

D V-C Advises Certificate Students On Hard Work

Students undergoing the Certificate Programme in Education (CPE) have been advised to work hard in order to qualify for admission into the University at the end of the programme reports *Obinna Nwodin*.

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Side Bar

UNIPORT hosted graduates of the Department of Theatre Arts in the Nigerian Home Video industry –Nollywood, last Week. Details next week

Editor

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91st Inaugural

Ways To Tackle Infant, Maternal Mortality, By Nte

By Humphrey Ogu

In view of the rising cases of child mortality and morbidity resulting from the dearth of funds and facilities for effective healthcare delivery in the country, renowned Paediatrician, Professor Alice Nte, has

stressed the need for policy-makers and major stakeholders in the health sector to redouble efforts towards stemming the worrisome trend.

Nte, who gave the charge while delivering the 91st Inaugural Lecture titled: "Child Survival In Resource-Limited Settings: The Issues,

Challenges and Way Forward", at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, last Thursday, observed that "analyses of several child morbidity and mortality data from community and facility-based survey in developed and developing

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Lawson Chair To Host Hydrocarbon Remediation Confab August 21

Arrangements have been

concluded by the Stanley Lawson Chair in Environmental Geology to host a one-day knowledge-sharing stakeholders' workshop on effective remediation of hydrocarbon pollution sites in the Niger Delta region. Information made available to *UNI-PORT Weekly* by Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee and Chair Occupant, Professor Enuvie Akpokodje, indicated that the target audience for the workshop to be held at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, would include major petroleum industry players, government ministries, departments and agencies, including regulatory agencies, host communities, civil society organizations, remediation practitioners, professional bodies and allied stakeholders.

The workshop would, amongst other issues, devise ways and means of reducing periodic conflicts between oil firms, government and host communities, improved performance of remediation efforts by stakeholders through acquisition of requisite technical knowledge, harmonized remediation criteria and monitoring, industry compliance with multiple regulatory regimes and matters of transparency.

Other anticipated gains of the workshop include harmonization and integration of parallel remediation criteria and performance monitoring guidelines for greater efficiency and integration of international best practices in management of hydrocarbon polluted sites in the Niger Delta region. "The workshop is also expected to focus on how to attain improved environmental stewardship, biodiversity, water quality and opportunities for increased local content in remediation activities", Prof Akpokodje disclosed, adding that seasoned Resource Persons would be on hand to address the sub-themes of the workshop.

The workshop agenda would consist of panel and group discussions at plenary and parallel sessions, according to the LOC Chairman, who added that "the event would also focus on strategies for the implementation of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Report on the remediation of

By Williams Wodi



Dr Stanley Lawson, Chair Benefactor

Prof Akpokodje, Chair Occupant

impacted communities in the Niger Delta area—especially Ogoni land".

Elaborating further on the necessity of the workshop, the LOC Chairman disclosed that the Niger Delta region, which he described as the third largest wetland in the world and one of the richest, has suffered from over 50 years of oil and gas exploration and production, resulting in severe contamination of soil and groundwater in numerous sites which require cost effective and sustainable remediation".

Professor Akpokodje, who cited over 400 cases of

documented oil spills between 2006 and 2009, regretted that the 2001 UNEP Report has vindicated claims by stakeholders in the affairs of the Niger Delta that even areas where oil firms claimed to have completed remediation work "still have pollution levels that exceed both government and industry regulatory limits". He said that majority of unsuccessful remediation exercises stem from deployment of inappropriate technology or poor system design and project implementation by the top hierarchy of oil and gas companies, adding that the problem required "a thorough understanding of the science

underpinning remedial approaches and building an accurate site conceptual model in the selection of optimal remediation methods for each impacted site". According to the LOC Chairman, sharing technical knowledge and experience, training and collaboration among major stakeholders, would contribute to greater success and effectiveness of hydrocarbon pollution remediation in the Niger Delta region. He appealed to the University community and the general public to attend the workshop which opens at 10.00am.

Senior Staff Club Commissions New Snooker Board

By Humphrey Ogu

The Senior Staff Club now wears a new look with the commissioning of a standard Snooker Board aimed at boosting recreational activities among members, who love the game. This follows the unveiling, a fortnight ago, of a brand new Snooker Board and a set of chairs by members of the Snooker Section of the Club.

Briefing *UNI-PORT Weekly* on the commissioning of the items, Life Secretary of the Club, Mr Friday Nwafor, said that the Club President, Dr Tammy Orunaboka, who performed the ceremonial cutting of tape, played the first shot to declare the new board open to members.

According to him, Dr Orunaboka, who thanked members of the Snooker Unit for their love and

support towards the present Executive led by him, expressed gratitude to them for keeping the Club alive at all times, pledging to contribute towards the purchase of the Snooker Board on behalf of the Executive.

Present at the colourful ceremony were Professor Blessing Didia, who is Team Captain, Chairman, Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) UNI-PORT Branch, Professor Anthonia Okerengwo, Professors Willie Okowa, Don Anyanwu, Emmanuel Emasealu, and Okorosaye Orubite, Team Manager, as well as Professor Obiozor Ayalogu and Director, Personnel Affairs, Mr. Roland Wabali, amongst other members and friends of the Section.

A major highlight of the event was several rounds of Snooker games as announced by the Team Captain amidst light entertainment and exchange of pleasantries.



Club President, Dr Orunaboka, Team Captain, Prof Didia (2nd & 3rd from left) and others



Prof Okowa, Dr Orunaboka, Profs Ayalogu, Anyanwu and Mr Nwafor

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Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, gave the advice during an Orientation exercise for newly-admitted students into the programme at the Convocation Arena, last Thursday.

Professor Joe, who was represented by the Director of Academic Affairs, Mrs Dorcas Otto, said that since the duration of the programme was very short, they should utilize every opportunity at their disposal to make the best use of their stay in the University in order not to regret later.

Professor Joe, who commended the Institute of Education for organizing the Orientation, warned students against truancy. "You must be sober and work hard and ensure that the brief period of your stay here is fully utilized to the best of your ability, to enable you secure admission into Year One at the end of the programme" he told them.

She advised them to stay away from problems that would affect their performance, noting that the authorities have observed cases where students who enrolled into the Certificate Programme got themselves involved in cult activities that cut short their career in the University, advising them to exhibit scholarly attitude, high sense of morality and be of good behaviour". The Director also told them to work hard to make their stay

DV-C Advises Certificate Students On Hard Work



Cross section of Students during the Orientation



percentage of them would be admitted, pointing out that a pass does not mean automatic admission into the degree programme.

In his remarks, Acting Director of the Institute, Dr. Sunday Osaat, said that the event was designed to acquaint the students with the information they needed to know about the programme, so that they would not run into problems as they got along. He told them that experience had shown that the problem encountered by some students was not about the programme, but the students themselves, advising them to take it seriously. Dr Osaat informed them that they were expected not only to be of good behaviour, but also to be hardworking students, stressing that "the essence of the programme is to assess and evaluate your performance to determine your level of preparedness to join the Undergraduate programme". The event which had a Question and Answer session attracted presentations from the Acting Bursar, Mr Vitalis Aliezi, who was represented by the Faculty of Finance Officer, Mr. Joseph Wachukwu, as well as the Director of the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC), Professor Anthony Ibe, who was represented by Mr. Bola Lawal.

UBE, UNIPOINT, Mount Workshop For Teachers In Rivers State

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Efforts aimed at equipping teachers in the employment of the Rivers State Government has received a major boost as the State Universal Basic Education Board (UBE) and University of Port Harcourt collaborated in training about 100 teachers in subject areas that are relevant to the overall matrix of learning.

Declaring the 10-day Workshop open at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, last Wednesday, Rivers State Commissioner of Education, who was represented by a Director in the Ministry, Mrs May Solomon noted that the training was aimed at enhancing teaching skills in line with global standards. The Commissioner advised participants to translate the knowledge acquired into better classroom performance in their relationship with pupils. "There is no reason why pupils in public schools should not compete favourably with their counterparts in private schools", she said.

Delivering the Keynote Address, Executive Chairman of the Board, Sir Allio Oruitemeka noted that the Board in partnership with the University had embarked on the training programme for teachers in the State to enhance service delivery in the subject areas under consideration. Commending the State Government for investing in the sector, Oruitemeka observed that the Board was complementing the efforts of government through the design of professional development programmes. "This is not a training to satisfy the rituals of a workplace, but one aimed at identifying the specific training needs of teachers and frontally addressing them", he stated.

Welcoming the guests to the University, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiinka, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, who emphasized the importance of training programmes to enhance competence, stressed the need for participants to embrace new teaching skills that are compliant to the emergent scientific and technological age. "We have a robust Faculty of Education, equipped with the best brains and modern teaching facilities", the Vice-Chancellor remarked, advising participants to tap from the wealth of knowledge of the Resource Persons to improve their skills and capacity to deliver knowledge to

pupils.

Representative of the Executive Secretary of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) Abuja, Mrs Helen Okoro, who disclosed that the Commission was out to monitor proper expenditure of revenue allocated by the Federal Government for training and capacity-building of teachers in the State, urged participants to disseminate knowledge acquired at the Workshop to other colleagues and use same to improve classroom experience for pupils, expressing satisfaction with the level of training provided by the University.

In their goodwill speeches, Chairman of the Rivers State Post Primary Schools Board, represented by Mrs Benebo Briggs, Members of the State UBE Board,

Messrs Paul Agubulom and Dominic Pianen, stressed the need for the teachers to embrace the training programme as an opportunity for self-improvement and enhanced service delivery. The trio commended the Board for spreading the training across five Centres, including the University, adding that the success of the programme would be measured by the quality of students produced by public schools in the State.

Speaking earlier in his capacity as Coordinator of the programme in the University, Professor Benjamin Eheazu, disclosed that the training was targeted at enhancing the pedagogical skills of teachers in core subject areas, namely Mathematics, English Language, Basic Science and Technology, Social Studies, Continuous Assessment and Guidance Counselling.

He noted that the training targeted at Primary and Junior Secondary School teachers in the State, would amongst other objectives, equip them for scientific appreciation and introduce new techniques for teaching to meet the challenges of imparting knowledge to pupils in modern classroom settings.



Cross section of Teachers at the Workshop



Members of the State UBE Board and UBEC, Abuja with DV-C R&D, Prof Willie Abbey (arrowed), Prof Eheazu and Prof Awotua-Efebo

Practise What You Learnt In UNIPORT, V-C Advises Ghanaian Students

By Otikor Samuel

Following the completion of their two-week experience-sharing trip to the University in the oil and gas sector, staff and students of the Department of Petroleum Engineering, University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa, Ghana, have been advised to utilize the practical training they were exposed to during their intensive programme to enrich their study, as well be ready to transfer such knowledge for the growth of the emergent oil industry in Ghana.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, gave the advice at the International Students' Centre penultimate Friday, during a Farewell Cocktail Party organized for the visiting students by the Exchange and Linkage Programmes Unit (ELPU) which facilitated the collaboration between the two universities.

Professor Ajienka urged the students to document their experiences during the field trip and lectures given by experts both in the Industry and academia for ease of reference, assuring them that the University of Port Harcourt would improve on the quality of logistics and presentation during subsequent programmes to expose the new Department to international best operational



V-C, Prof Ajienka (standing), with Senior Officers of UNIPORT, staff and students of UMaT, Ghana

practices in the oil and gas sector for the benefit of students.

"We cherish the partnership with your University. This is the second time your Department visited us. Next time, I hope it would be better organized so that you can explore abundant opportunities in the oil and gas sector" the Vice-Chancellor assured the students, commiserating with them on the death of President John Atta-Mills few days after their arrival in Nigeria.

The Vice-Chancellor, who had an interactive session with the students on the knowledge they gained in the field, commended the Director, ELP, Professor John Otaigbe, Mr Boniface Oriji and other members of the team from the Department of Petroleum and Gas Engineering for the success of the programme, expressing delight that the visiting students described the programme as very

satisfactory.

In their separate goodwill messages, one of the visiting Lecturers, Mr Richard Amorin and a Student, Rose Teye, thanked authorities of the University for the programme, which they said had exposed them to both theoretical and practical knowledge of exploration activities in the field, expressing optimism that the collaboration with the University of Port Harcourt, which is widely known for quality hydrocarbon training would transform the Petroleum Engineering Department of UMaT into the best in oil and gas studies in Ghana. They thanked all schedule officers, who worked with them for displaying a high sense of maturity in handling the excesses of some students, stating that they were really empowered by the knowledge gained from the programme in UNIPORT.

In a bid to ensure efficiency and boost productivity in service delivery in the University, select staff of the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC), were last week trained by Descasio Limited, a Google partner, handling the Google Applications Supporting Programme (GASP) for the African Region. Briefing *UNIPORT Weekly* on the objectives of the five-day training workshop, leader of the Team, Mr Chima Uba, said the training was an initiative of Google geared towards developing web design content for Nigerian universities. "What we are trying to do is to create a better and more enabling environment for universities in Africa with a view to bridging the digital divide between our institutions and those in other parts of the world.

"In essence, Google has actually looked at African universities, and we found out that there are certain basic things that enhance education and help us to achieve some of those things that are currently lacking in an universities in the ication of Information hnoogy in the learning process. For instance, the training we are conducting is actually designed to help the ICTC staff on train-the-trainer basis. We train participants on

how to use the products we give to them to maximize their productivity in the University," Uba said.

According to him, Google outfit for education has products which Nigerian schools need in order to achieve certain critical goals. "For instance, university staff and students in other parts of the world make regular use of email, unlike Nigeria, where use of email is very minimal. This strange scenario affects most of our graduates negatively when they travel abroad for further studies; they encounter difficulty making efficient use of their emails. In today's work environment, the use of email has become a necessity because virtually every communication is done via email."

"We also have what is known as Google calendar, which helps you to organize your programmes, manage time and meetings more effectively. We also have Google Site which is more or less a website; even the University website could be hosted on that such a site as we found out that most Departments and Lecturers do not have personal sites where they could be easily reached. Availability of such a site should enable staff and students, who may wish to own websites to do so. They could also link such sites to the University's own websites. This way, you cut out the cost of paying an external vendor, and

Uba, who noted that the era of using paper in reprinting and reading documents, thereby wasting papers and ink is over, listed G-Dot and G-Plus as some of the products the organization is bringing to the University, explaining that with the use of G-Dot, offices could save cost by sharing documents of any volume, proofread and edit manuscripts without having to print them.

G-Plus, according to him, "is a social network tool, but the greatest benefit is that it has the features of Facebook and Twitter put together. What you can do on Twitter or Facebook, you can do on G-Plus. It goes even further to give you more functions, including what we call Google Hang-out, which gives you the opportunity to engage in video-conferencing call with other people. For instance, if we are on Google Hang-out, the Vice-Chancellor can have a conference with us without making physical contact or coming to a conference room. It is like tele-conferencing."

Uba, who acknowledged that there are infrastructural challenges in terms of ownership of personal computers and accessories, explained that if a Lecturer wants to administer a test to his students, he could share the scripts to them via G-Plus. "If he stores a lecture note in his Laptop, a Lecturer could send the information to students with ease." Other members of the Google team included: Osagie Obasohan, Kelvin Odum and Adams Shittu.

Meanwhile, representative of the Director of ICTC and Chief Programmer/Analyst at the Centre, Mr Sarafa Lawal, has said that "the essence of the workshop was to train technical staff of the ICTC on latest Google applications to replace the package

currently in use if found to be more effective". This, he said, is in addition to providing a bigger bandwidth that would accommodate more users of the network, as well as training students known as Google Ambassadors on some useful applications.

Lawal noted that the applications would be very relevant to the Bursary, as well as during Student Registration, amongst other Departmental uses, adding that there would be more sensitization among staff and students on the new packages.

Google Trains ICTC Staff On Web Design

By Humphrey Ogu

having to buy expensive servers, amongst others," he pointed out.

Mr Uba

Authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have approved a Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) programme in Animal and Environmental Biology. The decision was taken at the 385th Extra-Ordinary meeting of Senate held at the Senate Chambers, last Wednesday. Senate also reiterated its resolve that students, who do not pay their charges would not have access to their results, even when they write examinations.

The Meeting which was chaired on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, also approved a total of 456 higher degree results in the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Science, Education, Engineering, Management Sciences, and Basic Medical Sciences; out of which a total of 17 were Doctoral Degrees, as well as endorsed corrections in some results of the School of Graduate Studies earlier approved by Senate. On a presentation by the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Professor Roseline Konya, on the minimum academic benchmark for graduate programmes, Senate directed that the School should adhere to the guidelines stipulated by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

The meeting considered and approved First Semester Undergraduate results from the Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, Management Sciences, Engineering, Agricultural Sciences, as well as College of Health Sciences.

For the Faculty of Humanities, results were approved from the Departments of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Religious and Cultural Studies, English Studies, Fine Arts and Design, Philosophy and Theatre Arts. Senate also considered and approved requests by students who applied to write examinations as first attempt in the Faculty, as well as a request to advise 11 students to withdraw from the Faculty as a result of poor academic performance. Senate advised the Faculty to withdraw request by two students to resume studies until clarifications on issues surrounding their withdrawals are

385th Extra-Ordinary Senate Meeting

Senate Approves Results, New Programme

By Obinna Nwodim



Senate in session

presented. The meeting also approved the correction of names in the 2011/2012 Degree Result Mark Sheet

For the Faculty of Social Science, Senate approved results from the Departments of Economics, Geography and Environment Management, Political Science and Administrative Studies and Sociology.

For the Faculty of Science, Senate approved First Semester results from the Departments of Animal and Environmental Biology, Pure and Industrial Chemistry, Computer Science, Maths/Statistics, Microbiology,

Physics, Plant Science and Biotechnology. The meeting also approved supplementary degree results from the Department of Maths/Statistics, as well as nominations of External Examiners for the Departments of Maths/Statistics and Physics.

For the Faculty of Education, Senate approved First Semester results for the 2011/2012 Academic Session from the Departments of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Educational Management, Educational Foundation, Human Kinetics and Health Education as well as Adult and Non-Formal Education. It also approved application to rectify errors in names in Teaching Subject areas in the 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 Degree results and also omitted results in the Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology.

For the Faculty of Engineering, Senate approved First Semester result from the Departments of Civil and Environmental, Electrical/Electronics, Mechanical, Chemical, as well as Petroleum and Gas Engineering. It also approved supplementary results for Civil and Environmental and Electrical/ Electronics Engineering. Results from the Departments of Accounting, Finance and Banking, Management and Marketing were considered and approved as presented by the Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences.

Senate also approved results from the Departments of Animal and Crop Science, Forestry and Wildlife, Crop and Soil Science and Agricultural Economics and Extension from the Faculty of Agriculture, as well as nominations of External Examiners for the Departments of Crop and Soil Science and Forestry and Wildlife.

Senate approved results from the Departments of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology in the College of Health Sciences, and recommendations for temporary withdrawal of 5 students.

The 385 Extra-Ordinary Senate Meeting also approved applications for temporary withdrawal by fourteen students of the School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT), as well as First Semester result of the new School. Senate also decided that appropriate sanctions should be invoked against Lecturers, who failed to submit their results as stipulated.

The Acting Chairman of Senate, who welcomed the new Deans of the Faculties of Social Sciences and Science in their official capacity, had earlier informed members of a proposed programme by the Centre for Research Management on research funding opportunities and training, for Deans, Heads of Department, Centre Directors as well as Senior Lecturers and Lecturers 1 nominated by the Departments. Senate also welcomed the newly appointed Heads of Departments that were present at the meeting. They are Dr. Betty Iruloh, Department of Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Dr. Morufu Oyebamiji, Department, Adult and Non-Formal Education, Dr. Clara Odele, Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, Dr. Eme Ekekwe, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Dr. Julie Umukoro, Department of Theatre Arts, Professor E.G. Wokoma, Crop and Soil Science, Dr. G.E Omokhua, Department of Forestry and Wildlife. And Dr. Mercy Ironkwe, Department of Animal Science and Fisheries.

Finance Ministry Urges Speedy Completion Of Projects In UNIPORT

By Otikor Samuel

Contractors handling capital projects awarded by the Federal Government in the University of Port Harcourt, have been charged to expedite action to ensure timely completion of such projects or face possible sanction. Team Leader of a monitoring group assigned to the South-South Zone from the Budget Office of the Federation in the Federal Ministry of Finance Abuja, Hassan Abdu, gave the charge when he led a delegation on the 2012 Capital Budget Monitoring Exercise in the University, last Wednesday.

Mr Abdu, who urged the University to impress it on the Contractors to fully mobilize to the various sites and complete such projects within the stipulated timeframe, said funds for first and second quarters for the projects have been released, while the third quarter funds are being processed and would be released soon, advising authorities of the University to ensure that the Contractors keep to the schedule for the projects.

"We have released the money for the projects; they should utilize them by implementing the projects within the stated timeline. Please we want you to convey this message to them. They should meet up the job description; time is

of the essence to us", the Team Leader said, expressing dissatisfaction over their findings on the slow pace of work at most sites visited.

Receiving the Team on behalf of the University, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey and Deputy Bursar (Treasury), Dr Felicia Ayuwo, who represented the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka and Acting Bursar, Mr Vitalis Aliezi, solicited understanding of the deltaic nature of the area, attributing the delay in completing most of the projects to constant rain. They assured the Team that the University would assist the monitoring group to impress it upon the Contractors to accelerate the pace of work at the project sites.

"Infrastructural development in this region is a bit difficult due to the terrain and weather. However, they will improve on the pace of work as the weather will become favourable any moment from now", Professor Willie-Abbey said.

Other members of the Capital Budget Monitoring Team, who were accompanied by a journalist and member of a civil society group were: Ndana Abdulrazau, Dr Hassan Haruna and Mr Oyere Okosor.



Team Leader, Mr Abdul (Centre), DV-C (R&D), Prof Willie-Abbey (l), members of the Monitoring Team and some officers of the University

Ways To Tackle Infant, Maternal Mortality, By Nte

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nations indicate that the under-fives constitute the most at-risk group, being the majority among ill and dead children with newborns and post-neonatal infants being most represented.

"It is therefore sensible to focus on this group if development targets are to be attained. Consequently, the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), which seeks to improve child survival targets disease conditions and interventions that impact most on this age group," she stated, adding that "Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)-4 specifically seeks to reduce under-five child deaths by two-thirds by 2015 and all its related monitoring indicators are among the under-fives."

Nte, who pointed out that the knowledge of where these highly preventable under-five deaths occur is important for targeting child survival interventions, especially in resource-limited settings, said: "under-five deaths occur world-wide, but the rates are unacceptably high in resource-limited settings," disclosing that "Data from the *Countdown to 2015, 2012 Report* and *The Levels & Trends in Child Mortality Report 2011*, indicate insufficient progress in child survival in these countries, in spite of the dramatic decline of child deaths and highlighted the need for accelerated progress as only 23 Countdown countries were on track to achieve MDGs 4 and 13."

According to her, 50 per cent under-five deaths occurred in five countries, including India, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan; with India and Nigeria recording 22 and 11 per cent, respectively, accounting for a third of these preventable deaths. She said that poverty, ignorance and disease work in concert with other factors to undermine child survival in Nigeria.

Nte, who is the immediate past Director of the Institute of Maternal and Child Health in the College of Health Sciences, observed that "the high risk for under-five deaths in Nigeria is further demonstrated by the fact that in 2010, an estimated 134,754,000 live births, 7,614,000 under-five deaths (5.65% total births) occurred globally compared to 6,332,000 live births and 861,000 under-five deaths estimated for Nigeria, indicating that the country's under-five deaths to total live birth ratios (13.6%) was about 2.5 times the global figure of 5.6%."

"Globally, the immediate causes of under-five deaths have remained infections (64%), malnutrition (down from 54% to about one third) and newborn deaths, both from hospital and community level data in developed and developing countries," she explained, adding that the distant and intermediate determinants of under-five deaths may explain their greater risks in resource-limited settings compared to their counterparts in industrialized nations.

"Studies have shown that children of the poor are more likely to die than those of the rich for many reasons, including increased exposure risks to disease through inadequate water



A Cross Section of Professors before the 91st Inaugural Lecture

supply and sanitation, indoor air pollution, crowding, poor housing conditions and high exposure to disease vectors. They are also more likely to have lower resistance to infectious diseases; malnutrition caused by diets deficient in one or more essential micronutrients, low birth weight as a result of poor maternal nutrition, infections during pregnancy, and short birth intervals, amongst others," she pointed out, stressing that poverty increased exposure and reduced resistance to diseases in the group.

Nte, who observed that children born by poor uneducated, young or elderly mothers, were particularly at risk of death, stated that "they die mainly from pneumonia, diarrhoea, malnutrition, complications of preterm delivery and birth asphyxia, which are either largely preventable or treatable, using available, effective and evidence-based low-cost interventions. These deaths occur because of several obstacles to accessing quality care, low coverage of effective evidence-based interventions, poverty, lack of maternal education and women's low socioeconomic status," regretting that "at current rate, we cannot attain MDG 4."

"Although Nigeria contributes 2.3% of the global population, its under-five death burden is 11.3% of the global total. Consequently, unless child survival improves in Nigeria, the global efforts will not yield the desired result," she said, stating that "the politicization of health and relevant sectors, misapplication and poor utilization of resources, and insecurity pose additional challenges to child survival in Nigeria."

Identifying inadequate manpower, lack of funding amongst others, as some of the factors militating against child survival in the country, the Inaugural Lecturer called for concerted efforts from stakeholders to win the war against child mortality. "Government at all levels must ensure equitable access of all Nigerians to quality healthcare through implementations of the National Health Policy, and other

policies, guidelines and strategies adopted at different international and national meetings. These include the Child Health, School Health, Infant and Young Child Feeding and Nutrition Policies, IMNCH Strategy, amongst others," she recommended.

On her contributions to child survival in Nigeria, Professor Nte, who stated that exclusive breast feeding alone could prevent 13% of infant mortality, disclosed that she had carried out research on various aspects of child health, presented and published papers at conferences, including books and journals; mentored other health workers, trained manpower at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, in addition to sensitizing women on child health, safety and rights, amongst others.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who described the Inaugural Lecturer as "a Senior Advocate of Nigerian Women and Children", commended Professor Nte for her advocacy works in the health sector, stating that "this Lecture was very engaging, but very painful because of the frightening statistics she reeled out to demonstrate the sordid plight of Nigerian children. We are told that about 7.6 million children die yearly. What an avoidable waste of future talents and valuable manpower for our dear country? "The Inaugural Lecturer has told us what we can do; what our hospitals can do, what the University can do, what the State and Federal Governments can do and what the companies can do to save the lives of Nigerian infants, who die daily of largely avoidable ailments. The painful thing is that we are not doing enough for the survival of our precious children," the Vice-Chancellor said, adding that "from what she said, we are far from achieving MDG 4, and if we can't achieve that, we are unlikely to achieve anything, in spite of what the politicians tell us. This is a major challenge for government and for all of us. We can and should indeed do a lot more to save our children".

New Dean, Faculty of Science, Professor Nnenna Frank-Peterside, has disclosed plans to explore available opportunities in the Faculty to reposition it for enhanced productivity, stating that during her tenure, the Faculty would take advantage of the presence of over 70 Professors to uplift the University to an enviable status.

Professor Frank-Peterside, who made the disclosure in an interview with *UNIORT Weekly* in her office last Tuesday, said that she would bring her experience as

New Dean Of Science Promises Quality Service Delivery ...As Students Launch Operation Keep Ofrima Clean

By Otikor Samuel

former Associate Dean and Acting Head of the Department of Microbiology to bear in handling her new responsibility, promising to explore the capable manpower in the Faculty to positively impact on the University and society.

"We will arise and take our place by fully utilizing our potentials as the largest Faculty in the University to create impact", the new Dean promised, expressing optimism that the Faculty would be empowered to deliver quality teaching, research and community services, as according to her, the total number of Professors in the Faculty alone could constitute a University of its own.

Professor Frank-Peterside, who took over from Professor Oamen Abumere on Tuesday, 31st July, 2012, pledged to source funds to fuel the 500KVA power plant donated by an *Alumnus*, Dr Stanley Lawson for purposes of facilitating research. "We run laboratories in all Departments; so we need regular power supply to expose our

students to practical knowledge", she said.

She further disclosed plans to strengthen staff-students relationship through the provision of Staff Advisers to all students of the Faculty, adding that her administration would ensure timely release of Faculty Spread Sheets to minimize the rate of students overstaying on programmes.

Professor Frank-Peterside identified lack of space for staff and students of the Faculty, as well as poor sanitation as some of the challenges facing the Faculty, expressing hope that some of the problems would be tackled by her administration with support from her colleagues and students, including outside stakeholders. Meanwhile, the new Dean has commended the UNIORT Chapter of Nigerian Association of Science Students (NASS), for donating a set of Public Address System (PAS) with mixer amplifier, PV speakers and wireless microphones to service the MBA 1 Classroom. The students also renovated an abandoned toilet facility provided by Professor Roseline Konya when she was Commissioner of Environment in Rivers State.

President of NASS, Olua Victor, told our Correspondent that the Association also embarked on other activities such as Freshers' Tournament, featuring football, volleyball and table tennis competitions and an Orientation party for fresh students of the Faculty, disclosing that *Operation Keep Ofrima Clean* would be launched this Wednesday, where waste bins and sewage materials would be provided at strategic locations to ensure cleanliness of the complex.



Prof Frank-Peterside commissioning the Public Address System, President, NASS, Mr Victor (left) and other students of the Faculty

GUIDE POST

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

APPOINTMENT

Dr Eme Ekekwe, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The appointment takes immediate effect and terminates on 4th August, 2014.

Dr M.A. Oyebamiji, Department of Adult and Non-Formal Education, Faculty of Education, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The appointment takes immediate effect and terminates on 4th August, 2014.

Dr G.I. Umoh, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, appointed *Acting Head of Department*. The appointment takes immediate effect and terminates on 4th August, 2014.

SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

Prof Victor Chukwuma Wakwe, Department of Chemical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, granted a 12-month *Sabbatical Leave*, effective 17th July, 2012.

Prof Emeka Obe, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, granted a 12-month *Sabbatical Appointment*, effective 31st July, 2012.

ASSUMPTION OF DUTY

Prof N.A. Oranusi, assumed duty as *Professor*, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, effective 16th July, 2011.

Dr Oluseyi Folake Ajayi, assumed duty as *Adjunct Senior Lecturer*, Department of Pathology and Oral Biology, Faculty of Dentistry, effective 30th May, 2012.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Mr Edward Ogheneovo, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, upgraded to *Lecturer II*, effective 12th November, 2007.

Dr Nwadiuto Chinwe Eze, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science, upgraded to *Lecturer II*, effective 28th March, 2012.

Dr Dinah Sunday Osaat, Institute of Education, Faculty of Education, upgraded to *Lecturer II*, effective 28th March, 2012.

Dr Fanny O. Anikpo, Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, upgraded to *Lecturer II*, effective 8th February, 2011.

RETIREMENT

Dr A.B. Allison, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, retired from service, effective 29th March, 2011.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Mr Tamunosiki Markson, Faculty of Humanities, appointed *Member of Marketing and Communication Committee*.

Dr Sylvester Udeorah, Vice-Chancellor's Office, appointed *Member of Marketing and Communication Committee*.

Dr Solomon Egbe, Faculty of Management Science, appointed *Member of Marketing and Communication Committee*.

Dr Eniola Taiwo, Faculty of Management Science, appointed *Member of Marketing and Communication Committee*.

STUDY LEAVE

Mrs Josephine Gbombo, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, granted *Study Leave*, effective 1st April, 2012 to 31st March, 2015.

PAYMENT OF CHARGES

Provost and Deans are informed that students in their Faculties and College, who fail to pay their charges within the stipulated period will not be allowed to write their examinations.

56TH EXTRA-ORDINARY CONGREGATION

The 56th Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Congregation holds this Friday at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Time is 11:00 am.

Contact: Director, Personnel Affairs, Mr Roland Wabali

RETIREMENT BRIEF

Leadway Assurance Company Limited would make a presentation to staff of the University on retirement on Wednesday, 15th August, 2012 at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Time is 10.00am. All staff are cordially invited.

Contact: Mrs Ibanga Ime

HIV/AIDS ALERT

HIV/AIDS is real. Protect yourself.

Avoid a reckless lifestyle that can expose you to infection.

UNILORIN PRODUCES 36 FIRST CLASS GRADUATES

Of the 4,686 graduands billed for the Convocation Ceremony of the

University of Ilorin, Kwara State, on 23rd October, 2012, a total of 36 graduands, have been shortlisted for the First Class honours. A statement released by the Deputy Director, Corporate Affairs, Mr Kunle Akogun, disclosed that 871 students made Second Class Upper Division, 2,297 obtained Second Class Lower Division, while 1,120 came out with Third Class. 287 made Pass Degree.

NUC LIFTS BAN ON THREE VARSITIES

The National Universities Commission (NUC),

has lifted the suspension order on three private universities for taking corrective measures to rectify the infractions that led to withdrawal of their operational licences. The universities are: Joseph Ayo Babalola University (JABU), Osun State, Achievers' University, Ondo State and Tansian University, Anambra State.

BAHIJJA EMERGES FIRST NIGERIAN PHD HOLDER IN PHARMACY FROM UEA VARSITY

A 27-year-old Nigerian, Bahijja Raimi-Abraham, has emerged the first Nigerian to obtain a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Pharmacy from the University of East Anglia (UEA), Norwich, United Kingdom.

Rated as the 27th Best University in the UK, the School of Pharmacy of UEA was, ranked first in the United Kingdom, according to the Complete University Guide League Table for 2012.



Prof Ruqayyatu Rufa'i, Minister of Education

ONE IN FIVE VARSITIES WILL BE FORCED TO CLOSE OR MERGE IN RUSSIA

Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered a reorganisation of state universities that will lead to some closures. The Minister of Education and Science, Dmitry Livanov, said that one in five universities could be shut down or forced to merge over the next two or three years.

Putin said: "There is a need to identify inefficient universities

by the end of the current year. At the same time the programme of restructuring, including through mergers with strong universities, should be developed and approved prior to May 2013."

He said the implementation of these plans would take place within a draft law on education, which is to be submitted by the government to the State Duma – the lower House of Parliament. In the meantime, the government has already started to prepare for the implementation of Putin's order.

According to Livanov, there are plans to cut up to a fifth of domestic universities and about 30% to 35% of university branches. Russia has some 600 universities, with more than 1,400 branches.

-Compiled by Otiakor Samuel

Stop Press

New Registration Deadline

Students are by this notice reminded that payment of non-statutory charges and registration of courses online ends on Thursday, 16th August, 2012.

Students who are yet to register are advised to do so in their own interest. The University will not entertain any correspondence from students who fail to conclude their registration on the date stated above.

Passage

Mrs Anthonia Nduka

The University Community is informed of the demise and burial of Madam Anthonia Nduka, mother of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, who died on 2nd July, 2012. She was buried last Saturday at her hometown, Umuaro Umunumo Ehime, Mbano in Imo State.



Late Ma Nduka

Pro-Chancellor Receives Alumni Association

The National Interim Leadership of the University of Port Harcourt Alumni Association led by Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimele paid a courtesy visit on the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council, His Excellency, Rev (Dr) Walter Eneji on Thursday, 26th July, 2012 at the Council Chambers, Senate Building. Below are the pictorial highlights captured by our Cameraman, HEADMAN ALU.



Pro-Chancellor/Chairman, Governing Council, Rev (Dr) Walter Eneji during the Courtesy Visit



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka making a speech



Immediate past National President, Mr Samuel Iyoyo (r) in a chat with Chairman, Rivers Chapter of the Alumni Association, Hon Sampson Ngerebara



Pro-Chancellor, V-C, Council Members, Principal Officers and Alumni rise for UNIPORT Anthem



Pro-Chancellor, Dr Eneji (r) in a chat with V-C, Professor Ajienka



Interim President, Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimele addressing Council Members, flanked on his right by Dr Eneji and on the left by Hon Ngerebara



Acting Director, University Advancement Centre (UAC), Dr Ngozi Odu, making a remark, flanked on her right by Member of Governing Council, Professor Joseph Ebeniro and Acting Bursar, Mr Vitalis Aliezi on the right



Chairman, Rivers Chapter of the Association, Hon Ngerebara making a speech. Seated left is Prof Ndimele and former President, Mr Iyoyo



Some Senior Officers of the University responding applauding a speech



Guests seated at the Council Chambers



Mr Iyoyo and Dr Odu



Pro-Chancellor, Dr Eneji (arrowed), V-C, Professor Ajienka (left), Council Members, Principal Officers, Alumni members and Senior Officers after the visit