

## NUJ Inaugurates UniPort Chapel

Following years of consultations, the Rivers State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has finally inaugurated the University of Port Harcourt Chapel of the Union, with a charge to members to uplift the image of the journalism profession. The very impressive inauguration ceremony, which attracted guests from all walks of life, took place at the Conference Hall of the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, last Wednesday, reports Humphrey Ogu.

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117<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture holds this Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 at the Ebirimimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park. Details next week. ~Editor

# UniPort Weekly

Vol. 23, Edition 220

March 9 - March 16, 2015

ISSN: 1850-1859

For Information and Enlightenment [www.uniport.edu.ng](http://www.uniport.edu.ng)

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



## UniPort Partners Degema Community On Medical Outreach

By Williams Wodi

A high-powered delegation led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, was in Harry's Town, Degema Local Government Area, to inspect a building and parcel of land

donated by the community for rural posting by the Department of Nursing Science, College of Health Sciences, last Monday.

Addressing Chiefs of the community before proceeding on an inspection tour of the facility, Professor Nduka, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor, Joseph

Ajenka, described the move as a kind gesture aimed at advancing primary health care in the community. "We are here to inspect and take possession of the facility that would serve as an outlet for rural posting of our trainee Nurses. This project will certainly be of mutual benefit to the University and your community, because the student Nurses would also identify the pattern of ailments in this community and report to appropriate organs of the University

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## SCIENTIFIC INNOVATIONS

By John Markoff

**S**cientists at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and at Google reported on Wednesday in the journal *Nature* that they had made a significant advance that brings them a step closer to developing a quantum computer.

Researchers have been pursuing the development of computers that exploit quantum mechanical effects since the 1990s, because of their potential to vastly expand the performance of conventional computers. The goal has long remained out of reach, however, because the computers are composed of basic elements known as qubits that have remained, despite decades of engineering research, highly unstable.

In contrast to a bit, which is the basic element of a conventional computer and can represent either a zero or a one, a qubit can exist in a state known as superposition, in which it can represent both a zero and a one simultaneously.

If the qubits are then placed in an entangled state — physically separate but acting with many other qubits as if connected — they can represent a vast number of values simultaneously.

To date, matrices of qubits that are simultaneously in superposition and entangled have eluded scientists because they are ephemeral, with the encoded information dissipating within microseconds.

The university and Google researchers reported, however, that they had succeeded in creating an error-correction system that stabilized a fragile array of nine qubits. The researchers said they had accomplished this by creating circuits in which additional qubits were used to observe the state of the computing qubits without altering their state.

But an important asterisk remains, according to scientists who read an early version of the paper. The *Nature* paper stated the researchers had succeeded in preserving only the limited “classical” states, rather than the more complex quantum information that would be needed to



# Researchers Report Milestone in Developing Quantum Computer

create a system that outperforms today's computers.

The importance of the advance is that the scientists have developed evidence that the system becomes more stable as they interconnect more qubits in the error-checking array. This suggests that far larger arrays of qubits, composed of thousands or tens of thousands of qubits, might be able to control the errors that have until now bedeviled scientists.

“We have for the first time in the long history of quantum computing an actual device, where we can test all of our ideas about error detection,” said Rami Barends, a quantum electronics engineer at Google and one of the authors of the paper.

Julian Kelly, another Google quantum electronics engineer, said there remained significant challenges in manufacturing materials for quantum computing.

In some cases, the scientists are able to rely on existing semiconductor technology, but there are many steps for which they will have to invent approaches.

The research was reported by scientists working in the laboratory of John M. Martinis, a physicist at the university. In September, Google announced it would join efforts to build a quantum computer as part of the recently established Quantum Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. Under that agreement, Dr. Martinis joined Google while keeping his teaching role, and members of his laboratory became Google employees.

While the researchers described their new circuit as a significant advance, they acknowledged that they had not yet solved all of the problems that prevented the building of a working quantum computer.

“While the basic physical processes behind quantum error correction are feasible, many challenges remain, such as improving the logic



Dr. Abdul Basma

Minister of Science and Technology

operations behind error correction and testing protection from phase-flip errors,” the scientists noted in a statement posted on the company's website.

In a discussion of the *Nature* paper on his website, the M.I.T. physicist Scott Aaronson suggested that the achievement represented about half the progress required to build a fully functional quantum computer.

Google is not the only computing company collaborating with academic researchers in advancing quantum computing. IBM is working with scientists at Yale, and Microsoft is working separately with researchers at the University of California, Santa Barbara, supporting the Station Q research laboratory it created there in 2006.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/05/science/quantum-computing-nature-google-uc-santa-barbara.html>

## Google Sensitizes UniPort Students On GOMC

By Mercy Adeniji

**I**n an effort aimed at reducing the yawning digital divide that would enable staff and students of the University to be in tune with emergent global trends, stakeholders have been called upon to be part

of the Google Online Marketing Challenge. The initiative is designed to familiarize participants with new software applications and related packages that would enable them easily surf the Internet.

Speaking after the impressive roll-out event which held at the International Students' Centre on Friday, February 27, 2015, UniPort Google Student Ambassador and Team Leader, Joshua Joshua, disclosed that “Google Online Marketing Challenge (GOMC) represented a unique opportunity for students to experience and create online marketing campaigns, using Google AdWords and Google Plus. He disclosed that over 80,000 students and Professors from almost 100 countries have participated in the past 7 years with very impressive results.” The challenge is open to student teams of three to six members from Undergraduate or Graduate programme, regardless of their discipline.

Speaking on an ongoing campaign, Joshua said with a \$250 AdWords advertising budget provided by Google, students develop and run an online advertising campaign for a business or non-profit organization over a three week period. The teams that develop and communicate the most successful campaigns win prizes, including trips to designated Google offices. Students would also have an opportunity to participate in the optional Google+ Social Media Marketing category by creating and managing a Google+ Page for their clients over a five week period.

According to him, students must register under a verified faculty member, while Lecturers or instructors currently employed by an accredited institution, who register for the Challenge would be

directly verified by Google.

He stated that “the essence of the project is to encourage people to be part of the GOMC and as a team, we saw that Google Online Marketing is going to be a boom in the next few years and if people don't tap into this knowledge of learning how to do Online Marketing, it may be too late for them to get onto the platform at a later stage.”

The Student Ambassador revealed that the Ad Class which is Google's next event is scheduled to hold on Monday, March 16, 2015 and would run for six days. Joshua further expressed gratitude to Management of the University for affording the students an opportunity to hold the event on Campus. He also commended the Director of Exchange and Linkage Programmes (ELPU), Professor John Otigabe, Dr. Olufemi Adesope of the Faculty of Agriculture and Mr. Dan Ekpa for their unalloyed support for the initiative.

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UniPort Weekly  
Vol. 23, Edition 220



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Inaugurating the Chapel, Chairman of the Rivers State Council of the Union, Mr. Opatika Dukuho, charged members of the new UniPort Chapel to deploy their awesome intellectual endowment and practical experience to advance the cause of the NUJ.

"I consider this inauguration ceremony as the high point of my tenure as Chairman of the Rivers State Council of the Union. I shall be completing my tenure in the next few months and today's event shall linger in my memory as I prepare to quit office. As far as I can recall, this milestone event is the biggest inauguration ceremony by the Rivers State Council since I took office. I cannot recall any such event that was so enjoyable and elaborate.

"I hope that this Chapel, with so many doctorate degree holders, as members will be true and unique like the University which is known for unique things. As we inaugurate this Chapel today, it is our hope that you would join forces with us to root out the bad eggs that tarnish the good image of the noble journalism profession. It is our hope that the Chapel will champion the crusade of training journalists with 21st century competences, as some of the graduates we encounter in the line of duty today do not measure up to the minimum benchmarks of professional excellence. We want to ensure that only those who have been properly certified as professional journalists will be cleared to proudly wear the NUJ Identity Card as members," he declared.

In his acceptance speech, Chairman of the newly-inaugurated Chapel, Dr. Anifolok Udondo, who pledged total loyalty and commitment of the Chapel to the State Council and the National Secretariat of the Union, said: "We in the Union, in collaboration with the Information, Publications and Public Relations Unit of the University, shall cause activities in the University to resonate more and more now that practitioners in the field will take us as their colleagues and friends.

With Radio UniPort in place, our members shall show more commitment to quality of programmes aired. *Unique Advocate*, the newspaper produced by the Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, will turn around professionally and give more capacity for coverage and highly improved aesthetics," he pledged.

In his remarks, Chairman of the occasion, Professor Boniface Nwige, described the press as an important organ that brings to the public information on the day-to-day running of government and happenings in society. Journalism is a very important profession that holds government accountable to the people. I charge media people to practice with conscience and adhere to the ethics of the profession at all times."

Speaking through the Deputy Registrar in charge of Information, Williams Wodi, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who congratulated the Department for inaugurating a Chapel of the Union in the University, expressed hope that the development would create a platform for interaction between theory

# NUJ Inaugurates UniPort Chapel



New UniPort NUJ Chapel EXCO taking the Oath of office

and practice of the media in line with the administration's industry-academia partnership drive.

"I urge you to up the ante by engaging staff and students of the Department in robust reportage and live streaming of the many activities that happen in the University on daily basis. I am also happy to note that you have commenced regular publication of a Departmental newspaper that would sharpen the creative edge of students and count for you during accreditation exercises," the Vice-Chancellor said.

Earlier in her welcome address, Acting Head of the Department, Dr. Virginia Onumajuru, who spoke through Dr. Baridisi Isaac, said: "The inauguration will bring the academia closer to professionals in the field to exchange ideas that will measure up to the minimum benchmarks of professional excellence. We want to ensure that only those who have been properly certified as professional journalists will be cleared to proudly wear the NUJ Identity Card as members," he declared.

On his part, Special Guest of Honour, Professor Ozmekuri Ndileke, who recalled the humble beginnings of the communication option in the Department, adding that: "Last year, we saw the inauguration of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) in this Department; today, we are inaugurating the NUJ Chapel. We hope to inaugurate the UniPort Chapter of the Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON) to bring the exercise into full circle. We must

train our students for the industry of today and tomorrow. This can be achieved through collaboration with experienced industry players."

In his remarks, Dean of the Faculty, Professor John Enemagwem, described journalism as a noble profession, extolling the contributions of the late Ernest Ikoli to the development of the profession in Nigeria. He charged members of the new Chapel to uphold the tenets of the profession at all times.

Chairman of the UniPort Radio Governing Board, Adela Onyedibia, who noted that the journalism profession required discipline and continuous training, promised a better Radio UniPort when the station resumes broadcasting. He noted that "a good a journalist must know how to conduct research by getting into the nitty-gritty of issues."

Others, who spoke at the event, which featured a presentation by the Linguistics and Communication Studies Students Association (LINCOMSSA), included Dr. Faustinus Nwachukwu of the Department and Head of Department of Mass Communication, Rivers State College of Arts and Science, Asaba, Chiembe. Other members of the Executive of the new Chapel are: Dr. Christy Onogwe, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Chukwumeka Iroham, Secretary, Mrs. Ebele Ire, Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Titi Osagwara, Treasurer, and Mr. Samuel Joshua, Financial Secretary.

## UniPort Ready For NUC Research Fair



Prof. Awiri  
Research Fair Chairman

By Obinna Nwodin

As the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Nigerian Universities Research and Development Fair (NURESDF) draws closer, there are strong indications that the University of Port Harcourt is fully prepared to showcase the result of quality research activities carried out by staff and students during the period under review. Chairman of the Research Fair Committee, Professor Gregory Awiri, gave the indication in an interview with *UniPort Weekly* in his office, last Wednesday. Professor Awiri, disclosed that "over 300 abstracts based on exciting quality research works from the University have been forwarded to the Fair Local Organizing Committee."

He added that "we have some key projects such as Nanotechnology from the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), genetically modified food products from the Department of Microbiology; Entrepreneurial Skills Development in the Teaching of Physics from the Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, some Prototypes from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, as well as numerous others from the Faculty of Agriculture, disclosing that the latest edition of the Anatomical Model from the Department of Human Anatomy would also be showcased at the eagerly-awaited Fair to be hosted by the University of

Yon."

Professor Awiri, stated that the positive response from researchers in the University was as a result of the sensitization of staff through information sent to Provosts, Deans, Directors of Institutes and Centres, including Heads of Department. He encouraged those who have innovative researches that can be showcased at the Fair to still send them to the Committee for evaluation.

Awiri, who is also Dean of the Graduate School of Natural and Applied Sciences and Medical Sciences, said that "the University was building on its past experiences at previous Fairs to prepare for this year's edition. "This time around, we hope that the quality research documentation we are presenting will take us to the top of the pack."

The objective of the annual Fair which is coordinated by the National Universities Commission in collaboration with universities in Nigeria is to exhibit innovative and creative research projects that could be capitalized. The Fair is also expected to provide a platform for Nigerian universities to interact with industry players to identify and select research outputs that are ready for the market. It would also facilitate the diffusion of research and development output into the national economy, amongst other expectations.

It would be recalled that the University took overall second best position at the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Fair held at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and came overall third at the 5<sup>th</sup> edition hosted by the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

# Celebrating UniPort At 40 In Faculty Of Social Sciences

By Binna Nwodin

Just like the others, the Faculty of Social Sciences commenced as a School of Social Sciences at the inception of the University in 1975. There is no doubt that Social Sciences discipline has emerged as a strong selling point of the University partly due to the



array of distinguished scholars that walked the corridors of the Faculty at its inception. Parading the best minds in the Social Sciences, the Faculty could be said to have lived up to its billing as a centre of excellence in behavioral analysis.

The indelible footprints of great brand names such as Claude Ake, Ikenna Nzimiro, William Ojionwe, Inya Eteng, I.S. Kodjo, Olatunde Ojo, Mark Anikpo, Julius Ihonvbere, amongst others, will for a long time be remembered in the annals of the Faculty and the University. These scholars were firebrand academics and activists, who did not only stretch the frontiers of knowledge; they also impacted same to their students and younger academics. They practised what they espoused and interrogated power at all levels of society and governance.

The Faculty provided a platform for robust intellectual discourse on various topical issues that went a long way in addressing the myriad of social, political and economic problems faced by the country in their day. At the time, the Faculty of Social Sciences was the envy of scholars and

policy makers, as most students ran to the Faculty to take elective courses, particularly in Political Science and Sociology.

That was the era of global tension arising from the Cold War between the Warsaw Pact led by the defunct Soviet Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), led by the United States of America. The resulting ideological battles were robustly fought by very knowledgeable academics and their acolytes in the Social Sciences around the world—more so in Unique UniPort. The likes of Ake, Nzimiro, Eteng, Anikpo, Edet Akakpan and Ihonvbere, and their intellectual foot soldiers looked up to the communist East for solutions to Africa's post-colonial crises of underdevelopment. They had an energetic ideological soul made in the Faculty of Humanities in the person of Dr. Chidi Amuta, who dreamt of a rising red China. Curiously, their conservative colleagues pitched ideological tent with Western European capitalist models of development; and poked fun at them as "pocket capitalists without capital." Students enjoyed the ideological warfare and craved for more of such reasoned disagreements in and outside their



classrooms.

To showcase the global reckoning of the Faculty, Ake organized an annual political science forum in concert with the University of Denver, Colorado in America. Distinguished Professors in the Social Sciences converged on the University to celebrate knowledge and compare notes on current trends in the behavioural sciences. Scholars—especially the non-conformists—usually joined Ake and his retinue of followers to electrify the audience with warnings about 'the dead hand of capitalist bureaucracy'. Some of such conferences were held in Colorado. The social sciences were in full bloom in the University in those glorious days, until the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) by the General Ibrahim Babangida justly rubbished the hallowed corridors of the academia and drove a nail into the heart of scholars.

Today, the Faculty which has partially relocated to its Permanent Site donated by First Bank Plc, a gesture spearheaded by an alumnus of the Faculty, Dr. Alex Otti, is waiting in the wings to expand to another massive complex funded through the Tertiary Education Fund (TEFUND)—this time—facilitated by the immediate past Minister of State for Education and a distinguished alumnus of the Faculty—Chief Nyesom Wike.

At 40, the Faculty of Social Sciences has maintained the culture of sustainability through the robust academic tradition established by its founding fathers that has been maintained over the years. The hallmark of success in any endeavour is the capacity for an orderly succession plan in any system. The Faculty has cultivated and grown its



timbres and calibre. Most of those who hold sway in the four Departments today, were disciples of the great minds who drank from their mentors' fountain of knowledge. 40 years of intensive academic activities has seen the Faculty produce distinguished Nigerians, who have made their marks in diverse fields of human endeavour. It is a thing of pride to mention that a distinguished global scholar such as Professor Nimi Wariboko, who has been described as one of the most original and creative thinkers today, sat at the feet of the founders of the Faculty in the early 1980s. He has been able to make great impact with the eclectic knowledge he received from the grand masters of the Faculty. Professor Wariboko currently occupies an endowed Chair at America's oldest Seminary. The main thrust of his research is transactional economics and ethics.

This is one of the numerous achievements in the Faculty which should be a pride to showcase as it rolls out the drums and clinks glasses to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University. Professor Nimi Wariboko's glittering academic success is a testimony to the fact that the Faculty has lived up to the dreams of its founding fathers.

Furthermore, most of the young professors in the Faculty were made within the hallowed corridors of the Faculty of Social Sciences. This is indeed a major milestone and an achievement to be proud of. Other names that have emerged from the Faculty such as Kimsa Okoro, Willy Okowa, Samuel Ibadje, Steven Ekpenyong, amongst others, have brought pride and honour to the Faculty. They have demonstrated scholarship and academic leadership to the admiration of students and colleagues at all levels.

The rich academic tradition of the Faculty of Social Sciences in the last 40 years is a pointer to what is to be expected in the next 40 years. Armed with the zest and intellectual vibrancy that it is widely acclaimed for, it is expected that the fame of the Faculty will resonate far beyond the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.



# CNAS Celebrates UniPort At 40

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

As part of the University-wide celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Institution, the College of Natural and Applied Sciences mounted a series of activities that commenced with a well-attended Public Lecture, last Monday at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park.

Delivering the Lecture entitled *Importance of Exercise and Diet In Health: Recent Findings*, Professor Patrick Uadia of the University of Benin, who discussed his research findings on the benefits of exercise, following a six-week study on the subject, pointed out that individuals who exercise regularly experience improved liver and kidney functions and reduced cholesterol levels. He recommended exercise as a way of boosting the immune system, controlling diabetes, obesity, metabolic disorders and infertility with polycystic ovary syndrome in women.

On his research findings, Professor Uadia stated: "I conducted a study to verify claims of the nutritional values of some of our indigenous fruits and vegetables like garlic, carrots and onions and the results were amazing. Take walnut for instance; it protects against cardiovascular diseases, boosts the immune system, improves fertility in men and helps in weight loss. It also protects the body from free radicals." The Guest Lecturer advised that in addition to consuming healthy meals, individuals should engage in regular physical activities as a way of maintaining good health.

Representative of the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, who pointed out that the College of Natural and Applied Sciences has metamorphosed from a School system to Faculty and then College status, noted that it has recorded numerous achievements over the years that were worth celebrating. He commended the continued support for the College by notable Alumni, including President of the Federal

Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, who has contributed directly and attracted several projects to his *Alma Mater*, Senator Emmanuel Panlker, who recently endowed a Professorial Chair on Sickle Cell Anaemia in the Department of Biochemistry, Dr. Franklin Osoisi, who influenced the construction of a nuclear energy study centre in the University and Dr. Stanley Lawson, who endowed a Chair in the Department of Geology and donated air conditioners for use at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, amongst others.

Other lectures presented at the event included: *Science as the Driver of Sustainable Development: Celebration of 40 Years of UniPort College of Natural and Applied Sciences* by Professor Love Akonye, and *Managing the Scourge of*

*Sickle Cell Haemoglobin Pathology: The Natural Alternatives* by Professor Augustine Uwakwe, who is Occupant of the Sickle Cell Chair.

In separate speeches, Provost of the College, Professor Nnenna Frank Peterside and Chairman of the College Celebration Committee, Professor Bernard Efiuwere, commended the efforts of the pioneer Vice-Chancellor of the University, Late Professor Donald Ekong and others, who started the study of science in the Institution, including Professors Ayeleghani Spiff, Emmanuel Anosike, Alphonsus Anusiem, Bruce Powell, Francis Onofeghara, Samuel Okwelu and others, for their contributions to the development of the College and University.

The week-long event featured football matches between the various Faculties in the College, exhibitions, career talks, Jumat and Thanksgiving Services.



Staff and Students of CNAS during a rally. Inset: Prof Uadia

In keeping with the cybernetic revolution that is sweeping through the world, Master's degree students in the Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology (CSET), Faculty of Education, showcased ways of applying computer-aided technologies to enhance teaching at the Centre for Instructional Innovation Technology (CIIT) Choba Park, last Tuesday.

Exchanging views with *UniPort Weekly* after one of the sessions, Professor Ebi Bio Awotua-Efebo noted that with the cybernetic revolution, it had become imperative to

## CSET Students Extol New Teaching Apps

By Humphrey Ogu

deploy various applications that would make the teaching-and-learning processes more effective, explaining that there is a paradigm shift in teaching and learning with information and communication taking centre stage.

"Technology is not likely to take over the role of teachers, but those who use technology in teaching are likely to replace those who don't. It is just a matter of time," Efebo, who is the immediate past Dean of the Faculty predicted, stressing the need for Lecturers to keep abreast of emerging trends in the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as a teaching tool in the drive for efficiency.

"There are so many apps in our phones that we can use to teach, but most Lecturers are not doing it because they don't know how to apply them. Most of us only use our phones to make calls. Yet, these apps are there for us to use by connecting our phones to multimedia projectors. We have an interactive board which we use in training our students, some of whom may end up as Lecturers tomorrow," he pointed out, adding that students who passed through the Department are better equipped for the modern classroom experience than their counterparts who did not.

Efebo, who is the Director of CIIT, noted that a good teacher takes four things into consideration namely: communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking," explaining that "for you to communicate properly, you need to have a message. As the sender, you organise the message; we call that process encoding. From there, you send it through a medium to the receiver. You must ensure that the medium is not faulty. It is only when the receiver receives the message that you have communicated."

"In terms of creativity in the teaching process, there is hardly any subject area that we cannot apply ICT to. Pastors, marketers and numerous others are using ICT, except Lecturers. That is why we created CIIT, which is designed to teach people how to use ICT to teach," he explained, citing Google Plus, *Creativity.com*, amongst others, as educational apps that can enhance learning experience.

He also said that the era when teachers stood in front of

their students to teach without getting students involved in the learning process was long gone, stressing that it was no longer fashionable for teachers to stand in class to dish out information, without affording students the opportunity to participate in the teaching-and-learning processes. "These days, students do more of the talking, while I sit, listen and guide them where necessary. Things have changed and students must be encouraged to get involved in critical thinking," Efebo said.

Some student participants expressed satisfaction with the experience they gained from the exercise. Godfrey Abumere told our Correspondent that "The class taught us how to use Internet to produce charts and diagrams for study purposes. I never knew about it until it was brought to my notice that I could use the computer to create colours and shapes to clarify facts while teaching."

Another student, Juliet Koko, described the process as a "21<sup>st</sup> century teaching skills acquisition scheme, adding that "what we try to do in class is to use *Creativity.com* to learn how to use diagrams to make illustrations and PowerPoint presentation skills."

On her part, Happiness Ofurum, noted that "Each time you come into this class, your imagination continues to broaden and you learn something new. Before now, we didn't know we could take online classes from here with people from other parts of the world. I didn't know that UniPort could give us this platform to experience and explore such opportunities. It is more like a do-it-yourself class, where the Lecturer is there to guide students," she said.

"Even though I have gone through school before, I never learnt how to use the computer at this level. This class has exposed me to the use of computer. It afforded us an opportunity to be creative, collaborate and engage in critical thinking. I wish all courses are like this. I can never quantify what I learnt from this programme," said Juliet Abangbe.

"We have been exposed to learning online by bringing the computer into classroom. Much of what we do here are things I thought could only be possible outside Nigeria. I am glad that it is happening not just in this country, but also in UniPort. The challenges we face are poor Internet, epileptic electricity supply and inadequate space. If these challenges are tackled, it will go a long way in enhancing our learning experience," Moses Iorgye said.



Prof Awotua-Efebo

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for necessary action," he told the Chiefs.

Expressing the gratitude of authorities of the University to the Chiefs, elders and youths of Harry's Town on the emergent partnership, Professor Nduka commended their foresight and interest in education and community development, pledging total commitment of the University towards the realization of the project that was initiated by the immediate past Acting Head of Department of Nursing Science, Dr. Grace Robinson Basse.

In his response, the traditional ruler of the Community, His Highness, Alabo Omubo Tom Big Harry (Odibo VI), expressed gratitude to the University for accepting to partner Harry's Town on such an important project, pledging full support from his people to actualize the initiative. "We are happy to host the University of Port Harcourt and we will do anything the University asks of us that is within our powers to ensure that the objective for which this programme was established is achieved. This project is very dear to our hearts and we are happy that our people will have an opportunity to interact with students of Nursing from the University on their rural posting here. This medical outreach is very important to the wellbeing of our people and we will do everything possible to ensure the success of this project. We already have very gratifying report of your activities in this town through this programme and we promise to further strengthen the partnership because education keeps us alive," the royal father told his guests.

The Chiefs later took the delegation on a guided tour

## UniPort Partners Obuama Community

of the site and adjoining parcel of land donated by the community for the project. Other Chiefs present at the occasion were: Alabo Songo Tom Big Harry, Alabo Samuel Harry, Alabo Gillis Harry, Alabo Opaka Harry, Alabo Tonye Harry, Elder Beal Harry and Elder Abiye Harry.

Also on the University's delegation were: University Librarian, Dr. Obiageli Nwodo, Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Chris Akani, Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Professor

O. B. Da Lilly-Tariah, Acting Director of the Department of Physical Planning and Development Unit, Mr. Isaac Ewa, University Lawyer, Mr. Eric Agboniye, Deputy Registrar in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kelsey Makeke, Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Kingsley Wogwua, Acting Head of the Department of Nursing, Dr. Abigail Horsfall, her predecessor, Dr. Grace Robinson-Basse, including some lecturers and students of the Department.



UniPort Nursing Hostel. Inset: His Highness, Alabo Omubo Tom Big Harry (Odibo VI)

## 58<sup>th</sup> Congregation Meeting V-C Commends Strategic Plan Review C'ttee

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has commended the Strategic Plan Committee headed by Acting Executive Director of the University of Port Harcourt Foundation, Dr. Ngozi Odu and Consultant to the Committee, Professor Mark Anikpo for successfully reviewing and presenting the Plan to the University Community.

Making the commendation at the 58<sup>th</sup> Congregation Meeting which held on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, Professor Ajienka, gave graphic presentation of activities outlined for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the University. "We are celebrating achievements and projects that define our uniqueness and setting the tone for the next forty years," he said.

Describing the University as a Centre of Excellence in Petroleum and Energy Studies, Creative and Performing Arts and Sports, amongst others, the Vice-Chancellor also pointed out that the University is a partner Institution to the Port Harcourt Book Festival, adding that the University made tremendous

contributions that resulted in the designation of Port Harcourt as the 2014 UNESCO World Book Capital.

"I believe we are the first university in Nigeria to establish a Foundation—the University of Port Harcourt Foundation—aimed at securing the future of this institution. We have the UniPort Business School; Claude Ake School of Government, Port Harcourt School of Public Health, Institute of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (INRES) with Agency-sponsored foreign students from across Africa," the Vice-Chancellor said, describing such developments as some of the landmark achievements worthy of celebration in the University.

"Several students and academic staff have also won notable awards and prizes both at national and international levels," a visibly elated Professor Ajienka announced to Congregation.

In her presentation, Chairman of the Strategic Plan Committee, Dr. Odu emphasized that the five-year Plan would enable the University achieve successful financial management, promote excellence in teaching, learning and research, facilitate upgrade of infrastructure and strengthen the relationship between the University and

its diverse stakeholders. "Highlights of the revised Strategic Plan also included capacity building and training of teaching and non-teaching staff to enhance their job efficiency, sponsorship of staff to conferences, workshops and in-house training sessions," she stressed.

The Committee made recommendations on alternative resource mobilization, land acquisition and development, alternative power supply, productivity analysis for teaching and non-teaching staff, Internet services and full coverage of the University during the Plan period, including establishment of large integrated farms such as the Songhai Farms.

## STOP PRESS

### SUBMISSION OF FINAL YEAR RESULTS

As part of the University's plan to hold this year's Convocation Ceremony in June, 2015, Provost of Colleges, Deans of Faculty and Heads of Department, have been charged to submit their Final Year results for the 2013/2014 academic session for Senate's approval before the end of March, 2015. This is to enable the Academic Office capture all necessary data in the Convocation Brochure.

## END OF 2014/2015 REGISTRATION

### EXERCISE/ORIENTATION

This is to inform all Fresh Students of the University of Port Harcourt that the Registration for the 2014/2015 session has been extended to Friday, March 13, 2015. All affected students are instructed to complete their registration processes before the stipulated date.

Affected students are reminded that the Orientation exercise for duly registered Fresh Students will hold on Thursday, March 26, 2015.



A cross-section of Congregation members

# GUIDEPOST

## PROMOTION

**Dr. Nwanne Felix Emeribe**, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

**Dr. Kalu Wosu**, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

**Mr. Michael Mombe**, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

**Mr. Paschal Ibeh**, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

**Mr. Anthony Njoku**, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

## SABBATICAL LEAVE

**Professor Ibitanun Amino**, Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, granted a one year *Sabbatical Leave*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2016.

## EXTENSION OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Dr. Ethelbert Kari**, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted one year *Extension of Leave of Absence*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2016.

## EXTENSION OF STUDY LEAVE

**Mrs. Ifeoma Asianuba**, Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Production, Power Systems and Communication Engineering, College of Engineering, granted one year *Extension of Study Leave with Pay*, effective 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2016.

## STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY

**Mr. Sylvester Atigboje**, Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a three-year *Study Leave with Pay*, to enable him pursue a Doctoral Degree Programme in Agricultural Entomology at the Lincoln University in Christchurch, New Zealand, effective 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015 to 22 February, 2018.

**Dr. Zaida Elum**, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, granted a one-year *Study Leave with Pay*, to enable her undertake a research programme on Climate Impact Capacity and Leadership Enhancement at the University of South Africa, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015.

**Mrs. Antigha Okon**, Faculty Office, Faculty of Management Sciences, granted *Study Leave with Pay*, to enable her undertake a Diploma Programme in Law at the University of Port Harcourt, effective 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**MRS. GLORIA OMONIGHO GBADA**

Former Mrs. Gloria Omonigho Ozuoru of the Legal Unit now wishes to be known and addressed as **MRS. GLORIA OMONIGHO GBADA**. All documents bearing her former remain valid.

# DV-C Tasks CPG Students At Orientation

By Mercy Adeniji

**A**s a way of acquainting new intakes with the rules and regulations governing their admission into the programme, the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences (CPG) in the Institute of Petroleum Studies, organized an Orientation exercise for the Fourth Batch of students on Friday, February 27, 2015.

Addressing the students as part of the 2014/2015 exercise held at the Tertiary Education Trust Fund Building, University Park, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, congratulated them for choosing the University of Port Harcourt for their studies, charging them to work hard to earn good grades.

Briefing the students on the structure of the College of Graduate Studies programmes as they relate to the Centre, Professor Joe, who was represented by the Dean, Graduate School of Engineering and Technology in the College of Graduate Studies, Professor Adewale Dosunmu, disclosed that "CPG is one of the Centres of excellence that we run in the Graduate School of Engineering and Technology, which is an industry-given programme similar to what takes place in the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) and other such Institutes. It is one of the seven Centres that are running industry-related programmes in this University."

Professor Dosunmu stated that "the Centre for Petroleum Geosciences is one of such centres of excellence and our expectation is that when you graduate, you should be ready to compete with your counterparts in any part of the world in terms of the structure of the course we run. Our expectation is that as students, you should apply yourselves diligently to your studies so that you can meet the demands of the programme and expectations of the industry. This programme is a rigorous one and it is for a period of 12 calendar months of very intensive work. Our Lecturers are drawn from the University, industries and other

lecturers from other universities and our curriculum is structured in such a way that our students meet the aspiration of their employers on graduation."

Speaking earlier, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr. Francis Beka, recalled that the Centre was set up to provide high quality education in Geology and Geophysics to prepare graduates for successful professional careers for sustainable development and ensure the development of local content and capacity. "The duration of the programme shall be a total of 18 months, consisting of 12 months modular course work and six months internship with a field trip. Students are expected to seek sponsorship from corporate bodies, the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) and other sponsoring agencies."

Charging the students to be diligent, focused and hardworking, Dr. Beka described the CPG as "a very tight programme such that classes hold between 8.00am and 4.00pm every day of the week and examination is conducted every Saturday. We admitted 18 students in Batch 1, comprising 8 females and 10 males; 12 students were admitted in Batch 2, comprising 7 females and 5 males, while 14 students were admitted for Batch 3. For Batch 4, we have admitted 30 students, who participated in the current Orientation programme."

The Acting Director further revealed that CPG made an impressive representation during the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference and exhibition of the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGSS) held in Benin, Edo State. The assessors were highly pleased with the technical content, contribution to knowledge and presentation mode of our students. "Messrs. Olanade Egi, Anthony Uwalaka and Lawrence Akabue, would be receiving their awards during the forthcoming 51<sup>st</sup> Annual International Conference of the NMGSS scheduled for Lagos from 15<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2015," he disclosed.



Ag. Director CPG, Dr. Beka (arrowed) flanked by staff and students of the Centre

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 08 – SATURDAY 14, 2015.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI (°C)	TEMPERATURE LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (mm) (gm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY 08 MAR 2015	33.0	24.0	63	NE	3.3	6:41 18:44	Thunderstorms expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy day expected.
MONDAY, 09 MAR 2015	34.0	24.0	59	NE	2.3	6:41 18:44	Thunder storm expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy day expected.
TUESDAY 10 MAR 2015	35.0	24.0	59	NE	2.2	6:40 18:44	Thunder storms expected late in the day. Partly sunny day expected.
WEDNESDAY 11 MAR 2015	36.0	25.0	68	N	5.1	6:40 18:44	Thunder storms expected early in the day. Partly sunny day expected.
THURSDAY 12 MAR 2015	35.0	25.0	64	N	2.2	6:40 18:44	Thunder storm expected early in the day. More clouds than sun forecasted.
FRIDAY 13 MAR 2015	35.0	25.0	59	N	-	6:39 18:44	More clouds than sun anticipated.
SATURDAY 14 MAR 2015	36.0	25.0	57	NE	-	6:39 18:44	More sun than clouds expected.

Dr Gladys Emenike  
ACTING HO

Dr Prince Mmoms  
AG. Director, (CDRMDS)

## SERVICOM CORNER

Our Complaint/Grievance Address Mechanism

In case of service failure, please contact:

Focal Officer  
08033400064, 07064018003  
Charter Desk Officer  
07038650174

Service Improvement Officer  
08034211712, 08091988191  
Compliant/Complaint Officer  
07036492728, 08155303412

e-mail: [servicom@uniport.edu.ng](mailto:servicom@uniport.edu.ng)

Please, Don't Forget to Always:  
Wear and display your ID card.  
Switch off all electrical appliances when you are not using them.  
Keep our environment clean.



## INRES AT TWO

**The Institute of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (INRES) celebrated its 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary with an Orientation /Welcome reception for Fresh Students. The event which took place on Thursday, January 22, 2015 at the Emerald Energy Institute (EEI) Auditorium was captured by our Cameramen, **HEADMANALU**:**



Dean, Graduate School of Engineering and Technology, Prof Adeleke Dosunmu (left) and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Joseph Ajienka arriving at the venue



Dean, Graduate School of Natural Applied and Medical Sciences, Prof Gregory Awiri, welcoming Chairman of the occasion, Ambassador Godknows Igali



Prof Chidi Ibe (left) exchanging pleasantries with Ambassador Igali



V-C, Prof Ajienka delivering his Welcome Address



Ambassador Igali giving the Chairman's remarks



Margaret Asoka representing Director-General, DTCA, Mr Shuaba Suleman delivering her speech



Mrs Bola Olaye representing Director of the African Development Bank, Dr Oesmane Bore presenting an address



Director of INRES, Prof Enuise Akpokodje speaking at the event



Charge de Affairs of Rwanda, Protogene Nsengamuremyi giving a goodwill message



Amb. Igali (with mic), flanked by V-C and other guests unveiling the INRES publication at the occasion



Some students of the institute from other African countries admitted into the programme



A cross-section of the new intakes at the Orientation



A group photograph of V-C, Prof Ajienka (arrowed), flanked to his left by Amb. Igali and to his right by Margaret Asoka, other guests and newly admitted students of INRES