

AAU To Partner UNIPORT On HIV/AIDS Control

Project Officer, Association of African Universities (AAU), Dr Daniel Kubuafor, has concluded discussions with the University of Port Harcourt with the aim of re-enforcing the battle against the dreaded HIV/AIDS disease in the West African sub-Region with operational headquarters in UNIPORT reports *Ethel Timi-Johnson*.

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Side Bar

42nd School of Graduate Studies Seminar Presentation for Doctoral candidates holds Thursday, July 19, 2012. Watch out for details -Editor

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89th Inaugural

Oforika Lists Gains Of Materials To Human Civilization

By Humphrey Ogu

Issues bordering on the contributions of Material Chemistry to human existence formed the main thrust of the 89th Inaugural Lecture, titled: "Man, Materials and Civilization", delivered by Professor Nicholas

Oforika of the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Thursday.

Oforika noted that "Materials are a part of matter in the Universe, but more specifically they are substances whose properties make them more useful in structures,

machines, devices or products," pointing out that today, humans make use of literally thousands of materials that are derived from nature, but they also use many more synthetic materials that do not derive directly from natural sources. According to him, all the

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PTDF, CPRP, To Collaborate On Int'l Refining Confab August 29

Arrangements have reached an advanced stage for the first International Conference on Petroleum Refining and Petrochemicals in Port Harcourt. The trail-blazing Conference tagged: "Port Harcourt 2012", is to be jointly facilitated by the Petroleum Technology Development Fund and Centre for Petroleum Refining and Petrochemicals, Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), University of Port Harcourt.

A statement issued by pioneer Director of the Centre, Professor Godwin Igwe, indicated that "the Conference is being put together to train-the-trainers on petroleum refining and petrochemicals, and focus on opportunities and challenges of petroleum fuel subsidy in Nigeria", adding that the Conference sub-themes would also address the broad issues of sustainable refinery turn-around maintenance and fiscalization policy, including legal framework on indigenous technology development in the critical oil sector of the Nigerian economy.

According to the organizers, the Conference which would hold at Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt, between 29th and 30th August, 2012, has the broad theme: "Domestication Policy and Legal Framework on Indigenous Technology Development". The CPRP Director disclosed that participants expected at the high-profile global parley on the strategic oil and

By Williams Wodi

petrochemicals, would come from government and private agencies, oil and gas stakeholders, and seasoned professionals from indigenous and international agencies, adding that each participant is expected to pay N50,000.00 as Conference Fee.

The statement further advised intending participants to contact either the Centre Director at the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS Park), along East-West Road, Choba at goddy.igwe@ipsng.org; the Executive Secretary of PTDF, Dr. Muttaqha Darma at n.jacob@ptdf.gov.ng or info-ips@ipsng.org.

The organizers requested interested participants and knowledgeable players on the various sub-themes of the Conference to submit their original manuscripts with abstracts not exceeding 300 words before 31st July, 2012, for review and possible inclusion for publication in the Conference Proceedings, adding that all authors would be required to complete and submit a copyright form.

According to the Director, the main objective of the Centre is to train manpower to effectively man the Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Industry, which is expected to lead to improved local content by Nigerians. It is also going to be a research hub for refining activities as it would operate a pilot plant in the



Prof Igwe, Director, CPRP

University.

Says Professor Igwe, "Activities of the Centre will not only help save the funds expended on importation of petroleum and petrochemical products, but also help to bring indigenous expertise into the gas, refining and petrochemical industry; including analytical work on gas and petrochemicals once the Centre becomes fully operational".

V-C Inaugurates Research Ethics C'ttee

By Otikor Samuel

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has inaugurated the Research Ethics Committee with a charge to members to maintain high ethical standards in monitoring scientific investigations, promote dignity, rights and safety of individuals, as well as ratify proposals for any planned investigation.

Inaugurating the Committee penultimate Friday in the Committee Room, Professor Ajienka, further charged members to ensure that any proposed area of study is scientifically valid and justifiable with its benefits far outweighing the risks, urging them to take adequate steps to prevent physical and psychological harm to researchers and human specimen.

The Vice-Chancellor, who charged them to always maintain a cordial relationship with researchers in order to meet their stated objectives, advised them to ensure confidentiality of all personal and medical information, promising to provide the Committee with a document on research ethics from the Committee of Vice-Chancellors (CVC) to assist them in the discharge of their mandate.

"Research ethics is important; we do not want to be associated with unethical practices in our research work. Breakthroughs in research contribute enormously to university ranking and I am optimistic that this Committee which is now inaugurated for the first time in this University and consisting of competent scholars and staff as members, would do a thorough work", Professor Ajienka said, urging them to improve on the *Terms of Reference* as they go along, including incorporating environmental issues in their scope of operation.

In his acceptance speech, Chairman of the Committee and former Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Professor Osaretin Odi, commended the Vice-Chancellor for the appointment, assuring him that members of the Committee would do their very best in order to deliver on the onerous task of ensuring that research is conducted within high ethical standards.

Other members of the Committee are: Professors Blessing Didia, Alice Nte, Samuel Arokoyu, Nnenna Frank-Peterside, Anthony Okpani, Iyeopu Siminialayi, Boniface Nwigwe and Eugene

Onyeike, Grace Awi-Waadu, Dr Oluseye Babatunde and Mrs Selinah Inko-Tariah. Mrs Otami Akubom is to serve as Secretary.

Passage

MISS VICTORIA BARIKOR

The death has been announced of Miss Victoria Barikor, a Chief Clerical Officer in the General Studies Unit. She passed away on Thursday, 21st June, 2012. Her remains were laid to rest on Thursday, 12th July, 2012 at Bomu Town in Gokana Local Government Area, Rivers State.

Late Miss Barikor



6th from right: V-C, Prof Ajienka, flanked by DV-C (R&D) Prof Bene Willie-Ahby (L), Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim (R), Chairman of the Committee, Prof Odi and other members

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AAU To Partner UNI-PORT On HIV/AIDS Control

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Kubuafor, who was in the University last Thursday as part of his familiarization visit to the sub-Regional headquarters, pointed out that the AAU, amongst other objectives, provides capacity-building for participating universities, assists institutions streamline their HIV/AIDS programmes in the Curriculum, carries out self-evaluation studies, produces online HIV/AIDS modules and also documents such studies for proper planning and programme implementation. Emphasizing the Association's commitment to fighting the scourge among students in tertiary institutions across Africa through a programme tagged: "African Universities Responding to HIV/AIDS", the Project Officer, who noted that societal development centres around the youths, said that the overall goal of the AAU is to ensure that students are well-informed of the inherent dangers associated with a reckless lifestyle and the need to know their HIV status to enable them protect themselves from the pandemic.

Kubuafor, who disclosed that the Association covers about 300 universities in Africa, stated that it is working towards ensuring that students, who come into the Universities free of the virus graduate without contacting it while students who are HIV positive are taught to live positively and still contribute their quota to developing the society. The Project Officer commended the University for serving as a spring-board for reaching other Universities in the Region, stressing that the nature of the pandemic amongst university Undergraduates, prompted the Association's involvement in the global fight to protect them from infection. He promised that the Association would



L-R: Prof Tony Arinze, V-C, Prof Ajiienka, Dr Kubuafor, Dr Akani and Prof Onyewuchi Akaranta

partner the University and other Agencies to minimize the impact of the disease in the sub-Region.

Coordinator of the West African sub-Region, Dr Nwadiutor Akani, who disclosed that the Region would work towards expanding its coverage and scope of activities, noted that the University has recorded tremendous success in its fight against the disease through enlightenment and screening programmes.

Welcoming the Visitor, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, noted that the University's policy on HIV/AIDS gave birth to the Youth-Friendly Centre, stressing the need for each University to

devise effective anti-HIV/AIDS campaign against the spread of the disease.

Professor Ajiienka, who promised that the University would strengthen its campaign towards eradication of the disease, said that Management would sustain the enlightenment of students against being infected by HIV/AIDS. The Vice-Chancellor disclosed that relevant offices committed to educating the University Community on HIV/AIDS would be empowered to function effectively, regretting that the rate of infection has resulted in loss of skilled manpower for national development, while devastating affected families.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, has been commended for his prompt intervention in the post-election protests by some aggrieved candidates into the Executive of the Student Union on held 30th May, 2012. The swift reaction of Management with the constitution of an Interim Administration headed by Maxwell Nyanabo, was described as the best step to contain surreptitious moves by some persons that were capable of translating into ethnic crisis on Campus.

Director, Action & Mobilisation of the National Association of Nigerian

NANS Zone 'B' Lauds V-C For Intervention In S' Union Crisis

By Otikor Samuel

Students (NANS), Zone 'B', Jonah Adokiye, who made the commendation in an interview with UNI-PORT Weekly last Tuesday, said the step initiated by

the Vice-Chancellor, was the best action any good father would have taken to resolve emergent conflict among his children.

"There were protests by some aggrieved candidates; which were even covered by the media, so the step taken by the Vice-Chancellor was the best thing any serious-minded leader would have done under the circumstance. As the leader of NANS in this University, I do not only commend the Vice-Chancellor but also support him", Adokiye said, pointing out that from his personal interactions and investigation into the unfortunate development, majority of the students were happy with the move to cushion an explosive situation that was capable of denting the image of the University, which according to him, is now competing favourably in the comity of Ivory Towers in West Africa and beyond.

The NANS Leader, who also congratulated the Vice-Chancellor on his second anniversary in office, said Professor Ajiienka's administration has turned around the fortunes of students on Campus, noting that within his first year in office, he had held several meetings with student leaders and stakeholders to discuss ways forward on nagging issues confronting them.

"As I speak to you, there is no Park in the University that lacks water. There are improvements in power and water supply to the hostels, unlike what was obtainable in the past when these essential commodities were sparingly available", Adokiye observed, appealing for maintenance of the plumbing system in all the hostels, particularly, the Nursing Hostels, which he said encountered serious difficulty in pumping water due to breakdown of plumbing fittings and poor connections by the Contractor.

Adokiye



V-C, Prof. Ajienka

Ajienka's Score Card In Two Years

The Administration of Professor Joseph A. Ajienka clocked two years in office on Thursday, 12th July, 2012. In his Inaugural Address, the 7th Vice-Chancellor gave clear indication of his vision to usher in a world-class Entrepreneurial University that is capable of combining traditional scholarship with proactive linkages with industry players in line with the new up building the Vice-Chancellor promised on assumption of office.

To mark the event, UNIPORT Weekly sought the views of staff and students on the Score Card of the Administration so far. Please read on:

He has instilled Quality

Dr Ngozi Iheanachor, Secretary, ASUU UNIPORT Branch

I see the Vice-Chancellor as a fine academic, who had a clear vision before he assumed leadership of a high-profile institution such as UNIPORT. I commend his approach in trying to instill discipline and quality in research and teaching. There is explosion of research activities as a result of the number of Institutes and Research Centres he established in the University. He is also ushering in quality through establishment of the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Unit right in his own office for proper monitoring and performance evaluation.



Dr Iheanachor

So far, we have not seen the Unions spitting fire which means that there is cordial relationship with the Administration so far. We have seen ourselves as partners in progress. The Vice-Chancellor needs to ensure that he funds the Institutes and Centres he has established to get maximize results from them. In the midst of scarcity of funds, his Administration should ensure that students pay their charges so that the University can generate funds to provide adequate services. We wish him good luck and more

achievements in the years to come.

He has a Beautiful Plan

Mr Syder Bikume, Chairman, Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU)

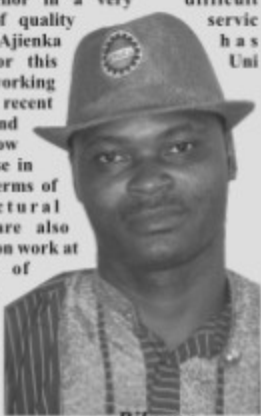
The challenges facing a Vice-Chancellor in the Nigerian university setting are quite enormous. We are aware of dwindling allocations to the Universities for infrastructural development and staff welfare. This puts a Vice-Chancellor in a very difficult position in terms of quality delivery. Professor Ajienka a beautiful plan for this university which he is working hard to deliver. The recent opening of Tenders and bidding processes show some signs of promise in the years ahead in terms of more infrastructural development. We are also witnessing construction work at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Centre of Excellence project site, the School of Graduate Studies building, and many others that are gradually coming on stream under this Administration.

As workers, we want to see more welfare-oriented programmes, prompt payment of salaries, development of staff quarters to alleviate acute accommodation problems faced by staff, and conversion of suitably qualified staff, who have acquired additional qualifications. We commend the Vice-Chancellor on his successful two years in office and pray for God's guidance to enable him actualize his lofty dreams for the University in line with his vision of an Entrepreneurial University.

He Has Sustained The Tempo

Dr Glory Amadi, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counseling

The current Vice-Chancellor continued from where his predecessor stopped. Within these two years, he has been able to sustain the tempo, with regards to payment of staff salaries and also ensured peace on Campus, including infrastructural development and capacity-building. I should give him a pass mark in view of the



Bikume

fact that he is at the foundation level of his Administration. In the next three years, he would have built a strong legacy in the University for which he would be remembered.

Also within this period, we have noticed some changes in the quality of admissions and examinations and this has improved the quality of students we teach. It is a welcome development as admission is now based on merit. We have to encourage him to ensure that by the time he leaves office, the University will not only be the best in Nigeria, but one of the leading tertiary institutions in Africa and the rest of the world.

We Need Hazard Allowance

Mr. Mike Anagbara, Works and Services Department



Anagbara

One of the concerns of workers is their welfare. The Administration should be proactive on issues concerning staff welfare, especially as they concern hazard allowance. This is one of our basic demands for those of us who are doing this hazardous job. We also need more protective years in line with the safety regulations that the Administration is championing for the workforce.

A Serious-Minded Administration

Ibe Justice, 400 Level Medical Student

There is consistency in our academic calendar which previously was uncertain. It shows that this is an academic-conscious and serious-minded Administration. From our point of view, the Lecturers are efficient and there is now a conducive academic environment for learning and research. However, I think that the Administration needs to do more, especially with regards to power supply. If there is efficiency in power supply, we can do a lot better.

He Knows The Terrain Well

Ben Nador, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (R&D)

One good thing I observed with the current Vice-Chancellor is that he spent much of his academic career in this University, and so he knows the terrain and staff very well. If he had come from outside, he would not probably know the forces at play and the different interest groups to address.

In his Second Year as Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka has performed credibly well and has been able to carry everybody along in terms of responsibilities and reward. In his Inaugural Speech when he assumed office two years ago, he emphasized a paradigm shift with the introduction of the concept of an Entrepreneurial University, where research



Nador



Justice

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As a means of ensuring that Accountants in the country adopt best operational global practices in their profession, the Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies has ended a three-day Workshop tagged: "The Effective Accounting Officer in the Current Financial Challenges".

Keynote Speaker and Rivers State Accountant-General, Sir Ngozi Abu, while speaking at the Opening Ceremony last Wednesday, noted that the Workshop was aimed at assisting Accounting Officers develop current managerial competence, transparency and accountability, with a view to strengthening public finance management at all levels of government.

The Accountant-General, who stressed the role of professional Accountants in nation-building, through re-engineering of the country's financial accounting system, explained that Nigeria must strive hard to ensure that its financial reporting processes meet international standards.

Emphasizing the importance of regular training programmes for professionals at all levels, Abu urged the University to invest more in such programmes, advising participants to embrace the emergent Information Communication Technology (ICT) work tools and apply same to public financial processes to enhance their functions and reduce corrupt accounting procedures.

In his Welcome Address, Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences, Professor Sylva Kalu, commended the Centre for its contributions towards the socio-economic development of the country, emphasising that the whole essence of the Workshop was to proffer viable solutions to the financial crises plaguing the nation's development.

Professor Kalu stressed that the Workshop, amongst other objectives, addressed issues related to insufficient funds, financial frauds and misappropriation. He lauded the facilitators of the Workshop for their willingness to impart knowledge to the participants drawn from the academia and private sector.

Welcoming participants to the University, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, represented by



R-L: Ag Director of Centre, Dr Ofurum, Registrar Mrs Matilda Nnodim (4th), Accountant-General, R/S, Sir Abu, DV-C (Admin), Prof Nduka, Former V-C, Prof Don Baridam, Dr Felicia Aywwo, Profs Tony Arinze and Gregory Awiri

Entrepreneurial Centre Ends Workshop For Accountants

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert

Nduka, praised the Centre for working towards achieving the entrepreneurial vision of the University. Professor Nduka, who recounted the core mandate of the University to include teaching, research and community service, pointed out that in line with the march of globalization, the University adopted the Entrepreneurial drive to enable it contribute to societal development. He advised participants to utilize the opportunity provided by the Workshop to enhance productivity and efficiency in their various workplaces.

Director of the Centre, Dr Clifford Ofurum, who disclosed that current global financial challenges ranging from dwindling financial resources to increased cost, prompted his Centre to hold a Workshop for Accounting Officers, hoped that at the

end of the training, participants would be equipped to source, allocate and manage funds effectively in line with due process.

Stressing the need for organizations to become proactive in planning and utilizing scarce resources, Ofurum expressed delight that participants would be trained on building systems that would aid prompt detection of funds mismanagement, as well as enable them prepare financial records that meet global standards.

The three-day Workshop which attracted professionals from the industry, Federal and State Ministries, Government Parastatals and Agencies had Resource Persons drawn from the Universities of Port Harcourt and Jos, Veritas University, Abuja, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka and Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt.

Owerri Zone ASUU Fetes Awuzie To Mark End Of Tenure

By Humphrey Ogu

In recognition of the lofty achievements of the immediate past National President of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Professor Ukachukwu Awuzie while in office, the Owerri Zone of the Union treated him to a rousing reception at the International Students Centre in the University, last Friday.

Speaking at the event which attracted top brass of the University, friends, associates, well-wishers of Professor Awuzie and major stakeholders in the Union, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, expressed delight that the University of Port Harcourt was chosen as venue for the reception, adding that the University has a very vibrant ASUU. He also noted that during his tenure as President, Professor Awuzie recorded a lot of achievements, including putting in a functional pension scheme in place for retirees.

The Vice-Chancellor, who described Awuzie as a very courageous

public officer, observed that he engaged in many struggles on behalf of ASUU and emerged victorious, leaving in his trail laudable achievements, including the successful signing of the 2009 ASUU-Federal Government Agreement. "I am confident that his successor would take the Union to greater heights. We are also confident that with the calibre of leaders he left behind, the educational system would get better and better. We in the University are particularly very happy that we are hosting you today," he added.

In his remark, current ASUU President, Dr Nasir Isa, said: "when I am in the University of Port Harcourt, I feel at home because that was where I obtained my votes. We are here to celebrate Professor Awuzie, who has become first in many areas. He was the first Professor to lead ASUU, he was the first Architect to emerge as ASUU President, the first ASUU President from a State-owned

institution and the first Knight of Saint Mulumba (KSM) to head the Union, amongst others," stressing that the former President in whose honour the reception was organized had done a lot for ASUU and the Nigerian educational sector. Dr Isa, who described ASUU as a Union of intellectuals, observed that after each election, all candidates reunite as one big

family, calling on stakeholders to work with ASUU to move the educational system forward.

In her speech, Coordinator of ASUU Owerri Zone, Dr Emelia Jaja, commended members of the various branches of the Union that make up the Zone for their roles in making the reception a success. "The Owerri Zone comprises University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Federal University of Technology, Owerri and Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt," the Coordinator said, adding that the event was hosted in UNIPORT on account of its age and leadership position among the various State Branches of ASUU in the Zone. Goodwill speeches were given by other stakeholders of the Union, including the Chairman, ASUU UNIPORT branch, Professor Anthonia Okerengwo, who expressed pleasure at the success of the event, thanking all who honoured ASUU's invitation, especially those who worked so hard to give Professor Awuzie a befitting reception.

Responding, a visibly elated Professor Awuzie, noted that if he ever achieved any feat as ASUU President, it was because he enjoyed the co-operation of members, stressing that the Union worked as a team during his tenure. He commended his predecessors and successor, who, he said, worked with him throughout his tenure to bring ASUU to its present level of visibility and relevance.

"I am so humbled because all the achievements listed as mine were not as a result of my own solo effort. Our Union runs a collective leadership; I did not take any decision without consultations. The Secretariat we completed in Abuja started under the leadership of Dr Abdulahi Sule. I had a reasonable measure of co-operation from all the branches of the Union. If the Union ever succeeded, it was not because of my effort alone, it was because it is so well organized that success became inevitable," he stated.

Professor Awuzie, who noted that "the greatest service the Owerri Zone can do to me is to give the new President maximum support," commended the Vice-Chancellor, assuring him that ASUU, in any branch, is not out to disrupt the smooth running of the University but to join the administration to better the university system.

Highlights of the event were the presentation of a plaque, a giant-size portrait and a Deep Freezer to Professor Awuzie by the Zone, a performance of a dance drama, titled: "Orukoro", a Fertility Dance by the University Arts Theatre and commissioning of a brand new bus for the UNIPORT branch. Professor Awuzie was also decorated with the customized Unique UNIPORT muffler by the Vice-Chancellor to mark the event.



L-R: V-C, Prof Ajenka, ASUU President, Dr Isa, immediate past President, Prof Awuzie and others

'Materials Shape Our World'

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amazing developments have come about because of increasing knowledge and understanding of the properties of materials in the advancement of human civilization.

"In the late 1800s, we began to understand the arrangement of atoms and crystal structures and their behaviour in various conditions. Today, our knowledge and understanding of materials make it possible to develop and design materials to meet property requirements; challenging our creativity and ingenuity even further," Oforka, who is a Material Chemist observed.

"Materials are all about us; they are engraved in our existence. In fact, materials have been so intimately related to the emergence and ascent of man that they have given names to the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages of Civilization. Naturally-occurring and man-made materials have become such an integral part of our lives that we often take them for granted, and yet materials rank with food, living space, energy, and information as basic resources of mankind. Materials are indeed the working substance of our society; they play a crucial role not only in our way of life, but also in the well-being and security of nations," he explained.

Stressing the importance of materials, Oforka, who noted that the comfort of man is assured in materials, explained that "at the end of the day's work, one thinks of a good night's rest on a bed made of wood. There is the urge to clean one's body when the day breaks and plastic bucket is handy. One brushes the teeth, using a ceramic or glass cup. The breakfast is served in a ceramic or plastic plate. One leaves the house built with materials and enters a car made of materials to drive to work. Materials have indeed shaped our world."

The Inaugural Lecturer disclosed that his dream of producing a phase diagram of a ternary system died a natural death due to lack of critically needed facilities to sustain the project, necessitating a change of research focus to liquid-liquid extraction of some metals, using pyrazole derivatives as ligands. "Luckily, we had a PhD student, who investigated some of the targets we set in the area. Professor Martin Ogunwaju was the student. We also tried our hands on recycling of metallic waste. Another PhD student worked in this area. Dr Ferguson Tobin was the student. We investigated the recovery of metal values from Jos tin slag," he added.

He said that materials, especially metallic materials, deteriorate due to chemical or electrochemical reaction with its environment, describing the process as corrosion, which he described as extractive metallurgy in reverse.

According to him, corrosion has a negative impact on the economy, resulting in huge financial loss, wastage of natural resources, environmental hazards and even loss of lives, adding that "the use of inhibitors for control of corrosion of metals and alloys which are in contact with aggressive environment is an acceptable practice. Large numbers of organic compounds were studied and still being studied to investigate their corrosion inhibition potentials."

Oforka, who recalled that "In 1977, the National Electric Power



Oforka (arrowed) and other Professors before the Lecture

Authority (NEPA) now Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), recorded 21 failed transformers in Warri alone, due to stress corrosion cracking," disclosed that the corporation had to fund a \$5 billion scheme to replace worn-out equipment in order to boost power supply, adding that "towards the end of 1997, the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) spent N9.3 billion on navigational and landing aids, which had become obsolete and needed replacement." He warned that "corrosion has many serious economic, health, safety, and cultural consequences to our society and must be controlled or minimized," expressing satisfaction that "the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry made modest contributions in the area of corrosion inhibition studies."

Oforka stressed the need for the use of cheap and safe inhibitors of corrosion, stating that "plant extracts have become important as an environmentally-acceptable, readily available and renewable source for a wide range of inhibitors. Some investigations have in recent years been made into the corrosive characteristics of some plant extracts, including their leaves and tubers, and also into corrosive inhibitive properties."

"Our observations in most of these corrosion inhibition studies revealed that the inhibitors exhibited high inhibition efficiencies at room temperature. At higher temperatures, the inhibition failed. This simply means that we are still searching for the ideal inhibitor that will work at both low and high temperatures. We think that organic inhibitors with high molecular mass may be the answer. The choice has its own demerits. One of them is the insolubility of the large molecules in water," Oforka stated, disclosing that work is ongoing in that direction.

The Inaugural Lecturer, who expressed hope that if well managed, the material industry, especially manufacturing industry has the potential of providing jobs for the teeming unemployed youths in

the country, lamented that "the Nigerian Iron and Steel Sector has produced more millionaires than tons of steel. Iron Ore, which is one of the important raw materials, is locally sourced. In the country, there are over 19 locations with iron ore deposits mostly in the North."

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, commended Professor Oforka for having the courage to refocus his research inclination on realizing the difficulty associated with his original research proposal in the Nigerian environment. Professor Ajienka, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, said: "we have learnt something from Professor Oforka, who is a practical researcher. He had a research interest but because of the challenges he encountered, he refocused that interest and made a mark in the equally important area of corrosion studies. This is a lesson for all of us, especially the younger researchers. Some academics in that circumstance would rather complain about non-availability of facilities with which to carry out their intended research. But today, he has shown that there is always a way out of every seeming impossibility."

"He also talked about corrosion and natural products, particularly plants. That tells us that the future of sciences and knowledge lies in nature. For us to be relevant in future, we must go back to nature," Professor Nduka said.

Nduka expressed delight that many students found time to attend and sit through the Lecture, despite the fact that most of them have ended their examinations and were supposed to be away from the Campus, noting that students have a lot to gain from Inaugural Lectures. He urged them to keep up the practice of attending public lectures as a means of broadening their knowledge base.

NAPASS Hosts UNIZIK Pol Science Students

By Obinna Nwodin

Efforts aimed at cross-fertilizing ideas and forging closer academic bonds among institutions yielded dividends penultimate Wednesday as the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the National Association of Political Science and Administrative Studies Students (NAPASS) played host to their counterparts from the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State. The emergent exchange programme afforded the students from both universities an opportunity to exchange ideas, engage in debate on current affairs and quiz competition, as well as interactive sessions and discussions on contemporary issues on Nigerian politics. Participants also explored areas of mutual benefits to their departments and areas of study during the interface.

Speaking to *UNIORT Weekly*, President of NAPASS, Mr. Princewill Bie, said that the interaction was not only interesting, but educative as it enriched their knowledge

base and broadened the world view of the students on contemporary issues in Nigerian politics and beyond. "It gave us a better understanding about what Nigerian politics is all about, the privilege to know what role youths have to play to achieve a better society, as well as the advantage of thinking broadly. As a matter of fact, we have learnt how to adopt a better way of discussing issues and why things are going the way they are," he stated, adding that the programme also featured a Lecture on Discipline and the Nigerian Polity by Dr. Eme Ndu.

In his remarks, Head of Department, Professor Henry Alapiki, said that the event was exciting for the students, noting that it was a big adventure aimed at broadening the intellectual horizon of the students. "We gave them a lecture; all members of staff were present and had time to interact with them. We advised them on how to be useful vehicles of change in their universities and they were very

happy," he said.

Professor Alapiki, who said that by the beginning of the second semester, students from the Department would pay a return visit to Awka, encouraged such exercise,

expressing hope that it would go a long way in strengthening social and academic bonds among students. "We noticed that the social and psychological morale of the students were strengthened, their zeal to explore more intellectual grounds was boosted and they were happy for it," he added.

Speaking on the quality of students in the Department, Professor Alapiki said that feedbacks obtained from the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), as well as reports from various quarters about the performance of students from the Department, especially during interactions with their counterparts from other universities, indicated that the quality of students from the Department was very high. Said he, "the pass rate during graduation in the Department increased by almost 100% at the last Convocation. We have more Second Class Upper Division graduates now than in the past", expressing optimism that there would be improved performance by students in future.

Responding to why it has been unable to produce First Class graduates for a very long time, the Head of Department, who disclosed that the Department consisted of over 500 regular Undergraduate students and 18 academic staff, said that it had always placed a high premium on academic standards and that nothing short of high standards were required, adding that courses in the discipline were philosophical and abstract and as such demanded a high level of intellectual input which is a little more challenging than other disciplines. He expressed hope that in future, the Department would produce First Class graduates, especially with the new guidelines for computing degree results as approved by Senate of the University.



Students from both institutions with UNIORT Lecturers

GUIDEPOST

Professorial Promotion

Dr Ngozi Obasi, Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, promoted *Professor of Educational Management*, effective March 15, 2011.

Dr Ebere Erundu, Institute of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Professor of Aquaculture*, effective June 21, 2011.

Dr Irvine Aleleye-Wokoma, Department of Animal & Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, promoted *Professor of Fisheries*, effective October 1, 2011.

Appointment

Dr D. Seleye-Fubara, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, appointed *Associate Dean*, effective April 5, 2012. Appointment terminates April 7th, 2014.

Promotion

Dr Petronilla Tabansi, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, College of Health Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Tamunosiki Ogan, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Edward Ezedike, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Christian Emedolu, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2011.

Dr F.O.E. Iweka, Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance & Counselling, Faculty of Education, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2011.

Dr Nene Jamabo, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Kalu Wosu, Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Henry Unaeze, Department of Agricultural Economics & Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective October 1, 2011.

Omeh Ngwoke, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Saturday Birabil, Department of Curriculum Studies & Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Nsirim Edwin-Wosu, Department of Plant Science & Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Onoriode Eruteya, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Nsikan Akpan, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer II*, effective October 1, 2011.

Mr Ejikeme Albert, Department of Plant Science & Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, promoted *Assistant Lecturer*, effective October 1, 2011.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr Adaba Ibim, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, confirmed *Teaching staff*, effective December 2, 2007.

Dr Francis Onwuka, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, confirmed *Teaching staff*, effective December 13, 2009.

Dr Folasade Ajayi, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, confirmed *Teaching staff*, effective March 3, 2010.

Dr Barikpoa Uedeme-Naa, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, confirmed *Teaching staff*, effective June 9, 2010.

Mr Brilliant Agavlezer, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, confirmed *Teaching staff*, effective January 17, 2010.

HIV/AIDS ALERT

HIV/AIDS is real. Protect yourself.

Avoid a reckless lifestyle that can expose you to infection.

Ajiienka's Score Card In Two Years



Cont'd from Page 4

meets business and enterprise.

In summary, he made a commitment of raising UNIPORT to be among the best in the country. He has actualized some of his promises by creating the following Centres and Institutes: Centre for Petroleum Geosciences and Reservoir, Centre for Malaria Research & Phytomedicine, Centre for Disaster Risk Management & Development studies, Centre for Child Developmental & Communication Disorders, Centre for Health and Development, Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies, Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES), Emerald Energy Centre for Petroleum Economics Policy and Strategic Studies, Technology Park and an Arts Village, including the Institute of Niger Delta Studies, to mention but a few.

He has Achieved A Lot

Russell Ogu

200 Level Student, Department of Political and Administrative Studies

Professor Joseph Ajiienka's two years in office has witnessed tremendous turn-around in the scheme of things in the University. The Vice-Chancellor has achieved a lot since the inception of his Administration; the level of cult-related activities has been drastically reduced. Every student in the University feels safe from harassment. Students who attend night classes have not complained of any kind of harassment by undesirable elements.

There has been a high level of maintenance of school facilities (the Internet, Library facilities and the Laboratories). I describe him as a round peg in a round hole.

The University should, however, do more in the areas of student welfare and lecture theatres.

The classrooms are not enough for the population of students and even the available ones are not very conducive for learning, especially the Permanent Site (PS) classrooms.

One other area that should be looked into is student charges. There have been regular increments in such charges by the Management which have affected poor students negatively.

He Has Put Smiles On Workers' Faces
Ambrose Ogbegbe, Chairman, NAAT, UNIPORT

Judging by Professor Ajiienka's antecedents as pioneer Director of the famous Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), there was no doubt that he is destined to succeed in his current assignment as Vice-Chancellor. He is the first Vice-Chancellor to put smiles on the faces of workers through some unprecedented welfare packages that we thought to be impossible.

For instance, during the last Christmas season, he ensured that each staff went home with a bag of rice, irrespective of his or her status in the system. This gesture has never happened in this University! He is a father for the National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT) which I head. He implemented the contentious Hazard Allowance that was thought to be impossible to concede to us.

He has raised the quality of Education through uncompromising enforcement of standards in admission exercises and examinations conducted by the University without favouring anybody, and we all can testify to the fact that things are being done the right way for the first time in this University.

Even in the area of concession to Staff children on admission matters, Professor Ajiie



nkana has stuck to standards which he has applied across board, thus ending the era of man-know-man that was detrimental to quality education. He has concluded the bidding process for some critical projects that would further enhance the capacity of the University to render quality service to stakeholders. By the time he leaves office in three years time, the Vice-Chancellor would have recorded more achievements and I pray that the Almighty God would grant him good health and more wisdom to realize his vision of an Entrepreneurial University of our dream.

Interviews by OBINNA NWODIM, HUMPHREY OGU, OTIKOR SAMUEL AND WILLIAMS WODI

ASUU Hosts Ex-National President

Following the impressive achievements of the immediate past President of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Professor Ukachukwu Awuzie during his tenure, the Owerri Zone of the Union held a rousing reception in his honour on Friday, July 6th, 2012, in UNI PORT. Here we serve you pictures of different scenes from the event.

Pix: Headman Alu



V-C, Prof Joseph Ajienka, welcoming President of ASUU, Dr Nasir Isa to the event, while Vice-Chairman, ASUU UNI PORT, Dr Gospel Kper looks on



ASUU National President of ASUU, Dr Isa, V-C, Prof Ajienka and Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnamdi



V-C, Prof Ajienka, decorating immediate past President, Prof Ukachukwu Awuzie with the customized UNI PORT Muffler



V-C, Prof Ajienka, congratulating Prof Awuzie, after the decoration



Immediate past President, Prof Awuzie (R), in a warm embrace with his successor, Dr Isa, with Wife of the V-C Mrs Mercy Ajienka seated



Guests toast to Prof Awuzie and Wife



Coordinator, ASUU Owerri Zone, Dr Amelia Jaja (R) and Chairman ASUU UNI PORT, Professor Anthonia Okenengwu



Coordinator, Owerri Zone, Dr Jaja (R), displaying a giant-size portrait of Prof Awuzie, while his wife looks on



Coordinator, ASUU Owerri Zone, Dr Jaja, presenting a plaque to Prof Awuzie



D V-C (Academic), Prof Igbo Joe decorating ASUU National President, Dr Isa, while V-C Prof Ajienka, looks on in admiration



Immediate past National President of ASUU, Prof Awuzie in a warm embrace with successor, Dr Isa



Prof Awuzie dressed in the Niger Delta attire and V-C, Prof Ajienka, take to the dance floor



UNI PORT Arts Theatre Troupe, thrills the audience with Orukoro fertility dance