



Chukwumerije Praises UNIPOINT On Industry Partnership

Chairman, Senate Committee on Education, Senator Uche Chukwumerije, has praised the University of Port Harcourt for the giant strides it has recorded in the delivery of its core mandates of teaching, research and community service which stands it out as one of the foremost universities in the country, reports *Otikor Samuel*.

More on pg 3

Orientation exercise for duly registered First Year Students for the 2012/2013 session holds this Thursday at the Convocation Arena. Time is 9:00am. Details next week -Editor



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Elechi Amadi
Launches
Short
Story
Book

Story
on
p2

Envoy Advocates
Diaspora Studies In
African Varsities

Story
on
p3

Nordic
Austrian
Envoy
To Visit
UNIPOINT
Thursday

Story
on
p4

Okonkwo Outlines
Enterprise Focus For
UNIPOINT Researchers

Story
on
p5



Dame Jonathan Commissions Gender Centre ...As PJC-GWDS Holds Advocacy Workshop

By Ethel Timi-Johnson
& Humphrey Ogu

As a way of fast-tracking the campaign for gender equity through the National Affirmative Action Initiative, the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dame Patience Jonathan, commissioned a Centre for Gender and Women Development Studies in the University, last Tuesday. Represented at the inauguration by the Special Assistant to the President on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Dr Precious Gbeneol, the

First Lady expressed hope that the Patience Jonathan Centre for Gender and Women Development Studies (PJC-GWDS) would empower women to develop potentials that would enable them contribute meaningfully to the socio-economic development of the country.

The First Lady, who regretted that negligence, abandonment, violence and discrimination, characterized the daily life of a typical Nigerian woman, called for the abolition of harmful traditional beliefs and value systems that impede women's right and

development. In line with this year's theme of the International Women's Day, which advocated an end to violence against women, she called for concerted efforts to promote active participation of women in the society to guarantee accelerated national development.

Speaking on the topic: *National Universities Commission: Strategies for Women Development in Nigeria*, Executive Secretary of the Commission, Professor Julius Okojie, who spoke through a one-time Vice-

Cont'd on p6



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Elechi Amadi, Writer-In-Residence, Launches Short Story Book In UNIPORT

By Williams Wodi

"With the presentation of this impressive collection of short stories today, Elechi Amadi is doing what a Writer-in-Residence is expected to do. I believe that celebrating a Writer of Amadi's fame is very important on account of his immense contributions to African and world literatures", Nduka observed, pointing out that Amadi's central theme had been focused on "an attempt by man to wrestle with the values of his traditional and cultural environment". He commended Amadi for taking up the challenge of mid-wifing the writings of younger authors, which he said, showed continuity in his career as an established writer. Welcoming guests to the event, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, commended Chief Amadi for his immense contributions to the growth of African Literature, and for also grooming a new generation of writers, describing creative writers as "a blessing to any society as they delight and instruct us on life's many twists and turns. Creativity is a high gift of the Almighty to individuals that calls for celebration in any society". Advising emerging writers to learn the necessary skills and draw inspiration from established authors, Professor Ajenka showered praises on Chief Amadi for his first public outing as a Writer-in-Residence in the University, promising that the authorities would support publication of works by the Writers-in-Residence that were appointed in 2011, including those of younger authors that may be associated with them. Launching the book, former Secretary to the Rivers State Government, Chief Sampson Agbaru, urged young people to cultivate reading

habit despite the craze for the social media, urging the University to continue to provide leadership in the propagation of cultural values and academic focus in line with its core mandate.

Earlier, Chief Amadi had described the collection as "a source of joy to me and to all those who appreciate creativity. The fact that all the contributors are products of the *Elechi Amadi School of Creative Writing* partially answers the age-long question: "Can creative writing be taught in a formal classroom setting?" Conceding that the potential writer must possess talent that could be cultivated in a formal setting, Amadi said that "modern writing called for much more than mere ability to tell good stories". He commended the Vice-Chancellor for encouraging the arts in the University, advising younger writers to take up the challenge thrown by the University administration.

Reviewing the work, a Lecturer in the Department of English Studies, Seiyifa Koroye, said the stories have key features that recommend them to the reader. "They combine magical realism and mystery that lurk below the surface. Drug addiction, recklessness of youth, love and betrayal and simplicity of plot structure and character delineation run through most of the tales contained in the collection", Koroye told the audience, stressing that some of the stories take on thriller form such as trials, tribulations, self-willed misery and family intrigues, amongst others. "Writers always want a personal agency to emerge in their story", the reviewer said, urging young writers to take another look at their manuscripts before rushing to publishing houses.

Renowned Novelist, Playwright and Statesman, Chief Elechi Amadi, has harvested eight short stories in a collection titled: *The Beggar's Story*, under the auspices of the *Elechi Amadi School of Creative Writing* located at the Rivers State College of Arts and Science (CAS), Rumuola. The event which took place at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium last Saturday attracted guests from all walks of life, who showered encomiums on the acclaimed craftsman for his productivity, mentorship and consistency in creative writing. In his opening remarks, Chairman of the occasion, Emeritus Professor Otonti Nduka, expressed gratitude to authorities of the University for recognizing Chief Amadi's abundant creative abilities and for appointing him a Writer-in-Residence, a position he said would further encourage him to mentor younger entrants eager to hone their trade in creative writing.

STUDENT WORLD

I Want To Be A Civil Engineer ~Iserhien

Ambitious and full of enthusiasm, CHARLES ISERHIEN, a Fourth Year Student of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the new College of Engineering, announced his ambition to become a fulfilled Civil Engineer on graduation. He shared his world in an interview with our Intern, HENRIETTA OTONNAH.

Iserhien, who gained admission into the University through the Basic Programme and resides at the back of the Department of Chemical Engineering in Choba Park, popularly called "Back of Chem", said that transportation is not a problem as he stays close to Choba Park where most of his classes are held. On his study habit, Iserhien said: "I spend a minimum of two and a maximum of five hours studying daily. I do not believe in reading in the Library; I can read anywhere, so long as it is conducive for reading."

Responding to a question on his lifestyle, Iserhien, who admitted being deficient in living life on the fast lane, prefers to concentrate on his academics instead. "I don't belong to any Social Club or organization in School for now", the budding Engineer told our Correspondent, disclosing that he is not only computer literate, but also addicted to the Internet and prefers to spend more time online on social interactions than fraternizing with the Campus in-crowds.

"Although University of Port Harcourt is quite a distance from Lagos where my family resides, I chose UNIPORT for my higher education, because I see it as being unique compared to other Universities," he said.

On his career aspiration, the potential Engineer, said: "I want to be a prominent Civil Engineer on graduation from UNIPORT, because it has been my dream since I was a youngster. I have always been passionate about structures and designs as a child. If I am to specialize in any aspect of Civil Engineering, it will be Structural Engineering because it encompasses other aspects such

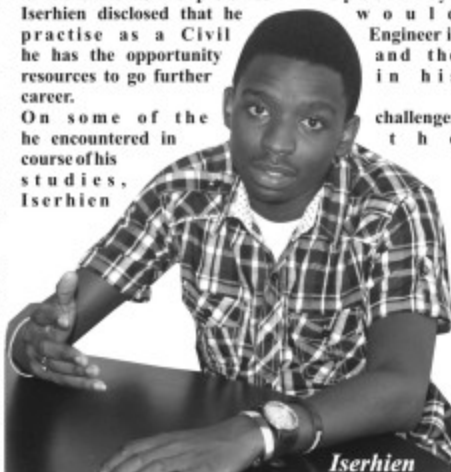
as Hydrology and Geotechnical Engineering, among others. He also added that a Civil Engineer can work anywhere as long as he or she is well equipped.

Iserhien, who disclosed that his best Lecturer and role-model is Mr. Charles Magbo, described him as a very intelligent teacher, adding that his area of specialization is the same as his preferred specialty. Iserhien disclosed that he practises as a Civil Engineer if he has the opportunity resources to go further career.

On some of the challenges he encountered in the course of his studies, Iserhien

mentioned funding as a major challenge confronting many otherwise brilliant students, who have the potential to perform better than they are doing in their academic work at the moment. "Time for studying is another factor because there are so many tasks to be accomplished within a limited time in an environment that is not too conducive for students", he lamented.

On Entrepreneurial skills education, he said: "It is a very good thing, for the authorities to introduce entrepreneurial education in our School and I encourage every other institution to do the same by training students on how to become self-employed on graduation, rather than roaming about the streets in search of non-existent white collar jobs."



Iserhien

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Cont'd from p1

Chukwumerije Praises UNIPORT On Industry Partnership



V-C, Prof Ajenka, (arrowed), Chairman, Senate C'ttee on Education, Senator Chukwumerije, other members of the C'ttee and some Principal staff of the Senate and University

Senator Chukwumerije, who made the remark when the Committee visited the University, at the Governing Council Chambers, on a fact-finding mission, penultimate Thursday, commended the strong collaborations between the University and other the industry, saying that such partnerships, especially with foreign professional bodies have the potential of producing quality graduates, who can compete favourably in the competitive global market.

The Committee Chairman, who promised to make strong advocacy to relevant Ministries and governmental agencies for more funds to be released to the University to sustain its developmental strides, charged the authorities to also source funds outside statutory allocations to carry out research and finance developmental projects, disclosing that the Committee has identified over 20 sources of funds to assist higher institutions raise their Internally-Generated

Revenue (IGR) up to 25 per cent to meet their budgetary needs.

In a power-point presentation, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who accounted for the 2012 Budget Implementation and Capital Grant Performance for the past three years, enumerated the University's areas of strength which included its exploits in Sports, Medicine, Petroleum and Gas Engineering and quality research, lamenting that paucity of funds and encroachment by land speculators were some of the major challenges facing the University.

"We currently have over 30 Professorial Chairs to drive research in partnership with foreign institutions, industry and professional bodies. For the first time, we are going into film production to also generate income for the University. There is a Pilot-plant Laboratory for paint production and lots more, but each time any project is to be sited in the University, we pay through our noses to our host

communities. We have lost over 52 per cent of our original land to the host communities due to non-payment of compensation by the Federal Government. I wish to report that land poses serious problems to us as the situation also portends grave security threat to staff and students," Professor Ajenka said. "Urgent measures must be put in place to address the issue of

land compensation to host communities, while special intervention projects should be extended to address staff and students' accommodation problems. We also plead that more staff be supported in the Staff Development Programme of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund)," the Vice-Chancellor suggested, stressing the need to build more functional laboratories, class-rooms and offices, as well as improve electricity supply to the University to enable staff and students engage in meaningful research in an enabling environment. Other Committee Members on the trip were Senators Atiku Bagudu, Sonni Ogbuoji, Joshua Dariye, Babayo Gamawa and Pius Ewherido. Others were the Committee Clerk, Mr Felix Orumwense and his Deputies, Ahmed Lawal and Ayoh Ogon. Also on the entourage were Franca Mbah and Pauline Ogwokhademhe. The Committee later inspected projects before departing for the University of Calabar in continuation of its Oversight functions.

Culture Envoy Advocates Diaspora Studies In African Varsities At Composers' Summit

By Mercy Adeniji

Stakeholders in the educational sector have been called upon to institutionalize Diaspora studies in the curricula of African universities as a means of forging closer ties between the continent and Africans living in the Diaspora to preserve the Black Identity in the age of globalization. Participants at the maiden Africa Composers' Summit, tagged: "From Indigenous to Modern: Africa Music Composition", convened by the Department of Music, also canvassed the need for African Scholars to engage their counterparts in the Diaspora in regular dialogue that would result in common position on the Black Condition during the event held at the Theatre Arts Lecture Hall, on Thursday, 28th February, 2013.

Delivering a Lead paper titled: "Diaspora and Homelands: An emerging Central Theme in African Cultural and Historical Studies", an erudite Historian and Culture Ambassador, Professor

Okon Uya, disclosed that there is no reason why the African Diaspora should not occupy a central position in the curricular of Secondary Schools and institutions of higher learning on the African continent, advocating that "African Studies in our Universities should not be complete or comprehensive until we are able to incorporate the vital aspects of our heritage into our curriculum, teaching and research".

Professor Uya, who was a one-time, Deputy Vice-Chancellor at University of Calabar, explained that to encourage African Diaspora studies, there was the urgent need to involve the African Diaspora host communities in the activities of African diplomatic missions, including mobilization of expertise and capital, stressing the need to have an explicit African Diaspora component in the conception and implementation of Nigeria's diplomacy.

The Guest Lecturer regretted that "without a credible strategy and political will to improve the

performance of our democratic project, we will not succeed in attracting Nigerians in the Diaspora and others to invest their talent, expertise capital and other human resources in development efforts", warning that the current phase of the African Diaspora project was bound to fail without good governance on the continent.

He further stressed the need to improve the management of Africa's fragile democracy, recalling that in 1977, Nigeria hosted the African Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC), which dramatized the global dimensions of the African experience and its crucial role for the resolution of the cultural and identity crises that had bedeviled the African world, lamenting that there has been no sustained effort to convert these concerns to concrete educational and cultural programmes, despite the commendable initiatives of the Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC).



V-C, Prof Ajenka and Prof Uya (right)

Arts Institute Begins Creative Writing Workshop

By Humphrey Ogu

The Institute of Arts and Culture has called on persons interested in creative writing to avail themselves of the opportunity provided by its trail-blazing Creative Writing Workshop programme to acquire professional skills in the specialisation.

A call for application made available to *UNI PORT Weekly*, invited aspiring and established writers to apply for placement on the programme, adding that "admission would be based on proven skill and talent by prospective candidates. Every application must be accompanied by a sample of demonstrable written work." It further said that prospective applicants would undergo screening and ranking tests, as well as oral interviews to determine their suitability to participate in the programme.

The statement also indicated that registration for the 2013/2014 session closes on Friday March 29, 2013, while full payment of relevant fees must be made on or before



Prof Okoh, Director, ArtsVille

Friday April 19, 2013, adding that classes would begin on Monday, April 19, 2013.

For the Effective Writing Skills course, admission is open to candidates, who seek to improve on their writing skills, including staff, students, as well as candidates preparing for public examinations conducted by the West African Examination Council (WAEC) and the Universal Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) amongst others.

"Our business is to assist the candidates at every stage in their development as writer through highly intensive workshops organised at the Basic, Intermediate and Advanced levels," the statement said, adding that applicants for Effective Writing Skills programme are exempted from screening test.

Meanwhile, prospective candidates have been advised to complete application forms at the Institute of Arts and Culture, Delta Park with a non-refundable fee of N5,000, with a bank draft made payable to the Institute, obtainable from U & C Microfinance Bank, University of Port Harcourt through Account Number: 1528022894.



Provost, CGS, Prof Konya (4th clockwise), the External Examiner, one of the Doctoral Candidates from FLL Dept (standing) and other Internal Examiners at the maiden Oral Defence in the College

Doctoral Oral Defence Moves To CGS

By Otikor Samuel

Away from the initial practice where Doctoral Candidates defended their Final Oral Examinations in the originating Departments, the exercise has now been centralized at the College of Graduate Studies for proper monitoring and adherence to the extant regulations of the College.

The Provost, Professor Roseline Konya, who spoke to our Correspondent after the maiden Doctoral Final Oral Examination held on 1st March, 2013 at the Board Room of the College, said the new arrangement which was widely commended by the University Community, is to ensure adequate interaction between External Examiners and Candidates on their special areas of research.

Nwanne Felix-Emeribe and Comfort Ebringa, both of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, were the first set of candidates assessed by a team of Internal and

External Examiners at the maiden defence held in the College. The oral defence for Master's and Postgraduate Diploma students would continue in the various Departments and Faculties until the new College building is completed to accommodate all Graduate programmes, the Provost further disclosed.

Meanwhile, Professor Konya, has charged pupils of the University Demonstration Primary School (UDPS) to take their foundational studies seriously to enable them attain greater heights in life. The Provost gave the charge while receiving some members of the UDPS Chapter of the Nigerian Girls' Guide Association in furtherance of their visit to some Principal and Senior Officers of the University.

Professor Konya advised them to diligently pursue their education to the highest possible levels to be useful members of society. The pupils were led by Mrs Joan Agu and Mrs Calista Izuogunem. Also present at the reception was the College Secretary, Dr Agatha Ataga.

Gbosi Joins ECOWAS-EU Partnership Team

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

An expert in International Trade and Economics in the University and Director of the Bamanga Tukur Institute of International Trade and Development Studies, Professor Augustus Gbosi, has been appointed member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Negotiating Team with the European Union on Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

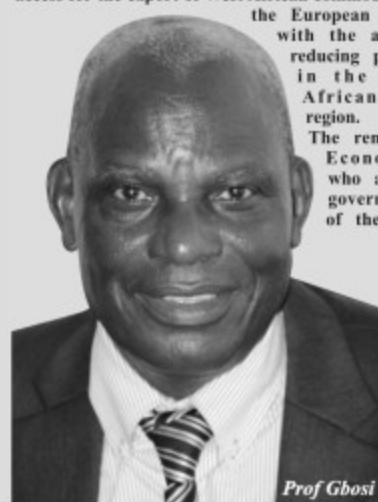
Speaking with a *UNI PORT Weekly* Correspondent penultimate Tuesday, on his historic appointment, Professor Gbosi, who noted that the programme is aimed at promoting trade within the two sub-regions, said that the new partnership would create market access for the export of West African commodities to

the European Union with the aim of reducing poverty in the West African sub-region.

The renowned Economist, who advised governments of the West

African sub-region to create a stable political environment in their countries, observed that economics cannot be separated from politics. "A stable political environment promotes both foreign and domestic investments, stabilizes macro-economic environment, reduces unemployment and inflation, while improving the standard of living of ordinary people", he added.

Gbosi, who further disclosed that the final draft of the Agreement was signed at the last meeting of the Commission which held from the 20th to 22nd of February in Accra, Ghana, advised West African countries to design sound macro-economic policies that would enable them achieve the desired result stated in the partnership Agreement. "Apart from the inflow of foreign capital into the sub-region as a result of the EPA, trade has always been identified as a unifying factor, but we need functional democracies and stable political environments in the ECOWAS sub-region to attain beneficial economic growth people of the region and the rest of Africa", he said.



Prof Gbosi

Nordic, Austrian Envoys, To Visit UNI PORT Thursday

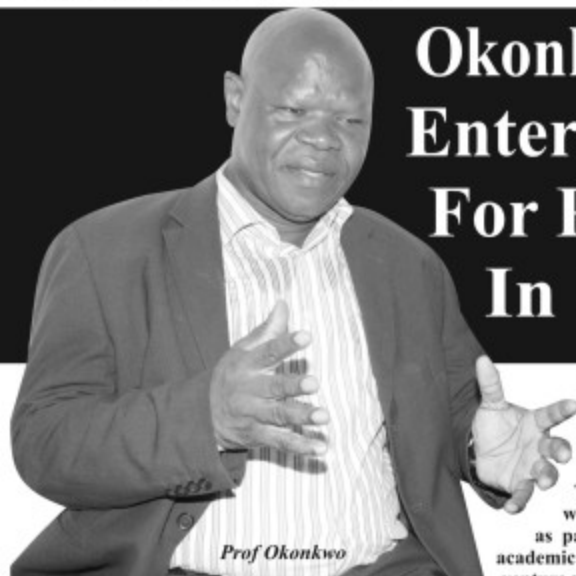
Three Nordic Country Ambassadors to Nigeria are expected in the University on a familiarization visit this Thursday. They are the Ambassadors of Finland, Sweden, Norway, including the Austrian Envoy. An electronic mail issued by an Administrative Assistant in the Finnish Embassy at the Federal Capital Territory, Lavender Onyenah to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiinka, said the Ambassador of Finland, Her Excellency, Mrs Riita Korpiavaara, would lead the high-profile diplomats during their official visit to the University, from 20th to 22nd March, 2013.



HE, Korpiavaara

Okonkwo Outlines Enterprise Focus For Researchers In UNIPORT

By Obinna Nwodin



Prof Okonkwo

Staff and students engaged in various forms of research have been advised to add value to their work by focusing on projects that are capable of solving the societal problems and yielding profit for researchers. Former Director-General of the National Research Institute for Chemical Technology and Research, Abuja, Professor Ebenezer Okonkwo, gave the advice in an interview with *UNIPORT Weekly*, penultimate Tuesday.

Professor Okonkwo, who described his coming to the University as a joyful experience, said that his experience in development-based research would be brought to bear in his new assignment. "With the experience I am bringing from my previous establishment, and having developed the enterprise research mind-set, it has been my desire to develop the enterprise brand of research in the University", Okonkwo said, adding that most universities are focussed on research without considering the

enterprise component to it. He said his presence in the University would help develop that area of research in line with the entrepreneurial vision of the present administration.

The avid researcher, who disclosed that he was assigned to develop the Technology Park as part of the University's plan to capitalize academic research, urged his colleagues to see the venture as a major component of the entrepreneurial drive of the University.

Professor Okonkwo said that the output of the industry is contract research, consulting, through commercialization of research results, generation of spin-offs and eventual establishment of profit-oriented companies, noting that the University could raise critically-needed funds by applying for grants in cash or kind to pursue the vision.

"We would like to work on specific projects to assess how Lecturers and Students can imbibe the emergent enterprise vision, so that the University would not depend solely on budgetary allocations from the Federal Government to run its affairs in future. We have to think out of the box. It is my desire to help the authorities bring the University onto the platform of capitalizing our research endeavours for the benefit of society and the researchers", Okonkwo said.

On his strategy to achieve the vision, the former Director-General said: "I have been networking

with Research Institutes under the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology to forge partnerships that would yield mutual benefits. We have so far signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with relevant Institutes in furtherance of the goal of bringing industry and university players to work together to achieve our purpose in establishing the Technology Park", adding that he was also in consultation with the National Board for Technology (NBT) on the possibility of establishing a Business Incubation Centre in the University.

"When the Centre is fully established, it would help the Technology Park to secure both the knowledge for establishing an Incubation Centre and also generate more funds to guarantee its growth and continuity", he assured the stakeholders.

Professor Okonkwo identified epileptic power supply as a major problem retarding quality research in the University, regretting that the prevailing situation leads to frustration and cannot encourage sustainable research. "For there to be meaningful progress in research activities here, the problem of power supply has to be tackled headlong", he said, stressing the need to form research groups to handle specific projects.

"This is the best approach, if we are to develop meaningful research. Inter-disciplinary research should be encouraged so that useful research results can be obtained by participants. My experience here so far shows that the Faculty workforces are enthusiastic in carrying out research activities if given the enabling environment. The next step now is to harness the needed expertise to drive the process. The non-availability of relevant equipment is a challenge to researchers in the University", he stated.

Professor Okonkwo said that "with its current profile, the University has the capacity to be one of the best in Africa. This is because the capacity to achieve the feat is very much in the Institution", he stated, adding: "I see the University as a reference point in areas such as Sports Technology, Petroleum and Gas Engineering and Medicine. Now that we have excelled and become recognised in competitive sports, it is a great window of opportunity for the University to exploit this advantage by bringing in the appropriate technology for the manufacture of sporting equipment".

AIESEC UNIPORT Gets New EXCO

By Mercy Adeniji

Following a successful election held last month, Mr Chinonso Iwuh of the Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, has emerged as the University of Port Harcourt branch President of the Association Internationale des Étudiants des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales (AIESEC). He takes over the mantle of leadership from the immediate past President, Temitope Ekundayo.

Introducing the new Executive penultimate Friday, Mr Iwuh disclosed plans to recruit new members into AIESEC, stressing that the organization is open to all students. He urged interested students to apply for membership of the organization which, he said offers unlimited leadership and travel opportunities, disclosing that membership form was currently on sale.

Mr Iwuh, who described AIESEC as a rock in youth development, said the association has a lot to impact on the life of students, adding that the next induction ceremony would take place in April.

Also speaking, Vice-President, Project Development, Musa Matemilola, stated that the association would continue *Project Green*, this year explaining that the Project is an initiative aimed at creating environmental sustainability. "We started last year with a campaign here in the School. This year, we want to embark on the second phase of the Project by visiting four communities in the University's neighbourhood with the aim of training and mobilizing them on environmental sustainability to create awareness on how they can relate with their environment," he said, adding that the exercise would last for four weeks.

Vice President, Out-going Exchange and

Expansion, Francis Omorogie, reiterated that last year, the association embarked upon two projects: "Project Young Empowerment Scheme (YES) and Project Pink, centered on Breast and Cervical Cancer and from the evaluation we carried out in selected schools, we discovered that people really needed to be armed with information on the various types of cancer".

He disclosed that in conformity with the entrepreneurial drive of the University, AIESEC went into partnership with some business schools in town to give talks to students on various skills acquisition programmes such as bead-making, catering, event management and decoration. "We were able to empower about two hundred and fifty students; the trainees were encouraged to acquire both theoretical and practical skills during the training sessions",

Omorogie said.

Earlier, an AIESEC Intern from Cote d'Ivoire, Tape Bidi Marie-Paule said, "I am in Nigeria for an internship programme with AIESEC to work on *Project Green*, aimed at creating a sustainable environment in Port Harcourt. I have worked with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and I have also worked with AIESEC Ghana, where we did a project on the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV)." She promised to put in her best to ensure that the project achieves the purpose for which it was initiated by the organization.

Other members of the Executive are: Adesua Omoregbe, Vice-President, Finance and Administration, Esther Ejiofor, Vice-President, Talent Management, Pamela Peter-Vigbo, Vice-President, Incoming Exchange, Emmanuel Anwanaodung, Vice-President, External Relations and John Nweke, Vice-President, Information Management.



New AIESEC President, Mr Iwuh (centre), Ivorian Intern, Tape Marie-Paule (left) and other EXCO members

Cont'd from p1

Dame Jonathan Commissions Gender Centre



V-C, Prof Ajenka, (2nd from right), Rep of First Lady and SA to the President on MDGs, Dr Gbeneor, Centre Director, Prof Okeke, DV-C (R&D), Prof Willie-Abbey, Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof Ebi Awotua-Efebo and others

Chancellor of the University of Uyo, Professor Akaueren Essien, observed that women development is critical to the development of the nation. Okojie, who presented a grim statistics of female student enrolment and staff appointment in Nigerian universities, called for appropriate policies that would favour women education and participation in the society as part of a deliberate affirmative action aimed at integrating them into the mainstream of development.

Chairman of the occasion and Amanyabo of Nembe, Dr Edmund Daukoru, who was represented by Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, commended the University and the First Lady for the collaboration, stressing the need for exploiting ideas on women development to achieve the objectives of the Centre.

Welcoming guests to the event, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, noted that the Centre was established to complement the efforts of women in national development in addition to "providing equal opportunities for male and female populations to develop their full potentials in the quest for excellence in all areas of human endeavour," adding that "the Centre would enhance our capacity to proffer indigenous solutions to societal problems."

Director of the Centre, Professor Elizabeth Okeke, who called for collaboration with national and

international organizations in the areas of teaching, research, training and projects, noted that Gender Studies is a multidisciplinary

Classes '86-88 Alumni Plan Grand Reunion

By Humphrey Ogu

Plans are afoot by the 1986-88 graduating sets of the University Alumni to hold a reunion. Members of the Steering Committee of the Class, Messrs Soala Iyalla and Ben Owuapu' Willie dropped the hint while exchanging views with *UNI-PORT Weekly*, penultimate Thursday.

The duo, who were in the University to unfold the proposed reunion at a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka and also familiarize themselves with the current state of their *Alma Mater*, expressed satisfaction with the level of infrastructural development on Campus, stating that there has been a very remarkable transformation compared to what obtained in their student days, calling for the resuscitation of Inter-Departmental Debates and

interactions, which they said were crucial to a rounded education in the age of social media.

Recounting his experience as a student in the Department of Sociology between 1983 and 1987, Mr Iyalla, who later received postgraduate education at the University of Westminster, London, said: "With the likes of Professors Ikenna Nzimiro, Mark Anikpo,



V-C, Prof Ajenka flanked by Iyalla (right) and Willie

Claude Ake, Inyang Eteng, Julius Ihombvere, amongst others; lectures were very exciting and we always looked forward to attending lectures. I must add that my experience in UNI-PORT was one of the best I ever got."

He recalled that his undergraduate training in Sociology equipped him with self-confidence and the ability to analyse society. His words: "Sociology trained me to challenge orthodoxy, analyse the politics, economy and culture of other societies and also fit into them. That was why I was able to obtain an Executive MBA, majored in Marketing and worked in the area of Housing in England before deciding to go into private business."

On his part, Willie, who studied Political Science between 1983 and 1987 recalled that they were in UNI-PORT at a time when the University had on its staff many internationally-acclaimed professors and students, who came from different parts of the world, describing his experience as very memorable and rewarding. He stated that education should not just be seen as a meal ticket, but a tool with which to tackle all sorts of societal challenges.

Willie, who like Iyalla, opted for private business said: "Entrepreneurial development is something I hold dear to my heart. The beginning can be very tough, but my advice to students, who may wish to go into business is that they should start small, have dreams and focus," disclosing that his business outfit, which started in a very small shop in Lagos, now has eight branch offices in Lagos, Port Harcourt and Abuja.

The international businessmen pledged their support for the emergent Bamanga Turku Institute of International Trade and Development, advising business-minded students to always have a clear vision of what they wish to be. "It is about what legacy and difference one makes in society," they said, regretting that electricity still remained a challenge in the University, as it was when they were students in unique UNI-PORT.

Ugiomoh, Others, Get *THISDAY* Award For Teachers

By Otikor Samuel

Renowned scholar of African Art History, Professor Frank Ugiomoh of the Department of Fine Art and Design, Faculty of Humanities, was among four distinguished Lecturers from Nigerian Universities and eleven Primary and Secondary School Teachers, who won this year's edition of *THISDAY Award* at Abeokuta, Ogun State, on 27th February, 2013.

Professor Ugiomoh, who is a foremost scholar of African Art History, was honoured by the national daily for his landmark contributions to the discipline at the 18th annual award ceremony of the Paper which attracted dignitaries from within and outside the country, including former President of the United States of America, Mr Bill Clinton, who personally handed out the coveted awards to recipients.

In reaction to the award to the Teachers, Minister of Education, Professor Ruqayyatu Rufa'i, who congratulated the beneficiaries, said the recognition has broken the myth that Teachers' reward is in heaven. "With this award, Teachers would be motivated to do more, knowing that they would be rewarded here on earth. Even those who are not winners this year would be motivated since their efforts can be recognised," the Minister added.

Other Teachers honoured at the event were: Professors Iya Abubakar, Michael Obadan and Eunice Uzodike (University Lecturers), Rev Father Angus Fraser, D.B.E. Ossai, Reuben Majekodunmi, Dotun Oyewole, Hadiza Thani Mohammed, Bawa Faskari and Messrs John Adeaga and Yakubu Dimka (Secondary School Teachers) and Mrs Victoria Jolayemi, Mrs Dorothy Ugwu and Mrs Christie Ade-Ajayi (Primary School Teachers).



Prof Ugiomoh

GUIDE POST

PROMOTION

Mr Alete Amesi, Vice-Chancellor's Office, promoted *Senior Assistant Catering Supervisor*, effective 1st October, 2012.
Mrs Comfort Ukwé, Faculty of Agriculture, promoted *Senior Clerical Officer*, effective 1st October, 2012.
Mr Robinson Jacob, Library Department, promoted *Chief Porter*, effective 1st October, 2012.
Mr Dickay Ordu, Health Services Department, promoted *Pharmacy Assistant*, effective 1st October, 2012.
Miss Nyekwere Egeonu, Student Affairs Department, promoted *Caretaker*, effective 1st October, 2012.

CONFIRMATION

Abayomi Omotosho, Department of Pharmaceutical & Medical Extension, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 6th June, 2010.
Dr Caroline Iyalla, Department of Haematology/Immunology Blood Transfusion, College of Health Sciences, confirmed *Staff*, effective 2nd October, 2010.
Mr Munachiso Ogbodo, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering, confirmed *Staff*, effective 14th July, 2012.
Mr John Okwukwu, Vice-Chancellor's Office, confirmed *Staff*, effective 30th March, 2009.
Mr Michael Kpee, Works and Services Department, confirmed *Artisan Grade III (Carpentry)*, effective 23rd October, 2009.
Mr Christian Nwokorie, Office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), confirmed *Driver*, effective 27th January, 2010.
Mr Victor Robinson, Library Department, confirmed *Senior Driver*, effective 10th March, 2010.
Mr King Ajoku, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, Faculty of Humanities, confirmed *Technical Attendant*, effective 18th April, 2009.
Mr Bridget Kaneé, Student Affairs Department, confirmed *Porter*, effective 8th December, 2010.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Hyacinth Dike, Department of Curriculum Studies/Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 19th April, 2013 to 18th April, 2014.
Dr Felix Njoku, Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Sciences & Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 2nd January, 2013 to 1st January, 2014.
Dr Peter Okoh, Department of Human Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment and Upgrading to Lecturer I*, effective 12th March, 2013 to 11th March, 2014.

SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

Professor L.O. Eboh, assumed *Sabbatical Appointment* in the Department of Human Kinetics & Health Education, Faculty of Education, effective 27th October, 2012 to 26th October, 2013.
Dr Amaele Samuel, granted *Sabbatical Appointment* in the Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, effective on assumption of duty.

STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY

Mr Victor Sunday, Department of Geography & Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, proceeded on an 18-month *Study Leave With Pay* to pursue a Master of Science Degree programme in Geoinformation and Land Administration at Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS), Ile-Ife, Osun State, effective 3rd October 2011 to 3rd May 2013.
Mr Justus Dike, Department of Electrical/Electronics Engineering, College of Engineering, proceeded on *Study Leave With Pay* to pursue a Doctorate Degree programme in Electrical Engineering, effective 20th February, 2013 to 19th February, 2014.
Mrs Rose Adebayo, Department of Finance & Banking, Faculty of Management Sciences, proceeded on a three-year *Study Leave With Pay* to pursue a Doctorate Degree programme in Finance at the Eastern Mediterranean University, effective 2012/2013 to 2014/15.
Mr Benjamin Akpouli, Department of Animal Science & Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, proceeded on a three-year *Study Leave With Pay* to pursue a Doctorate Degree programme at the University of Ibadan, Oyo State, effective 2012/13 to 2014/15.

BRIEFS FROM OTHER VARSITIES

ADENIJI EMERGES CALEB VARSITY'S BGS

A 20-year-old graduate of Economics, Mr Abdul-Azeez Adeniji, has emerged the Best Graduating Student (BGS) at the second Convocation of Caleb University. The BGS, who aspires to be a Development Economist and Chartered Accountant, scored a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 4.75 on a five point scale.

V-C RAISES ALARM ON PLOT TO DESTABILIZE UNIABUJA

Vice-Chancellor, University of Abuja (UNIABUJA), Professor James Adelabu, has raised alarm over an alleged plot to destabilize the University on the premise of de-accreditation of some academic programmes, including College of Health Sciences and Faculties of Engineering and Veterinary Medicine by relevant professional bodies. Lamenting activities of some persons, who he accused of attempting to sabotage his administration's effort to hold the Second Semester Examination for the 2011/2012 session, Professor Adelabu, disclosed that the examination which was originally fixed for last

November, but rescheduled for February, 2013, was later cancelled due to protests suspected to be masterminded by some Senior Officers of the University.

DENMARK LAUNCHES SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR DEV COUNTRIES

Denmark has launched a scholarship programme for developing countries, initially targeting students from Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Tanzania and Uganda. It is part of a comprehensive internationalisation of higher education strategy being developed by the government. The scholarship programme, "Building Stronger Universities in Developing Countries", was launched on 25th February, 2013 and will support students from selected universities to study in Denmark. It will be run by the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs, and the Rectors' Conference Universities Denmark.

After completing their studies, said Education Minister Morten Østergaard at the launch, the students will return home and "contribute to developing new solutions" by, for instance, helping to build capacity in the public sector or find solutions to climate or health problems.

-Compiled by Otokor Samuel

STOP PRESS

DEMISE OF MRS FLORENCE ENEJI

The University Community is hereby notified that the mother of immediate past Acting Pro-Chancellor & Chairman of Council, Mrs Florence Ahoji Eneji is dead. Mrs Eneji, who died on 26th February, 2013 at the age of 90 years, is survived by six children including. Rev (Dr) Walter Eneji. Burial arrangement will be announced later.

DONATION OF LAB STOOLS

The School of Science Laboratory Technology (SSLT), has donated 30 Laboratory Stools to the Department of Physics, Biochemistry, Microbiology and Science and Biotechnology. Dean, SSLT, Professor Anthony Ataga, said that the donation was part of the School's contributions to the Departments in preparation for the forthcoming accreditation exercise in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT OBSERVATORY FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH, 17 - SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNSET AND SUNRISE (AM/ PM)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 17 MAR, 2013	34.0 26.0	63	NE	6.4	6:37 6:43	Thunderstorm expected. More cloud than sun expected. Day anticipated being hot.
MONDAY, 18 MAR, 2013	35.0 26.0	66	NE	4.6	6:37 6:43	Thunderstorm expected. More cloud than sun expected. Day forecast being hot.
TUESDAY 19 MAR, 2013	35.0 26.0	57	NE	54.3	6:37 6:43	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. Day predicted being hot.
WEDNESDAY 20 MAR, 2013	34.0 26.0	54	NE	-	6:36 6:43	Day expected to be mostly cloudy and hot.
THURSDAY 21 MAR, 2013	34.0 25.0	52	NE	2.6	6:36 6:43	Thunderstorm late. Mostly cloudy and hot day expected.
FRIDAY 22 MAR, 2013	34.0 26.0	59	NE	-	6:35 6:42	More cloud than sun expected. Day predicted to be warm. Chance of rain is minimal.
SATURDAY 23 MAR, 2013	34.0 26.0	57	NE	2.1	6:35 6:42	Thunderstorm expected late in the day. More cloud than sun. Warm day anticipated.

VREMUDIA WEKPE
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

PROF SAMUEL AROKOYU
DIRECTOR, (CDRMDS)

102 Inaugural Nwafor Calls For Health Assessment Centre In N'Delta

By Humphrey Ogu

Professor Arthur Nwafor of the Department of Human Physiology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences, has called for the establishment of a Health Assessment Centre in the Niger Delta to serve as a physio-medical facility to tackle pollution-related ailments in the region and the rest of the country.

Nwafor, who made the call while delivering the 102 Inaugural Lecture titled: "Life Under Assault: Nowhere To Hide", at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Thursday, said that such a Centre would properly evaluate harmful substances in the environment to ascertain their potential health effects on human and animal species.

When established, "the Centre would also organise workshops to address the environmental challenges besetting the region," the Inaugural Lecturer said, calling on government at all levels and corporate organisations to adequately fund research endeavours aimed at reducing the disease burden in oil-producing areas of the country.

In view of the rising cases of environmentally-related health challenges in the Niger Delta, Nwafor stressed the "need to address the unrivalled fundamental etiologic, anti-environmentally-related drug development, lifestyle modification, disease, treatment and complication control, as well as explore collaborative opportunities and utilize emerging technologies to combat assaults on the environment as a result of unregulated industrial activities by multinational firms operating in the area."

Decrying the volume of harmful chemicals that humans are exposed to in the Niger Delta region, Nwafor revealed that women are more vulnerable to diseases caused by such exposures than their male counterparts, describing some of those ailments as *petroleum diseases*.

The Professor of Human Physiology, who condemned unregulated consumption of traditional medicines, especially by pregnant women, stated that such practice may result in stillbirths and babies with defects, pointing out that most of such local drugs are not usually subjected to relevant scientific scrutiny

before they are advertised for human consumption. "What must be understood is that the claims of these nutritional supplements may not be supported by properly supervised scientific research, while the traditional physicians and patients may not have any



Prof Nwafor (left), handing over a copy of the Lecture to VC, Prof Ajenka

idea of the physiological and pharmacological reactions of such natural medicines in their bid to ameliorate health problems," he pointed out.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, noted that "it is humans who cause the assaults on the environment identified by the Lecturer."

It is also humans who want to hide from the consequences of those assaults; so, we have to bear the consequences of our actions as we relate to the environment that has been well ordered by the Creator", stressing the need for humans to imbibe the culture of safeguarding their environment to make it more habitable.

The Vice-Chancellor also noted that the Lecture has justified the need to implement the 10 per cent royalty

for oil-bearing communities as recommended in the contentious Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) now before the National Assembly. "Through this Lecture, I have learnt that women are exposed to higher risks as a result of environmental pollution. I am aware that women in the Niger Delta suffer from Arthritis more than their counterparts in other parts of the country," he observed, tasking Scholars to investigate the causes of the alarming rate of diseases among

women in the region.

Professor Ajenka, who regretted that the operation of illegal refineries is worsening the case of environmental pollution in the Niger Delta, charged the Inaugural Lecturer and other researchers to work towards commercialisation of results of their findings. Reacting to the Lecture, Visiting Scholar, Professor Vincent Idemiyor, observed that the topic touched on various areas such as health and environment which are crucial to human wellbeing. In his observation, Director, Centre for Refining and Petro-chemicals at the Institute of Petroleum Studies, Professor Godwin Igwe, recommended reduction of the duration of Inaugural and Public Lectures in the University for better delivery.

I'm Impressed By Giant Strides Recorded In My Alma Mater ~MOUA VC

By Obinna Nwodin

Vice-Chancellor, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Professor Hilary Edeoga, has commended the giant strides of successive administrations in both academic and infrastructural development recorded over the years in the University of Port

Harcourt.

Professor Edeoga, who is a 1984 Alumnus of the University, made the remark in an interview with *UNIPORT Weekly* on the sideline of a professorial interview, penultimate Wednesday.

The Professor of Plant Taxonomy and Cytogenetics, who is also the second Alumnus to become Vice-Chancellor of a University said:



VC, Prof Ajenka (2nd from right) and his counterpart from Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Prof Edeoga, DV-Cs (Academic), Prof Igbo Joe, (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Ndaka and Director, Personnel Affairs, Mr Roland Wabuli (1st from right)

"The University has witnessed significant improvements since 1984 when I graduated here with a Bachelors degree. I was impressed when I was told that we have over 260 professors. This shows that the dreams of the founding fathers of the University have been realized. This is because, as far back as 1980, we were only 422 undergraduates and had our matriculation in the then School of Biological Sciences quadrangle; but today, the expansion is massive as the total number of students then could be equated to just one department today."

Professor Edeoga, who also had his Master's and Doctorate Degrees from the University called on Alumni to endeavour to identify with the development strides of the University. "The University is like our Mother. Having nursed us to where we are now. We should think of ways of showing appreciation to a good Mother which the University has proved to be to all of us who had the privilege of graduating here", a visibly elated Alumnus told our Correspondent.

Professor Edeoga who was formally decorated with the University's Muffler at the Senate Chambers during its 392nd Session, expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, for the honour done him by his *Alma Mater*, promising to mobilize support towards the accelerated development of the University.