

## EXXONMOBIL Commissions Workstation In UniPort

As part of its University Assistance Programme (UAP) aimed at supporting youth development and capacity-building in Nigeria, Esso Exploration and Production Nigeria Limited (EEP NL), a subsidiary of ExxonMobil, has formally handed over a fully-equipped Mini-Geosciences Workstation to the Department of Geology, Faculty of Physical Sciences and Information Technology, reports *Ethel Timi-Johnson*.

More on pg 3

## Side Bar

Dr Bradford Brown delivered the 2<sup>nd</sup> Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES) Distinguished Lecture at the International Students' Centre, University Park, penultimate Monday. Details next week.  
-Editor



# UniPort Weekly

Vol. 16, No. 10

December 2 - December 9, 2013

ISSN: 1796-1805

For Information and Enlightenment

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

Kathey, Nwankpa,  
Present New OSC  
Chaplain To V-C



Story  
on  
p3



Story  
on  
p4

Rightlivelhood  
College Inaugurates  
UniPort Chapter



Story  
on  
p5

Social Sciences  
Faculty Fetes Deceased  
Colleagues' Family

Matters Arising  
From ASUU Strike



Story  
on  
p7

## Petroleum Minister Endows Chair At IPS Anniversary

### ...As Institute Inducts 41 Graduates

By Otikor Samuel

In furtherance of its mission to meet the needs of the petroleum industry through commitment to excellence in training, applied research, continuing education and capacity building, the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), has produced another 41 industry-ready professionals, just as the Minister of

Petroleum Resources, Dr Diezani Allison-Madueke, announced the endowment of a Professorial Chair to be known as *Dr Diezani Chair for Advanced Petroleum Research* at the 10<sup>th</sup> Induction/Anniversary of the Institute held at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park, last Thursday as part of its week-long activities.

The Honourable Minister, who

described the Institute as a foremost training centre in petroleum-related matters with a sound commitment to providing specialised skills in line with international best practices, applauded the IPS model of partnership between the academia and industry, which according to her, produced competent manpower that is in high demand in the industry, praising

Cont'd on p6



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It was in the 1980s, in the days when men in heavily-starched and well-ironed khaki uniform bestrode the political landscape to the envy of every politician-colossus that a series of research results conducted in many different locations, revealed a well-guarded secret – that some university teachers were actually teaching what they were not paid to teach. A certain popular democrat, who had disguised his true credentials in the said uniform, led the pack of the nationalists who were the traducers of the cowering lecturers. Some of us then tried to stand up to those charges, but as many of us found out, sometimes when you want to stand up against any authority equipped with guns and tanks, the knees develop a mind of their own and buckle under you without warning. When this happens, your friends who expect you to stand up against the effrontery may not know that your knees were sabotaging your will, so they tag you as a coward or even a saboteur—that treacherous word again.

I am not sure that even now we are teaching what we are paid to teach. In fact, let's not mince words about this thing: we are not teaching, period. Some may say that is the fact, but they quickly explain it away as a consequence of the current strike action. Let's leave it at that.

I have recently made a startling discovery that teaching what you are paid to teach, when you are paid, that is, has its down side. On this particular day, I had been waxing strong about the political arithmetic of elections and its implications for our democracy when one student stopped me in my tracks to ask why Nigerian politicians like to

# Heads, You Lose; Tails, I Win

By  
Eme Ekekwe

repeat history instead of learning from it. I was taken aback because I thought I had been careful not to mention politicians of any national stripe. What is more, I was not teaching a history class.

My first impulse was to say that if we all learned from history then there would be no space for farce and the tragedy – not comedy, mind you – of errors that we live through here. But to buy time, I asked the young man to please explain what he meant. It was good I did.

The young interlocutor said he believed Nigerian politicians were wasting government time printing and counting ballot papers for elections, and doing all that manipulative arithmetic to see who wins and who loses. I noted in my mind that I had not described political arithmetic as manipulative. In his view, history teaches that Nigerians are best and they succeed beautifully when they vote with their feet. Don't ask me about the head.

Anybody who knows students knows that they love football, so my mind went to all the football victories Nigeria has chalked up recently – African Cup of Nations, the U-17 World Cup, the "ticket" to Brazil via Ethiopia. I agreed in my mind that we are good with our feet, indeed. But this bothered me because I said to myself that we do not use our



Dr Ekekwe

heads. We simply refuse or simply hate to think. Those who learn from history use their heads. Here we use our feet even though it is a well known fact that the feet enjoy no analytical advantage just because they are closer than the head to the centre of gravity. Could this be why some corporate bodies devise every means to attract our youths into dancing rather than essay competitions? I responded generally along those lines and believed I was done.

But as if to show me things were not as bad as I feared, the same student got up again and said that I missed my shot by a wide margin. He said he was referring to Humphrey Nwosu's Option A4 electoral strategy, by which electors stood in broad daylight behind their preferred contestant. You can rig easily with thumb-prints but you cannot rig at all with footprints.

Now I wasn't sure if I was teaching this student or if he was teaching me. I couldn't have so readily seen Option A4 as an instance of Nigerians voting with their feet. I couldn't fault the youngster's near full-proof logic.

But I had to have the last laugh, so I reminded the fellow that a few years ago, that idea of returning to Option A4 was canvassed publicly. But its proponents were forced to retreat because a superior argument was put forward namely, that to reintroduce Option A4 would alter the character of Nigerian elections. It was argued that if we had any election in which the result did not logically lead to long and costly litigations, the majority of Nigerians would not believe it was free and fair. Or, if they did, someone could just annul the whole thing. Both outcomes would make the country the laughing stock of the international community. And no good Nigerian politician wants that. In conclusion, I told my young student that whichever way he looks at it the people will not win. That settled the matter.

## New UDPS Board Chairman Visits School

By Otikor Samuel

Congregational Representative in the Governing Council and new Chairman, Board of Governors of University Demonstration Primary School (UDPS), Mrs Dorcas Otto, has stressed the urgent need to repair and upgrade facilities at the School to enable it continue to discharge its primary responsibility of imparting quality knowledge to pupils.

The new Chairman, who made the remarks on her maiden visit and inspection of facilities, penultimate Friday, said the School needed total overhaul to give it a facelift that would be a model of 21<sup>st</sup> century institution, promising to consult other Board Members, Alumni and relevant authorities to ensure speedy transformation of the School which has produced distinguished persons in the society.

"The purpose of the visit is to acquaint myself with the Management, staff and pupils of the School, as well as ascertain the state of facilities here. We have the presentation of the Administrator which also informed the visit. I am now better informed on the needs of the School than I was before the visit. During our Board Meeting, we will look into

the needs on the scale priority and hopefully, we will address them from the most critical ones," the Chairman said, disclosing that staff welfare and training would also be given priority to motivate and empower them to continue to do well.

"To see UDPS as one of the best amongst similar institutions in academic and physical development, and a workforce that is happy and fully committed to its onerous tasks is my target," Mrs Otto, who is also the Director, Academic Affairs in the Registry Department said.

In her reaction, Administrator of the School, Dr Ibironke Kosemani, praised the Board Chairman for the visit, expressing hope that the new Board would bring about remarkable changes in the School. The Administrator pledged the support and cooperation of both Management and staff to the new Board to enable it succeed in its assignment.

*Editor's Note: This story is re-run due to a captioning error in the previous edition of November 18-November 25, 2013 which erroneously read 'UDSS' instead of 'UDPS'. The error is highly regretted.*



New UDPS Board Chairman, Mrs Otto (centre) flanked by the School Administrator, Dr Kosemani (left), Mrs Arimie (right), other staff of the School and Academic Affairs Unit

### EDITORIAL BOARD

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Cont'd from p1

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony at the Department of Geology, last Friday, Manager, Deepwater Production Geoscience, Mr Goodluck Adagbasa, who represented the General Manager of the company in charge of Operations Technical Geoscience, Mr Andrew Ejayeriese, said that the donation which was preceded by the training of three staff of the Department would impact on the quality of Geoscience graduates turned out by the University. "The gesture was aimed at enhancing and complementing the skills of the Lecturers, who in turn are expected to train students and other colleagues on use of the equipment", he added.

Commending Schlumberger Nigeria Limited for providing the Petrel Interpretation software installed on the machines, Mr. Adagbasa disclosed that items donated included, hardware 4 high-end precision Dual core Dell workstations, 1 external hard drive, 13 com 16 ports switch, 8" 24 flat screen monitors and a 30KVA electricity generating set. "The equipment is similar to what is in use today in the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas in the petroleum industry. It should be fully utilized for learning and research", he appealed to the end-users.

Describing the University as a Centre of Excellence in Geosciences in sub-Saharan Africa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration),

## EXXONMOBIL Commissions Workstation In UniPort



DV-C (Admin), Prof Nduka (4th from right) flanked by Manager, Deepwater Production Geoscience, Mr Adagbasa (left), Director, Personnel Affairs, Mr Wabali and other staff of EEPL and UniPort

Professor Ethelbert Nduka, who stood in for the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, thanked Esso for considering the University as one of the 18 universities in the country to benefit from the University Assistance Programmes. "The workstation would contribute to improving the quality of graduates that we produce. It would also ensure that they remain competitive," Professor Nduka said, promising that the University would play an effective role in ensuring the functionality and effective use of the Station. He called for more partnership between the University and the company in the vision to produce quality graduates that would be industry-ready.

Acting Head, Department of Geology, Dr Akaha Tse, who explained that Geoscience workstations have become the power house leading to new discoveries in the exploration and production of oil and gas, observed that the students need to tap the power of modern technology to remain relevant in the field of Petroleum Geosciences.

Goodwill messages were delivered by the Provost, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, Professor Nnenna Frank-Peterside, Professors Francis Ukaigwe, Michael Oti and Levi Amajor of the department of Geology and the Project Coordinator, Dr Lambert Aikhiouabare.

## Kathey, Nwankpa, Present New OSC Chaplain To V-C

Dean of the Church of Nigerian (Anglican Communion)

and Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of the Niger Delta, Most Rev Ignatius Kathey, has praised Management of the University for creating a peaceful academic environment for the impartation of quality knowledge. Kathey, who is also the Bishop of the Diocese of Niger Delta North, pointed out that the conducive atmosphere on Campus when backed by ample devotion to studies and Godliness would contribute to good moral upbringing of students to become useful members of the society.

The Archbishop, who made the remarks on a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka to introduce the new Chaplain of *Our Saviour's Chapel*, Interdenominational (Protestant Chaplaincy) at the Governing Council Chambers inside the Senate Building, University Park, last Monday, expressed worry over the prolonged industrial action by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), which he said had impacted negatively on the country's educational system and promoted crime amongst youths.

Accompanied on the visit by Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Port Harcourt, Methodist Church,

## ...Appeal For End To ASUU Strike

By Otikor Samuel

Nigeria, Most Rev Chimezu Nwankpa, Archbishop Kathey appealed to ASUU to end its five-month strike to enable students return to their Campus to continue their studies that would enable them contribute to nation-building. He solicited support of the University to the new Chaplain, Rev Canon Saturday Nbeta to enable him succeed in his assignments at the Chaplaincy and the University.

Also speaking, Most Rev Nwankpa, requested Management of the University to accommodate more student Fellowships to instil the fear of God in them rather than allowing them go astray, appealing for support to construct the access road to the Chapel.

"I know that the present administration of the University is doing everything possible to ensure adequate security on Campus, but I would want to appeal that student Fellowships should be given opportunity to carry out their programmes on Campus with the limits of the law. I also know that the administration is trying to cut down on Campus Fellowships and to curtail the use of classrooms for

religious activities, but I would wish that more of the Fellowships

should be incorporated into the School activities to build the young ones morally and academically. They should be given specific time to worship their God in the University," Most Rev Nwankpa appealed.

Responding, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, restated that Management did not stop religious activities on Campus, rather it was regulating the use of classrooms to ensure that academic activities are not disrupted, disclosing further that Management would implement recommendations of a Committee on inter-religious activities led by Professor Bosa Okoli to ensure that students are allowed freedom of worship, provided it does not interfere with their primary purpose for being on Campus. Professor Ajienka also promised to look into the request for construction of the only access road to the Church, stating that "the Chapel is part of the University Community, so if there is any assistance we can offer, we will not hesitate to do so."

Speaking on behalf of the Chapel Management Council (CMC), a Member of the Board of Trustees (BoT), Dr Andrew Obafemi, thanked Management for its continued support to the Chapel and for the immediate past Chaplain, Reverend Kelechi Francis, soliciting continued support for the new Chaplain, Canon Nbeta. Other members on the entourage were: Secretary, BoT, Professor Regina Ogali; Members, BoT, Professors Bosa Okoli, Ndowa Lale, Emumena Akama; Vice-Chairman, CMC, Dr Andrew Obafemi; Treasurer, CMC, Dr Felicia Ayuwo and Service Warden, Mr Ahamefula Nwanosike.



R-L: DV-C (Acad), Prof Igbo Joe, Archbishop Nwankpa, DV-C (Admin), Prof Nduka, Archbishop Kathey, Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, Bursar, Mr Vitalis Allezi and new Chaplain of OSC, Rev Canon Nbeta



DV-C (Admin), Prof Nduka (middle) flanked by Registrar, Mrs Nnodim (left), Co-Chair, Rightlivelihood Foundation, Dr Griefhan, Mr Bassey, Bursar, Mr Aliezi, Dean, Social Sciences, Prof Alapiki (right) and other guests

## Rightlivelihood College Debuts In UniPort

**A**uthorities of the University of Port Harcourt have formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Rightlivelihood College, Stockholm, Sweden, to promote knowledge and research in the ecological balance and environmental sustainability, as well as contributing to peace and justice in the world.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, who was represented by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, expressed delight at the development, noting that it was in furtherance of the objectives for which the Universities exist. He said that the authorities would ensure that the terms of agreement were mutually beneficial to both parties. In her speech, Co-Chair of the Rightlivelihood Foundation and former Minister of Environment, Republic of Germany, Dr Monika Griefhan, who said that the Foundation was pleased to partner the University in such a crucial development, stated that the College which was inaugurated in 2009 to further the Foundation's work through global capacity building, seeks to make Rightlivelihood Laureates' knowledge more accessible to people around the world.

"The Rightlivelihood College is a global initiative to harness the awardees of the Rightlivelihood Award

By Obinna Nwodin

(RLA) through the promotion of education, scientific research, public understanding and practical activities which contribute to global ecological balance; are aimed to eliminate material and spiritual poverty and contribute to lasting peace and justice in the world", she stated.

Also speaking, Executive Director of Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) and 2010 Rightlivelihood Awardee (RLA), Mr Nnimmo Bassey, expressed delight at the prospect of hosting the College in the University, adding that its major objective was to exchange and pool available knowledge together for the benefit of mankind. He said that the programme afforded graduate students the opportunity of sourcing funding for their research work in relevant areas of study.

In his speech, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Henry Alapiki, said that "the partnership would offer a hub and incubator for promoting and multiplying the most successful solutions to urgent global problems through the development of information, communications and education activities, including web-based learning materials, meetings, networking, internship and research scholarship programme," adding that "it also aims

to actively link with up the most excellent like-minded institutions that foster programmes that resonate with the goals of the University and the Foundation, as well as other top educational institutions."

The event which marked the inauguration of the Rightlivelihood College Campus in the University featured a Lecture with the theme; *African Awakening and Implication for the Environment* delivered by Dr Griefhan and Noble Wadzah, Coordinator, Oil Watch, Ghana at the new Theatre Lecture Hall, University Park. The event attracted graduate students and academic staff from the various Departments of the Faculty.

Under the Agreement, the University will serve as the Nigerian partner of the Rightlivelihood College and would give access to the Rightlivelihood Awardees to its research and education, building, relationships with global networks, innovations and change makers in the fields of environment, human rights and development; offer excellent students research visits to other RLC partner institutions and Award Laureates; host, at least, one Rightlivelihood Lecture once a year, as well as encourage students/scholars to research on issue the RLA laureates works on.

**F**ollowing a high profile visit to Notore Corporation, Onne, penultimate Tuesday, the petrochemical company has expressed willingness to collaborate with the Centre for Gas, Refining & Petrochemicals (CGRP), Institute of Petroleum Studies, University of Port Harcourt on mutually beneficial areas.

Briefing *UniPort Weekly* on the outcome of the visit, Director, CGRP, Professor Godwin Igwe, disclosed that Notore's Group Chief Technology Officer, Mr. Charles Odita, invited the Centre to visit the fertilizer manufacturing complex in Onne with a view to discussing ways of partnering on mutually-beneficial areas.

"The purpose for visiting Notore Corporation in Onne was to seek

By Humphrey Ogu

collaborative support with experienced Lecturers to teach some of our core courses in the Centre," Igwe explained, adding that other matters discussed included the value of Notore funding the 'Port Harcourt 2014' annual conference, and becoming a corporate member of our Governing Board.

"In our discussion, Notore agreed to provide experienced Lecturers to teach RPE 812-3 - Reliability, Maintenance, Shutdown Management; RPE 812-4 - Environmental Management, Quality Control, Process Plant Efficiency; RPE 813-2 - Boilers, Condensers, Cooling Towers," Igwe said, expressing delight on what he described as the company's assistance and continued support of CGRP's educational endeavours.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, was represented on the visit by the Deputy Vice-

## CGRP, Notore, To Partner On Training

Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie Abbey; Deputy Director, Technology Park UniPort, Professor Ebenezer Okonkwo; Dr. Koyejo Oduola of the Department of Chemical Engineering and the Director, CGRP, Professor

Igwe.

The UniPort team later undertook an industrial tour of the whole manufacturing processes, including the company's panel and control rooms, as well as loading and offloading shipping jetty.



R-L: Mr Odika, Profs Igwe, Willie Abbey, Okonkwo & Dr Oduola at Notore's NPK Model Plant



# Student Debaters Speak On Training Session

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

In preparation for the forthcoming Pan-African Universities Debating Championship (PAUDC) and following an excellent outing at the recently held All Nigerian Universities Debating Championship by the UniPort Debating Team, Management of the University organized an intensive week-long mock debate training for the students.

A Consultant from the Debate and Advocacy Network, Calabar, Mr Franklin Ubi, was the Facilitator of the training sessions. Experienced in elements and components of debate, Mr Ubi is also the West African Recruitment and Training Officer for the Pan-African Universities Debating Council. As part of the training process, mock debate sessions were also organized for the students.



About 64 universities from 15 countries and a total of 124 teams are expected to participate at the forthcoming Championship.

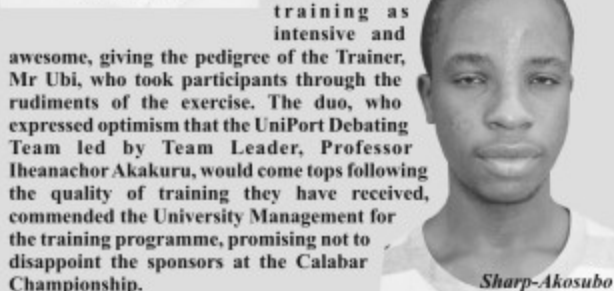
In an interview with *UniPort Weekly* penultimate Wednesday, some of the students spoke on the training which dwelt extensively on the British Parliamentary Debate Format and their preparedness for the momentous event, which is slated to hold from 24th November to 8th December at the University of Calabar, Cross River State.

Emmanuel Sharp-Akosubo of the Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Physical Sciences and Information Technology, observed that the training has enabled him to develop his critical thinking abilities. "From the training, I have learnt how to answer questions properly, and initiate counter arguments in a proper debating manner. These are skills I didn't have before the in-house training. I expect that we would perform extremely well at the event, considering our performance at the previous outing and the quality of training we have received", he said.

From the Department of Crop and Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Jewel Ike-Obioha, noted that the Trainer has exposed them to the intricacies of debate, the expectation of the Panel of Judges from Debaters, how to present good arguments to score good marks amongst other useful tips. She expressed satisfaction at the quality of the training received, stressing that the UniPort team would perform better than it did at the previous Championship.

Peter Akus and Raphael Undiandeye of the Departments of Linguistics and Communications Studies and Philosophy respectively, described the training as

intensive and awesome, giving the pedigree of the Trainer, Mr Ubi, who took participants through the rudiments of the exercise. The duo, who expressed optimism that the UniPort Debating Team led by Team Leader, Professor Iheanachor Akakuru, would come tops following the quality of training they have received, commended the University Management for the training programme, promising not to disappoint the sponsors at the Calabar Championship.



Dean, Fac of Social Sciences, Prof Alapiki (middle, front row), with beneficiaries (back row) and staff of the Faculty

## Social Sciences Faculty Gives Succour To Bereaved Colleagues' Families

By Mercy Adeniji

As part of efforts aimed at cushioning the effects of the demise of their loved ones, the Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Henry Alapiki, has presented cheques and cash gifts to next-of-kin of dead and bereaved colleagues in the line of duty.

Handing over the cheques and cash gifts to the benefiting families at the Dean's office, penultimate Friday, Professor Alapiki, said the gesture is in furtherance of the Faculty's welfare arrangement to provide support to families of deceased colleagues and immediate family members as such incidents could not be predetermined by anybody.

"We are gathered here to provide some kind of welfare support to families of our departed colleagues, who have lost dear ones. We do not pray that any family should experience loss of a family member. We do not pray that this Faculty should experience the loss of any dedicated staff now or in the future. Such late staff would have put in their best for the growth of the University, but man proposes and God disposes.

When things happen that are beyond our control, at least, as a Faculty, family members or friend, we should be able to be there to provide a shoulder for them to lean on," Professor Alapiki said, assuring those affected that the Faculty would never abandon them on account of the contributions of their departed family

members.

Professor Alapiki, who was moved with passion, recalled that in the past one year, there have been cases of those who had lost their loved ones. "The Faculty felt the need to arrange this event to give a little helping hand and support to the various families to enable them continue to meet the challenges of daily existence. We have some cheques from the Faculty welfare arrangement to the tune of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira flat rates to beneficiaries of each of the families that are involved in this situation. We have seven outstanding cases and today, we have been able to provide for six families, immediately after the ASUU strike is suspended, the family of the seventh deceased colleague would be taken care of," he promised.

Responding on behalf of the beneficiaries, Mr Vincent Well and Professor Steve Tamuno, who both lost their mothers, expressed gratitude to the Management, Dean and staff of the Faculty for the support and assistance. "We want to say thank you and thank God for keeping us alive. Death is an appointment no one can dodge. We are pleading that we give our lives to Christ, because going to Church is not the way to heaven," they stated, expressing gratitude to the Faculty for remembering the families of late colleagues.

Beneficiaries of the cash gifts were: Dr Otu Ekpenyong, Messrs Emmanuel Wonah, Ibidumo Atemie and Mrs Dorathy Utang, amongst others.

## STOP PRESS

### BTI EXTENDS SALE OF APPLICATION FORM

The Bamanga Tukur Institute for International Trade and Development announces the extension of sale of application forms which ended last Friday. Director of the Institute, Professor Augustus Gbosi, who announced the extension to *UniPort Weekly*, said the new deadline is now Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2013. Consequently, he advised interested applicants to purchase and process their forms before the final deadline for submission.

# Petroleum Minister Endows Chair At IPS Induction

Cont'd from p1

the drivers of the collaboration for contributing to the growth of the oil and gas sector.

Represented by the Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Engineer Ernest Nwapa, Dr Allison-Maducke, who was conferred with Fellow of the Institute, stressed the need to replicate the IPS model to transform the Nigerian educational system, stating that such partnership would undoubtedly increase participation in the oil industry to better the lots of the people. The Minister promised more partnerships with the University, following its impressive effort in capacity-building in the hydrocarbon industry, directing her representative to ascertain areas of need in the Institute with a view to addressing them to enhance its capacity to continue the excellent job of training operations-ready professionals for the industry.

The Petroleum Minister, who disclosed that the country's refineries are undergoing restructuring preparatory to their privatization, expressed optimism that the oil and gas industry would experience a big boost that would enable it attract more investments when the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) is finally passed into law, charging the academic community to drive research and development to tackle challenges in the sector and the larger society.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenka, revealed that the IPS model has become a veritable platform for other Centres of Excellence within and outside the University, stating that the Institute has evidently strengthened internationalization of higher education at home and sustainability of academic excellence for the tenth year running.

"Indeed, IPS has become not only a pride to University of Port Harcourt, but a model in the Nigerian educational system," Professor Ajenka said, praising the NNPC/TOTAL E&P Joint Venture, IFP School, Paris, France and 5<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs for conceiving the idea of establishing the Institute in 2003 and for sustaining its activities in the past ten years.

"Another achievement of immense pride to us is that most of the graduating students have been interviewed for job placements and some have already secured employment. I congratulate them very warmly for doing the University proud and demonstrating that they are appropriately and adequately trained for the complex and intricate demands of the oil industry," the Vice-Chancellor said, commending guests for gracing the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Induction of the premier Institute.

Professor Ajenka, who was the pioneer Director of the Institute, specifically thanked the former Special Adviser to the President on Petroleum Matters, Dr Emmanuel Egbogah for endowing another ssorial Chair to be known as the *Chirota and Emmanuel Egbogah*

*Distinguished Professor of Petroleum Economics, Policy and Strategy and for sponsoring the Emerald Energy Institute for Petroleum Economics, Policy & Strategy, which building was also commissioned as part of the week-long activities for the Anniversary.*

The Vice-Chancellor also expressed gratitude to the Chairman of Afren Energy Resources Plc, Dr Egbert Imomoh for endowing the *Egbert Imomoh Professorial Chair in Petroleum Engineering* and also for laying the foundation stone for a building that would house the digital library in the University. He said the benevolence would strengthen the partnership between the academia and industry players, describing the donations as legacy projects worthy of emulation. He appealed to other Captains of Industry and corporate bodies to emulate the good works of the tireless benefactors, who have stood by the University for so long.



Director of IPS, Prof Onyekonwu, presenting an award to pioneer Director and V-C, Prof Ajenka

The Induction Lecture titled: "The Role of Research in an Entrepreneurial University," was delivered by Emeritus Professor Amos Nur of the Department of Geophysics, Stanford University, USA and Chief Technology Officer, Emerald Energy Resources Limited. Goodwill messages were presented by Dr Egbogah; Dean, IFP School, Philippe Pinchon; Chairman, Governing Board of IPS, Mrs Edith Ofili-Onkonko and the Executive Secretary of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), Oluwale Oluleye, who spoke through a representative.

Director of IPS, Professor Mike Onyekonwu in his speech, recalled that a total of 298 students have successfully graduated in the Master of Science degree programme in Petroleum Engineering and Project Development and Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Technology (PGDPT), pointing out that "The M.Sc programme is run on an uninterrupted 12 calendar months duration of intensive lectures and field work. It is



Dr Egbogah presenting an award to Dean, IFP School, France, Philippe Pinchon

taken by three categories of lecturers 40% IFP School, France, 40% from the Universities and 20% Industry." Onyekonwu said.

The Director expressed gratitude to Schlumberger, Fugro, Agip and Laser Engineering, amongst others for their assistance to the Institute over the years, adding that their collaboration exposes the students to practical industry experience in diverse areas of oil and gas field development. "By integrating the Nigerian and French cultures into the programme, students are prepared to work in international teams and adapt easily to a cosmopolitan work environment," Professor Onyekonwu pointed out.

"As oil and gas operations continue to expand in the Gulf of Guinea, our crop of graduates are already comfortable working in multi-lingual and multi-cultural teams. This will come in handy in operations involving French-speaking countries in the Gulf of Guinea (GOG). Nigeria as the West African hub of oil and gas operations stands to benefit from this multidisciplinary programme and available highly competent graduates," he assured the stakeholders.

Major highlights of the anniversary were: an Anniversary Lecture delivered by Dr Imomoh, a novelty football match between students of Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Technology and Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering and Project Development programmes, career fair and exhibition, conferment of Professional Mentor on Mr Adewale Fayemi, induction of Drs Allison-Maducke and Imomoh, Mr Nicholas Brunet and Tony Ogbuigwe as Fellows of the Institute and presentation of prizes to Outstanding Teachers, including the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Warri, Professor John Etu-Efeator, who won the Best Teacher Award for the ninth time. The students were also inducted into professional societies, as well as a special award to pioneer Director of the Institute, Professor Ajenka, and initiator of the IPS programme Emeritus Professor Briggs, Francis Fusier and Professor Mbuk Ebong. The Institute also conferred corporate awards on TOTAL E&P, NNPC, PTDF, Emerald Energy Resources Limited, Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC), the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria and Schlumberger, amongst other oil giants. Miss Miriam Ufomaduh, was the Valedictorian for the tenth Batch, who literally swept all the awards on offer.

Again, the Inductees made a 100 per cent success rate in the Associate Environmental Professional (AEP) examination that enabled them obtain International Certification of the National Registry of Environmental Professionals (NREP), United States of America. The week-long series of activities were rounded up with a dinner at the TOTAL Village following the Induction ceremony, Rumuogba in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State and an Alumni Luncheon at the IPS Park along the East/West Road on Saturday.



Newly-commissioned Emerald Energy Institute Building

## GUIDE POST

## STUDY LEAVE

**Dr Chioma Onyige**, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted *Study Leave with Pay* to enable her pursue a Fellowship at the Rachel Carson Centre, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014.

**Mr Tamunonengiyeofori Dagogo**, Department of Physics, Faculty of Physical Science and Information Technology, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted *Study Leave with Pay* to enable him pursue a Master's degree and Diploma in Petroleum Geophysics at the Imperial College London, United Kingdom, effective 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 to 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2014.

## ASSUMPTION OF DUTY

**Dr Joyce Okagua**, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, assumed duty as Lecturer 1, effective 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2013.

## TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

**Dr Lanre Lawal**, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences, offered *Temporary Appointment* as Lecturer I, effective on assumption of duty.

## STOP PRESS

## UPWA WEEK KICKS-OFF TODAY

The University of Port Harcourt Women Association (UPWA), will commence her week-long activities today to mark this year's *UPWA Week*. A statement dated 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, and signed by the Public Relations Officer, Dr Celestina Harry and made available to *UniPort Weekly*, disclosed that the event would kick-off this morning with a *Health Walk* from *The CRAB* in Delta Park to the Sports Gymnasium, University Park.

On Tuesday, another event tagged: "*Developmental Skill Acquisition Exemplary Letter Writing, Health, Safety and Environment at Home*," would take place from 9:00am to 12:30pm, while activities on Etiquettes, Mannerism, Leisure and Recreation, would take centre stage on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December.

A major highlight of this year's *UPWA Week* will be the launching of Multipurpose Hall Building, presentation of the second edition of *UPWA Voice* magazine, new uniform/wrapper and the reviewed edition of UPWA Constitution billed for Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2013. The event would be wrapped up with the Vice-Chancellor's Children Party on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, at the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge, Delta Park. The University Community and the general public are invited to the week-long activities.

## Matters Arising From ASUU Strike

By Obinna Nwodin

The protracted ASUU strike has caused enormous damage to the socio-economic and cultural systems of the country. Its implication has both immediate and long-term effects to the citizenry and far-reaching implications for manpower development. The latest casualty of the four-month old strike was vibrant academic and activist, Professor Festus Iyayi, who paid the supreme sacrifice for a cause he devoted a substantial part of his life to champion. Prior to Iyayi's violent death in a ghastly motor accident, there have been reports of strike-related deaths of students. We also have learnt of how idle students have taken to vices such as drug abuse, armed robbery, and prostitution, amongst others. Of course, an idle mind, they say, is the devil's workshop. Despite the plea by parents, students and other stakeholders, the imbroglio still lingers on. This has become one strike, too many as Nigerians continuously lament and pray for its end. In all intent and purposes, the ASUU leadership believes that if the ongoing strike achieves its purpose, it would mark the end of strikes in the Nigerian university system. Unfortunately, the reality seems to prove otherwise.

It is true that when two elephants fight, it is the grasses that suffer. This time, Nigerians watch the future of hundreds of thousands of would-be leaders mortgaged by an avoidable strike. There is also the argument that the strike has become politicized, given the political developments in the country. In his regard, we may ask, why must the education sector be politicized to the detriment of Nigeria's future, if at all this the case?

Yes indeed, the prolonged strike has taken a new twist with an ominous break in the ranks of the Union. Some state-owned universities have decided to break-off from the Union's leadership stance by returning to the classroom. Adekunle Ajasin University (AAUA), Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State; Enugu State University of Technology (ESUT), Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida University, Lapai, Niger State and the Ebonyi State University, have fired the first salvo by calling back their students to Campus. This is after the Union urged the Federal Government to commit the latest agreement negotiated with President Goodluck Jonathan to paper to ensure that no government official wakes up tomorrow morning to claim that he or she was taking a nap when it was negotiated.

ASUU at the end of its National Executive Council (NEC) meeting held in Kano has required commitment from the President that any review or reconsideration or renegotiation of the 2009 Agreement will not substantially affect the pact which is the cause of the ongoing strike; immediate payment of all outstanding salary arrears and allowances of varsity teachers without victimization; and a written commitment from the President that the Federal Government will commit N225 billion, annually, to the funding of universities for the next four years.

We are also informed that there is a fourth demand which was personal to the interest of members. Some government officials have described the conditions as harsh and outrageous. Well, the truth is that no sacrifice is big enough to save the nations' floundering tertiary education system. ASUU's resolve to



ASUU President,  
Dr Nasir Fagge

shift grounds is a positive development that should bring about sincerity of purpose by the feuding parties in order to save the country from this seeming national embarrassment. This is the only country in the world where public universities would be under lock and key for so long without anybody berthing an eyelid over what is obviously an emergency situation.

The way the strike has been handled over the past five months shows crass neglect of this very important sector. Things are going on normally as if there is nothing wrong. Public officials travel round the world without recourse to the devastation done the critical system. In a country that seeks to be one of the 20 most industrialized countries of the world by the year 2020, ASUU's request is insignificant in the realization of this dream, if it is to be realized. A few days ago, citizens of Chile protested over the about \$13 billion allocated to the education sector by the Chilean government. They demanded more knowing the importance of the education system to the development of the country. This is in proportion to the relatively small population of that country.

That no Nigerian university is ranked among the first 5,000 universities in the world is a source of concern, which appears not to bother Nigerian leaders. Is it that the brains in the universities are incapable of proving their mettle or what? Yet, when these egg-heads leave the shores of Nigeria, they become super brains. This should be of serious concern to the political leaders of our dear country. There must be the political will to take education where it should be. It is a task that must be done. Although the damage of the five month old ASUU strike is enormous, all hands must be on the plough to cushion the effects of the ongoing ASUU strike on country's educational system.

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT OBSERVATORY

## FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER, 01 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER, 07, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 01 DEC, 2013	33.0 25.0	69	NE	10.4	6:25 6:17	Thunderstorm expected. More cloud than sun forecasted. H of day expected.
MONDAY, 02 DEC 2013	32.0 24.0	65	NE	8.0	6:26 6:17	A few thunderstorm expected.. More clouds than sun predicted. Day expected to be hot.
TUESDAY, 03 DEC, 2013	33.0 24.0	73	N	3.1	6:26 6:18	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
WEDNESDAY 04 DEC, 2013	33.0 24.0	75	NE	2.6	6:26 6:18	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Partly sunny and warm day predicted.
THURSDAY, 05 DEC, 2013	33.0 23.0	72	N	-	6:27 6:18	More sun than cloud expected. Day is expected to be warm.
FRIDAY, 06 DEC, 2013	32.0 23.0	71	N	-	6:27 6:19	More sun than cloud expected. Day is predicted being mostly warm.
SATURDAY, 07 DEC, 2013	33.0 24.0	72	NE	3.1	6:28 6:19	Thunderstorm expected early. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.

SANDRA NWABUFO  
OFFICER IN CHARGE

PROF SAMUEL AROKOYU  
DIRECTOR, (CDRMS)



## AIESEC Summit/Career Fair

**T**he Association Internationale des Études Scientifiques Économiques et Commerciales (AIESEC) organised its maiden Career Fair/Leadership Summit between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium. Pictures below as captured by our Cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU** show highlights of the event.



AIESEC Team Leader, Mr Henry Umunnakwe briefing Management on the Career Fair during a courtesy visit



Mr Umunnakwe, receiving copies of Unique UniPort and UniPort Weekly from the V-C, Prof Ajienka



Prof Ajienka handing over copies of Unique UniPort to AIESEC Intern, Miss Kone Bognan



DV-C (Acad), Prof Igbo Joe addressing the gathering, while CEO Femex Consult (left), Mr Femi Adebayo and Director ELPU, Prof John Otaigbe (right) listen



Leader of UniPort Branch of Fidelity Bank, Vienne Bucknor and Rep. PAL Pension, Mrs Adaora Ude, delivering their speeches



AIESEC President, UniPort Chapter, Mr Chinonso Iwuh, delivering his speech



A cross-section of participants



Exhibition Stand during the career fair



Google Team at the Exhibition Stand



V-C, (3rd right) and AIESEC Team



Prof Ajienka (5th from left), Principal Officers, SAV-C, Mr Kingsley Wogu (1st left) and AIESEC members



AIESEC Members during one of their outreach programmes titled: Project Sunshine