

IPS Is A Model In Nigeria's Educational System ~Ajienka

In pursuance of its mandate to meet the needs of the petroleum industry through commitment to excellence in training, applied research, continuing education and capacity building, as well as becoming the foremost international centre of excellence in Petroleum Geosciences and other related fields, the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), has produced another 21 Master of Science graduates of Petroleum Engineering and Project Development and 20 Postgraduate Diploma recipients in its symbiotic partnership with Industry and IFP School, Paris, France, bringing the total haul in nine years to 259 beneficiaries, reports *Otikor Samuel*.

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Side Bar

In a bid to increase food production, the Faculty of Agriculture celebrates 1st Agriculture Day today. Details next week -Editor



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MDCN Inducts Pioneer Dental Surgeons, 91 New Medical Doctors

By Obinna Nwodin

Five Pioneer Dental Surgeons from the Faculty of Dentistry and 91 newly-qualified Medical Doctors from the Department of Medicine, College of Health Sciences took the Physicians' Oath administered by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, last Friday.

Addressing the Inductees, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who congratulated the new Doctors for

believing in themselves and their capacity to pull through one of the most difficult phases of their lives, advised them to be good ambassadors of their *Alma Mater*. He also charged them to strive towards diligence and excellence in rendering service to humanity in their professional practice.

Professor Ajienka, who was represented by the Provost of the College, Professor Chris Akani, said: "You must ensure that the best operational industry practices are maintained at all times as you step into the Medical profession. I charge you to

engage in continuous professional training to bring your practice up-to-date with global benchmarks, which define the new knowledge society that has no room for stagnation", pointing out that "it is very important that you take your knowledge of Medicine beyond general practice".

The Vice-Chancellor, who disclosed that construction work on the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences building has commenced, expressed hope that "when completed, more Medical Doctors would be trained to fill the

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YFC, CHD, UPTH, Sensitize Varsity Community On HIV/AIDS



Mgt Advises UNI^{PORT} Cooperative

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MDCN Induction

New Doctors, Dentist, Share Experience

To pass through Medical School is by no means an easy journey. It is akin to a marathon race that is started by many athletes, but completed by a few. In this report, our Correspondent, HUMPHREY OGU, spoke with the newly-inducted Doctor and Dentists, who shared their experiences on the challenges they faced, knowledge gained in the College of Health Sciences (CHS), as well as future plans. Read on!



Dr Ibaranyankaye BGS
Dentistry, where the training is of a very high standard. To successfully go through, you had to be tough, skilled, and intelligent, because it is very demanding. I am just privileged."

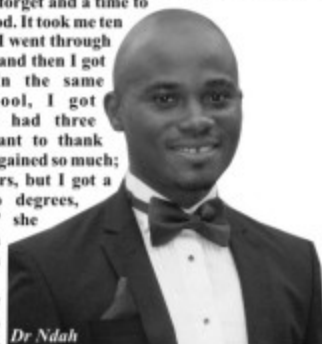
Ibaranyankaye, who exudes an aura of uncommon humility, said he is very grateful to God, adding that if given another opportunity, he would like to balance things up much earlier, revealing that he did not only study his books, he also dabbled into music, fashion and other things he had flair for. "If I have to start all over again, I will strike a balance among all these things." To his younger colleagues, he said: "Don't see God as an option. Unless, you lean on him, you would never have satisfaction. Study hard, read books that are relevant to your course and those that are not. You have to motivate yourself."



One of the newly-sworn Medical Doctors, Chika Salami (nee Amaele) did not only acq

uire a Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS); she also got a degree in Anatomy, a husband and two children in the course of her training in the College. "Medical School for me was a long process, an experience I would never forget and a time to get closer to God. It took me ten years because I went through BSc Anatomy and then I got an MBBS. In the same medical school, I got married and had three children. I want to thank God because I gained so much; it was ten years, but I got a husband, two degrees, two children" she said in an emotion-laden voice.

"It was a time I saw friends, who stuck



Dr Ndah

closer to me than my siblings. Medical School taught me patience, perseverance, how to look forward to better things, she disclosed, "urging her younger colleagues to always hope in God, if they wish to fulfil their dreams of qualifying as doctors."

"Different people have different experiences, but mine was quite interesting, because it taught me a lot of things in life," said Ezemonye Ndah, who hopes to specialize in Public Health or Healthcare Management. "Although it wasn't a very smooth sail, I know how tough it was to have a few re-sits and all that. All the same, it was good. I



Dr Abu

have been exposed to various challenges of the profession and I am prepared to compete favourably with my counterparts in other parts of the world," he added.

To Emmy Abu, it was a herculean task, a road strewn with a lot of hurdles. Expressing delight that she successfully scaled all the hurdles, Abu observed that "We couldn't have done it without our parents, who gave us the moral and financial support and friends, who stood by us during difficult times and of course, the Almighty God," disclosing that if given another opportunity, she would rather study a four-year course such as Secretarial Studies, in place of passing through the rigours of Medical School.

"It was not an easy ride," said Rubby Jaja, who intends to either specialize in Obstetrics and Gynecology or Surgery. "You need focus on your studies; have the zeal to be a medical doctor. For me, the zeal has been there right from childhood. When you have the zeal and the will, it becomes a lot easier to work towards the goal," she pointed out.

Jaja expressed gratitude to God, her parents and teachers for their contributions towards actualizing her dream of becoming a medical doctor, urging younger colleagues to do their part, even as they depend on the grace of God to pull through Medical School.



Dr Jaja

STUDENT WORLD

'UNIPOINT Exposed Me To African Continent'

He was persuaded to enrol in the University of Port Harcourt for his Bachelor's Degree by his mother. Then, he felt that the mother was only proud of her Alma Mater as a common phenomenon among humans; after all, who does not like his/her mother's food? Three years down the memory lane, Kennedy Iwuh, has become a household name in AISIEC UNIPOINT. He told our Correspondent, OTIKOR SAMUEL that the best thing that happened to his higher education was the initiative of his mother, who single-handedly Board examination and filled into his corner of the World:

"I was persuaded by my mother, who is an Alumna to choose the University of Port Harcourt for my study, while I was looking elsewhere for admission. I later bought the idea to study in UNIPOINT and I must tell you that so far, there has been no regret for me as I wouldn't exchange with any other higher institution in the world! University of Port Harcourt is really the place to be; the Institution has exposed me to meet people in sub-Saharan African countries, particularly through AISIEC, which is an international student organization. I attended eight national and international conferences, courtesy of AISIEC", the Third Year Student of the Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, Computer Science option recalled.

A regular user of the Donald Ekong Library, Mr Iwuh, popularly known as Nonso, said he renews his Library Identity Card every session and uses the Library, at least, three times each week, rating the Library above average for providing users with sufficient resource materials and comfort for academic activities.

With the prospect of becoming a great leader that would impact positively to transform society at a time African is suffering under the weight of poor leadership, the Vice-President of AISIEC expressed gratitude that the Institution is preparing him for the task ahead in grand style.

Nonso, who expressed dissatisfaction with the idea of living off campus, looks forward to a time, when authorities of his beloved UNIPOINT would be empowered by the Federal Government to build more hostels to accommodate the teeming number of students, who wish to come to the University to study. "Students staying in Hostels outside the University incur more expenses for their upkeep," he said, stating unequivocally that he has no regrets whatever



Iwuh

studying in the University. "This is the right place for me. In UNIPOINT, you find students who are creative, intelligent and industrious. It always pays to associate with them. No dull moment when you pass through the Institution and allow it to pass through you too", he added. He likes basketball, football and travelling as hobbies.

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Declaring the 9th Anniversary/Induction Ceremony of the Institute open at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium last Wednesday, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who described IPS as a model in Nigeria's educational system, commended the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation/TOTAL E&P Nigeria Ltd Joint Venture and IFP School, France for sustaining a rewarding partnership that has produced world-class Petroleum Engineers for the oil and gas industry, thereby, contributing to Nigerian content development through quality human capacity building.

"We are not only celebrating internationalization of higher education at home, but also a celebration of sustainability of academic excellence over the years. Indeed, IPS has become not only a pride to University of Port Harcourt, but also a model in the Nigerian educational system", the Vice-Chancellor noted, expressing hope that the Institute would continue to turn out quality products to meet emerging industry needs. Professor Ajenka, who called on other industry experts to join the IPS model, disclosed that the benefactor of Egbogah Chair in Petroleum Engineering, Dr Emmanuel Egbogah, has offered to visit the Institute as an Expert-in-Residence as from January next year, challenging others to join the trend to close the industry-academia gap.

"Another achievement of immense pride to us is that most of the graduating students have been interviewed for job placements and some have secured employment. I congratulate them very warmly for doing the University proud and demonstrating that they are appropriately and adequately trained for the complex and intricate demands of the oil industry," the Vice-Chancellor remarked.

Delivering the Keynote Address titled: "The Prospects of Resource Diversification in the Petroleum Industry", Group Managing Director of NNPC, Engineer Andrew Yakubu, charged researchers in the field of Engineering to devise effective means of diversifying the energy needs of the country through utilizing by-products in the oil and gas sector to add value to local content, which would in

9th Induction

IPS Is A Model In Nigeria's Educational System ~Ajenka

...As NNPC GMD Calls For Resource Diversification



V-C, Prof Ajenka (arrowed) flanked by Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim (right), Mrs Ofili-Okonkwo, Engr Charles Ngoka, Director IPS, Prof Onyekonwu, New IFP Dean, Prof Philippe Pinchon (left) other industry experts and professionals in the Oil and Gas industry

turn create more jobs.

The GMD, who was represented by the Coordinator, Corporate Planning and Strategy Directorate of NNPC, Dr Timothy Okon, called for internal diversification from oil and gas production to manufacturing of non-fuel and bio-fuel products to boost local content and provide job opportunities for the teeming population of youths in the country.

He described diversification as critical to national survival as it would result in a paradigm shift from the hydrocarbon economy, when alternative measures are designed to feed the domestic economy to change the country's economic fortunes. "The fastest growing sector is the telecommunication. Agriculture contributes 40 per cent to the gross domestic product of the country, so diversifying the oil sector would produce additional wealth for the country," he said.

Earlier, Director of the Institute, Professor Mike Onyekonwu, revealed that 21 students obtained Master of Science degree after an intensive 12-month programme in Petroleum Engineering and Project Development, while 20 others got the Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Technology.

Goodwill messages were presented by the Chairman, Governing Board of IPS, Mrs Edith Ofili-Okonkwo, Dean, IFP School, France, Mr. Philippe Pinchon and Engineer Abiye Membere, who was inducted as the *Professional Mentor*. Mrs Ofili-Okonkwo disclosed that the Institute

has commenced construction work on Phase II of the IPS Permanent site project, disclosing that the project designed to provide a 357-seat auditorium, applied research laboratories, lecture rooms and offices would facilitate learning in a very conducive environment when completed.

Highpoints of the event included the Induction of Engineer Yakubu, Mrs Ofili-Okonkwo and Mr Bruno Darde as Fellows of the Institute of Petroleum Studies, presentation of prizes to deserving graduands and induction of the new Engineers as Members of IPS, presentation of Outstanding Teacher Award to Professor John Etu-Efeotor, who has won the prize for the 8th consecutive time. Mr Ewelike Alaeke emerged as the 2012 Valedictorian, while the UNIPORT Concert Chorus was on hand to enliven the atmosphere with very entertaining numbers.

The 9th Induction and Anniversary of IPS commenced with a month-long Art Exhibition titled "Pertart" and mounted by the University Curator, Dr Bridget Nwanze. There were also a Career Fair, Interactions between the new Engineers and Industry experts and Job Interviews, as well as a novelty football match between the M. Sc. and PGDPT graduands. The Induction was rounded up with a Dinner at TOTAL Village, Rumuogba. At the pre-event Cocktail held at the Old IPS site, Delta Park, two staff, Mr Clement Eluozo and Miss Grace Monday were conferred with awards for rendering quality services to the Institute.

AVU Launches Multinational Project in UNIPORT

By Obinna Nwodin

In a bid to increase access to quality education, the African Virtual University (AVU) has launched its Multinational Project 2 in the University of Port Harcourt. The event took place at the Information Communication Technology Centre (ICTC), University Park, last Monday.

Speaking during an interactive session with Curriculum Developers, Heads of Unit, Directors and ICTC staff, Rector of AVU, Dr Bakary Diallo, said that "over the past decade, Africa has experienced unparalleled growth, putting the continent on a pedestal to become the next growth frontier", pointing out that "while there is so much optimism surrounding Africa's growth, the continent appears to be lagging far behind in training the necessary human resources to match its rosy growth prospects". He said that although the number of students enrolling into tertiary institutions has increased over the years, the proportions remain dismally low, with only 6% of school leavers in sub-Saharan Africa gaining admission into tertiary institutions, a scenario he described as not conducive for the growth of the continent.

Dr Diallo, who said that AVU is a Pan-African Intergovernmental Organization established to significantly increase access to quality higher education and training through the innovative use of Information Communication Technology (ICT), added that fifteen African governments have so far signed the Charter to become AVU members. He said that the AVU has established the widest e-learning network of 53 tertiary institutions in more than 30 countries, which transcends language barriers among Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone Africa.

He disclosed that the Project's main activities included: "establishing and upgrading of Open Distance and e-learning Centres among partner institutions, provision of technical assistance to countries and individual universities, enhancing the use of open educational resources, implementation of programmes such as teacher education, computer science, peace and conflict resolution, capacity-enhancement of university academics to develop, manage and implement their own programmes, using e-learning programmes, including award of scholarships to female students and those from disadvantaged backgrounds", thus reducing gender disparity in science disciplines. He said that

the Project would be implemented through a collaborative approach among participating countries and universities in curriculum design and development, production of learning materials in various formats and delivery, accreditation of courses, award and quality assurance, as well as development of Open Educational Resources.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, expressed willingness to the authorities to avail the University the opportunity to reach out to the increasing number of people, who would have to seek quality education through the Open Distance Learning programme. Professor Ajenka, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Igbo Joe, said that the importance attached to the programme informed the decision of the authorities to become a Platinum member of the organisation. He said that the University was fully prepared to commence the programme, assuring the AVU team that necessary infrastructure were already in place to make the system fully operational.

In his remarks, Director, College of Continuing Education (CCE), Professor Steve Okodudu, expressed satisfaction that the programme was coming at a time when the National Universities Commission (NUC), was going very hard on Part-Time programmes in the country, expressing optimism that the concept would be a good replacement for the Part-Time programme.

The Workshop featured presentations by the AVU team on Phase 2 of the Project, the Open Educational Resources, as well as situation report on the Open Distance Learning programme in the University of Port Harcourt by the Director of ODL, Professor Hyacinth Dike.

It would be recalled that the launch of the Project followed the successful completion of the Policy Harmonization and Curriculum Conceptualization Workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya in July 2012 at which Vice-Chancellors from 26 African Universities agreed to work with the AVU to implement the Project, which would be coordinated in the University by the College of Continuing Education (CCE).



DV-C, (Acad), Prof Joe (arrowed), Dr Diallo (right), DV-C (R&D), Prof Bene Willie-Abbey, Registrar, Matilda Nnodim, Ag, Bursar, Mr Vitalis Aliezi and other officers of the University and AVU

In recognition of an earlier grant received from Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa Research (AGRA) to Dr Andrew Efiue, for a Rice Research project at the University of Port Harcourt, an inspection of the Screen-House was conducted as part of the grant renewal process, penultimate Tuesday.

Speaking with *UNIPOINT Weekly* shortly after a facility tour, benefactor of the grant, Dr Efiue, disclosed that the project being inspected was the second phase. "This is the second phase of the AGRA Project. The first phase was development of a rice variety which involves the distribution of a new rice variety to farmers. We are releasing the varieties officially to farmers, especially the local farmers and seed companies", he said, stating that the variety is high-yielding and has a comparative advantage of more than 30 to 40 per cent yield advantage.

Dr Efiue, who is a Plant breeder and a Geneticist in the Department of Crop and

Aboubacar Toure' said that plans are underway to put in place a network that would reach those in the villages to make fertilizers available to them for

enhance production. On the activities of AGRA, Dr Toure' disclosed that the body does not centre on breeding seeds alone, adding that it gives grants to breeders to develop new varieties that have adapted to Africa conditions. "We try to build a capacity of national research system by training students on PhD and Masters Programmes. We are working in 16 countries across Africa and some in West Africa which include Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia". We encourage the private sector to be involved in seed

production formation by giving grants to develop capacity in terms of provision, technical and management issues," he said, adding that they put in place a network of AGRO dealers, so that the distance between the farm and the input is reduced to a minimum, which in turn saves farmers from travelling long distances to get their seeds and fertilizer.

Taking the Programme Officer round the house, a staff of Bilton Tech-Services, Engineer Adisa Buniyamin, disclosed that the Screen-House would be used to make crosses to create new varieties, using different species. Earlier, the team paid a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who expressed gratitude to AGRA for picking interest in University of Port Harcourt and for ensuring that the University was not left behind in the activities of AGRA. Professor Ajienka who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (R&D), Professor Bene Willey, called on other Lecturers to work hard to attract more grants to the institution.

Also present during the visit was the Director, Centre for Research Management (CEREM), Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta.

AGRA Inspects Second Phase Rice Project In UNIPOINT
By Mercy Don-Baridam
Soil Science in the Faculty of Agriculture, described AGRA as an International Organization funded by two bodies in the US, the Bill and Melinda Gates and Rockefeller Foundations. "They raised the money to empower Africa in research to sponsor the production of new rice varieties for farmers", he explained, noting that the organization is not only dealing with rice varieties, but also on all other Africa crops such as sorghum, millet maize, cowpea, cassava and sweet potatoes, which are some of the major crops farmers make use of in the country.

On the benefit of the grant to the University community, Dr Efiue said the University would become a Centre of Excellence in rice research. "We can exchange programmes while students from other institutions can also come to the University to learn how to breed rice here", he disclosed.

In his contribution, Programme Officer of AGRA, Dr



R-L: Prof Akaranta, Programme Officer AGRA, Dr Touré, D V-C (R&D) Prof Wille-Abbey and Grant Beneficiary, Dr Efiue

Need For Public Toilet Facilities On Campus

By Humphrey Ogu

To many a person, toilet remains too private an issue to be discussed in the public sphere or too inconsequential a matter to be taken seriously. The truth is that toilet facilities are indispensable

sable components of the human habitat; its unavailability in residences, workplaces and business premises poses a grave threat to human health. Crucial as it is to healthy living, provision of public toilet facilities is hardly accorded the level of attention it deserves in this part of the world.

Many property owners, including corporate organizations and individuals, who pride themselves as landlords and landladies, do not consider toilet facilities an integral part of their buildings, despite the huge income generated by such property. This not only constitutes a grave inconvenience to tenants, customers or clients, who make use of such facilities, it also puts them at health risks as people resort to easing themselves at unauthorized places when pressed. 'You can't cheat nature', they say in self-defense of their action.

Sometimes, one is assaulted by the pungent odour of urine in places where no sane person would think of urinating. While such debasing practices are attributable to non-availability of toilet facilities, it is also true that most people are fond of making existing facilities unattractive to other users, thereby, compelling them to look for alternative places on the streets or nearby bushes.

It is in recognition of the critical importance of toilet facilities to humans that November 19, every year was set aside as *World Toilet Day*. This is with a view to sensitizing the public on the need for proper toilet facilities that would enable us avoid exposure to human wastes, which result in health hazards that compromise the quality of life and hospital

attendance.

To state that indiscriminate exposure of human waste is injurious to health is to state the obvious. The health hazards arising from such exposure affect the general public as they affect the University community, which is part of the larger society. It is, therefore, necessary to ensure that people have access to proper toilet facilities to ensure proper disposal of human waste.

Speaking on the health implications of exposure to human waste, Dr Kingsley Douglas, a Public Health Consultant at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), observed that it poses health problems such as communicable diseases, including cholera, typhoid, worm infestation, amongst others, adding that "apart from being an eyesore, there is also the problem of air and soil pollution, as well as underground water pollution, all of which constitute serious health hazards."

Everyone, therefore, has a role to play to ensure that the environment is rid of human waste. The University authorities, for instance, need to provide adequate toilet facilities for staff, students and visitors. Users need to ensure that such facilities are properly utilized and kept neat at all times to discourage people from thinking of alternative access to toilets, a situation which poses grave health hazards to all of us. Discussing proper toilet habits should no longer be a taboo; it should constitute part of our daily lives. The subject is that important to merit designation of a *World Toilet Day*. Let us think about it.



Dr Douglas

YFC, CHD, UPTH, Sensitize Varsity Community On AIDS



Acting Director CHD, Dr Babatunde (left) & CMAC, Prof Christie Mato

As part of efforts aimed at checking the rising scourge of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in the University Community and its environs, Management of the Youth-Friendly Centre (YFC), joined the rest of the world to mark the 2012 World AIDS Day with a rally, penultimate Saturday.

Speaking with *UNIPORT Weekly*, Acting Director of the Centre, Dr Chinwe Ezirim, who stated that the World Health Organization (WHO) commemorates 1st December every year as World HIV/AIDS Day, said that "the Youth-Friendly Centre under the auspices of the Health Services Department, always commemorate the World AIDS Day with the rest of the world. The theme of the celebration for this year was: "Working Together for an AIDS Free Generation."

"We have free HIV screening kits that we use in testing, well-trained Counsellors that handle pre and post-counselling procedures. We have a strong partnership with the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), where we refer anybody who tests positive to receive instant attention, and later receive free antiretroviral drugs," Dr Ezirim, pointed out.

Stressing the need for the Centre to be moved to a more conducive location to optimize services that are commensurate with the manpower on ground, the Director regretted that long after ECO Bank initiated a move to provide a more befitting accommodation for the Centre, nothing has been heard of the Project.

In a related development, the Centre for Health and Development (CHD) in partnership with UPTH also marked the event last Monday with film shows

By Humphrey Ogu & Mercy Don-Baridam

targeted at educating staff and students in the University on prevention and management procedures of the killer disease.

Declaring the event open, Chief Medical Director (CMD), Professor Aaron Ojule, who praised the collaboration, expressed gratitude to the Centre for consistently ensuring that the day was remembered and for supporting UPTH, especially at the HIV Clinic in the past years.

Ojule, who was represented by the Chairman, Medical Advisory Council (CMAC), Professor Christie Mato, observed that the theme of last year's event tagged: "Getting To Zero," is still the same for this year, stressing the need for people to adhere to the Abstinence, Be Conscious and Faithful or Use the Condom (ABC) rules to avoid contracting the virus". To stay healthy, the CMD stressed that people should ensure they get screened and tested regularly, irrespective of whether they are healthy or sick, emphasizing the need for zero discrimination, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero HIV prevalence rate in Rivers State and the rest of Nigeria.

Earlier in his speech, Acting Director of CHD, Dr Seye Babatunde, who said the number of people killed by the virus was on the increase nationwide, called for more awareness from health workers to encourage people to be tested. "There is need for people to know their status to avoid the infection, discrimination and imminent death," he warned, pointing out that the disease was no longer a death sentence as it was at its inception in 1985.

Explaining why this year's event focused on film shows and not a workshop or lecture as used to be the case in past years, Dr Babatunde disclosed that the Centre wanted something different to show people how to live a normal life, even after contracting the killer virus.

The film and documentaries, which included such titles as: *You no be Man, Whether Healthy or Sick, Get tested, My Brother's Keeper and Helping loved Ones live with HIV*", were aimed at encouraging people to care and love one another whether sick or healthy. Dr Babatunde stressed the importance of being tested and the essence of sticking to one partner as a way of drastically reducing the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the country.

Highlight of the event which emphasized abstinence, included a free screening exercise organized by the Centre for Health and Development, while the Youth-Friendly Centre also distributed free condoms to the public as a demonstration of its determination to control spread of the disease.



R-L: Team Leader, Omorogie, Abo, Khanyisa and V-P, Iwuh

AISIEC Kicks Off Project Green

By Orikor Samuel

Following the successful conclusion of the initial phases of Projects Pink and YES, aimed at creating awareness on cancer and training young people on entrepreneurship, AISIEC, an international students' organization, has commenced another round of training tagged: *Project Green* to reinforce sensitization of the University Community and the general public on the need for proper environmental stewardship.

Briefing *UNIPORT Weekly* in the News Room of IPPR, Senate Building, last Tuesday, Team Leader of the Project, Mr Francis Omorogie, who was accompanied by Vice-President (Finance & Administration), Mr Kennedy Iwuh and Interns from Cote D'Ivoire and South Africa respectively, Bertrand Abo and Dorothy Khanyisa, said that Project Green would tackle improper waste disposal in and around the University Community.

The project which commenced last Friday at the International Students' Centre, University Park, would run in two phases for six weeks in the University and Alesha Community in Eleme Local Government Area of Rivers State. "We will create awareness in Alesha Community to enlighten the people on how human activities could facilitate or hinder socio-economic development, and also train them on how to re-use non-biodegradable waste to create wealth," the Team Leader disclosed, adding that trees would be planted to aid vegetation, including placement of waste bins at strategic locations as a sanitary measure.

On sustainability and compliance to the laudable initiative, Mr Omorogie said that community leaders would be incorporated into the team to ensure its proper implementation. The Interns, Mr Abo and Miss Khanyisa, in their separate speeches, restated their willingness to make judicious use of the opportunity of visiting Nigeria to contribute to skills development in the target communities to achieve the goals of the initiatives in the current service year.

STOP PRESS UPWA WEEK 2012

The University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), has lined up a series of activities to mark end of the year 2012. They are as follows:

Monday, 10th December, 2012 (11:00am) – Vice-Chancellor Children's Party at the Lodge.

Tuesday, 11th December, 2012 (7:00am)—A Walk from the CRAB, Delta Park, to the Gymnasium, University Park.

Wednesday, 12th December, 2012 (8:00am)—Planting of flowers and painting of walls at the Gladys Cookey Daycare Centre.

Thursday, 13th December, 2012 (9:00am) – Skills acquisition and Women Empowerment programme.

Friday, 14th December, 2012 (8:00am)—Visit to Charity Home in Port Harcourt

Join us!

Contact: UPWA Public Relations Officer



Acting Director FYC, Dr Ezirim (arrowed), Mrs Ofurum (left) and other participants

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MDCN Inducts Pioneer Dental Surgeons, 91 New Medical Doctors



Provost CHS, Prof Akani (arrowed), Deans of Faculties of Dentistry, & Basic Medical Sciences, other senior academics and the Inductees

knowledge gap occasioned by the acute shortage of relevant personnel in the country's critical health sector, as the University's admission quota into the programme would correspondingly increase". He commended the Provost, Deans of the Faculties of Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences and Dentistry, the Academic Board and staff of the College for their efforts and personal sacrifices that resulted in the success story, encouraging them to strive harder to improve the culture of academic excellence and administrative efficiency that they have been established since the inception of the College.

In his welcome address, Professor Akani, who described the event as historic, thanked authorities of the University for their commitment to make the event a reality. He also thanked the Board of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Chief Medical Director and Hospital community for their great support and contributions in the training of the new Doctors. He advised the new Dental Surgeons "to be worthy

ambassadors of the new Faculty of Dentistry by showing good conduct and character", adding that the new Medical Doctors have added to the number of medical personnel that would help tackle the unimpressive health statistics in Nigeria. He informed them that their predecessors were already making waves on different continents of the world, imploring them "to buy into this same concept and make the University of Port Harcourt proud wherever you may find yourselves".

In his speech, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, Professor Ambrose Obiechina, disclosed that the Inductees occupy a special position in the annals of the University as the first set of Dental Surgeons, noting that "it is very important for you to remember that you are ambassadors and that the quality of your service and professional behaviour will reflect on the acceptability and reputation of Dental Surgeons from the University of Port Harcourt". He thanked former Vice-Chancellors and the incumbent Vice-Chancellor for their commitment to

ensure that the vision of proper Dental Education became a reality in the University.

Speaking on behalf of the Inductees, the Valedictorian, Dr Ibaranyanaye Dickson, who described the journey through medical school as an interesting blend of emotions and hard work, expressed gratitude to Almighty God for His faithfulness to them. He pledged that the new Doctors would be good ambassadors of the University, expressing gratitude to authorities of the University, the College Management, and Deans for the contributions they made to their training. He also thanked the Chief Medical Director of UPTH, Professor Aaron Ojule, para-medical and medical staff of the Hospital for giving them their best, while training in the University.

The event which featured presentation of the 2012 Edition of the *Port Harcourt Medical Journal* had renowned Consultant Dental Surgeon, Dr Christopher Hekerem, as Medical Elder of the day.

3rd AGM

V-C Advises UNIPORT Cooperative Members On Loan Repayment

As the Management Committee of Unique UNIPORT Choba Staff Cooperative Investment and Credit Society Ltd, strives towards meeting the needs of members by sourcing and making funds available in form of advanced salary payment, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, has advised those who have assessed such facility to endeavour to repay them on schedule to enable the Cooperative extend the service to other members in need. Professor Ajenka, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, commended the leadership of the Cooperative for its commitment to the welfare of members, urging them to make judicious use of the opportunity in line with their Motto: *Retiring without Tears*.

"This Cooperative is a success story. The Management Committee should be appreciated for doing wonderfully well. What impressed me most is the Motto: *Retire without Tears*. This gradual preparation towards your retirement is a welcome development. I am also impressed by the equal opportunity given to all members, irrespective of their strata in the University. This is one of most laudable legacies of my predecessor, Professor Don Baridam", the Vice-Chancellor said, reassuring them that the University would continue to provide logistic support to enable the Cooperative record more feats that would benefit the members.

By Otikor Samuel

"Your offer to every staff to join the Cooperative is a kind gesture, which is left for interested persons to indicate interest by picking the forms so as to benefit from the loans and invest same in profitable ventures when they assess such loan facilities", Professor Ajenka advised.

In his address, President, Management Committee of the Cooperative Society, Dr Hycenth Ajie, who recounted some of the successes of the Cooperative, disclosed that the monthly subscription of members had grown from N528,000 in May 2008 to N11.9 million as at November, 2012, just as the turnover had increased from an initial N25.9 million in 2010 to N57.4 million in 2011, adding that membership of the Society which is open to all staff and members of immediate environment of the University had grown from 18 members at inception to 1,123, a geometrical increase that indicates institutional growth.

Dr Ajie thanked partnership organizations, including Ecobank Plc, United Bank for Africa Plc, First Bank of Nigeria Plc, Access Bank Plc and U&C Microfinance Bank Ltd, disclosing further that Isoa Property Dev. Co. Ltd., which had concluded arrangements partner the Cooperative would commence the second phase of a Shopping Mall project next April. The President advised members to avail

themselves of such opportunity to secure spaces for business purposes, noting that the Cooperative Society has acquired N20 million shares in the Company.

The inter-city transportation of the Cooperative, according to the President, would kick-off with some vehicles on 15th January, 2013. "We wish to also inform Congress that the Management Committee has acquired four plots of land at Omagwa and another four plots at Aluu, near the UNIPORT Home Ownership Scheme, for farming purposes in the first instance. We hope to cultivate mainly corn and cassava as the Society's contribution to solving the problem of food scarcity in Nigeria. The proceeds will be made available to members on maturity", he added.

The President lamented the death of Professor Bilonwu Uzoukwu, Dr Joshua Agalume and Mr Ijah Festus, who were staunch members of the Cooperative, stating that the leadership of the Society had paid the entitlements of the deceased members to their next of kin.

Mr Donald Ibeberi moved a motion for the Management Committee to continue in office for the next two years to consolidate on what he described as its quality leadership and achievements in office. It was seconded by Mr Sukens Andrew. Director of Cooperatives in Rivers State, Mrs Ina Otu swore in the returned Executive Committee.

The Cooperative had earlier organized a pre-AGM workshop on the *Dynamics of Cooperative Societies, An Overview of Cooperative Laws, Credit Management in Cooperative Society and Process and Procedures of Accessing Micro-Credit by Members of Cooperative Societies*.

Highpoints of the Annual General Meeting included presentation of audited Financial Report/Accounts of the Cooperative, award of prizes to Professor Don Baridam as *Best Founding Father* for instituting the Cooperative, Professor Arthur Nwafor as *Best Saver of the Year*, Professor Boniface Nwagwu as *Best Marketer*, John Apila as *Best Cooperator* and Dr Ajie for his quality leadership style.



Director, Rivers State Cooperatives, Mrs Otu (right) swearing-in returned Mgt C'ttee members of the Cooperative

GUIDEPOST

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

PROMOTION

Dr Success Anyanwa, Department of Management, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2011.

Dr Chidiebere Ugwu, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Dr Gonedwa Amue, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management Sciences, promoted *Senior Lecturer*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Mr Edward Ogheneovo, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2011.

Mrs Eme Asuquo, Department of Preventive & Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Mrs Mercy Ndubueze-Ogaraku, Department of Agricultural Economics & Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Mr Usman Zakka, Department of Crop & Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Mr Hycienth Nwankwoala, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Mrs Obioma Agwa, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

Mr Christopher Ejiofor, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, promoted *Lecturer I*, effective 1st October, 2012.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr Cosmos Enyindah, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 1st October, 2005.

Dr Uyoata Johnson, Department of Anaesthesiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 19th November, 2009.

Dr Joycelyn Eigbobo, Department of Child Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, confirmed *Staff*, effective 26th January, 2012.

Dr Bashiru Braimoh, Department of Preventive Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, confirmed *Staff*, effective 1st June, 2012.

Dr Olubusola Alagbe-Briggs, Department of Anaesthesiology, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 1st April, 2011.

Dr Eyi Isaac, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, confirmed a *Staff*, effective 24th May, 2012.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Charles Oyegun, Department of Geography & Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, proceeds on a 12-month *Sabbatical Leave* to the University of Benin, Edo State, effective 1st November, 2012 to 31st October, 2013.

Professor Donatus Anyanwa, Department of Plant Science & Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, proceeds on a 12-month *Sabbatical Leave* to Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudiike, Umuahia, Abia State, effective 1st December, 2012 to 30th November, 2013.

SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

Dr Alexander Awurum, granted a one-year *Sabbatical Appointment* in the Department of Plant Science & Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, effective on assumption of duty.

REVIEW OF STATUS

Dr Samuel Onuoha, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, granted review of status from *Assistant Lecturer* to *Lecturer II*, effective 18th July, 2011.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Reginald Moro, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 11th January, 2013 to 10th January, 2014.

ADJUNCT APPOINTMENT

Dr Wilfred Obonga, Department of Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, offered *Adjunct Appointment*, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr Henry Okeri, Department of Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, offered *Adjunct Appointment*, effective on assumption of duty.

HIV/AIDS ALERT

HIV/AIDS is real. Protect yourself.

Avoid a reckless lifestyle that can expose you to infection.

JABU GRADUATES 316 AT 4TH CONVOCATION

A total of 316 students of the Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Osun State graduated during the 4th Convocation Ceremony after meeting the conditions for award of the University degrees. Nine of them obtained First Class honours, while 189 graduands had Second Class Upper Division.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sola Fajana, who earlier addressed a news conference, disclosed further that 94 graduands passed out with Second Class Lower Division.

ELIZADE VARSITY GETS PIONEER V-C

Professor Valentine Aletor, has been appointed pioneer Vice-Chancellor of



Prof Ruqayyatu Rufa'i,
Minister of Education

Elizade University, Ondo State. The appointment, according to a statement signed by the Registrar, Omololu Adegbenro, took effect from 1st December, 2012. Until his elevation, Professor Aletor was the Director, Centre for Research and Development (CERAD) and the Lead Researcher, Centre of Excellence in Food Security at the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA).

DELSU PROTESTS ABDUCTION OF STAFF

The Academic Staff Union of Universities of Delta State University, Abraka (DELSU), had protested the rising cases of abduction of ASUU members and their wives. As at the last count, no fewer than 10 abduction cases had been recorded for the past one month. Chairman of ASUU DELSU, Dr Emmanuel Mordi, said the sit-at-home directive which was observed two weeks ago was aimed at drawing the attention of all stakeholders to the plight of the University.

-Compiled by Otikor Samuel

STOP PRESS

CAMPUS SANITATION FEE

Members of staff, who reside in University Quarters are notified that beginning from November 2012, the sum of N1,000 would be deducted from their salaries as Sanitation Fee. The decision was reached at the 83rd Meeting of Management held on 15th October, 2012.

Contact: Acting Director of CEBAS

FREE DIABETES CHECK

As part of efforts aimed at checking incidents of diabetes in the University Community, a free screening exercise has been slated for Saturday, 15th December, 2012 at the Conference Hall, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital. Time is 8:00am

Contact: Dr Sunny Chinenye, Department of Internal Medicine.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

WEATHER OBSERVATORY

FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND SURROUNDINGS

FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 9 - SATURDAY DECEMBER 15, 2012

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNSET AND SUNRISE (AM) (PM)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 09, DEC, 2012	32.2 25.0	72	NE	1.8	6:29 6:20	Late thunder storms expected. Day expected to be mostly cloudy and hot.
MONDAY 10, DEC, 2012	33.3 25.0	70	NE	6.4	6:29 6:20	Thunder storms expected late in the day. Partly sunny and hot day anticipated. Possibility of rain is 63%.
TUESDAY 11, DEC 2012	32.2 24.4	69	NE	1.5	6:30 6:21	Widely scattered thunder storms. Decreasing cloudiness. Day expected to be hot.
WEDNESDAY 12, DEC, 2012	33.3 23.9	63	NE	-	6:30 6:21	Decreasing cloudiness. Hot day anticipated. Chance of rain is very slim.
THURSDAY 13, DEC, 2012	32.8 23.3	52	NE	-	6:31 6:22	More clouds than sun predicted. Warm day expected.
FRIDAY 14, DEC, 2012	33.3 23.3	55	E	-	6:31 6:22	More sun than clouds. Warm day expected. Chance of rain is 15%.
SATURDAY 15, DEC 2012	33.3 23.3	55	NE	-	6:32 6:23	More sun than clouds. Warm day forecasted. Chance of rain is 10%.

Prepared by Wepke V. O

Approved by Prof Samuel Arokoyu

Courtesy: Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies (CDRMDs)



D V-C, (Academic), Prof Igbo Joe, in a warm handshake with HOD, Crop and Soil Science, Prof Ekanam Wokoma, while Prof Stella Williams looks on

UNI^{PORT}, UI, Host Kenaf Workshop

University of Port Harcourt collaborated with University of Ibadan and other government agencies to mount the first workshop on the use of Kenaf as a bioremediation measure against Oil Pollution in the Niger Delta last week. Our ace Cameraman HEADMAN ALU captured scenes from the event.



Workshop Coordinator, Dr Morafat Balogun reading her address



V-C's representative, Prof Igbo Joe, addressing the gathering



Representative of NOSDRA addressing the audience



Representative of the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr Ebie Hamadina making a speech



Zonal Director, Oil Field Department of NOSDRA, Mr Idris Musa presenting his paper



A Cross-section of the audience



Exhibition of products made from Kenaf



A Resource Person explaining a point to guests



Profs Joe and Williams, Dr Balogun



Rep of Health Minister, Chris Ojeme, Prof Joe and Dr Balogun



Workshop facilitators



Group photograph of participants