensive training in Medical Librarianship, that involved 12 main courses, three bonus courses, a written examination and issuance of Certificates of Participation. "Looking at the surge in health information generation overload, the evolving use of ICT in medical practice, the low health literacy rates in Nigeria and the incoherent and drudging systems, it was thought urgent to organise the training," she said.

"The urgency was amplified by the recent outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and the obvious lessons left in its trail for the entire health sector, including Medical Librarians, who are health information managers," she added, listing medical informatics, mass gathering medicine, health literacy, consumer health information resources, amongst others as major areas of focus in the training.

Also speaking, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Mr. Godbless Okede, noted that as the 2014 World Bank Capital, Port Harcourt had a robust book and information culture which every practising Librarian should embrace. Chairman of the Rivers State Chapter of the Nigerian Library Association, Mrs. Glory Edeh commended the University of Port Harcourt for accepting to host the event, expressing gratitude to others who contributed to the success of the Workshop and AGM.



V-C, Prof. Ajienka (Centre) flanked by Univ. Librarian, Dr. Nwodo, Prof. Oluwalagbe Nwodo, Keynote Speaker, Prof. Idemymor (F, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Right), Chairman of Medical Library Assoc of Nigeria, Dr. Nwafor-Orizu (F left) and others

# Team UniPort Clears Medals At Naval Swimming Contest

## ...As IPS Master's Students Defeat PGDPT Counterparts

By Otiok Samuel

Irrepressible Team UniPort again showed its sporting prowess when it beat seven military contingents to emerge overall best team in the invited Clubs category at a swimming contest organized by the Nigerian Naval Training Command on Saturday, November 15, 2014 at the Naval Base in Onne, Eleme Local Government Area.

Presenting the trophies and cash prizes won in the male and female categories to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka at the Sports Complex, University Park,

last Monday, Director of Sports, Dr. Ken Anugweje, who described the competition as an internal contest among different commands of the Nigerian Navy with the Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Usman Jibrin and Commanders of Naval Commands in attendance, disclosed that Team UniPort featured as one of the invited Clubs.

The Director of Sports further disclosed that the swimming contest featured series of relays which the University won, adding that athletes that represented the University were mostly new team members preparing to take over from the outgoing stars. He also

presented a souvenir from the organizers to the Vice-Chancellor, obviously in appreciation of the University's widely-acknowledged exploits in the sporting arena over the years.

Teams that participated in the invited Club category, according to Dr. Anugweje were: Western Naval Command, Lagos; Nigerian Airforce; Naval Headquarters; Navy Sailing Club; Headquarters Logistics Command; Headquarters Central Naval Command and the Nigerian Army.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, congratulated the new athletes for maintaining the standard of sports in the University, expressing delight that the athletes were also disciplined as they were all seated before 3.00pm originally scheduled for the Novelty Football Match between students on the M.Sc. and Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Technology programmes of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS).

Addressing students of IPS after taking the kick-off, the Vice-Chancellor said that the football match was a way of inculcating the spirit of team building in them, emphasizing that team work was an indispensable component in the hydrocarbon industry. Professor Ajienka, who urged the outgoing students of the Institute to develop the virtues of team spirit in their future careers congratulated the M.Sc. Class for winning the very competitive match, recalling that the PGDPT Class defeated the M.Sc. students last year with a 2-1 margin.

At the end of hostilities, the M.Sc. students defeated their PGDPT counterparts by a lone goal to cart away this year's trophy as part of activities lined up to celebrate the 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Induction of the Institute.

V-C, Prof Ajienka receiving the trophy from the athletes supported by Director of Sports, Dr Anugweje (l' right), while others watch on

When the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, launched the entrepreneurial vision of his administration back in July 2010, it was expected that Colleges and Faculties would naturally key into the vision that was designed to launch the University into the era of capitalizing knowledge. The vision was aimed at producing graduates who would be self-reliant to contribute to the economic growth of the country. One Faculty that has fully embraced the entrepreneurial vision is the Faculty of Agriculture.

Recently, the Presidential Committee on Job Creation disclosed that there are about N16.5 million unemployed persons in the country. This official figure may have grossly underestimated the rate of unemployment in the country for reasons that are not far-fetched. The same source claimed at the labour market absorbs one million youths each year. If this fantastic figure is correct, then the unemployment problem should have been drastically reduced by now. This is in the face of thousands of graduates that are churned out of our universities and other tertiary institutions each year. With 129 universities at the moment and still counting, the unemployment problem can only get worse at the very best, no matter what politicians say.

The average graduate hoping to find a job cannot celebrate the fantastic figures government is bandying about, especially in this political season where truth is the first casualty. Experts have blamed the massive unemployment situation on the failure of policy makers in the educational sub-sector to cross-match the curriculum with the needs of the industry in a new knowledge economy that requires brain workers. The problem will persist as long as Nigerian universities continue to produce graduates who seek jobs rather than those who create them.

The new entrepreneurship drive is designed to equip Nigerian graduates with the right innovative skills that would enable them create jobs rather than seek non-existent jobs. This indeed would go a long way in solving the problems associated with joblessness in our society. Students and their Lecturers must now begin to think, make and innovate in an age in which the brain is richer than vast mineral resources that once constituted the wealth of nations.

## Student Entrepreneurship

# The Agric Faculty Example

By Obinna Nwodin

The Intra-Faculty Bioenterprise and Agribusiness Committee of the Faculty of Agriculture recently organized its 2<sup>nd</sup> Agricultural Students Entrepreneurship Competition. The aim of the competition was to develop requisite skills amongst students that would enable them create value chains for themselves and society. After all, universities are meant to identify and solve the problems of society.

The Competition which held at Chuba Park on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 received 15 proposals from students, out of which eleven sealed through the initial screening stages. Ten of the students presented their proposals to a Panel of judges that assessed them accordingly. For instance, winner of the competition presented a proposal on *Forestpreneurship and Packaging of Viellaria Paradoxia for National Development: Shea Butter Moisturizing Cream in Oredo Local Government, Benin City, Edo State*. The first runner-up presented a proposal on small production and value added small products, while the second runner-up proposed the production and marketing of bee products.

The students presented very brilliant business ideas that impressed the Panel of judges and gave added fillip to the drive for self-employment on graduation. The next challenge is for budding student entrepreneurs to continue to fine-tune their proposals and seek sponsors to capitalize them to create wealth for themselves and society.

With such brilliant ideas, students do not need to roam the streets looking for jobs on graduation as they are already potential millionaires who would not only make money for themselves, but help others become self-employed. It is advisable for other Faculties and Colleges to follow the laudable steps of the Faculty of Agriculture by stimulating the intellectual and entrepreneurship abilities of their students. Government agencies, corporate bodies, public-spirited individuals and even investors can seize the opportunity to encourage these potential entrepreneurs by financing their proposals and nurturing them to full-scale commercial entities. If this scheme is duplicated in Colleges and Faculties in the University, the purpose of establishing a truly Entrepreneurial University would have been achieved.



Participants at the event

**S**enate of the University of Port Harcourt has approved a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) programme in Accounting, Finance and Banking, Marketing and Management. This momentous decision was taken at the 402<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the apex academic policy-making body which held last Wednesday at the Senate Chambers, University Park.

Presenting the proposal for Senate to give a nod to commence the new programme, Provost of the College of Graduate Studies (CGS), Professor Roseline Konye, who was represented by Dean of the Graduate School of Arts, Education and Social Sciences, Professor Martin Ifeanchio, said that the programme which would run along professional lines would be domiciled in the Faculty of Management Sciences with major input from the University of Port Harcourt Business School (UPIBS).

Senate also approved the proposal for a Master of Science (M.Sc.) programme in *Subsea Engineering* to be run by the Offshore Technology Institute (OTI) in the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS). Presenting the proposal, Dean of the Graduate School of Engineering and Technology, Professor Adesola Dosunmu, said that the programme was designed to meet emergent challenges in the industry, where he identified grave

# Senate Approves New Programmes, Results, Names New Arts Theatre After Amatu Braide

By Obinna Nwodin

anybody in any part of the world," the Vice-Chancellor reminded his colleagues. He also stressed the need for pre-inaugural citations not to exceed a page to retain the seriousness of the exercise and concentrate attention on the Lecture.

On the combined proposal for the Faculty of Humanities and Law on one hand, as well as the Faculty of Education on the other hand to transform into Colleges, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, said that a Senate Committee headed by him was still working on the proposals, promising to submit its final Report at the next Senate Meeting.

On the 2013/2014 Academic Calendar, Senate resolved that the modified academic calendar be reviewed to accommodate Final Year Students who would be eligible for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in the next mobilization exercise.

The Vice-Chancellor directed all schedule officers to

henceforth be handled at the Department, while Senate would develop guidelines for clearing eligible students.

It also received another presentation from Professor Efenini on the use of mobile phones by students during examinations, pointing out that the development now poses serious security challenges to Invigilators. After considering the matter, Senate directed that mobile phones be prohibited henceforth from all examinations venues, warning that infringement of the order would constitute an act of examination malpractice.

Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Safety and Environment (HSE), Professor Enuvie Akpokodje, drew the attention of Senate to the parlous state of public toilets and conveniences in the University. After due deliberation, Senate directed that all toilets in the various Colleges and Faculties converted to other uses should be recovered and rehabilitated for proper use by staff, students and visitors to the University.

Professor Samuel Ohwuo of the Faculty of Education was unanimously elected Senate Representative on the Governing Board of the University Demonstration



paucity of requisite manpower. Another proposal for the re-designation and reclassification of some programmes earlier approved in the then Department of Petroleum Engineering to be coordinated by the Emerald Energy Institute was approved by Senate. Also, a Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) programme in Religious and Cultural Studies in the Faculty of Humanities was approved by Senate.

Senate also approved a proposal from the Faculty of Humanities for the naming of the new Arts Theatre Lecture Hall located at the Permanents Site of the University after the late multi-talented Choreographer, Dancer and Actress, Amatu Braide who distinguished herself in the then Department of Theatre Arts under the tutelage of theatre, Icon Ola Rotimi. The Report of a Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Abi Derfeka, which was presented by Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Professor John Enemogwu, established merit in the proposal to name the building *Amatu Braide New Theatre Lecture Hall*.

Earlier, Professor Ajenika had expressed worry over the equality of Inaugural Lectures delivered in the University, stressing the need for urgent improvements to conform to acceptable global best practice. "Inaugural Lectures are not Seminars that could be written and delivered without sensitivity to the audience and depth of thinking. The fact is that they are uploaded on the Internet and could be accessed by

ensure that students were adequately prepared for the NYSC mobilization, urging them to do it efficiently so that graduates of the University will be adequately mobilized. He warned that authorities of the NYSC would not wait for any university.

Senate noted that action has been taken on the *Overstay Policy* in the College of Graduate Studies as Heads of Department have been duly communicated. Dean of the Graduate School of Arts, Education and Social Sciences, Professor Ifeanchio, briefed Senate that examinations and seminars have been put in place to accommodate affected students who overstayed their Residency period in the College.

On the proposal by the College of Physical Education, Mosogar in Delta State to seek affiliation to the University, Senate noted the information that Chairman of the Local Affiliations Committee, Professor Iniobong Udoideem, was expected to liaise with the National Universities Commission (NUC) to carry out resource verification before the affiliation would be finally approved.

Senate also approved Report of the Students' Disciplinary Committee as presented by Dean of the Student Affairs Department, Professor Andrew Efenini, as well as ratification of executive approved results to facilitate mobilization of graduates of the University for the NYSC scheme. Under the new dispensation, NYSC mobilization matters would

Secondary School (UDSS). Senate also approved the Report of the 12<sup>th</sup> Certificate Verification Committee (CVC) as presented by the Chairman, Professor Mike Momuna.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajenika, also brought to the notice of Senate information from the State Security Services on new tactics being adopted by the *Boko Haram* sect to perpetuate mayhem in the country. He advised that all hands should be on deck to strengthen internal security measures aimed at safeguarding the University from possible terrorist attack.

Professor Ajenika also drew the attention of Senate to the need to pay attention to issues of staff disposition when making requests for academic staff recruitment, pointing out that it was important for academics to properly justify requests for new Faculty members, especially in these lean times.

Senate considered First Semester and degree results from the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Management Sciences, Agriculture, Pharmacy, Colleges of Natural and Applied Sciences, Engineering, Health Sciences, as well as Graduate Studies. Requests for approval of External Examiners by various Departments were also approved.

The 402<sup>nd</sup> Senate Meeting was attended by Emeriti Professors Othni Nduka, Samuel Okwelu, and Nimi Briggs.

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# Efiuvwevwe Tasks Government On Food Safety



Inaugural Lecturer, Prof Efiuvwevwe (arrowed), V-C, Prof Ajenka, some Provosts and Deans

microbial attacks on food, thereby making it dangerous for consumption.

The Inaugural Lecturer, who noted that the rationale for food preservation is primarily to prevent or minimize the growth of pathogenic and spoilage microorganisms and preserve the quality attributes of food, listed drying, smoking, use of low and high temperatures, food additives, food fermentation, food radiation, amongst others, as preservation methods against food poisoning.

He recommended the establishment of a Centre for Food Quality and Safety (CFQS) to carry out research activities on all foods that are popular and peculiar to the Niger Delta region, as well as to collate necessary data that would enable the region become the reference point for national and international organizations. "The Centre will become the data base for accessibility of existing scientific information due to dearth of statistics on food borne illnesses such as pathogens of greatest concern and their associated foods," he explained, warning that people who eat expired food risk contracting diseases that could kill them over time. The Professor of Microbiology stressed the need for the construction and equipment of a

microbiological culture collection centre to help preserve most isolated microorganisms and exploit their applications for research activities in the various sub-disciplines of Microbiology and related areas of focus. "I therefore wish to emphasize that greater awareness and provision of state-of-the-art facilities for food microbiological research be accorded priority to enhance food safety and minimize incidents of food-borne diseases," he added.

Efiuvwevwe, who is the immediate past Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), also called for a Food Safety Day in the University to raise awareness among staff, students and the public and help minimize the recurring incidents of food-borne diseases. He advocated the introduction of food microbiology into the medical and paramedical curriculum of tertiary institutions to enable students acquire more knowledge that would help reduce food borne diseases among consumers.

The Inaugural Lecturer, whose contributions to knowledge spans several sub-disciplines and decades of food preservation and safety, listed microbial quality of fresh produce, use of various

preservation strategies, use of low temperature storage of tomato fruits, preservation of seafood, using the combination of low temperature and preservatives, amongst others, as some of the research activities he had engaged in aimed at enhancing human knowledge in Food Microbiology.

In his closing remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, thanked the Inaugural Lecturer for what he described as a wonderful lecture that has drawn attention to the hazards of consuming poisoned food. "This lecture is very important, because it addressed issues of food safety and poisoning among consumers in Nigeria. Christmas is drawing near and we need to be careful about the quality of food we eat during the season," he advised, lamenting that people have dropped their guards since Nigeria was declared free of the dreaded Ebola Virus Disease. Responding to the Inaugural Lecturer's call for the establishment of a Centre for Food Quality and Safety, the Vice-Chancellor charged Professor Efiuvwevwe to seek grants from donor agencies to ensure the fulfillment of his desire.

## NISLT Inspection Team Visits UniPort

By Orikor Samuel

A four-member team on inspection of laboratories, reagents and laboratory personnel in universities in the South-South region under the auspices of the Nigerian Institute of Science Laboratory Technologists (NISLT) were in the University of Port Harcourt last Monday on a two-day assessment tour.

Briefing the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka on this mission, leader of the delegation, Dr. Emmanuel Oshomoh, who stated that his team was given the mandate to assess facilities on ground, as well as areas of strengths and weaknesses with a view to recommending same to

the appropriate ministries, promised to make available a draft copy of his team's report to the University.

The Team Leader explained that the exercise was not intended to witch-hunt any university, stating that those with poor facilities stand the chance of benefiting from the exercise as grants would be provided to enable them update their facilities.

Dr. Oshomoh, who further disclosed that the overall aim of the exercise was to meet the requirements of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification in line with its strategic plan of ensuring that products and services are safe, reliable and of good quality, said that the assessment would cover laboratories of

the School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT) and Central Instruments Laboratory (CIL).

Responding, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajenka, informed members of the Team that the University had begun ISO certification training of staff in line with emerging global best practices, stating that with the modalities put in place by Management, all staff of the University would undergo the training.

"The equipment we have can be deployed to running a commercial laboratory. In the area of training, we have worked out modalities to train everybody in the University; while some will be trained within the country, others will be trained outside Nigeria," the Vice-Chancellor assured the delegation.



V-C, Prof Ajenka (Centre, front row) flanked by Team Leader, Dr Oshomoh (3<sup>rd</sup> right), Provost, CNAS, Prof Frank-Peterside, Univ. Librarian, Dr Obiageli Nwodo, Df-C (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Nduka (left), Dean, SSALT, Prof Awi-Waada (2<sup>nd</sup> left behind) and other members of the delegation

Provost, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Professor Naenna Frank-Peterside, who led Dean of the SSLT, Professor Grace Awi-Waada and other Senior Staff of the College on the courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor, also assured the Team of the preparedness of the College to cooperate with its members to provide the necessary information on areas of assessment.

Other members of the NISLT Visitation/Inspection of Laboratories Team were Chukwu Godwin, Adebayo Williams and Didi Azubulike.

## GUIDEPOST

## APPOINTMENT

**Dr. Chivenda Uzoike**, offered *Pensionable Appointment as Lecturer I* in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, effective on assumption of duty.

**Dr. Grace Alade**, offered *Temporary Appointment as Lecturer I* in the Department of Preventive Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, effective on assumption of duty.

## PROMOTION

**Dr. Chikwe Agbakwura**, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

**Dr. Njokuwu Amadi**, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

**Dr. Chinelo Ugwu**, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

**Dr. Jonathan Onukwofor**, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

**Dr. Mary-Rose Inuchi**, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

**Dr. Celestina Harry**, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

**Mr. ThankGod Wachukwu**, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

## RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

**Dr. Felix Njoku**, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Sciences and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 to 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2015.

**Mr. Richard Sikpi**, Department of Curriculum Studies/Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, granted a one-year *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015 to 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

## NOTIFICATION OF HIGHER DEGREE

**Ihuoma Ahoata**, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, awarded *Doctorate of Philosophy* degree in Microbiology (Food Microbiology).

Stellenbosch Varsity Appoints  
Ahiamadu Research Associate

By Williams Wodi

In recognition of his proven specialized expertise in the *Discipline Group Old and New Testaments*, the Faculty of Theology of Stellenbosch University, South Africa, has appointed **Dr. Amadi Ahiamadu** of the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies,

Faculty of Humanities a Research Associate.

The three-year appointment which will terminate on December 31, 2017, will provide a platform for Dr. Ahiamadu to get involved in relevant research programmes under the auspices of Stellenbosch University and its affiliate institutions.

A statement signed by Chief Director in charge of Strategic Initiatives and Human Resources at Stellenbosch, Professor T. J. de Coning, disclosed that the appointment would allow Dr. Ahiamadu to use the University Library and give him access to its vast electronic collections. "It also provides you with a publication address. The acceptance of this appointment commits you to inform the University of Stellenbosch of all publications submitted during the course of your appointment," the statement said.

The statement further urged him to cite Stellenbosch University as an affiliate address or co-affiliation address for publications that result from his use of the Institution's library and its vast collections. "After three years, a research associate may apply for re-appointment for a further period, depending on the level of their research activities," the appointment letter stated, looking forward to a period of fruitful co-operation with Dr. Ahiamadu in his new capacity. Stellenbosch University is a leading and predominantly white public research institution that takes its name from the town of Stellenbosch, where it is located on a vast expanse of land. The University with a current student population of 27,000 students and over 3,000 staff was founded in 1886. It designed and manufactured Africa's first microsatellite—SUNSAT launched in 1999. Stellenbosch is ranked third in Africa and 251 in the world, according to *Times* league rating of universities.



Dr. Ahiamadu

## STOP PRESS

## PUMSA Holds Awareness Campaign On Life Skills

The Port Harcourt University Medical Students Association (PUMSA) in concert with the International Federation of the Red Cross Movement holds an awareness campaign tagged: "In Case of Emergency: Basic Life Skills that Saves Lives." The event which is billed to hold at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014, would train participants on how to handle emergency cases such as fire break, auto crash, stampede, suffocation, severe asthmatic attacks and lots more. Time is 10:00am.

## IPS Has Positively Influenced UniPort ~Ajenka

Cont'd from p3

Institute as men and women with great vision. Proust expressed the willingness of TOTAL E&P to continue to support the Institute, expressing hope that Phase II of the IPS extension project would be completed by the next Anniversary celebration. She congratulated all those who contributed to the success story of the IPS, challenging the Institute to set new standards for the oil and gas industry. "We can beat our own standards as we set higher targets for ourselves," he charged staff and students of IPS.

Also speaking, Dean of the IFP School France, Philippe Pinchon, represented by Coordinator and Chairman of the Advisory Committee of IPS and IPS Training, Florent Piron, commended the Institute for its consistent graduation of students in the past eleven years. He expressed delight that a lot has been achieved with the collaboration, adding that IFP School was proud to be associated with the Institute.

In his remarks, Director of the Institute, Professor Mike Onyekonwu, said that the IPS brand has created a successful model for viable industry-university relationship which was lacking in Nigeria, adding that the Institute has continued to grow by attracting more partners to the ever expanding IPS umbrella.

In his address, the Valedictorian, Chiguzo Dibiagwu, who thanked all who made their stay in the Institute successful, urged his successors to continue in the tradition of excellence established in the Institute.

The event featured the induction of some distinguished industry professionals as Fellows of the Institute, presentation of NREP Certificate, as well as Prizes to the graduates. Those inducted as Fellows of the Institute were: the Pro-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Engineer Gesi Asamaweli, Group Managing Director, NNPC, Dr. Joseph Dawha, Elisabeth Proust, Executive Director, Port Harcourt District, TOTAL E&P, Patrick Ngene, Chairman, SEPLAT Limited, Dr. A.B. Ojaku, as well as, Chair Occupant of the *Shell-Azer Adams Professorial Chair*, Professor Adewale Dosunmu.

A total of 22 graduates were awarded the Master of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering and Project Development, while another 20 were awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Technology (PGDPT). The weeklong activity that preceded the Anniversary/Induction Ceremony included a Technical Exhibition, Novelty Football Match, and Exhibition/Career Fair, amongst others.

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## CELTRAS Governing Board Inauguration

The Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS) pulled top industry players in the maritime sub-sector to the University on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2014, for the inauguration of its Board of Governors. Our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** captured the events as shown in pictorial highlights below:



V-C Prof Joseph Ajinka (left) welcoming Director-General, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) and other members of the Board of Governors of CELTRAS



Director, CELTRAS, Prof Odi Akpoghomah presenting his address



V-C, Senior Officers and Board members rise for UniPort and National anthems



A cross section of other dignitaries during the anthems



D-G, NIMASA and Chairman, Board of Governors of CELTRAS, Mr. Patrick Akpobolokemi



Dr. Austin Odili (right) conferring with Centre Director, Prof Akpoghomah



A cross-section of Board members, MD, Ports & Terminal Operators Nig. Ltd, Mrs Little Orhude (standing)



V-C and Chairman of the Board (clockwise), other members of the Board and some Senior Officers at the inauguration



V-C exchanging pleasantries with an Alumnus and GMD, Delta Maritime Shipping Company Ltd, Dr. Odili shortly after announcing the donation of an operational vehicle to the Centre



V-C, Prof Ajinka (left) presenting souvenir to Chairman, CELTRAS Board of Governors



D-V (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Nduka and Centre Director receiving the vehicle from representatives of Delta Maritime Shipping Company Ltd in the presence of some Senior Officers of UniPort



V-C chatting with a member of the Board and Provost, College of Graduate Studies, Prof Roseline Konyia



A group photograph of V-C and Board members