



UniPort Promises Improved Book Fair

As the third annual Book Fair in the University came to an end last Monday, Chairman, University Library Board, Professor Bene Willie Abbey, has promised an improved fair in future, reports *Humphrey Ogu*.

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Side Bar

Foremost novelist and Writer-in-Residence, Dr Elechi Amadi marks 80th birthday with a conference at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium today. Details next week. -Editor



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Minister Tasks INRES On Agric Sector Dev ...As Institute Inducts Pioneer Graduates



By Obinna Nwodin

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr Akinwunmi Adesina, has charged the Institute of Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainable Development (INRES), University of Port Harcourt to adopt measures that would enable it key into the Agricultural Transformation Agenda of the Goodluck Jonathan administration to assist in

meeting the objectives for which it is set up.

Dr Adesina gave the charge while delivering a keynote address at the 2nd Niger Delta Conference and maiden Induction of Master of Science graduates organized by the Institute at the Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, last Monday.

The Minister, who was represented by Regional Director, South-South of the Ministry, Mr Martin Odey, outlined the

steps initiated by the Federal Government in attaining food security in Nigeria. He advised "INRES to domesticate this noble declaration in its region, through well articulated programmes which will be embraced by rural dwellers, the political class, company executives and banks in the region.

"We must team up to develop new solutions to our economic predicaments.

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Agribiz Enhance Project Trains Staff On Entrepreneurship

As a way of building capacity and reputation for the Faculty of Agriculture for effective service delivery, Agribiz Enhance Project has trained staff of the Faculty on various entrepreneurial skills. The one-day training, which has "Agribusiness Enhancement for Entrepreneurial Agriculturists" as its theme took place at the International Students' Centre, University Park, last Tuesday. Declaring the training open, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajekwa charged staff of Faculty of Agriculture to put into practice the knowledge and skills acquired enable them contribute to the growth of the University.

Represented by the Director, Centre for Research Management, Professor Okeywale Akaranta, the Vice-Chancellor commended the Faculty of Agriculture for organizing the training for staff, stating that the dream of the University is to raise students who will see Agriculture as a business, not just as a course that end at the theoretical level.

He lamented that Agriculture in Nigeria has always been at a very low level, saying that the training aimed at taking Agriculture to a better level of productivity. Also speaking, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Ekanem Wokema, described the event as an international workshop aimed at building capacity and enhancing the ability of staff to deliver service not only to the students, but to the community and nation.

"We would observe that the emphasis of the Agribusiness project is basically to enable us position ourselves to be able to pass on the professional knowledge that we have to



Dean, Faculty of Agric, Prof Bolanle Arewa, Director, Centre for Research & Management, Prof Okeywale Akaranta, Faculty Officers, Mrs Christy Nwosu, Project Leader, Dr Adesope and other participants posing for a group photograph

By Mercy Adeniji and Friday Marcus

students, who will in turn pass it on to the next generation. We also should be able to position ourselves as agribusiness persons," she noted.

"We in the Faculty of Agriculture are the people who own the economy, we may not recognize it that way, but with the Federal Government's Agricultural Transformation Agenda, the country is now waking up, so people are now beginning to look at us as people with a solution, so we must rise and position ourselves," Professor Wokema added.

In his contribution, Project Leader Dr Olufermi Adesope, said the training is to sensitize technical and academic staff of the Faculty on the need to see agriculture as a business.

"We should stop seeing agriculture as a subsistence activity aimed at just producing food for consumption, we should go beyond that, we should see how we can have multiplier effect in different areas of Agriculture. We are

here to have a mixture of resource persons from the Faculty of Education, Agriculture and Management Sciences. We want to have a re-orientation, so we can be better teachers as we would be able to relate with people better within and outside this environment," he said.

Dr Adesope, who is Associate Dean of the Faculty, disclosed that the essence of the programme is for Faculty to be part of the Transformation Agenda of the Federal Government and also to lay into the entrepreneurial drive of the University. "We are already working out modalities to join others to mark the World Food Day; we want to deliver our services to the immediate community," he added.

The event featured presentation of papers titled: "Agriculture Cluster Mapping Development: A Lesson for Faculty of Agriculture"; by Dr Emmanuel Nwokolo, "Social Entrepreneurship: As a tool for Promoting of Agriculture", by Mr Eniola Taiwo, and *Entrepreneurship Education for Effective Agribusiness Orientation* by Professor Bolanle Arewa.

STUDENT WORLD

Addiction To Home Videos Jeopardizes Academic Success ~Eme-Okabie

Justice Eme-Okabie, a Final Year Student in the Department of Educational Foundation, Faculty of Education, is concerned with tackling problems of poor performance among pupils in primary and secondary schools in Nigeria. He spoke to HUMPHREY OGU on his research focus and his experience in the University.

Worried by spate of poor performance among pupils in primary and secondary schools in Nigeria, Justice Eme-Okabie decided to study the influence of home videos on the moral and academic performance of pupils with a view to checking the ugly trend.

To achieve this, Eme-Okabie chose to work on "The Effect of Home Videos on the Moral and Academic Performance of Secondary School Students", as his final year project. "The Project is geared towards finding out the effect of home videos popularly known as the academic of students in schools and solution to the that arise from explained.

"Some of the negative effects of home videos on students discovered in my research include usage of vulgar words learnt in such movies in their everyday conversation, forming and joining secret cult groups, indecent dressing, and even indulging in prostitution," he explained, stressing that the aforementioned vices have negative effects on the students' reading life as most students waste all their time watching movies rather than reading their books.

"My research finding shows that 90 per cent of students in the schools studied are addicted to home videos, not minding if it is rated or not. This has negative impact on their studies," he disclosed, emphasising the need for parental guidance.

"Parents should be able to control what their children watch in terms of films," he said, revealing that what children see and hear affects their cognitive domain and shape their behaviour. He urged parents and guardians to ensure that their wards and children watch only films that would inspire and educate them.

Eme-Okabie disclosed that one of his findings was that there are local government councils and community development agencies that built video houses as part of their developmental projects, advising such councils and community development agencies to stop building film halls as development project.

"If they must build film houses they should be dedicated to educational movies that would enhance students academic performance," he said, calling on corporate bodies and individuals to

sponsor seminars to enlighten the youths on the dangers of devoting too much time to home videos at the expense of their studies.

Eme-Okabie, who regretted that videos are no longer rated these days, observed that "even if they are rated, video CD sellers and renters still go ahead to sell or rent video films to every available customer, irrespective of age," adding that "Movie vendors also a major role to play in the fight against distribution of rated videos; they should be mindful of the ages of children who patronise them as this will go a long way in ensuring that such videos don't get into the hands of underage children."

Eme-Okabie, whose ambition is to acquire postgraduate degrees, become an educational policymaker and serve as an adviser to government at the state or federal level in future, expressed gratitude to his supervisor Dr Ezema Kalu for her thorough supervision.



Eme-Okabie

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Chairman Library Board, Prof Willie Obayi (4th from right), University Librarian, Dr Nwodo, Chairman Book Fair Planning Committee, Mr Philip Afolabi and some of the book vendors

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Speaking during the closing ceremony of the weeklong event at the foyer of the Donald Ekong Library, Professor Abhey stated that the next edition of the Fair would be held in February to forestall challenges posed by the rains and ensure better patronage as staff and students would be on ground to patronize the book vendors, without having any major academic activity such as examination competing for their attention.

Also speaking, the University Librarian, Dr Obiageli Nwodo, who described book fair as a harvest time for staff and students, lauded the book vendors for honouring her invitation each time they were invited to participate in the University Book Fair since the inception of the

UniPort Promises Improved Book Fair ...Vendors Laud Initiative

annual event two years ago.

"Library is the warehouse of knowledge and Book Fair is time of harvest and celebration of books and knowledge. We appreciate the presence of the book vendors, who have been responding to our invitations. We also wish to thank and encourage you to feel free to come to Port Harcourt, which by the way, is the World Book Capital for 2014 and participate in the celebration of books. There would be many activities centred on books throughout the year," she said.

On his part, a book vendor and Managing Director, Sprout Books Limited, Lagos, Bede

some lecturers were not aware of the book and students were so busy with their exams," advising the organisers of the Fair to improve publicity through distribution of handbills and advert on radio.

In her contribution, Managing Director, Exquisite Shopping Plaza, Lagos, Mrs Dorothy Esinau, who described the Fair as a well-organised and worthwhile event, stressed the need to fix the next year's edition of the Book Fair outside examination period to enable students and lecturers participate in it, expressing hope that the fair will continue to improve every year.

V-C Tasks Anatomy Students On New Technologies

By Nneke Oyeenkeu and Othman Samuel

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajenika, has charged students of Anatomy to embrace the use of new technologies that would assist them advance the services they render to various clientele in the country to enable them match their counterparts elsewhere in the world.

Professor Ajenika, who gave the charge last Wednesday, while declaring open the 7th Annual National Conference of the Anatomical Students Society of Nigeria (ASSON) tagged: "Unleash 2014" at the College Hall in Ofirima Complex, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, University Park, expressed optimism that the future anatomists in the country would do exceptionally well if they sustain the idea of gathering together at conferences to brainstorm on developments in the field.

Represented by Dean, Graduate School of Arts, Education and Social Sciences, Professor Martin Iborach, the Vice-Chancellor, who declared the conference open, wished the participants successful deliberations.

In his address, President, UniPort Chapter of ASSON, Etem Jamike recalled that the students' wing of the Society's Conference started eight years back with the aim of inculcating the culture of academic excellence and spirit of oneness amongst students of various institutions.

"Permit me to bring to your knowledge that the field of Anatomy has a prestigious history and it is considered to be the most prominent of the biological sciences of the 19th

and early 20th centuries. Anatomy teaching has perhaps the longest history of any component of formalized medical education. The anatomy that was once considered unattractive has come to be the chief cornerstone as it is called father of medicine and all branches of medicine depends on the knowledge of human anatomy, physiology and biochemistry," Mr Jamike said.

The President, who commended parent bodies such as the Anatomical Society of Nigeria (ASN) and Society of Experimental and Clinical Anatomists of Nigeria (SECAN) for exposing them to the world of anatomy, appealed to his colleagues to avail themselves of opportunity provided by the Conference to enrich their knowledge of the discipline.

"Let us see this Conference as a reason to believe

that the future of human anatomy study is great as we scale through rubbing of minds in knowing the current trends in anatomical research. We hope that at the end of this Conference, we will all go home with more satisfaction of our choice in the anatomical world," he added.

Highlights of the event, which had "Current Trends in Anatomical Development: Relevance in Nigeria Society" as its theme, were paper presentations by former Provosts, College of Health Science in Delta State University, Abraka and University of Port Harcourt, Professors Patrick Igbigbi and Blessing Didia, respectively, Head of Morphological Anatomy, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, Professor Amadi Ihuewo and Dr B.U. Enalibe. The Conference featured exhibitions and launching of the Society's magazine.



Human Anatomy Students at the Conference

Arts Institute Rolls Out New Programmes

Institute of Arts and Culture has announced the sale of application forms for new programmes in Drama (Ola Rotimi School), Photography (Jonathan Adagba Green School), Film and Video Production, Colours, Dance, Music and Fashion & Clothing Technology.

A memo obtained from office of the Registrar disclosed that the duration for Diploma programmes in the various specializations would be twenty four months in six trimesters, while Certificate programmes would last for 12 months in three trimesters.

A minimum of five Credit passes at Senior School Certificate Examination including English Language obtained at not more than two sittings is needed as requirement for the Diploma programmes. For the Certificate programme, a minimum of three Credit passes is required, but a Pass in English Language is conceded for Drama, Film & Video Production and Dance.

Ola Rotimi School, according to the memo, would train students in resources management skills which are needed in artistic packaging of entertainment with emphasis on aesthetic, customer satisfaction and cost effectiveness.

"The specializations vary from Projects in Nigerian Theatre History and Community Theatre to the Theatre Artist as Entrepreneur with specialization in Acting, Directing, Make-up/Costume Arts, Choreography, Technical Theatre, Theatre Management and Educational Theatre," the memo further disclosed, adding that the School would focus on entrepreneurial education and self-reliance with emphasis on professional practice in contemporary Nigeria.

According to the information, courses offered are: Set Design, Costume Design and Construction, Light Design, Playwriting for Stage, Radio and Screen, Acting, Directing, Theatre Management, Prop Design, Educational Theatre and Theatre Production.

Similarly, the Jonathan Adagba Green School is

By Otiok Samuel

designed to train interested candidates to gain professional knowledge in photography within a formal academy with focus on a highly developed sense of aesthetic judgement in the choices and preferences.

"It is also expected that beneficiaries of the programme will be self-employable on graduation, such that they can earn a living in the vocation by running their own photography studio or work as professionals in paid employments within specialist engagements or niche in photography," the memo further disclosed, stating that the School would offer courses in Portraiture and Imaging, Wedding Photography, Fashion Photography, Documentary and Environmental Photography, Art Photography, Sports Photography and Macro Photography.

For Film and Video Production, courses to be offered include: Acting for Film and Video Medium, Film and Video Production, Introduction to Documentary Film Production, Costume Design and Construction for Film and Video Production, Studio Equipment and Management, Film and Video Techniques, Screen Writing, and Film Marketing and Distribution. Colours, which has Traditional Art, Digital Art, Applied Design and Communication, Drawing, Digital Photography, Figure Drawing, Painting, Event Management, Flower Design/Decoration, Make-up and Fashion Design as courses, was listed as one of the new programmes.

For Dance, the memo stated: "This programme is designed to train students as professional dancers such that on graduation, they can earn a living by running their own dancing groups, outfits and studios." Courses to be offered would cover Nigerian Dances, Modern Dances, American Musical Dance, Hip Hop, Jazz Dance, Tap Dance, Classical Ballet and Asian Dances. Courses are also listed for Music and Fashion & Clothing Technology for the emergent programmes in the Institute which would be domiciled in the College of

Continuing Education (CCE). Interested applicants are advised to log on to ccan.artsport.edu.ng, click on 'register' to sign up and print payment slip to enable them make payment of N10,000 in any of UniPort-Choiba (U/C) Micro Finance Bank, United Bank for Africa (UBA), First Bank Plc and Fidelity Bank Plc.



Director, Institute of Arts & Culture, Prof Julie Okoh

UniPort To Host SSANU Zonal Meeting

By Mercy Adeniji

University of Port Harcourt would play host to South-South delegates for a Zonal meeting of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) to discuss issues bothering on the welfare of members in the zone.

The meeting is slated for Thursday, 15th May, 2014.

Branch Chairman of SSANU, Mr Bikume Syder, who made the disclosure to *UniPort Weekly*, penultimate Friday, said "The South-South representatives of the various universities in the geopolitical zone would meet in UniPort on a consultative basis to deliberate on various issues concerning members."

According to Mr Bikume, 11 universities in the zone, including Ambrose Alli University, Ekpemka; University of Benin; Delta State University; Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun; University of Port Harcourt; Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt; Ignatius Ajuru University of Education; Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State; University of Calabar; Cross River State University of Technology, Calabar and University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, are working hard to ensure that they have a zone carved out specifically for them.

"We have some issues of common interest and the target is to see how a zone can be formed out of this area, so we can best serve the interest of universities in the nation. We are inviting some past national officers of the Union that fall within this zone, such as the former National Vice-President, Comrade Samuel Oghwanda among others," the Chairman added, revealing that a committee has been set up at the executive level to work out ways of ensuring a successful hosting.

In a related development, SSANU UniPort also held a Congress last month to brief members on Earned Allowance and the 13th Month Salary promised by Management of the University. "The struggle back at home is at a low ebb; we are still awaiting the release of more funds from the

Federal Government so we tried to inform Congress to be patient. When we get a green light on this, we would inform our members," Bikume said, adding that Management has fixed a new date to iron out issues relating to the 13th Month Salary.

"As the Chairman of the Union, we sought a mandate from Congress and they charged us to pass a letter to Management and the following day we received a memo that a new date has been fixed and we are hoping that the committee would be able to do its work and workers would smile at the end of the day," Mr Syder disclosed.

Speaking further on the welfare of staff, Mr Bikume disclosed that the Union has been fulfilling its obligations to the members. "As a union, we ensure that for every colleague we lose, the union executive and the welfare board pay a condolence visit to the family of the deceased member and at the end of the day, we work with the family on the burial modalities and we are well represented at the burial ceremonies, we also ensure that their entitlements are paid promptly," he said.

The Chairman revealed that the Union has released a new welfare package, as it has entered into partnership with First City Monument Bank Plc (FCMB). "The Bank is partnering SSANU UniPort to roll out a credit facility that will enable members actualize their welfare dreams by owning properties and do many other things they wish to do which their daily income would not provide," he disclosed, adding that the new package with the lowest interest rate in the around would not require members to open new account or change their pay point.

He thanked Management for its support so far, appealing for continued support through dialogue with the Union to foster a good working relationship to meet organizational goals.



Mr Syder

Authorities of the University of Port Harcourt have expressed willingness to collaborate with the Federal Road Safety Commission in the training of its personnel as well as other fleet operators.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka gave the assurance when he received a delegation of the Corps who paid him a courtesy visit in his office last Wednesday.

Professor Ajienka said that the University was experienced in collaborations with the industry adding that "we want you to be actively involved not as customers but as partners. We would like you to be involved in the curriculum development, with the requisite professional experience you have."

The Vice-Chancellor also disclosed that the University runs a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) in Security Management at the University of Port Harcourt Business School which also has American Security certification, noting that "we can do quite a lot together in such a way that it would be mutually beneficial to both organizations." He pointed out that what is required is for a Memorandum of Understanding to be drawn so that the partnership can commence.

In his speech, Leader of the delegation and Assistant Corps Marshall in charge of Policy, Research and Statistics, Dr Kayode Olanuga, said that they were in the University to seek ways of collaborating in collaborations with similar institutions such as Ahmadu Bello

UniPort To Partner FRSC In Manpower Dev

By Obinna Nwodin

University, Zaria and the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria.

He stated that by working with the Centre, they would be able to achieve the expertise through the training of their personnel. "We believe that with the Centre, we should be able to have the curricula for the training of our personnel for effective and efficient service delivery," adding that the Corps would also rely on the University in the areas of research to improve its activities.



V-C, Prof Ajienka (centre) flanked by the FRSC team and some Senior Officers of the University

Alapiki, Iyagba, Emenike Mourn Pedro

Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Henry Alapiki, Faculty Officer, Mrs Flora Iyagba and Acting Head, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Dr Gladys Emenike, paid tributes to Dr Pedro Afefeshi. Below are excerpts of their tributes to the promising young academic, whose life was cut short at the prime of his career.

Tribute In Honour Of Late Dr Pedro Afefeshi

Benjamin Franklin gives us a good opinion on the phenomenon of death when he said: "It is the will of God and Nature that these mortal bodies be laid aside, when the soul is to enter into real life; it's rather an embryo state, a preparation for living. A man is not completely born until he is dead. Why then should we grieve that a new child is born among the immortals?"

Benjamin Franklin, February 22, 1758.

In spite of the opinion expressed by Benjamin Franklin above, the Faculty of Social Sciences is in grief as we mourn the death of our departed colleague, Dr Pedro Afefeshi was a good man, a friend to all. He always wears a charming smile, a jolly good fellow. The demise of Dr Pedro Afefeshi is a painful loss to the University of Port Harcourt. We were lucky to have watched him from the Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RUSt), where he was a key staff

and specialist in Hydrology.

Dr Pedro had over ten (10) publications in National and International Journals. He has fifteen (15) unpublished research works and about forty (40) technical reports. From 2008 when he obtained a PhD in Environmental Management, Dr Pedro has served as a Consultant to the Rivers State Government, Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), African Development Bank (ADB), NIDIC, ASCON, NDES, CONSID, NSPC, NAOC, TOTALL, PHCN, ELF Petroleum, NNG and Ministry of Works, Infrastructure.

The Faculty of Social Sciences has lost a sound scholar. He had a very bright future. Dr Pedro was an epitome of brilliance and dedication to work. In our grief, death leaves a heartache no one can heal; yet love leaves a memory no one can steal. Because Dr Pedro was a good friend to all good people, no one can take away his pleasant memory from us. In the words of Thomas Campbell, "To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die". The pleasant memory of Dr Pedro Afefeshi will not die in our hearts.

Adieu our great Comrade,
Professor Henry Alapiki
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences

Exit Of A Good Man – Afefeshi, Edeobayokha Enosa Pedro (Ph.D)

They say Good People don't last long. This is true for Dr Pedro Afefeshi. Dr Afefeshi, first came to University of Port Harcourt in 1986 as a student of Geography. He graduated in 1990, did his MSc, and bettered his life. Then came back in 2010 as a Lecturer in the same department he left 20 years earlier. As a student, Pedro could be described as a mother hen that protects her own. He was always there to stand for and protect his friends.

When he came back, Pedro did not change rather he came back better. He always had a smile on his face, ready to give a helping hand at any time you called on him, ready to share his time, talent, and money when you meet him. Dependable and forthcoming, give Pedro an assignment, you can be rest assured that he will deliver.

Always ready to teach and share his knowledge with you joyfully, Pedro was a friend to all, both teaching and non-teaching staff in the entire Faculty, students inclusive. He was always ready to help a needy student.

Also speaking, Director of the Centre, Professor Osi Akpanonah, who thanked the authorities for the support given the Centre, expressed optimism that the collaboration would yield the desired results.

Other members of the Team were: Corps Commander and Head of Sector Manpower Development, Mr Samuel Obyem; Corps Commander, Rivers State Sector Command; Sunday Oghenekara, and Sector Legal Officer RS 6.1 River representing Corps Legal Officer, Henry Dike.

Oh what about the Security Guards in the Faculty? He touched their lives too. He was a blessing to many in the Faculty, especially the younger ones, the testimonials abound everywhere.

Pedro was an encourager par excellence, he looked at you and knew if you were happy or not, and was ready to say a word of encouragement or make you laugh. He was not very rich, yet gave scholarship to at least twenty (20) students cutting across Faculties/Colleges. He abhorred corruption, "soring", or "suppression" of students. A defender of the defenceless, Pedro was kind-hearted and caring.

His passion for his family was formidable, when he talked about his wife, you could see love and respect, and his children, you would see joy and gladness.

A wise man, a good man. What more can we say but to thank the Lord for the gift of Pedro to pass through University of Port Harcourt, the Faculty of Social Sciences as a Lecturer, with so much wealth of knowledge in his area that has benefited the entire Faculty and University.

He was a bright and shiny star with great potentials to succeed in his field of study. He was not loud, but just a "simple" man that just passed through with just a smile on his face. Who will be remembered for what he had done, his wife, you will surely be remembered by his brother, my friend for all your good deeds, we shall miss you.

Who can question God? No one. Pedro was an example to emulate. PEE, you were too good and too young to die; but we thank God for giving you to us for this short time. It is not how long you live, but how well you lived. And as Christians, we say, see you later.

Mrs. Flora I. Iyagba,
Faculty Officer, Social Sciences.

Tribute To A Rare Gem

Dr Pedro like we used to call you. Your death came like a bombshell to us when we heard of your sudden departure from the green environment.

Your departure from this sinful world is a big loss not only to the Department of Geography & Environmental Management, but to the entire humanity. Though death is inevitable, let us be comforted with the fact that when Dr Pedro was on earth, he was a caring father, husband, mentor, leader, teacher, achiever and a true philanthropist to everyone that came in contact with him.

The students under your scholarship will miss you greatly; the Department will miss your invaluable contributions and the University, your service.

Your uniqueness as a Lecturer and Consultant is what everyone craved for, your kind and giving gesture will be greatly missed.

We pray that the Almighty God will continue to give your family the fortitude to bear this loss.

Adieu Dr. Pedro
Dr Gladys Emenike
Ag. ADO, GEM



Late Dr Pedro

Minister Tasks INRES On Agric Dev



Some of the Inductees taking the Oath

Cont'd from p1

We must turn to agriculture from petrochemical wealth because it is more sustainable and can accommodate more persons in the employ of the value chains. The national ATA-Nigeria can be achieved by INRES if there is team work and trust," he said.

The Minister, who advised that INRES to co-opt the favour of political leadership to contribute financially to investment in agriculture, said that the objectives of ATA-Nigeria was to ensure food security, create jobs for millions of teeming youths, create value chain for commodities, adding that Nigeria has comparative advantage. He stressed the need for a change the perception of agriculture as a development project, while ensuring that it is embraced by Nigerians as business.

In his remarks, Chairman of the occasion and Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Power, Dr Godwinny Igbu, who was represented by the General Manager, Niger Delta Basin Development Authority (NDBDA), Engineer Matthew Alera,

praised the efforts of the Institute in producing manpower that would tackle the challenges in the environment.

"It is important to state that the objective of setting up a university is to tackle the developmental challenges in the environment and I am glad that that is what the Institute is doing," Dr Igbu, who is also the Chairman of the Governing Board of the Institute pledged his continued support.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, who said that the Institute was established to cultivate graduates that would take responsibility for the natural resources in the environment, particularly in the Niger Delta region, stated that the Institute was currently in partnership with the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

He thanked the MacArthur Foundation, the Ministry of External Affairs, Dr Igbu, NUC Distinguished Scholar, Professor Chidi Ibe, for the support they have so far given the Institute to achieve its mandate.

Performing the Induction, President of the Nigeria

Environmental Society (NES), Engineer Auda Wai-Ogusu, who commended the Institute for the feat, charged the Inductees to be motivated by the challenges by the environment. He noted that the country was bedevilled by so many challenges that required professionals to tackle for the benefit of the society. A total of 22 graduates were inducted into the Nigeria Environmental Society and NREF.

Goodwill messages were presented by the Directorate for Technical Corporation in Africa (DTCA), Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency (NHISA), National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), Manager Ogoni Restoration Project, SFDC, Port Harcourt.

In her speech, the Best Graduating Student, Mrs Chikaadina Nbo, thanked both the authorities of the University and Management of the Institute for the knowledge imparted to them, promising to utilize the knowledge acquired for the improvement of the society.

The event, which also featured a symposium, had Professor Vincent Idemeye of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Mr Tammy Jaja, Manager Senghai Farms, Bunu Tai, Mr Ibraheem Mili: Commissioner for Environment, Bayelsa State, Dr W. Sapasek of INTERGEO, Austria and Mr Chris Nzeanya, who represented the Director General of NHISA in attendance. Highlights of the event included public presentation of the maiden edition of *EnvironGeology* magazine of the Stanley Lawson Chair of Environmental Geology.

Two renowned scholars, Professor Mary Steen of the University of Chester and Professor Chris Imafidon of the Cambridge University delivered a public Lecture at the Ebitimi Banjo Auditorium, University of Port Harcourt, last Wednesday.

Speaking on the topic: "Making of a Normal Birth", Professor Steen, who stated that the essence of the Lecture was to promote normal child birth through the upright sitting posture, noted that lying horizontally during childbirth was fashionable in Europe in the 17th Century, pointing out that it has caused a lot of negative consequences in the process of childbirth. Professor Steen, who said that her research area is the care and consequences of perinatal trauma after childbirth, stated that the upright sitting position should be embraced as it makes it easier and more comfortable for the woman under labour to get to bed. "There are significant advantages in assuming upright position in labour and child birth," she said.

In his Lecture entitled: "A University in the 21st Century for Sustainable Development," Professor Imafidon, who said that education remains the biggest intractable problem of any nation, charged staff and students to strive towards achieving the best in whatever they do, stating that the capacity to achieve any feat was present in every God-created being and that what makes the difference is the ability to discover that the individual was capable of doing anything he wants to.

Professor Imafidon said that with the increasing use of Information Communication Technology, a lot can be achieved, adding that there was need to imbibe modern ways of acquiring

knowledge through information technology.

The Guest Lecturer, who is rated as one of the most influential scholars in social media, said that the University of Port Harcourt stands a great chance of towering above other universities in Nigeria in intellectual excellence. According to him, every single student that comes from Port Harcourt has to be different from others. "We need to work until we assume a position of leadership in the country of educational institutions in the country," he added.

In his address, Chairman of the occasion and Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Joseph

Ajienka, who described the Lecture as an international event commended the Lecturers for the presentations. He said that they were both enlightening and encouraging.

The Vice-Chancellor, who lauded Professor Steen for sensitising the audience to accept change joyfully, announced the appointment of Professor Imafidon as a Visiting Professor to the University, stating that with such calibre of intellectuals, the University would be the Centre of Knowledge in the country.

Highlights of the event were endorsement of a Professorial Chair in Midwifery to be called Professor Mary Steen Professorial Chair in Midwifery by Friends of Dr Faith Dierga and decoration of the Guest Lecturers with the University Medallions.



V-L, Prof. Ajienka (middle), flanked by Prof. William Macwell and Imafidon (2nd and 3rd from left) and Prof. Steen and Roseline Kwana at the Lecture

GUIDEPOST

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT

Dr Adokye George, offered Temporary Appointment as Lecturer I in Patience Jonathan Centre for Gender Studies/Foreign Languages & Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr Eneanya Mbanaf, offered Temporary Appointment as Associate Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr Dele Adegbola, offered Temporary Appointment as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures, Faculty of Humanities, effective on assumption of duty.

Dr Biboba Orubebe, offered Temporary Appointment as Lecturer I in the Faculty of Law, effective on assumption of duty.

Chika Nwankwo, offered Temporary Appointment as Assistant Lecturer in the School of Science Laboratory Technology, effective on assumption of duty.

Mr Ibrahim Saburu, offered Temporary Appointment as Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Religious and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, effective on assumption of duty.

RESUMPTION OF DUTY

Professor Augustine Abia, Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, College of Natural and Applied Sciences, assumes duty from Sabbatical Leave, effective 1st April, 2014.

SABBATICAL LEAVE

Professor Lawrence Odeh, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Science, proceeds on Sabbatical Leave to Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, effective 1st April, 2014 to 31st March, 2015. Dr Dakuru Charles-Granville, Director, Personnel Affairs, Registry Department, proceeds on Sabbatical Leave to Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, effective 1st April, 2014 to 31st March, 2015.

V-C Praises Science W'shop Trainees, Promises More Equipment



V-C, Prof Ajienka (1st right), Prof Bene Willie Abbey and Director, Science and Engineering Workshop, Prof Etebu inspecting facilities at the Workshop

By Othor Samuel

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, has praised Technologists in the Faculty of Productions, Power Systems and Communication Engineering in the College of Engineering and Science and Engineering Workshop, who underwent a four-day intensive training programme at the Science and

Engineering Workshop.

Professor Ajienka, who made the remarks when he led some Senior Officers of the University on a visit to the Workshop, commended the collaborative effort of Management of the Workshop and the Faculty. He directed the Director, Professor Onogbiri Etebu, to contact the Department of Petroleum Engineering for more training equipment.

The Vice-Chancellor, who was optimistic that some of the equipment lying idle in the laboratories would now be put to effective use, expressed satisfaction with the enthusiasm shown by the trainees who sacrificed the opportunity of enjoying the Easter Holidays with their families for the training.

Speaking further with *UniPort Weekly* correspondents in her office at Choba Park, last Tuesday, Director of the Workshop, Professor Etebu, said train-the-trainer session was followed by another intensive in-house training which would last for a month.

According to the Director, the in-house training would assist in the mastery of the equipment, including paraphernalia on autotronics, mechatronics, electronics and communications systems. "We are embarking on the in-house training so that our technologists will master the equipment before we seek applications for youth training programme to produce middle-level manpower," she said, disclosing that the University had designed an academic syllabus for the programme.

"While the roadside skill training programme don't take sound theoretical syllabus into consideration, we looked inward to harness what we have and designed manuals to meet both theoretical and practical skills," Professor Etebu, who had shared similar experience at the National Directorate of Employment said, disclosing that relevant information was obtained from the Trade Test syllabus to formulate the syllabus for the Workshop.

"The skill will enable the beneficiaries to be self-sufficient to fend for themselves and families. It will validate the axiom that when you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day, but when you teach a man how to fish, you feed him throughout lifetime," she added, commending the Acting Head of Department, Mechatronics Engineering, Dr Tobin Briggs, for providing some staff of his Department as resource persons. Meanwhile, Dr Briggs had suggested that beneficiaries of the training should be empowered to render quality services to their respective Departments, rather than being posted out to where they would not be useful.

SERVICOM CORNER

WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS/CLIENTS OWE US

- >We expect our customers/clients to give us maximum co-operation to serve them better.
- >We expect our staff and stakeholders to be patient with us in challenging situations.
- >We expect the management of the University to explore all avenues to ensure that service delivery is commensurate with investments.
- >We expect the Federal, State and other government authorities to adequately fund the University system to enable us function effectively.
- >We expect patronage from our customers/client to enable us remain in business.
- >We expect opinion pool (suggestions) to serve you better.
- >We expect regular consultation/dialogues in issues of mutual interests and benefits

NOTICE: The Chairman of the Service Window in the General Studies Unit is Dr. Ekin O. A., and not Mr. Lucky Ajor. Servicem Corner published in the UniPort Weekly of April 28 – May 5, 2014, referred.

STOP PRESS CONGRESS ON COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

The Centre for Children Development and Communication Disorders organizes its 5th Congress with the theme: "Unlocking Potentials for Total Childhood Development: A Guaranteed Future" holding on Tuesday, 13th May, 2014 at Ebbitimi Baniga Auditorium, University Park. A memo issued by Director of the Centre, Professor Shirley Yul-Hofe, disclosed that the auspicious occasion is expected to be attended by the Governor of Rivers State, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi as Special Guest of Honour, Abalo Tonyo Graham-Douglas and Mrs Fifi E. Ejindu as Guests of Honour, while Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Ajienka, would declare the ceremony open as Chief Host.

Contact: Dr. Angela Frank Briggs on 08033092885 or Prof. Onyewuchi Akaranta on 08033845642.

ALEX IBRU LEGACY LECTURE

The opening ceremony of the Second Alex Ibru Legacy Lecture Series with the theme: "The Audacity of the Pen in a Challenging Environment" would hold on Thursday, 15th May, 2014 at Ebbitimi Baniga Auditorium, University Park. The Keynote Address would be delivered by National Co-ordinator, ACCE, Professor Danjuma Gambo. Time is 10am.

Contact: Chair Occupant, Professor Shirley Yul-Hofe (08033254813); Chairman, Local Organizing Committee, Dr Walter Thejirika (08034903041).

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MGT WEATHER OBSERVATORY FOR PORT HARCOURT AND ENVIRONS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 11-SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2014

DATE	TEMPERATURE HI	TEMPERATURE LO	HUMIDITY (%)	WIND DIRECTION	RAIN (mm)	SUNRISE AND SUNSET (am) (pm)	SUMMARY
SUNDAY, 11 May, 2014	36.0	25.0	61	E	1.9	6.19 18.38	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
MONDAY, 12 May, 2014	35.0	26.0	64	NE	4.9	6.18 18.38	Thunderstorm expected late in the day breaks of sun anticipated.
TUESDAY, 13 May, 2014	30.0	25.0	82	NE	4.8	6.18 18.38	Widely scattered thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day expected.
WEDNESDAY 14 May, 2014	33.0	25.0	66	N	-	6.18 18.38	Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
THURSDAY, 15 May, 2014	33.0	24.0	73	N	18.9	6.18 18.38	Strong thunderstorm expected. Partly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
FRIDAY, 16 May, 2014	31.0	24.0	80	NE	15.1	6.18 18.39	Thunderstorm expected. Mostly cloudy and warm day forecasted.
SATURDAY, 17 May, 2014	31.0	24.0	69	N	5.8	6.18 18.39	Thunderstorm expected early in the day. Mostly cloudy and warm day predicted.

Energy Policy Roundtable

The Emerald Energy Institute organised an Energy Policy Roundtable at the Emmanuel Egbogah Auditorium on Tuesday, April 2nd, 2014. The event featured academics and industry players as panellists. Pictures show highlight of the event as captured by our cameraman, **HEADMAN ALU.**



DF-C (Academics), Prof. Igho Joe and Director, Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) Prof. Mike Oyejokunwa, registering for the Roundtable



Prof. Gadein Igwe, Director, Centre for Petrochemicals and Managing Director, Energia Limited, Mr. Felix Amekoyefori



Director, Emerald Energy Institute (EEI), Prof. Waseem Badare and Deputy Director, Prof. Eme Ekeke



L-R: Prof. Oyejokunwa, Michael Oti and Joel Oghuosa



Director, EEI, Prof. Badare and Lead Presenter, Prof. Yinka Omorogbe



R-L: Moderators, Mr. Raveti Daji, Mr. Amekoyefori, Prof. Badare, Omorogbe and Oti, during the panel discussion



L-R: Prof. Oyejokunwa, Oti, Omorogbe, Badare during the panel discussion



Cross section of participants at the event



Dr. Fidelis Allen of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies making a contribution



Prof. Oghuosa also contributing during the event



Deputy Director, EEI, Prof. Ekeke speaking



Vice-Chancellor (R) Prof. Ajienka, Prof. Omorogbe and Badare, after the event



Prof. Ajienka (far right) with panellists and other officials