



Enenajor Gets IPPTO Patents Right With Mari-Marsh

Acting Head, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Dr Marshall Enenajor, has received the Intellectual Property and Technological Transfer Patent Right to enable him invent his own marketable product. Speaking with *UniPort Weekly*, last Wednesday, Director, Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPPTO), Professor Samuel Ibodje, said that a patent is a legal protection given to an inventor of a product, so that other people cannot lay claim of the sole ownership, reports *Mercy Adeniji*.

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Side Bar

Senate Representative in the Governing Council, Prof John Ikimalo, took over the Chairmanship of UDSS Board of Governors last Wednesday. Details next week.
-Editor



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Shodimu Lists Pathways To Varsities' Growth At Registry Day

By Otikor Samuel

“Optimal university management could only be achieved when the parameters of best practices are adopted in the operations of the university towards teaching, research and community services, which are the

primary functions of the university,” said Mr Oluwarotimi Shodimu at the Second Registry Day Celebration held last Tuesday at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University Park.

Shodimu, who was the immediate past Registrar of the University of Lagos, made the assertion while delivering a lecture

titled: “Towards Optimal Management: Challenges and Prospects of 21st Century Registry,” stating that the lecture focused on the need for the advancement of knowledge through conscious efforts of University Managements with the Registry as the arrowhead of implementation of

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Gains Of Multidisciplinary Research In Music

Recently, scholars from Universities of Cambridge, UK and California, Irvine, USA, were in the University to carry out research on West African Highlife Music and also initiate a mutually-beneficial partnership facilitated by the Rex Lawson Chair in Highlife Music. HUMPHREY OGU writes on the significance of that visit.

As the wind of globalisation continues to blow across the world, new ways of doing things keeps emerging. For instance, before now research was conceived as a task one must accomplish and publish with the sole aim of earning promotion. This is fast becoming outdated in the world of today. The new catchphrase in Nigeria's academia is: "research and development", in place of "publish or perish." This is often followed by the assertion that research should aim tackling human challenges for the benefit of society.

Those who fail to flow with the tide of globalisation often wake up to a shocking reality of not being relevant in the modern day. Perhaps, it is in realisation of this that three scholars left the comfort of their offices in highbrow universities in the United States of America and the United Kingdom and came to Nigeria in pursuit of knowledge for the benefit of humanity.

Professor Mark LeVine is of the Department of History, University of California, Irvine, USA. Unlike other westerners, who see Africa as a continent peopled by the less-privileged citizens that deserves nothing, but pity and help, LeVine believe there is something to learn from the continent. "I came here to learn, there is a lot to learn from Africa. There are many scholars in Africa, who are working on different aspects of the subjects I am also interested in," he said.

"If we are going to keep moving in the production of knowledge we need to move out of the boxes within, and the boxes are not just conceptual, theoretical and disciplinary, but are also geographic," LeVine stated, stressing the need for interdisciplinary collaborations in research across the continents.

Bryan Reynolds is Chancellor's Professor in the Department of Drama, also in the University of California. Corroborating LeVine's position, Reynolds emphasised the importance of multidisciplinary



L-R: Prof Nwankpa, Dr Nnamani, Profs Reynolds and LeVine

research, listing Music, Theatre and Visual Arts, amongst other disciplines in the humanities and the sciences as areas of possible collaborative research.

"The opportunity is there any time you put up a performance in music, if you want it really good, Theatre Arts Department needs to be involved, if you want to add colours, media, performance, projection, video works, then you have to also involve Visual Arts Department," he pointed out.

Reynolds, who proposed partnership with the University, said: "In such a partnership, we would like to put together a network to include a number of universities. There is strength in number; there is strength in community." Reynolds, who is also a dramatist and filmmaker, observed that creative, technical, screen or playwriting could be taught in classrooms.

"Three of us are in different disciplines, but we emphasise multidisciplinary collaboration. That is the emphasis of the research—bringing together scholars to exchange ideas," said Dr Ndubuisi Nnamani of the Faculty of Music, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.

"The traditional elements of these-people-are-here;

those-people-are-there, is no longer part of contemporary scholarship, which is what we want to emphasise—building of synergy among scholars from different disciplines. For instance, in the University of Cambridge, you will find that it is not the traditional Department of Music that is there now. People come from different backgrounds such as drama, history and so on and they all have their places in the project," he explained.

On his part, the Head, Department of Music in UniPort, Professor Onyee Nwankpa, cited the Institute of Niger Delta Studies as an area, where such interdisciplinary research is going on in the University under the auspices of the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, adding that there is synergy between the arts and sciences. He disclosed plans to work with the Director, Centre for Communication Disorder in the University to proffer solutions to the problems facing autistic children.

"What is happening here is a demonstration of the usefulness of collaborative efforts," Nwankpa pointed out, expressing hope that they would bring out something that is very solid and beneficial to all parties involved.

The Association of Deans of Agriculture in Nigerian Universities (ADAN) has tasked government to increase budgetary allocations to the agricultural sector in a bid to ensure food security in the country. ADAN gave the charge at the end of its 57th Annual General Meeting held at the Federal University of Technology,

ADAN Tasks FG On Agric Dev

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Akure, Ondo State.

A communiqué issued at the end of the AGM and made available to *UniPort Weekly* by the Public Relations Officer of the Association and Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, UniPort, Professor Love Akonye, noted that increased budgetary allocations to agriculture and enhanced agricultural training would also fast-track implementation of the Agricultural Transformation Agenda of the Federal Government.

"The funding of Agriculture and training has been grossly inadequate, receiving only a paltry 1.7 per cent of the 2013 budget", part of the communiqué read, stressing the need for private and public sector participation in the drive to reposition agriculture as a major contributor to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Calling for establishment of well-equipped research and training farms for agricultural training institutions with a view to providing adequate entrepreneurial skills to Nigerian youths, the Association urged the National Assembly to hasten passage of a Bill for the establishment of the Nigerian Institute of Agriculture (NIAg) to regulate agricultural practice in the country. It also

called for review of the agricultural curriculum to reflect current realities of national and global transformation, while ensuring better curriculum delivery and higher efficiency in the critical sector that has unlimited potentials to rake in huge foreign exchange.

Regretting that non-recognition of agriculture as a profession has greatly discouraged Agricultural Scientists from contributing to the Agricultural Transformation Agenda of the Federal Government, the Deans described the Agenda as ideal, but identifying inadequate and untimely release of funds and poor staff development scheme as factors militating against the development of agriculture in Nigeria.



Prof Akonye

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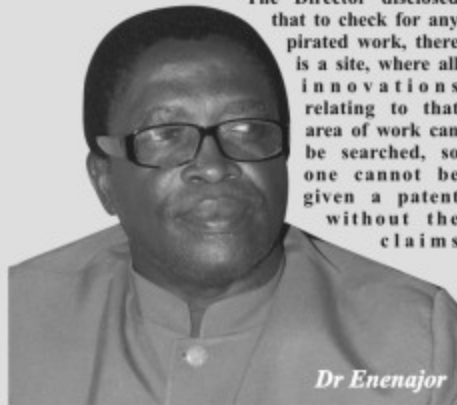
Enenajor Gets IPPTO Patents Right With Mari-Marsh

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He disclosed that it has a limited time-frame within which the legal decision could be taken, which also depends on the laws of the country, about twenty years, after which it becomes public property.

On how the patent was obtained, Professor Ibodje explained that "a patent is obtained by applying to the Patent Registry, describing the invention and how the invented came about the product. For a patent to be given, you must show that what you have produced is original and not a duplicated effort of another person's work. Once it is original, you would be given a patent, but if it is not, you would be denied. On the other hand, if you have an improvement on a product already in existence, that area of added improvement would be recognised and patented".

The Director disclosed that to check for any pirated work, there is a site, where all innovations relating to that area of work can be searched, so one cannot be given a patent without the claims



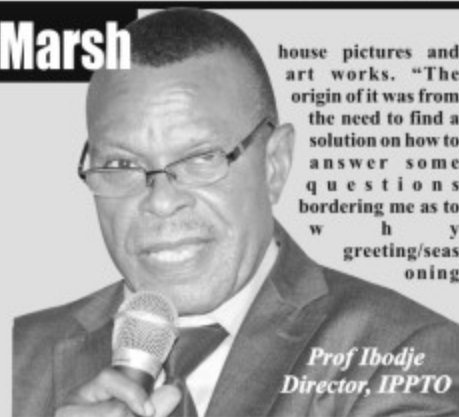
Dr Enenajor

being verified against other claims that are already in existence.

Professor Ibodje stated that every university is entitled to innovation and so the Ministry of Science and Technology has an agency known as National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), explaining that NOTAP established IPPTOs in different universities and polytechnics which serves as the root to NOTAP through which the activities of the agency are translated to the grassroots. "When we have claims and we want to seek help to patent them, NOTAP provides us the opportunity, whereby we can send what we have for verification and if what is sent is found to be original, NOTAP will help to certify and send it to the patent registry, where the patent certificate is issued".

"If the IPPTO here has the facilities to verify claims that are sent to us, we would not need to go to NOTAP. We have notified Management of the University on the need for us to have such facilities, so we do not rely on NOTAP, since other universities send their claims to NOTAP. If we have such facilities in place, the processes would be shortened", the Director disclosed. The Director stressed that "If you are carrying out a research and have come up with breakthroughs that need to be protected, you need to seek a patent to do so. Also, your research and breakthroughs is not the end, the end purpose is how you can make a name and possible wealth out of that work. The end product of your research is how you can make wealth which is of industrial value for commercialization and the best way to have control over your work is to patent it, so it is not hijacked by unscrupulous pirates".

In his contribution, beneficiary of the patent right, Dr Enenajor, said the paper frame is an innovation to



Prof Ibodje
Director, IPPTO

cards write ups were being discarded after the seasons are over; how more people can enjoy pictures and art works or photos of loved ones in portable sizes without incurring too much money and weight among other questions".

He explained that from this, with the type of art he does, which is straw art, "the intent of the paper frame is to bring back such culture again, whereby we put our cards and pictures on the wall and not in the bags. So these pictures would now look like a picture frame. This is to keep the life of this graphic product ongoing.

On the brand name, Dr Enenajor revealed that his claim to the picture frame would be known as *Mari-Marsh* picture frame. This frame would contain congratulatory, inspirational and birthday messages and it would all come like a card, but it is framed, expressing optimism that if the University or any other agency would go into mass production of the frame, he would be willing to teach people how to achieve this type of design.

UniPort Team Takes Second Position At Varsities' Debate

By Otikor Samuel

Preparatory to the Pan-African Universities Debating Championships billed from Friday, November 29 to Sunday, December 8, 2013, the contingent from the University has taken second position at the maiden All Nigerian Universities Debating Championships hosted by the University of Calabar, Cross River State. The event which held between 20th and 25th October, 2013, with 20 participating universities, saw the "A Team" from the host University emerging overall best winners. Speaking while receiving the victorious UniPort Team at the Committee Room, last Monday, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who congratulated them for their brilliant performance at the competition, directed the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Research and Development, Professor Bene Willie Abbey to work out a befitting reception package for the prize-winning team.

"We thank you for bringing this honour. Indeed, you made the University proud. You flew the University flag

very high and you did it well. Even if you did not win any prize at the competition, the valuable experience you got would still have been enough to prepare you for future competitions," Professor Ajienka said, expressing hope that the outing had exposed the students to a new academic horizon.

The Vice-Chancellor, further asked Leader of the delegation, Professor Iheanachor Akakuru, to do a formal report and make recommendations that would guide the University on ways to encourage students engage in meaningful debate for national development. He faulted some of the contemporary debate on national issues as weak in logical arguments capable of giving wrong direction to policy-makers.

In his brief, Leader of the delegation, Professor Akakuru, disclosed that a member of the team, Nnanah NdiFREKE, emerged the Third Best Debater, in addition to the overall second position of the University, praising

the students for conducting themselves in an exceptionally good manner throughout the event.

"Our team came last in the first debate, but I advised the students not to despair as our participation after all, was our first entry into the Championships and in the least, could serve as a valuable exposure to us. They put back themselves together and we got to the final stage with the University of Calabar and emerged overall second best debaters," Professor Akakuru said, disclosing further that Imo State University (ISU) came third, while another team from UNICAL took the fourth position. He commended the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development) for their support for the debate contingent, calling for more support to enable the team perform better at future competitions.

Professor Akakuru, who was the immediate past Associate Dean, Faculty of Humanities, accompanied by another Lecturer in the Department of Foreign

Languages and Literatures, Mr Dufua Sharp-Akosubo, stated that the University has a crop of potential debaters, who if properly trained would contribute useful ideas for national development. He called for the constitution of a Committee to raise the culture of debate among students of the University.

The students, who participated in the Championships, were: Joseph, Inyama Nnanna (History and Diplomatic Studies); Peter, Ovie Akus (Linguistics and Communication Studies); Ike-Obioha, Uchechi Gold (Medicine and Surgery) and Nnanah, Charlie NdiFREKE (Geography and Environmental Management).



V-C, Prof Ajienka (centre) flanked by Leader of the delegation, Prof Akakuru (right), some Senior Officers and the prize-winning students displaying their plaques

Elechi Amadi Launches Science Fiction Book



R-L: Koroye, Prof Briggs, Mrs Koko Kalango, V-C, Prof Ajiinka and Amadi flanked by Prof Onyeozor and a guest

He walked into the hall like an enigma wrapped up in a jig-saw puzzle and took his seat like one of those bumbling characters in H. G. Wells' *First Men on the Moon*. Very little about him betrayed the pedigree of a famous novelist and playwright. His gracefully graying hair gave him away as a man of considerable influence and deep reflection, with a philosophical mindset, which he did not advertise. At 79 years, the centre of attraction stood erect, tall, lanky, near ebony black and strong as a six-inch concrete nail! What does he really believe in as a human being?

The audience kept wondering as he genially surveyed its members with some measure of satisfaction. Is he an eccentric atheist, a traditionalist or just a non-conformist in a society suffering from Pentecostal Influenza?

Does he believe in nothing under the Sun? Some of these questions were answered in his latest cerebral, dispassionate and combustible Science Fiction novel titled: *When God Came*, presented, last Thursday to a packed audience inside the expansive Royal Banquet Hall of Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt.

Published by the University of Port Harcourt Press, the austere author pegged the price of the 82-page book at just N500.00! His reason for giving the book away at such a ridiculous price, in spite of its great import in a world that is apparently bent on committing suicide? "Well, I want everybody to read the book and ask themselves some vital questions about this universe and our place in it."

Author of the highly imaginative novel, Elechi Amadi, did not, as usual waste words, as he addressed the ecstatic audience that comprised eminent scholars, art enthusiasts, including a few genuinely disturbed demagogues, who thought the author had taken the argument about the existence, or otherwise of God rather too far in his postulations, presented through his fictional characters such as the skillful diplomats at the United Nations, Scientists like Professor Ekpo of the University of Ibadan and other sundry debaters on such weighty issues as the existentialist matters on planet earth. Even the master of Relativism and inventor of the dreaded atomic bomb, Albert Einstein, popped up in the novel through his unnamed greedy grandson, who came to the UN displaying a placard that read: $E=MC^2=10\text{billion dollars!}$ 10 billion dollars was the whopping amount he demanded from mankind as accumulated royalty from his grandfather's famous relativity theory! He apparently suffered from selective amnesia about the horrendous damage caused by his grandfather's atomic bomb to the sleepy Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In his opening remarks, Elechi Amadi, who is a Writer-in-Residence at the University of Port Harcourt, took the audience through his motivation for the book, which he said took years to write apparently on account of its complex plot structure. In his own words: "The two stories in this slim volume are my initial humble contributions to Science Fiction in Nigeria. *Song of the Vanquished* shows concern for man's abuse of planet earth. It was written many years ago when there was no talk of ecological damage or climate change.

"*When God Came* takes a look at that dramatic moment which most Scientists, especially astronomers, look forward to the first encounter with extra-terrestrial beings," the ingenious author told the curious and bemused audience.

Chairman of the occasion, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, praised the author for pioneering a literary genre

that was still alien to the Nigerian fictional factory. Briggs described Elechi Amadi "as one of the foremost proponents of African tradition steeped in the African culture of gods, myths, and realities...For Elechi Amadi's true background is in the Sciences—he is a graduate of Physics and Mathematics! And for the first time, *When God Came*, a Science Fiction, is brining Elechi Amadi back to his academic ancestral roots." Describing the book as an amalgam of two short stories, Briggs commended the author's ambidexterity of writing both in science and the arts with the same beautiful face as that of Ihuoma in *The Concubine*.

Reviewing the book, whose shattering and powerful contents belied what the author called a "slim volume," Seiyifa Koroye of the English Department of the University of Port Harcourt, described Elechi Amadi as a great pioneer, who has launched the novel genre in Nigeria into the realm of Science Fiction, as proof of his mastery of the art of writing great works of the imaginative in the tradition of H. G. Wells and other notable pioneers.

With an imaginative deft stroke that generated intermittent applause from an ecstatic audience, that included academics, writers, traditional rulers, students and adulators of the great author, Koroye proved that a

review could make a great book even greater to the reader. "Where else do you expect God to go for negotiations about the state of the world other than the United Nations, where there are skillful diplomats, including the Secretary-General, who was having a nap at that decisive moment in human history?"

The skillful reviewer deftly connected the two seemingly episodic stories through a complex web of hubris, irony, wit, elegance and benumbing climax to drive home the significance of the novel that was snapped up by enthusiastic readers, who couldn't get enough of the evening's landmark event.

In an interactive session that followed the heavily animated and applauded review by Koroye, a genuinely frightened young student audaciously queried the author's utterances which she considered rather "blasphemous" in conception, plot structure and delivery. "When you read the book, your worst fears will certainly be dispelled," was Elechi Amadi's dry reply, which obviously did not pacify the young lady, whose body language appeared to indicate that the Church authorities should pass an Islamic-style *fatwa* on both author and book to stop further spreading of the dangerous virus! Amadi obviously enjoyed the young lady's worst fears.

I did not observe the young lady line up for the crowded autograph session that was a rare moment to meet the author one-on-one. Some even bought several copies of the novel as an excuse to behold the great author as many times as they lined up for autographs. It was only by an act of the God that came in the novel that Elechi Amadi was not lit up by hundreds of flashing camera and phones directed at him on the high table. The flashing lights were too much for the other guests on the high table that included the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Joseph Ajiinka and the Festival Director of the Port Harcourt Book Festival, Koko Kalango to take.

It was an evening to remember as the author felt a visible sense of relief for paying a debt he owed millions of his readers and devotees for so long. I heard faint talk of two sequels to *When God Came*. I hope God will come to my church, rather than go to the UN to wake up a sleeping SG when that eagerly-awaited extra-terrestrial event takes place on earth—whenever it happens!

Doctorate Candidate Donates Desk-Top Computer To Dept

By Mercy Adeniji

A Postgraduate Candidate of the Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Education, Mr. Robinson Ewor, has donated a Desk-Top Computer with accessories to assist in the processing and storage of official information in the Department. In a letter sent to *UniPort Weekly*, last Thursday, Acting Head, Department of Educational Foundation (DEF), Dr Nkechi Okoli, stated that "On assumption of office, I discovered that the Department did not have any typewriter of any sort, documents including confidential papers were taken to business centres for typing. I had to appeal to whoever would listen to me. Ewor graciously came to our rescue by donating a desk top computer with

facility for printing".

Receiving the computer set, printer and UPS, Dr Okoli expressed gratitude to the donor for his kind gesture, appealing to other students to emulate his good example by coming to the aid of the Department and the University, whenever the need may arise.

Handing over the system to the Department, the donor said he was moved by the appeal from the Acting HoD to make the donation, which he hoped would facilitate document processing by staff. Commending the staff for their dedication to duty, Mr. Ewor called on his colleagues to follow his example by giving back something to the system that produced and gave them identity.



Ag. HoD, DEF, Dr Okoli (arrowed) receiving the computer set, while other staff watch on

Giving Dialogue A New Meaning

For a country in whose blood "dialogue" has been flowing since the British Royal Niger Company arrived, it is rather curious that we are now acting as if something new is about to break out. Just think of all the fuss everyone is making. We were busy then talking past each other when Sir Frederick Lugard, shooting off a few cannons and bullets, created this entity in his company's image. When he didn't like what we saw, we engaged the British in a series of dialogues. It changed nothing because we decided to like what we saw. Then our former military leaders, recalling that Lugard had been a soldier, decided to dialogue again—this time in Aburi, Ghana. In the end nothing changed. After a bloody civil war and a lot of money down the drain, we are about to begin another bout of dialogue. What I can't understand is why we are taking the whole thing too seriously. Could it be that our elites have short

By Eme Ekekwe



"We like to see politics in everything. We don't agree on anything. Bring together two or three Nigerians and the opposition and the politicking will begin automatically"

collective institutional memory? For goodness sake, this does not justify the level of seriousness I see around the idea. It is not as if the idea of dialogue is wrong by definition; no! But there must be some humour left in us as a people. I have this little-known motto that says life is too serious not to be taken with a good sense of humour. Who needs high BP?

That tells you why I began a search for a new meaning of dialogue. But none of the definitions I came across was satisfactory. One definition said a dialogue was "the words spoken by characters in a book..." Given my frame of mind I did not get

to the end of the definition. What caught my attention was the word "characters". When it is said that someone is quite a character, we all know what is meant. So, I now said *Humour* to myself that many characters are going to show up at this national dialogue. I spoke too soon! Not long after I said that, I noticed the intervention of some real characters. They are probably your typical Nigerian democrats. Their suggestion was that dialogue organizers should invite the down-trodden. Can you imagine that? Of course it sounds good and radical until you ask who are these down-trodden? We are talking here

about all those Nigerians, who are not members of the executive branch or the legislature of their town union. My worry was that no conference hall in the whole world will contain all the down-trodden in Nigeria!

Then there was this other definition which said that dialogue was "talk of any kind between two or more people". I read it again. Surely, it said "talk of any kind" and "two or more people". I almost dismissed it for being very imprecise. How many more than two can one consider to be more: one hundred, three thousand or four billion? Even though Nigerians like to count in millions and billions, we are often confused by two or more. See, we are still counting our fingers and toes to determine whether 19 is greater than 16 or vice-versa. How does one then choose two or more people from over 180 million Nigerians? Please bring the mathematicians and statisticians to help out with the numbers. I would have invited Chief Odumegwu to offer some opinion on the numbers, but I have no intention of speaking seriously. But that definition is not as bad as it seems. I like the part about "talk of any kind". That suits us very well. This could mean that anything goes. Nigerians like to talk about anything and everything, so there is sense there.

The final definition stated that dialogue was "a formal discussion or negotiation, especially between opposing sides in a political..." I did not bother with the rest of the definition because I thought this was the best. We like to oppose. We like to see politics in everything. We don't agree on anything. Bring together two or three Nigerians and the opposition and the politicking will begin automatically. There is hardly any Nigerian who is not the leader of opposition in one thing or another. Therefore, this is the most appropriate definition of what we are about to start. How I wish, how I dearly wish, that Nigerians, for once, would surprise the world and give dialogue a new meaning.

**Dr Ekekwe is Chairman, UniPort Weekly Editorial Board*

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has commended the Association of UniPort Contractors (AUC), for sustaining the development strides so far recorded in the University, describing members of the Association as major stakeholders in the affairs of the University.

Giving the commendation last Tuesday at the Vice-Chancellor's Committee Room during a Roundtable discussion with the Association and Senior Officers of the University, Professor Ajienka who advised them to shun sub-standard projects, assured them of Management's commitment to their welfare through prompt off-setting of their legitimate bills.

"We could work as a team to explore meaningful ways of improving our relationship as partners in the development of the University", he told them, regretting that paucity of funds had delayed prompt payment of some Contractors executing projects in the University.

Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Association, Mr Collins Amadi and Musa Yusuf, thanked the University Management for providing a platform of dialogue between the institution and the group. The duo, who also commended the

V-C Commends AUC On Dev

By Ethel Timi-Johnson

Vice-Chancellor for responding to the demands of the Association, pledged commitment to continued infrastructural development of the University.

"Our Association has resolved to continue to partner Management in ensuring that this University rates as one of the best in Africa in

terms of infrastructural development of the University," they said.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, University Bursar, Mr Vitalis Allez, Deputy Bursar, Treasury, Mrs Felicia Ayuwo, including other Executive members of AUC were also in attendance at the meeting.



V-C, Prof Ajienka (centre) addressing members of AUC and Senior Officers of the University

Shodimu Lists Pathways To Varsities' Growth



A cross section of Registry Staff

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policies to ensure their optimal implementation.

"Each institution has its set goals and objectives which are captured in the vision and mission of the University as what it aims to accomplish. The Registry as major stakeholder has the primary responsibility for the implementation of the policies of the University. A University is considered dead when the Registry is not positioned for the challenges and charges in the management of tertiary institution," he further discussed, stating that parameters of attaining the desirable and comparable goals is the adoption of universal best practices which determine the ranking of the University. He praised the University of Port Harcourt for repositioning itself for excellence. "I see UniPort excelling among others," he said.

The former Secretary of Council of Unilag, urged Registry staff to always see themselves as bridges that provide the linkage and passage that would take the University to greater heights and surmount the challenges that may confront the Registry in the university system at the turn of the century.

"The 21st Century Registry has hopes, but it is not

without obvious challenges which are surmountable with only commitment and focus. We should be optimistic only to the extent that we are all sincere to the goals and objectives of the University. Ours is call to sacrifice. Let's ensure best practices," he concluded.

Chairman of the Occasion and 2nd Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Sylvanus Cookey, congratulated the Registrar for conceiving the idea of setting aside a day for Registry Staff to celebrate and appraise their services towards the growth of the University, calling on all stakeholders, including Alumni to contribute towards making the University a Centre of Excellence in teaching, research and community services.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who emphasized the role of the Registry Department as the engine room in the administration of any university, expressed satisfaction with the Department for contributing immensely to the advancement of the University, particularly in its entrepreneurial drive under his administration.

Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, the Vice-Chancellor promised that "The University Management will continue to support the Registry Department to play

its roles in the University and it is my expectation that our Registry Department will be one of the best in the Nigerian University System in the nearest future".

Earlier, the Registrar, Mrs Matilda Nnodim, restated her commitment to reposition the Department towards effective service delivery through empowering the Staff Training and Development Unit (STDU) for training and retraining of staff and re-awakening the University branch of Association of Nigerian Universities Professional Administrators (ANUPA) to overcome the challenges militating against professionalism, mentoring and succession planning.

"We are under pressure to adopt new approaches to doing things in order to be relevant to the needs of our environment. We must display professionalism in the way we approach our jobs. We must be able to develop standards and take pride in the quality of our work. The University is becoming dynamic in its

ways of thinking and planning, and we must reposition ourselves to fit in, hence, my call for change," Mrs Nnodim said, disclosing that the Registry is partnering professional bodies such as the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM) and Personnel Practitioners Consultative Association (PPCA), using ANUPA as a platform to mount aggressive training programme of staff.

Goodwill messages were presented by the 5th Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs and Professor Benjamin Ehezue of the Faculty of Education. Highlights of the event included presentation of Awards to former Vice-Chancellors, Emeritus Professor Briggs and Professor Cookey, incumbent Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ajienka, and Registrars of sister institutions, as well as a musical performance.

Dignitaries at the event included the three Deputy Vice-Chancellors of UniPort and Registrars of Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Mrs Daba Odumabo; Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Ikem Adiele; College of Arts and Science, Mrs Georgina Benwoke; College of Education (Technical), Omoku, Mr Liverpool Onyije, while Council Officer, represented the Registrar of Niger Delta University.

Consolidating on the entrepreneurial drive of the University, the Faculty of Agriculture has commissioned a Cassava Chips Processing Machine that would enhance research efforts in food processing and technology, in addition to facilitating teaching and learning of aspects of crop processing and storage.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony, last Thursday at the Demonstration Farm, Choba Park, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Love Akonye, disclosed that the project was realized by the Faculty, following its emergence as winner of the first Inter-Faculty competition organized by the University's Entrepreneurial Center.

"This Faculty entrepreneurial project is a translation of the 1.5 million naira cash prize that was won based on the business plan presented by our student, Mr Ebi Chima", she said, commending the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Bene Willie-Abbey for initiating the competition.

Lamenting that agricultural development in Nigeria was hindered by dearth of technical capacity to handle post-harvest farm produce, Professor Akonye noted that over 50 per cent of crops harvest by farmers was lost due to lack of processing and storage facilities.

"Cassava, yam and potato chips could be produced with this machine. The dried chips could be stored for months or years, thus adding value to the harvested fresh tubers", she added, pointing out

Agric Faculty Commissions Cassava Chips Processing Machine

the dried chips could be used as feed, flour, including for industrial and pharmaceutical purposes.

In his response, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, commended the Faculty for judiciously utilizing the prize money, in addition to initiating other projects that have benefited the University and the larger society. The Vice-Chancellor advised them to put the cassava chips processing machine to effective use, charging them to partner the Faculty of Engineering on ways of improving the equipment.

By Ethel Timi-Johnson



V-C, Prof Ajienka, cutting the tape while DV-Cs (Admin and Acad) Profs Nduka and Joe, Dean, Prof Akonye, and others look on

GUIDE POST

RENEWAL OF CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Professor Alexis Monsi, Department of Animal Science and Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, granted *Renewal of Contract Appointment*, effective December 3, 2013 to December 2, 2014.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Ambrose Obiechina, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Dentistry, granted a 12-month Sabbatical Leave.

Professor Eugene Onyeike, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted a 12-month Sabbatical Leave to Federal University Otuke, effective October 14, 2013 to October 13, 2014.

Dr Otu Ekpeyong, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, granted a 12-month Sabbatical Leave.

SABBATICAL APPOINTMENT

Professor Waibinte Wariboko, Department of History and Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Education, The University of the West Indies, Mona-Kingston, Jamaica, offered a 12-month *Sabbatical Appointment*, effective on assumption of duty.

EXTENSION OF STUDY LEAVE

Dr Ugomoh Raymond, Department of Oral Pathology/Biology, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Health Sciences, granted *Extension of Study Leave*, to complete a Specialist Programme in Dentistry at Tel Aviv University, effective October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014.

STUDY LEAVE

Mrs Adanta Blessing Odogwu, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Faculty of Biological Sciences, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, granted *Study Leave with Pay* to undertake a Doctoral Programme at Makerere University, Uganda, effective October 2013 to October 2016



SSANU Chairman, Mr Syder speaking during the rally

Mgt Appeals To Unions On Earned Allowances ...Dispels Rumours Of Money Deposit

By Mercy Adeniji

Management of the University has reacted to negative insinuations that part of the money being released by the Federal Government for the payment of Earned Allowances for staff of the University may have been deposited in a Fixed Deposit Account (FDA) to yield interest for the administration. The Campus has been awash with unfounded rumours of sinister moves to delay payment of the money to staff of the University.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Ethelbert Nduka, who corrected the wrong impression, while addressing protesting members of the University of Port Harcourt Branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigeria Universities (SSANU), last Wednesday, disclosed that frantic efforts were being made by the administration to pay staff their due entitlement as specified by the Federal Government through the National Universities Commission (NUC).

"Your Chairman is a Member of the Implementation Monitoring Committee, which I Chaired on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor. That Committee concluded its assignment only last Friday. Today is only Wednesday and some staff are already alleging foul-play in the implementation process. We are aware of the 21st October deadline set by the Implementation Monitoring Committee (IMC), set up by the Federal Government for final disbursement of the money that legitimately belongs to all of us," Professor Nduka told the protesting staff, assuring them that Management would do nothing to deny staff their due entitlements under the administration of Professor Ajenka.

Professor Nduka, who expressed

dissatisfaction over the unwholesome activities of conspiracy theorists, urged the Unions-especially SSANU to disregard such wild rumours and stop peddling wrong information, stating that the administration understood the urge of staff to get the money as quickly as possible. He appealed to the Union to exercise a little more patience and bear with Management on the issue as everything possible was being done to lay the issue of Earned Allowances to rest.

"I appeal to you to still exercise patience. All of us are working as a body; I am assuring you that very, very soon, the matter would be resolved, because Chairman of the Governing Council, Chief Gesi Asamaowel, must give Executive Approval before the money can be disbursed; so, please bear with Management on the issue and refrain from rumour-mongering," he appealed.

Professor Nduka said: "We were working virtually every day to compute this Earned Allowances and because of the importance attached to this assignment, I was saddled with the responsibility of chairing the Committee. The report was only submitted on Friday and since we had to show this report to the Vice-Chancellor, who was not around due to the ongoing crisis in the university system, we had to wait for him and by Monday, Management had to look at the Report. The fact that we have gone this far shows the seriousness we attach to it; we must all show some level of understanding and be patient. Earlier, SSANU Branch Chairman, Mr Bikume Syder, had disclosed that "for more than two months now, this money had reached the University and the Committee has also completed its assignment. We have done our own bit; all we are waiting for is an alert informing us that our work is not in vain."

"We have come here so that we would hear from Management if there is any foul play somewhere. Earned Allowance is why we are here. SSANU is the most responsible Union on this Campus. We do not wish to believe that Management is looking down on the non-teaching staff, who are working day and night to keep the system afloat," he said.

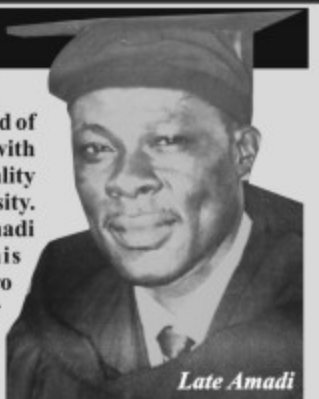
He appealed to Management to expedite action on the matter to give the Unions a sense of belonging to a system that cares for their welfare, restating the resolve of the Unions to support the administration achieve its vision and mandate.

Mr Syder expressed gratitude to Management for the understanding it has so far shown on staff welfare matters. "I know the hurdle this Committee went through and the stress we put the Management through, but having come this far, we would also want to appeal that in view of the situation and for the understanding we have shown, we hope and believe that our entitlements would be promptly paid, because the situation is very precarious," he appealed, stressing the need for Management to pay the October salary alongside the Allowances.

PASSAGE

MR BROWN AMADI

The death has been announced of Mr Brown C. Amadi, a staff with the Quality Assurance/Quality Control Unit of the University. The remains of Late Mr Amadi were laid to rest in his hometown, Anaka Ogbogoro Community in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State on Saturday, 2nd November, 2013.



Late Amadi

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT OBSERVATORY

FORECAST FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER, 3 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER, 9, 2013

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI LO (°C)	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTIO N	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND UNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 03, NOV, 2013	33.0 24.0	70	NE	21.1	6:17 6:14	Heavy rain expected. Mostly cloudy and hot day anticipated.
MONDAY, 04, NOV, 2013	32.0 24.0	70	NE	10.1	6:17 6:14	Thunder storms expected. Mostly cloudy and hot day predicted.
TUESDAY 05, NOV, 2013	33.0 24.0	71	NE	28.1	6:17 6:14	Heavy rain predicted. Mostly cloudy and hot day anticipated.
WEDNESDAY 06, NOV, 2013	32.0 23.0	73	N	5.1	6:18 6:13	Thunder storms expected early. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
THURSDAY 07, NOV, 2013	32.0 23.0	74	NE	2.8	6:18 6:13	Thunder s torms expected late in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day anticipated.
FRIDAY 08, NOV, 2013	32.0 23.0	75	NE	6.3	6:18 6:13	Thunder storms expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
SATURDAY 09, NOV, 2013	32.0 23.0	75	NE	6.4	6:18 6:13	Isolated thunder storms forecasted. Mostly cloudy and warm day predicted.

SANDRA NWABUFO
OFFICER IN CHARGE

PROF SAMUEL AROKOYU
DIRECTOR, (CDRMS)

Commissioning Of Offices For Writers-In-Residence

Writers-in-Residence; Gabriel Okara, Elechi Amadi and Ifeanyi Aniebo, took possession of their offices at the Institute of Arts & Culture, Delta Park on Monday, 14th October, 2013. **WILLIAMS WODI** captured highlights of the epoch-making ceremony as shown in the pictures below:



Dr Elechi Amadi, Wife, Dr Preye and Director, Institute of Arts & Culture, Prof Julie Okoh



Dr Amadi, Aniebo & Dr Gabriel Okara



R-L: Dr Elechi Amadi, Wife, Preye, Miesolunma Minima, & Chairman Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), Rivers State, Obinna Nwodin



Prof Okoh cutting the tape to commission the offices on behalf of V-C, Prof Joseph Ajiienka while Amadi looks on



R-L: Aniebo, Okara, Paul Nalley of ANA, Deputy Reg (IPPR) Williams Wodi and Prof Okoh



Aniebo in his newly-commissioned office



Amadi in his newly-commissioned office



Okara in his newly-commissioned office



L-R: Nalley, Adiaela Onyedibia and Minima



L-R: Okara, Seiyifa Koroye, Onyedibia and Nalley



Nwodin, Nalley and Minima all of ANA, Rivers State

Prof Okoh handing over copies of current issues of Unique UniPort & UniPort Weekly publications to the Writers-in-Residence