

Iwarimie-Jaja Seeks Criminal Justice Reform In Nigeria

As the crime portfolio continues to manifest in such tendencies as massive corruption, fraud, robbery, murder and allied practices that threaten the Nigerian economy and the larger society, a Criminologist in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Darlington Iwarimie-Jaja, has stressed the need for policy-makers to urgently restructure the nation's criminal justice system to check the trend, reports *Humphrey Ogu*.

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Side Bar

The Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, held a two-day Workshop for farm workers last week. Details next week.

-Editor

UNI^{PORT} Weekly

Vol. 14, No. 2

May 20 - May 27, 2013

ISSN: 3790-3790

For Information and Enlightenment

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

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UNI^{PORT}, Wits Varsity To Partner On Oil & Gas Studies

By Obinna Nwodin

The dominance of oil and gas studies by University of Port Harcourt across the African continent was confirmed last Thursday, when the Vice-Chancellor of Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg, Professor Loyiso Nongxa, led a high-powered delegation to explore areas of partnership that would facilitate oil and gas studies back at Wits.

Both Universities are to partner in Petroleum Engineering through a split-site programme for Doctoral candidates, amongst other areas of mutually-beneficial partnerships. To

speedily achieve the aims and objectives of the emergent partnership, relevant organs of both institutions have been mandated to work out the institutional framework to formalize the joint venture agreements to kick-start the programme.

Receiving the guests, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajiienka, who described UNI^{PORT} as one of the premier universities in the Niger Delta region with a population of about 30,000 Undergraduate and 4,000 Graduate students, told his guests that the University is a Centre of Excellence in Petroleum and Gas Engineering, Geosciences, Theatre and Film Studies, Music, Medical Sciences, Sports, Bio-

technology and Bio-resources, Ethnic and Conflict Studies and Nomadic Education, expressing willingness to share experience with Wits.

Professor Ajiienka also disclosed that the University was developing a Technology Park that would take research to the end users, an Arts Village and Legacy Centres, adding that the focus of the University was more on the oil and gas industry, given its strategic location in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. He pointed out that internationalization of academic programmes at home was the key driver of his Administration's vision of building a world-class Entrepreneurial

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UNIORT Microbiologist Set To Commercialize Sclerotia

Some ethnic groups in Rivers State call it 'esu', almost the same with the Igbo who named it 'usu', but the scientific name is *Sclerotia*, mostly found in the soil. An Environmental Microbiologist, Researcher and Consultant, Dr Herbert Stanley, is undertaking a groundbreaking research aimed at producing the *Sclerotia* in commercial quantities for its nutritional and medicinal values, reports OTIKORSAMUEL.

Departments of
Pharmaceutical
Microbiology in the
Faculty of

Pharmaceutical Sciences and Community Medicine in the College of Health Sciences to explore the natural resource to produce refined drugs and food supplements," Dr Stanley said, adding that the research team would take advantage of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital to test the viability of its findings.

The *Sclerotium* mostly found in *pleurotus tuberregium* – a specie of mushroom, is spherical in nature, dark brown on the outside and white inside. *Sclerotium*, when soaked in water for some hours would peel off the dark brownish colour, thereby, exposing the whitish inner tissue which can substitute in part or whole for the melon seeds, said Dr Stanley in an interview with *UNIORT Weekly* in his office, penultimate Wednesday.

"*Pleurotus tuberregium* initially, infects dry wood where it produces the sclerotium which may become buried in the soil. The fungus is consumed popularly in Nigeria, especially in the South. Effort is now on to determine whether fruit bodies could be produced on a large scale," the Environmental Biologist disclosed, adding that the *Sclerotium* serves as food and medicine across African countries. Citing findings of an earlier study on *Sclerotium*, Dr Stanley said that in Ghana, for instance, the product is used as medicine against mal-nutritional, anaemic and antibacterial illnesses, manage cancer, as well

as part of the ingredients for embalming corpses, while in Nigeria, it is used to treat heart problems, including asthma, cough, headache, stomach ailments, cold and fever, smallpox and high blood pressure, adding that it is also rich in vitamin, mineral, protein and carbohydrate, but low in fat.

"Following the nutritional and medicinal values of *Sclerotia*, we will be collaborating with the



Lump of sclerotia



Dr Stanley displaying the sclerotia and pleurotus tuberregium (mushroom)

STUDENT WORLD

Involve Us In Undergraduate Teaching ~ Emina, PG Student

Our Correspondent, HUMPHREYOGU, peeps into the world of William Emina, a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences. Emina, who also obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the same Department, spoke to *UNIORT Weekly* on a wide range of issues concerning the graduate programme, research, youth development, among others.

All over the world, Doctoral programmes thrive on quality research that solves societal problems. In view of the centrality of research to Postgraduate studies, it has become standard practice to engage exceptional Doctoral Candidates as Research Assistants, thereby preparing them for the task ahead in their professional growth. William Emina believes that PG students could make quality contributions to the intellectual and organizational growth of their Departments if given the opportunity.

"We look forward to a time when we would be afforded the opportunity to contribute to the overall development of the University by wing us to participate in teaching the lower levels, at least. The system should allow us to be involved in some form of teaching and research activities as a way of preparing for future responsibilities in the

academia," Emina observes.

"Over the years, I have seen tremendous changes with a lot of innovations that point to institutional growth and maturity. For instance, the School of Graduate Studies is now a College. We live in an electronic world in which whatever we do here could be accessed in other parts of the world. That gives us a better opportunity to put in our best to ensure that we meet global standards in line with the focus of the present University administration," he says.

Conceding that a good number of graduate students did not realise that the Library is well equipped with resources needed for cutting-edge research activities, until recently, Emina commended the College for organizing an Orientation programme for graduate students and other workshops that enlightened students on available library resources that could enrich their research.

"In line with modern trends in the new College of Graduate Studies, every PhD student is expected to publish at least two papers and also attend workshops as a pre-condition for graduation. We need to have regular Seminars and Workshops to guide us on how to write publishable articles. This is in addition to presenting such works to our Supervisors for proper editing. That way, a good number of us would benefit by publishing our papers with ease," he points out.

Stressing the need to provide access to the state-of-the-art facilities and current information, he observes that research is the soul of doctoral programmes.

"You, however, need to work with colleagues, Supervisors and so on. If well researched, wherever your work is cited in any part of the world, you will be proud of it," Emina says.

Emina, whose area of specialisation is Sociology of Development, discloses that he is working on the Nigerian Local Content and Human Capacity Building, noting that "if we must attain development in Nigeria, we must have the political will to allow development to take place. A major developmental challenge we face is economic development, because any society that is developed economically would also excel in every other aspect of its developmental stride. We must allow our economy to develop in such a way that it would affect every other aspect of the country."

He bemoans policies on youth development in the country, saying: "like every other policy in the country, youth developmental policies are not very impressive. In Nigeria, every youth looks forward to a better future, but when there is systemic failure, it becomes difficult for the youths to actualise their potentials in life. We have seen policies and reforms by various governments; I think any government that is serious about development would focus on education, which is the bedrock of development."

Emina urges his younger colleagues to embrace change that would enable them benefit from the graduate programme, disclosing that in the next ten years, he hopes to be in a decision-making body to contribute to a better society, either in the public or private sector.

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Iwarimie-Jaja Seeks Criminal Justice Reform In Nigeria

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Iwarimie-Jaja made the call while delivering the 105th Inaugural Lecture titled, "Criminology: The Criminologist's Eye in Re-occurring Crime Problems in Nigeria", at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium last Thursday, warning that until the Nigerian government heeds the advice of Criminologists to restructure the criminal justice system, crime in its various manifestations would continue to be on the rise and threaten national development.

"Reforming the Nigerian criminal justice system is to introduce democracy and good neighbourliness into the Police, the courts and correctional institutions, where communities would assist in policing the society to ensure that crime is reduced and controlled," he explained, listing underfunding, undue partisan interest by judicial officers, abuse of the immunity clause and excessive backlog of cases as challenges militating against efficient crime control and speedy administration of justice in Nigeria.

"Nigeria requires a more professionalised system of criminal justice system that would be corruption-free, with regularly trained manpower that is equitably remunerated for service, efficient in crime control and prevention," the Inaugural Lecturer pointed out, identifying inadequate manpower, corruption, indiscipline, poor funding, lack of sophisticated communication, inadequate detective and investigative gadgets and poor motivation, as impediments to effective crime control and prevention by the Nigerian Police Force.

Iwarimie-Jaja, who noted that crimes in Nigeria has economic, social, political, moral, international, physical



Inaugural Lecturer handing over a copy of the Lecture to DV-C (Admin), Prof Ethelbert Nduka

and emotional consequences, listed high level unemployment, poverty, drug use, unstable family system and low educational attainment, as some of the factors responsible for the upsurge in crime wave in Nigeria.

He asserted that "any meaningful government policy on crime reduction must involve education, job creation and corruption management," warning that the crime portfolio would continue to rise until Nigerian policy-makers recognize the place Criminologists in the scheme of things.

Describing the Criminologist's eye as a set of perspectives used for deeper understanding of crime, Iwarimie-Jaja, who enumerated various criminological perspectives and theories, recommended the establishment of a Centre for Criminology and Security Studies in the University to provide adequate knowledge and practical skills that would be deployed in tackling crime and security challenges bedevilling the Nigerian State.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who noted that the Lecture, which focused on crime control and prevention, came at a very critical time when the nation was plagued by a plethora of crimes and terrorist activities, bemoaned the high level of corruption

in Nigeria as published by Transparency International in its latest Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). He stressed the need to rid the country of corruption and check crime to pave the way for accelerated national development.

Ajienka, who spoke through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, drew the attention of the audience to the link between intelligence quotients and crime, noted that Nigerians are very intelligent people, stating that "if we channel our awesome intelligence to positive ventures as is the case in other countries, our country would be a great place to live in and do business."

OUR ERROR

In the last edition of *UNI-PORT Weekly*, Vol. 14, No 1 of May 13-20, 2013, we erroneously referred to our new Pro-Chancellor, CHIEF GESIASAMAOWEI as Chief Gesi Asamawei. The error is highly regretted.

Editor

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has directed Management of the College of Graduate Studies to enforce the decision of Senate of the University on publication of a minimum of two Journal articles and

2013 Orientation

presentation of Papers at conferences by Doctoral candidates and one each for students in the Master's degree programmes, which are stipulated requirements for



V-C,
Prof. Ajienka



Provost, CGS,
Prof. Konya

Enforce Senate Graduation Benchmark, V-C Directs CGS

By Otikor Samuel

graduation.

Professor Ajienka, who reinforced the directive at this year's Orientation exercise for fresh and returning graduate students at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, last Tuesday, tasked the students to carry out relevant research that would tackle nagging societal problems by transforming knowledge into products.

The Vice-Chancellor, who was represented by his Deputy in charge of Research and Development, Professor Bene Willie-Abbey, stressed the need for them to publicize their work in reputable Journals to expand the frontiers of knowledge, charging them to explore ideas that would lead to major breakthroughs in research. He restated Management's resolve to implement a recent policy that makes it mandatory for all genuine students to comply with the timeframe stipulated for payment of statutory and non-statutory charges, while appropriate sanctions would be invoked against defaulters.

In her address, Provost of the College, Professor Roseline Konya, who disclosed that a total of 3,272 graduate students gained admission in the current session, said the Orientation exercise was meant to acquaint both fresh and returning students with the programmes and activities of the College, stating that this year's exercise was the first after the restructuring of the defunct

School of Graduate Studies into a College with four Graduate Schools.

The four Schools according to Professor Konya, are Graduate Schools of Engineering and Technology; Business, Management and Trade; Arts, Education and Social Sciences and Natural, Applied and Medical Sciences with Professors Adewale Dosunmu, Chinedum Ezirim, Martins Ifeancha and Gregory Awiri as Deans. She commended the students for abiding by the new procedures for fees payment and registration, appealing to Departments to comply strictly with the academic calendar to avoid cases of students overstaying on programmes.

"Our Scholarship scheme is expected to be competed for very soon to take care of the 2012/2013 session. Last year, some candidates benefitted from the maiden edition of the scheme. The standard of the PhD Seminar presentations has improved tremendously and we owe that to your effort and the Supervisors," the Provost told the students, disclosing further that the College has initiated steps to cross-fertilize ideas with local and international universities to attain global best practices in research and development.

Director of Quality Assurance and Quality Control, Professor Tony Arinze, presented a Paper on "Quality Assurance and Quality Control in Postgraduate Education in Nigerian Universities," University Librarian, Dr Obiageli Nwodo, represented by Dr Henrietta Otokunefor, spoke on "E-Learning Resources in the University of Port Harcourt," while Director, Centre for Research Management, Professor Onyewuchi Akaranta and Admissions Officer at CGS, Mr Sunny Nsiegbe, made presentations on "Sourcing for Graduate Research Grants and Scholarship" and "The Registration Process in the College of Graduate Studies," respectively.

Panelists Decry Machiavellian Party Politics In Nigeria At CATALYST Confab



Participants at the event with discussants

As the political party system continues to fumble and wobble in what analysts have described as Nigeria's nascent democracy, a group of students under the aegis of CATALYST organized an intellectual discourse, last Friday, on party politics and governance in Nigeria tagged: *The CATALYST Conversation* aimed at forging a way out of the woods for the potentially great country. The event which had Drs Lucky Akaruese and Andrew Efemini, both of the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities and Williams Wodi, Deputy Registrar (Information) in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, as Panelists was titled, *"The Nigerian Political System and the Crises of Governance: The Connecting Nexus"*. The discussants agreed that political parties in Nigeria are generally bereft of identifiable ideologies, clear-cut principles of good governance and internal democracy; factors they agreed have adversely affected the Nigerian political system and scuttled national development in the process.

To Dr Efemini, any commitment to good governance must focus on the silent majority, who he described as poor and vulnerable to the manipulations of power-hungry politicians, arguing that "the colonial masters never intended that we should have genuine democracy; that was why a brutal state ruled by political and economic predators was bequeathed to Nigeria at Independence. The resultant effects are everywhere today in the country's political area".

He stressed that from Independence to the present time, the nature and character of the Nigerian state has not changed as violence remains the choice strategy for capturing state power in advancement of the selfish interests of insensitive politicians.

Dr Efemini called on the youths to "form and join movements that would enable them to network and illuminate the burning national issues of the day as a way of challenging the power base of the political class that wishes to perpetuate itself in power without providing democracy dividends to the people they claim to serve".

On his own part, Dr Akaruese argued that it is the character of those who make up the political parties that determines the nature of governance in the country, blaming the current political crises in the country on the absence of a proper philosophical base on which the parties are established. He asserted that there is hardly any true national political party in Nigeria today—a sad scenario, which he said had adversely affected the way politics is played. He also blamed youths for some of the ills of society. "You are the ones who confer bogus award and give seven *gbosas* to men without honour for money and also engage in mind-boggling scams on the social media that tarnish the image of the country. You have the inherent capacity to be worse than those you are currently criticizing. The youths must accept some measure of responsibility for what has gone wrong and join forces to reverse the downward slide of our dear country", Akaruese advised them.

Also contributing to the discourse, Wodi identified lack of a properly-institutionalized and ideologically-grounded opposition parties and criminalization of courageous opposition politicians, who do not see things the government's way, as main shortcomings of the Nigerian political space. "The Media are also under severe pressures from government and other powerful interests because they are becoming activists and assuming the space vacated by very weak opposition

parties, some of which are waiting for invitation to join the ruling parties". He condemned the rising culture of mediocrity among politicians, who he accused of desiring the pecks of high office without exhibiting measurable skills on how to deliver quality social services to the masses, calling on the youths to prepare to fill the leadership vacuum created by a barren political class that is focused on the pursuit of its own pecuniary interest. Earlier in his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, represented by Director, Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC) Unit, Professor Tony Arinze, who commended the CATALYST Organization for the bold initiative to

open up discussions on the direction of the country, recalled the days when students were engaged in robust intellectual debates on national and international issues as part of their contributions to nation-building.

The CATALYST is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit, equal opportunity, leadership and entrepreneurial development organization, which provides *fora* for ventilation of ideas on themes and perspectives of interest to members. The body also focuses on the socio-political and economic events within a national and regional milieu to create enlightenment and instill the discipline of good leadership and responsible citizenship, as well as promote the spirit of interaction and build a culture of patriotism amongst students of Nigerian universities.

UNIORT To Host CON Conference September

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Arrangements are in top gear to ensure a successful hosting of the 26th Annual Conference of the Curriculum Organization of Nigeria (CON) to be hosted by the University of Port Harcourt in September. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, gave the assurance while receiving a pre-Conference delegation on a courtesy call to the Vice-Chancellor as part of familiarization visit to the University, penultimate Wednesday in his office. Professor Nduka, who pointed out the importance of the Conference to the University, described it as another bold step to advance education in the country. Inaugurating the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the forthcoming Conference, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor assured the delegates that the University would work towards successful hosting of the event. "Curriculum makes a school and

there is no education without a Curriculum. This means that the importance attached to Curriculum content and development cannot be over-emphasized. So I assure you that the successful hosting of this event would be another landmark achievement for this University", he said.

CON National President, Professor Akon Esu, who described the theme of the Conference: *Teacher Preparation and Climate Change Curriculum in Nigeria* as timely, disclosed that the Conference was aimed at exposing Nigerian teachers to topical global issues such as Climate Change and how such issues could be integrated into the national Curriculum to benefit students at the primary, secondary and tertiary institutions as well.

Chairman of the LOC and Acting Director of the Centre for Teacher Education and In-service Training, Dr Abiodun Ogunkunle, expressed preparedness of her team to ensure a memorable event. National Treasurer, Joseph Ukwungwu accompanied Professor Eku on the visit.



R-L: Prof Esu, DV-C (Admin) Prof Nduka, Dr Ogunkunle, and other members of CON

The University of Port Harcourt Chapter of the National Association of Philosophy Students (NAPS) has emerged winner of the first national debate organized last month by the Association at the Bigard Memorial Seminary, Enugu. Rector of the Seminary, Reverend Father Ukoro Igwe, who referred to post-independence African leaders like Kwame Nkrumah, Tafawa Belew, Sekou Toure, Julius Nyerere, as proponents of political philosophies that aided national reconstruction and development, tasked the students, whom he referred to as *contemporary philosophers* to take up the enormous challenge of nation-building.

National President of NAPS, Mr Lukman Adesina, who commended the performance of the University of Port Harcourt contingent, said that the debate provided participants a platform for social and political interactions amongst philosophy students, pointing out that the exercise was aimed at promoting national development through critical thinking and dialogue. "The condition of this country at the moment calls for sober reflection among students of philosophy, who are great thinkers and as such, we have to heed the call to better our country by addressing social, political and moral issues that plague us", he said. Leader of the UNIPOINT delegation, Handsome Kinikanwo, who lauded the efforts of the Department



UNIPOINT delegation with the Certificate

on the success recorded by the Association, disclosed that the University beat the host school, Bigard Memorial Seminary, to win the national debate which had the theme: *The Role of Philosophy in National Development*. "We also attribute our achievements to

the efforts of Lecturers in the Department, who work tirelessly to impart knowledge to us", he added. The University of Nigeria, Nsuka, University of Abuja and Pope John Paul Seminary were among institutions that participated in the event.

NAPS UNIPOINT Wins National Debate

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

INRES Launches Video-Conferencing Lecture Series



Director, INRES, Prof Akpokodje (standing) and Students at the maiden Lecture series

In line with policy of the National Universities Commission (NUC) on online teaching and learning to facilitate wider access to education, the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainability (INRES), has blazed the trail with the application of Video-conferencing facilities to teach its Master's degree students.

By Otikor Samuel

Speaking to *UNIPOINT Weekly* penultimate Thursday, Director of INRES, Professor Enevie Akpokodje, who said that the Video-conference technique was adopted to expose students of the Institute to global best practices through internationalisation at home, disclosed that the

online courses are delivered in collaboration with the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, which is one of the partnering universities, alongside six others in the Niger Delta.

Mr Barinaudaa Kobani of the Web Services Unit of ICTC, who provided technical services at the maiden online lecture delivered by Professor Rodney Stevens of Gothenburg, said that the Institute was the first in the University to apply the *Google apps for education* software provided by search engine giants, *Google* for educational purposes. Mr Kobani, however, lamented that the current bandwidth was not strong enough to fully support the interactive session, mostly at peak periods, calling on the authorities to tackle the shortcoming to bridge the digital divide.

Responding to questions, Director of ICTC, Professor Anthony Ibe, expressed optimism that the system would be sustainable. "We can sustain it and fortunately, we are at the verge of receiving assistance from the National Universities Commission through the Nigerian Research and Education Network (NgREN) project. The fund will address challenges posed by limited bandwidth and irregular electricity supply in the Centre," the Director assured stakeholders.

The University of Port Harcourt Chapter of an international student organization, AIESEC, has disclosed plans to take the third phase of its Project Pink Campaign on breast, cervical and prostate cancers to selected Communities and Local Government Areas in Rivers State this July.

The campaign which would cover Eleme, Ahoada East, Emohua, Degema Local Government Areas, Amadi Ama and Ogbunabali communities in the Port Harcourt City Council, according to the Project Director, Achese Inimgha, would also reach out to corporate organizations in the target areas to enlist their support in the battle against cancer. "The campaign would involve screening people, who present symptoms and signs of the deadly disease and referring them to appropriate health institutions for possible remedial measures aimed at saving lives", he said.

The Project Director, who observed that the high prevalence of various forms of cancer, motivated AIESEC to take the campaign to rural communities in the State, noted that the project would enable the organization compile a data base that would serve as a statistical reference pool to relevant institutions engaged in the onerous battle to reduce the cancer burden in the affected areas under the pilot project.

"We are working with our Learning Partner, the Rivers State Chapter of the Nigerian Medical Women Association and selected medical personnel from the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) to realize this important goal", Inimgha disclosed, promising that every effort would be made by AIESEC to reach as many patients as possible during the campaign period.

Team Leader for Learning, Henry Umunnakwe, who pointed out that the third phase of the health-based

AIESEC UNIPOINT Takes Cancer Awareness Campaign To Rivers Communities

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

project was also open to non-AIESEC students and staff of the University, said that vaccines would be provided to children of secondary school age, who have not been exposed to sexual activity.

Ivorian Intern from the *Institut de Commerce et de Management*, Victor Kouassi, who described the University as very clean with hospitable students, said he worked with the sales team to realize Project Pink. "I have

worked on similar projects such as African Tourism, English Marathon and ASK on HIV/AIDS and intend to gather more experience from the Project Pink while in the University of Port Harcourt", Kouassi disclosed.

It would be recalled that AIESEC UNIPOINT have successfully completed Projects YES (Young Entrepreneurs) and Green (Environment sustainability), before embarking on Project Pink aimed at drawing attention to the rising cancer pandemic that respects neither age or status.



Project Pink Team with the Ivorian Intern, Kouassi (arrowed)



From L-R: Directors QAQC, Prof Anthony Arinze, UAC, Dr Ngozi Odu, Exchange and Linkages Unit, Prof John Otaigbe, DV-C (Academic) Prof Igbo Joe, DV-C (Advancement & Partnerships), Prof Moore, V-Cs Prof Nongxa and Prof Ajenka, DV-C (R & D) Prof Bene Willie-Abbey, Prof Habib, University Librarian, Dr Obiageli Nwodo, Mr Seale, Provost, CGS, Prof Roseline Konya and D V-C (Admin) Prof Ethelbert Nduka

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University that would graduate students with globally benchmarked skills.

In his speech, Vice-Chancellor, Witwatersrand University, Professor Nongxa, who disclosed that by 2022, the University would be one hundred years old, said the visit was essentially to learn from the vast pool of experience of UNIPORT in oil and gas studies, which he described as a new field for his institution as it responds to the growing energy challenge facing the Southern African region.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the focus was to pursue commitment to research and academic excellence, generate high-level skills for Africa,

Witwatersrand Varsity Turns To UNIPORT For Guidance On Oil And Gas Studies

develop successful global graduates, foster creative and innovative networks, attract and retain talented staff and students, as well as public enlightenment and advancement of the public good.

Professor Nongxa also disclosed that Wits, which has about 2,000 international students from over 80 countries is focused on quality research aimed at solving social problems.

According to him, the University had 220 highly-rated researches out of which, 16 were in the A

category, seven research institutes and 20 research units, adding that there were also 22 prestigious South African Research Chairs, six Centres of Excellence in specialized areas of study.

Also on the delegation were: Professor Adam Habib, Vice-Chancellor (designate); Professor Rob Moore, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Advancement and Partnership) and Mr Oliver Seale, Director, Special Projects, Vice-Chancellor's Office.

Practitioners Speak On Benefits Of African Textile Lecture

By Mercy Adeniji

The Institute of Niger Delta Studies in collaboration with Onyoma Research Centre and the Department of Fine Arts and Design organised a Public Lecture on African Textile, penultimate Wednesday. The Lecture titled: "Monuments in Cloth", was delivered by a Guest Lecturer, Professor Jean Borgatti of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts and Design, University of Benin, Edo State.

A Lecturer in the Department of Fine Arts and Design, Dr Pamela Cyril-Egware, who is also Head of the Textile and Fashion Unit, described Professor Borgatti's presentation as well-researched. "Professor Borgatti was able to bring to limelight the need for us to look at textile as a source of identity and historical inclination with our daily lives". She disclosed that Textile can give identity and inform one about past

events and the kind of clothing worn for cultural and spiritual activities.

"Modelling is incorporated into textiles

and fashion; we train our students to model, not only to go on the fashion aisle, but to model for cosmetics and communication industries," Dr Cyril-Egware said, explaining that Fine Arts and Design are needed in all we do and in every discipline. She stressed that textile cannot be discussed without fashion and modelling, adding that the Surgeon, Orthopaedic, Sculptor, Anatomist and Physiologist are not complete without the Fine Artist.

Another Lecturer, Mrs Elizabeth Wogu, who also specialises in textile design, expressed gratitude to the Guest Lecturer, "I am so excited that someone took out time to do an extensive work on textile and the title of the paper: "Monuments in Cloth," is something I find very interesting, because here in the Niger Delta, we have a lot of monuments", she said, expressing optimism that with the Institute of Niger Delta Studies and the Museum, a lot would be done to preserve rare artworks.

She called on Management of the University to continue to encourage the Institute and the



Mrs Ajiginni

Department of Fine Arts and Design to have a place where art works can be properly displayed and showcased to the outside world.

Also speaking, another Lecturer in the Department of Fine Arts and Design, Mrs Margaret Ajiginni, disclosed that she gained so much from the Guest Lecturer. "I did my research on Dutch Wax and much of what the Guest Lecturer exhibited is on dutch wax, traditional, transitional and contemporary trend," she said, observing that what is happening now, due to the age gap, is that the youths now prefer the new design, while the Dutch company has also decided to continue printing the traditional fabric to continue in business. Mrs Ajiginni appealed to Management to assist the Department and the students to procure appropriate machines to mass-produce prints for the market that could and raise funds for the University.



Mrs Elizabeth Wogu (left) and Dr Pamela Cyril-Egware

STOP PRESS

USE OF OFFICE APPLIANCES

Following an earlier notice to staff in the Senate Building to switch off all electrical appliances in their offices after close of work, it has come to the notice of Management that some staff are still in the habit of leaving such facilities on in flagrant violation of the directive.

Henceforth, any staff or office that is found guilty of this offence will be severely punished to serve as deterrence to others.

GUIDE POST

APPOINTMENT

STRATEGIC PLANNING C'TTEE

Acting Director of the University Advancement Centre, Dr Ngozi Odu, has been appointed *Chairman, Strategic Planning Committee 2013-2018*. The appointment which takes immediate effect is until further notice. Other Members of the Board are: Professors Steve Okodudu, Henry Njoku, Ben Ndukwu, Matthew Wegwu, Hakeem Fawehinmi, I. Anochie, Adewale Dosunmu, Vincent Idemiyor, Drs Ibitela Etela, Tammy Orunaboka and Julie Umukoro. Professor Mark Anikpo will serve as Consultant to the Committee.

ADJUNCT APPOINTMENT

Obiora Madu, offered *Part-Time Teaching Appointment as Lecturer II* in the Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS), effective 2012/2013 Academic Session.

Dr Kayode Olagunju, offered *Part-Time Appointment as Lecturer I* in the Centre for Logistics and Transport Studies (CELTRAS), effective 2012/2013 Academic Session.

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Obiora Ayalogu, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Science, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 1st June, 2013 to 31st May, 2014.

Professor Molaru Ogundipe, Department of English Studies, Faculty of Humanities, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective 3rd May, 2013 to 2nd May, 2014.

CONVERSION OF APPOINTMENT

Dr Chukuka Oporum, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, converted to *Teaching Staff*, effective 15th April, 2013.

PENSIONABLE APPOINTMENT

Dr Ubelejit Nte, Department of Political and Administrative Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, offered *Pensionable Appointment as Lecturer I*, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr Ovisike Akamenwo, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, offered *Pensionable Appointment as Lecturer I*, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr Chizindu Alikor, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, offered *Pensionable Appointment as Lecturer I*, effective on assumption of duty.

Mrs Joy Ebenezer, Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, offered *Pensionable Appointment as Lecturer I*, effective on assumption of duty.

ADJUNCT APPOINTMENT

Professor Wey Amaevhule, offered one year *Part-Time Appointment as Adjunct Professor* in the Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, effective on assumption of duty.

PASSAGE

The Death has been announced of Mrs Letula Nkporbu. She was aged 35 years. Until her demise, she was an Accountant II in the Bursary Department. Mrs Nkporbu, who died on 30th April, 2013, was laid to rest last Saturday in her husband's hometown, Kporgho in Tai Local Government Area of Rivers State.



Late Mrs Nkporbu

Participants Relieve Experience At UNIORT Research Fair

In a bid to key into the vision of the Professor Joseph Ajenka-led Administration to build a world-class Entrepreneurial University, as well as create a forum for industry players in mass production and commercialization of research endeavours, researchers from various walks of life recently converged in the University of Port Harcourt to display their works and seek collaboration with colleagues. In this interview with MERCY ADENIJI, some participants speak on the essence of research fair:



Former D-G, NASEN, Prof Olusegun Adewoye (right) and other participants at the UAC Exhibition stand

At the Exhibition stand of the University Advancement Centre (UAC), Lucy Oruene said: "Research is all about generating new ideas that could be commercialized by interested industry experts. We at UAC intend to establish a Souvenirs Shop in the University and UAC is basically focused on fund-raising for purposes of developing the University. The major work of UAC is to reach out to Alumni at home and in the Diaspora and cultivate other Friends of the University" she said, adding that they write proposals to organizations and individuals that can fund capital projects in the University. "In the course of our research, we came up with the idea of establishing a Souvenirs Shop as part the plan to

further brand the University," Oruene said.

Managing Director of the University of Port Harcourt Academy Paints, Mr Franklin Ogwurumba said, "The main thrust of our research is being able to source materials from the local environment as substitutes to imported materials with the aim of producing something unique for our growing clientele. We are currently working on glue tipol-used for removing grease and on phosphorescent paint. We also want to add the phosphorescent paint on candles as a substitute to poor electricity supply".

Mr Ogwurumba disclosed that the paint factory is into partnership with



Participants at RIVPOLY stand

the Department of Chemistry in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences to source appropriate materials, stating that presently, the plant has a complete laboratory that trains students. He disclosed that over 20 Industrial Training (IT) students have so far graduated in the art of paint-making from the factory. "We want to get to the market and break even with our product, since most of the aggregates used are locally-sourced", the Managing Director said. A Lecturer in the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Dr Stanley Okoroafor, said the Institute of Niger Delta Studies is working on *Elaeis Guineensis* (Oil Palm tree), in partnership with different Faculties, Departments and Colleges in the University to perfect the technology for possible commercialization.

"The works being exhibited are wastes from the oil palm which are usually thrown away, but we have converted them to create wealth. With this material, we can make soap, sponge, shoe polish, cake for animals, brooms, baskets, ornaments and the fibre from the palm tree could be used as Plaster of Paris (POP), which is a perfect substitute for ceiling our buildings", Dr Okoroafor explained, stating that a Postgraduate students in his Department is currently researching on it as her project work.

Also speaking, at the exhibition stand, a Lecturer in the Department of Electrical/Electronics Engineering, Rivers State Polytechnic, Mr Anthony Taneh, who exhibited a multipurpose burglar alarm security system that can serve as security device for offices, residential and industrial areas, said the essence of the device is to curb break-ins by intruders into homes and offices.

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 19 MAY, 2013	35.0 25.0	59	NE	1.4	6:18 6:39	Isolated thunderstorm expected late in the day. More clouds than sun. Day anticipated being hot.
MONDAY, 20 MAY, 2013	35.0 26.0	58	NE	-	6:18 6:39	Decreasing cloudiness. Day predicted to be hot.
TUESDAY 21 MAY, 2013	36.0 26.0	56	N	-	6:18 6:39	More clouds than sun. Hot day expected.
WEDNESDAY 22 MAY, 2013	34.0 25.0	52	N	-	6:18 6:39	More clouds than sun is forecasted. Day is expected to be warm.
THURSDAY 23 MAY, 2013	34.0 25.0	58	NE	-	6:18 6:40	More clouds than sun is forecasted. Day is expected to be warm.
FRIDAY 24 MAY, 2013	34.0 25.0	54	N	4.9	6:18 6:40	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
SATURDAY 25 MAY, 2013	34.0 25.0	55	N	-	6:18 6:40	Partly sunny and warm day is predicted.

Abuja Liaison Office Moves To Mpape II

The Abuja Liaison Office of the University formerly located at Plot 7 Flat B, Estate 2 Urban Shelters at Katampe, has moved to Plot B103, Cadastral Zone, 08/04 Mpape II. A statement by the Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim advises the University Community and the general public are hereby notified of the relocation. Pix: Courtesy Registrar



Second Institute of N'Delta Public Lecture

The Institute of Niger Delta Studies, in collaboration with Onyoma Research Centre organised the Second Public Lecture Series on 8th May, 2013. Below are some of the scenes at the event which drew participants from the academia within and outside the University as captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU.**



Director, Institute of Niger Delta Studies, Prof Abi Derefaka, exchanging pleasantries with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Prof Bene Willie-Abbey, while Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ajenka watches on



Prof Ajenka in a warm handshake with Emeritus Prof Ebegberi Alagoo, while Prof John Agberia looks on



Prof Ajenka making a speech



Guest Lecturer, Prof Jean Borgatti, delivering her paper



Prof Willie-Abbey, decorating Prof Borgatti with the University Muffler



Director of the Institute, Prof Derefaka, Guest Lecturer, Prof Borgatti, V-C, Prof Ajenka, DV-C (R&D), Prof Willie-Abbey, Prof Lisa Arowson, Emeritus Prof Alagoo, staff and other participants